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APA Media Awards Editorial Contest Select Winners Announced

Birmingham, AL (June 25, 2023) – Winners of the 2023 Alabama Press Association Media Awards were announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 58 publications submitted 1,920 entries in the annual contest. The North Carolina Press Association membership judged the entries.

First place awards in many categories and divisions were presented in conjunction with the 2023 APA Summer Convention banquet awards program.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Cat. 01 Best Editorial Page or Section

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
2nd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) by staff
3rd Place: The Selma Times-Journal by James Jones

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by staff
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard by staff
2nd Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) by staff
3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman by Catherine Haynes, staff

Cat. 02 Best Lifestyle/Family Pages

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
3rd Place: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) by Jennifer Cohron

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff
2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) by Denise DuBois, staff
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard by staff
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) by staff

Cat. 03 Best Sports Coverage

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times by Jake Winfrey, Amanda Shavers, Nick Johnston
2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal by Glendon Poe
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by Jason Bowen

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) by Tommy Hicks

Division D

- 1st Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) by staff
2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald by staff

3rd Place: The Baldwin Times by Cole McNanna

Division E

1st Place: Vestavia Voice by Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

3rd Place: Hoover Sun by Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson

Cat. 04 Best Local Economic Coverage

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Times by Patrick Camp, Benjamin Bullard

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune by staff

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Joshua Mann, A.J. O'Leary, Illyshia Parker

2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) by staff

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun by staff

2nd Place: The Tuskegee News by staff

3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) by staff

Division E

1st Place: The Homewood Star by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Erin Nelson

2nd Place: Vestavia Voice by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson, Eric Taunton

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

Cat. 05 Best Local Education Coverage

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by Joyanna Love, Carey Reeder

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) by staff

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Tallassee Tribune by staff

2nd Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) by staff

3rd Place: Selma Sun by staff

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) by Leah Eagle

2nd Place: Vestavia Voice by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Erin Nelson

3rd Place: The Homewood Star by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Erin Nelson

Cat. 06 Best Local News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star by Bill Wilson, Sherry Kughn, Brian Graves

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Times by staff
2nd Place: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) by Ed Howell
3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) by staff

Division C

1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff
3rd Place: The Mountain Valley News (Rainsville) by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Leader (Linden) by Tommy Campbell, Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: The Washington County News (Chatom) by staff
3rd Place: The Tallasse Tribune by staff

Division E

1st Place: The Birmingham Times by staff
2nd Place: The Homewood Star by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Erin Nelson
3rd Place: Vestavia Voice by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Erin Nelson

Cat. 07 Best Use of Photographs/Editorial Content

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by Connor Bucy, Jamie Dawkins
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by staff
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Greenville Standard by staff
2nd Place: The Greenville Advocate by staff
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) by staff

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

Cat. 08 Best Layout and Design

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by Elizabeth Law

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by Connor Bucy, Jamie Dawkins

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Laurie Lawrence

3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) by staff

2nd Place: The Luverne Journal by staff

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard by staff

Division E

1st Place: The Birmingham Times by Kathryn Sessor-Dornè

2nd Place: Vestavia Voice by Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

3rd Place: Hoover Sun by Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

Cat. 09 Best Spot News Story

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Residents feel devastation of Montgomery tornado that killed mother, 8-year-old son" by Alex Gladden, Mickey Welsh, Jake Crandall

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Tutwiler comes tumbling down: UA dorm demolished on the Fourth of July" by Mark Hughes Cobb

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Tense night as Montgomery board renames Lee, Jeff Davis high schools" by Jemma Stephenson

Division B

1st Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Jeff Cook dies" by Steven Stiefel

2nd Place: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Overnight storms impact east, south Walker communities" by staff

3rd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "Tractor trailer strikes power line down near Whitt's in downtown Athens" by Nicolle Sartain

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "A Close Call" by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Helena police investigating double homicide" by Michelle Love

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Body Found" by Willie Gray, John O'Dell

Division D

1st Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) for "Storms Smash County" by Jason Boothe, Willie Gray

2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Murder on the Mountain" by Tammy Andrews

3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Freddie Armstead death" by Tommy Campbell

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "It's a no go" by Leah Eagle

2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Lawsuit filed against school board, city and superintendent over open records requests" by Neal Embry

3rd Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for "Pattie Neill resigns as superintendent" by Gary Lloyd

Cat. 10 Best In-Depth News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Inmate dies in Montgomery County prison, sister believes he was denied oxygen" by Evan Mealins, Keith Sharon

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "In Lowndes County, 80% of homes lack reliable sewage systems. These women got tired of waiting." by Hadley Hitson

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Uniontown residents feel like they're screaming for help, but no one is coming" by Hadley Hitson

Division B

1st Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "North Alabama after Dobbs decision" by Taylor Lane

2nd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "Election contest for district seat" by C.P. Bailey, Taylor Lane, Nicolle Sartain

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "CCSD announces consolidation plan" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "World Games BHM 2022" by staff

2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Lawsuits allege investments funded Mobile couple's 'lavish' lifestyle" by Scott Johnson

3rd Place: The Southern Star (Ozark) for "Community Concern of EMS ARPA Distribution" by Christina Faulkner

Division D

1st Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Life in prison" by Tommy Campbell

2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Animal Shelter overcome many obstacles" by Tammy Andrews

3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Man convicted of murdering" by Tommy Campbell

Division E

1st Place: The Birmingham Times for "Best in depth coverage" by Barnett Wright

2nd Place: The Homewood Star for "Homewood firefighters raise concerns over pay; city leaders vow to find solution" by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton, Melanie Viering

3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for "'A big step forward': Superintendent shares plans for future of city schools" by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson

Cat. 11 Best Business Story or Column

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "How the expansive Black Belt shaped Alabama history" by Hadley Hitson, Mickey Welsh

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Well done: How Archibald's BBQ built a 60-year legacy of sizzling success" by Jason Morton

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "First look: Li-Cycle opens lithium-ion battery recycling plant in Tuscaloosa" by Mark Hughes Cobb

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "Lazy: 'An easy excuse for the decision makers'" by Patrick Camp
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Exceptional expertise and wisdom found at Hinkle Shoe Shop" by Amy Leonard
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "From skeptic to success: Ricky Vengas shares his boiled peanuts story " by Joyanna Love

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Not Your Average Joe" by A.J. O'Leary
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "'We move with the oysters' — Alabama's prolific tongers are raking 'em in" by Scott Johnson
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Woodlawn on the Rise" by Illyshia Parker

Division D

- 1st Place: The Baldwin Times for "Culinary mad scientists ferment up a spicy storm in Orange Beach" by Melanie LeCroy
2nd Place: The Baldwin Times for "Local restaurants, food trucks riding roller coaster of food cost uncertainty" by Melanie LeCroy
3rd Place: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope) for "The mushroom man: Love of nature spawns new business in Baldwin County" by Allison Marlow

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for "A Story to Tell: Timothy Hontzas of Johnny's Restaurant a finalist for James Beard Award" by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Blinking restaurant machine doesn't deserve tip" by Jonathan Stinson
3rd Place: The Homewood Star for "Homewood Antiques and Marketplace out of Edgewood space after more than a decade" by Neal Embry

Cat. 12 Best Feature Story Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "How newly freed slaves created the South's public school systems" by Brian Lyman
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "The journey of Jackson Giles" by Brian Lyman
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Magnet fishing a 'dirty job' that this Montgomery couple loves doing together" by Shannon Heupel

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "'I wanted to live life like he did'" by Benjamin Bullard
2nd Place: The Cullman Times for "'She always made her own way'" by Benjamin Bullard
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel for "Battling Through" by Peggy M. Himburg

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Fighting for hearts and minds" by Brady Petree
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Answers Beneath Antarctic Ice" by Cara Clark
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Still Standing - Bankhead Tunnel remains undefeated after 80 years of determined drivers" by Kyle Hamrick

Division D

- 1st Place: St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City) for "'His voice on this earth' Michelle Tumlin dedicates nonprofit to her son Houston" by Jamie Browder
- 2nd Place: Selma Sun for "Bright Spot on Broad Street goes dark" by Todd Prater
- 3rd Place: The Tallassee Tribune for "Tallassee High School choir performs in capitol rotunda" by Cliff Williams

Division E

- 1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for "Breaking the color line in death" by Solomon Crenshaw Jr.
- 2nd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for "Still on the march" by Nick Patterson
- 3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Rising country music star and Vestavia Hills native Trey Lewis shares journey to sobriety, fame" by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson

Cat. 13 Best News Feature Story Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "'My come-to-Jesus moment': How a battle with PTSD led a Tuscaloosa veteran to his purpose" by Gary Cosby Jr.
- 2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "A year after I-65 crash kills 10, Tallapoosa Girls Ranch director embraces ranch family" by Jemma Stephenson
- 3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "In rural areas with few healthcare options, squeeze on reproductive care easy to miss" by Hadley Hitson

Division B

- 1st Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "'There is no Europe without Ukraine'" by Nicolle Sartain
- 2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal for "Emma Smith's death impacted community" by James Jones
- 3rd Place: The Gadsden Times for "DNA Search Angel" by Donna Thornton

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Tracking an ongoing issue" by Meg Herndon
- 2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "We Need Answers" by Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Community unites to honor Chayse Jones" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "911 has failed the whole county" by staff
- 2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Murder on the Mountain " by staff
- 3rd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "A life and a crime swept under the rug: Lynching victim remembered in weekend Bay Minette ceremony" by Allison Marlow

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "MAKING ALL FEEL WELCOME The Rev. John Fallon Retires" by Jon Anderson
- 2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Reclaiming Saint Stephen's" by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson
- 3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Alopecia Awareness Walk Held at Wald Park" by Solomon Crenshaw, Jr.

Cat. 14 Best Editorial

Division B

- 1st Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "School site decision not easy, but the right one" by staff

- 2nd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "Our View: Broadband — at the speed of governmental bureaucracy" by Editorial board
- 3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Tuberville comments are disappointing" by Steven Stiefel

Division C

- 1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Eye to Eye, Face to Face" by Dee Ann Campbell
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Hitting too close to home" by Alec Etheredge
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Facing fears is about more than ourselves" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Tenacious Wise Men" by Greg Markley
- 2nd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "A big thank you..." by Tommy Campbell
- 3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for "Do you vote; an opinion" by Bruce Branum

Division E

- 1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman for "Auburn, where do your loyalties lie?" by The Auburn Plainsman Editorial Board
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Glendale Farms good for the developer, not so good for Trussville" by Scott Buttram
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Newspapers rate as popular source for local news" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 15 Best Humorous Column

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Spinning a filly tale, of horses and hitches" by Mark Hughes Cobb

Division B

- 1st Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "We don't deserve man's best friend" by Steven Stiefel
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Throw me a landline" by David Carroll
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "What they really mean" by David Carroll

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "My 50 Year Reunion? Groovy Baby" by Emmett Burnett
- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Hidden Agenda" by Ashley Trice
- 3rd Place: The Mountain Valley News (Rainsville) for "Granny Was Eccentric" by Neal Wooten

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Turkey is Dead, Santa is too Skinny" by Wendy Hodge
- 2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Intervention" by Wendy Hodge
- 3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Of curling irons" by Dee Ann Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Parting with furniture puts relationships to the test" by Jonathan Stinson
- 2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Holy Moly Motherhood " by Alana Smith
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Greeting cards have outlasted their welcome" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 16 Best Human Interest Column

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "OP-ED: My brain lied to me-Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" by Amy Leonard
- 2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "A mentor worth remembering" by Steven Stiefel
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Is it really that bad" by David Carroll

Division C

- 1st Place: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for "Sara Says - Reaching out matters a lot" by Sara Watkins
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Braxton's special purpose" by Alec Etheredge
- 3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for "From The Booster Seat To The Driver's Seat - They Grow Up Fast" by Jeff Martin

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "A tribute to my friend" by Tammy Andrews
- 2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "My Mother's Hands" by Wendy Hodge
- 3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Courage in the skies" by Tammy Andrews

Division E

- 1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Holy Moly Motherhood" by Alana Smith
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Trussville 6-year-old named 2023 Champion for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals" by Hannah Curran
- 3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "HTHS sophomore founds 'Huskies with Hearts' Kindness Club" by Crystal McGough

Cat. 17 Best Editorial Column or Commentary

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Is abolishing concealed carry permits a good idea for Alabama?" by Gary Cosby Jr.
- 2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "How Christian conservatives were seduced by politics" by Gary Cosby Jr.
- 3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Honesty must be essential part of Critical Race Theory debate" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "If it's illegal for me, then" by Anita McGill
- 2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Each person is a vital piece " by Joyanna Love
- 3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Younger generations need to know" by Steven Stiefel

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Sharon Yeager's impact was endless" by Alec Etheredge
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Decision needs transparency" by Alec Etheredge
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Chelsea needs a school system" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Leader (Linden) for "A chance encounter" by Tommy Campbell
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Heart Surgery and Lewis Grizzard" by Greg Markley
3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "It's time we returned to the moon" by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Time for Trussville City Schools to turn the page" by Scott Buttram
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Let's be perfectly clear about bag policy at venues" by Jonathan Stinson
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Kindness can grow food service industry" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 18 Best Sports News In-Depth Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for "In-Depth Sports News" by Mark Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Fort Payne's Ibsen attributes coaching, nutrition to championship run" by Glendon Poe
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Sports writer honored" by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Gridiron Changes" by Jason Bowen

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Saraland TRO denied Huge Win for Spartan program Saraland cleared" by Jimmy Wigfield
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "World Games Coverage" by staff
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "World Games coverage" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Media Days" by staff
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Spring Sports" by staff
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for "Cantrell lands state record" by Bruce Branum

Division E

- 1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman for "Auburn Baseball NCAA regional" by staff
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "High school basketball season preview" by Kyle Parmley

Cat. 19 Best Sports Single Event Story

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Bryan Harsin fired as Auburn football coach as new AD steps in" by Bennett Durando
2nd Place: The Anniston Star for "Clutch performer: When JSU needed a game-winning shot, it was K.J. all the way" by Mark Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "'MEANS THE WORLD TO US': Cullman caps incredible season with 6A state title" by Jake Winfrey
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Prep Basketball: State Champs!" by Nick Griffin

3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "The Dynasty Grows" by Glendon Poe

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Spartans Want That Crown" by Jimmy Wigfield

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Best Day Ever" by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Curtis 'relieved' to set record as UMS-Wright tops Headland" by Brady Petree

Division D

1st Place: The Greenville Standard for "Cantrell lands state record" by Bruce Brnum

2nd Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) for "The Year of the Bear" by Jimmy Wigfield

3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Wetumpka basketball legends receive championship rings" by Henry Zimmer

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Lady Bucs repeat as Class 7A state champs" by Kyle Parmley

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for "Players redirect praise to Williams after night of individual history" by Jacob Waters

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Redstone workers fill ranks of prep football officials" by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 20 Best Sports Feature Story

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Untold stories of Harvey Updyke's last confessions" by Bennett Durando

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "What's it like to get swatted by Auburn basketball's Walker Kessler? Let me tell you" by Bennett Durando

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Local athlete named to AISA Lineman of the Year watchlist" by Henry Zimmer

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Reeltown's Rodeo Kids" by Henry Zimmer

3rd Place: The Cullman Times for "Crimson Crash Course" by Benjamin Bullard

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Best Day Ever" by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Looking forward" by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "USFL players talk Birmingham" by Ashlee Woods

Division D

1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Bradford 'following God's plan' with resignation" by Dalton Middleton

2nd Place: The Tallasse Tribune for "Kent Jordan making a name for himself" by Dalton Middleton

3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Crumbaugh's intuition puts him one step ahead" by Dalton Middleton

Division E

- 1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for "Baseball in its purest form" by Neal Embry
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "The heart of a lion" by Gary Lloyd
3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Attention to detail allows Smith to thrive for Rebels" by Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson

Cat. 21 Best Local Sports Column

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for "Chances are, Hugh Freeze will embarrass Auburn University, too" by Mark Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Alabama roars again in Talladega" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Lifetime memories are made at state basketball tournament" by Randy Kennedy
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "The importance of autism awareness" by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Players take the biggest hit in failed MLFB venture" by Tommy Hicks

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "One Night in Pearlville" by Harrison Tarr
2nd Place: Washington County News (Chatom) (Chatom) for "Huebners the hero" by Jimmy Wigfield
3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Cats? How about the Bulldogs instead?" by Dalton Middleton

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Football/life lesson: Just get back up, keep fighting" by Skip Vaughn
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "9/11 changed our world forever" by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 22 Best Feature Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Excited Award Winner" by Gary Cosby Jr.
2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Back To School" by Gary Cosby Jr.
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Alabama's transgender youth speak out on bill banning gender-affirming care" by Mickey Welsh

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Fairview's Bradley Smith honors his mother who died of cancer" by Martha Needham
2nd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "iAcademy Dog" by Nicolle Sartain
3rd Place: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Strike up the band" by Ron Harris

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Bull riding" by Keith McCoy
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Jake Crooks" by Keith McCoy
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Veteran Salute" by Annie Hutchinson

Division D

- 1st Place: The Luverne Journal for "Mutton Bustin' at the Rodeo" by Christy Johnson
2nd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "Stars and Stripes and hot air" by Micah Green
3rd Place: The Baldwin Times for "Remembering a tragedy - Fort Mims massacre re-enactment" by Micah Green

Division E

- 1st Place: Vestavia Voice for "Trey Lewis - Living the Dream" by Erin Nelson
2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Merlin - A school's best friend" by Erin Nelson
3rd Place: Hoover Sun for "Nicole Stokes takes over at Deer Valley Elementary" by Erin Nelson

Cat. 23 Best News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Goodbye Deputy Johnson" by Gary Cosby Jr.
2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Honoring Autherine Lucy Foster" by Gary Cosby Jr.
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Funeral March for Deputy Johnson" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "Memorial Day" by Amanda Shavers
2nd Place: The Cullman Times for "A smooth start" by Patrick Camp
3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Northeast Shines at Holiday Gala" by Steven Stiefel

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "A close call" by Alec Etheredge
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Melting their hearts: Puppies on ice" by Dawn Harrison
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Oh What a feeling" by Bonita Roberts

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "We Remember" by Robert Noles
2nd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo" by Micah Green
3rd Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "Ash Wednesday at Our Lady of the Gulf" by Micah Green

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Sidewalks part of Hoover capital projects" by Erin Nelson
2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Vigil for Saint Stephen's shooting victims" by Erin Nelson

Cat. 24 Best Spot News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Waiting for help after fatal tornado" by Mickey Welsh
2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Woman In Red Surveys Tornado Damage" by Gary Cosby Jr.
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "School Buses Destroyed by Fire" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "'I'm going to call you Lola' Senior receives robotic dog" by Amy Leonard
2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "A boy joins the band" by Steven Stiefel

3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Rosies remember the last world war" by Steven Stiefel

Division C

1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Murder arrest" by Dee Ann Campbell

2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Too Close For Comfort" by Mike Kittrell

3rd Place: The Southern Star (Ozark) for "Firefighting in Tight Spaces" by Adam Kamerer

Division D

1st Place: The Moundville Times for "\$100K+ Tesla burns on Hwy 69" by Mike Goodall

2nd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Wrecks kill, block Interstate 20-59" by Herman Ward

3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "March to Stop Child Abuse" by Robert Noles

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Strong finish" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 25 Best Sports Photo

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Gymnastics Jubilation" by Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Big hit at SEC baseball tournament" by Jake Crandall

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Coach Eddie Robinson celebrates Magic City Classic win" by Mickey Welsh

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Statement Win" by Jason Bowen

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Wildchamps" by Jason Bowen

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "An airborne bull rider at the Cowboy Church of Morgan County's Red, White & Bulls Event" by Martha Needham

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Pelham player defies gravity on stellar catch" by Jeremy Raines

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Sumo wrestling in Birmingham!" by Bob Farley

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Brady Dunn gets horizontal on dunk" by Keith McCoy

Division D

1st Place: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope) for "Fairhope downs Daphne" by Cole McNanna

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for "FDA Old Timers Game" by Kathy Pickens

3rd Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "March to May" by Micah Green

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover girls basketball win Class 7A state final" by Erin Nelson

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Doused in beer at The World Games" by Erin Nelson

3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Spartans soccer win state title" by Erin Nelson

Cat. 26 Best Photo Essay

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Tallapoosa Girls Ranch a year after I-65 crash that killed 10" by Jake Crandall

Division B

1st Place: The Gadsden Times for "Barbarian Challenge Gallery" by Jesse Jarrold-Grapes
2nd Place: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Kiwanis Club hosts Track and Field Day" by Ron Harris
3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for "Wreaths Across America" by Steven Stiefel

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "World Games sports" by Bob Farley
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Unbelieva-Bull" by staff
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Breast cancer survivors" by Bob Farley

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Dancers Dazzle" by John Hillsman, Michelle Key
2nd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "Steer wrestling practice with Drew Clukey" by Micah Green
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Auburn Keeps Rollin" by staff

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "The World Games Softball" by Erin Nelson, Ted Perry
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Snapshots: Fanfare and halftime performances" by staff
3rd Place: Hoover Sun for "A Day of Remembrance" by Erin Nelson, Ted Perry

Cat. 27 Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Freeze Warning infographic" by staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Gas Prices" by Elizabeth Law
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Impact of Covid" by Elizabeth Law

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Migration Nation" by Laurie Lawrence
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Alabama's Roadblocks" by Laurie Lawrence
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Changing directions" by Connor Bucy

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Election Undetermined" by Michelle Key
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Sno*Pelika" by Michelle Key, Robert Noles
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "OPD Spreads Love" by Michelle Key, Robert Noles

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Transparency" by Ted Perry
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Seven decades of big stories and events" by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "How we got to where we are..." by staff

Cat. 28 Best Headline

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Well done: How Archibald's BBQ built a 60-year legacy of sizzling success" by Ken Roberts

- 2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Mane event: Budweiser Clydesdales to visit Tuscaloosa next week" by Ken Roberts
- 3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "What a gourd idea: Pumpkin-carving contest aims to pump up Crimson Tide fans" by Ken Roberts

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Driving into the news" by staff
- 2nd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "Quacking the case: Public notices Big Spring Park dwindling duck population" by staff
- 3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Students prepping for hot career keeping community cool " by Joyanna Love

Division C

- 1st Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for "Red Devils steal the spotlight from MGM" by Mark Clark
- 2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Not your average Joe: A roast to toast" by Cara Clark
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "A real go 'Gitter'" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greensboro Watchman for "Snowball chance in Hale?" by John Allan Clark
- 2nd Place: The Moundville Times for "Why is the chicken across the road?" by Travis Vaughn
- 3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Holy Smokes" by Tammy Andrews

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for "Hopping to the Bahamas: Samford professor receives grant to research little-known frog" by Melanie Viering
- 2nd Place: The Homewood Star for "Turning the page: Longtime special projects librarian retires" by Ted Perry
- 3rd Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover painter makes big splash with tiny art" by Jon Anderson

Cat. 29 Best Special Section - Newsprint

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Dadeville Magazine" by staff
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Times for "Community Heroes featuring rapid responders" by Benjamin Bullard, Patrick Camp, Amanda Shavers
- 3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Progress 2022: Centers of Community " by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Education Guide"
- 2nd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for "2022 Primary Election Information Center" by Denise DuBois, Toni Shah
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter for "Thompson Football" by Alec Etheredge, Connor Bucy

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Honoring our First Responders" by staff
- 2nd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Black History Special" by staff
- 3rd Place: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit) for "AISA Class A State Championship" by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "70th Anniversary" by staff
2nd Place: The Birmingham Times for "Black History in the Arts" by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Breast Cancer Awareness" by staff

Cat. 30 Best Niche Publication - Newsprint or Glossy

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Lake Martin: We Make It Great Here!" by staff
2nd Place: The News-Courier (Athens) for "Blitz Magazine 2022" by staff
3rd Place: The Cullman Times for "Salute to Industry" by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Football Magazine" by Alec Etheredge, Connor Bucy
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Book of Lists" by staff
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Profile" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "At Home in Clay County-Spring edition" by staff
2nd Place: The Greenville Advocate for "There's No Place Like Home" by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "2022 Base Guide" by staff
2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Under the Lights" by Kyle Parmley, Gary Lloyd, staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "SMD symposium" by staff

Cat. 31 Creative Use of Multimedia

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "150 years of history" by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Downtown standoff ends with suicide" by staff
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Thompson state championship video" by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Crumb opening video" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Center Stage" by Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Ali Rauch from Chamber of Commerce Sits Down with The Lee County Listener" by Sam DiChiara, Garrett Martinez

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Tribune Sports Live" by Bobby Mathews, Zack Steele
2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Tribune Unscripted" by Scott Buttram, Brannon Dawkins, Ron Burkett
3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Chopt Creative Salad Co. opening video" by Ingrid Schnader

Cat. 32 Online Breaking News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Mother and son dead after EF-2 tornado hits Montgomery" by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Jason Crawford guilty of murder" by Amy Leonard, Noah Galilee

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Car extraction from TPI office" by staff

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "CPD investigates death of infant" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Helena double homicide" by Michelle Love, Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Saint Stephens Episcopal shooting" by Alec Etheredge, Emily Sparacino

3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Downtown standoff ends in suicide" by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Moundville Times for "Son murders father" by Travis Vaughn, Kasey DeCastr

2nd Place: The Moundville Times for "Ginger Holmes missing" by Travis Vaughn, Kasey DeCastr

3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Car fatality" by Herman Ward, Tommy McGraw, Kasey DeCastr

Division E

1st Place: Vestavia Voice for "Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church Shooting" by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson

2nd Place: The Homewood Star for "Homewood Police Lawsuits" by Neal Embry, Eric Taunton

Cat. 33 Best Use of Social Media

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "City Council live broadcasts" by staff

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Snow much fun" by staff

3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Back to School" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Instagram Reels" by staff

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Instagram photos" by staff

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Shelby County Facebook Live Pregame Show" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

1st Place: The Baldwin Times for "GCM Sports" by Cole McNanna

2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Social Media" by staff

3rd Place: Selma Sun for "Center Stage" by Todd Prater, Chico Cleveland

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Instagram" by Erin Nelson

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Instagram" by Erin Nelson, Leah Ingram Eagle

3rd Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover's Most Eligible Bachelor and Bachelorette" by Jon Anderson

Cat. 34 Best Podcast Series

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "The Iron Bowl of Podcasts" by Bennett Durando, Nick Kelly

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "The Weekly Outlook" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Lagnia-POD" by staff

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Shelby County Facebook Live Pregame Show" by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "The Shelby County Football Show" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for "Spotlight Podcast" by Todd Prater

Cat. 35 Best Use of Video (Shorter than 2 minutes)

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "TPI - who are we?" by staff

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Budweiser Clydesdales" by Janet Chandler

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Southern Star Farms hosts holiday market" by Abigail Murphy

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Peyton Grillo sinks 3-pointer" by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Monster Walk" by Meg Herndon

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Thompson Vestavia quarterfinal recap" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for "Expand Interpretive Center" by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland

2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Exclusive halftime report" by Breanna Minter

3rd Place: Selma Sun for "Uniontown mural" by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Korean War Veterans Take Honor Flight To D.C." by Erin Elise Enyinda

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Patton Road Track closed until May 17" by staff

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Veteran enjoys belated 100th birthday celebration" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 36 Best Use of Video (Longer than 2 minutes)

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Police body cameras show the arrest of Wetumpka's 'cat ladies'" by Shannon Heupel

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Magnet fishing with Heavy Metal Mommas" by Shannon Heupel

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "TPI Talk with David Boleware" by staff

- 2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Dyslexia Awareness Month" by Abigail Murphy
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Cullman County Child Development Center Graduation " by Amy Leonard

Division C

- 1st Place: The Alabama Baptist for "Moving the TAB story to the next season" by Sam Evans
2nd Place: The Mountain Valley News (Rainsville) for "The Coach Robi Coker Show - Championship Edition" by Arlan Blevins
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Thompson wins fourth championship in a row" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Spotlight newscast" by Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland
2nd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "Media Day - Elberta High School Warriors" by Cole McNanna
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "OMS Threats Press Conference" by Kendyl Hollingsworth

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Meet the Hewitt-Trussville Mountain Bike team" by Brannon Dawkins
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "2022 Black History Month – Three Soldiers share their stories" by Jonathan Stinson
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Earth Day 2022" by Jonathan Stinson

Best Community Event

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Election forums" by Keith McCoy
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Mentoring Monday 2022" by Stephanie Rebman
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Soccer Media Days" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Demopolis Times for "Christmas on the River" by Andrea Burroughs
2nd Place: Selma Sun for "Cleanup Day" by Cindy Fisher

Best Production and Printing

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle)

Division D

- 1st Place: The Luverne Journal
2nd Place: The Demopolis Times
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika)

Division E

- 1st Place: Vestavia Voice by Melanie Viering, Ted Perry
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)
3rd Place: The Birmingham Times

Best Public Service

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "The importance of voting" by Joyanna Love
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Free Obituary Listings" by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Chelsea school system vote" by Alec Etheredge, Emily Sparacino
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Leadership in Diversity programming" by staff
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Triggered — Alabama's gun violence epidemic" by Scott Johnson

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "911 has failed the whole county" by staff
2nd Place: The Perry County Herald (Marion) for "Municipal accountability reporting" by John Allan Clark
3rd Place: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit) for "ALDOT Intersection Creates Problems for Lowndes County Residents" by Staff

Division E

- 1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Keeping Kids Safe" by Leah Ingram Eagle
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Shelby County officials work to combat human trafficking" by Leah Ingram Eagle
3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for "The World Games" by Jesse Chambers, Eric Taunton

FOI-First Amendment Award

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Execution records" by Brian Lyman, Evan Mealins, Paige O. Windsor

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "The protest that wasn't" by Amy Leonard
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Importance of voting " by Joyanna Love

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Alabama spends millions on police body camera videos the public can't see" by staff
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Meetings must be held in Person" by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Briarwood principal firing" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "911 has failed the whole county" by staff
2nd Place: The Perry County Herald (Marion) for "reporting on Marion city government" by staff

3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Are nude dancers performing in Livingston? Nude dancing ordinance" by Tommy McGraw

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "FOI Transparency Hoover council at odds over changes in video recordings" by Jon Anderson

General Excellence

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: The Cullman Times

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika)

2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: Vestavia Voice

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

3rd Place: The Birmingham Times

Most Improved

Division B

1st Place: The News-Courier (Athens)

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune

Division C

1st Place: The Southern Star (Ozark)

2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City)

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika)

2nd Place: The Luverne Journal

Best Newspaper Website

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for "www.annistonstar.com"

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "www.alexcityoutlook.com"
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "www.clantonadvertiser.com"
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "www.cullmantribune.com"

Division C

- 1st Place: The Alabama Baptist for "www.thealabamabaptist.org"
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "www.shelbycountyreporter.com"
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "www.bizjournals.com/birmingham"

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "www.opelikaobserver.com"
2nd Place: Selma Sun for "www.selmasun.com"
3rd Place: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit) for "www.lowndessignal.com"

Division E

- 1st Place: The Birmingham Times for "www.birminghamtimes.com"
2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for "www.theplainsman.com"
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "www.trussvilletribune.com"

Story of the Year

The Cullman Times for "Lazy: 'An easy excuse for the decision makers'" by Patrick Camp

Photo of the Year

Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Pelham player defies gravity on stellar catch" by Jeremy Raines