



#AMA2024



# APA Media AWARDS

Print | Digital | Magazine



The Tuscaloosa News

'UA adapted athletics championship' by Gary Cosby Jr.

# CONGRATULATIONS



The AMA tab shows all winners for editorial, advertising, digital and magazine categories. It is organized by division rather than by category.

#AMA2024

## STORY OF THE YEAR

**Hoover Sun**  
*Food for our Journey*  
by: Jon Anderson

HooverSun.com



May 2023 • A31

Rene Treston, a retired child psychologist who volunteers with Food For Our Journey, said the group is a shining example of how to help hungry people. "The thing was to be open," Treston said. "She wants every single person with dignity and respect."

A30 • May 2023

FOOD CONTINUES from page K1

While homeless people are not always at shelters and food pantries, they are not always able to get to those places. When the needs are served, Greene said, many lack transportation, and sometimes it's hard for them to get to the shelter if it's cold or rainy, she said. If they can't get to the shelter before it's too late, they are left with no food, she said. "I thought if we could take the food to where they are, then it would help to ensure they were taken care of," Greene said. She said her group wants to help people who are homeless and hungry. "We want to make sure that the food is taken care of and that the people who are hungry are taken care of," Greene said. "We want to make sure that the food is taken care of and that the people who are hungry are taken care of," Greene said. "We want to make sure that the food is taken care of and that the people who are hungry are taken care of," Greene said.



Hoover Sun

**400 MEALS A DAY**  
In the beginning, Food for Our Journey had about 20 regular food pantries, such as the Hoover Food Pantry and the Hoover Food Pantry. But as the need grew, the Hoover Food Pantry and the Hoover Food Pantry had to expand their services. They were serving about 400 meals a day.



May 2023 | Volume 11 | Issue 8

**Hoover Sun**  
HOOVER'S COMMUNITY NEWS SOURCE  
HOOVERSUN.COM | STARNESMEDIA.COM

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**FOOD FOR OUR JOURNEY**  
Nonprofit fills gaps to nourish stomachs, spirits, souls

By JON ANDERSON

In the fall of 2018, Kelly Greene was attending her usual 7 p.m. weekly mass at Peace Catholic Church when she felt God calling her to start a food bank to serve people who are homeless or hungry and food-insecure.

She and her family for years had volunteered at shelters and food pantries, but when she and her husband, Dan, became empty-nesters, they started praying for God to show them the path to take for the new chapter of their lives.

Greene said God clearly spoke to her that Tuesday evening that He wanted them to start a food bank.

See FOOD | page A30



## PHOTO OF THE YEAR

(featured on cover)

**The Tuscaloosa News**  
*US adapted athletics championship*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## MOST IMPROVED

**Division B**  
**The News Courier**  
(Athens)

**Division C**  
**Citizen of East Alabama**  
(Phenix City)

**Division D**  
**The Observer**  
(Opelika)

## AD OF THE YEAR

**The Outlook**  
*People Read*  
by: Audra Spears

STYLISH  
DEDICATED  
POLITE  
WORKERS  
CLEVER  
STUDENTS  
YOUNG  
RELIABLE

**TPI**  
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STYLISH  
DEDICATED  
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WORKERS  
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FAITHFUL  
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PEOPLE READ THE PAPER.

Editorial Contest  
DIVISION A

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1st: The Anniston Star

FOI-FIRST  
AMENDMENT AWARD

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Freedom of the press in Atmore*  
by: John Sharp  
2nd: Montgomery Advertiser  
*LGBTQ library book ban*  
by: Hadley Hitson

BEST NEWSPAPER  
WEBSITE

1st: The Anniston Star  
[www.annistonstar.com](http://www.annistonstar.com)  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
[www.al.com](http://www.al.com)

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*One Alabama county cracked down on pregnant drug users. 10 years later, has it gone too far?*  
by: Amy Yurkanin  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
*Predatory Towing*  
by: Heather Gann  
3rd: Alabama Media Group  
*Saving Chandler Mountain*  
by: Dennis Pillion

BEST LOCAL  
ECONOMIC COVERAGE

1st: The Anniston Star  
by: Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson, Ashley Morrison  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
by: Hannah Denham, John Sharp

BEST LOCAL  
EDUCATION COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group  
by: Rebecca Griesbach, Trisha Powell Crain  
2nd: The Anniston Star  
by: Ashley Morrison, Sherry Kughn

BEST LOCAL NEWS  
COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

Set weather

ALAlabama


Subscribe

Sign in

ALABAMA LIFE & CULTURE

Did that costume at Eufaula's Admiral Moorer Middle School break your brain? Here's how it works

Updated: Nov 01, 2023, 12:58 a.m. | Published: Nov 01, 2023, 12:41 p.m.



An unidentified student at Admiral Moorer Middle School created a social media furor with an eye-catching Halloween costume. If you want to replicate the effect, there are plenty of online tutorials that explain how it works. (Courtesy of Eufaula City Schools) Courtesy of Eufaula City Schools

by: Hannah Denham, Joseph Bryant, Kayode Crown  
2nd: The Anniston Star  
by: Ashley Morrison, Sherry Kughn

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

1st: Montgomery Advertiser  
*Dadeville shooting*  
by: Alex Gladden, Marty Roney  
2nd: Montgomery Advertiser  
*Execution of James Edward Barber*  
by: Marty Roney  
3rd: Alabama Media Group  
*Just a bus ticket and an ankle monitor: Alabama leaves freed prison inmates with no money, no plan*  
by: Ivana Hryniw

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS  
COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Moody landfill fire*  
by: Dennis Pillion  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
*What is wrong with the Walker County jail?*  
by: Sarah Whites-Koditschek  
3rd: Montgomery Advertiser  
*Aging and caregiving in Alabama*  
by: Hadley Hitson

Alabama Media Group -  
Best News Feature Story  
Coverage

BEST BUSINESS STORY  
OR COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Forever chemicals dumped in Alabama*  
by: Sarah Whites-Koditschek, Dennis Pillion  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
*Alabama saw a surge in mass layoffs in 2023, especially in manufacturing*  
by: Hannah Denham  
3rd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*UA baseball, softball tournaments bring more than \$2M into Tuscaloosa economy*  
by: Ken Roberts

BEST FEATURE STORY  
COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*63 years of memories at an old-school Alabama burger and shake shack*  
by: Bob Carlton  
2nd: Alabama Media Group  
*The surprise rebirth of a classic American hard-rock band*  
by: Matt Wake  
3rd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*Did Taylor Swift attend a prom in Tuscaloosa? You bet*  
by: Jasmine Hollie

BEST NEWS FEATURE  
STORY COVERAGE

1st: Montgomery Advertiser  
*Loss of ferry leaves town isolated*  
by: Hadley Hitson  
2nd: Montgomery Advertiser  
*Dadeville shooting and aftermath*  
3rd: Alabama Media Group  
*Did that costume at Eufaula's Admiral Moorer Middle School break your brain? Here's how it works*  
by: Lawrence Specker

BEST HUMOROUS  
COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Florida Man ain't got nothin' on Tommy Tuberville*

by: John Archibald  
2nd: The Anniston Star  
*Memo to Human Resources*  
by: Lisa Davis  
3rd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*How squirrels thrive on UA's campus*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

BEST HUMAN INTEREST  
COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Years after brothers serve 20 years for rape they said they did not commit-judge tosses wrongful conviction*  
by: Roy S. Johnson  
2nd: The Anniston Star  
*What in the Wordle?*  
by: Donna Barton

BEST EDITORIAL  
COLUMN OR  
COMMENTARY

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Opinion Columns*  
by: Kyle Whitmire  
2nd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*Opinion Columns*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

BEST SPORTS NEWS  
IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*The debate around NIL and Alabama high school athletics is here*  
by: Nick Alvarez  
2nd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*Darius Miles Shooting Investigation*  
by: Nick Kelly  
3rd: The Anniston Star  
*A century ago, Alabama won in Pasadena*  
by: Mark Edwards

BEST SPORTS SINGLE  
EVENT STORY

1st: Alabama Media Group  
*Inside the 4th-and-31 pass that won Alabama the Iron Bowl at Auburn*  
by: Matt Stahl  
2nd: The Tuscaloosa News  
*Inside Fourth and 31*  
by: Nick Kelly

**3rd: The Anniston Star**  
*MS. 1,000: Surprise Jana McGinnis*  
by: Mark Edwards

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*'Be Better Than Yesterday': How four words on a sticky note have inspired Auburn's football team*  
by: Ainslie Lee

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**  
*'I'm gonna catch it and run': The story of the Kick Six, as told by the officials*  
by: Creg Stephenson

**3rd: The Anniston Star**  
*Inside a Jax State softball road trip*  
by: Mark Edwards



The Tuscaloosa News - Best Sports Photo

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Jax State's new identity is shoxing to the X-treme*  
by: Joseph Goodman

**2nd: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Wrong answer for Nate Oats*  
by: Chase Goodbread

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**  
*The 6 seconds that spawned another Iron Bowl icon*  
by: Michael Casagrande

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

**1st: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Tuscaloosa Gauntlet*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

**2nd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Apache flyover*  
by: Jake Crandall

**3rd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Graduation Wave*  
by: Jake Crandall

BEST NEWS PHOTO

**1st: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Alice Marie Johnson celebrates freedom*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

**2nd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Ferry Family*  
by: Jake Crandall

**3rd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Drag March*  
by: Mickey Welsh

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

**1st: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Bloody sidewalk*  
by: Jake Crandall

**2nd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Selma Survivor*  
by: Mickey Welsh

**3rd: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Hale County tornado damage*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

**1st: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*UA adapted athletics championship*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

**2nd: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Softball Slide*  
by: Mickey Welsh

**3rd: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Terrion Arnold pass break-up*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: Montgomery Advertiser**  
*Packers Bend*  
by: Jake Crandall

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*How much do concessions cost at an Alabama basketball game?*  
*Hint: It's a lot*  
by: Ben Flanagan, Ramsey Archibald

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**  
*God and guns, grocery taxes, and death*  
by: J.D. Crowe

BEST HEADLINE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Tuberville's butt fumble proves one thing: He has no business in the Senate*  
by: John Archibald, Challen Stephens

**2nd: The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Why will the Tuscaloosa Chick-fil-A cross the road? To get to the other side*  
by: Ken Roberts

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**  
*'Who's going to buy my house now?' Alabama Power reservoir plan raises ire*  
by: Challen Stephens, Dennis Pillion

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Dadeville mass shooting coverage*  
by: William Thornton, Carol Robinson, staff

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**  
*The mysterious disappearance of Carlee Russell*  
by: Carol Robinson

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Season of Change 1963*  
by: Kalyn Dunkins, Jonathan Sobolewski, Amanda Khorramabadi

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**  
*Best food in Alabama*

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**  
*Carlee Russell X thread*  
by: Madison Underwood

82°

May 19, 2024

The Anniston Star

A home-owned newspaper

Anniston, Alabama - Since 1882

News Sports Opinion Features Slideshows Special Publications Election Vault Games Classifieds Obituaries

MS. 1,000: Surprise, Jana McGinnis, that win you got was a significant milestone

By Mark Edwards, Senior Editor, medwards@annistonstar.com Mar 22, 2023

The Anniston Star - Best Sports Single Event



Montgomery Advertiser - Best Feature Photo

BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Panther: Blueprint for Black Power*  
by: Roy S. Johnson, Eunice Elliott, John Hammontree

BEST USE OF VIDEO (SHORTER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Clotilda, America's last known slave ship*  
by: Amanda Khorramabadi

BEST USE OF VIDEO (LONGER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: Alabama Media Group**  
*Maternal care deserts in Alabama*  
by: Amanda Khorramabadi

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

- 1st: The Cullman Times  
2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune

FOI-FIRST  
AMENDMENT  
AWARD

- 1st: The Cullman Times  
*Dodge City corrects action taken in executive sessions*  
by: Patrick Camp  
2nd: The Cullman Tribune  
*Wagon Trail Med Serv Saga*  
by: Cheyenne Sharp, Noah Galilee, Tiffany McKoy  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune  
*Editorial: The great debate...back to the basics for the 2024 Primary Election*  
by: Noah Galilee

BEST NEWSPAPER  
WEBSITE

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
[www.alexcityoutlook.com](http://www.alexcityoutlook.com)  
2nd: The Clanton Advertiser  
[www.clantonadvertiser.com](http://www.clantonadvertiser.com)  
3rd: The Cullman Times  
[www.cullmantimes.com](http://www.cullmantimes.com)

BEST PRODUCTION  
AND PRINTING

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
by: Lee Champion  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune  
*Free obituary listings online and in print*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee  
2nd: The Cullman Tribune  
*Pet of the Week*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff  
3rd: The Cullman Times  
*Co-op seeing 2 month wait times for new connections*  
by: Patrick Camp



Co-op seeing 2 month wait times for new connections

Officials cite growth, supply chain issues

PATRICK CAMP  
patrick@alexcityoutlook.com

WEST POINT — According to the Cullman Electric Cooperative, unprecedented growth within the county has led to wait times of nearly two months for customers hoping to connect a new residential service to the company's utility lines. That's not news to Robert George.

"I just think people should be told what's going on. You know, if you are a mother with two or three kids and you're about to get evicted, you might not have anywhere else to go. Then, to find out you have to wait two months before you get power is just crazy," Robert George said.



Three wires protrude from the weather head, seen May 8, for a new 30 amp electrical service that has remained disconnected for nearly two months after Robert George paid his initial connection fee with the co-op.

Services were completed within only a few hours of his transaction, George said he began to receive calls to the co-op requesting information on the delay. He said one representative — whose name he was unable to verify — from the co-op did mention the company had "over 200 new customers" within the last month, but according to George, it seemed dismissive and didn't provide an estimate as to when he could expect service.

"I called him, and tried to call him, and tried to speak to him like a person and he simply let me know

The Cullman Times - Best Public Service

OPINION

AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION  
BY THE WRITER  
NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEW OF THE PUBLISHER

By: [Name]

Early Release Law has question marks

On March 20, he asked for estimates as to when the company expected to make the connection, but wasn't given any information on the delay. He said one representative — whose name he was unable to verify — from the co-op did mention the company had "over 200 new customers" within the last month, but according to George, it seemed dismissive and didn't provide an estimate as to when he could expect service.

Ward residents receive free smoke alarms

Ward residents have been blessed with a free smoke alarm. The alarm is a small device that is placed in the home to detect smoke and alert the residents. The alarm is a small device that is placed in the home to detect smoke and alert the residents.

Stillman College laid the foundation for future success

Let's not forget the foundation that laid the foundation for future success. The foundation is the base upon which a building is constructed. Without a strong foundation, a building is unstable and prone to collapse.

Wanted: News

Wanted: News. We are looking for news stories that are interesting and informative. We are looking for news stories that are interesting and informative.

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BEST EDITORIAL PAGE  
OR SECTION

- 1st: The Cullman Times  
by: Tom Mayer, Amanda Shavers  
2nd: The Selma Times-Journal  
by: James Jones  
3rd: The News Courier (Athens)

BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY  
PAGES

- 1st: The News Courier (Athens)  
2nd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)  
2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
by: Anita Stiefel

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

- 1st: The Cullman Times  
by: Jake Winfrey  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
by: Jason Bowen  
3rd: The News Courier (Athens)  
by: Adam Dodson, Nicolle S. Praino, Jake Winfrey

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC  
COVERAGE

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune  
2nd: The Cullman Times  
by: Patrick Camp, Benjamin Bullard  
3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

BEST LOCAL  
EDUCATION COVERAGE

- 1st: The Cullman Times  
by: Patrick Camp  
2nd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)  
by: Nicole Smith  
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
by: Peggy M. Himburg

BEST LOCAL NEWS  
COVERAGE

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
2nd: The Cullman Times  
3rd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

BEST USE OF  
PHOTOGRAPHS/  
EDITORIAL CONTENT

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune

BEST LAYOUT AND  
DESIGN

- 1st: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
2nd: The Clanton Advertiser  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

- 1st: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)  
*'God comforted her': Missing child found safe in Parrish*  
by: Nicole Smith  
2nd: The Cullman Times  
*CCSO: Deputy, dispatcher dead in apparent murder-suicide*  
by: Patrick Camp  
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)  
*Ryan Manning found not guilty in child abuse case*  
by: Hunter Jones

Daily Mountain Eagle - Best In-Depth News Coverage

Daily Mountain Eagle

MOUNTAINEAGLE.COM WEEKEND EDITION, FEBRUARY 15-19, 2023 \$2.00

AG: FBI now investigating Mitchell's death

By: [Name]

The Alabama Attorney General's Office has confirmed that the FBI has now started an investigation into the death of Anthony "Thay" Mitchell, a successful car salesman, who was found dead in his vehicle on Monday, Feb. 13, after a long drive home from work.

Development continued to occur.

He was a good person

Mitchell remembered as friend, successful car salesman

By: [Name]

Anthony "Thay" Mitchell had a promising life well before the circumstances that led to his untimely death. Mitchell was a successful car salesman and a friend to many.

Mitchell's death was a tragedy for his family and friends.

He was a good person.

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Mitchell's death was a tragedy for his family and friends.



**3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**  
*Boogity, boogity, boogity,*  
*let's bring back racing*  
by: Carey Reeder

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

**1st: The Cullman Times**  
*Hold on*  
by: Amanda Shavers  
**2nd: The Cullman Times**  
*The write stuff*  
by: Amanda Shavers  
**3rd: The Cullman Times**  
*Duck pond*  
by: Amanda Shavers

## BEST NEWS PHOTO

**1st: The Cullman Times**  
*Going where the welds are*  
by: Amanda Shavers  
**2nd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*Justice for Tony*  
by: Ed Howell  
**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Black Business Council Juneteenth Celebration*  
by: Abigail Murphy

## BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*The shoes and the night I will never forget*  
by: Lizi Arbogast Gwin  
**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Prayer Vigil*  
by: Dalton Middleton  
**3rd: The Cullman Times**  
*Severe weather downs tree*  
by: Amanda Shavers

## BEST SPORTS PHOTO

**1st: The Cullman Times**  
*Home plate collision*  
by: Jake Winfrey  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*Back to B'ham*  
by: Jason Bowen  
**3rd: The Cullman Times**  
*Hangtime*  
by: Jake Winfrey



## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Bulls and broncs*  
by: Martha Needham  
**2nd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*Annual Kiwanis Track and Field Day a huge success*  
by: Ron Harris  
**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Dreams come true at Night to Shine*  
by: Amy Leonard, Dustin Isom

## BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Newsies Playbill newspaper inclusion*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*Childhood Cancer Awareness*  
by: Elizabeth Law  
**3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*Sepsis Awareness*  
by: Elizabeth Law

## BEST HEADLINE

**1st: The Cullman Times**  
*Heaviest Tomato? You got that ripe.*  
by: Amanda Shavers  
**2nd: The Cullman Times**  
*The Write Stuff*  
by: Amanda Shavers  
**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Fortunes told, crystals sold at new metaphysical supply shop*  
by: Cayla Grace Murphy

The Outlook -  
Best Spot News  
Photo

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: The Clanton Advertiser**  
*76th Chilton County Peach Festival Guide*  
by: Carey Reeder  
**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Gridiron Guide*  
by: staff  
**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Newsies Playbill*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*InSight magazine*  
by: staff  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*The Wedding Issue*  
by: staff  
**3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**  
*Faces & Places 2023*  
by: Carey Reeder

## CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

**1st: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*PrepZone Show*  
by: Johnathan Bentley, Zak McCullar, Jake Aaron  
**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Bedtime Stories*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff  
**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Timeline*  
by: Abigail Murphy

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Stabbing*  
by: Noah Galilee, Lauren Estes

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Late Night Shooting*  
by: Noah Galilee  
**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Berlin fire*  
by: W.C. Mann, Lauren Estes, Noah Galilee

## BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Rock The South Recap*  
by: Cayla Grace Murphy  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**  
*Back to School Keepsake*  
by: staff  
**3rd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*social media*  
by: Nicole Smith

## BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Bedtime Stories*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (SHORTER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Backpack Buddies aids students who experience food inefficiency*  
by: Abigail Murphy  
**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Farmers Market Opening Day*  
by: Cayla Grace Murphy  
**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Cullman Christkindlmarkt*  
by: Cayla Grace Murphy

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (LONGER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Christmas in Cullman Tree Lighting*  
by: staff  
**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*A Tale of Ghosts and Murder*  
by: Abigail Murphy  
**3rd: The News Courier (Athens)**  
*JNES goodbye*  
by: C.P. Bailey

## GENERAL EXCELLENCE

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**
- 3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**

## FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

- 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)**  
*Jawan Dallas police killing*  
by: Dale Liesch, Brady Petre, Kyle Hamrick
- 2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**  
*MCSO Overtime Investigation*  
by: Scott Johnson
- 3rd: The Montgomery Independent**  
*Holy Smoke*  
by: Brian Hodge

## BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

- 1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
[www.bizjournals.com/birmingham](http://www.bizjournals.com/birmingham)
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)  
[www.shelbycountyreporter.com](http://www.shelbycountyreporter.com)
- 3rd: Citizen of East Alabama**  
(Phenix City)  
[www.citizenofeastalabama.com](http://www.citizenofeastalabama.com)

## BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**

## BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

- 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)**  
*State ABC signs 'generous' leases for liquor stores*  
by: staff
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)  
*Suicide prevention*  
by: Don Mottern
- 3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Mentoring Monday*  
by: staff

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR SECTION

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**  
by: Doug Dimitry



Birmingham Business Journal - Best Public Service

## BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 3rd: Citizen of East Alabama**  
(Phenix City)

## BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)  
by: Andrew Simonson, Alec Etheredge
- 2nd: Call News (Citronelle)**
- 3rd: Citizen of East Alabama**  
(Phenix City)

## BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

- 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)**
- 2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
by: A.J. O'Leary, Illyshia Parker
- 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**

## BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

- 1st: Citizen of East Alabama**  
(Phenix City)
- 2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
by: Laurel Thraikill, A.J. O'Leary
- 3rd: The Southern Star (Ozark)**

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

- 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)**
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 3rd: Colbert County Reporter**  
by: JR Tidwell

## BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/ EDITORIAL CONTENT

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**

## BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

- 1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
(Gilberttown)
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)
- 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**

## BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)  
*Freemason lodge burns in Columbiana*  
by: Noah Wortham
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)

*Two crew members killed in Chelsea helicopter crash*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Twister's Toll*  
by: Patrick Darrington

## BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

- 1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Birmingham-Southern College*  
by: Laurel Thraikill, A.J. O'Leary
- 2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Maternal care in Birmingham*  
by: Laurel Thraikill
- 3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Nurse practitioner care in Birmingham*  
by: Laurel Thraikill

## BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
(Columbiana)  
*Built upon flavor*  
by: Noah Wortham



Charles and his son, Jo-el Pollard, proudly stand in front of their family business. Charles owns the only shoe repair shop in the county.

## A dying art

Local cobbler repairs shoes, does leatherwork in Boaz shop

By MARY BAILEY  
The Reporter

Located in a small building positioned off of Highway 431 in Boaz stands a cobbler shop that all started from faith.

Charles "Charlie" Pollard is a first-generation cobbler, or shoe repairman.

He didn't have a dream to set out fixing shoes, zippers or making gun holsters, the business fell in his lap after some prayers.

"When you have a business that has good months for only so long during the year, sometimes you have to find something else."



Pollard said, "I kept asking God, what do I do now? Show me what I need to do."

Patience was something that Pollard learned very quickly.

As the weeks passed, a

lady at Pollard's church came to him and said her husband was retiring from his shoe business.

At first it didn't click with Pollard that this was his answered prayer but then it did.

"I didn't think much of it at first, but I took that as my answer from God," he continued.

Pollard then started to train the craft. He had only months to learn as the man set to retire was ready to turn him loose.

A decade later, Pollard thinks back on the early

See SHOES, A5

The Sand Mountain Reporter - Best Business Story or Column

# Editorial Contest DIVISION C

## 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Pick of the patch*

by: Barton Perkins

## 3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)

*A Dying Art*

by: Mary Bailey

## BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

### 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Built upon flavor*

by: Noah Wortham

### 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*A silent struggle: Fighting to make a difference in mental healthcare and suicide prevention*

by: Don Mottern

### 3rd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

*It's not easy being nevergreen: Purple and gold marching society promotes Mobile's true colors*

by: Kyle Hamrick

## BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

### 1st: Birmingham Business Journal

*Titusville renewal*

by: Illyshia Parker

### 2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

*Feeding the monster — officials combat social media lists misinformation*

by: Brady Petree

### 3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)

*Project Charlie*

by: Elizabeth Summers

## BEST EDITORIAL

### 1st: The Montgomery Independent

*Bang Bang, You're Dead*

by: Jeff Martin

### 2nd: The Montgomery Independent

*1819 Gave Him A Public Lashing And*

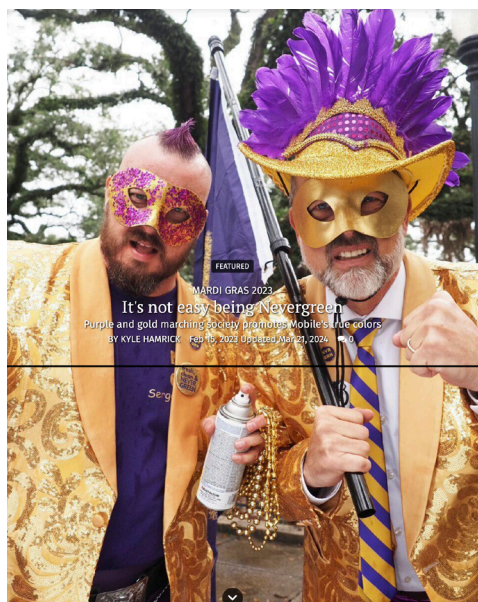
*Then Handed Him A Rope*

by: Jeff Martin

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

*Before our schools are added to the list*

by: Dee Ann Campbell



It's not easy being Nevergreen  
Purple and gold marching society promotes Mobile's true colors  
BY KYLE HAMRICK FEB 16, 2023 Updated Mar 21, 2023 11:10

## Lagniappe - Best Feature Story Coverage

### BLONDE AMBITION

## Before our schools are added to the list

Sandy Hook.  
Uvalde.  
Parkland.  
Columbine.  
Those names have been etched in our minds and hearts, synonymous with tragedy and fear and loss of life.

Not just any life — young life.  
The lives of kids, snuffed out before they had the chance to live them.

But those are just a few of the long, long list of places where kids have been killed at the hands of shooters who launched attacks in schools. There are many other names that may not be so familiar.

Santa Fe, Texas... Red Lake, Minnesota... Greencastle, Pennsylvania... Stockton, California... Craighead County, Arkansas... Maryville, Washington... Olivehurst, California... Oxford, Michigan... and so many others.

Most of us had never heard of some of those places, before tragedy struck, shots were fired, and kids were killed.

After such violence takes place and we lose more kids, we talk and talk about the problem, about the tragic loss, about all the issues that might have led to it — and about what needs to be done to protect kids if and when it happens again.

Then we are lulled to sleep by time, and we stop talking about it. Until it happens again. Then we talk and talk and talk some more. We might even take a few extra precautions now and then. But for the most part, we do not truly do all that we could do to address it.

We just talk about it, then we put it aside for another day.

Last week, a small group of par-

ents and members of the public gathered at Choctaw County High School to hear plans from law enforcement addressing what we should know, what we should do, and how we should respond if a shooter enters one of our schools to harm our kids.

Don't miss the adjective in the first part of that sentence.

Small.

Butler Police Chief Jimmy Huckeba stood in front of what should have been a packed house and talked about the issue, taking a proactive stand for active shooter response.

The house wasn't packed. Not nearly.

I know some parents could not attend due to work, or family obligations, or other issues. There could be a long list of reasons for the small group in that room.

Some also watched the live broadcast on SunTV.

But others did not attend or watch it at all.

Maybe they didn't see the importance of it. Maybe, even after all of the advertisements in the news media, on social media, and otherwise, they didn't know about it.

Or maybe some parents and other residents simply don't really believe it will happen here.

But maybe that's also what they said in some of those other small, rural places where kids' graves now stand.

We all should commend Chief Huckeba for taking time and effort to reach out to parents and the public, to address an issue that we all wish we didn't have to address at all. We should commend teachers,

See **BLONDE**, Page 9



Dee Ann Campbell  
Publisher

## 21 years of competition no match for a 35-year-old bond; Friends compete at Special Olympics

By Christina Faulkner

It's not often you find a friendship that lasts for 35 years. It's even rarer to find one that has lasted since birth. Even more special is the bond created between these two friends with special needs as they compete side by side, against one another in Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics and other events. Beth Olive and Erica Watts, both 35 years old, of north Shelby County, have been friends practically since birth and have been competing since they were seven years old.

Erica, the older of the two by just two months, is the daughter of Sandi and Tim Watts and was born in August 1987.



Erica Watts (L) and Beth Olive (R) have been competing against one another for 21 years in the Special Olympics, but their bond of friendship has lasted for much longer since, just weeks after they were born. Photo by Christina Faulkner.

Beth was born in October of that year to Kathy and Lynn Olive. Their mothers met in early intervention sessions just months after the girls were born. Attending elementary school, intermediate, middle, and high school See **Friends** on Page 10A

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

### 1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

*For Fear of a Cat*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

### 2nd: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville)

*First car can build character*

by: Sara Watkins

### 3rd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

*Rise of the partisan appliances*

by: Ashley Trice

## BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

### 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Deep-fried nostalgia*

by: Barton Perkins

### 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*On wings like Eagles*

by: Andrew Simonson

### 3rd: The Montgomery Independent

*A Peanut Farmer With A Servant's Heart*

by: Jeff Martin

## BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

### 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

by: Ashley Trice, Rob Holbert

## The Southern Star - Best Sports News In-Depth Coverage

### 2nd: The Montgomery Independent

by: Jeff Martin

### 3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

by: Donald Mottern

## BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

### 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Student athlete Brayden Ray dies in car accident*

by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson and Scott Mims

### 2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

*A pay-to-play industry*

by: Marie Leech

### 3rd: The Southern Star (Ozark)

*21 years of competition no match for a 35-year-old bond*

by: Christina Faulkner

## BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

### 1st: Call News (Citronelle)

*The Value of a foot*

by: Jimmy Wigfield

### 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Thompson wins thrilling game 3 ahead of semis*

by: Alec Etheredge

### 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

*Saraland plays for 6A championship*

by: Jimmy Wigfield

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

### 1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

*Basketball bounces differently at ASMS*

by: Tommy Hicks

### 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

*Chris Stewart recalls remarkable journey*

by: Alec Etheredge

### 3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

*The Goat*

by: Jimmy Wigfield

## The Choctaw Sun- Advocate - Best Editorial

## BEST LOCAL SPORTS FEATURE STORY

**1st: Call News (Citronelle)**

*Golsom creating a new MGM*

by: Jimmy Wigfield

**2nd: Call News (Citronelle)**

*Unforgettable*

by: Jimmy Wigfield

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**

**(Columbiana)**

*The memories created make it all worth the time*

by: Alec Etheredge

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Girl drops off letter for Santa Claus*

by: Noah Wortham

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

**(Columbiana)**

*Hitting the trails with Helena's Mountain Bike Team*

by: Jeremy Raines

**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**

*Barry Goggins in Ensley*

by: Bob Farley

## BEST NEWS PHOTO

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Bull throttle*

by: Jeremy Raines

**2nd: Call News (Citronelle)**

*WWII Vets stood for All*

by: Emmett Burnett

**3rd: The Southern Star (Ozark)**

*Junteenth Line Dance*

by: Christina Faulkner

## BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

**1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
**(Gilbertown)**

*Lifeflight*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**2nd: Call News (Citronelle)**

*Reid wins Oil Queen Crown*

by: Bonita Roberts

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**

**(Columbiana)**

*Eager for education*

by: Jeremy Raines

## BEST SPORTS PHOTO

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Bull throttle*

by: Jeremy Raines

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

*Helena receiver makes catch over defender*

by: Jeremy Raines

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**

*Hitting the trails*

by: Jeremy Raines

## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Fun at the fair*

by: Keith McCoy

**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**

*Innovation Depot*

by: Bob Farley

**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**

*Fairfield renewal*

by: Bob Farley

## BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**

*Middle Market 30*

by: Laurie Lawrence

**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**

*Pay to play illustration*

by: Laurie Lawrence, Stephanie Rebman,  
Marie Leech

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Built upon flavor*

by: Connor Bucy

## BEST HEADLINE

**1st: Colbert County Reporter**  
**(Tuscumbia)**

*GRIDDLE ME THIS: Over 1,000 served in annual Pancake Day*

by: JR Tidwell

**2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**

*Dam it — Foley officials to remove "Taj Mahal" beaver dam replete with hot tub*

by: Brady Petree

**3rd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**

*Thar she slows! — Petition seeks to limit vessel speeds on Gulf Waters*

by: Rob Holbert



Juliahna Reid reacts after being named Oil Queen. Piper Lee, in the blue dress, applauds.



Photos by Bonita Roberts/Call News

## Juliahna Reid is the Oil Queen

BY WILLIE GRAY

williegray@callnews.com

Senior Juliahna Reid was named Citronelle High School's Oil Queen in a ceremony on Feb. 4. CHS senior Calan Reed was selected as the Oil King and the queen's court includes first runner-up Abby Martin, second runner-up Addison Byrd, third runner-up Anna Marie Malone, fourth runner-up Maddie Weaver and fifth runner-up Ava Lambert. The pageant has been a community highlight for 64 years and fills the CHS auditorium to capacity.

See PAGEANT, 4A

Call News - Best Spot News Photo



Citizen of East Alabama -  
Best Niche Publication

## GRIDDLE ME THIS

Over 1,000 served in annual Pancake Day



J.R. Tidwell / Colbert County Reporter, Contributed  
Members of the Tuscumbia Kiwanis Club and Deshler High School Key Club help prepare a round of goods during the annual Pancake Day fundraiser at the Tuscumbia Multipurpose Center on March 17. By the time this photo was taken around 11 a.m., over 250 carry out orders had already been made. Kiwanis President Matt Kirkland said he believes over 1,000 orders came through.

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**

*40 Under 40*

**2nd: Call News**  
**(Citronelle)**

*2023 High School Football Preview*

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

*Graduation*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Profile*

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Visitors Guide*

by: Alec Etheredge, Connor Bucy

**3rd: Citizen of East Alabama**  
**(Phenix City)**

*Fall 2023 Gametime*

## CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Showcase of Bands*

by: Alec Etheredge, Noah Wortham

**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Birmingham 100*

by: Shelby Harris, Laurie Lawrence

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**  
**(Columbiana)**

*Capella Pizzeria*

by: Alec Etheredge

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Citizen of East Alabama**  
**(Phenix City)**

*Suspect arrested in weekend murder*

by: Eli Woods

Colbert County Reporter -  
Best Headline

Editorial Contest  
DIVISION C

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Two crew members killed in LifeSaver helicopter crash in Shelby County*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Birmingham-Southern College*  
by: Laurel Thrailkill, A.J. O'Leary

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*BBJ Social media*

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Instagram Reels*

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Facebook Live Pregame Show*  
by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*One on One*  
by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Facebook Live Pregame Show*  
by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Football Show*  
by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

BEST USE OF VIDEO (SHORTER THAN 2 MIN.)

Shelby County Reporter - Best Use of Video (Longer than 2 minutes)



**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Monster Walk*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Patriots Park grand opening*  
by: Alec Etheredge and Noah Wortham

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Band camp*  
by: Alec Etheredge and Noah Wortham

BEST USE OF VIDEO (LONGER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Helena tops Briarwood in thriller to remain perfect*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Oak Mountain hosts Eagle Day*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Showcase of Bands*  
by: Alec Etheredge

BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Women's Summit*  
by: Stephanie Rebman

**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Mentoring Monday*

**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*40 Under 40*

Editorial Contest  
DIVISION D

GENERAL EXCELLENCE BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR SECTION

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**

**1st: The Auburn Villager**  
**2nd: The Leader (Linden)**  
**3rd: The Tuskegee News**

FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

**1st: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston)**  
*Legislators are trying to hide local legals online*  
by: Tommy McGraw

**2nd: The Perry County Herald (Marion)**  
*Apparent Violation of State Bid Law by City*  
by: staff

**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Concerns raised over Alta Pointe Services*  
by: Tammy Andrews

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
[www.opelikaobserver.com](http://www.opelikaobserver.com)

**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
[www.thewetumpkaherald.com](http://www.thewetumpkaherald.com)

**3rd: Selma Sun**  
[www.selmasun.com](http://www.selmasun.com)

BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

**1st: The Greenville Standard**  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**

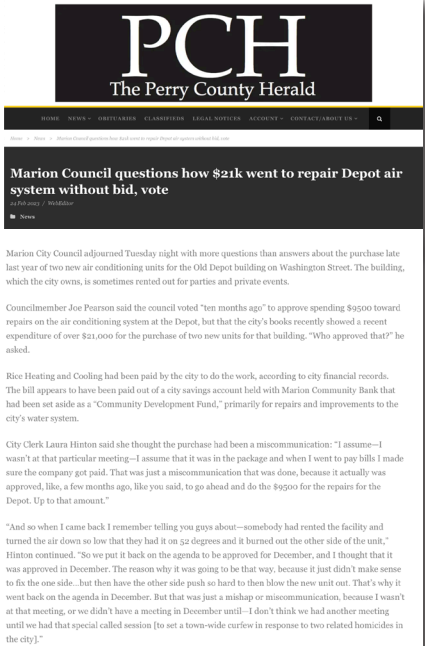
BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

**1st: Selma Sun**  
*Food for the Soul recipe videos*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Debrah Fisher

**2nd: The Perry County Herald (Marion)**  
*City Contract Awarded Without Bids*

**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*911 Board members resign*  
by: Tammy Andrews

The Perry County Herald (Marion) - FOI-First Amendment Award



The Clay Times-Journal

Volume 113, Number 15 Thursday, January 12, 2023

Commission accepts EMA Director's resignation

by Tammy Andrews  
Clay Times-Journal

The Clay County Commission met Monday, January 9, 2023 for their first scheduled meeting of the new year. Prior to the meeting, Clay County EMA Director Theresa Daugherty had submitted a letter of resignation/retirement by email to the Clay County Commissioners, effective March 1, 2023. Although reluctant to see her go, the commission did accept Daugherty's resignation letter during this session. All commissioners went around the table commending Daugherty for the great job she had done in this



The Clay County Commission

position for the past 30+ years and expressing sentiments of well wishes in the future. Chairman Ricky Burney was the first to speak, stating that he had worked with Theresa for a long time, and he appreciated everything she has done. "She's been a great person for this job and for the county," said Burney. Commissioner Billy Robertson said it had been a pleasure working with her and hoped she was going to enjoy her retirement. Commissioner Shane EMA, See page 4A

The Clay Times-Journal - Best Public Service



### BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

- 1st: The Leader (Linden)**  
*BLONDE AMBITION: Learning the great lessons of parenthood*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Straddling the Fence*  
by: David Proctor
- 3rd: The Greenville Standard**  
*Living on Bubba time*  
by: Jeanne K. Callen

### BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

- 1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Remembering Carolyn*  
by: Tammy Andrews
- 2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Love More Now*  
by: Cliff Williams
- 3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*The GOAT*  
by: Tammy Andrews


### BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

- 1st: The Auburn Villager**  
*Commentary*  
by: Ralph Morris
- 2nd: The Moundville Times**  
*Commentary*  
by: Kirk Pearson, Jr.
- 3rd: The Leader (Linden)**  
*Days Gone By*  
by: Tom Boggs

### BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

- 1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*War Eagle News*  
by: Brandon Hughes, Robert Noles, Michelle Key
- 2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
*Overcoming Obstacles: Wilson wins Bryant-Jordan scholarship*  
by: Henry Zimmer

NewsDigital PublicationsColumnsThe ObserverContact UsPaymentsOther



Fishing for Smiles: Zuggy Fishing Using Online Platform to Promote Positivity  
by The Observer Staff | Jul 19, 2023 | Community, Sports

BY NOAH GRIFFITH

"Thank y'all for watchin'. All glory to God. Be positive, just fish."

This is the line Auburn University junior in marketing, known by those around him as Zuggy, uses to close out every YouTube video. Fishing has taught him to stay positive in hard times after spending a large portion of his childhood in the hospital battling an undiagnosed condition.

Now, he's passing that on to thousands across TikTok, Instagram and YouTube.

"Positivity is such an important thing. It really can make or break someone's day and change their outlook on life," Zuggy said. "A huge part of my channel is to help people in that sense and bring a light to their day. Ultimately, that light that I can bring that day — hopefully that leads people to the forever light of God."

It all started in 2017, when people in his hometown of Mountainside, New Jersey, began asking about his fishing adventures.

"They were like, 'Zuggy, Zuggy, you gotta start a YouTube channel,'" Zuggy recalled. "I was like: 'alright, fine.'"

Not expecting much out of it, he went to YouTube that night and hit the "publish channel" button. Then, he hopped in the car with his family and rode about 18 hours down to Florida for vacation and filmed his first videos. After a handful of "cringe" videos, his posts simmered out — until the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zuggy hit 1,000 subscribers in two days from people in his community following him, but that number stayed relatively constant until he started back posting in March 2020, when he got up to 100,000 followers on TikTok. Now, he is sitting at over 83,000 subscribers on YouTube with around 250,000 followers on TikTok.

The Observer - Best Sports Feature Story

- 3rd: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope)**  
*Injuries and training: Prepping for the long season*  
by: Cole McNanna

### BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

- 1st: The Dadeville Record**  
*The kick heard 'round the state': Field goal lifts Reeltown to state final*  
by: Henry Zimmer
- 2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Holtville's Silas delivers in future stadium*  
by: Dalton Middleton
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*ROW TIDE: Holtville's Hickey joins Alabama rowing team*  
by: Dalton Middleton



Sumter County Record-Journal - Best Spot News Photo



The Islander - Best Feature Photo

### BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

- 1st: The Dadeville Record**  
*Rebels channel Chucky to beat Tallassee*  
by: Henry Zimmer
- 2nd: The Onlooker (Foley)**  
*Recruiting's wild ride*  
by: Cole McNanna
- 3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Fishing for Smiles: Zuggy Fishing Using Online Platform to Promote Positivity*  
by: Noah Griffith

### BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

- 1st: The Tuskegee News**  
*Coaches are still 'hired to be fired'*  
by: Guy Rhodes
- 2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Can Auburn Add to the Madness?*  
by: Wil Crews

- 3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
*Woods should've been a 2A Back of the Year finalist*  
by: Lizi Arbogast Gwin

### BEST FEATURE PHOTO

- 1st: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope)**  
*New Daphne business wants to help you release your rage*  
by: Micah Green
- 2nd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
*Tallassee Pep Rally*  
by: Cliff Williams
- 3rd: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Flora-Bama Mullet Toss*  
by: Micah Green

### BEST NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Remembering Amore*  
by: Robert Noles
- 2nd: The Onlooker (Foley)**  
*Nitro Extreme Motor Show flies fast in Foley*  
by: staff
- 3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*FREEDOM!*  
by: Robert Noles

### BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Lightwood tornado*  
by: Cliff Williams
- 2nd: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston)**  
*Emelle mobile home destroyed, occupant survives*  
by: Tommy McGraw
- 3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Early morning house fire*  
by: Breanna Minter

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

- 1st: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Carter Byrd upends UMS ball carrier*  
by: Cole McNanna
- 2nd: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Dolphin dive for a state championship*  
by: Micah Green

**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Eagles FACS at 3rd*  
by: Ray Stansell

## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: The Leader (Linden)**  
*Christmas on the River 2023*  
by: Tommy Campbell  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Take A Big Bite*  
by: Robert Noles, Michelle Key  
**3rd: The Leader (Linden)**  
*Hollywood Nights: First-ever Senior Prom draws packed house*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

## BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*FREEDOM!*  
by: Michelle Key, Robert Noles  
**2nd: The Leader (Linden)**  
*Memorial Day*  
by: Tommy Campbell  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**  
*AU researchers conduct Camp Hill history project*  
by: Abigail Murphy

## BEST HEADLINE

**1st: The Moundville Times**  
*Goodness gracious, great bales of fire!*  
by: Travis Vaughn  
**2nd: The Leader (Linden)**  
*Bridge the 'Bigbee with Cocks'*  
by: Tommy Campbell  
**3rd: The Moundville Times**  
*Blessed by the best, incarcerated like the rest*  
by: Travis Vaughn

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Gulf Shores football state championship commemorative edition*  
by: Cole McNanna, Micah Green  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Home & Garden Guide*  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Breast Cancer Awareness*



Selma Sun  
- Best Use  
of Video  
(Shorter  
than 2  
minutes)

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*The Observer Facebook*  
by: staff  
**2nd: The Baldwin Times**  
*Gulf Coast Media Sports social media*  
by: Cole McNanna  
**3rd: Selma Sun**  
*Best Use of Social Media: TikTok*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater, Chico Cleveland

## BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: Selma Sun**  
*In the Black Belt*  
by: Todd Prater  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Lee County Listener-Listen to the Music*  
by: Sam DiChiara, Garrett Martinez

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (SHORTER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: Selma Sun**  
*Immediate tornado damage*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland  
**2nd: Selma Sun**  
*Gee's Bend Quilters*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater  
**3rd: Selma Sun**  
*Hero saves children at daycare from tornado damage*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (LONGER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*The Wetumpka Herald's 125th Anniversary*  
by: Angela Mullins  
**2nd: Selma Sun**  
*Black Belt Newscast: Year in Review*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater  
**3rd: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Gulf Shores High School Dolphins football Media Day*  
by: Cole McNanna

## BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

**1st: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*Gulf Shores state championship celebration series*



NEWS  
**'He is watching over me' Allen surrounded by love following son's death**  
By Henry Zimmer Sports Editor Jun 16, 2023  
As graduation approached, Dowdell's mother Latonya Allen knew her son needed to be represented at the ceremony. In an ultimate show of emotion, Allen walked across Dadeville's graduation stage and received Dowdell's diploma.

NEWS  
**'Nowhere like Dadeville' City leaders recognize first responders**  
By William Marlow Multimedia Reporter Updated May 19, 2023  
Dadeville elected officials and citizens provided a standing ovation Tuesday to law enforcement, hospital staff and all the first responders who answered the call during the April 15 mass shooting.

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: The Baldwin Times**  
*Big Beautiful Baldwin 2023*  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*At Home in Clay County May 2023*  
**3rd: The Baldwin Times**  
*Stay Alert 2023*

## CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

**1st: Selma Sun**  
*Black Belt Newscast*  
by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

## The Dadeville Record - Online Breaking News Coverage



NEWS  
**County schools continue to recovery after Dadeville shooting**  
By Abigail Murphy Multimedia Reporter Jun 19, 2023  
With two Dadeville High School students later declared dead and multiple students still injured, Porter said those first few days were focused on students' needs.



MULTIMEDIA  
**PHOTOS: Dadeville celebrates life of KeKe Nicole Smith**  
By William Marlow Multimedia Reporter Updated May 19, 2023



NEWS  
**'An exemplary life' Dadeville, surrounding areas hold vigil for KeKe Nicole Smith**  
By William Marlow Multimedia Reporter Updated May 19, 2023



MULTIMEDIA  
**PHOTOS: Prayer vigil for KeKe Nicole Smith**  
By William Marlow Multimedia Reporter Updated May 19, 2023

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Selma Sun**  
*Selma Tornado 2023*  
**2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
*Mass shooting in Dadeville, April 2023*  
**3rd: The Moundville Times**  
*Fatality wreck on Hwy 69- Facebook post*  
by: Kasey DeCastra

## BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



### BEST EDITORIAL

- 1st: The Trussville Tribune**  
*TCS BOE hits homerun with Martin hire*  
by: Scott Buttram
- 2nd: The Alabama Baptist**  
*Tragedy reminds us that sin-darkened world needs light of Christ*  
by: Jennifer Davis Rash
- 3rd: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Alabama citizens and crime victims deserve real accountability*  
by: Paul DeMarco

### BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Snippets: Neighborhood wave means mow problems*  
by: Jonathan Stinson
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Snippets: Dead animals in road don't belong on menu*  
by: Jonathan Stinson
- 3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Snippets: Some were born to run critters out of buildings*  
by: Jonathan Stinson

### BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

- 1st: Cahaba Sun**  
*Payphoning it forward*  
by: Gary Lloyd
- 2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*Role reversal*  
by: Alana Smith
- 3rd: Village Living**  
*In a world that's hurting, you need stubborn hope*  
by: Kari Kampakis

### BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

- 1st: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Commentary*  
by: Scott Buttram
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Snippets*  
by: Jonathan Stinson

### BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Lunar Llamas capture championship*  
by: Skip Vaughn
- 2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*High school football preview*
- 3rd: Village Living**  
*High school football preview*  
by: Kyle Parmley

### BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

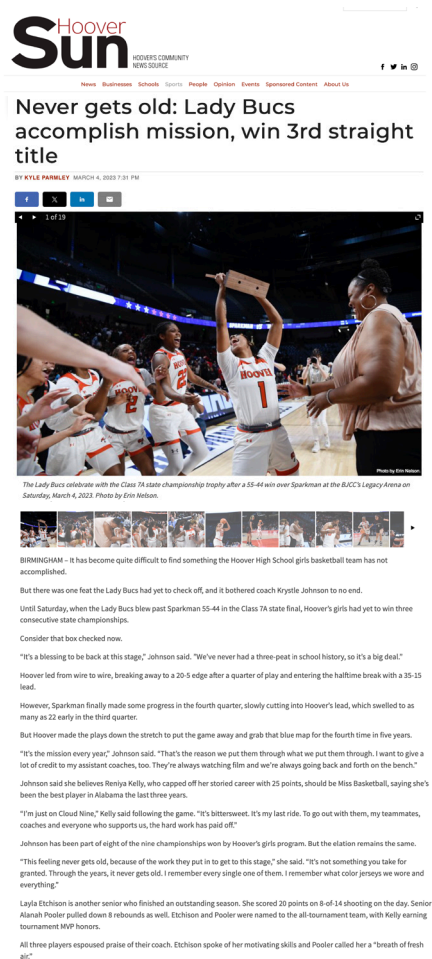
- 1st: Vestavia Voice**  
*Long time coming*  
by: Kyle Parmley
- 2nd: Hoover Sun**  
*Bucs cap magical day*  
by: Kyle Parmley
- 3rd: Hoover Sun**  
*Never gets old: Lady Bucs accomplish mission, win 3rd straight title*  
by: Kyle Parmley

### BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*One of one: Briarwood senior forges unique, necessary path*  
by: Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson Sweeney
- 2nd: Vestavia Voice**  
*Balancing father and coach*  
by: Kyle Parmley
- 3rd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*Lions seniors remembered for on-court production, off-court relationship*  
by: Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson Sweeney

### BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Football career ends but another chapter begins*  
by: Skip Vaughn
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Try to understand the referees' perspective*  
by: Skip Vaughn
- 3rd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*Let them celebrate*  
by: Kyle Parmley



### The Hoover Sun Best Sports Single Event Story

### BEST FEATURE PHOTO

- 1st: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Moody environ-mental landfill fire*  
by: Ron Burkett
- 2nd: The Birmingham Times**  
*Coping With Grief*  
by: Joe Songer
- 3rd: The Homewood Star**  
*Ukrainian Soldier Rehab*  
by: Erin Nelson Sweeney

### BEST NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Moody environmental landfill fire*  
by: Ron Burkett
- 2nd: The Birmingham Times**  
*Mother's Love*  
by: Joe Songer
- 3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Puppy love*  
by: Jonathan Stinson

### BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Moody environmental landfill fire*  
by: Ron Burkett
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Straight-line winds leave their mark*  
by: Jonathan Stinson

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Making Plays*  
by: Erin Nelson Sweeney
- 2nd: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Moody receiver KD Barnes with a touch-down against Southside Gadsden*  
by: Ron Burkett
- 3rd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
*One of one, Emmi Claire Willoughby*  
by: Erin Nelson Sweeney

### 280 Living - Best Sports Photo



## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: The Birmingham Times**

*Works of Art*

by: staff

**2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**

*Celebrating the 2023 Grads*

by: Erin Nelson Sweeney

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Army band sets week's tone with concert in park*

by: Jonathan Stinson

## BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: The Alabama Baptist**

*Taking Care*

by: Lauren Grim

**2nd: The Birmingham Times**

*Black History Month*

by: Kacy Sesser-Dorne'

**3rd: The Alabama Baptist**

*5 ways pastors can help families navigate social media*

by: Lauren Grim

## BEST HEADLINE

**1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**

*Flying High: Briarwood student soars with epilepsy awareness efforts*

by: Jon Anderson

**2nd: Hoover Sun**

*Food For Our Journey: Nonprofit fills gaps to nourish stomachs, spirits, souls*

by: Jon Anderson

**3rd: Lider News (Birmingham)**

*Tragedia Ambiental, Chernobil Quimico en EEUU*

by: Gerardo Flores, Adriana Sanchez

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: The Birmingham Times**

*Black History From Science to Sports*

by: staff

**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Breast Cancer Awareness 2023*

by: staff

**3rd: The Alabama Baptist**

*Aging Well*

by: staff

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**

*Under the Lights*

**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Global Force Symposium*

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Engineers Week 2023*

## CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

**1st: The Trussville Tribune**

*Tribune Unscripted*

by: Brandon Dawkins, Scott Buttram, and Ron Burkett

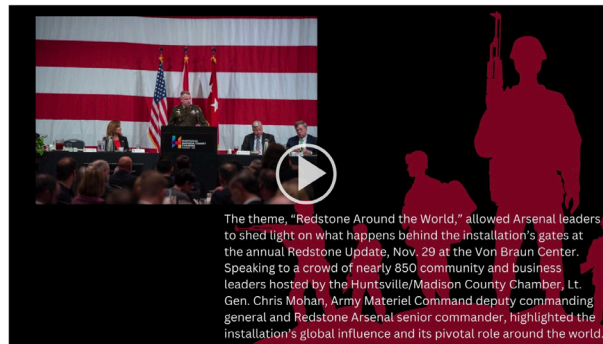
**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Tribune Sports LIVE!*

by: Zack Steele, Johnny Sanders, and John Goolsby

**3rd: Village Living (Mountain Brook)**

*Jemison Park Trail Renovations*



## The Redstone Rocket - Best Use of Video (Shorter than 2 minutes)



**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Redstone Rocket Facebook*

by: staff

## BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Under the Lights Podcast*

by: Kyle Parmley, Gary Lloyd

**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Rocket brief*

by: staff

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (SHORTER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Spain Park High Class of 2023 Graduation Cap Toss*

by: Jon Anderson

**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*2023 Veterans Day Parade*

by: Jonathan Stinson



## Lider News - Best Headline

## The Alabama Baptist - Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Redstone pulls back curtain on global operations*

by: Jonathan Stinson

## BEST USE OF VIDEO (LONGER THAN 2 MIN.)

**1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*December is drugged and drunk driving prevention month*

by: Jonathan Stinson

**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Moody environmental landfill fire*

by: Ron Burkett

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

*Get Ready for Back to School with Redstone's School Liaison Officer*

by: Jonathan Stinson

**ADVERTISING  
SWEEPSTAKES AWARD**

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

**2nd: The Cullman Times**

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

**BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE  
OR SECTION**

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

**2nd: The Cullman Times**

by: Debbie Miller, Amanda Tolbert

**3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**

The Cullman Tribune  
Best Single Ad 1/2 page  
& under, B/W



**BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER, B/W**

**1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*Santa Fe*

by: staff

**2nd: The Clanton Advertiser**

*First Assembly of God Graduation*

by: Zack Bates

**3rd: The Cullman Tribune**

*The Groom Haus*

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

**BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER,  
COLOR**

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)**

*Sam the Bugman*

by: Elizabeth Law

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

*Knight-Free Insurance Agency*

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

**3rd: The Outlook**

**(Alexander City)**

*Go Pro Wildlife*

by: Audra Spears

**BEST SINGLE AD  
OVER 1/2 PAGE, B/W**

**1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*Moriroku Technology North America  
Graduation*

by: LaShawna Raines, Emily Wooten

**2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*RTI Progress*

by: LaShawna Raines, Emily Wooten

**3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**

*City of Clanton*

by: Zack Bates

**BEST SINGLE AD  
OVER 1/2 PAGE,  
COLOR**

**1st: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**

*Foothills Festival*

**2nd: Daily Mountain Eagle**

**(Jasper)**

*Bevill State*

**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Hufham Farris*

by: Audra Spears, Renee Trice

**BEST REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED SPECIAL  
SECTION**

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel**

**(Scottsboro)**

*Graduation Magazine*

**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Progress - Opportunity Knocks!*

by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler, Kenneth

Boone

**3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*Progress Edition*

**BEST ONE TIME  
SPECIAL SECTION**

**1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*Boom Days Event Schedule and Map*

**2nd: The Cullman Times**

*Bloomin Festival 2023*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**3rd: Jackson County Sentinel**

**(Scottsboro)**

*Easter Coloring Book*

**BEST IN-PAPER  
PROMOTION OF  
NEWSPAPER**

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel**

**(Scottsboro)**

*Hop, Hop, Hooray*

by: Elizabeth Law

**2nd: The News Courier (Athens)**

*150 Years*

by: Glenda Smith, Heather Casillas,

Angie Christopher

**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Santa Reads*

by: Audra Spears

**BEST ADVERTISING  
CAMPAIGN**

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel**

**(Scottsboro)**

*Downtown Scottsboro*

by: Elizabeth Law

**2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*First State Bank SportsExtra*

by: Nick Vizzinia

**3rd: Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**

*High Point Summer Selloff*

**BEST ORIGINAL/  
CREATIVE IDEA**

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*People Read*

by: Audra Spears

**2nd: The Cullman Times**

*Alabama/Auburn Football Schedule*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**

*Peach Living Real Estate*

by: Zack Bates

**BEST CLASSIFIED  
DISPLAY AD**

**1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*PlayCore Jobs*

by: Emily Wooten, Linda Stiefel

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

*Classified Ad*

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

**3rd: The Cullman Times**

*Medical Directory*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**BEST SIGNATURE PAGE**

**1st: The Cullman Times**

*12 Reasons to Shop Local*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

*Shop Local Cullman*

by: Noah Galilee, Dustin Isom, Janet

Chandler

**3rd: The News Courier (Athens)**

*Miss Merry Christmas*

by: Glenda Smith, Angie Christopher,

Heather Casillas



The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Best Advertising Campaign

## Advertising Contest DIVISION B

Daily Mountain Eagle -  
Best Single Ad Over 1/2  
page, Color



### BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: The Cullman Times**

*Class of 2023*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Frontline Heroes Coloring Book*

by: Audra Spears, Renee Trice, Hidey Arrington

**3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*Business Card Directory*

by: staff

### BEST USE OF HUMOR

**1st: The Cullman Times**

*C&E Fence*

by: Heather Casillas, staff

**2nd: The News Courier (Athens)**

*March Madness*

by: Glenda Smith, Angie Christopher, Heather Casillas

**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Winking Girl*

by: Tippy Hunter, Audra Spears

### BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)**

[www.jcsentinel.com](http://www.jcsentinel.com)

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

[www.cullmantribune.com](http://www.cullmantribune.com)

by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

**3rd: The Cullman Times**

[www.cullmantimes.com](http://www.cullmantimes.com)

### BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING, SINGLE AD

**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*SNF Designs*

by: Hidey Arrington, Audra Spears

**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Meek Dozer Services*

by: Hidey Arrington, Audra Spears

**3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**

*Holmes Guns*

by: Hidey Arrington, Audra Spears

### ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER

**1st: The Cullman Tribune**

*Subscribe to The Cullman Tribune*

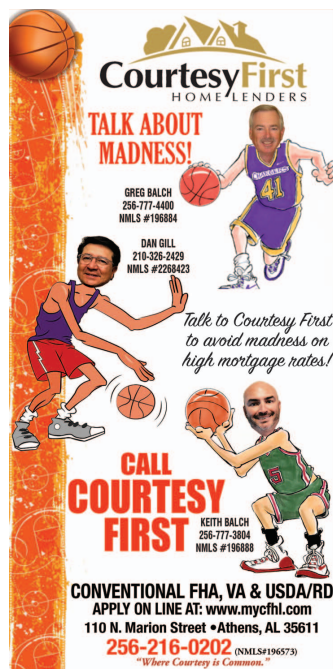
by: Noah Galilee, Dustin Isom, Janet Chandler

**2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**

*DeKalb Magazine Promo*

by: Emily Wooten

The News Courier  
Best Use of Humor



## Advertising Contest DIVISION C

### ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

*(Columbiana)*

**2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

**3rd: The Southern Star (Ozark)**

### BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE OR SECTION

**1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**2nd: The Southern Star (Ozark)**

by: staff

**3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter**

*(Albertville)*

by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

### BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE AND UNDER, B/W

**1st: The Advertiser-Gleam**

*(Guntersville) (Guntersville)*

*Happy Birthday from the Pig*

by: Sherrie Hall

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

*(Columbiana)*

*Oak View Animal Hospital*

by: Rhett McCreight

**3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

*Chamber Christmas*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

### BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE AND UNDER, COLOR

**1st: The Advertiser-Gleam**

*(Guntersville) (Guntersville)*

*Sand Mountain Toyota*

by: Sherrie Hall

**2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

*Patton Patrick Graduation*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

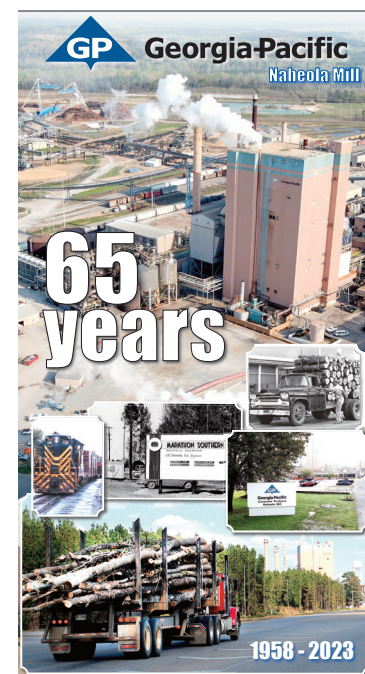
**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**

*(Columbiana)*

*Valentines Day Ad*

by: Evann Campbell, Vee Romero

The Choctaw Sun-  
Advocate - Best Single Ad  
Over 1/2 Page, Color



### BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, B/W

**1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**  
*(Gilbertown)*

*Veterans Day*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

*(Columbiana)*

*Small business awards*

by: Rhett McCreight

### BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, COLOR

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

*(Columbiana)*

*Buck Creek Festival*

by: Rhett McCreight

**2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

*Georgia-Pacific Football*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate**

*(Gilbertown)*

*Georgia-Pacific Anniversary*

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Visitors Guide 2023*

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Football 2023*

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)  
*First and Goal, Football 2023*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Profile 2023*

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Graduation 2023*

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Coloring Book*

BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

1st: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)  
*Graduation Promotions*  
by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Football house ad*  
by: Connor Bucy, Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Graduation Teaser*  
by: Connor Bucy

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)  
*Bark in the Park*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*United Way*

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Coosa Valley MRI*

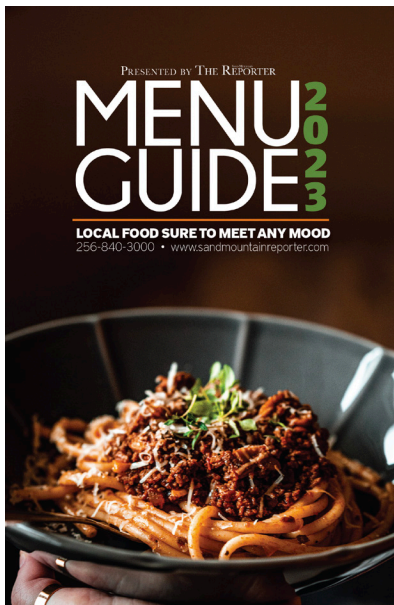
BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Home Improvement Page*  
by: Evann Campbell, Vee Romero

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)



Shelby County Reporter - Best Original/Creative Idea



The Sand Mountain Reporter Best Niche Publication

*Senior Picnic*  
by: Rhett McCreight

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Vulcan Wanted Dead Not Alive*  
by: Rhett McCreight

BEST CLASSIFIED DISPLAY AD

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Truck and Trailer auction*  
by: Vee Romero

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Alabama Farmers*  
by: Octavia Campbell

3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)  
*Swafford Hokes Bluff Auction*  
by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Home Improvement*  
by: Evann Campbell, Vee Romero

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Worship*  
by: staff

3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)  
*Sardis Baseball*  
by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Visitors Guide 2023*

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Football 2023*

3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)  
*Menu Guide*  
by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

BEST USE OF HUMOR

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

*ACE Santa's workshop*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)  
*ACE Gibson Body Shop*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Buck Creek Dental Halloween*  
by: Rachel Henderson

BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*www.shelbycountyreporter.com*

2nd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)  
*www.sandmountainreporter.com*  
by: John Morris, Jonathan Bottomlee

BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING, SINGLE AD

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Buck Creek Dental*  
by: Rachel Henderson

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Buck Creek Dental Halloween*  
by: Rachel Henderson

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Oak View Animal Hospital*  
by: Rhett McCreight

ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Gain Access*  
by: staff

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)  
*Newsletter subscription*  
by: staff

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)  
*SUNTV Football*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

**ADVERTISING  
SWEEPSTAKES AWARD**

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**

**BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE  
OR SECTION**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
**2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
**3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**

**BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER, B/W**

**1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Remembering the Past-Howard Ballard*  
by: Tammy Andrews  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Remembering our Past-June's Cafe*  
by: Tammy Andrews  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Remembering our Past-Watermelons*  
by: Tammy Andrews

**BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER,  
COLOR**

**1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Taco Tuesdays*  
by: Breanna Minter  
**2nd: The Greenville Standard**  
*Butler County Farmer's Market*  
by: Michelle Styron  
**3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Kidz World*  
by: Michelle Key

**BEST SINGLE AD OVER  
1/2 PAGE, B/W**

**1st: The Greenville Standard**  
*Butler County Farmer's Market*  
by: Michelle Styron

**BEST SINGLE AD OVER  
1/2 PAGE, COLOR**

**1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*First State Bank Best of Luck Football  
Season*  
by: Breanna Minter

The Greenville Standard  
- Best Single Ad 1/2 page  
and under, color



**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Los Amigos*  
by: Michelle Key  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**  
*J.A. Smith, LLC*  
by: Hidey Arrington

**BEST REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED SPECIAL  
SECTION**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*FYI*  
by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler  
**2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
*Dadeville Magazine*  
by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler, Kenneth Boone  
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Horizons*  
by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler

**BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL  
SECTION**

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Lee County Fair*  
by: Michelle Key  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Wetumpka Herald Celebrating 125 Years*  
by: staff  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Congratulations, Lineville 8U Boys!*

**BEST IN-PAPER  
PROMOTION OF  
NEWSPAPER**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Today a reader, tomorrow a leader*  
by: Audra Spears  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Feed Your Brain*  
by: Audra Spears  
**3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
*Cup of Tea*  
by: Audra Spears

**BEST ADVERTISING  
CAMPAIGN**

The Clay Times-Journal -  
Best Original/Creative Idea

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*USA Town Center*  
by: Michelle Key  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Angel's Antiques*  
by: Michelle Key  
**3rd: The Greenville Standard**  
*Butler County Fair*  
by: Michelle Styron

**BEST ORIGINAL/  
CREATIVE IDEA**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*People Read the Newspaper*  
by: Audra Spears  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Trike-A-Thon 1st Bank*  
by: Breanna Minter  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*100 days of school 1st Bank*  
by: Breanna Minter

**BEST CLASSIFIED  
DISPLAY AD**

**1st: The Greenville Standard**  
*Coleman Realty*  
by: Bruce Branum  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*For Sale*  
by: Michelle Key

**BEST SIGNATURE PAGE**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Wetumpka High School Spirit Banner*  
by: staff  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Shelter Pets*  
by: Audra Spears  
**3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Signature Page*  
by: Michelle Key

**BEST NICHE  
PUBLICATION**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Elmore County First Responders  
Coloring Book*  
by: Audra Spears  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*At Home in Clay County-December 2023*  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*At Home in Clay County-May 2023*

Advertising Contest  
DIVISION D

Advertising Contest  
DIVISION E

BEST USE OF HUMOR

- 1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
Wedowee Marine Santa Claus  
by: Breanna Minter
- 2nd: The Greenville Standard**  
Stuckey's Barber Shop  
by: Bruce Branum
- 3rd: The Greenville Standard**  
Pet Salon  
by: Michelle Styron

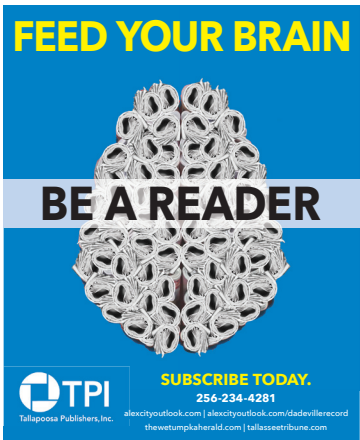
BEST PRESENTATION OF  
ONLINE ADVERTISING

- 1st: The Tallassee Tribune**  
www.tallasseetribune.com
- 2nd: The Greenville Standard**  
www.thegreenvillestandard.com
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
www.thewetumpkaherald.com

BEST INNOVATIVE  
ONLINE ADVERTISING,  
SINGLE AD

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
Better Life Veterinary  
by: staff
- 2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
Parker Tire  
by: Audra Spears
- 3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
Community Hospital  
by: staff

The Wetumpka Herald -  
Best In-Paper  
Promotion of Newspaper



ADVERTISING  
SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**
- 2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER,  
COLOR

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Amber Falls  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts
- 2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Apricot Lane  
by: Ted Perry
- 3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
AB Artistry  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

BEST SINGLE AD OVER  
1/2 PAGE, COLOR

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
We'll Do It  
by: Ted Perry
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Rebelution  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

BEST REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED SPECIAL  
SECTION

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Women in Business

BEST IN-PAPER  
PROMOTION OF  
NEWSPAPER

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Home & Garden  
by: Emily VanderMey

BEST ADVERTISING  
CAMPAIGN

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Ritch's Pharmacy  
by: Emily VanderMey
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Scott Kitchen and Bath  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

The Redstone Rocket -  
Best Use of Humor



BEST ORIGINAL/  
CREATIVE IDEA

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Bennett Nursery  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts
- 2nd: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Pet Vet Express/Animal Hospital of the Hills  
by: Ted Perry

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Under the Lights

BEST USE OF HUMOR

- 1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)**  
Joe Falconer "Steer" Realtor  
by: Ted Perry
- 2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Triple H Rvs Thanksgiving  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts
- 3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
Triple H Rvs Spooktacular  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

280 Living -  
Best Single Ad 1/2 Page  
and Under, Color



Lake Martin Living -  
Best Cover Photo or  
Illustration



Lake Wedowee Life -  
Best Single Ad



Live Lee -  
Best Sports Feature

### MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

- 1st: Huntsville Magazine**  
by: Takara Swoopes, CJ Byrd
- 2nd: Homewood Life Magazine**
- 3rd: Lake Magazine**

### BEST SINGLE FEATURE STORY

- 1st: Walker magazine**  
*A vivid life: Veteran Randy Fielding talks of photography, time serving country*  
by: Nicole Smith
- 2nd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*Forever Aniah*  
by: Madoline Markham Koonce, Lindsey Culver
- 3rd: Jackson Magazine**  
*Veterans Helping Veterans*  
by: Hunter Jones, Ashley Colon, Elizabeth Law

### BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE

- 1st: Hoover’s magazine**  
*Legend on the Links*  
by: Lauren Dowdle, Blair Ramsey
- 2nd: Lake Martin Living**  
*Tommy G*  
by: Ben Smith
- 3rd: Beachin’**  
*Class is in session: Sand Castle University*  
by: Kayla Green

### BEST BUSINESS FEATURE

- 1st: Live Lee**  
*Every Flavor, All The Colors*  
by: Kendyl Hollingsworth
- 2nd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*The American Dream*  
by: Carmen Brown, Blair Ramsey
- 3rd: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*He Brews*  
by: Amy Bailey, Nadia Kidd, Eddie Hurskin

### BEST TRAVEL FEATURE

- 1st: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*Eat, Drink and Be Merry in Napa*  
by: Christiana Roussel
- 2nd: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Choose Your Fall Adventure*  
by: Amy Bailey

- 3rd: DeKalb Living**  
*Welcome to Alabama!*  
by: Mark Harrison

### BEST CULINARY FEATURE

- 1st: Huntsville Magazine**  
*Tom Brown’s Restaurant Opens Doors to New Location*  
by: Gianna Hudson, Takara Swoopes, Dokk Savage
- 2nd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*A Chop Above*  
by: Brenda Ladun
- 3rd: Community Matters**  
*Food Truck Frenzy*  
by: Cayla Grace Murphy, Cheyenne Sharp

### BEST SPORTS FEATURE

- 1st: Hoover’s magazine**  
*Legend on the Links*  
by: Lauren Dowdle, Blair Ramsey
- 2nd: Live Lee**  
*Spokes of Life*  
by: Hannah Goldfinger
- 3rd: Lake Magazine**  
*Fishing for a Living*  
by: Ben Smith, Audra Spears, Kenneth Boone

### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

- 1st: Lake Martin Living**  
*July 4th in Review*  
by: Kenneth Boone, Cliff Williams, Lizi Arbogast Gwin
- 2nd: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Life In Leather*  
by: Ty Cole, Amy Bailey
- 3rd: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Family Is Everything, Thanksgiving With The Garcia Family*  
by: Joe Davis

### BEST SINGLE PHOTOGRAPH

- 1st: Community Matters**  
*A Dream Come True - Santa Maria della Pieta*  
by: Sherry Brown
- 2nd: Beachin’**  
*Oyster Farms*  
by: Micah Green

- 3rd: Lake Magazine**  
*Sunset Shoreline*  
by: Kenneth Boone

### BEST INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE

- 1st: Huntsville Magazine**  
*www.huntsvillemagazine.com*  
by: Takara Swoopes
- 2nd: Lake Wedowee Life**  
*www.lakewedoweelife.com*  
by: Leisel Caldwell
- 3rd: Community Matters**  
*www.cullmantribune.com/cullman-community-matters-magazine.com*  
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

### BEST SINGLE AD

- 1st: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*Mantooth Interiors*
- 2nd: Lake Wedowee Life**  
*Bobbers Bar and Grill*  
by: Kelly Caldwell
- 3rd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*Cookie Fix*

### BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN OR SERIES

- 1st: Community Matters**  
*Cullman Economic Development Agency-Working Together to Make a Difference*  
by: Noah Galilee, Dustin Isom, Janet Chandler
- 2nd: Live Lee**  
*Glynn Smith Chevrolet/GMC*  
by: Michelle Key
- 3rd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
*At Home*

### BEST HOUSE AD OR SELF-PROMOTION

- 1st: Lake Wedowee Life**  
*What You Make at the Lake Recipe Contest*  
by: Leisel Caldwell
- 2nd: Huntsville Magazine**  
*What’s Happening This Weekend*  
by: Takara Swoopes
- 3rd: Community Matters**  
*Subscribe to The Cullman Tribune*  
by: Dustin Isom

### BEST OVERALL DESIGN

- 1st: Huntsville Magazine**  
by: Takara Swoopes
- 2nd: Lake Magazine**  
by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler, Kenneth Boone
- 3rd: Homewood Life Magazine**  
by: Kate Green, Jamie Dawkins

### BEST COVER PHOTO OR ILLUSTRATION

- 1st: Beachin’**  
*The Sand Shaper*  
by: Micah Green
- 2nd: Hoover’s magazine**  
*Summer*  
by: Blair Ramsey
- 3rd: Lake Martin Living**  
*Dadeville’s new Mural*  
by: Jim Denney

### BEST THEMED ISSUE

- 1st: Walker magazine**  
*Celebrating 150 Years of the Daily Mountain Eagle*
- 2nd: INDY Magazine**  
*Showtime at the community theater*
- 3rd: Lake Wedowee Life**  
*Wedowee’s Got Talent*  
by: Lake Wedowee Life Staff

### BEST COLUMN

- 1st: Lake Magazine**  
*Nature of the Lake*  
by: Kenneth Boone
- 2nd: Lake Martin Living**  
*Culture Shock*  
by: Lacey Howell
- 3rd: Lake Martin Living**  
*Medical News*  
by: George Miranda

### BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

- 1st: Lake Magazine**  
*Plug Day*  
by: Betsy Iler, Audra Spears
- 2nd: Lake Magazine**  
*Clean Up Honor Roll*  
by: Betsy Iler, Ben Smith, Audra Spears
- 3rd: Huntsville Magazine**  
*The Fall Soiree*  
by: Takara Swoopes, CJ Byrd



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Set aside copies of your best 2024 work now!
- When ready to submit entries in contest portal, check that entry titles and bylines are entered correct.
- Be sure you are submitting entries considering the category description and guidelines in the rule books.
- Remember that General Excellence and Advertising Sweepstakes are categories that consider points from other categories - the more categories won, the higher points towards GE and AS.
- Many entries require the use of a paywall. Consider uploading a pdf or other version instead or in addition to. Some categories have over 20 entries and for judges, it can be tedious to have to log in to 20+ newspaper websites.