



For release: June 28, 2025
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APA Media Awards Editorial Contest Winners Announced

Orange Beach, AL (June 28, 2025) – Winners of the 2025 Alabama Press Association Media Awards were announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 53 publications submitted 1,725 entries in the annual contest. The Michigan Press Association membership judged the entries.

First-place awards in many categories and divisions were presented in conjunction with the 2025 APA Summer Convention banquet awards program.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Best Production and Printing

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune by TVM, Dustin Isom
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by Lee Champion

Division C

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

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) by Edwards Printing, staff
2nd Place: The Tallasse Tribune by Lee Champion
3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald by Lee Champion

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times by staff
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

Best Newspaper Website

Division A

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

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for www.jcsentinel.com
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for www.alexcityoutlook.com
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for www.clantonadvertiser.com

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for www.bizjournals.com/birmingham
2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for www.citizenofeastalabama.com
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for www.lagniappemobile.com

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for www.opelikaobserver.com
2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for www.thewetumpkaherald.com
3rd Place: The Tallasse Tribune for www.tallasseetribune.com

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for www.hooversun.com
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for www.theredstonerocket.com

FOI-First Amendment Award

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Bodycam shows deadly Birmingham police chase and shooting" by Hannah Denham
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Library attacks" by Williesha Morris, John Sharp, John Archibald

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "Information uncovered in kidnapping arrest" by Patrick Camp
- 2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Finding a New Ambulance Contract" by Carey Reeder
- 3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Should transparency be the cost of donations" by Noah Galilee

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Battle of Breakaway Pointe" by Noah Wortham
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Helena TAG grant discrepancy leads to more open government" by Don Mottern, Mackenzie Simms
- 3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Less lethal — Police stun gun usage varies by department" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Livingston declares mayor's seat vacant; council to name mayor" by Tommy McGraw
- 2nd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Commission wants \$90k for downtown Livingston lot" by Tommy McGraw, Herman Ward
- 3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Commissioners extend meetings for executive sessions" by Herman Ward, Tommy McGraw

Division E

- 1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "North Shelby Library firestorm" by Taylor Bright
- 2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover City Council changes YouTube video policy for council" by Jon Anderson

General Excellence

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)
- 2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
- 2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal
- 3rd Place: The Chocataw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald
- 2nd Place: The Dadeville Record

3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika)

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

3rd Place: Birmingham Times

Most Improved

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika)

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook)

Story of the Year

Alabama Media Group for "Alabama's health care deserts" by

Photo of the Year

The Tuscaloosa News for "Mohamed Wague Dunks With a Smile" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Best Public Service

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Denied: Alabama's broken parole system" by Ivana Hrynkiw

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Alabama's pandemic unemployment fiasco" by Sarah Whites-Koditschek

3rd Place: The Anniston Star for "Cleburne Quarry" by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Chamber Chat Podcast" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin

2nd Place: The Cullman Times for "Water, electrical issues cited by mobile home park residents" by Patrick Camp

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Free obituary service" by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Mobile Baykeeper Takes on U.S. Army Corps over 'Federal Mud Dumping'" by Scott Johnson

- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Shocking — Public entities in Alabama have seen electrical costs skyrocket at twice national average" by staff
- 3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Alabama prosecutors hit retirement jackpot with phase-out of supernumerary role" by Scott Johnson

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Camping in the Black Belt" by Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher
- 2nd Place: Union Springs Herald for "Search for Justice" by Felicia Farnsworth

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "The power to save: Why talking about mental health matters" by Sarah Owens, Jon Anderson, Taylor Bright
- 2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Muddy waters: Trace Crossings residents seek relief from stormwater erosion" by Jon Anderson

Cat. 01 Best Editorial Page or Section

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)
- 3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
- 2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City)
- 3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald
- 2nd Place: The Tallasse Tribune
- 3rd Place: The Dadeville Record

Cat. 02 Best Lifestyle/Family Pages

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
- 2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) by Nicole Smith, Ed Howell
- 3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff

Division C

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

Division D

- 1st Place: The Dadeville Record
- 2nd Place: The Tallasse Tribune
- 3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun by Jon Anderson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Cat. 03 Best Sports Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group by Matt Stahl, Peter Rauterkus, Nick Kelly

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times by Jake Winfrey, Amanda Shavers, staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by Jason Bowen
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Nick Griffin, Sammy Confer, Katie Drummond

Division C

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

Division D

- 1st Place: The Tallasse Tribune by staff
2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald by staff
3rd Place: The Dadeville Record by Henry Zimmer, Samuel Higgs

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun by Kyle Parmley
2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune by John Goolsby, Johnny Sanders
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 04 Best Local Economic Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star by Timothy Cash, Bill Wilson, Sherry Kughn
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group by Hannah Denham, John Sharp

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by Katie Hightower, Hunter Jones
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Illyshia Parker, Stuart Dyos, A.J. O'Leary
2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) by Toni Shah, Katelyn McCormick
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald by staff

2nd Place: The Dadeville Record by staff
3rd Place: Selma Sun by Cindy Fisher, Brad Fisher

Division E

1st Place: Birmingham Times by Keisa Sharpe-Jefferson, Sym Posey, Ameera Stewart
2nd Place: Hoover Sun by Jon Anderson
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

Cat. 05 Best Local Education Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group by Rebecca Griesbach, Alaina Bookman
2nd Place: The Anniston Star by Ashley Morrison, Sherry Kughn
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News by Jasmine Hollie

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) by Nicole Smith
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by Peggy M. Himburg, Katie Hightower, Baylee Sumner

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Stephanie Rebman, A.J. O'Leary, Harper Harwell
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald by staff
2nd Place: The Dadeville Record by staff

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun by Jon Anderson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff

Cat. 06 Best Local News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group by Kayode Crown, Joseph D. Bryant, Maggie Kates
2nd Place: The Anniston Star by Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune by staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by staff
3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) by Annie Bresee, Charlotte Reames

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal 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 Leader (Linden) by Tommy & Dee Ann Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times by Barnett Wright, Keisa Sharpe-Jefferson
2nd Place: Hoover Sun by Jon Anderson
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune by staff

Cat. 07 Best Use of Photographs/Editorial Content

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by staff
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by Connor Bucy, Rowan Futrell, Jamie Dawkins
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) by staff
2nd Place: The Dadeville Record by staff
3rd Place: Union Springs Herald by Felicia Farnsworth

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by staff
2nd Place: Birmingham Times by staff

Cat. 08 Best Layout and Design

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) by staff
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Laurie Lawrence
3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald by staff
2nd Place: The Dadeville Record by staff
3rd Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) by McKinzie Daniels, Brooke Duck

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times by Kathryn Sesser-Dorne'
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by Kelley Lane
3rd Place: Hoover Sun by Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

Cat. 09 Best Spot News Story

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Alabama executes Kenneth Eugene Smith by new nitrogen gas method" by Ivana Hrynkiw
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "'None of you are pregnant': Paid parental leave bill sparks emotions in Alabama Senate" by John Sharp
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "'A sad day for MPS': School board accepts Superintendent Melvin Brown's resignation" by Alex Gladden

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Going to work: 100-plus apply for positions at Topre " by Noah Galilee
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Force of Nature Severe weather sweeps through Chilton County" by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Sen. Garlan Gudger elected Alabama Senate president pro tempore" by Noah Galilee

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Owl-mageddon — Hooters harass Midtown residents" by Brady Petree
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Mobile County constable races decided by drawing straws" by Brady Petree
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Columbiana remembers Charity Snow" by Noah Wortham

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Hotel residents ordered to leave facility" by Anita Stiefel
2nd Place: Coosa County News (Rockford) for "Historic Blue Springs Church burns to ground" by Christa Jennings
3rd Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "Sea turtle false crawls due to human distraction" by Ruth Mayo

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for "'I survived the Lakeshore Owl'" by Savannah Schmidt
2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Trussville Library Board defends decision to keep challenged books on shelves" by Chris Basinger
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "'I am not going to seek reelection' Trussville mayor announces" by Chris Basinger

Cat. 10 Best In-Depth News Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Alabama's health care deserts" by Savannah Tryens-Fernandes

- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "He's been on death row for decades. Alabama 'downplays' DNA that points to someone else" by Ivana Hrynkiw
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "It's almost weed. And it's taking Alabama by storm: A big human guinea pig experiment" by Amy Yurkanin, Challen Stephens

Division B

- 1st Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Carbon Hill Financials" by Ed Howell
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Times for "Questions arise about commissioner's residence" by Patrick Camp
- 3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "The passing of Jasper Mayor David O'Mary" by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Mobile judicial candidate accused of using 2003 police killing for political gain" by Scott Johnson
- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Immigration issues in Baldwin County" by Kyle Hamrick
- 3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "In the Matrix — Auburn University pays \$1 million a year to controversial firm" by Rob Holbert

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "The Springwood" by Observer staff
- 2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Teacher burnout" by Cliff Williams
- 3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Trailblazers" by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "JEFFCO'S 'TURNAROUND STORY' BRINGS BILLIONS FROM INVESTORS" by Solomon Crenshaw Jr.
- 2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Stadium Trace Village" by Jon Anderson
- 3rd Place: The Homewood Star for "Homewood government referendum" by Sarah Owens

Cat. 11 Best Business Story or Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "TikTok's murky future threatens stability for small businesses across Alabama" by Sarah Clifton
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "The final decline of Birmingham-Southern College: New tax records show pattern of losing money" by Hannah Denham
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Why the union vote failed at Alabama's Mercedes-Benz plant " by William Thornton

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Hometown Meat Market" by Hunter Jones
- 2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Valle Grande opens doors at Clanton restaurant" by Carey Reeder
- 3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "Construction takes a toll" by Annie Bresee

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Corporations increasingly target clean energy. Can Alabama deliver?" by Scott Johnson
- 2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for "Neil Koon" by Toni Shah, Denise DuBois

3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Homegrown half shells — Mobile Bay oyster farmers serve the South, advocate for local support" by Kyle Hamrick

Division D

1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "17 Springs to have generational impact" by Cliff Williams
2nd Place: The Tallassee Tribune for "Success breeds success" by Cliff Williams
3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for "Enviva Company sold; to emerge from bankruptcy" by Tommy McGraw

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Reimagining the Landscape" by Taylor Bright
2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Real Estate Report" by Jon Anderson
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "SNIPPETS: Follow process for representing vendor on post" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 12 Best Feature Story Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Their parents died during COVID. Now, a Birmingham nonprofit is helping them out of homelessness" by Savannah Tryens-Fernandes
2nd Place: The Anniston Star for "Coal shacks a reminder of a town gone by" by Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "How a one-armed former slave united Montgomery in the early 1900s" by Shannon Heupel

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "The Waving Man of Maplesville" by Carey Reeder
2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Sister recalls brother as Jasper's first Vietnam death" by Ed Howell
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Gage Roper Honorary Firefighter Feature" by Carey Reeder

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Arches in the stream — Tribute to Corps general eclipsed by Dolly's 'attributes'" by Kyle Hamrick
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Cooking for the Crown" by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Raising the (sand) bar — Coastal entrepreneur pushing boundaries of castle sculpting" by Brady Petree

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for "Oldest living Civil Rights Foot Soldier George Sallie crosses bridge one last time" by Angela Benjamin
2nd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Bridge the Bigbee with Cocks" by Tommy Campbell
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Churmell Mitchell brings H-O-P-E to the community" by Nicholas Young

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "First Family of Comedy" by Tim Stephens
2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Into the fire: Mountain Brook's first female firefighter in

more than 10 years" by Savannah Schmidt
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "John Breashears Closes in on 100" by Eric Schultz

Cat. 13 Best News Feature Story Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Alabama girl, 11, dies by suicide: 'Teach your kids to be kind,' family says" by Carol Robinson
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Can Five Points South recover after mass shooting?" by Greg Garrison
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "'I just held him and prayed,' 16-year-old boy killed in Birmingham shooting died in parents' arms" by Carol Robinson

Division B

1st Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "Dell's Heart is Big" by Charlotte Reames
2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Bridge project impacts some Jasper businesses" by staff
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Alexander City family loses home in storm" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Mobile Alabama was Ground-Zero for IVF debate" by Scott Johnson
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Extending the DEI invitation" by Illyshia Parker
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Beneficial use projects are buying time for Alabama's coastal shorelines" by Scott Johnson

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for "Selma Community mourns the loss of two teens" by Cindy Fisher
2nd Place: Coosa County News (Rockford) for "Race participants trek through Coosa on way to Georgia" by Christa Jennings
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Child dies in tragic fire" by Tammy Andrews

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Road to Recovery: Lulu Gribbin" by Sarah Owens
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Some astronomers concerned about city's bright lights" by Eric Schultz
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Allen Gillespie honored with state proclamation for his 50 years in education" by Chris Basinger

Cat. 14 Best Editorial

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Please don't do that again, Katie Britt" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Should transparency be the price of our donations?" by Noah Galilee
2nd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "What is Progress" by Annie Bresee
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "City council appointment needs better process" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin

Division C

- 1st Place: The Montgomery Independent for "If You Disregard The Rules Should You Be Rewarded For It?" by Brian Hodge
- 2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Affordable Housing" by Stephanie Rebman
- 3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Tears and Tassels" by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit) for "How We Represent 'The 4-5' matters" by Lanell Smith
- 2nd Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "Ordinary citizens, extraordinary duties: My Baldwin County grand jury duty experience" by Whisper Edwards
- 3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Should Wetumpka have Indians as its mascot?" by Abigail Murphy

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Facebook removes news story from Trussville Tribune page" by Scott Buttram
- 2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Commute takes time because gates are there for a reason" by Jonathan Stinson
- 3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "A yes vote on Trussville schools is money in your pocket" by Scott Buttram

Cat. 15 Best Humorous Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "How Nick Saban drove me away from Bryant-Denny Stadium" by John Archibald
- 2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Confessions of an Alabama football season ticket holder" by Ken Roberts
- 3rd Place: The Anniston Star for "By the bootstraps" by Lisa Davis

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "CCSO nabs grouchy, green subject" by Carey Reeder
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Who else is running?" by David Carroll
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Cornbread 101" by Joe Hobby

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Adventures in colon care" by Rob Holbert
- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Breaking Bad" on the West End" by Ashley Trice
- 3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Use Your Head" by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: The Dadeville Record for "Sometimes Christmas movies just need to be bad" by Abigail Murphy
- 2nd Place: The Greenville Advocate for "Bachelor rooster seeking henhouse to protect" by Lanell Downs Smith
- 3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "All is right in the world" by Cliff Williams

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "SNIPPETS: When cats grow tired of you, they just let it go" by Jonathan Stinson
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Lass But Not Least: There Was That Time" by Ken Lass
- 3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "My Life As A Hobby: Fry Me To The Moon" by Joe Hobby

Cat. 16 Best Human Interest Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Who killed Daniel Williams? A tale of terror in Alabama prisons" by John Archibald
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "We banned 'divisive concepts.' So, why do we still have Confederate holidays?" by Roy S. Johnson
- 3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Hunting with Tuscaloosa's 'Snake Lady'" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "The last newspaperman" by Danielle Kirkland
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Thankful for driver's education" by David Carroll
- 3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Remembering NASCAR, Alabama legend Bobby Allison" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Reading between the lines" by Donald Mottern
- 2nd Place: The Advertiser-Glean (Guntersville) for "The roller coaster that is dementia" by Anthony Campbell
- 3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for "Couch Olympics" by Jeff Martin

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Time is our most valuable asset" by Cliff Williams
- 2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Burger Quick is family" by Tammy Andrews
- 3rd Place: The Leader (Linden) for "I need those seed catalogs" by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Lass But Not Least: Getting To Know Joe" by Ken Lass
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "My Life As A Hobby: Good Dogs" by Joe Hobby
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "SNIPPETS: Birmingham-Southern baseball delivers last hurrah" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 17 Best Editorial Column or Commentary

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group by Roy S. Johnson
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group by Kyle Whitmire

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Carey's Corner" by Carey Reeder
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Bill King

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Noah's columns" by Noah Wortham
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Blonde Ambition" by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Lagniappe for "Damn the Torpedos" by Rob Holbert

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Advocate for "Ask Amy: Seriously bad advice" by Amy Lewis
2nd Place: The Tuskegee News by Guy Rhodes
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) by Greg Markley

Cat. 18 Best Sports News In-Depth Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "The complicated legacy of Birmingham's white baseball legends" by Creg Stephenson
2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "ALS has broken ex-Alabama football player Kerry Goode's body, but can't break his spirit" by Chase Goodbread
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Boosters started a nonprofit to pay Alabama athletes millions. Now, it's shutting down" by Hannah Denham

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Vann hired as new Scottsboro coach" by Jason Bowen
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Nathaniel Watson NFL Draft Journey " by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Tanner Jones MLB Draft Journey" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Jackson State Title Basketball" by staff
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Hank Aaron's 715th home run at 50" by Tommy Hicks
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Moneyball — NCAA settlement, NIL could alter the college athletics landscape" by Brady Petree

Division D

- 1st Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "The numbers behind Orange Beach's national championship softball season" by Cole McNanna
2nd Place: The Greenville Advocate for "Greenville High School wins 2024 challenge between two Butler County rival teams" by Amy Lewis
3rd Place: The Dadeville Record for "Lewis walks off Reeltown over Tallassee" by Henry Zimmer

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "America's oldest baseball park gets Major League attention" by Solomon Crenshaw Jr.
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Kickball season" by Skip Vaughn
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Marshall launches first winter volleyball season" by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 19 Best Sports Single Event Story

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Inside Auburn's 15-play, 74-yard drive to send the Texas A&M game to overtime" by Peter Rauterkus
- 2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Nick Saban retires as Alabama football coach" by staff
- 3rd Place: The Anniston Star for "Hit girl Jones Hubbard ends Jax State softball win with blast off the scoreboard" by Mark Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for "Top-ranked Raiders cap dominant postseason run with Class 4A title" by Jake Winfrey
- 2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "The Queen's Court" by Henry Zimmer
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Burning the midnight oil" by Jason Bowen

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Saraland Jackson football game" by Jimmy Wigfield
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Heardmont heroics" by Alec Etheredge
- 3rd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for "Pirates upset No. 2 Wildcats in a thriller" by Druw Giamalva

Division D

- 1st Place: The Dadeville Record for "Lewis walks off Reeltown over Tallassee" by Henry Zimmer
- 2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "OT times 4: AU Wins" by Brandon Hughes
- 3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Holtville, Headland clash again in playoffs" by Dalton Middleton

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "A.H. Parker High School captures first-ever state football championship" by Solomon Crenshaw Jr.
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Moody drops a heartbreaker in the championship game" by Johnny Sanders
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Veterans hockey game hits mark for community support" by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 20 Best Sports Feature Story

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "The story behind this Alabama basketball fan's wild, scary journey to the Final Four " by Bob Carlton
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Scenes from Tuscaloosa's first full day after Nick Saban's retirement " by Matt Stahl
- 3rd Place: The Anniston Star for "It's all about family for Ace Austin, Alabama's newest baseball signee" by Mark Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Maplesville Tradition-Red Devils' program built into one of Alabama's best" by Carey Reeder
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "'This is an exciting day'" by Nick Griffin

3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Ayden Payne begins road to recovery" by Johnathan Bentley

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Rickwood Field" by staff

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Frankie Perez's journey to success with THS" by Andrew Simonson

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Kelly Siblings" by Jimmy Wigfield

Division D

1st Place: The Leader (Linden) for "Local fan remembered" by Tommy Campbell

2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "'Small & mighty' Trinity basketball finds itself in midst of improbable run" by Noah Griffith

3rd Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "Gulf Shores lineman Burkett back at football practice following chemotherapy for Hodgkin's Lymphoma" by Cole McNanna

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover youth football coach Greg Blackman counts 300 wins, hundreds more winners" by Tim Stephens

2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "More Than a Player: The Softball Legacy of Hannah Borden" by Blair Moore

3rd Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for "Serena steps up in big moments for Huskies" by Kyle Parmley

Cat. 21 Best Local Sports Column

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Nick Saban is the new face of an old scam" by Joseph Goodman

2nd Place: The Anniston Star for "Alabama committed to Saban and he committed to Alabama in return" by Mark Edwards

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "My experience covering Auburn basketball at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium" by Adam Cole

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Player safety must be a priority" by Carey Reeder

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Let's be more like Malcolm Simmons" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "Caden Tellier" by Annie Bresee

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Ryan Williams is the best" by Jimmy Wigfield

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Three Nick Saban lessons that shaped my career" by Ty West

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Let's work as a team to create a common-sense policy for NIL" by Andrew Simonson

Division D

1st Place: The Dadeville Record for "Stop making finger guns" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin

2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "A snub of all snubs" by Dalton Middleton

3rd Place: The Tallahassee Tribune for "There's a new spark in Tallahassee athletics" by Dalton Middleton

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Where to for the Super 7?" by Kyle Parmley
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "FROM THE SIDELINES: Sunrise, sunset on senior softball field" by Skip Vaughn
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "FROM THE SIDELINES: Still running against the wind after all these years" by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 22 Best Feature Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Coates-Thornton reunion" by Tamika Moore
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Color Run" by Jake Crandall
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Arts N Autism Festival" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "A guest reaches out to pet one of the horses at this year's Special Needs Rodeo" by Nick Griffin
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Art and Magic" by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Hail to the Queens" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Romello Cooper on the bench" by Dawn Harrison
2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Fourth Frolic " by Helen Joyce
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Shelby County Showcase of Bands" by Jason Homan

Division D

- 1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Stanhope Reach and Teach" by Cliff Williams
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Sunset at Lineville Park" by Tammy Andrews
3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Black History Showcase" by John Hillsman

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "Germaul Barnes: Meet The Global Dance Maker" by Marika N. Johnson
2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Mae Scofield, dancing queen" by Savannah Schmidt
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Splash Off" by Eric Schultz

Cat. 23 Best News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Shooting victim" by Mickey Welsh
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Lanier's last graduate" by Mickey Welsh
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Trump at Bryant-Denny Stadium" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Unity Picnic" by Abigail Murphy
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "When life gives you lemons" by Danielle Kirkland
3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for "Homecoming Queen" by Annie Bresee

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Birmingham-Southern College" by Bob Farley
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Man kicked from horse in midair" by Jeremy Raines
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Suburban hotspot" by Bob Farley

Division D

- 1st Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "Honoring those who served: Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall exhibit visits Robertsdale" by Micah Green
2nd Place: The Moundville Times for "Total eclipse for some, mostly cloudy for others" by Isaac Vaughn
3rd Place: The Tallahassee Tribune for "Tallahassee fire" by Cliff Williams

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Quarter moon" by Jonathan Stinson
2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for "Into the Fire" by Savannah Schmidt
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Army Birthday celebration fireworks" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 24 Best Spot News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Kaulton Street Shooting" by Gary Cosby Jr.
2nd Place: The Montgomery Advertiser for "Barbershop fire" by Mickey Welsh

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Armed Robbery High Speed Chase" by Carey Reeder
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Force of Nature" by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "A New Chapter" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Silas Fire" by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Teacher hugs former students ahead of graduation" by Rachel Raiford
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Won't be forgotten" by Jeremy Raines

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Displaced" by Anita Stiefel
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Student plane crash" by Jerry Balls
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Massive fireball shoots out of window" by Tammy Andrews

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Opelika coach suspended for playoff game against Hoover" by Barry Stephenson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Security Check" by Eric Schultz
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Random Searches" by Eric Schultz

Cat. 25 Best Sports Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Mohamed Wague Dunks With a Smile" by Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Alabama LSU Rebound Scuffle" by Gary Cosby Jr.
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for "Tuscaloosa Academy Fingertip Catch" by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Back for Revenge" by Carey Reeder
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "A Good Hope runner slides home safely" by Nick Griffin
3rd Place: The Cullman Times for "Losing Head" by Amanda Shavers

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for "Leopards sweep wildcats" by Bonita Roberts
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Rebels win state title" by Tommy Campbell
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Joseph King flies high" by Dawn Harrison

Division D

1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "I'll wait" by Robert Noles
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Softball splits" by Ray Stansell
3rd Place: The Onlooker (Foley) for "Remembering a Warrior" by Cole McNanna

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Hoover state volleyball" by Savannah Schmidt
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Rocketman Triathlon 2024" by Eric Schultz
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Bulls on the Lake Rodeo" by Chris Basinger

Cat. 26 Best Photo Essay

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Monument to Freedom" by Mickey Welsh
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Beyond the Horizon Air Show" by Jake Crandall
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for "Beating the heat" by Mickey Welsh

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "2024 in images " by Sherry Brown
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "77th Chilton County kicked off with Peach Jam" by Carey Reeder
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Sun Festival hosts events across Alex City" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Along for the ride" by Jeremy Raines
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Dazzling display" by Jason Homan
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Rebels win State" by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "9/11 Stair Climb" by Micah Green
2nd Place: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope) for "A spiritual graduation" by Micah Green
3rd Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "Gulf Shores student working to preserve Little Lagoon shoreline" by Micah Green

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Paul and Regina Young's life-sized Pirate Halloween Paradise" by Savannah Schmidt
- 2nd Place: The Homewood Star for "Stars of the Season" by Savannah Schmidt, Richard Force
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Children parents share thanks at School Age Center" by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 27 Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Life's a process " by JD Crowe, Joseph Goodman
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "The Mount Rushmore of Alabama Barbecue" by Bob Carlton, J.D. Crowe

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "At the rodeo" by Elizabeth Law
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Fireworks Safety" by Elizabeth Law
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "School Bus Safety" by Elizabeth Law

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Middle Market 30" by Laurie Lawrence
- 2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Manufacturing Awards cover" by Laurie Lawrence
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Battle of Breakaway Pointe" by Connor Bucy

Division D

- 1st Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Let Freedom Ring" by Robert Noles, Michelle Key
- 2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "The GOAT" by Tammy Andrews
- 3rd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Spring Blooms" by Robert Noles, Michelle Key

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "Rickwood Field Tribute" by Kathryn Sessor-Dorne'

Cat. 28 Best Headline

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "The genie is out of the bong in Alabama " by Challen Stephens, John Archibald
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Gordon Ramsay fumes, hurls pork chop cooked by Alabama child: I messed up" by Mary Colurso, Ben Flanagan
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Man stuck in urn at Mountain Brook party loses pants, breaks expensive vase and Alabama Internet" by Howard Koplowitz, Jeremy Gray

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Hello fall, you gourd-geous thing " by Cheyenne Sharp
- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "Rodeo Reigns" by Marla Ballard
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "When life gives you lemons" by Danielle Kirkland

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "The final toll: Once BSC fades, what's left?" by staff

- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Red Hot Chili Preppers" by staff
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Ready, set, injured: From fun to fractures" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Moundville Times for "Crack cocaine in a woman's size 8-and-a-half" by Travis Vaughn
2nd Place: The Islander (Gulf Shores) for "GOOAALLF SHORES! STATE CHAMPS!" by Kayla Green
3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "What's the Buzz?" by Dalton Middleton

Division E

- 1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "Fresh off the vine: Old Baker Farm prepares for fall season with family-run pumpkin patch" by Emily Reed
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Enjoy the sight especially at night, walking in Winterville" by Skip Vaughn
3rd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for "A year of storms after rainbow controversy; newly installed board takes over; director resigns" by Taylor Bright

Cat. 29 Best Special Section - Newsprint

Division B

- 1st Place: The Daily Home (Talladega) for "Update 2024" by staff
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Gridiron Guide" by staff
3rd Place: The Daily Home (Talladega) for "My Hometown" by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for "Rebel Championship" by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Election Guide" by staff
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "40 Under 40" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "Home and Garden" by staff
2nd Place: The Observer (Opelika) for "Under the Lights Sports Preview" by staff
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for "2024 Football preview" by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: Birmingham Times for "We Are Better Together" by staff
2nd Place: Birmingham Times for "Rickwood Field, Tribute to The Negro Leagues" by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Veterans Day 2024" by staff

Cat. 30 Best Niche Publication - Newsprint or Glossy

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "South's Best Kept Secret" by staff
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Football Fanatics" by Noah Galilee, Nick Griffin, Dustin Isom
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for "InSight" by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Football " by Andrew Simonson
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Profile" by staff

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Book of Lists" by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "Big Beautiful Baldwin 2024" by staff

2nd Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "Baldwin County Football Preview 2024" by Cole McNanna, McKinzie Daniels, Micah Green

3rd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "FYI" by staff

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Under the Lights" by Kyle Parmley

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Cummings Research Park" by staff

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Global Force" by staff

Cat. 31 Creative Use of Multimedia

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Descendants of Alabama slaves reunite in old plantation house" by Bill Thornton, Tamika Moore, Amanda Khorramabadi

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "The moment of truth for Alabama coach Kalen DeBoer" by Nick Kelly, Clay Yeager

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "JD Crowe Cartoons" by JD Crowe

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Creature Chronicles" by Abigail Murphy, Henry Zimmer

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Daybreak" by Noah Galilee

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Firetruck Santa" by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Shelby County Hall of Fame" by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Public Paychecks" by staff

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Women of Influence" by staff

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for "Live Black Belt Newscast" by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

Division E

1st Place: The Homewood Star for "I survived the Lakeshore Owl" by Savannah Schmidt

2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for "Jiu-jitsu Grandma' proves age is just a number" by Savannah Schmidt

3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Tribune Unscripted" by staff

Cat. 32 Online Breaking News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Alabama Supreme Court rules embryos are children, halting IVF" by staff

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Mass shooting at Hush lounge" by Carol Robinson, Hannah Denham, staff

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Quanisha Davis" by Melody Rathel, Lizi Arbogast Gwin
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Alex City microburst" by Lizi Arbogast Gwin, Melody Rathel
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "School threats deemed not credible, arrest made" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "BSC closure" by A.J. O'Leary
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "UAB acquisition" by Marie Leech
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Oak Mountain Amphitheatre closing after 39 years" by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Quarterback dies from injury sustained in football game" by Cindy Fisher, Fred Guarino
2nd Place: The Tallassee Tribune for "Tallassee-Elmore County game cancelled due to gun threat" by Cliff Williams, Dalton Middleton
3rd Place: The Moundville Times for "Day care abuse charges" by Kasey DeCastra, Travis Vaughn

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Bucs football coaches placed on administrative leave" by Kyle Parmley
2nd Place: The Homewood Star for "REFERENDUM RESULTS: Homewood residents vote yes" by Sarah Owens

Cat. 33 Best Use of Social Media

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "If you could change one thing about Alabama..." by Tandra Smith, Monica Keener, Heather Gann
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Will legal marijuana ever come to Alabama?" by Monica Keener
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Youth homelessness in Alabama" by Monica Keener

Division B

- 1st Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for "Daily Mountain Eagle Social Media" by staff
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Daybreak" by Noah Galilee
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "Social Media" by Carey Reeder

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "YouTube Shorts" by Alec Etheredge
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Facebook Videos" by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Live Shelby County Football Pregame Show" by Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

Division D

- 1st Place: The Baldwin Times (Foley) for "GCM Sports" by Cole McNanna
2nd Place: Selma Sun for "Selma Sun Facebook Page" by staff
3rd Place: Selma Sun for "Selma Sun TikTok" by Cindy Fisher

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "The Trussville Tribune Facebook" by staff

- 2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Redstone Rocket Instagram" by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Redstone Rocket Facebook" by staff

Cat. 34 Best Podcast Series

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Down in Alabama" by Ike Morgan, John Hammontree
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Beat Everyone" by Ben Flanagan, John Hammontree, staff

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Bedtime Stories" by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, community members
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Cullman Today" by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for "Lagnia-Pod " by staff
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Live Football Pregame Show" by Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Black Belt Newscast" by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater
2nd Place: The Dadeville Record for "TPI Talk" by Henry Zimmer, Abigail Murphy

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for "Under the Lights" by Kyle Parmley
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "The P\$Y-FI Podcast " by staff

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

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Denied: Alabama's Broken Parole System trailer" by Amanda Khorramabadi, Ivana Hrynkiw
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Birmingham mass shooting" by Amanda Khorramabadi
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "The two voices of Katie Britt" by Amanda Khorramabadi

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for "T-Rex hosts Dinosaur Tea Party at Cullman County Public Library" by Jen Baker
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Van's Sporting Goods celebrates grand opening of Leupold Optics Shop in Shop" by Jen Baker
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Academy Sports + Outdoors set to open September 2025" by Jen Baker

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Gracie Bradford gets surprise announcement about trip to Disney World" by Alec Etheredge
2nd Place: The Montgomery Independent for "Oh My Gosh" by Dylan Fyffe
3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for "NFL Trivia" by Dylan Fyffe

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "Quarterback who dies of brain injury gets revival he wished for" by Cindy Fisher
2nd Place: The Tallassee Tribune for "Melody Jackson" by Abigail Murphy
3rd Place: Selma Sun for "Pier dedication to Big Daddy Lawler" by Todd Prater

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Check out some of the awesome artwork done by the children at the Youth Center" by Jonathan Stinson, Eric Schultz
2nd Place: Hoover Sun for "Paul and Regina Young's life-sized Pirate Halloween Paradise" by Savannah Schmidt
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "Retired Soldier transforms ammo cans into artwork " by Jonathan Stinson, Eric Schultz

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

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "Days and Hours Matter Here: Alabamians speak out against Alabama Supreme Court IVF ruling" by Anissa Latham-Brown, John Hammontree, Dawson Estes
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for "How one Alabama woman is getting people to the polls" by Amanda Khorramabadi
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for "Hush Lounge Shooting Arrest Reveals tragic links in 11 Homicides" by Anissa Latham-Brown

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Look back on January 2023 tornado" by Abigail Murphy
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for "Mano e Mano: Henry & Malcolm" by staff
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for "Cullman Today" by Katie Spicer, Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Thompson back on top after 7A title" by Alec Etheredge
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Oak Mountain claims state soccer championship" by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Oak Mountain beats rival Chelsea" by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for "2024 Year in Review" by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater
2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald for "Mano e mano: Sports editors vs. Softball Stars" by Dalton Middleton, Henry Zimmer
3rd Place: Selma Sun for "Camping in the Black Belt" by Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for "Tribune Sports Live" by staff
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "In Depth: Col. Wendy Gray from Fox Army Health Center talks about Women's History" by Jonathan Stinson, Erin Elise Enyinda
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for "In Depth: Hereford reflects on his role in school integration " by Jonathan Stinson, Erin Elise Enyinda

Cat. 37 Best Community Event

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for "AL.com 2nd Congressional District debate"

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for "2024 Chilton County Best Of Contest"

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Mentoring Monday"

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for "Inclusion in workforce"

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for "Shelby County Hall of Fame"

Division D

1st Place: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit) for "Signal launches inaugural Athlete of the Year contest"