



#AMA2025



# APA Media AWARDS

Print | Digital | Magazine



The Tuscaloosa News

*'Mohamed Wague Dunks With a Smile'* by Gary Cosby



# CONGRATULATIONS



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

#AMA2025

## STORY OF THE YEAR

**Alabama Media Group**  
*Alabama’s Health Care Deserts*  
by: Savannah Tryens-Fernandes

**Alabama’s decaying dental care ‘necessitates immediate attention’**

Published: Oct. 09, 2024, 6:00 a.m.

**Alabama loses a pharmacy a week. Now they are suing the ‘behemoths’ they say are to blame**

Published: Dec. 24, 2024, 6:00 a.m.

**Rural Alabama loses even more doctors: ‘I cannot be the pediatrician for every child’**

Published: Sep. 16, 2024, 6:30 a.m.



In 2023, Alabama had the nation's second lowest ratio of dentists per population, according to the American Dental Association at just 41.6 dentists per 100,000 residents. (AP Photo/George Walker IV) AP

**“All I know is people are suffering. What can you do when you have one ambulance in a county with over 19,000 people in it?”**

Vicky Sullivan McCrory, paramedic manager at Pickens County Ambulance Service



## PHOTO OF THE YEAR

(featured on cover)  
**The Tuscaloosa News**  
*Mohamed Wague Dunks With a Smile*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## MOST IMPROVED

**Division B**  
**The Clanton Advertiser**

**Division C**  
**Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**

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

**Division E**  
**Village Living**

**ACTIONS MATTER**

When our worlds are turned upside down by others' actions and when events beyond our control shake up to our core, as your local newspaper, we pledge that our efforts will remain in service to our community.

We will continue to provide the information and framework you need to make informed decisions. We remain committed to providing fair, factual and balanced reporting, along with the valuable context on how the actions of others affect you.

Local community journalism offers stability when you need it most. **You can continue to count on us for REAL NEWS.**

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**WORDS MATTER**

How we use words to share our stories and shape the world around us has consequences.

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Local community journalism offers stability when you need it most. **You can continue to count on us for REAL NEWS.**

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**YOU MATTER**

The past few years have been challenging.

From the pandemic, protest movements, elections and changes in government, you have been able to rely on your local community newspaper to report the facts and provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions.

Local community journalism offers stability when you need it most. **You can continue to count on us for REAL NEWS.**

BE A READER. SUBSCRIBE. 256-234-4281

alexcityoutlook.com | thewetumpkaheald.com | talassee Tribune.com

## AD OF THE YEAR

**The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Actions, Words, You Matter*  
by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter

Editorial Contest

# DIVISION A

## GENERAL EXCELLENCE

**1st: The Anniston Star**

## FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Bodycam shows deadly Birmingham police chase and shooting*  
by: Hannah Denham

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*Library attacks*  
by: Williesha Morris, John Sharp, John Archibald

## BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

**1st: The Anniston Star**

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

## BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Denied: Alabama’s broken parole system*  
by: Ivana Hrynkiw

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*Alabama’s pandemic unemployment fiasco*  
by: Sarah Whites-Koditschek

**3rd: The Anniston Star**

*Cleburne Quarry*  
by: staff

## BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

by: Matt Stahl, Peter Rauterkus, Nick Kelly

## BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

**1st: The Anniston Star**

by: Timothy Cash, Bill Wilson, Sherry Kughn

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

by: Hannah Denham, John Sharp

## BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

by: Rebecca Griesbach, Alaina Bookman

**2nd: The Anniston Star**

by: Ashley Morrison, Sherry Kughn

**3rd: The Tuscaloosa News**

by: Jasmine Hollie

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

by: Kayode Crown, Joseph D. Bryant, Maggie Kates

**2nd: The Anniston Star**

by: Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson

## BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Alabama executes Kenneth Eugene Smith by new nitrogen gas method*  
by: Ivana Hrynkiw

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*‘None of you are pregnant’: Paid parental leave bill sparks emotions in Alabama Senate*  
by: John Sharp

**3rd: Montgomery Advertiser**

*‘A sad day for MPS’: School board accepts Superintendent Melvin Brown’s resignation*  
by: Alex Gladden

## BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Alabama’s health care deserts*  
by: Savannah Tryens-Fernandes

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*He’s been on death row for decades. Alabama ‘downplays’ DNA that points to someone else*  
by: Ivana Hrynkiw

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**

*It’s almost weed. And it’s taking Alabama by storm: ‘A big human guinea pig experiment.’*  
by: Amy Yurkanin, Challen Stephens

## BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

**1st: Montgomery Advertiser**

*TikTok’s murky future threatens stability for small businesses across Alabama*  
by: Sarah Clifton

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*The final decline of Birmingham-Southern College: New tax records show pattern of losing money*  
by: Hannah Denham

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**

*Why the union vote failed at Alabama’s*

*Mercedes-Benz plant*

by: William Thornton

## BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Their parents died during COVID. Now, a Birmingham nonprofit is helping them out of homelessness*  
by: Savannah Tryens-Fernandes

**2nd: The Anniston Star**

*Coal shacks a reminder of a town gone by*  
by: Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson

**3rd: Montgomery Advertiser**

*How a one-armed former slave united Montgomery in the early 1900s*  
by: Shannon Heupel

## BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Alabama girl, 11, dies by suicide: ‘Teach your kids to be kind,’ family says*  
by: Carol Robinson

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*Can Five Points South recover after mass shooting?*  
by: Greg Garrison

**3rd: Alabama Media Group**

*‘I just held him and prayed,’ 16-year-old boy killed in Birmingham shooting died in parents’ arms*  
by: Carol Robinson

## BEST EDITORIAL

**1st: The Tuscaloosa News**

*Please don’t do that again, Katie Britt*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*How Nick Saban drove me away from Bryant-Denny Stadium*  
by: John Archibald

**2nd: The Tuscaloosa News**

*Confessions of an Alabama football season ticket holder*  
by: Ken Roberts

**3rd: The Anniston Star**

*By the bootstraps*  
by: Lisa Davis

## BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*Who killed Daniel Williams? A tale of terror in Alabama prisons*  
by: John Archibald

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

*We banned ‘divisive concepts.’ So, why do we still have Confederate holidays?*  
by: Roy S. Johnson

**3rd: The Tuscaloosa News**

*Hunting with Tuscaloosa’s ‘Snake Lady’*  
by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## The Anniston Star I Best Feature Story Coverage



## BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

by: Roy S. Johnson

**2nd: Alabama Media Group**

by: Kyle Whitmire

## BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

**1st: Alabama Media Group**

*The complicated legacy of Birmingham’s white baseball legends*  
by: Creg Stephenson

**2nd: The Tuscaloosa News**

*ALS has broken ex-Alabama football player Kerry Goode’s body, but can’t break his spirit*  
by: Chase Goodbread



# Editorial Contest DIVISION A

## 3rd: Alabama Media Group

*Boosters started a nonprofit to pay Alabama athletes millions. Now, it's shutting down.*

by: Hannah Denham

## BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Inside Auburn's 15-play, 74-yard drive to send the Texas A&M game to overtime*

by: Peter Rauterkus

### 2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

*Nick Saban retires as Alabama football coach*

by: staff

### 3rd: The Anniston Star

*Hit girl Jones Hubbard ends Jax State softball win with blast off the scoreboard*

by: Mark Edwards

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*The story behind this Alabama basketball fan's wild, scary journey to the Final Four*

by: Bob Carlton

### 2nd: Alabama Media Group

*Scenes from Tuscaloosa's first full day after Nick Saban's retirement*

by: Matt Stahl

### 3rd: The Anniston Star

*It's all about family for Ace Austin, Alabama's newest baseball signee*

by: Mark Edwards

## BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Nick Saban is the new face of an old scam*

by: Joseph Goodman

### 2nd: The Anniston Star

*Alabama committed to Saban and he committed to Alabama in return*

by: Mark Edwards

### 3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

*My experience covering Auburn basketball at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium*

by: Adam Cole

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

### Gordon Ramsay fumes, hurls pork chop cooked by Alabama child: 'I messed up'



## Alabama Media Group I Best Headline

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Coates-Thornton reunion*

by: Tamika Moore

### 2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

*Color Run*

by: Jake Crandall

### 3rd: The Tuscaloosa News

*Arts N Autism Festival*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## BEST NEWS PHOTO

### 1st: Montgomery Advertiser

*Shooting victim*

by: Mickey Welsh

### 2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

*Lanier's last graduate*

by: Mickey Welsh

### 3rd: The Tuscaloosa News

*Trump at Bryant-Denny Stadium*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

### 1st: The Tuscaloosa News

*Kaulton Street Shooting*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

### 2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

*Barbershop fire*

by: Mickey Welsh

## BEST SPORTS PHOTO

### 1st: The Tuscaloosa News

*Mohamed Wague Dunks With a Smile*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## 2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

*Alabama LSU Rebound Scuffle*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## 3rd: The Tuscaloosa News

*Tuscaloosa Academy Fingertip Catch*

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

### 1st: Montgomery Advertiser

*Monument to Freedom*

by: Mickey Welsh

### 2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

*Beyond the Horizon Air Show*

by: Jake Crandall

### 3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

*Beating the heat*

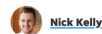
by: Mickey Welsh

## BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS



## Montgomery Advertiser I Best Feature Photo

### Nick Saban retires as Alabama football coach after historic, unparalleled career



## The Tuscaloosa News I Best Sports Single Event

## 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Life's a process*

by: JD Crowe, Joseph Goodman

## 2nd: Alabama Media Group

*The Mount Rushmore of Alabama Barbecue*

by: Bob Carlton, J.D. Crowe

## BEST HEADLINE

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*The genie is out of the bong in Alabama*

by: Challen Stephens, John Archibald

### 2nd: Alabama Media Group

*Gordon Ramsay fumes, hurls pork chop*

*cooked by Alabama child: 'I messed up'*

by: Mary Colurso, Ben Flanagan

### 3rd: Alabama Media Group

*Man stuck in urn at Mountain Brook*

*party loses pants, breaks expensive vase*

*and Alabama Internet*

by: Howard Koplowitz, Jeremy Gray

## CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Descendants of Alabama slaves reunite  
in old plantation house*

by: Bill Thornton, Tamika Moore, Amanda Khorramabadi

### 2nd: Alabama Media Group

*The moment of truth for Alabama coach  
Kalen DeBoer*

by: Nick Kelly, Clay Yeager

### 3rd: Alabama Media Group

*JD Crowe Cartoons*

by: JD Crowe

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*Alabama Supreme Court rules embryos  
are children, halting IVF*

by: staff

### 2nd: Alabama Media Group

*Mass shooting at Hush lounge*

by: Carol Robinson, Hannah Denham, staff

## BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

### 1st: Alabama Media Group

*If you could change one thing about  
Alabama...*

by: Tandra Smith, Monica Keener, Heather Gann





BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/EDITORIAL CONTENT

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

BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

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

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

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

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

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

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

- 1st: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)
- Hometown Meat Market
- by: Hunter Jones
- 2nd: The Clanton Advertiser
- Valle Grande opens doors at Clanton restaurant

- by: Carey Reeder
- 3rd: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)
- Construction takes a toll
- by: Annie Bresee

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

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

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

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

BEST EDITORIAL

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

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

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

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

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

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

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

A14 | Daily Mountain Eagle | WEEKEND EDITION, JUNE 22-23, 2024



Sports

AP Strong

Ayden Payne begins road to recovery



David Slater's Ayden Payne makes a throw from shortstop during a game last season. The former Jasper High School baseball player suffered an injury on June 15, fracturing his C5 vertebrae.

David Slater's Ayden Payne makes a throw from shortstop during a game last season. The former Jasper High School baseball player suffered an injury on June 15, fracturing his C5 vertebrae.

Daily Mountain Eagle | Best Sports Feature Story

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

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

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser
- Maplesville Tradition-Red Devils' pro-

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN - IN THE HEART OF DIXIE - SINCE 1874

Sen. Garlan Gudger elected Alabama Senate president pro tempore

Noah Galilee  
noah@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, a seasoned legislator representing District 4, has taken on one of the most influential roles in the Alabama Senate. On Tuesday, Dec. 3, the Senate Republican Caucus elected Gudger senate president pro tempore, a position

he describes as both an honor and a tremendous responsibility. The leadership transition follows news that current Alabama Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Reed, R-Jasper, is stepping down to take a new position in Gov. Kay Ivey's administration, effective Jan. 1. Senate Majority Leader Steve Livingston, R-Scottsboro, was also up for

consideration. Gudger's political journey began in 2004 when, at age 27, he won a seat on the Cullman City Council, becoming the youngest alderman in the city's history. Reflecting on his early days in public service, he credits community leaders for mentoring him on effective governance. "They taught me to be fair and to take care of



Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman

The Cullman Tribune | Best Spot News Story



7


Editorial Contest

DIVISION B

gram built into one of Alabama’s best  
by: Carey Reeder  
**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*‘This is an exciting day’*  
by: Nick Griffin  
**3rd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*Ayden Payne begins road to recovery*  
by: Johnathan Bentley

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

Column:  
Caden Tellier




CONTRIBUTED | JOHN T. MORGAN ACADEMY

The home opener for AISA team John T. Morgan Academy, which should have been a joyous win, became a tragic reminder of how quickly a single moment can change lives.

The Selma school's quarterback, Caden Tellier was injured in the third quarter of the game against Southern Academy. The 16-year-old would be life-flighted to a UAB children's hospital, where he would pass from a head injury, according to reporting from the Selma Times-Journal.

Morgan Academy will be playing at Chambers Academy on Sept. 27, in what will undoubtedly be an emotional game for both sides. I encourage our community to come out to show their support for the Rebels who will be confronted with competing against a grieving team. But especially for the Senators, who will be continuing their season without their quarterback.

Let Chambers show them the love and grace I have seen from this community countless times. I don't foresee a world where football is not played. It is for



ANNIE  
BRESEE  
Editor:Valley  
Times-News

The Valley Times-News |  
Best Local Sports Column

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

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

BEST NEWS PHOTO

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

by: Abigail Murphy  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel**  
*(Scottsboro)*  
*When life gives you lemons*  
by: Danielle Kirkland  
**3rd: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)**  
*Homecoming Queen*  
by: Annie Bresee

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

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

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

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

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: Jackson County Sentinel**  
*(Scottsboro)*  
*At the rodeo*  
by: Elizabeth Law  
**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel**  
*Fireworks Safety*  
by: Elizabeth Law

**3rd: Jackson County Sentinel**  
*School Bus Safety*  
by: Elizabeth Law

BEST HEADLINE

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

BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: The Daily Home (Talladega)**  
*Update 2024*  
**2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Gridiron Guide*  
**3rd: The Daily Home**  
*My Hometown*

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION


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

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA


**1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)**  
*Creature Chronicles*  
by: Abigail Murphy, Henry Zimmer  
**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**  
*Daybreak*  
by: Noah Galilee  
**3rd: The Outlook**  
*Firetruck Santa*  
by: staff

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE




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



Mano e Mano: Malcolm Simmons vs. Henry Zimmer

 Tallapoosa Publishers  
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Sports editor, Henry Zimmer, takes on Division I bound football player Malcolm Simmons, who just so happens to also be a state record holding track & field athlete & 1,000 point scorer on the basketball court. Does he crush Henry in our mano e mano race? ...more

The Outlook | Best Use of Video  
(> 2 minutes)



The Clanton Advertiser  
| Best Spot News Photo

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**  
*Daily Mountain Eagle Social Media*  
by: staff







**2nd: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville)**  
*The roller coaster that is dementia*  
by: Anthony Campbell

**3rd: The Montgomery Independent Couch Olympics**  
by: Jeff Martin

**BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY**

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Noah's columns*  
by: Noah Wortham

**2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)**  
*Blonde Ambition*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

**3rd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**  
*Damn the Torpedoes*  
by: Rob Holbert

**BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE**

**1st: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Jackson State Title Basketball*  
by: Jimmy Wigfield

**2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)**  
*Hank Aaron's 715th home run at 50*  
by: Tommy Hicks

**3rd: Lagniappe**  
*Moneyball — NCAA settlement, NIL could alter the college athletics landscape*  
by: Brady Petree

**BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY**

**1st: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Saraland Jackson football game*  
by: Jimmy Wigfield

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Heardmont heroics*  
by: Alec Etheredge

**3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)**  
*Pirates upset No. 2 Wildcats in a thriller*  
by: Druw Giamalva

**BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY**

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal Rickwood Field**  
by: staff

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

**3rd: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Kelly Siblings*  
by: Jimmy Wigfield

**BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN**

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

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

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

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Romello Cooper on the bench*  
by: Dawn Harrison

**2nd: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Fourth Frolic*  
by: Helen Joyce

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**  
*Shelby County Showcase of Bands*  
by: Jason Homan

**BEST NEWS PHOTO**

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Birmingham-Southern College*  
by: Bob Farley

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Man kicked from horse in midair*  
by: Jeremy Raines

**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Suburban hotspot*  
by: Bob Farley



Call News I  
Best Feature Photo



Birmingham Business Journal I Best Niche Publication

**BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO**

**1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)**  
*Silas Fire*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

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

*Teacher hugs former students ahead of graduation*  
by: Rachel Raiford

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**  
*Won't be forgotten*  
by: Jeremy Raines

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

**1st: Call News (Citronelle)**  
*Leopards sweep wildcats*  
by: Bonita Roberts

**2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)**  
*Rebels win state title*  
by: Tommy Campbell

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Joseph King flies high*  
by: Dawn Harrison

**BEST PHOTO ESSAY**

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Along for the ride*  
by: Jeremy Raines

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
*Dazzling display*  
by: Jason Homan

**3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)**  
*Rebels win State*  
by: Dee Ann Campbell

**BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS**

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Middle Market 30*  
by: Laurie Lawrence

**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Manufacturing Awards cover*  
by: Laurie Lawrence

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Battle of Breakaway Pointe*  
by: Connor Bucy

**BEST HEADLINE**

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*The final toll: Once BSC fades, what's left?*

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Red Hot Chili Preppers*



**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Ready, set, injured: From fun to fractures*

**BEST SPECIAL SECTION  
- NEWSPRINT**

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

**BEST NICHE PUBLICATION**

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Football*  
by: Andrew Simonson  
**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**  
*Profile*  
**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Book of Lists*

**CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA**

**1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Shelby County Hall of Fame*  
**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Public Paychecks*  
**3rd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Women of Influence*

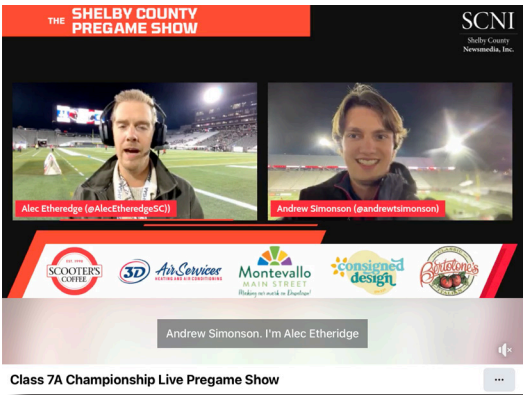
**ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE**

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

**BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

Shelby County Reporter I  
Best Podcast Series



The Montgomery  
Independent | Best Use of Video (< than 2 minutes)

**BEST PODCAST SERIES**

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

**BEST USE OF VIDEO (< THAN 2 MINUTES)**

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

**BEST USE OF VIDEO (> THAN 2 MINUTES)**

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

**BEST COMMUNITY EVENT**

**1st: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Mentoring Monday*  
**2nd: Birmingham Business Journal**  
*Inclusion in workforce*  
**3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)**  
*Shelby County Hall of Fame*

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

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

**FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD**

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

**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: The Tallassee Tribune**  
[www.tallasseetribune.com](http://www.tallasseetribune.com)

**BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING**

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

**BEST PUBLIC SERVICE**

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

**BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR SECTION**

**1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
**2nd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
**3rd: The Dadeville Record**

Commissioners extend meeting for Executive Sessions



Sumter County Board of Commissioners extended their regular scheduled meeting held at the Courthouse in Livingston last Monday, August 26, following an executive session conducted to discuss "good name and character" of an unidentified person. No action was taken regarding the issue or individual that was discussed, but the matter was continued following the second meeting held two days later.

Photo by H. Ward

APA attorney says commissions' "good name and character" wording "leaves the public in the dark"

By Herman B. Ward, Jr.  
d Tommy McGraw

"Good name and character" was the only explanation given after Sumter County Commissioners privately met for over an hour combined, during and following their regular scheduled meeting held at the Sumter County Courthouse on Monday, August 26.

Commissioners extended their regular meeting to a new time and location at the County Annex Building on Wednesday, Aug. 28, and announced they would continue with an Executive Session.

The Board reconvened their

Monday meeting and approved the second executive session for an estimated "10-15 minutes." The secret meeting on Wednesday exceeded a half hour.

After the thirty-minute executive session, the commissioners reconvened back into the regular extended session, and they again approved an extension for the regular session of the commission meeting to a later date, but did not explain.

"There was no action taken in Executive Session on good name and character," stated Commission Chairman Marcus Campbell.

"At this time, now is there a

motion to reset this meeting until a later day so that the two commissioners could be notified to proceed forward?" asked Chairman Campbell.

The motion passed to extend the meeting.

When asked by the Record-Journal newspaper reporter why the executive session was extended Wednesday, commissioners referred the reporter to Sumter County Commission Attorney Drayton Pruitt, who also responded with simply, "good name and character."

"The reason for the executive session is that matters which re-

Continued on page 3-A

Union Springs Herald

Our 150th Year, Issue 53  
Wednesday, August 14, 2024  
\$2.00

Months after tragic shooting, grieving mother pleads for justice

By Felicia Farnsworth

What should have been a night out with friends turned deadly for Delvin Tarver in the early morning hours of May 4 of this year. Along with a few of his friends, Tarver, an 18-year-old Auburn High School senior student, set out to Union Springs for a party that would follow Bullock County High School's Senior Prom.

and mingled with other young adults. An argument erupted and just fifteen minutes before 1:00 a.m., shots were fired, piercing through the vehicle where Tarver was sitting. He was killed.

Since that fateful night, Tarver's family members have looked out to Union Springs for a party that would follow Bullock County High School's Senior Prom.



Kim Graham took this picture, posting it to her Facebook page with the caption: "Please call this number: 1-800-222-TPRS (8777) anonymously if you have any information regarding this case."

Sumter County Record-Journal  
| FOI-First Amendment Award

BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES

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

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

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

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald  
2nd: The Dadeville Record  
3rd: Selma Sun  
by: Cindy Fisher, Brad Fisher

BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

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

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

- 1st: Selma Sun  
2nd: The Tuskegee News  
3rd: The Leader (Linden)  
by: Tommy and Dee Ann Campbell

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/EDITORIAL CONTENT

Union Springs Herald |  
Best Public Service

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

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

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: Selma Sun  
Oldest living Civil Rights Foot Soldier  
George Sallie crosses bridge one last time  
by: Angela Benjamin

HERE'S MY VIEW

I need those catalogs more than ever

I'm awaiting the arrival in my mailbox of the annual seed and nursery catalogs. I've told y'all this before, but this year is a little more urgent because we are renovating a new home with a big yard that is desperately in need of landscaping.

I love the Christmas season but at this time of year, I'm a little anticipatory about the weeks that follow because that's when gardeners' "wish books" begin to show up.

Once a country boy, always a country boy!

It started when I was a kid. I would cut out coupons printed in Progressive Farmer, Grit, and any other magazine that came to the home of my Granddaddy and Mammaw Skilton and mail them in asking for their free catalogs. (If this gives you any sense of how long ago that's been,

My dad, T.J. "TomCat" Campbell, who could have cared less for flowers but was flat-out obsessed with planting purple hull peas -- taught me a valuable trick that you can use in your own gardens or yards -- that the best deterrent to keeping deer and other critters away is human hair. Yep, plain old hair, swept

postage was a nickel to mail a first-class letter.)

The nice thing about that is, when you get on such mailing lists, you are there forever, as long as the company stays in business, which is OK by me because -- as a fully addicted gardener -- the arrival of those catalogs is a winter-time ritual that I still look forward to.

A big part of the gardening process is planning what projects I will have enough time and money to accomplish. That's where the catalogs come in. I came by it honest. It's genetic, I think.

My kinfolks always had the most beautiful flower gardens, not to mention vegetables enough to provide for several families, and they passed on to me a love for growing things that lives on even though they have now gone on to be with our Lord.

My dad, T.J. "TomCat" Campbell, who could have cared less for flowers but was flat-out obsessed with planting purple hull peas -- taught me a valuable trick that you can use in your own gardens or yards -- that the best deterrent to keeping deer and other critters away is human hair. Yep, plain old hair, swept

from the floors of barber or beauty shops -- when scattered around the perimeter of a garden -- will usually send deer, raccoons, and other vegetable thieves packing.

The "hair" also keeps snakes away, too. Seriously!

I think about my ancestors a lot, more and more as the years go by, especially while I'm out working in my yard, and wishing that those dear people were still around for me to ask questions of and learn from their lifetimes of gardening experience.

I know one thing, I may not be the best gardener but I am a better gardener and a better person because of what each one of them instilled in me and for that I will always be grateful.

I know there's still some weeks of the cold, gray days of winter ahead of us, but spring will come, and with it a rebirth, and a reviving of this incurable gardener's spirits.

Maybe I'm just a simple soul, but I still love to sit -- with a hot cup of coffee on a cold winter night -- thumbing through those "wish books" as I dream about warmer days ahead.

Now ... where are those catalogs???

2nd: The Leader (Linden)

Bridge the Bigbee with Cocks  
by: Tommy Campbell

3rd: The Observer (Opelika)

Churmell Mitchell brings H-O-P-E to the community  
by: Nicholas Young

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: Selma Sun

Selma community mourns the loss of two teens  
by: Cindy Fisher

2nd: Coosa County News (Rockford)

Race participants trek through Coosa on way to Georgia  
by: Christa Jennings  
3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)  
Child dies in tragic fire  
by: Tammy Andrews

The Baldwin Times |  
Best Spot News Story

Multiple sea turtle false crawls due to human distraction discovered by Orange Beach, Gulf Shores volunteers



Photo shared on Alabama Ecological Services Facebook page show a sea turtle attempting to nest, surrounded by crowds and bright lights.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



The Leader |  
Best Human Interest Column



## by: Tammy Andrews

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**

*I'll wait*

by: Robert Noles

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

*Softball splits*

by: Ray Stansell

**3rd: The Onlooker (Foley)**

*Remembering a Warrior*

by: Cole McNanna

### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**

*9/11 Stair Climb*

by: Micah Green

**2nd: The Courier (Daphne/Fairhope)**

*A spiritual graduation*

by: Micah Green

**3rd: The Islander**

*Gulf Shores student working to preserve Little Lagoon shoreline*

by: Micah Green

### BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

**1st: The Observer (Opelika)**

*Let Freedom Ring*

by: Robert Noles, Michelle Key

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

*The GOAT*

by: Tammy Andrews

**3rd: The Observer**

*Spring Blooms*

by: Robert Noles, Michelle Key

### BEST HEADLINE

**1st: The Moundville Times**

*Crack cocaine in a woman's size 8-and-a-half*

by: Travis Vaughn

**2nd: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**  
*GOOAALLF SHORES! STATE CHAMPS!*

by: Kayla Green

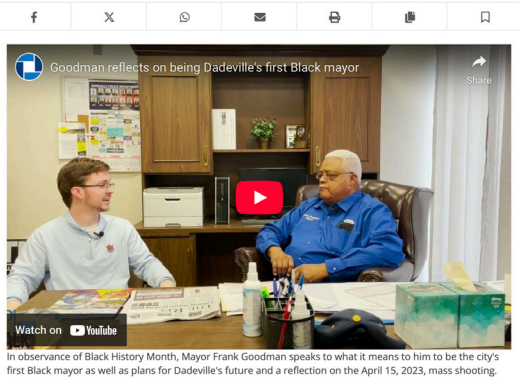
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**

*What's the Buzz?*

by: Dalton Middleton

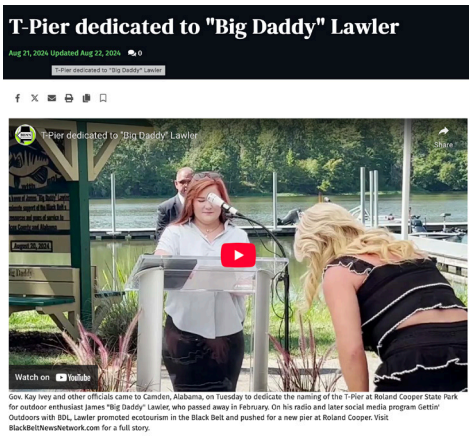
TPI Talk: Goodman reflects on being Dadeville's first Black mayor

By Abigail Murphy Multimedia Reporter Feb 7, 2024 Updated Apr 4, 2024 0



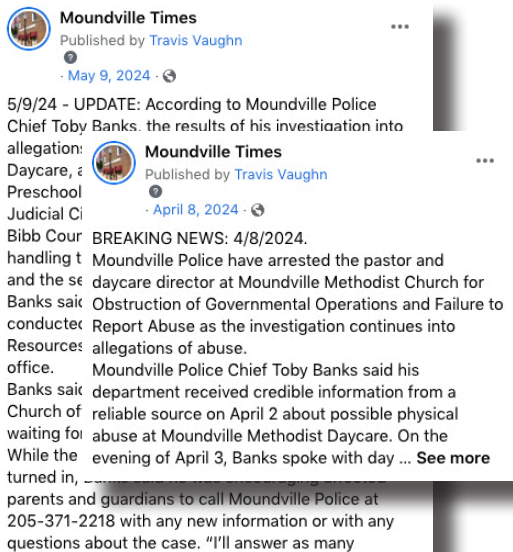
In observance of Black History Month, Mayor Frank Goodman speaks to what it means to him to be the city's first Black mayor as well as plans for Dadeville's future and a reflection on the April 15, 2023, mass shooting.

The Dadeville Record |  
Best Podcast Series



Gov. Kay Ivey and other officials came to Camden, Alabama, on Tuesday to dedicate the naming of the T-Pier at Roland Cooper State Park for outdoor enthusiast James "Big Daddy" Lawler, who passed away in February. On his media and later social media program Gettler Outdoors with BDL, Lawler promoted ecotourism in the Black Belt and pushed for a new pier at Roland Cooper. Visit BlackBeltNewsNetwork.com for a full story.

Selma Sun | Best Use of Video  
(< than 2 minutes)



### BEST SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPRINT

**1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**

*Home and Garden*

**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**

*Under the Lights Sports Preview*

**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal**

*2024 Football preview*

### BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st: The Baldwin Times (Foley)**

*Big Beautiful Baldwin*

by: staff

**2nd: The Baldwin Times**

*Baldwin County Football Preview*

by: Cole McNanna, McKinzie Daniels, Micah Green

**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald FYI**

by: staff

### CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

**1st: Selma Sun**

*Live Black Belt Newscast*

by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

### ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st: Selma Sun**

*Quarterback dies from injury sustained in football game*

by: Cindy Fisher, Fred Guarino

**2nd: The Tallassee Tribune**

*Tallassee-Elmore County game cancelled due to gun threat*

by: Cliff Williams, Dalton Middleton

**3rd: The Moundville Times**

*Day care abuse charges*

by: Kasey DeCastr, Travis Vaughn

### BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**1st: The Baldwin Times (Foley)**

*GCM Sports*

by: Cole McNanna

The Moundville Times |  
Best Online Breaking News Coverage

**2nd: Selma Sun**

*Selma Sun Facebook Page*

by: staff

**3rd: Selma Sun**

*Selma Sun TikTok*

by: Cindy Fisher

### BEST PODCAST SERIES

**1st: Selma Sun**

*Black Belt Newscast*

by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

**2nd: The Dadeville Record**

*TPI Talk*

by: Henry Zimmer, Abigail Murphy

### BEST USE OF VIDEO (< THAN 2 MINUTES)

**1st: Selma Sun**

*Quarterback who dies of brain injury gets revival he wished for*

by: Cindy Fisher

**2nd: The Tallassee Tribune**

*Melody Jackson*

by: Abigail Murphy

**3rd: Selma Sun**

*Pier dedication to Big Daddy Lawler*

by: Todd Prater

### BEST USE OF VIDEO (> THAN 2 MINUTES)

**1st: Selma Sun**

*2024 Year in Review*

by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**

*Mano e mano: Sports editors vs. Softball Stars*

by: Dalton Middleton, Henry Zimmer

**3rd: Selma Sun**

*Camping in the Black Belt*

by: Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher

### BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

**1st: The Lowndes Signal (Fort Deposit)**

*Signal launches inaugural Athlete of the Year contest*

by: staff



## GENERAL EXCELLENCE

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
**3rd: Birmingham Times**

## FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

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

## BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
[www.HooverSun.com](http://www.HooverSun.com)  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
[www.theredstonerocket.com](http://www.theredstonerocket.com)

## BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

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

## BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

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

## BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

## BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
by: Kyle Parmley  
**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**  
by: John Goolsby, Johnny Sanders

- 3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
by: Skip Vaughn

## BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

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

## BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

## BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/EDITORIAL CONTENT

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

## BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

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

## BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

- 1st: The Homewood Star**  
*'I survived the Lakeshore Owl'*  
by: Savannah Schmidt  
**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**  
*Trussville Library Board defends decision*

*to keep challenged books on shelves*  
by: Chris Basinger  
**3rd: The Trussville Tribune**  
*'I am not going to seek reelection'*  
*Trussville mayor announces*  
by: Chris Basinger

## BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

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

## BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

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

## BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*First Family of Comedy*  
by: Tim Stephens  
**2nd: Village Living (Mountain Brook)**  
*Into the fire: Mountain Brook's first female firefighter in more than 10 years*  
by: Savannah Schmidt  
**3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*John Breashears Closes in on 100*  
by: Eric Schultz

## The Trussville Tribune | Best Spot News Story



Library Board Chair Debbie Ward speaks on the board's decision to not remove all the challenged books. Chris Basinger/Trussville Tribune.

### Trussville Library Board defends decision to keep challenged books on shelves

"We're gathered here to hear from the first complainant regarding materials held at Trussville Public Library. This is the first concern about content and materials held at TPL in the time that I've been here, which is 15 years," Baker said.



He went on to say that on Dec. 5, Sheila Wright and two others came to the library to share their concerns about some of the titles found on its shelves, many having to do with sexual orientation and gender identity.

"I explained that we're a public library and public libraries serve all people in the community. And in an effort to compromise and accommodate, and as a one-time exception to our policy, we agreed to review the list of items that she currently had checked out," Baker said.

The board took the list of 41 titles, read and reviewed them, and notified Wright of their decisions. Of those 41 books, the board chose to take 11 out of their inventory because they did not meet the criteria for retention because of their low circulation numbers.

Five of the books were left in their original places, seven books were moved to the adult department, and 18 books will be moved to a new mature teen content area within the adult section.

## Hoover Sun | Best Public Service

### Muddy waters: Trace Crossings residents seek relief from stormwater erosion

BY JON ANDERSON JULY 1, 2024 12:00 AM

Share Tweet In Share Email



Dr. Peter DeFranco talks about the influx of sediment that flows from Scout Creek into Scout Creek Lake behind his home in the Scout Creek subdivision on June 10.



Dr. Peter DeFranco and his wife bought their property in the Scout Creek section of Trace Crossings in 2014 with hopes of enjoying the lake next to their backyard.

But instead, Scout Creek Lake has become the subject of much frustration for them and some of their neighbors. As commercial construction has occurred in western Hoover, erosion problems have repeatedly filled Scout Creek Lake with sediment, leaving them with cloudy water and a muddy mess, preventing them from enjoying the lake.

DeFranco blames poor stormwater regulations and lax enforcement and is pushing the city of Hoover and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to tighten up regulations and increase fines for developers who break the rules.

The city's engineering staff is working on tweaks to the city's stormwater ordinance, but Mayor Frank Brocato said while the city wants to protect residents and waterways, he doesn't want to use a heavy-handed approach.

Scout Creek Lake receives stormwater from a wide basin in western Hoover. Problems were evident as far back as the development of The Grove shopping center. Later, more problems arose with construction of The Shoppes of Hoover, which includes the Sprouts grocery store.

## BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

**1st: Village Living (Mountain Brook)**

*Road to Recovery: Lulu Gribbin*

by: Sarah Owens

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

*Some astronomers concerned about city's bright lights*

by: Eric Schultz

**3rd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Allen Gillespie honored with state proclamation for his 50 years in education*

by: Chris Basinger

## BEST EDITORIAL

**1st: The Trussville Tribune**

*Facebook removes news story from Trussville Tribune page*

by: Scott Buttram

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

*Commute takes time because gates are there for a reason*

by: Jonathan Stinson

**3rd: The Trussville Tribune**

*A yes vote on Trussville schools is money in your pocket*

by: Scott Buttram

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

*SNIPPETS: When cats grow tired of you, they just let it go*

by: Jonathan Stinson

**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Lass But Not Least: There Was That Time*

by: Ken Lass

**3rd: The Trussville Tribune**

*My Life As A Hobby: Fry Me To The Moon*

by: Joe Hobby

## BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

**1st: The Trussville Tribune**

*Lass But Not Least: Getting To Know Joe*

by: Ken Lass

**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*My Life As A Hobby: Good Dogs*

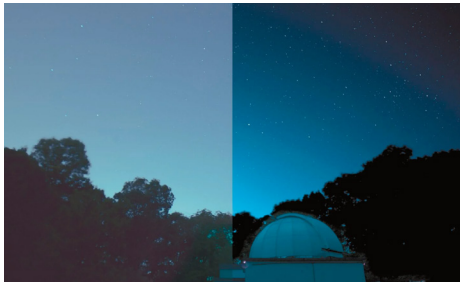
by: Joe Hobby

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

*SNIPPETS: Birmingham-Southern baseball delivers last hurrah*

by: Jonathan Stinson

Some astronomers concerned about city's bright lights



When talking about magnitude, a magnitude 1 star is 100 times brighter than a magnitude 6 star.

"Light pollution stinks for astronomers who want to look at the universe, but what does it matter to the everyday citizen in Huntsville?" said Joe Kutner, vice president of the Von Braun Astronomical Society and local lead of Starry Skies South, which is a regional chapter of the Dark Sky International organization.

"Huntsville and Alabama in general are in a really unique position to care about light pollution," Kutner said. "Because we have this confluence of concerns that are really special in Alabama."

"First, we have this space heritage which we celebrate at the Von Braun Astronomical Society and we love doing science."

"We also have an economy based around aviation and helicopter pilots," he said. "In fact, in one of the committee presentations that had gone in front of the city council, a helicopter pilot representing an association of helicopter pilots, said they were concerned about the new lighting because at night when they are piloting it's harder to see and harder to pilot their craft."

At Redstone, it doesn't seem to be having the same negative effects.

## The Redstone Rocket | Best News Feature Story

## BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

**1st: Birmingham Times**

*America's oldest baseball park gets Major League attention*

by: Solomon Crenshaw Jr.

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

*Kickball season*

by: Skip Vaughn

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket**

*Marshall launches first winter volleyball season*

by: Skip Vaughn

## BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

**1st: Birmingham Times**

*A.H. Porter High School captures first-ever state football championship*

by: Solomon Crenshaw Jr.

**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Moody drops a heartbreaker in the championship game*

by: Johnny Sanders

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

*Veterans hockey game hits mark for community support*

by: Skip Vaughn

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Hoover youth football coach Greg Blackman counts 300 wins, hundreds more winners*

by: Tim Stephens

**2nd: The Trussville Tribune**

*More Than a Player: The Softball Legacy of Hannah Borden*

by: Blair Moore

**3rd: Cahaba Sun (Trussville)**

*Serena steps up in big moments for Huskies*

by: Kyle Parmley

## BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Where to for the Super 7?*

by: Kyle Parmley

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

*FROM THE SIDELINES: Sunrise, sunset on senior softball field*

by: Skip Vaughn

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket**

*FROM THE SIDELINES: Still running against the wind after all these years*

by: Skip Vaughn

## Village Living | Best News Photo



## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

**1st: Birmingham Times**

*Germaul Barnes: Meet The Global Dance Maker*

by: Marika N. Johnson

**2nd: Village Living (Mountain Brook)**

*Mae Scofield, dancing queen*

by: Savannah Schmidt

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

*Splash Off*

by: Eric Schultz

## BEST NEWS PHOTO

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

*Quarter moon*

by: Jonathan Stinson

**2nd: Village Living (Mountain Brook)**

*Into the Fire*

by: Savannah Schmidt

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket**

*Army Birthday celebration fireworks*

by: Jonathan Stinson

## BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Opelika coach suspended for playoff game against Hoover*

by: Barry Stephenson

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

*Security Check*

by: Eric Schultz

**3rd: The Redstone Rocket**

*Random Searches*

by: Eric Schultz

## BEST SPORTS PHOTO

**1st: Hoover Sun**

*Hoover state volleyball*

by: Savannah Schmidt

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

*Rocketman Triathlon*

by: Eric Schultz

**3rd: The Trussville Tribune**

*Bulls on the Lake*

*Rodeo*

by: Chris Basinger





ADVERTISING  
SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

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

BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE  
OR SECTION

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
2nd: The Clanton Advertiser  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

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

- 1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)  
Daybreak Domestic Violence  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
Bell Aesthetics  
by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes  
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel  
Southern Style Salon  
by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2  
PAGE AND UNDER,  
COLOR

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune  
Vincent Furniture  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah  
Galilee  
2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle  
(Jasper)  
WCSO Vacation Watch  
by: staff  
3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Town of Mentone - Four Seasons  
by: Linda Stiefel, Emily Wooten

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

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser  
City of Clanton  
by: Zack Bates  
2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle  
(Jasper)  
Young Jewelers  
by: staff



BEST SINGLE AD OVER  
1/2 PAGE, COLOR

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
Radney Funeral Home  
by: Audra Spears  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
Holliman & Holliman  
by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune  
Bill Smith  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah  
Galilee

BEST REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED SPECIAL  
SECTION

- 1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Torch Playbook 2024  
by: staff  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
InSight Magazine  
by: staff  
3rd: The Clanton Advertiser  
Kickoff  
by: Zack Bates

BEST ONE TIME  
SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
Jackson County Visitors Guide  
by: staff  
2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle  
(Jasper)  
Foothills Festival Guide  
by: staff  
3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Menu Guide  
by: staff

BEST IN-PAPER  
PROMOTION OF  
NEWSPAPER

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
Small but Mighty  
by: Audra Spears  
2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle  
(Jasper)  
Local Life  
by: staff  
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
Key Role  
by: Elizabeth Law

BEST ADVERTISING  
CAMPAIGN

- 1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
NACC magazine  
by: Linda Stiefel, Emily Wooten  
2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Southern Properties  
by: Emily Wooten  
3rd: The Cullman Tribune  
Bill Smith  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah  
Galilee



The Daily Mountain Eagle | Best Single Ad  
1/2 page and under

BEST ORIGINAL/  
CREATIVE IDEA

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
Action, Words, You Matter  
by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter, Lizi  
Arbogast Gwin  
2nd: The Outlook  
Journalism 101  
by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter, Lizi  
Arbogast Gwin  
3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Boom Days Magazine  
by: Linda Stiefel

BEST CLASSIFIED  
DISPLAY AD

- 1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Christmas in the Park  
by: Amy West, Emily Wooten  
2nd: The Cullman Tribune  
College Tire  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom  
3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Northeast Alabama Association of  
REALTORS  
by: Linda Stiefel, Emily Wooten

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

- 1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)  
Go Generals  
by: staff  
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel  
(Scottsboro)  
Happy Thanksgiving  
by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes,  
Elizabeth Law  
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel  
Thank You Veterans  
by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes,  
Elizabeth Law

Jackson County Sentinel |  
Best In-Paper Promotion  
of Newspaper



# Advertising Contest DIVISION B

## The Outlook | Best Use of Humor



## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

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

January Lake Magazine

by: Audra Spears, Betsy Iler, Kenneth Boone

**2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**

The Wedding Issue

by: Dolores Hambrick, Jordon Hypes, Elizabeth Law

**3rd: The Outlook**

Community in Action

by: staff

## BEST USE OF HUMOR

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

Antisocial

by: Audra Spears

**2nd: The Outlook**

Girl Winking

by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter

**3rd: The Outlook**

Newspaper Joke

by: Audra Spears

## BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

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

www.jcsentinel.com

by: staff

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

www.cullmantribune.com

by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

**3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**

www.clantonadvertiser.com

by: Zack Bates

## BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING - SINGLE AD

**1st: The Outlook**

Tallapoosa Tourism

by: Renee Trice

**2nd: The Outlook**

Koons Korner

by: Audra Spears

**3rd: The Outlook**

Wayside Animal Hospital

by: Audra Spears

## ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER

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

Star Spangled

by: Emily Wooten

**2nd: The Cullman Tribune**

Subscribe Today

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

The Cullman Tribune | Best  
Classified Display Ad

**COLLEGE TIRE**  
START YOUR NEW YEAR OFF WITH GOOD  
TREAD FOR THE COLDER DAYS AHEAD

**25% OFF**  
225-65-17  
SETS OF 4  
MEDIUM AND  
LIKE NEW

**10% OFF**  
ALL TIRES  
NEW AND  
LIGHT TRUCK  
EXCLUDED

**WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANYONE'S PRICE ON  
COMPARABLE MANUFACTURERS AND SIZES!**

315 MAIN ST. NW. HANCEVILLE  
MON-TUE-THUR-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30  
WEDS 8-12 SAT 8:00-2:00  
256-352-2221

...IN THAT WHILE  
WE WERE YET  
SINNERS CHRIST  
DIED FOR US.  
ROMANS 5:8

# Advertising Contest DIVISION C

## ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

**2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama**

(Phenix City)

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

(Gilbertown)

## BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE OR SECTION

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

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

(Gilbertown)

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama**

(Phenix City)

by: Haylie Rivera

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

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

Buck Creek

by: Rhett McCreight

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

Oak View Animal Hospital

by: staff

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

(Gilbertown)

Library 70th Anniversary

by: Dee Ann Campbell

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

**1st: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

Vulcan Termite and Pest

by: Rhett McCreight

**2nd: The Advertiser-Gleam**

(Guntersville)

Feed the Farm

by: Sherrie Hall

**3rd: Shelby County Reporter**

Buck Creek

by: Rhett McCreight

## The Choctaw Sun- Advocate | Best Classified Page or Section

CLASSIFIEDS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

BUY IT • SELL IT • TRADE IT

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

RENTAL

PERSONAL

NOTICES

HOW TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

Send CLASSIFIEDS and PUBLIC NOTICES to: circulation@choctaw.com

Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!

Mid Star

Do you subscribe to your local community newspaper?

Now, that's something I can sink my teeth into.

The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

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

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

Nanafalia Church Christmas

by: Dee Ann Campbell

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

Small Business Celebration

by: Rhett McCreight

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

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

Little Feathers

by: Haylie Rivera

**2nd: Shelby County Reporter**

(Columbiana)

Buck Creek

by: Rhett McCreight

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

(Gilbertown)

Boots for Glory Rodeo

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Football by: staff
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) Football Preview by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate Letters to Santa by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Letters to Santa
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter Thompson Championship
- 3rd: Shelby County Reporter Metro Football

BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

- 1st: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) Porter’s Poem by: Sherrie Hall
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) SunTV by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate Graduation by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Athlete of the Week by: staff
- 2nd: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) Monthly Highlights at Sand Mountain Toyota by: Sherrie Hall



The Advertiser Gleam | Best Signature Page



Shelby County Reporter | Best One-Time Special Section

- 3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) BEAM Confidence Campaign by: Haylie Rivera

BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Vulcan Wanted Dead Not Alive by: Rhett McCreight
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter Lawn Mower For Sale by: Vee Romero
- 3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) Springapaloosa by: Haylie Rivera

BEST CLASSIFIED DISPLAY AD

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Steward Machine by: Octavia Campbell
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter TNT Fireworks Superstore by: Octavia Campbell
- 3rd: Shelby County Reporter Lawn Mower For Sale by: Vee Romero

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

- 1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) Fire Safety by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Horseshoe Bend High School by: staff
- 3rd: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) Players of the week by: Sherrie Hall

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

- 1st: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) GameTime Magazine
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter

- (Columbiana) Visitor’s Guide
- 3rd: Shelby County Reporter Football

BEST USE OF HUMOR

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Vulcan Wanted Dead Not Alive by: Rhett McCreight
- 2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) Gibson Body Shop by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) Smart Irishmen by: Sherrie Hall

BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

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

BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING - SINGLE AD

- 1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Football Show by: Alec Etheredge
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter Buck Creek Family Dental by: Rachel Henderson
- 3rd: Shelby County Reporter Oak View Animal Hospital by: Rhett McCreight

ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER

- 1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) SunTV Football by: Dee Ann Campbell
- 2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) Online Football Coverage by: Connor Bucy, Alec Etheredge
- 3rd: Shelby County Reporter Gain access by: staff



## ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

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

## BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE OR SECTION

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
**2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
**3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**

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

- 1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Remembering Our Past-Taylor Swift*  
by: Tammy Andrews  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal**  
*Remembering Our Past-Clairmont Springs*  
by: Tammy Andrews  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal**  
*Remembering Our Past- World's Tallest Man*  
by: Tammy Andrews

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

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*First Community Bank*  
by: staff  
**2nd: The Dadeville Record**  
*Tallapoosa Nutrition*  
by: Sam Himes  
**3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Vote for Kris Patton*  
by: Michelle Key

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

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Marcia Weber Art Objects*  
by: staff  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Coosa Cleaver*  
by: Renee Trice  
**3rd: Union Springs Herald**  
*Judge Tatum*  
by: Cheryl Stabinski



The Clay Times-Journal |  
Best Single Ad  
1/2 page and under



The Wetumpka Herald |  
Best Single Ad over 1/2 page

## BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: The Dadeville Record**  
*Dadeville Magazine*  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Home and Garden*  
**3rd: The Baldwin Times**  
*Fairhope Arts and Crafts*  
by: McKinzie Daniels, Frank Kustura

## BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Under the Lights*

- 2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*New Career Development Center*  
**3rd: The Clay Times-Journal**  
*Fall is here*

## BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Read Local, Shop Local*  
by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter  
**2nd: Union Springs Herald**  
*Reader Engagement Wildlife*  
by: Cheryl Stabinski  
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Subscribe. It Matters.*  
by: Audra Spears, Tippy Hunter

## The Baldwin Times | Best Regularly Scheduled Special Section



## BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

- 1st: The Onlooker (Foley)**  
*ultiMEAT sponsored by Parish Tractor*  
by: McKinzie Daniels,

## BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

- 1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*1st Bank-Shelter Pets*  
by: Breanna Minter  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal**  
*1st Bank-Read Across America*  
by: Breanna Minter

- 3rd: The Clay Times-Journal**  
*1st Bank-Solar Eclipse*  
by: Breanna Minter

## BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

- 1st: The Dadeville Record**  
*Dadeville High School*  
by: Audra Spears, Sam Himes,  
**2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*Meet your local candidates*  
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Adopt A Shelter Pet*

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

- 1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**  
*At Home in Clay County*  
**2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**  
*Class of 2024*  
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Gridiron Guide*

## BEST USE OF HUMOR

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Bell Family Chiropractic*  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Girl Winking*  
by: Tippy Hunter, Audra Spears

## BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

- 1st: The Baldwin Times**  
*www.gulfcoastmedia.com*  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*www.thewetumpkaherald.com*  
**3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**  
*www.tallasseetribune.com*

## BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING - SINGLE AD

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*1220 Cafe*  
by: Audra Spears  
**2nd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*Parker Tire*  
by: Audra Spears  
**3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**  
*SA Recycling*  
by: staff

Advertising Contest

# DIVISION E

## ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**

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

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Image Hive*  
by: Ted Perry  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Office Furniture Outlet*  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

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

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Mike's Merchandise*  
by: Ted Perry  
**2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Regenesis*  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

## BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Hoover Sun Spring & Fall Medical Guide*  
by: staff

## BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Under the Lights*  
by: Melanie Viering

## BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Brightmark Health-Dr Joseph Wu*  
by: Ted Perry

## BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

- 1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)**  
*Restaurants*  
by: Rhonda Stennett, Donna Counts

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

- 1st: Hoover Sun**  
*Under the Lights*  
by: staff

Magazine Contest

# DIVISION M



Mountain Brook Magazine |  
1st: Magazine of the Year



Huntsville Magazine |  
2nd: Magazine of the Year



Jackson Magazine |  
3rd: Magazine of the Year

## MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

- 1st: Mountain Brook Magazine**  
**2nd: Huntsville Magazine**  
**3rd: Jackson Magazine**

## BEST SINGLE FEATURE STORY

- 1st: INDY Magazine**  
*Left to Tell - Genocide Survivor, Immaculate Ilibagaiza*  
by: Brian Hodge  
**2nd: East Alabama Living**  
*Celebrating 20 Years of EAL*  
by: Beth Witten  
**3rd: Vestavia Hills Magazine**  
*The American Dream*  
by: Anna Grace Moore, Blair Ramsey

## BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE

- 1st: Lake Magazine**  
*Farewell to a Friend of Lake Martin*  
by: Betsy Iler  
**2nd: Huntsville Magazine**  
*From the Gridiron to the NASA*  
by: Erin Coggins, Takara Swoopes  
**3rd: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Not Home For The Holidays*  
by: Casey Creque, Nadia Kidd

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE

- 1st: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Sock It To Me*  
by: Hannah Knafer, Nadia Kidd  
**2nd: Huntsville Magazine**  
*The Von Braun Center Celebrates 50 Years*  
by: Erin Coggins, Takara Swoopes  
**3rd: Vestavia Hills Magazine**  
*The American Dream*  
by: Anna Grace Moore, Blair Ramsey

## BEST TRAVEL FEATURE

- 1st: Lake Martin Living**  
*A Journey of 2,000 Miles*  
by: Ben Smith  
**2nd: Alabama Magazine**  
*Majestic Caverns*  
by: Bishop Chavers

The Redstone Rocket |  
Best Single Ad 1/2 page  
and over

Hoover Sun |  
Best Niche Publication



Magazine Contest

# DIVISION M

**3rd: Lake Martin Living**

*Hawaii Vacay*  
by: Lacey Howell

## BEST CULINARY FEATURE

**1st: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**  
*Hands!*

by: Casey Creque, Nadia Kidd, Amy Bailey

**2nd: Mountain Brook Magazine**

*Veal and Valor*  
by: Anna Grace Moore, Taylor Hager

**3rd: Jackson Magazine**

*Warehouse 207*  
by: Marla Ballard, Ashley Colon, Elizabeth Law

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE

**1st: Beachin'**

*Reel Talk*  
by: Cole McNanna

**2nd: Lake Martin Living**

*Reeltown Football Superfan*  
by: Ben Smith, Lizi Arbogast Gwin

**3rd: Huntsville Magazine**

*Dirt, Dance, and Dad Bods*  
by: Takara Swoopes, Ricky Fernandez

## BEST PHOTO ESSAY

**1st: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine**

*Puppy Love*  
by: Bear Stapely, Amy Bailey

**2nd: Hoover's magazine**

*The Western Frontier*  
by: Untold Imagery, Rowan Futrell

**3rd: Mountain Brook Magazine**

*Veal and Valor*  
by: Taylor Hager, Jamie Dawkins

## BEST SINGLE PHOTOGRAPH

**1st: Huntsville Magazine**

*Urban Cowboy in Huntsville*  
by: Dokk Savage

**2nd: Lake Magazine**

*Northern Lights*  
by: Audra Spears

**3rd: Beachin'**

*When Dolphins Soar - Gulf Shores student-built plane takes flight*  
by: Micah Green

## BEST INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE

**1st: Huntsville Magazine**

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

**2nd: Mountain Brook Magazine**

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

**3rd: East Alabama Living**

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

## BEST SINGLE AD

**1st: Live Lee**

*Love is Intoxicating- Celebrate Responsibly*

by: Jessica Henderson

**2nd: East Alabama Living**

*From Our Hives to Your Table*  
by: Claire Hodges, Steve Witten

**3rd: Community Matters**

*City of Cullman - Oktoberfest*  
by: Dustin Isom

## BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN OR SERIES

**1st: Mountain Brook Magazine**

*The Cook Store*

**2nd: Community Matters**

*Cullman County Sheriff's Office*  
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

**3rd: Homewood Life Magazine**

*Fringe*

## BEST HOUSE AD OR SELF-PROMOTION

**1st: Jackson Magazine**

*6 issues a year*  
by: Elizabeth Law

**2nd: East Alabama Living**

*Subscription Offer*  
by: Stephanie McGinn, Steve Witten

**3rd: Mountain Brook Magazine**

*Subscribe Now Ad*  
by: staff

## BEST OVERALL DESIGN

**1st: Mountain Brook Magazine**

by: staff

**2nd: East Alabama Living**

by: Stephanie McGinn, Beth Witten, Steve Witten

**3rd: Huntsville Magazine**

by: Takara Swoopes



East Alabama Living |  
Best Cover Photo or  
Illustration



Community Matters |  
Best Single Ad



Beachin' |  
Best Single Photograph

## BEST COVER PHOTO OR ILLUSTRATION

**1st: Alabama Magazine**

*Oktoberfest*

**2nd: INDY Magazine**

*Welcome Home*

**3rd: East Alabama Living**

*20th Anniversary Cover*  
by: Stephanie McGinn, Beth Witten, Steve Witten

## BEST THEMED ISSUE

**1st: Huntsville Magazine**

*The Sports Issue*  
by: Takara Swoopes, Erin Coggins, Dokk Savage

**2nd: Beachin'**

*The Food Issue*  
by: Micah Green, Kayla Green, staff

**3rd: Lake Magazine**

*The Outdoor Issue*  
by: staff

## BEST COLUMN

**1st: Lake Martin Living**

*Culture Shock*  
by: Lacey Howell

**2nd: East Alabama Living**

*The Write Purpose*  
by: Christy K. Truitt

**3rd: Lake Magazine**

*The Scramble*  
by: Rob Witherington

## BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

**1st: Shelby County Living**

*Shelby County Hall of Fame*  
by: Anna Grace Moore, Alec Etheredge

**2nd: Lake Magazine**

*Golden Picker Bag*  
by: Shaylee Beck Moore, Audra Spears

**3rd: Lake Magazine**

*Plug Day*  
by: Betsy Iler, Audra Spears



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Set aside copies of your best 2025 work now!
- When ready to submit entries in contest portal, check that entry titles and bylines are entered correctly.
- 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 the 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 30 entries and for judges, it can be tedious to have to log in to 20+ newspaper websites.**