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APA Media Awards Magazine Contest Select Category Winners Announced

Birmingham, AL (June 28, 2025) – Winners in select categories of the 2025 Alabama Press Association Media Awards have been announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 21 publications submitted 381 entries in the annual magazine contest. The Michigan Press Association membership judged the entries.

First-place awards in select categories were presented at the 2025 APA Summer Convention banquet awards program.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Cat. 01 Magazine of the Year

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

Cat. 02 Best Single Feature Story

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

Cat. 03 Best Personality Profile

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

Cat. 04 Best Business Feature

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

Cat. 05 Best Travel Feature

- 1st Place: Lake Martin Living for "A Journey of 2,000 Miles" by Ben Smith
2nd Place: Alabama Magazine for "Majestic Caverns" by Bishop Chavers
3rd Place: Lake Martin Living for "Hawaii Vacay" by Lacey Howell

Cat. 06 Best Culinary Feature

- 1st Place: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine for "Hands!" by Casey Creque, Nadia Kidd, Amy Bailey
2nd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Veal and Valor" by Anna Grace Moore, Taylor Hager
3rd Place: Jackson Magazine for "Warehouse 207" by Marla Ballard, Ashley Colon, Elizabeth Law

Cat. 07 Best Sports Feature

- 1st Place: Beachin' for "Reel Talk" by Cole McNanna
2nd Place: Lake Martin Living for "Reeltown Football Superfan" by Ben Smith, Lizi Arbogast Gwin
3rd Place: Huntsville Magazine for "Dirt, Dance, and Dad Bods" by Takara Swoopes, Ricky Fernandez

Cat. 08 Best Photo Essay

- 1st Place: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine for "Puppy Love" by Bear Stapely, Amy Bailey
2nd Place: Hoover's magazine for "The Western Frontier" Rowan Futrell
3rd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Veal and Valor" by Taylor Hager, Jamie Dawkins

Cat. 09 Best Single Photograph

- 1st Place: Huntsville Magazine for "Urban Cowboy in Huntsville" by Dokk Savage
2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Northern Lights" by Audra Spears
3rd Place: Beachin' for "When Dolphins Soar - Gulf Shores student-built plane takes flight" by Micah Green

Cat. 10 Best Individual Website

- 1st Place: Huntsville Magazine for "www.huntsvillemagazine.com"
2nd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "www.mountainbrookmagazine.com"
3rd Place: East Alabama Living for "www.eastalabamaliving.com"

Cat. 11 Best Single Ad

- 1st Place: LIVE Lee for "Love is Intoxicating - Celebrate Responsibly" by Jessica Henderson
2nd Place: East Alabama Living for "From Our Hives to Your Table " by Claire Hodges, Steve Witten
3rd Place: Community Matters for "City of Cullman - Oktoberfest" by Dustin Isom

Cat. 12 Best Advertising Campaign or Series

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "The Cook Store" by staff
2nd Place: Community Matters for "Cullman County Sheriff's Office" by Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee
3rd Place: Homewood Life Magazine for "Fringe" by staff

Cat. 13 Best House Ad or Self-Promotion

- 1st Place: Jackson Magazine for "6 issues a year" by Elizabeth Law
2nd Place: East Alabama Living for "Subscription Offer" by Stephanie McGinn, Steve Witten
3rd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Subscribe Now" by staff

Cat. 14 Best Overall Design

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine by staff
2nd Place: East Alabama Living by Stephanie McGinn, Beth Witten, Steve Witten
3rd Place: Huntsville Magazine by Takara Swoopes

Cat. 15 Best Cover Photo or Illustration

- 1st Place: Alabama Magazine for "Oktoberfest"
2nd Place: INDY Magazine for "Welcome Home"
3rd Place: East Alabama Living for "20th Anniversary" by Stephanie McGinn, Beth Witten, Steve Witten

Cat. 16 Best Themed Issue

- 1st Place: Huntsville Magazine for "The Sports Issue" by Takara Swoopes, Erin Coggins, Dokk Savage
2nd Place: Beachin' for "The Food Issue" by Micah Green, Kayla Green, staff
3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "The Outdoor Issue" by staff

Cat. 17 Best Column

- 1st Place: Lake Martin Living for "Culture Shock" by Lacey Howell
2nd Place: East Alabama Living for "The Write Purpose" by Christy K. Truitt
3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "The Scramble" by Rob Witherington

Cat. 18 Best Community Event

- 1st Place: Shelby Living for "Shelby County Hall of Fame" by Anna Grace Moore, Alec Etheredge
2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Golden Picker Bag" by Shaylee Beck Moore, Audra Spears
3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "Plug Day" by Betsy Iler, Audra Spears