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Contact: Brad English or Jaclyn Langan
(205) 871-7737

APA Media Awards Magazine Contest Select Category Winners Announced

Birmingham, AL (May 22, 2026) – Winners in select categories of the 2026 Alabama Press Association Media Awards have been announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 22 publications submitted 468 entries in the annual magazine contest. The Pennsylvania News Media Association membership judged the entries.

Select first-place awards will also be presented at the 2026 APA Summer Convention banquet awards program on Saturday, June 27 at the Perdido Beach Resort.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Cat. 02 Best Single Feature Story

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Bay to Table" by Anna Grace Breedlove, Kassady Gibson, Blair Ramsey
- 2nd Place: Lake Martin Living for "Santa has a Southern Drawl" by Shaylee Beck Moore, Sam Vise, Audra Spears
- 3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "Star-spangled and Soulful" by Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone

Cat. 03 Best Personality Profile

- 1st Place: Beachin' for "The Wonderful World of Banks Compton" by Kayla Green
- 2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Sara Swims the English Channel" by Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone
- 3rd Place: Trussville Living for "A Book of Old" by Jamie Dawkins, Katelyn Smith

Cat. 04 Best Business Feature

- 1st Place: Beachin' for "Off the Beaten Path: Perdido Vineyards" by Ruth Mayo
- 2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Chisel & Wood" by Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone
- 3rd Place: Jackson Magazine for "Lavender in the Cove" by Katie Hightower, Ashley Colon, Elizabeth Law

Cat. 05 Best Travel Feature

- 1st Place: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine for "Five Months, Five Continents" by Ashley Ryals
- 2nd Place: Beachin' for "The nation's best trail system is right here...No, really." by Ruth Mayo
- 3rd Place: INDY Magazine for "Go Away" by staff

Cat. 06 Best Culinary Feature

- 1st Place: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine for "It's All Greek To Me" by Amy Bailey
- 2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Lake Martin Oyster Expert" by Austin Elliot, Shaylee Beck Moore, Audra Spears
- 3rd Place: East Alabama Living for "EAL EATS: Savor the Squash" by Beth Witten, Ann Cipperly, Stephanie McGinn

Cat. 07 Best Sports Feature

- 1st Place: Alabama Magazine for "The Greatest Show On Dirt" by staff
- 2nd Place: East Alabama Living for "Operation Gold" by Beth Witten, Ann Cipperly, Stephanie McGinn
- 3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "A Storied Tradition Sails On" by Sam Vise, Kenneth Boone

Cat. 08 Best Photo Essay

- 1st Place: Community Matters for "Following the magic of the Oregon coastline" by Sherry Brown
- 2nd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Bay to Table" by Kassady Gibson, Blair Ramsey, Jamie Dawkins
- 3rd Place: Jackson Magazine for "Nostalgic Christmas" by Katie Hightower, Elizabeth Law

Cat. 09 Best Single Photograph

- 1st Place: Lake Magazine for "Lightning Over Lake Martin" by Audra Spears
- 2nd Place: Lake Magazine for "Seaplane Adventure at Lake Martin" by Kenneth Boone
- 3rd Place: Alabama Magazine for "Abbie Stockard" by staff

Cat. 10 Best Individual Website

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "www.mountainbrookmagazine.com" by staff
2nd Place: East Alabama Living for "www.radioalabama.net/east-alabama-living" by Beth Witten, Steve Witten
3rd Place: Community Matters for "www.cullmantribune.com/cullman-community-matters-magazine" by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff

Cat. 11 Best Single Ad

- 1st Place: LIVE Lee for "Love is Intoxicating" by Jessica Henderson
2nd Place: Jackson Magazine for "Southern Torch Radio" by John Morris
3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "The Cart Source" by Sam Himes

Cat. 12 Best Advertising Campaign or Series

- 1st Place: Land+Lake for "Albertville Foodland" by John Morris
2nd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "The Cook Store" by staff
3rd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Laura Lane Salon" by staff

Cat. 13 Best House Ad or Self-Promotion

- 1st Place: Trussville Living for "Subscribe Now" by Jamie Dawkins
2nd Place: Land+Lake for "Southern Torch Radio- Shining A Light on Northeast Alabama" by John Morris
3rd Place: Community Matters for "Subscribe Today" by Dustin Isom

Cat. 15 Best Cover Photo or Illustration

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Spring 2025" by Leslie Hollingsworth
2nd Place: Hoover's magazine for "Summer 2025" by Dawn Harrison
3rd Place: Lake Martin Living for "June Lake Martin Living " by Shaylee Beck Moore

Cat. 16 Best Themed Issue

- 1st Place: Lake Martin Living for "Holiday Issue" by Audra Spears, Shaylee Beck Moore, Sam Vise
2nd Place: Lake Martin Living for "Art & Photo Contest Issue" by Audra Spears, Shaylee Beck Moore, Sam Vise
3rd Place: Jackson Magazine for "The Wedding Issue" by staff

Cat. 17 Best Column

- 1st Place: Good Life Magazine for "Cool Hand Who?" by Tony Wood
2nd Place: DeKalb Living for "Teacher Feature" by Emily Wooten
3rd Place: Lake Magazine for "Big Catches" by Greg Vinson

Cat. 18 Best Community Event

- 1st Place: Lake Martin Living for "Art & Photo Contest Winners" by Shaylee Beck Moore
2nd Place: Alabama Magazine for "Let It Snow" by staff
3rd Place: Alabama Magazine for "The Greatest Show On Dirt" by staff

Cat. 19 Best Use of Social Media

- 1st Place: Trussville Living for "Clay-Chalkville State Championship Carousel" by Tyler Raley
2nd Place: Trussville Living for "Baseball Playoff Carousel" by Michaela Bankston, Kristal Kizer
3rd Place: Mountain Brook Magazine for "Ellie & Weston" by Anna Grace Breedlove

Cat. 20 Best Social Media Page

- 1st Place: Mountain Brook Magazine by Anna Grace Breedlove
2nd Place: Community Matters by Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff
3rd Place: Lake Magazine by Shaylee Beck Moore, Audra Spears, Sam Vise