



#AMA2026



APA Media AWARDS

Print | Digital | Magazine



The Anniston Star

'Robert Kilmartin' by Bill Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS



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

AD OF THE YEAR

The Observer (Opelika)

It can wait.

by: Jessica Henderson



PHOTO OF THE YEAR

(featured on cover)

The Anniston Star

Robert Kilmartin

by: Bill Wilson



MOST IMPROVED

Division B

The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

Birmingham Business Journal

Division D

The Lafayette Sun

STORY OF THE YEAR

Birmingham Business Journal

Data Center Coverage

by: Harper Harwell, Ashleigh Jones, Marie Leech, A.J. O'Leary, Samuel Stettheimer



A-MARK INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM PRIZES



1st Place: **Alabama Media Group**
Alabama vs. science
by: Ivana Hryniw

2nd Place:
Lagniappe (Mobile)
Crash, call, collect: Local clinic connected to rehab RICO scheme
Enterprise
by: Scott Johnson

3rd Place:
TimesDaily (Florence)
If they build it, they will come... but at what cost to the taxpayers?
by: Brady Petree

CENTER FOR INTEGRITY IN NEWS REPORTING (CFINR) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



The Cullman Tribune
Hanceville Police Department Investigation Series
by: Lauren Estes, Noah Galilee, Nick Griffin, W.C. Mann

Editorial Contest DIVISION A

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1st: The Anniston Star

FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

1st: Alabama Media Group

Secrecy agreements fuel pushback of \$14 billion Alabama data center
by: Hannah Denham

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Alabama police know they don't have to show bodycam videos to families: 'Why hide it?'
by: John Sharp

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

1st: The Anniston Star

www.annistonstar.com

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

1st: TimesDaily (Florence)

If they build it, they will come...but at what cost to the taxpayers?
by: Brady Petree

2nd: The Anniston Star

Hobson City Water System accountability coverage
by: Bill Wilson

3rd: Alabama Media Group

Cancer Chronicles
by: Roy S. Johnson

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

by: Creg Stephenson, Nick Kelly, Matt Stahl

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

1st: The Anniston Star

by: Sherry Kughn, Bill Wilson, Angela Morgan

2nd: Alabama Media Group

by: Hannah Denham, William Thornton

BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

by: Rebecca Griesbach, Williesha Morris, John Sharp

2nd: The Anniston Star

by: Bill Wilson, Ashley Morrison

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

by: Joseph D. Bryant, Megan Plotka, Scott Turner

2nd: The Anniston Star

by: Bill Wilson, Ashley Morrison

BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

1st: The Tuscaloosa News

by: Design Center staff

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

by: Savannah Williams, Robin Ferguson, Design Center staff



Alabama Media Group
Best Spot News Story

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Alabama executes Anthony Todd Boyd by nitrogen gas for 1993 murder and kidnapping

by: Sarah Clifton

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Republican Alabama congressman running for Senate booed at town hall, leaves out the back

by: John Sharp

3rd: The Anniston Star

Wildfires prompt evacuations in Calhoun county
by: Ashley Morrison, Bill Wilson

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Mass shooting in downtown Montgomery

by: staff

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

Angie Stone death

by: Shannon Heupel

3rd: Alabama Media Group

Where Tommy Tuberville lives may be the biggest question of the 2026 election

by: John Sharp

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group

Alabama farmer has Parkinson's. He's among thousands who say weed killer is to blame

by: Margaret Kates

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Tommy Tuberville is one of the busiest stock traders in Congress. Some deals raise 'red flags'

by: Hannah Denham, Howard Koplowitz

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Jackson Hospital faces ultimatum from judge as questions linger about funding

by: Sarah Clifton

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

Family's tragic loss turns into Ryker's Rainbow: 'Honor to remember all these babies and children'

by: Amber Sutton

2nd: Alabama Media Group

How Huntsville music venues make concerts more awesome for fans with disabilities

by: Matt Wake

3rd: Alabama Media Group

'Let your nerd flag fly': Gamers can eat, drink and be merry at this welcoming haven in Alabama

by: Mary Colurso

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Bus Boycott 60th anniversary
by: staff

2nd: Alabama Media Group

A frozen jail inmate, 25 indictments and an Alabama sheriff still standing
by: Greg Garrison, Carol Robinson

3rd: Alabama Media Group

Alabama woman horrified to learn her 'all-American father' was a serial killer
by: Carol Robinson

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

1st: The Anniston Star

by: Lisa Davis

2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

by: Ken Roberts

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group

How did an anti-Trump sign dispute escalate and send an Alabama man to jail?
by: Roy S. Johnson

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Small town Alabama is the only home Fonzie knows, but ICE came for him anyway

by: John Archibald

3rd: Alabama Media Group

A time to love and be loved back
by: Ben Thomas

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

1st: Alabama Media Group

Kay Ivey's legacy gets a much-deserved \$1.2 billion life sentence
by: Roy S. Johnson

2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

Is the United States walking the path to tyranny?

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

3rd: Alabama Media Group

Show us where you pay taxes, Tommy Tuberville
by: Kyle Whitmire

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Auburn stampede
by: Adam Cole

Editorial Contest DIVISION A

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Alabama revoked football tickets, disrupted shadow market and quietly built its own

by: Michael Casagrande

3rd: Alabama Media Group

Nick Saban, Lane Kiffin and an ethical dilemma for ESPN's College Gameday: 'rockiest place to be'

by: Matt Stahl

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Auburn basketball: A night inside the Jungle Village student campsite before the Alabama game

by: Adam Cole

2nd: Alabama Media Group

How one Alabama high school official's quick action saved a life

by: Ben Thomas

3rd: Alabama Media Group

College football isn't about Alabama anymore

by: Matt Stahl

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Bo Jackson legendary Auburn tales, from herculean home runs to fantastic 40-yard dashes

by: Adam Cole

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Is Jordan-Hare Stadium haunted?

by: Matt Stahl

3rd: Alabama Media Group

How 1 family plans to manage a state title baseball series, wedding in same weekend

by: Ben Thomas

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

1st: Alabama Media Group

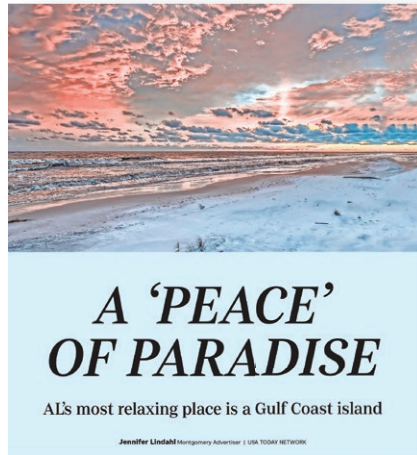
Hugh Freeze looks tired. It's time for a change, Auburn.

by: Michael Casagrande

2nd: The Anniston Star

Weaver's Cofer changes his approach thanks to daughter's wedding weekend

by: Mark Edwards



3rd: Alabama Media Group

Get it overwith and fire Kalen DeBoer

by: Joseph Goodman

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

1st: Montgomery Advertiser

Mini Ref

by: Jake Crandall

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

Snow angels

by: Mickey Welsh

2nd: Alabama Media Group

Loser, loser

by: Will McLelland

BEST NEWS PHOTO

1st: The Anniston Star

Robert Kilmartin

by: Bill Wilson, Ashley Morrison

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

No Kings Protest

by: Jake Crandall

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Cannabis protest

by: Mickey Welsh

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

1st: The Tuscaloosa News

Tornado in Gordo

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

School fire

by: Jake Crandall

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Tornado survivor

by: Mickey Welsh

Montgomery Advertiser Best Headline

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

1st: The Tuscaloosa News

Alabama's Paityn Walker on bars

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

Bronco Riding at the Tuscaloosa Rodeo

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Goalline stretch

by: Mickey Welsh

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

1st: The Tuscaloosa News

Nutcracker ballet at the Bama Theatre

by: Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

Plantersville tornado

by: Mickey Welsh

3rd: The Tuscaloosa News

SEC Basketball Media Days

by: Gary Cosby Jr.



The Tuscaloosa News Best Sports Photo



The Anniston Star Best Local Sports Column

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

1st: Alabama Media Group

Growing pains

by: Mila Oliveira

2nd: The Tuscaloosa News

NEVER FORGOTTEN candle illustration

by: Sean Gardner

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Auburn Iron Bowl Intensity Poster

by: Kaia Evans

BEST HEADLINE

1st: The Anniston Star

TP plot foiled by foam dart fury

by: Bill Wilson, Donna Barton, Ashley Morrison

2nd: Montgomery Advertiser

A 'Peace' of Paradise

by: Jade Inglada

3rd: Montgomery Advertiser

Starstruck

by: Savannah Williams

BEST SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Anniston Star

Readers' Choice

BEST NICHE PUB.

1st: The Anniston Star

High School Football 2025

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

1st: Alabama Media Group

Names in Crimson Flame

by: Nick Kelly, staff

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st: Alabama Media Group

Tornadoes kill 3 people across Alabama

by: Carol Robinson, Mike Cason, Heather Gann

2nd: Alabama Media Group

The killing of Jabari Peoples

by: Carol Robinson

3rd: The Anniston Star

Doug Ghee indicted on criminal charges

by: Ashley Morrison, Bill Wilson

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Editorial Contest DIVISION B



JACKSON COUNTY
Sentinel
A SOUTHERN LORCH newspaper
COVERING JACKSON COUNTY NEWS AND SPORTS SINCE 1887
VOL. 52, NO. 35
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025



LIBERTY
Beloved family restaurant announces new manager

Liberty Restaurant features a "family tree" wall showcasing local customers throughout the years. Liberty is located at 507 E. Olden Street in Scottsboro and serves seven days a week. Monday through Saturday, the hours are 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. On Fridays, Liberty is open 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. On Sundays, the hours are 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.

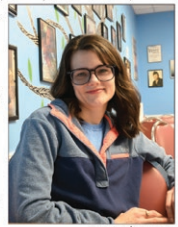
High School. Five years later, she has stepped into the manager's shoes at the restaurant.

She's good at it, said Barry Nichols, Liberty's former owner and manager. "Very good at it. She's very professional. She's worked there so long and already knows how to run every day."

After recent passing of her mother, Haley Bradford was named the new manager of Liberty Restaurant. She has taken the acceptance of the position very seriously and said she wants to honor her mother's memory by ensuring the restaurant will keep bringing the beloved operating tradition going forward.

Bradford began working at Liberty Restaurant when she was a server at North Jackson.

LIBERTY RESTAURANT



LIBERTY RESTAURANT recently named Haley Bradford as the new manager of the establishment. Bradford has been working with the restaurant for 10 years.

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

- 1st: The News-Courier (Athens)**
Stebbins Family Farm
by: Benjamin Bullard
- 2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**
Liberty
by: Katie Hightower
- 3rd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**
EV charging stations scattered in Jasper
by: Ed Howell

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser**
PFC Thomas American Homecoming
by: Carey Reeder
- 2nd: The Cullman Times**
Law enforcement 'legend' Wendell Roden remembered
by: Benjamin Bullard
- 3rd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**
Sumiton student gifted a memorable trip with his friends
by: Nicole Smith

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser**
PFC Thomas American Homecoming Feature
by: Carey Reeder
- 2nd: The News-Courier (Athens)**
Final Curtain Call
by: Justin Travis
- 3rd: The News-Courier**
A terrible situation
by: Benjamin Bullard

BEST EDITORIAL

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune**
The Cost of Chaos, blogs, livestreams and the erosion of local news
by: Noah Galilee
- 2nd: The Clanton Advertiser**
Remembering my grandfather, Andy
by: Carey Reeder
- 3rd: The Cullman Tribune**
Hope as the Next Step
by: Noah Galilee

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

- 1st: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**
I'm slow getting up
by: David Carroll
- 2nd: Jackson County Sentinel**
How am I doing?
by: David Carroll
- 3rd: The Cullman Tribune**
Rudolph – an exclusive interview
by: Joe Hobby

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune**
Woe to Little Eyes
by: Gauge Day
- 2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**
Water can be thicker than blood
by: Lizi Arbogast
- 3rd: The News-Courier (Athens)**
Police professionalism
by: John Davis

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

- 1st: The News-Courier (Athens)**
(The Owl's Eye) What's a free press
by: John Davis
- 2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)**
Together we crack down on violence
by: Lizi Arbogast
- 3rd: The Clanton Advertiser**
"If one person was helped, it was all worth it...and more"
by: Carey Reeder

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser**
Maplesville State Championship Coverage
by: Carey Reeder
- 2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal**
Panther Boys Spring Soccer
by: Heath Hambrick
- 3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**
Changes for Pisgah Football
by: Jason Bowen

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

- 1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**
Addison adds another title
by: Johnathan Bentley
- 2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**
Never a Doubt
by: Jason Bowen
- 3rd: Jackson County Sentinel**
Championship Plan
by: Jason Bowen

SPORTS

AHSAA CLASS 1A-3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

PANTHERS ARE STATE CHAMPIONS



The Clanton Panthers were crowned state champions after winning the Class 1A-3A State Championship match Friday at John Hunt Park in Alexander over Tusculum Area.



Jefferson Academy was crowned the state champion.



Clanton Panthers were crowned state champions after winning the Class 1A-3A State Championship match Friday at John Hunt Park in Alexander over Tusculum Area.



Clanton Panthers were crowned state champions after winning the Class 1A-3A State Championship match Friday at John Hunt Park in Alexander over Tusculum Area.



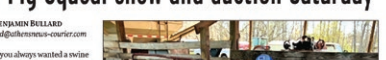
Clanton Panthers were crowned state champions after winning the Class 1A-3A State Championship match Friday at John Hunt Park in Alexander over Tusculum Area.



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Jackson County Sentinel Best Business Story or Column

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

- 1st: The Cullman Tribune**
Grand jury calls for abolition of Hanceville PD; 6 arrested
by: Lauren Estes, Nick Griffin
- 2nd: The News-Courier (Athens)**
Downtown Destruction
by: Justin Travis
- 3rd: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)**
Monks travel through Cusseta
by: Brandon Ussery

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

- 1st: The Clanton Advertiser**
Maplesville Tornado
by: Carey Reeder, Alec Etheredge
- 2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)**
Walker County Sheriff's Office
by: Ed Howell
- 3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)**
Local pharmacists speak on how PBMs adversely affect Jackson Co. pharmacies
by: Katie Hightower

The Fort Payne Times-Journal Best Sports News

BRING HOME THE BACON! 4-H Pig Squeal show and auction Saturday

BENJAMIN BULLARD
ben.bullard@thetimes-journal.com

Haven't you always wanted a swine of this size — one raised with conscientious care on a local Lanestowne County farm?

If you're hankering for local pork sounds like your home-grown idea of culinary hog heaven, then you need to be at the annual 4-H Pig Squeal Show & Auction this weekend! On Saturday, May 10, a group of area 4-H students will kick into show-don't-hold mode, showcasing the pigs they've been raising for the past four months before the animals go up on the auction block.

A public event held at the Tennessee Valley Research Station & Extension Center (9494 Experimental Loop, Madison), this year's Pig Squeal promises to be bigger than ever before. A record 31 Lanestowne County students have been hard at work since January, each raising two hogs with dedication and care.

On Saturday, they'll finally get to showcase the money yield of their efforts. After a student-led animal



Chloe Wilson | Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Siblings Wes and Ella Hampton aren't shy about swine as they prep their animals for events like Saturday's 4-H Pig Squeal show & auction.

The News Courier | Best Headline

Editorial Contest DIVISION B

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Curry's Taylor takes game to next level

by: Johnathan Bentley

2nd: The Cullman Times

With sights set on new chapter, 'forever grateful' Tammy West takes over

Cullman hoops program

by: Jake Winfrey

3rd: The News-Courier (Athens)

'Always Chase Your Dreams'

by: Justin Travis

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

1st: The Cullman Tribune

How do you get your football?

by: Bill King

2nd: The Cullman Tribune

The Olympics for older athletes

by: Bill King

3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal

Fathers, sons, and sports

by: Heath Hambrick

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

1st: The Cullman Times

Too close for comfort

by: Amanda Shavers

2nd: The Cullman Times

Pie face

by: Amanda Shavers

3rd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Christmas magic in downtown Jasper

by: Nicole Smith

BEST NEWS PHOTO

1st: The Clanton Advertiser

American Homecoming

by: staff

2nd: The Cullman Times

Hanceville residents react to HPD corruption

by: Amanda Shavers

3rd: The Clanton Advertiser

Rebuilding

by: Carey Reeder, Alec Etheredge

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

1st: The Clanton Advertiser

Rebuilding

by: Carey Reeder, Alec Etheredge

2nd: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Peace in the storm

by: Nicole Smith

3rd: The Cullman Tribune

Fairview High School hosts Centennial Celebration

by: Lauren Estes

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Cordova Baseball

by: Johnathan Bentley

2nd: The News-Courier (Athens)

Making Reservations

by: Jake Winfrey

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Benjamin Russell football

by: Kenneth Boone

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

1st: The Cullman Times

Wreaths Across America

by: Amanda Shavers

2nd: The Clanton Advertiser

Fan Fair

by: staff

3rd: The Cullman Times

Homecoming

by: Amanda Shavers

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

1st: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Celebrate Safely

by: Elizabeth Law

2nd: The Clanton Advertiser

Maplesville State Championship

by: Carey Reeder

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Weather Radio

by: Audra Spears, Melody Rathel

BEST HEADLINE

1st: The Clanton Advertiser

Holly, Jolly, Soggy Christmas

by: Carey Reeder

2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

The tassel is worth the hassle

by: Melody Rathel

3rd: The News-Courier (Athens)

Bring Home the Bacon!

by: Benjamin Bullard

BEST SPECIAL SECTION-NEWSPRINT

1st: The Daily Home (Talladega)

Update

2nd: The Daily Home

Home and Garden

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Municipal Election Guide

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION-NEWSPRINT OR GLOSSY

1st: The Cullman Tribune

Celebrating 150 Years

2nd: The News-Courier (Athens)

Class of 2038

3rd: Jackson County Sentinel

Insight

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

PrepZone Show

by: Johnathan Bentley, Zak McCullar, Jake Aaron

2nd: The Cullman Tribune

Bedtime Stories – Debra Reynolds

reads The Marvelous Now

by: Dustin Isom, Debra Reynolds

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Staycation

by: staff

Daily Mountain Eagle | Best Spot News Photo



ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st: The Clanton Advertiser

ICE Coverage

by: Carey Reeder

2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

March 15 tornado

by: staff

3rd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Domestic incident leads to officer-involved shooting, 21-hour manhunt

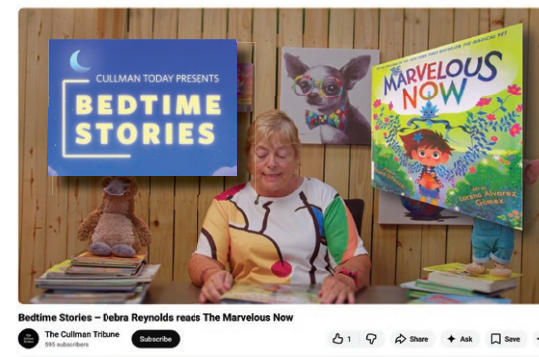
by: Hunter Jones, Katie Hightower

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

DME Facebook

2nd: Jackson County Sentinel



Bedtime Stories – Debra Reynolds reads The Marvelous Now

The Cullman Tribune

The Cullman Tribune Creative Use of Multimedia



CHR Williams / TPI Residents cleanup the road and driveways of McBride loop Sunday morning

CHR Williams 334-740-1116

The Outlook | Best Online Breaking News Coverage

(Scottsboro)

JCS Facebook

3rd: The Clanton Advertiser

The Clanton Advertiser Instagram

BEST PODCAST SERIES

1st: The Cullman Tribune

Cullman Today

by: Dustin Isom, Anabelle Howze, Christine Wiggins

2nd: The Cullman Tribune

Bedtime Stories

by: Dustin Isom, Janet Chandler, community members

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

TPI The Podcast

by: staff

BEST USE OF VIDEO

(< 2 MINUTES)

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Football hype video

by: Ana Sofia Meyer, Samuel Higgs, Audra Spears

2nd: The Cullman Tribune

School bus hero - Colby Adams prevents a tragic accident

by: Anabelle Howze

3rd: The Cullman Tribune

Half Shell Oyster House

by: Anabelle Howze

BEST USE OF VIDEO

(> 2 MINUTES)

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Alex City Mayoral Debate

2nd: The Outlook

Jackson's Gap storm damage

by: Cliff Williams

3rd: The Cullman Tribune

Debate Series Livestream-City Council Place 1

by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, Janet Chandler

BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Alex City Mayoral Debate

2nd: The Clanton Advertiser

Best of the Best Contest

3rd: The Outlook

Halloween photos at The Outlook

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

Crash, call, collect: Midtown clinic linked to RICO scheme enterprise

by: Scott Johnson

2nd: Lagniappe

Police call to OB mayor's second office spurs questions

by: Rob Holbert, Kyle Hamrick

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Calera officer details grievance filed against city

by: Alec Etheredge

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

www.shelbycountyreporter.com

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

www.bizjournals.com/birmingham

3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

www.citizenofeastalabama.com

by: Mark Clark, Toni Shah, Rebecca Tabor

BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

by: Chris Love

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

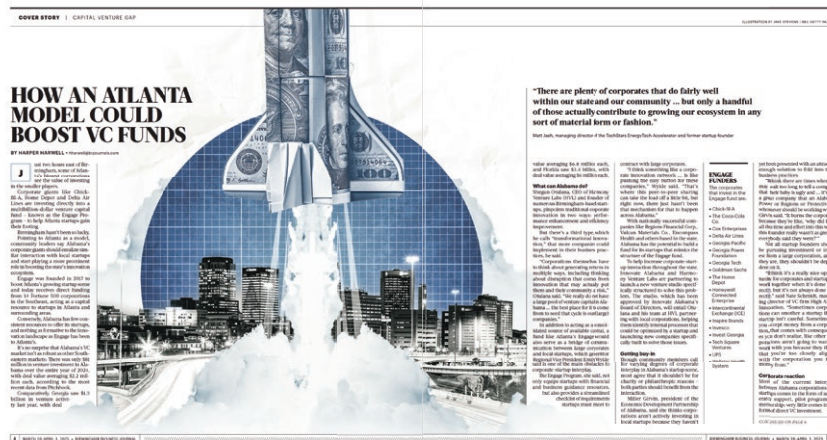
Driving for change

by: Dave Domesick

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

What you need to know about data centers

by: Samuel Stettheimer, Harper Harwell, A.J. O'Leary, Ashleigh Jones



Birmingham Business Journal | Best Business Story

A 'WEEKEND GETAWAY?' Police call to OB mayor's second office spurs questions

BY ROB HOLBERT & KYLE HAMRICK | OCT 8, 2023 | 5



Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon has a second office on the south end of the city's Coastal Resources Building, where police were called on Sept. 2 of last year.

Lagniappe | FOI-First Amendment Award

3rd: Birmingham Business Journal

Mentoring Monday

by: staff

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR SECTION

1st: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

by: Mark Clark, Toni Shah

2nd: Call News (Citronelle)

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

by: staff

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

by: Dee Ann Campbell

3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

by: Toni Shah

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

by: staff

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

by: Marie Leech, A.J. O'Leary, Ty West

3rd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

by: Mark Clark

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

by: A.J. O'Leary, Stephanie Rebman

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

by: staff

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

by: staff

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

by: Harper Harwell, Ashleigh Jones

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

by: Dee Ann Campbell

Editorial Contest DIVISION C

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

by: staff

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

by: staff

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/ EDITORIAL CONTENT

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

by: staff

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

by: Connor Bucy, Rowan Futrell, Jamie Dawkins

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

by: staff

BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

by: Jake Stevens

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

by: Connor Bucy, Rowan Futrell, Jamie Dawkins

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

by: staff

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

Local barista attacked, bitten by monkey that jumped into drive-thru window

by: Scott Johnson

2nd: Lagniappe

Fairhope police arrest woman in phallic costume during protests

by: Scott Johnson

3rd: Lagniappe

Sheriff's ICE Halloween display draws criticism

by: Scott Johnson

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

Data center coverage

by: staff

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Horror close to home

by: Daniel Locke, Noah Wortham

3rd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

Mobile aerospace firm reports data breach

by: Scott Johnson

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

Church projects

by: Samuel Stettheimer

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Prescribing a solution

by: Noah Wortham

3rd: Birmingham Business Journal

Venture Capital in Birmingham

by: Harper Harwell

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

CALL NEWS
Serving South Alabama Since 1997

MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA 75 CENTS THEGALAXY.COM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Coden to get \$60M facility
Master Boat Builders plans defense-oriented center

MAN IS KILLED IN HOARDER BLAZE

Firefighters faced chaotic conditions

Well-known men killed in crashes

MAGICAL BELLINGRATH

Call News | Best Use of Photographs/Editorial Content

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Super Sam's story

by: Tyler Raley

2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City)

60 Years later: Reunited, and it feels so good

by: Mark Clark

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Duo overcomes critical crisis

by: Noah Wortham

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

'Hope they're paying attention' — Stringer claims MAWSS not transparent, unaccountable

by: Scott Johnson

2nd: Lagniappe

Trooper: Father allegedly took item from fatal DUI crash site

by: Scott Johnson

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Dunn terminated after hearing

by: Noah Wortham

BEST EDITORIAL

1st: The Montgomery Independent

Tuberville's Move Shakes Up Statewide Election Plans

by: Jeff Martin

2nd: The Montgomery Independent

It Is Not The Government's Job To Raise Your Babies, It's Yours.

by: Brian Hodge

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

The Alabama Prison Mess

by: Jeff Poor

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

1st: Lagniappe (Mobile)

All up in your colon

by: Ashley Trice

2nd: Lagniappe

A frigid glimpse into the future

by: Rob Holbert

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

The Friday nights that bind us

by: Andrew Simonson

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Fighting for a better world

by: Andrew Simonson

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Bolstering suicide prevention

by: Alec Etheredge

3rd: The Montgomery Independent

I fed 200 columns to a machine. It remembered them all.

by: Jeff Martin

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

Blonde Ambition

by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

Damn the Torpedoes

by: Rob Holbert

3rd: The Montgomery Independent

Across The Publisher's Desk

by: Jeff Martin

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

Tabbitha Baggett

by: Jimmy Wigfield

2nd: Call News

EJ Crowell

by: Jimmy Wigfield

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

We are the Champs - State Flag Football Championship

by: Mark Clark

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Good sports

by: Andrew Simonson

2nd: Call News (Citronelle)

Everything but the ultimate prize

by: Jimmy Wigfield

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Right on target

by: Andrew Simonson

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

Derby Dreams

by: Jimmy Wigfield

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

UAB Football 10 Years Later

by: Marie Leech

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Williams battles diabetes, wins Athlete of the Year

by: Andrew Simonson

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

Terry Curtis an inspiration to all

by: Jimmy Wigfield

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

It's past time to require shot clocks

by: Andrew Simonson

3rd: Call News

What the ELL is going on

by: Jimmy Wigfield

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Honoring the fallen

by: Jeremy Raines

2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

Gators' bombs down Central

by: Brad Beasley

3rd: Call News (Citronelle)

The Miracle of a child's smile

by: Helen Joyce

BEST NEWS PHOTO

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

A helping hand

by: Dawn Harrison

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Land of the free

by: Jeremy Raines

The Montgomery Independent | Best Editorial Column or Commentary

Blood on the Sidewalks

Across the Publisher's Desk

Jeff Martin Oct 2, 2025 | Updated Oct 7, 2025



Blood stained sidewalks and scattered shell casings littered a crowded downtown Montgomery late Saturday night. The shooters appear to be local thugs, not football fans from the HBCU games or visitors from the National Fair. The honor has left at least two people dead, a dozen wounded, and an entire city rattled.

Montgomery's Police Chief James Grayson got it right when he said, "Individuals who pulled the trigger are responsible for this." No one disputes that. But leadership matters, too. And right now, Montgomery is bleeding in more ways than one.

Let's talk numbers. In the two decades before 2024, Montgomery averaged about 32 homicides a year. In the first four years of this decade that average has more than doubled to 88. That's not just a bump—that's a hell of an increase. And during that same stretch, our public force has shrunk by hundreds of officers. Calculated? Today if you get in a car accident, you may never see a patrol car show up.

Yes, the city tried to pass a gun ordinance in 2024, but the state shut it down. Alabama law forbids cities from enacting their own gun restrictions. Add in the Legislature's decision to allow permitless carry and it's no wonder there were so many weapons downtown Saturday night. The state wrote those laws. The city has no authority to tighten them.

Yet when blood runs in the streets, politicians like U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville and Attorney General Steve Marshall blame the mayor and grandstand with threats to call in the National Guard. That's political theater. Guardsmen are our neighbors—they have jobs, families, and commitments. They aren't a long-term solution.

Thankfully, Governor Kay they seem to get that. She's announced plans to increase state patrols and work with ALEC under Hal Taylor's leadership to expand coverage. I mentioned in my column last week how MACS has already shown what coordinated law enforcement can accomplish. That's the path forward, not a military start.

What Montgomery needs is more cops. Period. Better pay, bonuses, housing stipends, and leadership that makes recruitment the top priority. Whatever it takes, including more transparency with the public.

And yes, plenty of this still falls on Mayor Reed. Perception is everything, and perception comes from presence. We need a mayor who is out on the streets, talking to people—all the people. Instead, our reporters can't get more than a canned response out of City Hall, if that. The homicide rate has doubled and the force has dwindled on his watch. That's fact. And law any city: the buck stops with the mayor.

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Winter in whoville

by: Tyler Raley

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

Church burns after being hit by fireball car

by: Willie Gray

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Tesla driver crashes into Starbucks

by: Tyler Raley

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

Truck Fire

by: Tommy Campbell

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Vincent secures first baseball title since 1985

by: Alec Etheredge

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CITIZEN
OF EAST ALABAMA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 • VOL. 71, NO. 49 • 24 PAGES • 95 CENTS

FEATURED

Bi-City Christmas Parade

Pages 8-9

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! Central secures three-peat with mercy-ruled win

By Mark Chast

For Central High Lady Red Devils coach Michael IBA, the feeling of victory was "just as good as the first one." He was describing the clincher after his team captured its third consecutive ACHA state football championship last week, dominating Vashita Hills High with a decisive 50-0 victory at the annual Peach State Football Invitational tournament in Huntsville.

The six-man football tournament has been a tradition since 1985, with the Lady Red Devils leading the No. 3 spot and Vashita Hills at No. 6. They were also the top two teams in the Alabama Sports Writers Association poll.

"It was just as good as a feeling as it was about the first one," IBA said. "We also won three different teams with different challenges." He noted that this season required the team to overcome significant roster turnover following graduation, adding, "The girls have worked me just to get this point."

The three-peat is a remarkable feat. IBA will receive their third championship trophy after also winning Alabama State, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and the Alabama State Community College, which won the national ACHA's state title, which ends the game nationally when a team loses by 14 or more points. It was the first time since 1985 that the driving force behind Central's suc-

cess all season and in the final year Central coach MVP quarterback Mariah Harrison. The five seasons undefeated team scored a record-setting 1,000 points with nearly every play. Her earlier performance included 80 rushing yards on seven attempts, highlighted by a 55-yard touchdown run. Through the air, she was 10-for-21 yards and four touchdowns, as her long drive started in the home stands on the Lady Red Devils' first offensive play.

"When asked about the record, success in the program since conference, Harrison answered it all in "honor." She explained, "We had good chemistry as a team. We believed in each other and each other."

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BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

No Small Peanuts

by: Jake Stevens

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Horror close to home

by: Connor Bucy

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Hanging up the phone

by: Connor Bucy

BEST HEADLINE

1st: Call News (Citronelle)

No Dice on Gaming

by: Doug Dimitry

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

More Patients Check In As Therapists

Check Out

by: Marie Leech

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Unbelieva-bull

by: Noah Wortham

BEST SPECIAL SECTION-NEWSPRINT

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

40 Under 40

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

Women's Summit

3rd: Birmingham Business Journal

Best Places to Work

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION- NEWSPRINT OR GLOSSY

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Profile

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Explore Shelby

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Metro Football

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Shelby County Hall of Fame



The Choctaw Sun-Advocate Best Spot New Photo

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Briarwood's Julia Roberts goes for the kill

by: Dawn Harrison

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Good sports

by: Tracy Franklin

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

The storm that changed everything

by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Gone but not forgotten

by: Jeremy Raines

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Rides and revelry

by: Jeremy Raines

Editorial Contest DIVISION C

Shelby County Reporter Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

by: Alec Etheredge, Noah Wortham,
Tyler Raley

**2nd: Birmingham Business
Journal**

Inside the Mansion

by: Marie Leech, Bob Farley

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Thompson State Championship

by: Alec Etheredge

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

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

Tornado coverage

by: Alec Etheredge, Noah Wortham

2nd: Lagniappe (Mobile)

ALDOT breaks up with Bayway contractor

by: staff

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

*UM president retires amid financial
struggles*

by: Noah Wortham

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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

*SCR Facebook, Instagram, YouTube,
TikTok, X*

by: staff

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

BBJ Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram

by: staff

BEST PODCAST SERIES

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

Live Shelby County Pregame Show

by: Andrew Simonson, Tyler Raley, Alec
Etheredge

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

The Shelby County Football Show

by: Andrew Simonson, Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

The Red Zone

by: Tyler Raley



BEST USE OF VIDEO (<2 MINUTES)

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

*Oak Mountain surrounds student
battling cancer with love*

by: Tyler Raley

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Leadership Shelby Co. kicks off new year
by: Alec Etheredge

BEST USE OF VIDEO (>2 MINUTES)

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

*Briarwood wins 10th state championship
in school history*

by: Alec Etheredge

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

*Oak Mountain completes Hail Mary to
beat Pelham*

by: Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Shelby Co. Hall of Fame Ceremony

by: Alec Etheredge

BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

1st: Birmingham Business Journal

Best Places to Work

2nd: Birmingham Business Journal

Women's Summit

3rd: Birmingham Business Journal

40 Under 40

Editorial Contest DIVISION D

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

FOI-FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

1st: Times-Standard-Herald (Marion)
Marion Water System: Audit Accountability
by: John Allan Clark

**2nd: Sumter County Record-Journal
(Livingston)**

Mayor, Why Was I Removed from Agenda?
by: Herman B. Ward Jr., Tommy McGraw

3rd: Sumter County Record-Journal
York Council Did Not Meet Illegally
by: Tommy McGraw

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

1st: The LaFayette Sun
www.thelafayettesun.com

2nd: The Wetumpka Herald
www.tpimediagroup.org/thewetumpkaheald

3rd: The Dadeville Record
www.tpimediagroup.org/thedadeville-record

BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

1st: The Dadeville Record
by: Lee Champion

2nd: The Wetumpka Herald
by: Lee Champion

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

1st: Times-Standard-Herald (Marion)
*Marion Water System: Financial
Accountability*
by: John Allan Clark

2nd: Times-Standard-Herald
Criminal Justice Reporting
by: John Allan Clark

3rd: Times-Standard-Herald
Marion Governance/Police Crisis
by: John Allan Clark

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR SECTION

**BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY
PAGES**

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

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

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

Sumter County Record- Journal | FOI First Amendment Award

'Mayor, Why was I removed from agenda?'

*Averett also asked, "Why is the section about mobile homes
in R-3 zone missing from the City of York website?"*

By Herman B. Ward, Jr. & Tommy McGraw
Business owner John Averett informed York city officials that legal action will be taken for denying him an opportunity to voice his concerns at a December city council meeting about mobile home placement in the City of York.
After the December 16, 2024
Continued on page 3-A



Solar energy that will produce economic growth in the Black Belt could soon be produced between Bellamy and Whitfield, according to a Crossvine Solar Energy representative Aaron Ford who spoke at a recent Sumter County Commissioners meeting. Read story in this edition.
Photo by H. Ward

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

1st: The Dadeville Record
2nd: The Observer (Opelika)
3rd: Selma Sun

BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

1st: The Baldwin Times
by: Ruth Mayo
2nd: The Observer (Opelika)
3rd: The Tuskegee News

COVERING ALL OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA | A PUBLICATION OF GULF COAST MEDIA

The Baldwin Times

St. Michael senior fourth wins 5SKW. Edgar Weiden Scholarship

Page B12

April 25, 2025 GULFCOASTMEDIA.COM 75¢

Baldwin now has 6th fastest-growing metro in U.S.

By KATHY GREEN

...in the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

Gulf Shores High School celebrates sustainability and local agriculture in Farm to Table event

By KATHY GREEN

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

AL native Lulu inspires bill for shark alert to warn beachgoers of attacks

By KATHY GREEN

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

Daphne to consider implementing impact fees

By KATHY GREEN

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

Alabama Wildlife Federation is sole, winning bid at 5 River auction

By KATHY GREEN

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

The Baldwin Times
Best Layout and Design

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/EDITORIAL CONTENT

- 1st: The Observer (Opelika)
- 2nd: The LaFayette Sun
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald
- by: staff
- 2nd: The Baldwin Times
- by: McKinzie Impastato, Brooke Duck
- 3rd: The Dadeville Record
- by: staff

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

The Tuskegee News
Best Local Education Coverage

BTW conducts 2025 graduation ceremonies at TU's Chappie James Arena

By Robert "R.I." Johnson Jr.

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

BTW High School 2025 graduates

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BTW High School 2025 graduates

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
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- 1st: The Baldwin Times
- State pauses \$40K in Fairhope library funding over 'inappropriate books'
- by: Colin James
- 2nd: Selma Sun
- Dallas County School takeover
- by: Brad Fisher
- 3rd: The Baldwin Times
- Baldwin County food pantries brace for rising demand as SNAP cuts take effect nationwide
- by: Gabriella Chavez

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

- 1st: Selma Sun
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater
- 2nd: Selma Sun
- Teen shootings
- by: Cindy Fisher, Valencia Benjamin
- 3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)
- The Wesobulga Hanging
- by: Mike Pettus

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

- 1st: Selma Sun
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- by: Todd Prater, Cindy Fisher

- 2nd: The Greensboro Watchman
- Project Whisker' could see long-idle Greensboro catfish facility brought back into operation
- by: John Allan Clark
- 3rd: Selma Sun
- ATC graduate
- by: Todd Prater

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: Selma Sun
- Ora Bell Shannon
- by: Todd Prater
- 2nd: The Tuskegee News
- Louise Nall to retire from distributing newspapers after 59 years of service
- by: Guy Rhodes
- 3rd: Times-Standard-Herald (Marion)
- Moreland named to Ala. Military Hall of Honor in ceremony at MMI
- by: Brian Clements

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald
- CJ's Adventure
- by: Cliff Williams
- 2nd: The Wetumpka Herald
- Miracle at Redland Elementary
- by: Cliff Williams
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald
- First responders ready
- by: Cliff Williams

Times Standard-Herald
Best Feature Story Coverage

Moreland named to Ala. Military Hall of Honor in ceremony at MMI

By Brian Clements

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BEST EDITORIAL

- 1st: The Baldwin Times
- Out-of-state, local business support main patterns in Fairhope candidate's campaign donations
- by: Kayla Green
- 2nd: The Clay-Times Journal (Lineville)
- That's not my job
- by: Tammy Andrews
- 3rd: The Clay-Times Journal
- Always be Kind
- by: Tammy Andrews

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald
- Is this a bad dream?
- by: Cliff Williams

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

- 1st: The Tuskegee News
- It all started down in good ol' Brewton
- by: Michael Floyd
- 2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)
- The Blessing
- by: Tammy Andrews
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald
- Love thy neighbor as thyself
- by: Cliff Williams

The Clay Times-Journal
Best In-Depth News Coverage

The Clay Times-Journal
Volume 115, Number 17 Thursday, February 27, 2025 1 Section, 12 Pages

THE WESOBULGA HANGING

The Truth behind the Legend

By Mike Pettus

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

...at the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...
...the Baldwin Times, we can get...

Editorial Contest DIVISION D



Missing person response proves Elmore County prepared

Cliff Williams Jul 31, 2025



Submitted: TPA drone operator flies a drone during missing person search between Cloud Flashhop Road and Tallapoosa last week. Drones are a resource available to fire departments and law enforcement when coordinated through the Elmore County EMA. BUY NOW

The Wetumpka Herald Best News Feature Story Coverage

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**
County needs more facilities to cultivate the arts
by: Cliff Williams
- 2nd: The Dadeville Record**
Another case of 'social media journalism' gone wrong
by: Lizi Arbogast
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**
Watch the polyticks
by: Cliff Williams

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

- 1st: The Observer (Opelika)**
2025 High School Football Preview
by: staff
- 2nd: The Observer**
War Eagle all the way
by: Brandon Hughes
- 3rd: Union Springs Herald**
Hornets clawed by Wolverines
by: Darius L. Cates

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY



Hornets clawed by Wolverines despite improvements

By Darius L. Cates

On Wednesday, March 12, the Hornets traveled to the capital city for a doubleheader against the Wolverines of Carver High School. Montgomery, Bullock County already faced Carver on February 20 losing 1-6 in their first meeting.

In the first game, the Hornets had an 8-6 lead in the third inning but gave up 11 runs. With the 11-run inning, the Wolverines took a commanding 17-6 win with the game ending after the bottom of the third.

The Hornets gave up 9 hits and had 3 errors. They also finished with 3 total hits with 2 errors by Carver. Kamm Johnson, Dougantons Person and Amos Hooks each had a hit. Hooks also completed an RBI. Johnson, Caden Evey, Tykelis Wallace and Latavon Kimber each ran in two runs. Dougantons Person pitched one inning allowing four hits, six runs and four errors. He struck out one



Tykelis Wallace throwing out the pitch. Photo by Darius L. Cates.

butler. Tykelis Wallace pitched 1.2 allowing five hits, 11 runs and seven walks. He struck out three and Joseque Sellers both scored from walks.

Bullock County had a slow start in the second matchup. Joseque Sellers pitched three innings giving up 12 hits, five errors and three walks resulting in the 15-2 Hornets' loss in just four

errors. However, he was able to strike out four batters. The Hornets did not convert a hit but Hooks and Joseque Sellers both scored from walks.

The Hornets will head back to Montgomery on March 25 where they will match up against the Brewbaker Tech High School Rams.



Caden Evey hitting up at shortstop.



Joseque Sellers warming up. Photo by Darius L. Cates.

- 1st: The Wetumpka Herald**
Panthers suffer injuries, heartbreak
by: Ana Sofia Meyer
- 2nd: The LaFayette Sun**
LaFayette High School hires new head coach
by: Daniel Schmidt
- 3rd: The Observer (Opelika)**
Hooked on gold: Lee County fishermen win world title
by: Hannah Herrera

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

- 1st: The Tallassee Tribune**
The Weight of a Legacy
by: Ana Sofia Meyer
- 2nd: The Tallassee Tribune**
Coach of the Year: Tallassee's Matt Tarpley
by: Ana Sofia Meyer
- 3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**
From new wrestler to coach of the year
by: Ana Sofia Meyer

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

- 1st: The Baldwin Times**
Why the AHSAA should adopt a running clock mercy rule for prep football

Union Springs Herald Best Sports News In-Depth

Hooked on gold: Lee County fishermen win world title

BY HANNAH HERRERA
FOR THE OBSERVER

AUBURN — Two Lee County locals helped bring home gold for Team USA in the 19th Black Bass World Championships.

Auburn native Logan Parks and Beulah native Kyle Welcher both had their Team USA international debut last week in Arabic Dam, South Africa.

"There's only six people in the entire country that get to represent team USA and that's really, really cool to be one of those six," Parks said. To have two of us from this area is amazing."

Because the professional sport of bass



Team USA anglers, including Lee County's Logan Parks and Kyle Welcher, represented the United States at the 19th Black Bass World Championship in Arabic Dam, South Africa, where the team earned the gold medal. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

fishing originated in the U.S., Team USA is almost automatically expected to win, Welcher said. But in last year's world championship, they placed fourth. And

See GOLD, page B3

The Observer | Best Sports Single Event Story

- by: Kam Wicker
- 2nd: The Dadeville Record**
Reeltown battles more than the game in the semifinals
by: Samuel Higgs
- 3rd: The Tallassee Tribune**
Malik Beasley and the wide-reaching effects of promoted sports betting
by: Ana Sofia Meyer

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

- 1st: The Tallassee Tribune**
Easter Egg hunt
by: Cliff Williams
- 2nd: The Baldwin Times**
Forgotten to time
by: Colin James
- 3rd: The Wetumpka Herald**
Polar Plunge
by: Cliff Williams

BEST NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Islander (Gulf Shores)**
Bulls on the Beach
by: Micah Green
- 2nd: The LaFayette Sun**
Walk for Peace
by: Scott Dulaney
- 3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)**
Train Derailment
by: Tammy Andrews

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

- 1st: The Moundville Times**
Electrical storm rocks Moundville
by: Mike Goodall
- 2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**
Semi-truck fire shuts down Interstate 85 overnight
by: Emily Key
- 3rd: The Baldwin Times**
Snowball fight at the beach
by: Kayla Green

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

- 1st: The Dadeville Record**
Reeltown football
by: Samuel Higgs
- 2nd: The Observer (Opelika)**
Collision Course
by: Robert Noles
- 3rd: The Observer**
By Leaps and Bounds
by: Robert Noles

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

- 1st: The Baldwin Times**
Record-breaking snow storm on the beach
by: Kayla Green
- 2nd: The LaFayette Sun**
SNOW Better Time
by: staff
- 3rd: The Baldwin Times**
SS United States
by: Micah Green

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1st: The LaFayette Sun**
Are you ready for football
by: Ryan Smith, Michelle Key

BEST HEADLINE

- 1st: The Onlooker (Foley)**
This Robertsedale diner is off the rails — in the best way
by: Whisper Edwards
- 2nd: The Moundville Times**
Sole Train!
by: Isaac Vaughn, Travis Vaughn

Editorial Contest DIVISION D

3rd: Union Springs Herald

Double Trouble: Juvenile steals same truck twice, caught after highway chase

by: Felicia Farnsworth

BEST SPECIAL SECTION-NEWSPRINT

1st: The Baldwin Times

Voter's Guide

2nd: The Observer (Opelika)

Opelika Politics

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

Gridirion Guide

Sole Train!

Shoes fall off burglarized train headed from Birmingham to Meridian along Moundville tracks



Sole survivors of incident shown above...

By Travis Hargler
Editor
Moundville Police responded Thursday to a call of boxes and items along the railroad tracks and discovered dozens of shoes had fallen out of a burglarized train on its way from Birmingham to Meridian.
According to Moundville Police Chief Toby Banks, callers reported the mess along the

tracks, and officers responded to find three large boxes full of mostly empty shoeboxes on July 17. Officers spoke to residents in the area and learned that people had been gathering shoes from along the railroad tracks.
Banks said officers began trying to recover shoes and did find some, although others had already left with passers-by.
Banks said he called author-

Continued on page 2-A

The Moundville Times Best Headline

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION-NEWSPRINT OR GLOSSY

1st: The Baldwin Times

Big Beautiful Baldwin

2nd: The Dadeville Record

Dadeville Magazine

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

FYI

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA



The Lafayette Sun | Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

1st: Selma Sun

Black Belt Newscast

by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

2nd: Selma Sun

Voices & Visionaries

by: Todd Prater

3rd: The LaFayette Sun

Observe the Sunrise

by: Michelle Key

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st: Selma Sun

Teen shootout at Walmart leads to death of bystander

by: staff

2nd: The Baldwin Times

Record-setting snowfall

by: staff

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

DUI Manslaughter

by: Cliff Williams

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st: Selma Sun

Selma Sun/Black Belt News Network Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube

by: staff

2nd: The Baldwin Times

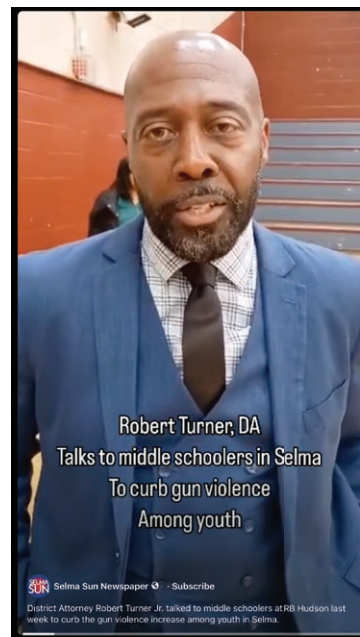
Gulf Coast Media Facebook Page

by: Micah Green, staff

3rd: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston)

SCRJ Facebook Page

by: Tommy McGraw



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

BEST PODCAST SERIES

1st: Selma Sun

Black Belt Newscast Podcast

by: Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

BEST USE OF VIDEO (<2 MINUTES)

1st: Selma Sun

UWA unveils trail signage

by: Cindy Fisher

2nd: The LaFayette Sun

Chambers County Graduation Video

by: Samantha Sweatman

3rd: Selma Sun

DA speaks at middle school to curb violence

by: Valencia Benjamin

BEST USE OF VIDEO (>2 MINUTES)

1st: Selma Sun

Good Samaritan nurses reunite

by: Todd Prater

2nd: Selma Sun

Parents start autism support group in Dallas County

by: staff

Editorial Contest DIVISION E

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

www.theredstonerocket.com

2nd: St. Clair Times (Pell City)

www.annistonstar.com/the_st_clair_times

BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

by: Skip Vaughn

2nd: The Trussville Tribune

BEST LOCAL ECONOMIC COVERAGE

1st: The Birmingham Times

by: Ameera Stewart

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

by: Marian Accardi, staff

BEST LOCAL EDUCATION COVERAGE

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/EDITORIAL CONTENT

1st: The Birmingham Times

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

by: Kelley Lane

2nd: The Birmingham Times

by: Kathryn Sesser-Dorne

3rd: Hoover Sun

by: Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

Editorial Contest DIVISION E

BEST SPOT NEWS STORY

1st: The Trussville Tribune

Irontdale Council votes to censure fellow council member after recent media coverage

by: Terry Schrimmscher

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Garrison outlines gate, service operations during furlough

by: Marian Accardi

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

U.S. Space Command headquarters' move to Redstone moves forward with site unveiling

by: Marian Accardi

BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS COVERAGE

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Suicide prevention and awareness

by: Eric Schultz, Marian Accardi

2nd: The Birmingham Times

Inside Jefferson County Commission's \$25M Pork Barrel Bonanza

by: Barnett Wright, Hannah Denham

3rd: Hoover Sun

2025 Voter Guide

by: Jon Anderson

BEST BUSINESS STORY OR COLUMN

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Food trucks offer variety for workforce tastes

by: Marian Accardi

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

QR code would be great way to leave a tip

by: Jonathan Stinson

3rd: The Sand Mountain Leader (Albertville)

Huge win for Boaz

by: Donna Thornton

BEST FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: The Birmingham Times

Birmingham Royalty: Businessman Dr. Jesse J. Lewis Sr. Turns 100

by: Barnett Wright

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Former Soldier recognized for helping save teen's life

by: Marian Accardi

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

All aboard: Model railroads connect generations

by: Eric Schultz

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE

1st: Hoover Sun

Journey to Miss America

by: Jon Anderson

2nd: Hoover Sun

Hoover woman marks 80th birthday with 84-mile trek

by: Kelli S. Hewett

3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Redstone worker, ex-Soldier who saves young runner hit by a car gets award

by: Marian Accardi

BEST EDITORIAL

1st: The Sand Mountain Leader (Albertville)

Citizens deserve respectful elections

by: David Clemons

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

SNIPPETS: Superman learns kitchen drawer has tool for any job

by: Jonathan Stinson

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

SNIPPETS: AI doesn't get my jokes – or my em dash

by: Jonathan Stinson

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

SNIPPETS: Saban, the GOAT, used a podium, so you should, too

by: Jonathan Stinson

BEST HUMAN INTEREST COLUMN

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

SNIPPETS: Things will be OK, just hold on for another day

by: Jonathan Stinson

2nd: The Sand Mountain Leader (Albertville)

The Iron Bowl is a part of the nation's fabric – for better and for worse

by: David Clemons

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

The Sand Mountain Leader | Best Business Story or Column

BOAZ ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Henderson Road cold storage facility would employ 80-90 | Jobs would pay \$24-\$25 an hour | Board approves height variance despite concerns

'Huge win for Boaz'



Atlanta-based Eastman Cold proposes a 567 million cold-storage facility on Henderson Road in Boaz. SPECIAL TO THE LEADER

Councilman says it would be biggest 'ground-up' project in county history

Height variances would clear path to build \$567 million cold-storage facility, **Dennis Thoresen** says. The Boaz Zoning Board of Adjustments voted to approve a height variance for a proposed cold storage facility at Henderson Road – a site that would be the way for the industry. "This is a big win for Boaz," Board City Councilman Mark Brummon said. "This is the largest industrial building in the county, and it's growing up in Marshall County history. There's never been bigger Boaz."

Boaz Zoning Board of Adjustments approves plans for the proposed Eastman Cold property on Henderson Road. **The board granted a height variance to the facility's owner, Brummon, and**

ground from the start-up, "some development in the county has gone to the bigger over than," he said. "Height is the biggest concern, an average of \$24-\$25 an hour – that's huge," he said. In the city's recent election, Brummon said, the voters had voted to support the municipal government. Brummon said that the vote had been a win for the industry. "This is, in this, it is literally the biggest project in the county."

He said the local industrial knowledge would have had done a good job over the years of making down plans that were out of the box.

Hoover Sun | Best News Feature Story Coverage

KAMI

Hoover woman marks 80th with trek along 84-mile ancient wall

By KELLI S. HEWETT
She has the 84-mile trek along the ancient wall of Hadrian's Wall, a Roman frontier for the province of Britain, in the heart of the county. She is 80 years old, and she is a woman who has spent her life in the outdoors. She is a woman who has spent her life in the outdoors. She is a woman who has spent her life in the outdoors.



Hoover resident Nancy Hamilton has trekked with daily walks of 15 miles on the Hadrian's Wall in the county. **Photo by Kelli S. Hewett**

Thoresen: "You've got to have something to look forward to." For always wanted to do Hadrian's Wall. If you're not curious – you know – what's the point? There's a lot of it out there. You just have to look it.

FAMILY BOND
The bond between the two women, Nancy and her sister, is a bond that has lasted for decades. It is a bond that has lasted for decades. It is a bond that has lasted for decades.

LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE
Nancy has been hiking and adventuring for her entire life. She has been hiking and adventuring for her entire life. She has been hiking and adventuring for her entire life.

How to ace the aging game

It's not just about the number of years you live, but the quality of those years. It's about the quality of those years. It's about the quality of those years.

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It's not just about the number of years you live, but the quality of those years. It's about the quality of those years. It's about the quality of those years.

1st: The Trussville Tribune

AHSAA flips the finger at Alabama law

by: Scott Buttram

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

SNIPPETS: People step up for people when necessary

by: Jonathan Stinson

BEST SPORTS NEWS IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

1st: The Sand Mountain Leader (Albertville)

Branson wore his testimony on the field/ For Branson

by: Taylor Beck, Donna Thornton

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Senior Softball

by: Skip Vaughn

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Army Ten-Miler

by: Skip Vaughn

BEST SPORTS SINGLE EVENT STORY

1st: The Sand Mountain Leader (Albertville)

Pirates leap for a victory/Fant-astic night for Boaz

by: Taylor Beck

2nd: The Birmingham Times

Once BCS teammates, now Magic City Classic rivals

by: Solomon Crenshaw Jr.

3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

USA Patriots softball team exemplifies resilience

by: Eric Schultz

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

1st: The Trussville Tribune

Floyd completes Clay-Chalkville Grand Slam with 6A State Title

by: John Goolsby

2nd: The Trussville Tribune

A stadium that never stopped winning; The history of Mountie Stadium and its final chapter at Clay-Chalkville

by: John Goolsby, Shane Paschal

3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Paracyclists stop in Rocket City before taking on world

by: Eric Schultz

SNIPPETS: People step up for people when necessary

by: Jonathan Stinson

BEST EDITORIAL COLUMN OR COMMENTARY

Editorial Contest DIVISION E

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Rewinding highlight reels from years past

by: Skip Vaughn

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

Rocket City hits home run for USA masters track meet

by: Skip Vaughn

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

High school football team's losing streak reaches 101

by: Skip Vaughn

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Down slide

by: Eric Schultz

2nd: The Birmingham Times

Rebirth of the Cool

by: Marika N. Johnson

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Milwaukee line

by: Eric Schultz

BEST NEWS PHOTO

1st: The Birmingham Times

Building a legacy as Birmingham's 'Education Mayor'

by: Amarr Crosky

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Swing batter

by: Skip Vaughn

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

Gold medal finish

by: Skip Vaughn

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Volleyball return

by: Skip Vaughn

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Oktoberfest weekend

by: Eric Schultz

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

Working dogs in action

The Redstone Rocket Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations



From the archives: Nov. 25, 1964

• Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara announced 95 actions to consolidate, reduce or discontinue Department of Defense activities in the United States and overseas. Eighty of these actions affected military activities in 33 states and the District of Columbia. The remaining 15 affected overseas activities.

• The Nike Ajax missile was accepted for permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. Nike Ajax was this country's first air defense missile.

by: Jonathan Stinson

3rd: The Redstone Rocket Combat fitness

by: Jonathan Stinson

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATIONS

1st: The Birmingham Times

A Rich Tradition

by: staff

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

From the Archives Nov 26

by: Jonathan Stinson

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

From the Archives July 23

by: Jonathan Stinson

BEST HEADLINE

1st: The Sand Mountain Leader (Alberville)

6-Cess!

by: David Clemons

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

App trap: Hidden technology abusers use

by: Skip Vaughn

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Volunteer sinks teeth into dental assistant program

by: Skip Vaughn

PAGE 12 THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES OCTOBER 23, 2025

COVER STORY



Once BCS teammates, now Magic City Classic rivals

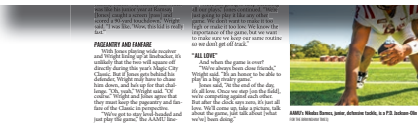
BY COLLEEN CROWLEY

When Alabama State University (ASU) and the Birmingham Times (BMT) announced their partnership, it was a match made in heaven. ASU is the only HBCU in the Birmingham area, and the BMT is the only newspaper in the city.

ASU and the BMT have a long history of cooperation. In 2019, ASU and the BMT announced a partnership that would see the newspaper provide ASU with a dedicated page of coverage. The partnership was a natural one, as the BMT has always been a strong supporter of the university.

The partnership has been a success. The BMT has provided ASU with a dedicated page of coverage, and ASU has provided the BMT with a dedicated page of coverage. The partnership has been a natural one, as the BMT has always been a strong supporter of the university.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



ASU's Mike Brown runs with the ball during a game against the Birmingham Times. (Photo by Eric Schultz)

The Birmingham Times Best Sports Single Event Story

BEST SPECIAL SECTION-NEWSPRINT

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Veterans Day 2025

2nd: The Birmingham Times

Black History Month - Youth Provide Hope For The Future

3rd: St. Clair Times (Pell City)

2026 Pigskin Preview

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION-NEWSPRINT OR GLOSSY

1st: Hoover Sun

Under the Lights

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Armed Forces Celebration

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Cummings Research Park

CREATIVE USE OF MULTIMEDIA

1st: The Trussville Tribune

Municipal Candidate Forum

2nd: The Trussville Tribune

Tribune Unscripted

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st: The Trussville Tribune

Jake Ganus; leaves Moody after 5A title and takes Pell City job.

by: Johnny Sanders, John Goolsby

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st: The Trussville Tribune

TribSportsLive on YouTube, Facebook, X

by: staff

2nd: The Trussville Tribune

Tribune Unscripted

by: staff

3rd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, X

by: Erin Elise Enyinda

BEST PODCAST SERIES

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

P\$yFi

by: staff

2nd: The Trussville Tribune

The Green Flag

by: John Goolsby, Andrew Pinkerton

BEST USE OF VIDEO (<2 MINUTES)

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

ATF students practice arson investigation

by: Jonathan Stinson

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

All aboard: Model railroads connect generations

by: Jonathan Stinson

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Wreath Laying At Maple Hill

by: Erin Elise Enyinda

BEST USE OF VIDEO (>2 MINUTES)

1st: The Trussville Tribune

Tribune Unscripted: Live election results

by: staff

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Veterans parade colors streets in red, white and blue

by: Erin Elise Enyinda

Advertising Contest DIVISION B

ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal
2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)

BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE OR SECTION

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)
2nd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal
3rd: The Cullman Tribune
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, Janet
Chandler

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

1st: The Clanton Advertiser
MorLyns fine Jewelry and Gifts
by: Zack Bates
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)

Ryan Hicks Law Office
by: Jordon Hypes, Dolores Hambrick
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel
Jackson County Park
by: Jordon Hypes, Dolores Hambrick

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE AND UNDER, COLOR

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)
Momentum Marine
by: Sam Himes
2nd: The Outlook
Phillip Pouncey Builder, Inc.
by: Audra Spears
3rd: The Clanton Advertiser
Peach Park
by: Zack Bates

BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, COLOR

1st: The Clanton Advertiser
First Assembly of God
by: Zack Bates
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)
Northeast Alabama Community College
by: Jordon Hypes, Elizabeth Law

The Clanton Advertiser
Best Single Ad 1/2 Page
and Under, Color

The Cullman Tribune
Best One-Time Special
Section

3rd: The Cullman Times
Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center
Happy Holidays
by: Glenda Smith, Heather Casillas

BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Cullman Tribune
November Community Matters
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, Janet
Chandler
2nd: The Daily Home (Talladega)
My Hometown 2025
3rd: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)
InSight

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Clanton Advertiser
Chilton County Snapshots
2nd: The Cullman Tribune
Football Fanatics
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah
Galilee
3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal
Best of DeKalb

BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)
One Gives You...
by: Audra Spears
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)
Gift the News
by: Elizabeth Law
3rd: The Clanton Advertiser
Football Pickem Contest
by: Zack Bates

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)
We Just Make Sense

The Cullman Times | Best
Single Ad 1/2 Page and
Over, Color

by: Audra Spears
2nd: The News-Courier (Athens)
Courtesy First
by: Angie Christopher, Glenda Smith
3rd: The Cullman Times
*Mitch Smith Chevrolet Athlete of the
Week*
by: Matthew Swan

BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

1st: The Daily Home (Talladega)
*Businesses From Decades Past to
Decades to Come*
by: staff
2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)
Bad News
by: Audra Spears
3rd: The Outlook
Veterans Salute
by: Audra Spears

BEST CLASSIFIED DISPLAY AD

1st: The Cullman Tribune
Dental Office Help Wanted
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom
2nd: The Cullman Tribune
Manager Help Wanted
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom
3rd: The Cullman Tribune
Logistics Help Wanted
by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

1st: Jackson County Sentinel
(Scottsboro)
Flag Salute
by: Jordon Hypes, Dolores Hambrick,
Elizabeth Law
2nd: Jackson County Sentinel
Happy Thanksgiving
by: Jordon Hypes, Dolores Hambrick,
Elizabeth Law

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Advertising Contest DIVISION B

Go Local

by: Audra Spears, Lizi Arbogast, Shaylee Moore

2nd: The Cullman Tribune

Football Fanatics

by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, Janet Chandler

3rd: The Clanton Advertiser

Winter 2025 Gift Guide

by: staff

BEST USE OF HUMOR

1st: The News-Courier (Athens)

Courtesy First Fiddling

by: Angie Christopher, Glenda Smith

2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Horse's Mouth

by: Audra Spears

3rd: The Outlook

Friday the 13th

by: Audra Spears, Baily Terry

BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

1st: The Cullman Tribune

www.cullmantribune.com

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee

2nd: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

www.jcsentinel.com

3rd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

www.alexcityoutlook.com

BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING, SINGLE AD

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Explore Lake Martin

by: staff

2nd: The Outlook

Wayside Animal Hospital

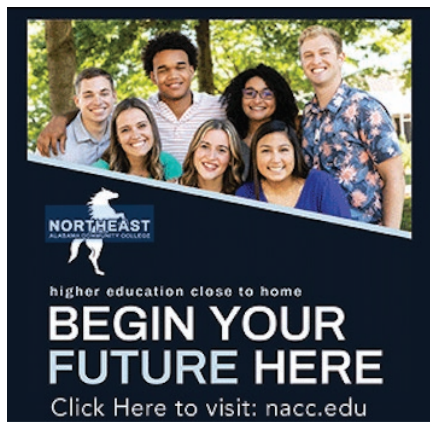
by: Renee Trice

3rd: The Fort Payne Times-Journal

NACC Begin Your future here

by: staff

ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER



The Fort Payne Times-Journal | Best Innovative Online Advertising

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

(Because your neighbor's cousin's grandpa's Facebook post doesn't count as journalism.)

Our news comes from verified sources, seasoned reporters, and trusted experts. We bring you facts, not fiction, fluff, or hearsay.

No gossip. Just real news, reliably delivered for more than 125 years.

THE WETUMPKA HERALD

Subscribe Today. Be A Reader.
Your brain will thank you.

256-234-4281 | thewetumpkaheerald.com



The Outlook | Best Use of Humor

1st: The Fort Payne Times-Journal

DeKalb Living Subscribe Today

by: Emily Wooten

2nd: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Election Center

by: staff

3rd: The Cullman Tribune

Subscribe to The Cullman Tribune

by: Janet Chandler, Dustin Isom

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

1st: The Outlook (Alexander City)

Onin Staffing

by: Renee Trice

2nd: The Outlook

Lake Martin Paw Pals

by: Erin Vickers

3rd: The Outlook

Edge Home Finance

by: Renee Trice

Advertising Contest DIVISION C

ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

3rd: The Sand Mountain Reporter

(Albertville)

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: Rebecca Tabor

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

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Oak View Veterinary

by: Rhett McCreight

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Helena Veterinary

by: Rhett McCreight

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

Gilbertown Graduate

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE & UNDER, COLOR

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Senior Picnic

by: Rhett McCreight

2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

The Exchange Club of Phenix City

by: Rebecca Tabor

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

Chamber Graduation

by: Dee Ann Campbell

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

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Small Business Awards

by: Rhett McCreight

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

Nanafalia Baptist Church

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, COLOR

1st: The Sand Mountain Reporter

(Albertville)

Southern Metal Fabricators

by: John Morris

2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama

(Phenix City)

Eufaula Heritage Association

by: Rebecca Tabor

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Senior Picnic

by: Rhett McCreight

BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

1st: Shelby County Reporter

(Columbiana)

Profile

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

(Gilbertown)

Turning the Tassel

by: Dee Ann Campbell

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Metro Football

The Citizen of East Alabama | Best Single Ad Over 1/2 Page, Color

Advertising Contest DIVISION C



SCORES, STORIES AND PHOTOS

Get all of the football coverage from the most recent Friday night by visiting shelbycountyreporter.com or scanning the QR code

Shelby County Reporter | Best In-Paper Promotion of Newspaper



MEMORIAL DAY 2025

REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICES

We Honor our Troops!

We Salute Your Sacrifices

ALL GAVE SOME SOME GAVE ALL

We Honor our Military and the families of those who serve our country.

Remember them this Memorial Day

Thank you for your sacrifice

CHICKEN FINGER, HAMBURGERS & MUCH MORE

BEA GEE'S RESTAURANT

256-878-9294

Staff Sgt. Phillip Gunter

You will always be our Hero!

WOODLAND

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

MUB

www.mub-albertville.com

The Sand Mountain Reporter | Best Signature Page

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Election Guide

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Vincent championship

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Thompson championship

BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

22 for 22

by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

QR Code for Football Coverage

by: Alec Etheredge

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

GameTime Magazine

by: Rebecca Tabor

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

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

America's Thrift Halloween

by: Rebecca Tabor

2nd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)

Sante Fe Restaurant

by: John Morris

3rd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Athlete of the Week

by: Noah Brakefield, Andrew Simonson

BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Vulcan: Wanted Dead Not Alive

by: Rhett McCreight

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

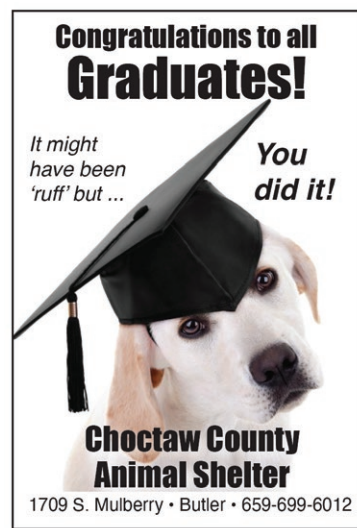
Lawn Mower For Sale

by: Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Alabaster For Tomorrow Christmas

by: Rachel Henderson



Congratulations to all Graduates!

It might have been 'ruff' but ...

You did it!

Choctaw County Animal Shelter

1709 S. Mulberry • Butler • 659-699-6012

The Choctaw Sun-Advocate
Best Use of Humor

BEST CLASSIFIED DISPLAY AD

1st: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)

Swafford Auction Group, LLC

by: John Morris

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

P&F Coin

by: Evann Campbell

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Blanket Fort Hope

by: Evann Campbell

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Thompson Championship

by: Rachel Henderson

2nd: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)

Memorial Day

by: John Morris

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Small Businesses

by: Rhett McCreight

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Metro Football

2nd: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City)

GameTime Magazine Fall 2025

by: Rebecca Tabor

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Explore Shelby County

BEST USE OF HUMOR

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Lawn Mower For Sale

by: Alec Etheredge

2nd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

Animal Shelter Graduation

by: Dee Ann Campbell

3rd: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

Gibson Body Shop

by: Dee Ann Campbell

BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

www.shelbycountyreporter.com

BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING, SINGLE AD

1st: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Rodeo

by: Rachel Henderson

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Biscuit Belly

by: Rachel Henderson

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Taste of Pelham

by: Rhett McCreight

ONLINE REVENUE BUILDER

1st: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

This week on SunTV football

by: Dee Ann Campbell

2nd: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

QR Code for Football Coverage

by: Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Online classifieds

by: Evann Campbell

Advertising Contest DIVISION C

BEST USE OF VIDEO ADVERTISING

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

Thompson championship show
by: Alec Etheredge, Andrew Simonson,
Rachel Henderson

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

Taste of Shelby County
by: Alec Etheredge

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

The Red Zone
by: Tyler Raley

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

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

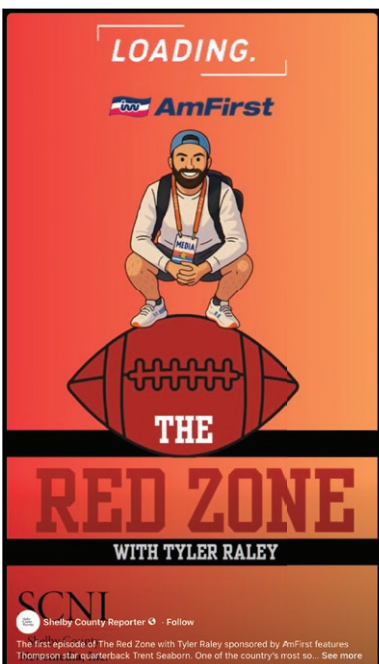
*Live Shelby County Pregame Football
Show*

2nd: Shelby County Reporter

The Red Zone Sponsored by AmFirst
by: Tyler Raley, Tori Smith

3rd: Shelby County Reporter

Wayne's Pest Control
by: Rachel Henderson, Alec Etheredge



**Shelby County
Reporter | Best Use of
Social Media Advertising**

ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1st: The Wetumpka Herald

2nd: The Baldwin Times

3rd: The Dadeville Record

BEST CLASSIFIED PAGE OR SECTION

1st: The Baldwin Times

by: April Marie-Wallace

2nd: The Observer (Opelika)

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

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

1st: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)

Remembering Our Past-Final Clay Bowl
by: Tammy Andrews, Ray Stansell

2nd: The Clay Times-Journal

*Remembering Our Past-The Legend of
Benjamin Dawkins*

by: Tammy Andrews

3rd: The Clay Times-Journal

Remembering Our Past-Lester Proctor
by: Tammy Andrews

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE & UNDER, COLOR

1st: The Wetumpka Herald

Brush Poppers Cowboy Church
by: Sam Himes

2nd: The Observer (Opelika)

Donuts with Deputies
by: Jessica Henderson

3rd: The Baldwin Times

White Sands RV
by: McKinzie Impastato

BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, COLOR

1st: The Dadeville Record

Legacy New Homes
by: Audra Spears

2nd: The Wetumpka Herald

City of Wetumpka

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

Fur Baby University



**The Observer | Best single Ad
1/2 Page & Under, Color**

BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Baldwin Times

Best of Baldwin

by: McKinzie Impastato, staff

2nd: The Wetumpka Herald

Gridiron Guide

by: Lizi Arbogast, Ana Sofia Meyer, Cliff
Williams

3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)

Honoring Breast Cancer Survivors
by: staff

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Baldwin Times

Voters Guide

by: Brooke Duck, staff

2nd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)

Spring Home and Garden
by: staff

3rd: The Observer (Opelika)

Decision 2025: Opelika Votes
by: Michelle Key and David Bell

BEST IN-PAPER PROMOTION OF NEWSPAPER

1st: The Baldwin Times

Report for America end of year campaign
by: Brooke Duck, Kayla Green, Gabriella
Chavez

2nd: The Wetumpka Herald

Read Local Shop Local

by: Audra Spears

3rd: The Tallassee Tribune



**The Clay Times-Journal
Best Signature Page**

What We Do

by: Audra Spears

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

1st: The Observer (Opelika)

It Can Wait

by: Jessica Henderson

2nd: The Observer

Angel's Antiques

by: Michelle Key

BEST ORIGINAL/ CREATIVE IDEA

1st: The Baldwin Times

Report for America

by: Brooke Duck, RFA Campaign Team

2nd: The Observer (Opelika)

Claus Knows Local

by: Michelle Key

3rd: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville)

Happy Snow day

by: staff

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

1st: The Wetumpka Herald

Don't Shop, Adopt!

by: Sam Himes, Audra Spears

2nd: The Dadeville Record
Reeltown High School Football

by: Audra Spears

3rd: The Clay Times-Journal
(Lineville)

Clay County Yellow Meated Watermelon Festival

by: Tammy Andrews

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st: The Baldwin Times

Big Beautiful Baldwin

by: McKinzie Impastato, staff

2nd: The Dadeville Record
Dadeville Magazine

by: Audra Spears, Lizi Arbogast

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald
FYI

by: Audra Spears, Lizi Arbogast, Cliff Williams

BEST USE OF HUMOR

1st: The Wetumpka Herald

Horse's Mouth

by: Audra Spears

2nd: The Dadeville Record
All Ears

by: Audra Spears

3rd: The Tallassee Tribune
Antisocial

by: Audra Spears

BEST PRESENTATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING

1st: The Wetumpka Herald

www.thewetumpkaherald.com

2nd: The Tallassee Tribune

www.tallasseetribune.com

3rd: The Dadeville Record

www.thedadevillerecord.com

BEST INNOVATIVE ONLINE ADVERTISING, SINGLE AD

1st: The Baldwin Times

Cozumel Bar & Grill

by: McKinzie Impastato



The Baldwin Times
Best Innovative Online Advertising



The Tallassee Tribune | Best Use of Social Media Advertising

2nd: The Tallassee Tribune

Parker Tire

by: Audra Spears

3rd: The Baldwin Times

Look Dental

by: McKinzie Impastato

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

1st: The Dadeville Record

Lake Martin Living Art & Photo Reception

by: Audra Spears

2nd: The Tallassee Tribune

Article Plaque

by: Tippy Hunter, Audra Spears

3rd: The Wetumpka Herald

Domino's Pizza

by: Sam Himes

Advertising Contest DIVISION E

ADVERTISING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

BEST SINGLE AD 1/2 PAGE & UNDER, COLOR

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

M.A. Jackson Co.

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

2nd: Village Living (Mountain Brook)

Parrot Structural Services

by: Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

North Country New Year's Sale-a-bration

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

BEST SINGLE AD OVER 1/2 PAGE, COLOR

1st: 280 Living (Birmingham)

TherapySouth

by: Melanie Viering, Ted Perry

2nd: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Full Moon BBQ

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

BEST ONE TIME SPECIAL SECTION

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Redstone Arsenal Post Guide

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

2nd: The Redstone Rocket

Veterans Day 2025

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

3rd: The Redstone Rocket

Engineers Week 2025

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

1st: Vestavia Voice

Aqua Systems of Birmingham

by: Ted Perry, Melanie Viering

BEST SIGNATURE PAGE

1st: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Restaurants

by: Donna Counts, Rhonda Stennett

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st: Hoover Sun

Under the Lights

by: Ted Perry, Melanie Viering

Village Living | Best Single Ad 1/2 Page & Under, Color



The Redstone Rocket
Best One-Time Special Section



Magazine Contest DIVISION M



Mountain Brook Magazine



Lake Magazine



Beachin'

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

1st: Mountain Brook Magazine
2nd: Lake Magazine
3rd: Beachin'

BEST SINGLE FEATURE STORY

1st: Mountain Brook Magazine

Bay to Table

by: Anna Grace Breedlove, Kassady Gibson, Blair Ramsey

2nd: Lake Martin Living

Santa has a Southern Drawl

by: Shaylee Beck Moore, Sam Vise, Audra Spears

3rd: Lake Magazine

Star-spangled and Soulful

by: Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone

BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE

1st: Beachin'

The Wonderful World of Banks Compton

by: Kayla Green

2nd: Lake Magazine

Sara Swims the English Channel

by: Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone

3rd: Trussville Living

A Book of Old

by: Jamie Dawkins, Katelyn Smith

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE

1st: Beachin'

Off the Beaten Path: Perdido Vineyards

by: Ruth Mayo

2nd: Lake Magazine

Chisel & Wood

by: Shaylee Beck Moore, Kenneth Boone

3rd: Jackson Magazine

Lavender in the Cove

by: Katie Hightower, Ashley Colon,

Elizabeth Law

BEST TRAVEL FEATURE

1st: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine

Five Months, Five Continents

by: Ashley Ryals

2nd: Beachin'

The nation's best trail system is right

here...No, really.

by: Ruth Mayo

3rd: INDY Magazine

Go Away

by: staff

BEST CULINARY FEATURE

1st: Huntsville City Lifestyle Magazine

It's All Greek To Me

by: Amy Bailey

2nd: Lake Magazine

Lake Martin Oyster Expert

by: Austin Elliot, Shaylee Beck Moore, Audra Spears

3rd: East Alabama Living

EAL EATS: Savor the Squash

by: Beth Witten, Ann Cipperly, Stephanie McGinn

BEST SPORTS FEATURE

1st: Alabama Magazine

The Greatest Show On Dirt

by: staff

2nd: East Alabama Living

Operation Gold

by: Beth Witten, Ann Cipperly, Stephanie McGinn

3rd: Lake Magazine

A Storied Tradition Sails On

by: Sam Vise, Kenneth Boone

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

1st: Community Matters

Following the magic of the Oregon coastline

by: Sherry Brown

2nd: Mountain Brook Magazine

Bay to Table

by: Kassady Gibson, Blair Ramsey, Jamie Dawkins

3rd: Jackson Magazine

Nostalgic Christmas

by: Katie Hightower, Elizabeth Law

BEST SINGLE PHOTOGRAPH

1st: Lake Magazine

Lightning Over Lake Martin

by: Audra Spears

2nd: Lake Magazine

Seaplane Adventure at Lake Martin

by: Kenneth Boone

3rd: Alabama Magazine

Abbie Stockard

by: staff

BEST INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE

1st: Mountain Brook Magazine

www.mountainbrookmagazine.com

by: staff

2nd: East Alabama Living

www.radioalabama.net/east-alabama-living

by: Beth Witten, Steve Witten

3rd: Community Matters

www.cullmantribune.com

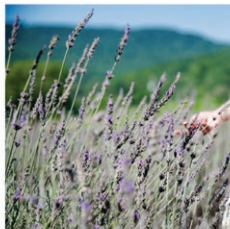
by: Dustin Isom, Noah Galilee, staff



Mountain Brook Magazine Best Photo Essay

OUTDOORS

Lavender



in the C

STORY BY KATIE NIGHTOWER
PHOTOS BY ASHLEY COLON

JACKSON

OUTDOORS



Nestled in southern Jackson County is a tiny fragment of lavender. The rows of redneck lavender bushes are the most beautiful lavender field where the sun creates a warm, golden glow. The lavender bushes are the most beautiful lavender field where the sun creates a warm, golden glow. The lavender bushes are the most beautiful lavender field where the sun creates a warm, golden glow.

JACKSON



JACKSON 13

Operation GOLD

Team USA Wheelchair Handball's Quest for World Championship Glory

By Ann Cappery

Organized last summer in Auburn, Operation Gold is a team of athletes and coaches who are competing for the 2019 USA Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Cairo, Egypt. This year, they followed up with a bronze at the 2018 USA Wheelchair Handball National Championships in Columbus, Ohio. The team's success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the athletes and coaches who are competing for the 2019 USA Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Cairo, Egypt.

JACKSON



PHOTO: USA WHEELCHAIR HANDBALL

JACKSON Magazine | Best Business Feature

BEST SINGLE AD

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

- 3rd: Community Matters**
Subscribe Today
by: Dustin Isom

BEST OVERALL DESIGN

- 1st: Alabama Magazine**
- 2nd: Jackson Magazine**
- 3rd: Beachin'**

BEST COVER PHOTO OR ILLUSTRATION

- 1st: Mountain Brook Magazine**
Spring, Weddings
by: Leslie Hollingsworth
- 2nd: Hoover's magazine**
Summer, Fireman and baby
by: Dawn Harrison
- 3rd: Lake Martin Living**
June, Giddy Up Y'all Rodeo
by: Shaylee Beck Moore

BEST THEMED ISSUE

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

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN OR SERIES

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

BEST HOUSE AD OR SELF-PROMOTION

- 1st: Trussville Living**
Subscribe Now
by: Jamie Dawkins
- 2nd: Land+Lake**
Southern Torch Radio: Shining a light on Northeast Alabama
by: John Morris

East Alabama Living | Best Sports Feature

BEST COLUMN

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

3rd: Mountain Brook Magazine

Ellie & Weston
by: Anna Grace Breedlove

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

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

BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

- 1st: Lake Martin Living**
Art & Photo Contest Winners
by: Shaylee Beck Moore
- 2nd: DeKalb Living**
Alabama Fan Appreciation
by: staff
- 3rd: Lake Magazine**
Plug Day

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- 1st: Trussville Living**
Clay-Chalkville State Championship Carousel
by: Tyler Raley
- 2nd: Trussville Living**
Baseball Playoff Carousel
by: Michaela Bankston, Kristal Kizer

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

APA
Media
AWARDS
Print | Digital | Magazine

- Set aside copies of your best 2026 work now! **Pdfs showing the way it was laid out in publication are always preferred over links!**
- 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 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.**