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APA Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners Announced

Winners of the 2006 Alabama Press Association Better Newspaper Contest were announced this week by David Moore, chairman of the APA Better Newspaper Contest Committee.

Sixty-seven newspapers submitted 2,773 entries in the annual contest. The entries were judged by the Georgia Press Association.

The awards will be presented July 22 at APA's 135th summer convention at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. The Story of the Year and Best Newspaper Web Site will be announced during the awards banquet.

General Excellence awards are based on total points earned from five areas: issues submitted for the general excellence category, awards in nine general categories, awards in the public service and FOI categories, awards in the single event categories and awards from the advertising contest.

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(Enclosed is a list of award winners in all categories)

**Alabama Press Association
2006 Better Newspaper Contest Winners**

2006 General Excellence Winners

Division A

1st place	The Birmingham News
2nd place	The Tuscaloosa News
3rd place	The Huntsville Times

Division B

1st place	The Cullman Times
2nd place	The Opelika-Auburn News
3rd place	The Daily Home (Talladega)

Division C

1st place	The Arab Tribune
2nd place	The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)
3rd place	Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st place	Citronelle Call News
2nd place	The Leeds News
3rd place	The Weekly Post (Rainsville)

Best Public Service

Division A

1st place	Press-Register (Mobile)
2nd place	The Anniston Star
3rd place	The Birmingham News

Division B

1st place	The Daily Home (Talladega)
2nd place	The Daily Home (Talladega)
3rd place	The Opelika-Auburn News

Division C

1st place	The Eufaula Tribune
2nd place	The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton)
3rd place	The Greenville Advocate

Division D

1st place	Fairhope Courier
2nd place	Fairhope Courier
3rd place	Cherokee County Herald (Centre)

FOI – First Amendment Award

Division A

1st place	The Anniston Star
2nd place	Press-Register (Mobile)
3rd place	The Tuscaloosa News

Division B

1st place The Outlook (Alexander City)
2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News
3rd place The Daily Home (Talladega)

Division C

1st place The Choctaw Sun (Gilbertown)
2nd place Hartselle Enquirer
3rd place Hartselle Enquirer

Division D

1st place Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston)
2nd place The Wilcox Progressive Era (Camden)
3rd place Madison County Record

Most Improved

Division A The Anniston Star

Division B The Cullman Times

Division C The North Jefferson News (Gardendale)

Division D The Leeds News

Best Presswork

Division A

1st place TimesDaily (Florence)
2nd place The Birmingham News
3rd place The Huntsville Times

Division B

1st place The Clanton Advertiser
2nd place The Outlook (Alexander City)
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News

Division C

1st place The Greenville Advocate
2nd place The Arab Tribune
3rd place The Eufaula Tribune

Division D

1st place Citronelle Call News
2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville)
3rd place Moundville Times

Best Newspaper Web Site

Division Daily

The Anniston Star

Division Non-Daily

Birmingham Business Journal

Photograph of the Year

The Birmingham News for “Casualty of AIDS fight” by Bernard Troncale

Story of the Year

The Birmingham News for “In the arms of angels” by Kathy Kemp

Category 1 — Best Editorial Page or Section

Division A

1st place	The Birmingham News
2nd place	The Anniston Star
3rd place	Press-Register (Mobile)

Division B

1st place	The Cullman Times
2nd place	The Opelika-Auburn News
3rd place	The Daily Home (Talladega)

Division C

1st place	The Arab Tribune
2nd place	The Eufaula Tribune
3rd place	Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st place	The Tuskegee News
2nd place	The Dadeville Record
3rd place	The Leeds News

Category 2 — Best Lifestyle/Family Pages

Division A

1st place	The Anniston Star
2nd place	The Huntsville Times
3rd place	The Tuscaloosa News

Division B

1st place	The Opelika-Auburn News
2nd place	The Outlook (Alexander City)
3rd place	The Cullman Times

Division C

1st place	The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)
2nd place	The Eufaula Tribune
3rd place	Hartselle Enquirer

Division D

1st place	The Atmore Advance
2nd place	The Brewton Standard
3rd place	The Leeds News

Category 3 — Best Sports Page

Division A

1st place	Press-Register (Mobile)
2nd place	The Birmingham News
3rd place	The Huntsville Times

Division B

1st place The Cullman Times
2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News
3rd place The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Division C

1st place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
2nd place The Greenville Advocate
3rd place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)

Division D

1st place The Leeds News
2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville)
3rd place Franklin County Times (Russellville)

Category 4 — Best Layout and Design

Division A

1st place The Birmingham News
2nd place The Huntsville Times
3rd place The Tuscaloosa News

Division B

1st place The Daily Home (Talladega)
2nd place The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)
3rd place The News-Courier (Athens)

Division C

1st place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
2nd place The North Jefferson News (Gardendale)
3rd place The Greenville Advocate

Division D

1st place The Atmore Advance
2nd place Citronelle Call News
3rd place St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City)

Category 5 — Best Local Economic Coverage

Division A

1st place The Birmingham News
2nd place The Tuscaloosa News
3rd place Press-Register (Mobile)

Division B

1st place The Outlook (Alexander City)
2nd place The Cullman Times
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News

Division C

1st place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)
2nd place The Greenville Advocate
3rd place The Arab Tribune

Division D

1st place St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City)
2nd place Citronelle Call News
3rd place Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston)

Category 6 — Best Local Education Coverage

Division A

1st place The Tuscaloosa News
2nd place The Birmingham News
3rd place The Huntsville Times

Division B

1st place The Cullman Times
2nd place The News-Courier (Athens)
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News

Division C

1st place The Arab Tribune
2nd place The North Jefferson News (Gardendale)
3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st place The Dadeville Record
2nd place The Leeds News
3rd place Madison County Record

Category 7 — Best Local News Coverage

Division A

1st place The Tuscaloosa News
2nd place The Birmingham News
3rd place The Huntsville Times

Division B

1st place The News-Courier (Athens)
2nd place The Daily Home (Talladega)
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News

Division C

1st place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)
2nd place The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville)
3rd place The Choctaw Sun (Gilbertown)

Division D

1st place The Leeds News
2nd place The Atmore Advance
3rd place St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City)

Category 8 — Best Use of Photographs/Editorial Content

Division A

1st place The Tuscaloosa News
2nd place The Huntsville Times
3rd place The Anniston Star

Division B

1st place The Cullman Times
2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News
3rd place The Outlook (Alexander City)

Division C

1st place The Arab Tribune
2nd place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)
3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st place The Atmore Advance
2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville)
3rd place Citronelle Call News

Category 9 – Best Spot News Story

Division A

1st place Montgomery Advertiser for “Nation mourns mother of civil rights movement” by Jannell McGrew
2nd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Storm smacks Alabama coast” by staff
3rd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Tillman indicted” by Steve Myers and Jeb Schrenk

Division B

1st place The Daily Home (Talladega) for “Fishing trip turns tragic” by Daniel Thompson
2nd place The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Caught Again” by Kelly Caldwell
3rd place The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Acting chief found dead in Birmingham” by Blaine Ney

Division C

1st place The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Lineman electrocuted” by staff
2nd place The Northwest Alabamian (Haleyville) for “\$2.3 million pot lab busted” by Chad Fell
3rd place The Greenville Advocate for “Former band director faces molestation charges” by Kevin Taylor

Division D

1st place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “Former mayor guilty of rape” by Teri Baker
2nd place The Red Bay News for “Rumor has it...” by LaVale Mills
3rd place Greene County Independent (Eutaw) for “County thefts one step closer to being solved” by Leewanna Parker

Category 10 – Best In-Depth News Coverage or Series

Division A

1st place The Birmingham News for “El Corazón de Dixie” by Kelli Hewett Taylor, Jeff Hansen and Mike Cason
2nd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “McIntosh’s Mercury Menace” by Bill Finch, Ben Raines and Sallie Owen
3rd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Pieces of history” by staff

Division B

- 1st place The Daily Home (Talladega) for “Methamphetamines: War on drugs hits home” by staff
- 2nd place The Clanton Advertiser for “Roadside bomb kills Clanton soldier” by Jason Cannon
- 3rd place The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Escape by design” by Kelly Caldwell

Division C

- 1st place The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for “Tough decisions face judge in election case” by Anthony Campbell
- 2nd place Hartselle Enquirer for “Battling meth” by staff
- 3rd place The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Hurricane debris removal to begin” by staff

Division D

- 1st place St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City) for “Growing Problem: County experiences surge in drug cases over last decade” by Paula Mullinax and Alan D. Atchison
- 2nd place The Atmore Advance for “Atmore’s high-quality H2O” by Adam Prestridge
- 3rd place The Jacksonville News for “Domestic dispute turns deadly” by Vicki Everett

Category 11 — Best Business Story or Column

Division A

- 1st place The Birmingham News for “Unsafe trucks go uninspected” by Ginny MacDonald and Brett Blackledge
- 2nd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Natural gas costs sky-high in Bama” by Bill Finch, Ben Raines and Sallie Owen
- 3rd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Plant could spark boom” by staff

Division B

- 1st place The Cullman Times for “Where Dollars Are Being Spent” by Lionel Green, Richard McVay, Stan Voit, Terri Brunck and Jimmy Simms
- 2nd place The Cullman Times for “Blue Laws Update: Sunday Boom” by David Mackey and Lionel Green
- 3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “AU fisheries have worldwide reach” by Jack Stripling

Division C

- 1st place The Greenville Advocate for “Just Electricity” by Kevin Taylor, Jay Thomas, Regina Grayson and Dennis Palmer
- 2nd place The Arab Tribune for “Marshall rings up retail” by David Moore
- 3rd place Hartselle Enquirer for “A piece of the action” by Leada Gore

Division D

- 1st place The Jacksonville News for “History of Growth: 720 lots added to J’ville subdivisions in 15 years” by Vicki Everett and Anita Kilgore
- 2nd place Citronelle Call News for “Road to Recovery” by Chris Henley
- 3rd place The Brewton Standard for “TCIDA springs from regional approach” by Michele Gerlach

Category 12 — Best Feature Story

Division A

- 1st place The Birmingham News for “In the arms of angels” by Kathy Kemp
- 2nd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Steven’s Struggle” by Casandra Andrews
- 3rd place The Dothan Eagle for “That’s Amoré” by Mike Lewis

Division B

1st place The News-Courier (Athens) for “Bringing back Susie” by Charlotte Fulton
2nd place The Cullman Times for “A Little Miracle” by Gail Crutchfield
3rd place The Messenger (Troy) for “Lots of Love” by Jaine Treadwell

Division C

1st place The Eufaula Tribune for “Remembering Hoyt” by Susan Walworth
2nd place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) for “Breast cancer requires life-changing decisions” by Beth Norris
3rd place The Arab Tribune for “To Chattanooga by boat” by David Moore

Division D

1st place Citronelle Call News for “Season of giving” by Chris Henley
2nd place The Luverne Journal for “Area poker player to be featured on ESPN” by Kevin Pearcey
3rd place St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City) for Ashville HealthCare resident fulfills lifelong dreams locally” by Paula Mullinax

Category 13 — Best News Feature Story

Division A

1st place The Anniston Star for “Coming out of the dark” by Brandy Warren
2nd place TimesDaily (Florence) for “Forever friends” by Michelle Rupe Eubanks
3rd place The Huntsville Times for “Rites & wrongs” by Challen Stephens and Kay Campbell

Division B

1st place The News-Courier (Athens) for “Bad Times in the Bayou” by Kelly Kazek
2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Terrell Owens: Family and Friends Speak Out” by Joe McAdory
3rd place The Cullman Times for “Trashy Situation” by Lionel Green, David Arkin, Jimmy Simms and Terri Brunck

Division C

1st place The Choctaw Sun (Gilbertown) for “Drug use in the schools” by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Drug court offers hope” by Brandon Gresham
3rd place The Eufaula Tribune for “Bobcat attack” by Susan Walworth

Division D

1st place Fairhope Courier for “Lookin’ for a few good crab counters” by Val Webb
2nd place The Leeds News for “Crystal Clear” by Robert Blankenship
3rd place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Baby grand” by John Pilati

Category 14 — Best Editorial

Division A

1st place TimesDaily (Florence) for “Doing the limbo” by Robert Palmer
2nd place The Birmingham News for “Many murders, few executions” by Eddie Lard, Robin DeMonia, Joey Kennedy and Bob Blalock
3rd place The Dothan Eagle for “A dearth of leadership” by Bill Perkins

Division B

- 1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Richardson’s silent treatment regrettable” by Jack Stripling, Mitch Sneed and Jim Rainey
- 2nd place The Clanton Advertiser for “County people want the right to vote for themselves” by Jason Cannon
- 3rd place The News-Courier (Athens) for “It’s legal, but is it right?” by Karen Middleton

Division C

- 1st place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Recall comments at election” by staff
- 2nd place The Arab Tribune for “Council shows lack of accountability with bond issue” by Phil Baker
- 3rd place The Eufaula Tribune for “Data doesn’t back claims” by Jack Smith

Division D

- 1st place The Tuskegee News for “The public’s right to know” by Guy Rhodes
- 2nd place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Ben Richey’s arrest” by Jason Houston
- 3rd place Greene County Independent (Eutaw) for “The hit man cometh” by Leewanna Parker

Category 15 — Best Humorous Column

Division A

- 1st place The Huntsville Times for “You never know what you’ll be caught dead with” by Ricky Thomason
- 2nd place The Birmingham News for “Segwaying on sidewalks takes balance” by Kathy Kemp
- 3rd place The Dothan Eagle for “Fashion Purse-cution” by Jim Cook

Division B

- 1st place The Fort Payne Times-Journal for “Getting to the bottom of the matter” by Ben Shurett
- 2nd place The Cullman Times for “It’s OK, I’m still in ring training” by David Arkin
- 3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Why does Joe have to be average?” by Joe McAdory

Division C

- 1st place The Eufaula Tribune for “Mom’s drive-by fruitings, advice are still appreciated” by Jack Smith
- 2nd place The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “The blowout didn’t wreck it, my boss did” by Craig Wysock
- 3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Happy birthday, my friend” by Candace Parker

Division D

- 1st place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Workplace turns into candyland” by John Pilati
- 2nd place Madison County Record for “\$14.5 million offer sounds legitimate to me” by Leada Gore
- 3rd place The Tuskegee News for “Football clichés and commercials” by Paul Davis

Category 16 — Best Human Interest Column

Division A

- 1st place The Anniston Star for “Drunk teen asks mom to listen” by Troy Turner
2nd place The Decatur Daily for “Seeing a movie with a 3-year-old” by Tom Wright
3rd place The Huntsville Times for “Compassion can shine even in dim ‘den of iniquity”
by Ricky Thomason

Division B

- 1st place The Cullman Times for “Life’s second chance a gift” by Ed Darling
2nd place The Fort Payne Times-Journal for “It was the perfect time to just play” by J.D.
Davidson
3rd place The Fort Payne Times-Journal for “Ring is worth a lot more than the \$50” by Ben
Shurett

Division C

- 1st place The Foley Onlooker for “Kay is ghost of Christmas” by Bob Morgan
2nd place The Arab Tribune for “Gent offers lesson to wet editor and Marty Feldman” by
David Moore
3rd place The Eufaula Tribune for “Let’s remember the men who do city’s dirty work” by
Jack Smith

Division D

- 1st place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Teacher’s death mourned by
community” by Jason Houston
2nd place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Red Bay loses special friend, family
member” by John Pilati
3rd place The Leeds News for “Sometimes there are no clear answers” by Robert
Blankenship

Category 17 — Best Editorial Column or Commentary

Division A

- 1st place The Birmingham News for “Rural Alabama’s future lies in keeping its own at
home” by Eddie Lard
2nd place TimesDaily (Florence) for “Is justice blind when it comes to rich, poor?” by Mike
Goens
3rd place The Huntsville Times for “Gays: our new scapegoats” by David Person

Division B

- 1st place The News-Courier (Athens) for “Tom Cruise started war of the words” by Kelly
Kazek
2nd place The Cullman Times for “Changes a good first step” by Ed Darling
3rd place The Daily Home (Talladega) for ““What if” can revolutionize school, education”
by Carol Pappas

Division C

- 1st place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) for “Protestor at soldier’s funeral was
disgusting” by Lee Peacock
2nd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Senator disappoints constituents” by
Candace Parker
3rd place The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “County commission lacks vision” by Joe
Thomas

Division D

- 1st place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Church signs shouldn’t influence ballot box” by Jason Houston
- 2nd place Citronelle Call News for “Everyone deserves free money” by Chris Henley
- 3rd place Citronelle Call News for “Bye, bye revenue” by Willie Gray

Category 18 — Best Sports News In-Depth Story or Series

Division A

- 1st place The Tuscaloosa News for “Cottrell alleges three-way conspiracy” by Christopher Walsh
- 2nd place The Tuscaloosa News for “Jury selection starts Monday in Young trial” by Christopher Walsh
- 3rd place The Birmingham News for “Playing and Praying” by staff

Division B

- 1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Sound barrier: Two local businesses at odds over noise” by Mike Szvetitz
- 2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Athletics in the Digital Age” by Tom Peavy
- 3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Danley questions dismissal” by Joe McAdory

Division C

- 1st place The Eufaula Tribune for “National Champs” by staff
- 2nd place The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Celebrating the 2005 FHS Lady ‘Canes” by staff
- 3rd place The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) for “State Champs” by Mike Qualls

Division D

- 1st place The Atmore Advance for “Kirk passes knowledge to next generation” by Tim Cottrell
- 2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “State Champs again” by Jason Bowen and DeWayne Patterson
- 3rd place The Brewton Standard for “Free throws becoming a lost art” by Bruce Hixon

Category 19 — Best Sports Single Event Story

Division A

- 1st place The Birmingham News for “Shula gets first signature win as Tide routs Gators” by Steve Kirk
- 2nd place Montgomery Advertiser for “Auburn bolts to big early lead, blows by Crimson Tide” by Jay G. Tate
- 3rd place The Tuscaloosa News for “Where do we go from here?” by Christopher Walsh

Division B

- 1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Oh, what a day” by Tim Ritter
- 2nd place The Cullman Times for “The Wright Stuff” by Joshua Buckley
- 3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Game of Inches” by Mike Szvetitz

Division C

- 1st place The Greenville Advocate for “Bound for Birmingham” by Kevin Taylor
- 2nd place Hartselle Enquirer for “State champion Tigers” by staff
- 3rd place The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Crossville reigns” by Shannon J. Allen

Division D

- 1st place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “The comeback Bears” by Jason Bowen
2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “State Champs again” by Jason Bowen
3rd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “The Cochran 500” by Jason Bowen

Category 20 — Best Sports Feature Story

Division A

- 1st place Press-Register (Mobile) for “The Battle of Murder Creek” by Mike Herndon
2nd place The Birmingham News for “People love to hate him, but he knows they’re listening” by Bob Carlton
3rd place The Tuscaloosa News for “Family Circus” by Christopher Walsh

Division B

- 1st place The Cullman Times for “Raising the Bar” by Joshua Buckley
2nd place The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Miles from ordinary” by Johnathan Bentley
3rd place The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Brother to brother...” by Russell Moore

Division C

- 1st place The Arab Tribune for ““He must be a Pistol”” by Donna Matuszak
2nd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Love of the game” by Brandon Gresham
3rd place The Greenville Advocate for “These chicks can race” by Kevin Taylor

Division D

- 1st place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “Heart and soul” by DeWayne Patterson
2nd place Franklin County Times (Russellville) for “Date with destiny” by Mike Self
3rd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “Silent storm” by Andrew Smith

Category 21 — Best Local Sports Column

Division A

- 1st place The Huntsville Times for “Regardless of verdict, Logan Young already has lost” by Mark McCarter
2nd place The Birmingham News for “Culpepper left hanging by judge and jury” by Kevin Scarbinsky
3rd place TimesDaily (Florence) for “Ward’s stay with ‘Cats too short” by Gregg Dewalt

Division B

- 1st place The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Children have made me a soccer fan” by Tommy Chandler
2nd place The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Why do we no longer show respect for the flag?” by Brandon Shields
3rd place The News-Courier (Athens) for “Cavnar put his all into all he did” by Rex Greene

Division C

- 1st place Hartselle Enquirer for “Sir, you doth offend me!” by Justin Schuver
2nd place Hartselle Enquirer for “The boys of summer” by Justin Schuver
3rd place The Choctaw Sun (Gilbertown) for “Calm down, it’s just Little League All-Stars” by Colin Merritt

Division D

- 1st place Citronelle Call News for “Old thermal underwear” by Steve Stafford
2nd place Citronelle Call News for “I’m ready for the ping” by Willie Gray
3rd place The Northport Gazette for “Start today to beat the stain of steroids” by Eric Mann

Category 22 — Best Feature Photo

Division A

1st place The Birmingham News for “Man’s best friend wants a bite, too” by Steve Barnette
2nd place The Dothan Eagle for “Picking a pumpkin” by Mike Lewis
3rd place The Anniston Star for “Sweet success” by Stephen Gross

Division B

1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Concentration” by Cliff Williams
2nd place The Cullman Times for “A True Inspiration” by Amanda Shavers
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Taking the reins” by Cliff Williams

Division C

1st place The Arab Tribune for “A tower man’s world” by David Moore
2nd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Fair enough” by Ashley Vansant
3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Classic Farewell Shots” by Ashley Vansant

Division D

1st place Citronelle Call News for “Spared” by Jennifer Petcher
2nd place The Atmore Advance for “Welcome Home 711th” by Adam Prestridge
3rd place The Dadeville Record for “Little graduates” by Kelly Caldwell

Category 23 — Best News Photo

Division A

1st place The Birmingham News for “Casualty of AIDS fight” by Bernard Troncale
2nd place The Dothan Eagle for “Dr. Bain” by Jay Hare
3rd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Nothing left but the memories” by G.M. Andrews

Division B

1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Courage under fire” by Cliff Williams
2nd place The Cullman Times for “They’ve got the look” by Amanda Shavers
3rd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Ways to give” by Cliff Williams

Division C

1st place The Greenville Advocate for “Local Guard unit answers call to duty” by Dennis Palmer
2nd place The Eufaula Tribune for ““I don’t have a home”” by Susan Walworth
3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Shelter from the storm” by Ashley Vansant

Division D

1st place Citronelle Call News for “Service” by Chris Henley
2nd place The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “Movie Madness” by Teri Baker
3rd place Citronelle Call News for “Relay for Life” by Bruce Hansen

Category 24 — Best Spot News Photo

Division A

1st place The Tuscaloosa News for ““What are we going to do?”” by Dan Lopez
2nd place The Gadsden Times for “Woman dies in fiery wreck” by Jeremy Bales
3rd place Montgomery Advertiser for “U.S. 231 Accident” by Mickey Welsh

Division B

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Cullman Times for “A family mourns” by Amanda Shavers
The Clanton Advertiser for “Lucky to be alive” by Tiffany Cannon
The Clanton Advertiser for “Messed up” by Jason Cannon

Division C

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Powerful collision” by Joe Thomas
The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Crash landing” by George Jones
The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Heated battle” by George Jones

Division D

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

St. Clair News-Aegis (Pell City) for “Standoff ends in manhunt” by Paula Mullinax
Citronelle Call News for “Fruitdale family loses house in fire” by Willie Gray
Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Horrific accident kills child” by Kay Kirkland

Category 25 — Best Sports Photo

Division A

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Birmingham News for “Not quite Classic” by Tamika Moore
TimesDaily (Florence) for “Balancing act” by Jim Hannon
The Tuscaloosa News for “Shattered dream” by Robert Sutton

Division B

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Cullman Times for “Heartbreak” by Amanda Shavers
The Cullman Times for “Fight to survive” by Amanda Shavers
The Messenger (Troy) for “Florida Bandits rally to win tourney” by Garrett King

Division C

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Wildcats claw Aggies in rivals’ 91st meeting” by Brother Whitaker
The Eufaula Tribune for “Clean sweep for Rebels” by Jack Smith
The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Tournament concludes tonight at Boaz” by Shannon J. Allen

Division D

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

Citronelle Call News for “Area teams battle for bragging rights” by Bruce Hansen
Citronelle Call News for “He’s safe” by Willie Gray
The Leeds News for “County Champs” by Brent Maze

Category 26 — Best Photo Essay

Division A

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Birmingham News for “AIDS War Zone” by Bernard Troncale
The Tuscaloosa News for “Worth Singing About” by Michelle Williams
The Huntsville Times for “Mini-Max” by Glenn Baeske

Division B

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Opelika-Auburn News for “What a wonderful mess...” by Vasha Hunt
The Cullman Times for “Moments in Silence” by Amanda Shavers
The Fort Payne Times-Journal for “Iron Bowl Flashbacks” by Dusty Plunkett

Division C

- 1st place The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Cpl. Chris Winchester – A Final Farewell” by staff
- 2nd place The Eufaula Tribune for “Indian Summer fun” by Jack Smith and Susan Walworth
- 3rd place Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Second Chukker” by Ashley Vansant

Division D

- 1st place Citronelle Call News for “Shelter in the darkness” by Jennifer Petcher
- 2nd place Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Warfighting Power” by Kay Kirkland and Debbie Mock
- 3rd place The Northport Gazette for “Hundreds participate in Warrior Baseball Jamboree on a cold and wet day” by Delbert Reed and Eric Mann

Category 27 — Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

Division A

- 1st place The Birmingham News for “Are visiting hours up?” by Bill Thomas
- 2nd place Press-Register (Mobile) for “Here’s the pitch!” by John David Mercer and Jeff Darby
- 3rd place The Tuscaloosa News for “Bugged by Lubbers” by Anthony Bratina

Division B

- 1st place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Pain on the Plains” by Steven Barnett
- 2nd place The News-Courier (Athens) for “What lies beneath” by Kelly Kazek and Alissa Clark
- 3rd place The Cullman Times for “A new focus” by staff

Division C

- 1st place The Arab Tribune for “Bravery and Sacrifice” by Sheila McAnear, David Moore and Phil Baker
- 2nd place Hartselle Enquirer for “Children & Junk Food” by Leada Gore
- 3rd place The Eufaula Tribune for “Football ’05” by Angela Owens and Jack Smith

Division D

- 1st place Citronelle Call News for “On the Gridiron” by Jessie Gray
- 2nd place Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Warfighting Power” by Debbie Mock and Kay Kirkland
- 3rd place The Atmore Advance for “Poarch dazzles crowd” by Adam Prestridge

Category 28 — Best Headline

Division A

- 1st place The Gadsden Times for “Crate expectations” by Cyndi Nelson
- 2nd place The Huntsville Times for “Triple frown for city” by Bruce McLellan
- 3rd place The Anniston Star for “Put your meals into high gear with fungi...’shroom, ’shroom” by Tosha Jupiter

Division B

- 1st place The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Ready, set...slow” by Katie Stallcup and Brandon Shields
- 2nd place The Opelika-Auburn News for “Covered bridge over troubled water” by staff
- 3rd place The News-Courier (Athens) for “Rock Queries” by Kelly Kazek

Division C

1st place
2nd place

The North Jefferson News (Gardendale) for “Egg Sighting” by James Phillips
The Arab Tribune for “Happy holidays wish lands man in #@*!@ jail” by David Moore

3rd place

Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Going Bo-nanas” by staff

Division D

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Islander (Gulf Shores) for “Arlene hit like a girl” by Clayton Wallace
Fairhope Courier for “Peed, did he?” by Sheila Propp
The Jacksonville News for “From Rave to grave, club drugs render date rape victims helpless” by Vicki Everett

Category 29 — Best Special Section

Division A

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Birmingham News for “Business Outlook” by staff
The Birmingham News for “College Football” by staff
Montgomery Advertiser for “Voices of the Boycott” by staff

Division B

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Opelika-Auburn News for “Championship Edition” by staff
The Daily Home (Talladega) for “Commerce Update 2005” by staff
The Cullman Times for “Football Fever 2005” by Joshua Buckley, Matt Perdue and Amanda Shavers

Division C

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Arab Tribune for “Bravery and Sacrifice” by staff
Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Football Shelby County” by staff
The Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “Celebrating the 2005 FHS Lady ‘Canes” by staff

Division D

1st place
2nd place
3rd place

The Weekly Post (Rainsville) for “A Story to Tell” by staff
The Atmore Advance for “Horizons 2005” by staff
The Islander (Gulf Shores) for “In the Eye” by Clayton Wallace and Scott Gould