

For release: **Saturday, June 29, 2019**

Contact: Jaclyn Langan

(205) 871-7737

# APA Media Awards Editorial Contest Winners Announced

**Birmingham, AL (June 29, 2019) –** Winners of the 2019 Alabama Press Association Media Awards were announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 90 publications submitted 3,394 entries in the annual contest. The Illinois Press Association membership judged the entries.

Select awards were presented on Saturday, June 29 at the 2019 APA Summer Convention at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL.

**First place awards in these categories were presented at the banquet.**

* *General Excellence*
* *Public Service*
* *FOI – First Amendment Award*
* *Most Improved*
* *Best Newspaper Website*
* *Photograph of the Year*
* *Best Use of Photographs / Editorial Content*
* *Best Editorial Page or Section*
* *Best Lifestyle / Family Pages*
* *Best Sports Page*
* *Best Local Economic Coverage*
* *Story of the Year*
* *Best Local Education Coverage*
* *Best Local News Coverage*
* *Best Layout & Design*

**Other first place awards presented at the banquet (also announced within) will include:**

* *Best Editorial*
* *Best In-Depth News Coverage*
* *Best Human-Interest Column*
* *Best Feature Photo*

***Congratulations to all of the winners!***

Story of the Year

The Anniston Star for “The Six Lives of Flight 861” by Phillip Tutor

Photo of the Year

The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Reflections of past” by Bryan Bacon

General Excellence

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)

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

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

2nd Place: Opelika Observer

3rd Place: The Dadeville Record

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun

2nd Place: 280 Living

3rd Place: The Auburn Plainsman

FOI-First Amendment Award

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Behind the lens” by Drew Taylor

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Toyota-Mazda agreement” by Eric Fleischauer

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Donations and dilemmas” by Ed Enoch

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Discretionary funds allow county commissioners flexibility” by Cliff Williams

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “Residents restless amid financial woes in Prichard” by Dale Liesch

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Payroll Project” by Dan Bagwell, Jeff Jeffrey

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “The growing price of Birmingham's renaissance” by Brent Godwin, Rashune Freeman

Division D

1st Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “Chem Waste meetings” by Tommy McGraw

2nd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “BOE Violates Open Meetings Law” by Tommy McGraw

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “A meeting by any other name- Open Meetings Law” by Michelle Mann

Division E

1st Place: Alabama School Journal for “PEEHIP Lawsuit for Open Meetings Act Violation” by staff

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Drugs hit home” by Jon Anderson

3rd Place: The Homewood Star for “Drainage dilemma” by Sydney Cromwell

Most Improved

Division B

1st Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)

2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

1st Place: The Northwest Alabamian (Haleyville)

2nd Place: The Journal Record (Hamilton)

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

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer

2nd Place: Hartselle Enquirer

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: The Homewood Star

2nd Place: Hoover Sun

3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook)

Best Newspaper Website

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser

2nd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)

3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper)

Division C

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

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

3rd Place: The Alabama Baptist

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

2nd Place: Opelika Observer

3rd Place: Hartselle Enquirer

Division E

1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman

2nd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham)

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Best Production and Printing

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence)

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

3rd Place: The Selma Times-Journal

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

3rd Place: The Monroe Journal (Monroeville)

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

2nd Place: Courier Journal (Florence)

Best Public Service

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Legacy of Lynchings: America's shameful history of racial terror and justice” by staff

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Sheriff food funds investigation” by Connor Sheets

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Anna Franklin” by Eric Fleischauer

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “A Shattering Truth” by DeWayne Patterson

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Discretionary funds allow county commissioners flexibility” by Cliff Williams

Division C

1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Domestic Violence” by Dee Ann Campbell

2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Silent Epidemic” by Dee Ann Campbell

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “'A gift from God'” by Emily Sparacino

Division D

1st Place: The Courier for “Fairhope Barricade usage” by Cliff McCollum

2nd Place: The Courier for “Fairhope mayoral memo” by Cliff McCollum

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “Mental health needs and resources” by Alyx Chandler

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Hoover sewer rates fail to sustain system” by Jon Anderson

3rd Place: The Homewood Star for “The big squeeze” by Sydney Cromwell

Cat. 01 Best Editorial Page or Section

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News by staff

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser by Bro Krift

3rd Place: The Dothan Eagle by Bill Perkins

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News by staff

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by staff

3rd Place: The Selma Times-Journal by staff

Division C

1st Place: Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) by Joe Thomas, Stephanie Cunningham

2nd Place: The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) by staff

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) by staff

2nd Place: The Wilcox Progressive Era (Camden) by Glenda Curl, Ethan Van Sice

3rd Place: The Tuskegee News by staff

Division E

1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman by staff

2nd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) by Tom Magazzu

Cat. 02 Best Lifestyle/Family Pages

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily

Division B

1st Place: The Selma Times-Journal

2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

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

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

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

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

2nd Place: The Hartselle Enquirer

3rd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre)

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman

3rd Place: Vestavia Voice

Cat. 03 Best Sports Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence)

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News

2nd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) by Rashad Milligan, Sam Chandler

3rd Place: The Cullman Times by Jake Winfrey

Division C

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

2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by Tommy Hicks

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st Place: The Dadeville Record by Lizi Arbogast

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

3rd Place: Opelika Observer

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham)

2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook)

3rd Place: Hoover Sun

Cat. 04 Best Local Economic Coverage

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser by Brad Harper

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by Joyanna Love

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

3rd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) by Taylor Beck

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

2nd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre)

3rd Place: The Tuskegee News

Division E

1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham)

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham)

3rd Place: Hoover Sun

Cat. 05 Best Local Education Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group by Trisha Powell Crain

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News by Ed Enoch, Drew Taylor

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by Joyanna Love, Caroline Carmichael

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) by Jason Johnson

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) by Terry Dean

2nd Place: The Tuskegee News

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

Division E

1st Place: Vestavia Voice

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham)

3rd Place: The Homewood Star by Sydney Cromwell

Cat. 06 Best Local News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

2nd Place: TimesDaily (Florence)

3rd Place: Dothan Eagle

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Journal Record (Hamilton)

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by Tommy Hicks

Division D

1st Place: The Tuskegee News

2nd Place: The Dadeville Record

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

Division E

1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman

2nd Place: The Homewood Star by Sydney Cromwell, Jimmie Johnson III

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Cat. 07 Best Use of Photographs / Editorial Content

Division A

1st Place: The Decatur Daily

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser by Mickey Welsh, Jake Crandall

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence)

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal

3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal by Kayla Beaty

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by Tommy Hicks

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise)

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham)

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham)

3rd Place: The Auburn Plainsman

Cat. 08 Best Layout and Design

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by Santana Wood

2nd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett)

3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Derek Morrow, Brooke Howell

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle)

Division D

1st Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre)

2nd Place: The Wetumpka Herald by Santana Wood, Lizi Arbogast

3rd Place: The Tallassee Tribune by Santana Wood

Division E

1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham)

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham)

3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook)

**Cat. 09 Best Spot News Story**

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for “Slammed: Strong storms sweep through Jacksonville” by staff

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Winds Whip Valley” by Mike Wetzel

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Lawmaker Henry arrested” by Mary Sell

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Business owner, mother jailed for ordinance violation” by J.R. Tidwell

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “BRHS student drowns at Lake Wedowee” by Mitch Sneed, Lizi Arbogast

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Dog Not Gone” by Mitch Sneed

Division C

1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Tragedy on Riderwood” by Dee Ann Campbell

2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “MPD officer killed, suspect in custody” by Jason Johnson

3rd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Town Recovering After Tragedy, Community Comes Together” by Denise DuBois and staff

Division D

1st Place: The Demopolis Times for “District Attorney Ambushed” by Teresa Boykin, Robert Blankenship

2nd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “18 wheeler flips” by Tommy McGraw

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for “Commission candidate accuses local politicians of being Klansmen” by Morgan Bryce

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Protesters shut down Highway 31” by Jon Anderson

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Hoover teacher uses racial slur” by Jon Anderson

3rd Place: The Homewood Star for “City Council to hire attorney to review lid bill vote 'irregularities'” by Sydney Cromwell

**Cat. 10 Best In-Depth News Coverage**

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Legacy of Lynchings: America's Shameful History of Racial Terror and Justice” by staff

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Behind the lens” by Drew Taylor

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Suicide on the rise” by Mike Wetzel

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Addiction crisis” by staff

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Eye-cancer cases puzzle doctors” by Kara Coleman

3rd Place: The Selma Times-Journal for “How the bond process works” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Toyota-Mazda” by staff

2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “Fake police shooting in Creola” by Jason Johnson

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Workforce development” by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Baldwin Times for “Baldwin Behind Bars” by Cliff McCollum

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for “Hailstorm 2018” by W.C. Mann, Wendy Sack

3rd Place: The Moundville Times for “Donald Rainey's Democratic candidacy stopped” by Travis Vaughn

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Fighting for Closure” by Jon Anderson

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for “Gentrification of Northwest Auburn” by Eduardo Medina

3rd Place: Selma Sun for “Wide options of education in Selma-Dallas County” by Karim Shamsi-Basha

**Cat. 11 Best Business Story or Column**

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for “Inside the deal that brought Toyota-Mazda to Alabama” by Lee Roop

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “This Alabama county has among the state’s lowest unemployment. What’s the secret?” by William Thornton

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Montgomery's Korean Community Growth” by Brad Harper

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “The T-100 project” by Troy Turner

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Opelika mayor: Cultivating long-distance relationships part of blueprint for success” by Keith Huffman

3rd Place: The Cullman Times for “Losing markets: Tariffs displacing Alabama growers in soybean markets” by David Palmer

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Teen creates business with snakes” by Emmett Burnett

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Amazon considering Bessemer for massive fulfillment center project” by Ty West. Ingrid Schnader

3rd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Possum Trot” by Denise DuBois

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Home Sweet Home” by Michelle Mann

2nd Place: Opelika Observer for “‘Where did the monkeys go? To eat ice cream at O Town of course!’” by Michelle Key

3rd Place: The Eufaula Tribune for “Southern Plastics sold, will remain in Eufaula” by Kyle Mooty

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Regional Cooperation: Better Together?” by Sydney Cromwell

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Facebook likes Huntsville for new data center” by Amy Guckeen Tolson

3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for “10 years of beer” by Erica Techo

**Cat. 12 Best Feature Story Coverage**

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for “The Six Lives of Flight 861” by Phillip Tutor

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Legacy of Lynchings: Montgomery family recalls era of terror” by Melissa Brown

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Alabama’s iconic civil rights town now the fastest shrinking city in the state” by Greg Garrison

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Our Very Own Forrest Gump” by Mitch Sneed

2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Finding a mother: Adopted sisters discover their heritage” by Rick Watson

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Honor and Duty” by Troy Turner

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “From Hell to hope” by Lynn Oldshue

2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Silent Epidemic” by Dee Ann Campbell

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Two points to remember” by Mark Kent

Division D

1st Place: The Baldwin Times for “Making the Band” by Allison Marlow

2nd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “50 years of flying” by Terry Dean

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for “Women's History Month” by Mollie S. Waters

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “An endless war” by Sydney Cromwell

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Language lessons” by Jon Anderson

3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for “'30 years of pure hell'” by Neal Embry

**Cat. 13 Best News Feature Story Coverage**

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Robin White: A lynching, a conviction, still justice denied” by Brian Lyman

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Democrats sat on cash as election neared” by Brian Lyman, Melissa Brown

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Black Belt's Seeping Sewage” by Melissa Brown

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “WWII flier, Opelika native gets overdue recognition” by Troy Turner

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Dog Not Gone” by Mitch Sneed

3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Wildcats hold strong following traumatic incident” by Nicole Smith

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “People are dying” by Neal Wagner

2ndPlace: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “Alabama Power maintains hazardous coal ash pond despite threat of failure” by Gabriel Tynes

3rd Place: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for “Lawmen believe opiod report right” by Anthony Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Dadeville Record for “Road Costs Add Up” by Cliff Williams

2nd Place: The Baldwin Times for “A look inside the Baldwin County Animal Shelter” by Cliff McCollum

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “‘Faith is his foundation” by Michelle Mann

Division E

1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for “Living in history” by Sydney Cromwell

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for “A prayer in the nigh” by Eduardo Medina

3rd Place: Vestavia Voice for “Setting up a safe harbor” by Emily Featherston

**Cat. 14 Best Editorial**

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Our shame: The sins of our past laid bare for all to see” by Bro Krift

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Robert J. Bentley, will you please go now?” by Franklin Harris

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Sheriff’s secrecy an affront to public” by Eric Fleischauer

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “It's a memorial no one wants, but one we owe to ourselves” by staff

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “The role of journalism” by Brandon Cox

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for “Think Twice Before Clicking Share” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “If state leaders are truly inspired, they'll act on transit” by Ty West

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Don't believe things can change? Look at Railroad Park” by Ty West

3rd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Opioids: The crisis next door” by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Most recycling a waste of taxpayer money” by Caroline Quattlebaum

2nd Place: The Moundville Times for “Almost every week, we write about Domestic Violence” by Travis Vaughn

3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “Cost of a newspaper” by Tommy McGraw

Division E

1st Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “Tensions Still High” by Tom Magazzu

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for “Honors College and hate” by Editorial Board

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “School shooting erased innocence” by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Cat. 15 Best Humorous Column**

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for “Somebody please wash my mouth out with soap” by Lisa Davis

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for “Honesty, sincerity, earnestness and the flu” by Lance Griffin

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Up the creek: Towel battle devolves into all-out war” by Marty Roney

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Trial and error in the war against ants” by Mitch Sneed

2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Black Friday begins black and blue weekend” by J.R. Tidwell

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “A hard order of steak and eggs” by Troy Turner

Division C

1st Place: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for “Chasing chicken around courthouse” by Sherry Mayberry

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Shelby County's dragstrips” by Neal Wagner

3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Maybe I'll Choose the Sheep” by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Baldwin Times for “The legend of Catfish Gerald” by Cliff McCollum

2nd Place: The Baldwin Times for “Things I won't do in court today” by Cliff McCollum

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for “I Think I Broke the Monkey Park” by Wendy Hodge

Division E

1st Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “Driving Me to Drink” by Jim Fisher

2nd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “Sextorted” by Jim Fisher

3rd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “5G Hate Mail” by Jim Fisher

**Cat. 16 Best Human Interest Column**

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for “Little Margaret's story comes alive” by Phillip Tutor

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Fortunately, West End crisis didn't turn deadly” by Tommy Stevenson

3rd Place: Dothan Eagle for “A picture is worth much more than a thousand words” by Lance Griffin

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Finding the rest of the story of a wayward pigeon” by Mitch Sneed

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Just as I am, and waiting not” by Troy Turner

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Dog search shows why community is special” by Mitch Sneed

Division C

1st Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Empower the next generation” by Denise DuBois

2nd Place: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for “Black soldiers helped fight WWI” by staff

3rd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Chad, We're Praying For You” by Denise DuBois

Division D

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for “SURVIVOR’S STORY: You have to get on with it’” by Christy Perry

2nd Place: The Wilcox Progressive Era (Camden) for “I’m looking for my mother” by Ethan Van Sice

3rd Place: The Eufaula Tribune for “Thank God I found my way into Mickey's life” by Kyle Mooty

Division E

1st Place: The Homewood Star for “The blessing of a sick day” by Lauren Denton

2nd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “The Wooden Bowl” by Steve Shelton

3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for “50/50 Friends” by Kari Kampakis

**Cat. 17 Best Editorial Column or Commentary**

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for “The calamitous rise and fall of Larry Langford” by Kyle Whitmire

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “The end of intelligence” by Gary Cosby Jr.

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “We must draw a distinction between the political and the spiritual” by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Paint Rock's meetings rules are illegal” by Brandon Cox

2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Children's separation one issue too many” by Ed Howell

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Peace and justice don't live here” by Troy Turner

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Seven decades later, Birmingham's still having the same conversation” by Ty West

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “We're all part of the solution” by Neal Wagner

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “His words took a life of their own” by Willie Gray

Division D

1st Place: The Tuskegee News for “Free Press, Humane Society, Information Available, Your Rights” by Guy Rhodes

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Journalism matters, now more than ever” by Michelle Mann

3rd Place: The Wilcox Progressive Era (Camden) for “Wounded Duck Syndrome” by Ethan Van Sice

Division E

1st Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “Shelters Deal with Ignorance, Vanity” by Tom Magazzu

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Digesting healthy eating habits one bite at a time” by Amy Guckeen Tolson

3rd Place: Alabama School Journal for “Tenure -- Evil or Misunderstood?” by Theron Stokes

Cat. 18 Best Sports News In-Depth Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for “The real story behind hush agreements for residents with Alabama practice views” by Michael Casagrande

2nd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “ASUN conference” by staff

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Many (unhappy?) Returns, Not in High Demand” by Tommy Deas

Division B

1st Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for “Finally!” by Rashad Milligan, Daniel Evans

2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for “Paul Ellis resigns” by Cody Dowler

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Man vs. beast: Local teenager competes in junior rodeo events” by J.R. Tidwell

Division C

1st Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Road to the Championship” by Mark Clark

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “U.S. Women's Open” by Alec Etheredge, Keith McCoy

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Hall of Fame” by Tommy Hicks

Division D

1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for “Changing of the guard” by Caleb Turrentine

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “AHSAA to implement replay system in high school football” by Josh Boutwell

3rd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Curry Retires from CCHS” by Shannon Fagan

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for “Added security” by Drew Champlin

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Larry Giangrosso” by Kyle Parmley

3rd Place: The Homewood Star for “Green means go” by Kyle Parmley

Cat. 19 Best Sports Single Event Story

Division A

1st Place: Dothan Eagle for “Extra Excitement” by Ken Rogers, Jon Johnson

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Brian Daboll nails second historic comeback in state of Georgia” by John Talty

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for “The walk-off moment that will live forever in Alabama history” by Michael Casagrande

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Chiefs finish third at state” by Jason Bowen

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Central-Phenix City slams Thompson, takes home Class 7A state championship” by Jordan Hill, Justin Lee

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Tigers' explosive offense returns in bowl romp over Purdue” by Justin Lee

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Two points to remember” by Mark Kent

2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “UMS Championship” by Tommy Hicks

3rd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Central Wins, Finished” by Mark Clark

Division D

1st Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Vindicated” by Shannon Fagan

2nd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Auburn Bound: Piedmont flips the script…” by Shannon Fagan

3rd Place: The Moulton Advertiser for “Welcome to the final hour” by Caleb Suggs

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Waldrop earns low medalist honors at state tournament” by Kyle Parmley

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Wounded warriors stay competitive on field 1” by Skip Vaughn

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Ten-Miler Team earns two more eagle trophies” by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 20 Best Sports Feature Story

Division A

1st Place: The Decatur Daily for “Remembering Hazelwood football” by David Elwell

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Enough is enough: Johnson's shooting leaves many feeling urgency to leave” by Duane Rankin

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Breaking down barriers” by Jeff McIntyre

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Loachapoka's LC Cole boasts a football life unlike any other” by Jordan Hill

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Just for kicks” by Lizi Arbogast

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Leaving a legacy: Mize wants to be remembered for more than draft stock and strikeout totals” by Josh Vitale

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for “Local schools competing in Alabama’s inaugural esports season” by Jason Johnson

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Witnessing his father's death fuels JJ Evans” by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Playing for three hearts” by Alec Etheredge

Division D

1st Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Tornado puts things in perspective for JSU” by Shannon Fagan

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Keeping history alive” by Josh Boutwell

3rd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Tarzan White swings into sports hall of fame” by Roy Mitchell

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for “Dedication leads Trammell to Crimson Tide” by Kyle Parmley

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Earned, not given” by Sam Chandler

3rd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “Local legend” by Kyle Parmley

Cat. 21 Best Local Sports Column

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “A new way of business: Historic hire must get Auburn's support” by Duane Rankin

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Crimson Tide turns chaos into something magical” by Cecil Hurt

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “A family and a community's heart is breaking today” by Cecil Hurt

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Don't put too much pressure on one person's shoulders” by Lizi Arbogast

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Meadows was a coach to the end” by Jason Bowen

3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Hastings picture of poise and leadership” by W. Brian Hale

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “JJ Evans' story is an inspiring one” by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Fred Yancey deserves a spot in the Hall of Fame” by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Birmingham needs to seize opportunity of its bowl game” by Ty West

Division D

1st Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Garden’s Broome the feel good story…” by Shannon Fagan

2nd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Reflections on football coach Tripp Curry” by Shannon Fagan

3rd Place: The Eufaula Tribune for “When beating the traffic” by Kyle Mooty

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Dad always kept me on my toes in sports” by Skip Vaughn

2nd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “A True Hero” by Jerry Knight

3rd Place: Courier Journal (Florence) for “Memories Past” by Jerry Knight

Cat. 22 Best Feature Photo

Division A

1st Place: The Decatur Daily for “Baseball smarties” by Jeronimo Nisa

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “I'm Sitting This One Out” by Mickey Welsh

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Pose for Night to Shine Prom” by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Times for “Yucky” by Amanda Shavers

2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Senior Connection in Clanton hosts Chili cook-off” by Anthony Richards

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Snowball fight” by Emily Enfinger

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Men of the Mighty A” by John O'Dell

2nd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Possum Trot Butch Anthony” by Denise DuBois

3rd Place: Colbert County Reporter (Tuscumbia) for “American Flag Retirement Burning” by Mary Carton

Division D

1st Place: The Greenville Standard for “To see such smiles” by Bruce Branum

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “WinShape Special Ops” by Laura Fezie

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for “Ride to Remember” by Robert Noles

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Reflections of past” by Bryan Bacon

2nd Place: The Homewood Star for “Homewood Back to School Bash” by Lexi Coon

3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for “INK Boggie Down” by Sarah Finnegan

Cat. 23 Best News Photo

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for “Clock is ticking” by Stephen Gross

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “If Wharton-Chappell House Walls Could Talk” by Mickey Welsh

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Superheroes at Children's of Alabama” by Joe Songer

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Electrical Fire” by Cliff Williams

2nd Place: The Cullman Times for “Broken Mirror” by Tyler Hanes

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “En Fuego” by Keith McCoy

Division C

1st Place: The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) for “Fire erupts, Left for dead, One killed” by Mike Qualls, Josh Dewberry

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Celebrating America” by Keith McCoy

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Having fun with faith” by Keith McCoy

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Believers & Achievers” by Laura Fezie

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Silent Sermon” by Cassie Gibbs

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for “OHS Student Receives Diploma” by Robert Noles

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Welcome home Soldier” by Bryan Bacon

2nd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for “Woodfin Inaugeration” by Sarah Finnegan

3rd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “280 Adaptive Climbing” by Sarah Finnegan

Cat. 24 Best Spot News Photo

Division A

1st Place: Dothan Eagle for “Everything gone at Trail's End resort” by Jay Hare

2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Flood victims rescued in Hale County” by Gary Cosby Jr.

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Tornado” by Crystal Vander Weit

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Dog Not Gone” by Mitch Sneed

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Car crash” by Emily Enfinger

3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “They Lived” by Mitch Sneed

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Brawl not about basketbal” by John O'Dell

2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Fire destroys home” by Dee Ann Campbell

3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Shoes in the Road” by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

1st Place: The Wilcox Progressive Era for “Fire” by Ethan Van Sice

2nd Place: The Wilcox Progressive Era for “Woman and Baby Hospitalized” by Ethan Van Sice

3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “Agents peer at suspected bomb at Chevron” by Tommy McGraw

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Galleria Protest” by Kamp Fender

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Balloon surprise” by Sarah Finnegan

Cat. 25 Best Sports Photo

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Turning the SEC Upside Down” by Mickey Welsh

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Dragon boat” by Jeronimo Nisa

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Baseball rewind” by Matt McKean

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Pisgah celebrates state title” by Jason Bowen

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Almost a touchdown” by Emily Enfinger

3rd Place: The Cullman Times for “Fear the thumb” by Jake Winfrey

Division C

1st Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Raines has helmet turned” by Tyler Melton

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Legends on the links” by Keith McCoy

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “Mobile Christian Does It Again” by Tom Ewart

Division D

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for “Cullman County softball tournament” by Nick Griffin

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Morgan Harrelson (16) embraces Summer Burress (3) after the Lady Cats scored a goal.” by Laura Fezie

3rd Place: The Atmore Advance for “One Handed Grab” by Andrew Garner

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Hoover High Jumper” by Sarah Finnegan

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “One foot in” by Bryan Bacon

3rd Place: Hoover Sun for “Hoover long jumper” by Sarah Finnegan

Cat. 26 Best Photo Essay

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight 2018” by Gary Cosby Jr.

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Homeless in Decatur” by Crystal Vander Weit

3rd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Little Farmers” by Crystal Vander Weit

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Good Old Days” by Keith McCoy

2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “County fair” by Keith McCoy

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for “Chambers Academy football” by Daniel Evans

Division C

1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Rodeo” by Dee Ann Campbell

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Fun in fair weather” by Keith McCoy

3rd Place: The Monroe Journal (Monroeville) for “DYW Program, BBQ and bikes” by Savannah Weed

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Milestones” by Laura Fezie, Justin Blowers

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Read Across America: Fashion Edition” by Laura Fezie

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “EHS hosts WinShape Camp” by Laura Fezie

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “EJ Bradford Funeral” by Kamp Fender

2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “Showtime” by Todd Lester, Jimmy Mitchell, James Nicholas

3rd Place: Hoover Sun for “Hoover track meet” by Sarah Finnegan

Cat. 27 Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for “Igniter in Chief” by J.D. Crowe

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Legacy of Lynchings Centerpiece” by Take Uda

3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for “Poverty and Proficiency Centerpiece” by Take Uda

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Making the grade” by Santana Wood

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Why don't we vote?” by Elizabeth Law

3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Should teachers be armed?” by Elizabeth Law

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Tracking the Deals” by Derek Morrow, Brent Godwin

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Building Boom Driver” by Derek Morrow, Brent Godwin

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “City Standouts” by Derek Morrow

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Spring Sports Guide” by Slayton Shaw

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Farm-City Week” by Slayton Shaw

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for “'My country, 'tis of thee'” by Michelle Key

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Better Together?” by Kristin Williams

2nd Place: Alabama School Journal for “How Local Schools Lose Money Under the AAA” by ASJ staff

3rd Place: Hoover Sun for “Language lessons” by Kristin Williams

Cat. 28 Best Headline

Division A

1st Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Geese still ruffling feathers” by Bernie Delinski

2nd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Workers wade in, weed out creek” by Bernie Delinski

3rd Place: Dothan Eagle for “Never Tua Late!” by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “What a dope” by Lizi Arbogast

2nd Place: The Cullman Times for “Polar brrr! plunge” by Amanda Shavers

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Pup and away: Chilton County Airport thanks Humane Society helpers” by J.R. Tidwell, Joyanna Love

Division C

1st Place: Tri-City Ledger (Flomaton) for “The boys are back in gown” by Stephanie Cunningham

2nd Place: Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for “Nothing Sour about pickleball” by Mark Clark

3rd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for “Battleplan” by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Demopolis Times for “Saggy Pants Crack Down” by staff

2nd Place: The Moundville Times for “Cereal crime in Moundville - Pair gets into dispute over stale Cap'n Crunch” by Travis Vaughn

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “ECS to ST EMulate elementary minds” by Justin Blowers

Division E

1st Place: The Homewood Star for “Razing concerns” by Erica Techo

2nd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for “Thrill of the thunk” by Sydney Cromwell

3rd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “Workdays getting a 'pup-grade'” by Erica Techo

Cat. 29 Best One-Time Special Section

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Saban & Bryant” by staff

2nd Place: The Decatur Daily for “Opportunity 2018: 200 Years and Counting” by staff

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “200 Years and Counting: Standing the test of time” by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Times for “Profile 2018” by staff

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “A memorial tribute to Mitch Sneed” by staff

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for “Valor, Service, Sacrifice” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “It’s Time to Unleash the Beasts” by staff

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Top Forty Under Forty” by staff

3rd Place: The Advertiser-Gleam (Guntersville) for “Powerfully Pink” by Anthony Campbell and staff

Division D

1st Place: The Eufaula Tribune for “Eufaula Pilgrimage” by Kyle Mooty, Tiffiny Morelli, Penny Carter

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Veterans Day” by staff

3rd Place: Cherokee County Herald (Centre) for “Time Travel Cherokee County” by staff

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “City Guide” by staff

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Real Estate Guide” by staff

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “Veterans Day 2018” by staff

Cat. 30 Best Niche Publication - Newsprint or Glossy

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “High School Football 2018” by staff

2nd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Explore the Shoals” by staff

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “Shoals Woman” by Sherhonda Allen, Lin Reynolds, Cecilia Brumley

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for “Our heritage: Past, present, peaches” by staff

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Itsy's Big Surprise” by staff

3rd Place: The Cullman Times for “Classic Cullman” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Shelby County football 2018” by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Profile 2018” by staff

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for “2018 High School Football Preview” by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Wetumpka Herald for “FYI - Newcomer's Guide” by staff

2nd Place: The Dadeville Record for “Dadeville Magazine” by staff

3rd Place: The Hartselle Enquirer for “Hartselle Visitors + Newcomers Guide” by staff

Division E

1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for “(205) Adventure” by staff

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Metro High School Football Preview Magazine” by staff

3rd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for “Welcome Back issue” by staff

Cat. 31 Creative Use of Multimedia

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Lulu the dog” by staff

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Mapping Birmingham's Homicides” by Ramsey Archibald

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Reckon Radio: Greek Gods” by Amy Yurkanin

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Willie Garrett's story” by Lizi Arbogast

2nd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Walker County Media Day” by staff

3rd Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Game of the Week” by James Phillips, W. Brian Hale

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Watch” by Brent Godwin

2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for “Choctaw SunTV” by staff

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “What young professionals think about Birmingham” by staff

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Faith is his foundation” by Michelle Mann, Cassie Gibbs

2nd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Building boxes for children of courage” by Michelle Mann, Justin Blowers

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “10 questions about the Boll Weevil” by Laura Fezie

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Teacher resigns after racial slur” by Jon Anderson

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Protesters block traffic on US 31” by Jon Anderson

Cat. 32 Online Breaking News Coverage

Division A

1st Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “North Alabama Medical Center” by staff

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Riverchase Galleria shooting and subsequent protests” by Carol Robinson and staff

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for “Stolen Moundville artifacts recovered after 40 years” by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Fiery plane crash” by Mitch Sneed

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for “Fatal fall at the fair” by Mitch Sneed

3rd Place: The Valley Times-News (Lanett) for “Police searching for suspect in Capital City Bank robbery” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Breaking coverage of fatal Galleria police shooting” by Stephen Dawkins

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Kat West murder coverage” by Briana Harris

3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “BJCC stadium project” by Brent Godwin, Ty West, Hanno van der Bijl

Division D

1st Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for “DA Griggers survives ambush; shooter dies” by Tommy McGraw

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for “2nd person arrested for murder of Leslie Clements; Kayla Thursby picked up in Tuscaloosa” by Wendy Sack

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for “Cullman man charged with murder in shooting death of stepfather” by Wendy Sack

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for “Galleria shooting investigation” by Jon Anderson

2nd Place: Hoover Sun for “Teacher uses racial slur” by Jon Anderson

3rd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for “Shooting” by staff

Cat. 33 Best Use of Social Media

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for “Ask Alabama” by Jonathan Sobolewski

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for “Guns: An American Conversation” by Rebecca Walker, Abbey Crain, Michelle Holmes

3rd Place: TimesDaily (Florence) for “#WilsonHighFriends” by staff

Division B

1st Place: The Daily Mountain Eagle (Jasper) for “Walker County Media Day” by staff

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for “Facebook Shoutouts” by staff

3rd Place: The Selma Times-Journal for “Gridiron cover Facebook contest” by staff

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “BBJ Social Media” by staff

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for “Inside the C-Suite” by Hanno van der Bijl

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for “Weekly football show” by Alec Etheredge

Division D

1st Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Community issue poll” by Cassie Gibbs

2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for “Tribune reporter William Craig Mann shows off some of the hail that fell around his home” by W.C. Mann

3rd Place: The Southeast Sun (Enterprise) for “Scavenger hunt” by Laura Fezie

Division E

1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “The Redstone Rocket Facebook” by Katie Davis Skelley

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for “The Redstone Rocket Instagram” by Katie Davis Skelley

3rd Place: Leeds Tribune for “Leeds Tribune engages thousands of readers via live video on social media platforms” by Cindy Fisher, Annette McGuire