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APA Media Awards Editorial Contest Select Category Winners Announced

Birmingham, AL (June 26, 2022) – Winners in select categories of the 2022 Alabama Press Association Media Awards have been announced by Dee Ann Campbell, chairman of the AMA Contest Committee. This year, 52 publications submitted 1,858 entries in the annual editorial contest. The Illinois Press Association membership judged the entries.

First place awards in select (to be announced) categories and divisions were recognized at the 2022 APA Summer Convention banquet awards program.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Best Newspaper Website

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star for www.annistonstar.com

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for www.dothaneagle.com

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for www.oanow.com

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for www.alexcityoutlook.com

3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for www.clantonadvertiser.com

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for www.shelbycountyreporter.com

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for www.bbj.com

3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for www.lagniappemobile.com

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for www.selmasun.com

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for www.thegreenvillestandard.com

3rd Place: Opelika Observer for www.opelikaobserver.com

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for www.hooversun.com

2nd Place: The Auburn Plainsman for www.theplainsman.com

3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for www.trussvilletribune.com

Best Production and Printing

Division A

1st Place: Dothan Eagle

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) by Lee Champion, Mac Davis

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Noah Galilee, Dustin Isom, staff

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile)

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

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

Division D

1st Place: The Greenville Standard

2nd Place: Opelika Observer

Division E

1st Place: The Birmingham Times

2nd Place: Hoover Sun

3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Best Public Service

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Vaccine Q&A Statewide"* by staff
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"School Closures & School Start 2021"* by Alabama Education Lab
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Windfall: How to spend \$13 million in federal pandemic relief money"* by Tim Lockette

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Alexander City Schools new high school saga"* by Siri Hedreen
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Five names added to Cullman WW1 memorial after Tribune reporter discovers forgotten warriors"* by W.C. Mann
3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for *"Double, triple check your surroundings"* by Emily Kirby

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Tornado coverage"* by staff
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Soft Landings at the University of Alabama"* by Rob Holbert
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Chelsea school system"* by Emily Sparacino, Alec Etheredge, William Marlow

Division D

- 1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Why we chose to get vaccinated"* by staff
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Life South"* by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for *"Data Hero"* by Ingrid Schnader
2nd Place: Hoover Sun for *"2021: What to expect"* by Jon Anderson
3rd Place: Hoover Sun for *"Brock's Gap Debate: History buffs raise concerns over new parkway"* by Jon Anderson

Cat. 01 Best Editorial Page or Section

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star
2nd Place: Dothan Eagle by Bill Perkins

Division B

- 1st Place: The Selma Times-Journal by James Jones
2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Ty West, Stephanie Rebman
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown)
3rd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) by Denise DuBois and staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Leader (Demopolis) by Tommy Campbell, Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: The Tuskegee News
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman by Destini Ambus, staff

Cat. 02 Best Lifestyle/Family Pages

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser by Joyanna Love

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

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

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun

Cat. 03 Best Sports Coverage

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle

Division B

1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News

2nd Place: The Cullman Times

3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by Alec Etheredge

2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) by staff

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) by staff

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer by Wil Crews

2nd Place: The Tuskegee News by Guy Rhodes

3rd Place: The Atmore Advance by Andrew Garner

Division E

1st Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) by Kyle Parmley

2nd Place: The Homewood Star by Kyle Parmley, Erin Nelson

3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune by Erik Harris

Cat. 04 Best Local Economic Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle by staff
2nd Place: The Anniston Star by staff

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times by Amy Henderson, Benjamin Bullard
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser by staff
3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Angel Coker, Avalon Pernell, Marie Leech
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer by staff
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard by staff
3rd Place: The Tuskegee News by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star by Ingrid Schnader, Erin Nelson

Cat. 05 Best Local Education Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser by Krista Johnson
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group
3rd Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News by Mike Eads, Alex Hosey
2nd Place: The Cullman Times by Amy Henderson, Benjamin Bullard, Tyler Hanes
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Tyler Patchen
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer
2nd Place: The Tuskegee News
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

- 1st Place: Vestavia Voice by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson

Cat. 06 Best Local News Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle
2nd Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard
3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) by Tommy Campbell, Dee Ann Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: Vestavia Voice by Neal Embry, Erin Nelson
2nd Place: The Homewood Star
3rd Place: The Birmingham Times

Cat. 07 Best Use of Photographs/Editorial Content

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle
2nd Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

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

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Bob Farley, Catie Peterson
2nd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard
2nd Place: Opelika Observer

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun by Erin Nelson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

Cat. 08 Best Layout and Design

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle
2nd Place: The Anniston Star

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro)
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune by Dustin Isom
3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal by Catie Peterson, Samantha Gut
3rd Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) by Dee Ann Campbell

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard
2nd Place: Opelika Observer

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun by Melanie Viering, Kristin Williams, Ted Perry
2nd Place: The Birmingham Times by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) by Kelley Lane

Cat. 09 Best Spot News Story

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"Ohathee couple recounts surviving the storm, losing a neighbor"* by Bill Wilson
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Young victims of I-65 pileup were traveling home from beach trip when tragedy struck"* by Krista Johnson
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *"Rally held in Brookwood to support Warrior Met Coal mine strike"* by Jason Morton

Division B

- 1st Place: The Gadsden Times for *"Grateful for Justice"* by Donna Thornton
2nd Place: The Cullman Times for *"It was so scary"* by Benjamin Bullard, Amanda Shavers
3rd Place: The Gadsden Times for *"Accused man's vindication"* by Donna Thornton

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Levon Manzie's mother withdraws from appointment"* by Dale Liesch
2nd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for *"Fire destroys family apartment | Man arrested for obstruction; community raises support for victims"* by Elizabeth Summers
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Tornadoes rip through county"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Singleton among plaintiffs"* by Dee Ann Campbell
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Man survives 80-foot fall"* by Madelyn Wolfe, Tammy Andrews
3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"School lunches"* by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman for *"Auburn students protest sexual assault, University response"* by Kara Mautz
- 2nd Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for *"Trussville welcomes home service member from Afghanistan"* by Gary Lloyd
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Worker does right thing by reporting young fawn"* by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 10 Best In-Depth News Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"West 15th Street: Historic black business district faces challenge of reinvention"* by staff
- 2nd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Destination Downtowns"* by staff
- 3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Deadly Tornado"* by staff

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Graphite Mine"* by Siri Hedreen
- 2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Faculty Fracas at Auburn University"* by Mike Eads
- 3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Infusions: 'All we've got'"* by Dimon Kendrick-Holmes

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Tornadoes"* by Alec Etheredge, Emily Sparacino
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Chelsea school system"* by Emily Sparacino, Alec Etheredge, William Marlow
- 3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Amazon ongoing coverage"* by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: The Baldwin Times for *"One year with Covid-19"* by staff
- 2nd Place: The Baldwin Times for *"Deadly year for rip currents on the Gulf"* by Allison Marlow
- 3rd Place: Selma Sun for *"Selma Police Department in Crisis"* by Brad Fisher, Todd Prater

Division E

- 1st Place: The Birmingham Times for *"Birmingham and COVID 19 One Year Later & Birmingham and COVID 19 A Look Back"* by Erica Wright, Ameera Stewart
- 2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for *"Taking the final step"* by Jesse Chambers
- 3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for *"Election 2021"* by Jesse Chambers, Eric Taunton, Eric Velasco

Cat. 11 Best Business Story or Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Alabama's aging Black farmers uncertain about future as they struggle to create lines of succession"* by Safiya Charles
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Striking Alabama coal miners endure arrests, see little progress: 'We're just standing together'"* by William Thornton
- 3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Local Airbnb rentals draw NASCAR fans, mountain bikers"* by Phillip Tutor

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"More than a copy shop"* by Abbey Crank
- 2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"How adding breakfast helped Byron's Smokehouse"* by Abbey Crank

3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *“What's coming to the Landings (hint: it's not Topgolf)”* by Lauren Johnson

Division C

1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *“Bite out of profits”* by Avalon Pernell

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *“New big problem”* by Angel Coker

3rd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for *“FIT FOR THE FUTURE | SMPA provides engine for community health, economic impact”* by Daniel Taylor

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer for *“Isaac's Homemade Lemonade A Hit”* by Hannah Lester

2nd Place: Selma Sun for *“Post-COVID economy plays out in Selma-Dallas County”* by Brad Fisher

3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *“NO SHORT CUTS”* by Bruce Branum

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for *“Developers seek to relocate nearly 2,000 homesites to Alabama 150”* by Jon Anderson

2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for *“Crestline Bagel marks 25 years”* by Jesse Chambers

3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for *“Building a brand”* by Jesse Chambers

Cat. 12 Best Feature Story Coverage

Division A

1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *“Fire in a once-thriving neighborhood reveals 40 years of city indifference”* by Hadley Hitson, Keith Sharon

2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *“Arthur Madison launched a Montgomery voter registration drive in 1944 – and paid a price”* by Brian Lyman

3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *“Tuscaloosa man believes he has solved one of the state's oldest mysteries”* by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *“Blake Shirah's journey”* by Zachary Seifter

2nd Place: The Cullman Times for *“Freedom Riders 60th anniversary”* by Amy Henderson

3rd Place: The Cullman Times for *“I know some of it is not going to get better”* by Amy Henderson

Division C

1st Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *“Oscar Doty uses art to combat anxiety”* by Denise DuBois

2nd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for *“‘Hard work won't kill nobody' | Poplar Springs native turns 100”* by Daniel Taylor

3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *“Long Road Home”* by Kristen Echols

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer for *“Tackling Opportunities: OHS Football Alum Making Waves in TV Industry”* by Wil Crews

2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *“I want to remember, even through the tragedy”* by Hannah Lester

3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *“Cousins recall the role of their uncle in civil rights movement”* by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Birmingham Times for *"Dr. Jesse J. Lewis Sr: The drive of a Birmingham business Legend"* by Barnett Wright
- 2nd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for *"In the eye of God"* by Neal Embry
- 3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for *"Champion of Change"* by Neal Embry

Cat. 13 Best News Feature Story Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Montgomery's deadly 2020: 75 killed, the pain caused and the questions unanswered"* by Krista Johnson, Kirsten Fiscus
- 2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *"From frontlines to ventilator to recovery"* by Peggy Ussery
- 3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *"A remarkable man': Nick Saban's success on field benefits city"* by Jason Morton

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Friends remember Dr. Wayne Patterson"* by DeWayne Patterson
- 2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"Special needs book"* by Joyanna Love
- 3rd Place: The Cullman Times for *"Sweet taste of success"* by Benjamin Bullard

Division C

- 1st Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for *"Inmates save life of Marshall County corrections officer who was attacked, stabbed"* by Elizabeth Summers
- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Stress levels for caregivers rose along with hospitalizations"* by Lynn Oldshue
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Couple rescued from rubble of collapsed trailer following tornado"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Family still clings to hope"* by Tommy Campbell
- 2nd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"No better treatment anywhere"* by Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Herbert takes over as new OIC of Wedge"* by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for *"We're No. 2"* by Jesse Chambers
- 2nd Place: Hoover Sun for *"The 'Fixer-Upper:' County Manager, former Mayor Tony Petelos"* by Jon Anderson
- 3rd Place: The Homewood Star for *"Proposed townhome development revives a familiar struggle for Rosedale residents"* by Ingrid Schnader

Cat. 14 Best Editorial

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"Welcome to the school lunch table, Rep. Rogers"* by James Bennett
- 2nd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Anniston can learn from other downtown success stories"* by James Bennett
- 3rd Place: Dothan Eagle for *"The bail question"* by Bill Perkins

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for *"Mo Brooks wrong on Juneteenth vote"* by Amy Henderson
2nd Place: The Cullman Times for *"An attack against democracy"* by Amy Henderson
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Masks in school"* by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Mad about actual problems"* by Ty West
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Weathering the storm together"* by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for *"A Plea to the GOP: Get vaccinated"* by Jeff Martin

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *"Not Only a World Crisis Human Trafficking Happens in Lee County, Too"* by Greg Markley
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"NIL is Good for Fans, Better for Players, Great for NCAA"* by Wil Crews
3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for *"Let Sunshine in"* by Tommy McGraw

Division E

- 1st Place: The Auburn Plainsman for *"Auburn, you have to choose"* by Destini Ambus
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Just a fact: Actualities aren't subject to debate"* by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 15 Best Humorous Column

Division A

- 1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *"It's time to get serious; candy season is upon us"* by Gary Cosby Jr.
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"White men can't email; not anymore"* by Roy S. Johnson
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"An online etiquette quiz"* by Lisa Davis

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Honey, they shrunk the graham crackers"* by David Carroll
2nd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for *"The Great Biscuit Showdown"* by Steven Stiefel
3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Why a recent school board meeting reminded of 'Elf'"* by Dimon Kendrick-Holmes

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Hidden Agenda — The Humor Columns of Ashley Trice"* by Ashley Trice
2nd Place: The Sand Mountain Reporter (Albertville) for *"My dog's coffee addiction"* by Daniel Taylor
3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for *"Writer's block or pandemic blues"* by Jeff Martin

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *"A Gaggle, a Murder and a Bugle-Nosed Bass"* by Wendy Hodge
2nd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Dy-no-mite"* by Roger Etheredge
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"To erase or not erase?"* by Tammy Andrews

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Returning turtle to the wild was traumatic"* by Jonathan Stinson
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Growing restless waiting on sleep study"* by Jonathan Stinson

Cat. 16 Best Human Interest Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The true legacy of Black Wall Street? I lived it; my father, a massacre witness, embodied it"* by Roy S. Johnson
- 2nd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *"Family portrait speaks volumes"* by Gary Cosby Jr.
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Faith, foolishness and COVID 'Final Destination' Syndrome"* by Kyle Whitmire

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Papaw's truck is still a blessing"* by David Carroll
- 2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal for *"Fondly remembering an old classmate"* by James Jones
- 3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"I have faith we are getting there"* by David Carroll

Division C

- 1st Place: The Choctaw Sun-Advocate (Gilbertown) for *"Daddy's Box"* by Dee Ann Campbell
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"COVID-19 is not discriminatory"* by Daniel Holmes
- 3rd Place: The Montgomery Independent for *"Zoom night and imaginary trips"* by Jeff Martin

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *"FOLLOW ME"* by Wendy Hodge
- 2nd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Little red shoes"* by Dee Ann Campbell
- 3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Is it just me or is the world going crazy"* by Roger Etheredge

Division E

- 1st Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for *"Understanding a place like Mississippi"* by Gary Lloyd
- 2nd Place: Latino News (Birmingham) for *"Historias de Inmigrantes"* by Norma Guevara Philippe
- 3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"All-girls rock band entertained troops in Vietnam"* by Skip Vaughn

Cat. 17 Best Editorial Column or Commentary

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"White people, here's history your children should learn that you didn't; it won't make them feel bad"* by Roy S. Johnson
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Bodycams reveal a good cop, a bad cop and a mayor who picked the wrong side"* by Kyle Whitmire
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Alabama lawmaker wants to ban critical race theory, so I asked him what it is"* by Kyle Whitmire

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"The perfect picture of courage"* by Dimon Kendrick-Holmes
- 2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"You think we should stop using AP?"* by Dimon Kendrick-Holmes
- 3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Plagiarism-the heist of ideas"* by Christy Perry

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe for *"When nothing is true anymore"* by Ashley Trice
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Workers not lazy, just tired"* by Michelle Love
- 3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"My new perspective on COVID-19"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *"The Influence of One Small Woman"* by Walt Albritton
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Could a Building Named for a Beloved Admiral be Renamed Someday?"* by Greg Markley
3rd Place: The Tuskegee News for *"Police were there to be honored, not for defense"* by Guy Rhodes

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Alabama needs more efficient vaccine distribution for its citizens"*
2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Trussville mask wars are looming on the horizon"* by Scott Buttram

Cat. 18 Best Sports News In-Depth Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The cost of a coaching change in the cutthroat SEC"* by Tom Green
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The Alabama law that would have required Nick Saban to retire at 70"* by Mike Rodak
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The weird law that prevents a lengthy Lane Kiffin contract"* by John Talty

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"From paralyzed to a dream realized: Blake Shirah's journey to founding a college football program"* by Zachary Seifter
2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Tremendous Team"* by Justin Lee
3rd Place: The Gadsden Times for *"JSU's move to Conference USA: The Impact"* by Ehsan Kassim

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"The death of Hank Aaron"* by Tommy Hicks
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Oak Mountain championship run"* by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Thompson state championship coverage"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Belles"* by Bruce Branum
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Media Days"* by Wil Crews, Robert Noles
3rd Place: Selma Sun for *"It's a guess how gobbler season will go this year"* by Todd Prater

Cat. 19 Best Sports Single Event Story

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"Happy birthday, John Grass, as Gamecocks find their footing on the ground again"* by Mark Edwards
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Bo Nix quiets the noise, takes command for Auburn in win at LSU"* by Tom Green
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Pahman's pop: Junior's big day at the plate lifts Faith, leaves dad 'proud'"* by Joe Medley

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for *"'OUR GIRLS BATTLED': Good Hope completes wild comeback, stuns No. 5 Deshler in OT thriller"* by Jake Winfrey

- 2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Hail to the Chiefs"* by Jason Bowen
3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Iron Bowl Agony"* by Jordan Hill, Justin Lee, Jake Weese

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Wild finish gives Faith Academy 6A baseball title"* by Tommy Hicks
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Rivers gets new career started in big way"* by Tommy Hicks
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"St. Paul's girls headed to soccer Final Four"* by Tommy Hicks

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *"Former Auburn Standout Ace Atkins Talks New Book"* by Wil Crew
2nd Place: Selma Sun for *"Alligator season ends with top two gators caught at Bougue Chitto in Dallas County"* by Todd Prater
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Greenville Tigers claim Class 5A, Area 4 title"* by Bruce Branum

Division E

- 1st Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for *"Hewitt-Trussville wins the Class 7A state softball championship"* by Kyle Parmley
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"USA Patriots show firepower in annual return on 9/11"* by Skip Vaughn
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Hewitt-Trussville wins inaugural flag football title"* by Bobby Mathews

Cat. 20 Best Sports Feature Story

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle for *"I'm not quitting"* by Jon Johnson
2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *"Martin revisits '63 kickoff return"* by Jon Johnson
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The night Alabama's dynasty died"* by Michael Casagrande

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"From paralyzed to a dream realized: Blake Shirah's journey to founding a college football program"* by Zachary Seifter
2nd Place: The Selma Times-Journal for *"Farewell to a Selma High School baseball, football legend"* by James Jones
3rd Place: The Cullman Times for *"A love of the game"* by Jake Winfrey

Division C

- 1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Masters memories abound for Marslender"* by Tommy Hicks
2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Paige Madden's magical, Olympic summer"* by Tommy Hicks
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Dad reunites with son at football game"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: The Tuskegee News for *"Emotional night for Coach Patrick as BTW stadium named for him"* by Guy Rhodes
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Belles"* by Bruce Branum
3rd Place: The Baldwin Times for *"Wrestling Away the spotlight"* by Allison Marlow

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for *“John Carroll Catholic High starts wrestling cheerleader squad, invites cheerleaders to become wrestlers”* by Ingrid Schnader
- 2nd Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for *“Payne leaving her mark on Lady Huskies record book”* by Kyle Parmley
- 3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *“Leeds' Bartee anchors offensive line for Green Wave”* by Bobby Mathews

Cat. 21 Best Local Sports Column

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *“Where Bobby Bowden was everyone’s friend”* by Joseph Goodman
- 2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *“My take on how Tide won Iron Bowl”* by Jon Johnson
- 3rd Place: Dothan Eagle for *“A sight to behold”* by Jon Johnson

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *“Nobody ever sees it coming”* by Dimon Kendrick-Holmes
- 2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *“Auburn will never 'stick to sports'”* by Justin Lee
- 3rd Place: The News Courier (Athens) for *“Private schools should have own classification”* by Adam Dodson

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Ultimately it is just a game, but it is one that helps with healing”* by Alec Etheredge
- 2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *“Keith McCants R.I.P.”* by Jimmy Wigfield
- 3rd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *“Hooked on Quack”* by John Felsher

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *“The Unmistakable Feelings of Friday Night Lights”* by Wil Crews
- 2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *“Salvaging a Season”* by Harrison Tarr
- 3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *“On this day in sports history”* by Colin MacGuire

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *“We need diversity in football coaches, too”* by Skip Vaughn
- 2nd Place: Hoover Sun for *“Moving state softball tournament a huge success”* by Kyle Parmley
- 3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *“Wallace’s firing feels like wrong decision at wrong time”* by Bobby Mathews

Cat. 22 Best Feature Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *“Anxious Grad”* by Jake Crandall
- 2nd Place: The Anniston Star for *“Courthouse clock maintenance caretaker”* by Stephen Gross
- 3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *“Veterans Handshake”* by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“Flattrackers flying by”* by Martha Needham
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“When Bulls Fly”* by Martha Needham
- 3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“Friday Knight Light”* by Martha Needham

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *"To Our Heroes"* by John O'Dell
2nd Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *"Beauty of Birds"* by Helen Joyce
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"A wood crafter shapes a wooden bowl"* by Keith McCoy

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Running in the leaves"* by Kathy Pickens
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Prehistoric surprise"* by staff
3rd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Sharing Secrets"* by Robert Noles

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for *"When I Hold You"* by Erin Nelson
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for *"Sweet Rewards"* by Erin Nelson
3rd Place: The Birmingham Times for *"Adi Devta Kaur brings yoga to overlooked communities"* by Joe Songer

Cat. 23 Best News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Dothan Eagle for *"Wiregrass Memorial Day Service"* by Jay Hare
2nd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Man dies of COVID after refusing to leave his sick wife"* by Stephen Gross
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Korean War veteran at memorial wall"* by Bill Wilson

Division B

- 1st Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for *"Controlled burn conducted"* by Steven Stiefel
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Couple's Home Burns"* by Siri Hedreen
3rd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"Habitat home dedication"* by Joyanna Love

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Matthew Blount's father Barry Blount in front of his son's tombstone"* by Keith McCoy
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"McWane IMAX"* by Bob Farley
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Alabaster July Fourth celebration"* by Keith McCoy

Division D

- 1st Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Controlled burn"* by Tommy Campbell
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"T.A. Newton is celebrated"* by Bruce Branum
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Hank Fest Dave Dickinson"* by Bruce Branum

Division E

- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Overload"* by Ron Burkett
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Explosive finale"* by Eric Schultz
3rd Place: Iron City Ink (Birmingham) for *"Woodfin wins reelection"* by Erin Nelson

Cat. 24 Best Spot News Photo

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Morning after tornado"* by Mickey Welsh

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *“Wreck on Ross Clark Circle injures four”* by Jay Hare
3rd Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *“Body of Missing Student Found”* by Gary Cosby Jr.

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“Colony mayor files ethics complaint against council member”* by W.C. Mann
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *“Head-on collision”* by Jake Arthur
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *“Taps”* by Danielle Kirkland

Division C

1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *“Little Girl Saved”* by Willie Gray
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“House flattened by tornado”* by Alec Etheredge
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Waterlogged”* by Keith McCoy

Division D

1st Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *“Lineville Fire destroys home”* by Ray Stansell
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *“Country Inn Burns”* by Breanna Minter
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *“Semi crashes into mobile home”* by Bruce Branum

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for *“Greystone tornado damage”* by Erin Nelson
2nd Place: Vestavia Voice for *“Vestavia Flooding”* by Erin Nelson

Cat. 25 Best Sports Photo

Division A

1st Place: The Tuscaloosa News for *“Shania Adams On The Bars”* by Gary Cosby Jr.
2nd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *“State champ coach”* by Jake Crandall
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *“Marcus Lawler makes a running catch as teammate trips him”* by Stephen Gross

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *“Team runs to trophy”* by Jason Bowen
2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *“Player celebrates region title”* by Jason Bowen
3rd Place: The Fort Payne Times-Journal for *“Thrill of Victory”* by Glendon Poe

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Cam Crawford gets horizontal on dunk”* by Keith McCoy
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Catching a dynasty”* by Keith McCoy
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Never wavered”* by Keith McCoy

Division D

1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *“Beck celebrates”* by Kathy Pickens
2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for *“Facemask”* by Kathy Pickens
3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *“Lily VanDyke”* by Kathy Pickens

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun for *“Jags volleyball win state title”* by Erin Nelson

- 2nd Place: Cahaba Sun (Trussville) for *"Casting Shadows"* by Erin Nelson
3rd Place: Village Living (Mountain Brook) for *"Spartans Triumph"* by Erin Nelson

Cat. 26 Best Photo Essay

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"A Star is Horn: Clay County longhorn is a former world record-holder, expert social distancer"* by Stephen Gross
2nd Place: The Anniston Star for *"Daytripping: The waterfalls of northeast Alabama are a cure for summer heat"* by Bill Wilson
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Alabama National Fair opens"* by Mickey Welsh

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Times for *"Trump rally"* by Amanda Shavers
2nd Place: The Cullman Times for *"Sacred Heart School Veterans Day parade"* by Amanda Shavers
3rd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Church Fire"* by Jake Arthur

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"SWOT"* by Bob Farley
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Number Juan"* by Keith McCoy
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Path of destruction"* by Alec Etheredge, Keith McCoy

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *"CityFest"* by Bruce Branum, Josh Dewberry
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Nutcracker"* by John Hillsman
3rd Place: The Leader (Demopolis) for *"Firefighters get valuable training"* by Tommy Campbell

Division E

- 1st Place: The Birmingham Times for *"Joe Minter: An Artist's Legacy"* by Amarr Croskey
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for *"Snapshots"* by Erin Nelson, Kristin Williams
3rd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for *"In the storm's path"* by Erin Nelson, Melanie Viering

Cat. 27 Best Use of Graphics or Illustrations

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"Freedom Riders: Now and Then"* by Stephen Gross
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Birmingham has a homicide problem. Here's what the mayor says needs to be done"* by Ramsey Archibald
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Alabama's new redistricting maps"* by Brian Lyman, Mel Fronczek

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Worse than meth"* by Elizabeth Law
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"Life as Claus"* by Joyanna Love
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Dealing with debt"* by Elizabeth Law

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Amazon's Alabama effect"* by Catie Peterson
2nd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *"Halloween staff picks"* by Denise DuBois
3rd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *"Follow a pint of blood"* by Brad Beasley

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Taxes cartoon"* by Alex Oswald
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Music"* by Michelle Key
3rd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Freedom"* by Michelle Key, Robert Noles

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Redstone timeline"* by Emily Strickland
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"United we stand"* by Emily Strickland

Cat. 28 Best Headline

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"This little piggy went to Ross Street"* by Bill Edwards
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"'I'm sorry, but it's too late': Alabama doctor on treating unvaccinated, dying COVID patients"* by Challen Stephens
3rd Place: The Anniston Star for *"E.T., phone Fyffe"* by Bill Edwards

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Axe marks the spot! – Axe throwing comes to Cullman's west side"* by W.C. Mann
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Clean-up on Aisle 1"* by staff
3rd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Trouble at Del Ranch"* by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Call News (Citronelle) for *"Hooked on Quack"* by John Felsher
2nd Place: Lagriappe (Mobile) for *"Quid Pro Tow"* by Gabriel Tynes
3rd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *"It may be trivia, but it's not trivial"* by Mark Clark

Division D

- 1st Place: The Moundville Times for *"Drop the cookie and come outside"* by Travis Vaughn
2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"We Meat Again"* by staff
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Wood you drive this truck?"* by Breanna Minter

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for *"Smith's hope to be spark in Bluff Park with The Electric"* by Jon Anderson
2nd Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for *"A hobby with sweet rewards"* by Leah Eagle, Erin Nelson
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Diggin' up bones of the past: Trussville collector shows off thousands of artifacts"* by Erica Thomas

Cat. 29 Best Special Section-Newsprint

Division A

- 1st Place: The Anniston Star for *"Freedom Riders 60th Anniversary"* by staff

Division B

- 1st Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"Resilient Lee: The story of how Lee County joined together to fight the pandemic"* by staff
2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News for *"High School Football Section"* by Justin Lee, Jordan Hill
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Letters to Santa"* by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Profile"* by staff
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Best Places to Work"* by staff
3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Gridiron Guide 2021"* by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for *"Outdoor Section, Fall 2021"* by staff
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Christmas section"* by staff
3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for *"Black History Edition"* by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Birmingham Times for *"A History of Black History"* by Chandra Sparks Splond, Kathryn Sesser Dorne
2nd Place: Hoover Sun for *"Real Estate Guide"* by Marshall Malone, Melanie Viering
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Veterans Day 2021"* by staff

Cat. 30 Best Niche Publication - Newsprint or Glossy

Division B

- 1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Chamber Magazine"* by staff
2nd Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"Kickoff 2021"* by Zachary Seifter, Brandon Sumrall
3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Gridiron Guide 2021"* by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Book of Lists"* by Dan Bagwell
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Profile"* by staff
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Football magazine"* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: North Jackson Press (Stevenson) for *"State Champs"* by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for *"Under the Lights High School Football Preview"* by Kyle Parmley, Melanie Viering, staff
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Space and Missile Defense Symposium"* by staff
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Global Force"* by staff

Cat. 31 Creative Use of Multimedia

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Montgomery's violent year"* by Krista Johnson, Kirsten Fiscus
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"High poverty public schools"* by Trisha Powell Crain
3rd Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Covid in Montgomery public schools: 7 deaths in 2 months"* by Krista Johnson, Nick Alvarez

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *"Alexander City's First United Methodist Church fire"* by Cliff Williams

Division C

- 1st Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *"Williams WHISKS makes really good dough"* by Denise DuBois, Brad Beasley
- 2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"2021 now Mobile's deadliest year on record"* by Scott Johnson
- 3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Crane Watch"* by staff

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for *"Spotlight weekly newscast"* by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland, Todd Prater
- 2nd Place: Selma Sun for *"Spotlight Podcast"* by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater
- 3rd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Column Collection"* by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: The Homewood Star for *"Homewood centenarian dishes advice on how to live longer"* by Ingrid Schnader
- 1st Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Trussville Unscripted"* by Ron Burkett, Brannon Dawkins, Scott Buttram
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Tribune Sports Live"* by Hannah Curran, Bobby Mathews, Zach Steele

Cat. 32 Online Breaking News Coverage

Division A

- 1st Place: Montgomery Advertiser for *"Fiery I-65 wreck"* by staff
- 2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Tornado Coverage"* by staff
- 3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Two-year-old Major Turner killed"* by Carol Robinson

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Plane crashes near Cullman Regional Airport"* by Wendy Sack, W.C. Mann, Christy Perry
- 2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Possible road rage leads to shooting near Good Hope Baptist Church (Update)"* by Noah Galilee
- 3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Former mayor faces five criminal charges"* by staff

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Major flooding event hits Shelby County"* by Alec Etheredge, Emily Sparacino
- 2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Tornado breaking news coverage"* by Alec Etheredge, Emily Sparacino
- 3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Stimpson's appointment to serve District 2 withdraws, felony conviction may have played role"* by Dale Liesch

Division D

- 1st Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Remains of two found in burnt car"* by Bruce Branum
- 2nd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Greenville to explore city school"* by Bruce Branum
- 3rd Place: The Greenville Standard for *"Semi crashes into mobile home"* by Bruce Branum

Division E

- 1st Place: 280 Living (Birmingham) for *"In the storm's path"* by Leah Eagle, Erin Nelson
- 2nd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Boom truck crashes through 2 homes"* by Hannah Caver

3rd Place: Hoover Sun for *"Hoover parents plead with school board to stop mask mandate"* by Jon Anderson

Cat. 33 Best Use of Social Media

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Ivana's Lunch Break Live"* by Ivana Hrynkiw

Division B

1st Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Facebook Feedback"* by staff

2nd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"Father's Day"* by staff

3rd Place: Jackson County Sentinel (Scottsboro) for *"First Day of School"* by staff

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Instagram Reels"* by staff

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Social media"* by staff

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Pregame Show"* by staff

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for *"Instagram Page"* by Chico Cleveland

2nd Place: Opelika Observer for *"Southern Union student from Auburn is missing"* by Hannah Lester, Michelle Key

3rd Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for *"Randy Lee Wade"* by Kasey DeCastra

Division E

1st Place: Latino News (Birmingham) for *"Ayudemos a Ivan Cruz"* by staff

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Facebook Page"* by staff

Cat. 34 Best Podcast Series

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"The Reckon Interview"* by John Hammontree

2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Outbreak Alabama"* by Ben Flanagan

3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Bammers"* by Ben Flanagan

Division C

1st Place: Lagniappe (Mobile) for *"Lagnia-Pod"* by staff

2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *"Shelby County Live Pregame Show"* by Alec Etheredge

3rd Place: The Alabama Baptist for *"Stories: Season 3"* by Grace Thornton, Hannah Muñoz

Division D

1st Place: Selma Sun for *"Spotlight"* by Todd Prater

Cat. 35 Best Use of Video (Shorter than 2 minutes)

Division A

1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"WWII vet gets dream ride around Talladega"* by Ivana Hrynkiw, Jonathan Sobolewski

- 2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *“Wooden Spoons by Orran Scruggs”* by Peggy Ussery
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *“Girls Ranch CEO talks Butler County crash victims”* by Ivana Hrynkiw

Division B

- 1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *“Quick Takes-Covid”* by staff
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“Austin Selmen talks about a possible tornado that struck his home in Simcoe”* by W.C. Mann

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Polar Express reel”* by Meg Herndon
2nd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“October Haunted House”* by Meg Herndon
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“9-11 reel”* by Meg Herndon

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for *“Devastating Fire”* by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland
2nd Place: Selma Sun for *“Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee goes virtual”* by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *“Community members welcome veterans at Huntsville International Airport”*
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *“How to receive push notifications on Digital Garrison”*
3rd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *“CSM Juan Jimenez encourages Redstone to contribute to this year's Combined Federal Campaign”*

Cat. 36 Best Use of Video (Longer than 2 minutes)

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *“Interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci”* by Ivana Hrynkiw
2nd Place: Dothan Eagle for *“McGriff Family Farm Barn Swap”* by Peggy Ussery
3rd Place: Alabama Media Group for *“Alabama’s high flying schools”* by Amanda Khorramabadi

Division B

- 1st Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“CHS pays tribute to Will Fowler”* by Christy Perry
2nd Place: The Outlook (Alexander City) for *“9/11 Series”* by staff
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *“‘Christmas at the Grotto’ opens for season”* by W.C. Mann

Division C

- 1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Election Forums”* by Keith McCoy
2nd Place: The Messenger (Gadsden) for *“The Great Gadsden Bake Off”* by staff
3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana) for *“Shelby County Live Pregame Show”* by Alec Etheredge

Division D

- 1st Place: Opelika Observer for *“Bomb Threat at OHS”* by Hannah Lester, Michelle Key
2nd Place: Selma Sun for *“Live at COVID Drive-Thru Clinic”* by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland
3rd Place: Selma Sun for *“Doctor gets COVID shot to reassure community of its safety”* by Cindy Fisher, Chico Cleveland

Division E

- 1st Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Redstone Remembers: Operation Desert Storm | Don Bisson"*
2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville) for *"Redstone Remembers: Operation Desert Storm | Brian Marr"*
3rd Place: The Trussville Tribune for *"Tribune Sports Live"* by Hannah Curran, Bobby Mathews, Zach Steele

Cat. 37 Best Community Event

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"COVID-19 Town Halls"* by Ivana Hrynkiw, Sydney Batten
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"High Flyers Project"* by Alabama Education Lab

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Women's Summit 2021"* by Stephanie Rebman
2nd Place: The Messenger (Gadsden) for *"The Great Gadsden Bake Off"* by staff
3rd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Leaders in Diversity and Inclusion"* by Ty West

Division D

- 1st Place: Selma Sun for *"New office ribbon cutting"* by staff
2nd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Kids fire prevention and safety camp"* by Tammy Andrews, Breanna Minter, Bella Young
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Summer Sizzle"* by staff

FOI-First Amendment Award

Division A

- 1st Place: Alabama Media Group for *"Battling Policy Secrecy"* by Ashley Remkus, Challen Stephens
2nd Place: Alabama Media Group for *"No one was talking about CRT"* by Trisha Powell Crain

Division B

- 1st Place: The Clanton Advertiser for *"Getting involved in government"* by Joyanna Love
2nd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"I think we are doing it wrong a lot, but some people are doing it right"* by Christy Perry
3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune for *"Retired Army SSGT. becomes first resident of new veteran housing complex Connie's Cottages"* by Christy Perry

Division C

- 1st Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Follow the Money"* by staff
2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal for *"Wealthiest ZIP codes"* by Dan Bagwell, Ty West
3rd Place: The Citizen of East Alabama (Phenix City) for *"Red Light Cameras"* by Toni Shah

Division D

- 1st Place: Sumter County Record-Journal (Livingston) for *"Commission chair pay raise"* by Tommy McGraw, Herman Ward
2nd Place: The Moundville Times for *"Akron financial woes, crimes?"* by Travis Vaughn
3rd Place: The Clay Times-Journal (Lineville) for *"Why we chose to get vaccinated"* by staff

Division E

- 1st Place: Hoover Sun for *"Hoover Recreation Center membership hit hard by COVID-19"* by Jon Anderson

General Excellence

Division A

1st Place: The Anniston Star

2nd Place: Dothan Eagle

Division B

1st Place: The Outlook (Alexander City)

2nd Place: Opelika-Auburn News

3rd Place: The Cullman Tribune

Division C

1st Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

2nd Place: Birmingham Business Journal

3rd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile)

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard

3rd Place: Selma Sun

Division E

1st Place: Hoover Sun

2nd Place: The Redstone Rocket (Huntsville)

3rd Place: The Birmingham Times

Most Improved

Division B

1st Place: The Cullman Tribune

Division C

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

2nd Place: Lagniappe (Mobile)

3rd Place: Shelby County Reporter (Columbiana)

Division D

1st Place: Opelika Observer

2nd Place: The Greenville Standard

Division E

1st Place: Vestavia Voice

Story of the Year

Montgomery Advertiser for *“Alabama's aging Black farmers uncertain about future as they struggle to create lines of succession”* by Safiya Charles

Photo of the Year

The Trussville Tribune for *“Overload”* by Ron Burkett