



**EDITORIAL  
CONTEST  
WINNERS  
FOR 2018**



**THE NORTH CAROLINA  
PRESS ASSOCIATION**

# 2018 WILLIAM C. LASSITER AWARD

**SINCE 1988, THIS ANNUAL AWARD HAS GONE TO FIRST AMENDMENT PROPONENTS IN MANY WALKS OF LIFE. SOME OF THE PAST WINNERS INCLUDE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, STATE LAWMAKERS, PROFESSORS, LAWYERS.**

**This special award was named in honor of the late William C. Lassiter, a former NCPA general counsel and recognizes members of the public who have made significant contributions in support of open government.**



## REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL SETZER

**(R) North Carolina**  
State Representative -  
North Carolina House District 89  
*Catawba County*

In recent years, it can be difficult to find a friend of journalism in the state legislature.

We understand. As politics grow more divisive, the skins of our elected leaders seem to get thinner. And these powerful men and women do not particularly cotton to being challenged, investigated or held accountable. But I am happy to say journalism does have supporters on Jones Street.

One of them is Mitchell Setzer. Mitchell is a Republican lawmaker and represents Catawba County. He's been in the legislature for 20 years. He is known in his home county as a man who works not for his interests but in the interest of his constituents.

And he believes an informed citizen is a better citizen. That's why he remains a first amendment advocate.

Mitchell keeps the press association informed of potential hurdles in the legislature. He stands up for freedom of the press repeatedly in his votes and in his actions – especially in committee. More than once he has stood on the side of freedom and knowledge when others conspired to provide less access to important government actions.

He understands the crucial role of the press better than most. He knows what is written in his hometown paper will not always be appealing to an elected official. But he knows the folks who work

there and that he can call and discuss a report if he is unhappy.

And he knows that his mother reads the paper. Mitchell Setzer is one of the longest-serving members of the House. That is not by accident. He's earned the trust of his Catawba County constituents by being forthright and accountable. He expects no more or less of the press. Sounds about right.

Tonight we honor Mitchell for his commitment to open government and his resolve to keep the good people of this state informed. Please join me in recognizing Mitchell Setzer as this year's recipient of the William C. Lassiter First Amendment Award.

### Past Lassiter Award Winners

- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1988 | Congressman Cass Ballenger   | 2001 | Rep. Robert Grady   |
| 1989 | Rep. George Miller   | 2002 | Rep. Jennifer Weiss   |
| 1990 | Elmer Oettinger, N.C. Institute of Government  | 2003 | Hugh Stevens, NCPA Counsel Emeritus                                   |
| 1991 | The Hon. James H. Pou Bailey, Retired Senior Judge, 10th Judicial District           | 2004 | The Hon. Wanda G. Bryant, N.C. Court of Appeals                       |
| 1992 | Sharon Pennell, Journalism Professor, ASU Member, Caldwell County Board of Education | 2005 | Mark Swanger, Haywood, County Commissioner                            |
| 1993 | Senator Marc Basnight  | 2006 | Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina                                    |
| 1994 | Dr. Gene Lanier, East Carolina University  | 2007 | Joe Sinsheimer  |
| 1995 | Franz Holsher, Gastonia City Council   | 2008 | Tom McClure and Eldridge Painter of Sylva and Jim Rowell of Cullowhee |
| 1996 | Dr. Margaret Blanchard, UNC-CH School of Journalism & Mass Communication             | 2009 | No winner   |
| 1997 | Mayor Tom Gwyn, Elkin, N.C.  | 2010 | Cathy Packer  |
| 1998 | Senator Roy Cooper   | 2011 | No winner   |
| 1999 | Senator David Hoyle  | 2014 | Rep. Marilyn Avila  |
| 2000 | Attorney Jon Buchan  | 2015 | Sen. Norman Sanderson   |
|      |  | 2016 | C. Amanda Martin  |
|      |  | 2017 | Cody Henson   |

# HUGH MORTON PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

**Daily Newspaper Winner**

**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits

**SEE MORE:** Page 46



**Community Newspaper Winner**

**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
Ben Katz

**SEE MORE:** Page 47



### DIVISION A

**inside** Boston College basketball is starting two N.C. players, Sports

75 cents

**THE NEWS REPORTER**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The News • Wilmington, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**DOT: Barbee Bridge faces extended closure**

On Interstate 85, the DOT is working to get the Barbee Bridge back open as soon as possible. The bridge is closed for several days, and the DOT is working to get it back open as soon as possible.

**Protesters leave disappointed**

With Union Elementary Supt. delivers reading funds

**County nixes vote on offshore drilling**

Commissioners vote 4-1 to remove resolution from agenda

**Area students hold walkouts**

Protesters demand better conditions

**Lawmakers object to NC maps review by California professor**

Commissioners object to review of state maps by a professor from California

**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

**Tax reform tops to-do list in D.C.**

Lawmakers in Washington are focused on passing tax reform legislation.

**Mueller investigation leads to indictment**

The special counsel's report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election has led to the indictment of several individuals.

**FIRST PLACE**  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

### DIVISION B

March 25, 2018

75 cents

**THE STATE PORT PILOT**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Pilot • Raleigh, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

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**FIRST PLACE**  
STATE PORT PILOT

### DIVISION C

Angel Tree

Clothing donations for children at Christmas

Soccer

Middle school league has party

**The News Reporter**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Reporter • Charlotte, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Bolton murder has residents worried**

'WE'RE LOSING A GENERATION'

Schools move ahead with plans to build

**Mental health care failings, the economy and opioids deal a crushing blow**

Christmas parades in full swing

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**FIRST PLACE**  
NEWS REPORTER

### DIVISION D

Cohen testifies before Congress

Middle school league has party

**The Wilson Times**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Times • Wilson, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Mixing it up with new friends**

Repair funds available for needy homeowners

**Springfield Middle lunch table switch teaches life lessons**

**Rwandan photographer finds brightness with camera**

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**WILSON TIMES**

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**FIRST PLACE**  
WILSON TIMES

04 Coach Briggs named honorary tribal member

06 Groundbreaking held for new Hwy. 19 apartments

08 Tribe offering \$25K reward in ballot tampering case

**Cherokee One Feather**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • One Feather • Cherokee, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**BELOVED WARRIOR**

Lt. Col. Kim Swayney named BRCA Beloved Woman

**Decade of DSS questioned**

Classroom suit alleges gross lack of oversight

**Mobile home fire claims man's life**

16-year-old now charged with murder

**Intake still alive... for now**

**Area students hold walkouts**

Protesters demand better conditions

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**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**

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**SECOND PLACE**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

LOCAL HERO ATTORNEY SAVES CLIENT'S LIFE, 2A

**Cherokee Scout**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Scout • Cherokee, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

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**SECOND PLACE**  
CHEROKEE SCOUT

Spring forward

Championship preview

North Wilkes girls golf team wins PFL title

Friday March 9, 2018

**Wilkes Journal-Patriot**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Patriot • Wilkes-Barre, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

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**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**

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**SECOND PLACE**  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Published by high media for over 100 years

Table Rock

Table Rock

Table Rock

**The News Herald**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Herald • News-Herald, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Missing man found dead**

Body of 52-year-old James Nelson Abrahams of Drexel discovered near home

**VIRTUAL PLAY**

New arcade to bring realistic setting to gaming

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**NEWS HERALD**

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**SECOND PLACE**  
NEWS HERALD

"Voice of the Panthers" hangs up his mic after 40 years

Service to others

**Duplin Times**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Times • Duplin, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Warsaw race may hang on provisional ballots**

Charley Furrion beats Linda Sikas by 11 votes in Wallace

**Municipal election results bring change to some Duplin towns**

Beulaville approves wine sales

**YOU DECIDE 2017**

**Area students hold walkouts**

Protesters demand better conditions

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**DUPLIN TIMES**

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**THIRD PLACE**  
DUPLIN TIMES

TURKEY!

It's your SUNDAY

School board to decide teacher contract policy

**Watauga Democrat**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Democrat • Watauga, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Under pressure?**

More at risk as blood pressure guidelines change

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**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**

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**THIRD PLACE**  
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

THANK YOUR GARDEN TO THE EFFORTS OF 2017

THE PILOT

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Pilot • The Pilot, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**N. Moore Theater Takes State Honors**

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**THIRD PLACE**  
THE PILOT

ROCK SPRINGS RIFLE

NEW EATS ON TAP

**The Gaston Gazette**

A Good Newspaper for Good Causes

Number 7 • The Gazette • Gaston, N.C. • 75 Cents • Published Daily • 7 Days a Week • 1 Year \$10.00

**Medical examiner: Jordyn Dumont bled to death**

**Area students hold walkouts**

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**GASTON GAZETTE**

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**THIRD PLACE**  
GASTON GAZETTE

**DIVISION E**



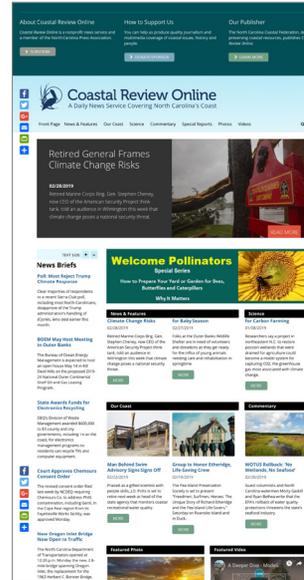
**FIRST PLACE**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

**DIVISION F**



**FIRST PLACE**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

**ONLINE**



**FIRST PLACE**  
**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES**

**DIVISION A**

- 1ST PLACE**  
Cherokee One Feather
- 2ND PLACE**  
Crossroads Chronicle
- 3RD PLACE**  
Hendersonville Lightning

**DIVISION B**

- 1ST PLACE**  
Outer Banks Sentinel
- 2ND PLACE**  
Bladen Journal
- 3RD PLACE**  
Watauga Democrat

**DIVISION C**

- 1ST PLACE**  
Mountaineer
- 2ND PLACE**  
News Reporter
- 3RD PLACE**  
Smoky Mountain News

**DIVISION D**

- 1ST PLACE**  
Wilson Times
- 2ND PLACE**  
Daily Advance
- 3RD PLACE**  
Hendersonville Times-News

**DIVISION E**

- 1ST PLACE**  
StarNews
- 2ND PLACE**  
Daily Reflector
- 3RD PLACE**  
Herald-Sun

**DIVISION F**

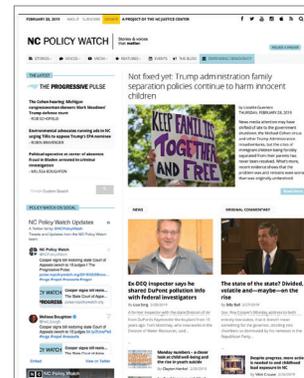
- 1ST PLACE**  
Winston-Salem Journal
- 2ND PLACE**  
Charlotte Observer
- 3RD PLACE**  
News & Record



**SECOND PLACE**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**



**SECOND PLACE**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**



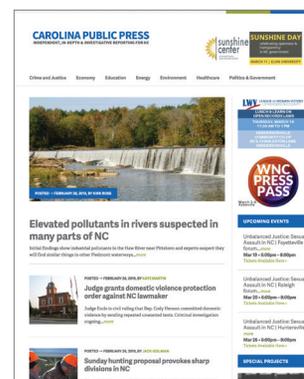
**SECOND PLACE**  
**N.C. POLICY WATCH**



**THIRD PLACE**  
**STARNEWS**



**THIRD PLACE**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**



**THIRD PLACE**  
**CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**

# DIVISION A

Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

### 1st Place

#### HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

*Avery's Oscar Night*

*Terrific storytelling. The tone of the writing is perfect for the subject matter, and the interviewing really captures the excitement of the event.*

### 2nd Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

*Bringing Hope Through Music*

*The reporter conducted an excellent interview that addresses a number of sophisticated topics in a short amount of space. The story offered all of the context needed for a reader unfamiliar with the band.*

### 3rd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Laura Ashley Lamm

*Big house, Titanic fashion*

## BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

### 1st Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

*Beat News Feature - Honor Air, Oct. 4*

*This story was a pleasure to read and made me feel like I was along for the ride.*

### 2nd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

*A Hunter's Best Tool*

*A fun story all around. And this line is a instant classic: "While the cacophony may not have meant much to the hundreds of people roaming the aisles, it likely would have sounded like Barry White to a wild turkey."*

### 3rd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Lauren Rose

*Ready for a Miracle*

## BEAT NEWS REPORTING

### 1st Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

David Larson

*New measure would overhaul ag worker rules*

### 2nd Place

#### CHOWAN HERALD

Miles Layton

*Taylor Theater*

### 3rd Place

#### NEWS-JOURNAL

Catharin Shepard

*Teacher Assaulted In Classroom*

## BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

### 1st Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Staff

*July News*

*Although some of the farm stories contained in these stories are locally also raise issues of national concern over how the food supply is handled and the complexities involved. These stories show some of the concerns on all sides.*

### 2nd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

North State Journal Staff

*The North State Journal Community Reporting*

*the range of stories covered is impressive, as are the issues themselves, from conceal and carry to HIV treatment. Each of these is well written and informative.*

### 3rd Place

#### CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

Don Richeson, Dan Brown

*Best Community Coverage*

*The number of subjects covered and the richness of each is impressive, from disaster to celebration of a U.S. Marine.*

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

### 1st Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Staff

*SENC Magazine - Spring 2018*

### 2nd Place

#### MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Mebane Enterprise staff

*Mebane Enterprise newcomers & visitors guide*

## EDUCATION REPORTING

### 1st Place

#### MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Bailey Pennington

*The Alamance County education bonds*

*The education bonds proposal for the county is very clearly explained. The impact on the public is evident throughout the series of stories. Quotes are used judiciously.*

### 2nd Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

*Education - After Parkland, school safety moves to No. 1 on priority list*

*This story stands out among the series of school safety stories submitted because of its writing style and clarity. Its overview of the issue is particularly comprehensive.*

### 3rd Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

*East Duplin's MentorMe Program*

*This special education program grabs the reader with its quotes and focus on the impact on its participants.*

## NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

### 1st Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES

Staff

*Smoky Mountain Times 1.11.18 & 1.18.18*

*Hundreds of stories have been written about the opioid crisis, but this series shows there is still work to be done and stories still to tell.*

### 2nd Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Lightning Staff

*News Coverage - Community Jan. 10 & Jan. 31*

### 3rd Place

#### ANSON RECORD

Staff

*Sept. 5, 12*

## NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

### 1st Place

#### HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

*Broadband: Full speed ahead*

### 2nd Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

*News Enterprise reporting NIMBY Nation*

### 3rd Place

#### NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

David Donovan

*#Ustoo: Lawyers' stories show harassment a problem at law firms*

## NEWS FEATURE WRITING

### 1st Place

#### HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

*Snakebite*

*All the necessary details, drama and writing are here. Well illustrated, and subheads are pleasing to the reader.*

### 2nd Place

#### CHOWAN HERALD

Miles Layton

*The one that didn't get away -- News feature*

*A fun tale filled with details and some news - biggest in a river? - with a snappy lede and punny, hooky headline.*

### 3rd Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

*Six Days In A Shelter*

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

### 1st Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Trevor Normile

*Two drown in the Northeast Cape Fear River at Hallsville*

### 2nd Place

#### DUPLIN TIMES

Trevor Normile

*Fatalities report*

### 3rd Place

#### ASHE POST & TIMES

Lee Sanderlin

*Terry Buchanan resigns as Ashe County sheriff, charges dismissed*

## SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

### 1st Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Brett Friedlander

*Cricket*

*Not everyday you read a story about cricket in Carolina. Nice read.*

### 2nd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

*Punt or Gamble*

### 3rd Place

#### NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

*Recruiting at North Carolina*

**SPORTS FEATURE WRITING****1st Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Brett Friedlander  
Clays 4 Kay

*A unique take on a charity sport shooting event (for cancer). Gives insight not only into the charity event, but the venue as well. Nicely done.*

**2nd Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Cory Lavalette  
USA Hockey

*This story brings attention to an under-recognized yet indispensable role in youth sports - the referee. This piece on a referee entering in the local Hall of Fame is particularly well-written.*

**3rd Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Shawn Krest  
Stadium Transformation

*Interesting piece on changing over an arena from basketball to hockey - something most fans never see. Well done.*

**APPEARANCE AND DESIGN****1st Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Lauren Rose, Liz Moomey  
NSJ Vol. 2 Issue 53, Vol. 2 Issue 54

*Clearly the class of the division. Beautiful, professional-looking, well-organized design. Wonderful use of photos, maps and other art. Also, effective use of pull quotes, lead-ins, subheads, briefs and other typographic elements. Superb.*

**2nd Place  
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**

Don Richeson

*Appearance and Design  
Nice, clean layouts; readable, well-organized. Like the consumer-friendly directory on page 2. Easy-to-digest election preview section. Refreshing to see newspaper with headlines that count full.*

**3rd Place  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**

Scott Brings Plenty  
Cherokee One Feather

*Sections well-organized, lots of good color, chocked full of local stories, names and faces.*

**BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT****1st Place  
MEBANE ENTERPRISE**

Bailey Pennington  
Lions and tigers and trees, oh my!  
*Fun and visual topic. Good use of weaving visuals and nat sound with the narrative.*

**2nd Place  
MEBANE ENTERPRISE**

Bailey Pennington  
Remembering Mebane's fallen heroes  
*Solemn topic. Solid use of audio.*

**BEST VIDEO****1st Place  
MEBANE ENTERPRISE**

Bailey Pennington  
Mebane's annual Fourth of July parade  
*A well-edited and compiled video with lots of different camera angles and nice voice-over. For an assignment that all of us have had to do, this shows imagination and inspiration as well as a lot of editing. Well done.*

**2nd Place  
MEBANE ENTERPRISE**

Bailey Pennington  
Eagles shut out Cavaliers in game two  
*The videographer captured good action, and was generally well edited. At two-plus minutes watching play after play gets tiring. Viewpoint was right on the sidelines which is compelling.*

**3rd Place  
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**

Don Richeson  
Best Video -- Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival

*Length of video is too long for most viewers, excess of five minutes. Camera angles were not especially well chosen.*

**CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING****1st Place  
GRAHAM STAR**

Gary Corsair  
City County Government / The Graham Star  
*Easily the best written stories of the contest. The reporter has a nice style with leads, making even government reporting engaging. He tackled two local issues and gave depth to the reporting and didn't just cover a meeting. Well done.*

**2nd Place  
NEWS-JOURNAL**

Catharin Shepard  
Group home owner takes mistake to court

*Very well-reported. Reporter got the most affected people in the dispute on the record, showed the error of the government entity wouldn't explain how it screwed up its own process. And the story was told well every step of the way without overwriting it. Excellent job.*

**3rd Place  
ASHE POST & TIMES**

Luke Weir  
Stonebridge Subdivision gains Board of Commissioners support in redistricting blunder

*A pretty good lede and good detail, although too far down in the story, about the options available for solving the fire district problem. The reporter did a good job of laying out the issue.*

**EDITORIAL PAGE****1st Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Neal Robbins, Frank Hill, Troy Kickler  
North State Journal Editorial Section

**2nd Place  
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE**

Ken Ripley  
Viewpoints

**3rd Place  
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**

Don Richeson  
Editorial Pages -- June 6, 13 and 20, 2018

**EDITORIALS****1st Place  
HIGHLANDER**

Brad Spaulding and Dan Brown  
Broadband editorials  
*Knowing nothing about the topic, I found the bundling of these themed editorials interesting, and the message in them.*

**2nd Place  
ANSON RECORD**

Alan Wooten  
Collection: Lawsuit, lawmakers, flooding  
*Clear, concise array of issues, with good arguments that take sides and explain it well.*

**3rd Place  
CHOWAN HERALD**

Miles Layton  
Editorial opinions  
*Good, solid voice on timely, local topics.*

**ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING****1st Place  
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY**

David Donovan  
Judicial Elections series

**2nd Place  
ASHE POST & TIMES**

Luke Weir  
One in 19,000: a conversation with Ashe County's lone Green Party member

**3rd Place  
GRAHAM STAR**

Gary Corsair  
Election / Political / The Graham Star

**FEATURE WRITING****1st Place  
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING**

Bill Moss  
Feature writing, June 6, Aug. 15  
*These are thoughtfully crafted stories that presented a full picture of the subjects' journeys. While meticulously detailed are evocative and compelling. The writer kept me interested, and I wanted to know what happened. Simply very well done.*

**2nd Place  
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**

Shawn Krest  
Carolina DockDogs  
*This charming story catches the spirit of this group. Who knew such a thing existed! The details are presented artfully and paint a very full and detailed picture of the dogs and the people who love and train them. A delightful piece!*

**3rd Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES**

Jessica Webb  
Aging cemetery association wants to ensure stewardship  
*The first paragraph of this story captured me and got me interested. I wanted to find out what was happening and why because of the simple but compelling lead. The writer kept the promise with lots of good details in a not overly long piece which presented a local situation artfully and completely.*

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES****1st Place  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**

Scott Brings Plenty  
Cherokee One Feather  
*It pulls you right in with stories and photos, horizontally and vertically laid out.*

**2nd Place**  
**CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**  
 Don Richeson  
*General Excellence for websites --*  
*www.CrossroadsChronicle.com*

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

**3rd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING**  
 Lightning Staff  
*General Excellence website*

### GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Lindell John Kay  
*No traces of missing man ever found*  
*Very interesting story. Lede is pretty*  
*powerful and weird."*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS-JOURNAL**  
 Catharin Shepard  
*Hurricane Florence*  
*Comprehensive coverage, good art and*  
*solid reporting both before and after the*  
*hurricane.*

**3rd Place**  
**DUPLIN TIMES**  
 Trevor Normile  
*Fallout follows Warsaw Waffle House*  
*arrest*  
*Strong reporting and details about an*  
*important issue.*

### HEADLINE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**  
 Scott Brings Plenty  
*Cherokee One Feather*  
*Clever, concise and attention grabbing.*  
*Good work.*

**2nd Place**  
**DUPLIN TIMES**  
 Trevor Normile  
*Headline Writing*

**3rd Place**  
**GRAHAM STAR**  
 Gary Corsair  
*Headlines / The Graham Star*

### LIGHTER COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 Jordan Golson  
*Jordan Golson Automotive Columns*  
*in NSJ*  
*Strong voice, well-written columns*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS-JOURNAL**  
 Ken MacDonald  
*Other Stuff*  
*Funny columns with sense of place,*  
*personality.*

**3rd Place**  
**DUPLIN TIMES**  
 Abby Cavanaugh  
*Weighin' In*  
*Honest and personal discussion of issue*  
*many people face.*

### PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

**1st Place**  
**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**  
 Scott Brings Plenty  
*Photo pages for Cherokee Indian Pow*  
*Wow*

**2nd Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 Lauren Rose  
*Blue Comet Food Truck*

**3rd Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Alan Campbell  
*Hometown Give Back*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**DUPLIN TIMES**  
 Trevor Normile  
*When the cops call 911*  
*Great subject matter treated with*  
*appropriate energy, angles, compositions,*  
*perspective. Good job.*

**2nd Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 Lauren Rose  
*Oak City Comicon*  
*Good job describing the event with close-*  
*ups and medium shots. The photos might*  
*have benefited with more emphasis of the*  
*energy and scope of the event, if possible.*

**3rd Place**  
**AVERY JOURNAL TIMES**  
 Carl Blankenship  
*Callum Vinson, 2018 Grandfather*  
*Mtn. Highland Games*  
*The often-staid center figure/ground*  
*composition here emphasizes the rich,*  
*dark colors framing highlights and*  
*Callum's expression, with the savvy use of*  
*the low angle of the camera.*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

**1st Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Alan Campbell  
*Giving Back*  
*Nice moments captured by this pair of*  
*photographs.*

**2nd Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Alan Campbell  
*United Way Laughs*

**3rd Place**  
**HIGHLANDER**  
 Staff  
*In the spirit*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

**1st Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Alan Campbell  
*Conference Clash*  
*Nice close-up with good detail on the*  
*intensity of the players.*

**2nd Place**  
**TARBORO WEEKLY**  
 Alan Campbell  
*Line Drive*

**3rd Place**  
**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER**  
 Scott Brings Plenty  
*Tye Mintz runs against Mitchell*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

**1st Place**  
**CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**  
 Don Richeson  
*Photography, Spot -- Fire destroys*  
*home*

**2nd Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES**  
 Jessica Webb  
*Two total loss fires this week*

**3rd Place**  
**DUPLIN TIMES**  
 Trevor Normile  
*Night watchmen*

### PROFILE FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 Laura Ashley Lamm  
*From conviction to confections*  
*What a great story! It was very well-*  
*written and easy to read. Great lede.*

**2nd Place**  
**GRAHAM STAR**  
 Gary Corsair  
*Profile Feature / The Graham Star*  
*Fun to read*

**3rd Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 Laura Ashley Lamm  
*Heirloom Restaurant's Barlowe*  
*Great imagery, interesting topic. Author is*  
*a good storyteller.*

### RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**BLOWING ROCKET**  
 Thomas Sherrill  
*St. Mary's of Blowing Rock in*  
*transition*

**2nd Place**  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
 David Larson  
*NC Bishops respond to discontent*

**3rd Place**  
**MEBANE ENTERPRISE**  
 Bailey Pennington  
*Bringing the Scottish roots south:*  
*Cornerstone Presbyterian Church*  
*welcomes Rev. Gavin Beers*

### SERIOUS COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING**  
 Bill Moss  
*Serious Columns: May 30, June 27,*  
*Aug. 22*  
*These are beautifully crafted columns*  
*which show the writer's ability to tackle*  
*any subject with grace, humor and*  
*poignancy. They have such a strong sense*  
*of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged,*  
*entertained and enlightened after reading*  
*these words from a thoughtful community*  
*leader.*

**2nd Place**  
**NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY**  
 David Donovan  
*Three serious columns by David*  
*Donovan*  
*I love the passionate spirit of these*  
*columns. They have such a strong sense*  
*of purpose and point of view. They are*  
*reasoned and purposeful, offering a very*  
*persuasive point of view. And they are just*  
*a pleasure to read.*

3rd Place SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE

Ken Ripley
Tragic savings; Searching for common ground; End of an era
These columns are written from the heart. They reflect years of experience, and a care for the craft of journalism. They touch on the very nature of what journalists do and why; they ask good questions and give a solid way to go forward as a business and a community.

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Staff
Back in Times

2nd Place CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Melissa Reed
Special Section -- Mountain Homes

3rd Place HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Lightning Staff
Special Section - Season of Giving
Nov. 15

SPECIAL SECTION - SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS ONLY

1st Place GRAHAM STAR
Gary Corsair, Christy Guthrie, Tere Moore
Specialty Publication / The Graham Star
First cover is outstanding. Any local sports fan from that area is going to appreciate the history that is included in this tab. The records, photos, etc. ... it's evident a lot of hard work went into this product.

2nd Place GRAHAM STAR
Gary Corsair, Tere Moore, Debbie Buchanan
Specialty Publication / The Graham Star
Very good information that isn't easy to access is included and that's what makes this tab unique. Love the photo choice made on the cover.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
NCAA Rules
I love that he took the test and used the results to make his point. Very well-written.

2nd Place MEBANE ENTERPRISE
K. Adam Powell
Mebane Enterprise Sports Columns 2018
Entertaining and well-written.

3rd Place DUPLIN TIMES
Bill Rollins
Ball-to-da-ball-to-bang-bang-diggy-diggy!

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Jamie Shell, Steve Behr, Matt Laws, Logan Parks
Avery Journal-Times Sports Coverage
Really well packaged all around. I like the info box on the preview as well.

2nd Place CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather

3rd Place DUPLIN TIMES
Michael Jaenicke
Sports Coverage

1st Place CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee Skate Jam

2nd Place TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
This Magic Moment

3rd Place CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Page of stickball photos

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
Dale Jr. Says Final Goodbye to Charlotte
Fantastic detail and description, from his "crusty" father to the bobblehead. You can tell the author knows his subject and has done the background research necessary to craft this half honorary, half brutally honest story about a racing great's last home run.

2nd Place DUPLIN TIMES
Bill Rollins
Caught in a Trap
Great original approach to this story. Love the narrative lede, and great use of simile, "like a cool breeze." You keep the reader in the drama of the game with lines like "Then ... boom!" Top it all off with great quotes from coaches and players. This story is a winner.

3rd Place ASHE POST & TIMES
Colin Tate
Bare takes home 2A state title
This reporting hooks a reader with a simple, direct lede - and then quickly draws their attention to the story of how a novice wrestler became a state champion. The focus on the wrestlers experience really makes this story stand out, and makes me cheer him on, too.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ ONLINE

1st Place CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Staff
Cherokee One Feather

inside Boston College basketball is starting two N.C. players, Sports



People in costumes for the parade in the town of Northampton, Massachusetts, on Oct. 28. It is a long tradition for the parade to feature the town's mascot, a turkey. Photo by Ken Kistner for the Northampton Daily Hampshire.

the Wednesday NEWS BRIEFING

Premiums for health insurance to surge 27 percent
Health insurance premiums are set to rise sharply next year, according to a report from the Congressional Budget Office. The report says that the average family premium for health insurance will rise by 27 percent in 2019, from \$5,100 to \$6,480.

Top Trumps and changed for 2019

Trump's top campaign advisers are set to leave the White House in 2019, according to a report from the Washington Post. The report says that several of the top advisers, including Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway, are expected to depart in the next few months.

INSIDE

A big-time N.C. House Democrat is set to be elected
A big-time N.C. House Democrat is set to be elected in the upcoming primary, according to a report from the Charlotte Observer. The report says that Rep. Mark Harris is expected to win the seat.



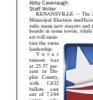
Rep. Mark Harris

Lawmakers say they are expanding their oversight

Lawmakers say they are expanding their oversight of the state's education system, according to a report from the Raleigh News-Sunday. The report says that the General Assembly is expected to pass a bill that will give the state board of education more oversight.

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NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Mueller investigation leads to indictment

The Mueller investigation has led to the indictment of several individuals, according to a report from the North State Journal. The report says that the Justice Department has announced the charges against the individuals.

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Rep. Mark Harris

Tax reform tops to-do list in D.C.

Tax reform is the top priority for the new administration in Washington, D.C., according to a report from the Washington Post. The report says that the White House is expected to pass a bill that will reduce the corporate tax rate.

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DUPLIN TIMES

Warsaw race may hang on provisional ballots
Charley Furrer beats Linda Sikes by 11 votes in Wallace
Municipal election results bring change to some Duplin towns
Beulaville approves wine sales



Warsaw race may hang on provisional ballots



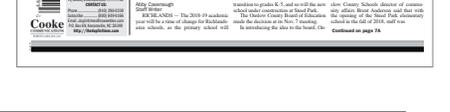
Charley Furrer beats Linda Sikes by 11 votes in Wallace



Municipal election results bring change to some Duplin towns



Beulaville approves wine sales



Show me the money



Richlands Primary, Elementary schools to both transition to grades K-5

# DIVISION B

Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
Tanner Hall  
*Joy's latest novel rich with culture and language of Jackson County*

**2nd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Renee Spencer  
*Giving Art a Break*

**3rd Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
Dave Russell  
*Crowe relates 'Beats' influence in latest book*

## BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**ROCKINGHAMNOW**  
Susie C. Spear  
*Minutes saved mean lives saved. With great descriptive word choices throughout, this story clearly conveys the critical lifesaving impact of the new equipment.*

**2nd Place**  
**OUTER BANKS SENTINEL**  
Michelle Wagner  
*Human trafficking on the Outer Banks. This story tackles an important topic with depth and provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the issue of human trafficking in the Outer Banks.*

**3rd Place**  
**CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD**  
John Hunter  
*Youth offering hugs of hope for law enforcement*

## BEAT NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**OUTER BANKS SENTINEL**  
Mark Jurkowitz, Michelle Wagner, Neel Keller  
*Beat News Reporting – Ocean safety*

**2nd Place**  
**BLADEN JOURNAL**  
Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten  
*Hurricane Florence*

**3rd Place**  
**BLADEN JOURNAL**  
Alan Wooten  
*Hog nuisance lawsuits*

## BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

**1st Place**  
**ROCKINGHAMNOW**  
Staff  
*RockinghamNow July 2018. Good reporting and writing, particularly hard news items*

**2nd Place**  
**CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD**  
Staff  
*2 complete issues (July 5 & July 19, 2018). Color, graphics and blend of features and hard news makes for an interesting and readable paper.*

**3rd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Staff  
*Best Community Coverage. Well written stories and layout with good graphics*

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st Place**  
**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**  
Staff  
*All About Women*

**2nd Place**  
**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**  
Staff  
*Boone: My Hometown*

**3rd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Staff  
*Cape Fear Coast Magazine Spring 2018*

## EDUCATION REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**CASWELL MESSENGER**  
K. Adam Powell  
*Bartlett Yancey High School tour reveals need for improvements*

**2nd Place**  
**ROCKINGHAMNOW**  
Susie C. Spear  
*Listen up, kiddos!*

**3rd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Renee Spencer  
*It's Personal*

## NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

**1st Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Staff  
*News Coverage*

**2nd Place**  
**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**  
Staff  
*News Coverage*

**3rd Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
Staff  
*News Coverage*

## NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
Matthew Osborne  
*Decade of DSS questioned. Fascinating story of local corruption and disrupted lives among people too poor to object.*

**2nd Place**  
**CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD**  
Casey Mann  
*Chatham farmers grow hemp. Some researchers say medical marijuana may cure everything from bunions to cancer. This is how one locality is encouraging this new industry.*

**3rd Place**  
**MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD**  
Deborah Griffin  
*A Place to Remember. Lovely story about the efforts to honor the only Vietnam MIA from a local town never to make it home. The family's need for closure decades later is heartwarming.*

## NEWS FEATURE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Renee Spencer  
*More to history than meets the eye. With straightforward and restrained writing, Renee Spencer shows us how a community came together to piece together the past to help its members better understand where they stand. This judge digs this entry! Congratulations.*

**2nd Place**  
**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**  
Anna Oakes  
*The Best Western hotel deaths, five years later. The extensive reporting in Anna Oakes' series on carbon monoxide deaths at hotels and motels is an excellent piece of public advocacy journalism, written with depth and nuance.*

**3rd Place**  
**OUTER BANKS SENTINEL**  
Michelle Wagner, Neel Keller  
*News Feature Writing – The next big health concern and His Dream Center. For those who ever wondered if vaping was a healthy substitute for smoking, Michelle Wagner puts the notion to rest with this deep dive into how local teens get hooked on e-cigs. Very nicely done!*

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st Place**  
**BLADEN JOURNAL**  
Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten  
*Hurricane Florence*

## SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
Quintin Ellison, Carey Phillips  
*School board: assistant coach offered Mustang intel to rivals. Solid reporting. Good to get a statement from the coach's wife. Interesting story.*

**2nd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Michael Paul  
*Family affair: Two sports that were treading water quickly came off the mat*

**3rd Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
Quintin Ellison, Carey Phillips  
*Former athletes key to corralling armed fugitive at Smoky game. What a story!*

## SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**COURIER-TIMES**  
Kelly Snow  
*A voyage to the top of the world. What a gripping tale of a local woman going on the literal journey of a lifetime. Great tracking of the story, and great imagery throughout the series.*

## 2nd Place BLADEN JOURNAL

Alan Wooten  
How's Robby?

*Captures the struggle this coach is going through. Love the way this story captures it from both Robby's perspective and those around him.*

## 3rd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Kevin Hensley  
Can't keep Creelman down

*The play went exactly as designed. The aftermath has resonated since. Great lede. Hooked immediately.*

## APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Staff  
Appearance and Design  
*A textbook example of a well-organized information- and photo-chocked community newspaper. Lots of local stories, names and faces. Good typography, well-defined sections. Good mix of staff, contributed photos.*

### 2nd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Staff  
Cherokee Scout Jan. 17 & 24, 2018  
*"Good-looking front page, nice flag with top-of-page teasers. Professional layout (although not so much on some inside pages). Good, tight-fitting headlines on news pages. "'52 things to celebrate'" feature reliable text/photo element for front page. Entry would have been strengthened by more active staff photos."*

### 3rd Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Staff  
Appearance and Design  
*Nice typography, head and text fonts, weak headlines, some good sports photos in one issue, weak and static in the other.*

## BEST LEDE

### 1st Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Quintin Ellison  
Best ledes from Quintin Ellison

## BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul  
Celebration!  
*Game winning action always makes for good video.*

## 2nd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul and Terry Pope  
Play Ball!

*Good job on leveraging video to show readers/viewers a first-person vantage point.*

## BEST VIDEO

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul  
Naturalization Ceremony 2018 in Southport

*Idea was novel, sound was not the best, but the video had viewer appeal, although it was a bit too long.*

### 2nd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul  
Activists rally against offshore drilling

*It was too long to listen to one person speaking. Better to use sound bytes for key points.*

### 3rd Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Kayla Lasure  
Flood water takes over parts of Watauga

*Good B roll, but there is no voice over to report about the subject. Video was fair, but the scene could have been adequately conveyed in a still image.*

## CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

### 1st Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Quintin Ellison  
County earmarks funding to update greenway plan

*Super strong story. It has real people in it. It has data, explained well, in it. It has easy-to-read breakouts. It has easy-to-digest information explaining the explosive growth. This is extremely well reported, well written and well done.*

### 2nd Place OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Mark Jurkowitz  
A schism in the Dare GOP and rough-and-tumble politics in Southern Shores.

*Reporter clearly is well-sourced and on the local political scene, getting both sides to talk with him extensively in both pieces. He does a nice job breaking down the issues. Excellent analysis.*

## 3rd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer  
County rescinds support for offshore drilling

*Good story with good details. Needed the opposing view up higher and the result of the vote at the beginning of the story rather than the end of a 50-inch piece.*

## EDITORIAL PAGE

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Staff  
Editorial Page

### 2nd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Staff  
Editorial Pages from The Sylva Herald

## EDITORIALS

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Ed Harper  
Animal rights and wrongs; Preserving history; What's up, partner?

*Clear, concise, well-written and a good variety of topics. Clear calls for action.*

### 2nd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Lee Hinnant  
Forest worth protecting; ..or pay me (more) later; Governors make their point

*Solid writing, weighing in on important local issues.*

### 3rd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Matthew Osborne  
Society killing people, not guns  
Good, almost conversational writing style. Makes it easy to get drawn in to the discussion.

## ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

### 1st Place OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Michelle Wagner, Mark Jurkowitz, Neel Keller

*The plastic bag ban repeal  
Reporters explained the issue well, responded thoroughly to breaking news, and covered all angles, including the perspective from Beverly Boswell. Good use of quotes throughout coverage.*

## 2nd Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Thomas Sherrill  
Campaign finance reports  
*Reporter eschewed sound bites in favor of substantive quotes, and also took time to explain concepts that journalists sometimes assume their readers already understand.*

### 3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Joe Dexter  
Senate hopeful Mangrum's residency in question

*Stories took a cool, neutral tone on a topic that easily could have been sensationalized.*

## FEATURE WRITING

### 1st Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Susie C. Spear  
The Clock Doc  
*Great story, beautifully written about an occupation that most have no sense of in 2018. A joy to read.*

### 2nd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Gerri Hunt  
Rowdy the llama

### 3rd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer  
A Pilot's Life

## GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

### 1st Place OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Staff  
General Excellence for Newspaper website.  
*The black at top is bold and eye-catching. Nice mix of stories viewed in different ways.*

### 2nd Place BLADEN JOURNAL

Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten  
BladenJournal.com  
*Kind of standard, but extra points for sense of humor in poll and videos.*

### 3rd Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Staff  
General Excellence for Website  
*Clean, if not standard.*

## GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

### 1st Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Joe Dexter  
*Hidden in plain sight  
Compelling read draws the reader in immediately and keeps them interested all the way through.*

### 2nd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Dave Russell  
*Car fire claims 2 child victims  
Tough subject to write, done with compassion and care, but is able to pack in important facts that, though hard to read about a small child's death, are important to get the full picture.*

### 3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Joe Dexter  
*Crime spree suspect could face death penalty  
Crazy history on this saga could have been more of the focus, but well written and thorough.*

## HEADLINE WRITING

### 1st Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Thomas Sherrill  
*Headlines: The Foxx Hunt, Tick-Tock and End of an Exodus  
A good mix of different styles of headlines.*

### 2nd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Jim Buchanan  
*Headlines by Jim Buchanan*

### 3rd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Matthew Osborne  
*Gourd vibrations*

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

### 2nd Place COASTLAND TIMES

John Railey  
*Brenda Joyce Holland murder  
Solid, dogged reporting on a cold case murder.*

## LIGHTER COLUMNS

### 1st Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

David Brown  
*Richard to Rooster's last crow  
Sometimes small details matter, such a wedding that was the best thing since Jesus turned water into wine, or when a rooster dies, events that become huge moments in an everyday life.*

## LIGHTER COLUMNS

### 2nd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer  
*A collection of lighter columns  
The author has a remarkable way of drawing you into each subject and keeping your interested until the end*

### 3rd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Jim Buchanan  
*"Every Now and Then" by Jim Buchanan  
This is a remarkable blend of personal history with snap shots of a community. Good writing, amazing people.*

## PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Morgan Harper  
*Parading through town  
Colorful and complimentary photos that are well composed and describe the paraders and attendees.*

### 2nd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Ben Katz  
*Hammer Time  
These photos communicate a lot of information.*

### 3rd Place COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow  
*Graduation day at The Rock  
Simple compositions with lots of energy.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

### 1st Place STATE PORT PILOT

Morgan Harper  
*Kids Day in the Park  
An imaginative photo to feature for a story about artists guiding children*

### 2nd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Ben Katz  
*Keith litterman  
A touching story with an artistic feature photo about the Litterman.*

### 3rd Place CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Davis  
*Digging Deep  
An engaging wildlife capture.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

### 1st Place CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Davis  
*Family Loses Home  
Scene and emotions captured in the lead image.*

### 2nd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Ben Katz  
*Wild Blue Yonder  
Wonderful array of perspectives in this photo essay.*

### 3rd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Quintin Ellison  
*Traffic checkpoints yield 63 violations*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

### 1st Place CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Davis  
*Backing up  
Good timing to pick up both the ball and the expression.*

### 2nd Place STATE PORT PILOT

Ed Harper  
*Slams home a winner*

### 3rd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Ben Katz  
*Athletes let the light shine*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

### 1st Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Kayla Lasure  
*Vehicle fire spreads to home*

### 2nd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Dave Russell  
*Wreck's response includes choppers*

### 3rd Place CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Davis  
*Helping Hands*

## PROFILE FEATURE

### 1st Place WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Kayla Lasure  
*Through Macie's Lens*

### 2nd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Justyn Melrose  
*Hope springs 'Inkternal'*

### 3rd Place NEWS OF ORANGE COUNTY

Jeff Hamlin  
*Eland photographer Warren Shankle dies at 84*

## RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

### 1st Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Joe Dexter  
*Church aims for unity  
This is a really well-done story that deftly addresses the sensitive topic of race and religion. It's admirable to do so in a daily story, and the use of multiple sources really aids in helping the reader understand.*

### 2nd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Dwight Otwell  
*Faith interwoven throughout county  
A thorough report about the history of faith in the Bible Belt, and how it has changed. Great use of the signs throughout the area as examples of the prevalence of religion.*

### 3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

Justyn Melrose  
*Hitting the road for Ash Wednesday  
A nice daily story here about an atypical way to reach worshipers - a drive through on Ash Wednesday. The writing stands out for its variation in sentence length, use of detail (the description of weather) and brief national comparison offering context.*

## SERIOUS COLUMNS

### 1st Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

David Brown  
*Is my job dangerous?  
These entries were, by far most eloquent, reflective and newsworthy in this category. Makes me want to subscribe to the paper.*

### 2nd Place OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Kelli Harmon  
*Serious column - Voice of the Veteran  
Heartfelt perspective from a veteran.*

### 3rd Place CHEROKEE SCOUT

Matthew Osborne  
*America strong, but flickering*

**SPECIAL SECTION -  
NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Staff  
*N.C. Fourth of July Festival*

**2nd Place**  
**OUTER BANKS SENTINEL**  
Staff  
*Special Sections – Sounds of Summer,  
Seafood Guide, Veterans Week Guide*

**3rd Place**  
**CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS**  
Staff  
*CCP Fall Festivals Section C*

**SPORTS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**COURIER-TIMES**  
Kelly Snow  
*The Blizzard*

**2nd Place**  
**BLADEN JOURNAL**  
Alan Wooten  
*Collection: Lessons, N.C. State, East  
Carolina*

**3rd Place**  
**UP & COMING WEEKLY**  
Earl Vaughan Jr.  
*Time for NCHSAA to rethink sports  
calendar*

**SPORTS COVERAGE -  
NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**COURIER-TIMES**  
Kelly Snow  
*The Courier-Times sports section Sept.  
2018*  
*'Smothered and covered' headline is super  
with the photo.*

**2nd Place**  
**CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS**  
Staff  
*CCP Sports section*

**3rd Place**  
**BLADEN JOURNAL**  
Kimberlee Shaw, Alan Wooten  
*Sept. 7, 11*

**SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO**

**1st Place**  
**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
Ben Katz  
*True love of the outdoors*

**2nd Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Michael Paul  
*Sweet, so sweet*

**3rd Place**  
**COURIER-TIMES**  
Kelly Snow  
*RCS Volleyball team*

**SPORTS NEWS  
REPORTING**

**1st Place**  
**COURIER-TIMES**  
Kelly Snow  
*Championship Saturday*  
*I was already considering this coverage  
for an award when I saw who took  
the pictures! And they were not typical  
reporter pix. Impressive all-around  
coverage and reporting by a reporter who  
knows his beat and kills it.*

**2nd Place**  
**ROCKINGHAMNOW**  
Jim Sands  
*Rams advance for shot at 20th state  
title*  
*Great headline, great game coverage  
storytelling.*

**3rd Place**  
**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
Kevin Hensley  
*Second time's the charm*  
*Thorough, well done reporting.*

**USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS -  
COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/  
ONLINE**

**1st Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
Staff  
*Use of Photographs*

**2nd Place**  
**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
Staff  
*Cherokee Scout March 7 & 21, 2018*

**3rd Place**  
**CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD**  
Staff  
*2 complete issues (March 8 & March  
22, 2018)*

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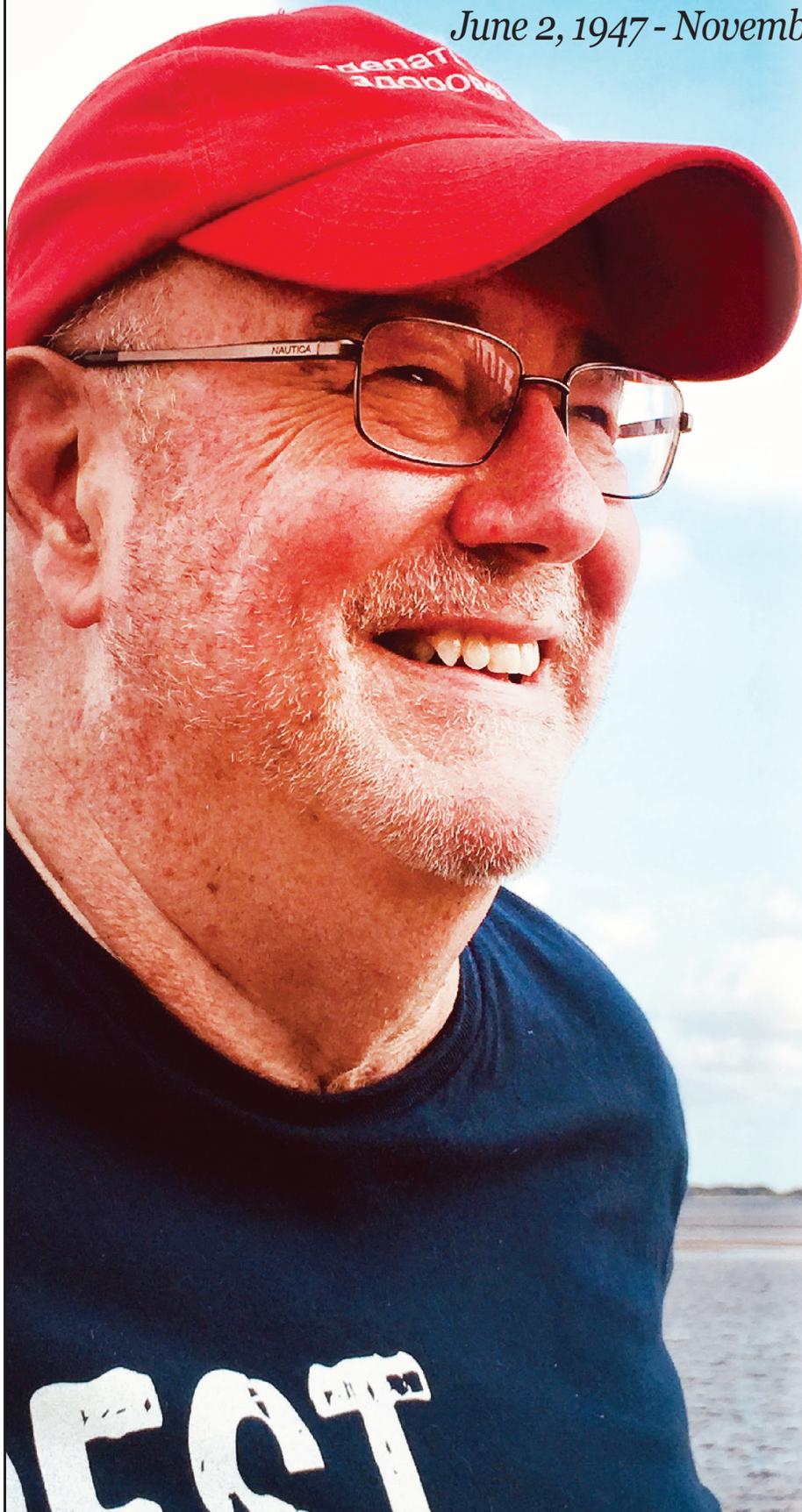


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# Edward Taylor “Ed” Harper

June 2, 1947 - November 14, 2018



Ed supported community journalism his entire life. As the son of Jim and Margaret Harper, he grew up in the community newspaper business. As editor of *The State Port Pilot* for 46 years, he produced an award-winning weekly paper. He was a past president of the North Carolina Press Association and was always a strong advocate for the print industry and freedom of speech. In honor of Ed's commitment to community journalism, *The State Port Pilot* staff—Ed's staff—dedicates this year's editorial and advertising contest awards to his memory.

**THE STATE PORT**  
**PILOT**

*A Good Newspaper in a Good Community*

### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Holly Kays  
*Cherokee storyteller seeks to preserve historical memory with filming project*

#### 2nd Place

#### MOUNTAIN XPRESS

Alli Marshall  
*Asheville's nonwhite literary scene, past and present, series*

#### 3rd Place

#### PILOT

Deborah Salomon  
*Write On*

### BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis  
*Carolina Crud Crusher*  
*Who knew ordinary people outside of the government or a major corporation could just create their own medicine and sell it. Great read; great get!*

#### 2nd Place

#### TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Ryan Haar, Dathan Kazsuk  
*Hoopstreet USA*  
*Wow! Great story that one might expect a national publication to uncover.*

#### 3rd Place

#### CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Elise Clouser  
*Exporting from MHC*  
*Powerful and engaging writing by Clouser. Great work!*

### BEAT NEWS REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### MOUNTAINEER

Vicki Hyatt  
*Workforce shortage*  
*Hyatt taught me something new. Great job!*

#### 2nd Place

#### BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis and Brian Slattery  
*Pet pig in porcine dilemma*  
*Great job remaining professional with what could have been a hokey story about a pig. Odd, but very interesting. Good reads!*

#### 3rd Place

#### TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Ben Graham  
*Real Estate Coverage*  
*Graham's real estate coverage is top-notch!*

### BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

#### 1st Place

#### PILOT

David Woronoff, John Nagy  
*The Pilot -- Best Community Coverage*

#### 2nd Place

#### CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Staff  
*Carteret County News-Times*

#### 3rd Place

#### TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

Derek McKissock, John Lanier  
*The Transylvania Times Community Coverage -- December 2017*

### BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

#### 1st Place

#### NEWS REPORTER

Staff  
*Flourish*  
*an incredible mix of material that has something for every taste. Well crafted as well as well designed*

#### 2nd Place

#### PILOT

David Woronoff, Jim Dodson, Andie Rose  
*Pinestraw Art & Soul of the Sandhills*  
*This entry stood out in what proved to be an extremely competitive category. Not only is the layout terrific, but the content is rich with great writing about amazing people and things.*

#### 3rd Place

#### PILOT

David Woronoff, Jim Dodson, Andie Rose  
*Salt Art & Soul of Wilmington*  
*A good range of material from book reviews to architecture, all of it giving adding up to something very special. Good work.*

### EDUCATION REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Holly Kays  
*SCC graduates 100th class of future National Park Service officers*

#### 2nd Place

#### NEWS REPORTER

Diana B. Matthews  
*Elementary School Principals*

#### 3rd Place

#### MOUNTAINEER

Becky Johnson  
*Labor of Love*

### NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

#### 1st Place

#### NEWS REPORTER

Staff  
*Sept. 18 and Sept. 21, 2018 editions*

#### 2nd Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Staff  
*Frozen in Time; Price of Power*

#### 3rd Place

#### INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Mark Plemmons, Erin Kidd, Erin Weeks, Jemal Horton  
*The Independent Tribune July 4 and 6*

### NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Cory Vaillancourt  
*Homeless for the Holidays*  
*This first person-account by a reporter who lived the life of a homeless person for three days made the issue real for readers in the way that only the best kind of enterprise reporting can. An engaging, revealing and skillfully written piece.*

#### 2nd Place

#### SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Jessi Stone  
*Mental Healthcare Meltdown*

#### 3rd Place

#### PILOT

Staff  
*Growth World Discovered Us*

### NEWS FEATURE WRITING

#### 1st Place

#### MOUNTAINEER

Becky Johnson  
*Brick-by-Brick, Hazelwood's Renaissance*  
*Vivid language and deep reporting made what could have been a development update into a story about a street and the community.*

#### 2nd Place

#### YES! WEEKLY

Ian McDowell  
*Sexual misconduct and "aggressive panhandling"*

#### 3rd Place

#### MOUNTAINEER

Kyle Perrotti  
*Shine On*

### ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

#### 1st Place

#### CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Staff  
*Hurricane Florence*  
*Keeping its readers and others informed during an emergency, when no print or electronic media was available newspaper made use of social media. For all the criticism social media receives, in the hands of professionals during the emergency, it seems to have proved its worth.*

#### 2nd Place

#### NEWS REPORTER

Staff  
*Hurricane Florence*  
*I was very impressed with the real concern exhibited by the newspaper's staff during the emergency. The reporter asked the right questions and made clear what listeners had to do.*

#### 3rd Place

#### TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Lauren Ohnesorge  
*Veteran Raleigh bankers to start new bank in Capital City*

### SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

#### 1st Place

#### MOUNTAINEER

Mike Schoeffel  
*The battle for football's future rages on*  
*Enjoyed the way you worked yourself into the story -- as someone with mixed feelings, who realizes that's OK (and what may be necessary).*

#### 2nd Place

#### STANLY NEWS & PRESS

Ritchie Starnes  
*Encroachment - Verbal abuse often keeps younger officials away*  
*Good reporting on characters that often go unnoticed in the sports landscape.*

**3rd Place  
MOUNTAINEER**

Mike Schoeffel  
A world-class let down  
Nice breakdown, including pairing a "what happened" story with a "what's next" piece.

**SPORTS FEATURE  
WRITING****1st Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**

Cory Vaillancourt  
On the line  
Cory Vaillancourt goes long for an entertaining look at historic local football rivalry. Elegant writing supported some very nice reporting. Lots of fun to read. Congratulations!

**2nd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**

Allen Turner  
Ricky Benton Racing Team  
In following the debut of a NASCAR family's turn to the Daytona 500, Allen Turner puts us in the passenger seat of a journey to the big race. The access he's given by the family makes the piece thanks to the details. Nicely done.

**3rd Place  
BRUNSWICK BEACON**

Laura Lewis  
Cold, wet, windy  
A terrific profile that captures not only commitment to the sport but to family. Great story telling.

**APPEARANCE AND  
DESIGN****1st Place  
MOUNTAIN XPRESS**

Staff  
Mountain Xpress issues: Who's Packing Heat and Step into the Unknown  
From the front cover, all the way through to the end Mountain Xpress grabs its readers attention and keeps it. They have a great use of photos, fonts, colors and white space that feels modern, light and engaging.

**2nd Place  
YES! WEEKLY**

YES! Weekly staff  
May 23-29 and May 30- June 5

**3rd Place  
TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Dathan Kazsuk  
TBJ Appearance and Design

**BEST LEDE**

**1st Place  
YES! WEEKLY**  
Ian McDowell  
Joy and remembrance on Dia de Muertos

**2nd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**  
Margaret High  
Three ledes: Cops, Council and Sibbett

**3rd Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
Marty McGee  
A new year of pickin'

**BEST MULTIMEDIA  
PROJECT**

**1st Place  
PILOT**  
Jaymie Baxley  
Fatal Hour: Reconstructing a Deadly Police Standoff  
Good use of multimedia in a tick-tock fashion to explain an event. Good use of image/audio placement and clean presentation.

**2nd Place  
MOUNTAINEER**  
Mike Schoeffel  
The wrangling brothers  
Clean and elegant presentation of photography, and good use of video to show an action element.

**3rd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**  
Staff  
Hurricane Florence Multimedia  
Good use of on-the-ground Facebook video. Drone photography and photography were strong.

**BEST VIDEO**

**1st Place  
PILOT**  
Jaymie Baxley  
Moore County Moves to Digital Dispatching  
Good time, audio was clever and aptly showed difference between human and digital dispatching.

**2nd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**  
Justin Smith  
Crusoe flooding video  
Footage was good, interviewer's voice was distracting.

**3rd Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**

Marty McGee  
Down in a hole  
Good use of drone footage and submitted video. Bad music. Misspelled word in caption.

**CITY COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT  
REPORTING**

**1st Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
Cory Vaillancourt  
Confederate flag flap  
Well written, sustained coverage of a hot button issue.

**2nd Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
Jessi Stone  
Suspicious K-9 Death  
City government coverage and investigative work on display here. Nicely done.

**3rd Place  
MOUNTAINEER**  
Becky Johnson  
Mayor's fate in limbo over forgery charges  
Nice coverage with good timeline and explainers of the issue to help readers.

**EDITORIAL PAGE**

**1st Place  
PILOT**  
David Woronoff, John Nagy  
The Pilot -- Editorial Page

**2nd Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
Staff  
Editorial Page

**3rd Place  
TRANSYLVANIA TIMES**  
John Lanier  
June Editorial Pages

**EDITORIALS**

**1st Place  
BRUNSWICK BEACON**  
Jackie Torok  
The Brunswick Beacon editorials  
Strong writing with a clear point to make.

**2nd Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
Jule Hubbard  
Editorials  
well-written and clear.

**3rd Place  
PILOT**

John Nagy  
Airing of Grievances is the Public's Right

**ELECTION/POLITICAL  
REPORTING**

**1st Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
Holly Kays  
Ballot tampering alleged in Cherokee  
Interesting story that also serves as a direct illustration of the power of a single vote in local elections.

**2nd Place  
MOUNTAINEER**  
Becky Johnson  
GOP tug-of-war, a political who-dunnit  
Thorough and well written look at a bizarre political sideshow.

**3rd Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
Cory Vaillancourt  
Third party ballot access  
Good reporting on a lesser-known part of the political process.

**FEATURE WRITING**

**1st Place  
MOUNTAINEER**  
Mike Schoeffel  
Kruk carries on

**2nd Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
Laura Mitchell  
Tragic but haunting tale

**3rd Place  
PILOT**  
Deborah Salmon  
The Birdhouse Man

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE  
FOR WEBSITES**

**1st Place  
MOUNTAINEER**  
Allison Richmond  
The Mountaineer  
Nice, clean design. Easy to navigate and find a variety of content.

**2nd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**  
Staff  
nrcolumbus.com

## GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

**3rd Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Travis Bumgardner  
*Smoky Mountain News website*

## GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Jefferson Weaver  
*Bank robbery series*

**2nd Place**  
**PILOT**  
 Jayme Baxley  
*Tara Plantation Admission Probe*

**3rd Place**  
**MOUNTAINEER**  
 Kyle Perrotti  
*Brewery Dispute*

## HEADLINE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
 Jule Hubbard  
*Headline Writing*

**2nd Place**  
**YES! WEEKLY**  
 Katie Murawski  
*Headlines: Hemp, hemp, hooray, Calling all hipsters, Art with a pulse*

**3rd Place**  
**FRANKLIN PRESS**  
 Lee Buchanan  
*Headlines*

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**MOUNTAINEER**  
 Kyle Perrotti  
*An abuse of trust*  
*Solid investigative reporting on sexual predator, with a history that extends over several states and decades.*

## LIGHTER COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Chris Cox  
*The Party's in there, and we're out here*  
*Great storytelling here. I hung on every word. Nicely done. These columns stood far ahead of the other contenders.*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Jefferson Weaver  
*Angst, serendipity and donkeys*  
*Every column was an adventure through this writer's mind and I happily went down the rabbit hole. The careful, descriptive prose painted vivid pictures that brought these to life.*

**3rd Place**  
**MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE**  
 Elizabeth Durocher  
*Mom, Dad, Home*  
*Lovely, poetic prose and heartfelt subject matter.*

## PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

**1st Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Staff  
*Hurricane Florence scenes*  
*Ambitious coverage with scenes of the challenges and responses by the residents not seen everywhere*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Fuller Royal  
*Camp Bowers*  
*Well photographed glimpses of the camping life of the scouts. Would like to see more details of their activities.*

**3rd Place**  
**CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**  
 Dylan Baker Ray  
*Gloucester Mardi Gras*  
*"Busy and colorful scenes seem to capture the environment created by the event"*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**  
 Cheryl Burke  
*Students explore emergency services careers*  
*Very appropriate angle for this topic and location.*

**2nd Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Holly Kays  
*A.T. identities*  
*An ambitious project cleanly done with some continuity for all those portraits*

**3rd Place**  
**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
 Marty McGee  
*'Colossal crowd' drawn*  
*A very dramatic peak or pause of action from a good angle.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

**1st Place**  
**PILOT**  
 Ted Fitzgerald  
*Hurricane Destroys Their Little Piece of Paradise*  
*A few photos tell a big story.*

**2nd Place**  
**CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**  
 Elise Clouser  
*First responders sharpen skills*  
*A glimpse of something no one wants to see, but has to be done just in case. Photographer chose a good angle.*

**3rd Place**  
**FRANKLIN PRESS**  
 Linda Mathias  
*Classroom*  
*It is a simple photo, but it expresses quite a bit.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

**1st Place**  
**FRANKLIN PRESS**  
 Tom Pantaleo  
*Slam*  
*Crisp shallow focus puts the detail on the face as the other players fade into the background. Tight crop still tells the story.*

**2nd Place**  
**PILOT**  
 Donna Ford  
*Overtime Thriller*  
*Photographer nicely captured a part of the basketball game that is often ignored.*

**3rd Place**  
**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
 Zach Colburn  
*Blackhawk celebration*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

**1st Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Les High  
*Fatal wreck near Nakina, N.C.*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Doug Sasser  
*Trucks sink, boats float*

**3rd Place**  
**CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**  
 Dylan Baker Ray  
*South River fire*

## PROFILE FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Garret K. Woodward  
*Catch him if you can: David Joy*

**2nd Place**  
**PILOT**  
 Laura Douglass  
*It was Do or Die*

**3rd Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Holly Kays  
*Beloved Woman reflects on a wandering life rooted in Cherokee language*

## RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**  
 Marty McGee  
*Ministry brings inmates and their children together*

**2nd Place**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Jessi Stone  
*Religious football banners*

**3rd Place**  
 Carteret County News-Times  
 Cheryl Burke  
*Long road ahead for county churches*

## SERIOUS COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**PILOT**  
 John Nagy  
*The Spirit Remains*

**2nd Place**  
**PILOT**  
 Deborah Salomon  
*Hear and Now*

**3rd Place**  
**BRUNSWICK BEACON**  
 Jackie Torok  
*Jackie Torok serious columns*

## SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

**1st Place**  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
 Staff  
*Hurricane Matthew retrospective*

**2nd Place**  
**FRANKLIN PRESS**  
 Staff  
*Salute to Veterans*

**SPORTS COLUMNS**

**1st Place  
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**

J.J. Smith  
*In this corner 'If you don't get the paper now ...' was a very entertaining read. Well done.*

**2nd Place  
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE**

Jemal Horton  
*A Title, A Father and Son and Their Moment in Time "I really enjoyed Jemal's writing. He paints a fantastic picture here ... As his son poured in baskets during the boys N.C. 3A state championship game, Cox Mill basketball fans stomped and cheered frantically, causing the platform holding the front row of seats in Reynolds Coliseum to tremble at times. The famous dad, though, mostly sat quietly, stoically."*

**3rd Place  
BRUNSWICK BEACON**

Sam Hickman  
*Sam Hickman sports columns*

**SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place  
MOUNTAINEER**

Staff  
*The Rivalry*

**2nd Place  
FRANKLIN PRESS**

Andy Scheidler  
*TFP coverage*

**3rd Place  
NEWS REPORTER**

Staff  
*Sports April 5 and April 9, 2018 editions*

**SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO**

**1st Place  
PILOT**

Ted Fitzgerald  
*Into The Night*

**2nd Place  
PILOT**

Ted Fitzgerald  
*If You Can Believe It, You Can Achieve It*

**3rd Place  
PILOT**

Tim Hale  
*More Than Xs and Os*

**SPORTS NEWS REPORTING**

**1st Place  
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**

Andy G. Moore  
*Walk-off to the finals Great lede, full coverage.*

**2nd Place  
ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD**

Gene Motley  
*Perfection another good lede, and overall great photo and graphics presentation*

**3rd Place  
STANLY NEWS & PRESS**

Charles Curcio  
*North wins 49-0 over South, brings home Stanly Cup A little long, but the chunky lede setup had me and the story told the story of the team's season*

**USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ ONLINE**

**1st Place  
PILOT**

Staff  
*The Pilot -- Use of Photographs*

**2nd Place  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**

Staff  
*Ghost of a Chance; Folkmoot*

**3rd Place  
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES**

Staff  
*Carteret County News-Times*



**Angel Tree**  
Clothing donations for children at Christmas  
▶▶ SEE PAGE 6A



**Soccer**  
Middle school league has parity.  
▶▶ SEE SPORTS

**The News Reporter**

Published since 1890 every Monday and Thursday for the County of Columbus and her people.  
WWW.NRCOLUMBUS.COM Thursday, November 30, 2017 75 CENTS

**Bolton murder has residents worried**

By Jefferson Weaver  
jweaver@ncrcolumbus.com

A Bolton man who had been married less than a month was shot and killed Sunday morning. Rickey Ricardo Heckstall, 35, was pronounced dead at New Hanover Regional after the early morning assault. Sheriff's deputies were called to Riegelwood just after 5 a.m. to investigate a report of shooting, according to Michelle Tatum of the sheriff's Department. Deputies met Heckstall at the Domino's pizza restaurant, where he had been transported by private vehicle. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance. It was the second shooting this year associated with a private club formerly called the Hideaway, which was shut down and padlocked by law enforcement in 2015. The club has since reopened as Club Enterprise.



**Rickey Heckstall**

▶▶ SEE BOLTON MURDER 4A

**Christmas parades in full swing**

By Diana Matthews  
dmatthews@ncrcolumbus.com

The next several weeks will bring a host of options for celebration and entertainment in Columbus County. Most of the events listed below are free to the public. Although reasonable efforts have been made to include correct times and places for all area events, readers may find more complete and accurate information by calling the sponsoring groups or checking their websites and social media. More listings may be posted on nrcolumbus.com and on The News Reporter's Facebook page as details become available.

**Thursday, Nov. 30**  
The county's first Christmas parade will be tonight, Thursday, Nov. 30, in Taber City. "Christmas Parade Through the Lights" will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the lighting of a tree at the town gate. There will be caroling, entertainment, hot cocoa and hot dogs as well as a visit from Santa Claus. In Whiteville tonight, the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the annual candlelight event beginning at 5:30 at Vireland Station. This year's gathering will feature local musical performers as well as hot chocolate and other sweet treats provided by the Arts Council. Glow sticks will be distributed instead of candles this year.

▶▶ SEE CHRISTMAS 5A

**'WE'RE LOSING A GENERATION'**



**Mental health care failings, the economy and opioids deal a crushing blow**

*Editor's note: Over the coming weeks, The News Reporter will trace mental health and substance abuse in Columbus County and will look at what is and isn't working as institutions shape how community members face those issues and search for help. In a six-part series, we will explore how opioid use, law enforcement, hospitals, and schools address and are affected by mental health care.*  
Columbus County faces some of the steepest challenges on this front in North Carolina or the South. But this series will conclude with the good news: Despite the wide reach of the county's crisis, interventions across the board can improve health outcomes. The News Reporter will tackle some possible solutions with implications for Columbus County and communities throughout the South. Today, the series begins with a dive into how the county's behavioral health system took its present shape.

By Sammy Feldman  
Society for the News Reporter

If you have a question about mental health in Columbus County, Andy Anderson is a good man to ask. He is the development director and former CEO of Community Innovations, a service provider for patients with intellectual disabilities. He pastors, often acting as the first point of contact for the suicidal or hospitalized in his flock. He has raised six foster children, and seen firsthand the damage that drug use does to families. He is a successful man who by all appearances has his life in order. He has also struggled with depression himself. "I battled it," Anderson says. "And it was hypocritical for me to be suffering depression and not wanting to get up and face the world in the morning, and not tell folks that I was serving that, I, too, have suffered from depression." "So, yes, I've helped folks," he says. "But I've also been helped."

Anderson was able to navigate the county's health care system and get help. It works for some. Many, though, have more trouble connecting to the resources they need. Through his work, through his life, Anderson sees that gap. "We've known for a long time that there are not enough resources," he says. "Even though we do have better technologies, and better treatment modalities, that still there's a huge deficit between what is needed in mental health and what is being dispatched. There's no doubt about that. That deficit sends the mentally ill to systems not designed for them. Many end up in hospital emergency rooms, more stable but far from receiving the full treatment they need. On one November day, seven such patients were waiting in the Columbus Regional HealthCare System emergency room for placement elsewhere, occupying half of the ER's beds. Others, committing what is often a slight infraction, end up behind bars. And for the less acutely ill, who may simply be dealing with excess mental anguish, there are pills to take the pain away. In each case, receiving treatment is significantly more difficult for the poor and the uninsured. Nearly a fifth of Columbus County's population—18.6 percent—lacked insurance in 2016, according to Columbus Regional's quadrennial Community Health Needs Assessment.

Mental health services for those with Medicaid or without insurance in Columbus County are routed through Eastpointe, a "Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization" designated by North Carolina in North Carolina. Eastpointe has come under fire in recent years for mismanagement of funds—former CEO William Robert Canupp was sentenced this summer to three years in prison for embezzling half a million dollars in kickbacks from contractors.

Sheriff Lewis Hatcher

"There's people with mental issues over there in that jail that have no business over there. But it's like there's nowhere else to put them."

Members of the crowd at the last commissioners meeting listen as commissioners give the go-ahead to finance school construction for both systems.

**Schools move ahead with plans to build**

By Allen Turner  
aturner@ncrcolumbus.com

Hiring of architects to develop plans for school construction is the next step for both the county and Whiteville city school systems, regardless of what happens regarding school merger, and both school units expect to complete that process in the very near future. A committee will be appointed next month consisting of three representatives each from the county and city boards of education and two county commissioners to identify an outside consultant to analyze potential costs and benefits of a merger of the two systems but, regardless of whether or not the school systems merge, school construction is an issue that must be addressed immediately. Both systems are very close to hiring architects. For the county, that means finding someone to come up with plans and specifications for new schools in Cerro Gordo and Taber City and, for the city, that means finding an architect to design new facilities on the current Whiteville High School campus.

County Supt. Alan Faulk said that the county schools' highest construction priorities lie in the western side of the county at Cerro Gordo, where a new K-8 school will be built to replace the current Koverover Elementary. Cerro Gordo Elementary and Chad Jours Middle Schools, and in Taber City for replacement of a new K-8 school to replace the existing Taber City Elementary and Middle Schools. If any money is left, the county then will look at adding a middle school wing at East Columbus High School to make ECIS a grades 4-12 facility. Middle schools in Hallikens and Acme Delco would be closed in such a scenario. Faulk said that he and his board have been interviewing architectural firms to do the design work on the county schools' new construction. "I'm hopeful that at our next meeting (on Monday, Dec. 4), we'll have it narrowed down and that after Dec. 4 we'll be talking face to face with an architect and see what they can do with the amount of money we can appropriate."

"It's time," Faulk said, "to do something."

City Schools Supt. Charles E. "Kenny" Garland has a similar timeframe in mind in Whiteville, where construction will focus on upgrading Whiteville High School. "We're still accepting proposals from architects until Nov. 30," Garland said. "We're



Members of the crowd at the last commissioners meeting listen as commissioners give the go-ahead to finance school construction for both systems.

▶▶ SEE SCHOOLS 1A

**DID YOU OBSERVE?**

Peace Baptist Church members busy planning Whiteville's Christmas parade, set for 3 p.m. Sunday... Vireland Station decorated for the busy Christmas season, which begins with the Candlelight gathering tonight... Best-selling author Richard Paul Evans at SCC presenting his book, *The Christmas Story* at the SCC Foundation Christmas Luncheon?...

**CRUSHING BLOW**

Volume 127, Number 43  
Whiteville, North Carolina  
1 952 970 0000 6

# 2018 SPECIAL AWARDS

## Media and the Law Awards

*Daily Publications*  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Scott Sexton

*Community Publications*  
**THE STATE PORT PILOT**  
Renee Spencer

*All Publications*  
**THE HERALD SUN**  
Virginia Bridges  
*Best Series*

---

## Mark Binker Public Notice Award

*Community Publications*  
**NEWS REPORTER**  
Diana B. Matthews, Grant Merritt  
*Methyl bromide series*

*Daily Publications*  
**WILSON TIMES**  
Olivia Neeley  
*Home health sale*

*Daily Publications*  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
Richard Stradling  
*Planners have bright idea for 2 congested interchanges: Build diverging diamonds*

---

## Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

*Publications under 20,000*

*1st Place*

**CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**  
Frank Taylor, Michael Gebelein  
*Cedarbrook (Freedom of Information)*

*2nd Place*

**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**  
Staff  
*SBI investigates sheriff candidate*

*3rd Place*

**WILSON TIMES**  
Corey Friedman  
*Public comment policy*

*Publications over 20,000*

*1st Place*

**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Michael Hewlett, Sarah Newell,  
Wesley Young  
*Journal seeks body-cam footage of officer-involved shooting*

*2nd Place*

**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Jane Wester, Anna Douglas  
*Open records fight*

*3rd Place*

**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Jennifer Bowman  
*Buncombe County public records*

# 2018 SPECIAL AWARDS

## Duke University/Green-Rossiter Award for Distinguished Newspaper Work in Higher Education

Daily Publications  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 Jane Stancill, staff  
 Higher education coverage

*Jane Stancill's coverage of higher education in North Carolina is first rate. She digs deep into stories and deftly uses public records requests to get the story behind the story. Her story on a required textbook with questionable statements about Holocaust survivors and people with cancer and other illnesses was eye-opening. Her stories on the ECU chancellor and a powerful UNC board member represent the best in watchdog journalism.*

Division O  
**EDUCATIONNC**  
 Staff  
 The Blitz: Visiting all 58 North Carolina Community Colleges

*This was a creative, innovative, ambitious project about community colleges, which often don't receive enough coverage. Excellent use of multimedia storytelling techniques.*

Community Publications  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS**  
 Holly Kays  
 Western Carolina University seeks new chancellor

*Thoughtfully reported and written coverage about the resignation and death of an important member of the community, followed by aggressive coverage of the search for a replacement. Well done.*

# Congratulations

TO  
 OUR

# Staff

2018 NEWS, EDITORIAL &  
 PHOTOJOURNALISM CONTEST

Smoky Mountain **news** COVERING HAYWOOD, JACKSON, MACON & SWAIN COUNTIES

CHRIS COX  
 1ST PLACE LIGHTER COLUMNS

CORY VAILLANCOURT  
 1ST PLACE NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING  
 1ST PLACE SPORTS FEATURE WRITING  
 1ST PLACE CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING  
 3RD PLACE ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

GARRET K. WOODWARD  
 1ST PLACE PROFILE FEATURE

HOLLY KAYS  
 1ST PLACE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING  
 1ST PLACE EDUCATION REPORTING  
 1ST PLACE ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING  
 2ND PLACE PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE  
 3RD PLACE DUKE UNIVERSITY-GREEN-ROSSITER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPER WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
 3RD PLACE PROFILE FEATURE

JESSI STONE  
 2ND PLACE NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING  
 2ND PLACE CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING  
 2ND PLACE RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

STAFF  
 2ND PLACE NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY  
 2ND PLACE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ONLINE

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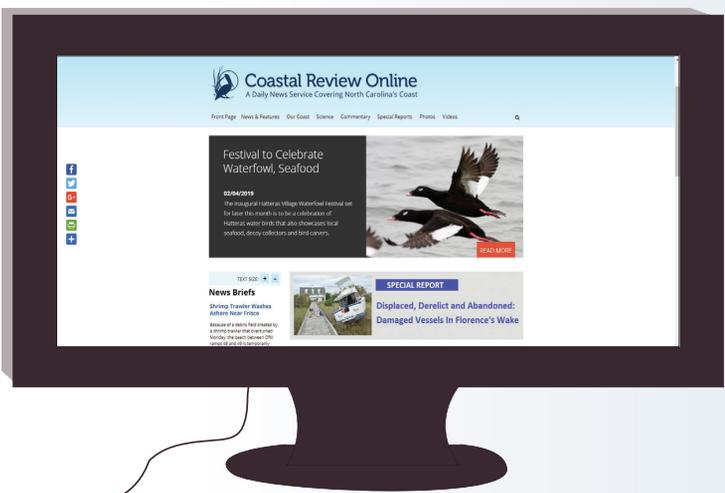
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A Daily News Service Covering North Carolina's Coast

### Winner of 25 awards this year!



Published Monday- Friday by the North Carolina Coastal Federation  
[coastalreview.org](http://coastalreview.org)

### First Place

- Staff for News Coverage-Community Division
- Jennifer Allen for Feature Writing: "Deserted Island Village to Come Alive Again"
- Jennifer Allen for Profile Feature: "Paula Gillikin Keeps Watch Over Wild Horses"
- Sam Bland for Lighter Columns
- Mark Hibbs for Photography, Feature: "New Neighbors: American Robins"
- Catherine Kozak for News Enterprise Reporting: "Sea Level Rise and The North Carolina Coast"
- Kathleen Onorevole for Best Lede
- Kirk Ross for Online Breaking News Coverage: "'Don't Drill!' Reverberates in Raleigh"

### Second Place

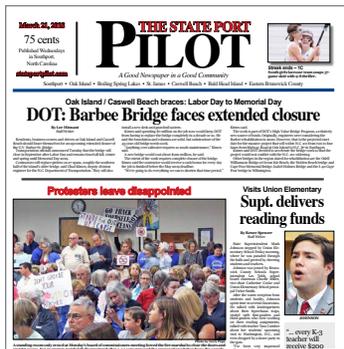
- Jennifer Allen for Online Breaking News Coverage: "Cooper Promises Lawsuit Over Exemption"
- Jennifer Allen for Arts and Entertainment Reporting: "'Rising' Exhibit Documents Coastal Change"
- Allison Ballard for City/County Government Reporting: "Shalotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan"
- Liz Biro for Lighter Columns
- Mark Hibbs for Headline Writing
- Catherine Kozak for General News Reporting: "Gator Sparks Interest As State OKs Hunting"
- Kathleen Onorevole for Best Multimedia Project: "Study: Nesting Turtles Prefer Dark Beaches"
- Kirk Ross for News Enterprise Reporting: North Carolina Policy Collaborative Series
- Kip Tabb for Feature Writing: "Our Coast's History: NC's Oyster War"

### Third Place

- Jennifer Allen for City/County Government Reporting: "Beaufort's Harbor Management Plan"
- Allison Ballard for Best Multimedia Project: "Historic Wrightsville Beach Cottage Relocated"
- Mark Hibbs for Photography, Feature: "The Buzz on Pollinator Week"
- Catherine Kozak for Online Breaking News Coverage: "Proposed Rule Would Allow Red Wolf Takes"
- Jared Lloyd for Lighter Columns
- Kathleen Onorevole for Beat Feature Reporting: "Study: Corals Prefer the Taste of Plastic"
- Kip Tabb for Profile Feature: "Our Coast's People: Nathan Richards"
- Catherine Kozak for Best Lede

# 2018 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

## COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

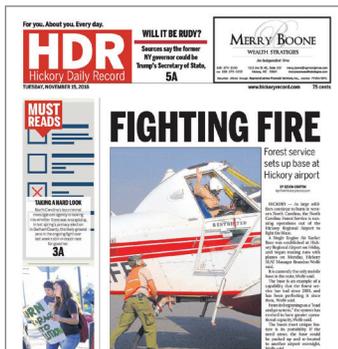


**1st Place**  
**STATE PORT PILOT**  
 Renee Spencer  
*Animal Rights and Wrongs*

**2nd Place**  
**SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE**  
 Staff  
*The Sylva Herald: Fighting for Transparency*

**3rd Place**  
**CHEROKEE SCOUT**  
 Staff  
*Celebrate Cherokee County*

## DAILY NEWSPAPERS UNDER 25,000 CIRCULATION



**1st Place**  
**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**  
 Staff  
*SBI investigates sheriff candidate*

**2nd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
 Staff  
*Age of Addiction: Opioids endanger a generation*

**3rd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Kevin Ellis  
*Hard-time hotel closes*

## DAILY NEWSPAPERS OVER 25,000 CIRCULATION



**1st Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Staff  
*Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages create deadly risk*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 John Murawski  
*Birth Center Deaths*

**3rd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
 Kevin Ellis  
*Hard-time hotel closes*

# CONGRATULATIONS

# TO OUR STAFF

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# 9 AWARDS

**YES! WEEKLY STAFF**

**2ND PLACE** *Appearance and Design*

**ALEX ELDRIDGE**

**1ST PLACE** *Institutional Ad*

**2ND PLACE** *Institutional Ad*

**2ND PLACE** *Best Real Estate Ad*

**3RD PLACE** *Best Use of Color*

**3RD PLACE** *Best Small Ad*

**IAN MCDOWELL**

**1ST PLACE** *Best Lead*

**2ND PLACE** *News Feature Writing*

**KATIE MURAWSKI**

**2ND PLACE** *Headline Writing*

# CONGRATULATIONS

All GateHouse Media Journalists and Ad Designers of North Carolina

## MAJOR Newsroom Award Winners

General Excellence .....	1st Place .....	Fayetteville Observer .....	Staff
General Excellence for Websites.....	1st Place .....	StarNews .....	Staff
Hugh Morton Photographer of the Year .....	1st Place .....	Fayetteville Observer .....	Melissa Sue Gerrits
General Excellence .....	3rd Place.....	Gaston Gazette .....	Staff
General Excellence .....	3rd Place.....	StarNews .....	Staff
Public Service Award.....	3rd Place.....	Gaston Gazette .....	Kevin Ellis .....
Public Service Award.....	3rd Place.....	StarNews .....	Staff .....

## Newsroom Award Winners

### Courier-Tribune (Asheboro)

News Enterprise Reporting.....	2nd Place.....	Local farmers will feel impact of tariffs, but how much? .....	JD Walker .....	Editorial
City County Government Reporting .....	1st Place .....	Moment in the sun .....	Larry Penkava.....	Editorial
Editorials.....	1st Place .....	Sheriff, Megasite, Crime.....	Annette Jordan.....	Editorial
Feature Writing .....	3rd Place.....	'Better than Hoosiers' The Farmer baseball story .....	Larry Penkava.....	Editorial
General News Reporting.....	3rd Place.....	Local man attacked by fox saved by a plastic bag?.....	Chip Womick .....	Editorial
Serious Columns.....	3rd Place.....	Speechless, Post, Draining.....	Annette Jordan.....	Editorial

### Free Press (Kinston)

Best Niche Publication .....	2nd Place.....	My Lenoir - Fall 2018 .....	Chris Segal, Staff.....	Editorial
Photography, Feature .....	1st Place .....	Pancreatic cancer makes life challenging for retired couple .....	Janet S. Carter.....	Editorial
Photography, General News.....	3rd Place.....	Volunteers go bald for St. Baldrick's.....	Janet S. Carter.....	Editorial

### Gaston Gazette

Arts and Entertainment Reporting .....	3rd Place.....	'The Last Ballad' both a portrait and a mirror .....	Bill Poteat .....	Editorial
Beat Feature Reporting .....	3rd Place.....	Missing Costner at Christmas .....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Beat News Reporting .....	2nd Place.....	Surviving being shot 7 times.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Best Community Coverage .....	3rd Place.....	Best Community Coverage .....	Staff.....	Editorial
Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only .....	1st Place .....	Billy Graham dead .....	Staff.....	Editorial
Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only .....	2nd Place.....	Self kills family members.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Online Breaking News Coverage .....	3rd Place.....	Deadly night at convenience store.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing.....	1st Place .....	State of Football in Gaston County.....	Richard Walker and Joe Hughes.....	Editorial
Sports Feature Writing .....	2nd Place.....	NASCAR baby.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Best Lede.....	2nd Place.....	Best Ledes ever written.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project.....	1st Place .....	2018 Gaston County graduation map .....	Eric Wildstein .....	Editorial
Business Writing - Dailies Only.....	1st Place .....	Cherryville waitress works 53 years at Home Folks Cafe .....	Bill Poteat .....	Editorial
Business Writing - Dailies Only.....	3rd Place.....	Face time for tattoos.....	Kevin Ellis .....	Editorial
Feature Section Design - Dailies Only .....	2nd Place.....	Feature Section Design .....	Brandy Beard and Will MacDonald.....	Editorial
General News Reporting.....	2nd Place.....	Billy Graham laid to rest in Charlotte .....	Dashiell Coleman .....	Editorial
Lighter Columns.....	1st Place .....	Poteat columns .....	Bill Poteat .....	Editorial
Lighter Columns.....	3rd Place.....	A Royal Wedding.....	Will MacDonald .....	Editorial
Photography, Feature .....	2nd Place.....	Hard Time Hotel .....	Mike Hensdill.....	Editorial
Photography, General News.....	1st Place .....	An Enduring Legacy .....	John Clark.....	Editorial
Photography, General News.....	2nd Place.....	He's In Heaven.....	Mike Hensdill.....	Editorial
Photography, Sports.....	2nd Place.....	Storm Sweeps Jaguars.....	Mike Hensdill.....	Editorial
Photography, Spot.....	2nd Place.....	Attempted murder suspect caught on camera.....	Adam Lawson.....	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	2nd Place.....	Early ending .....	Joe Hughes .....	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	3rd Place.....	Family members barred from coaching together.....	Eric Wildstein .....	Editorial

### Hendersonville Times-News

Education Reporting.....	1st Place .....	Tough Decisions .....	Andrew Mundhenk.....	Editorial
Education Reporting.....	2nd Place.....	Chivalry is not dead .....	Derek Lacey .....	Editorial
News Feature Writing .....	3rd Place.....	Eyesore gets a new purpose .....	Andrew Mundhenk .....	Editorial
Feature Section Design - Dailies Only .....	3rd Place.....	Blue Ridge Living .....	Leilani Alers .....	Editorial
Investigative Reporting.....	3rd Place.....	Doubt, anger grows over sheriff's search for Stroupe.....	Derek Lacey .....	Editorial
Photography, Feature .....	3rd Place.....	A hero's welcome .....	Derek Lacey .....	Editorial
Special Section - Newspapers Only .....	2nd Place.....	Times-News Prep Football Preview: Football HQ.....	Joey Millwood, Dean Hensley.....	Editorial



# GateHouse Media®

## Star (Shelby)

News Section Design - Dailies Only	1st Place	News section 1 and 2	Staff	Editorial
Profile Feature	1st Place	From homelessness to Chapel Hill	Casey White	Editorial
Profile Feature	3rd Place	Elder student	Rebecca Sitzes	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	1st Place	FANS, BANDS & STANDS	Brittany Randolph	Editorial

## (New Bern) Sun Journal

Best Niche Publication	3rd Place	My New Bern - Summer 2018	Staff	Editorial
News Enterprise Reporting	3rd Place	Poverty in Craven County	Todd Wetherington	Editorial
Online Breaking News Coverage	1st Place	Hurricane Florence	Gray Whitley, Staff	Editorial
Best Video	3rd Place	VIDEO: Memphis Belle - B-17G Flying Fortress	Gray Whitley	Editorial
Feature Writing	2nd Place	The Perfect Firestorm	Bill Hand	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay	2nd Place	Snow in New Bern	Gray Whitley	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	3rd Place	Havelock Ram's head cost is Newsmaker of the Year	Gray Whitley	Editorial

## Fayetteville Observer

Arts and Entertainment Reporting	1st Place	Keepers of the Dance	Monica Holland	Editorial
Arts and Entertainment Reporting	3rd Place	A Story in Stitches	Monica Holland	Editorial
Beat News Reporting	3rd Place	GenX beat coverage	Steve DeVane and Greg Barnes	Editorial
Deadline News Reporting	2nd Place	Arrest of Ramsey Street rapist	Nancy McCleary and Michael Futch	Editorial
News Enterprise Reporting	2nd Place	In the Dark: The Story Behind GenX	Greg Barnes	Editorial
Online Breaking News Coverage	1st Place	Breaking news: Hurricane Florence hits Cape Fear region	Staff	Editorial
Online Breaking News Coverage	3rd Place	Bowe Bergdahl sentencing	Staff	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing	1st Place	Game Changers: The Rise of Football in North Carolina Season Preview	Sammy Batten	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing	3rd Place	Cumberland County takes steps to bar 'hot' bats	Jaclyn Shambaugh	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project	1st Place	Game Changers	Hrisanthi Kroi and Sammy Batten	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project	3rd Place	2018-19 high school football Season Preview	Staff	Editorial
Business Writing	1st Place	Building a Better City?	Monica Vendituoli	Editorial
City County Government Reporting	1st Place	City Council violations of Open Meetings Law	Monica Vendituoli and Greg Barnes	Editorial
Editorial Page	2nd Place	Fayetteville Observer editorial pages	Tim White	Editorial
Editorials	2nd Place	Fayetteville Observer editorials	Tim White	Editorial
Editorials	3rd Place	Myron B. Pitts editorials	Myron B. Pitts	Editorial
Election/Political Reporting	1st Place	Should the state require IDs to vote?	Paul Woolverton	Editorial
Feature Writing	3rd Place	Grateful Shed	Monica Holland	Editorial
General News Reporting	1st Place	Hurricane Florence coverage	Staff	Editorial
General News Reporting	2nd Place	What happened to Kristen Stone?	Amanda Dolasinski	Editorial
Illustration/Photo Illustration/Graphics	1st Place	The Mighty Cape Fear	Staff	Editorial
Illustration/Photo Illustration/Graphics	3rd Place	Christmas Story Contest illustration	Mariano Santillan	Editorial
Lighter Columns	1st Place	Myron B. Pitts	Myron B. Pitts	Editorial
Lighter Columns	3rd Place	Monica Holland	Monica Holland	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay	1st Place	Teacher Rally	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay	2nd Place	Deployment	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Photography, Feature	1st Place	Parade of Nations	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Photography, General News	1st Place	Loved Ones	Andrew Craft	Editorial
Photography, General News	3rd Place	Memorial	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Photography, Spot	1st Place	Hurricane Rest	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Photography, Spot	2nd Place	Hurricane Mom	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Serious Columns	2nd Place	Myron B. Pitts	Myron B. Pitts	Editorial
Special Section	2nd Place	Hurricane Matthew: Stories from the Storm Premium Magazine	Staff	Editorial
Special Section	3rd Place	Fort Bragg: 100 Years Premium Magazine	Staff	Editorial
Sports Columns	3rd Place	Rodd Baxley	Rodd Baxley	Editorial
Sports Coverage	2nd Place	Sports coverage	Staff	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	1st Place	Division Run	Andrew Craft	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	3rd Place	Box it Out	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Editorial
Sports News Reporting	3rd Place	Jeff Capel Jr. dies	Jaclyn Shambaugh	Editorial

### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### WILSON TIMES

Lisa Boykin Batts

Her art tells her story

*Unique, interesting people, is really about the art, which is quirky. I like that this article could not be duplicated elsewhere. Excellent headlines, subheads, photos, and quotes.*

#### 2nd Place

#### WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

Vail Stewart Rumley

Creative exchange

*Nice work! Very clear lede and subject, about connecting artists together, clear to reader about what to do/going forward. Could have used more illustration, but nicely done.*

#### 3rd Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Bill Poteat

'The Last Ballad' both a portrait and a mirror

*Fascinating, Unconventional, column-style, first person, inserts self into review but that makes it all the more compelling. Mirrors the poetic-literariness of the work itself. Specific to time and place.*

### BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### SANFORD HERALD

F.T. Norton

Nothing But a Number

*Lovely story of centenarian, well-reported and told. We get a real sense of the long life of the man.*

#### 2nd Place

#### WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

Finding her path to recovery

*Nice, personal drug addiction recovery story. Good reporting on a very hard way back.*

#### 3rd Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Missing Costner at Christmas

*Last time for Christmas lights. A sensitive treatment of a son's last staging of a tribute to his parents, now both passed away.*

### BEAT NEWS REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

Gregory Parks trial

*The story was already fascinating, but taking the time to return to the scene months later took this court story to the next level. Overall reporting was clean, details and balanced. Well done.*

#### 2nd Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Surviving being shot 7 times

*A beautiful story about a local character who experienced a miraculous recovery.*

#### 3rd Place

#### WILSON TIMES

Drew C. Wilson

Cotton; gin; tobacco; 4-H sale;

peppers; farmers; drones

*This doesn't seem like a naturally fascinating beat, even in a rural area. The author has found new angles that gives this business beat a fresh perspective, from the drones to the return of cotton to the farmers story that gives a flavor of the local history.*

### BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

#### 1st Place

#### NEWS HERALD

Staff

Best Community Coverage

*This lively, attractively designed newspaper brims with community coverage. It immediately signals its connection to community to citing the name of a loyal reader on the front page, and follows that up with a wealth of local content, including a bevy of local columnists.*

#### 2nd Place

#### DAILY HERALD

Staff

July 22, 2018, July 29, 2018

#### 3rd Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Staff

Best Community Coverage

### BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

#### 1st Place

#### WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

Elizabeth Reed

Washington the Magazine

*Good layouts and use of type overlays on photos. Likes the sailing feature in the July/Aug edition.*

#### 2nd Place

#### FREE PRESS (KINSTON)

Chris Segal, Staff

My Lenoir - Fall 2018

*Nice photo layouts. Events page is very well done.*

#### 3rd Place

#### SUN JOURNAL

Staff

My New Bern - Summer 2018

*Savannah feature well done.*

### DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

#### 1st Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Staff

Billy Graham dead

#### 2nd Place

#### GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Self kills family members

#### 3rd Place

#### NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)

Kara Fohner

Collettsville swept by flash flood waters

### EDUCATION REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Andrew Mundhenk

Tough Decisions

*Well sourced, solutions-oriented story that thoroughly explains the issues.*

#### 2nd Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Derek Lacey

Chivalry is not dead

*Well written story that talks to students, not just about them.*

#### 3rd Place

#### SANFORD HERALD

Noah Grant Matt Monarca

'Kids just like us' Students honor

school shooting victims with walkout

*Good approach to covering a local angle to a national story.*

### NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

#### 1st Place

#### DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)

Kelsey Stiglitz, Amanda Thames

Child abuse on the rise in Onslow

*More newspapers need to highlight this serious issue of child abuse. Well done!*

#### 2nd Place

#### COURIER-TRIBUNE

JD Walker

Local farmers will feel impact of tariffs, but how much?

*Great example of how to localize a national issue!*

#### 3rd Place

#### SUN JOURNAL

Todd Wetherington

Poverty in Craven County

*Haven't seen a series on poverty this in-depth in quite some time. Great work!*

### NEWS FEATURE WRITING

#### 1st Place

#### STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK

Shawn Taylor

Breath of Life

*It's the way Shawn Taylor drops the reader in the middle of this one family's tragedy that makes you want to stay to the very end of his piece. From a grieving mother's way to cope, to a community galvanized by a child's death, Taylor's reporting and writing ensured the reader was a participant. He couldn't have done it without detailed reporting and restraint in his writing. Congratulations!*

#### 2nd Place

#### HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Jordan Hensley

1 year, 2 suspects, 3 lives lost: How

a deadly night unfolded outside McCroskey's pub

*The sharp writing in this retelling of a fun-night-out-turned deadly leaves the reader breathless at every turn. Each sentence is air-tight, interlocking with the next until there's no room left on the page. Very engaging. Nicely done Jordan!*

#### 3rd Place

#### HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Andrew Mundhenk

Eyesore gets a new purpose

*With unadorned writing, Andrew crafts a story that tells itself, featuring a small cast of characters with big dreams. The reporting here was key: from the graffiti in the interior walls to how the community relates to the "eyesore" that the building has been. The feature accomplishes being a slice of life and a piece of history all at once.*

### ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

#### 1st Place

#### SUN JOURNAL

Gray Whitley, Staff

Hurricane Florence

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)**

Staff  
Hurricane Florence coverage

**3rd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Kevin Ellis  
Deadly night at convenience store

**SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING****1st Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Richard Walker and Joe Hughes  
State of Football in Gaston County

**2nd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Paul Durham  
Sidelined at Beddingfield

**3rd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Jimmy Lewis  
Rams ready to make history

**SPORTS FEATURE WRITING****1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Jimmy Lewis  
A puncher's chance for Olympic glory

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Kevin Ellis  
NASCAR baby

**3rd Place**  
**DAILY HERALD**

Justin Hayes  
Family affair

**APPEARANCE AND DESIGN****1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Staff  
'Not just a meeting, it's a movement,'  
'Please do not sell'  
Both entries have very appealing graphics with photo and type as well as nice column placement throughout.

**2nd Place**  
**MCDOWELL NEWS**  
McDowell News Staff

6-May-18  
Well balanced front layout, four photos on front is a bit much but it is still eye-appealing.

**3rd Place**  
**DAILY HERALD**

Tia Bedwell  
January 12, 2017, January 14, 2018  
Jan. 12: Very pleasing front with beds concise, and well placed. Photos are excellent the page has overall eye appeal.  
Jan. 14: Graphic of dancer distracts from an otherwise good layout. Use of light font is confusing to the reader with otherwise bold beds. Points for trying something different.

**BEST LEDE****1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Drew C. Wilson  
Bearing gifts; Billy Lamm; Cow  
Drew Wilson's ledes are short and sweet. Perfection!

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Kevin Ellis  
Best Ledes ever written  
Ellis knows how to hook a reader with the first sentence.

**3rd Place**  
**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**

Kevin Griffin  
Dairy Queen Elvis; Mitchell Gold; Remembering Billy Graham  
Great work!

**BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT****1st Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Eric Wildstein  
2018 Gaston County graduation map  
Great example how a publication can be of service to the community. Neat and smart display.

**2nd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Drew C. Wilson  
Jam-packed with Wilson memories  
Good use of video and nat sound to showcase the barn. Strong images.

**3rd Place**  
**NEWS HERALD**

Chrissy Murphy and Jonelle Bobak  
A Beak Above  
Fun all around. Good access to the boy and the family (and the chicken).

**BEST VIDEO****1st Place**  
**NEWS HERALD**

Ryan Wilusz  
What Are You Thankful For?

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS HERALD**

Staff  
Operation Blue Christmas

**3rd Place**  
**SUN JOURNAL**  
Gray Whitley  
VIDEO: Memphis Belle - B-17G Flying Fortress**BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY****1st Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Bill Poteat  
Cherryville waitress works 53 years at Home Folks Cafe  
Love love loved this. Great piece on a smalltown unsung hero. Bravo!

**2nd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**

Brie Handgraaf  
Sole survivor

**3rd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**

Kevin Ellis  
Face time for tattoos

**CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING****1st Place**  
**COURIER-TRIBUNE**

Larry Penkava  
Moment in the sun  
What a terrific story off of the beat. It deftly puts a human touch on the story right away, teaches readers in-depth about solar energy, including challenging the myths typically behind it, and noting the opportunity for the county. And it's very well-written and edited. This was the hands-down winner. Bravo!

**2nd Place**  
**ROBESONIAN**

Staff  
Angel Exchange coverage  
Very strong reporting and a terrific editorial covering a hot-button topic. The paper followed this issue closely and did a great job tying together the issues problems and the potential political rationale for this building getting bought or not bought. Undoubtedly the outcome was influenced by the paper's excellent and informative coverage.

**3rd Place**  
**ROBESONIAN**

Staff  
Tax listing coverage  
Bold and beautiful. The paper called it as it saw it -- and as it was -- to take the commissioners to task for retaliatory acts because of negative coverage and to hide tax-dodgers connected to the commissioners. A strong editorial and good reporting on explaining why taxpayers are better off having tax delinquents outed in the daily newspaper is in their best interests.

**EDITORIAL PAGE****1st Place**  
**SANFORD HERALD**

Staff  
Herald Editorial Pages  
Obviously an important topic to the public and the press. Succinct and well explained.

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY ADVANCE**

Staff  
Editorial Page  
The topic of school performance can be boring but the edit brings it to life.

**3rd Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**

Staff  
WDN Editorial Page  
An archaic and wonky subject is brought to life showing the reader why it is important.

**EDITORIALS****1st Place**  
**COURIER-TRIBUNE**

Annette Jordan  
Sheriff, Megasite, Crime

**2nd Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**

Vail Stewart Rumley  
Show 'em how it's done et al

**3rd Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**

Matt Debnam  
Matt Debnam editorials

**ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING****2nd Place**  
**DISPATCH**

Ben Coley  
Political reporting  
Strong story. Reporter does a nice job of laying out the issues former sheriff's past and the reason the constitution was changed because of people like him (x7). A very good story, tightly written and to the point.

### ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

**3rd Place**  
**STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK**  
 John Deem  
*Political Bellwether*  
*Excellent look at why the district would fall under the national spotlight. Use of data out of Pennsylvania made a compelling case for a Republican challenge in the district. Well done.*

### FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
 Staff  
*Washington Daily News feature sections*  
*Strong headline treatments, excellent use of the recycling graphic*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Brandy Beard and Will MacDonald  
*Feature Section Design*  
*The layout is clean and very easy for readers to navigate, but is also too predictable. Would benefit from bolder headline treatments, a larger dominant photo, etc.*

**3rd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS**  
 Leilani Alers  
*Blue Ridge Living*

### FEATURE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Lisa Boykin Batts  
*A secret father*  
*A compelling story about one woman's odyssey to find out the truth about her parents. The story takes us on a journey as one woman unravels the mystery of her birth.*

**2nd Place**  
**SUN JOURNAL**  
 Bill Hand  
*The Perfect Firestorm*

**3rd Place**  
**COURIER-TRIBUNE**  
 Larry Penkava  
*'Better than Hoosiers' The Farmer baseball story*

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

**1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Staff  
*The Wilson Times website*  
*Liked the different colored backgrounds for different stories, good layout for galleries too.*

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY ADVANCE**  
 Staff  
*general excellence, websites*

**3rd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS**  
 Staff  
*BlueRidgeNow*

### GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)**  
 Kara Fohner, Virginia Annable, Guy Lucas  
*Second tornado*  
*Excellent team coverage and reporting*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Dashiell Coleman  
*Billy Graham laid to rest in Charlotte*

**3rd Place**  
**COURIER-TRIBUNE**  
 Chip Womick  
*Local man attacked by fox saved by a plastic bag?*

### HEADLINE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Brie Handgraaf  
*Sole survivor; Can you handle the tooth; Rocking into retirement*

**2nd Place**  
**DISPATCH**  
 Ben Coley  
*Headline writing*

**3rd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Jimmy Lewis  
*No; What's old; OBP*

### ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Paul Durham  
*Sidelined at Beddingfield*

**2nd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Paul Durham and Valerie Register  
*Football preview cover*

**3rd Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
 Elizabeth Reed  
*Go ahead and jump*

### INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**  
 Jordan Hensley  
*Does this intersection demand a traffic light?*

**2nd Place**  
**ROBESONIAN**  
 Scott Bigelow  
*Documents: Patterson lied under oath*

**3rd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS**  
 Derek Lacey  
*Doubt, anger grows over sheriff's search for Stroupe*

### LIGHTER COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Bill Poteat  
*Poteat columns*

**2nd Place**  
**MCDOWELL NEWS**  
 Scott Hollifield  
*Wrestling with the couch from hell*

**3rd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Will MacDonald  
*A Royal Wedding*

### NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**STAR (SHELBY)**  
 Staff  
*News section 1 and 2*

**2nd Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
 Elizabeth Reed  
*Animal cruelty; A national concern*

**3rd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Staff  
*Wilson lights up for Christmas; 'He wanted us to do more'*

### PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

**1st Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
 Ashley Vansant  
*Hurricane Florence*  
*This team coverage of an event of this scope by one photographer earns first prize.*

**2ND PLACE**  
**SUN JOURNAL**  
 Gray Whitley  
*Snow in New Bern*  
*This photographer also got around town! A variety of views of the neighborhoods residents, and many details.*

**3rd Place**  
**STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK**  
 Ryan Revock  
*Special Olympics*  
*Clean, colorful action shots filled with emotion.*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**FREE PRESS (KINSTON)**  
 Janet S. Carter  
*Pancreatic cancer makes life challenging for retired couple*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Mike Hensdill  
*Hard Time Hotel*  
*A timely story of members of diverse age- groups caught in an economic and housing crisis.*

**3rd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS**  
 Derek Lacey  
*A hero's welcome*

### PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

**1st Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 John Clark  
*An Enduring Legacy*  
*Excellent perspective shot, especially fitting for the personality involved.*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Mike Hensdill  
*He's In Heaven*  
*The front page photo would have been enough. The additional photos were solid, but the parents alone with the candlelit supporters in the background told the story.*

**3rd Place**  
**FREE PRESS (KINSTON)**  
 Janet S. Carter  
*Volunteers go bald for St. Baldrick*  
*Well composed. A nice moment.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS**

**1st Place**  
**ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM**  
 Alan Campbell  
*Fight to the Finish*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Mike Hensdill  
*Storm Sweeps Jaguars*

**3rd Place**  
**ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM**  
 Sarah Louya  
*Take A Bow*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT**

**1st Place**  
**DISPATCH**  
 Donnie Roberts  
*Depot District fire*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Adam Lawson  
*Attempted murder suspect caught on camera*

**3rd Place**  
**ROBESONIAN**  
 David Bradley  
*Hurricane Florence rescue photo*

**PROFILE FEATURE**

**1st Place**  
**STAR (SHELBY)**  
 Casey White  
*From homelessness to Chapel Hill Story shows the true human spirit and what it takes to be a success.*

**3rd Place**  
**STAR (SHELBY)**  
 Rebecca Sitzes  
*Elder student*

**RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING**

**1st Place**  
**DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)**  
 Staff  
*Faith leaders reach residents in a variety of ways*  
*This package has everything - evocative writing that is detailed and organized. Well done video to support the stories and strong photos. I felt like I really understood the role of faith in the lives of the local community after finishing reading this excellent project.*

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)**  
 Amanda Thames  
*Local coven offers a different path of spirituality*  
*This is a very effective, tight package exploring the many facets of what faith is for people today. It is well organized and non-judgmental, and is a good read. The sidebar is instructive and a smart way to get the reader into the overall story.*

**3rd Place**  
**STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK**  
 Shawn Taylor  
 Sanctuary?  
*The writer does a fine job of taking a timely topic and making it approachable and meaningful. There are many strong insights presented with this package - the breakout on other pastors' thoughts is particularly effective.*

**SERIOUS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**MOUNT AIRY NEWS**  
 Bill Colvard  
*Bill Colvard Serious Columns*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS HERALD**  
 Tammie Gercken  
*Serious Columns*

**3rd Place**  
**COURIER-TRIBUNE**  
 Annette Jordan  
*Speechless, Post, Draining*

**SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
 Staff  
*Gridiron Guide; Profile; Welcome For the "Profile 2018" entry: This is a beautifully designed and thoroughly reported special section taking readers on a journey into unknown corners of Beaufort County. Great diversity of stories with many entry points (with breakout boxes, for example) and good, compelling writing.*

**2nd Place**  
**HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS**  
 Joey Millwood, Dean Hensley  
 Times-News Prep Football Preview: Football HQ  
*This is a beautiful and comprehensive section that separates itself from the competition through interviews (and fantastic photographs) of key players leading each time. Great use of large pictures that really grab the eye. The box explaining the design of the section - that is modeled after GQ - and that the players borrowed suits for their shoots is a nice touch, and a good way to bring readers behind the scenes.*

**3rd Place**  
**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**  
 Staff  
 2018 3A/4A Prep Blitz Preview  
*Aaron Schnautz sure knows his football, and his expertise is evident in the writing in this special section. A nice blend of the need-to-knows for each team, paired with stats and wrapped in a well-designed package. In a field of football section entries, this stands out.*

**SPORTS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**DISPATCH**  
 Mike Duprez  
 Sports columns  
*I especially liked 'Levi to the show' Made me want to follow this player now.*

**3rd Place**  
**DAILY COURIER**  
 Josh McKinney  
 Sports Columns

**3rd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Jimmy Lewis  
*No winners; With White; Coach, seniors unite*

**SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**NEWS HERALD**  
 Paul Schenkel  
 Sports Coverage  
*Excellent design, good variety of coverage, good selection and use of photos and other graphic elements.*

**2nd Place**  
**HICKORY DAILY RECORD**  
 Staff  
*Hickory Daily Record Sports Coverage Sept. 13-14*  
*Strong design and photos. Good variety of topics/sports.*

**3rd Place**  
**WILSON TIMES**  
 Staff  
*Thrills and chills in Golden Leaf; Falcons grab Golden Leaf*  
*Strong design and great photo selection. Strong writing from local reporters.*

**SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO**

**1st Place**  
**STAR (SHELBY)**  
 Brittany Randolph  
 FANS, BANDS & STANDS

**2nd Place**  
**DISPATCH**  
 Donnie Roberts  
*Ledford heartbreak*

**3rd Place**  
**SUN JOURNAL**  
 Gray Whitley  
*Havelock Ram's head cost is Newsmaker of the Year*

**SPORTS NEWS REPORTING**

**1st Place**  
**TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)**  
 Adam Smith  
*Through the fire*  
*Powerful writing! Great work.*

**2nd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Joe Hughes  
*Early ending*  
*Great writing. Interesting to even non-sports fans!*

**3rd Place**  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
 Eric Wildstein  
*Family members barred from coaching together*  
*Bizarre and very interesting story. Great work.*



# CONGRATULATIONS!

We're proud of the journalists at The Charlotte Observer and the McClatchy Newsdesk East in Charlotte, who won 33 awards this year from the North Carolina Press Association. It's the 22nd consecutive year in which we've won at least 20 awards from the NCPA. More importantly, it continues a tradition of journalism that not only distinguishes The Charlotte Observer and charlotteobserver.com, but also connects day after day with our communities and readers.



## First Place:

**Cristina Bolling:** *Arts and Entertainment Reporting*, His gift is profound. So how can his parents and teachers best guide him?

**Michael Gordon:** *Beat News Reporting*, His sentence carried no jail time. So why did he keep ending up there?

**Staff:** *Best Niche Publication*, SouthPark Magazine, April 2018

**Fred Clasen-Kelly, Cassie Cope, Julianna Rennie:** *News Enterprise Reporting*, Kids in psych center say staff sexually, physically abused them. Why didn't officials listen?

**Fred Clasen-Kelly, Emmanuel Morgan:** *City County Government Reporting*, This pill prevents HIV, saves lives. Here's why Mecklenburg doesn't offer it.

**T. Keung Hui, Greg Childress, Jim Morrill:** *Deadline News Reporting*, NC teachers rally in Raleigh for more pay, education funding.

**Taylor Batten:** *Editorials*.

**Jim Morrill:** *Election/Political Reporting*, A speech Jesse Helms never gave would have changed U.S. politics.

**Theoden Janes:** *Feature Writing*, As kids they picked cotton and dreamed about the 'mansion' across the road. Now they own it.

**Scott Fowler:** *Lighter Columns*.

**Ames Alexander, Gavin Off:** *Investigative Reporting*, Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages create deadly risk.

**Diedra Laird:** *Photography, General News*, Public can help homeless survive dangerous freeze.

**Theoden Janes:** *Profile Feature*, He was once Charlotte's most feared attorney. Now Bill Diehl faces a different fight.

**Staff:** *Public Service Award*, Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages create deadly risk.

**Tim Funk:** *Religion & Faith Reporting*, Fallen televangelist Jim Bakker is back – and now he's prepping for the Apocalypse.

**Brendan Marks:** *Sports Columns*.

**Scott Fowler:** *Sports News Reporting*, Tom Higgins, legendary NASCAR writer for Charlotte Observer, dies at age 80.

## Second Place:

**Jane Wester, Anna Douglas:** *Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award*, Open records fight.

**Theoden Janes:** *Sports Enterprise Writing*, Is the Booty Loop truly 'the most dangerous 3 miles to ride a bike in Charlotte'?

**Jeff Siner:** *Best Video*, Mother and son are both amputees, both ballers.

**Peter St. Onge:** *Editorials*.

**Theoden Janes:** *Feature Writing*, She tried to keep her 99-year-old father from skydiving. He jumped anyway – happily.

**Staff:** *News Section Design*.

**Scott Fowler:** *Sports Columns*.

**Langston Wertz Jr:** *Sports News Reporting*, Father of Charlotte AAU basketball player who died: 'I'm devastated, man'.

**Andrew Carter, Bruce Henderson:** *Investigative Reporting*, NC cut landslide hazard program, despite dangers.

## Third Place:

**Ann Doss Helms, Michael Gordon:** *Education Reporting*, Teen has missed 77 days of school. Will threatening his parents with jail help CMS?

**Katherine Peralta, Deon Roberts, Cassie Cope, Ames Alexander:** *Online Breaking News Coverage*, End of an era: Family Dollar to close Matthews headquarters; 900 jobs affected.

**Steve Harrison, Ely Portillo:** *City County Government Reporting*, Charlotte spent \$2 million for housing project. After 11 years, it hasn't been built.

**Staff:** *Editorial Pages*.

**Peter St. Onge:** *Lighter Columns*.

**Jourdan Rodrigue:** *Sports Columns*.

**Staff:** *Sports Coverage*.



Congratulations to the journalists of The News & Observer, The Charlotte Observer, The Herald-Sun, and The NC Insider. We are proud of the award-winning journalism, digital reach and commitment to innovative growth, which has never been stronger.

### First Place

**T. Keung Hui, Greg Childress, Jim Morrill:** Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only

**Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner, David Raynor:** Education Reporting

**Raleigh Staff:** Online Breaking News Coverage

**Raleigh Staff:** Appearance and Design

**Casey Toth:** Best Video

**Jane Stancill, Raleigh Staff:** Duke University-Green-Rossiter Award for Distinguished Newspaper Work in Higher Education

**Richard Stradling:** Mark Binker Public Notice Award - Dailies Only

**Andrew Carter:** Photography, Spot

**Luke DeCock:** Sports Feature Writing

**Julia Wall:** Best Video

**Colin Campbell:** Religion & Faith Reporting

**Colin Campbell:** Serious Columns

**Cristina Bolling:** Arts and Entertainment Reporting

**Michael Gordon:** Beat News Reporting

**Charlotte Staff:** Best Niche Publication

**Fred Clasen-Kelly, Cassie Cope, Julianna Rennie:** News Enterprise Reporting

**Fred Clasen-Kelly, Emmanuel Morgan:** City County Government Reporting

**Taylor Batten:** Editorials

**Jim Morrill:** Election/Political Reporting

**Theoden Janes:** Feature Writing

**Ames Alexander, Gavin Off:** Investigative Reporting

**Scott Fowler:** Lighter Columns

**Diedra Laird:** Photography, General News

**Theoden Janes:** Profile Feature

**Charlotte Staff:** Public Service Award - Dailies Only

**Tim Funk:** Religion & Faith Reporting

**Brendan Marks:** Sports Columns

**Scott Fowler:** Sports News Reporting

### Second Place

**Richard Stradling:** Beat News Reporting

**Martha Quillin:** News Feature Writing

**Raleigh Staff:** Online Breaking News Coverage

**Anna Johnson:** Best Lede

**Richard Stradling:** Business Writing - Dailies Only

**John Drescher, Ned Barnett:** Editorial Page

**Will Doran, Lynn Bonner:** Election/Political Reporting

**Andrew Carter, Bruce Henderson:** Investigative Reporting

**Ethan Hyman:** Photography, Sports

**John Murawski:** Public Service Award - Dailies Only

**Virginia Bridges:** Beat Feature Reporting

**Lynn Bonner:** Beat News Reporting

**David Menconi:** Feature Writing

**Mark Schultz:** Photography, Feature

**Jonathan M. Alexander, Jonas Pope IV:** Sports News Reporting

**Jane Wester, Anna Douglas:** Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

**Theoden Janes:** Sports Enterprise Writing

**Jeff Siner:** Best Video

**Peter St. Onge:** Editorials

**Theoden Janes:** Feature Writing

**Charlotte Staff:** News Section Design - Dailies Only

**Scott Fowler:** Sports Columns

**Langston Wertz Jr:** Sports News Reporting

### Third Place

**David Menconi:** Arts and Entertainment Reporting

**Raleigh Staff:** Best Community Coverage

**Travis Long:** Best Video

**Ned Barnett:** Editorials

**T. Keung Hui:** Election/Political Reporting

**John Murawski:** General News Reporting

**Dan Kane:** Investigative Reporting

**Raleigh Staff:** Photo Page or Essay

**Raleigh Staff:** News Section Design - Dailies Only

**Ethan Hyman:** Photography, Sports

**Julia Wall:** Photography, Spot

**Martha Quillin:** Religion & Faith Reporting

**John Drescher:** Serious Columns

**Raleigh Staff:** Special Section - Newspapers Only

**Steve Wiseman:** Sports News Reporting

**Tammy Grubb:** News Feature Writing

**Casey Toth:** Best Video

**Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan:** Investigative Reporting

**Colin Campbell:** Election/Political Reporting

**Ann Doss Helms:** Education Reporting

**Katherine Peralta, Deon Roberts, Cassie Cope, Ames Alexander:** Online Breaking News Coverage

**Steve Harrison, Ely Portillo:** City County Government Reporting

**Charlotte Staff:** Editorial Page

**Peter St. Onge:** Lighter Columns

**Jourdan Rodrigue:** Sports Columns

**Charlotte Staff:** Sports Coverage - Newspapers Only

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Monica Holland  
*Shag*

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY REFLECTOR**  
Kim Grizzard  
*Mirra on the wall*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Monica Holland  
*Quilting*

## BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
David Thompson  
*Love, loss and a community that cares for Avery basketball player*  
*Heartrending story of female high school basketball player dealing with her mother's suicide. Good treatment of difficult topic.*

**2nd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**  
Virginia Bridges  
*Losing David: Triangle moms grieve the abused little boy who never grew up*  
*Story of abused baby raised by adoptive parents. Sensitive handling of very difficult story.*

**3rd Place**  
**GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS**  
Becky Barclay  
*Courageous comic*  
*Inspiring story of kid with Type I Diabetes fighting back after losing leg, and pursuing his dream to create comic books.*

## BEAT NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Adam Wagner  
*Environment Beat*  
*Wagner's environmental writing is top notch. The cat urine story is wild! Great work.*

**2nd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**  
Lynn Bonner  
*NC Treasurer seeks to get disability overpayments from the dead*  
*The headline alone is enough to grab attention. Bonner's writing keeps the reader's interest! Nice work.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Steve DeVane and Greg Barnes  
*GenX beat coverage*  
*Great in-depth coverage of GenX. The world needs more environmental reporting of this caliber.*

## BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

**1st Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Staff  
*The High Point Enterprise Best Community Coverage*  
*The High Point Enterprise delivers on its stated commitment to community, across its news sections. It feels local, and demonstrates a closeness to community. The article on statistics related to drug rehab houses shows enterprise. And features on such topics as local history, health, community events and people and local athletes make it stand out in this category.*

**2nd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Staff  
*Asheville Citizen Times Community Coverage*

**3rd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*Dec. 6-7, 2017*

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Staff  
*Salisbury the Magazine, March 2018*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*Discover Cape Fear May 2018*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Staff  
*Salisbury the Magazine, August 2018*

## DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Sam DeGrave  
*Florence: California-based FEMA swift water rescue team is saving lives in Duplin County*  
*Thorough reporting is expected from an embedded reporter, and this delivers. Long piece, but keeps the reader engaged throughout.*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Nancy McCleary and Michael Futch  
*Arrest of Ramsey Street rapist*  
*A lot of info organized and presented well, with solid writing.*

**3rd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Sam DeGrave  
*With death of Asheville rapper killed Tuesday, city homicide count climbs to 12 in 2018*  
*good reporting on a murder concentrates more on who the victim was than on the crime itself.*

## EDUCATION REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Alexandria Bordas  
*Wave of school shootings has educators preparing for 'when, not if'*

**2nd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Rebecca Rider  
*Relentless pursuit: understanding and combating chronic absenteeism*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Rebecca Rider  
*Paradigm shift: How school libraries have changed*

## NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*Cape Fear Forward Series*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Greg Barnes  
*In the Dark: The Story Behind GenX*

**3rd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Cammie Bellamy  
*Are our kids safe?*

## NEWS FEATURE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Elizabeth Cook  
*Are you Taylor Miller's mother, Lessons from one family's opioid death*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Hunter Ingram  
*Beach, water access challenges along the Cape Fear coast*

**3rd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**  
Tammy Grubb  
*Durham police say every day is an opportunity to do something good for the community*

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Staff  
*Breaking news: Hurricane Florence hits Cape Fear region*  
*Thorough coverage with lots of digital elements, including maps, audio, and photo galleries to keep readers informed.*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*Winter Storm Grayson*  
*Good, consistent updates, including several digital elements.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Staff  
*Bowe Bergdahl sentencing*

## SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Sammy Batten  
*Game Changers: The Rise of Football in North Carolina*  
*Awesome in-depth, big picture look at a trend. Clearly well-researched and written for a wide audience. I love that there's actual data! Great series.*

**2nd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
David Thompson  
*Ranks of high school officials continue to dwindle in WNC*  
*Great story, great topic. I loved the details about parental harassment.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Jaclyn Shambaugh  
*Cumberland County takes steps to bar 'hot' bats*  
*Neat story, well-written.*

**SPORTS FEATURE WRITING****1st Place  
HERALD-SUN**

Luke DeCock  
*With deportation looming, a Raleigh boxer finds himself in the fight of his life. Great profile, buoyed by its reporting, storytelling and explanatory journalism putting Olmeda's story in context with current events.*

**2nd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

David Thompson  
*Coaches' wives: The unsung heroes of Friday nights. Great all-around reporting, making sure these "unsung heroes" stories are told from various perspectives and angles.*

**3rd Place  
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**

Jimmy Tomlin  
*The miracle at the Masters. What a story -- a likeable character, a "mission" and a running clock. Impossible to not get hooked.*

**BEST LEDE****1st Place  
SALISBURY POST**

Andie Foley  
*Gary Barringer named vet of year, downtown Kannapolis development, Local groundhogs. Ledes from the veteran story and ground hogs were especially enticing. Well done.*

**2nd Place  
STARNEWS**

John Staton  
*Garden of Eden; Steel Magnolias; Blue Post. Garden of Eden lede made us want to read the story hallmark of a good lede.*

**3rd Place  
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**

Jimmy Tomlin  
*Jimmy Tomlin ledes. Lede used word play to get readers interested in the flu topic.*

**BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT****1st Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Hrisanthi Kroi and Sammy Batten  
*Game Changers. Strong entry all around. Clean, comprehensive.*

**2nd Place  
STARNEWS**

Dan Spears, Ashley Morris, Stacie Hidek  
*Foodies Fight. Good use of video for the call to action. Great photography and good use of multimedia tools to engage audience participation.*

**3rd Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Staff  
*2018-19 high school football tab. Good use of photography and layout. Smart use of the platform to create a portal to existing content.*

**BEST VIDEO****1st Place  
HERALD-SUN**

Julia Wall  
*'I guess I've been gentrified,' says Durham renter.*

**2nd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Angela Wilhelm  
*Woman's journal reveals addiction struggle.*

**3rd Place  
HERALD-SUN**

Casey Toth  
*This Santa made history and became a big hit at the Durham Holiday Parade.*

**BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY****1st Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Monica Vendituoli  
*Building a Better City?*

**2nd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

John Boyle  
*The legacy of William A.V. Cecil.*

**3rd Place  
SALISBURY POST**

Mark Wineka  
*The Merchant of West End: John McLaughlin devoted his store, heart to Salisbury community.*

**CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING****1st Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Monica Vendituoli and Greg Barnes  
*City Council violations of Open Meetings Law.*

**2nd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Jennifer Bowman  
*Large bonuses, incentives inflated Buncombe County's other six-figure salaries.*

**3rd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Joel Burgess  
*One Airbnb host's fight with this tourist mecca is nearing \$1M in fines.*

**EDITORIAL PAGE****1st Place  
SALISBURY POST**

Elizabeth Cook  
*October 2017 editorial pages. Good balance of staff and reader views creates for a more compelling look at issues in the community. Editorials are well written and interesting, with clear calls for action.*

**2nd Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Tim White  
*Fayetteville Observer editorial pages. Editorials had good variety and were interesting to read, even for a judge far removed who knows nothing about the local issues.*

**3rd Place  
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**

Vince Wheeler  
*Editorial pages. Good mix of staff and community opinions.*

**EDITORIALS****1st Place  
STARNEWS**

Scott Nunn  
*StarNews Editorials.*

**2nd Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Tim White  
*Fayetteville Observer editorials.*

**3rd Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Myron B. Pitts  
*Myron B. Pitts editorials.*

**ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING****1st Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Paul Woolverton  
*Should the state require IDs to vote? An important state constitutional issue -- requiring voter IDs -- explained clearly. Both sides are represented with compelling statistical evidence.*

**2nd Place  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Joel Burgess  
*Asheville council: 220 years, 14 women, 10 African-Americans. Diversity on the Asheville council put into historical perspective. Clearly written.*

**3rd Place  
STARNEWS**

Tim Buckland  
*A new Sunday. Early voting on Sundays explained well. Quotes are particularly strong.*

**FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY****1st Place  
STARNEWS**

Staff  
*May 16-17, 2018. Nice layout, good flow - both sections.*

**FEATURE WRITING****1st Place  
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**

Jimmy Tomlin  
*The princess papers.*

**2nd Place  
HERALD-SUN**

David Menconi  
*Nina Simone and Tryon.*

**3rd Place  
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Monica Holland  
*Grateful Shed.*

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES****1st Place  
STARNEWS**

Staff  
*www.StarNewsOnline.com. Nice variety of stories up top. Site got a little unwieldy down near photo galleries and videos.*

**2nd Place  
DAILY REFLECTOR**

staff  
*Reflector.com. Standard; clean.*

**3rd Place  
HERALD-SUN**

Staff  
*The Herald-Sun. Not sure why so much white space between photos and story link.*

## GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Staff

*Hurricane Florence coverage  
These detailed accounts brings readers up close to the events in a way that is breathtaking. Good solid coverage*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Amanda Dolasinski

*What happened to Kristen Stone?  
This is an amazing story, rich in detail as well as good writing.*

**3rd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Jimmy Tomlin

*R.I.P., Mr. High Point  
This successfully captures a life and has amazing moments of humor as well.*

## HEADLINE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Scott Nunn

*Headlines on Celia Rivenbark columns  
These are headlines with personality! Spirited and shy.*

**2nd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Jimmy Tomlin

*Jimmy Tomlin headlines  
Funny, clever, concise!*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Bobby Parker  
*Moonstruck; Faith, Fund & So Fourth; Boxing camp  
Creative and cute!*

## ILLUSTRATION/ PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Staff

*The Mighty Cape Fear  
So more effective than just words in allowing readers to clearly understand the gravity of the situation*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Maria Sprow  
*Jordan's Rules*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Mariano Santillan  
*Christmas Story Contest illustration*

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Joel Burgess  
*Asheville police beating*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*Topsail High School baseball investigation*

**3rd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**  
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan  
*Gentrification in Durham: 'It's all about the dollar bill.' A renter's story*

## LIGHTER COLUMNS

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Myron B. Pitts  
*Myron B. Pitts lighter columns  
The story gods knew what they were doing when they handed Myron B. Pitts a pen. He knows how to tell them with grace and LOL humor. It helps that when he shares his personal insights it's hard not to feel like you've made a new friend. Congratulations!*

**2nd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Jimmy Tomlin  
*Jimmy Tomlin lighter columns  
It's obvious that Tomlin is an experimented journalist who knows how to turn a phrase - and a frown upside down.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Monica Holland  
*Monica Holland - Lighter Columns  
Looking to solve some of life's big riddles, reach for a Monica Holland column. She doesn't hide what's meaningful in life between the lines (though it doesn't hurt to look there, too).*

## NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Staff  
*July 1-2, 2018*

**2nd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Staff  
*Salisbury Post July 19 & 20, 2018*

## PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Teacher Rally  
These are some up-close and energetic images of the national topic's local event.*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Deployment  
Low-key and mainly somber scenes photographed are well-suited to the topic.*

**3rd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Angeli Wright  
*Blue Ridge Roller girls: 'Be your own hero'  
An engaging look at an out-of-the-mainstream sport*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Parade of Nations  
What an opportunity, and you grabbed it!*

**2nd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**  
Mark Schultz  
*Horsing around in the snow  
Nice moment, good timing.*

**3rd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Laura Greene  
*Fire Drill  
It's a planned event but nevertheless you brought a photographer's eye to bear on it.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Andrew Craft  
*Loved Ones  
Exposed just right to show the emotions of the couple and enough of the background to provide context.*

**2nd Place**  
**GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS**  
Casey Monzingo  
*A cry for justice  
Strong feelings come right through these images.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Memorial  
A simple but powerful moment immortalized.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Matt Born  
*The Wait is Over*

**2nd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Laura Greene  
*Pain at Second Base*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**  
Jon Lakey  
*Salisbury soccer*

## PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Hurricane Rest*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**  
Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Hurricane Mom*

**3rd Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
Ken Blevins  
*Florence in photos*

## PROFILE FEATURE

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**  
John Staton  
Peggy Farrell  
*Beautifully and carefully written profile of a two-time Emmy Award-winning costume designer. A very enjoyable read - really a loving portrait.*

**2nd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**  
Mackensy Lunsford  
*Asheville food businesses draw together in support of homeless artist  
Touching profile of homeless Asheville artist.*

**3rd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**  
Paul B. Johnson  
*Life on Thissell Street  
Candidate for state legislature chooses to live in the 'hood while campaigning. A terrific story, with a tragic twist, well-told.*

**RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING**

**1st Place**  
**DAILY REFLECTOR**

Kim Grizzard  
*Erasing the lines*  
*At a time when health officials have seen life expectancy decline due to suicide and overdoses, stories like this inspire faith -- which this is not precisely traditional religious writing, it is well-crafted and evokes an important spirit of hope*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**

Ben Steelman  
*Finding the Gospel in the digital age a good snap shot of the world as it is today and the strategies for faith's place in it. Good writing as well as interesting subject matter*

**3rd Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Sam DeGrave  
*Living through legacy: In church youth groups, Graham's influence, not his name, survives*  
*Interesting angle on an important influence and a reflection of contemporary faith. Liked the story writing and the approach.*

**SERIOUS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Casey Blake  
*Casey Blake columns*  
*Wow, Casey Blake! She pulls no punches, uses humor to dispel darkness, and writes in a conversational, engaging manner.*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Myron B. Pitts  
*Myron B. Pitts serious columns*  
*Nice work. Writes in a forthright voice about timely issues.*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**

Mark Wineka  
*Barbara Harris Richmond, beauty queen; Closed to none; Gordon Peacock*

**SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

Staff  
*The Rev. Billy Graham commemorative section*  
*A compelling, in-depth tribute to an icon of American history, who inspired millions. The section provided a fresh perspective on the life of a man whose work is known world-wide and offered something for all readers, those who well know Graham's story to those who only knew him by name.*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Staff  
*Hurricane Matthew: Stories from the Storm*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Staff  
*Fort Bragg: 100 Years*

**SPORTS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**

Alex Riley  
*Getting vocal; UNCW baseball proves it belongs; Time is now for next step*  
*I really enjoyed all 3 columns. Fantastic quotes.*

**2nd Place**  
**DAILY REFLECTOR**

Nathan Summers  
*No quarter; Mirror, mirror; Bittersweet handoff*  
*Summers' final column of covering ECU was exceptional. Loved the line of missing an opening kickoff still haunts him. Good stuff.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Rodd Baxley  
*Sports Columns*

**SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

**1st Place**  
**DAILY REFLECTOR**

Staff  
*Best sports coverage*

**2nd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Staff  
*Sports coverage Fayetteville Observer*

**3rd Place**  
**HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE**

Enterprise sports staff  
*Enterprise sports coverage*

**1st Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Andrew Craft  
*Division Run*

**2nd Place**  
**STARNEWS**

Matt Born  
*Sky High*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Box it Out*

**SPORTS NEWS REPORTING**

**1st Place**  
**STARNEWS**

Alex Riley  
*Cain-UNCW baseball*  
*Exceptional digging into a sports program with tantalizing results. I wanted to read more.*

**2nd Place**  
**HERALD-SUN**

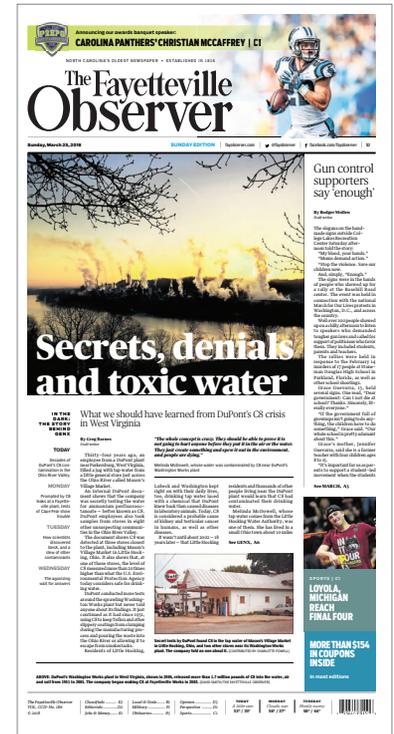
Jonathan M. Alexander and Jonas Pope IV  
*UNC suspends 13 football players, including QB Chazz Surratt, for selling sneakers*  
*Well executed coverage of something that the publication may have known was coming - due to the publication - and then very well laid out and written.*

**3rd Place**  
**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**

Jaclyn Shambaugh  
*Jeff Capel Jr. dies*  
*Thoroughly done piece on something that was not necessarily expected on that day.*

**3rd Place**  
**SALISBURY POST**

Mike London  
*Sports community mourns the loss of umpire JT Bost*  
*Compelled to give this an award - great reporting and writing on a person not often lauded in sports coverage - the ump!*





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At the heart of journalism lies an unwavering drive to improve lives.

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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Cristina Bolling  
*His gift is profound. So how can his parents and teachers best guide him?*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Dawn DeCwikiel-Kane  
*History-making black Navy band*

**3rd Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 David Menconi  
 Kinston Arts District

## BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Nancy McLaughlin  
*Unseen homeless*  
*Amazing story of two not-for-profit execs going "undercover" as homeless people - something like "Undercover Boss." Unique perspective on a problem that just won't go away.*

**2nd Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Sarah Newell  
*Winning the "buddy battle" -- Lexington group offers a lifeline to military veterans and their dogs*  
*Excellent piece on important service to returning military service personnel with combat-related issues - the training of service dogs. Offers good detail of the program in a nice narrative style.*

**3rd Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Jenny Drabble  
*"Best day ever" -- Refugee brothers invite police officer to a special celebration*  
*A truly heartwarming story of kind-hearted policemen reaching out to two Syrian immigrant children with MD. This story gives hope.*

## BEAT NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Michael Gordon  
*His sentence carried no jail time. So why did he keep ending up there?*  
*This in-depth reporting puts a spotlight on an important issue.*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 Richard Stradling  
*After high court victory, landowners still waiting*  
*A strong explanatory piece that offers a good mix of context and human impact.*

**3rd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Taft Wireback  
*Duke Energy: Power struggle*

## BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

**1st Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Staff  
*Best Community Coverage -- July 7, July 8*  
*The front-page story on the Bowman-Gray racetrack was a great slice of life piece and such features as the Sexton column, Ask Sam and "Community Chatter" showed a community commitment that stood out in this category.*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Staff  
*Community Coverage - Dec. 12-17, 2017*

**3rd Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 Staff  
*Best Community Coverage, News & Observer, July 23-24, 2018*

## BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Staff  
*SouthPark Magazine, April 2018*  
*Excellent job on layout and design*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Cindy Loman, Tim Myers, Whitney Cork  
*1808: Greensboro's Magazine, December 2017*  
*Love the use of the red bows as an accent on the corners, also the recipe cards is very clever*

**3rd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Cindy Loman, Tim Myers  
*1808: Greensboro's Magazine June 2018*  
*Font and borders on the Nathanael Greene feature are outstanding*

## DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 T. Keung, Hui, Greg Childress and Jim Morrill  
*NC teachers rally in Raleigh for more pay, education funding*  
*Good variety of voices in the mix, solid coverage all around of a story that made national headlines when it happened, this coverage gives a more thorough look and provides background.*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Andre Taylor  
*Apartment fire*  
*Touching and horrendously sad. Author treads lightly and avoids clichés that too often accompany stories on topics like this.*

**3rd Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Michael Bragg  
*'Whatever it takes' -- 3 busloads and multiple carpools from W-5-Forsyth Schools join rally*  
*Well written and puts a human face on an issue and event that's been widely reported.*

## EDUCATION REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner, David Raynor  
*NC's Charter School Boom*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Jessie Pounds  
*Testing school water*

**3rd Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Ann Doss Helms, Micheal Gordon  
*Teen has missed 77 days of school. Will threatening his parents with jail help CMS?*

## NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

**1st Place**  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
 Fred Clasen-Kelly, Cassie Cope, Julianna Rennie  
*Kids in psych center say staff sexually, physically abused them. Why didn't officials listen?*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Nancy McLaughlin  
*Shattered*

**3rd Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Jenny Drabble  
*Hoping for answers: Family clings to hope, police continue search 2 years after teen's disappearance*

## NEWS FEATURE WRITING

**1st Place**  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
 Margaret Moffett  
*Tornado aftermath*  
*Margaret Moffett's cinematic eye made all the difference in telling this post-disaster story. Once you start reading the first few words, you are sucked in, forced to hold on to your hat as she narrates what happens next. She shows us how this town's heart and sense of resilience. The attention to detail and her conversational voice rounds out this terrific piece. Congratulations!*

**2nd Place**  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
 Martha Quillin  
*A Confederate statue. A mostly black college. And simmering small-town resentment.*

*Martha Quillin shows us in her writing how much she knows the community she covers, and how all the complexities and contradictions of our nation's history and race relations are playing out in her own backyard. The straightforward writing brings to life the issue through a cast of characters whose voices represent various sides of a local controversy being watched on a global scale. Very nicely done!*

**3rd Place**  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
 Scott Sexton  
*'I can't forget' -- Letter opens old wounds; man sentenced in officer's murder up for parole*  
*In all likelihood, Scott Sexton has enough notes from his reporting to write a novel about this widower's letter. Sexton distilled the essence of the story into a this article, but he took extra care to bring you into his subject's life and recreate memories that seemed forgotten. Take note of the details, and how the quotes carry the piece, forcing us to ask questions about the justice system and ourselves.*

**ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE****1st Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Staff

Protesters topple Silent Sam Confederate statue at UNC-Chapel Hill

*Wow! A phenomenal job covering an emotional event on deadline and through the night, followed by executive all of the video and social media aspects that are needed in this day and age. Good, rich coverage not only of the emotion, but of the issue, history and the politics that probably could have prevented such a scene. Extremely well done.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Staff

Hurricane Florence coverage

*A terrific job by the N&O staff under the adverse conditions. Particularly impressive was the use of short video, which really brought readers/viewers the devastation of the storm. Coupled with compelling people stories, this is breaking news coverage at its best.*

**3rd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Katherine Peralta, Deon Roberts, Cassie Cope, Ames Alexander  
End of an era: Family Dollar to close Matthews headquarters; 900 jobs affected

*Great job putting the impact into perspective and showing what might replace Family Dollar. It was interesting that so many jobs were lost but it didn't seem like other that those directly affected were too worried, given all the other growth in Charlotte. The paper did a nice job of painting that perspective.*

**SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Patrick Ferlise

A Wild Ride: Fans flock to tradition-rich Bowman Gray for intense racing and jolt of fun

*A great, in-depth look at the history people and the magic that make this a stadium like no other. Great all-around reporting -- as a complete novice to both racing and Bowman Gray, I felt like I understood what makes it so special.*

**2nd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Theoden Janes

Is the Booty Loop truly 'the most dangerous 3 miles to ride a bike in Charlotte'?

*Reported and arranged with near perfection. You get the human impact up top logistical issues and opinions of the cyclists throughout, and end with a beautiful callback to the human impact. Fantastic lede, fantastic kicker.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Brant Wilkerson-New

Young basketball star's fast track

*Great personality profile of a kid who's about to become a superstar. The profile is great as is, but the added reporting into the ways technology has transformed the graduation process put it over the top.*

**SPORTS FEATURE WRITING****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Patrick Ferlise

Setting the standard -- Football was only the beginning for West Forsyth hall of famer

*The story had me, and it's so well written -- from the description of Johnny's eye glasses to his quotes -- well done.*

**2nd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

John Dell

'There is nothing she can't do'

**3rd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Ethan Joyce

Humble beginnings -- Wake tennis brought home NCAA championships, but outlook different in 1953

**APPEARANCE AND DESIGN****1st Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Staff

May 17, May 18 N&O appearance and design

**2nd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Staff

Appearance and design, May 12, 13

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Staff

Appearance and Design

**BEST LEDE****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Lisa O'Donnell

Faces of recovery/MerleFest/Steve Earle

*Stunning. Each brings a reader right into the heart of someone's life in a way that us unique to each.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Anna Johnson

Best Ledes - Anna Johnson

*They say the devil is in the details, and this is particularly true in these from parking issues outside churches to those items left at the curb after a hurricane. These grab you and make you want to read more.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Jeff Mills

Jeff Mills

*good, solid interesting introductions to people and situations that draws in the reader well*

**BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT****1st Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Nancy McLaughlin, H. Scott

Hoffmann, Tim Rickard

Fatal accident shatters families

*Incredibly tragic story. Good use of visual elements to recreate and explain the accident. Good use of photos to humanize the characters.*

**2nd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Staff

The Legend of Lydia

*Brave use of illustration and animation to draw the reader in.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Joe Sirera

Excellence personified

*Thorough profile. Good use of timeline and video elements.*

**BEST VIDEO****1st Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Casey Toth

The last Mother's Day for Avery Neill

**2nd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Jeff Siner

Mother and son are both amputees, both ballers

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Travis Long

This man and his cat became the faces of Florence and a story of resilience and hope

**BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Richard Craver

Winners and losers: Steel tariffs likely to have variable effects on N.C. corporations

*Great job localizing a national story Perfect!*

**2nd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Richard Stradling

Farmers sign on to grow newest cash crop in North Carolina

*More reporting on hemp is needed in this nation. Awesome work!*

**3rd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Jenny Drabble

Removing barriers to history

*Powerful story!*

**CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING****1st Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Fred Clasen-Kelly, Emmanuel Morgan

This pill prevents HIV, saves lives. Here's why Mecklenburg doesn't offer it.

*The number of residents suffering from HIV in Mecklenburg is heartbreaking. Great job reporting this sensitive topic in a professional manner.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Margaret Moffett

Downtown parking

*Who knew parking decks could be so controversial? Nice!*

**3rd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Steve Harrison, Ely Portillo

Charlotte spent \$2 million for housing project. After 11 years, it hasn't been built.

*Engaging work by Harrison and Portillo. More journalists should follow their lead and report on the millions of dollars wasted by governments across the nation.*

## EDITORIAL PAGE

### 1st Place NEWS & RECORD Staff

*Editorial page  
Good variety of topics, all well written and most urge action of some type, not just spout opinion for the sake of filling space.*

### 2nd Place NEWS & OBSERVER

John Drescher, Ned Barnett  
*News and Observer Editorial Pages  
Local editorials were great, layout could have been better if those were always dominant over the syndicated columnist.*

### 3rd Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Staff  
*Editorial pages*

## EDITORIALS

### 1st Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Taylor Batten  
*Collection of editorials: Taylor Batten  
Biting, well-argued commentary on a variety of subjects that calls out hypocrisy in its many forms.*

### 2nd Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Peter St. Onge  
*Collection of editorials: Peter St. Onge  
Accessible, energetic editorials written with personality; holding local and state government accountable.*

### 3rd Place NEWS & OBSERVER

Ned Barnett  
*Barnett N&O editorial  
Intelligent editorials that spotlight ways in which the interests of citizens are not well served by government.*

## ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

### 1st Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Jim Morrill  
*A speech Jesse Helms never gave would have changed U.S. politics  
Well written and researched, interesting look into the true influence of one of North Carolina's most well known political figures.*

### 2nd Place NEWS & OBSERVER

Will Doran, Lynn Bonner  
*Campaign donors' cash goes to steak dinners, home fees  
Thorough deep dive into political spending, something needed more in political reporting.*

### 3rd Place NEWS & OBSERVER

T. Keung Hui  
*GOP lawmakers have reshaped state's K-12 education system  
Interesting and compelling read on the broad changes being made to public education and the political divide surrounding the different philosophies.*

## FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

### 1st Place NEWS & RECORD

Staff  
*Feature design  
"Weekend Go Triad" section comprehensive, well-organized, reader friendly. Excellent events calendar and calendar listing, as well as separate Tickets listing. Map on casual dining feature helpful.*

*Savor section attractive, with locally oriented features, including recipe swap, food and drink calendar. Having comics, crosswords, etc. on pages 2 and 3 was a bit jarring, though.*

### 2nd Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff  
*Feature section design May 27, 30  
Meaty Sunday Arts section, running gamut from theater to classical music, to locally oriented TV briefs and book reviews. Good use of "If you Go" boxes, interesting feature on museum exhibit on nexus between business and arts. Midweek Food section also well done. Nice color, layout and content. Good mix of features and recipes.*

## FEATURE WRITING

### 1st Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Theoden Janes  
*As kids they picked cotton and dreamed about the 'mansion' across the road. Now they own it.  
I couldn't stop reading this story. It's simply fabulous, from beginning to end. It's hard to believe that sharecropping lasted so long. And the way the house the family admired ended up in the family was spectacular. You can't help but admire this marvelous family that truly overcame adversity. And then add a compelling video as the cherry on top. Sensational piece of journalism.*

### 2nd Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Theoden Janes  
*She tried to keep her 99-year-old father from skydiving. He jumped anyway – happily.  
We all should get to be Jack Hart. The writer takes us along for the ride with an amazing, 99-year-old man who seems half his age. The story is so well told, you can't help but smile throughout this brilliant piece.*

### 3rd Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Jenny Drabble  
*'A kid who never gives up' -- 9-year-old overcomes strokes, paralysis  
Wonderfully told story. A reader's heart can't help but break as the reporter takes one through this amazing journey of this special 9-year-old. You can't help but root for this kid.*

## GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

### 1st Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff  
*JournalNow.com  
Easy to navigate and overwhelmingly comprehensive*

### 2nd Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Staff  
*CharlotteObserver.com*

### 3rd Place NEWS & RECORD

Staff  
*News & Record website, greensboro.com*

## GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

### 1st Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Richard Craver  
*Broken system/Cardinal probe alleges fraud  
Well-written and thorough look from early stages and follows the saga well. Dry topic written in a way that draws the reader in and makes it interesting.*

### 2nd Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Sarah Newell  
*Ann Carter's last days/Two families.  
Two stories. One death.  
Interesting look at a sad situation and has compassion, but doesn't shy away from discussing a troubled past. Leaves reader with tons of questions, wanting more coverage of this case.*

### 3rd Place NEWS & OBSERVER

John Murawski  
*Thousands of doctors still overprescribing opioids  
Interesting read that raises questions about a toothless law with lax enforcement. Important topic that is covered frequently, but this is an interesting angle that hasn't been discussed a lot.*

## HEADLINE WRITING

### 1st Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff  
*Vacation vexation/It 'otter' look good/What does the fox steal?*

### 2nd Place NEWS & RECORD

Mike Kernels  
*Mike Kernels*

### 3rd Place NEWS & RECORD

Allen Johnson  
*Allen Johnson*

## ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

### 1st Place NEWS & RECORD

Tim Rickard  
*Immigration: Where to turn*

### 2nd Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Cassandra Sherrill  
*School bus 101*

### 3rd Place WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Cassandra Sherrill  
*Once in a Super Blue Blood Moon*

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

### 1st Place CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off  
*Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages create deadly risk  
Staggering investigative reporting on issues of critical public importance. Shocking findings, authoritative voice, plenty of hard facts and personal narratives. Some of the reporting on statewide shortcomings could be even stronger with national context – how do NC prison staffing shortages and rates of violence compare to other states?*

**2nd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Andrew Carter and Bruce Henderson  
*NC cut landslide hazard program, despite dangers -- 2 stories*  
*Beautifully written story. Nice job weaving together intimate personal narratives and hard news. Could be stronger with more authoritative statements about government action (or inaction) and harm to the public.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Dan Kane  
*NC House Speaker Tim Moore's legal contract with start-up raises questions*  
*Strong watchdog reporting on questionable dealings by a politician. Solid impact with the prosecutor pursuing an investigation. Could be improved by taking a stronger stance on the politician's actions. Is there a way to say straight up whether he did something wrong?*

**LIGHTER COLUMNS****1st Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Scott Fowler  
*Collection of lighter columns: Scott Fowler*  
*A great mix of a variety of topics and story telling.*

**2nd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Mick Scott  
*Something wild must remain/ Where do I catch the next starship?/ Nighttime quiet to still the chatter*

**3rd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Peter St. Onge  
*Collection of lighter columns: Peter St. Onge*

**NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Staff  
*News section design, July 7, 8*  
*Visually appealing, except in a few text-heavy places. Love the full photo page.*

**2nd Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Staff  
*News Section Design*  
*Visually appealing design, and good effort to break up text.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Staff  
*N&O A section design*  
*Clean designs.*

**PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Andrew Dye  
*This is Cam's story*  
*Good job capturing Cam keeping a good attitude despite his challenges.*

**2nd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Allison Lee Isley  
*There's nothing she can't do*  
*Good job applying a graphic visual approach to a story that would usually take a more literal and emotional approach.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Staff  
*Hurricane Florence*  
*There are some great shots there.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE****1st Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Andrew Krech  
*Carrying the cross*  
*Walking through the cracks in the money still holds currency. The light is eerie, and the composition perfectly elegant.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Andrew Krech  
*Ready for renovation*  
*The lighting and textures in derelict architecture are great, here it gets a boost from some 'fairy dust.'*

**3rd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Andrew Dye  
*Big Jumps*  
*Cleanly done, this is well-timed, composed and colorful.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS****1st Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Diedra Laird  
*Public can help homeless survive dangerous freeze*  
*The secondary shot was even more powerful than the main photo with the woman sitting with her belongings as others waited in line and some turned away from the camera.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Andrew Krech  
*Bringing him home*  
*Well framed and emotionally intense.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Khadejeh Nikouyeh  
*Unite the Right*  
*Good, close-up work by the photographer capturing the intensity of the situation. Entry would have been helped by limiting the number of photos and honing in on the strongest.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS****1st Place****NEWS & RECORD**

H. Scott Hoffmann  
*UNCG dunk*

**2nd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Ethan Hyman  
*Floor scramble*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

ETHAN HYMAN  
*Stretch for a Sack*

**3rd Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Allison Lee Isley  
*Reynolds, Parkland renew rivalry*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT****1st Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Andrew Carter  
*Kitten clings as man awaits rescue*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

H. Scott Hoffmann  
*Mother, son after tornado*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Julia Wall  
*Sam Silenced For Now*

**PROFILE FEATURE****1st Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Theoden Janes  
*He was once Charlotte's most feared attorney. Now Bill Diehl faces a different fight.*  
*A joy to read. Great quotes, nice writing, good perspective and really nice lede - In many ways, Bill Diehl is less Bill Diehl-like than he used to be.*  
*There's one surprise after another in this story and how he tells it. You want to keep going to find out what happens next"*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Jeff Mills  
*A Broadway Masterpiece*  
*Lively writing and nice metaphor at the top. The writing carries the reader through the story.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Jeff Mills  
*John Isner is sky high*  
*More lively writing, lots of informative quotes. The reader can tell he likes this guy.*

**RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING****1st Place****CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

Tim Funk  
*Fallen televangelist Jim Bakker is back - and now he's prepping for the Apocalypse*  
*I love this story. It was fascinating and easy to read for those not familiar with Bakker. Very well-researched and written, too.*

**2nd Place****NEWS & RECORD**

Nancy McLaughlin  
*Church closes its doors*  
*Nicely done. Good reporting and well-written. Captures the importance to the church to its members.*

**3rd Place****NEWS & OBSERVER**

Martha Quillin  
*Faith and firearms: Why Christians don't talk about gun violence*  
*The beginning wasn't as strong as the rest of the story, but overall a good read.*

**SERIOUS COLUMNS****1st Place****WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

Mick Scott  
*Stop this plane and let him off/ Stealing a poor man's sheep/You can't scare city mice*

*Continued p. 45*

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

### 1st Place BLOWING ROCK NEWS

David Coulson  
*Living art*

### 2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen  
*'Rising' Exhibit Documents Coastal Change*

### 3rd Place OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach  
*Messages of hope transform Magic Bean yard*

## BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

### 1st Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Jack Igelman  
*Thousands of years of expertise: Cherokees contribute to National Forest management plan*  
*Unique and interesting angle to "Save our forests." Enjoyed the read!*

### 2nd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Melissa Boughton  
*Double-bunked judges speak out on judicial redistricting plans*  
*Well researched, deep dive into the far reaching effects of this plan.*

### 3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole  
*Study: Corals Prefer the Taste of Plastic*  
*Good read that takes the plastic in our waterways to a new level. Who knew plastic was tasty to some?*

## BEAT NEWS REPORTING

### 1st Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf  
*Coverage of North Carolina's Opioid Epidemic*  
*The opioid epidemic has touched every corner of our country in countless ways and there are endless stories to tell. The reporter's knowledge and coverage spans a deep variety of topics and sheds light on how deep into our society the issue goes, such as into our schools and into our homes.*

### 2nd Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Catherine Clabby  
*Challenging Swine Farming in Hog Country*

### 3rd Place CAROLINA JOURNAL

Kari Travis  
*UNC and Silent Sam*

## EDUCATION REPORTING

### 1st Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Rose Hoban, Thomas Goldsmith, Jared Weber  
*Coverage of North Carolina's School Nurse Shortage*

### 2nd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Billy Ball  
*A rocky first year for North Carolina's controversial school takeover program*

### 3rd Place EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell, Analisa Sorrells  
*Governor's Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education*

## NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

### 1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Staff  
*Coastal Review Online - News Coverage*

## NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

### 1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak  
*Sea level rise and the North Carolina coast*

### 2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kirk Ross  
*North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Series*

### 3rd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Joe Killian  
*North Carolina's cash-bail system, its problems and its inequities*

## NEWS FEATURE WRITING

### 1st Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg  
*Pleasant Garden residents gear up to fight a proposed granite mine*  
*Lisa Sorg's talent for finding the best subject to illustrate an issue is only matched by her artful, yet unadorned writing, which guides the reader through complex issues affecting the community. Bravo! Congratulations.*

### 2nd Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Jack Igelman  
*Illegal shooters trashing Eastern North Carolina public lands*  
*A nuanced look at illegal target shooting by a writer with an eye for detail. Jack Igelman guides us through the issue with neatly organized blocks that help the reader understand how it impacts the community at large.*

### 3rd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg  
*Human, environmental impact of 540 expansion loom large in southern Wake County*

## ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

### 1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kirk Ross  
*'Don't Drill!'*  
*Reverberates in Raleigh*  
*The author juxtaposes two scenes really well to illustrate the conflict behind this controversy. Also, lots of colorful detail that doesn't distract from the news.*

### 2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen  
*Cooper Promises Lawsuit Over Exemption*  
*This is a clear, concise story that gets right to the point at how a federal government's announcement in one state could affect North Carolina. One suggestion: It might help the readers to introduce the first quote through an audio or video clip next time, or even a photograph with a quote over it, just create a stronger multimedia story.*

### 3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak  
*Proposed Rule Would Allow Red Wolf Takes*  
*This story takes what could be a dry, incremental development and clearly illustrates the larger implications of a federal government announcement. Lots of good, key background as well. For a story like this, it could help to present the red wolf's road to recovery in a video or slideshow embedded in the story.*

## BEST LEDE

### 1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole  
*Kathleen Onorevole Best Lede*  
*Great ledes! Was drawn in to all three stories.*

### 2nd Place OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach  
*'Chicken run' thwarted on Swan Quarter ferry*

### 3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak  
*Catherine Kozak: Best Lede*

## BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

### 1st Place EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell  
*Equity Meets Education*  
*Great display. Strong use of video vignettes.*

### 2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole  
*Study: Nesting Turtles Prefer Dark Beaches*  
*Very good and logical selection of visuals.*

### 3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Allison Ballard  
*Historic Wrightsville Beach Cottage Relocated*  
*Good use of video to show the process.*

## CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

### 1st Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Frank Taylor  
*Emails reveal dealings between county officials and behavioral health agency lobbyists*  
*This is a potentially important story, not in the least because it may show evidence of a newspaper looking for a story of wrongdoing when none exists.*

### 2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Allison Ballard  
*Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan*  
*Local efforts to use a local resource to attract business from both local residents as well as tourists. It sounds lovely.*

### 3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen  
*Beaufort's Harbor Management Plan*  
*More efforts to put a local resource to good use. The government agencies seem to be trying their best to be economical while still realizing their purpose.*

**EDITORIALS**

**1st Place**

**CAROLINA JOURNAL**

Rick Henderson

*CJ editorials by Rick Henderson*

*A strong package of editorials addressing issues as varied as the meaning of milk to the need for transparency in government. The writer makes his case in each editorial clearly without resorting to hyperbole. Of course the editorials take a stance, but the writer presents enough information for the readers to form their own opinion and perhaps see things through a different prism.*

**2nd Place**

**N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Rob Schofield

*Three editorials by Rob Schofield*

**3rd Place**

**N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Billy Ball

*Brett Kavanaugh, hog farms, and the five living governors take a stand*

**ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING**

**1st Place**

**N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Billy Ball

*A teacher's battle to challenge North Carolina's most powerful state legislator*

*This deeply reported piece is impressive, offering readers a rare glimpse at the political machinations involved in an attempt to prevent a Republican Party defector from challenging a powerful, entrenched incumbent. The thoroughness of the reporting and the capturing of such political intrigue pushed this piece to the top in a category with other strong entries.*

**2nd Place**

**N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Melissa Boughton

*Victim's rights amendment could cost North Carolina millions to implement*

*A meritorious example of watchdog journalism, based on obtaining a previously secret fiscal analysis. The story raises important questions about the true cost of a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the rights of crime victims. Commendable reporting, and deftly written.*

**3rd Place**

**THE INSIDER**

Colin Campbell

*Political Donor*

**FEATURE WRITING**

**1st Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Jennifer Allen

*Deserted Island Village to Come Alive Again*

*A pleasant, well-written story. I love the lede.*

**2nd Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Kip Tabb

*Our Coast's History: NC's Oyster War*

*Very well-written and interesting story.*

**3rd Place**

**NC HEALTH NEWS**

Rose Hoban

*With Opioid Overdoses Rising,*

*Medical Cannabis Gets a Second Look*

*Interesting story. Well-researched.*

**General News Reporting**

**1ST PLACE**

**NC HEALTH NEWS**

Taylor Knopf

*For 11-year-old in ER Wait for a Psych*

*Bed is 10 Days*

**2nd Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Catherine Kozak

*Gator Sparks Interest As State OKs*

*Hunting*

**3rd Place**

**CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**

Vaughn Hagerty

*How one group of utility workers held the line against the flood*

**HEADLINE WRITING**

**1st Place**

**OCRACOCKE OBSERVER**

Staff

*Not all who wander are lost*

**2nd Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Mark Hibbs

*Headline Writing*

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING**

**1st Place**

**NC HEALTH NEWS**

Taylor Knopf

*NC Prison Breaks Its Own Rules for*

*Suicide Prevention*

**2nd Place**

**CAROLINA JOURNAL**

Kari Travis

*Problems at N.C. prisons have*

*festered for years*

**3rd Place**

**N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Billy Ball

*Exclusive: #MeToo comes to North*

*Carolina; NC legislator accused of*

*sexual misconduct*

**LIGHTER COLUMNS**

**1st Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Sam Bland

*Sam Bland: Lighter Columns*

**2nd Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Liz Biro

*Liz Biro: Lighter Columns*

**3rd Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Jared Lloyd

*Jared Lloyd: Lighter Columns*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE**

**1st Place**

**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Mark Hibbs

*New Neighbors: American Robins*

*Much of photography is about timing. I've*

*seen images like this always make me pause,*

*wish and wonder if I'd ever be a witness.*

**2nd Place**

**EDUCATIONNC**

Yasmin Bendaas

*Eastern NC high school students*

*blend leadership and STEM learning*

*"STEM and STEAM education is*

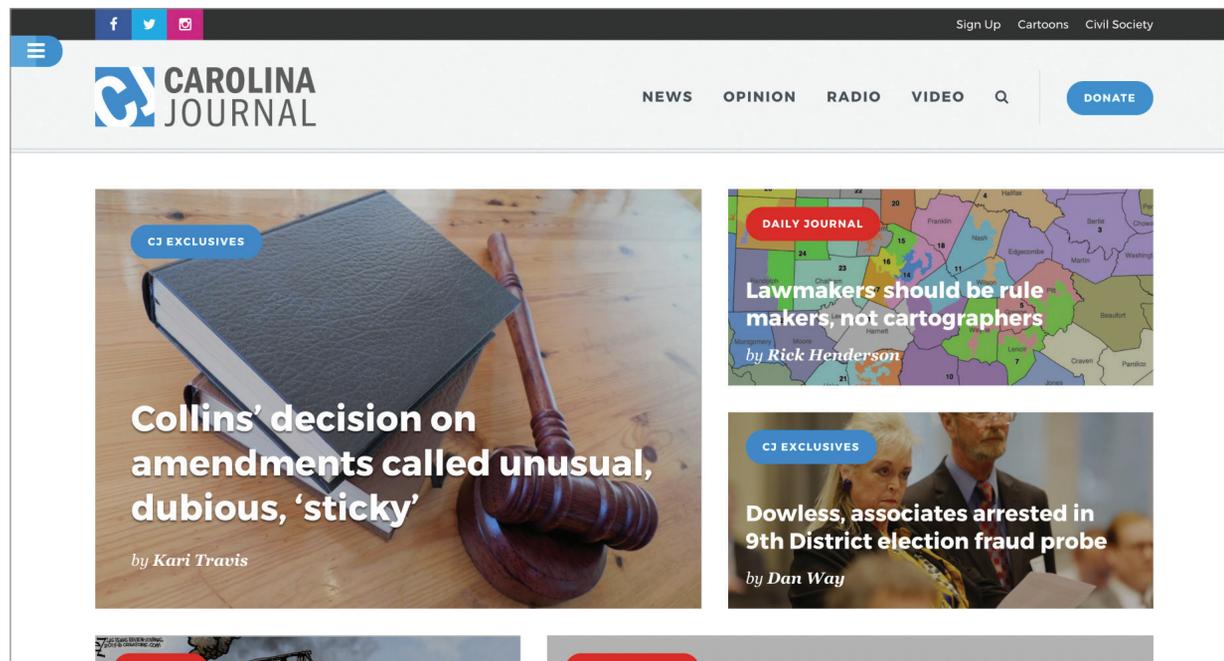
*building momentum nationally. I*

*like the engagement and energy of the*

*students, and that there is at least one*

*close-up by the photographer, and there's*

*more of that in the layout.*



**PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE**

**3rd Place**  
**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**  
 Mark Hibbs  
*The Buzz on Pollinator Week*  
*I like the intent of the photographer, as an eye-catching illustration to drive eyes to read about pollinator week.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS**

**1st Place**  
**CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**  
 Melissa Sue Gerrits  
*Group home photos by Melissa Sue Gerrits*  
*Well done from a photographic standpoint and from a storytelling standpoint.*

**2nd Place**  
**N.C. POLICY WATCH**  
 Lisa Sorg  
*Shielding Murphy-Brown from nuisance lawsuits sparks a fracas in the streets*  
*The image makes the viewer wonder what is about to happen.*

**3rd Place**  
**OCRACOKE OBSERVER**  
 Staff  
*Photos of a wintry Ocracoke*  
*A few too many photos, but otherwise an interesting essay.*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS**

**1st Place**  
**BLOWING ROCK NEWS**  
 Brad Batchelor  
*Run for your life!*

**2nd Place**  
**BLOWING ROCK NEWS**  
 David Scearce  
*Fill er up!*

**3rd Place**  
**BLOWING ROCK NEWS**  
 David Rogers  
*"The Catch"*

**PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT**

**1st Place**  
**OCRACOKE OBSERVER**  
 Peter Vankevich  
*Sea turtle release creates spectacle on Ocracoke beach*

**2nd Place**  
**OCRACOKE OBSERVER**  
 Peter Vankevich  
*Rare Trumpeter Swan spotted on Ocracoke*

**PROFILE FEATURE**

**1st Place**  
**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**  
 Jennifer Allen  
*Paula Gillikin Keeps Watch Over Wild Horses*  
*Immunocontraception. Explain that. Jennifer Allen did a super job of showing us who this manager of wild horses is and what makes her tick. Allen's ear for essential quotes make the piece what it is. Congratulations!*

**2nd Place**  
**NC HEALTH NEWS**  
 Taylor Knopf  
*Family Ties Keep One Rural OB-GYN Practicing in Eastern NC, Despite Challenges*  
*Nicely woven tale of how central rural doctor is to his community. Unadorned writing carries the piece.*

**3rd Place**  
**COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**  
 Kip Tabb  
*Our Coast's People: Nathan Richards*  
*Very visual story-telling. Nicely done.*

**RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING**

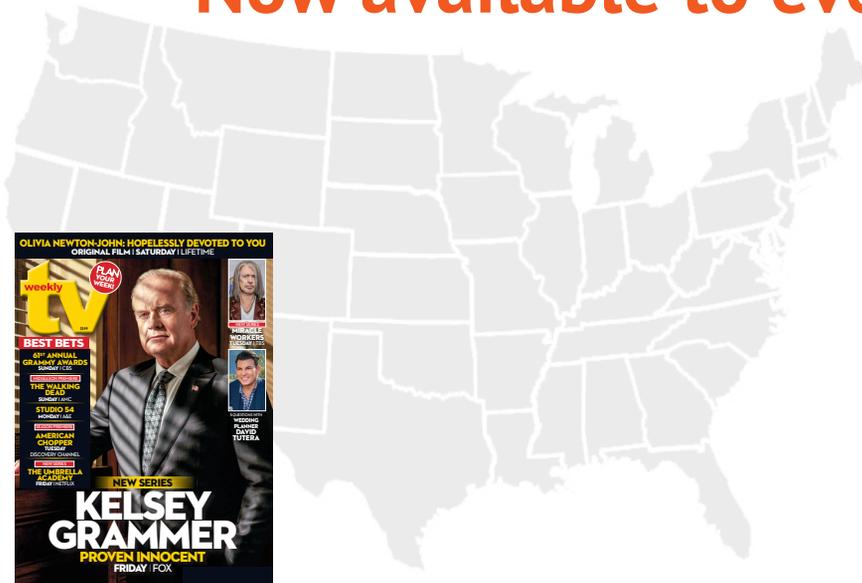
**1st Place**  
**THE INSIDER**  
 Colin Campbell  
*Legislative Chaplain*

**SERIOUS COLUMNS**

**1st Place**  
**THE INSIDER**  
 Colin Campbell  
*Political Columns*  
*"Outstanding watchdog journalism. All three columns were on important topics. All three columns exposed shortcomings in the Legislature, And two of the three offered solutions. Arguments were crisply written and convincing. Terrific job."*

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## 2nd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Rob Schofield  
*Three serious columns by Rob Schofield*  
*All columns were about timely relevant topics, all were well written and all made their case effectively.*

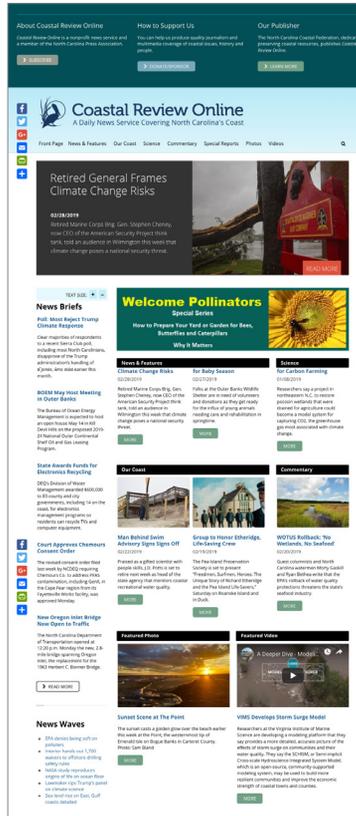
## 3rd Place CAROLINA JOURNAL

John Trump  
*Daily Journals from John Trump*

## SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place  
**BLOWING ROCK NEWS**  
David Rogers and Braxton Critcher  
*Almost de ja vu all over again*  
*Nice lede. Story flowed nicely. Very good reference of history added to the story.*

2nd Place  
**BLOWING ROCK NEWS**  
David Rogers, David Coulson  
*Gridiron Shootout*



## Four productions set for App State Theater & Dance 2019 spring season



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SPECIAL REPORT to Blowing Rock News, February 5, 2019, BOONE, NC — The Appalachian State University Department of Theatre and Dance will present four productions as part of their spring 2019 season. Additional season highlights include an interactive fundraising performance and a very special event to celebrate the Valborg Theatre's 25th anniversary.

COVER IMAGE: Brownyn Weismiller and Abby Buhler perform a section from Susan Lutz's 2018 dance, "What's the Point?" The piece was performed as part of the Department of Theatre and Dance's "Fall Appalachian Dance Ensemble" concert in November. Photo by Lynn Willis

Dr. Kin-Yan Szeto, director of the first production to hit the stage at the end of February, tells why audiences should be excited to see "Eurydice."

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Steals & Deals

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## SERIOUS COLUMNS

2nd Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Scott Sexton  
*Daughter's unknown killer created emotional prison/A gentle man/ Policy...*

3rd Place  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
John Drescher  
*How UNC changed its story -- and lost its voice.*

## SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Staff  
*Special section, Winston-Salem: How we play, work, grow, learn*

2nd Place  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
Kim Mills, Whitney Cork, Tim Myers  
*Discover Guilford*

3rd Place  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
Staff  
*Holiday Baking 2017*

## SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Brendan Marks  
*Collection of sports columns: Brendan Marks*  
*Great and important NASCAR coverage, keep up the great work.*

2nd Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Scott Fowler  
*Collection of sports columns: Scott Fowler*

3rd Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Jourdan Rodrigue  
*Collection of sports columns: Jourdan Rodrigue*

## SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
Staff  
*Sports coverage - N&R*  
*Sharp sports pages and strong photo choices. Well packaged stories with agate.*

2nd Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Staff  
*Sports coverage*

3rd Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Staff  
*Sports Coverage*

## SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Walt Unks  
*Bowman Gray's 70th season*

2nd Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Allison Lee Isley  
*West Forsyth Advances*

3rd Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Allison Lee Isley  
*Dream season ends*

## SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Scott Fowler  
*Tom Higgins, legendary NASCAR writer for Charlotte Observer, dies at age 80*  
*Beautiful obit and tribute to a life well-lived and reported.*

2nd Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Langston Wertz Jr  
*Father of Charlotte AAU basketball player who died: 'I'm devastated, man'*

3rd Place  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
Steve Wiseman  
*Don't die. Don't leave us. The frantic effort to save S.C. State's Ty Solomon*

## Daily Newspaper Winner

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  
Melissa Sue Gerrits



## Community Newspaper Winner

CHEROKEE SCOUT  
Ben Katz



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