EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2018
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
1989  Rep. George Miller
1990  Elmer Oettinger, N.C. Institute of Government
1991  The Hon. James H. Pou Bailey, Retired Senior Judge, 10th Judicial District
1992  Sharon Pennell, Journalism Professor, ASU Member, Caldwell County Board of Education
1993  Senator Marc Basnight
1994  Dr. Gene Lanier, East Carolina University
1995  Franz Holsher, Gastonia City Council
1996  Dr. Margaret Blanchard, UNC-CH School of Journalism & Mass Communication
1997  Mayor Tom Gwyn, Elkin, N.C.
1998  Senator Roy Cooper
1999  Senator David Hoyle
2000  Attorney Jon Buchan
2003  Hugh Stevens, NCPA Counsel Emeritus
2004  The Hon. Wanda G. Bryant, N.C. Court of Appeals
2005  Mark Swanger, Haywood County Commissioner
2006  Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina
2007  Joe Sinsheimer
2008  Tom McClure and Eldridge Painter of Sylva and Jim Rowell of Cullowhee
2009  No winner
2010  Cathy Packer
2011  No winner
2014  Rep. Marilyn Avila
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

2018 Annual Awards
Information from the image is not available.
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 Cavenaugh
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 offers 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 an 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

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Staff
The North State Journal Community Reporting

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. 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

BEST NICHIE 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
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY
David Donovan
#Ustoo: Lawyers' stories show harassment a problem at low firms

4th Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
J. Topham Hurlburt
Mecklenburg County leaders provide solutions in education

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 low firms

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Dan Brown
Snakebite
All the necessary details, drama and writing are here. Will 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 Cavenaugh
Six Days In A Shelter

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Two drown in the Northeast Cape Fear River at Halls ville

2nd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Fatalities report

3rd Place
ASHE POST & TIMES
Lee Sanderlin
Ferry 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
2018 / Editorial Excellence

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
NSU 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, checked 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.

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
There are thoughtfully crafted stories that presented a full picture of the subjects’ journeys. While meticulously detailed and completely, the details are presented artfully.

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 dog 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.
**Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation**

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  
**DUPLINTIMES**  
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  
**DUPLINTIMES**  
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  
**DUPLINTIMES**  
Abby Cavenaugh  
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  
**DUPLINTIMES**  
Trevor Normile  
When the cops call 911  
Great subject matter treated with appropriate energy, angles, composition, perspective. Good job.

2nd Place  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
Lauren Rose  
Oak City Cornison  
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  
**averyjournaltimes**  
Carl Blankenship  
Callum Vinson, 2018 Grandfather Mtn. Highland Games  
The off-setraid center foreground 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  
**DUPLINTIMES**  
Trevor Normile  
Night watchmen

**PROFILE FEATURE**  
1st Place  
**NORTH STATE JOURNAL**  
Laura Ashley Lamm  
From conviction to confessions  
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  
There 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.
REPORTING
RELIGION & FAITH

columns. They have such a strong sense of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged, poignancy. They have such a strong sense of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged, poignancy. They have such a strong sense of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged, poignancy. They have such a strong sense of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged, poignancy. They have such a strong sense of place, and of purpose. I felt engaged, poignancy.
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

BEST NICHES 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 to 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
ROCKINGHAMNOW
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-checked 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.

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Naturalization Ceremony 2018 in Southport
Ida 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
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 Bouwell. Good use of quotes throughout coverage.

2nd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Mark Jurkowitz
Campaign finance reports
Reporters achieved 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Division B</th>
<th>Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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. |
| Lighter Columns | 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  
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. |
| 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  
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. |
| Photography, Sports | 1st Place | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD  
Jeff Davis  
Back to School  
Good timing to pick up both the ball and the expression. |
| 2nd 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. |
| 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. |
| Photography, Feature | 1st 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. |
| 2nd Place | CHEROKEE SCOUT  
Ben Katz  
Wild Blue Yonder  
Wonderful array of perspectives in this photo essay. |
| 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. |
| Profile Feature | 1st Place | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD  
Jeff Davis  
Helping Hands  
A touching story with an artistic feature photo about the Littmaner. |
| 2nd Place | CHEROKEE SCOUT  
Ben Katz  
Wreck's response includes choppers  
A touching story with an artistic feature photo about the Littmaner. |
| 3rd Place | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD  
Jeff Davis  
Helping Hands  
A touching story with an artistic feature photo about the Littmaner. |

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**Sections:**
- **General News Reporting**
- **Lighter Columns**
- **Photography, General News**
- **Photography, Sports**
- **Photography, Feature**
- **Profile Feature**
- **Photography, Spot**
- **Serious Columns**

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**Categories:**
- **Reportage**
- **Serious Columns**
- **Headline Writing**
- **Lighter Columns**
- **Photography**
- **Investigative Reporting**

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**Winners:**
- **Rockinghamnow**
- **Cherokee Scout**
- **Watauga Democrat**
- **Syvula Herald and Ruralite**
- **State Port Pilot**

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**Judges:**
- **North Carolina Press Association**
Supporting newspapers takes a village...

Like NCPA, our partners are making a difference for North Carolina’s newspapers all year long.

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Become a member-owner…
join North Carolina Press Association Federal Credit Union!

As an employee of North Carolina newspapers who belong to the NC Press Association, you and your family can become member-owners of NCPA Federal Credit Union!

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Federally insured by NCUA

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Financial Advisory Services
Tax Preparation, Insurance, Investments, Retirement Planning, Education Planning, Trust Services, Financial Counseling

Convenience
24/7 Member Services via phone, Over 260 Branch Locations, nearly 1,100 No-Surcharge CashPoints® ATMs, Online Member & Mobile Access, Online BillPay

Visit www.ncpafcu.org for a complete listing of branch locations or call 24/7 Member Services via phone at 1-888-732-8562 for more information.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
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.
### Division C

**Community newspapers over 10,000 circulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts and Entertainment Reporting</strong></td>
<td>SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NEWS</td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>TRINITY BUSINESS JOURNAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beat News Reporting</strong></td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>BRUNSWICK BEACON</td>
<td>SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beat Feature Reporting</strong></td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>BRUNSWICK BEACON</td>
<td>CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Community Coverage</strong></td>
<td>PILOT</td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>PILOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Niches</strong></td>
<td>NEWS REPORTER</td>
<td>STANLY NEWS &amp; PRESS</td>
<td>NEWS REPORTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>News Enterprise Reporting</strong></td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>STANLY NEWS &amp; PRESS</td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sports Enterprise Writing</strong></td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
<td>STANLY NEWS &amp; PRESS</td>
<td>MOUNTAINEER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**ARMS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING**

1st Place
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Holly Kays
Cherokee storyteller seeks to preserve historical memory with filming project

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Alli Marshall
Asheville's nonwhite literary scene, past and present, series

3rd Place
PILOT
Deborah Salomon
Write On

**BEAT NEWS REPORTING**

1st Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Laura Lewis and Brian Slattery
Pet pig in porcine dilemma

2nd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Laura Lewis and Brian Slattery
Pet pig in porcine dilemma

**BEAT FEATURE REPORTING**

1st Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Laura Lewis
Carolina Crud Toucher
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
TRINITY BUSINESS JOURNAL
Ryan Haar, Dathan Kazsuk
Hoopstreet USA
Woo! 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!

**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 NICHES**

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
SMOKEY 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**

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Staff
Sept. 18 and Sept. 21, 2018 editions

2nd Place
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Staff
Frozen in Time; Price of Power

3rd Place
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE
Mark Plemons, Erin Kidd, Erin Weeks, Jamal Horton
The Independent Tribune July 4 and 6

**NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING**

1st Place
SMOKEY 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
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Jesli 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
YESI 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
MOUNTAINEER
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**
Allan 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’

### 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**
**WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT**
Becky Johnson

Mayor’s fate in limbo over forgery charges

Nice coverage with good timeline and explainers of the issue to help readers.

### 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

Clear 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 clear 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.

### BEST EDITORIALS

**1st Place**
**MOUNTAINEER**

Airing of Grievances is the Public’s Right

**2nd Place**
**MOUNTAINEER**

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.

### 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

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

**1st Place**
**MOUNTAINEER**

Allison Richmond

The Mountainier

Nice, clean design. Easy to navigate and find a variety of content.

**2nd Place**
**NEWS REPORTER**

Staff

nrcolumbus.com

---

2018 Annual Awards
Community newspapers over 10,000 circulation

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 Perrott
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
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
Sam
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
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jessi Stone
Religious football banners

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

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
Andy Scheidler
The Rivalry

3rd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Jackie Torok
Jackie Torok serious columns

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Les High
Fetal wreck near Nkina, N.C.

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

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
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

PHOTOGRAPHY, PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Tom Pantaleo
Moment in Time
A Title, A Father and Son and Their Dad, though, mostly sat quietly, stoically.

2nd Place
SPORTS COLUMNS
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Ted Fitzgerald
‘If you don’t get the paper now ...’ was a reference to the front page.

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Garret K. Woodward
Catch him if you can: David Joy

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS COVERAGE - April 5 and April 9, 2018
1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Sam Hickman
A Title, A Father and Son and Their Dad, though, mostly sat quietly, stoically.

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jemal Horton
A Title, A Father and Son and Their Dad, though, mostly sat quietly, stoically.

3rd Place
INDIEpendent TRIBUNE
J.J. Smith
‘If you don’t get the paper now ...’ was a reference to the front page.
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 Caliseum to tremble at times. The famous dad, though, musty 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; Folkmoont

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Staff
Carteret County News-Times

Angel Tree
Clothing donations for children at Christmas

The News Reporter
Published every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the county

Bolton murder has residents worried
By Jefferson Weaver
jeffersonweaver@nrcolumbus.com

“WE’RE LOSING A GENERATION”
Mental health care failings, the economy and opioids deal a crushing blow
By Allen Turner

Did You Know?
Peace Baptist Church members have planned Wilkes’ Christmas parade; set for 1 p.m. Sunday!Window Station decorated for the busy Christmas season, which begins with the Candlelight gathering to night... You’ll find writer Richard Ford Bates at WBOC promoting his book, The Christmas Story at the SEC Foundation Christmas Tree Lighting...
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
**Duke University/Green-Rossiter Award for Distinguished Newspaper Work in Higher Education**

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 question-able 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,
Coastal Review Online
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

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
- 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: “Shallotte 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 Collaboratory Series
- Kip Tabb for Feature Writing: “Our Coast’s History: NC’s Oyster War”

Third Place
- 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
- 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
## MAJOR Newsroom Award Winners

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### Courier-Tribune (Asheboro)

- **News Enterprise Reporting**: Local farmers will feel impact of tariffs, but how much? (JD Walker, Editorial)
- **City County Government Reporting**: Moment in the sun (Larry Penkava, Editorial)
- **Editorials**: Sheriff, Megastile, Crime (Annette Jordan, Editorial)
- **Feature Writing**: ‘Better than Hoosiers’ The Farmer baseball story (Larry Penkava, Editorial)
- **General News Reporting**: Local man attacked by fox saved by a plastic bag? (Chip Womick, Editorial)
- **Serious Columns**: Speechless, Post, Draining (Annette Jordan, Editorial)

### Free Press (Kinston)

- **Best Niche Publication**: My Lenoir - Fall 2019 (Chris Segal Staff, Editorial)
- **Photography, Feature**: Pancreatic cancer makes life challenging for retired couple (Janet S. Carter, Editorial)
- **Photography, General News**: Volunteers go bald for St. Baldrick’s (Janet S. Carter, Editorial)

### Gaston Gazette

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

### Hendersonville Times-News

- **Education Reporting**: Tough Decisions (Andrew Mundhenk, Editorial)
- **Education Reporting**: Chivalry is not dead (Derek Lacey, Editorial)
- **News Feature Writing**: Eyesore gets a new purpose (Andrew Mundhenk, Editorial)
- **Feature Section Design - Dailies Only**: Blue Ridge Living (Leilani Aler, Editorial)
- **Investigative Reporting**: Doubt, anger grows over sheriff’s search for Stroupe (Derek Lacey, Editorial)
- **Photography, Feature**: A hero’s welcome (Derek Lacey, Editorial)
- **Special Section - Newspapers Only**: Times-News Prep Football Preview: Football HQ (Joey Milwood, Dean Hensley, Editorial)
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**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT 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  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
Vail Stewart Rumley  
Creative exchange  
Nice work! Very clear lead 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. Reflects the poetic-literariness of the work itself. Specific to time and place.

**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 by citing the name of a loyal reader on the front page, and follows that up with a wealth of local content, including a byoy of local columnists.

2nd Place  
**DAILY HERALD**  
Staff  
July 22, 2018, July 29, 2018  
Well written story that talks to students, not just about them.

3rd Place  
**GASTON GAZETTE**  
Staff  
Best Community Coverage

**BEST NICHE PUBLICATION**

1st Place  
**WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS**  
Elizabeth Reed  
Washington the Magazine  
Good layout use of type overlays on photos. Likes the sailing feature in the July/Aug edition.

**NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING**

1st Place  
**DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)**  
Kelsey Stilgitz, Amanda Thames  
Child abuse on the rise in Onslow  
More newspapers need to highlight this serious issue of child abuse. Well done!

**NEWS FEATURE WRITING**

1st Place  
**STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK**  
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
Sideline 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
NEWS HERALD
Christopher 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
ROBESONIAN
Staff
Angel Exchange coverage

2018 Annual Awards
ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
3rd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
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.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Ashley Vansant
Hurricane Florence
'His 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 & LANDMARK
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
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.'

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Mike Hensdill
Cop Light?
'Does this intersection demand a traffic light?'

3rd Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
Janet S. Carter
Volunteers go bold 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.

2nd 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
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 it was modeled after QG - 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 Schmadtke were huge for 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 what and wrapped in a well-designed package. In a field of football section entries, this stands out.

SPORTS COLUMN FOR SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Mike Duprez
Sports columns
I especially liked ‘Levi in the show’ Made me want to follow this player now.

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.

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY 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 it was modeled after QG - 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
WILSON TIMES
Jimmy Lewis
No winners; With White; Coach, seniors unite
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?
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.
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.

Second Place:
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.

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

Casey Toth: Best Video

J. 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, Juillianna Rennie: News Enterprise Reporting

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

Taylor Batten: Editorials

Jim Morrill: Election/POLITICAL Reporting

Thedon Janes: Feature Writing

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off: Investigative Reporting

Scott Fowler: Lighter Columns

Diedra Laird: Photography, General News

Thedon 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

Thedon Janes: Sports Enterprise Writing

Jeff Siner: Best Video

Peter St. Onge: Editorials

Thedon 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: 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

Raleigh Staff: Photo Page or Essay
### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Writer</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER</td>
<td>Steve DeVane and Greg Barnes</td>
<td>GenX beat coverage of GenX. The world needs more environmental reporting of this caliber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>DAILY REFLECTOR</td>
<td>Kim Grizzard</td>
<td>Mirra on the wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER</td>
<td>Monica Holland</td>
<td>Shag</td>
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### BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>HERALD-SUN</td>
<td>Virginia Bridges</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS</td>
<td>Becky Barclay</td>
<td>Courageous comic. Inspiring story of kid with Type 1 Diabetes fighting back after losing leg, and pursuing his dream to create comic books.</td>
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### BEAT NEWS REPORTING

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Adam Wagner</td>
<td>Environment Beat. Wagner’s environmental writing is top notch. The cat urine story is wild! Great work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>HERALD-SUN</td>
<td>Lynn Bonner</td>
<td>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.</td>
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### BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE</td>
<td>The High Point Enterprise Best Community Coverage</td>
<td>The High Point Enterprise delivers on its stated commitment to community, across all 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Asheville Citizen Times Community Coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Dec. 6-7, 2017</td>
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### BEST NICH PUBLICATION

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER</td>
<td>Greg Barnes</td>
<td>In the Dark: The Story Behind GenX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Are we kids safe?</td>
</tr>
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### DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES</td>
<td>Sam DeGrave</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Hunter Ingram</td>
<td>Beach, water access challenges along the Cape Fear coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>HERALD-SUN</td>
<td>Tammy Grubb</td>
<td>Durham police say every day is an opportunity to do something good for the community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION REPORTING

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Wave of school shootings has educators preparing for ‘when, not if’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>SALISBURY POST</td>
<td>Rebecca Rider</td>
<td>Relentless pursuit: understanding and combating chronic absenteeism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>SALISBURY POST</td>
<td>Rebecca Rider</td>
<td>Paradigm shift: How school libraries have changed</td>
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</table>

### NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Cape Fear Forward Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Greg Barnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>STARNEWS</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Are we kids safe?</td>
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### NEWS FEATURE WRITING

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>SALISBURY POST</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cook</td>
<td>Are you Taylor Miller’s mother, Lessons from one family’s opioid death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER</td>
<td>Jaclyn Shambaugh</td>
<td>Cumberland County takes steps to bar ‘hot’ bats. Nice story, well-written.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Luke De Cock
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 Olimed’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
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.

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

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 Mencconi
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 bring 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 sly

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 experienced journalist who knows how to turn a phrase and a frown upside down.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Andrew Craft
Loved Ones
Exposed just right to show the emotions of the couple and enough of the background to provide context.

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 Rollergrils: ‘Be your own hero’
An engaging look at an out-of-the-mainstream sport

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Hurricane Rest

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Hurricane Mom

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
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
John Staton
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 overdose, 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 placed 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
Wows, 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
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, story to those who only knew him by name.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Hurricane Matthew: Stories from the Storm

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
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!
BH Media group manages the printing of most of the company’s 30 daily newspapers as well as over 200 other weekly newspapers and other specialty publications. We offer complete printing solutions that can meet almost any web offset need at one of our state-of-the-art printing facilities in the United States.

For more information, please call, Mike Sewell, 828-446-8261 Msewell@bhmginc.com
Connecting people and communities

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

Whether chronicling the stories of a community and its people, celebrating successes, or standing as the watchdog for truth and integrity, journalists invest their lives in working to make a difference for others.

We get you. For nearly 140 years, AT&T has been investing in North Carolina, connecting people and communities across the state with each other and the world.

With the latest technology and over 3 million strand miles of fiber optics, we are giving businesses an edge in the global marketplace, keeping first responders connected and delivering information and entertainment people want – when and where they want it.

Congratulations to all the winners of the NCPA 2018 News, Editorial and Photojournalism Contest!

Your professionalism and passion help make our state an even better place in which to live and work.

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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 DeCwikel-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.

**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 NICHES 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 boxes as an accent on the corners, also the recipe cards are very clever.

3rd Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
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**  
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**  
Duke Energy: Power struggle

Erica Smith

**BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE**

3rd Place  
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**  
Staff  
Best Community Coverage -- July 7, July 8

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**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 tread lightly and avoid 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-S-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

Excellent perspective on a problem that just won’t go away.

2nd Place  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
Katherine Peralta, Deon Roberts, Michael Bragg  
3rd Place  
**NEWS & OBSERVER**  
Ann Doss Helms, Michael Gordon  
Teen has missed 77 days of school.

After high court victory, landowners still waiting

**NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING**

1st Place  
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**  
Fred Clasen-Kelly, Cassie Cope, Juliana Rennie  
Kids in psych center say staff sexually, physically abused them. Why didn’t officials listen?

**NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING**

2nd Place  
**NEWS & RECORD**  
Nancy McLaughlin  
Shattered

**NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING**

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 Moffet’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!

2nd 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 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 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 is 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 & OBSERVER
Nancy McLaughlin, H. Scott Hoffmann, Tim Rickard
This pill prevents HIV, saves lives. Here’s how
Great reporting and arrangement 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.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Downtown parking
Great job reporting this sensitive topic in a professional manner.

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.

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.
**FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY**

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd Place
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**
Staff
“Sunday Go Triad section comprehensive, well-organized, reader friendly. Excellent events calendar and calendar listing, as well as separate Tickets listing. Map on visual design feature helpful.

**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**
Dan Kane
NC House Speaker Tim Moore’s questionable dealings by a politician.
Questions
Legal contract with start-up raises inaction) and harm to the public. Statements about government action (or whether he did something wrong?

**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**
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
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**
Mike Kernels
Vacation vexation/It ‘otter’ look good/ What does the fox steal?

2nd Place
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**
Staff
Immigration: Where to turn

3rd Place
**NEWS & RECORD**
Staff
School bus 101

**ILLUSTRATION PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS**

1st Place
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**
Jenny Drabble
School bus 101

2nd Place
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**
Cassandra Sherrill
Once in a Super Blue Blood Moon

3rd Place
**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**
Cassandra Sherrill
A great mix of a variety of topics and story ideas

**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
**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 stranger with national context – how do NC prisons staffing shortages and rates of violence compare to other states?"
REPORTING

DAILIES ONLY

ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS

HEADLINE WRITING

other states?
shortages and rates of violence compare to

could be even stronger with national
findings, authoritative voice, plenty of
critical public importance. Shocking

Staggering investigative reporting on issues

Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages

1st Place

Cassandra Sherrill

3rd Place

Tim Rickard

2nd Place

Allen Johnson

3rd Place

Mike Kernels

What does the fox steal?

Vacation vexation/It 'otter' look good/

2nd Place

Staff

1st Place

Sarah St. Onge

3rd Place

Beckford Fowler

Nighttime quiet to still the chatter
Where do I catch the next starship?/

Something wild must remain/

3rd Place

Shawn Fowler

2nd Place

Amy Massard

Beautifully written story. Nice job

despite dangers – 2 stories

Visually appealing design, and good effort
to break up text.

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

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

architectures are great, here it gets a boost

from some ‘airy dust.’

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Andrew Dye

Big Jumps

Clearly 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.

PROFESSORIAL EXCELLENCE

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
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
OCRAKOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach
Messages of hope transform Magic Bean yard

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

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Kathleen Onorevole
Proposed Rule Would Allow Red Wolf Takes

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Kozak
Submitted for the North Carolina Press Association Awards.

BEST LEDE

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Kathleen Onorevole
‘Chicken run’ thwarted on Swan Quarter ferry

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Emails reveal dealings between county officials and behavioral health agency lobbyists

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Allison Ballard
Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor
Manufacturers and distributors: They’d be glad if school took over

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Allison Ballard
Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Beaufort’s Harbor Management Plan

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell
Equity Meets Education

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Kathleen Onorevole
Study: Nesting Turtles Prefer Dark Beaches

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Joyce A. White
Study: Nesting Turtles Prefer Dark Beaches

BEST MUL TIMEDIA

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Allison Ballard
Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Allison Ballard
Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Allison Ballard
Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan

BEST LEDE

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Kathleen Onorevole
Best Lede

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Kozak
Better Lede

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Beaufort’s Harbor Management Plan

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
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NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Kozak
Better Lede

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Beaufort’s Harbor Management Plan
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
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
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Vaughn Hagerty
How one group of utility workers held the line against the flood

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.

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

HEADLINE WRITING
1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Liz Biro
Liz Biro: Lighter Columns

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Liz Biro
Liz Biro: Lighter Columns

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
NC POLICY WATCH
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
Sam Bland
Sam Bland: Lighter Columns

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Jared Lloyd
Jared Lloyd: Lighter Columns
continued from page 29

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
Peter Vankevich
Rare Trumpeter Swan spotted on Ocracoke

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
A few too many photos, but otherwise an interesting essay.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich

PROFESSIONAL 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

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

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2nd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Rob Schofield
Three serious columns by Bob Schofield
All columns were about timely relevant topics, all were well written and all made the 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

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers, David Coulson
Gridiron Shootout

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 good 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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