

NCPA News, Editorial & Photojournalism Contest: 2015



HUGH MORTON Photographer of the Year

Community Newspaper Winner

RYAN REVOCK

Cherokee Scout
Murphy



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Photo credits on cover: “Splash” - Jimmy Williams, Tideland News; “House Fire” - Ryan Revock, Cherokee Scout; “Funeral” - Brad Coville, The Wilson Times; “Overturned Truck” - Clellie Allen, The Wake Weekly; “Car Wreck” - Drew C. Wilson, Havelock News; “Vigil” - Gray Whitley, The Wilson Times.

HUGH MORTON Photographer of the Year

Daily Newspaper Winner

MARK DOLEJS

The Daily Dispatch
Henderson



2016 **NORTH CAROLINIAN** OF THE YEAR: JENNIFER THOMPSON

Thompson truly exemplifies the unique spirit of this special award. While her name may not have the celebrity status of other recent awardees, her work as an advocate for criminal justice reform has landed her national recognition and appearances on Oprah, Sixty Minutes, The Today Show, Good Morning America, 20/20, The View, PBS Frontline and more.

As president and founder of Healing Justice, she's worked with legislative bodies in many states to advance compensation laws for the wrongfully convicted - all because of an ordeal with the criminal justice system that began in 1984 when she survived a brutal attack. Her New York Times bestseller, *Picking Cotton*, details how the person she accused was wrongfully convicted, only to be declared innocent and exonerated based on DNA evidence many years later.

Healing Justice, her life's work since then, was one of many outcomes to this tale. It facilitates restorative justice and reconciliation in cases involving exonerations; organizes volunteer service providers to offer direct support and assistance in the aftermath of exonerations; and creates opportunities to unify the diverse voices of those affected by wrongful convictions.

In this work, Thompson epitomizes the true meaning of what it takes to be a "tar heel" and bring honor to this Old North State, embodying the true meaning of this award.



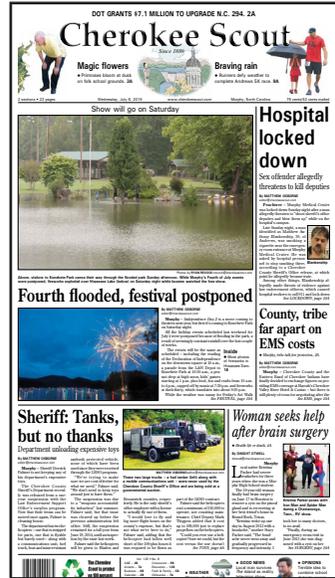
GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division A



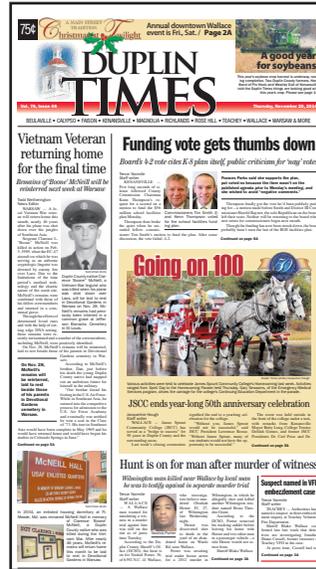
FIRST PLACE
The Charlotte Post
 Charlotte

Division B



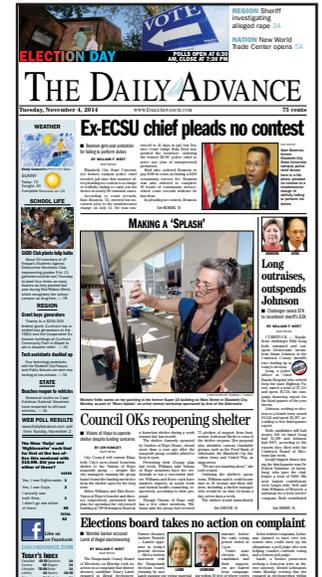
FIRST PLACE
Cherokee Scout
 Murphy
Broad coverage - from the sheriff's department owning mine-proof vehicle to a reality show star. Writing was strong.

Division C



FIRST PLACE
Duplin Times
 Kenansville
Good overall newspaper. I felt thoroughly informed after I read it, and I don't even live there.

Division D



FIRST PLACE
The Daily Advance
 Elizabeth City

SECOND PLACE
Lumina News
 Wrightsville Beach

SECOND PLACE
The State Port Pilot
 Southport
This is al ot of newspaper for 75 cents. Nicely done.

SECOND PLACE
The News Reporter
 Whiteville
Complete newspaper, with news of the day like the deputy sheriff causing a wreck and softer stories that readers probably appreciated.

SECOND PLACE
The Wilson Times
 Wilson

THIRD PLACE
Crossroads Chronicle
 Cashiers

THIRD PLACE
The Courier-Times
 Roxboro
Variety of stories seems comprehensive, outstanding public records sections. Overall, a good newspaper that serves its readers and advertisers well.

THIRD PLACE
Smoky Mountain News
 Waynesville
Excellent newspaper. Great election coverage, but also reported on non-political stories of importance and interest. Clear writing, good design.

THIRD PLACE
Sanford Herald
 Sanford

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division E



FIRST PLACE
The Daily Reflector
Greenville

Division F



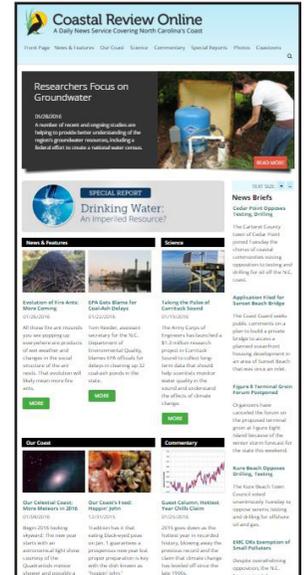
FIRST PLACE
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville

Specialty



FIRST PLACE
Triangle Business Journal
Raleigh

Online



FIRST PLACE
Coastal Review Online
www.CoastalReview.org
Newport

SECOND PLACE
The Daily News
Jacksonville

SECOND PLACE
News & Record
Greensboro

SECOND PLACE
North Carolina
Lawyers Weekly
Raleigh

SECOND PLACE
Wake Forest Today
www.WakeForestToday.com
Wake Forest

THIRD PLACE
Gaston Gazette
Gastonia

THIRD PLACE
News & Observer
Raleigh

THIRD PLACE
The Mecklenburg Times
Charlotte

DIVISION A

Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Phillip Bantz

NC Lawyers Weekly

Raleigh

Final Statement

Well-written piece that included a lot of background and information from many sources that really helps the reader follow the story.

2nd Place

Ken Buday

Havelock News

Havelock

Missing Dad

Good angle on a story we've all told more than once.

3rd Place

David Donovan

NC Lawyers Weekly

Raleigh

Driverless Cars

Good twist on a technology news story.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

Emily Errante, Miriah Hamrik

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

Police chase involving bank robbers ends in five-car crash

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Justin Caudell

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Body still unidentified after 31 years

Writer made an old story relevant again. Very interesting story. I didn't want it to end!

2nd Place

Tricia Vance

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

Teacher takes Pine Valley students

global

Awesome idea! Kudos to the teacher, and kudos to the writer. Well written.

3rd Place

Terry Lane

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

Boy Scout bikers complete cross-country journey

Heart warming story of kids giving their entire summer to raise money for cancer patients.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Phillip Bantz

NC Lawyers Weekly

Raleigh

Love Websites

A really interesting take on the AshleyMadison controversy. Loved the play on words, and the article's fast pace. This was a tough category to judge with many entries deserving recognition, but this piece stood out.

2nd Place

Paul Clark

Black Mountain News

Black Mountain

Firing on all cylinders

Compelling writing. Really enjoyed the writer's ability to combine telling the story with Hedrick's back-and-forth with patients.

3rd Place

Davis Moore

The Highlander

Highlands

Principal will jump into the ring to defend his kids

This was a good read, made better by multiple sources and comments from experts.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Paul Clark

Black Mountain News

Black Mountain

Apodaca keeps up the banter

The writer takes a dismal topic and turns it into one of hope for future kids in rough situations. All you need is someone who cares.

2nd Place

Barbara Hootman

Black Mountain News

Black Mountain

As beloved as he loved, now he's sorely missed

The writer takes a sad story and creates a bitersweet piece by focusing on the great parts of Raines' life.

3rd Place

Barbara Hootman

Black Mountain News

Black Mountain

Living his whole life on the farm

This is a good story about commitment and family traditions.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Brad Rich

Tideland News

Swansboro

King Mack

2nd Place

Carolyn Morrisroe

The Highlander

Highlands

Highlands' silver screen

3rd Place

Carolyn Morrisroe

The Highlander

Highlands

Illustrating Highlands

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Drew C. Wilson

Havelock News

Havelock

Middle School Engineers

I really enjoyed this story, loved the involvement of these students, very informative, really liked the reference to the web, pictures were nice. Held my attention to the end.

2nd Place

Justin Caudell

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

'Lemon-aid' stand nets \$100K for

Summit

Just loved this story and I'm sure the community did too.

3rd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Math in Real World

I loved the community involvement and that it is told through the grocery store as well as the students and parents. Nice.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

Bill Moss

Hendersonville Lightning

Hendersonville

Alpine Woods

2nd Place

Bill Moss, Emily Stanley

Hendersonville Lightning

Hendersonville

Duke Power

3rd Place

Drew C. Wilson

Havelock News

Havelock

Hunger in Havelock

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Mary Wayt

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Credit Card Query

I find this more than worthy of a first-place award. I love the writer's straightforward but tenacious approach in probing rumors of spending problems in the local school district. She has provided a valuable service to her readers and demonstrated top-notch journalistic values.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Rich Levey

Tideland News

Swansboro

Pirates fall in bid for state

championship

Excellent piece of journalism! Great use of amazing artwork.

2nd Place

Rich Levey

Tideland News

Swansboro

Rebels top Cougars for state title

Really nice piece. Content works well with good use of artwork.

3rd Place

Herbert L. White

The Charlotte Post

Charlotte

Splash, brother

Nicely done.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Giving it all for old Coach Sasser

2nd Place

Rich Levey

Tideland News

Swansboro

Watkins plays with a memory of her

father

3rd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Cooper, Scott Together Again

DIVISION A

GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Train dinged, truck totaled, driver lucky

2nd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Missing Dad

3rd Place

Pete Rulon

Tideland News

Swansboro

Missing Dad

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Pete Rulon

Tideland News

Swansboro

Hands

A person's hands tell so much about them and in this case the photographer captured a truly amazing image. Awesome job.

2nd Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Fabulous Fourth

Hands down one of the best fireworks photos I've seen. Photographer obviously has a great eye for photography.

3rd Place

Allison Potter

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

Beyond sight

Overall, very impressive photo package.

Photo is sharp and in focus with great subject material. Photographer definitely knows their camera and the settings necessary to achieve great shots. Well done.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Crestfallen

This is a powerful image. I love how you captured the emotion of the game - and the loss. There's a powerful sense of dejection and defeat in this image. Good job.

2nd Place

Amble Smoker

Cherokee One Feather

Cherokee

The River is Calling

I really like the movement in this image. With the way the paddle pushes the water. You did a good job capturing the moment.

3rd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Defense

What a cool photo. Good job.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Big Rock

This picture does an outstanding job of capturing the pure joy of a big catch. Great job in composing the shot as well.

2nd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Over the Top

Photographer was able to capture a picture many sports photographers would be proud of.

3rd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Mays Header

Picture does a good job of capturing the intensity of the sport.

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Tee Time

Individually, each picture was technically solid, told something different and cropped to emphasize the content.

2nd Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Aiding Ayden

Who knew the same adorable kid could be so photogenic 6 different ways? You picked the right image to dominate the package and you captured 6 compelling images, presented well.

Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation

3rd Place

Carolyn Morrisroe

The Highlander

Highlands

Fourth of July Festivities

All the iconic images that add up to a small-town 4th of July — and a rainbow for good measure.

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Pedro's Final Flight

Excellent presentation of audio and video. Great editing. Brings out emotion and lets audience feel involvement.

2nd Place

Ken Ripley

Spring Hope Enterprise

Spring Hope

2014 History Alive Video

Video and story presented a very positive spin on an event that ran into a lot of weather problems. It was fun to watch and the surprise parade at the end made the video compelling.

3rd Place

Ken Ripley

Spring Hope Enterprise

Spring Hope

2014 Pumpkin Festival Video

Excellent presentation of a foto gallery. This is a great way to present those photos that don't quite fit.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Countdown to launch at Slocum Creek

Recreation Area

2nd Place

Drew C. Wilson

The Havelock News

Havelock

Sky Camp

3rd Place

Ken Ripley

Spring Hope Enterprise

Spring Hope

2014 Pumpkin Festival Coverage

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Apartments, video, library

Right combination of information, indignation and pragmatic solutions.

2nd Place

Jimmy Williams

Tideland News

Swansboro

Editorials

This series of editorials uses a wide variety of colorful adjectives and adverbs to add character and depth.

3rd Place

Justin Caudell

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

June 3, July 1 and Aug. 19, 2015

Good variety of subjects for the editorials.

Points are made succinctly, with solid quotes and references.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Barry Fetzer

The Havelock News

Havelock

Nine year old letter, Karma comes back

after 54 years, Fertility machine

Loved 'em all.

2nd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Weapon, Bobbleheads, Bugs

Funny and light.

3rd Place

Rod Hunter

The Yadkin Ripple

Yadkinville

Hunter Columns

Lessons learned a classic.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

W. Curt Vincent

The Bladen Journal

Elizabethtown

Bat No Match for Batten

2nd Place

Barry Fetzer

The Havelock News

Havelock

The Bomb/marriage, Never Forget but

for how long, ISIS is nothing

3rd Place

Mary Way

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Honesty vs Theater

DIVISION A

Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Scott Brings Plenty

Cherokee One Feather

Cherokee

On the Sidelines

2nd Place

Ashley Mahoney

The Charlotte Post

Charlotte

Belk Bowl one of too many; March Madness; At CIAA tourney, the goal's the same

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

Carter Giegerich

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Brakes put on driver's education

Excellent structure. The content was clear and relevant for the reader. The ease of reading was particularly pleasing.

2nd Place

Carter Giegerich

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Zip line course deaths prompt legislative change

This had the presentation of a feature story that made it even more appealing. An arm-chair reader or a prospective visitor would have found the content relevant and topical.

3rd Place

Robert Jumper

Cherokee One Feather

Cherokee

Meet the Candidates

This was perfectly paced, something important for a type of story that can sometimes stray towards formulaic. Above all, this was fair to all the candidates.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Game of Drones

2nd Place

Sharon Roberts

The Mecklenburg Times

Charlotte

Collection of Headlines

3rd Place

Herbert L. White

The Charlotte Post

Charlotte

Splash, brother; These are the breaks;

Ride on

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

Davis Moore

The Highlander

Highlands

Fishing Central

2nd Place

Carolyn Morrisroe

The Highlander

Highlands

Running on high

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Ken Ripley

Spring Hope Enterprise

Spring Hope

Viewpoints

Good editorial writing with clear opinions

expressed. Nice variety of well written opinion

pieces. Appropriately sized political cartoons,

and a clean design.

2nd Place

Staff

The Havelock News

Havelock

Opinion Page

Well written editorials with a clear message.

3rd Place

Jimmy Williams

Tideland News

Swansboro

Editorial Page

Nice opinion writing.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEB SITES

1st Place

Scott Brings Plenty

The Cherokee One Feather

Cherokee

www.TheOneFeather.com

2nd Place

Ken Ripley

Spring Hope Enterprise

Spring Hope

www.springhopeenterprise.com

3rd Place

Staff

The Havelock News

Havelock

www.HaveNews.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

The Havelock News

Havelock

Really eye catching headlines. Good looking

front page overall. Good use of photos, especially in the Community section.

2nd Place

Cissy Russell

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

3rd Place

Staff

The Highlander

Highlands

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Herbert L. White, Ashley Mahoney

The Charlotte Post

Charlotte

Great pictures! Clean layout and robust assortment of sports covered. Mostly staff written.

2nd Place

Rich Levey

Tideland News

Swansboro

3rd Place

W. Curt Vincent

The Bladen Journal

Elizabethtown

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place

Staff

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

2nd Place

Staff

The Highlander

Highlands

3rd Place

Staff

Tideland News

Swansboro

NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The Havelock News

Havelock

2nd Place

Staff

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

3rd Place

Staff

The Yadkin Rippler

Yadkinville

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

2nd Place

Staff

Tideland News

Swansboro

3rd Place

Staff

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Staff

The Highlander

Highlands

Legacy - Best of Highlands

Impressive. As a publisher, I'm jealous of the advertising content; as a journalist, I'm overwhelmed by the information; as a (sometime) designer, I'm in love with the way both are presented.

2nd Place

Staff

Hendersonville Lightning

Hendersonville

Election Guide 2014

An election is serious business and the Guide treats this one that way. Nicely done ... and very important.

3rd Place

Staff

Hendersonville Lightning

Hendersonville

69th Annual North Carolina Apple

Festival Special Section

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Staff

Lumina News

Wrightsville Beach

Wrightsville Beach Magazine

DIVISION A

Community newspapers under 3,500 circulation

2nd Place

Staff

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Best of Cashiers 2015

Simple, clean design; general articles about community & activities for annual edition. Sort of a newcomers guide.

3rd Place

Staff

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Discover Washington County

CITY/COUNTY

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Merdith Burns

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Board rescinds vote after violating law

Good job championing open meetings. This is what newspapers are all about.

2nd Place

Justin Caudell

Crossroads Chronicle

Cashiers

Cashiers fire tax series

3rd Place

Mary Wayt

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Police Chief

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Mary Wayt

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Solar Option

2nd Place

Mary Wayt

The Roanoke Beacon

Plymouth

Barn Fire

BEST LEDE

1st Place

Phillip Bantz

NC Lawyers Weekly

Raleigh

Collection of Ledes

2nd Place

Heather Hamacher

NC Lawyers Weekly

Raleigh

Collection of Ledes

3rd Place

Ken Buday

The Havelock News

Havelock

Strength, turbo, morris



First place Sports Feature Photo, Division A, by Ken Buday, Havelock News, Havelock,

DIVISION B

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Jeff Jeffrey

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

AT PORTS: Size Matters

Well-written and thoroughly reported. Of clear interest to the publication's readership.

2nd Place

Lee Hinnant

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Shark attacks seriously injury two youths

Clear and concise reporting on breaking news. With information from officials, witnesses and others affected by the incidents.

3rd Place

Tim Chandler

The Courier-Times

Roxboro

BB&T robbed

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS

1st Place

Jason DeBruyn

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

Coverage of Salix Pharmaceuticals

2nd Place

Amanda Hoyle, Lauren Ohnesorge,

Jeff Jeffrey

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

Fatal injury at the Charter Square project in Raleigh

3rd Place

Jason DeBruyn

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

Coverage of 'female Viagra' company

-- Raleigh's Sprout Pharma

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Shannon Beamon

The Stanly News & Press

Albemarle

Stepping out of the Dark series

2nd Place

Catharin Shepard

The News-Journal

Raeford

Witnesses clam up, change stories

3rd Place

Ritchie Starnes

The Stanly News & Press

Albemarle

Veteran Recalls WWII

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Lynn Allred

Oxford Public Ledger

Oxford

A Survivor Remembers Sept. 11 tragedy

A stand out.

2nd Place

Clellie Allen

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Louisburg mushroom crop sees success

Fascinating look at something I hate. I kept coming back.

3rd Place

Renee Spencer

The State Port Pilot

Southport

With this ring

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Patti OKeefe

The Caswell Messenger

Yanceyville

A WW2 vet remembers the war

Bittersweet story with a great ending.

2nd Place

Thadd White

Bertie Ledger-Advance

Windsor

Rev. Dr. Harrell

This story brought me to tears.

3rd Place

Morgan Harper

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Painting outside the lines

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Nicholas Elmes, Staff

The Stokes News

Walnut Cove

The meaning of our tears

2nd Place

Renee Spencer

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Rhythm and Brews

3rd Place

Renee Spencer

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Songwriters make the whole world sing

Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Shannon Beamon

The Stanly News & Press

Albemarle

AMS students strike up the band

I really enjoyed this story, it was written very well, informative about the band program and their needs, explaining how every students has to be responsible somewhere for it to all work. Just draws you in and makes you want to help this program out.

2nd Place

Carolyn Steeves

The Enquirer-Journal

Monroe

Class of 2015 graduates 3,000

3rd Place

Jason deBruyn

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

You're Hired

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

Carolyn Steeves

The Enquirer-Journal

Monroe

Ash Haffner: A Victim of Words

2nd Place

Jeff Jeffrey

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

Fatal Work

3rd Place

Ritchie Starnes

The Stanly News & Press

Albemarle

Justice for All

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Lee Hinnant

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Mayor stripped of duties over BBC pay dispute

This is excellent reporting about a major incidence of corruption in this newspaper's readership area. The reporting is thorough, and the writing is sharp but fair. The effort resulted in an official investigation and criminal charges being lodged against an officeholder. An excellent service for this paper's readers.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Marty Simpkins

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Rolesville volleyball wins historic match

Outstanding! This is a great example of how a fairly simple sports piece can be turned into something very special. Great job!

2nd Place

Jerry Snow, Justin Murdock

The Enquirer-Journal

Monroe

Union County NFL Draft

3rd Place

Jon Galloway

Montgomery Herald

Troy

State champion

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Jason Tyson

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Saved trophy represents glory days

2nd Place

Renee Spencer

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Preparing for World Games is quite a challenge; Making her connection in L.A.

3rd Place

Marty Simpkins

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Rolesville runner breaks national record

GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Ryan Revock

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

Lights of Hope

2nd Place

Ryan Revock

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

House Fire

3rd Place

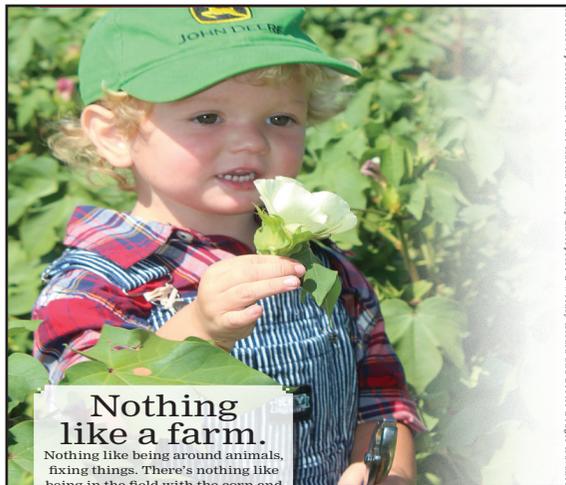
Jeff Davis

The Chatham News

Siler City

We'll all do it ...

DIVISION B



First Place, Feature Photography, Division B, by Thadd White, Martin Co. Enterprise & Weekly Herald, Williamston

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Thadd White

Martin Co. Enterprise & Weekly Herald
Williamston

Parker Dixon

Kids are cute and obviously make great pictures. That being said, the way the photographer composed the shot, I feel this photo would be just as amazing with adult holding a stem of wheat. Great picture all around.

2nd Place

Jeff Davis

Chatham News & Record
Pittsboro

The eyes have it ...

Great shot, I love the facial expressions as they really help to draw the readers eyes in. Nicely done.

3rd Place

Linda Mathias

The Franklin Press
Franklin
Snow day

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

Andy Scheidler

The Franklin Press
Franklin

Taking a Swim

This is the perfect swim photo. Movement showing water flow, great expression of passion on the swimmers face, composed well. This is an awesome feature photo.

2nd Place

David Allen

The Wake Weekly
Wake Forest

Tashawn Sampson Big Shot

3rd Place

Joe Daniels

Carolina Peacemaker
Greensboro
Surf-Off

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Tammy Dunn

Montgomery Herald
Troy
Skiing

Awesome work by the photographer to capture every detail perfectly. From the spray off the board to the face the image is sharp with great detail. Great photo.

2nd Place

Amanda Dixon

Butner-Creedmoor News
Creedmoor
Leaping Interception
Great timing!

3rd Place

Kelly Snow

The Courier-Times
Roxboro
Sports photography

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

Jeff Davis

Chatham News & Record
Pittsboro
A little fishing ...
I wish I were Jeff Davis...

2nd Place

Ryan Revock

Cherokee Scout
Murphy
Pinewood Derby

Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation

3rd Place

Kelly Snow

The Courier-Times
Roxboro
Gettin' Muddy

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Renee Spencer

The State Port Pilot
Southport
Honors Chorus

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

Jason Tyson, Lee Hinnant

The State Port Pilot
Southport
Fort Caswell Dig

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Terry Pope

The State Port Pilot
Southport
Serious concerns; Conservative approach; You can't have both
Strong editorials, presented opinion efficiently.

2nd Place

Tammy Dunn

Montgomery Herald
Troy
Editorials
Editorials took on a tough subject and called out a bad police chief. That took some guts.

3rd Place

Staff

Kernersville News
Kernersville
Editorials
Well-written editorials with insightful commentary.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Morgan Harper

The State Port Pilot
Southport
Angels make Christmas brighter, Emblers' holiday spirit shines on, Crabbing will do in a pinch

2nd Place

Chappell Russell

Montgomery Herald
Troy
This day and age

3rd Place

Jim Green

Martin Co. Enterprise & Weekly Herald
Williamston

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Chappell Russell

Montgomery Herald
Troy
This day and age

2nd Place

David Brown

Cherokee Scout
Murphy
Columns

3rd Place

Thadd White

Bertie Ledger-Advance
Windsor
Columns

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Kelly Snow

The Courier-Times
Roxboro
The Blizzard

2nd Place

Jerry Snow

The Enquirer-Journal
Monroe
Columns

3rd Place

Jon Galloway

Montgomery Herald
Troy
Off the Field

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Ed Harper

The State Port Pilot
Southport

2nd Place

Rebecca Troyer

Triangle Business Journal
Raleigh

3rd Place

David Leone

The Wake Weekly
Wake Forest

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

Carolyn Steeves

The Enquirer-Journal
Monroe
Ruling could remake redistricting habits

Great to see nationally decided issues being brought to the local audience and given a local relevance and perspective.

DIVISION B

2nd Place

Ritchie Starnes

Stanley News & Press

Albemarle

Burr Files Bills

3rd Place

Yasmine Regester

Carolina Peacemaker

Greensboro

Wade creates Trojan Horse, merges SB

36 with HB 263

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Paul Eggers

News-Record & Sentinel

Marshall

Headlines

2nd Place

Ed Harper

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Headline writing: Barbecue...with a side

of basketball

3rd Place

Terry Pope

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Headline writing: Board balks at provid-

ing ballpark help

SPORTS ENTERPRISE

WRITING

1st Place

Jason deBruyn

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

An Impossible Dream

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Staff

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

Cherokee Scout editorial pages

2nd Place

Clellie Allen, David Leone, Jean

McCamy

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Spirit of season, Look at transit plans

again, Senate bill unhealthy measure

3rd Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Editorial Page

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR

WEB SITES

1st Place

Staff

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

www.WakeWeekly.com

2nd Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

www.StatePortPilot.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

1st Place

Staff

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Wrecks on the rise, Police appeal for

calm, help

2nd Place

Chris Rice

The News-Record & Sentinel

Marshall

Appearance and design

3rd Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Appearance and design

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

LOTS of sports coverage. A one-stop shop for

everything sports in the coverage area. Well

presented too.

2nd Place

Kelly Snow

The Courier-Times

Roxboro

3rd Place

Marty Simpkins, Lewis Chapman

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place

Staff

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

Best use of photos

Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation

2nd Place

Staff

The Wake Weekly

Wake Forest

Ban smoking downtown, Bonds to be

sold next week

3rd Place

Ron Rogers, Todd Luck

The Chatham News

Siler City

Aug. 6 & 13, 2015

NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The Chronicle of Winston-Salem

Winston-Salem

June 2015

Compelling coverage on the Charlston Mas-

sacre. Appropriate quotes and outstanding

supporting photos. Well done!

2nd Place

Staff

The News-Journal

Raeford

Good, in-depth coverage of hard news. Good

writing/good photos. Nice veterans spot. Well

done!

3rd Place

Nicholas Elmes, Amanda Dodson

The Stokes News

Walnut Cove

Love this publication, includes a wide variety

of well written news. I want to keep reading!

Good job guys!

BEST COMMUNITY

COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Really like the counties listed on the flag of the

publication - Love the Time and Tide section.

The photos really embrace the community

essence.

2nd Place

Staff

The Courier-Times

Roxboro

Really like the "Word on the Street" aspect.

Very good citizen journalism.

3rd Place

Staff

Bertie Ledger-Advance

Windsor

Really like that there is a photo for nearly every

story. Very good visuals

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Staff

The News-Journal

Raeford

Pulse: The State of Business in Hoke

County

A comprehensive accounting of business

activity in Hoke County with PULSE. From

tobacco to guns to tree farming to health care

to turkeys, it all adds up to a very good look

at what's going on and what's important in

the local economy. Excellent job on a difficult

subject.

2nd Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

N.C. Fourth of July Festival Program

3rd Place

Staff

The Chatham News & Record

Pittsboro

Veterans Section 2014

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Staff

The State Port Pilot

Southport

Cape Fear Coast Spring 2015

2nd Place

Staff

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

Summer Country Roads

3rd Place

Staff

Cherokee Scout

Murphy

Fall Country Roads

CITY/COUNTY

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Catharin Shepard

The News-Journal

Raeford

County financial problems 'serious'

Good solid reporting. Strong lead paragraph

and the story explains the issue well.

2nd Place

Catharin Shepard

The News-Journal

Raeford

County Manager Fired

Story was well written and gave a fair amount

of space to both sides of the issue.

DIVISION B

3rd Place

Staff
Carolina Peacemaker
Greensboro
Greensboro to challenge new
redistricting
Explains the issue at hand very well.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Amanda Hoyle
Triangle Business Journal
Raleigh
N.C.'s \$400M Hangover
A well-written article on an important subject. Tax stories constantly threaten to bore, but this story got to the heart of the issue of tax credits in a readable and understandable way.

2nd Place

Shannon Beamon
The Stanly News & Press
Albemarle
Last ditch effort
Kudos to Shannon Beamon for turning an abandoned ditch into an intriguing story with spicy quotes from the ditch's colorful neighbors.

3rd Place

Tomas Murawski
The Alamance News
Graham
Confederate monument: should it stay
or be removed?

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Shannon Beamon
The Stanly News & Press
Albemarle
Tales of mysterious happenings given
throughout downtown
Fascinating story!! I enjoyed the development of each story within the larger story. I'm sure you had a lot of positive feedback. Well done!!

2nd Place

Renee Spencer
The State Port Pilot
Southport
Marry Me Military? 'I Do!'
Love the story and photos!! Great portrayal of military families and the challenges they face. Great job!!

Community newspapers 3,500-10,000 circulation

3rd Place

Jason Tyson
The State Port Pilot
Southport
Orton assists with projects
Nice story!! It's always interesting to see snap shots from the past and how in the present, people are interested in keeping that history on the forefront.

BEST LEDE

1st Place

Shannon Beamon
The Stanly News & Press
Albemarle
2014-2015 Ledes

2nd Place

David Leone
The Wake Weekly
Wake Forest
Sweat small stuff; Administrator on hot
seat; Captain America would look like
Kyle Snyder

3rd Place

Jessica Webb
The Smoky Mountain Times
Bryson City
Creative ledes

Congratulations to our Editorial winners!

The Bladen Journal	1st Place	Serious Columns
The Bladen Journal	3rd Place	Sports Coverage
The Laurinburg Exchange	2nd Place	Sports Feature Writing
Richmond County Daily Journal	1st Place	Feature Writing
Richmond County Daily Journal	1st Place	Headline Writing
Richmond County Daily Journal	1st Place	Election/Political Reporting
Richmond County Daily Journal	1st Place	Best Lede
Richmond County Daily Journal	2nd Place	A&E Reporting
Richmond County Daily Journal	2nd Place	Headline Writing
Richmond County Daily Journal	3rd Place	General News Reporting
Richmond County Daily Journal	3rd Place	Sports Enterprise Writing
The Robesonian	2nd Place	Beat Feature Reporting
The Sampson Independent	2nd Place	Education Reporting
The Sampson Independent	2nd Place	Beat News Reporting
The Stokes News	1st Place	Sports and Entertainment Reporting
The Stokes News	3rd Place	News Coverage
The Yadkin Ripple	3rd Place	Lighter Columns
The Yadkin Ripple	3rd Place	News Coverage



Bladen Journal

THE LAURINBURG
EXCHANGE

RICHMOND COUNTY
DAILY JOURNAL

THE
ROBESONIAN

THE SAMPSON
INDEPENDENT

THE
Stokes News

The Yadkin Ripple

Civitas MEDIA

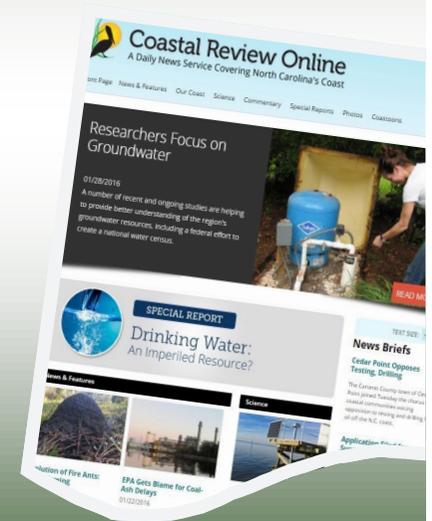
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Coastal Review Online is the only nonprofit news service in Eastern North Carolina. The N.C. Coastal Federation started the news service in 2012 to fill the gap in environmental reporting left by the decline of traditional media. We've been an NCPA member since 2013.

www.coastalreview.org



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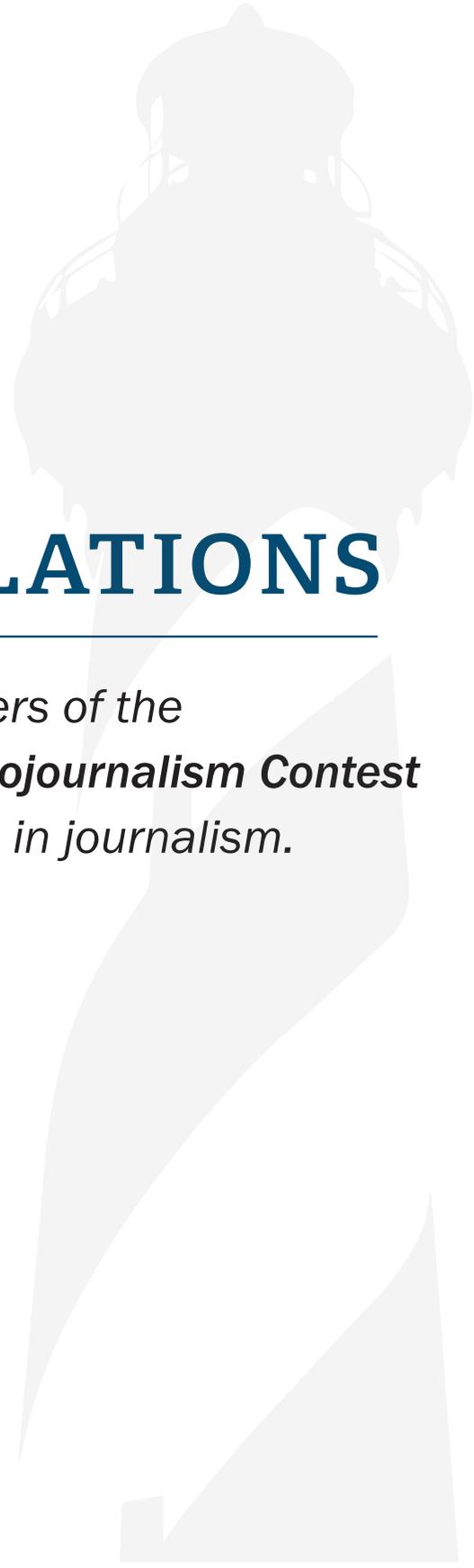


ELON UNIVERSITY

School of Communications

- More than 1,200 students and 60 full-time faculty members
- Journalism is one of six undergraduate majors, plus a master's program in Interactive Media
- Offers a M.S. in Management degree featuring a corporate communications concentration
- Publishes the nation's only undergraduate research journal in communications
- Home of the Imagining the Internet Center
- Pioneered the Elon in LA program
- Partners with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
- Hosts the North Carolina Open Government Coalition

ABOVE: Elon University broke ground in summer 2015 on two new buildings that will merge with two existing buildings to create a Communications Commons.



CONGRATULATIONS

*to all of the winners of the
2015 News, Editorial & Photojournalism Contest
for your achievements in journalism.*

NORTH
STATE
JOURNAL

www.nsjonline.com

DIVISION C

Community newspapers over 10,000 circulation

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Billy Ball

INDY Week

Durham

Chatham County has a plan to stop frackers. Can it possibly work?

This story brings to life a topic that could have been quite boring. Interesting read. Loved the attention-grabbing intro with the great descriptions.

2nd Place

Holly Kays

Smoky Mountain News

Waynesville

Community rallies for three-day make-over of Hazelwood prison

The reporter was clearly on the scene taking in every second of action about this story. Solid writing and good detail. Liked the breakout one-on-one interview as well.

3rd Place

Mechelle Hankerson

North Raleigh News

Raleigh

Head injury preceded death

This story took a big topic and narrowed it down well, and did so with a local spin. And we liked that it was short and concise.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

Jackie Starkey, Anna Harvey

Carteret County News-Times

Morehead City

Emerald Isle deck collapse

2nd Place

Allison Olcsvay, Vicki Hyatt

The Mountaineer

Waynesville

Stamey Cove Church Tragedy Unfolds

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Todd Wetherington

Duplin Times

Kenansville

Struggling to cope

2nd Place

Jeff Sykes

Yes! Weekly

Greensboro

A school like any other

3rd Place

Paul A. Sprecht

Cary News

Cary

A Journey to Help Others

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Tina Haver Currin

INDY Week

Durham

After 70 years, a historic Raleigh neighborhood is no more. A requiem for Tiny Town

When we finished reading this story, our reaction was, "Wow." In a category with a large number of good features, this one is perhaps the best!

2nd Place

Lindsay Curtin

The Mountaineer

Waynesville

Group to support infant tragedy aftermath

We challenge anyone to read this story without tearing up. The mother's story of how SIDS affected her life, cut short her daughter's life, and led her to take action is compelling writing. Very good read.

3rd Place

Clara Cartrette

The News Reporter

Whiteville

Noah donates heart

This piece is a fitting tribute to the family and the baby they lost.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Rachel Robles

The Mountaineer

Waynesville

Holocaust survivor brings horrors of the war to life

2nd Place

Tammy Grubb

Chapel Hill News

Chapel Hill

Hope, 6,000 miles from home

3rd Place

Will Doran

Southwest Wake News

Cary

Making military history

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Garrett K. Woodward

Smoky Mountain News

Waynesville

Women In Bluegrass

In-depth and interesting. Good read, great lede.

2nd Place

Byron Woods

INDY Week

Durham

Dancer Eiko and photographer William Johnston measure the fallout of trust in technology

3rd Place

Sarah M. Albers

The Durham News

Durham

The summer of love

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Becky Johnson

Smoky Mountain News

Waynesville

The case of Haywood's missing students

This was a wonderful story, so detailed and easy to follow. A lot of work was put into this and I learned a lot from reading it.

2nd Place

Staff

The Pilot

Southern Pines

Board Seeks Resignation

Very well written and informative, I felt like all sides of the story were being told. I usually would only read half way through a story like this and moved on, but it held my attention all the way.

3rd Place

Todd Wetherington

Duplin Times

Kenansville

Coby Kea - A Darkness Lifted

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

John H. Tucker

INDY Week

Durham

Did a prosecutor and police send an innocent teenager to prison for murder?

2nd Place

Becky Johnson

Smoky Mountain News

Waynesville

When World's Collide

3rd Place

David Sinclair

The Pilot

Southern Pines

Justice Delayed: Murder Sentence Begins 30 Years Later

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Grayson Haver Currin

INDY Week

Durham

North Carolina State Fair

A well-conceived, well-written investigative project that resulted in a clear public service. The reports apparently will stop the unnecessary bleeding of precious tax dollars and result in more relevant entertainment at the North Carolina State Fair.

2nd Place

Bob High

The News Reporter

Whiteville

Glaring problems with new courthouse annex

3rd Place

Katie Reeder

Smoky Mountain News

Waynesville

Operation Something Bruin

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

D. Clay Best

Garner-Cleveland Record

Garner

Garner Trojans - 2015 NCHSAA 4A State Boys Basketball Champions

An outstanding example of "Team Coverage." Excellent use of content and artwork. No question, this submission is what GREAT sports news reporting is all about.

2nd Place

Bill Rollins

Duplin Times

Kenansville

32 Flag Night

3rd Place

Staff

The Pilot

Southern Pines

Pinehurst Open 2024

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

David Exum

Independent Tribune

Concord

Seager family baseball

2nd Place

Phil Perry

Lincoln Times-News

Lincolnton

Summer of '69: A slugger's brush with the big show

DIVISION C

Community newspapers over 10,000 circulation

3rd Place

Mark Schultz
The Durham News
Durham
Wheel Power

GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Brandi Swarms
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Holiday Hunt

2nd Place

Trevor Normile
Duplin Times
Kenansville
First same sex marriage in Duplin

3rd Place

Glenn M. Sides
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Monkey Must Go

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Glenn M. Sides
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Puppy Love

2nd Place

Mark Schultz
Chapel Hill News
Chapel Hill
Good Day for a Gallop

3rd Place

Sara D. Corce
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Old-Time Music

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

James Nix
Independent Tribune
Concord
Game Time
Amazing shot and amazing angle. This is the photo I've been trying to nail for football seasons. AWESOME. (Now you've given me an idea on how to do it.) It was a perfect way to capture the moment. Well deserving of first place.

2nd Place

Michael Paul
The Brunswick Beacon
Shallotte
Beatini glides at BB&T Cheerleading Showcase

3rd Place

James Nix
Independent Tribune
Concord
Tough Loss

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

James Nix
Independent Tribune
Concord
Slide
A truly amazing photo. Probably one of the more amazing baseball/softball photos I have seen. Great job.

2nd Place

Zach Colburn
Wilkes Journal-Patriot
North Wilkesboro
Coach Scott Waugh looks on with elation

3rd Place

J.J. Smith
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City
East survives West in thriller

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

Douglas Sasser
The News Reporter
Whiteville
Lake Waccamaw
Beautiful. I want to live on Lake Waccamaw!!

2nd Place

Angie Talley
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Moore County Hounds
This coverage of a fox hunt feels like it comes from a more genteel time. The images have an impressionist feel and they add up to a great throwback of a picture story.

3rd Place

Alex Boerner
INDY Week
Durham
Custom Paint
Each photo is technically solid. The package as a whole is well done over 4 pages.

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Jonathan Alexander
Garner-Cleveland Record
Garner
Racing Johnny Dutch
This reporter's innovation made this a much more interesting story and using video and stills was well done.

2nd Place

Johnny Whitfield
Eastern Wake News
Zebulon
Surprise marriage proposal a success
Good creativity in making this more than just a picture and a cutline. The interview with the principal as well as the groom-to-be were very nicely done.

3rd Place

Brandon Moree
Wilkes Journal-Patriot
North Wilkesboro
High school football rundown
Great idea to do their own sports show. Fans of the teams are certain to love this touch. It's a lot of work but is bound to be a fan favorite.

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Michael Gebelein
Lincoln Times-News
Lincolnton
Editorial board takes a strong stand in these editorials, opinions that probably weren't the most popular.

2nd Place

Johnny Whitfield
Eastern Wake News
Zebulon
Opinions were decisive and to the point. Excellent writing.

3rd Place

Jule Hubbard
Wilkes Journal-Patriot
North Wilkesboro
Did a good job of establishing their opinion early and then backing it up with facts, opinion.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Lori Helms
Lake Norman Citizen
Huntersville
Sights and sounds of Saturdays will never be the same
You left me wanting more.

2nd Place

Garrett K. Woodward
Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville
This Must Be The Place

3rd Place

John Nagy
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Lighter columns

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Jessica Banov
Cary News
Cary
Serious columns
Jessica Banov comments on a variety of issues from domestic violence and a second chance at love. She writes powerfully about the subjects and gives a voice to the people and issues she covers.

2nd Place

Bob Geary
INDY Week
Durham
Citizen

3rd Place

Sam Hickman
The Brunswick Beacon
Shallotte
Graduation encounter ...; A somber weekend ...; Heroin still wreaks ...

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

C. Jemal Horton
Independent Tribune
Concord
Jemal Horton Sports Columns
The best by a wide margin.

2nd Place

Justin Parker
Lake Norman Citizen
Huntersville
Gibbs emerging in front of our eyes

3rd Place

Zach Colburn
Wilkes Journal-Patriot
North Wilkesboro
Bench plays key role in return to regional final

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

Holly Kays
Smoky MountainNews
Waynesville
Tribal Council comes under fire for voting itself pay raises
Excellent and consistent coverage over many months of a complex issue with unique challenges. The reporting was at all times interesting, timely, and relevant. The author regularly referenced earlier reporting, a key skill sometimes sadly lacking in news reporting.

DIVISION C

2nd Place

Jake Frankel
Mountain Xpress
Asheville
Buncombe Goes Blue

Colorful but balanced coverage of electoral successes. The reporting was evenhanded but captured the spirit and emotions of election winning and losing.

3rd Place

Jonathan Alexander
Garner-Cleveland Record
Garner
Garner: Cut early voting site
This was important piece, shining a light on a potentially awful precedent being set.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

David Sinclair
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Headlines grab and pull into the story. Great job!

2nd Place

Mary Novitsky
The Pilot
Southern Pines

3rd Place

Faye Dasen
The Pilot
Southern Pines

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

Barry Jacobs
Indy Week
Durham
A brief history of the ACC Tournament—and how television and money are killing our good basketball

2nd Place

J. Mike Blake, Andy Kenney
Cary News
Cary
RailHawks owner indicted

3rd Place

J. Mike Blake
Cary News
Cary
Conferences prohibit games against non-public schools

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Good simple editorial writing with clear opinions expressed. I like the multiple pages of opinion, and the photos of the writer included.

2nd Place

Gary Scott, Staff
Duplin Times
Kenansville
Good editorial writing. Great layout and design on these opinion pages.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEB SITES

1st Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
www.ThePilot.com
Easily the most inviting home page. The reader isn't overwhelmed and there's no confusion between editorial material and ads.

2nd Place

Travis Bumgarner
Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville
www.SmokyMountainNews.com
While the home page is quite busy, it's a simple matter to navigate to your reading choice, be it news, sports, opinion, etc. And when you use those links, the articles are neatly listed.

3rd Place

Staff
Mountain Xpress
Asheville
www.MountainX.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff
Duplin Times
Kenansville
Nice looking front page. Features are also very eye catching. Great entry overall.

2nd Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Nice looking paper overall. The layout on the Sandhills Scene pages especially stands out.

3rd Place

Staff
The Mountaineer
Waynesville
Very eye catching front page. I especially like the layout for the Haywood greenways story.

Community newspapers over 10,000 circulation

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Michael Paul
The Brunswick Beacon
Shallotte
Great sports section. Massive amount of copy and sports covered.

2nd Place

Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City
Very healthy sports section with compelling pictures. Good overall coverage.

3rd Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Nice utilization of covering the sports available in your area. Good layout and separation of the different sports.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place

Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City

2nd Place

Staff
The News Reporter
Whiteville

3rd Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines

NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Great lead! "Stinks like a chicken truck on a hot day." LOVE IT. Great photo from the School Board. Extensive writing!

2nd Place

Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City
Great work.

3rd Place

Staff
Duplin Times
Kenansville

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City

2nd Place

Staff
Duplin Times
Kenansville

3rd Place

Staff
The News Reporter
Whiteville

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City
Outlook 2015
This is an excellent digest of elements important to the Carteret County economic picture. A "progress edition" on steroids. Well done.

2nd Place

Hayley Burgess
The Brunswick Beacon
Shallotte
Real Women
This is a terrific concept properly executed. Layout and writing are both very good. Great idea.

3rd Place

Staff
Indy Week
Durham
INDY Week - Ride (Bike Guide)

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Jim Dodson, Andie Rose
The Pilot
Southern Pines
O.Henry Magazine
Clean design, good features.

2nd Place

Staffr
Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville
Experience Haywood

3rd Place

Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
Sandhills Guide 2015

CITY/COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Holly Kays
Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville
Whittier community navigates future of vacant county-owned factory
Strong lead paragraphs and good use of sub-heads to break up the story. The community is well served by this story.

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- ✓ objections and motions to quash
- ✓ Reporter's shield law

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- ✓ privacy policies
- ✓ response to take-down demands
- ✓ Communications Decency Act, DMCA planning, management and response

ADVERTISING

- ✓ contract drafting and review
- ✓ content review
- ✓ political ad compliance
- ✓ statutory and regulatory compliance



Hugh Stevens



Amanda Martin



Matt Vaughn



Mike Tadych



stevens martin vaughn & tadych, PLLC

attorneys at law

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DIVISION D

Daily newspapers under 12,500 circulation

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Chip Womick

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Man, 90, saves wife, 89, from burning house

2nd Place

Jenny Gray, Khai Hoang

The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids

Scary Night

3rd Place

William R. Toler

Richmond County Daily Herald

Rockingham

Man's ear, fingers bitten off

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Gabe Whisnant

The Star

Shelby

Florist's tip leads to Dylann Roof's arrest

An outstanding example of the best kind of reporting: avoiding an "official" and often inadequate report and going straight to the source, in this case the woman who first saw the suspect. Easy selection for first place.

2nd Place

Zach Potter

Sanford Herald

Sanford

Murder suspect caught

3rd Place

Emily Weaver

Times-News

Hendersonville

Pit bull attack kills 6-year-old

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS

1st Place

Staff

The Star

Shelby

Star Online Breaking News of Dylann

Roof's capture in Shelby

2nd Place

Rochelle Moore, Brad Coville

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Manhunt underway in campus shooting

3rd Place

Olivia Neeley, Gray Whitley, Lisa Boykin Batts

The Wilson Times

Wilson

"Heartbreaking"

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Jon Jimison

The Wilson Times

Wilson

An emotional goodbye

Hand's down, first place.

2nd Place

Lisa Boykin Batts

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Happy Homecoming

3rd Place

Nathaniel Axtell

Times-News

Hendersonville

Woman relinquishes bracelet after MIA soldier found

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Corey Friedman

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

Mowers fuel dirt-track duels

2nd Place

Chip Womick

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Helen Keller and the Marine

3rd Place

Wes Wolfe

The Free Press

Kinston

Talking dead

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place (tie)

Joey Millwood

Times-News

Hendersonville

Gash loves her family, her friends and

her community

Entry was very well written. I like the two sides of

Ms. Gash. And I like how you described in detail

about the cake making and raising of her boys.

He gave me a great sense of who she is.

1st Place (tie)

Erin Kdd

The Daily Courier

Forest City

Sitting in the sky

Great way to tell a story. nice use of photos to

enhance the story telling. The story gave me a

sense of what this person was about and how

attached he is to his hobby or way of life.

2nd Place

Chip Womick

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

The spirit of boxing lives within

3rd Place

Wade Allen

The Star

Shelby

She wanted to preserve her family's

history

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Stephanie Creech

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Stepping in unison

2nd Place

Matt Harrelson

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

Story spinners tell tall tales

3rd Place

Jenny Gray

The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids

Historic home source of pride, enter-

tainment in Warren County

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Stephanie Creech

The Wilson Times

Wilson

A language experiment

Relevant topic, good coverage of the language

classes. Well written and laid out well.

2nd Place

Chase Jordan

The Sampson Independent

Clinton

Full 'STEM' ahead

3rd Place

Olivia Neeley

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Message is serious

NEWS ENTERPRISE

REPORTING

1st Place

Emily Weaver

Times-News

Hendersonville

Alpine Woods

Excellent reporting, story telling and making a

difference in this community.

2nd Place

Jon Jimison

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Fight for our kids

3rd Place

Olivia Neeley

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Finch ruling will be challenged

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Sharon McBrayer

The News Herald

Morganton

Lake James Legislation

A bill that might have attracted little attention

in the state Legislature turns out to be an

important issue for this newspaper's reader-

ship. Kudos to the reporter for her in-depth

coverage and tenacity.

2nd Place

J.D. Walker

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Just who will benefit?

3rd Place

Erin Carson

The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids

Bones/abandoned hunting dog trend

in Halifax County

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place

Derek Lacey

Times-News

Hendersonville

Tomatoes beef up Henderson County

economy

Lots of detail -- sensory AND business. And ties

to a larger picture

2nd Place

Jackie Bridges

The Star

Shelby

Reaching out: Revo partners with Boys

& Girls Club to provide Internet

Good detail in lede gets reader into the story.

And the story has important community

impact.

3rd Place

Sharon Myers

The Dispatch

Lexington

Lucha Libre facility shows sport behind

the mask

Great idea, decent lede.

DIVISION D

Daily newspapers under 12,500 circulation

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Owen Hassell

The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City

Hill: Mistake in tactic, not message

2nd Place

Gabe Whisnant

The Star

Shelby

Going out Golden

3rd Place

Megan Crotty

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

ER standout Castlebury loses battle with cancer

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place (tie)

Joey Millwood

Times-News

Hendersonville

Runner is 'uniquely designed'

This gifted writer takes us on Hanna's amazing journey. The story is thoughtful, insightful and full of background information that provides context and relevance without being cumbersome.

1st Place (tie)

Jimmy Lewis

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Do It 4 Em

This article moved me to tears, not just because of the subject matter, but also because of the skill of the writer, the excellent use of quotes and the way in which the piece was crafted.

2nd Place

Logan Martinez

The Laurinburg Exchange

Laurinburg

Road to recovery

3rd Place

Marl Dolejs

The Daily Dispatch

Henderson

Taking the challenge

GENERAL NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Brad Coville

The Wilson Times

Wilson

An emotional goodbye



First Place, Feature Photography, Division D, by Hannah Hunsinger, Sanford Herald

2nd Place

Gray Whitley

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Man accused in arson sting

3rd Place

Gray Whitley

The Wilson Times

Wilson

"We still need to find her"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Hannah Hunsinger

Sanford Herald

Sanford

Feature photo 1

Simply an amazing photo. The man working really helps make the photo, though I feel it would still be an impressive shot without him.

2nd Place

Brittany Randolph

The Star

Shelby

This isn't their first rodeo

Great photo with great action. Photographer obviously knows the camera and settings needed to capture great photos.

3rd Place

Brittany Randolph

The Star

Shelby

Fruit for thought

What an awesome photo. I adore the expression on his face. Great photo

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

Hannah Covington

The Star

Shelby

Palmetto Statement

I love the emotion and the way you captured this win. Great shot. (I've tried this before. The pile didn't look near as good!)

2nd Place

Brad Coville

The Wilson Times

Wilson

WCA vaults Faith

Awesome shot. love his expression and the fact that you caught him so far up in the air. It's a great moment frozen in time.

3rd Place

Donnie Roberts

The Dispatch

Lexington

Christmas tourney set to go on Friday at Ledford

A strong feature photo. I love the crowd with the player. This crop tells a story and it's good.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Brad Coville

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Big plays lead to halftime lead for Fike

I love all the action taking place in this picture. All the players diving and flying make for an interesting picture.

2nd Place

Zach Frailey

The Free Press

Kinston

Golf classic opens

Great photo, and great timing by the photographer to be able to stop the movement of the club and have just a little blur to the ball.

3rd Place

Janet S. Carter

The Free Press

Kinston

Not this time

Great image full of action. Great shot by the photographer and even better timing to capture the moment.

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

Mark Dolejs

The Daily Dispatch

Henderson

In the spotlight

2nd Place

Mark Dolejs

The Daily Dispatch

Henderson

Taking the challenge

3rd Place

Ashley Vansant

The Washington Daily News

Washington

Super Saturday

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO

ILLUSTRATION

1st Place

Janet S. Carter, Zach Frailey

The Free Press

Kinston

Bleeding colors

2nd Place

Paul Durham

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Season's best and brightest

3rd Place

Paul Durham

The Wilson Times

Wilson

All-Area Team

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Erin Carson

The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids

All-Area Team

Intertwining safety tips and the feelings of the rescuers makes this a very good news story rather than just a routine mention.

DIVISION D

Daily newspapers under 12,500 circulation

2nd Place

Donnie Roberts

The Dispatch

Lexington

The 23rd Annual Tour de Pig

Nice video coverage of a fun event. Good editing between segments.

3rd Place

Donnie Roberts

The Dispatch

Lexington

East Rutherford's No. 1 fan

Innovative way to feature the work of a specific player. Nice transitions in editing. Very clean... even to the puff of chalk.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

Staff

The News Herald

Morgantown

Drug series

Powerful journalism with powerful testimonies, especially the compelling video. Best use of driving home the story with the video element that I have seen.

2nd Place

Staff

The Star

Shelby

Prep football pick-em

Great presentation of staff and readers picks. This is so much nicer than your traditional print grids. The graphics are really nice and appealing on this site. Well done.

3rd Place

Emily Weaver, Patrick Sullivan

Times-News

Hendersonville

Celebrating the fruits of their labor

Now this is how you use multimedia to tell the story: text, photos, video and Tweets. I judged a lot of multimedia for various size papers, and nobody used Tweets in their entry but you. Congrats! You covered all the bases.

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Annette Jordan

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Randolph Guide's demise a loss for the community; etc.

Editorials asked pertinent questions and made some excellent points.

2nd Place

Bryan Hanks

The Free Press

Kinston

Collection of Editorials

Well-written, focused on important issues and communicated opinions in concise way.

3rd Place

Chad Killebrew

The Dispatch

Lexington

Focused on local issues and raised important questions for readers.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Mary Anderson

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Contrary Mary

Mary Anderson's columns have to be a must-read for many who see her paper. They're the kind of curmudgeonly gripe lists many of us have, but are afraid to express. Very well written — many columnists would take the easy way out and do an entire piece on just one of the tidbits Anderson sprinkles through her columns. Really GOOD stuff.

2nd Place

Robert Kelly-Goss

The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City

My wish for you: Remain Fearless; Memories of songs of goodbye; The last days of barbecue

The very best columns are those "from the heart." Robert Kelly-Goss' pieces sometimes aren't easy reading - they bring back unpleasant memories. Others bring back really good memories (barbecue). Still others may make some readers want to have a talk with their children. VERY nice columns.

3rd Place

Bill Horner III

Sanford Herald

Sanford

Collection of Columns

Bill Horner has a talent for hilarious observations about the human foibles so many of us have. It's nice to know you're not the only mechanical bumbler or the only self-tattooer on the planet.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Sharon Womack

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Cherish life's precious moments; Taking out the large gnarly demons; Transfixed by the ant

Sharon Jordan Womack talks frankly about alcoholism, reveals her sensitivity when she accidentally hit a cat and her essay about the black ant was insightful. Her columns are well-written.

2nd Place

Annette Jordan

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

What does it mean to be racist; We need a game-changer; Sun rises on Sunset

3rd Place

Chad Killebrew

The Dispatch

Lexington

Candidate sees conspiracies; Just because it appears; Film hits close to home

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Cody Dalton

The Observer-News-Enterprise

Newton

Being a good sport; Surviving a soccer spectacle; A Beam of light for others

2nd Place

Megan Crotty

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

When news hits way too close; Embrace your cause; Oh, say can you sing?

3rd Place

Randy Jones

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Goodbye Pops: 'Life is Good'; 'Strange' Day for Miles; Mom's words continue to ring true

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

William R. Toler

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

The year for medical pot?

Nice job of in-depth reporting and making a personal connection to a hot-button issue.

2nd Place

Janet Conner-Knox

The Wilson Times

Wilson

What sparked voter change?

Nice job covering an issue on a local level that spurred controversy. Story was balanced and well researched. Although lengthy, the story needed to be to explain the ins and outs of the issue.

3rd Place

Nathaniel Axtell

Times-News

Hendersonville

Conservatives push purge of 132 voters from county rolls

Great job of reporting and explaining an interesting quirk of the voter registration process on terms that the reader can understand too.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Corey Friedman

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

Soldier has yen for tai chi

Headlines are catchy and flow right into the stories.

2nd Place

William R. Toler

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

Hamlet or Whoville?, Cooks of Hazard,

Rebels with a cause

Headlines draw reader to the story...good play on words

3rd Place

Jon Jimison

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Tri, tri again; Blaize of glory; Sour Pickle All were good.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

Paul Durham

The Wilson Times

Wilson

A place in history

2nd Place

Paul Durham

The Wilson Times

Wilson

After the final whistle

3rd Place

Shawn Stinson

Richmond County Daily Journal

Rockingham

Doctors warn players of overuse injury

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Staff

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Wrestling with the cost of water

Excellent writing with clear opinions expressed. In addition to quality editorial, the opinion pages have a good layout and use of cartoons.

2nd Place

Chad Killebrew

The Dispatch

Lexington

Editorial pages

Good short and clean editorial writing with clear messages. I most enjoyed the local editorials addressing transparency and freedom of speech issues.

DIVISION D

3rd Place

Staff

Sanford Herald

Sanford

Editorial pages

I believe the "thumbs up, thumbs down" style will help the attract more readers to the opinion pieces, and makes the views of the editorial staff clear.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEB SITES

1st Place

Staff

Sanford Herald

Sanford

www.SanfordHerald.com

Good organization, very clean site and very easy for a reader to navigate.

2nd Place

Staff

The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City

www.DailyAdvance.com

I really liked this website. Was hard to decide first and second place.

3rd Place

Staff

The Dispatch

Lexington

www.The-Dispatch.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

The Star

Shelby

Really bold front pages. The story lead-ins really draw your attention and get you right in the story. I love the look of the Opinion and Life pages. Solid layout throughout. I really like your paper's style.

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Herald

Roanoke Rapids

I love the way you use art on your front pages. Giant pictures dominate the front page and I think it works really well. Really good looking paper.

3rd Place

Staff

The Washington Daily News

Washington

Nice looking front page. Good looking paper overall.

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Andrew Giermak

Sanford Herald

Sanford

Clear winner in this division. Very informative section with lots to take in. Cleanly designed and easy to get through.

2nd Place

Dean Hensley, Joey Millwood

Times-News

Hendersonville

Good variety and an unreal amount of information to take in. Lots of sports.

3rd Place

Mike Duprez, Dwight Davis

The Dispatch

Lexington

Good local sports coverage and good writing. Just a solid product.

NEWS SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City

2nd Place

Staff

Times-News

Hendersonville

3rd Place

Staff

The Washington Daily News

Washington

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

The Star

Shelby

Southern cooking

Attractive designs. Good use of typography, photos, headlines, fonts along with color to help navigate the reader through the section. Items are neatly organized on the pages with good use of graphic elements to break up the type and teasers to get readers inside the section.

2nd Place

Staff

The Washington Daily News

Washington

June 21 and June 28 editions of Pamlico Life

Nice, clean layouts. I was impressed with how you told the story of the NFL camp with just photos and cutlines, and it worked. Inside pages showed care without being "thrown in the news hole."

Daily newspapers under 12,500 circulation

3rd Place

Diane Norman

Times-News

Hendersonville

This was nice. I can see the designer's touches, and they are appreciated, especially the more information boxes.

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

The News Herald

Morganton

2nd Place

Staff

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Happy Homecoming; A brand new look

3rd Place

Staff

Sanford Herald

Sanford

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Staff

Observer-News-Enterprise
Newton

Profile 2015: Get Smart

A unique approach to a progress-type edition. Excellent graphics and content; it is apparent a lot of good staff work went into this.

2nd Place

Dean Hensley, Joey Millwood

The Washington Daily News

Washington

Back to school 2015

You made what could have been very routine outstanding. Great information.

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City

Coast Guard 2015 Edition

Very thorough piece that will be a keepsake for many. Nice work.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Staff

The Courier-Tribune

Asheboro

Thrive: Life in Our Town and Beyond

Gorgeous photos, good features.

2nd Place

Staff

The Washington Daily News

Washington

Washington the Magazine (July/August)

Great cover, great photos, good stories

3rd Place

Staff

The Washington Daily News

Washington

Washington the Magazine (May-June)

CITY/COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Ginny Rhodes

The McDowell News

Marion

Disorder in the Courthouse: Grand Jury Inspection: Replace the building Strong lead paragraph and writing. Liked the pull out inviting readers to voice their opinion on a new courthouse.

2nd Place

Sharon McBrayer

The News Herald

Morganton

Changing Protocols

Good lead paragraph and writing. Story is laid out well.

3rd Place

Jacob Biba

Times-News

Hendersonville

New pickup location tries to attract day laborers

Lead paragraph entices the reader to read on. Good job.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Kim Gilliland, Guy Lucas

The News-Topic

Lenoir

Jonathan Broyhill murder trial

The facts of the case are engaging, but Kim Gilliland and Guy Lucas uses the raw material from the trial to create a compelling narrative that keeps the reader coming back.

2nd Place

Kristy Carter

Sampson Independent

Clinton

Parker gets new title, less money

3rd Place

Olivia Neeley

The Wilson Times

Wilson

Dogs rescued from 'uninhabitable' home Great follow through.

Continued p. 44

Congratulations



Award-winning Journalism

across the state!

GateHouse Media newspapers are dedicated to delivering quality journalism to N.C. readers and advertisers.

Our commitment to North Carolina and excellence in journalism speaks for itself with more than 180 awards for GateHouse Media newspapers in this year's NCPA News, Editorial, and Photojournalism contest!



GateHouse Media®

Havelock News - Division A

- 1st Education Reporting / Middle School Engineers
- 1st Sports Feature Writing / Giving it all for old Coach Sasser
- 1st Photography, General News / Train dinged, truck totaled, driver lucky
- 1st Sports Feature Photo / Crestfallen
- 1st Photography, Sports / Big Rock
- 1st Photo Page / Tee Time
- 1st Best Video / Pedro's Final Flight
- 1st Best Multimedia Project / Countdown to launch at Slocum Creek Rec Area
- 1st Editorials / Apartments, video, library
- 1st Lighter Columns / Nine year old letter, Karma comes back after 54 years, Fertility machine
- 1st Headline Writing / Game of Drones
- 1st Appearance and Design - Newspapers Only / Havelock News
- 1st News Coverage - Community Only / Havelock News News Coverage
- 2nd General News Reporting / Missing Dad
- 2nd Photography, General News / Missing Dad
- 2nd Photography, Feature / Fabulous Fourth
- 2nd Photography, Sports / Over the Top
- 2nd Photo Page / Aiding Ayden
- 2nd Best Multimedia Project / Sky Camp
- 2nd Lighter Columns / Weapon, Bobbleheads, Bugs
- 2nd Serious Columns / The Bomb/marriage, Never Forget but for how long, ISIS is nothing
- 2nd Editorial Page / Havelock News Opiniion Page
- 3rd Education Reporting / Math in Real World
- 3rd News Enterprise Reporting / Hunger in Havelock
- 3rd Sports Feature Writing / Cooper, Scott Together Again
- 3rd Sports Feature Photo / Defense
- 3rd Photography, Sports / Mays Header
- 3rd General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only / Havelock News
- 3rd Best Lede / Strength, Turbo, Morris

- Drew C. Wilson
- Drew C. Wilson
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Ken Buday
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Barry Fetzer
- Ken Buday
- Staff
- Staff
- Ken Buday
- Ken Buday
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Drew C. Wilson
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Barry Fetzer
- Staff
- Ken Buday
- Drew C. Wilson
- Ken Buday
- Ken Buday
- Ken Buday
- Staff
- Ken Buday

Ashboro Courier-Tribune - Division D

- 1st General News Reporting / Man, 90, saves wife, 89, from burning house
- 1st Editorials / Randolph Guide's demise a loss for the community; etc.
- 1st Lighter Columns / Contrary Mary
- 1st Serious Columns / Cherish life's precious moments, Taking out the large gnarly demons, Transfixed by the ant
- 1st Best Niche Publication / Thrive: Life in Our Town and Beyond
- 2nd Feature Writing / Helen Keller and the Marine
- 2nd Profile Feature / The spirit of boxing lives within
- 2nd Investigative Reporting / Just who will benefit?
- 2nd Serious Columns / What does it mean to be racist, We need a game-changer, Sun rises on Sunset
- 2nd Sports Columns / When news hits way too close; Embrace your cause; Oh, say can you sing?
- 3rd Sports News Reporting / ER standout Castlebury loses battle with cancer

- Chip Womick
- Annette Jordan
- Mary Anderson
- Sharon Womick
- Staff
- Chip Womick
- Chip Womick
- J.D. Walker
- Annette Jordan
- Megan Crotty
- Megan Crotty

Kinston Free Press - Division D

- 1st Illustration/Photo Illustration / Bleeding Colors
- 2nd Photography, Sports / Golf classic opens
- 2nd Editorials / Bryan Hanks editorials
- 3rd Feature Writing / Talking dead
- 3rd Photography, Sports / Not this time
- 3rd Best Lede / Best Ledes from Wes Wolfe

- Janet S. Carter, Zach Frailey
- Zach Frailey
- Bryan C. Hanks
- Wes Wolfe
- Janet S. Carter
- Wes Wolfe

Lexington Dispatch - Division A

- 2nd Best Video / The 23rd Annual
- 2nd Editorial Page
- 3rd Business Writing / Lucha Libre
- 3rd Sports Feature Photo / Catcher
- 3rd Best Video / The Catcher
- 3rd Editorials / Voice prayers
- 3rd Serious Columns / Candice
- 3rd Just because it appears, I
- 3rd General Excellence for News
- 3rd Sports Coverage / The D

Hendersonville Times-News

- 1st Profile Feature / Cash low
- 1st News Enterprise Reporting
- 1st Business Writing / Tomato
- 1st Sports Feature Writing / I
- 2nd Sports Coverage / Times
- 2nd News Section Design / N
- 2nd Best Lede / Quest for har
- 3rd Deadline News Reporting
- 3rd News Feature Writing / W
- 3rd Best Multimedia Project
- 3rd Feature Section Design /
- 3rd Election/Political Reporti
- 3rd Conservatives push purg
- 3rd City/County Governmen
- 3rd New pickup location tries

The Shelby Star - Division A

- 1st Deadline News Reporting
- 1st Online Breaking News C
- 1st Sports Feature Photo / P
- 1st Appearance and Design
- 1st Feature Section Design /
- 2nd Business Writing / Reach
- 2nd Sports News Reporting /
- 2nd Photography, Feature / T
- 2nd Best Multimedia Project
- 3rd Profile Feature / She wan

Jacksonville Daily News

- 1st Sports Feature Photo / D
- 2nd Best Community Covera
- 3rd Education Reporting / A
- 3rd News Section Design

New Bern Sun Journal - Division A

- 1st News Enterprise Reporti
- 3rd Serious Columns

Division D
 Annual Tour de Pig
 Libre facility shows sport behind the mask
 Christmas tourney set to go on Friday at Ledford
 ; school board; Problems in DA's office
 date sees conspiracies,
 Film hits close to home
 Newspaper Websites / the-dispatch.com
 Dispatch Sports Section

Donnie Roberts
 Chad Killebrew
 Sharon Myers
 Donnie Roberts
 Donnie Roberts
 Chad Killebrew
 Chad Killebrew
 Staff
 Mike Duprez; Dwight Davis

Division D
 es her family, her friends and her community
 ng / Alpine Woods
 es beef up Henderson County economy
 Runner is 'uniquely designed'
 News sports
 ws design Aug. 2-3, 2015
 rmony
 g / Pit bull attack kills 6-year-old
 Woman relinquishes bracelet after MIA soldier found
 / Celebrating the fruits of their labor
 Feature design Dec. 2014
 ng /
 e of 132 voters from county rolls
 t Reporting/
 s to attract day laborers

Joey Millwood
 Emily Weaver
 Derek Lacey
 Joey Millwood
 Dean Hensley, Joey Millwood
 Staff
 Beth De Bona
 Emily Weaver
 Nathaniel Axtell
 Emily Weaver, Patrick Sullivan
 Staff
 Nathaniel Axtell
 Jacob Biba

Division D
 g / Florist's tip leads to Dylann Roof's arrest
 coverage / Dylann Roof's capture in Shelby
 almetto Statement
 Southern Cooking
 ing out: Revo partners with Boys & Girls Club
 Going out Golden
 This isn't their first rodeo
 / The Star's prep football pick-em
 ted to preserve her family's history

Gabe Whisnant
 Staff
 Hannah Covington
 Staff
 Staff
 Jackie Bridges
 Gabe Whisnant
 Brittany Randolph
 Staff
 Wade Allen

The Gaston Gazette - Division E

1st News Feature Writing / Soldier comes home 45 years later Diane Turbyfill
 1st Profile Feature / The green rookie Nick Dumont
 1st Investigative Reporting / Adoption Reimbursement Program draws scrutiny Michael Barrett
 1st Photography, General News / Starting 2015 with a bang Mike Hensdill
 1st Photography, Sports / Huss pitchers combine to shut out Jackets Mike Hensdill
 1st Photo Page / Final Goodbye John Clark
 1st Illustration/Photo Illustration / Big Man on Campus Lauren Frame, Phil Gardner
 1st Appearance and Design Staff
 1st Sports Coverage Staff
 1st Feature Section Design Staff
 1st City/County Government Reporting /
 Commissioners give themselves major perk Michael Barrett
 2nd Profile Feature / Friendship forged on the battlefield Diane Turbyfill
 2nd Photography, Sports / Benjamin Catch John Clark
 2nd Best Multimedia Project / Remembering the spirit of '45 Staff
 2nd Editorial Page Staff
 2nd Special Section / Discover Gaston 2015 Staff
 2nd Election/Political Reporting / Not so Nonpartisan Kevin Ellis
 3rd Online Breaking News Coverage / Former officer 1 of 2 killed in shootings Staff
 3rd News Feature Writing / Farm school Diane Turbyfill
 3rd Photo Page / Historic Run John Clark
 3rd Best Video / How would you spend a million dollars? Nick Dumont
 3rd Best Lede Nick Dumont

Burlington Times-News - Division E

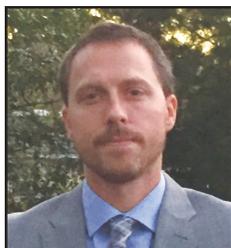
1st Sports Feature Writing / A wait lifted, a wait rewarded Adam Smith
 2nd General News Reporting / Family trauma, family drama Anna Johnson
 2nd Investigative Reporting / Arms race Michael D. Abernethy
 2nd Photography, Feature / Painting the town Steven Mantilla
 2nd Photo Page / Summer fun at the drive-in Steven Mantilla
 2nd Illustration/Photo Illustration / Back to the grind Linda Bowden
 2nd General Excellence for Newspaper Websites Staff
 2nd Appearance and Design Staff
 2nd Sports Enterprise Writing / Cost of business Adam Smith
 3rd Illustration/Photo Illustration / Beware Hypothermia Linda Bowden
 3rd Lighter Columns Jay Ashley
 3rd Beat News Reporting / Co-defendant hostile, has no remorse for murder Michael D. Abernethy

Wilmington Star-News - Division F

1st Photography, Sports / Mud Run Matt Born
 1st News Section Design Staff
 2nd Headline Writing John Staton
 2nd Appearance and Design Staff
 3rd Photography, General News / Surf Matt Born
 3rd Best Multimedia Project / Civil War Staff
 3rd General Excellence for Newspaper Websites Staff
 3rd Special Section / 15 Under 15 S. Jones, M. Spencer, H. DelaCourt, M. Alfrejd
 3rd Best Niche Publication / Travel in the Carolinas Staff

Division E
 ng / Crime and Punishment
 Bill Hand
 Randy Foster

DOLAN MEDIA CAROLINAS PROFESSIONAL NETWORK CONGRATULATES ITS NEWS TEAM MEMBERS... FOR PRODUCING AWARD-WINNING CONTENT IN 2015!!!



BANTZ



ROBERTS

NCPA News, Editorial and Photojournalism Awards were earned by the Dolan Media Carolinas staff in the following categories:

1 ST	Final Statement	Phillip Bantz	North Carolina Lawyers Weekly	01 - General News Reporting
1 ST	Love Websites	Phillip Bantz	North Carolina Lawyers Weekly	05 - Feature Writing
1 ST	Lede	Phillip Bantz	North Carolina Lawyers Weekly	60 - Best Lede
2 ND	Headlines	Sharon Roberts	The Mecklenburg Times	27 - Headline Writing
2 ND	Lede	Heath Hamacher	North Carolina Lawyers Weekly	60 - Best Lede
3 RD	Driverless Cars	David Donovan	North Carolina Lawyers Weekly	01 - General News Reporting



HAMACHER



DONOVAN

JOB WELL DONE!



North Carolina Press Awards Winners



Paul Church, Judi Brinegar, Annette Jordan, Sharon Womick, Chip Womick, Charles Wade, J.D. Walker, Megan Crotty.
Not pictured, Mary Anderson

Congratulations to our staff!



Cheers to this year's winners and the NCPA membership for honoring **free press rights** and improving **open government** through their efforts!

BUSSIAN LAW FIRM

PROTECTING MEDIA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Wells Fargo Capitol Center | Raleigh, North Carolina

DIVISION E

Daily newspapers 12,500-35,000 circulation

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Lindell John Kay

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

Heritage or Hate?

From the pithy opening question, the story grabs you and keeps you with its focus on a particular character who embodies a nation-wide controversy.

2nd Place

Anna Johnson

The Times-News

Burlington

Family trauma, family drama

Stories about agencies and programs can be dull, but this one yanks the reader in with a compelling story of family pain, and keeps the personal touch all the way through, making it a pleasure to learn.

3rd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Coming home

This is great storytelling -- weaving cancer, a lost Vietnam vet and family healing into one compelling tale.

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Sharieka Breeden

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Five are arrested in homicide

A rare angle for a crime story: A dying victim admits he was breaking the law. Nice reporting.

2nd Place

Katie Jansen

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Hazmat crews called to Chapel Hill complex

3rd Place

Amelia Harper

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

Neighbor Pulls Child To Safety

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS

1st Place

Brie Handgraaf

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

Courthouse Shooting

2nd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Emotions Boil Over After Trial

3rd Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Former officer 1 of 2 killed in shootings

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Diane Turbyfill

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Soldier comes home 45 years later

Comprehensive look at a topic.

2nd Place

Shavonne Potts Walker

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Heroin, a deadly epidemic

Comprehensive look at something that affects everyone. Good job of making it about an individual to keep people's attention.

3rd Place

Diane Turbyfill

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Farm school

This is very well-written, capturing my attention and it is both informative and entertaining.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Jimmy Tomlin

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Caught by an Angel

2nd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Magic shoebox

3rd Place

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Going to the Chapel (Again)

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Nick Dumont

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

The green rookie

Great profile piece with a great layout. Very reader friendly, very eye catching which stopped and made me want to read more. Good story telling. I felt that I understand more about his life as a farmer.

2nd Place

Diane Turbyfill

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Friendship forged on the battlefield

3rd Place

Dennis Hill, Steve Herring

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Eastern N.C.'s champion

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Kim Grizzard

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Delivering drama from stage to page

2nd Place

Kim Grizzard

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

WWI battle that was 'first of everything'

3rd Place

Natalie Sayewich

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Dance depicts emotional journey

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Laney Ruckstuhl

Hickory Daily Record

Hickory

Teacher Assistants

Nice graphics to start off the story. Touched me personally and held my attention throughout the article. Relevant.

2nd Place

Jane Dail

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Unchartered territory

Like the "twist" title. Informative.

3rd Place

Maria Sestito

The Daily News

Jacksonville

A class of her own

Very nice feature - LOVE THE PHOTO.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

Bill Hand

Sun Journal

New Bern

Crime and Punishment

2nd Place

Josh Bergeron

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

The Sludge Report

3rd Place

Sharieka Breeden

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Students must be vigilant

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Michael Barrett

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Adoption Reimbursement Program

draws scrutiny

Excellent reporting on a public official taking advantage of a perk quietly approved by himself and his colleagues. While the cause -- coverage of adoption costs -- may seem worthwhile, the potential tab for taxpayers is significant, and the officials' actions seem incredibly self-serving. This reporter did a fine job of ferreting out the details and writing in an even-handed manner.

2nd Place

Michael D. Abernethy

The Times-News

Burlington

Arms race

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place

Jimmy Tomlin

High Point Enterprise

High Point

The Magic Touch

SNAPPY writing on an unusual subject. And also hits how the business works, obstacles it faces.

2nd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

One sweet fishin' story

Great detail about what makes this business works, what motivates the people who run it.

3rd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

'I just don't want to turn it loose'

Really interesting story.

DIVISION E

Daily newspapers 12,500-35,000 circulation

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Steve Wiseman

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Krzyzewski wins No. 1,000

2nd Place

Greer Smith

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Woods wows huge crowd with 64

3rd Place

Gerrit Van Genderen

Hickory Daily Record

Hickory

Indians rev it up

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Adam Smith

The Times-News

Burlington

A wait lifted, a wait rewarded

This is one of the finest pieces of journalism — feature or otherwise — that I have had the privilege of reading in a very long time. Stellar work, award-winning, engaging.

2nd Place

Josh Walfish

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

#Family&Basketball

3rd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

The kids from Shuford School

GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Mike Hensdill

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Starting 2015 with a bang

2nd Place

Joe Pellegrino

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Vigil calls for peace

3rd Place

Aileen Devlin

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Emotions boil over after jury deliver

guilty verdict

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Laura Greene

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Caught by an angel

This is one of those photos that doesn't even need a headline as you're automatically drawn into this photo. Truly a powerful photo.

2nd Place

Steve Mantilla

The Times-News

Burlington

Painting the town

3rd Place

Casey Mozingo

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Love, support ... in all colors

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

John Sudbrink

Daily News

Jacksonville

Diving catch

Great photo. I've tried to capture this moment. It's extremely difficult. It's a great shot.

2nd Place

Bernard Thomas

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Friday Night Lights

Great shot. It's a great action shot - and cool that you also captured the helmet in the bottom of the image - I assume it fell off during the tackle.

3rd Place

Casey Mozingo

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Livin' life

Love how you froze the action. It made me want to stop and read the story. Good job.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Mike Hensdill

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Huss pitchers combine to shut out

Jackets

Great timing by the photographer and an even better shot. Very well done sports photo.

2nd Place

John Clark

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Benjamin Catch

Great image by the photographer.



First Place, Feature Photography, Division E, by Laura Greene, High Point Enterprise, High Point

3rd Place

Melissa Key

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Late offensive surge

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

John Clark

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Final Goodbye

2nd Place

Steve Mantilla

The Times-News

Burlington

Summer fun at the drive-in

3rd Place

John Clark

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Historic Run

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

1st Place

Lauren Frame, Phil Gardner

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Big Man on Campus

This is big-market quality, something I expect to see in a national magazine. Good job.

2nd Place

Linda Bowden

The Times-News

Burlington

Back to the grind

3rd Place

Linda Bowden

The Times-News

Burlington

Beware Hypothermia

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Alex Dixon, Christine T. Nguyen

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Bull City Cigars: recreating tobacco history

Great video and information about cigars in general and local tobacco in particular. Makes you want to visit the store and the general area as well.

2nd Place

John McCann

The Herald-Sun

Durham

The Breakthrough

Took a specific and placed it in historical perspective...using teammates and the player himself. Well thought out video and well written copy.

3rd Place

Nick Dumont

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

How would you spend a million dollars?

Creative and fun. Draws audience in and tells us a lot about the area and its offerings. Liked the opportunity to spend the money myself.

Took something that didn't happen and drew us in.

Congratulations to the entire Wilson Times newsroom on



North Carolina Press Association Editorial Contest Awards

First Place

Lisa Boykin Batts - Beat Feature Reporting
Brad Coville - Photography, General News
Brad Coville - Photography, Sports
Stephanie Creech - Arts and Entertainment Reporting
Stephanie Creech - Education Reporting

Paul Durham - Sports Enterprise Writing
Jon Jimison - News Feature Writing
Jimmy Lewis - Sports Feature Writing
Staff - Editorial Page

Second Place

Lisa Boykin Batts - News Feature Writing
Lisa Boykin Batts - Beat Feature Reporting
Brad Coville - Sports Feature Photo
Paul Durham - Illustration/Photo Illustration - Dailies Only
Paul Durham - Sports Enterprise Writing

Jon Jimison - News Enterprise Reporting
Janet Conner-Knox - Election/Political Reporting
Rochelle Moore & Brad Coville - Online Breaking News Coverage
Gray Whitley - Photography, General News
Staff - Best Community Coverage

Third Place

Paul Durham - Illustration/Photo Illustration - Dailies Only
Randy Jones - Sports Columns
Jimmy Lewis - Headline Writing
Olivia Neeley, Gray Whitley & Lisa Boykin Batts -
Online Breaking News Coverage
Olivia Neeley - Education Reporting

Olivia Neeley - News Enterprise Reporting
Olivia Neeley - Beat News Reporting
Olivia Neeley - Beat Feature Reporting
Gray Whitley - Photography, General News



MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER - A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896

DIVISION E

Daily newspapers 12,500-35,000 circulation



First Place, General News Photography, Division E, by Mike Hensdill, Gaston Gazette, Gastonia

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Humans of Greenville

Holy cow! This is wonderful. I'm amazed and delighted at the quality of what you've produced and the sustainability of what you're doing. You definitely get the first prize for use of different media to tell this story. Kudos for harnessing social media!

2nd Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Remembering the spirit of '45

Wow. This was an ambitious project. It was well executed on every level, from the reporting, writing, editing and presentation, including the graphics. Well done!

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

The Great Bus Project

Nice work. The video testimonies tell you so much more about why these people ride the bus. The videos really connect riders and readers in a way that written stories cannot do.

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Mark Rutledge

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Pitt County's shameful void in children's dental health

Well-written, focused on important local issues, and didn't shy away from taking strong positions.

2nd Place

AI Clark

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Ferguson incident...; The L-word missing...; Don't tie educators hand Editorials were poignant and expressed a reasoned point of view. And alliteration in headlines never hurts.

3rd Place

Renee Carey

Goldsboro News- Argus

Goldsboro

The roundup; The motive; Skype vote Editorials had a good rhythm and were easy to read while making excellent points.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Shannon Keith

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Dear Santa: I'd like a door that locks These are just plain FUN to read, and that's the primary purpose of a "light" column, isn't it? Excellent writing on inconsequential topics.

2nd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

It's amazing; Dylan as teacher?; Sisters plant magic beans

3rd Place

Jay Ashley

The Times-News

Burlington

Lighter columns 2015

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Jimmy Tomlin

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Jimmy Tomlin Serious Columns

2nd Place

AI Clark

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Justice more elusive...; Dean Smith...; At the heart of the matter

3rd Place

Randy Foster

Sun Journal

New Bern

Serious columns, 2/22 3/15 and 3/22 2015

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Greer Smith

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Farewell to a legend, Hayes goes homeless to raise awareness, O'Briant enjoys royal Colonial sendoff

2nd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Our gritty girls; Boys of summer; Bill Sides finally ...

3rd Place

John McCann

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Off the Ball; Hark the Sound; Exchanging sneakers, cleats

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

Abbie Bennett

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Concerns rise about sales tax Great angle to take on this sales tax proposal that makes it easy to connect with readers. Good job.

2nd Place

Kevin Ellis

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Not so Nonpartisan

This story was well-researched and explains the endorsement issue well. Solid reporting.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Janet Storm

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Days of swine and poses The swine had me from the first!

2nd Place

Vince Wheeler

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Collection of headlines Great headlines to draw reader to the story!

3rd Place

Tony Castleberry

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Immaculate interception; Curry favored for MVP; It was all yellow

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

Michael Lindsay

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Which path to choose?

2nd Place

Adam Smith

The Times-News

Burlington

Cost of business

3rd Place

Ronnie Woodward

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Play ball (maybe)

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Vince Wheeler

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Good page layout and design assists these well written opinion pieces. Thumbs up and down section improves clarity and helps the editorial reach more readers.

2nd Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Clean and clear editorial writing. I like the page title "Debate" and also the breakout topic and point.

3rd Place

Mark Rutledge

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Good editorial writing.

DIVISION E

Daily newspapers 12,500-35,000 circulation

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEB SITES

1st Place

Staff

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

www.SalisburyPost.com

Good organization and is presented in a format that is easy to read and inviting to the user.

2nd Place

Staff

The Times-News

Burlington

www.TheTimesNews.com

This site is proof that it is possible to have a clean, user-friendly website even if you are using a company's cookie cutter template. This is well done.

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

www.Reflector.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

This is a beautiful newspaper. Everything looks so clean, so refined. Art and additional story information make everything very visually interesting. Excellent use of white space throughout. Just wonderful.

2nd Place

Staff

The Times-News

Burlington

Really engaging front page. I really like how the headlines look.

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Really great looking paper. I like that you aren't afraid to have one image take up nearly an entire page. It defiantly pays off.

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Sports coverage

Excellent sports section and loved the feature on Isaiah Whaley. Good local coverage to go along regional and national interests.

2nd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Rally does in Rams; Rams rally to take series from Pirates

Solid mix of sports covered - right down to the little league kids.

3rd Place

Sports Staff

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Sports Coverage, March 21-22

Good use of strong pictures to go along with STAFF written content.

NEWS SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Off-duty officer fatally shoots man;

Former Reflector publisher dies

2nd Place

Staff

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Aug. 16 & 17 news sections

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily News

Jacksonville

News section

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Gazette Features Section

Crisp looking pages that are well organized. Good use of typography, color and photos to engage/entice the reader. Well done.

Continued page 38

Congratulations

to our award-winning staff!



THE PILOT

910-692-7271 | www.thepilot.com

2015 NCPA EDITORIAL AWARDS

7 First Place
4 Second Place
9 Third Place

2015 NCPA ADVERTISING AWARDS

10 First Place
8 Second Place
5 Third Place

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- A sweep in Best Real Estate Ad
- A sweep in Best Use of Humor
- A sweep in Best Online Advertising
- A sweep in Headline writing
- Six photography awards

DIVISION F

Daily newspapers over 35,000

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Elizabeth Leland, Jonathan McFadden

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Gangs, murder tear at small town's seams

2nd Place

Michael Gordon, Elizabeth Leland

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

One life gone, another unraveled

3rd Place

Martha Quillin

The News & Observer

Raleigh

Defined by their faith but no less American

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Staff

The News & Observer

Raleigh

Fake-class schemed aided UNC players' eligibility

Clearly the best entry. Difficult to decide which information had the most impact, but it's hard to overlook the ethics professor's complicity in this shameful episode. Very thorough reporting and clear writing. Well done.

2nd Place

David Perlmutter, Jane Wester, Joe Marusak

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

After tragedy, church embraces family

3rd Place

Taft Wireback

News & Record

Greensboro

Wireback Accident

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS

1st Place

Staff

The News & Observer

Raleigh

Chapel Hill killings reverberate around the world

2nd Place

Staff

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Chiquita exit raises questions

3rd Place

Sabian Warren, William Woody, John Boyle

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Breaking: Man charged in deaths has tie to Zebb Quinn case

NEWS FEATURE

1st Place

Margaret Moffett

News & Record

Greensboro

Bitter Blood

2nd Place

Pam Kelley

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

A traffic jam

3rd Place

Chick Jacobs

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Red Wolf Repopulation

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Pam Kelley

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Welcome to Charlotte. Here's a paper towel.

2nd Place

Mark Price

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Shelter in a shed

3rd Place

Dale Neal

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Box of lies: Rediscovered ballot box holds the votes in 1964 rigged mountain election

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Greg Barnes

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Tragedy and trauma

Great story. Told the whole story from his past to the present. Story was put together in such a way that I wanted to read more, like a novel, I wanted to keep reading to find out how it ended.

2nd Place

Michael Gordon

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

At key moment, CMPD eyes potential new chief

Great storytelling. Got a sense of the debate on the next chief and the situation for the hiring process. Great story to let readers know and feel what was going on. Great graphics on the background of the candidate in the box. Very balanced.

3rd Place

Michael Gordon

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

The law, race and Michael Greene

Great storytelling about a very controversial topic. Gave me an account of both sides of the hearing. Made me feel what the attorney felt. Puts me right there after the hearing but also gave me the back story of the attorney. Great use of adjectives.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Mark Washburn

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Some enchanted thieving

Interesting and well-packaged. I had this stack of contest entries at home and the top photo caught my 10-year-old daughter's attention. She read the article—twice—and commented it should win...she's right! (And, thanks to this, we now have a new vacation destination.)

2nd Place

Dale Neal

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Serafina a Disney star in the making?

Very well written background on author, and atypical and personal book review.

3rd Place

Lawrence Toppman

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Mogul in training

Loved the lede!

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

Ann Doss Helms

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

After triumph and pain, Ford charts new path

Photo captions are captivating, captures the attention of the reader from the very beginning and continues throughout the story. Makes one want to meet James Ford.

2nd Place

Julie Ball

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Changing the grade

Informative, walks you through all the facts, good quotes and coverage on topic.



First Place, Sports Feature Photo, Division F, by Ethan Hyman, News & Observer, Raleigh.

DIVISION F

3rd Place

Catherine Pritchard

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

A chance to succeed

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

Karen Garloch

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Transgender activist fought past loss, disapproval

My favorite part of this piece is how personal it felt. By the end of it, it was as if I knew Blake. I also appreciate how the writer used preferred pronouns of the victims.

2nd Place

Staff

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Wes Kerrick trial

The straight-forward writing of this piece was something I greatly liked. It made the read easier. The graphics alongside the story also were liked.

3rd Place

Fred Clasen-Kelly

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

The seconds before the shots

Great read. I like the addition of the mental health protocol. Great reporting, with good questions asked.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

Joseph Neff

News & Observer

Raleigh

State Employees Boss Busted

Really fine example of effective, focused investigative reporting with a positive outcome. Reporting on scandals involving non-profits is usually tedious at best, but this reporter's hard work and tenacity let him overcome the obstacles. I especially liked the emphasis on the role of non-profit boards and their all-too-frequent failure to provide appropriate oversight.

2nd Place

Joe Gamm

News & Record

Greensboro

Police Involved Shootings

3rd Place

Ames Alexander, Fred Clasen-Kelly, Gavin Off

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Faulty death probes endanger N.C. babies

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place

Caitlin Byrd

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Fighting chains

Detailed look at a local story and how it ties in nationally. Hits the emotional factors, as well as the business angles.

2nd Place

Rick Rothacker

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

One time rising star moves on from banking

Maybe it's just prurient interest, but I couldn't stop reading.

3rd Place

David Ranii

News & Observer

Raleigh

Single mom beats Lumber Liquidators

Takes a small case and ties it to a bigger picture (or shows how it might not have an effect there). Good local personality.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Chip Alexander

News & Observer

Raleigh

A coach for the ages

2nd Place

Dan Kane, Jane Stancill, Andrew Carter

News & Observer

Raleigh

NCAA: UNC lacked institutional control

3rd Place

Michael Gordon, Joseph Person, Jonathan Jones

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Trial puts career on line

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Stephen Schramm, Bret Strelow

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Home courts

2nd Place

Ed Hardin

News & Record

Greensboro

Richard Petty

3rd Place

John Dell

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

Linn family bonds through triathlons

GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Jeff Siner

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Tension follows Kerrick mistrial

2nd Place

Todd Sumlin

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Newton injures his back in wreck

3rd Place

Matt Born

StarNews

Wilmington

Surf

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Scott Hoffman

News & Record

Raleigh

Oldest Boy Scout

From the blue in his eyes to the cut on his nose, every detail of this photo was brought out in spectacular fashion. Job well done

2nd Place

Robert Lahser

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

98 degrees

The detail able to be captured in this photo is outstanding.

3rd Place

Andrew Dye

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

Smoke Signals

Smoke can be challenging to capture, but the photographer pulled it off in a great fashion will all the details being crisp and in focus. A really nice photo.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

Ethan Hyman

News & Observer

Raleigh

No attention for the losing coach

A strong photo, that captures the agony of defeat. I love how you used the composition to put the coach in the center, and yet, he's so alone. It takes an eye to capture a moment like this.

2nd Place

Jeff Siner

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Logano the toast of Daytona

This photo is striking. Love it. Great job capturing the moment.

Daily newspapers over 35,000

3rd Place

Lauren Carroll

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

Thousands throng downtown for third Cycling Classic

Love this image. I would have never thought of trying to capture someone thru the wheels of a bike race. You've given me my next challenge. Great image.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Matt Born

StarNews

Wilmington

Mud Run

In a category full of amazing photos with no fewer than a half dozen that could easily be winners, this one just keeps catching my eye everytime I look at it. From the detail and expression on her face to the mud flying up this photo is simply stunning.

2nd Place

Jeff Siner

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Newton, Panthers somersault to win over Texas

A truly amazing photo.

3rd Place

David T. Foster III

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Benjamin completes touchdown reception

Great timing by the photographer to catch that "perfect shot."

PHOTO PAGE

1st Place

Corey Lowenstein

News & Observer

Raleigh

Six brothers and a baby sister

2nd Place

David Rolfe

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

Mercedes of Steam

3rd Place

Andrew Craft

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Showing off Army strong

DIVISION F

Daily newspapers over 35,000

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

1st Place

Mariano Santillan

The Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Fayetteville: Calamity City

2nd Place

Staff

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Does driver's ed work in North

Carolina?

3rd Place

Suzanne Schubert

The Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Human trafficking

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

Todd Sumlin

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Revisiting the scene of Jonathan Ferrell's death

This is an excellent example of the type of initiative reporting that is even handed. Editing of video, 911 call, police radio was excellent.

2nd Place

Raul R. Rubiera, Abbi O'Leary

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Keepers of History

Exceptional use of black and white to educate and entertain. This is a very good production.

3rd Place

Walt Unks

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

Ashe County family grows tradition

with maple syrup business

Great story telling, great interview and wonderful photography.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

Staff

News & Record

Greensboro

The Day the River Turned Gray

This story utilized all the elements well to explain a story. The way the videos and graphics were placed within the online story rather than as sidebars brought this package together for the reader.

2nd Place

Staff

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Wes Kerrick trial

Great job on a compelling story that ended with a hung jury. I liked how you kept the readers wanting more with the broadcast TV style videos with the reporter being filmed on site.

3rd Place

Staff

StarNews

Wilmington

Civil War

This was an ambitious project, and you found many creative ways to convey information about the Civil War. I applaud your fine efforts.

EDITORIALS

1st Place

Jim Buchanan

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Collection of editorials

Insightful commentary, focused on issues that mattered to the local community.

2nd Place

Eric Frazier

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Collection of editorials

Entertaining and informative. Strong opinions on important matters.

3rd Place

Mick Scott

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

What happened to following the law?

The editorial board pinpointed partisan issues and gave incisive commentary.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Barry Saunders

News & Observer

Charlotte

Take this salary, Franklin, please

Saunders may well be the king of sarcasm.

Very well written, compelling subject matter, taking on sacred cows (no offense, Mr. Graham). All in all, very well researched, thoughtful pieces that provoke a grim laugh or two.

Good stuff, as we say in the newsroom.

2nd Place

Josh Shaffer

News & Observer

Raleigh

Look! No Hands!

Just absolutely fascinating columns. Very well written thumbnail bios of extraordinarily interesting, impressive people. It takes hard work and contacts in the community to dig them up.



First Place, Feature Photography, Division F, by Scott Hoffmann, News & Record, Greensboro

3rd Place

Eric Frazier

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Collection of lighter columns

Good writing takes time, and clearly, Frazier put in the time on these.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Bruce Sicheloff

News & Observer

Raleigh

Many Say N.C. Still Needs Driver's Ed

Bruce Sicheloff included some data-based journalism to provide context for his driver's ed columns.

2nd Place

Karen Chavez

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

Karen Chavez Pink October columns

Karen Chavez provided a keen insight into surviving breast cancer. She provides details into her surgery and treatment, but takes readers beyond the usual coverage.

3rd Place

Myla Barnhardt

News & Record

Greensboro

Collection of columns

Myra Barnhardt's columns make history live again.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Ed Hardin

News & Record

Greensboro

Collection of columns

2nd Place

Tom Sorenson

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Collection of columns

3rd Place

Luke DeCock

News & Observer

Raleigh

Collection of columns

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

Richard Carver

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

DHHS and Aldona Vos coverage

Eight in-depth stories that followed a hot state issue from the beginning to end. Nicely done. This series deserves first-place.

3rd Place

Colin Campbell

News & Observer

Raleigh

N.C. Speaker Finds Allies In Democrats;

Speaker earmarks money for district Great reporting on Republican speaker needing support of Democrats. Well-researched.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

Bobbie Burks

Fayetteville Observer

Fayetteville

Tradition Can't Be Watered Down

Headlines with use of great photos are a draw in for sure!

2nd Place

John Staton

StarNews

Wilmington

Headlines

Clever use of words on these headlines.

3rd Place

Lamar Wilson

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Headlines

DIVISION F

Daily newspapers over 35,000

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

Brant Wilkerson-New
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem

Concussions and their impact on young athletes

An excellent, thought-provoking look at concussions in youth sports that takes the attention from the NFL and puts it to use for parents of young athletes. This will raise awareness and make parents think, no matter which sport their children play.

2nd Place

Joseph Person
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

Instant impact

A very moving story that brings humanity to celebrity.

3rd Place

Powell Latimer
News & Record
Greensboro

*Latimer - Krzyzewski
Thorough look at what's made Duke's basketball coach a legend*

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

Burgetta Eplin Wheeler, Ned Barnett, Jim Jenkins

News & Observer
Raleigh

Nice opinion writing, and the clean easy-to-follow design helps readers find important points as they flow through the pages. The locally produced political cartoons are definitely worth noting.

2nd Place

Doug Clark, Allen Johnson
News & Record
Greensboro

Great opinion writing, and clean page design as well.

3rd Place

Staff
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEB SITES

1st Place

Staff
News & Observer
Raleigh
www.NewsObserver.com

2nd Place

Staff
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte
www.CharlotteObserver.com

3rd Place

Staff
Star News
Wilmington
www.StarNewsOnline.com

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville
The Civil War 150th anniversary; Seeds planted for revival of farming
The front page is lovely. It really grabs your attention. I love the use of color, it's subtle, but really pulls things together. Really great looking sports pages. I love the page with the coaches, really good use of white space. I don't have a bad thing to say about the layout. Fantastic.

2nd Place

Staff
StarNews
Wilmington
StarNews Jan. 1-2, 2015
Really clean looking front page. A sharp looking paper overall. Solid layout.

3rd Place

Staff
News & Record
Greensboro
Appearance and Design
I really love the full page photos on the front of the sports sections. Great layouts overall. I especially like the layout with the cauliflower.

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff
News & Record
Greensboro
Sports Coverage
Really like the dominate picture on the front, almost like a cover shot. And great pictures!

2nd Place

Staff
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville
NCAA basketball coverage

3rd Place

Staff
News & Observer
Raleigh
N&O sports coverage

NEWS SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff
StarNews
Wilmington

2nd Place

Staff
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

3rd Place

Staff
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville
Lemurs thrive at sanctuary; Swimming with sharks

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN

1st Place

Staff
News & Observer
Raleigh
Jan 25, 26
OK. This is the design Olympics. The designer had way more real estate to cultivate than any other entry. That sounds great to have a

blank canvas, but it's another thing to keep the design flowing page after page. This Coach K nailed it. Exceptional work.

2nd Place

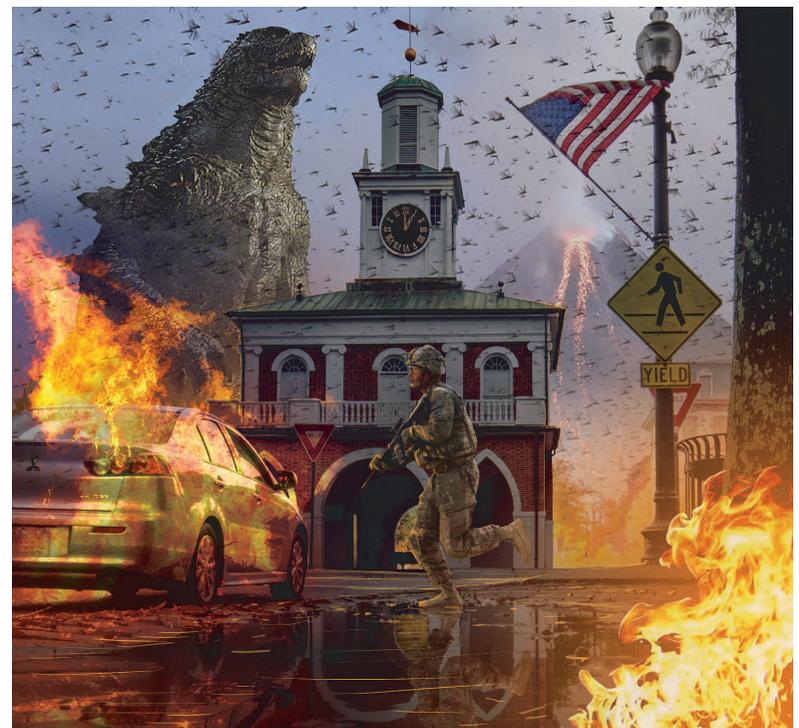
Suzanne Schubert, Gloria Holt
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville
Fresh is best; Women lead new video games
Beautiful. Wow. Stunning design that makes me want to keep seeing what's next. Use of color is wonderful, and not just on the lead photos. I see it used in lists to help the reader navigate quickly. I also see great use of cutout photos. Great work.

3rd Place

Staff
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte
Feature Section Design
Really elegant design with great attention to detail on section covers and inside pages. Wonderful use of typography and white space. This designer is not afraid to try new things. Well done.

Continued p. 38

First Place, Illustration/Photo Illustration, Division F,
by Mariano Santillan, Fayetteville Observer



Staff photo illustration by Mariano Santillan

FAYETTEVILLE: CALAMITY CITY

DIVISION 0

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Staff

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Drilling Pros: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

This article speaks to me as a journalist from an impoverished, rural area. Yet again, this article proves that the Press does and can have the ability to point out all positive facets of a situation to help bring about a positive economic change in its service area.

2nd Place

Staff

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Offshore Oil Series Begins

The 'battle lines are drawn' sub-header is an eye-catcher. Such a sub-header helps to inform readers that there is oh so much more to come.

3rd Place

Staff

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Oil Money and Offshore Energy Policy
Political cronyism and political favors go hand-in-hand with PACs...especially big oil.

Being from an oil/natural gas state, this article speaks to me in a manner of the newspaper saying, "Hey, guys, we're watching!" Checks and balances are very important, and this piece sheds light on that fact.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Catherine Kozak

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Woodpeckers Thrive at Rugged Preserve
I love how this story points out the "temporary" position of two entities who are trying desperately to help keep this preserve in tact for all manner of species, not just the woodpecker. Love the easy "reading of the writing" of this story. Very well written.

2nd Place

Frank Tursi

Coastal Review Online
Newport

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly of Drilling

This story presented both sides as the title suggests. The author also proves to the reader that he was there, simply by saying that "these folks were eating roast beef sandwiches." This proves that the author is a true part of the making of the story from start to -30-.

3rd Place

Frank Tursi

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Sea-Level Rise Redux

Obviously this story continues an "age old" styled problem regarding sea level. The story was presented factually in a straight-forward manner.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Pat Garber

Coastal Review Online
Newport

A Ringside Seat to an Ancient Ritual

Great story! Love the background and historical, economic and environmental impact. From word 1 to -30-, I was entrenched. Great writing and fantastic story!

2nd Place

Jared Lloyd

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Carolina Plague and Nags Head

Fantastic historical account with the added local lore and great photos. Job well done.

3rd Place

Wanda Mukherjee

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

War of Words

Nothing better than a great story about our local school kids. Well written in an easy-speak style. Besides, great kids stories sell papers! Good job!

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

Catherine Kozak

Coastal Review Online
Newport

The Bear Lady: Her Life & Mysterious Death

The headline on this one drew my attention immediately. Very well written biopic.

2nd Place

Tess Malijenovsky

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Grandmother Kayaks from Maine to Guatemala

Love this feature. The definition of making one's dream(s) come true. Fantastic photographic work as well.

3rd Place

Catherine Kozak

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Coastal Sketch: Paul Sykes

Very informative article on the life of someone who 'walks the walk and talks the talk.' Well written.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

Tess Malijenovsky

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Saltwater Intrusion Is Changing the Coast, Part 1

2nd Place

Tess Malijenovsky

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Saltwater Intrusion: The Parts You Can't See (Part 3)

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place

Sam Bland

Coastal Review Online
Newport

The Birds of Raccoon Island

2nd Place

Jared Lloyd

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Salt: The Great Equalizer

2nd Place

Sam Bland

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Moonrise at the Cape

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

Wanda Mukherjee

WakeForestToday
Wake Forest

Heart of a Patriot

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

Jesse Reck (Matt's Dog)

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

Catholic Guilt, What Happens at the Dog Park, Writing is Hard

Comedic, witty, yet serious. Fantastic artistic touch to the stories. Love it!

2nd Place

Stratton Parr

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

50 Shades, You're the Best, Breaking Bad

Whimsically funny with comedic headers. Enjoyed.

online-only publications

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place

Derek Maul

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

Credibility in the News, News Media: It all Boils Down to Us, How a Confirmed Chicken ...

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

Wanda Mukherjee

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

Cougars will play. Cougars will overcome. Cougars will persevere. I appreciate the love the writer has for the Cougars. Makes memories flood back of my favorite sports teams. Good work.

APPEARANCE & DESIGN

1st Place

Staff

Coastal Review Online

Newport

www.CoastalReview.org

The ease of navigation of stories allows users to quickly find which story or stories that are sought.

2nd Place

Staff

WakeForestToday

Wake Forest

www.WakeForestToday.com

The use of FLICKR and YouTube to enhance the visibility of the newspaper and its stories is a wonderful addition!

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Trista Talton

Coastal Review Online

Newport

How Did Rocks End Up on the Beach?

Great beat report...it announces the problem and then seeks the proper answers in a very non-editorial styled fashion.

2nd Place

Kirk Ross

Coastal Review Online

Newport

Sandbags as Seawalls; Wetlands as Dry Lands

Very interesting article, especially since the use of sand bags is not necessary in my part of the country. I found this feature headline pulling me to the article. Great photos as well.

Continued p. 44



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DIVISION E cont.

2nd Place

Ross Chandler

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

Feature Section Design

Nice, clean layouts, especially the section fronts. The designer uses typography and white space well so that the pages do not appear cluttered or squeezed.

3rd Place

Steve Cagle

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Garden getting out of control?; 'Vacation in Iraq'

Nice, clean layouts. These pages make it easy for reader to navigate.

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

Hickory Daily Record

Hickory

Aug. 21 and Aug. 22

2nd Place

Staff

The Daily News

Jacksonville

The Daily News

3rd Place

Staff

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Off duty officer fatally shoots man; Affidavit reveals details in scam

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Kenneth Fine, Megan Davis

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Wings Over Wayne 2015

Outstanding section. Very thorough, excellent graphics. A very classy piece.

2nd Place

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Gazette Discover Gaston 2015

Love the county approach to the traditional community guide, but what really sets it apart are the personal profiles from each town. Great job.

3rd Place

Staff

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Everything Durham

Very comprehensive, and obviously very successful financially. Covered the waterfront.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Staff

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Salisbury the Magazine, September

2015 issue

2nd Place

Jane Hudson, Dana Gray

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

Make like a blogger

3rd Place

Jane Hudson, Dana Gray

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

A Pirate's Life, Pee Dee's daily routine

CITY/COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Michael Barrett

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Commissioners give themselves major perk

Great coverage of the issue. Use of info graphics enhances the story's impact as well as the photos. Good solid reporting.

2nd Place

Pat Kimbrough

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Forum flier draws heat

Good solid lead paragraphs and follow up articles on the issue and those involved. Excellent reporting all around.

3rd Place

Lindell John Kay

Rocky Mount Telegram

Rocky Mount

Split school district stirs controversy

Good explanation of the issues at hand and follow up reporting.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Josh Bergeron

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

Coal ash contamination in Dukeville

Each story told a facet of the tale. Well executed, researched and produced.

2nd Place

John Joynt

Goldsboro News-Argus

Goldsboro

Goldsboro Police Department Beat

Strong focus with police beat coverage. Well rounded and strong. The reporting was solid and on point. One of better new school style with old school substance.

3rd Place

Michael D. Abernethy

The Times-News

Burlington

Co-defendant hostile, has no remorse for murder

Excellent single-story. Too many fantastic elements to pass up but was done in a solid way. Not sensational for the sake of it but a well connected narrative. Enjoyed.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Kim Grizzard

The Daily Reflector

Greenville

'Vacation in Iraq'

Wonderful story!! Loved the headline, definitely an eye-grabber. Well done!!

2nd Place

Sarah Willets

The Robesonian

Lumberton

In loving memory

Often times, we hear these tragic stories but don't focus on the fact these are real people trying to move on from tragedy. Excellent portrayal of this tragic event.

3rd Place

Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Salisbury

For Salisbury, terrifying Stoneman's Raid held a silver lining

Excellent story. In an area so rich in history, it is fun to read stories that continue to bring historical events to light. We often forget these were real people doing amazing things. Well done.

BEST LEDE

1st Place

Jimmy Tomlin

High Point Enterprise

High Point

Jimmy Tomlin ledes

Unique, great ledes!

2nd Place

John McCann

The Herald-Sun

Durham

Coaches explore possibilities; Williams at controls for UNC; 'Silen' Switzer I

Great ledes. Fun. Entertaining.

3rd Place

Nick Dumont

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Nick Dumont's ledes

Striking and very engaging ledes indeed. Wonderful!

DIVISION F cont.

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

Staff

Asheville Citizen-Times

Asheville

2nd Place

Staff

Winston-Salem Journal

Winston-Salem

August 15-16, 2015

3rd Place

Staff

News & Record

Greensboro

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place

Staff

News & Record

Greensboro

The Day the River Turned Gray

Simply outstanding. The scope of the work is breathtaking. Easily the best in a tough division. Congratulations!

2nd Place

Staff

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Living Here

Possibly the best of this type I've ever seen.

3rd Place

S. Jones, M. Spencer, H. DelaCourt, M. Alfrejd

StarNews

Wilmington

15 Under 15

What a unique idea - may have to steal it, which is of course the ultimate compliment. Saluting these future leaders is a wonderful public service.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

Staff

News & Observer

Raleigh

Walter magazine, September 2015

Beautiful cover! Great piece with solid, interesting stories, classic/clean design. Vivid photos.

2nd Place

Staff

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte

Lake Norman: July 2015

Good design, few features, more briefs, great social photos.

Continued p. 42

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

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where photographic excellence is a tradition.*

RCC Graduate	Newspaper	Place/Category
Janet Carter (team)	The Free Press	1st/Illustration/Photo Illustration
Janet Carter	The Free Press	3rd/Photography, Sports
Mark Dolejs	The Daily Dispatch	1st/Photo Page
Mark Dolejs	The Daily Dispatch	2nd/Photo Page
Laura Greene	High Point Enterprise	1st/Photography, Feature
Abbi O'Leary (team)	Fayetteville Observer	2nd/Best Video
Donnie Roberts	The Dispatch	2nd/Best Video
Donnie Roberts	The Dispatch	3rd/Best Video
Donnie Roberts	The Dispatch	3rd/Sports Feature Photo
Todd Sumlin	The Charlotte Observer	1st/Best Video
Todd Sumlin	The Charlotte Observer	2nd/Photography, General News
Brandi Swarms	The Pilot	1st/Photography, General News
Bernard Thomas	The Herald-Sun	2nd/Sports Feature Photo

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SPECIAL AWARDS

Media and the Law Awards

Nondaily Newspaper Article

Renee Sloan

The State Port Pilot, Southport

Daily Newspaper Article

William R. Toler

The Richmond County Daily Journal, Rockingham

Best Series (daily or nondaily)

Joseph Neff

News & Observer

Public Notice Award

Community Newspapers

Emily Storrow

Wilkes Journal-Patriot, North Wilkesboro

Action on Hospital RFP is Expected

This is a well written and informative article about a relevant issues facing many communities across the country.

Daily Newspapers

Julian March

StarNews, Wilmington

Grave Concerns

*This is an interesting issue and hats off to the reporter for picking up on this.
The story is well written and clearly struck a chord with readers.*

Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

Under 20,000 circulation

Jason deBruyn

Triangle Business Journal

Raleigh

N.C.'s Win-Loss Record

Over 20,000 circulation

Staff

Gaston Gazette

Gastonia

Behind Closed Doors

SPECIAL AWARDS

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

Daily Division
Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner
News & Observer
Raleigh

When the UNC system's Board of Governors forced out respected system president Tom Ross last January, the reason given for the change was simply it was time for a "leadership transition." The board's chairman also denied that politics had anything to do with the change, but rather than accept the "party line" and leave it at that, the News & Observer went to work. In the first 48 hours after the news broke, reporters Jane Stancill and Lynn Bonner interviewed a wide range of legislators, educators, consultants and others to provide readers with a clear glimpse of why this sudden move occurred. Most everyone interviewed agreed that politics was indeed behind the change. But the paper didn't stop there. It filed a public records request seeking the emails of the board of governors, and the content of those emails confirmed what had been previously speculated. A great job of holding people accountable. The News & Observer's entry also did a terrific job of providing the necessary context for other higher education stories, such as a new policy at UNC that students must "affirmatively agree" before engaging in sexual activity. Stancill's story not only clearly outlined the new standard, but provided helpful historical context for the story, including how other colleges and universities were handling the matter. Stancill's story about UNC receiving probation by an accreditation agency was another great example of providing the necessary context so readers can get some perspective on how big such a move is and how often it occurs. The story about Campbell University shows the benefits of a reporter knowing her beat well enough to spot interesting and important trends. And the feature story about a 50-year-old woman about to graduate from UNC and how she was inspired to complete her studies by the late UNC president William Friday was both touching and well told. All combined, this was an excellent entry. News & Observer readers are lucky to have such talented reporters covering higher education.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 North Carolina Press Association Editorial Awards



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Scott Russell
VP Sales & Operations

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BEST SERIES

JOSEPH NEFF
The News & Observer

DAILY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

WILLIAM R. TOLER
Richmond County Daily Journal

NONDAILY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

RENEE SLOAN
The State Port Pilot

**NORTH CAROLINA
BAR ASSOCIATION**
SEEKING LIBERTY & JUSTICE

DIVISION F cont

3rd Place

Staff

StarNews
Wilmington

Travel in the Carolinas

Gatehouse project. Great stories, photos.

Clean but basic design. Like small tidbits of info throughout.

CITY/COUNTY

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

Steve Harrison

The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

Cannon and money

2nd Place

Joel Burgess

Asheville Citizen-Times
Asheville

City Council geography: Does it matter?

3rd Place

Tim Funk, David Perlmutter

The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

Tension rises over county board prayer

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

Fran Daniels

Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem

Innovation as driving force

Found the series to be as innovative and diverse as all that falls under the story's header of "Innovation." Good packaging with art and graphics. Well done.

2nd Place

Richard Craver

Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem

Yadkin Valley Community Hospital shutdown

Solid and well-documented reporting of the situation with the hospital. Feel like I got a thorough insight into the issues.

A top tier.

3rd Place

Bruce Henderson

The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte

Old oak trees are tottering

Well put together package with photos, sidebars and graphs. Very pro.

Continued p. 44



COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



1st Place Staff
Hendersonville Lightning
Hendersonville
Alpine Woods
Great series. I enjoyed reading all the different angles, and I felt it informed the readers well of the plight of the residents. Without it, residents may have never known what was actually going on in this community. It was impressive the paper stayed with the story for six months, while still keeping the story fresh!

2nd Place Staff
The Pilot
Southern Pines
School board seeks resignation
The staff appeared to put their heart and soul into this story of what apparently many in their community perceived as an injustice. I imagine readers could not wait until the next print edition.

3rd Place Staff
Cherokee Scout
Murphy
Scout sponsors political forums
One of the jobs of a newspaper is to help its readers be informed voters, and I think this was a textbook example of it. They way the paper not only reported the forums, but played an integral role in them, sets this newspaper apart.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS UNDER 25,000 CIRCULATION



1st Place Staff
The Times-News
Burlington
Times-News fights to find out why superintendent 'resigned' with \$2000,000 settlement

2nd Place Staff
Michael Barrett, Staff
Gaston Gazette
Gastonia
Insurance perk for county commissioners spurs discontent

2nd Place Staff
The Wilson Times
Wilson
Animal shelter, money and civil disobedience

DAILY NEWSPAPERS OVER 25,000 CIRCULATION



1st Place
Bertrand M. Gutierrez, Arika Herron, John Railey
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem
Toxic Legacy

2nd Place
Joseph Neff
News & Observer
Raleigh
State Employees Boss Busted

3rd Place
Fred Clasen-Kelly, Doug Smith
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte
Police secretly track cellphones

DIVISION B cont.

2nd Place

Jessi Stone

Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville

Fry Street fiasco

Good lead paragraphs, especially in the second story. Explains the issue clearly.

3rd Place

Tammy Grubb

Chapel Hill News
Chapel Hill

Fire, EMS working better together

BEAT NEWS REPORTING PUBLICATION

1st Place

Mary Ann Enloe

The Mountaineer
Waynesville

County 'bored' meetings

Who would have thought that a story titled "County board meetings can sometimes be mundane" would be an engaging story? Mary Ann Enloe created a new form of alternative storytelling that turned a routine board meeting into an engaging story.

KUDOS!

2nd Place

John H. Tucker

Indy Week
Durham

Courts, Cops, and Crime

This series of stories tells the good and the bad of both sides of the police use of force issue. John Tucker gives the details that are all too often missing from the police blotter.

3rd Place

Becky Johnson

Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville

The baby war: OB practices tussle over turf

As some of the few remaining newspaper advertisers, hospitals are notoriously hard to report honestly on. Kudos to Becky Johnson and the Smoky Mountain News for objectively reporting on a hospital turf war.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Carrie Eidson, Aiyanna Sezak-Blatt, Jordan Foltz

Mountain Xpress
Asheville

Who are the new farmers?

I like these pieces very much. Farmers have such unique perspectives and telling their stories are so important. Well done, bringing these stories to light.

2nd Place

Thom O'Hearn

Mountain Xpress
Asheville

Life in her boots: Stepping into the brewhouse with Asheville's women brewers

It is fascinating to see women break down the barriers of occupations always thought of as men's work. Very well done.

3rd Place

Becky Johnson

Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville

Blue-collar mill finds salvation in yuppy coffee drinkers

Nicely done.

BEST LEDE

1st Place

Holly Kayes

Smoky Mountain News
Waynesville

2nd Place

Trevor Normile

Duplin Times
Kenansville

DIVISION D cont.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Lisa Boykin Batts

The Wilson Times
Wilson

Virtual tour gives glimpse of dementia
What a great idea and creatively presented!!
Kudos on this story!!

2nd Place

Lisa Boykin Batts

The Wilson Times
Wilson

'More blessings than we can count'
Love this story, very creative!! Well done!!

3rd Place

Olivia Neeley

The Wilson Times
Wilson

Stakes are High
Wonderful story!! Well done!!

BEST LEDE

1st Place

William R. Toler

Richmond County Daily Journal
Rockingham

Hamlet or Whoville, Rebel Reese, Medical Marijuana

Best lede in the category indeed!

2nd Place

Beth De Bona

Times-News
Hendersonville

Quest for Harmony

Wonderful, descriptive lede!

3rd Place

Wes Wolfe

The Free Press
Kinston

Ledes from Wes Wolfe

Unique, witty and entertaining ledes!

DIVISION F cont.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Chick Jacobs

Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville

Solder's remains come home

An excellent job of portraying the emotions of the story but doing it tactfully. Well done!!

2nd Place

Amanda Dolasinski

Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville

Airman hostage

Excellent investigative journalism in this piece.

3rd Place

Mike Cronin

Asheville Citizen-Times
Asheville

Not leasing: Low-wage earners scour rental landscape

These are the types of stories that need to be done. Well done.

BEST LEDE

1st Place

Arika Herron

Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem

Thanks -- and shopping

Great, fun lede!!!

2nd Place

Richard M. Barron

News & Record
Greensboro
Dick Barron Ledes
Humorous, witty and fun!

3rd Place

Jeff Mills

News & Record
Greensboro

Jeff Mills Best Ledes

Clever!

DIVISION O cont.

3rd Place

Mark Hibbs

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Panel: Seismic Effects Still Unclear
Extremely informative piece on the effects of marine wildlife. Such unique questions can be derived from the excellent reporting style. Great job on quotes from the scientific community. Very interesting project but even better reporting.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

Tess Malijenovsky

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Taking the Pulse of the Coast

I love this article. It's a 'heart-wrencher'. The reporter has gone back to the basics of 'Vox Pop,' i.e., 'The People Speak.' Great photos and great story! And the sentiments of the people are still echoing in my head.

2nd Place

Catherine Kozak

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Necessary Risk or Needless Threat?

This pulse of the minds of the extension of the NC coast is very well documented and written, with very properly placed editorial opinions. Great job.

3rd Place

Catherine Kozak

Coastal Review Online
Newport

Banks Communities: Staking a

Position

I like the government angle on this piece. It gives the public the pulse of one's elected officials, i.e., "Are they really thinking like I do?" Well written.

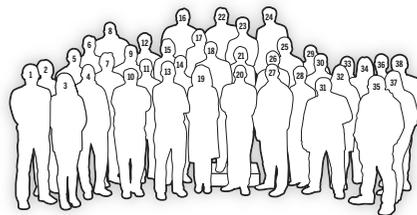
CONGRATULATIONS!

We're proud of the journalists at The Charlotte Observer and the McClatchy Publishing Center in Charlotte, who won 40 awards this year from the North Carolina Press Association. It's the 19th 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.



EXCELLENCE

It's what we do!



1. Theoden James 2. Joe Marusak 3. Katie Peralta 4. Eric Edwards 5. Fred Clasen-Kelly 6. Steve Harrison 7. Rick Rothacker 8. David T. Foster III 9. Jeff Siner 10. David Perlmutt 11. Robert Lahser 12. David Puckett 13. Michael Gordon 14. Eric Frazier 15. Karen Garloch 16. Todd Sumlin 17. Pam Kelley 18. Rick Thames 19. Ann Doss Helms 20. Jonathan McFadden 21. Elizabeth Leland 22. Rogelio Aranda 23. Ely Portillo 24. Mark Washburn 25. Gary Schwab 26. Roland Wilkerson 27. Gavin Off 28. Hope Paasch 29. Cleve R. Wootson 30. John Arwood 31. Tim Funk 32. Katie Coleman 33. Caroline Portillo 34. Sarah Crosland 35. Mike Reader 36. Ames Alexander 37. Tracie Stafford 38. Sergio Tovar

• FIRSTS

Elizabeth Leland, Jonathan McFadden: General News Reporting, Gangs murder tear at small town's seams
Pam Kelley: Feature Writing, Welcome to Charlotte. Here's a paper towel
Mark Washburn: Arts and Entertainment Reporting, Some enchanted thieving
Ann Doss Helms: Education Reporting, After triumph and pain, Ford charts new path
Karen Garloch: News Enterprise Reporting, Transgender activist fought past loss, disapproval
Jeff Siner: Photography, General News, Tension follows Kerrick trial
Todd Sumlin: Best Video, Revisiting the

scene of Jonathan Ferrell's death
Steve Harrison: City/County Govt Reporting, Cannon and money

• SECONDS

Michael Gordon, Elizabeth Leland: General News Reporting, One life gone, another unraveled
David Perlmutt, Jane Wester, Joe Marusak: Deadline News Reporting, After tragedy, church embraces family
Staff: Online Breaking News Coverage, Chiquita exit raises questions
Pam Kelley: News Feature Writing, A traffic jam
Mark Price: Feature Writing, Shelter in a shed

Michael Gordon: Profile Feature, At key moment, CMPD eyes potential new chief
Staff: News Enterprise Reporting, Wes Kerrick trial
Rick Rothacker: Business Writing, One time rising star moves on from banking
Todd Sumlin: Photography, General News, Newton injures his back in wreck
Robert Lahser: Photography, Feature, 98 degrees
Jeff Siner: Sport Feature Photo, Logano the toast of Daytona
Jeff Siner: Photography, Sports, Newton, Panthers somersault to win over Texas
Staff: Best Multimedia Project, Wes Kerrick trial
Eric Frazier: Editorials

Tom Sorensen: Sports Columns
Staff: General Excellence for Web, CharlotteObserver.com
Staff: News Section Design
Staff: Special Section, Living Here
Staff: Best Niche Publication, Lake Norman magazine, July 2015
Joseph Person: Sports Enterprise Writing, Instant impact

• THIRDS

Michael Gordon: Profile Feature, The law, race and Michael Greene
Lawrence Topman: Arts and Entertainment Reporting, Mogul in training
Fred Clasen-Kelly: News Enterprise Reporting, The seconds before the shots

Ames Alexander, Fred Clasen-Kelly, Gavin Off: Investigative Reporting, Faulty death probes endanger N.C. babies
Michael Gordon, Joseph Person, Jonathan Jones: Sports News Reporting, Trial puts career on line
David T. Foster III: Photography, Sports, Benjamin completes touchdown reception
Eric Frazier: Lighter Columns
Lamar Wilson: Headline Writing
Staff: Editorial Page
Staff: Feature Section Design
Tim Funk, David Perlmutt: City/County Govt Reporting, Tension rises over county board prayer
Bruce Henderson: Beat News Reporting, Old oak trees are tottering

**START
HERE / NEVER
STOP**



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We salute our winners

The Fayetteville Observer, celebrating its 200th anniversary of publication, continues its winning tradition.

Congratulations to our staff, winners of 15 awards in this year's NCPA News, Editorial and Photojournalism Contest. They make **The Fayetteville Observer** and **fayobserver.com** the place to go for news — and much more.



FIRST PLACE

Profile feature, Greg Barnes
Sports feature writing, Stephen Schramm, Bret Strelow
Illustration/photo illustration, Mariano Santillan
Headline writing, Bobbie Burks
Appearance and design, Staff
Beat feature reporting, Chick Jacobs

SECOND PLACE

Best video, Raul R. Rubiera, Abbi O'Leary
Sports coverage, Staff
Feature section design, Suzanne Schubert, Gloria Holt
Beat feature reporting, Amanda Dolasinski

THIRD PLACE

News feature writing, Chick Jacobs
Education reporting, Catherine Pritchard
Photo page, Andrew Craft
Illustration/photo illustration, Suzanne Schubert
News section design, Staff

The Fayetteville Observer
NORTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

Congratulations to our staff!

31 AWARDS IN THE 2015 NC PRESS ASSOCIATION CONTESTS



Smoky Mountain **news**

Best Advertising Awards

FIRST PLACE

- Black & White Institutional Ad
- Use of Color
- Innovative Concept/Wild Card
- Retail Ad in a Niche Publication
- Shared Page in a Niche Publication - Community Only

SECOND PLACE

- Motor Vehicle Ad
- Innovative Concept/Wild Card
- Small Ad
- Real Estate Ad in a Niche Publication
- Restaurant/Entertainment Ad in a Niche Publication

THIRD PLACE

- Food Ad
- Home Furnishings/Appliances Ad
- Black & White Institutional Ad
- Newspaper Promotion
- Small Ad
- Niche Publication
- Real Estate Ad in a Niche Publication

News, Editorial and Photojournalism Awards

FIRST PLACE

- Arts and Entertainment Reporting
- Education Reporting
- Election/Political Reporting
- City/County Government Reporting
- Best Lede

SECOND PLACE

- General News Reporting
- News Enterprise Reporting
- Lighter Columns
- General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only
- Best Niche Publication
- City/County Government Reporting

THIRD PLACE

- Investigative Reporting
- Beat News Reporting
- Beat Feature Reporting

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Jobs well done

The News & Observer Publishing Company is proud to salute the journalists recognized by the NCPA for their excellent work.

The News & Observer

- 1st Place**, deadline news reporting - dailies only, "Fake-class scheme aided UNC players' eligibility," Staff
- 1st Place**, online breaking news coverage, "Chapel Hill killings reverberate around the world," Staff
- 1st Place**, investigative reporting, "State employees boss busted," Joseph Neff
- 1st Place**, sports news reporting, "A coach for the ages," Chip Alexander
- 1st Place**, sports feature photo, "No attention for the losing coach," Ethan Hyman
- 1st Place**, photo page, "Six brothers and a baby sister," Corey Lowenstein
- 1st Place**, lighter columns, "Take this salary, Franklin Graham, please," Barry Saunders
- 1st Place**, serious columns, Road Worrier, Bruce Siceloff
- 1st Place**, editorial page, Burgetta Eplin Wheeler, Ned Barnett, Jim Jenkins
- 1st Place**, general excellence for newspaper websites - newspapers only, Staff
- 1st Place**, feature section design - dailies only, January 25 & 26, Staff
- 2nd Place**, sports news reporting, "NCAA: UNC lacked institutional control," Dan Kane, Jane Stancill & Andrew Carter
- 2nd Place**, lighter columns, "Look! No Hands!" Josh Shaffer
- 3rd Place**, general news reporting, "Defined by their faith but no less American," Martha Quillin
- 3rd Place**, business writing - dailies only, "Single mom beats Lumber Liquidators," David Ranii
- 3rd Place**, sports columns, Luke DeCock
- 3rd Place**, sports coverage - newspapers only, Staff
- 3rd Place**, election/political reporting, "N.C. speaker finds allies in democrats; Speaker earmarks money for district," Colin Campbell

The Cary News

- 1st Place**, serious columns, Jessica Banov
- 2nd Place**, sports enterprise writing, "RailHawks owner indicted," J. Mike Blake & Andrew Kenney
- 3rd Place**, news feature writing, "A journey to help others," Paul A. Specht
- 3rd Place**, sports enterprise writing, "Conferences prohibit games against non-public schools," J. Mike Blake

Chapel Hill News

- 2nd Place**, profile feature, "Hope, 6,000 miles from home," Tammy Grubb
- 2nd Place**, photography feature, "Good day for a gallop," Mark Schultz
- 3rd Place**, city/county government reporting, "Fire, EMS working better together," Tammy Grubb

Garner-Cleveland Record

- 1st Place**, sports news reporting, "2015 NCHSAA 4A State Boys Basketball Champions," D. Clay Best
- 1st Place**, best video, "Racing Johnny Dutch," Jonathan Alexander
- 3rd Place**, election/political reporting, "Garner: Cut early voting site," Jonathan Alexander

The Durham News

- 3rd Place**, arts and entertainment reporting, "The summer of love," Sarah M. Albers
- 3rd Place**, sports feature writing, "Wheel power," Mark Schultz

Eastern Wake News

- 2nd Place**, best video, "Surprise marriage proposal a success," Johnny Whitfield
- 2nd Place**, editorials, "Missteps abound... Missed opportunity... Matter of maturity," Johnny Whitfield

North Raleigh News

- 3rd Place**, general news reporting, "Head injury preceded death," Mechelle Hankerson

Southwest Wake News

- 3rd Place**, profile feature, "Making military history," Will Doran

Walter Magazine

- 1st Place**, best niche publication, September 2015 issue, Staff



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