EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2017

THE NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION
Cody Henson arrived in the General Assembly in January 2017. And that first tour of legislative duty can only be described as one of unsurpassed political bravery.

In short order, he emerged as a strong proponent for a free press and open government. For it was early in the ‘17 session that bills were filed that would have effectively eliminated the legal notices in newspapers statewide and would have burdened newspaper circulation contractors with additional taxes. The combined effect of these bills could have crippled readers’ right to know about government activity through public notices appearing in newspapers and could have seriously impaired newspaper circulation across the state.

Despite tremendous political pressure brought to bear on state House and Senate members to pass this legislation, Rep. Henson stood firm in opposing the measures. No small feat for a first-year lawmaker, who found himself being asked to pass the bills by ranking members of the House, many in his own political party.

With Henson among a small group of firm opponents to the bills, the original legislation was stopped and later whittled down -- in an October 2017 special session -- to a local bill limited to a single county. And even then, another House member hinted at running a similar bill to apply to part of Henson’s home district. Once again, Rep. Henson voice his opposition and stopped an effort that would have hurt his constituents’ right to know.
Daily Newspaper Winner

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Allison Lee Isley portfolio

Certainly not an easy category to judge. Ultimately, this entry rose to the top due to the sheer number of perfectly composed moments and the variety of subject matter. We’re confident this photographer can handle any situation and come back with a great photo that will make the front page pop. Congrats!

Community Newspaper Winner

PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
Ted Fitzgerald Pilot

Ted offered an in depth look at the community with a great variety of images.
DIVISION A

FIRST PLACE
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

SECOND PLACE
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

THIRD PLACE
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

DIVISION B

FIRST PLACE
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

SECOND PLACE
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

THIRD PLACE
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

DIVISION C

FIRST PLACE
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
As a community newspaper, Carteret County News-Times hits all the marks: Nice clean layout, straightforward reporting, strong sports coverage, local editorials, and impactful photography. This paper has a very good photographer and smartly plays his work big. I had some quibbles, but overall, felt this was the most complete paper in the division.

SECOND PLACE
NEWS REPORTER

THIRD PLACE
MOUNTAIN XPRESS

DIVISION D

FIRST PLACE
MCDOWELL NEWS
Local editorial, heavy mining of local history, feature on volunteer opportunities and more in this newspaper. Clearly, it’s tuned in to what the local market wants.

SECOND PLACE
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Morning Brew page is executed well, as is the Public Record page. Like the My Classic Car feature, too.

THIRD PLACE
STAR (SHELBY)

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

2017 NCPA Awards

North Carolina Press Association
DIVISION E

FIRST PLACE
STARNEWS
Wilmington was the clear winner in this category. Terrific attention to detail, good photos and -- is that enterprise reporting I see in the sports section? Wonderful!

SECOND PLACE
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

THIRD PLACE
GASTON GAZETTE

DIVISION F

FIRST PLACE
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
This is an attractive paper all the way through. Good photography, nice display, creative design. It draws you in, and the stories and photography keep you there.

SECOND PLACE
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Overall a clean paper; easy to navigate and nicely designed. Especially enjoyed the Sunday paper with the addition of the Arts section. Writing was solid; community coverage seems thorough and well represented.

THIRD PLACE
NEWS & RECORD
Inside section covers are good, especially on Sunday. Writing is solid on centerpiece stories for most part. Overall design clean.

ONLINE

FIRST PLACE
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Good total coverage dedicated to investigations and holding people in power accountable.

SECOND PLACE
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
Giving people things to do and see is important. The site is also creative and works on engagement. I especially liked “Cash Confessional: A week of spending in Charlotte on a $46,000 salary”

THIRD PLACE
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Education Reporting 1 of 2 files
Solid reporting on what was clearly a contentious local issue. Nice job keeping the public informed about the ongoing saga of school construction.

2nd Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Matt Debnam
Debbie and Oz: Reynolds, Fisher walked the Yellow Brick Road at Land of Oz
Very timely and interesting historical piece. Enjoyed learning more about Debbie Reynolds and this community.

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Ken MacDonald
#IAmMedicaid
A unique story on the raging health care debate. Inclusion of little Janey's story makes the piece.

EDUCATION REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
UNC Rape Claim
Excellent article ... writer paid attention to detail.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Liz Moomey
Senate budget threatens kids’ lunches
This is a story of tremendous importance to the children and families that could potentially be effective. Great job getting the numbers and detailing what the impact would be in your community. This is a perfect example of taking a statewide story and making it impactful for your readers. Outstanding reporting.

3rd Place
HIGHLANDER
Kelsey Reidel
Politics of CTE
Good writing, clean copy. Well done.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
The ACC has a big injury report issue
Baseball’s new approach toward 3-0 counts

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Liz Moomey
The ABCs of Avery CTE
In-depth series informs readers about the ins and outs of a program they may not have been familiar with. Good work getting beyond the surface and explaining the details of CTE.

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Laura Ashley Lamm
Princeville Rebuilding
Good lede; good subject. Well written.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING
1st Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Matt Debnam
Warrior Artist of Newland: Rodger Jacobs
This piece did a top-notch job of storytelling by focusing on the artist. It was well-written, used quotes well, and gave readers a great look at the person behind the art. Nice work!

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Capturing Life’s Essence
Well written story, with a good lede. A few more sources would have made this a first place contender.

3rd Place
HIGHLANDER
Kelsey Reidel
Arts and entertainment - Curtain Call

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING
1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Staff
Best Niche Publication - Mnt Life

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

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Laura Ashley Lamm
Beloved Family

BEAT NEWS REPORTING
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NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY
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Bill Moss
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Ken MacDonald
#IAmMedicaid
A unique story on the raging health care debate. Inclusion of little Janey’s story makes the piece.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Ken MacDonald, Catharin Shepard
Hurricane Matthew

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Field of Dreams - The ACC has a big injury report issue

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Baseball’s new approach toward 3-0 counts

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
R. Cory Smith
Austin Dillon Q&A

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
Fans flock to Kinston stadium
The subject matter — maintaining a field in hopes of landing a minor league baseball team — may not be as compelling as some of the other entries, but the reporting carries this piece to the top of the list. It has all the details a reader would want and is also well-sourced. Excellent job.
2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
MLB sons at N.C. colleges
An excellent idea for a story well-executed. Focusing on just one of the four players in the lead and introducing the rest later was effective. Great detail throughout and an excellent finish. Close call between this piece and the first-place winner.

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Cory Lavalette
Sled hockey for disabled athletes
Good lead. Especially enjoyed the first two-thirds of the story or so. It was a bit jarring to suddenly switch to a different athlete at that point, but the story finished strong. Nice work.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose, Liz Moomey, Cece Pascual
North State Journal Overall Appearance and Design
2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Appearance and Design – Crossroads Chronicle May 3 and 10, 2017 editions
3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather

FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Cory Lavalette
Living on the Transplant List
Some great articles here, but this was the most comprehensive and the same time the most concise.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Robert Jumper
Unyielding voice
Deals with an under covered topic, I think

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Hurricane Matthew
2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard, Ken MacDonald
SBI raids county offices
3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Donna King
The SUCCEED Act

HEADLINE WRITING
1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Headlines by Scott Brings Plenty

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Carter Giegerich
Investigative Reporting 2pgs - Frye documents detail payment
PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Eamon Queeney
2017 Eclipse
Excellent composition with each subject as compelling as the next. The newspaper understands good design as well (although that isn’t what is being judged).

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
Manufacturing Day
Fun moment with great faces. Photographer found the right angle to make this picture sing.

3rd Place
GRAHAM STAR
Byron Housley
Batman and the boy
A fun moment and an unforgettable one for this little boy. There are some technical issues with this, but a great moment trumps just about anything.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
HAVELOCK NEWS
Ken Buday
Big plays boost Rams
Photographer was in the right spot to catch the TD.

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
Tarboro Standing Tall
Great photo showing basketball can be a contact sport.

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
Carnival Time
Lovely color. Nice to see shots from various places at the fair.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
Literary Engagement
Great expression on face, a real love of reading.

2nd Place
HIGHLANDER
Brian O’Shea
Photography, Feature - Bascom family
All photos in the group are well composed but still casual. Great job.

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
A Time to Learn
Great job of capturing the moment.

SNEAKY CHEEROKEE
Great action photo. Photographer caught the ball in mid-air.

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Profile Feature: May 24 (Kraus)
This story is so much more than just the story of 10 children who all graduated from the same high school. It’s a history lesson and an honest, insightful look into the struggles and blessings of raising a large family. The writer obviously spent a great deal of time with the Kraus family and it paid off.

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCKET
Jeff Eason
In the eye of Hurricane Irma
Great story on a NWS meteorologist who rode out Hurricane Irma in Key West.

3rd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Profile Feature: Sept. 27 (Spehr)
This piece stood out in a category crowded with veteran profiles. The writer provides tremendous insight into the mind of a Vietnam veteran still struggling to come to terms with his past.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Laura Ashley Lamm
Faith and Family

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Donna King
Politics from the Pulpit

3rd Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Jamie Shell
Timely Truths

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE

2nd Place
MARK CONE
Mark Cone columns

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Richelle Sampil
“Understanding someone,” “Too many experience” and “Irma, earthquakes spotlight”

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
2016 Year in Review

2nd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Staff
Special Sections - Season of Giving, Apple Festival, Voter Guide

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Staff
Hoke Heartbeat

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
Mebane Enterprise
Adam Powell

2nd Place
CHEEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
One Feather sports

3rd Place
MOUNTAIN VIEWS
Kim Hainge

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS UNDER 3,500 CIRCULATION

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Adam Powell
After 31 years, a Mebane family continues to seek justice.

LIGHTER COLUMNS
1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Humleker
Lighter columns - Bill Humleker

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
HAVELOCK NEWS
Ken Buday
Freedom Festival
Best pictures in the bunch. The one of the little girl with the flag alone pulls at the heartstrings. Lovely faces and expressions from a fun event.

2nd Place
GRAHAM STAR
Byron Housley
Fading Voices
This photographer captured good moments that showed the frivolity of the event. Excellent expressions.

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
Carnival Time
Lovely color. Nice to see shots from various places at the fair.
SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Rob Moore
GMHG, App State Football photos
Photographer caption the determination of the batter as well as the ball headed directly at the camera.

2nd Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Christine T. Nguyen
Sled Hockey
Great series of photos about the sport.

3rd Place CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Live to skate
Great photos

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place HAVELOCK NEWS
Ken Buday
Havelock football

2nd Place HAVELOCK NEWS
Ken Buday
Havelock game report

3rd Place GRAHAM STAR
Gary Corsair
State Champs!

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Eamon Queeney, Madeline Gray, Christine T. Nguyen
North State Journal Use of Photographs Entry
Great use of photos!

2nd Place CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Emily Dorsey, Kelsey Reidle
Use of Photographs -- July 12 and 19, 2017 editions

3rd Place GRAHAM STAR
Staff The Graham Star
Community

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Emily Dorsey, Kelsey Reidle
Use of Photographs -- July 12 and 19, 2017 editions

2nd Place CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Emily Dorsey, Kelsey Reidle
Use of Photographs -- July 12 and 19, 2017 editions

3rd Place CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Emily Dorsey, Kelsey Reidle
Use of Photographs -- July 12 and 19, 2017 editions

CONGRATULATIONS to Our STAFF

TENSEVENTEEN
NC PRESS ASSOCIATION
NEWS, EDITORIAL AND PHOTOJOURNALISM
AWARDS

Smoky Mountain News
COVERING HAYWOOD, JACKSON, MACON & SWAIN COUNTIES

CORY VAILLANCOURT
1ST PLACE Election/Political Reporting
1ST PLACE News Feature Writing
2ND PLACE Education Reporting
2ND PLACE News Feature Writing
2ND PLACE Beat News Reporting
3RD PLACE City County Government Reporting

JESSI STONE
1ST PLACE Beat Feature Reporting
3RD PLACE Election/Political Reporting
3RD PLACE General News Reporting

HOLLY KAYS
1ST PLACE Sports Enterprise Writing
2ND PLACE Education Reporting
3RD PLACE Education Reporting

GARRET WOODWARD
1ST PLACE Lighter Columns

TRAVIS J. BUMGARDNER
3RD PLACE General Excellence for Newspaper Websites

STAFF
1ST PLACE News Coverage
1ST PLACE News Enterprise Reporting
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Tanner Hall
Author’s latest novel set in familiar places
Reader gets great insight into the author’s perspective that molds the story.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Creating out of the box

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Still music to the ears

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE
1st Place
CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS
Staff
6817
Great local content, lots of local columns, many photos featuring smiling faces.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Staff
Cherokee Scout community coverage
Impressive amount of local stories and local faces. Variety of content; strong in local news

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Best Community Coverage
Well rounded coverage of the community.

BEST NICHES
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
Niche Publications - Outer Banks Destinations

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
All About Women Staff
All About Weddings: A Special Publication of All About Women

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Staff
DC Welcome Guide 2017

BEST NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
TERRY POPE
Hospitals in crisis mode
Very comprehensive

2nd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Rebecca Bunch
Council discusses Confederate monument, state law
Well played on front page, important issue

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Lee Hinnant
Hospitals in crisis mode

EDUCATION REPORTING
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
News Feature Writing – Sentinel staff
Very comprehensive

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
The Championship Years
Nice look back. It’s always good to look to the past.

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Casey Mann
Disc Golfers come to Pittsboro
Nice feature of a unique sport. Great photos, even if they all have a similar look to them.

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
Staff
Great front page art

2nd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Staff
Great mix of breaking news and feature material

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Anna Oakes
55 homes threatened by Horton Fire in Sampson
Information valuable to the reader. Informative and thorough. Clean copy

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Patrick Gilbert

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Terry Pope
Chemours asked to halt all discharge of GenX

3rd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Kristy Bailey
Leaky Roofs

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Michelle Wagner
News Feature Writing – The Matthew Exiles
In this large group of well written stories, this piece stood out above the rest. The writing and reporting painted a perfect picture of what these hurricane victims are now experiencing. Well done.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
It was almost a day of sorrow
This is a well-written piece, that did a great job conveying the story and serving as a warning for all readers.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Where is Martin Roberts?

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Butterball Plant Fire
Good details. Facts presented well. Length appropriate for breaking online news.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Anna Oakes
55 homes threatened by Horton Fire in Sampson
Information valuable to the reader. Informative and thorough. Clean copy

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Manhunt
Interesting story; good writing

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Fred Ammann
Quinten: one hell of an athlete and gentleman
Nice feature. Cool use of black and white photos.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Terry Pope
Quinten: one hell of an athlete and gentleman
Nice feature. Cool use of black and white photos.

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Casey Mann
Disc Golfers come to Pittsboro
Nice feature of a unique sport. Great photos, even if they all have a similar look to them.
Doug Rutter
Setting records has been stroke of hard work
An excellent piece, well-constructed. It starts strong and draws the reader in with the story of how this young athlete was forced to switch sports and builds to the revelation of his tremendous success. A worthy winner.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Wishin’ for Fishin’
A fun topic for a story. Good job getting lots of different sources rather than focusing on just one child. The interplay between the two event coordinators is amusing.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Play Ball! Seniors jab at the ball – and each other
Love the focus on the banter between the two teams. Story would have been lifted to another level if all players had been named rather than relying on “the Winding River pitcher,” etc. Still, a strong piece overall.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Staff
Cherokee Scout design
This contest was hard to judge but in the end this paper rose above the rest. It had a great design and was easy to read.

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
Design and Appearance – May 2017
This newspaper impressed me. I loved the color and the large photos. You can tell they take pride in putting this paper together.

3rd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
W. Curt Vincent
May 12, 16
I really like the front pages of this paper ... The photos grab your attention and make you want to read the stories.

BEST LEDE
1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
David Leone
Black eye, cleanup, riddle
Catchy phrasing, cleanly written ledes draw reader into story.

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
QUINTIN ELLISON
Best ledes by Quintin Ellison
Ledes make me want to read more.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
History’s not being eroded

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Officials speak to environmental protection

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Baldridge funeral services take place in Ashe

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Kim Adams
Cruising around our town

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Marie Fletcher sings with the Sea Notes

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
Swain hosts hearing on Nantahala Forest

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Voter wrongly accused of fraud

EDITORIAL PAGE
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Editorial pages Well organized editorial pages. Good job.

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb, Ashley Butcher, Tony Fortier-Bensen
Smoky Mountain Times November Editorial pages
I like the layout and diverse content.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne, David Brown
Cherokee Scout editorial pages
Good work.

EDITORIALS
1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
David Brown
Editorials by David Brown
Easy to read, good explanation of issue without being condescending.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
Editorials by Matthew Osborne

3rd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Miles Layton
Trio of Editorials

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
General Excellence – February 2017

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
General Excellence

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Watauga Democrat Staff
General Excellence

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
General Excellence for Newspaper website
### GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>BLADEN JOURNAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christa Carroll</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opioids and new NC legislation affecting prescription drugs</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>WATAUGA DEMOCRAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kayla Lasure</td>
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<td>Local family mourns soldier killed in Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Neva Yinger</td>
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<td>Youngsville soldier killed</td>
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### LIGHTER COLUMNS

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<tr>
<td>Morgan Harper</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighter columns: Cookie contest, splinter, and maternity dress</td>
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<td>Clean writing; topic selections are relatable; nice phrasing and conveyance of scene.</td>
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<td>Becky Long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Column</td>
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<td>Poignant and sincere, with just the right amount of humor. Very relatable to the community.</td>
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<td>Hanging out at fair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>STATE PORT PILOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Harper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band Together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love the spirit show in their faces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haley Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jury: Not guilty on all counts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great drama — just the right moment for the shot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatever it takes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good overall photo with many components</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>WAKE WEEKLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marty Simpkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice of Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatever it takes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quotes are effective and not overused.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>DUPLIN TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trevor Normile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Burn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear writing, an interesting and informative road, even for someone who would not necessarily be considered a car aficionado.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rob Moore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacular catch by Malachi Jones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could see the receiver running through the air with the football.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>CHATHAM NEWS &amp; RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping Hands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographer captured the moment aid was rendered and show intensity of the situation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROFILE FEATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Fortier-Bensen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarctica: Kayaking the great white desert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The writer does a beautiful job of setting the scene in the opening paragraphs, drawing the reader in. The first-hand description of a place most will never get to see with their own eyes was evocative. Quotes are effective and not overused.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>DUPLIN TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Todd Wetherington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice of Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A close second place. The lead is strong, as is the writing throughout. It could have been lifted to the next level by both avoiding chronology and being more selective with use of quotes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>STATE PORT PILOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renee Spencer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Forte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compelling story about an issue — drug abuse — that is at the heart of a nationwide issue. Forte’s view of life as a book is somewhat cliché, but the writer does a nice job of making that cliche and using it to bookend a strong piece.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Fortier-Bensen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County DSS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This submission is the definition of investigative reporting. Amazing job of taking dry, complicated material and making it interesting, personal and understandable. This is top notch work by newspaper journalists.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>DUPLIN TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Harper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding prescription drugs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A close second place. The lead is strong, as is the writing throughout. It could have been lifted to the next level by both avoiding chronology and being more selective with use of quotes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>WATAUGA DEMOCRAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neva Yinger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngsville soldier killed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not guilty on all counts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great drama — just the right moment for the shot.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>State Port Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renee Spencer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Forte</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Compelling story about an issue — drug abuse — that is at the heart of a nationwide issue. Forte’s view of life as a book is somewhat cliché, but the writer does a nice job of making that cliché and using it to bookend a strong piece.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ordination marks Giannatasi’s transition from ‘Vicar Nick’ to Pastor
Good article. Writer tells the story in a way that readers get to know the new pastor.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Dwight Otwell
Crowd gets fired up at revival
Writer made readers feel they were part of this event. Good comments from those attending and from the man leading the event.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Thomas Sherrill
Defending the faith: Ratio Christi brings Christian discussion to ASU
Good article about a tough subject. Kids often forget their religious background when they leave home.

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Serious columns by Quintin Ellison
Quintin Ellison writes with grace, clarity and most importantly, heart. He is a gifted storyteller who makes his point beautifully and in a manner that makes his message both meaningful and memorable.

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan
Serious columns by Jim Buchanan
Jim Buchanan tackles tough topics in a compassionate manner. The personal stories he shares in his columns touched my heart. He also packs a great deal of factual detail into each piece. Very good job.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
David Brown
Serious columns by David Brown
A nice mix of national, local and personal topics. Great detail and personal stories that all can relate to.

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Sports Coverage
Between the page design and excellent photography, it almost has a magazine feel. And the reporting also was solid.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Steve Behr
Sports Coverage
Clean and easy to read page design. Good use of photos. Reporting solid with reporters not just talking to coaches, but also players.

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Michael Jaenicke
Sports Coverage
Clean design, nice use of spot color. Stories are solid and I like fact reporters are talking to student athletes.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Teach a youngster to fish...

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Senior competition

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Surf’s Up

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Staff
Cherokee Scout photos

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Use of Photographs

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Staff
The Chatham News/Record
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING
1st Place
PILOT
Jaymie Baxley
Promposal TV Show to Feature Gay Couple from Pinecrest High

2nd Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
Alli Marshall
(In)sightseeing

3rd Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
Alli Marshall
Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands celebrates 70 years

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE
1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Staff
Best Community Coverage

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Staff
Franklin Press - Best Community Coverage

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Staff
STAFF_34_BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE_061117

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION
1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Staff
Best Community Coverage

2nd Place
PILOT
Staff
PineStraw Magazine, August 2017

3rd Place
PILOT
Staff
O.Henry Magazine October 2016

BEST NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Allison Richmond
Explosion, house fire under investigation

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Cory Vaillancourt
Waynesville’s African Americans celebrate 70 years

3rd Place
COURIER-TIMES
Bill Willcox
Failed sale

EDUCATION REPORTING
1st Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
Virginia Daffron
Changing Course

2nd Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Staff
Best Community Coverage

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Kyle Perrotti
Drugs in Haywood

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Staff
Best Community Coverage

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Staff
Franklin Press - Best Community Coverage

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Staff
STAFF_34_BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE_061117

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Cory Vaillancourt
What’s in the Cards?

2nd Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Cory Vaillancourt
A Monumental Issue

3rd Place
PILOT
Laura Douglass
At 100, Fair Barn Like a Member of the Family

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Staff reports
Great battle by multiple people. The story had multiple sources with a lot of detail that is often hard to get when a story is breaking.

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Kyle Perrotti and Allison Richmond
Labor Day wagon train ends in tragedy

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Jackie Starkey and Brad Rich
JS_BR_3_ONLINE BREAKING_First drowning

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING
1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
Holly Kays
Making it awesome: Cherokee prepares to unveil 10-mile mountain biking system
SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
JJ Smith
JS_18SPORTSFEATUREWRITING_CEREBRALPALSYNOMATCHFORTE-AMPOWER_080617
We were not only told a great story, we were provided with an emotional wallop. Best of a really good bunch.

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Andy G. Moore
Like father, like sons… like grandsons
Excellent, thorough reporting. Really well done throughout.

3rd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Sam Hickman
Crowley reflects
I'd never heard of this guy. Now, I'm glad I did. Nice profile.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES STAFF
STAFF_37_APPEARANCEDESIGN_053117

2nd Place
PILOT
Staff
The Pilot's Best Appearance and Design

3rd Place
BURLINGTON FREE PRESS
Randy F. Tepper
Best appearing publication in the state.

BEST LEDE
1st Place
STANLY NEWS & PRESS
B.J. Drye
B.J. Drye Ledes
Short and engaging, making you want to continue — exactly what a lede should be.

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jule Hubbard
Best Lede
The lede on the erroneously dead story is the best I've seen today. A very close second place. Kudos for being brief and bringing in the reader for more.

3rd Place
STANLY NEWS & PRESS
Shannon Beamon
Shannon Beamon's Ledes
These are certainly nice starts to your stories. Not too long or too short and they draw you in.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Rachel Robles and Allison Richmond
A diamond in the ocean
Touching story, well presented with the reader able to access all elements in one place without searching through various platforms or apps.

2nd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Staff
Hurricane Matthew multimedia
October 2017
The videographer obviously put a lot of time into filming. I'd have liked some narration.

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Rachel Robles and Allison Richmond
A diamond in the ocean
Touching story, well presented with the reader able to access all elements in one place without searching through various platforms or apps.

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
PILOT
Jaymie Baxley
UNC Air Care Lands in Moore County
Video exhibits good editing and storytelling

2nd Place
PILOT
Jaymie Baxley
Downtown Southern Pines Fire Training Burn

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jule Hubbard
Honor Guard carries casket at Wilkes Airport
Would have scored higher with some a) accompanying storytelling and b) a better finish.

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
1st Place
ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD
Gene Motley
Finding a fix; Plan of action; Painful Reality

EDITORIALS
1st Place
COURIER-TIMES
Johnny Whitfield
Editorials
What stands out here is the brevity, which these days will draw more readers. Yet they offer clear, concise, straightforward opinions on local issues. Pulls no punches.

2nd Place
STANLY NEWS & PRESS
Ritchie Starnes
Our View
Good writing, well researched. Local.

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jule Hubbard
Editorials

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Cory Vaillancourt
50 facts

FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
PILOT
Deborah Salomon
Sammie and Princess Take College in Stride

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Carter Giegerich
Feature writing - strings that sing

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Jule Hubbard
Editorials

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
The Mountaineer Staff
TheMountaineer.com

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Staff
General Excellence for Newspaper Websites

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

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Andrew Martin
A sea of blue: Community gathers to remember fallen officer
PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Staff
SCHOOLWORK
A clear winner in an already strong category, this photograph draws you immediately in. Expert framing.

2nd Place
PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
All-American Celebration with the 82nd Airborne
This photo page gives me a really good sense of the overall event. Nice shots.

3rd Place
PILOT
Glenn Sides
Flooding Knocks Out Major Commuter Route
A dramatic shot illustrating the danger of a flooded roadway.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Zach Colburn
The timing and focus on this photo are perfect.

2nd Place
PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
Polocross in the Pines
Great combination of a human reaction shot and animal reaction shot.

3rd Place
PILOT
Deborah Salomon
Collecting More Than Child’s Play For Retired School Superintendent
Interesting profile put together well.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE
Erin Weeks
From Drugs to Faith
Heartbreaking yet heartwarming story of survival and a little-known condition.

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Andrew Martin
Blessing Box offers much-needed aid in Waxhaw
Neat effort and the story was driven by local people who are involved or who have gotten help from this.

3rd Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Glenn Sides
Morning Warehouse Fire Disrupts Carthage
Not your typical spot news image, but we’re always trying to elevate our craft and this picture does just that. The use of light and composition are wonderful. A beautiful, storytelling image.
3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Rachel Robles
Giving hoodies with heart
Really neat effort that deserves to be highlighted. Good details with the stories of children who have benefited.

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
PILOT
John Nagy
Salvation From the Grip of Addiction
Excellent writing coupled with great original material on a timely topic. The struggles the writer deals with comes through. The community benefits from this.

2nd Place
PILOT
Steve Bouser
Who Becomes a Veteran is a Different Story, Now
Columnist demonstrates strong connection to the community; add crisp, economic writing and you have a great job.

3rd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Brian Slattery
Internet, 90th, Naptime
Good local stuff... and a personal touch.

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
Sam Hickman
Today, God, Football

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Ask Andy

3rd Place
LAKE NORMAN CITIZEN
Justin Parker
Fatherhood strikeout pitches (sports column)

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
COURIER-TIMES
Kelly Snow
Sports coverage Aug. 16, Aug. 19
The use of photos in the layouts are excellent. Coverage is thorough and varied. Layouts are spacious and clean.

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Staff
Sports Coverage
Photography draws eyes to the stories. Local coverage is thorough. Box scores are well done and well placed within the page.

3rd Place
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE
Jenal Horton, editor, Henry Hutton, sports writer
Independent Tribune sports coverage
The layout is clean, spacious and easy to follow. The special pages are a nice way of spotlighting two basketball teams en route to the state finals.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Dylan Baker Ray
A MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE
Unique angle on a special, compelling moment.

2nd Place
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE
James Nix
Ragin’ Bulls

3rd Place
PILOT
Glenn Sides
Little Lefty

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
LAKE NORMAN CITIZEN
Justin Parker
The tag (sports news)
Nice touch reconstructing the play and the players’ relationship.

2nd Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Sports Staff
Weddington wins state football championship
The writing is very good and the coverage is compelling.

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Tabor sets record
Weaving the father’s death and the narrative and the hiccups made for a really good story.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY
1st Place
PILOT
Staff
The Pilot’s Best Use of Photographs

continued on p. 44
2017 SPECIAL AWARDS

Media and the Law Awards

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett

STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer

Public Notice Award

1st Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Tom Boney, Jr.
More public notice needed

Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

Publications under 20,000

1st Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Lisa Sorg
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s “public listening sessions”

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Dan Wayary
Commission secrecy attracts lawmakers’ attention

Publications over 20,000

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
CMPD release videos

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Freedom of Information

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Greg Barnes
Court secrecy in the Mike Lallier case
2017 SPECIAL AWARDS

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

Community Division
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Anna Oakes and Thomas Sherrill
Higher education reporting

Congratulations to the newspaper for taking steps to cover a private university in its area, with an eye to seeing the university as a major engine of local development. Its coverage was comprehensive and informative.

Daily Division
NEWS & OBSERVER
Jane Stancill
Higher education coverage

Her coverage of higher education is comprehensive, well written, compelling and ground-breaking through the aggressive use of public document requests. She uncovered important stories on faculty reservations about a think tank imposed by legislators and wrote an eye-opening story about a history class on athletics being blocked in the wake of the UNC academic scandal. Excellent work.

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- Jane Means
CEO / General Manager
Kapp Advertising Service, Inc

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The North Carolina Bar Association
Congratulates the 2017 Recipients of the NCBA Media and the Law Awards

Best Daily Article
Michael Hewlett
Winston-Salem Journal

Best Nondaily Article
Renee Spencer
The State Port Pilot

The North Carolina Bar Association
seeking liberty + justice

“On My Page”

“No way would I ever think to ask for extra time to cover something like Hurricane Irene. But everybody at Lane went the extra mile so we could hit our newsstand date despite submitting files a week late.”

Elizabeth Folwell, Creative Director,
Adirondack Life

800.733.3740
www.lanepress.com
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

1st Place
STANLY NEWS & PRESS
B.J. DRYE
Santa, help these guys out
This editor stuck with it and got a response to his call for help. It was a simple appeal that proved that a call for action in a newspaper can get results.

2nd Place
PILOT
Staff
Woodland Dam
Good reporting and editorial efforts on a sad situation with Woodlake Dam.

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Donnie Douglas
Hurricane Matthew Coverage
You were the little engine that could -- no offices, no equipment. Yet you worked to find a way to get news to readers that they desperately needed.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS
UNDER 25,000 CIRCULATION

1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Staff
Crossing the Divide
This look into a neighborhood and shining a light on the economy, housing, crime and more is incredibly important. This is what makes a community. Clear writing and clear focus to all stories. And the series produced results. Bravo.

2nd Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
Staff
Hurricane Matthew coverage
What comprehensive coverage. Residents need this type of coverage as they try to maneuver the flood waters and the bureaucracy as they try to put their lives back together.

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Donnie Douglas
Hurricane Matthew Coverage
You were the little engine that could -- no offices, no equipment. Yet you worked to find a way to get news to readers that they desperately needed.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS
OVER 25,000 CIRCULATION

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Greg Barnes
Fatal Flaws: North Carolina’s Child Welfare Crisis

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Danielle Battaglia
DA wife swap investigation

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
GenX in the Cape Fear River
### CONGRATULATIONS

All GateHouse Media Newspapers of North Carolina

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**The Star (Shelby)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Place</th>
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**StarNews (Wilmington)**

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**The Dispatch (Davidson County)**

**Free Press (Kinston)**

**The Havelock News**

**Gaston Gazette**

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**StarNews (Wilmington)**

**The Fayetteville Observer**

**General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only**

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**The Dispatch (Davidson County)**

**Free Press (Kinston)**

**The Havelock News**

**Gaston Gazette**
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Lisa Boykin Battis
"Wonderful World of the Monitors"
Best of the bunch.

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
Lisa Wall
"Musician sets eyes on the future"
Tell the story of a musical family as much as an individual musician. Would have been stronger if percussionist had been left out.

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
Tammie Gercken
"Painting a New Path"

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Cindy Beamon
"Lt. Dan gets a second chance"
This is a touching story that will move anyone with a heart. The story of Lt. Dan was told pretty simply, which made it all the more powerful.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
"He's not in this alone"
Nice feature about how a judge's colleagues showed their support in his fight against cancer. Good enterprise on the court beat.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
"It's hard to stop a train"

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Best Community Coverage
"Good effort in revamping and expanding the publication and exploring the Page 2 concept - provides a strong sense of place, community engagement opportunity. The detailed local information for sports fans, from game stories to scores, also elevates the coverage. One edition even includes local voices and headshots on an opinion page."

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
"It's hard to stop a train"
"It's hard to stop a train"

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
"It's hard to stop a train"
"It's hard to stop a train"

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
Chris Segal, Janet Carter, Dustin George
"Hurricane Matthew"
This is a keepeke. Excellent design. Nice use of white space. Stories, though, are top-notch.

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Ken Buday, Darren Hendricks, Bill Hand
"My New Bern Fall 2017"
The range of topics makes this a winner -- Shag dance is trails are made for walking (nice headline) and even opiates. Good design and typography.

3rd Place
TRYON DAILY BULLETIN
Kevin Powell, Claire Sachse, Gwen Ring
"Life in Our Foothills Magazine, September 2017"
"Good effort in revamping and expanding the publication and explaining it to readers. Photography excellent."

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Judi Brinegar
"Firefighters join forces to fight industrial fire"

2nd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Judi Brinegar
"Rallies against KKK find support"

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
"It's hard to stop a train"

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Andrew Mundhenk
"Lottery money helps fund local school construction projects"
Really good detail in a story that asked and answered an important question.

2nd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Elise Franco
"Immigration fears, real or premature?"
Good local focus on national issue.

3rd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Chip Womick
"Immigration fears, real or premature?"
Good local focus on national issue.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Lisa Boykin Battis and Olivia Neeley
"Hurricane Matthew"
Smart approach to a breaking and important story for all your readers on Hurricane Matthew: Someone reporting from the scene and someone posting updates and monitoring comments. Thorough and quick and great way to engage readers posting photos and comments on Facebook.

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
Ryan Wilusz
"Deputy-involved shooting"
The reporter took readers to the scene, giving them updates and context with social media, video and his stories. Great job staying with the story.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
"It blew me to the ground": Wilson family escapes house fire, explosion
Good detail from the family recalling the explosion. Some detail of the scene but would be a stronger story with some observations from the scene and their temporary lodging.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Paul Durham
The waiting game for Ryan
It was definitely not just another golf match for 14-year-old Ryan Richardson or sports writer Paul Durham. Writing with clarity, depth and focus, Durham seamlessly wove Richardson’s battle with liver disease with coverage of his play in the county Junior Golf Championship. Powerful story that was anything but routine. Readers learned a lot about this teen golfer, his disease and the unpredictable and often heart-breaking reality of waiting for a transplant."

2nd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Logan Ulrich
Local football coaches deal with low turnout
Logan Ulrich’s story about high school football coaches finding it harder to recruit players is a trend in many parts of the country. Ulrich does a good job of explaining the many possible reasons — including damaging research about the effects of concussions but also less commonly explored factors like young athletes who need to work to help support their families. A second submission about safety and tackling technique was also well done.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Paul Durham
The fight of their lives
Paul Durham also took 3rd with this story of a coach’s battle with Stage 4 cancer and a wrestler’s focus on winning a championship in his fourth and last trip to state competition. Solid, thorough reporting. Durham has a knack for mixing different elements in a story but writes clearly and in a rhythm that makes it easy for readers to follow him.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Joey Millwood
Behind the Lights
What an interesting take on a football game. Writer spent quite a bit of time on these games and it shows. Love how the play by play of the game comes at the end, allowing the before to build up.

2nd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Ethan Joyce
A win for the Fosters
Nice packaging of stories. Really puts in perspective what this family went through and the support they have.

3rd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Logan Ulrich
Thoughts of family fuel Daye
Nice feature on a sport that sometimes gets overshadowed by football and basketball.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Allison Moore Pridgen and Paul Durham
Spencer; passion

2nd Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
STAFF
Appearance and Design December 2016

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Jason Scott
Dec. 5-6

BEST LEDE
1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Shawn Taylor
Sheriff’s Office program, 911, Beating 911 is the clear winner in a solid group of entries.

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
Ryan Wilusz
Lede Writing
Solid entries, though all take a while to get there.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Brie Handgraaf
Bill’s Employee health; Forest ranger
Good wordplay highlights two of these three entries.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Tobacco movers

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Derek Lacey, Nick Dumont
Flight 22 crash anniversary

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
Jonelle Bobak
End of Watch

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
NEWS HERALD
Ryan Wilusz
Burke Pride
Good, concise account of the event. After two minutes, I feel like I got the gist of everything happening here, which is exactly what a news report like this should accomplish.

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Jennifer Dandron
Utility bills
Good use of anecdotes in this story, which explained how the issue impacts real people. The story also offers a thorough explanation for the high utility costs. I like that it’s an enterprise vs. a meeting-driven government piece. It’s a tale readers can relate to.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Chief’s feud inspires rules on social media
I love that the reporter on this story connected the dots between the new policy and a public official’s earlier social media rant. This was an entertaining piece (the descriptions of the emojis were fun) and it also showed some enterprise work, including the cache search. Good job!

3rd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Derek Lacey
Rehab facility winning over Mills River residents
It isn’t often that as newspaper reporters we have the time and inclination to revisit a controversial issue/story after the ‘dust’ has settled, to see the reporter’s phrasing. In this case, that’s exactly what the reporter did. It interestingly showed that some of those who had been riled up initially about the issue had done complete turnabouts.

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Corey Davis
New businesses set to open in city
The coverage by Corey Davis helped keep the community informed of business developments.

2nd Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
Dustin George
When others were without, FatBaby’s opened its doors
Beautiful storytelling in this tale of a little restaurant at the center of a big story. Hurricane Matthew. FatBaby’s didn’t lose power and it fed a community. Well done

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
James Neal
Linney’s Mill
Excellent descriptive storytelling in this profile of one of the last water-propelled grain mills. This graph explains why the story deserves recognition. Holler opened a protective gate and the door behind it to unveil a multistory drop onto the water wheel and into the creek below. The sound of creek water running down the nacert and onto the wheel drowned the thrums of the grinder in the other room.

3rd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Jon Hawley
Entrepreneurs Reviving Black Business District
Well-reported story of hope told by the business owners working to reclaim a once-thriving black business district. Well done.

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Jennifer Dandron
Utility bills
Good use of anecdotes in this story, which explained how the issue impacts real people. The story also offers a thorough explanation for the high utility costs. I like that it’s an enterprise vs. a meeting-driven government piece. It’s a tale readers can relate to.

EDITORIAL PAGE
1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Chris Horeth, Harrison Metzger
Hendersonville Times-New
Local editorials with strong, well-supported positions and lots of reader voices are the hallmarks of a good editorial page. And the Times-New did that better than any of their competitors. There were 3-4 local letters to the editor each day as well as a local columnist on each day submitted. Clean design with a daily cartoon large enough to read. Love Sunday’s Cartoonist Corner and I’m betting your readers do, too.

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Staff
Editorial Page, July 2,9,16
The Daily Advance also had a strong reader presence in letters to the editor and a “person-on-the-street feature, “In the Public’s Opinion.” I would like to know where the poll was taken each day though, as one day all of the respondents were male and on another all female. Liked the “Our View” box summarizing the local, well-reasoned editorials, especially as they read a little long. Too many editor’s notes on letters, at least on pages submitted.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Editorial Page, July 27
Throw your hat into the ring; Middlesex; Bond reduction
The Wilson Times editorials are local and well done, but there was too little other local on the pages submitted (e.g., only one letter to the editor on each page). There did appear to be some local columns, and the layout was clean if always the same. Question: Thought for the day takes up half of the publisher’s box, and there is no indication of a mix of religions on the days submitted. All Christian every day?

2017 Annual Awards 27
EDITORIALS
1st Place
DISPATCH
Scott Jenkins
Editorials
Strong, attention-grabbing leads and well-structured arguments. Editorials are strengthened with solid reporting.

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Julian Eure
Editorials Eure
Breakout boxes stating “Our View” are an effective tool, but readers should have no trouble discerning the editorial position in these well-crafted editorials.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Art; bond reduction; utility late fees
Well-reasoned arguments. The views are clearly stated and easily followed.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Butterfield calls on McCrory to concede election
Nice lead using tarnished silver as a metaphor for the state’s reputation amid divisive politics.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Races closer at ballot box than at the bank
Thoughtful analysis comparing money and votes. This story is heavy on the numbers, but writer makes it easy to read.

3rd Place
STATEVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Jennifer Dandron
Billboard
One GOP candidate’s exclusion from a billboard shines light on a rift in the party.

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Staff
Feature section Sept. 29-30

FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Casey White
Meet Shelby’s Radio
This was a great piece. Every community has someone iconic, but not many get to hear about their person in the news. Well done.

2nd Place
DAILY HERALD
John Dixon
Heroes
Great series pieces. Featuring different veterans and their stories was a great idea.

3rd Place
SANFORD HERALD
Noah Grant
Large shelter cat garnering national attention
A feature on a cat was an interesting spin. Especially with the national attention the cat received prior to adoption!

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
Staff
General Excellence October 2016
Local editorial, heavy mining of local history, feature on volunteer opportunities and more in this newspaper. Clearly, it’s tuned in to what the local market wants.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Billboard
Great coverage of this tornado and its aftermath. The breadth of the coverage, paired with good photos and strong followup took the top prize in a category crowded with excellent work.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Christmas Eve quadruple homicide
Great coverage at a difficult time, not only the holiday, but at a time when most of the staff is off. Decent followup coverage, too.

HEADLINE WRITING
1st Place
SANFORD HERALD
Zachary Horner
The Salmon one is the winner here, but all respectable entries.

2nd Place
RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL
William R. Toler
About dam time, Working out a dream,
Cold weather cripples crops
Solid entry highlighted by a good dam joke.

3rd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
David Irvine
Hear How a Whodunit “Whodunit” pushes this one into award-worthy category.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
STATEVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Shawn Taylor
Tornado recovery
Great coverage of this tornado and its aftermath. The breadth of the coverage, paired with good photos and strong followup took the top prize in a category crowded with excellent work.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Brie Handgraaf
Council funds
The reporter didn’t accept the council’s bit about it’s ‘discretionary fund’ unquestioned. Good job at recognizing this required some additional digging.

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Bill Hand
Bill Hand columns

LIGHTER COLUMNS
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Brie Handgraaf
Randolph family faces noose in front of their home
I love that this reporter’s radar went off immediately after seeing something on her Facebook feed. She quickly asked for an interview and pushed law enforcement when their answers didn’t seem sufficient.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Bill Hand
Bill Hand columns

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Annette Jordan
Those pretty Allred girls; Evil minions of the newsroom; Breakfast buddies

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Elizabeth Reed
June 21-22
Solid, clean design throughout with beautiful lead art packages on A1.

2nd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Donnie Roberts
Following the dollar
This graphic was played large on the page with great white space to let it breathe. It was nice to see how the funds were distributed.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS HERALD
Sharon McBrayer
Broughton Hospital
Good job recognizing something was amiss in the construction timeline for the hospital and being willing to push officials for answers.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Brie Handgraaf
Council funds
The reporter didn’t accept the council’s bit about it’s ‘discretionary fund’ unquestioned. Good job at recognizing this required some additional digging.

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Bill Hand
Bill Hand columns

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Staff
Balancing act
This graphic was clear and easy to read.

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Todd Michalek
Pitching
A graphic collection of images that told the story well.

3rd Place
DISPATCH
Donnie Roberts
Following the dollar
Good usage of strong local photography pushes this entry into the award-worthy category.
PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Vigil
Powerful 2-picture package that really delivers the story.

2nd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Sarah Louya
'Slimy Science'
Will just say this photo was eye-popping. Great frame.

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Vail Stewart Rumley
Peaceful assemble.
A nice assortment of angles to bring together a clear view of the event.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Sarah Louya
Bishops drop doubleheader
Spectacular hoop shot.

2nd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Logan Ulrich
Spartans advance to title game on PKs
A moment in time captured through the expressions on the player's faces.

3rd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Todd Michalek
Player crying
Image conveys the emotion of winning, losing, and the assurance that on a team, you are never alone in either.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Donnie Roberts
Blanketed from sheets of rain
Great photographs are all about capturing the moment and this is a fine example. I mean, who can't relate to being caught in a downpour? The photographer was in the right place at the right time to make a great frame.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Local livestock on parade
The composition is great — the photographer used the red cage to frame the image and the kids' and pigs' body language combines to create an almost circular effect in the center. Great perspective.

3rd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Solar Eclipse
Everyone had their eyes to the sky for the eclipse and the photographer worked to find a fun moment between sisters. The look of wonder on their faces adds to the image.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neelely
Charmaine Harris
Very nice profile with a variety of good sources. Stories about people are best told by the voice of more than the individual being written about. The love for Ms. Harris comes through in this feature. It was very well done.

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Mike Goodman
Ties That Bind
A captivating feature that covers 50 years. Great research on this story.

3rd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Greta Lint
Ten year old welder makes crafts and buys first car
I like this off-beat feature on a 10-year-old entrepreneur. These stories can be overwritten, but this one was not. It had just the right touch.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Brie Handgraaf
Meeting prayer
Engaging design and well written copy blocks make this story about prayers at public meetings a winner.

2nd Place
SANFORD HERALD
Zachary Horner
A bite, some faith and a story: Woman shares shark attack survival tale at Broadway church
Nice job telling the story of a woman who survived a horrific shark attack well leaning on a deep faith in God. This story bites, in a good way.

3rd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Brie Handgraaf
Meeting prayer
Engaging design and well written copy blocks make this story about prayers at public meetings a winner.

2nd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Annette Jordan
How the ripple effect works; Hugo
Strong take on the planned KKK rally; even if a reach, good demonstration of the "ripple effect," and an even-handed, fair column on a controversial monument, featuring a reasonable suggestion of compromise.

3rd Place
NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)
Kara Fohner
Mother / Suicide / Thankful
Good personal connections to topical storylines. The column about the author's borrowing entry into the world was particularly moving.

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Staff
175th Anniversary
I now know more about Henderson, N.C. than I ever thought I would, thanks to the 30-page broadsheet chronicling the city's 175-year history. Writing about history isn't the easiest task, but the Dispatch pulled it off and held interest. I also enjoyed glancing through the historical photographs. Nice work.

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Staff
Honoring our Veterans 2016
Nothing complicated about this special Veterans Day publication, which is its strength. You can't go wrong simply telling the stories of a community's military veterans. Well written throughout, with strong portrait photography. Simple, honorable and impactful.

2017 Annual Awards
Congratulations to the entire Wilson Times newsroom on

North Carolina Press Association Editorial Contest Awards

First Place
- Lisa Boykin Batts – Arts and Entertainment Reporting
- Lisa Boykin Batts and Olivia Neeley – Online Breaking News Coverage
- Paul Durham – Sports Enterprise Writing
- Allison Moore Pridgen and Paul Durham – Appearance and Design
- Drew C. Wilson – Best Multimedia Project
- Corey Friedman – Election/Political Reporting
- Olivia Neeley – Profile Feature
- Brie Handgraaf – Religion and Faith Reporting
- Corey Friedman – Serious Columns
- Jimmy Lewis – Sports Columns
- Jimmy Lewis – Sports News Reporting
- Staff – General Excellence for Newspaper Websites

Second Place
- Olivia Neeley – Beat Feature Reporting
- Corey Friedman – City/County Government Reporting
- Corey Friedman – Election/Political Reporting
- Brie Handgraaf – Investigative Reporting
- Drew C. Wilson – Feature Photography
- Drew C. Wilson – Spot Photography

Third Place
- Olivia Neeley – Beat Feature Reporting
- Drew C. Wilson – Beat News Reporting
- Drew C. Wilson – Deadline News Reporting
- Paul Durham – Sports Enterprise Writing
- Brie Handgraaf – Best Lede
- Corey Friedman – Editorials
- Joe Weaver – Lighter Columns
- Staff – General News Reporting
- Staff – Editorial Page
- Staff – Special Section

Congratulations to Carolina Journal, winners of three NCPA awards!

EDITORIALS 1ST PLACE ONLINE DIVISION
RICK HENDERSON, “UNDERAPPRECIATED STORIES OF THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION”

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING 1ST PLACE ONLINE DIVISION
KARI TRAVIS, “RAISING AGE WOULD GIVE JUVENILE OFFENDERS A NEW START; SUPPORTERS SAY” - EDITORIAL

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING 3RD PLACE ONLINE DIVISION
KARI TRAVIS, “HUMAN TRAFFICKING GAINS LEGISLATURE’S ATTENTION”

Carolina Journal, a part of the nonprofit, nonpartisan John Locke Foundation, envisions a North Carolina of responsible citizens, strong families, and successful communities committed to individual liberty and limited, constitutional government. The John Locke Foundation employs research, journalism, and outreach programs to transform government through competition, innovation, personal freedom, and personal responsibility. JLF seeks a better balance between the public sector and private institutions of family, faith, community, and enterprise.

CJ publishes a monthly newspaper and stories online daily at carolinajournal.com
CONGRATULATIONS!

We’re proud of the journalists at The Charlotte Observer and the McClatchy Newsdesk East in Charlotte, who won 25 awards this year from the North Carolina Press Association. It’s the 21st consecutive year in which we’ve won at least 20 awards from the NCPA. More importantly, it continues a tradition of journalism that not only distinguishes The Charlotte Observer and charlotteobserver.com, but also connects day after day with our communities and readers.

First Place:
**Ann Doss Helms:** Education Reporting,
Diversity push brings hope, fear and national attention

**Staff:** News Enterprise Reporting,
Permission to hate

**Scott Fowler:** Sports Feature Writing,
Rae Carruth’s son will be at prison gates when father who wanted him dead goes free

**Fred Clasen-Kelly:** City/County
Government Reporting,
Will city demolish hotel for squalor?

**Peter St. Onge:** Editorials

**Staff:** General Excellence for Newspaper Websites,
CharlotteObserver.com

**Staff:** General News Reporting,
Citizens Review Board splits 4-4 on police shooting

**Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, Elizabeth Leland:**
Investigative Reporting,
Wrong side of the bars?

Staff: News Section Design

**Davie Hinshaw:** Photography, Feature,
Fog hangs over Charlotte

**Staff:** Special Section,
Living Here

**Staff:** Sports Coverage

Second Place:

**Kathleen Purvis:** Beat Feature Reporting,
Where are Charlotte’s black chefs?

**Ann Doss Helms:** Education Reporting,
New CMS chief brings passion, controversy

**Tim Funk:** Election/Political Reporting,
How Trump resonates in a town called Faith

**Mark Washburn:** General News Reporting,
Wildfires ravage NC highlands below eerie glow

**Tim Funk:** Religion & Faith Reporting,
Bible answer man finds peace, loses listeners

Staff: Special Section,
Panthers Preview

**Scott Fowler:** Sports Columns

Joseph Person: Sports News Reporting
Amid growing frustration, some Panthers meet with team owner Richardson

Third Place:

**Kathleen Purvis:** News Feature Writing,
Can BBQ dynasty rise above father’s racism?

Adam Bell, Katherine Peralta, Cristina Bolling: Online Breaking News Coverage,
Thousands march in uptown Charlotte in support of immigrants

**Staff:** Appearance and Design

**Staff:** Editorial Page

**Theoden Janes:** Lighter Columns
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING 1ST PLACE
StarNews
JOHN STATON
Art & Identity
Wow! What a lot of work! Really puts perspective on what art means to people and a community. The map and breakout box are nice additions to the reporting and writing.

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Cliff Bellamy
Arts drove downtown renaissance — did artists’ success seal own doom? What an interesting take on art and its impact on a community! Nice reporting and research.

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Kim Grizzard
50 years of Suzuki violin What a nice feature story!

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING
1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Virginia Bridges
Man wants quilt marking violent deaths to rouse Moving story about a man who was inspired to do something simple, tangible and powerful to help remember those who died violent deaths. Multi-angled Story captures humanity of the effort.

2nd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Charity Apple
Building a family Well-constructed feature that tells an emotional story about adoption that readers would not ordinarily be exposed to. Good quotes and story-telling. Readers would have certainly felt something after finishing this story.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Picture perfect: Photojournalist Ben Martin had life covered Great feature about an accomplished photojournalist who saw the world in extraordinary ways and was able to record what he saw so others could witness it as well.

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE
1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
Best Community Coverage -- The Daily Reflector
Strong local coverage — good interactive pieces for the reader to take part in. Opinion page also reflects community. Please to read.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Staff
The Gaston Gazette – Best Community Coverage
Close call between first and second because both papers pull the reader in. The Gazette clearly reflects its community.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Best Community Coverage

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION
1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
High School Football Preview
Good example of what a football preview should be. Not just the typical season preview. Great finding feature stories of key players or just kids with a story to tell.

2nd Place
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS
Staff
Best Niche Publication

3rd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Staff
Northside Now
This is impressive. You took a microscope to this neighborhood and examined its nooks and crannies — history, culture, zoning, crime and people and more. And you looked forward by asking what is next.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Alicia Banks
The Haven
Just an excellent examination of what went wrong and how it went wrong. Top notch.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Staff
The coverage of Hurricane Matthew by the staff of The Gaston Gazette left no doubt of the storm’s power, getting right to the point in the lead story that two people had drowned. Such events can encourage overwriting, but there was none of that to be found in this edition. The rundown of what was happening in surrounding communities was a great public service.

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Hurricane Matthew
The coverage of Hurricane Matthew by the staff of The Fayetteville Observer left no doubt of the storm’s power, getting right to the point in the lead story that two people had drowned. Such events can encourage overwriting, but there was none of that to be found in this edition. The rundown of what was happening in surrounding communities was a great public service.

EDUCATION REPORTING
1st Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Jannette Pippin
I like the feel of the magazine and the design of the different spreads.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Adam Lawson
Mount Holly killing

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
Her magazine
Full disclosure: I am a guy. But I really enjoyed reading the publication. It was not what I was expecting at all. A lot of good stories that you guys were able to tell. I would be interested to see how often this publication comes out.

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
Thousands displaced in city, county
Even in Eastern North Carolina, covering hurricanes is never old hat. Still staff of the Daily Reflector in Greenville sure made it look that way in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Its comprehensive coverage left few unanswered questions while informing readers of the local impact of the storm and the community’s response to it. I counted bylines for eight different journalists to go along with several staff reports and a local editorial. Job well done.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Hurricane Matthew
The coverage of Hurricane Matthew by the staff of The Fayetteville Observer left no doubt of the storm’s power, getting right to the point in the lead story that two people had drowned. Such events can encourage overwriting, but there was none of that to be found in this edition. The rundown of what was happening in surrounding communities was a great public service.

3rd Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Jannette Pippin
I like the feel of the magazine and the design of the different spreads.

3rd Place
GOLDSBORO news-argus
Joey Pitchford
Redistricting schools in Wayne County
School redistricting coverage is often reported as a numbers game or who will be disrupted. Good to focus on often ignored issues of racial and socioeconomic disparities. Make sure to follow this through.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Chick Jacobs
Into the light: LRU engages students in conversation about sexual assault
Compelling story that keeps readers hopping and engaged. Some material is sensitive. Needed to be sure it was appropriate.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Alicia Banks
The Haven
Just an excellent examination of what went wrong and how it went wrong. Top notch.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Jannette Pippin
In conversation about sexual assault
Compelling story that keeps readers hopping and engaged. Some material is sensitive. Needed to be sure it was appropriate.

North Carolina Press Association
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Alex Riley&lt;br&gt;The Long Climb</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;GASTON GAZETTE&lt;br&gt;Richard Walker&lt;br&gt;Winning over a community</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)&lt;br&gt;Rick Scoppe&lt;br&gt;Girls Wrestling&lt;br&gt;Thorough. Imaginative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST LEDE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;STARNOWS&lt;br&gt;Alex Riley&lt;br&gt;The Long Climb</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE&lt;br&gt;Jimmy Tomlin&lt;br&gt;Jimmy Tomlin ledes</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;STARNOWS&lt;br&gt;John Staton&lt;br&gt;Best Lede - John Staton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE&lt;br&gt;Josh Bergeron&lt;br&gt;Wiener Take All</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Deirdre Parker Smith&lt;br&gt;Grapes have brought a new kind of business to Rowan</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;GASTON GAZETTE&lt;br&gt;Eric Wildstein&lt;br&gt;Duke Energy coal ash concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEST VIDEO</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HICKORY DAILY RECORD&lt;br&gt;Myron B. Pitts&lt;br&gt;Myron Pitts editorials</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER&lt;br&gt;Laurens S. Brown&lt;br&gt;Hurricane Matthew: Then and now</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Josh Bergeron&lt;br&gt;City responds to DA clearing of police officer in killing of Ferguson Laurent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;STARNOWS&lt;br&gt;Alex Riley&lt;br&gt;The Long Climb</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HICKORY DAILY RECORD&lt;br&gt;Michael Lindsay&lt;br&gt;Sisters get their kicks</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Elizabeth Cook&lt;br&gt;Salisbury Post Opinion page, Nov. 4, 13 and 29</td>
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<td><strong>EDITORIAL PAGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HICKORY DAILY RECORD&lt;br&gt;Myron B. Pitts&lt;br&gt;Myron Pitts editorials</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER&lt;br&gt;Michael Lindsay&lt;br&gt;Durham man continues to honor homicide victims with 60-foot quilt after 23 years</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Elizabeth Cook&lt;br&gt;Salisbury Post Opinion page, Nov. 4, 13 and 29</td>
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<td><strong>CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING 1ST PLACE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;SALISBURY POST&lt;br&gt;Josh Bergeron&lt;br&gt;Fibrant talks under wraps</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER&lt;br&gt;Greg Barnes&lt;br&gt;Hoke County audit</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place</strong>&lt;br&gt;HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE&lt;br&gt;Pat Kimbrough&lt;br&gt;City, county battle over stadium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Excellence
- **Wilmington** was the clear winner in this category. Terrific attention to detail, good photos and -- is that enterprise reporting? I see the sports section? Wonderful!

### Feature Writing
- **High Point Enterprise**
  - **First Place**
  - Jimmy Tomlin
  - The Old Testament
  - Touching story about how a stranger helped a woman searching for information about the father she never knew.

### News Section Design
- **Dailies Only**
  - **First Place**
  - **StarNews**
  - Staff
  - General Excellence, Oct. 9-10, 2016

### Illustrations/Photo Illustrations/Graphics - Dailies Only
- **First Place**
  - **Goldsboro News-Argus**
  - Megan Davis
  - The life of Shag Thompson

### Investigative Reporting
- **First Place**
  - **Gaston Gazette**
  - Eric Wildstein, Kevin Ellis
  - Investigation of city councilman

### Headline Writing
- **First Place**
  - **StarNews**
  - Julian March
  - Headline - Julian March
  - Witty, relevant, useful

### Investigative Reporting
- **First Place**
  - **StarNews**
  - Steve DeVane
  - Valuation hits some hard

### Headline Writing
- **First Place**
  - **StarNews**
  - Julian March
  - Headline - Julian March
  - Witty, relevant, useful

### Feature Writing
- **High Point Enterprise**
  - **First Place**
  - Jimmy Tomlin
  - Jimmy Tomlin headlines
  - Well thought out
| PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY                  | 1st Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE | Laura Greene                  | Cycling Classic Scenes   |
| PHOTOGRAHY, FEATURE                | 1st Place | SALISBURY POST         | Jon Lakey                    | Full Steam Ahead         |
| PHOTOGRAHY, GENERAL NEWS           | 1st Place | SALISBURY POST         | Jon Lakey                    | Ayanna                   |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 1st Place | FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  | Andrew Craft                | Stress Test             |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE              | 2nd Place | FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  | Shane Dunlap                | Pick up your cross       |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS         | 3rd Place | FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  | Shane Dunlap                | Pick up your cross       |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 1st Place | FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  | Melissa Sue Gerrits         | Standoff                |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE              | 2nd Place | FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER  | Andrew Craft                | Matthew Makes Mess       |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS         | 3rd Place | TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)| Caroline Brehman            | Tactical advantage       |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | SALISBURY POST         | Shavonne Walker             | Wrecker driver pinned   |
| PROFILE FEATURE                   | 1st Place | SALISBURY POST         | Rebecca Rider               | Recalling dormant days   |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  | Natalie Stewart             | Officer works to develop relationship with community |
| SAFETY AT HOME                     | 1st Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  | Mike Hensdill               | Safe at home             |
| TACTICAL ADVANTAGE                 | 1st Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  | Caroline Brehman            | 3rd Place               |
| SACRIFICE                          | 2nd Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  | Melissa Sue Gerrits         | Sacrifice               |
| A’YANNA                             | 1st Place | HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  | Jon Lakey                   | A Cut Above              |
| RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING         | 1st Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Time behind bars         |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 1st Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Standoff                |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 1st Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 1st Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 3rd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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| PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORT                 | 2nd Place | DAILY REFLECTOR        | Kim Grizzard                | Sacrifice               |
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Continued page 45
Supporting newspapers takes a village...

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

Please join us in thanking our sponsors
BH Media congratulates all of the North Carolina newspapers on their latest NCPA awards! These awards are the most recent in a long line of accolades that exemplify the hard work and dedication of our employees. A special thank you to all of our team who work tirelessly to bring relevant local journalism to their communities, day in and day out.
### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

**1st Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
David Menconi
Not just another princess face

**2nd Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**
Michael Hastings
Shakin’ It Up

**3rd Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**
Tim Clodfelter
Amazing Acts

### BEAT NEWS REPORTING

**1st Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**
John Hinton, Jordan Howse
Homicides climb in city

**2nd Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**
Bertrand Gutierrez
No easy fix

**3rd Place**
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**
Mark Barrett
Mission Health and BCBS dispute

### BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

**1st Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**
Staff
At home/Time flies

**2nd Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Staff
Best Community Coverage

**3rd Place**
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**
Staff
Asheville Citizen-Times, June 10-11, 2017

### BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

**1st Place**
**NEWS & RECORD**
Staff
1808 April 2017

**2nd Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Staff
Walter magazine

**3rd Place**
**NEWS & RECORD**
Staff
1808 magazine Aug. 27, 2017

### DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

**1st Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**

**2nd Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**

**3rd Place**
**WINSTON-Salem Journal**

### EDUCATION REPORTING

**1st Place**
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**
Ann Doss Helms
Diversity push bring hope, fear and national attention

**2nd Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Ann Doss Helms
New CMS chief brings passion, controversy

**3rd Place**
**ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**
T. Keung Hui
Change in principal pay spurs fear of salary cuts

### NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

**1st Place**
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**
Kathleen Purvis
Can BBQ dynasty rise above father’s racism?

### ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

**1st Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Staff
Massive fire destroys unfinished apartment building in downtown Raleigh

**2nd Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Staff
Record-breaking rain brings dangerous flooding to Triangle; rivers rising

**3rd Place**
**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**
Adam Bell, Katherine Peralta, Cristina Bolling
Thousands march in uptown Charlotte in support of immigrants

### SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

**1st Place**
**NEWS & RECORD**
Joe Sirera and Spencer Turkin
Coaching carousel

**2nd Place**
**NEWS & OBSERVER**
Andrew Carter
Series on former UNC announcer Woody Durham
3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Brant Wilkerson-New
Social activism
Very timely piece. Fair and balanced.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
Rae Carruth’s son will be at prison gates when father who wanted him dead goes free
This is superb true crime storytelling. This story tells the aftermath of a terrible crime and also takes the time to wonder about the future when Carruth gets out of jail. The writer uses quotes expertly.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Luke DeCock
Roy Cooper the Caniac in chief
The governor is symbolic of the greater battle of the state. The writer takes the time to wonder what the future will be like for a new governor and what it means for the state.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Dell
Family and future keep WSSU assistant going
A terrific story about the relationship between a football assistant coach, his players and his family.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
City tax hike proposed/In remembrance
Very clean design. Not too busy. Love the use of the pie chart. Overall the design makes it easy to read.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Dec. 10, 2016
Overall clean design. Good use of pictures and graphics to break up the text. Good headline use with differing colors to make “WE” stand out.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Appearance and Design

BEST LEDE
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Margaret Moffett
Margaret Moffett collection
An apparently gifted storyteller weaves a trio of strong attention-grabbers. I was hooked on all three.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lisa O’Donnell
Young. Addicted. Gone/Finding a sanctuary/‘There went your past’
Strong, vivid imagery evoked; strong emotion, as well.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Mills
Jeff Mills collection
The dog lede is the winner, here, but the attempted rewrite of a ballpark staple is also appreciated.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Ed Hardin, Eddie Wooten, Brant Wilkerson-New
Richard Petty turns 80
A ton of good information. Well put together.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Joe Sirera and Spencer Turkin
Turnover rate
I really like the use of the time frame.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Staff
Nice use of art to go with the article. Ton of pictures.

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Julia Wall
100 chicken nuggets in one sitting: ‘Bottomless Pit’ trains for his competitive eating comeback
Such an interesting topic! The audio and lighting were spot on. Transitions happened at the right time and were clean. We appreciated that the story moved quickly.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Joseph Neff
$600,000 in cash missing from office, records show
The writer gives a clear and detailed explanation of a massive, complicated financial crime by a local elected official.

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
John Murawski
Got Health Insurance?

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Fran Daniel
Current projects move forward, lofty plans take shape as Wake Forest Innovation Quarter grows

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Madison Iszler
As labor pool for N.C. farms shrinks, some rely on guest worker program

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Peter St. Onge
Collection of editorials: Peter St. Onge

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Railey
Repeal House Bill; House Bill 2: Laughing to keep from crying; With HB2 gone, let’s move on

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
Fake news is a real danger/Repeal, repeal, repeal/Ban those tethers

EDITORIALS
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Peter St. Onge
Collection of editorials: Peter St. Onge

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Railey
Repeal House Bill; House Bill 2: Laughing to keep from crying; With HB2 gone, let’s move on

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
Fake news is a real danger/Repeal, repeal, repeal/Ban those tethers

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Taft Wireback
Following money in elections

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
John Railey
Repeal House Bill; House Bill 2: Laughing to keep from crying; With HB2 gone, let’s move on

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Beth Walton
Asheville’s Minority Business Program sheds light on a hidden problem.
### FEATURE SECTION

**DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY**

#### 1ST PLACE

**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

*Jenny Drabble/Bertrand Gutiérrez*

Facing the future -- Local residents share hopes — and fears — after historic presidential election.

#### 2ND PLACE

**NEWS & RECORD**

*Staff*

Past, future intertwine/Clinton, stories and photography keep you there.

#### 3RD PLACE

**Winston-Salem Journal**

*Mitchell Obama plan rally*

Overall a clean paper: easy to navigate and nicely designed. Especially enjoyed the Sunday paper with the addition of the Arts section. Writing was solid; community coverage seems thorough and well represented.

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

#### FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

#### 1ST PLACE

**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

*Staff*

CharlotteObserver.com

Easy to use, clean and nearly every story has a piece of art to draw in the eye. Great use of video and headlines. I wanted to click on everything.

#### 2ND PLACE

**NEWS & RECORD**

*Staff*

Greensboro.com

#### 3RD PLACE

**NEWS & OBSERVER**

*Staff*

The News & Observer

### GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

#### 1ST PLACE

**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

*Staff*

Citizens Review Board splits 4-4 on police shooting

Beyond simply reporting a board’s decision about a police shooting and not to publicly release its recommendations to the public, articles dig into the board’s apparent pro-police bias politics behind why three board members didn’t attend its hearings and private communications that probably wouldn’t have come to light without digging by journalists. The board’s dirty laundry should have made citizens very uncomfortable.

#### 2ND PLACE

**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

*Mark Washburn*

Wildfires ravage NC highlands below eerie glow

#### 3RD PLACE

**NEWS & RECORD**

*Tim Rickard*

### INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

#### 1ST PLACE

**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

*Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, Elizabeth Leland*

Wrong side of the bars? Great investigative work! These reporters left no stones unturned in this series, which undoubtedly shocked many and spurred reform efforts.

#### 2ND PLACE

**NEWS & OBSERVER**

*Dan Kane and David Raynor*

Jailed to Death

Great work! I loved that you found a way to get information/data/records when there was no clear-cut path for doing so and that you stuck with the story for so long.

#### 3RD PLACE

**NEWS & OBSERVER**

*Mandy Locke*

Cherry Hospital

I love that you took a topic that could have been handled via routine “government” stories and turned it into much more. Great job!

### LIGHTER COLUMNS

#### 1ST PLACE

**NEWS & OBSERVER**

*Josh Shaffer*

He’s Flushed his Friend Down 16

Bailpark Toilets

How can you not read a column about a man who flushes his friend down the toilet! Great stuff! Good writing!

#### 2ND PLACE

**NEWS & OBSERVER**

*Barry Saunders*

Barry Saunders Lighter Columns

Oh my word! If you are as funny in real life as in your columns, you must keep your co-workers, like your readers, amused daily.

#### 3RD PLACE

**CHARLOTTE OBSERVER**

*Theoden Janes*

Collection of lighter columns: Theoden Janes
PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
Winston-Salem Journal
Allison Lee Isley
Thompson sworn in as chief

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ethan Hyman
Graduation Celebration

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Police outreach

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Southwest Guilford basketball
This image offers a clean and unique perspective, different than most of the other images. The player’s reaction and ball still in the frame help the composition as well.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Lynn Hey
Northern celebrates main
This photograph was such a nice, quiet and intimate frame. The repetition of teammates hugging and the moment between mother and daughter is priceless.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Tim Funk
Library clean up

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Davie Hinshaw
Fog hangs over Charlotte

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Joe Rodriguez
Splash appeal

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Lynn Hey
Watching UNCG

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
Winston-Salem Journal
Andrew Dye
It was Devastating
A quiet image that showed destruction and the one’s affected.

2nd Place
Winston-Salem Journal
Walt Unks
Gas line ruptured downtown
One of very few images that were actually in the moment of the spot news. Though not the strongest compositionally, cheers to the photographer for getting to the scene quickly.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Travis Long
Matthew Floods Lumberton
Nice use of reflection and light to show terrible flooding in Lumberton.

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Dawn Kane
America’s photographer
Really nice storytelling! Liked how you captured her life like she was behind the lens of her own camera.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
David Menconi
‘A hard life of bad luck and trouble’
Nice feature, writing about an obvious treasure.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Kathe Elizabeth Queram
Kate Elizabeth Queram
What a fun story!

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Mark Barrett
‘There are dark days’

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Tim Funk
Bible answer man finds peace, loses listeners

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Martha Quillin
Some Christians see God’s plan for white supremacy in Confederate statues

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Sarah Nagem
Finding strength in a building, and then seeing it burn; etc.
“It was a deep pool, but the quality of her writing and storytelling put this journalist on the top of the very tall stack. You have a sense that Sarah Nagem knows the subjects of her stories personally, and by the time you’ve finished, you do too. Her story ideas were original and clearly significant to the community. But it is Sarah’s ability to make the reader feel like they know the subjects of her pieces that made this worthy of No. 1 recognition in a tough field.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Josh Shaffer
They Called Him “Bicycle Johnny”
Josh Shaffer has a knack for finding people you want to know about and telling their stories in a respectful and visual way. As with Sarah, I could spend days reading more of Josh’s stories about local people, feeling as if I knew them by the time I finished each piece.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ned Barnett
The News & Observer serious columns – Ned Barnett
The size of this field was almost overwhelming to start, until you start reading. And reading. And reading. I deliberately ignored the writers’ names and news organizations until I had finished reading everything, and so was surprised the News & Observer had a clean sweep. Ned Barnett’s work is thoughtful, incisive and important. He’s not afraid to gore an ox, but also writes with eloquence about the closing of a modest church parish. A pleasure.

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Living Here
When can I move to Charlotte? More than a community directory, this guide makes section is very well written, compelling the reader to want to become part of this bustling, buzzing metropolis. Very well done.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Panthers Preview
Compelling writing, giving readers the behind-the-scenes story of Charlotte’s football team. Writers demonstrate insights not only of the game of football but, specifically team, its players and management. Everything a fan would want.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
Year in Pictures
Tremendous photos capture a year of activity and news making. Well thought out as to the stories presented, pages well laid out.

Continued p. 45
EDUCATION REPORTING
3rd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell Hurricane Matthew: The effects on schools and students

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Adam Rhew Youth Suicide EdNC

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Clabby Better Housing for Better Health in Greensboro

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach Ocracoke basketball star Sydney Austin captures state title in new sport

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - ONLINE MEMBERS ONLY
1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Angie Newsome, Frank Taylor, Michael Gebelein CPP Appearance and Design

BEST LEDE
1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach Painter Douglas Hoover captures island moments in time; new works in Down Creek Gallery Wednesday

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Trista Talton, Mark Hibbs Catching Waves to Save Historic Shoreline

EDITORIALS
1st Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Rick Henderson Underappreciated stories of the 2017 legislative session

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Kari Travis Raising age would give juvenile offenders a new start, supporters say

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell Seven months later, Edgecombe residents cope with Matthew aftermath

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor Asheville keeps control of its water system

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf There’s Hope for the Increasing Number of Babies Born Opioid Dependent

BEAT NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf Providers of Disability Services See State Budget Cuts Passed Down

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Staff Matthew Exits, Record Flooding Continues

BEST MUL TIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Trista Talton, Mark Hibbs Catching Waves to Save Historic Shoreline

EDUCATION REPORTING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
Andrew Dunn Can Charlotte become a music town?

OCRACOKE OBSERVER
2nd Place
Connie Leinbach What’s a dingbatter? New Ocracoke Alive show at Deepwater Theater explains all

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich Heard on Ocracoke: Lipbone Red

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf Camp Lejeune Toxic Water Battle Continues

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Clabby Goldsboro Caskets Unearthed by Matthew Reveal NC ‘Achilles’ Heel’

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich International friendship and water blend in 75th British Cemetery Ceremony

OCRACOKE OBSERVER
3rd Place
Connie Leinbach Billfish get a life in Trixie’s Fineries

ROOTS REPORTING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf ECU Helps Expand Telemedicine at Duplin County Schools

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf Coal Ash Language Late Addition to Bill at NC GA

BEAT NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Catherine Clabby Fight n Flight From Poultry Stench

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Staff Matthew Exits, Record Flooding Continues

2nd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach Ocracoke on extended power outage

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban Coal Ash Language Late Addition to Bill at NC GA

BEST VIDEO
1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell Seven months later, Edgecombe residents cope with Matthew aftermath

BETTER HOUSING FOR BETTER HEALTH IN GREENSBORO
1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Michael Gebelein Better Housing for Better Health in Greensboro

Topsail Beach Battle Over Dunes
2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Trista Talton Topsail Beach Battle Over Dunes

ND MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Trista Talton, Mark Hibbs Catching Waves to Save Historic Shoreline

BEST MUL TIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Rick Henderson Underappreciated stories of the 2017 legislative session

3rd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Chris Fitzsimon North Carolina Legislature

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
1st Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Kari Travis Raising age would give juvenile offenders a new start, supporters say

2nd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Alex Granados Legislator proposes teacher preparation program expansion
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor, Michael Gebel
Questionable care

2nd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Lisa Sorg
SePro and Jordan Lake

3rd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Joe Killian
Opioid Crisis

LIGHTER COLUMNS
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jared Lloyd
Jared Lloyd: Lighter Columns

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
Ted Williams
Ted Williams - Lighter columns

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Sam Bland
Sam's Field Notes

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach
Cloud spotting on Ocracoke Island, or…. ‘Excuse me. Your umbrella is in front of my cloud!’

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban
The Doctor is In… The House of Representatives

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban
Mandy Cohen: “I’m here to focus on the work.”

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
Katie Levans Loveluck
Scenes from last night’s protest in Uptown

2nd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich
Fire guts Ocracoke home

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich
Spotted on Ocracoke: A Great Horned Owl

HEADLINE WRITING
1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Mark Hibbs
Coastal Review Online Headline Writing

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor
Headlines

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
Kylie Moore
Meet Melody single mother getting by on $22,000 a year

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban
Young Charlotteans are no longer turning to church to find community like they once did

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban
Young Charlotteans are no longer turning to church to find community like they once did
SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Jimmy Lewis
Boxing; Tobs; youth boxing
This is a great example of long-form column writing that mixes in quotes with opinions. There is a lot of strong writing here.

2nd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Megan Crotty
It's good to be back; Farewell ungrateful 2016; Requiem
The writer’s collection of personal stories transcend sports and develop a personal relationship with the reader. Many columnists try this tack, but this writer does it especially well.

3rd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Patrick Mason
Sports columns from Patrick Mason
The writer has a lot of insightful, observant views that go beyond the obvious. Well done.

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
SANFORD HERALD
Andrew Giemak, Matthew Monarca
sports coverage Aug. 19-20

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Joey Millwood, Dean Hensley
Sports Coverage

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
Paul Schenkel
Sports Coverage

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Basketball Celebration
There are so many different reaction shots in just one shot — ecstatic coaches, happy players on the winning side, a crushed player on the losing side. Captures the essence of sports.

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Volleyball Celebration
This captures the enthusiasm of the players so well.

3rd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Alan Campbell
Out At Third
This photo is so good because one can see the emotion of the player without looking at his face.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Jimmy Lewis
After first loss, Wilson's Bryant moving to Philly
There was a lot of nice follow-up reporting in this story about a boxing match and its aftermath.

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Dean Hensley
Mickey Marvin funeral
Nicely done collection of anecdotes helped the reader get to know the deceased.

3rd Place
DAILY DISPATCH
Logan Ulrich
Kerr-Vance state title game
The writer deftly wove in aspects of the game along with the coaches’ quotes reflecting on the importance of his father in his life.

Congratulations to Alex, Liz, and Adam on their NCPA Recognition
SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
STARNES
Staff
March 6-7 Sports Coverage
Great section with excellent columns and good headline writing. The choice and display of the celebration photos made the sections more appealing.

2nd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Hickory Daily Record Newsroom
Sports Coverage
Good local coverage.

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
staff
Herald-Sun sports coverage, Aug. 12-13, 2017

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Take Me to the Ballgame
What's not to love about this photo? The subject, angle, composition and lighting all work well.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Mike Hensdill
Grizzlies Fan
Nice composition, especially with the child at the top of the triangle.

3rd Place
STARNES
Matt Born
Whiteville celebration
Nice composition. A tighter crop wouldn't look as good.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Adam Smith
Duke guard
Reporter obviously has cultivated his beat to have coaches open up about the Grayson Allen apology. Stories are concise and cover the game from multiple angles.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Jack Flagler
South Point gets rare shot at redemption
Really like fact reporter reached out to graduated students to get reactions of last year's loss.

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Adam Smith
A matter of trust
Reporter's prose captures both the emotion of the key play, but describes the play in detail.

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Barry Jacobs
Collection of Barry Jacobs sports columns
The common theme between these terrific columns is the history of tying with modern-day issues in sports. One rarely sees such a historical context in modern-day sports writing.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
Collection of sports columns: Scott Fowler
There is a nice variety here between sharp commentary and more long-form analysis. The columnist ties quotes in well to back up his opinions.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Ed Hardin
Ed Hardin's collection
The writer touches the reader on a very humane level. He makes his personal stories relatable.

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Sports coverage

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record sports entry

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
Sports coverage, March 26, 27, 2017

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Dan Kane
UNC again challenges NCAA jurisdiction
Good reporting on a complicated academic scandal. Clearly written.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Alison Lee Isley
This has been a blast
Another entry that stood out immediately. Looks as if she is riding the dummy through the air. Nice job.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
A Signature Wins
Nice work by the photographer to get directly in the mayhem to capture the emotion.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
‘WakeyLeaks’ scandal stuns Wake Forest football program and fans
This is a fascinating look at a unique situation - the former athlete-turned-color-commentator who turned on his school to help the opponents. The W-S Journal stayed on the story and covered it from multiple angles. Well reported and well told.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Joseph Person
Amid growing frustration, some Panthers meet with team owner Richardson
This story took really good sources inside the Panthers team. It was well organized and showed great balance on a sensitive and volatile subject.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
Number of killings eclipses 2015 total

Homicides climb in city
Number of killings eclipses 2015 total

Past, future intertwine in landmark deal

RAT purchase offer would not be first-time company changed hands

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
SUNDAY
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More inside

Mothers of the Movement reach out to students, voters in city / A4
AT&T reaches deal to buy Time Warner for $85.4 billion / A27

Vince Emersic, The News & Observer sports writer and reporter
Daily Newspaper Winner

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Allison Lee Isley portfolio

Hugh C. Morton
Photographer of the year
Community Newspaper Winner

PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
Ted Fitzgerald Pilot
Committed to excellence

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

1st Place
Best Video
“100 chicken nuggets in one sitting”
Julia Wall

1st Place
Business Writing
“Got Health Insurance?”
John Murawski

1st Place
Serious Columns
“Finding strength in a building, and then seeing it burn”
Sarah Nagem

1st Place
Lighter Columns
“He’s flushed his friend down 16 ballpark toilets”
Josh Shaffer

1st Place
News Feature Writing
feature stories from NC wildfires
Martha Quillin

1st Place
Deadline News Reporting - “Hurricane Matthew hits Eastern North Carolina”
Staff

1st Place
Arts and Entertainment Reporting
“Not just another princess face”
David Menconi

1st Place
Online Breaking News Coverage
“Massive fire destroys unfinished apartment building in downtown Raleigh”
Staff

1st Place
Sports Columns
Barry Jacobs

1st Place
Best Retail Ad in a Niche Publication
Dixon Kirby in Walter magazine
Denise Ferguson

1st Place
“100 chicken nuggets in one sitting”
Josh Shaffer

1st Place
“Got Health Insurance?”
John Murawski

1st Place
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