

FOR

**EDITORIAL
CONTEST
WINNERS
FOR 2019**



North Carolina Press Association
Fighting for **your right to know** since 1873

2019 WILLIAM C. LASSITER AWARD

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

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



STEPHEN M. ROSS

North Carolina
State Representative -
(R) North Carolina House District 63
Alamance County

Rep. Stephen Ross, 4 term House member from Alamance County, former Mayor of Burlington and former Alamance County Commissioner, is awarded the NCPA's Lassiter Award.

Steve has been a strong advocate for free press rights in everything from battles to preserve newspaper public notice advertising to protecting newspaper independent carrier distribution. Along with Rep John Saul, he stopped the last attempt in the House to

run a local bill removing legal notices from newspapers.. And as Chairman of the House Local Government Committee in 2014, Ross stopped a bill that would have changed all carriers into newspaper employees, subjecting publishers to worker's compensation insurance liability (for individuals who have historically been independent contractors) that could have spelled the end of cost effective distribution of print editions of newspapers in the state.

Perhaps Rep Ross's greatest strength in the

General Assembly is his unfailing willingness to challenge positions held by the League of Municipalities and the County Commissioners Association, of which he is a former member.

Tonight we honor Rep. Ross for his commitment to an open government and the public's right to know. Please join us in recognizing Representative Stephen Ross.

Past Lassiter Award Winners

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1988 Congressman Cass Ballenger | 2001 Rep. Robert Grady |
| 1989 Rep. George Miller | 2002 Rep. Jennifer Weiss |
| 1990 Elmer Oettinger, N.C. Institute of Government | 2003 Hugh Stevens, NCPA Counsel Emeritus |
| 1991 The Hon. James H. Pou Bailey, Retired Senior Judge, 10th Judicial District | 2004 The Hon. Wanda G. Bryant, N.C. Court of Appeals |
| 1992 Sharon Pennell, Journalism Professor, ASU Member, Caldwell County Board of Education | 2005 Mark Swanger, Haywood, County Commissioner |
| 1993 Senator Marc Basnight | 2006 Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina |
| 1994 Dr. Gene Lanier, East Carolina University | 2007 Joe Sinsheimer |
| 1995 Franz Holsher, Gastonia City Council | 2008 Tom McClure and Eldridge Painter of Sylva and Jim Rowell of Cullowhee |
| 1996 Dr. Margaret Blanchard, UNC-CH School of Journalism & Mass Communication | 2009 No winner |
| 1997 Mayor Tom Gwyn, Elkin, N.C. | 2010 Cathy Packer |
| 1998 Senator Roy Cooper | 2011 No winner |
| 1999 Senator David Hoyle | 2014 Rep. Marilyn Avila |
| 2000 Attorney Jon Buchan | 2015 Sen. Norman Sanderson |
| | 2016 C. Amanda Martin |
| | 2017 Cody Henson |
| | 2018 Rep. Mitchell Setzer |

HUGH MORTON PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Community Newspaper Winner

MICHAEL PAUL

State Port Pilot



Daily Newspaper Winner

ANDREW DYE

Winston-Salem Journal



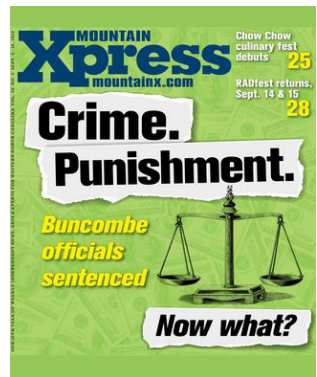
DIVISION A

**FIRST PLACE**
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE**SECOND PLACE**
NORTH STATE JOURNAL**THIRD PLACE**
HIGHLANDER

DIVISION B

**FIRST PLACE**
STATE PORT PILOT**SECOND PLACE**
WAKE WEEKLY**THIRD PLACE**
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

DIVISION C

**FIRST PLACE**
THE PILOT**SECOND PLACE**
MOUNTAIN XPRESS**THIRD PLACE**
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

DIVISION D

**FIRST PLACE**
WILSON TIMES**SECOND PLACE**
TIMES-NEWS**THIRD PLACE**
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS

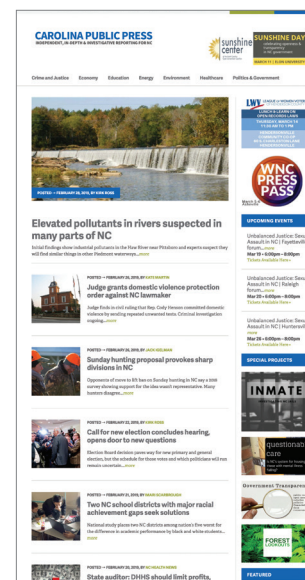
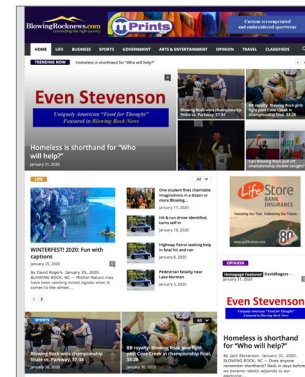
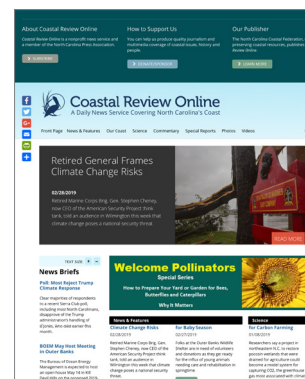
DIVISION E

**FIRST PLACE**
STARNEWS**SECOND PLACE**
SALISBURY POST**THIRD PLACE**
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

DIVISION F

**FIRST PLACE**
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**SECOND PLACE**
NEWS & RECORD**THIRD PLACE**
NEWS & OBSERVER

ONLINE

**FIRST PLACE**
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**SECOND PLACE**
BLOWING ROCK NEWS**THIRD PLACE**
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

DIVISION A

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

DIVISION B

- 1ST PLACE**
Coastland Times
2ND PLACE
Bladen Journal
3RD PLACE
Chatham News & Record

DIVISION C

- 1ST PLACE**
Smoky Mountain News
2ND PLACE
Mountaineer
3RD PLACE
YES! Weekly

DIVISION D

- 1ST PLACE**
High Point Enterprise
2ND PLACE
Statesville Record & Landmark
3RD PLACE
Star (Shelby)

DIVISION E

- 1ST PLACE**
StarNews
2ND PLACE
Herald-Sun
3RD PLACE
Asheville Citizen-Times

DIVISION F

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

DIVISION O

- 1ST PLACE**
Richmond Observer
2ND PLACE
Island Free Press
3RD PLACE
N.C. Policy Watch

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose
North State Journal
By far the best looking, easiest to read paper of the entries. I would subscribe to this paper if only to enjoy the layout. Well done!

2nd Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Staff
Inmate sues over jail conditions; Hardware store
Good use of graphics as gateway to stories; liked front photo of sleeping conditions in detention center (we have same problem sleeping problem here); good use of putting people into graphics.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather
Some terrific photos, love the fly fishing guide and those ads are very eye popping.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Carl Blankenship
Pretty in Pink Fashion Show raises funds
This story was absolutely wonderful. You couldn't help but put yourself in the womens' shoes. It was a very moving and inspiring 'work of art' for this story.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Jonah Lossiah
Even as we breathe
JONAH LOSSIAH really draws the reader in. Lossiah gave so much detail, that I felt as if I was getting a glimpse into Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle's book, 'Even as We Breathe'.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee Performing Arts taking risks with "Into the Woods"
A charming piece and excellent background information on former plays as well.

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Dan Brown
Make A Wish Kid dedicates new house
Feel-good article that puts storytelling first.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
‘The baddest band in the land’
Makes me interested in seeing this band for myself, which is what any good feature should do

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Jordan Golson
Cadillac of crossovers
The writer gives a glimpse at what it's like to be a auto journalist -- but next time should disclose the value of all these luxury trips he's going on to write reviews intended to sell vehicles.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
State Alleges Abuse In Hoke Psych Facility

2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Nonprofit Health Center Faces Shutdown

3rd Place
BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE
Thadd White
Vidant Bertie certified Stroke Ready

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
K. Adam Powell
Breaking News Coverage - Conservator's Center Tragedy
Excellent job of reporting a tragic story. The dramatic situation is recounted thoroughly and thoughtfully. Excellent use of quotes.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
A.P. Dillon
Graffiti campaign opposes state health plan changes
Fine reporting. This has a catchy lead and does a good job of explaining the health plan issues.

3rd Place
ASHE POST & TIMES
Ian Taylor
Captured!
This represents a solid job of reporting. Everything a reader might want to know about the situation is presented clearly and concisely.

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Businesses along tracks say, yes, in my backyard

2nd Place
HIGHLANDER
Dan Brown
Stone Lantern to close after 59 years

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Frank Hill
Seafood supplier hit by Florence recovers using grant from ‘Sunday Supper’

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
A tall Tale
A great article on residents fighting for local standards.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Emmie Brooks
Uptown Greenville: A transformation story

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
Strays a problem, public says at hearing

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Robert Jumper, Scott Brings Plenty, Jonah Lossiah
Cherokee One Feather

2nd Place
HIGHLANDER
The Highlander Staff
The Highlander Community Coverage

3rd Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Staff
Christmas comes to Spring Hope; Middlesex board

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Ryan Hanchett
The Highlander Editorial Page
Oh, how to describe this editorial page? Fun to read. A pleasure to look at. A weekly snapshot of life in what must be a wonderful small town. Highlights include an editorial on the complete lack of bears roaming around town, and a heartfelt letter to the editor from a woman whose dog keeled over and died on a walk, and the Episcopalians who prayed for him. Beautiful, all of it.

2nd Place
Smoky Mountain Times
Staff
Smoky Mountain Times Editorial page
Clean, crisp design. Good writing. And transparent. At the bottom of the page are the names and mugs shots of the newspaper's editorial staff. This proves that inky wretches are people, too.

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Staff
NSJ Editorials November 2018
A variety of opinions and outlooks, plus strong design.

EDITORIALS

1st Place
JOHNSTONIAN NEWS
Corey Friedman
School board's; Censorship; policy
Excellent First Amendment defense of an unconstitutional policy of the school district. Its officials should be asbamed, especially considering they are teaching the next generation of students. The newspaper's readers should be proud to have an advocate on their side, especially one who can explain the ramifications of such a bad policy. Excellent arguments, clear and concise writing. Imagine all those communities that no longer have a newspaper like this one. Chilling. Kudos to your newspaper!

2nd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Tap Root Proposal, Planning Broken, Road won't be the same
Excellent analysis of the growth issue and the lack of adequate planning to accommodated it. Writer is obviously well-connected with the community, its transportation needs and housing issues. Excellent arguments, clear and concise writing. Your community is lucky to have such a newspaper to keep on top of the issues that affect its residents most. Bravo!

3rd Place
HIGHLANDER
Ryan Hanchett
The Highlander Editorial Writing
Encouraging participation in the electoral process, explaining the processes and the reasons for doing so are a newspaper's bread and butter. Good work.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Carl Blankenship
Avery County High School renovation project coverage
Very comprehensive coverage of Avery County High School project from a variety of pertinent sources. Nice explanation of some financial processes like the bidding process. Timeline sidebar is helpful in helping reader better understand the project. Good job of covering the issues that existed between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners.

2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
25 Years Ago Leandro Changed Public Education
Nice 25th anniversary story about the Leandro decision and its implications 25 years later. Well organized, good job of quoting someone involved with the ruling when it was made, as well as those involved as its beneficiaries now. Story is well researched.

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
A.P. Dillon
General Assembly debates education funding plans
Good piece about opposing strategies of a bond issue vs legislation to support education funding in NC. Well researched, and well written, with quotes from sources on both sides of the aisle. Nicely balanced story, well organized.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
McGrady takes on redistricting and liquor laws against the odds March 13
The reporter's rapport with the subject shines through in this piece. A good look at telling political stories with a human-interest touch.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Series of articles on three candidates seeking election certification
Good explanatory work on ballot qualifying

3rd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Gay pride proclamation draws dissent from council members, June 12

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
YADKIN RIPPLE
Kitsy Burns Harrison
Lake Alpine feature - Kitsey Harrison

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Dan Brown
Trio fish cell from drain

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Ken MacDonald
“Now We Have Been Touched”

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Dogs Kill Livestock, Residents Seek Help
These stories were really hard to read in all their gruesome detail, but the writer did a great job of covering this issue. Those terrible details set this story apart from simple coverage of a news event.

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
Road to nowhere tunnel's future uncertain

3rd Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Lindell Kay
Inmate sues jail

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Carl Blankenship
Budding Industry
Great story to go along with a great headline

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Staff
NSJ Headlines
Clever!

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PRINT OR INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose
Hit the road!

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose
Where are the black bears?

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose
North Carolina Debutantes

LEDE

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Ledes by Shawn Krest
Clever ledes that pack a punch with wit and leave readers wanting to know more.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Ken Ripley
Vow; monarch; Greenland
A columnist with class, insight and historical perspective warped with not-so-cynical humor. Fresh and refreshing!

2nd Place
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY
David Donovan
Sidebar
Defily written by pseudonymous "Sidebar", these columns focus on minutia surrounding and within the publication's community. They are GREAT! Something unique on your way to the BIG stories. Call them the pauses that truly refresh the reader.

3rd Place
YADKIN RIPPLE
Kitsey Burns Harrison
Kitsey Harrison Light Columns
This columnist really tamed this shrew, Shakespeare not withstanding. Refreshingly personal!

MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Mebane Enterprise Staff
Mebane Enterprise 2019 Newcomer's Guide
Packs a lot of useful information into 72 pages. Does a good job with a fairly common publication. My only problem with it is I'm not sold on the blue and brown headlines. Seems like one of the colors should be more dominate and bold. Both shades together seem a little weak. More contrast between them would likely remedy this.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
K. Adam Powell
Mebane Fourth of July Multimedia Project
Article accurately portrays fun/festive feel and captures essence of the event in word, while video gives life to the descriptions.

2nd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Staff
Chowan Herald-July 4 multimedia entry
Coverage of event heightened by use of video, which included additional/new information.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
The Serpentine Solution September 18 and 25
Excellent article. I enjoyed every word.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
David Larson
Opioid-related deaths continue to impact NC communities
Well written and organized piece

3rd Place
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY
Bill Cresenzo
Getting plugged back in: New certificate of relief law will help more people get fresh starts
Good job of informing the public on this topic

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Melissa Ezro
The many circumstances of the homeless
Well done story about the travails of a man who became homeless after a failed marriage in a community with few resources for helping the homeless.

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
John H. Walker
Football stars stress reading importance
Solid story about athletes returning to their hometown to encourage reading.
Good descriptions.

3rd Place
EVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Carl Blankenship
Turkey fryer plays pivotal role in Beech diver rescue
Smart story, strong context about dangers of hypothermia. Just an overall good story.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Photos from the Cherokee Performing Arts Program production of "Into the Woods"

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Photos from the 44th Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose, Shawn Krest
NC's boys of summer are back on the diamond

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
GRAHAM STAR
Art Miller
Awe-Inspiring Sight
A beautiful and well-constructed photo using the lunar eclipse.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Photos of the Annual Kituwah Celebration
Expressions are clear. Very good use of focus and background.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Photo of hawk flying
Very crisp photo ... almost to the point where it looks fake. We're able to see all the details easily

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Isabelle Lavalette
Sir Walter Wally Emerges From The Shadows

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Teddy Greene
Fourth of July Heat

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
Football, Reading & Magic

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
GRAHAM STAR
Kevin Hensley
Celebrate Good Times
Great combo of action shot coupled with one that captures the emotional celebration.

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
Joyner's Redemption
Nice job capturing their expressions. Not an easy thing to do with football!

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
A Tough Game
Really nice action shots

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE
1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Photos of the Anetsodi stickball challenge
An unusual sport with photos telling an interesting story of the game.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Jonah Lossiah
Photo of Braves Head Coach David Napert
Great sports feature lead to a story about the coach.

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Sarah Louya
From the Heart
Fun photo for a sports feature story. I can see others in the background, plus an errant photographer, grrrr.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
GRAHAM STAR
Art Miller
'It Was a Nightmare'
Great spot news. Got an overall view with fall colors and leaves on the road. Got a closer view below the embankment.

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Winter storm Diego dumps a foot-plus snow on Cashiers
Photos truly depict lots of snow fell in the region.

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Cashiers crash caps chase
Coverage of a crash and arrested suspect.

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Dan Brown
Jim Barton -- A walking history lesson
Engaging story about an engaging man. Well-written, great details and descriptions. Clearly the class of this category.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
William Peace coach a member of softball royalty
Nice lead-in to a great story, well-written.

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Dan Brown
Phil "Slick" Monteith -- unofficial mayor?
Well-written story. The writer is obviously having fun, and that shows in an engaging story.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
K. Adam Powell
Haitian Mission Provides Dental Care, Construction

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
David Larson
NC Methodists vote to condemn 'Traditional Plan'

3rd Place
EVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Jamie Shell
Timely Truths

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
ELKIN TRIBUNE
Bill Colvard
Serious columns - Bill Colvard
The September 11 column is very good, restrained -- a witnessed thing. Overall a good collection, a contender, maybe a winner.

2nd Place
Chowan Herald
Jonathan Tobias
Chowan Herald-Jonathan Tobias Columns
Erudite and solid, Tobias is a cut above the reductive, party-line toeing stereotype of the small town columnist. I very much enjoyed his work.

3rd Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Ken Ripley
Law; Republicans; Reading
While the first entry here appears to be an unsigned editorial, Ken Ripley presents as a national and civil voice.

SPECIAL SECTION
1st Place
EVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Avery Journal-Times Staff
Avery Journal-Times 2018 Salute to Heroes
Excellent layout, but maybe add more color next time, instead of black and white for all of the heroes.

2nd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Lightning Staff
Season of Giving
Fabulous layout. I like how this wasn't just about gifts and Christmas, but about actually giving back and helping/ volunteering.

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Staff
Hoke Heartbeat
Excellent layout, pictures, and content. Amazing heath and medical resources.

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Gano's miss costs Panthers
Interesting writing style that captured the reader and made the column stand out.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
On the Sidelines
Good series of columns that reflects the importance of sports within a community

SPORTS COVERAGE
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Staff
NSJ Sports Coverage
"Only entry in this category, so first place by default, but would be hard to top if there were a dozen entries. Crisp writing, clean layout. The best aspect was beautiful photography that is well-integrated into the design. Great stuff!"

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
The mystery mat on college football sidelines

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Cory Lavalette
May 14 not a date to remember for Bruins

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Anatomy of a game-winning play

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Dan Brown
Ledford Racing Toward New Life
Not only a great piece of writing, but important insight into the life of a recovering addict. Excellent work here.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Chazz Surratt
Excellent work catching the reader's attention with the tapping element. Could easily see this running in a national publication.

3rd Place
EVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Jamie Shell
Feature Series: Former professional wrestler Curtis Thompson
Workmanlike piece. Reads easy, transitions are smooth and quotes are excellent. Some grafts are packed with a bit too much info and run long. Would elevate with higher stakes. Overall a highly-enjoyable story.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
Baseball back in Fayetteville with new stadium

2nd Place
BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE
Jim Green
All the Way Back

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Brett Friedlander
Smith aims to raise High Point's basketball profile

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS
1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Staff
NSJ April 2019
Photos are dynamic and well-placed.

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Use of Photographs, July 3 and 10, 2019
Great photos that fit the stories and the quality is very good.
3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Staff
Use of Photographs

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Robert Jumper, Scott Brings Plenty, Jonah Lossiah
Cherokee One Feather
Does a really good job of integrating digital content with the printed publication

2nd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Staff
Chowan Herald
Very well done

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
How Crossroads Chronicle uses social media

VIDEO
1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
K. Adam Powell
"Ragged Old Flag" Memorial Day 2019 Tribute
The panning is still a bit too fast and frequent, but this does tell the story of that memorial service and lingers long enough on faces to let them react.



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APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Appearance & Design entry - Chatham News + Record
“Pretty! Overall design is attractive & a good interface for readers. Unlike pubs where little is going right, there is so much right that it’s easy to pick a few things areas for attention:

2nd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Staff
The Coastland Times, Appearance and Design
“Very nice looking overall! Design elements are used consistently to facilitate the reading experience for a clean, professional, yet friendly look.

3rd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Kimberlee Shaw, Alan Wooten
September
On the verge of being top-notch. Little inconsistencies add up to pull it out of the top spot.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan
‘Back of Beyond’ examines key player in Smokies lore, preservation

2nd Place
QUEEN CITY NERVE
Pat Moran
Ana Lucia Divins Bridges Cultures Through Music

3rd Place
QUEEN CITY NERVE
Rebecca Hourself
Underground Kings

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
Wake Weekly
Shawn Taylor
Slain friends remember for youthfulness
Excellent reporting Good job!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Terry Pope
It’s good to see when things turn out 20/20
Good human interest story. Well done!

3rd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Philip S. Ruckle Jr.
Police Dogs on Duty
Good quotes and explaining of the dogs’ abilities.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Agencies pilot new efforts to reduce recidivism, drug-related offenses
Great effective and creative writing. 5 stars for originality. Your work completely sets the bar for what a Beat News series is all about. Great coverage of a topic that needs more attention than ever. Way to go!!!

2nd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten
Hurricane Florence
Good effective writing with clear and concise pieces tied together in a “Beat” style. Though not that original, a good, solid community interest topic. Getting your boots on the grounds for those photos was just an added bonus. Good overall coverage.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
App State faculty demand pay raises
Nice find. Although not too original, good effective writing style and continued “beat” coverage with a desirable outcome with solid community interest. I believe your titles/headlines could use some work, however.

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Emily M. Williams, Alan Wooten
Hurricane Dorian

2nd Place
NEWS-RECORD & SENTINEL
Paul Moon
Marshall flooding

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Kimberlee Shaw, Alan Wooten
Phinite
Engaging lede that builds into an interesting story about a burgeoning industry in a remote outpost. Clear and concise writing by Allen. Excellent work.

2nd Place
BUTNER-CREEDMOOR NEWS
Shawn Taylor
Hemp processor opens plant in Oxford
Effective piece about a burgeoning industry that is taking the place of tobacco farming. Serves well in showing how hemp is keeping agriculture alive in the community.

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Tanner Hall
Promised haven now an investor trap?
Nice work investigating how residents of a housing development were duped. Aided by great quotes from some of the people affected by this.

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Southport Police: Audit reveals key concerns
Important watchdog piece that sheds light on the local police department audit. Well written and thoroughly researched. Excellent reporting.
2nd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Tomas Murawski
ICE agrees to county’s terms for jail expenses
Nice work localizing a national topic and dispute. Clear writing with smooth transitions. The infographic is an added bonus.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Anna Oakes
Over-capacity crowd opines on short-term rentals, amortization
The lede illustrates how important this topic is to the community. Anna follows up with workmanlike writing to round out an excellent piece.

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Chatham News + Record Community Coverage

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Staff
Community Coverage

3rd Place
NEWS-RECORD & SENTINEL
Paul Moon
News-Record & Sentinel community coverage

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
COURIER-TIMES
Staff
Best Editorial Page
Good writing and good stories. Articles were clear to reader. Local appeal was fantastic. Need to improve on layout and variety of editorials.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Editorial Page
Great writing and great layouts. Editorials had good, local appeal, but could use some more clarity in titles and headlines. Could also use more of a variety of editorials for a more complete section.

3rd Place
WAKE WEEKLY
Staff
Wake Weekly Editorial Pages
Great layouts of Editorial Sections. Also, great variety of stories featured. However, these sections lack local appeal, clarity and effective writing. Adding an in-house columnist to this section could make a big, positive impact.

EDITORIALS

1st Place
COURIER-TIMES
Johnny Whitfield
Best Editorials
Best of the category, clear winner. Strong commentary on watchdog journalism -- newspapers’ bread and butter now. Ensuring local governments remain transparent is essential, and there’s no other entity besides newspapers that can do the job. Well-written, concise and compelling writing. Well done!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Terry Pope
Self-infliccting wound; Dog and pony shows; Bad behavior
Holding government officials accountable for their actions is the only way the public will every know what’s going on, both locally and at the statehouse. The writer is well-versed in both local and state politics and does an admirable job of being a great community watchdog. Editorials were concise and well-written. Great job!

3rd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Alan Wooten
Hogs, election fraud, lake safety
The election fraud editorial was excellent. Got a little lost on the hogs, but I’m confident readers understood exactly. The lake safety edit was a great reminder of what can happen when government safety measures are cut. The newspaper serves as a great community watchdog. It’s journalists should be proud of the work they do.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Community questions Valle Crucis School property site
Great series covering all angles of this important community issue. Well researched, well sourced from a variety of perspectives including community residents and business people as well as superintendent and board members. Good continuity between parts of series to catch readers up without too much re-hash.
2nd Place
QUEEN CITY NERVE
Brenna Swanston
Then and Now: Segregation Still Pervades in CMS
Excellent enterprise series about segregation in local district. Well researched, very well written. Sources come from a variety of perspectives - academics, students, administrators - great coverage of implications and repercussions of issue.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
High school offers dual enrollment for homeschool students
Excellent story providing parents and others with useful information about this educational option for their children. Explains process and advantages of dual enrollment. Good sourcing from a variety of perspectives including parents, counselor and students.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Emily M. Williams
Helping the veterans
Well written story that could have been just a run-of-the-mill political public appearance brief. Including the voices of those affected by the issue at hand — assistance for veterans — gave this story far more impact than simply quoting the politicians and bureaucrats.

2nd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Casey Mann
Chatham GOP entangled with federal indictment
Solid, clear courts story with a political backdrop. Readers knew exactly what the news was. Good work going outside the courtroom for background and perspective.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Lee Hinnant
Former governors unite to fight two amendments on ballot
This story put the showdown between the executive and legislative branches of separation of powers in broad perspective. Politics isn’t, or at least shouldn’t be, about winning today’s argument.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Alexis Allston, Bill Horner III
chatham brew
Good roundup of the day’s news
FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Duck, duck, goose
I didn’t think a story of a duck hanging out with geese would be this interesting. I especially enjoyed the speculation on the relationship.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Organ donation creates unique bond
I thought you did well building up to the bond, donation.

3rd Place
MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD
Sarah Hodges Stalls
The Guardian
Beacham seems like an interesting interview. Good job getting that across.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Florence aftermath: Southport infrastructure takes a hit
Great package of a devastating storm and its aftermath.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Thomas Sherrill, Kayla Lasure
The Andrew Mason shooting death
Great package with lots of explanation and follow-up.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Lee Hinnant
Four rescued after boat capsizes
Excellent story that puts the reader in the center of the action.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan and Quintin Ellison
Headline Writing Submissions - rattlesnakes, eggs and sports betting

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Terry Pope
Hen rules don’t fly; It’s good to see when things turn our 20/20; Welding program sparks interest

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Anna Oakes and Steve Behr
Headline Writing

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Tanner Hall
Investigation into hazard mapping and landslides

2nd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Kristy Bailey & Tom Boney, Jr.
Did councilman get special treatment when city cleared trees off his lot

3rd Place
WAKE WEEKLY
Shawn Taylor
Town says public emails would cost \$70K

LEDE

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Randall Rigsbee
Bulletproof; Lorie; Ticks ledes

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Dave Russell
Lede Submissions for Dave Russell

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Lede Submissions for Quintin Ellison

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Renea Winchester
Lighter columns from Renea Winchester
I know a lot of people would enjoy this column, from goat protector to a mama kitty security cat. Kind of reminds me of Hank the Cow Dog, where you want to read the next chapter before it’s published. Well done!

2nd Place
COURIER-TIMES
Johnny Whitfield
Best Light columns
Writers picks some interesting subjects for his column. I could relate to the Department of Licensing visit. And the writer painted a great image of the old-time child safety seat
3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan
Lighter columns from Jim Buchanan
I like how Jim gets to the point fast and includes some interesting insight. I, too, always wondered how you could broom dirt and make it not look dirty.

MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Staff
All About Weddings
Lots of pretty pictures and features. Particularly like the “Their story” page at the end of each feature. Seems to be packed with wedding planning info and ideas for prospective brides (I assumed the intended audience). Seems well-thought out to thoroughly cover all things related to weddings. Very well done.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Staff
All About Women
I like this magazine. It's design is attractive. It's a good read and have has lots of things for it's intended audience. The feature on Lonon is rather hard to read because of the heavy background on the story.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Coast Magazine Spring 2019
Nice looking publication. Lots of information provided. I assume the goal is to give readers "go and do" ideas. Easy to ready, design was easy to navigate. Would have liked to see more photos, but the ones used were well done and grabbed the eye.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
David Bradley
A Well-Polished Craft

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Texas teen triumphs again

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
McCracken is back on the baseball field

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Zachary Horner
Exploring teen mental health in Chatham County
Excellent work to bring to light a prevalent but not-discussed problem in society.

2nd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Bill Horner III
Chatham County's legacy of lynching - and an effort to remember its victims
Gutsy news coverage of a painful era in the South. High respect for the newspaper for taking this on. Obviously, you guys are used to taking on tough issues!

3rd Place
State Port Pilot
Renee Spencer
Animals, shelters also hit by storm
Good job localizing a topic that would be of great interest to local residents. Well written and edited.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Zachary Horner
Not quite a JUUL: Local orgs tackling spread of youth vaping

2nd Place
State Port Pilot
Michael Paul
Lakes family now faces an uncertain future

3rd Place
Chatham News & Record
Zachary Horner
'Your outlook on life changes'

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Danielle Puleo
ESA Easterns: The Ride to the Finals
Your photos made me feel that I was there that day. beautiful!

2nd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Kimberlee Shaw, Emily M. Williams
Planter's Day
Good photos laid out well.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Parade through town
PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Opening day
Love the way this image captures the spirit of the team and the varying faces of the young children are eye-catching. GREAT WORK!

2nd Place
MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD
Deborah Griffin
Christmas at Fort Branch
Great photos capturing the joy the season. Great work, great lighting, great composition.

3rd Place
Coastland Times
Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy
A Beautiful Day in Ocracoke
LOVE THIS so much, the happiness gleams from their eyes. Great work.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
NCDOT tackles, fixes Sylva sinkhole
Crisp, Clean and lots of contrast. Eye catching photo depicts the story it tells well.

2nd Place
Courier-Times
Johnny Whitfield
Best Photography, General News

3rd Place
Chatham News & Record
Randall Rigsbee
Family and friends gather

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD
Jim Green
BGC baseball claws back
Capturing a dramatic moment with instant camera click. Spectacular!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
McKenney dunks
A classic instant captured! Bending the rim with his eyes closed for two points. Worth the effort for this photographer!

3rd Place
Chatham News & Record
David Bradley
Under pressure at second base!
capturing a moment of player angst emotes empathy, sympathy.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Let's go surfing now

2nd Place
State Port Pilot
Michael Paul
Up for the challenge

3rd Place
State Port Pilot
Michael Paul
Go jump in the lake

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Suspect corralled after foot chase
Well done! These photos are great and show the event's intensity.

2nd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Hannah Caton
Christmas Mouse Fire
Great fire photo!

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Dave Russell
Truck slides into Savannah Creek
Intense photo.

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Coring follows in father's footsteps

2nd Place
QUEEN CITY NERVE
Patrick O'Boyle
A Prayer for the Preacher

3rd Place
QUEEN CITY NERVE
Jeff Hahne
To the Moon and Back

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
From world stage to the Moose Lodge: Presiding Bishop visits St. Philips
Excellent job placing this visit in context, telling readers about this church leader's appearance at high profile celebrations and journey to the moose lodge. Good balance of humor and sober ideas and a strong photo package to boot. Bravo!

2nd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Zachary Horner
Hindu temple headed for banks of Deep River
This report answers questions for those who may be startled to find a Hindu temple rising in North Carolina and gives the temple's supporters a chance to explain their faith and what a temple means to them. A stronger emphasis on context is needed. The oldest Hindu temples in the U.S. are surprisingly old, which would be a useful fact.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
High Country Multi-faith Clergy launches new campaign
This story wraps up all the issues on the multi-faith group's mind, but it takes a half-dozen paragraphs before this story tells what is new, what is planned/being done right now.

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Gregory Clark
Serious Columns, Gregory Clark

2nd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Bill Horner III
Serious columns by Bill Horner III

3rd Place
MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD
Deborah Griffin
Counting my blessings; Learning to Let go; Wreakreaction on Creeper Hill

SPECIAL SECTION
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
N.C. Fourth of July Festival
WOW! Great product. Full of ads and information for the festival. Best overall by a long shot!

2nd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Staff
Outlook: 24 Hours on the Outer Banks
Creative idea and layout. great content and ad support.

3rd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Staff
2019 Disaster Preparedness Guide
Good "need to know" section

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
UP & COMING WEEKLY
Earl Vaughan Jr.
After more than 50 years, my fling with football remains vivid
Great storyteller and good stories.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Steve Behr
Win over UNC mirrors App win over Michigan

3rd Place
Bladen Journal
Alan Wooten
On Tobacco Road

SPORTS COVERAGE
1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Steve Behr
Sports Coverage
Steve Behr puts out an awesome sports section that I'm sure his readers love. Nice going, Steve!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Sports Coverage
Beautiful pages, well-rounded coverage and great writing and editing. Really, this should be tied for first place with Steve's paper. Great jobs!

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Carey Phillips
Sports coverage from Nov. 1-8
Carey Phillips is a machine! Beautiful sections and awesome local coverage. Great job!

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Fred Ammann
The Lions Roar
Very detailed look back in time. Enjoyed looking at old photos and reading a great piece.

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison and Carey Phillips
Safety measures increased after spectators harass soccer official
Great story about an national issue and all bases were covered.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Thomas Sherrill
Dotting the 'i's' and crossing the 't's': Sun Belt title game brings challenges, changes

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Bill Horner III
The legend who forgot he was great
This is such a nice sports feature. I'm guessing 110 percent of readers sopped up every word. Excellent work!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
First season memorable for the Seahorses
Beautifully done feature. Very well written and organized. A fun read!

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Casey Mann
Disc golf: more than a sport, it's a culture
Super sports feature on a topic that isn't a bouncing ball! Excellently written.

Sports News Reporting
1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Steve Behr
App State pulls away from North Texas to win WBI

2nd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Daryl Law
Nighthawks Hunting for Tournament Title
3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Steve Behr
Pulling double duty: Laura Barry hired to coach WHS boys' basketball team

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Use of Photographs
Great abundance of photos featuring local faces and very well laid out in feature sections. More faces means more readers!

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE
Alphonso Abbott Jr. and Gregg Penn
Opposing sides
Interesting collage of powerful photos. Outstanding use of space to show important images.

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Sherry Tilley
Use of photographs entries
Strong use of photos to convey story of endangered species. Captivating sports images draw readers to content

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
1st Place
COASTLAND TIMES
Staff
The Coastland Times, Use of Social Media, Facebook
"Each post has shares and engagement, well done. "

VIDEO
1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Southport Naturalization Ceremony 2019
Great images. Glad there was sound.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Time lapse of turf being installed at South Brunswick
Lots of trips to the football field. Could have used some sound, if only the school's fight song.



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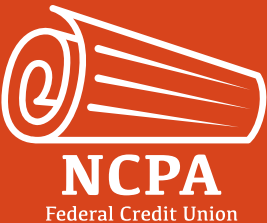
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PROUD OF OUR TEAM!

Watauga Democrat

FIRST PLACE
Niche Publication – Staff
Retail Ad – Meleah Bryan, Mark Mitchell
Use of Color – Meleah Bryan, Charlie Price
Beat News Reporting – Kayla Lasure
Education Reporting – Kayla Lasure
Magazine/Niche Publication – Staff
Sports Coverage – Steve Behr
Sports News Reporting – Steve Behr
SECOND PLACE
Niche Publication – Staff
Community Coverage – Staff
General News Reporting – Thomas Sherrill, Kayla Lasure
Magazine/Niche Publication – Staff
Sports Columns – Steve Behr
THIRD PLACE
Niche Publication – All About Women Staff
Retail Ad/Niche – Meleah Bryan, Charlie Price
Service Ad/Niche – Meleah Bryan, Mark Mitchell
Beat News Reporting – Kayla Lasure
City Government Reporting – Anna Oakes
Education Reporting – Kayla Lasure
Headline Writing – Anna Oakes, Steve Behr
Religion & Faith Reporting – Kayla Lasure
Sports Enterprise Reporting – Thomas Sherrill
Sports News Reporting – Steve Behr

The Stokes News

FIRST PLACE
Community Service Page – Bob Ward, Marjorie Morrison
Institutional Ad – Bob Ward, Ben Haskins

Avery Journal Times

FIRST PLACE
Arts & Entertainment Reporting – Carl Blankenship
Education Reporting – Carl Blankenship
Headline Writing – Carl Blankenship
Special Section – Staff
SECOND PLACE
Special Section – Staff
THIRD PLACE
News Feature Writing – Carl Blankenship
Religion & Faith Reporting – Jamie Shell
Sports Feature Writing – Jamie Shell

Ashe Post & Times

FIRST PLACE
Food Ad – Teresa Roark-Laws
Home Furnishings & Appliances Ad – Ron Brown
SECOND PLACE
Newspaper Promotion – Teresa Roark-Laws
THIRD PLACE
Special Section – Staff
Use of Color – Teresa Roark-Laws
Breaking News Coverage – Ian Taylor

The Tribune (Elkin)

FIRST PLACE
Restaurant/Entertainment Ad – Holly Lamm, Marjorie Morrison
Health Ad Campaign – Dawn Bagale, Holly Lamm, Amanda Cooke
Serious Columns – Bill Colvard
Real Estate Ad – Sherry Stanley, Marjorie Morrison



Yadkin Ripple

FIRST PLACE
Feature Writing – Kitsey Burns Harrison
SECOND PLACE
Medical Ad – Holly Lamm, Katelyn Goins
THIRD PLACE
Lighter Columns – Kitsey Burns Harrison

Blowing Rocket

FIRST PLACE
Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad – Meleah Bryan, Nathan Godwin
Special Section – Staff

Mount Airy News

FIRST PLACE
Home Furnishings & Appliances Ad – Samantha Turner, Ben Haskins
Newspaper Promotion – Rebecca Portis

Table with 6 columns: Newspaper Name, Location, Newspaper Name, Location, Newspaper Name, Location. Includes Ashe Post & Times, The Avery Journal-Times, The Blowing Rocket, The Mount Airy News, The Mountain Times, and The Pilot.

<div>APPEARANCE AND DESIGN</div> <div>1st Place CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES Staff Carteret County News-Times</div> <div>2nd Place FRANKLIN PRESS Emily Kepley Moss Franklin Press - Appearance and Design</div> <div>3rd Place OUTER BANKS MILEPOST Staff Outer Banks Milepost: Issue 8.3 (Fall 2019)</div>	<div>3rd Place Smoky Mountain News Jessi Stone New Generation Needed to Preserve North Shore Cemeteries</div> <div>BEAT NEWS REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place MOUNTAINEER Becky Johnson No place for squatters</div> <div>2nd Place CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES Elise Clouser Florence housing issues</div> <div>3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW Susie C. Spear Susie C. Spear Medicaid expansion</div>	<div>3rd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Jessi Stone Future of the Fairways</div> <div>CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Cory Vaillancourt Rink Stink Great example of keeping an eye on where taxpayers' money is going!</div> <div>2nd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Jessi Stone Complex child welfare cases costing counties</div> <div>3rd Place MOUNTAINEER Becky Johnson Trashcan crackdown Thorough story on a subject I've never read about before. Well-written. Great job!</div> <div>COMMUNITY COVERAGE</div> <div>1st Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Staff Mountain Xpress 2019 community coverage Solid coverage of the arts, nonprofits and issues of importance to the area such as the environment. Strong writing.</div> <div>2nd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS staff Community Coverage Historic features give a real sense of time and place. Strong reporting and writing. Good arts coverage.</div> <div>3rd Place ENQUIRER-JOURNAL Staff The Enquirer-Journal Community Coverage</div>	<div>2nd Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Virginia Daffron Racial achievement gap reporting Kudos for an outstanding job on a complex problem. This combines great research with equally great reporting.</div> <div>3rd Place STANLY NEWS & PRESS Chris Miller At Central Elementary, ties are more than a fashion statement Excellent lead. Great play on words. This displays exceptional reporting with a clever style.</div> <div>ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Cory Vaillancourt Constituents of color</div> <div>2nd Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Daniel Walton 2020 election campaigns already stirring in WNC</div> <div>3rd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Cory Vaillancourt Hometown hate</div> <div>EMAIL NEWSLETTER</div> <div>1st Place PILOT John Nagy The Pilot's Briefing Nice newsletter. The introductory note at the top is inviting.</div> <div>2nd Place PILOT Mackenzie Francisco The Sway: Making Fetch Happen Good design. I like the way its broken down into topics.</div> <div>3rd Place PILOT Abbi Overfelt The Sway: The Rest of The Pines Good design. Clean. Lots of information.</div>	<div>2nd Place Mountaineer VICKI HYATT Small miracle Good job building up to why they didn't know she was pregnant.</div> <div>3rd Place PILOT Deborah Salomon Like Father, Like Son Good twist on the adoption story.</div> <div>GENERAL NEWS REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place MOUNTAINEER Kyle Perrotti Racism on the rise Great coverage of a sensitive issue. Well written and reporter.</div> <div>2nd Place ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD Cal Bryant Navigating life with Autism What a great read. This story really puts the reader in the shoes of someone with this condition. Excellent work!</div> <div>3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW Joe Dexter Susie C. Spear rainfall This takes "weather story" to a whole other level. Very well reported and written. Good local angle on what has become a common occurrence in many parts of the country.</div> <div>HEADLINE WRITING</div> <div>1st Place 27587 MAGAZINE Bob Bogert, Philip M. Read 27587 Magazine Headlines</div> <div>2nd Place ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD Staff Tall Glass Who let the humans in Tiny Tunes</div> <div>3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW Susie C. Spear Susie C. Spear headlines</div>	<div>3rd Place NEWS REPORTER Margaret High Three ledes</div> <div>LIGHTER COLUMNS</div> <div>1st Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Susanna Shetley A bucket list full of dreams</div> <div>2nd Place MOUNTAINEER Sarah Jane Hatfield Georgia to Maine with Sara</div> <div>3rd Place MOORESVILLE CITIZEN Elizabeth Durocher Paint, Profanity and Springtimes Past</div> <div>MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION</div> <div>1st Place PILOT David Woronoff Jim Dodson Andie Rose Jim Moriarty PineStraw Magazine, The Art & Soul of the Sandhills Excellent publication. Stories are well written, interesting and easy to read. Photos are good as is the design, though I would like to see a little more use of white on pages where stories are presented. Overall, it's a quality publication that is well supported by advertisers and likely well-read by it's intended audience. Good Job.</div> <div>2nd Place NEWS REPORTER Staff 954 Fall-Winter 2018 (Volume VI, Issue II) Impressive publication. Features are plentiful and design is attractive. Photos work is high quality are factored into how to present the story. Stories are well written, interesting and easy reads. Advertiser support is impressive. Overall, very well done.</div> <div>3rd Place NEWS REPORTER Staff Flourish March 2019 A strong publication. Well done stories targeting the interest of likely audience backed with good photography and design.</div>
<div>BEAT FEATURE REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place PILOT Deborah Salomon Fire In the Belly</div> <div>2nd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Cory Vaillancourt Haywood's hidden history</div>	<div>BUSINESS WRITING</div> <div>1st Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Edwin Arnaudin Asheville's newest breweries see room for continued industry growth</div> <div>2nd Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Jessi Stone Drake takes Macon airport under its wing</div>	<div>EDITORIAL PAGE</div> <div>1st Place PILOT John Nagy, David Woronoff The Pilot Editorial Page "Best layout and design Good use of local columnist Good reader engagement with letters to the editor"</div>	<div>EDUCATION REPORTING</div> <div>1st Place SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Cory Vaillancourt Acts of Love This is a heart-rending story, sensitively told. It is well-researched, plus it has great quotes and insights. This transcends journalism to become literature.</div>	<div>FEATURE WRITING</div> <div>1st Place MOUNTAINEER Becky Johnson Too many tractors? Excellent descriptive beginning draws you into this story. You took what could have been a mundane subject and made it interesting.</div>	<div>LEDE</div> <div>1st Place Mountaineer Becky Johnson Ledes</div> <div>2nd Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Gina Smith Food section ledes</div>

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith, Diana Matthews
Displaced by Florence, church pianist still has a song in her heart
Lovely story about a lovely person whose community rallied around her. Brought a tear to my eye. The video added a great deal to the story, letting the viewer hear her sincerity in her own voice.

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Marty McGee
'It was a miracle'
Nice wrap up story with good photos. Video showed the size of the crowd well, but didn't give a real feel for the event. It would have been nice to hear from some of the audience.

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith, Diana Matthews
Art in the Aftermath
Nicely done. I wish we could have heard from more than one artist in the video.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Kyle Perrotti
A community cracks

2nd Place
ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD
Holly Taylor
Human Trafficking

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Jessi Stone
Hard Day's Night

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Holly Kays
WCU marching band a motivator for enrollment
All around awesome job! Grasbs interest and keeps it. Writer has made a great story out of what could have been fairly routine.

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Cory Vaillancourt
Without Hesitation: Riley Howell
Excellent story, very moving and engaging all the way through. Good job!

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Holly Kays
The untold story: Smokies seeks to showcase history of African-Americans
Very nice!

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
27587 MAGAZINE
Bob Karp
Tails of the Triangle

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS MILEPOST
D. Victor Meekins
"Earliest Eye" Photo Essay - Outer Banks Milepost - D. Victor Meekins

3rd Place
PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
Future Musicians

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
OUTER BANKS MILEPOST
Chris Bickford
"Van Crush" Photo Feature - Outer Banks Milepost - Chris Bickford
Great variation, well composed shots, wonderful expressions, attention to detail with lighting ... kudos

2nd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Cheryl Burke
Ann Street preschoolers graduate
How can you not love this photo? It's not only mom who would be proud ... great composition, color and expression here

3rd Place
PILOT
David Sinclair, Ted Fitzgerald, Brandi Swarms
Celebrating the Class of 2019
What is really the standard grad photo is done incredibly well here -- composition, color, sharpness, a bit of variation in the three shots. Love it.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Linda Mathias
Franklin Press - General News Photo02
Cool Shot. The looks on the crowd's faces is priceless. Love this.

2nd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Dylan Ray
Homecoming
Good group of photos. Thank you to this photographer for including the call number of the pictured plane. Profile photo in front of flag is excellent.Photo of whole family is very touching.

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Linda Mathias
Franklin Press - General News Photo01
What a fun photo. Great job capturing the expressions of the moment.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Andy G. Moore
Trey Lambert interception
Captured "the moment" exactly when it should be -- got the ball, the eyes and the perspective, composed well and cropped well. Kudos

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Tom Pantaleo
Soars
Great perspective, great moment, great eye for the key moment in the play

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Grant Merritt
Soccer and basketball
Selected primarily for the girls basketball photo -- great perspective, faces and action, very crisp and plenty of action. well done.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE

1st Place
27587 MAGAZINE
Bob Karp
Bark in the Park
Fantastic color, focus and depth of field. I like the composition of this. Also, you just can't go wrong with dogs!

2nd Place
PILOT
Ted Fitzgerald
U.S. Kids Golf World Championship
Good smiles and action. Great feel-good look to these.

3rd Place
PILOT
David Sinclair
Volleyball Fun
Good feeling of scale, small to bigger kids.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Ryan Hanchett
Franklin Press - spot news photo - tractor trailer

2nd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith
Neighbors and friends grieve

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Dylan Ray
Bracing for Dorian

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Marty McGee
Gifted perspective
Love the first two paragraphs transforming him into a superhero.

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Kyle Perrotti
A survivor's story
We don't often get to really give the victim's side of the story. Most won't talk about it because of fear or embarrassment. Good job getting this perspective.

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Becky Johnson
Art of the pie
This was a very engaging story. It may have been only the subject matter that kept it from placing higher.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Kyle Perrotti
A different perspective

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Cory Vaillancourt
The essence of power is a towel

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Luke Barber
Faith - Pastor's Journey

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Les High
Disinformation, News and opinion, Not a bad legacy

2nd Place
ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD
Gene Motley
Take a hand Tis the season Pushing back

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Diana Matthews
Please don't hurt me and other columns

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place
PILOT
David Woronoff, John Nagy, Staff
Best of The Pines 2019
Excellent job with organization of lists. Nice layout, color and awesome ad support.

2nd Place
PILOT
David Woronoff, John Nagy, Staff
A Guide to the Sandhills
Another excellent product. Great information.

3rd Place
STAFF
Carteret County News-Times
Outlook 2019
Great job. Great reporting and overall excellent section.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place
INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE
C. Jemal Horton
C. Jemal Horton Column
Very unique perspective.

2nd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
J.J. Smith
In this corner

3rd Place
PILOT
David Sinclair
Patriots 1979 State Title Was a Dream Come True

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Staff
Sports coverage
Comprehensive coverage of community athletes in action, youth and adult. Column, feature stories mix with event outcomes. Good photos. Stories on recreational activities mix well! Excellent entry.

2nd Place
STANLY NEWS & PRESS
Charles Curcio
Charles Curcio
Good coverage of local school athletic events. Missing are features about individual athletic accomplishments! However, fishing earned some ink among these sporting pages. Good photos!

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
FP Sports
A good mix of the usual sports activities—team accomplishments—yet the best stories reflect inspirational individual and group efforts in unusual activities and events. Nicely presented.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Fish kill
Well-researched and well-written. Outstanding job all around.

2nd Place
PILOT
Jaymie Baxley
Teen Rallies for Skate Park
Well-written. Second only because of a very strong first-place entry. Good, solid work here.

3rd Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Jeremy Vernon
Union County's most influential coaches series
An interesting series, but the Q-and-A format doesn't reflect much "enterprise." Not to say there isn't some value for the reader, but it's pretty formulaic.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Off-road Recovery
Interesting story about an addict-turned-triathlete, his road to redemption and how he's helping to keep others from falling into the same hole. Andy really digs into who Charlie is; a person who has literally found new life through recovery.

2nd Place
TRANSYLVANIA TIMES
Jeremiah Reed
The Long And Winding Road: How 14 Seniors Went From Winless Freshmen To State Semifinalists
Great story detailing the journey freshman football players went from doormats to state contenders, helping put their program back on the map.

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Longevity links
Noteworthy story on a timeless golfer and his love for the game. His incredible journey includes playing golf in a war zone. Reminds me of the movie "Big Fish." Excellent work.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
Andy Scheidler
Coaching controversy

2nd Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Jeremy Vernon
Howell changes choice, picks UNC

3rd Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Jim Sands
Jim Sands Reidsville championship

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place
OUTER BANKS MILEPOST
Staff
Use of Photographs - Outer Banks Milepost: Issue 8.2 (Summer 2019)
Best of the group: solid work throughout, good use of portraits and general news shots, scenics, etc.

2nd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
Staff
Carteret County News-Times
Good variety of photos both color and black-and-white

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Staff
April 16 and 19, 2019
Solid use of color and black and white, good variety of photos

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st Place
YES! WEEKLY
Katie Murawski, Natalie Garcia, Lauren Brady
YES! Weekly's social media
Good cohesive social media strategy, looks like fun.

2nd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith
Columbus Report and other social media
This was a tight category; all the entries are really good.

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
Staff
Use of social media
A 25% increase in digital subscribers is incredible! Wish I could give all the entries in this class first place.

VIDEO

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith
Lawmakers return to Raleigh for start of session
Importance of this story -- what lawmakers plan to do -- outweigh some of the video quality issues. Strong work.

2nd Place
ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Jerry Snow, Jeremy Vernon, Ed Cottingham
Sam's Story
Solid story and well-researched. Viewers can tell a ton of time was invested in this story.

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Justin Smith
Local businessmen travel to the White House for Made in America product showcase
Very clean, detailed, good audio for interviews.

2019 SPECIAL AWARDS

Media and the Law Awards

Best Series
NEWS & OBSERVER
Josh Shaffer

Best Daily Article
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton

Best Community Article
THE STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer

Best Online Article
NC POLICY WATCH
Melissa Boughton

Mark Binker Public Notice Award

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Wesley Young
Church faces foreclosure threat / It's closing time

LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Michael Praats
Carolina Beach resident asking to rezone her neighbors' land sits on town committee, others cry foul

Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

Non Daily
1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
Allen Turner
County commissioners keep scanty records

Daily
1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Greg Barnes, Paul Woolverton
The Mike Lallier Sexual Molestation Lawsuit

Online
1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Involuntary recusal leads to change

Public Service Award

Non Daily
1st Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Staff
Coverage of evolution of consultant's recommendations for a Graham downtown plan

Graphics explaining problems with proposal surely helped. The letter about the coverage and election really brought home the problem.

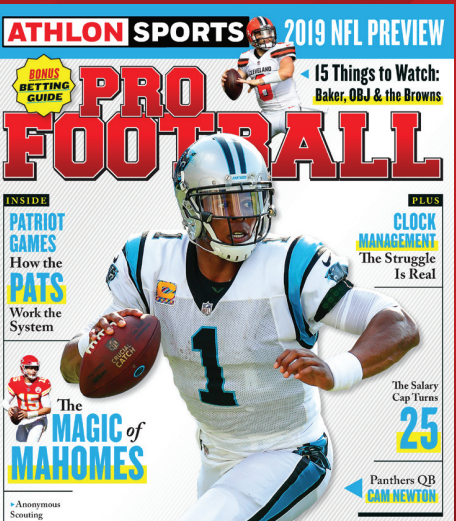
Daily
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, David Raynor
Dismissed

Wow. Amazing journalism about a subject relevant to all communities. My paper frequently wonders how prosecutors make their decisions to charge. Balanced, well-written and illustrated, a real service to the community.

Online
1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Staff
Seeking Conviction

In important series that clearly had a positive impact with the passage of new legislation strengthening sexual assault laws in the state. A clear winner. I'm astounded with the depth and complexity of the reporting. Presentation was outstanding. Bravo!

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Kevin Craig | kcraig@amgparade.com | 951.760.1115

CONGRATULATIONS

All Gannett Journalists and Ad Designers of North Carolina

GANNETT

MAJOR Newsroom Award Winners

General Excellence	1st Place	StarNews (Wilmington)	Division E
General Excellence	2nd Place	Times-News (Hendersonville)	Division D
General Excellence	3rd Place	Asheville Citizen-Times	Division E
General Excellence for Websites	1st Place	StarNews (Wilmington)	Division E
General Excellence for Websites	3rd Place	Star (Shelby)	Division D
General Excellence for Websites	3rd Place	Asheville Citizen-Times	Division E
Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award	1st Place	Fayetteville Observer - Greg Barnes, Paul Woolverton	The Mike Lallier Sexual Molestation Lawsuit

Newsroom Award Winners

Citizen-Times (Asheville)

Election/Political Reporting	1st Place	Joel Burgess	North Carolina gerrymandering
Feature Writing	1st Place	Brian Gordon	'A kind crazy': Inside the competitive world of guinea pig shows
General News Reporting	1st Place	Staff	Wanda Greene, ex-Buncombe officials sentenced in federal corruption probe
News Enterprise Reporting	1st Place	Joel Burgess	NC liquor privatization: More convenience? Higher prices? Public health problems?
Photography, General News	1st Place	Angeli Wright	Riley Howell comes home
Serious Columns	1st Place	John Boyle	Selection of John Boyle's serious columns
Special Section	1st Place	Staff	2019 High School Football Preview
Sports Enterprise Reporting	1st Place	David Thompson	Late start time for basketball games causing problems
Video	1st Place	Angeli Wright	10-year-old gymnast Zoe Smith
Business Writing	2nd Place	Mackensy Lunsford	Women lead the way as hemp revival sweeps WNC
Education Reporting	2nd Place	Brian Gordon	How Buncombe County's opportunity scholarships are distributed
Email newsletter	2nd Place	Mackensy Lunsford	(In)side Dish
Multimedia Project	2nd Place	Mackensy Lunsford, Angeli Wright	Evolution of a dish: Noble Cider's The Greenhouse
Photography, General News	2nd Place	Angela Wilhelm	Keesha Martinez at Dixon sentencing
Photography, Sports	2nd Place	Angela Wilhelm	Rams win
Photography, Sports Feature	2nd Place	Angeli Wright	Madison vs North Buncombe softball
Sports Enterprise Reporting	2nd Place	David Thompson	A team of their own: Rise in female wrestling numbers prompting change in the sport
Sports Feature Writing	2nd Place	David Thompson	'Seth Strong': Mitchell football player remembers life, death of younger brother
Video	2nd Place	Angeli Wright	An Asheville dad's road to recovery
Breaking News Coverage	3rd Place	Jennifer Bowman, John Boyle, Mackensy Lunsford	Tiyquasha Simuel death coverage
City, County Government Reporting	3rd Place	Joel Burgess	Chris Hickman is sentenced
Community Coverage	3rd Place	Staff	Asheville Community Coverage
Email newsletter	3rd Place	David Thompson	Inside the Huddle
General News Reporting	3rd Place	Jennifer Bowman, David Thompson	Riley Howell shooting coverage
Lighter Columns	3rd Place	Karen Chávez	Columns on a variety of outdoors topics
News Feature Writing	3rd Place	Sam DeGrave	A 3-year-old with leukemia needs a bone marrow transplant. Her race complicates the search
Photography, Sports Feature	3rd Place	Angela Wilhelm	Out at sunset

Courier-Tribune (Asheboro)

Magazine or Niche Publication	1st Place	Staff	Thrive: Life in our Town and Beyond, May 2019; June 2019; July 2019
General News Reporting Courier-Tribune	3rd Place	Jamie Biggs	After 6 years of waiting, murder victim's mother reacts to arrest of suspect

CONGRATULATIONS

All Gannett Journalists and Ad Designers of North Carolina

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Daily News (Jacksonville)

Magazine or Niche Publication	2nd Place	Staff	Fall 2019 My Onslow
Sports Columns	3rd Place	Chris Miller	Chris Miller columns

Daily Dispatch (Lexington)

Sports Columns	1st Place	Mike Duprez	Michael keeps tring; Softball; Browns v Bulldogs
Feature Writing	2nd Place	Sharon Myers	The art of family
News Enterprise Reporting	2nd Place	Ben Coley	Hemp, hemp, hooray?; The plant has been villianized
Profile Feature	2nd Place	Ben Coley	Singing from the soul
Sports Feature Writing	2nd Place	Ben Coley	A cowboy's savior
Illustration/Photo Illustration/ Print or interactive graphics	3rd Place	Staff	Measles outbreak spotlights vaccination rates in schools

Fayetteville Observer

City, County Government Reporting	2nd Place	John Henderson	Fayetteville's Civil War museum controversy
Use of Social Media	2nd Place	Staff	The Fayetteville Observer Facebook account
Community Coverage	3rd Place	Staff	The Fayetteville Observer
News Feature Writing	3rd Place	Michael Futch	Fayetteville police chief's 1935 death remains a mystery

Gaston Gazette

Breaking News Coverage	1st Place	Eric Wildstein	Child dies at trampoline park
Headline Writing	1st Place	Kevin Ellis	Headline writing
Photography, Feature	1st Place	Mike Hensdill	Harvest Day
Photography, General News	1st Place	John Clark	Father Forgives Killer
Beat Feature Reporting	2nd Place	Kevin Ellis	I want my Ja' back
Photography, Sports Feature	2nd Place	John Clark	A Tough Night
Beat News Reporting	3rd Place	Eric Wildstein	Late veteran honored
Education Reporting	3rd Place	Eric Wildstein	Elementary schools offering young musicians unique experiences
Photography, Sports	3rd Place	John Clark	Sand Splash

North Carolina Lawyers Weekly

Lighter Columns	2nd Place	David Donovan	Sidebar
News Enterprise Reporting	3rd Place	Bill Cresenzo	Getting plugged back in: New certificate of relief law will help more people get fresh starts

Sun Journal (New Bern)

Arts and Entertainment Reporting	2nd Place	Charlie Hall	Drag queen proud of lifestyle, show performances
Photography, General News	2nd Place	Gray Whitley	PHOTOS: Foam Party!
Arts and Entertainment Reporting	3rd Place	Charlie Hall	Sobriety, singing bring peaceful joy to talented New Bern singer

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Star (Shelby)

Sports Enterprise Reporting	1st Place	Dustin George	Student feels school scammed him
Use of Photographs	1st Place	Staff	Best use of photos
Community Coverage	3rd Place	Staff	Community Coverage
Sports Feature Writing	3rd Place	Dustin George	Back in the game

StarNews (Wilmington)

Appearance and Design	1st Place	Staff	Jan. 5-6, 2019
Community Coverage	1st Place	Staff	April 4, 2019; April 14, 2019
Editorial Page	1st Place	Scott Nunn	Editorial Page
Editorials	1st Place	Scott Nunn	School, hospital editorials
Email newsletter	1st Place	Hunter Ingram	Cape Fear Unearthed
Illustration/Photo Illustration/ Print or interactive graphics	1st Place	Alex Riley	Seahawk Saturday
Investigative Reporting	1st Place	Ashley Morris	Restaurant Inspections
Multimedia Project	1st Place	Hunter Ingram	'Firestarter' lit the fire of local film
News Feature Writing	1st Place	Cammie Bellamy	'You stole my childhood'
Photography, Sports	1st Place	Alex Riley	No Response
Photography, Sports Feature	1st Place	Matt Born	YMCA Wrightsville Beach Sprint Triathlon
Photography, Spot	1st Place	Matt Born	Hurricane Dorian Rain
Profile Feature	1st Place	Alex Riley	Striving for change
Use of Photographs	1st Place	Staff	April 4 and April 21, 2019
Beat News Reporting	2nd Place	Renee Spencer	Transportation Beat
Breaking News Coverage	2nd Place	Staff	Faulty equipment prompts Topsail High shooter fears
City, County Government Reporting	2nd Place	Gareth McGrath	Potential hospital sale
Headline Writing	2nd Place	John Staton	Pith and vinegar; O-thell-yes; Playing in 'toon
Lighter Columns	2nd Place	Ashley Morris	Dine & Dish
Photo Page or Essay	2nd Place	Matt Born	Fort Fisher re-enacts battle
Profile Feature	2nd Place	Ashley Morris	Girls rule at these Roudabush Restaurants
Sports Coverage	2nd Place	Staff	March 2-3, 2019
Sports News Reporting	2nd Place	Alex Riley	One Last Surprise
Use of Social Media	2nd Place	Staff	StarNews Social Media
Arts and Entertainment Reporting	3rd Place	Hunter Ingram	Swamp Thing
Beat News Reporting	3rd Place	Hunter Ingram	Film Beat
Illustration/Photo Illustration/ Print or interactive graphics	3rd Place	Staff	Wilmington's Changing Skyline
Lede	3rd Place	John Staton	Primal howl; For the love of the game; Gale-force comedy
Magazine or Niche Publication	3rd Place	Staff	Port City Life Magazine
Photography, Feature	3rd Place	Matt Born	Shave For Sean
Photography, General News	3rd Place	Matt Born	Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
Special Section	3rd Place	Staff	Hurricane Florence Special Section
Sports Columns	3rd Place	Alex Riley	Perfect Ending; Hurricane Relief Game; Welcome Back
Sports News Reporting	3rd Place	Jackson Fuller	'Cats Celebrate

The COURIER-TRIBUNE

NORTH CAROLINA
LAWYERS WEEKLY

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ASHEVILLE
CITIZEN-TIMES

3

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Times News (Burlington)

Photography, Sports Feature	1st Place	Robert Thomason	An average Joe
Sports Coverage	1st Place	Bob Sutton, Adam Smith, David Kehrl	March madness
Sports News Reporting	2nd Place	Adam Smith	Tar Heels storm into Sweet 16
Business Writing	3rd Place	Jessica Williams	Good, sturdy American
Magazine or Niche Publication	3rd Place	Charity Apple, Linda Bowman	Model Business Plan
Photography, Feature	3rd Place	Robert Thomason	Surprise on third

Times-News (Hendersonville)

Arts and Entertainment Reporting	1st Place	Beth de Bona	Spirit and the imagination
News Enterprise Reporting	1st Place	Andrew Mundhenk	Changes, questions & a lawsuit: Community Foundation checks Opportunity House's nonprofit status
City, County Government Reporting	2nd Place	Andrew Mundhenk	A Building Dilemma
Editorials	2nd Place	Harrison Metzger	Our View
Photo Page or Essay	2nd Place	Patrick Sullivan	Tears, hugs and reflection on Honor Flight trip
Photography, Feature	2nd Place	Patrick Sullivan	Robotics team wraps up 2019 season
Sports Columns	2nd Place	Dean Hensley	A Step Back to 2013: Sarah's speech; Game of End Zones: Thank you to all involved; Farewell to Joey
Sports Coverage	2nd Place	Staff	Sports Coverage
Photography, Feature	3rd Place	Patrick Sullivan	Rare goat triplets born at Carl Sandburg Home
Photography, Spot	3rd Place	Patrick Sullivan	Storms soak Henderson County
Special Section	3rd Place	Staff	Game of End Zones

MAJOR Advertising Award Winners

METRO SWEEPSTAKES AWARD WINNERS (recognizes most points in advertising contest)

Division E - Wilmington

Division F - Fayetteville

Advertising Award Winners

Courier-Tribune (Asheboro)

Online Advertising	1st Place	Rebecca Craven, Justin Little	Vruwink Dental
Community Service Signature Page or Page	2nd Place	Jana Steed	Easter
Food Ad	3rd Place	Rebecca Craven, Justin Little	Ready Mart
Motor Vehicle Ad	3rd Place	Rebecca Craven, Susan Wright	Strider

Daily News (Jacksonville)

Use of Color	1st Place	Stacey Spencer	Rock Creek
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Gaston Gazette

Real Estate Ad	1st Place	Juen Lang	Loray Mills Lofts
Niche Publication	2nd Place	Staff	Explore Gaston
Special Section	2nd Place	Stephanie Coppola, Kevin Ellis	Discover Gaston 2019
Newspaper Promotion	3rd Place	Stephanie Coppola	Sip & Savor
Online Advertising	3rd Place	Trip Reynolds	Team Austin Grand Opening

fo

The Fayetteville Observer
fayobserver.com

StarNews
SN media

gaston gazette
Covering Gaston County, N.C., and surrounding communities

thetimesnews.com
Times-News

4

CONGRATULATIONS

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GANNETT

Fayetteville Observer

Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	1st Place	Staff	Cotton River & Co.
Entertainment Ad	1st Place	Staff	Rugged Maniac
Food Ad	1st Place	Staff	Hibachi Grill
Healthcare/Medical Ad	1st Place	Staff	Sandhills Oral Surgery & Implant Dentistry of Fayetteville
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	1st Place	Staff	Foreverlawn of The Carolinas
Innovative Concept/Wild Card	1st Place	Staff	The Fayetteville Observer 2019 Calendar
Institutional Ad	1st Place	Staff	Book Bazaar
Motor Vehicle Ad	1st Place	Staff	Crown Ford
Newspaper Promotion	1st Place	Staff	Impact - The Fayetteville Observer
Real Estate Ad	1st Place	Staff	CongratulationsOnAGreatSeason-H&H
Retail Ad	1st Place	Staff	VacationCampfordogs-BedandBiscuits
Small Ad	1st Place	Staff	Airborne&SpecialOpsMuseum FreeAdmission
Special Section	1st Place	Staff	40Under40 2019 FayObserver
Use of Color	1st Place	Staff	SaintAtricksDay
Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	2nd Place	Staff	The Salvation Army
Entertainment Ad	2nd Place	Staff	Indigo Moon
Food Ad	2nd Place	Staff	Niko's Gyro & Wing II
Healthcare/Medical Ad	2nd Place	Staff	Sherri's Crowning Glory
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	2nd Place	Staff	Webb Carpet Company
Institutional Ad	2nd Place	Staff	Fayetteville Technical Community College
Newspaper Promotion	2nd Place	Staff	Fayetteville Woodpeckers - The Fayetteville Observer
Special Section	2nd Place	Staff	WoodpeckersSpecialSection 2019 FayObserver
Use of Color	2nd Place	Staff	FoodDrive FayObserverForUrbanMinistry
Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	3rd Place	Staff	John Allen Shoes
Food Ad	3rd Place	Staff	The Wine Cafe
Healthcare/Medical Ad	3rd Place	Staff	Sandhill Oral Surgery & Implant Dentistry of Fayetteville
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	3rd Place	Staff	PW Roofing
Institutional Ad	3rd Place	Staff	Fayetteville State University
Newspaper Promotion	3rd Place	Staff	Back to School - The Fayetteville Observer

Free Press (Kinston)

Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	3rd Place	Cassie Groff	Highland Furniture
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Sun Journal (New Bern)

Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	1st Place	Betty Beaudreau	Mike's Jewelers
Institutional Ad	1st Place	Tyler Beaman	EA Wood Law Firm
Motor Vehicle Ad	1st Place	Debbie White	Bogue RV
Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	2nd Place	Betty Beaudreau	Blue Magnolia
Food Ad	2nd Place	Betty Beaudreau	37th Street Pizzaria
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	2nd Place	Tyler Beaman	Creative Kitchen and Bath
Service Ad in a Niche Publication	2nd Place	Karen Gardner	Post Oak FWB Church
Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	3rd Place	Betty Beaudreau	Ann Lynn's
Entertainment Ad	3rd Place	Karen Gardner	Coastal Carolina Railroad Train Show
Healthcare/Medical Ad	3rd Place	Tyler Beaman	Advanced Regenerative Care
Service Ad in a Niche Publication	3rd Place	Karen Gardner	St. Pauls



5

CONGRATULATIONS

All Gannett Journalists and Ad Designers of North Carolina

GANNETT

Star (Shelby)

Healthcare/Medical Ad	1st Place	Staff	Vitamins 4 life
Use of Color	2nd Place	Matt Blanchard	Cline Nursery
Use of Color	3rd Place	Vee Lindsay	Sweet House Bakery

StarNews (Wilmington)

Apparel, Jewelry & Accessories Ad	1st Place	Karen Sell	Kingoff Jewelry
Entertainment Ad	1st Place	Erin Pike, Leigh Ann Askew	Tails Print Ads
Food Ad	1st Place	Erin Pike, James Reynolds	Soif De Vin Port City Life 7.19
Healthcare/Medical Ad	1st Place	Joshua Starkey	Wilmington ENT
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	1st Place	Erin Pike, Cheryl Theiss	Ashley Home Series
Institutional Ad	1st Place	Staff	Salty Dog Yoga Quarter Thank You Ad
Motor Vehicle Ad	1st Place	Joshua Starkey, Debbie White	Land Rover PCL Half Page
Newspaper Promotion	1st Place	Erin Pike, Hunter Ingram	Cape Fear Unearthed Full Pages from Wrappers
Real Estate Ad	1st Place	Joshua Starkey, David Sturm	Vance Young Christmas Spread
Retail Ad	1st Place	Staff	Omega Sports Black Friday
Special Section	1st Place	Staff	2019 Winter Issue Port City Life
Use of Humor	1st Place	Erin Pike	Northchase Dental Humor Ad from August PCL
Entertainment Ad	2nd Place	Joshua Starkey, Jeff Hidek	Azalea Half Page
Food Ad	2nd Place	Joshua Starkey, Leigh Ann Askew	Roudabush Building Half Page Ad
Healthcare/Medical Ad	2nd Place	Karen Sell	Pleasure Island Health
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	2nd Place	Joshua Starkey	Butlers Electric
Institutional Ad	2nd Place	Leigh Ann Askew	Inspire Medical
Motor Vehicle Ad	2nd Place	Joshua Starkey, Debbie White	Anglers Marine Half Page
Niche Publication	2nd Place	Erin Pike, Cheryl Theiss	Dosher Medical Newsletter June 2019
Special Section	2nd Place	Staff	April 2019 PCL
Use of Color	2nd Place	Erin Pike	PCL TACT Ad
Food Ad	3rd Place	Joshua Starkey	Blind Elephant BOB 2018
Healthcare/Medical Ad	3rd Place	Joshua Starkey, Cheryl Theiss	Regen Med Clinic
Home Furnishings and Appliances Ad	3rd Place	Erin Pike, Leigh Ann Askew	BOB Kitchen and Bath Thank You Ad
Institutional Ad	3rd Place	Staff	UNCW HISTORY DEPARTMENT
Niche Publication	3rd Place	Joshua Starkey, James Reynolds	SmartStart
Real Estate Ad	3rd Place	Joshua Starkey, David Sturm	Vance Quarter Pages
Special Section	3rd Place	Staff	2019 September PCL
Use of Color	3rd Place	Joshua Starkey, Jeff Hidek	Coastal Living Quarter Page



6

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
STAFF
The McDowell News Jan. 1-2, 2019
Good use of photos, especially when you make sure an inside page has at least mugshots to catch readers' eyes. That sports page wrestling package worked very well: dynamic shots that make you look twice.

2nd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Elizabeth Reed
Washington Daily News, Sept. 4-5, 2019
The WDN's strong visual sense is a good contender, but lacks - in these issues - the kind of strong local photos that complete the package. Designers do an excellent job on inside pages, using color and illustrations to demand reader attention.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Dodging Dorian's worst; energy drink Clean, modular design with big photos that draw readers in. Opinions page is inviting, inclusive. Sports - a must where you are - gets attention it demands. Overall a reader-friendly design. Good work.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Beth de Bona
Spirit and the imagination
The writer does a great job transporting the reader directly to this artist's studio.

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Charlie Hall
Drag queen proud of lifestyle, show performances
Love that this shines a light on an under-represented community. This story helps shine a light on stereotypes and that's so important. Raven is beautiful!

3rd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Charlie Hall
Sobriety, singing bring peaceful joy to talented New Bern singer

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Emily Willis
Remembering the moon landing
What a great feature bringing local impact to a national event. Captivating.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Kevin Ellis
I want my Ja' back
Heartwarming story that shows the after effects of such a tragedy. Brought to life in a humane way by the writer.

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
Richard Holm
Son receives his late father's long-lost Ford pickup truck
Great feel good story, great local impact story.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
Rape convict faces murder charge
Solid reporting and interviewing on breaking news and background information. Multiple sources add depth.

2nd Place
NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)
Kara Fohner
Overdose deaths
A multifaceted approach to a challenging problem. The writer weaves the humanity throughout, which set this entry apart from other crime/trial stories.

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
Late veteran honored
Some of the best writing in this category.

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
Child dies at trampoline park

2nd Place
SANFORD HERALD
F.T. Norton
'Unspeakable monstrous act'

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Paul B. Johnson and Lee O. Sanderlin
Can schools return to city control?

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Pat Kimbrough
How 'disruptive' furniture model took over
Thoroughly reported and easy to comprehend.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Banner year for hemp harvests
Cleverly written and informative abut a new crop for local farmers.

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Jessica Williams
Good, sturdy American
Interesting piece blends human interest with small-business entrepreneurship.

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Brie Handgraaf
Nuisance abatement
I was hooked from the very beginning. This lede helped pull me in so quickly and really painted an amazing picture of this story. Fascinating.

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Andrew Mundhenk
A Building Dilemma
The juxtaposition in the first few paragraphs really pulled me in. Lots of great information help tell the story and I like how the writer outlined the different sides of the issue.

3rd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Lindell John Kay
City emails shine light on secrets
Great public records request and fascinating information. I can only imagine the buzz around the newsroom while reading over these emails!

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Staff
High Point Enterprise Community Coverage April 11 and 21 2019
The paper gives readers a real sense of place and covers all aspects of its community.

2nd Place
DAILY RECORD
Staff
The Daily Record
Community coverage is front and center — not relegated to the back.

3rd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Staff
Community Coverage

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Whirligig fest; Exercise; game

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Megan Ward
High Point Enterprise Editorial Pages

EDITORIALS

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Animal shelter; Ray Finch; Sunlight
An excellent blend of background, fact, observation and opinion. Clear thinking and persuasive writing. Hard to believe a solution for the county's wretched animal shelter wouldn't be found after citizens read this powerful account of official neglect.

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Harrison Metzger
Our View
First-rate writing on North Carolina's long political and legal dispute over drawing maps for congressional district. Nice, as well, to have an editorial about the long name of Hendersonville written with tongue firmly in cheek.

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Donnie Douglas
Editorials
One signature of a quality editorial page is the well-crafted obituary editorial. We find that here in the send-off for a local doctor.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
The Baby By the Mailbox
North Carolina is blessed to have an extraordinary number of great storytellers. Everyone in this category should feel good about their work. This particular piece stands out because it reads like a page-turning detective novel. It has just the right tone and a style that had me racing to find out what happened in Nora Randle's quest to find her birth mother. Superb work!

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
How We Teach
I like the more enterprise-based approach as opposed to spot news coverage. Series does a great job of examining several important issues relevant to education today and takes a solid local angle on them. Well researched, well sourced.

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
Elementary schools offering young musicians unique experiences
Great enterprise-creative focus piece on arts education. Like how the story looks at several different schools and how the program flows through them. Good sourcing - good quote linking sports hand-eye coordination to playing an instrument. Well researched.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS
Steve Herring
The re-election and resignation of Sen. Louis Pate
Persistent reporting on a candidate for office who went dark and quickly resigned after winning. Readers of these stories were not surprised with the candidate retired a week after being sworn in.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Farmer-Butterfield
Residency questions are notoriously hard to cover. Nice job digging out lots of information about the homes owned by the candidate in question.

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Vail Stewart Rumley
Shutdown impacts food and nutrition services
Great job localizing the impact of a national story.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
The Baby By the Mailbox
North Carolina is blessed to have an extraordinary number of great storytellers. Everyone in this category should feel good about their work. This particular piece stands out because it reads like a page-turning detective novel. It has just the right tone and a style that had me racing to find out what happened in Nora Randle's quest to find her birth mother. Superb work!

2nd Place
DISPATCH
Sharon Myers
The art of family
This is a touching story that is sensitively told. It's a great feel-good story. Thank you.

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Down at the dam
This paints a great picture of the joys of fishing. It made me want to join these folks down at the dam.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Kristen Hart and Kevin Griffin
Hickory-area UNC-Charlotte students discuss being on, near campus during mass shooting
Quoting multiple people who experienced this tragedy won me over.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
Ray Finch
Good details about this wrongful conviction.

3rd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Jamie Biggs
After 6 years of waiting, murder victim's mother reacts to arrest of suspect
I especially appreciated your first few paragraphs building up to the murder.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Kevin Ellis
Headline writing

2nd Place
DAILY COURIER
Ritchie Starnes
Cigarette smoke burns library privileges

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Donnie Douglas
Local headlines

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PRINT OR INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Elizabeth Reed
Local teacher skydives with the Golden Knights

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Valerie Register
Pertinent dates in Wilson County Schools' history

3rd Place
DISPATCH
Staff
Measles outbreak spotlights vaccination rates in schools

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS HERALD
Chrissy Murphy
Fight Club Exposed
It's not easy to take on the state about such a sensitive topic, but relentless reporting and determined record-seeking not only revealed the whole story, but also changed how the situation was resolved.

2nd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Lindell John Kay
Official makes home out of state
Classic, aggressive deep-dig investigation peeled back more layers to the story that were even more alarming, with action resulting.

LEDE

1st Place
Wilson Times
Jimmy Lewis
Homecoming; Showcase; Lady Warriors
These ledes were snappy and had me wanting to continue reading more.

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
chris day
Lede
Funny ledes make most people smile!

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Jimmy Tomlin ledes
Nice ledes. However, my favorite one violated AP Style.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Jimmy Tomlin lighter columns
The class of the category. Tomlin is both consistently funny and interesting while avoiding self-indulgence and the strange smugness sanctimoniousness that somehow seemed to mar a lot of otherwise fine entries in this category. Anyway he's the class of this class and

2nd Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
Scott Hollifield
Lighter Columns by Scott Hollifield
While Hollifield occasionally veers a little toward the sentimental, he's a fine writer.

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
Carolyn Harmon
Lighter columns
Not sure these are "lighter" columns; at their best they verge toward poetry. I suspect they might read better as a collection than individually — I like that Harmon's not doing the same old thing with these.

MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Staff
Thrive: Life in our Town and Beyond, May 2019; June 2019; July 2019
"Thrive May 7 good"

2nd Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Staff
Fall 2019 My Onslow Slick.

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Charity Apple, Linda Bowman
Model Business Plan
Picturesque.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Field trip to Farmers School
"This video would have easily won the video category: Camera moves are minimized; editing trims it down to size and the people in the story are identified and tell the story. The package lets readers move through whichever way they prefer: print, stills or video and each element amplifies the others."

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Family farm auction lures buyers
Haunting interludes of silence work okay.
Too bad you didn't have the face on-camera for the interview.

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
Chrissy Murphy and Jonelle Bobak
Operation Blue Christmas

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Andrew Mundhenk
Changes, questions & a lawsuit:
Community Foundation checks
Opportunity House's nonprofit status
The way this story unfolds is interesting.

2nd Place
DISPATCH
Ben Coley
Hemp, hemp, hooray?; The plant has been villianized
Good job making the case for hemp and the industry personal.

3rd Place
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS
Sierra Henry
Flooding comes more than just every 500 years
Nice perspective story, particularly showing the flooding affected this farmer.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
Finch enjoying simple pleasures
I like that you gave us examples of what he's done since his release before revealing that he was in prison for something he didn't do.

2nd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Jordan Hensley
Who shot a Claremont couple in 2016?
Who doesn't love a good murder mystery?

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
A Long Time Healing
I like that you put us into the middle of what happened. It gives us a connection to the victim.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Ashley Vansant, Elizabeth Reed
Beaufort County 4-H Livestock Show

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Patrick Sullivan
Tears, hugs and reflection on Honor Flight trip

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson and Lisa Boykin Batts
Miniature MARVELS

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Mike Hensdill
Harvest Day
Great pic!

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Patrick Sullivan
Robotics team wraps up 2019 season

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Robert Thomason
Surprise on third

3rd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Patrick Sullivan
Rare goat triplets born at Carl Sandburg Home

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
John Clark
Father Forgives Killer

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Gray Whitley
PHOTOS: Foam Party!

3rd Place
NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)
David Prewitt
Uh-oh!

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Alan Campbell
The Upside Down

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Michael Lindsay
Culp's hat trick keys Wildcats' win

3RD PLACE
GASTON GAZETTE
John Clark
Sand Splash

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE
1st Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Robert Thomason
An average Joe
Great photos. Nicely Done.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
John Clark
A Tough Night
I know first had the difficulty of getting a shot like this during the end game mayhem. Great job.

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
Richard Holm
The Crossing'
Two great photos. good subject matter and clear shots.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Laura Greene
Woman Shocked to Find Vehicle Hanging in Air

2nd Place
Rocky Mount Telegram
Alan Campbell
Blaze Battlers

3rd Place
Times-News (H)
Patrick Sullivan
Storms soak Henderson County

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
68 years in chicken and pork
Strong writing and good use of sources for a classic profile.

2nd Place
DISPATCH
Ben Coley
Singing from the soul
Very engaging.

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
The Fallen Star
A solid contender in a very competitive category.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Methodists face split
Good, objective overview of an always controversial topic. Writing is succinct and clear, with excellent reporting.

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
"Heavenly Paintings"
Beautifully written story on an amazing woman.

3rd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
Amelia Harper
Prison program trains inmates to be pastors
Very interesting and well-reported. Great job.

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Father's Day: chambers; Chappelle

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Jimmy Tomlin serious columns

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
Tia Beduwell
Serious columns

SPECIAL SECTION
1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
JIMMY TOMLIN
Hometowns: High Point Confidential
Excellent writing by Jimmy Tomlin packaged in a neat history chapter book. Novel concept. Graphics package fit outstandingly well with the theme.

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK
Staff
High School Football Section
"Good packaging combined with strong writing made this a standout. I liked how this dove into topics "beyond football"" with a story on after-game go-tos, for example."

3rd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Staff
Game of End Zones
Goofy theme, but strong stories and good layout put together with following through on the concept gave a novel way to get around the annual, potentially bland prep sports preview. I am guessing the team photos are staged.

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
DISPATCH
Mike Duprez
Michael keeps tring; Softball; Browns v Bulldogs
Interesting column, easy to read, even for the nonlocal person. I would definitely be looking for his Mike's column if I was a local!

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Dean Hensley
A Step Back to 2013: Sarah's speech; Game of End Zones: Thank you to all involved; Farewell to Joey
Well done column. It's why there are sports columns - to give light to a subject that needs that type of treatment.

3rd Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Chris Miller
Chris Miller columns
Nice job, Chris. The headline said he would be missed, and you made me understand why. Excellent work!

SPORTS COVERAGE
1st Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Bob Sutton, Adam Smith, David Kehrl
March madness
If you like sports these sections have it all. Obviously March Madness was the focus but good high school coverage also. I think all of the major sports are covered in these two issues with some outdoor sports throw in.

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Staff
Sports Coverage
Good local sports coverage. Variety of sports and events mentioned. I loved the design of the "scoreboard" page and how week to week it rotates from ACC to Big 10. Good job.

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Enterprise sports staff
March 2019
Good High School Basketball Coverage. Loved the accompanying page of photos by Mr. Lindsay.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Dustin George
Student feels school scammed him

2nd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Aaron Schnautz
NADIR NUMBERS: Fewer girls are playing high school basketball, and coaches are concerned

3rd Place
DAILY RECORD
Jacob Hancock
Female kickers may become a local trend

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
DAILY HERALD
Justin Hayes
Fit for the part, always
Many compelling subjects entered, including this one. Though it's not THE MOST compelling, Hayes crafted the story masterfully.

2nd Place
DISPATCH
Ben Coley
A cowboy's savior
A well-told and entertaining look at a colorful and lesser known side of sports life.

3rd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Dustin George
Back in the game
A very great many "injury/illness overcome" stories entered this year; this one finds the spirit of the comeback with precision and delicacy with his opening anecdote. Kept it interesting with the personal history and relationships.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
DAILY HERALD
Justin Hayes
With flair, Weldon baseball time shines
The best one. Instantly engaging. Snappy and creative while getting right to the point of the story. Never lulls. Remains interesting and engaging as you get to the more meaningful details.

2nd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Adam Smith
Tar Heels storm into Sweet 16
Best of the gamers.

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
Paul Schenkel
Quaker Meadows Shank
Very thorough reporting. Would have been easy to get that much information muddled in a way difficult to follow, but the concise writing avoided that. Must have been a lot of time put into this, and execution made it worthwhile.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS
1st Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Staff
Best use of photos

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
Fourth of July; It's pea-pickin' time

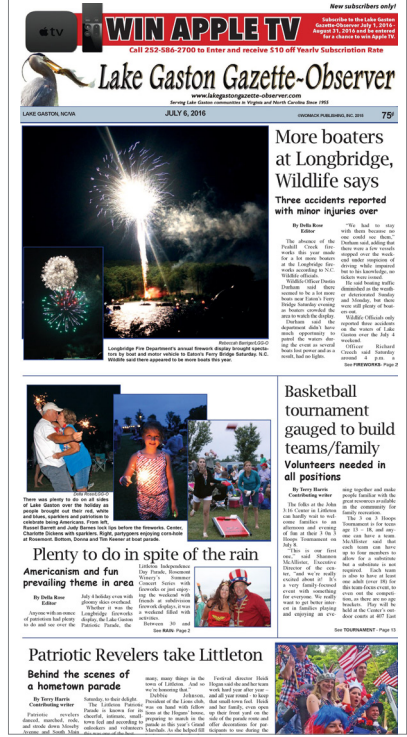
3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Elizabeth Reed
Washington Daily News, April 10 and April 30, 2019

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
1st Place
DAILY HERALD
Justin Hayes
'Last known address'
Might want to get this one on Apple Podcasts.

VIDEO
1st Place
DAILY HERALD
Richard Holm
Videos by Richard Holm: Bees, graves and monkey

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Dusty sweet potato harvest underway: Crop rebounds from last year's hurricane harvest

3rd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Malcolm Shields
Camden County's Marcus Joyner fills role on ODU football team



CONGRATULATIONS!

We're proud of the journalists at The Charlotte Observer and the McClatchy Publishing Center in Charlotte, who won 28 awards this year from the North Carolina Press Association. It's the 23rd 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:

Staff: *Breaking News Coverage*, Bullying preceded fatal shooting of Butler High student, officials say.

Anna Douglas: *City, County Government Reporting*, FBI alerted after black Charlotte officials received threats, racist letters.

Peter St. Onge: *Editorials*

Anna Douglas: *Feature Writing*, The man in the maternity ward

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, David Raynor: *Investigative Reporting*, Dismissed

Scott Fowler, Jeff Siner, Davin Coburn: *Multimedia Project*, Carruth

Theoden Janes: *Profile Feature*, 4 brothers, all WWII veterans, all in their 90s: 'We're defying the odds, aren't we?'

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, David Raynor: *Public Service Award*, Dismissed

Tim Funk: *Religion & Faith Reporting*, Minister's daughters ask: Why is photo of our father, a pedophile, on a church wall?

Theoden Janes: *Sports Feature Writing*, Dale Jr. thought he'd have fun writing a memoir. Then he relived his darkest days.

Second Place:

Staff: *Appearance and Design*

Theoden Janes: *Arts and Entertainment Reporting*, Hope Stout's parents dreamed of making a movie in her memory. It became a nightmare.

Theoden Janes: *Feature Writing*, The full story behind the disappearance of one of Charlotte's most beloved works of art.

John D. Simmons: *Photography, Feature*, Happy New Year!

Scott Fowler: *Religion & Faith Reporting*, The inside story of David Chadwick's sudden split with Forest Hill Church.

Langston Wertz Jr.: *Sports News Reporting*, West Charlotte loses home court advantage. Is it about race or too few seats?

Matt Walsh, Stephanie Bunao: *Video*, Brooklyn: How a black community was erased from uptown Charlotte.



Third Place:

Deon Roberts: *Business Writing*, Wells Fargo mistakes cost people their homes. It was just the start of their problems.

Fred Clasen-Kelly, Julianna Rennie: *City, County Government Reporting*, Charlotte spent millions on low-income housing, but poor people can't afford it

Staff: *Editorial Page*

Staff: *General Excellence for Websites*

Jeff Siner: *Photography, General News*, His life is not in vain.

David T. Foster III: *Photography, Sports Feature*, Eric Reid endures emotions, injury in win over Texans.

Scott Fowler: *Profile Feature*, My Dad taught me a wonderful lesson. An angry ostrich was involved.

Tim Funk: *Religion & Faith Reporting*, Why hasn't Charlotte Catholic diocese released list of priests accused of sex abuse?

Staff: *Special Section*, 25 Years of Panthers Football

Scott Fowler: *Sports Columns*

Theoden Janes: *Sports Feature Writing*, She could be the next Danica. But for now, she's stuck driving an old Mazda mini SUV.



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

First Place

Thomasi McDonald: *Beat News Reporting*

Herald-Sun Staff: *Breaking News Coverage*

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, Carli Brosseau: *Business Writing*

Tammy Grubb, Mark Schultz: *City, County Government Reporting*

Martha Quillin: *Lede*

Alex Zietlow: *Sports Feature Writing*

Steve Wiseman: *Sports News Reporting*

Andrew Roman, Alma Washington, Staff: *Use of Social Media, N&O*

Charlotte Observer Staff: *Breaking News Coverage*

Anna Douglas: *City, County Government Reporting*

Peter St. Onge: *Editorials*

Anna Douglas: *Feature Writing*

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

Scott Fowler, Jeff Siner, Davin Coburn: *Multimedia Project*

Theoden Janes: *Profile Feature*

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, David Raynor: *Public Service Award*

Tim Funk: *Religion & Faith Reporting*

Theoden Janes: *Sports Feature Writing*

Drew Jackson: *Beat Feature Reporting*

Kate Murphy, Martha Quillin, Jane Stancill: *Duke University/Green-Rossiter Award for Distinguished Newspaper Work in Higher Education Reporting*

Will Doran: *Election/Political Reporting*

N&O Staff: *General Excellence for Websites*

Josh Shaffer: *Lede*

Walter Magazine: *Magazine or Niche Publication*

Dan Kane: *Sports News Reporting*

Andrew Roman, Alma Washington, staff: *Use of Social Media, Herald-Sun*

Travis Long: *Video*

Second Place

Will Doran: *Election/Political Reporting*

Herald-Sun Staff: *General Excellence for Websites*

Tammy Grubb, Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan: *General News Reporting*

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan: *Religion & Faith Reporting*

Charlotte Observer Staff: *Appearance and Design*

Theoden Janes: *Arts and Entertainment Reporting*

Theoden Janes: *Feature Writing*

John D. Simmons: *Photography, Feature*

Scott Fowler: *Religion & Faith Reporting*

Langston Wertz Jr.: *Sports News Reporting*

Matt Walsh, Stephanie Bunao: *Video*

Zachery Eanes: *Business Writing*

Will Doran, Andrew Carter: *Election/Political Reporting*

Dan Kane: *Investigative Reporting*

Richard Stradling: *Lede*

Walter Magazine: *Magazine or Niche Publication*

Josh Shaffer, Julia Wall, Autumn Linford: *Multimedia Project*

Robert Willett: *Photo Page or Essay*

Robert Willett: *Photography, Sports*

Travis Long: *Photography, Spot*

Luke DeCock: *Sports Columns*

Jonathan M Alexander: *Sports Enterprise Reporting*

Third Place

Zachery Eanes: *Business Writing*

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan: *Election/Political Reporting*

Shelbi Polk: *News Enterprise Reporting*

Robert Willett: *Photography, Spot*

Casey Toth: *Video*

Deon Roberts: *Business Writing*

Fred Clasen-Kelly, Julianna Rennie: *City, County Government Reporting*

Charlotte Observer Staff: *Editorial Page*

Charlotte Observer Staff: *General Excellence for Websites*

Jeff Siner: *Photography, General News*

David T. Foster III: *Photography, Sports Feature*

Scott Fowler: *Profile Feature*

Tim Funk: *Religion & Faith Reporting*

Charlotte Observer Staff: *Special Section*

Scott Fowler: *Sports Columns*

Theoden Janes: *Sports Feature Writing*

T. Keung Hui: *Education Reporting*

Dan Kane, David Raynor: *Election/Political Reporting*

Jessica Banov, Mike Williams, Steve Chavez: *Email newsletter*

N&O Staff: *Headline Writing*

Carli Brosseau, Alex Lang: *Investigative Reporting*

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Jan. 5-6, 2019
Clean design; great readability.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Bruce Steele
Biltmore Estate holiday coverage

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Bugle corps marches to its own beat

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Hunter Ingram
Swamp Thing

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Elizabeth Anne Brown
Juneteenth: Remembering Asheville's slaves in their own words
HANDS DOWN Winner in this category.
Eye opening glimpse back into a history many would hope would be forgotten. Poignant and touching. No other entry came close. Captivating! GREAT WORK!

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Searching for Anna
Amazing story of a journey to the past. Great work.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Everly the lionhearted
Touching tribute to a beautiful baby's will to leave. Beautiful layout, beautiful title. Amazing work!

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Thomasi McDonald
'Tired of burying young people.' A Durham funeral home serves the city's murder victims.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Renee Spencer
Transportation Beat

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Hunter Ingram
Film Beat

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Staff
Durham Gas Explosion
"Far and away the best entry in this category
A tragic accident but excellent journalism
Great photos
Great followup with more stories connected to the story
Good use of your digital assets"

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Faulty equipment prompts Topsail
High shooter fears

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Jennifer Bowman, John Boyle, Mack-ensy Lunsford
Tiyquasha Simuel death coverage

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, Carli Brosseau
Business - Gentrification in Durham
Comprehensive but long.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Mackensy Lunsford
Women lead the way as hemp revival sweeps WNC
Both broad view and personal.

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Zachery Eanes
Business - Pig Farmers

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Tammy Grubb, Mark Schultz
City/County govt - Linda Sarsour talk
Great coverage of speech - before, during and after event. Nice followup story about impact of speech. Good use of variety of sources, all with differing but relevant opinions. Good historical context provided. Continuity between stories good.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Gareth McGrath
Potential hospital sale
Well-written pieces - nice tie-in to larger national issues of healthcare costs and uncertainties. Good information for local citizens, and notification of chance to be engaged in issue. Good coverage of various options under consideration. Nice use of sources with various perspectives. Good info graphs to support story.

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Joel Burgess
Chris Hickman is sentenced
Good coverage of story involving issue of local as well as national interest. Very good sourcing from CJ scholars, attorney, DA, city commissioners. Balanced approach. Good consideration of implications of sentencing, including the question of officer's ability to be in law enforcement again.

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
April 4, 2019; April 14, 2019
Impressive variety of community-centered news and features.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
April 17 and April 18
Even the international news is handled with local voices. Nice coverage of education and the arts.

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Staff
Asheville Community Coverage
Local news is forefront with full impact and context. Features offer a look at what's special in Asheville.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
Editorial pages from July 7, 9, 28
lots of political reading; however, enjoyed the local focus and variety.

1st Place
STARNEWS
Scott Nunn
Editorial Page
I'm not a fan of the typography and column spacing, but I appreciate the local editorials and balance of opinion. Letters or local columnists would be a plus. This is the only entry I see in the offering.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
staff
The Daily Reflector
lots of letters to the editor, which might stand in the way of more variety on editorial page; good local, state appeal.

EDITORIALS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Scott Nunn
School, hospital editorials
Well-reasoned editorials that get to the heart of the issues. Great support and frankness of the need for transparency in local government. Well done.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
Landis board, Faith closure, Wil-Cox bridge
Beat out my the smallest of margins. The issues of the first-place winner were simply stronger. Still, great editorials, well written and concise. All gave good explanations of the issues.

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Bobby Burns
Now more than ever; Annexation raises concerns; Time for reset
Well-crafted editorials. Author showed vast knowledge of the issues. Well done.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Brian Gordon
Accessibility seen as a barrier to racial, economic diversity in area charter schools
A fantastically enterprising story that explores a timely and important issue with clear impact to the audience.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Brian Gordon
How Buncombe County's opportunity scholarships are distributed
An absolutely infuriating story that really needs to be talked about more across all communities. This is a great enterprising story that will hopefully start conversations in Buncombe County about how tax dollars are at work. This is a great example of watchdog journalism.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron, Andie Foley, Sha-vonne Walker
Faith school closure
"Strong anecdotal lead to connect the story to the audience in the first story. The second story had a lot of good details that answered questions in the first. Timeliness is high and writing is compelling.

Any time a board is talking about closing schools, emotions will be high, and the author was right to focus on that. These stories are well sourced and get to the heart of the battle to keep a school open. The series deeply explores are perspectives on the issue."

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Joel Burgess
North Carolina gerrymandering
I've read several gerrymandering stories in this contest and these provide, by far, the clearest explanation of the situation for readers. Complete and easy to understand. Nice work.

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Will Doran
NC ballot officials vote against new election-security rules, citing 2020 time crunch
Well done and comprehensive story on a vital issue of public interest.

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan
What the state budget standoff is costing NC taxpayers
Well-written and thorough story about the financial cost of the budget impasse and the toll it took on lawmakers. Other than the added expense, was there any cost to the voters in services or aid?

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

1st Place
STARNEWS
Hunter Ingram
Cape Fear Unearthed
Nice feature stories

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Mackensy Lunsford
(In)side Dish
Nice extension of website

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
David Thompson
Inside the Huddle
Nice extension of website

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Brian Gordon
'A kind crazy': Inside the competitive world of guinea pig shows
Fascinating look at the niche world of guinea pig shows. Well-sourced and well-told tale.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
Co-workers bond over cancer
Emotional story about two women who battled breast cancer, one of whom has seen cancer return.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Not so good, son
You have to read pretty deep into the story for the headline quote, but it's worth it.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Staff
Wanda Greene, ex-Buncombe officials sentenced in federal corruption probe
Extensive coverage of a long-running scheme to rig contracts by a crew of criminals posing as public servants and businessmen. Well done Jennifer Bouman, John Boyle and Mackenzie Wicker of Citizen Times for helping to expose public corruption. You are truly a credit to the profession of journalism.

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Tammy Grubb, Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan
Gen News - light-rail consultant
"A powerful scoop indeed from Dawn Baumgartner Vaughn and Tammy Grubb of the Herald-Sun. A consultant for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project was given a \$443,457 contract despite officials knowing he pleaded guilty to felony fraud while he was a transportation official in Arizona. Excellent reporting. "

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Jennifer Bowman, David Thompson
Riley Howell shooting coverage
A harrowing eyewitness account of a mass shooting at UNC-Charlotte from Citizen Times reporter David Thompson. Chilling and emotional — stories like these are what make newspapers essential.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Bobby Parker
Masonry student laying a foundation for his future
Masonry student laying a foundation for his future. Very accurate, impactful and while it may not be a huge attention grabber, it clearly describes the story with creativity.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
John Staton
Pith and vinegar; O-thell-yes; Playing in 'toon
O-thell-yes. This headline was very creative and catchy. However, sub headline needs improvement to present more clarity of the overall story. plus more impactful font usage to grab attention.

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PRINT OR INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
Seahawk Saturday
An appealing and compelling graphic to launch an appealing and compelling day of athletic competition.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Andy Mooney
Travel expenses graphic
Mayor's travelogue ranges far and wide as depicted in this expense graphic. The visual imperative must surely attract readers to the story.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Wilmington's Changing Skyline
A city skyline in motion is reflected on this map with photos of the "moving" developments on target. Easy for readers to connect the key elements to their locations.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Ashley Morris
Restaurant Inspections
Great in-depth coverage of a concerning issue that impacts so many people's health. Outstanding reporting. And, taking it a step further by publishing results on your site was taking a stance for action that I'm sure was a key motivational factor in this ongoing success story.

LEDE
1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Martha Quillin
Leads - Martha Quillin

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Andie Foley
Foley ledes

3rd Place
STARNEWS
John Staton
Primal howl; For the love of the game; Gale-force comedy

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Wineka columns
Mark weaves heartwarming stories with good prose.

2nd Place
StarNews
Ashley Morris
Dine & Dish
Fun and light writing with some substance and thought behind it.

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Karen Chávez
Columns on a variety of outdoors topics
Karen covers interesting ideas for her columns.

MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
Salisbury the Magazine Aug 2019
This entry easily stood out over the otherwise strong category. The cover story was very done — well written with a good design that didn't skimp on photos. Overall the publication is a very nice magazine. I can see where it would serve it's intended audience well.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
Salisbury the Magazine Oct. 2018
Good solid entry. Particularly enjoyed the sand feature, arts feature and the home restoration. Photos throughout were good, but appeared a bit grainy — likely printed well and just showed that way in the high-res electronic version. Overall very well done.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Port City Life Magazine
Really like the design and look. Always nice to see a publication that's not afraid of white space and uses that white space well. Lots of useful quick-bitters and a well-done piece on the cover lady. Good job.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
STARNEWS
Hunter Ingram
'Firestarter' lit the fire of local film This is well done. Great usage of video, slides and writing.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Mackensy Lunsford, Angeli Wright
Evolution of a dish: Noble Cider's The Greenhouse Well done. Incorporating video for one story, and pictures for another, then a combination. I like that.

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Bobby Burns
Rally for 'The Squad' Great way to make print and online work together.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Joel Burgess
NC liquor privatization: More convenience? Higher prices? Public health problems?

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Natalie Alms
Foster parent shortage

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Shelbi Polk
How many human-trafficking victims work in NC massage parlors? More than you may think.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Cammie Bellamy
'You stole my childhood' Excellent reporting and writing. A young woman fights for justice in her own case.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Ginger Livingston
Your family is part of me Well-written, touching story of a lung and liver transplant recipient and the family of the organ donor. A very good read.

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Sam DeGrave
A 3-year-old with leukemia needs a bone marrow transplant. Her race complicates the search Toddler in need of a bone marrow transplant faces high hurdle because of difficulty in finding binacial matches.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Molly Mathis and Deborah Griffin
President Trump's visit

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
Fort Fisher re-enacts battle

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Sean Meyers
Woodleaf tomato festival

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Tomato fight Great non posed shot captures the spirit of the event and emotion of those photographed. Well done.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Barn quilt Vivid, eye-catching photo. Great work.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
Shave For Sean Great photo captures the spirit of humanity in the event. Good work.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angeli Wright
Riley Howell comes home Great composition, emotion and detail in this shot. Viewers can feel the grief.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angela Wilhelm
Keesha Martinez at Dixon sentencing A close second in a tough category. Love the emotion and composition, with the comforting hand telling another layer to this story. Well done.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Great composition here. Nice balance.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
No Response Great shot that was right on timing!

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angela Wilhelm
Rams win The emotion is showing in these photos.

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Molly Mathis
Falcons roll on Cool shot! The player's foot coming toward the camera added depth to it.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE

1st Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
YMCA Wrightsville Beach Sprint Triathlon

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angeli Wright
Madison vs North Buncombe softball

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angela Wilhelm
Out at sunset

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
Hurricane Dorian Rain Great catch of someone directly affected by the weather. Viewer can feel the rain pelting down. Nice!

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Rollin' in the river Unique moment, makes the viewer want to know more beyond the obvious subject of the photo.

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Robert Willett
Gas explosion aftermath Well-composed shot with plenty to look at.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
Striving for change

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Ashley Morris
Girls rule at these Roudabush Restaurants

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Charles Newsome keeps building

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Kim Grizzard
Message of Easter

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan
Gentrification in Durham: 'We're not going anywhere,' says pastor of historic black church

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Church builds bridges

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
John Boyle
Selection of John Boyle's serious columns This column will put a lump in your throat. It was a tough thing for him to write, but goodness, it's something that needs to be written about. Excellent!

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
Wineka serious columns Hard-hitting column. It's something that every reader will digest completely. We need more columnists like this!

SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Staff
2019 High School Football Preview One of the best Football Previews around. Excellent job. Very thorough and in-depth coverage. Outstanding photos. This section alone adds value to overall publication.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
Progress edition 2019 A nearly perfect example of what a "Special Section" should be. Very nice, eye-catching and inspirational stories and photos. Advertising alignment also good in most places. Could improve by adding events coverage and some historical coverage.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Hurricane Florence Special Section Outstanding pictures. Great use of tying everything together as a "Special Section" as this embodies an industry example. Could have used a few more stories or side articles.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Dennis Davidson
Davidson sports columns Good work, good research, great subjects. Really liked the where are they now softball team and the measles column. The research made them both interesting even to someone who does not have an local connection. You did not assume everyone reading your words would have local knowledge.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
Ronnie Woodward sports columns

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
Perfect Ending; Hurricane Relief Game; Welcome Back

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
The Daily Reflector Great balance of the local coverage that's important to readers with news from across the sports world

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
March 2-3, 2019 Early March is a phenomenally busy time in the sports world, and this is a good example of how to fit it all in without it being overwhelming to the reader

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
David Thompson
Late start time for basketball games causing problems What a wonderfully observant take on a story that many of us are familiar with - but probably never written about. Excellent piece of journalism.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
David Thompson
A team of their own: Rise in female wrestling numbers prompting change in the sport Well written piece of sports journalism. Loved the quotes from the girls who pursued the sport. Nicely done!

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Nathan Summers
Dollars and sense: The value of the public course Excellent piece of sports enterprise journalism. Great quotes and organization - and for taking an interesting angle on such an important subject.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Alex Zietlow
'This story could save someone's life.' UNC football's Jake Lawler on his depression

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
David Thompson
'Seth Strong': Mitchell football player remembers life, death of younger brother

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
She touched all the bases

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Steve Wiseman
After Duke clears Zion Williamson, Michael Avenatti insists Nike paid the basketball star

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
One Last Surprise

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Jackson Fuller
'Cats Celebrate

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
April 4 and April 21, 2019

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
Salisbury Post use of photographs

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Andrew Roman, Alma Washington, staff
The Herald-Sun's social media use Very cohesive

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
StarNews Social Media I see that one of my friends from college has liked the Facebook page. She has good taste.

VIDEO
1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angeli Wright
10-year-old gymnast Zoe Smith

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angeli Wright
An Asheville dad's road to recovery

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Casey Toth
This big, beloved oak was spared the chainsaw twice. But, alas, it must come down now.





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Thank You
from The News Reporter staff

2019 winner of 17 awards including the Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award, the Duke University/Green-Rossiter Award for Distinguished Newspaper Work in Higher Education Reporting, the 2018 General Excellence Award and 2nd place 2018 General Excellence for Newspaper Websites

ocracoke observer

A 2019 **NCPA WINNER:**



ONLINE DIVISION 1ST PLACE
Breaking news winner for
Hurricane Dorian coverage

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6 AWARDS

ALEX FARMER

1ST PLACE Advertising Campaign
1ST PLACE Use of Color
2ND PLACE Use of Color

IAN MCDOWELL

1ST PLACE Investigative Reporting

CHARLES WOMACK

3RD PLACE General Excellence
for Website

**KATIE MURAWSKI,
NATALIE GARCIA &
LAUREN BRADY**

1ST PLACE Use of Social Media

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record appearance and design
N & R January 6th - Love the front page of this, very eye catching.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Appearance and Design

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Sept. 14, 15, 2019

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lisa O'Donnell
Factory town to artsy hamlet
The writing in this piece is phenomenal. The details are beautiful and it booked me right away. It makes me want to visit.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
Hope Stout's parents dreamed of making a movie in her memory. It became a nightmare.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lynn Felder
Living history
Beautiful story about this important festival. I was riveted to the piece. The photos helped add so much personality. Bravo!

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Drew Jackson
Raleigh's Ashley Christensen takes home James Beard Award for best chef in the US
Great writing and very entertaining with lots of info about chefs and their awards.

2nd Place
Winston-Salem Journal
Jenny Drabble
Feral Fix
I liked the opening and it booked me immediately. I now know the difference between feral and stray!

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett
'Here to keep you breathing' -- Drug-treatment court faces challenges
Good clear and solid reporting

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Hinton
Fighting murder and mistrust
Great job to highlight such a significant yardstick for a community!

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett
'Never thought this day would come'
Wonderful treatment for a heartwarming story.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Hinton
Sheriff to end ICE contract/"We will not be an extension of ICE/
Very newsy story well documented and presented. Lucky readers!

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Bullying preceded fatal shooting of Butler High student, officials say
Outstanding coverage and package. It does a good job of telling a very sad story.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Hinton
Woman pulled from burning car
Good coverage with an excellent personal touch. The social media and website coverage add to the entry.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett, John Hinton, Sarah Newell
Bodycam video shows officer told teenage girl in Winston-Salem to stop 17 times before arrest
Very detailed article and use of video to tell the story really helps.

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Richard Craver
Issue of the century
Great visuals, lots of information. Very well done in a very competitive category.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Zachery Eanes
Business - Rural broadband
This is a fascinating story and something I hadn't thought about. Well done!

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Deon Roberts
Wells Fargo mistakes cost people their homes. It was just the start of their problems
Great job adding a face to the story. Very competitive entries this year.

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Anna Douglas
FBI alerted after black Charlotte officials received threats, racist letters
Important and taut.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
John Henderson
Fayetteville's Civil War museum controversy
Thoughtful coverage on difficult subject, but could have used more background.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Fred Clasen-Kelly, Julianna Rennie
Charlotte spent millions on low-income housing, but poor people can't afford it
Thorough.

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Dec. 8, Dec. 9 2018
Very close category. The variety of topics and the quality of reporting and writing made the difference.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record community coverage
This paper does an excellent job giving readers a sense of place about their community. The animal shelter story was especially well done.

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
The Fayetteville Observer
Good job capturing the event of the week for the area: opening the stadium.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Allen Johnson, Margaret Wimmer
News & Record editorial pages

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Cooper steps up on climate change/ Voter ID is still a bad idea

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Editorial pages

EDITORIALS

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

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Allen Johnson
Allen Johnson editorials
Excellent editorials. Tough decision not to make first place. Well-reasoned, strong opinions, concise. Readers must love reading these editorials.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
The Confederate statue conundrum/ Let animal cruelty lead to kindness/ Medicaid expansion
Excellent arguments. Well written, concise and great logic. Tough category with other great editorial writers.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Jessie Pounds
Jessie Pounds education opportunity schools
"This is a deep dive into an interesting new program that has the potential to have a high impact on the community.

What stands out in this story is that the reporting includes important limitations of the program for the schools to consider."

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Fran Daniel
A spark to serve
This is a great program to highlight and a great story that clearly discusses impact to the community with a human emotional connection.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
T. Keung Hui
Your child's teacher likely wasn't fingerprinted during hiring. Are students at risk?
This story reveals a troubling issue in the state system and considers many different important perspectives on the topic. The story also does an excellent job of getting into some of the contextual elements. Solid reporting.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Will Doran
How lawmakers reshaped NC districts, using midnight work sessions and lottery balls
First rate and first class.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Will Doran, Andrew Carter
The impact of NC gerrymandering: Dividing races, cities and a campus
Excellent description of dry subject.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Dan Kane, David Raynor
Thousands of state employees got big raises – up to 65 percent. Now lawmakers are objecting.
Straightforward coverage of a thorny problem.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Dell
Game week for the Winston-Salem State Rams
Great idea for football fans

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Ethan Joyce
The most overstated and understated game for App State this year
Nice!

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Jessica Banov, Mike Williams, Steve Chavez
Tar Heel of the Year Award newsletters

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Anna Douglas
The man in the maternity ward
What a superb and informative series. An excellent writer told a story about an unusual occurrence without sensationalizing or making the subject an object of ridicule. An exemplar of sensitivity and fine storytelling.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
The full story behind the disappearance of one of Charlotte's most beloved works of art
Wonderful tale of a quirky man and the quirky art produced in his honor - along with the quirky adventures of that art.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lisa O'Donnell
A bond of song
Strong re-telling of how Appalachian folk music made it to the world stage via the friendship of a New Yorker looking for a dulcimer and a multi-instrumentalist who shared his music.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Wesley Young
Clearing the way/Business 40 closure
Nice series on closing of interstate business loop for construction. I'm sure local citizens found it informative and useful. Good use of logo to brand story and make it easy to identify. Great use of a variety of sources from a number of different viewpoints, including business owner who had to shut down. Good continuity between stories - Also good info on importance of that piece of highway to transportation infrastructure in the city.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Hinton, Jenny Drabble
Wake's yearbook had blackface, KKK images
Very good local angle on a national issue. well organized, well written. Nice use of a variety of sources with different perspectives. Good zoom out to give national context of issue.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett, John Hinton, Lisa O'Donnell
One dead in mall shooting/"Why him? Why him?"/Joines: Investigation will be transparent
Excellent comprehensive coverage of police involved shooting. Good follow up of investigation, vigil, FOI activities for release of footage, NAACP action. Sourced very well from a number of perspectives. Good continuity between stories. Nice tie in to national issue of officer involved shootings.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Hogging the show/Amazon is fulfilling plan for Kernersville/Whistle while you work
Sense of humor in the headline fits the story well.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record headlines
The subtlety of Calm after the storm creeps up on you. I particularly like the rhythm and rhyme of Early birds get the words.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
Yes, UConn did steal NC State's logo. But they're very sorry about it

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PRINT OR INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Stronger Things
Gorgeous work, amazingly cool concept, tying these promos into pop culture. Top-notch, original work!

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Tim Rickard
Tim Rickard illustration sharks
"Relieved to see Washington's not on the list of states with shark attacks at all.

An excellent example of using the graphics to add meaning, not just as decoration. The quality of the art & design are A+.
2nd place only because the 1st place entry is more original.

Also, I'm still creeped out. "

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Cassandra Sherrill
North Carolina interstates
"A nice job of illustrating something that would be really hard to explain in words alone. Engaging enough that I got caught up reading the trivia even though I'm really busy. Top two entries were more original & creative, but there's nothing bad about this entry. Note: Try to include scale when creating maps. "

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Ames Alexander, Gavin Off, David Raynor
Dismissed
Strong, broad look at a problem and provides a solution by highlighting the full scope of the issue. Tight copy. Multiple leads pursued to give a whole-picture report.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Dan Kane
UNC Development Finance Initiative investigation
Good digging that places accountability upon a palpable conflict of interest that so far has enriched one man's business network.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Carli Brosseau, Alex Lang
'How many have to die?' Mental health patients endure nightmare transport conditions
The investigation looked at multiple sides and had to fight through resistance to report the news.

LEDE

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Josh Shaffer
Leads - Josh Shaffer
Instantly engaging and get quickly to the heart of the story. They make you want to read on, which is what a good lead should do. Revealing detail without hyperbole.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Richard Stradling
Leads - Richard Stradling
You know what you're going to be reading about right away, and the inherent drama is introduced immediately. Excellent foreshadowing without giving it all away.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lisa O'Donnell
Channeling their grief/Musical journey/Town wants feline mascot back on duty
Compelling set-ups for the stories that follow. I was encouraged to find out more.

LIGHTER COLUMNS
1st Place
Winston-Salem Journal
Mick Scott
Southern accent/Bigfoot/Above the planet
Nice mix of topics, engaging tone, and (from a reader's perspective) not overly long. Personable but not all about himself.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lynn Felder
Mystery theater/Passageway Park/ Park(ing)Day challenges urban use
Good reporting enhances the storytelling. Subject matter that readers are likely to be interested in if they are invested in their community.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton
Man's recycling-bin casket draws tears, laughter/more
Impressive versatility in what he writes about, a very good attribute for a columnist. As is his reader-friendly, accessible writing style.

MAGAZINE OR NICHE PUBLICATION
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
WALTER June 2019
Same remarks apply to this issue as did for the March issue. Thought this issue was overall stronger. Cover's photo does better job of grabbing the reader.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
WALTER March 2019
Very well done magazine. Writing is good, design is attractive and photography is excellent. Offers lots to the reader from interesting story to great "go and do" things. Great advertiser support.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Cindy Loman and Tim Myers
1808: Greensboro's Magazine Nov. 2018
Really like the design work in this issue. Very light and airy. Great use of white space. Lots of interesting features that are well-written and illustrated by excellent photography. The fashion feature photo was a little jarring, but excellent. Well done, publication.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler, Jeff Siner, Davin Coburn Carruth

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Josh Shaffer, Julia Wall, Autumn Linford
A wanted man remained free. A girl was murdered. How the system failed
Hania Aguilar.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Honoring our veterans: Stories, photos and video from men and women who served

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett
But did he kill her?
"Very thorough, great pictures. An overall compelling and important package."

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Taft Wireback
Taft Wireback - opioids
In-depth package on a problem in a segment of society readers might not be aware of. Sidebars really push the story to award-winning status.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton
Calling all cars
A well-written and engaging read showing great investigative chops. A story that should be copied!

NEWS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton
Sign of the times? Holocaust survivor wants to make sure we never forget

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Sarah Newell
Breaking the silence: Sexual-assault survivor believes she got through the ordeal for a reason

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Michael Futch
Fayetteville police chief's 1935 death remains a mystery

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Training for Battle
Amazing images. Really convey the sense of danger and risk associated with firefighting.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Robert Willett
High school football holds hurricane devastated community together
Very powerful photos to tell this uplifting story of recovery.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
High Stepping
Wow. Do these ever tell a story! Very fun and exciting.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Training Tough
Unique perspective. Great expression and composition.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
John D. Simmons
Happy New Year!

3rd Place
News & Record
Woody Marshall
Woody Marshall twilight fishing

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Walt Unks
Why Him? Why Him?

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Woody Marshall
Woody Marshall protesters

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Jeff Siner
His life is not in vain

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Within Reach
The top choice in an incredibly tough category. Great visual that tells a story on a lot of layers. Crisp, good composition and a lot of fun to look at.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Robert Willett
Zion blows out his Nike
Not a typical sports moment -- which helps this entry, as its significance is broader than the game itself. Great perspective

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Woody Marshall
Woody Marshall: Smith v. Northwest football
Great action and expression here, pic taken at the perfect moment. Kudos.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Mustangs on the run
What a sports feature photo (well, series of photos, right?) is supposed to be: well-composed, fun, illustrative of a bigger story... great job

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Magic No. 500
Wonderful emotion in this photo, well composed, perfect depth of field ... love it

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
David T. Foster III
Eric Reid endures emotions, injury in win over Texans
Lovely moment, with the messages on the uniforms a welcome "distraction"

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Khadejeh Nikouyeh
Khadejeh Nikouyeh : After the fire captures emotion on man perfectly

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Travis Long
Mininum wage protest

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Michael roars across Triad
PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
4 brothers, all WWII veterans, all in their 90s: 'We're defying the odds, aren't we?'

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lynn Felder
Play on: Sandresky's musical life draws on past, extends into future

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
My Dad taught me a wonderful lesson. An angry ostrich was involved.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Tim Funk
Minister's daughters ask: Why is photo of our father, a pedophile, on a church wall?
Very comprehensive story - the story of this pedophile former minister is largely told through his daughters, his sister, his former wife and his former supervisor. Story flows well and is well organized. Using the focus point of his daughters requesting his photo be taken from the church wall works well to anchor the story.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
The inside story of David Chadwick's sudden split with Forest Hill Church
Well-written, well-organized story - of a church split that occurs due to a minister leaving. The story is well-sourced, being told through church leaders and church members, as well as through the minister at the center of the controversy. Reader gains a good sense of the issues in the story.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Tim Funk
Why hasn't Charlotte Catholic diocese released list of priests accused of sex abuse?
Well-written story that provides a local angle on a story of national and international importance. Balanced coverage and sourcing from the diocese as well as from victims' rights organization. Writing flows well and presents a clear view of the issue of sexual abuse in the diocese and the reticence on the part of the church to release the names of pedophile priests.

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SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton
Taking a stand/Final salute/It's time to talk Dixie
Sexton deftly turns a column into a powerful force for storytelling. Depth of reporting is impressive and lends an authoritative voice.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Lynn Felder
Play on: Sandresky's musical life draws on past, extends into future

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
It's not as simple as black and white/Take me to the place I love/ Weatherman
Scott makes his points without polemics, and treats the reader as if they are on other side of a conversation rather than just being talked to. Easy to stay engaged.

SPECIAL SECTION
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Stronger Things
Great theme, graphics and content!

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Valor, Honor, Sacrifice: Paying tribute to the veterans in our community

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
25 Years of Panthers Football
A lot of in-depth reporting here. Great section!

SPORTS COLUMNS
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Ed Hardin
Ed Hardin sports columns - thanksgiving, tarik, youth parents
Thanksgiving column separated this entry from the rest of the pack. Everything a column should be. Also loved the youth sports column.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Luke DeCock
Luke DeCock columns
Well-written with strong, informed opinions. Really well done.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
Collection of sports columns: Scott Fowler
Well-written and informative. At times felt more like feature stories than columns. Could have used more personal connection.

SPORTS COVERAGE
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Sports staff
Sports coverage, Nov. 6/Nov. 7 2018
Coverage is comprehensive over a variety of sports with more of a local emphasis.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record sports coverage
Layout is good and easy to follow and read.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Brant Wilkerson-New
Brant Wilkerson-New: Function vs. Fashion
Both interesting and informative in ways that draw the reader in wanting to continue.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Jonathan M Alexander
ACC after hours: For power programs, playing at 9 p.m. is the price of prominence

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Ethan Joyce
Coaching limbo/Right people at the right time

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
Dale Jr. thought he'd have fun writing a memoir. Then he relived his darkest days.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Patrick Ferlise
Catman II: Son aims to build on father's legacy as biggest Panthers fan in the world

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
She could be the next Danica. But for now, she's stuck driving an old Mazda mini SUV.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Dan Kane
NCAA rejected recommendations to halt academic fraud, newly released documents show

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Langston Wertz Jr.
West Charlotte loses home court advantage. Is it about race or too few seats?

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
John Dell
Boulware's handling of fight led to his firing

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
April 1, April 4, 2019

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record use of photos

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Andrew Roman, Alma Washington, staff
The News & Observer's social media use
Good integration of content across all social media platforms

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
The Fayetteville Observer Facebook account

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
JournalNow.com

VIDEO
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Travis Long
Undocumented man arrested after leaving sanctuary to meet with immigration officials
Chilling first-hand footage of the reality of immigration policing and how undocumented immigrants are treated by officials. Eye-opening. Staggering. Disturbing.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Matt Walsh, Stephanie Bunao
Brooklyn: How a black community was erased from uptown Charlotte
Powerful portrayal of the effects of urban renewal on the black community in the Brooklyn neighborhood -- and the lasting impression it's made.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Ragan Robinson
'They're waiting for you to die.' An interview with Angela Beck
Harsh reality of the treatment of people inside the U.S. prison system and the lack of healthcare and humanity they are given. A growing problem that doesn't get the coverage it deserves.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
staff
Hurricane Dorian's approach, arrival
The layout flows nicely and it's easy to read. Nice use of photos and graphics in the copy, as well as embedded video. Those little details make a lot of difference.

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Staff
Carolina Public Press appearance and design
Very clean look. Nice use of white space.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Jazz Fest Marks 10th Year With State Support
Interesting story well told without trying too hard.

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Plymouth Set to Celebrate Black Bears
Thoughtful, detailed coverage.

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Yen Duong
RU OK Charlotte?
Good look at an unlikely subject.

2nd Place
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3rd Place
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Good look at an unlikely subject.

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf
Animals and mental health recovery

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Yen Duong
9/17/2019 NC's first recovery high school opens in Charlotte

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Greg Barnes
What to do about aging sewer systems in rural North Carolina?
Great, in-depth reporting on an issue that effects every single NC citizen. Obvious here that the writer took the time to make the series impactful to every reader

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Julie Havlak
Regulations keep North Carolinians from getting Medicaid benefits they've deserved
The reporter puts a real face on a numbers game being played in statehouses throughout the country. Solid, consistent reporting on a difficult issue

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3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Displaced, Derelict and Abandoned
Timely, well-sourced work

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
OCRACOCKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach, Peter Vankevich
Hurricane Dorian swamps Ocracoke Island; Village devastated
Comprehensive package that I'm sure readers appreciated.

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Yen Duong, Taylor Knopf, Rose Hoban
Mecklenburg among top focus locations in Trump HIV plan

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Yen Duong, Taylor Knopf, Rose Hoban
Mecklenburg among top focus locations in Trump HIV plan

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Rose Hoban
'Abortion Survivors' bill gets emotional hearing at NCGA

BUSINESS WRITING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Neil Cotiaux
Hospital purchase drives change for multiple local health foundations
Good job Hospital!

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Business Matters
Good job. Excellent piece about staying one step ahead of the competition, and beating others on business.

3rd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
William R. Toler
McRaes open Richmond County's first 24-hour daycare
More 24-hr daycares should be available throughout the US.

CITY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Catherine Kozak
Confrontation Stirs Beach Access Debate
Very good, in-depth piece on a human interest story that affects go beyond NC. This story brings up many civil rights concerns, etc. Writing style is very effective, very original story and including video coverage of evidence was an added bonus. Great job!

2nd Place
LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Michael Praats
Short-term rental ordinance appears to contradict state law
2nd Place goes to Leland and Belville's 30-year rivalry is key to understanding the complex H2GO case. Well put together, well researched and very well done. Very effective writing style and approach. The background story was the key to taking this piece to the top. Great community interest story and good organization/layout of story line. Very well done.

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3rd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Kirk Ross
With town of Eureka drowning in sewage bills, state takes control
Good human interest story and usage of quotes and photos. Writing style could be improved upon. Originality of approach needs enhanced for more engagement. Good job overall.

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Kirk Ross
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COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers, Josh Jarman
Variety of Blowing Rock Life
Clever lead on the gravity car race and excellent depth of context, particularly in the Merlefest story. This reporter gives readers the meat, not just bare bones.

2nd Place
LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Michael Praats
'We should strive to be more like Charleston ... less like Myrtle Beach'
A good concise summary of a citizen crusade that worked. Lesser reporters might be tempted to overdo it, but this story is right-size.

3rd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Donna Barnett, Joy Crist
Community Coverage
This is material of high utility to readers, but several of the entries did not move beyond the materials supplied in press handouts.

EDITORIALS

1st Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Rick Henderson
Editorials take on controversies in the courtroom and the boardroom
Our editorialist knows a lot about politics in North Carolina — including the revolving door of presidents and chancellors in the university system — and uses that knowledge to advocate clearly for sensible solutions. First-rate thinking and writing.

2nd Place
OCRACOCKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich, Connie Leinbach
Editorials on life on Ocracoke Island
"Not every issue worth writing about is deep, deep, deep. Everyday life is worth writing about, too. Doing so also gives the reader a sense of place, as the Observer's editorialist does so effortlessly."

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3rd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
William R. Toler
Keep county clean; Third parties on elections boards; First responders training

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Analisa Sorrells
Education Data
The depth of this reporting is impressive. These pieces explain complex issues in a way that is easy to understand for the audience. This is exceptional work.

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Lindsay Marchello
Leandro lawsuit, now 25 years old, continues to vex educators
This story does a nice job of contextualizing current politics within the scope of previous court decisions. Where it could improve is demonstrating the impact of those court decisions on the current climate.

2nd Place
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3rd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell
Early Bird

3rd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Greg Childress
A series of articles on charter schools by Greg Childress
This series of articles advances an important conversation about the regulation and oversight (or lack there of) of charter schools and how communities should be wary of the promises of these kinds of programs. Excellent reporting.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Melissa Boughton
Coverage of N.C.'s District 9 bombshell
Strong, straight-forward writing on a significant and surprising turn of events. Backgrounding was excellent. Any reader would know exactly what happened, even with no prior knowledge of these events. Outstanding.

2nd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Billy Ball
Why N.C. Superintendent Mark Johnson's new publicly-funded website may break the law
Good watchdog story on a political figure who perhaps is using public resources to promote himself. Well backgrounded, though I'd like to know more about the proposed use of the iPads.

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3rd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor
Gerrymandering ruling
"Clear and concise writing on an important story."

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

1st Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Donna Barnett, Meg Phillips
Island Free Press Weekly News Update
Looks like it would be very effective and a great benefit to subscribers

2nd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Nation Hahn
Awake58

2nd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Nation Hahn
Awake58

3rd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell
Early Bird

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Joy Crist
Coast Guard / St. Baldric's stories
good history to tie to present day action along with quotes from participants.

2nd Place
OCRACOCKE OBSERVER
Will Adams
Catching winter waves
good read, flowed nicely, kept my interest

3rd Place
OCRACOCKE OBSERVER
Pat Garber
Hyde County's amazing civil rights protest
nice feature writing on a subject of historical significance.

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GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Kate Martin, Frank Taylor
Cody Henson case
Thorough coverage.

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Lindsay Marchello
House overrides budget veto in surprise morning vote
A strong story in a solid field of contenders.

3rd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Joy Crist
Opening of the Bonner Bridge Replacement
Well-rounded coverage with good graphics.

3rd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor
Gerrymandering ruling
"Clear and concise writing on an important story."

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Michael Praats
Sun's out, buns out: Carolina Beach council removes 'buttocks' from indecent exposure law
One great headline Covers this story!

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf
Lessons from Abroad - headlines
Making the connection:From what, to who to why to how to when and where. I want to read this series.

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3rd Place
OCRACOCKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach
Nest knitters needed now
Truly alliterative!

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PRINT OR INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor
A time to shred

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Mariano Santillan
Seeking Conviction illustration

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Mariano Santillan
Seeking Conviction illustration

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Staff
Seeking Conviction
you revealed that so much needed to change in law enforcement, healthcare, and in the courts for this problem to get better.

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Greg Barnes
Uncovering industrial contaminants in Pittsboro's water
The opening sentence about the school water fountain was very powerful. Good job investigating and writing.

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3rd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Lisa Sorg
Lisa Sorg's investigation into Aberdeen pesticide dumps
Good job explaining all the reasons why the site was a poor decision.

LEDE

1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Yen Duong
Yen Duong's ledes

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Anne Blythe
Anne Blythe's ledes

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Anne Blythe
Anne Blythe's ledes

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Greg Barnes
Greg Barnes ledes

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Sam Bland
Sam's Field Notes

2nd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Kristin Hissong
A Beachcomber's View column

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Jennifer Allen
Regan: Dorian Highlights Need for Resilience
"Right away, this entry gives readers a sense of the enormity of the problem, from video's opening statements about the impact of climate change, the photo of the buckled road, and the quote that breaches could become permanent inlets, changing the ecology. Links to extended ferry service, NC12, docs, drone pix on Twitter, etc. all made this informative and useful to the reader on many levels."

2nd Place
EDUCATIONNC
Liz Bell
Stories from the Education Pipeline
"The explanation of the entry (... 16% of 9th graders complete degree ...) would be a good set up in the actual piece as intro to the videos. I only read it after I'd looked over the entry. Videos were the focus of this collection; text secondary. Martinez video context was aimless. The others were more compelling in context of their lives and . Some excellent film work and editing."

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3rd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
William R. Toler, Wally Reeves
Epicenter
Interesting look at the metal culture through a concert.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Kate Martin
Sexual assault case lags

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Thomas Goldsmith
Personal needs allowance is inadequate for residents' needs

2nd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Thomas Goldsmith
Personal needs allowance is inadequate for residents' needs

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Thomas Goldsmith
Millions in fund, earmarked to improve nursing home care, sits mostly unused

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Mark Hibbs
The Case of the Conserved Land

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
Kari Travis, Lindsay Marchello
A cloudy state of transparency

3rd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Kate Martin, Imari Scarbrough
NC working to erase biggest rape kit backlog in nation

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Don Bowers, Jenni Koontz
Hurricane Dorian in Pictures
Photos are great – show the devastation caused by the hurricane.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Mark Darrough
In Pictures: Operation Steel Pike 19, largest air assault exercise on east coast in a decade
your photos made me feel as if I was in the middle of the action

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Brunswick County images
your photos enhanced the story

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf
Lessons from Abroad - photo entry
photos enhance the story

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Don Bowers
Dorian storm coverage
Photos capture not only the damage but the human spirit to prevail. Great work.

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Matt Rose
Thursday meal at The Giving Spoon of Bryson City
GREAT PHOTOS bring out the human spirit of the issue in the story. Good work.

3rd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Don Bowers
Community Bridge Day in Pictures

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Casey Robertson
They did it! Dolphins capture middle school baseball tourney
Keen eye of the photographer to capture such a remarkable shot. Creative, outstanding inclusion of design elements and provides a feeling of suspense/tells story in single frame.

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
Craig Weston
App State survives
Outstanding series of photos with strong separation of subject and background.

3rd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
David Rogers
Great action shots. Best photo of series is image of No. 5 near sideline. Strong composition. Quality hindered slightly by focus on background/things other than the subject.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE

1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Upset minded Mountaineers jump past Tar Heels
Compelling sense of being close to the action, with good variety of choices highlighting the game's drama. Focused and well-cropped (not as common as you'd think).

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Slam Dunk
Good use of angles, light and cropping produces arresting stop-action shots and some gritty close-ups as well.

3rd Place
LOCAL VOICE MEDIA
Johanna Ferebee
Catch pro skaters dropping in on a vert ramp in a Navassa backyard
Some excellent action shots capture the energy of the events, but overall could have used more culling and cropping.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Connie Leinbach
Debris removal begins on Ocracoke; nighttime curfew still in place
I feel this photo epitomizes this category. Good clear shot. No way this was planned.

2nd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich
Summer Ocracoke beauties: Black Skimmers
Photographer obviously has a lot of experience shooting birds in flight. Beautiful photo. Very Sharp. What a lens.

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich
Portsmouth Island Christmas Bird Count ends the year
Photo is not the highest quality. Most likely was taken from a distance. Still an awesome occurrence.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Robert Kinlaw
How a Principal of the Year runs a school

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Jim Ruff, Photographer

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Catherine Kozak
Retired Outer Banks Historian Tells His Story

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
Peter Vankevich
New United Methodist pastor: 'Come walk with me'

2nd Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Men of God

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Billy Ball
Three columns by Billy Ball
Excellent writing: to explain, to implore. To incite! Regardless of topic, the craft is exceptionally served with these provocatively persuasive columns.

2nd Place
CAROLINA JOURNAL
John Trump
Contentious political debates in N.C. affect real people
A refreshing collection of reporter-based observations on relevant community/state issues. These columns discuss and enlighten readers via personal narration, hard facts, and collection of human sources.

3rd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Joy Crist
Serious columns
Good focus on relevant community issues with writing style that emits a personal connection (and commitment) to/with readers.

SPORTS COVERAGE

1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers, Bill Barbour
Sports Coverage - March 2019
Only entry in this category so, first place! Not bad but room for improvement in writing. Particularly, the Inside Job story, the lead is horribly cluttered including the teams' records before we get to the final score. Get the most important information (final score) in the lede and add the other stuff later.

Sports Feature Writing
1st Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
Kyle Pillar
Newest Raider Malik Covington sees 'dream come true' by scoring in spring practice finale
Good lead-in to an inspirational story about a kid having fun and cashing in on a "dream." Enjoyed the use of multiple sources to tell a heartwarming story.

2nd Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Joy Crist
Worrell Race Returns to Hatteras Island

3rd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
Kyle Pillar
Former players remember Coach Thomas Baucom as 'fatherly' and a 'great coach'

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers
Thriller in Columbia
First place almost by default. The boxing analogy worked early but went too far. The basic facts were all there but felt as if the story was trying too hard to impress. Still, best of the bunch in this category.

2nd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
Kyle Pillar
Young closes RSHS coaching career for new 'challenge'
Written well enough, but it's not compelling. Was there some behind-the-scenes reason for the coach leaving? Story lays out the basics but reads like a press release.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1st Place
BLOWING ROCK NEWS
David Rogers, Hannah Beaver
Adding value with photography

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1st Place
ISLAND FREE PRESS
Donna Barnett
Island Free Press' Facebook page
Lots of interaction with the community accomplishes the "social" part of social media.

2nd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
Melissa Boughton
Melissa Boughton's use of social media

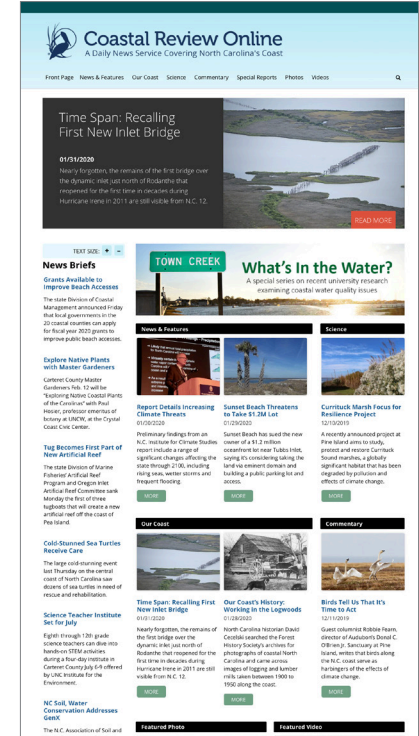
3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
Staff
Coastal Review Online Social Media

VIDEO

1st Place
EDUCATIONNC
Robert Kinlaw
We Drive It
Outstanding video in all aspects. Thoroughly explains topic with student and staff interviews, creative shooting angles and creation, compliments written story well.

2nd Place
RICHMOND OBSERVER
William R. Toler
Guest joins Richmond County officers in Special Olympics torch run
Clear and steady shots. Fun and interesting shooting angles. Additional information such as distance, who was running, etc. would have improved video.

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
Taylor Knopf
Why I went to Europe to learn about the American drug crisis
Compelling topic. Draws viewer into rest of series.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR STAFF

2019 NEWS, EDITORIAL & PHOTOJOURNALISM CONTEST

Smoky Mountain news

COVERING HAYWOOD, JACKSON, MACON & SWAIN COUNTIES

TRAVIS BUMGARDNER

1st Place

General Excellence for Websites

HOLLY KAYS

1st Place

Arts and Entertainment Reporting

1st Place

News Feature Writing

2nd Place

Investigative Reporting

3rd Place

Investigative Reporting

3rd Place

News Feature Writing

SUSANNA SHETLEY

1st Place

Lighter Columns

STAFF

2nd Place

Community Coverage

JESSIE STONE

2nd Place

Business Writing

2nd Place

City, County Government Reporting

3rd Place

Beat Feature Reporting

3rd Place

Business Writing

3rd Place

News Enterprise Reporting

CORY VAILLANCOURT

1st Place

City, County Government Reporting

1st Place

Education Reporting

1st Place

Election/Political Reporting

2nd Place

Beat Feature Reporting

2nd Place

News Feature Writing

2nd Place

Religion & Faith Reporting

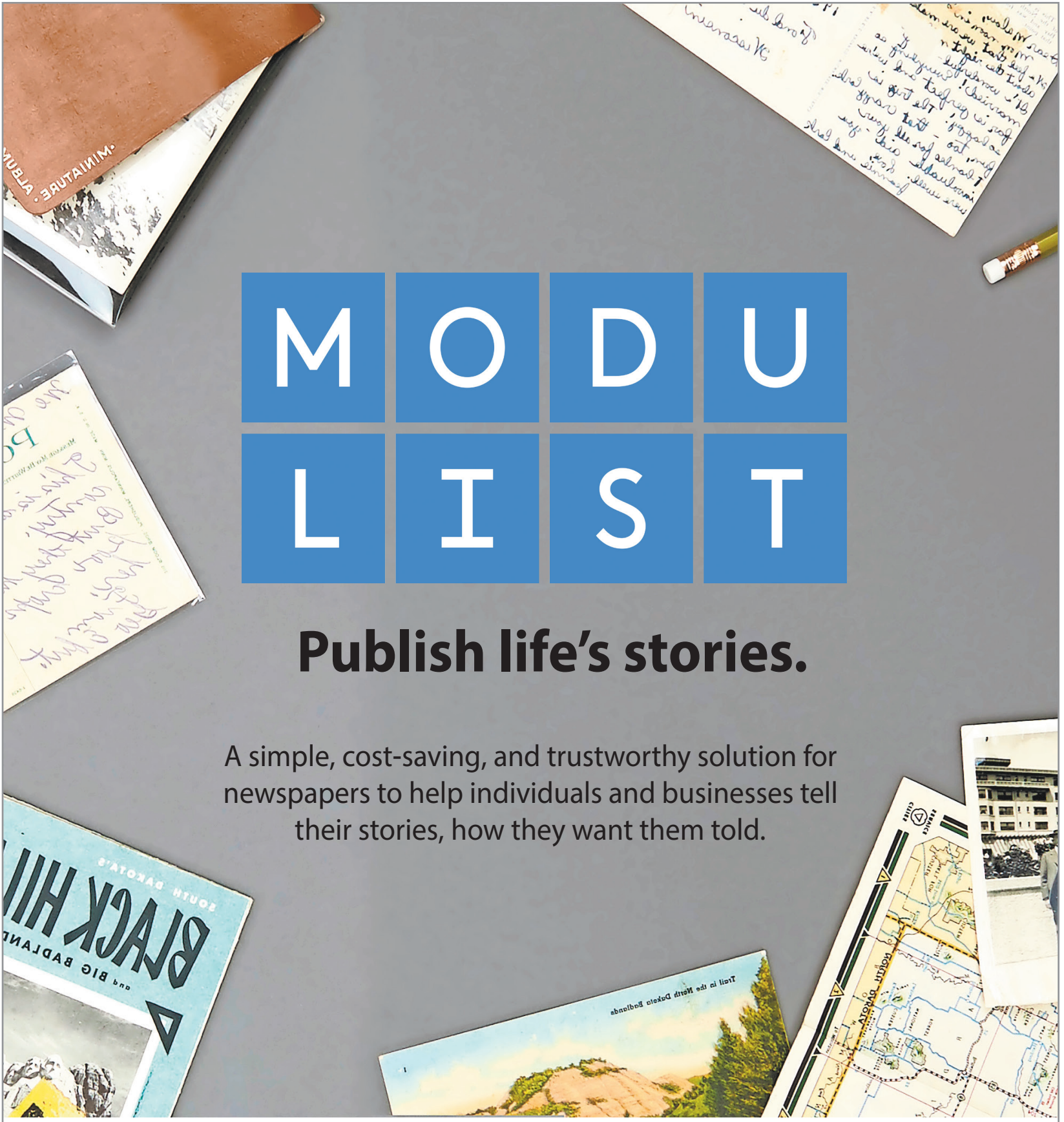
3rd Place

Election/Political Reporting

GARRET K. WOODWARD

3rd Place

Arts and Entertainment Reporting



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