



EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2018



**THE NORTH CAROLINA
PRESS ASSOCIATION**

2018 WILLIAM C. LASSITER AWARD

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

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



REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL SETZER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Past Lassiter Award Winners

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

HUGH MORTON PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspaper Winner

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits

SEE MORE: Page 46



Community Newspaper Winner

CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz

SEE MORE: Page 47



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

2018 NCPA Awards

DIVISION A



FIRST PLACE
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

DIVISION B



FIRST PLACE
STATE PORT PILOT

DIVISION C



FIRST PLACE
NEWS REPORTER

DIVISION D



FIRST PLACE
WILSON TIMES



SECOND PLACE
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER



SECOND PLACE
CHEROKEE SCOUT



SECOND PLACE
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT



SECOND PLACE
NEWS HERALD



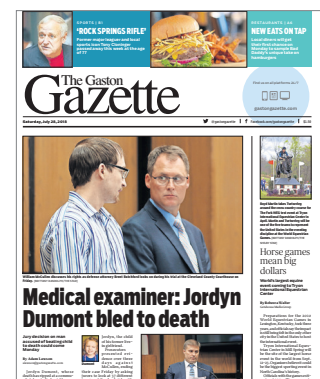
THIRD PLACE
DUPLIN TIMES



THIRD PLACE
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT



THIRD PLACE
THE PILOT



THIRD PLACE
GASTON GAZETTE

DIVISION E



FIRST PLACE
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER



SECOND PLACE
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE



THIRD PLACE
STARNEWS

DIVISION F



FIRST PLACE
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

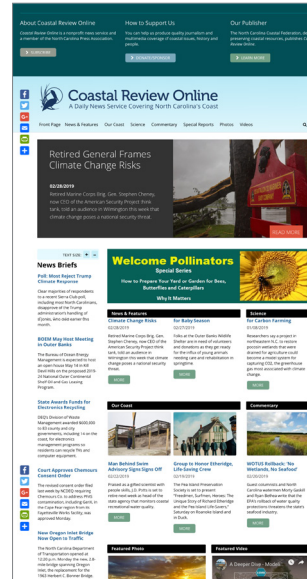


SECOND PLACE
NEWS & OBSERVER

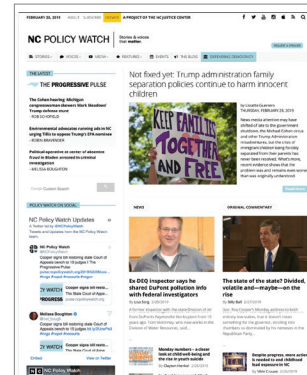


THIRD PLACE
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

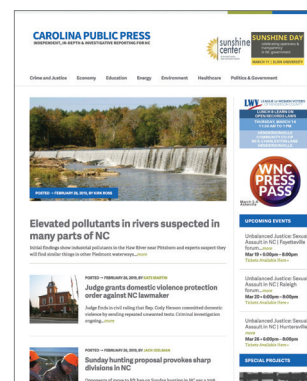
ONLINE



FIRST PLACE
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE



SECOND PLACE
N.C. POLICY WATCH



THIRD PLACE
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

DIVISION A

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

DIVISION B

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

DIVISION C

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

DIVISION D

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

DIVISION E

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

DIVISION F

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

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

Avery's Oscar Night

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

2nd Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

Bringing Hope Through Music

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

3rd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Laura Ashley Lamm

Big house, Titanic fashion

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

Beat News Feature - Honor Air, Oct. 4

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

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

A Hunter's Best Tool

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

3rd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Lauren Rose

Ready for a Miracle

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

David Larson

New measure would overhaul ag worker rules

2nd Place

CHOWAN HERALD

Miles Layton

Taylor Theater

3rd Place

NEWS-JOURNAL

Catharin Shepard

Teacher Assaulted In Classroom

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Staff

July News

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

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

North State Journal Staff

The North State Journal Community

Reporting

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

3rd Place

CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

Don Richeson, Dan Brown

Best Community Coverage

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

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Staff

SENC Magazine - Spring 2018

2nd Place

MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Mebane Enterprise staff

Mebane Enterprise newcomers &

visitors guide

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Bailey Pennington

The Alamance County education

bonds

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

2nd Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

Education - After Parkland, school

safety moves to No. 1 on priority list

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

3rd Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

East Duplin's MentorMe Program

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

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES

Staff

Smoky Mountain Times 1.11.18 &

1.18.18

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

2nd Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Lightning Staff

News Coverage - Community Jan. 10

& Jan. 31

3rd Place

ANSON RECORD

Staff

Sept. 5, 12

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

Broadband: Full speed ahead

2nd Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

News Enterprise reporting NIMBY

Nation

3rd Place

NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS

WEEKLY

David Donovan

#Ustoo: Lawyers' stories show

harassment a problem at law firms

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

HIGHLANDER

Dan Brown

Snakebite

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

2nd Place

CHOWAN HERALD

Miles Layton

The one that didn't get away -- News

feature

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

3rd Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Abby Cavanaugh

Six Days In A Shelter

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Trevor Normile

Two drown in the Northeast Cape

Fear River at Hallsville

2nd Place

DUPLIN TIMES

Trevor Normile

Fatalities report

3rd Place

ASHE POST & TIMES

Lee Sanderlin

Terry Buchanan resigns as Ashe

County sheriff, charges dismissed

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Brett Friedlander

Cricket

Not everyday you read a story about

cricket in Carolina. Nice read.

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

Punt or Gamble

3rd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

Recruiting at North Carolina

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Brett Friedlander
Clays 4 Kay
A unique take on a charity sport shooting event (for cancer). Gives insight not only into the charity event, but the venue as well. Nicely done.

2nd Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL

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

3rd Place NORTH STATE JOURNAL

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

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose, Liz Moomey
NSJ Vol. 2 Issue 53, Vol. 2 Issue 54
Clearly the class of the division. Beautiful, professional-looking, well-organized design. Wonderful use of photos, maps and other art. Also, effective use of pull quotes, lead-ins, subheads, briefs and other typographic elements. Superb.

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

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather
Sections well-organized, lots of good color, chocked full of local stories, names and faces.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Lions and tigers and trees, oh my!
Fun and visual topic. Good use of weaving visuals and nat sound with the narrative.

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Remembering Mebane's fallen heroes
Solemn topic. Solid use of audio.

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Mebane's annual Fourth of July parade
A well-edited and compiled video with lots of different camera angles and nice voice-over. For an assignment that all of us have had to do, this shows imagination and inspiration as well as a lot of editing. Well done.

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Eagles shut out Cavaliers in game two
The videographer captured good action, and was generally well edited. At two-plus minutes watching play after play gets tiring. Viewpoint was right on the sidelines which is compelling.

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Best Video -- Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival
Length of video is too long for most viewers, excess of five minutes. Camera angles were not especially well chosen.

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
GRAHAM STAR
Gary Corsair
City County Government / The Graham Star
Easily the best written stories of the contest. The reporter has a nice style with leads, making even government reporting engaging. He tackled two local issues and gave depth to the reporting and didn't just cover a meeting. Well done.

2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Group home owner takes mistake to court
Very well-reported. Reporter got the most affected people in the dispute on the record, showed the error of the government pointed out the government entity wouldn't explain how it screwed up it's own process. And the story was told well every step of the way without overwriting it. Excellent job.

3rd Place
ASHE POST & TIMES
Luke Weir
Stonebridge Subdivision gains Board of Commissioners support in redistricting blunder
A pretty good lede and good detail, although too far down in the story, about the options available for solving the fire district problem. The reporter did a good job of laying out the issue.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Neal Robbins, Frank Hill, Troy Kickler
North State Journal Editorial Section

2nd Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Ken Ripley
Viewpoints

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Editorial Pages -- June 6, 13 and 20, 2018

EDITORIALS

1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Brad Spaulding and Dan Brown
Broadband editorials
Knowing nothing about the topic, I found the bundling of these themed editorials interesting, and the message in them.

2nd Place
ANSON RECORD
Alan Wooten
Collection: Lawsuit, lawmakers, flooding
Clear, concise array of issues, with good arguments that take sides and explain it well.

3rd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Miles Layton
Editorial opinions
Good, solid voice on timely, local topics.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY
David Donovan
Judicial Elections series

2nd Place
ASHE POST & TIMES
Luke Weir
One in 19,000: a conversation with Ashe County's lone Green Party member

3rd Place
GRAHAM STAR
Gary Corsair
Election / Political / The Graham Star

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Feature writing, June 6, Aug. 15
These are thoughtfully crafted stories that presented a full picture of the subjects' journeys. While meticulously detailed are evocative and compelling. The writer kept me interested, and I wanted to know what happened. Simply very well done.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Shawn Krest
Carolina DockDogs
This charming story catches the spirit of this group. Who knew such a thing existed! The details are presented artfully and paint a very full and detailed picture of the dogs and the people who love and train them. A delightful piece!

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
Aging cemetery association wants to ensure stewardship
The first paragraph of this story captured me and got me interested. I wanted to find out what was happening and why because of the simple but compelling lead. The writer kept the promise with lots of good details in a not overly long piece which presented a local situation artfully and completely.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

1st Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather
It pulls you right in with stories and photos, horizontally and vertically laid out.

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

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

3rd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
 Lightning Staff
General Excellence website

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

HEADLINE WRITING

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

2nd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
 Trevor Normile
Headline Writing

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

LIGHTER COLUMNS

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

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

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

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

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

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

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
 Alan Campbell
Hometown Give Back

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

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

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
 Alan Campbell
United Way Laughs

3rd Place
HIGHLANDER
 Staff
In the spirit

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

2nd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
 Alan Campbell
Line Drive

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

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

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

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
 Trevor Normile
Night watchmen

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

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

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

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

SERIOUS COLUMNS

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

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

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Tanner Hall

Joy's latest novel rich with culture and language of Jackson County

2nd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer

Giving Art a Break

3rd Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Dave Russell

Crowe relates 'Beats' influence in latest book

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

ROCKINGHAMNOW

Susie C. Spear

Minutes saved mean lives saved
With great descriptive word choices throughout, this story clearly conveys the critical lifesaving impact of the new equipment.

2nd Place

OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Michelle Wagner

Human trafficking on the Outer Banks

This story tackles an important topic with depth and provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the issue of human trafficking in the Outer Banks.

3rd Place

CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

John Hunter

Youth offering hugs of hope for law enforcement

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Mark Jurkowitz, Michelle Wagner, Neel Keller

Beat News Reporting – Ocean safety

2nd Place

BLADEN JOURNAL

Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten

Hurricane Florence

3rd Place

BLADEN JOURNAL

Alan Wooten

Hog nuisance lawsuits

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

ROCKINGHAMNOW

Staff

RockinghamNow July 2018

Good reporting and writing, particularly hard news items

2nd Place

CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Staff

2 complete issues (July 5 & July 19, 2018)

Color, graphics and blend of features and hard news makes for an interesting and readable paper.

3rd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Staff

Best Community Coverage

Well written stories and layout with good graphics

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Staff

All About Women

2nd Place

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Staff

Boone: My Hometown

3rd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Staff

Cape Fear Coast Magazine Spring 2018

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

CASWELL MESSENGER

K. Adam Powell

Bartlett Yancey High School tour reveals need for improvements

2nd Place

ROCKINGHAMNOW

Susie C. Spear

Listen up, kiddos!

3rd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer

It's Personal

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Staff

News Coverage

2nd Place

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Staff

News Coverage

3rd Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Staff

News Coverage

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

CHEROKEE SCOUT

Matthew Osborne

Decade of DSS questioned

Fascinating story of local corruption and disrupted lives among people too poor to object.

2nd Place

CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Casey Mann

Chatham farmers grow hemp

Some researchers say medical marijuana may cure everything from bunions to cancer. This is how one locality is encouraging this new industry.

3rd Place

MARTIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD

Deborah Griffin

A Place to Remember

Lovely story about the efforts to honor the only Vietnam MIA from a local town never to make it home. The family's need for closure decades later is heartwarming.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer

More to history than meets the eye

With straightforward and restrained writing, Renee Spencer shows us how a community came together to piece together the past to help its members better understand where they stand. This judge digs this entry! Congratulations.

2nd Place

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Anna Oakes

The Best Western hotel deaths, five years later

The extensive reporting in Anna Oakes' series on carbon monoxide deaths at hotels and motels is an excellent piece of public advocacy journalism, written with depth and nuance.

3rd Place

OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Michelle Wagner, Neel Keller

News Feature Writing – The next big health concern and His Dream Center

For those who ever wondered if vaping was a healthy substitute to smoking, Michelle Wagner puts the notion to rest with this deep dive into how local teens get hooked on e-cigs. Very nicely done!

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

BLADEN JOURNAL

Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten

Hurricane Florence

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Quintin Ellison, Carey Phillips

School board: assistant coach offered Mustang intel to rivals

Solid reporting. Good to get a statement from the coach's wife. Interesting story.

2nd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul

Family affair: Two sports that were treading water quickly came off the mat

3rd Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Quintin Ellison, Carey Phillips

Former athletes key to corralling armed fugitive at Smoky game
What a story!

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow

A voyage to the top of the world
What a gripping tale of a local woman going on the literal journey of a lifetime. Great tracking of the story, and great imagery throughout the series.

2nd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL

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

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT

Kevin Hensley
Can't keep Creelman down
The play went exactly as designed. The aftermath has resonated since. Great lede. Hooked immediately."

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT

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

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT

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

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BEST LEDE

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Best ledes from Quintin Ellison

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Celebration!
Game winning action always makes for good video.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul and Terry Pope
Play Ball!

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

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Naturalization Ceremony 2018 in Southport
Idea was novel, sound was not the best, but the video had viewer appeal, although it was a bit too long.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Activists rally against offshore drilling
It was too long to listen to one person speaking. Better to use sound bytes for key points.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Flood water takes over parts of Watauga
Good B roll, but there is no voice over to report about the subject. Video was fair, but the scene could have been adequately conveyed in a still image.

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
County earmarks funding to update greenway plan
Super strong story. It has real people in it. It has data, explained well, in it. It has easy-to-read breakouts. It has easy-to-digest information explaining the explosive growth. This is extremely well reported, well written and well done.

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Mark Jurkowitz
A schism in the Dare GOP and rough-and-tumble politics in Southern Shores.
Reporter clearly is well-sourced and on the local political scene, getting both sides to talk with him extensively in both pieces. He does a nice job breaking down the issues. Excellent analysis.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
County rescinds support for offshore drilling
Good story with good details. Needed the opposing view up higher and the result of the vote at the beginning of the story rather than the end of a 50-inch piece.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Staff
Editorial Page

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Editorial Pages from The Sylva Herald

EDITORIALS

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Ed Harper
Animal rights and wrongs; Preserving history; What's up, partner?
Clear, concise, well-written and a good variety of topics. Clear calls for action.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Lee Hinnant
Forest worth protecting; ..or pay me (more) later; Governors make their point
Solid writing, weighing in on important local issues.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
Society killing people, not guns
Good, almost conversational writing style. Makes it easy to get drawn in to the discussion.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Michelle Wagner, Mark Jurkowitz, Neel Keller
The plastic bag ban repeal
Reporters explained the issue well, responded thoroughly to breaking news, and covered all angles, including the perspective from Beverly Boswell. Good use of quotes throughout coverage.

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Thomas Sherrill
Campaign finance reports
Reporter eschewed sound bites in favor of substantive quotes, and also took time to explain concepts that journalists sometimes assume their readers already understand.

3rd Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Joe Dexter
Senate hopeful Mangrum's residency in question
Stories took a cool, neutral tone on a topic that easily could have been sensationalized.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Susie C. Spear
The Clock Doc
Great story, beautifully written about an occupation that most have no sense of in 2018. A joy to read.

2nd Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Gerri Hunt
Rowdy the llama

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
A Pilot's Life

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Staff
General Excellence for Newspaper website.
The black at top is bold and eye-catching. Nice mix of stories viewed in different ways.

2nd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Chrysta Carroll, Alan Wooten
BladenJournal.com
Kind of standard, but extra points for sense of humor in poll and videos.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Staff
General Excellence for Website
Clean, if not standard.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

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

2nd Place SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

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

3rd Place ROCKINGHAMNOW

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

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Thomas Sherrill
*Headlines: The Foxx Hunt, Tick-Tock and End of an Exodus
A good mix of different styles of headlines.*

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan
Headlines by Jim Buchanan

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
Gourd vibrations

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

2nd Place
COASTLAND TIMES
John Railey
*Brenda Joyce Holland murder
Solid, dogged reporting on a cold case murder.*

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
David Brown
*Richard to Rooster's last crow
Sometimes small details matter, such a wedding that was the best thing since Jesus turned water into wine, or when a rooster dies, events that become huge moments in an everyday life.*

LIGHTER COLUMNS

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
*A collection of lighter columns
The author has a remarkable way of drawing you into each subject and keeping your interested until the end*

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Jim Buchanan
*"Every Now and Then" by Jim Buchanan
This is a remarkable blend of personal history with snap shots of a community. Good writing, amazing people.*

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
*Parading through town
Colorful and complimentary photos that are well composed and describe the paraders and attendees.*

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz
*Hammer Time
These photos communicate a lot of information.*

3rd Place
COURIER-TIMES
Kelly Snow
*Graduation day at The Rock
Simple compositions with lots of energy.*

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
*Kids Day in the Park
An imaginative photo to feature for a story about artists guiding children*

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz
*Keith litterman
A touching story with an artistic feature photo about the Litterman.*

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
*Digging Deep
An engaging wildlife capture.*

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
*Family Loses Home
Scene and emotions captured in the lead image.*

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz
*Wild Blue Yonder
Wonderful array of perspectives in this photo essay.*

3rd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Quintin Ellison
Traffic checkpoints yield 63 violations

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
*Backing up
Good timing to pick up both the ball and the expression.*

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Ed Harper
Slams home a winner

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz
Athletes let the light shine

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Vehicle fire spreads to home

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Dave Russell
Wreck's response includes choppers

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
Helping Hands

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Through Macie's Lens

2nd Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Justyn Melrose
Hope springs 'Inkternal'

3rd Place
NEWS OF ORANGE COUNTY
Jeff Hamlin
Efland photographer Warren Shankle dies at 84

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Joe Dexter
*Church aims for unity
This is a really well-done story that deftly addresses the sensitive topic of race and religion. It's admirable to do so in a daily story, and the use of multiple sources really aids in helping the reader understand.*

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Dwight Otwell
*Faith interwoven throughout county
A thorough report about the history of faith in the Bible Belt, and how it has changed. Great use of the signs throughout the area as examples of the prevalence of religion.*

3rd Place
ROCKINGHAMNOW
Justyn Melrose
*Hitting the road for Ash Wednesday
A nice daily story here about an atypical way to reach worshipers - a drive through on Ash Wednesday. The writing stands out for its variation in sentence length, use of detail (the description of weather) and brief national comparison offering context.*

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
David Brown
*Is my job dangerous?
These entries were, by far most eloquent, reflective and newsworthy in this category. Makes me want to subscribe to the paper.*

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Kelli Harmon
*Serious column - Voice of the Veteran
Heartfelt perspective from a veteran.*

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
America strong, but flickering

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Staff

N.C. Fourth of July Festival

2nd Place

OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

Staff

*Special Sections – Sounds of Summer,
Seafood Guide, Veterans Week Guide*

3rd Place

CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS

Staff

CCP Fall Festivals Section C

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow

The Blizzard

2nd Place

BLADEN JOURNAL

Alan Wooten

*Collection: Lessons, N.C. State, East
Carolina*

3rd Place

UP & COMING WEEKLY

Earl Vaughan Jr.

*Time for NCHSAA to rethink sports
calendar*

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place

COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow

*The Courier-Times sports section Sept.
2018*

*'Smothered and covered' headline is super
with the photo.*

2nd Place

CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS

Staff

CCP Sports section

3rd Place

BLADEN JOURNAL

Kimberlee Shaw, Alan Wooten

Sept. 7, 11

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

CHEROKEE SCOUT

Ben Katz

True love of the outdoors

2nd Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Michael Paul

Sweet, so sweet

3rd Place

COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow

RCS Volleyball team

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

COURIER-TIMES

Kelly Snow

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

2nd Place

ROCKINGHAMNOW

Jim Sands

*Rams advance for shot at 20th state
title
Great headline, great game coverage
storytelling.*

3rd Place

CHEROKEE SCOUT

Kevin Hensley

*Second time's the charm
Thorough, well done reporting.*

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ ONLINE

1st Place

STATE PORT PILOT

Staff

Use of Photographs

2nd Place

CHEROKEE SCOUT

Staff

Cherokee Scout March 7 & 21, 2018

3rd Place

CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Staff

*2 complete issues (March 8 & March
22, 2018)*

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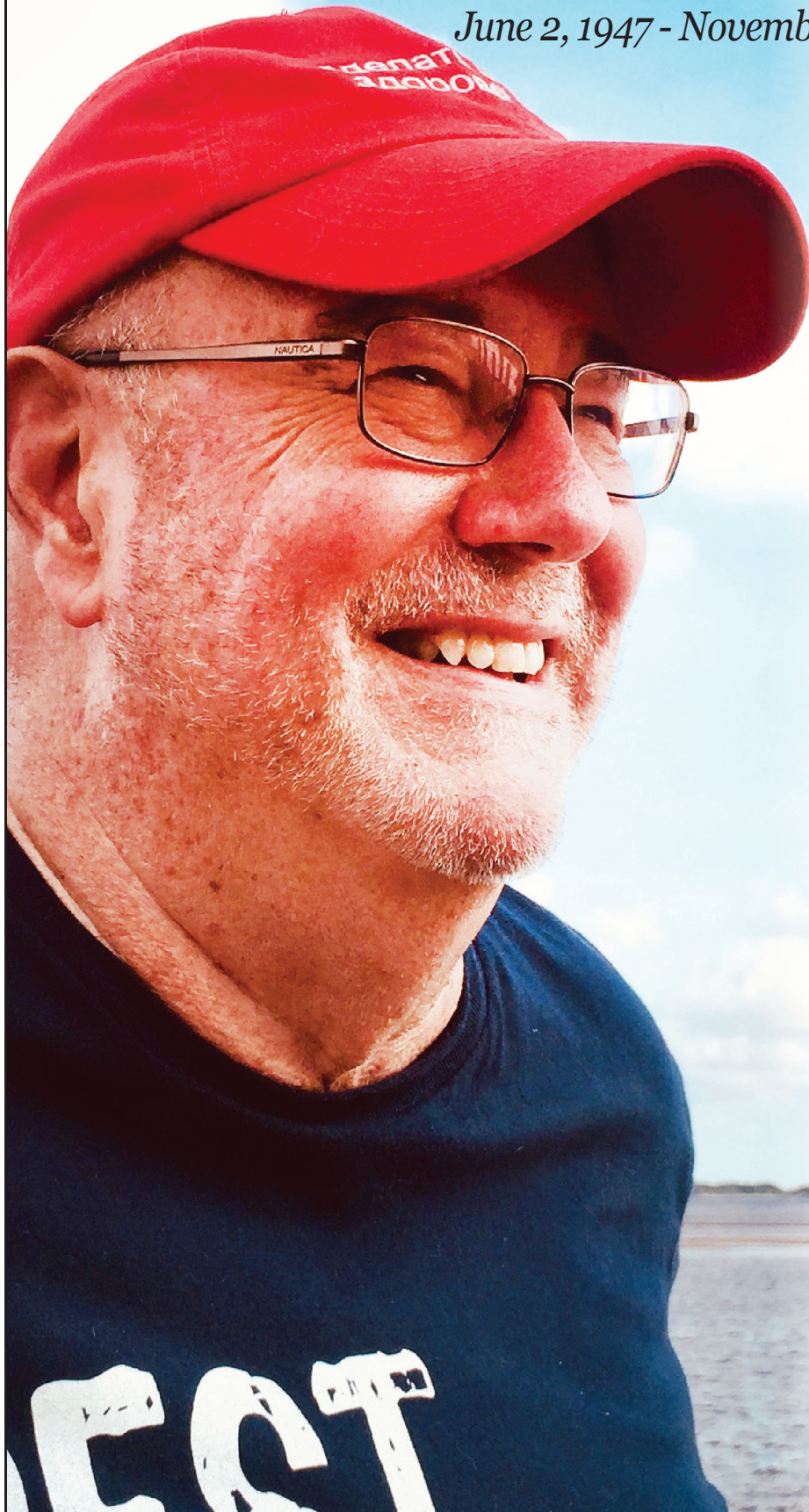
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Edward Taylor “Ed” Harper

June 2, 1947 - November 14, 2018



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

THE STATE PORT
PILOT

A Good Newspaper in a Good Community

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Holly Kays

Cherokee storyteller seeks to preserve historical memory with filming project

2nd Place

MOUNTAIN XPRESS

Alli Marshall

Asheville's nonwhite literary scene, past and present, series

3rd Place

PILOT

Deborah Salomon

Write On

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis

Carolina Crud Crusher

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

2nd Place

TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Ryan Haar, Dathan Kazsuk

Hoopstreet USA

Wow! Great story that one might expect a national publication to uncover.

3rd Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Elise Clouser

Exporting from MHC

Powerful and engaging writing by Clouser. Great work!

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

Vicki Hyatt

Workforce shortage

Hyatt taught me something new. Great job!

2nd Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis and Brian Slattery

Pet pig in porcine dilemma

Great job remaining professional with what could have been a hokey story about a pig. Odd, but very interesting. Good reads!

3rd Place

TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Ben Graham

Real Estate Coverage

Graham's real estate coverage is top-notch!

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

PILOT

David Woronoff, John Nagy

The Pilot -- Best Community Coverage

2nd Place

Carteret County News-Times

Staff

Carteret County News-Times

3rd Place

TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

Derek McKissock, John Lanier

The Transylvania Times Community Coverage -- December 2017

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff

Flourish

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

2nd Place

PILOT

David Woronoff, Jim Dodson, Andie Rose

Pinestraw Art & Soul of the Sandhills

This entry stood out in what proved to be an extremely competitive category. Not only is the layout terrific, but the content is rich with great writing about amazing people and things.

3rd Place

PILOT

David Woronoff, Jim Dodson, Andie Rose

Salt Art & Soul of Wilmington

A good range of material from book reviews to architecture, all of it giving adding up to something very special. Good work.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Holly Kays

SCC graduates 100th class of future

National Park Service officers

2nd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Diana B. Matthews

Elementary School Principals

3rd Place

MOUNTAINEER

Becky Johnson

Labor of Love

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff

Sept. 18 and Sept. 21, 2018 editions

2nd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Staff

Frozen in Time; Price of Power

3rd Place

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Mark Plemmons, Erin Kidd, Erin Weeks, Jemal Horton

The Independent Tribune July 4 and 6

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Cory Vaillancourt

Homeless for the Holidays

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

2nd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Jessi Stone

Mental Healthcare Meltdown

3rd Place

PILOT

Staff

Growth World Discovered Us

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

Becky Johnson

Brick-by-Brick, Hazelwood's

Renaissance

Vivid language and deep reporting made what could have been a development update into a story about a street and the community.

2nd Place

YES! WEEKLY

Ian McDowell

Sexual misconduct and "aggressive panhandling"

3rd Place

MOUNTAINEER

Kyle Perrotti

Shine On

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Staff

Hurricane Florence

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

2nd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff

Hurricane Florence

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

3rd Place

TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Lauren Ohnesorge

Veteran Raleigh bankers to start new bank in Capital City

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

Mike Schoeffel

The battle for football's future rages on

Enjoyed the way you worked yourself into the story -- as someone with mixed feelings, who realizes that's OK (and what may be necessary).

2nd Place

STANLY NEWS & PRESS

Ritchie Starnes

Encroachment - Verbal abuse often keeps younger officials away

Good reporting on characters that often go unnoticed in the sports landscape.

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER

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

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

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

2nd Place
NEWS REPORTER

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

3rd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON

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

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS

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

2nd Place
YES! WEEKLY
YES! Weekly staff
May 23-29 and May 30- June 5

3rd Place
TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL
Dathan Kazsuk
TBJ Appearance and Design

BEST LEDE

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

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

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

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

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

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

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

BEST VIDEO

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

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

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Marty McGee
Down in a hole
Good use of drone footage and submitted video. Bad music. Misspelled word in caption.

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

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

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

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

EDITORIAL PAGE

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

2nd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
Staff
Editorial Page

3rd Place
TRANSYLVANIA TIMES
John Lanier
June Editorial Pages

EDITORIALS

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

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

3rd Place
PILOT
John Nagy
Airing of Grievances is the Public’s Right

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

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

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

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

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
Mike Schoeffel
Kruk carries on

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

3rd Place
PILOT
Deborah Salmon
The Birdhouse Man

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

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

2nd Place
NEWS REPORTER
Staff
nrcolumbus.com

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

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

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
 Jefferson Weaver
Bank robbery series

2nd Place
PILOT
 Jayme Baxley
Tara Plantation Admission Probe

3rd Place
MOUNTAINEER
 Kyle Perrotti
Brewery Dispute

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
 Jule Hubbard
Headline Writing

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

3rd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
 Lee Buchanan
Headlines

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

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

LIGHTER COLUMNS

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

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

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

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

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

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
 Zach Colburn
 Blackhawk celebration

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

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

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

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

PROFILE FEATURE

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

2nd Place
PILOT
 Laura Douglass
It was Do or Die

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

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

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Jessi Stone
Religious football banners

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

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
PILOT
 John Nagy
The Spirit Remains

2nd Place
PILOT
 Deborah Salomon
Hear and Now

3rd Place
BRUNSWICK BEACON
 Jackie Torok
Jackie Torok serious columns

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
NEWS REPORTER
 Staff
Hurricane Matthew retrospective

2nd Place
FRANKLIN PRESS
 Staff
Salute to Veterans

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

J.J. Smith

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

2nd Place

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Jemal Horton

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

3rd Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Sam Hickman

Sam Hickman sports columns

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

Staff

The Rivalry

2nd Place

FRANKLIN PRESS

Andy Scheidler

TFP coverage

3rd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff

Sports April 5 and April 9, 2018 editions

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

PILOT

Ted Fitzgerald

Into The Night

2nd Place

PILOT

Ted Fitzgerald

If You Can Believe It, You Can Achieve It

3rd Place

PILOT

Tim Hale

More Than Xs and Os

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Andy G. Moore

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

2nd Place

ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD

Gene Motley

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

3rd Place

STANLY NEWS & PRESS

Charles Curcio

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

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ ONLINE

1st Place

PILOT

Staff

The Pilot -- Use of Photographs

2nd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Staff

Ghost of a Chance; Folkmoot

3rd Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Staff

Carteret County News-Times

Angel Tree

Clothing donations for children at Christmas

▶▶ SEE PAGE 6A



Soccer

Middle school league has parity.

▶▶ SEE SPORTS

The News Reporter

Published since 1890 every Monday and Thursday for the County of Columbus and her people.

WWW.NRCOLUMBUS.COM

Thursday, November 30, 2017

75 CENTS

Bolton murder has residents worried

By Jefferson Weaver
jweaver@ncnews.com

A Bolton man who had been married less than a month was shot and killed Sunday morning.

Rickey Ricardo Heckstall, 35, was pronounced dead at New Hanover Regional after the early morning assault. Sheriff's deputies were called to Riegelwood just after 5 a.m. to investigate a report of shooting, according to Michelle Tatum of the sheriff's Department. Deputies met Heckstall at the Domino's pizza restaurant, where he had been transported by private vehicle. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.



Rickey Heckstall

It was the second shooting this year associated with a private club formerly called the Hideaway, which was shut down and padlocked by law enforcement in 2015. The club has since reopened as Club Enterprise.

▶▶ SEE BOLTON MURDER 6A

Christmas parades in full swing

By Diana Matthews
dmatthews@ncnews.com

The next several weeks will bring a host of options for celebration and entertainment in Columbus County. Most of the events listed below are free to the public.

Although reasonable efforts have been made to include correct times and places for all area events, readers may find more complete and accurate information by calling the sponsoring groups or checking their websites and social media.

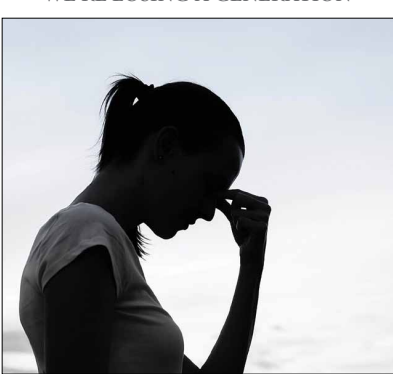
More listings may be posted on nrcolumbus.com and on The News Reporter's Facebook page as details become available.

Thursday, Nov. 30
The county's first Christmas parade will be tonight, Thursday, Nov. 30, in Taber City. "Christmas Parade Through the Lights" will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the lighting of a tree at the town gate. There will be caroling, entertainment, hot coons and hot dogs as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

In Whiteville tonight, the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the annual candlelight event beginning at 5:30 at Vineland Station. This year's gathering will feature local musical performers as well as hot chocolate and other sweet treats provided by the Arts Council. Glow sticks will be distributed instead of candles this year.

▶▶ SEE CHRISTMAS 5A

'WE'RE LOSING A GENERATION'



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

Editor's note: Over the coming weeks, The News Reporter will trace mental health and substance abuse in Columbus County and will look at what is and isn't working as institutions shape how community members face those issues and search for help. In a six-part series, we will explore how opioid use, law enforcement, hospitals, and schools address and are affected by mental health care.

Columbus County faces some of the steepest challenges on this front in North Carolina or the South. But this series will conclude with the good news: Despite the wide reach of the county's crisis, interventions across the board can improve health outcomes. The News Reporter will tackle some possible solutions with implications for Columbus County and communities throughout the South.

Today, the series begins with a dive into how the county's behavioral health system took its present shape.

By Sammy Feldbaum

Special to The News Reporter

If you have a question about mental health in Columbus County, Andy Anderson is a good man to ask. He is the development director and former CEO of Community Innovations, a service provider for patients with intellectual disabilities.

He pastors, often acting as the first point of contact for the suicidal or hospitalized in his flock. He has raised six foster children, and seen firsthand the damage

that drug use does to families.

He is a successful man who by all appearances has his life in order. He has also struggled with depression himself. "I battled it," Anderson says. "And it was hypocritical for me to be suffering depression and not wanting to get up and face the world in the morning, and not tell folks that I was serving that I, too, have suffered from depression."

"So, yes, I've helped folks," he says. "But I've also been helped."

Anderson was able to navigate the county's health care system and get help. It works for some. Many, though, have more trouble connecting to the resources they need. Through his work, through his life, Anderson sees that gap.

"We've known for a long time that there are not enough resources," he says. "Even though we do have better technologies, and better treatment modalities, that still there's a huge deficit between what is needed in mental health and what is being dispatched. There's no doubt about that."

That deficit sends the mentally ill to systems not designed for them. Many end up in hospital emergency rooms, more stable but far from receiving the full treatment they need. On one November day, seven such patients were waiting in the Whiteville Regional

Healthcare System emergency room for placement elsewhere, occupying half of the ER's beds. Others, committing what is often a slight infraction, end up behind bars.

And for the less acutely ill, who may simply be dealing with excess mental anguish, there are pills to take the pain away.

In each case, receiving treatment is significantly more difficult for the poor and the uninsured.

Nearly a fifth of Columbus County's population—18.6 percent—lacked insurance in 2016, according to Columbus Regional's quadrennial

Community Health Needs Assessment.

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

▶▶ SEE CRUSHING BLOW 1A

Schools move ahead with plans to build

By Allen Turner
aturner@ncnews.com

Hiring of architects to develop plans for school construction is the next step for both the county and Whiteville city school systems, regardless of what happens regarding school merger, and both school systems expect to complete that process in the very near future.

A committee will be appointed next month consisting of three representatives each from the county and city boards of education and two county commissioners to identify an outside consultant to analyze potential costs and benefits of a merger of the two systems but, regardless of whether or not the school systems merge, school construction is an issue that must be addressed immediately.

Both systems are very close to hiring architects. For the county, that means finding someone to come up with plans and specifications for new schools in Cerro Gordo and Ta-



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

bor City and, for the city, that means finding an architect to design new facilities on the current Whiteville High School campus.

County Supt. Alan Faulk said that the county schools' highest construction priorities lie on the western side of the county at Cerro Gordo, where a new K-6 school will be built to replace the current Kovergreen Elementary. Cerro Gordo Elementary and Chadbourne Middle School, and in Taber City for construction of a new K-4 school to replace the existing Taber City Elementary and Middle Schools. If any money is left, the county then will look at adding a middle school wing at East Columbus High School to make K-12 a grades 6-12 facility. Middle schools in Hallsboro and Acme Delco would be closed in such a scenario.

Faulk said that he and his board have been interviewing architectural firms to do the design work on the county schools' new construction. "I'm hopeful that at our next meeting (on Monday, Dec. 4), we'll have it narrowed down and that after Dec. 4 we'll be talking face-to-face with an architect and see what they can do with the amount of money we can appropriate."

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

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

▶▶ SEE SCHOOLS 1A

DIDYOU DID YOU OBSERVE?

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



2018 SPECIAL AWARDS

Media and the Law Awards

Daily Publications
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Scott Sexton

Community Publications
THE STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer

All Publications
THE HERALD SUN
Virginia Bridges
Best Series

Mark Binker Public Notice Award

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

Daily Publications
WILSON TIMES
Olivia Neeley
Home health sale

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

Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

Publications under 20,000

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
Frank Taylor, Michael Gebelein
Cedarbrook (Freedom of Information)

2nd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Staff
SBI investigates sheriff candidate

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Public comment policy

Publications over 20,000

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Michael Hewlett, Sarah Newell,
Wesley Young
*Journal seeks body-cam footage of officer-
involved shooting*

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Jane Wester, Anna Douglas
Open records fight

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Jennifer Bowman
Buncombe County public records

2018 SPECIAL AWARDS

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

Daily Publications NEWS & OBSERVER Jane Stancill, staff Higher education coverage	Jane Stancill's coverage of higher education in North Carolina is first rate. She digs deep into stories and deftly uses public records requests to get the story behind the story. Her story on a required textbook with questionable statements about Holocaust survivors and people with cancer and other illnesses was eye-opening. Her stories on the ECU chancellor and a powerful UNC board member represent the best in watchdog journalism.
Division O EDUCATIONNC Staff The Blitz: Visiting all 58 North Carolina Community Colleges	This was a creative, innovative, ambitious project about community colleges, which often don't receive enough coverage. Excellent use of multimedia storytelling techniques.
Community Publications SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Holly Kays Western Carolina University seeks new chancellor	Thoughtfully reported and written coverage about the resignation and death of an important member of the community, followed by aggressive coverage of the search for a replacement. Well done.

Congratulations

TO OUR Staff

2018 NEWS, EDITORIAL & PHOTOJOURNALISM CONTEST

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

CHRIS COX	
1ST PLACE	LIGHTER COLUMNS
CORY VAILLANCOURT	
1ST PLACE	NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
1ST PLACE	SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1ST PLACE	CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
3RD PLACE	ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
GARRET K. WOODWARD	
1ST PLACE	PROFILE FEATURE
HOLLY KAYS	
1ST PLACE	ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING
1ST PLACE	EDUCATION REPORTING
1ST PLACE	ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING
2ND PLACE	PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
3RD PLACE	DUKE UNIVERSITY-GREEN-ROSSITER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPER WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION
3RD PLACE	PROFILE FEATURE
JESSI STONE	
2ND PLACE	NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING
2ND PLACE	CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING
2ND PLACE	RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
STAFF	
2ND PLACE	NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY
2ND PLACE	USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY/SPECIALTY/ONLINE

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coastalreview.org

First Place

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

Second Place

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

Third Place

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

2018 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWRDS

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

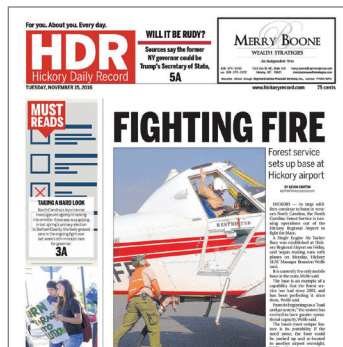


1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Renee Spencer
Animal Rights and Wrongs

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

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
 Staff
Celebrate Cherokee County

DAILY NEWSPAPERS UNDER 25,000 CIRCULATION



1st Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
 Staff
SBI investigates sheriff candidate

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

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

DAILY NEWSPAPERS OVER 25,000 CIRCULATION



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

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 John Murawski
Birth Center Deaths

3rd Place
STARNEWS
 Kevin Ellis
Hard-time hotel closes

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR STAFF

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9 AWARDS

YES! WEEKLY STAFF

2ND PLACE *Appearance and Design*

ALEX ELDRIDGE

1ST PLACE *Institutional Ad*

2ND PLACE *Institutional Ad*

2ND PLACE *Best Real Estate Ad*

3RD PLACE *Best Use of Color*

3RD PLACE *Best Small Ad*

IAN MCDOWELL

1ST PLACE *Best Lead*

2ND PLACE *News Feature Writing*

KATIE MURAWSKI

2ND PLACE *Headline Writing*

CONGRATULATIONS

All GateHouse Media Journalists and Ad Designers of North Carolina

MAJOR Newsroom Award Winners

General Excellence	1st Place	Fayetteville Observer.....	Staff
General Excellence for Websites.....	1st Place	StarNews	Staff
Hugh Morton Photographer of the Year	1st Place	Fayetteville Observer.....	Melissa Sue Gerrits
General Excellence	3rd Place.....	Gaston Gazette	Staff
General Excellence	3rd Place.....	StarNews	Staff
Public Service Award.....	3rd Place.....	Gaston Gazette	Kevin Ellis
Public Service Award.....	3rd Place.....	StarNews	Staff
			Hard-time hotel closes
			Hurricane Florence Coverage

Newsroom Award Winners

Courier-Tribune (Asheboro)

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

Free Press (Kinston)

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

Gaston Gazette

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

Hendersonville Times-News

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



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StarNews



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thetimesnews.com
Times-News

JDNEWS.COM
THE DAILY NEWS - JACKSONVILLE, NC



BlueRidgeNow.com
Times-News Online



Star (Shelby)

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

(New Bern) Sun Journal

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

Fayetteville Observer

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

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Lisa Boykin Batts

Her art tells her story

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

2nd Place

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

Vail Stewart Rumley

Creative exchange

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

3rd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Bill Poteat

'The Last Ballad' both a portrait and a mirror

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

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

SANFORD HERALD

F.T. Norton

Nothing But a Number

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

2nd Place

WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

Finding her path to recovery

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

3rd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Missing Costner at Christmas

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

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

Gregory Parks trial

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

2nd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Surviving being shot 7 times

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

3rd Place

WILSON TIMES

Drew C. Wilson

Cotton; gin; tobacco; 4-H sale; peppers; farmers; drones

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

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

NEWS HERALD

Staff

Best Community Coverage

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

2nd Place

DAILY HERALD

Staff

July 22, 2018, July 29, 2018

3rd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Staff

Best Community Coverage

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

Elizabeth Reed

Washington the Magazine

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

2nd Place

FREE PRESS (KINSTON)

Chris Segal, Staff

My Lenoir - Fall 2018

Nice photo layouts. Events page is very well done.

3rd Place

SUN JOURNAL

Staff

My New Bern - Summer 2018

Savannah feature well done.

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Staff

Billy Graham dead

2nd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Kevin Ellis

Self kills family members

3rd Place

NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)

Kara Fohner

Collettsville swept by flash flood waters

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Andrew Mundhenk

Tough Decisions

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

2nd Place

HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Derek Lacey

Chivalry is not dead

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

3rd Place

SANFORD HERALD

Noah Grant Matt Monarca

'Kids just like us' Students honor

school shooting victims with walkout

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

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)

Kelsey Stiglitz, Amanda Thames

Child abuse on the rise in Onslow

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

2nd Place

COURIER-TRIBUNE

JD Walker

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

Great example of how to localize a national issue!

3rd Place

SUN JOURNAL

Todd Wetherington

Poverty in Craven County

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

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK

Shawn Taylor

Breath of Life

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

2nd Place

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Jordan Hensley

1 year, 2 suspects, 3 lives lost: How

a deadly night unfolded outside

McCroskey's pub

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

3rd Place

HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Andrew Mundhenk

Eyesore gets a new purpose

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

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

SUN JOURNAL

Gray Whitley, Staff

Hurricane Florence

2nd Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
 Staff
Hurricane Florence coverage

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Kevin Ellis
Deadly night at convenience store

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Richard Walker and Joe Hughes
State of Football in Gaston County

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
 Paul Durham
Sidelined at Beddingfield

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
 Jimmy Lewis
Rams ready to make history

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Jimmy Lewis
A puncher's chance for Olympic glory

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Kevin Ellis
NASCAR baby

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
 Justin Hayes
Family affair

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Staff
*'Not just a meeting, it's a movement,'
 'Please do not sell'*
*Both entries have very appealing graphics
 with photo and type as well as nice
 column placement throughout.*

2nd Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
 McDowell News Staff
 6-May-18
*Well balanced front layout, four photos
 on front is a bit much but it is still eye-
 appealing.*

3rd Place
DAILY HERALD
 Tia Bedwell
 January 12, 2017, January 14, 2018
*Jan. 12: Very pleasing front with beds
 concise, and well placed. Photos are
 excellent the page has overall eye appeal.
 Jan. 14: Graphic of dancer distracts from
 an otherwise good layout. Use of light font
 is confusing to the reader with otherwise
 bold beds. Points for trying something
 different.*

BEST LEDE

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Drew C. Wilson
*Bearing gifts; Billy Lamm; Cow
 Drew Wilson's ledes are short and sweet.
 Perfection!*

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Kevin Ellis
*Best Ledes ever written
 Ellis knows how to hook a reader with the
 first sentence.*

3rd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
 Kevin Griffin
*Dairy Queen Elvis; Mitchell Gold;
 Remembering Billy Graham
 Great work!*

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Eric Wildstein
*2018 Gaston County graduation map
 Great example how a publication can be
 of service to the community. Neat and
 smart display.*

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
 Drew C. Wilson
*Jam-packed with Wilson memories
 Good use of video and nat sound to
 showcase the barn. Strong images.*

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
 Chrissy Murphy and Jonelle Bobak
*A Beak Above
 Fun all around. Good access to the boy
 and the family (and the chicken).*

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
NEWS HERALD
 Ryan Wilusz
What Are You Thankful For?

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
 Staff
Operation Blue Christmas

3rd Place
SUN JOURNAL
 Gray Whitley
 VIDEO: Memphis Belle - B-17G Flying
 Fortress

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Bill Poteat
*Cherryville waitress works 53 years at
 Home Folks Cafe
 Love love loved this. Great piece on a
 smalltown unsung hero. Bravo!*

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
 Brie Handgraaf
Sole survivor

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Kevin Ellis
Face time for tattoos

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
 Larry Penkava
*Moment in the sun
 What a terrific story off of the beat. It
 deftly puts a human touch on the story
 right away, teaches readers in-depth about
 solar energy, including challenging the
 myths typically behind it, and noting the
 opportunity for the county. And it's very
 well-written and edited. This was the
 hands-down winner. Bravo!*

2nd Place
ROBESONIAN
 Staff
*Angel Exchange coverage
 Very strong reporting and a terrific
 editorial covering a hot-button topic. The
 paper followed this issue closely and did a
 great job tying together the issues problems
 and the potential political rationale
 for this building getting bought or not
 bought. Undoubtedly the outcome was
 influenced by the paper's excellent and
 informative coverage.*

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
 Staff
*Tax listing coverage
 Bold and beautiful. The paper called it
 as it saw it -- and as it was -- to take
 the commissioners to task for retaliatory
 acts because of negative coverage and
 to hide tax-dodgers connected to the
 commissioners. A strong editorial and
 good reporting on explaining why
 taxpayers are better off having tax
 delinquents outed in the daily newspaper
 is in their best interests.*

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
SANFORD HERALD
 Staff
*Herald Editorial Pages
 Obviously an important topic to the
 public and the press. Succinct and well
 explained.*

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
 Staff
*Editorial Page
 The topic of school performance can be
 boring but the edit brings it to life.*

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
 Staff
*WDN Editorial Page
 An archaic and wonky subject is brought
 to life showing the reader why it is
 important.*

EDITORIALS

1st Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
 Annette Jordan
Sheriff, Megasite, Crime

2nd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
 Vail Stewart Rumley
Show 'em how it's done et al

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
 Matt Debnam
Matt Debnam editorials

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

2nd Place
DISPATCH
 Ben Coley
*Political reporting
 Strong story. Reporter does a nice job of
 laying out the issues former sheriff's past
 and the reason the constitution was changed
 because of people like him (x7). A very good
 story, tightly written and to the point.*

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

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

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

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

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

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

FEATURE WRITING

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

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
 Bill Hand
The Perfect Firestorm

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

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

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

2nd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
 Staff
general excellence, websites

3rd Place
HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS
 Staff
BlueRidgeNow

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

HEADLINE WRITING

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

2nd Place
DISPATCH
 Ben Coley
Headline writing

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

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Paul Durham
Sideline at Beddingfield

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

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

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

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

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

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

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Bill Poteat
Poteat columns

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

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Will MacDonald
A Royal Wedding

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

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

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

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

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
 Mike Hensdill
Storm Sweeps Jaguars

3rd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
 Sarah Louya
Take A Bow

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
DISPATCH
 Donnie Roberts
Depot District fire

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

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
 David Bradley
Hurricane Florence rescue photo

PROFILE FEATURE

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

3rd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
 Rebecca Sitzes
Elder student

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

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

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

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

SERIOUS COLUMNS

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

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
 Tammie Gercken
Serious Columns

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

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

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

SPORTS COLUMNS

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

3rd Place
DAILY COURIER
 Josh McKinney
Sports Columns

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

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

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

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

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

2nd Place
DISPATCH
 Donnie Roberts
Ledford heartbreak

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

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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



CONGRATULATIONS!

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



First Place:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Taylor Batten: *Editorials*.

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

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

Scott Fowler: *Lighter Columns*.

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

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

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

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

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

Brendan Marks: *Sports Columns*.

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

Second Place:

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

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

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

Peter St. Onge: *Editorials*.

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

Staff: *News Section Design*.

Scott Fowler: *Sports Columns*.

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

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

Third Place:

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

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

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

Staff: *Editorial Pages*.

Peter St. Onge: *Lighter Columns*.

Jourdan Rodrigue: *Sports Columns*.

Staff: *Sports Coverage*.

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

First Place

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

Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner, David Raynor: Education Reporting

Raleigh Staff: Online Breaking News Coverage

Raleigh Staff: Appearance and Design

Casey Toth: Best Video

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

Richard Stradling: Mark Binker Public Notice Award - Dailies Only

Andrew Carter: Photography, Spot

Luke DeCock: Sports Feature Writing

Julia Wall: Best Video

Colin Campbell: Religion & Faith Reporting

Colin Campbell: Serious Columns

Cristina Bolling: Arts and Entertainment Reporting

Michael Gordon: Beat News Reporting

Charlotte Staff: Best Niche Publication

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

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

Taylor Batten: Editorials

Jim Morrill: Election/Political Reporting

Theoden Janes: Feature Writing

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off: Investigative Reporting

Scott Fowler: Lighter Columns

Diedra Laird: Photography, General News

Theoden Janes: Profile Feature

Charlotte Staff: Public Service Award - Dailies Only

Tim Funk: Religion & Faith Reporting

Brendan Marks: Sports Columns

Scott Fowler: Sports News Reporting

Second Place

Richard Stradling: Beat News Reporting

Martha Quillin: News Feature Writing

Raleigh Staff: Online Breaking News Coverage

Anna Johnson: Best Lede

Richard Stradling: Business Writing - Dailies Only

John Drescher, Ned Barnett: Editorial Page

Will Doran, Lynn Bonner: Election/Political Reporting

Andrew Carter, Bruce Henderson: Investigative Reporting

Ethan Hyman: Photography, Sports

John Murawski: Public Service Award - Dailies Only

Virginia Bridges: Beat Feature Reporting

Lynn Bonner: Beat News Reporting

David Menconi: Feature Writing

Mark Schultz: Photography, Feature

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

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

Theoden Janes: Sports Enterprise Writing

Jeff Siner: Best Video

Peter St. Onge: Editorials

Theoden Janes: Feature Writing

Charlotte Staff: News Section Design - Dailies Only

Scott Fowler: Sports Columns

Langston Wertz Jr: Sports News Reporting

Third Place

David Menconi: Arts and Entertainment Reporting

Raleigh Staff: Best Community Coverage

Travis Long: Best Video

Ned Barnett: Editorials

T. Keung Hui: Election/Political Reporting

John Murawski: General News Reporting

Dan Kane: Investigative Reporting

Raleigh Staff: Photo Page or Essay

Raleigh Staff: News Section Design - Dailies Only

Ethan Hyman: Photography, Sports

Julia Wall: Photography, Spot

Martha Quillin: Religion & Faith Reporting

John Drescher: Serious Columns

Raleigh Staff: Special Section - Newspapers Only

Steve Wiseman: Sports News Reporting

Tammy Grubb: News Feature Writing

Casey Toth: Best Video

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan: Investigative Reporting

Colin Campbell: Election/Political Reporting

Ann Doss Helms: Education Reporting

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

Steve Harrison, Ely Portillo: City County Government Reporting

Charlotte Staff: Editorial Page

Peter St. Onge: Lighter Columns

Jourdan Rodrigue: Sports Columns

Charlotte Staff: Sports Coverage - Newspapers Only

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Monica Holland
Shag

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Kim Grizzard
Mirra on the wall

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Monica Holland
Quilting

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

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

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

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

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

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

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

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

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

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

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Discover Cape Fear May 2018

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

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

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

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

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

EDUCATION REPORTING

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

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

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

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Cape Fear Forward Series

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

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Cammie Bellamy
Are our kids safe?

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

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

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

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

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

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

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

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Bowe Bergdahl sentencing

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

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

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

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

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place HERALD-SUN

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

2nd Place ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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

3rd Place HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

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

BEST LEDE

1st Place SALISBURY POST

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

2nd Place
STARNEWS
John Staton
Garden of Eden; Steel Magnolias; Blue Post
Garden of Eden lede made us want to read the story hallmark of a good lede.

3rd Place HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

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

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Hrisanthi Kroi and Sammy Batten
Game Changers
Strong entry all around. Clean, comprehensive.

2nd Place STARNEWS

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

3rd Place FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

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

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Julia Wall
'I guess I've been gentrified,' says Durham renter

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Angela Wilhelm
Woman's journal reveals addiction struggle

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Casey Toth
This Santa made history and became a big hit at the Durham Holiday Parade

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Monica Vendituoli
Building a Better City?

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
John Boyle
The legacy of William A.V. Cecil

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
The Merchant of West End: John McLaughlin devoted his store, heart to Salisbury community

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Monica Vendituoli and Greg Barnes
City Council violations of Open Meetings Law

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Jennifer Bowman
Large bonuses, incentives inflated Buncombe County's other six-figure salaries

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Joel Burgess
One Airbnb host's fight with this tourist mecca is nearing \$1M in fines

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Elizabeth Cook
October 2017 editorial pages
Good balance of staff and reader views creates for a more compelling look at issues in the community. Editorials are well written and interesting, with clear calls for action.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Tim White
Fayetteville Observer editorial pages
Editorials had good variety and were interesting to read, even for a judge far removed who knows nothing about the local issues.

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Vince Wheeler
Editorial pages
Good mix of staff and community opinions.

EDITORIALS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Scott Nunn
StarNews Editorials

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Tim White
Fayetteville Observer editorials

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Myron B. Pitts
Myron B. Pitts editorials

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Paul Woolverton
Should the state require IDs to vote?
An important state constitutional issue -- requiring voter IDs -- explained clearly. Both sides are represented with compelling statistical evidence.

2nd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Joel Burgess
Asheville council: 220 years, 14 women, 10 African-Americans
Diversity on the Asheville council put into historical perspective. Clearly written.

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Tim Buckland
A new Sunday
Early voting on Sundays explained well. Quotes are particularly strong.

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
May 16-17, 2018
Nice layout, good flow - both sections.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
The princess papers

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
David Menconi
Nina Simone and Tryon

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Monica Holland
Grateful Shed

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
www.StarNewsOnline.com
Nice variety of stories up top. Site got a little unwieldy down near photo galleries and videos.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
staff
Reflector.com
Standard; clean

3rd Place
HERALD-SUN
Staff
The Herald-Sun
Not sure why so much white space between photos and story link.

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff

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

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Amanda Dolasinski
*What happened to Kristen Stone?
This is an amazing story, rich in detail
as well as good writing.*

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
*R.I.P., Mr. High Point
This successfully captures a life and has
amazing moments of humor as well.*

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Scott Nunn
*Headlines on Celia Rivenbark
columns
These are headlines with personality!
Spirited and shy.*

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
*Jimmy Tomlin headlines
Funny, clever, concise!*

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

ILLUSTRATION/ PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
*The Mighty Cape Fear
So more effective than just words in
allowing readers to clearly understand
the gravity of the situation*

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Maria Sprow
Jordan's Rules

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Mariano Santillan
Christmas Story Contest illustration

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

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

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

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

LIGHTER COLUMNS

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

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

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

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
July 1-2, 2018

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

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
STARNEWS
Matt Born
The Wait is Over

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

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Salisbury soccer

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Hurricane Rest

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Hurricane Mom

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Ken Blevins
Florence in photos

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR

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

2nd Place
STARNEWS

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

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

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

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST

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

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Staff
Hurricane Matthew: Stories from the Storm

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Staff
Fort Bragg: 100 Years

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place
STARNEWS

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

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR

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

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Rodd Baxley
Sports Columns

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR

Staff
Best sports coverage

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Staff
Sports coverage Fayetteville Observer

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

Enterprise sports staff
Enterprise sports coverage

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Andrew Craft
Division Run

2nd Place
STARNEWS

Matt Born
Sky High

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Melissa Sue Gerrits
Box it Out

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
STARNEWS

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

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN

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

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

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

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST

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

Advertisement for The Fayetteville Observer. The ad features a large image of a football player in a Carolina Panthers uniform. Text includes: "Acknowledging our sports coverage specialist: CAROLINA PANTHERS' CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY | C1", "The Fayetteville Observer", "SUNDAY EDITION", "What we should have learned from DuPont's CS crisis in West Virginia", "Secrets, denials and toxic water", "Gun control supporters say 'enough'", "LOVOLL MICHIGAN REACH FINAL FOUR", "MORE THAN \$156 IN COUPONS INSIDE".

Advertisement for The High Point Enterprise. The ad features a large image of a construction site. Text includes: "COMMUNITY PULSE", "THE HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE", "Annual progress edition | Inside", "Looking beyond game day", "Master developer aims for 'downtown joy' around stadium", "Gun control marches draw huge turnout here, across United States", "EXONERATED", "Wrongful murder charge shatters family's faith in the court system".



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

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



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

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

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

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 David Menconi
 Kinston Arts District

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

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

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

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

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

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

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

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

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

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

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Cindy Loman, Tim Myers, Whitney Cork
1808: Greensboro's Magazine, December 2017
Love the use of the red bows as an accent on the corners, also the recipe cards is very clever

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Cindy Loman, Tim Myers
1808: Greensboro's Magazine June 2018
Font and borders on the Nathanael Greene feature are outstanding

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 T. Keung, Hui, Greg Childress and Jim Morrill
NC teachers rally in Raleigh for more pay, education funding
Good variety of voices in the mix, solid coverage all around of a story that made national headlines when it happened, this coverage gives a more thorough look and provides background.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Andre Taylor
Apartment fire
Touching and horrendously sad. Author treads lightly and avoids clichés that too often accompany stories on topics like this.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
 Michael Bragg
'Whatever it takes' -- 3 busloads and multiple carpools from W-S-Forsyth Schools join rally
Well written and puts a human face on an issue and event that's been widely reported.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner, David Raynor
NC's Charter School Boom

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Jessie Pounds
Testing school water

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
 Ann Doss Helms, Micheal Gordon
Teen has missed 77 days of school. Will threatening his parents with jail help CMS?

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

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

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Nancy McLaughlin
Shattered

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
 Jenny Drabble
Hoping for answers: Family clings to hope, police continue search 2 years after teen's disappearance

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Margaret Moffett
Tornado aftermath
Margaret Moffett's cinematic eye made all the difference in telling this post-disaster story. Once you start reading the first few words, you are sucked in, forced to hold on to your hat as she narrates what happens next: She shows us how this town's heart and sense of resilience. The attention to detail and her conversational voice rounds out this terrific piece. Congratulations!

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Martha Quillin
A Confederate statue. A mostly black college. And simmering small-town resentment.
Martha Quillin shows us in her writing how much she knows the community she covers, and how all the complexities and contradictions of our nation's history and race relations are playing out in her own backyard. The straightforward writing brings to life the issue through a cast of characters whose voices represent various sides of a local controversy being watched on a global scale. Very nicely done!

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
 Scott Sexton
'I can't forget' -- Letter opens old wounds; man sentenced in officer's murder up for parole
In all likelihood, Scott Sexton has enough notes from his reporting to write a novel about this widower's letter. Sexton distilled the essence of the story into a this article, but he took extra care to bring you into his subject's life and recreate memories that seemed forgotten. Take note of the details, and how the quotes carry the piece, forcing us to ask questions about the justice system and ourselves.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Protesters topple Silent Sam

Confederate statue at UNC-Chapel Hill

Wow! A phenomenal job covering an emotional event on deadline and through the night, followed by executive all of the video and social media aspects that are needed in this day and age. Good, rich coverage not only of the emotion, but of the issue, history and the politics that probably could have prevented such a scene. Extremely well done.

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Hurricane Florence coverage

A terrific job by the N&O staff under the adverse conditions. Particularly impressive was the use of short video, which really brought readers/viewers the devastation of the storm. Coupled with compelling people stories, this is breaking news coverage at its best.

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

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

Great job putting the impact into perspective and showing what might replace Family Dollar. It was interesting that so many jobs were lost but it didn't seem like other that those directly affected were too worried, given all the other growth in Charlotte. The paper did a nice job of painting that perspective.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Patrick Ferlise

A Wild Ride: Fans flock to tradition-rich Bowman Gray for intense racing and jolt of fun

A great, in-depth look at the history people and the magic that make this a stadium like no other. Great all-around reporting -- as a complete novice to both racing and Bowman Gray, I felt like I understood what makes it so special.

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Theoden Janes

Is the Booty Loop truly 'the most dangerous 3 miles to ride a bike in Charlotte'?

Reported and arranged with near perfection. You get the human impact up top logistical issues and opinions of the cyclists throughout, and end with a beautiful callback to the human impact. Fantastic lede, fantastic kicker.

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Brant Wilkerson-New

Young basketball star's fast track

Great personality profile of a kid who's about to become a superstar. The profile is great as is, but the added reporting into the ways technology has transformed the graduation process put it over the top.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Patrick Ferlise

Setting the standard -- Football was only the beginning for West Forsyth hall of famer

The story had me, and it's so well written - from the description of Johnny's eye glasses to his quotes - well done.

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

John Dell

'There is nothing she can't do'

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Ethan Joyce

Humble beginnings -- Wake tennis brought home NCAA championships, but outlook different in 1953

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

May 17, May 18 N&O appearance and design

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff

Appearance and design, May 12, 13

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff

Appearance and Design

BEST LEDE

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Lisa O'Donnell

Faces of recovery/MerleFest/Steve Earle

Stunning. Each brings a reader right into the heart of someone's life in a way that us unique to each.

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Anna Johnson

Best Ledes - Anna Johnson

They say the devil is in the details, and this is particularly true in these from parking issues outside churches to those items left at the curb after a hurricane. These grab you and make you want to read more.

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Mills

Jeff Mills

good, solid interesting introductions to people and situations that draws in the reader well

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

NEWS & RECORD

Nancy McLaughlin, H. Scott

Hoffmann, Tim Rickard

Fatal accident shatters families

Incredibly tragic story. Good use of visual elements to recreate and explain the accident. Good use of photos to humanize the characters.

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff

The Legend of Lydia

Brave use of illustration and animation to draw the reader in.

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Joe Sirera

Excellence personified

Thorough profile. Good use of timeline and video elements.

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Casey Toth

The last Mother's Day for Avery Neill

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Jeff Siner

Mother and son are both amputees, both ballers

3rd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Travis Long

This man and his cat became the faces of Florence and a story of resilience and hope

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Richard Craver

Winners and losers: Steel tariffs likely to have variable effects on N.C. corporations

Great job localizing a national story

Perfect!

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Richard Stradling

Farmers sign on to grow newest cash crop in North Carolina

More reporting on hemp is needed in this nation. Awesome work!

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Jenny Drabble

Removing barriers to history

Powerful story!

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Fred Clasen-Kelly, Emmanuel Morgan

This pill prevents HIV, saves lives. Here's why Mecklenburg doesn't offer it.

The number of residents suffering from HIV in Mecklenburg is heartbreaking.

Great job reporting this sensitive topic in a professional manner.

2nd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Margaret Moffett

Downtown parking

Who knew parking decks could be so controversial? Nice!

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Steve Harrison, Ely Portillo

Charlotte spent \$2 million for housing project. After 11 years, it hasn't been built.

Engaging work by Harrison and Portillo.

More journalists should follow their lead and report on the millions of dollars wasted by governments across the nation.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place NEWS & RECORD

Staff
Editorial page
Good variety of topics, all well written and most urge action of some type, not just spout opinion for the sake of filling space.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
John Drescher, Ned Barnett
News and Observer Editorial Pages Local editorials were great, layout could have been better if those were always dominant over the syndicated columnist.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
Editorial pages

EDITORIALS

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Taylor Batten
Collection of editorials: Taylor Batten Biting, well-argued commentary on a variety of subjects that calls out hypocrisy in its many forms.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Peter St. Onge
Collection of editorials: Peter St. Onge Accessible, energetic editorials written with personality; holding local and state government accountable.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ned Barnett
Barnett N&O editorial Intelligent editorials that spotlight ways in which the interests of citizens are not well served by government.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Jim Morrill
A speech Jesse Helms never gave would have changed U.S. politics Well written and researched, interesting look into the true influence of one of North Carolina's most well known political figures.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Will Doran, Lynn Bonner
Campaign donors' cash goes to steak dinners, home fees Thorough deep dive into political spending, something needed more in political reporting.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
T. Keung Hui
GOP lawmakers have reshaped state's K-12 education system Interesting and compelling read on the broad changes being made to public education and the political divide surrounding the different philosophies.

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Feature design "Weekend Go Triad section comprehensive, well-organized, reader friendly. Excellent events calendar and calendar listing, as well as separate Tickets listing. Map on casual dining feature helpful.

Savor section attractive, with locally oriented features, including recipe swap, food and drink calendar. Having comics, crosswords, etc. on pages 2 and 3 was a bit jarring, though.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Feature section design May 27, 30 Meaty Sunday Arts section, running gamut from theater to classical music, to locally oriented TV briefs and book reviews. Good use of "If you Go" boxes, interesting feature on museum exhibit on nexus between business and arts. Midweek Food section also well done. Nice color, layout and content. Good mix of features and recipes.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
As kids they picked cotton and dreamed about the 'mansion' across the road. Now they own it. I couldn't stop reading this story. It's simply fabulous, from beginning to end. It's hard to believe that sharecropping lasted so long. And the way the house the family admired ended up in the family was spectacular. You can't help but admire this marvelous family that truly overcame adversity. And then add a compelling video as the cherry on top. Sensational piece of journalism.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
She tried to keep her 99-year-old father from skydiving. He jumped anyway – happily. We all should get to be Jack Hart. The writer takes us along for the ride with an amazing, 99-year-old man who seems half his age. The story is so well told, you can't help but smile throughout this brilliant piece.

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Jenny Drabble
'A kid who never gives up' -- 9-year-old overcomes strokes, paralysis Wonderfully told story. A reader's heart can't help but break as the reporter takes one through this amazing journey of this special 9-year-old. You can't help but root for this kid.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR WEBSITES

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
JournalNow.com Easy to navigate and overwhelmingly comprehensive

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
CharlotteObserver.com

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
News & Record website, greensboro.com

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Richard Craver
Broken system/Cardinal probe alleges fraud Well-written and thorough look from early stages and follows the saga well. Dry topic written in a way that draws the reader in and makes it interesting.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Sarah Newell
Ann Carter's last days/Two families. Two stories. One death. Interesting look at a sad situation and has compassion, but doesn't shy away from discussing a troubled past. Leaves reader with tons of questions, wanting more coverage of this case.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
John Murawski
Thousands of doctors still overprescribing opioids Interesting read that raises questions about a toothless law with lax enforcement. Important topic that is covered frequently, but this is an interesting angle that hasn't been discussed a lot.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Vacation vexation/It 'otter' look good/ What does the fox steal?

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Mike Kernels
Mike Kernels

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Allen Johnson
Allen Johnson

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Tim Rickard
Immigration: Where to turn

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Cassandra Sherrill
School bus 101

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Cassandra Sherrill
Once in a Super Blue Blood Moon

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Ames Alexander, Gavin Off
Inside N.C. prisons, staff shortages create deadly risk Staggering investigative reporting on issues of critical public importance. Shocking findings, authoritative voice, plenty of hard facts and personal narratives. Some of the reporting on statewide shortcomings could be even stronger with national context – how do NC prison staffing shortages and rates of violence compare to other states?

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Andrew Carter and Bruce Henderson
NC cut landslide hazard program, despite dangers -- 2 stories
Beautifully written story. Nice job weaving together intimate personal narratives and hard news. Could be stronger with more authoritative statements about government action (or inaction) and harm to the public.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Dan Kane
NC House Speaker Tim Moore's legal contract with start-up raises questions
Strong watchdog reporting on questionable dealings by a politician. Solid impact with the prosecutor pursuing an investigation. Could be improved by taking a stronger stance on the politician's actions. Is there a way to say straight up whether he did something wrong?

LIGHTER COLUMNS
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Scott Fowler
Collection of lighter columns: Scott Fowler
A great mix of a variety of topics and story telling.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
Something wild must remain/ Where do I catch the next starship?/ Nighttime quiet to still the chatter

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Peter St. Onge
Collection of lighter columns: Peter St. Onge

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
News section design, July 7, 8
Visually appealing, except in a few text-heavy places. Love the full photo page.

2nd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
News Section Design
Visually appealing design, and good effort to break up text.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
N&O A section design
Clean designs.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
This is Cam's story
Good job capturing Cam keeping a good attitude despite his challenges.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
There's nothing she can't do
Good job applying a graphic visual approach to a story that would usually take a more literal and emotional approach.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
Hurricane Florence
There are some great shots there.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Carrying the cross
Walking through the cracks in the money still holds currency. The light is eerie, and the composition perfectly elegant.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Ready for renovation
The lighting and textures in derelict architecture are great, here it gets a boost from some 'fairy dust.'

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
Big Jumps
Cleanly done, this is well-timed, composed and colorful.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Diedra Laird
Public can help homeless survive dangerous freeze
The secondary shot was even more powerful than the main photo with the woman sitting with her belongings as others waited in line and some turned away from the camera.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Bringing him home
Well framed and emotionally intense.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Khadejeh Nikouyeh
Unite the Right
Good, close-up work by the photographer capturing the intensity of the situation. Entry would have been helped by limiting the number of photos and honing in on the strongest.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS
1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
H. Scott Hoffmann
UNCG dunk

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ethan Hyman
Floor scramble

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
ETHAN HYMAN
Stretch for a Sack

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Reynolds, Parkland renew rivalry

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT
1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Andrew Carter
Kitten clings as man awaits rescue

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
H. Scott Hoffmann
Mother, son after tornado

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Julia Wall
Sam Silenced For Now

PROFILE FEATURE
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Theoden Janes
He was once Charlotte's most feared attorney. Now Bill Diehl faces a different fight.
A joy to read. Great quotes, nice writing, good perspective and really nice lede - In many ways, Bill Diehl is less Bill Diehl-like than he used to be.
There's one surprise after another in this story and how he tells it. You want to keep going to find out what happens next"

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Mills
A Broadway Masterpiece
Lively writing and nice metaphor at the top. The writing carries the reader through the story.

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Mills
John Isner is sky high
More lively writing, lots of informative quotes. The reader can tell he likes this guy.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING
1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Tim Funk
Fallen televangelist Jim Bakker is back – and now he's prepping for the Apocalypse
I love this story. It was fascinating and easy to read for those not familiar with Bakker. Very well-researched and written, too.

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Nancy McLaughlin
Church closes its doors
Nicely done. Good reporting and well-written. Captures the importance to the church to its members.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Martha Quillin
Faith and firearms: Why Christians don't talk about gun violence
The beginning wasn't as strong as the rest of the story, but overall a good read.

SERIOUS COLUMNS
1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Mick Scott
Stop this plane and let him off/ Stealing a poor man's sheep/You can't scare city mice

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place BLOWING ROCK NEWS

David Coulson
Living art

2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen
'Rising' Exhibit Documents Coastal Change

3rd Place OCRACOE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
Messages of hope transform Magic Bean yard

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Jack Igelman
*Thousands of years of expertise: Cherokees contribute to National Forest management plan
Unique and interesting angle to "Save our forests." Enjoyed the read!*

2nd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Melissa Boughton
*Double-bunked judges speak out on judicial redistricting plans
Well researched, deep dive into the far reaching effects of this plan.*

3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole
*Study: Corals Prefer the Taste of Plastic
Good read that takes the plastic in our waterways to a new level. Who knew plastic was tasty to some?*

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf
*Coverage of North Carolina's Opioid Epidemic
The opioid epidemic has touched every corner of our country in countless ways and there are endless stories to tell. The reporter's knowledge and coverage spans a deep variety of topics and sheds light on how deep into our society the issue goes, such as into our schools and into our homes.*

2nd Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Catherine Clabby
Challenging Swine Farming in Hog Country

3rd Place CAROLINA JOURNAL

Kari Travis
UNC and Silent Sam

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place NC HEALTH NEWS

Rose Hoban, Thomas Goldsmith, Jared Weber
Coverage of North Carolina's School Nurse Shortage

2nd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Billy Ball
A rocky first year for North Carolina's controversial school takeover program

3rd Place EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell, Analisa Sorrells
Governor's Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Staff
Coastal Review Online - News Coverage

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak
Sea level rise and the North Carolina coast

2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kirk Ross
North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Series

3rd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Joe Killian
North Carolina's cash-bail system, its problems and its inequities

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg
*Pleasant Garden residents gear up to fight a proposed granite mine
Lisa Sorg's talent for finding the best subject to illustrate an issue is only matched by her artful, yet unadorned writing, which guides the reader through complex issues affecting the community. Bravo! Congratulations.*

2nd Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Jack Igelman
*Illegal shooters trashing Eastern North Carolina public lands
A nuanced look at illegal target shooting by a writer with an eye for detail. Jack Igelman guides us through the issue with neatly organized blocks that help the reader understand how it impacts the community at large.*

3rd Place N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg
Human, environmental impact of 540 expansion loom large in southern Wake County

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kirk Ross
*'Don't Drill!'
Reverberates in Raleigh
The author juxtaposes two scenes really well to illustrate the conflict behind this controversy. Also, lots of colorful detail that doesn't distract from the news.*

2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen
*Cooper Promises Lawsuit Over Exemption
This is a clear, concise story that gets right to the point at how a federal government's announcement in one state could affect North Carolina. One suggestion: It might help the readers to introduce the first quote through an audio or video clip next time, or even a photograph with a quote over it, just create a stronger multimedia story.*

3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak
*Proposed Rule Would Allow Red Wolf Takes
This story takes what could be a dry, incremental development and clearly illustrates the larger implications of a federal government announcement. Lots of good, key background as well. For a story like this, it could help to present the red wolf's road to recovery in a video or slideshow embedded in the story.*

BEST LEDE

1st Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole
*Kathleen Onorevole Best Lede
Great ledes! Was drawn in to all three stories.*

2nd Place OCRACOE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
'Chicken run' thwarted on Swan Quarter ferry

3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak
Catherine Kozak: Best Lede

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell
*Equity Meets Education
Great display. Strong use of video vignettes.*

2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kathleen Onorevole
*Study: Nesting Turtles Prefer Dark Beaches
Very good and logical selection of visuals.*

3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Allison Ballard
*Historic Wrightsville Beach Cottage Relocated
Good use of video to show the process.*

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Frank Taylor
*Emails reveal dealings between county officials and behavioral health agency lobbyists
This is a potentially important story, not in the least because it may show evidence of a newspaper looking for a story of wrongdoing when none exists.*

2nd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Allison Ballard
*Shallotte Officials Update Riverfront Plan
Local efforts to use a local resource to attract business from both local residents as well as tourists. It sounds lovely.*

3rd Place COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen
*Beaufort's Harbor Management Plan
More efforts to put a local resource to good use. The government agencies seem to be trying their best to be economical while still realizing their purpose.*

EDITORIALS

1st Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Rick Henderson

CJ editorials by Rick Henderson

A strong package of editorials addressing issues as varied as the meaning of milk to the need for transparency in government. The writer makes his case in each editorial clearly without resorting to hyperbole. Of course the editorials take a stance, but the writer presents enough information for the readers to form their own opinion and perhaps see things through a different prism.

2nd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Rob Schofield

Three editorials by Rob Schofield

3rd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Billy Ball

Brett Kavanaugh, hog farms, and the five living governors take a stand

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Billy Ball

A teacher's battle to challenge North Carolina's most powerful state legislator. This deeply reported piece is impressive, offering readers a rare glimpse at the political machinations involved in an attempt to prevent a Republican Party defector from challenging a powerful, entrenched incumbent. The thoroughness of the reporting and the capturing of such political intrigue pushed this piece to the top in a category with other strong entries.

2nd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Melissa Boughton

Victim's rights amendment could cost North Carolina millions to implement

A meritorious example of watchdog journalism, based on obtaining a previously secret fiscal analysis. The story raises important questions about the true cost of a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the rights of crime victims. Commendable reporting, and deftly written.

3rd Place

THE INSIDER

Colin Campbell

Political Donor

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen

Deserted Island Village to Come Alive Again

A pleasant, well-written story. I love the lede.

2nd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Kip Tabb

Our Coast's History: NC's Oyster War

Very well-written and interesting story.

3rd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Rose Hoban

With Opioid Overdoses Rising,

Medical Cannabis Gets a Second Look

Interesting story. Well-researched.

General News Reporting

1ST PLACE

NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf

For 11-year-old in ER Wait for a Psych

Bed is 10 Days

2nd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Catherine Kozak

Gator Sparks Interest As State OKs

Hunting

3rd Place

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Vaughn Hagerty

How one group of utility workers held the line against the flood

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Staff

Not all who wander are lost

2nd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Mark Hibbs

Headline Writing

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf

NC Prison Breaks Its Own Rules for

Suicide Prevention

2nd Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Kari Travis

Problems at N.C. prisons have

festered for years

3rd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Billy Ball

Exclusive: #MeToo comes to North

Carolina; NC legislator accused of

sexual misconduct

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Sam Bland

Sam Bland: Lighter Columns

2nd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Liz Biro

Liz Biro: Lighter Columns

3rd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jared Lloyd

Jared Lloyd: Lighter Columns

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Mark Hibbs

New Neighbors: American Robins

Much of photography is about timing. I've

seen images like this always make me pause,

wish and wonder if I'd ever be a witness.

2nd Place

EDUCATIONNC

Yasmin Bendaas

Eastern NC high school students

blend leadership and STEM learning

"STEM and STEAM education is

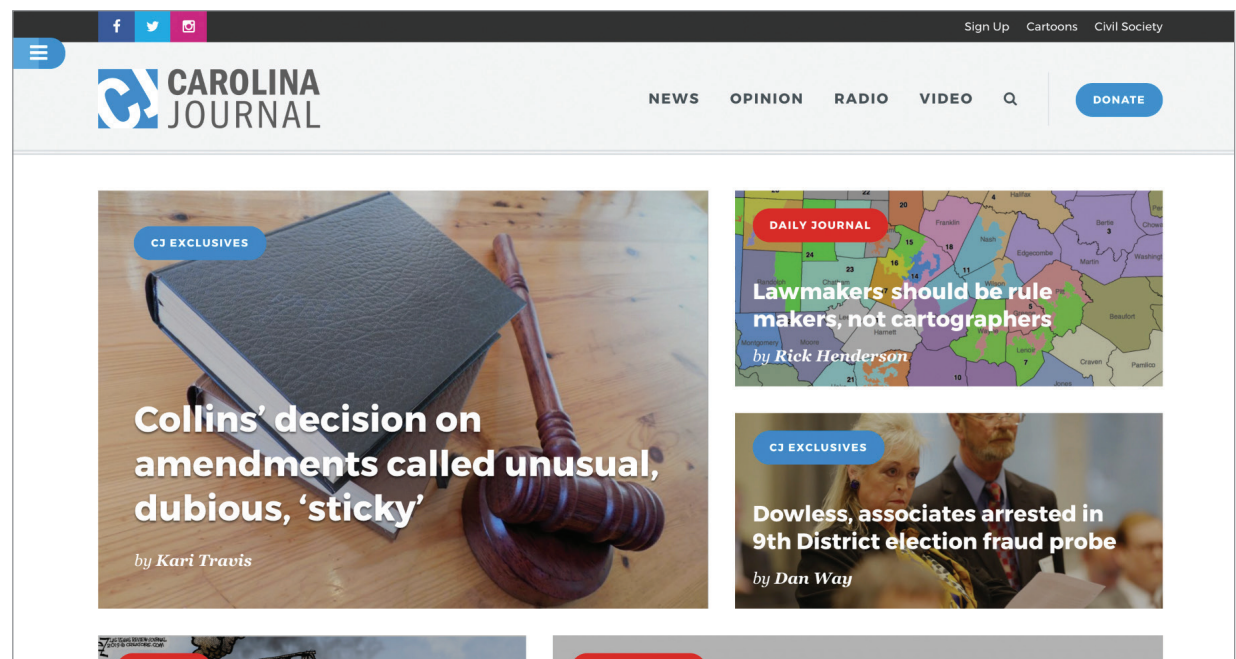
building momentum nationally. I

like the engagement and energy of the

students, and that there is at least one

close-up by the photographer, and there's

more of that in the layout.



PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE**3rd Place****COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Mark Hibbs

*The Buzz on Pollinator Week**I like the intent of the photographer, as an eye-catching illustration to drive eyes to read about pollinator week.***PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS****1st Place****CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS**

Melissa Sue Gerrits

*Group home photos by Melissa Sue Gerrits**Well done from a photographic standpoint and from a storytelling standpoint.***2nd Place****N.C. POLICY WATCH**

Lisa Sorg

*Shielding Murphy-Brown from nuisance lawsuits sparks a fracas in the streets**The image makes the viewer wonder what is about to happen.***3rd Place****OCRACOKE OBSERVER**

Staff

*Photos of a wintry Ocracoke**A few too many photos, but otherwise an interesting essay.***PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS****1st Place****BLOWING ROCK NEWS**

Brad Batchelor

*Run for your life!***2nd Place****BLOWING ROCK NEWS**

David Searce

*Fill er up!***3rd Place****BLOWING ROCK NEWS**

David Rogers

*"The Catch"***PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT****1st Place****OCRACOKE OBSERVER**

Peter Vankevich

*Sea turtle release creates spectacle on Ocracoke beach***2nd Place****OCRACOKE OBSERVER**

Peter Vankevich

*Rare Trumpeter Swan spotted on Ocracoke***PROFILE FEATURE****1st Place****COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Jennifer Allen

*Paula Gillikin Keeps Watch Over Wild Horses**Immunocontraception. Explain that.**Jennifer Allen did a super job of showing us who this manager of wild horses is and what makes her tick. Allen's ear for essential quotes make the piece what it is. Congratulations!***2nd Place****NC HEALTH NEWS**

Taylor Knopf

*Family Ties Keep One Rural OB-GYN Practicing in Eastern NC, Despite Challenges**Nicely woven tale of how central rural doctor is to his community. Unadorned writing carries the piece.***3rd Place****COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE**

Kip Tabb

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