



**EDITORIAL
CONTEST
WINNERS
FOR 2017**



**THE NORTH CAROLINA
PRESS ASSOCIATION**

2017 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 CODY HENSON

(R) North Carolina

State Representative -

North Carolina House District 113

Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

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

In short order, he emerged as a strong proponent for a free press and open government. For it was early in the '17 session that bills were filed that would have effectively eliminated the legal notices in newspapers statewide and would have burdened newspaper circulation contractors with additional taxes. The combined effect of these

bills could have crippled readers' right to know about government activity through public notices appearing in newspapers and could have seriously impaired newspaper circulation across the state.

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

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

Past Lassiter Award Winners

1988 Congressman Cass Ballenger
1989 Rep. George Miller
1990 Elmer Oettinger, N.C. Institute of Government
1991 The Hon. James H. Pou Bailey, Retired Senior Judge, 10th Judicial District
1992 Sharon Pennell, Journalism Professor, ASU Member, Caldwell County Board of Education
1993 Senator Marc Basnight
1994 Dr. Gene Lanier, East Carolina University
1995 Franz Holsher, Gastonia City Council
1996 Dr. Margaret Blanchard, UNC-CH School of Journalism & Mass Communication
1997 Mayor Tom Gwyn, Elkin, N.C.
1998 Senator Roy Cooper
1999 Senator David Hoyle

2000 Attorney Jon Buchan
2001 Rep. Robert Grady
2002 Rep. Jennifer Weiss
2003 Hugh Stevens, NCPA Counsel Emeritus
2004 The Hon. Wanda G. Bryant, N.C. Court of Appeals
2005 Mark Swanger, Haywood, County Commissioner
2006 Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina
2007 Joe Sinsheimer
2008 Tom McClure and Eldridge Painter of Sylva and Jim Rowell of Cullowhee
2009 No winner
2010 Cathy Packer
2011 No winner
2014 Rep. Marilyn Avila
2015 Sen. Norman Sanderson
2016 C. Amanda Martin

HUGH MORTON PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspaper Winner

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Allison Lee Isley
Allison Lee Isley portfolio

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



Community Newspaper Winner

PILOT

Ted Fitzgerald
Ted Fitzgerald Pilot

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



DIVISION A



FIRST PLACE
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

SECOND PLACE
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

THIRD PLACE
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

DIVISION B



FIRST PLACE
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL

SECOND PLACE
SYLVA HERALD
AND RURALITE

THIRD PLACE
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

DIVISION C



FIRST PLACE
CARTERET COUNTY
NEWS-TIMES

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

SECOND PLACE
NEWS REPORTER

Mobilizing a staff and coordinating news coverage during a national disaster is a remarkable task. The staff of the Columbus County News Reporter should be proud of its efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, providing the community with vital information and historical documentation. Reporters even had to dictate stories over the phone to the newsroom, which for a time was the editor's home because it had a small generator. That's dedication.

THIRD PLACE
MOUNTAIN XPRESS

At first glance Asheville Mountain Xpress has the look of a flashy niche publication. But once you get into it punchy tab-style layout lends way to thoughtful, issue-based news reporting and enjoyable feature stories. The extensive voter guide was particularly well done, as is the community calendar. Obviously this is not your traditional community newspaper (no sports coverage or local editorial), but it is certainly fun to read.

DIVISION D



FIRST PLACE
MCDOWELL NEWS

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

SECOND PLACE
STATESVILLE RECORD
& LANDMARK

Morning Brew page is executed well, as is the Public Record page. Like the My Classic Car feature, too.

THIRD PLACE
STAR (SHELBY)

Upcoming events list, local editorial, lists lots of ways to contact staff -- including staffers' photos to make them more approachable.

DIVISION E



FIRST PLACE STARNEWS

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

SECOND PLACE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

THIRD PLACE GASTON GAZETTE

DIVISION F



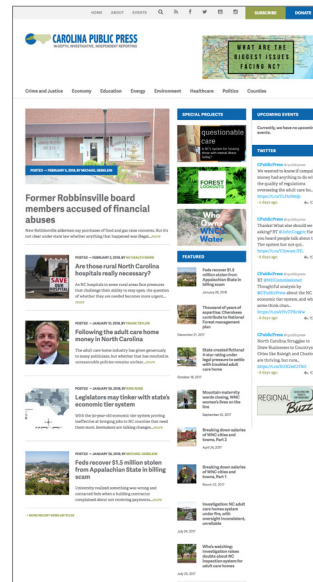
FIRST PLACE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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

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

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

ONLINE



FIRST PLACE CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Good total coverage dedicated to investigations and holding people in power accountable.

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

THIRD PLACE OCRACOKE OBSERVER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

EVERY JOURNAL TIMES

Matt Debnam

Warrior Artist of Newland: Rodger Jacobs

This piece did a top-notch job of storytelling by focusing on the artist. It was well-written, used quotes well, and gave readers a good look at the person behind the art. Nice work!

2nd Place

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

Scott Brings Plenty

Capturing Life's Essence

Well written story, with a good lede. A few more sources would have made this a first place contender.

3rd Place

HIGHLANDER

Kelsey Reidle

Arts and entertainment - Curtain Call

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Liz Moomey

Justin LeBlanc

2nd Place

EVERY JOURNAL TIMES

Thomas Sherrill

Wedge Issue: Sandwich board signs in Banner Elk

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

Beat News Reporting -News Obits Touching tribute to the VIPs in your community. Wonderful details about the person, and - no pun intended- these details brought the person to life for the reader.

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Laura Ashley Lamm

Kinston

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Laura Ashley Lamm

Princeville Rebuilding

Good lede; good subject. Well written.

3rd Place

TARBORO WEEKLY

Lindell John Kay

Officials tour devastated farms

Good writing, clean copy. Well done

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Donna King

North Hills Time Capsule

2nd Place

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

Robert Jumper, Scott Brings Plenty

Cherokee One Feather

3rd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Laura Ashley Lamm

Beloved Family

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

HIGHLANDER

Staff

Best Niche Publication - Mnt Life

2nd Place

BLOWING ROCKET

Meleah Bryan, Jeff Eason, Johnny

Hayes, Rob Moore

Blowing Rock My Hometown

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

NEWS-JOURNAL

Catharin Shepard

Senate budget threatens kids' lunches

This is a story of tremendous importance to the children and families that could potentially be effective. Great job getting the numbers and detailing what the impact would be in your community.

This is a perfect example of taking a statewide story and making it impactful for your readers. Outstanding reporting.

2nd Place

EVERY JOURNAL TIMES

Matt Debnam

The ABCs of Avery CTE

In-depth series informs readers about the ins and outs of a program they may not have been familiar with. Good work getting beyond the surface and explaining the details of CTE.

3rd Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

Education Reporting 1 of 2 files

Solid reporting on what was clearly a contentious local issue. Nice job keeping the public informed about the ongoing saga of school construction.

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place

GRAHAM STAR

Staff The Graham Star

News Coverage

Clean front pages with nice use of photos; love the 5 minute ticker. Community coverage carries over into the inside pages in an easy-to-read format. Keep up the great work!

2nd Place

SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE

Ken Ripley

News Coverage

3rd Place

NEWS-JOURNAL

Staff

News Coverage

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING

Bill Moss

News Enterprise - Aug. 9

(murder)

Excellent article ... writer paid attention to detail.

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Liz Moomey

UNC Rape Claim

Reporter did an excellent job of telling the story on a touchy subject.

3rd Place

HIGHLANDER

Carter Giegerich

News enterprise reporting- nature anchors tourism

Good article ... made me want to see what the wilderness area was like

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Parker King

Best Warrior in N.C.

Lots of detail is packed into this short feature story which also stands out because it's multi-sourced. Great job!

2nd Place

EVERY JOURNAL TIMES

Matt Debnam

Debbie and Oz: Reynolds, Fisher walked the Yellow Brick Road at Land of Oz

Very timely and interesting historical piece. Enjoyed learning more about Debbie Reynolds and this community.

3rd Place

NEWS-JOURNAL

Ken MacDonald

#IAMMedicaid

A unique story on the raging health care debate. Inclusion of little Jamya's story makes the piece.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

NEWS-JOURNAL

Ken MacDonald, Catharin Shepard

Hurricane Matthew

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

Baseball's new approach toward 3-0 counts

2nd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Shawn Krest

The ACC has a big injury report issue

3rd Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

R. Cory Smith

Austin Dillon Q&A

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Brett Friedlander

Fans flock to Kinston stadium

The subject matter — maintaining a field in hopes of landing a minor league baseball team — may not be as compelling as some of the other entries, but the reporting carries this piece to the top of the list. It has all the details a reader would want and is also well-sourced. Excellent job.

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Brett Friedlander
MLB sons at N.C. colleges
An excellent idea for a story well-executed. Focusing on just one of the four players in the lead and introducing the rest later was effective. Great detail throughout and an excellent finish. Close call between this piece and the first-place winner.

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Cory Lavalette
Sled hockey for disabled athletes

Good lead. Especially enjoyed the first two-thirds of the story or so. It was a bit jarring to suddenly switch to a different athlete at that point, but the story finished strong. Nice work.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Lauren Rose, Liz Moomey, Cece Pascual
North State Journal Overall Appearance and Design

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Appearance and Design -- Crossroads Chronicle May 3 and 10, 2017 editions

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather Best Multimedia Project

1st Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE
Ken Ripley
Best Multi-Media Project

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Charlie Pogacar
I tried to hit off Zack Littell and it went as badly as you might expect

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Adam Powell
Mebane resident receives Vietnam War medals

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Eagles roll Patriots in quick 62-15 victory

3rd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Bailey Pennington
Eagles defeat Red Devils despite weather delay

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Matt Debnam
Avery Board of Commissioners Workshop, Dec. 12, 2016

2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Emergency Management taken

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Commissioner threatened with 'impeachment' for recording meeting

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Justin Caudell
Editorial page entries, Nov. 2, 2016 and July 5 and 19, 2017
Good clean layout, compelling content. Clear winner.

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Editorial Page entries -- July 5, 12 and 19, 2017

3rd Place
HIGHLANDER
Staff
Editorial Page 3pgs - The Highlander

EDITORIALS

1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Brad Spaulding, Carolyn Morrisroe
Editorials - The Highlander
Clear, concise viewpoints with a clear call to action.

2nd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Editorials
Well-written pieces.

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Robert Jumper
Editorials by Robert Jumper

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Donna King and Design Team
GOP Chairman's Race
Clear reporting.

2nd Place
MEBANE ENTERPRISE
Charlie Pogacar
Fire Bombed
Good work on breaking news.

FEATURE WRITING

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

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Liz Moomey
Adult with Autism
Very good use of photos

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
Unyielding voice
Deals with an under covered topic, I think

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY 1ST PLACE

North State Journal
STAFF
How We Learn; How We Care

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson, Justin Caudell, Carter Giegerich
General Excellence entries -- Oct. 12 and 19, 2016

3rd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Robert Jumper, Scott Brings Plenty
Cherokee One Feather

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
HAVELOCK NEWS
Staff
Havelock News
Very eye catching site! Great layout and easy to use!

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

3rd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Don Richeson
Crossroads Chronicle website

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard
Hurricane Matthew

2nd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Catharin Shepard, Ken MacDonald
SBI raids county offices

3rd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Donna King
The SUCCEED Act

HEADLINE WRITING

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

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
HIGHLANDER
Carter Giegerich
Investigative Reporting 2pgs - Frye documents detail payment

2nd Place **MEBANE ENTERPRISE**

Adam Powell
After 31 years, a Mebane family continues to seek justice

LIGHTER COLUMNS

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

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Eamon Queeney
2017 Eclipse
Excellent composition with each subject as compelling as the next. The newspaper understands good design as well (although that isn't what is being judged).

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

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

2nd Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Eamon Queeney, Madeline Gray
N.C. High School Football
Nice set of pictures, especially the missed tackle, which helped push this one to place.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

Don Richeson
Country Club of Sapphire Valley burns
Super fire photos. They told the story!

2nd Place
GRAHAM STAR
Byron Housley

Sneaky Cherokee
Great action photo. Photographer caught the ball in mid-air.

3rd Place
TARBORO WEEKLY
Alan Campbell
All Hands on Deck
Arrest caught in camera's eye. Good work

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

3rd Place
HENDERSONVILLE LIGHTNING
Bill Moss
Profile Feature: Sept. 27 (Spehr)

This piece stood out in a category crowded with veteran profiles. The writer provides tremendous insight into the mind of a Vietnam veteran still struggling to come to terms with his past.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Laura Ashley Lamm
Faith and Family

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

3rd Place
AVERY JOURNAL TIMES
Jamie Shell
Timely Truths

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
SPRING HOPE ENTERPRISE

Mark Cone
Mark Cone columns

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE
Richelle Sampl
"Understanding someone," "Too many experience" and "Irma, earthquakes spotlight"

3rd Place
GRAHAM STAR
Kim Hainge
Mountain Views

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
staff
2016 Year in Review

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

3rd Place
NEWS-JOURNAL
Staff
Hoke Heartbeat

Sports Columns
1ST PLACE
Mebane Enterprise
Adam Powell
Adam Powell Mebane Enterprise Sports Columns

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
NORTH STATE JOURNAL
Staff
North State Journal Sports
Great variety of topics. Well done with appealing design.

2nd Place
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
Scott Brings Plenty
One Feather sports
Great use of photography throughout.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place
EVERY JOURNAL TIMES
 Rob Moore
 GMHG, App State Football photos
Photographer caption the determination of the batter as well as the ball headed directly at the camera.

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

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

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
HAVELOCK NEWS
 Ken Buday
 Havelock football

2nd Place
HAVELOCK NEWS
 Ken Buday
 Havelock game report

3rd Place
GRAHAM STAR
 Gary Corsair
 State Champs!

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY

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

2nd Place
CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

Don Richeson, Emily Dorsey, Kelsey Reidle
Use of Photographs -- July 12 and 19, 2017 editions

3rd Place
GRAHAM STAR
 Staff The Graham Star
 Community



CONGRATULATIONS to Our STAFF

TWENTY SEVENTEEN NC PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS, EDITORIAL AND PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARDS

Smoky Mountain **news**

COVERING HAYWOOD, JACKSON, MACON & SWAIN COUNTIES

- CORY VAILLANCOURT**
 1ST PLACE Election/Political Reporting
 1ST PLACE News Feature Writing
 2ND PLACE Education Reporting
 2ND PLACE News Feature Writing
 2ND PLACE Beat News Reporting
 3RD PLACE City County Government Reporting
- JESSI STONE**
 1ST PLACE Beat Feature Reporting
 3RD PLACE Election/Political Reporting
 3RD PLACE General News Reporting
- HOLLY KAYS**
 1ST PLACE Sports Enterprise Writing
 2ND PLACE Education Reporting
 3RD PLACE Education Reporting
- GARRET WOODWARD**
 1ST PLACE Lighter Columns
- TRAVIS J. BUMGARDNER**
 3RD PLACE General Excellence for Newspaper Websites
- STAFF**
 1ST PLACE News Coverage
 1ST PLACE News Enterprise Reporting

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
 Tanner Hall
 Author's latest novel set in familiar places
 Reader gets great insight into the author's perspective that molds the story.

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

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

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Renee Spencer
 Proud to be an American
 Great work. Author's words takes the reader into the lives of new citizens.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Lee Hinnant
 Sea turtles hatch n turmoil ensues

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Terry Pope
 Doshier OR clears the air

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

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

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

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Lee Hinnant
 Holden project adds sand, builds dunes
 Photo works well with story text

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS
 Staff
 6 8 17
 Great local content, lots of local columnists, many photos featuring smiling faces.

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

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

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

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

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

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
 Staff
 DC Welcome Guide 2017

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
 Kristy Bailey
 In-depth look at student achievement
 Very thorough, with lots of important information, but I'd have put the reporter's name in a regular byline instead of a light blue box.

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
 Sentinel Staff
 Education Reporting – Sentinel staff
 Very comprehensive

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
 Jessica Webb
 Welding program at Swain is hot

Good story on an important topic - we're dealing with the same issue here

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
 Staff
 33_News Coverage_WW
 Great front page art

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

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
 Patrick Gilbert
 News Enterprise Reporting – Patrick Gilbert on the drug crisis.

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

3rd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
 Kristy Bailey
 Leaky Roofs

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

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

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

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

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

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

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

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

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Terry Pope
 Quinton: one hell of an athlete and gentleman
 Nice feature. Cool use of black and white photos.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
 Fred Ammann
 The Championship Years
 Nice look back. It's always good to look to the past.

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

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT

Doug Rutter
Setting records has been stroke of hard work

An excellent piece, well-constructed. It starts strong and draws the reader in with the story of how this young athlete was forced to switch sports and builds to the revelation of his tremendous success. A worthy winner.

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer

Wishin' for Fishin'
A fun topic for a story. Good job getting lots of different sources rather than focusing on just one child. The interplay between the two event coordinators is amusing.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul

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

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Staff

Cherokee Scout design
This contest was hard to judge but in the end this paper rose above the rest. It had a great design and was easy to read.

2nd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff

Design and Appearance – May 2017
This newspaper impressed me. I loved the color and the large photos. You can tell they take pride in putting this paper together.

3rd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
W. Curt Vincent

May 12, 16
I really like the front pages of this paper .. The photos grab your attention and make you want to read the stories.

BEST LEDE

1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
David Leone

Black eye, cleanup, riddle
Catchy phrasing, cleanly written ledes draw reader into story.

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
QUINTIN ELLISON

Best ledes by Quintin Ellison
Ledes make me want to read more.

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul

History's not being eroded

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul

Officials speak to environmental protection

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Baldrige funeral services take place in Ashe

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

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

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
Swain hosts hearing on Nantahala Forest

1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
David Leone
Sunday drinking gets final OK

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Jessica Webb
North Shore suit

EDITORIAL PAGE

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

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

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

Good work.

EDITORIALS

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

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
Editorials by Matthew Osborne

3rd Place
CHOWAN HERALD
Miles Layton
Trio of Editorials

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Voter wrongly accused of fraud

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Decision Time

3rd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Tomas Murawski
After the election

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
CAP Mission Accomplished
Very thorough, with great photos

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Kelsey Richardson
Murphy resident volunteers to paint 277-year-old plantation

3rd Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Chrysta Carroll
Family of 6 living in a child's play-house w/o heat, water, etc.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
General Excellence – February 2017

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
General Excellence

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Watauga Democrat Staff
General Excellence

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Sentinel Staff
General Excellence for Newspaper website

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
BLADEN JOURNAL
Chrysta Carroll
Opioids and new NC legislation affecting prescription drugs

2nd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Kayla Lasure
Local family mourns soldier killed in Afghanistan

3rd Place
WAKE WEEKLY
Neva Yinger
Youngsville soldier killed

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Ed Harper
Headline Writing

2nd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Matthew Osborne
Headlines by Matthew Osborne

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Monday's eclipse, Seniors jab, Fundamentals theme

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Staff
Guarding Infrastructure
This submission is the definition of investigative reporting. Amazing job of taking dry, complicated material and making it interesting, personal and understandable. This is top notch work by newspaper journalists.

2nd Place
ALAMANCE NEWS
Kristy Bailey
Secret discussions between school system and university over elementary school

3rd Place
OUTER BANKS SENTINEL
Mark Jurkowitz, Catherine Kozak

Investigative Reporting – Dare County DSS

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Lighter columns: Cookie contest, splinter, and maternity dress
Clean writing; topic selections are relatable; nice phrasing and conveyance of scene.

2nd Place
CLAY COUNTY PROGRESS
Becky Long
Light Column
Poignant and sincere, with just the right amount of humor. Very relatable to the community.

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Lighter Columns
Clear writing, an interesting and informative read, even for someone who would not necessarily be considered a car aficionado.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Control Burn

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
A living shoreline

3rd Place
CHEROKEE SCOUT
Ben Katz
Learning to graze in nature's classroom

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
Little Famer

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Derby Day

3rd Place
DUPLIN TIMES
Trevor Normile
Hanging out at fair

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
Band Together
Love the spirit show in their faces

2nd Place
SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE
Haley Smith
Jury: Not guilty on all counts
Great drama — just the right moment for the shot.

3rd Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD
Jeff Davis
Whatever it takes
Good overall photo with many components

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
WAKE WEEKLY
Marty Simpkins
Heritage Big Shot
This was a difficult division to judge with many great entries. Went with this one for several reasons, including the emotion captured on both players' faces but mostly the compression of the ball as it makes contact with the player's head. Nice work!

2nd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Michael Paul
Scorpions score late
Unbelievable height of the player to use his body to block the/pass the ball. Love the intensity on 21's face. Great shot.

3rd Place
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
Rob Moore
Spectacular catch by Malachi Jones
Could sense the receiver running through the air with the football.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Jeff Davis
Helping Hands
Photographer captured the moment aid was rendered and show intensity of the situation.

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES
Tony Fortier-Bensen
Fontana Road Home Destroyed by Fire
Photos shows the intensity of the fire; love the reflection in the water in front of the home.

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Morgan Harper
car in river at daybreak
I really like the lighting of this picture. Photographer sets the scene.

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

3rd Place
STATE PORT PILOT
Renee Spencer
Mike Forte
Compelling story about an issue — drug abuse — that is at the heart of a nationwide issue. Forte's view of life as a book is somewhat cliché, but the writer does a nice job of taking that cliché and using it to bookend a strong piece.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
State Port Pilot
RENEE SPENCER

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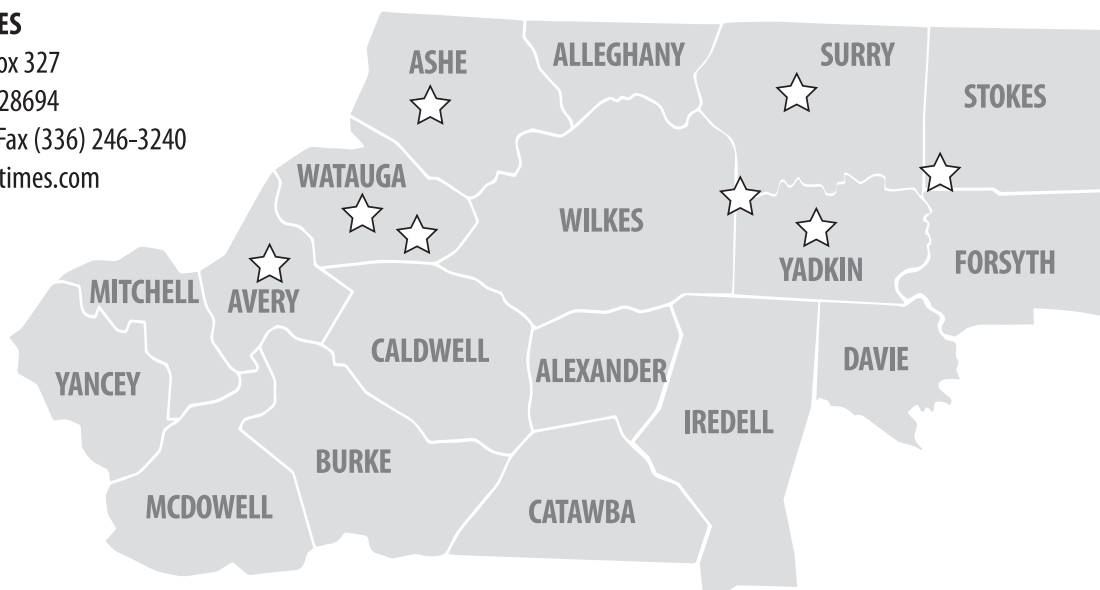
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place
PILOT
 Jaymie Baxley
Promposal TV Show to Feature Gay Couple from Pinecrest High

2nd Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
 Alli Marshall
(In)sightseeing

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

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Jessi Stone
B-Day Victory!

2nd Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
 Max Hunt and Virginia Daffron
French Broad River reporting

3rd Place
PILOT
 Laura Douglass
Whiskey Staves, Stars and Bars, Heritage Flag Unfurls Retail Store

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
 Allison Richmond
Explosion, house fire under investigation
Good story telling style; easy to read; good details

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Cory Vaillancourt
Waynesville's African Americans

3rd Place
COURIER-TIMES
 Bill Willcox
Failed sale
Drew me in to the story; easy to read and follow along

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place
MOORESVILLE TRIBUNE
 Staff
Best Community Coverage

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

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

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place
PILOT
 Staff
PineStraw Magazine, August 2017
Very well planned and well executed publication. Good story selection, good fixtures, logical order to content, and nice design. Well done.

2nd Place
PILOT
 Staff
O.Henry Magazine October 2016
Same comments as for PineStraw, clearly a sister publication. The distinction between the two was very small, as in certain type faces and story ideas. Excellent publication.

3rd Place
NEWS REPORTER
 Staff
15 Under 40 Class of 2017
I picked this for third because it was unique. I liked the niche topic and the profiles and photos were good and served the community well.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
 Virginia Daffron
Changing Course
This is the kind of journalism we all should aspire to do. It examines what's happening in our backyards and asks why. Good graphics help drive home the disparity between success for white students and their non-white peers.

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Holly Kays, Cory Vaillancourt
Dreams dashed? Young immigrants face uncertain future
This is what good journalism does -- hits the streets and finds the real people affected by what's happening in Washington.

3rd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Holly Kays
Bringing in the harvest: Despite drought, students and farmers join forces to feed Haywood's hungry
While this was a less-meaty topic, it comprises the best writing in the bunch.

NEWS COVERAGE - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Staff
SMN Dec. 7; Dec. 14
"The Smokey Mountain News is a very nice, issue-oriented paper. The top two stories in one edition easily could have carried the cover; they were both strong. The mix between news, opinion and entertainment is very good. I even found myself reading the events coverage; I want to visit the No Name Sports Pub some day."

2nd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
 Staff
STAFF_33_NEWS COVERAGE_081117
Very well rounded newspaper. It was difficult placing this newspaper second instead of first.

3rd Place
WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT
 Staff
News Coverage
Nice local coverage.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Staff
Vox populi

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
 Kyle Perrotti
Drugs in Haywood

3rd Place
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
 Able Allen
Where there's smoke

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Cory Vaillancourt
What's in the Cards?

2nd Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Cory Vaillancourt
A Monumental Issue

3rd Place
PILOT
 David Sinclair
At 100, Fair Barn Like a Member of the Family

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
MOUNTAINEER
 Staff reports
Shots fired
Great hustle by multiple people. The story had multiple sources with a lot of detail that is often hard to get when a story is breaking.

2nd Place
MOUNTAINEER
 Kyle Perrotti and Allison Richmond
Labor Day wagon train ends in tragedy
The story had multiple sources that helped to set the scene of what happened, and the impact on an annual tradition.

3rd Place
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES
 JACKIE STARKEY and BRAD RICH
JS,BR_3_ONLINE BREAKING_First drowning
Multiple updates kept readers informed of the situation and the latest news.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place
SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
 Holly Kays
Making it awesome: Cherokee prepares to unveil 10-mile mountain biking system

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

JJ SMITH

JS_18_SPORTSFEATUREWRITING_CEREBRALPALSYNOMATCHFORTE-AMPOWER_080617

We were not only told a great story, we were provided with an emotional wallop. Best of a really good bunch.

2nd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Andy G. Moore

Like father, like sons... like grandsons Excellent, thorough reporting. Really well done throughout.

3rd Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Sam Hickman

Crowley reflects

*I'd never heard of this guy. Now, I'm glad I did. Nice profile.***APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES STAFF

STAFF_37_APPEARANCE DESIGN_053117

2nd Place

PILOT

Staff

*The Pilot's Best Appearance and Design***BEST LEDE**

1st Place

STANLY NEWS & PRESS

B.J. Drye

B.J. Drye Ledes

Short and engaging, making you want to continue – exactly what a lede should be.

2nd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Jule Hubbard

Best Lede

The lede on the erroneously dead story is the best I've seen today. A very close second place. Kudos for being brief and bringing in the reader for more.

3rd Place

STANLY NEWS & PRESS

Shannon Beamon

Shannon Beamon's Ledes

*These are certainly nice starts to your stories. Not too long or too short and they draw you in.***BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT**

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

Rachel Robles and Allison Richmond

A diamond in the ocean

Touching story, well presented with the reader able to access all elements in one place without searching through various platforms or apps.

2nd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff

Hurricane Matthew multimedia

October 2017

*The videographer obviously put a lot of time into filming. I'd have liked some narration.***BEST VIDEO**

1st Place

PILOT

Jaymie Baxley

UNC Air Care Lands in Moore County

Video exhibits good editing and storytelling

2nd Place

PILOT

Jaymie Baxley

Downtown Southern Pines Fire Training Burn

3rd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Jule Hubbard

Honor Guard carries casket at Wilkes Airport

*Would have scored higher with some a) accompanying storytelling and b) a better finish.***CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING**

1st Place

ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD

Gene Motley

Finding a fix; Plan of action; Painful Reality

2nd Place

MOUNTAIN XPRESS

Dan Hesse

The 1.5 percent

3rd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Cory Vaillancourt

Dogs

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Staff

Editorial Pages

What makes this the winner is the volume of local content. It's varied, it's interesting and it's packaged well. Good job!

2nd Place

PILOT

Steve Bouser

The Pilot's Best Editorial Page

Great package! Plenty of engaging local content and variety. Attractive layout. Clean and easy to read.

3rd Place

COURIER-TIMES

Staff

Editorial pages

EDITORIALS

1st Place

COURIER-TIMES

Johnny Whitfield

Editorials

What stands out here is the brevity, which these days will draw more readers. Yet they offer clear, concise, straightforward opinions on local issues. Pulls no punches.

2nd Place

STANLY NEWS & PRESS

Ritchie Starnes

Our View

Good writing, well researched. Local.

3rd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Jule Hubbard

Editorials

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Cory Vaillancourt

50 fast facts

2nd Place

MOUNTAINEER

Kyle Perrotti

In the hot seat

3rd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Jessi Stone

*Voters go right, Democrats wonder what went wrong***FEATURE WRITING**

1st Place

PILOT

Deborah Salomon

Sammie and Princess Take College in Stride

2nd Place

FRANKLIN PRESS

Carter Giegerich

Feature writing - strings that sing

3rd Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis

'From Boys to Men'

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place

MOUNTAINEER

The Mountaineer Staff

TheMountaineer.com

2nd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Staff

General Excellence for Newspaper Websites

3rd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Travis Bumgardner

Smoky Mountain News website

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

ENQUIRER-JOURNAL

Andrew Martin

A sea of blue: Community gathers to remember fallen officer

2nd Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis, Brian Slattery, Lindsay Kriz
Hurricane Matthew wreaks havoc,
10-13-16

3rd Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Jessi Stone
Taking Flight

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis
Canopies, Zapping, Liquid "Canopies" ...
This was a tough call. The top four deserve a 1st Place plaque but the final tally was determined by a newsroom vote.

2nd Place

PILOT

John Nagy
John Nagy Headline Writing
"Litter"... A once in a lifetime chance for such a headline. Brilliant.

3rd Place

MOUNTAIN XPRESS

Alli Marshall
Marshall headlines
"Fa-la-la"... Very fun. One of those headlines that makes you think: Why didn't we think of that?

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place

BRUNSWICK BEACON

Laura Lewis
Sunset Beach stays mute on firearms theft

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

SMOKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Garret K. Woodward
This Must Be The Place
These are fun to read, visually attractive, packed full of information and unique.

Great job

2nd Place

PILOT

Steve Bouser
A Few Stray Wishes
"I'm with your reader: Monetize that stuff. Bamboo sheets are pretty comfortable! Well-written and enjoyable, providing good visuals to go with the story."

3rd Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Laura Mitchell
Lighter Columns
Perfect length, good writing, good stories. I can see Helen in my head and her liver mush flying through the air.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place

PILOT

Ted Fitzgerald
Blessings of a Sandhills Thanksgiving Tradition
Beautiful photos in a beautiful setting. Package provides plenty of visual interest. I would have preferred a cutline for each photo, especially to identify folks.

2nd Place

COURIER-TIMES

Bill Willcox
Tobacco harvest
This photo package certainly tells a good story, with action, faces and good composition. With a slight bit more in the cutlines it could stand alone without the story.

3rd Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Dylan Baker Ray
Wild Caught
Good action and variety in this package.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Dylan Baker Ray
Dogs on patrol
Well executed photograph which draws the viewer directly into the sassy subject's personality. Long lens compresses the subjects and makes use of the graphic elements.

2nd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Keith Rogers
Bluebird visits hunter
Wonderful moment. Color and composition. The bird really pops.

3rd Place

PILOT

Glenn Sides
Local Life
The use of black & white works nicely with this image. The tree stumps offer lots of texture and patterns. The fisherman stands out nicely in the muddy part of the frame.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

Staff
SCHOOLWORK
A clear winner in an already strong category, this photograph draws you immediately in. Expert framing.

2nd Place

PILOT

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

3rd Place

PILOT

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place

WILKES JOURNAL-PATRIOT

Zach Colburn
Kobe Brown
The timing and focus on this photo are perfect.

2nd Place

PILOT

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

3rd Place

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

JJ SMITH
JS_23_PHOTOGRAPHY,SPORTS_BLASTINGOFFCROSSCOUNTRY_082517
The depth on this photo is what sets it apart.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place

PILOT

Glenn Sides
Morning Warehouse Fire Disrupts Carthage
Not your typical spot news image, but we're always trying to elevate our craft and this picture does just that. The use of light and composition are wonderful. A beautiful, storytelling image.

2nd Place

NEWS REPORTER

Staff
Hurricane Matthew
Well done and storytelling lede image on page 1. Secondary image adds to the storytelling without being redundant. Two pages of images inside were solid, but there were some pictures that brought down the overall quality of the entry.

3rd Place

PILOT

Glenn Sides
Pet Rescue
Nice picture pairing of the cat rescue from a house fire. Would have loved it if the newspaper designers would have played the cat picture more dominant instead of running three pictures on the page basically all the same size.

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Erin Kidd
Brave Little Warrior
Heartbreaking yet heartwarming story of survival and a little-known condition.

2nd Place

MOUNTAINEER

Rachel Robles
Finding her tree of life
Uplifting story about a woman's long quest to find her biological parents - complete with a happy ending.

3rd Place

PILOT

Deborah Salomon
Collecting More Than Child's Play For Retired School Superintendent
Interesting profile put together well.

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Erin Weeks
From Drugs to Faith
Really great story with some good details that really shed light on the pastor's experience that has led to his new mission.

2nd Place

ENQUIRER-JOURNAL

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

3rd Place MOUNTAINEER Rachel Hodles Giving hoodies with heart Really neat effort that deserves to be highlighted. Good details with the stories of children who have benefited.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

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

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

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

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE Sports Staff Cabarrus Game Night 2017 We all do sports preview sections but this one was spectacular. This is what I have been wanting out of my sports editor for years. There were the usual stories (and cliches!) but the personality pieces, graphics and other design elements made the section reader friendly. Great job.

2nd Place CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES Staff DL16_BIG ROCK_061317

Great work covering a big, unique event with a special section devoted to this blue marlin fishing tournament. This is probably well read by not only locals but the visitors who attend this event.

3rd Place MOUNTAIN XPRESS Staff

Beer Week official pull-out guide Very nice section promoting a local beer festival. A whole week! Might have to visit. OK, beer drinking aside, this was a very informative section, including feature stories and events lists.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place BRUNSWICK BEACON Sam Hickman Today, God, Football 2nd Place FRANKLIN PRESS Andy Scheidler Ask Andy 3rd Place LAKE NORMAN CITIZEN Justin Parker Fatherhood strikeout pitches (sports column)

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

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

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

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

2nd Place INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE James Nix Ragin' Bulls

3rd Place PILOT Glenn Sides Little Lefty

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - COMMUNITY ONLY

1st Place PILOT Staff The Pilot's Best Use of Photographs



ON CULTURE Instagram models rake in big bucks for Fyre



Instagram models rake in big bucks for Fyre



Dorian Lynsye paints murals on the walls at CAM Raleigh. Her exhibit, 'No Clinton' features alternative versions of Disney princesses.

Not just another princess face

Disney heroines as you've never seen them are the subject of 'No Clinton,' artist Dorian Lynsye's reimagining of characters from classic Walt Disney movies.

Artist Dorian Lynsye uncovers her hand-painted and mixed transparent collaged work.

BOOK REVIEW Wallace's 'Extraordinary Adventures' too ordinary

Wallace's 'Extraordinary Adventures' too ordinary



Wallace's 'Extraordinary Adventures' too ordinary

OPINION

Legislature plans unhappy returns

The General Assembly passed a budget on time but will return to Raleigh again and again for extended business.

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

Legislature plans unhappy returns

2017 SPECIAL AWARDS

Media and the Law Awards

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Michael Hewlett

STATE PORT PILOT

Renee Spencer

Public Notice Award

1st Place

ALAMANCE NEWS

Tom Boney, Jr.

More public notice needed

Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information Award

Publications under 20,000

1st Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg

*Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's
"public listening sessions"*

2nd Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Dan Wayary

*Commission secrecy
attracts lawmakers' attention*

Publications over 20,000

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Staff

CMPD release videos

2nd Place

SYLVA HERALD AND RURALITE

Staff

Freedom of Information

3rd Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Greg Barnes

*Court secrecy in the
Mike Lallier case*

2017 SPECIAL AWARDS

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

Community Division

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

Anna Oakes and Thomas Sherrill

Higher education reporting

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

Its coverage was comprehensive and informative.

Daily Division

NEWS & OBSERVER

Jane Stancill

Higher education coverage

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

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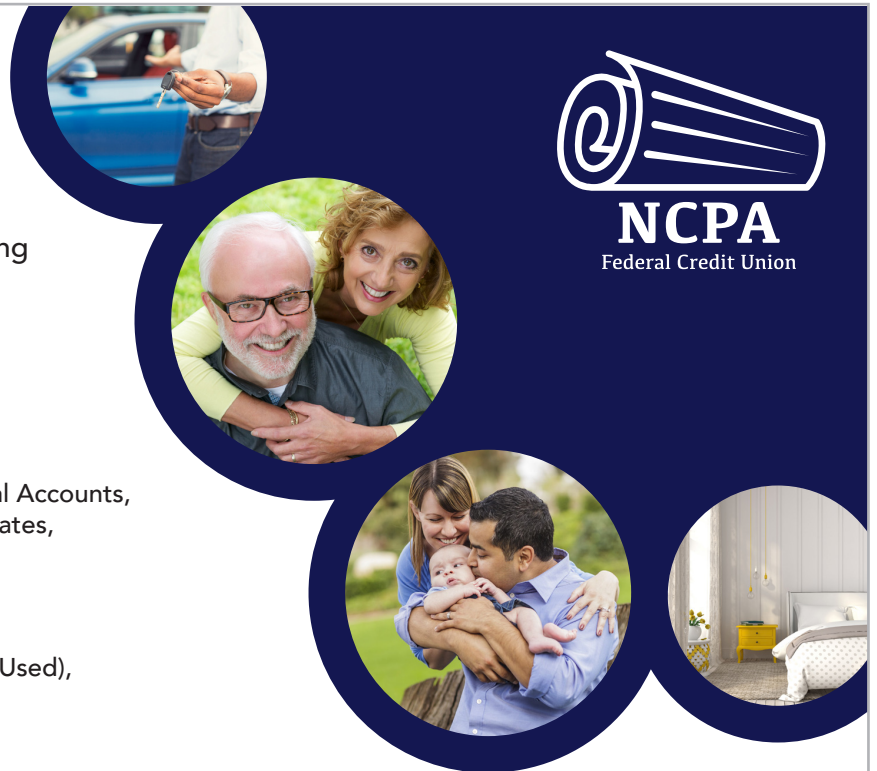
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- Jane Means
CEO / General Manager
Kapp Advertising Service, Inc

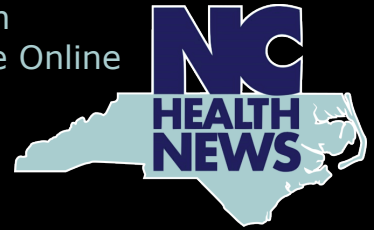
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"On My Page"

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

Elizabeth Folwell, Creative Director,
Adirondack Life

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Best Daily Article
Michael Hewlett
Winston-Salem Journal

Best Nondaily Article
Renee Spencer
The State Port Pilot

NORTH CAROLINA
BAR ASSOCIATION
seeking liberty + justice

2017 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



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

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

DAILY NEWSPAPERS UNDER 25,000 CIRCULATION

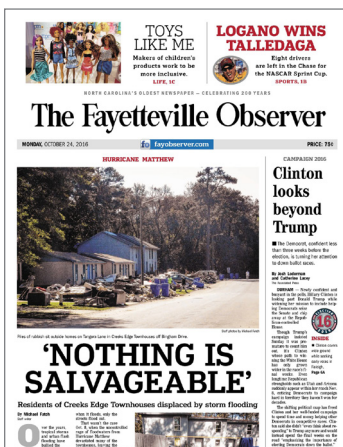


◀ **1st Place**
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Staff
 Crossing the Divide
This look into a neighborhood and shining a light on the economy, housing, crime and more is incredibly important. This is what makes a community. Clear writing and clear focus to all stories. And the series produced results. Bravo.

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

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

DAILY NEWSPAPERS OVER 25,000 CIRCULATION



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

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

3rd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
 GenX in the Cape Fear River

CONGRATULATIONS

All GateHouse Media Newspapers of North Carolina



GateHouse Media™

The Star (Shelby)

Education Reporting	2nd Place	Elise Franco	CCC.franco	Editorial
Feature Writing	1st Place	Casey White	Meet Shelby's Radio	Editorial
General Excellence - Newspapers Only	3rd Place	Staff		Editorial
News Section Design - Dailies Only	2nd Place	Staff	news section design 1 and 2	Editorial

StarNews (Wilmington)

Arts and Entertainment Reporting	1st Place	John Staton	Art & Identity	Editorial
Best Community Coverage	3rd Place	Staff	Best Community Coverage	Editorial
News Enterprise Reporting	2nd Place	Staff	Northside Now	Editorial
News Enterprise Reporting	3rd Place	Adam Wagner, Kevin Maurer	Camp Lejeune	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing	1st Place	Alex Riley	The Long Climb	Editorial
Best Lede	1st Place	Alex Riley	Best Lede - Alex Riley	Editorial
Best Lede	3rd Place	John Staton	Best Lede - John Staton	Editorial
Election/Political Reporting	2nd Place	Tim Buckland	Lee, Barnhill campaign	Editorial
Feature Section Design - Dailies Only	2nd Place	Staff	Features Section April 1-2	Editorial
General Excellence - Newspapers Only	1st Place	Staff	General Excellence	Editorial
General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only			www.starnewsonline.com	Editorial
Headline Writing	1st Place	Julian March	Headline - Julian March	Editorial
Headline Writing	3rd Place	John Staton	Headline - John Staton	Editorial
Investigative Reporting	2nd Place	Staff	Toxic chemical taints drinking water	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay	2nd Place	Ken Blevins, Matt Born, Dan Spears	Wells Fargo PGA Tournament	Editorial
Public Service Award - Dailies Only	3rd Place	Staff	GenX in the Cape Fear River	Editorial
Special Section - Newspapers Only	2nd Place	Staff	StarNews 150th Anniversary	Editorial
Sports Coverage - Newspapers Only	1st Place	Staff	March 6-7 Sports Coverage	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	3rd Place	Matt Born	Whiteville celebration	Editorial

The Fayetteville Observer

Beat News Reporting	1st Place	Greg Barnes	Mike Lallier case	Editorial
Beat News Reporting	3rd Place	Steve DeVane	GenX isn't the only possible toxin in the Cape Fear River	Editorial
Best Niche Publication	1st Place	Staff	High School Football Preview	Editorial
Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only	2nd Place	Staff	Hurricane Matthew	Editorial
News Enterprise Reporting	1st Place	Alicia Banks	The Haven animal shelter investigation	Editorial
News Feature Writing	1st Place	Chick Jacobs	Unless something turns up, we'll keep searching	Editorial
News Feature Writing	3rd Place	Paul Woolverton	Bitter Anniversary: 20th anniversary of officer killings	Editorial
Appearance and Design - Newspapers Only	1st Place	Staff	Appearance and design	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project	1st Place	Andrew Craft, Mariano Santillan	Hurricane Matthew: Then and now	Editorial
Best Video	1st Place	Staff	A mother's regret: Heather's story	Editorial
City County Government Reporting	2nd Place	Greg Barnes	Hoke County audit	Editorial
Editorials	2nd Place	Myron B. Pitts	Myron B. Pitts editorials	Editorial
Feature Section Design - Dailies Only	1st Place	Staff	Feature section design	Editorial
General Excellence - Newspapers Only	2nd Place	Staff	General Excellence, Oct. 9-10, 2016	Editorial
General News Reporting	2nd Place	Staff	Hurricane Matthew recovery	Editorial
General News Reporting	3rd Place	Steve DeVane	Revaluation hits some hard	Editorial
Illustration/Photo Illustration/Graphics - Dailies Only	2nd Place	Mariano Santillan	A State of Change	Editorial
News Section Design - Dailies Only	1st Place	Staff	News section design	Editorial
Photography, Feature	2nd Place	Andrew Craft	Stress Test	Editorial
Photography, Feature	3rd Place	Shane Dunlap	Pick up your cross	Editorial
Photography, General News	2nd Place	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Sacrifice	Editorial
Photography, Spot	1st Place	Melissa Sue Gerrits	Standoff	Editorial
Photography, Spot	2nd Place	Andrew Craft	Matthew Makes Mess	Editorial
Public Service Award - Dailies Only	1st Place	Greg Barnes	Fatal Flaws: North Carolina's Child Welfare Crisis	Editorial
Religion & Faith Reporting	3rd Place	Chick Jacobs	A port in the storm	Editorial
Serious Columns	1st Place	Tim White	Columns by Tim White	Editorial
Serious Columns	1st Place	Bill Kirby Jr.	Columns by Bill Kirby Jr.	Editorial
Serious Columns	3rd Place	Myron B. Pitts	Columns by Myron B. Pitts	Editorial

Gaston Gazette

Beat News Reporting.....	2nd Place	Adam Lawson	Mount Holly killing	Editorial
Best Community Coverage.....	2nd Place	Staff	The Gaston Gazette – Best Community Coverage.....	Editorial
News Feature Writing.....	2nd Place	Kevin Ellis	First black woman at UNC Chapel Hill	Editorial
Online Breaking News Coverage.....	2nd Place	Adam Lawson, Nick Dumont, Alyssa Pressler	Plasma Center Shooting.....	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing.....	2nd Place	Richard Walker	Winning over a community.....	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project.....	2nd Place	Eric Wildstein	2017 Gaston County graduation map	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project.....	3rd Place	Nick Dumont	How Pat McCrory lost	Editorial
Business Writing - Dailies Only.....	3rd Place	Eric Wildstein	Duke Energy coal ash concerns.....	Editorial
Feature Writing.....	3rd Place	Eric Wildstein	What is success?.....	Editorial
General Excellence - Newspapers Only	3rd Place	Staff	The Gaston Gazette – General Excellence	Editorial
Investigative Reporting.....	1st Place	Eric Wildstein, Kevin Ellis	Belmont middle school land controversy.....	Editorial
Lighter Columns	1st Place	Bill Poteat	Bill Poteat	Editorial
Photography, Sports	1st Place	Mike Hensdill	Safe at home.....	Editorial
Sports Feature Photo	2nd Place	Mike Hensdill	Grizzlies Fan	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	2nd Place	Jack Flagler	South Point gets rare shot at redemption.....	Editorial

The Times News (Hendersonville)

Education Reporting	1st Place	Andrew Mundhenk.....	Lottery money helps fund local school construction projects	Editorial
Sports Writing Feature.....	1st Place	Joey Millwood.....	Behind the lights.....	Editorial
Best Multimedia Project.....	2nd Place	Dereck Lacey, Nick Dumont	Flight 22 crash anniversary.....	Editorial
City Government Reporting.....	3rd Place	Dereck Lacey	Rehab facility winning over Mills River residents	Editorial
Editorial Page	1st Place	Chris Horeth, Harrison Metzger	Hendersonville Times-News	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay.....	2nd Place	Patrick Sullivan	90 veterans flown to DC.....	Editorial
Sports Coverage - Newspapers Only.....	2nd Place	Joey Millwood, Dean Hensley.....	Sports Coverage	Editorial
Sport News Reporting.....	2nd Place	Dean Hensley.....	Mickey Marvin funeral	Editorial

The Courier-Tribune (Ashboro)

Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only.....	1st Place	Judi Brinegar	Firefighters join forces to fight industrial fire.....	Editorial
Deadline News Reporting - Dailies Only.....	2nd Place	Judi Brinegar	Rallies against KKK find support	Editorial
News Feature Writing.....	3rd Place	Chip Womick	Immigration fears, real or premature?.....	Editorial
Investigative Reporting.....	3rd Place	Chip Womick	Randolph family faces noose in front of their home.....	Editorial
Lighter Columns	1st Place	Annette Jordan.....	Those pretty Allred girls; Evil minions of the newsroom; Breakfast buddies	Editorial
Profile Feature	3rd Place	Greta Lint	Ten year old welder makes crafts and buys first car	Editorial
Serious Columns	2nd Place	Annette Jordan.....	We are not receptive; How the ripple effect works; Hugo.....	Editorial
Sports Columns.....	2nd Place	Megan Crotty.....	It's good to be back; Farewell ungrateful 2016; Requiem	Editorial

The Daily News (Jacksonville)

Education Reporting	1st Place	Jannette Pippin	School choice	Editorial
Sports Enterprise Writing	3rd Place	Rick Scoppe.....	Girls Wrestling	Editorial
Sports Columns.....	1st Place	Rick Scoppe.....	Rick Scoppe columns.....	Editorial

Free Press (Kinston)

Best Niche Publication.....	1st Place	Chris Segal, Janet Carter, Dustin George.....	Hurricane Matthew.....	Editorial
Business Writing - Dailies Only.....	3rd Place	Dustin George	When others were without, FatBaby's opened its doors	Editorial
General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only	2nd Place		Kinston Free Press	Editorial

The Dispatch (Davidson County)

News Enterprise Reporting.....	3rd Place	Mat Batts.....	Clearing the smoke	Editorial
Best Video.....	3rd Place	Donnie Roberts	Kids with really big hearts.....	Editorial
Editorials.....	1st Place	Scott Jenkins	Editorials.....	Editorial
Illustration/Photo Illustration/Graphics - Dailies Only.....	3rd Place	Donnie Roberts.....	Following the dollar	Editorial
Photography, Feature.....	1st Place	Donnie Roberts	Blanketed from sheets of rain.....	Editorial

The Times News (Burlington)

Beat Feature Reporting.....	2nd Place	Charity Apple.....	Building a family	Editorial
Lighter Columns	3rd Place	Rich Jackson	Rich Jackson lighter columns	Editorial
Photography, General News	3rd Place	Caroline Brehman	Tactical advantage	Editorial
Special Section - Newspapers Only.....	3rd Place	Staff	Sports section.....	Editorial
Special Section - Specialty Publications Only	1st Place	Staff.....	Redeem team.....	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	1st Place	Adam Smith.....	Duke guard	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	3rd Place	Adam Smith.....	A matter of trust	Editorial

Sun Journal (new Bern)

Best Niche Publication.....	2nd Place	Ken Buday, Darren Hendricks, Bill Hand	My New Bern Fall 2017	Editorial
Illustration/Photo Illustration/Graphics - Dailies Only.....	2nd Place	Todd Michalek.....	Pitching.....	Editorial
Lighter Columns	2nd Place	Bill Hand.....	Bill Hand columns	Editorial
Photography, Sports	3rd Place	Todd Michalek.....	Player crying	Editorial

The Havelock News

General Excellence for Newspaper Websites - Newspapers Only	1st Place		Havelock News.....	Editorial
Photo Page or Essay	1st Place	Ken Buday	Freedom Festival.....	Editorial
Photography, Sports	1st Place	Ken Buday	Big plays boost Rams.....	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	1st Place	Ken Buday	Havelock football.....	Editorial
Sports News Reporting.....	2nd Place	Ken Buday	Havelock game report	Editorial

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Lisa Boykin Batts

Wonderful World of the Monitors
Best of the bunch.

2nd Place

NEWS HERALD

Lisa Wall

Musician sets eyes on the future
Tells the story of a musical family as much as an individual musician. Would have been stronger if percussionist had been left out.

3rd Place

NEWS HERALD

Tammie Gercken

Painting a New Path

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

DAILY ADVANCE

Cindy Beamon

Life changes fast for seniors at Meals on Wheels stops

This entry earned first place because of its strong blending of news and feature elements. The reporter's first-hand observations showed great initiatives but did not get in the way of the story, as being on the scene sometimes does. Very well handled story.

2nd Place

WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

Lt. Dan gets a second chance

This is a touching story that will move anyone with a heart. The story of Lt. Dan was told pretty simply, which made it all the more powerful.

3rd Place

WILSON TIMES

Olivia Neeley

He's not in this alone

Nice feature about how a judge's colleagues showed their support in his fight against cancer. Good enterprise on the court beat.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)

Kara Fohner

Opioid overdoses

2nd Place

STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

Robert E. Lee

Cortney Smith

3rd Place

WILSON TIMES

Drew C. Wilson

Pipeline

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

DAILY ADVANCE

Staff

Best Community Coverage

Strong local content, starting from dominating the front pages to other sections, including with photographs. Particularly like the Page 2 concept - provides a strong sense of place, community engagement opportunity. The detailed local information for sports fans, from game stories to scores, also elevates the coverage. One edition even included local voices and headshots on an opinion page.

2nd Place

NEWS HERALD

Staff

Best Community Coverage

Editors and staff do a great job giving local coverage prominent play on sections and also inside pages. Content is well presented, including features such as the most wanted and sports capsules. Great to see effort to include some content many newspapers may not get to, such as land transfers and lunch menus.

3rd Place

SAMPSON INDEPENDENT

Staff

November 2 and November 23, 2016 Editions

"Solid mix of local content spread throughout. Features such as road closing, community listings help show commitment to providing information readers need. Great way to add to local content with guest/freelance columnist."

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

FREE PRESS (KINSTON)

Chris Segal, Janet Carter, Dustin

George

Hurricane Matthew

This is a keepsake. Excellent design. Nice use of white space. Stories, though, are top-notch.

2nd Place

SUN JOURNAL

Ken Buday, Darren Hendricks, Bill

Hand

My New Bern Fall 2017

The range of topics makes this a winner -- Shag dance se trails are made for walking (nice headline) and even opiates. Good design and typography.

3rd Place

TRYON DAILY BULLETIN

Kevin Powell, Claire Sachse, Gwen Ring

Life in Our Foothills Magazine, September 2017

"Good effort in revamping and expanding the publication and explaining it to readers. Photography excellent."

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place

COURIER-TRIBUNE

Judi Brinegar

Firefighters join forces to fight industrial fire

2nd Place

COURIER-TRIBUNE

Judi Brinegar

Rallies against KKK find support

3rd Place

WILSON TIMES

Drew C. Wilson

'It's hard to stop a train'

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

TIMES-NEWS (H)

Andrew Mundhenk

Lottery money helps fund local school construction projects

Really good detail in a story that asked and answered an important question.

2nd Place

STAR (SHELBY)

Elise Franco

CCC.franco

Particularly good work on the dual credit story, but also good information in the story about the investigation.

3rd Place

RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL

William R. Toler

Yearbooks pulled over Trump quote

Good job of following the kind of story that everybody is interested in but could easily have fallen through the cracks.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

Jennifer Dandron, staff

Opioids in Iredell

Everything you would want to see in an in-depth report on this topic with a strong human element connecting the dots. Outstanding.

2nd Place

ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

Amelia Harper

Combating a Killer: Area confronts growing epidemic

This also is a comprehensive report on a compelling topic. Was a close call; slightly better overall writing deciding factor between 1 and 2.

3rd Place

DISPATCH

Mat Batts

Clearing the smoke

Well prepared report on an important topic that doesn't get a lot of media attention anymore.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)

Kara Fohner

Out of jail, but still isolated

Very thorough and insightful, considering the subject matter

2nd Place

NEWS-TOPIC (LENOIR)

Kara Fohner

Abuse altered child forever

Powerful

3rd Place

COURIER-TRIBUNE

Chip Womick

Immigration fears, real or premature?

Good local focus on national issue

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Lisa Boykin Batts and Olivia Neeley

Hurricane Matthew

Smart approach to a breaking and important story for all your readers on Hurricane Matthew: Someone reporting from the scene and someone posting updates and monitoring comments. Thorough and quick and great way to engage readers with posting photos and comments on Facebook.

2nd Place

NEWS HERALD

Ryan Wilusz

Deputy-involved shooting

The reporter took readers to the scene, giving them updates and context with social media, video and his stories. Great job staying with the story.

3rd Place

WILSON TIMES

Corey Friedman

'It blew me to the ground': Wilson family escapes house fire, explosion

Good detail from the family recalling the explosion. Some detail of the scene but would be a stranger story with some observations from the scene and their temporary lodging.

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Paul Durham

The waiting game for Ryan

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

2nd Place
DAILY DISPATCH

Logan Ulrich
Local football coaches deal with low turnout

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

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES

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

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING
1st Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)

Joey Millwood
Behind the Lights
What an interesting take on a football game. Writer spent quite a bit of time on these games and it shows. Love how the play by play of the game comes at the end, allowing the before to build up.

2nd Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

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

3rd Place
DAILY DISPATCH

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

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Allison Moore Pridgen and Paul Durham
 Spencer; passion

2nd Place
MCDOWELL NEWS
 STAFF
 Appearance and Design December 2016

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

BEST LEDE

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

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

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

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
 Drew C. Wilson
 Tobacco movers

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

3rd Place
NEWS HERALD
 Jonelle Bobak
 End of Watch

BEST VIDEO

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

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
 Ryan Revock
 DIRT
Good quality, both in terms of visuals and production value. Music seemed out of place, a little ominous.

3rd Place
DISPATCH
 Donnie Roberts
 Kids with really big hearts
Great, short video telling a very touching story.

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM
 Corey Davis
 New businesses set to open in city
The coverage by Corey Davis helped keep the community informed of business development.

1st Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
 Dustin George
 When others were without, FatBaby's opened its doors
Beautiful storytelling in this tale of a little restaurant at the center of a big story. Hurricane Matthew. FatBaby's didn't lose power and it fed a community. Well done

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

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

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

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

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

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

EDITORIAL PAGE

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

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

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

EDITORIALS

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

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

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

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

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

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

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

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Staff
Feature section Sept. 29-30

FEATURE WRITING

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

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

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

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

2nd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Staff
General Excellence
Morning Brew page is executed well, as is the Public Record page. Like the My Classic Car feature, too.

3rd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Staff
GenEx1 and 2
Upcoming events list, local editorial, lists lots of ways to contact staff -- including staffers' photos to make them more approachable.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Staff
The Wilson Times
Website was easy to navigate and left little doubt about what the top story of the day. The main page also was chocked full of photos making for a pleasing display.

2nd Place
FREE PRESS (KINSTON)
Staff
Kinston Free Press

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

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

2nd Place
NEWS HERALD
Justin Epley
South Mountains Wildfire
Excellent work. Staff came together to put together an excellent package on this devastating fire.

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

HEADLINE WRITING

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

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

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

ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Staff
Balancing act
This graphic was clear and easy to read.

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

3rd Place
DISPATCH
Donnie Roberts
Following the dollar

This graphic was played large on the page with great white space to let it breathe. It was nice to see how the funds were distributed.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

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

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

3rd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Chip Womick
Randolph family faces noose in front of their home
I love that this reporter's radar went off immediately after seeing something on her Facebook feed. She quickly asked for an interview and pushed law enforcement when their answers didn't seem sufficient.

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Annette Jordan
Those pretty Allred girls; Evil minions of the newsroom; Breakfast buddies

2nd Place
SUN JOURNAL
Bill Hand
Bill Hand columns

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Joe Weaver
Christmas wish; First dates; Public profanity

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

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

2nd Place
STAR (SHELBY)
Staff
news section design 1 and 2
Good usage of strong local photography pushes this entry into the award-worthy category.

3rd Place
DAILY ADVANCE
Staff

News Section Design, June 18-19, 2017
Little busy, lots of solid local content is packed in.

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Life in the Dirt

A great variety of images from both on and off the track. The photographer did a nice job telling a story and not just stringing together images. Each photo makes a point and moves the story forward. Unfortunately layout leaves a lot to be desired (only commenting on layout because the contest rules says to take it into consideration). Too many small, equally sized images that don't work well with each other. We would rather see four of these images played well together.

2nd Place
TIMES-NEWS (H)
Patrick Sullivan

90 veterans flown to DC
Good coverage of an important event. Nice lensing to produce a variety of images that work well in layout together.

3rd Place
SANFORD HERALD
Matthew Monarca
Lee County Fair

A nice set of images from the county fair. We loved the baby race photo but a tight crop on all sides (not just from bottom) would greatly improve it.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Ryan Revock
Body Found
Three levels of emotion take this to first place.

2nd Place
WILSON TIMES
Drew C. Wilson
Man overturns car in rain
The reaction from the man in the top left makes the frame.

3rd Place
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Vail Stewart Rumley
Catch of the day
The unusual situation makes us want to know more. Fun photo.

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

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

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

3rd Place
STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK
Shawn Taylor
Mercy
Congregation forgives a thief. A heart-lifting story that echoes something we have read in the pages of the bible.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
WILSON TIMES
Corey Friedman
Helping hands; Wilson flag; Statue business
Found the leadership column to be a good account, if not a bit too lengthy; Flag and statue columns were excellent takes, coming at two topics from decidedly different, thinking-outside-the-box points of view.

2nd Place
COURIER-TRIBUNE
Annette Jordan
We are not receptive; How the ripple effect works; Hugo
Strong take on the planned KKK rally; even if a reach, good demonstration of the "ripple effect"; and an even-handed, fair column on a controversial monument, featuring a reasonable suggestion of compromise.

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

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

3rd Place
WILSON TIMES
Sports Staff
Football Preview
The high school football preview section has become a lost art in this era of shrinking sports staffs. But you wouldn't know that from reading The Wilson Times. Compiling records, rosters and schedules can be a chore in itself. Add contacting multiple coaches, coordinating letterwinner photos and crafting unique stories and you have major project at hand. This section brought it all together for local football fans. The all-time records for most teams was a nice touch.

Congratulations

to the entire Wilson Times newsroom on



North Carolina Press Association Editorial Contest Awards



WILSON'S LOCAL PRINT AND DIGITAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896

First Place

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

Second Place

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

Third Place

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

Congratulations to Carolina Journal, winners of three NCPA awards!



EDITORIALS 1ST PLACE ONLINE DIVISION

RICK HENDERSON, "UNDERAPPRECIATED STORIES OF THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION"



ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING 1ST PLACE ONLINE DIVISION

KARI TRAVIS, "RAISING AGE WOULD GIVE JUVENILE OFFENDERS A NEW START, SUPPORTERS SAY" - EDITORIAL



NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING 3RD PLACE ONLINE DIVISION

KARI TRAVIS, "HUMAN TRAFFICKING GAINS LEGISLATURE'S ATTENTION"



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

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



CONGRATULATIONS!

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



First Place:

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

Staff: *News Enterprise Reporting,*
Permission to hate

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

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

Peter St. Onge: *Editorials*

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

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

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

Staff: *News Section Design*

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

Staff: *Special Section,*
Living Here

Staff: *Sports Coverage*

Second Place:

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

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

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

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

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

Staff: *Special Section,*
Panthers Preview

Scott Fowler: *Sports Columns*

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

Third Place:

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

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

Staff: *Appearance and Design*

Staff: *Editorial Page*

Theoden Janes: *Lighter Columns*

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING 1ST PLACE

StarNews

JOHN STATON

Art & Identity

Wow! What a lot of work!

Really puts perspective on what art means to people and a community. The map and breakout box are nice additions to the reporting and writing.

2nd Place

HERALD-SUN

Cliff Bellamy

Arts drove downtown renaissance – did artists' success seal own doom?

What an interesting take on art and its impact on a community! Nice reporting and research.

3rd Place

DAILY REFLECTOR

Kim Grizzard

50 years of Suzuki violin

What a nice feature story!

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

HERALD-SUN

Virginia Bridges

Man wants quilt marking violent deaths to rouse

Moving story about a man who was inspired to do something simple, tangible and powerful to help remember those who died violent deaths. Multi-sourced. Story captures humanity of the effort.

2nd Place

TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)

Charity Apple

Building a family

Well-constructed feature that tells an emotional story about adoption that readers would not ordinarily be exposed to. Good quotes and story-telling. Readers would have certainly felt something after finishing this story.

3rd Place

SALISBURY POST

Mark Wineka

Picture perfect: Photojournalist Ben Martin had life covered

Great feature obit about an accomplished photojournalist who saw the world in extraordinary ways and was able to record what he saw so others could witness it as well.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Greg Barnes

Mike Lallier case

2nd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Adam Lawson

Mount Holly killing

3rd Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Steve DeVane

GenX isn't the only possible toxin in the Cape Fear River

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

DAILY REFLECTOR

staff

Best Community Coverage -- The Daily Reflector

Strong local coverage -- good interactive pieces for the reader to take part in. Opinion page also reflects community. Pleasure to read.

2nd Place

GASTON GAZETTE

Staff

The Gaston Gazette – Best Community Coverage

Close call between first and second because both papers pull the reader in. The Gazette clearly reflects its community.

3rd Place

STARNEWS

Staff

Best Community Coverage

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Staff

High School Football Preview

Good example of what a football preview should be. Not just the typical season preview. Great finding feature stories of key players or just kids with a story to tell.

2nd Place

SALISBURY POST

Staff

Salisbury the Magazine Winter 2016

I like the feel of the magazine and the design of the different spreads.

3rd Place

DAILY REFLECTOR

Staff

Her magazine

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

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place

DAILY REFLECTOR

staff

Thousands displaced in city, county

Even in Eastern North Carolina, covering hurricanes is never old hat. Still staff of the Daily Reflector in Greenville sure made it look that way in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Its comprehensive coverage left few unanswered questions while informing readers of the local impact of the storm and the community's response to it. I counted bylines for eight different journalists to go along with several staff reports and a local editorial. Job well done.

2nd Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Staff

Hurricane Matthew

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

3rd Place

HERALD-SUN

Ray Gronberg, Camila Molina,

Tammy Grubb

Duke Life Flight helicopter crashes, killing 4

There just aren't any weaknesses in this report. It read clean from beginning to end while skillfully advancing the story with each paragraph. Nice finding background on previous crashes and information about helicopter. A solid piece of reporting, both in print and online.

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)

Jannette Pippin

School choice

This entry was rose above the others. Important topic as government and parents seem to be looking for more school choices. This lays out what is available.

2nd Place

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

John Bailey

Into the light: LRU engages students in conversation about sexual assault

Important topic some colleges don't like to talk about. Good for paper to push it forward and get statistics.

3rd Place

GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS

Joey Pitchford

Redistricting schools in Wayne County

School redistricting coverage is often reported as a numbers game or who will be disrupted. Good to focus on often ignored issues of racial and socioeconomic disparities. Make sure to follow this through.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Alicia Banks

The Haven

Just an excellent examination of what went wrong and how it went wrong. Top notch.

2nd Place

STARNEWS

Staff

Northside Now

This is impressive. You took a microscope to this neighborhood and examined its nooks and crannies -- history, culture, zoning, crime and people and more. And you looked forward by asking what is next.

3rd Place

STARNEWS

Adam Wagner, Kevin Maurer

Camp Lejeune

Heartbreaking stories. This package went deep and wide but always focused on people. Graphics and pullouts did much to help with the storytelling.

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Chick Jacobs

Unless something turns up, we'll keep searching

Compelling story that keeps readers hoping the family finds answers.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
Two different stories for locals at inauguration

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Kevin Ellis
First black woman at UNC Chapel Hill

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Paul Woolverton
Bitter Anniversary

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
Hurricane Matthew coverage

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Adam Lawson, Nick Dumont, Alyssa Pressler
Plasma Center Shooting

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Pat Kimbrough and Stephanie Butzer
Commissioners table stadium decision

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
The Long Climb
Personal, engaging. Very strong entry.

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Richard Walker
Winning over a community
In depth. Well executed.

3rd Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Rick Scoppe
Girls Wrestling
Thorough. Imaginative.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Aaron Schnautz
A father's love: St. Stephens' O'Mara keeps father's spirit alive through lacrosse

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Michael Lindsay
Sisters get their kicks

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Rodd Baxley
The life of Tim Worley

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Appearance and Design Fayetteville Observer
Clean, Consistent Execution. Traditionally feel with modern upgrades.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
staff
Appearance and Design -- The Daily Reflector
Sharp, interactive, reader friendly

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Staff
Salisbury Post, May 10 & 11, 2017
Good concepts. unpolished in places.

BEST LEDE

1st Place
STARNEWS
Alex Riley
Best Ledes - Alex Riley

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Jimmy Tomlin ledes

3rd Place
STARNEWS
John Staton
Best Ledes - John Staton

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Andrew Craft, Mariano Santillan
Hurricane Matthew: Then and now

2nd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
2017 Gaston County graduation map

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Nick Dumont
How Pat McCrory lost

BEST VIDEO

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
A mother's regret: Heather's story

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Casey Toth
Durham man continues to honor homicide victims with 60-foot quilt after 23 years

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
City responds to DA clearing of police officer in killing of Ferguson Laurent

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Wiener Take All

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Deirdre Parker Smith
Grapes have brought a new kind of business to Rowan

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
Duke Energy coal ash concerns

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING 1ST PLACE

Salisbury Post
JOSH BERGERON
Fibrant talks under wraps

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Greg Barnes
Hoke County audit

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Pat Kimbrough
City, county battle over stadium

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Vince Wheeler
Editorial pages
Strong local content. Design flows well. Lots of different ways for reader to be involved. Good job!

2nd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Hickory Daily Record Newsroom
Hickory Daily Record Opinion
Another entry with strong local content. Also good use of social media and opening pages to even more readers.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Elizabeth Cook
Salisbury Post Opinion page, Nov. 4, 13 and 29

EDITORIALS

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Josh Bergeron
Time to bury hatchet/Work remains/When will it be our turn?
Very strong and well written. Engaging.

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Myron B. Pitts
Myron Pitts editorials

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Donnie Douglas
Local Editorials
Local, unique, interesting.

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Pat Kimbrough
Super PAC shakes up city elections
The on-going coverage was very informative and showed multiple sides of the issue.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Tim Buckland
Lee, Barnhill campaign
Good series coverage.

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Jessica Coates
Residents take sides as commissioners decide to appeal prayer lawsuit
This story makes me want to know how the court case turned out.

FEATURE SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Feature Section Design
The use of a large photo to start the section gives it life and an entry point, a magazine-style invitation to see what awaits inside. The locally reported stories were well told.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Features Section April 1-2
Good content, well organized, well photographed.

3rd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Steve Cagle
Feature section design
Good clean design.

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
The Old Testament
Touching story about how a stranger helped a woman searching for information about the father she never knew.

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Through His Eyes

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein
What is success?

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff

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

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
General Excellence, Oct. 9-10, 2016

3rd Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Staff
The Gaston Gazette -- General Excellence

GENERAL EXCELLENCE FOR NEWSPAPER WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
STARNEWS
Staff
www.starnewsonline.com
Gatehouse Media has created a good framework for its websites. It's easy to find material and the same stories are available on several different pages. Updates are constant. Of the five Gatehouse entries in this category, this seemed the most local and most vital.

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Staff
reflector.com
A good workable website. Not overly flashy but easy to navigate and filled with local news.

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Staff
High Point Enterprise website

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
HERALD-SUN
Staff
Sheriff arrests ladder climber in Confederate statue destruction

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Staff
Hurricane Matthew recovery

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Steve DeVane
Revaluation hits some hard

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place
STARNEWS
Julian March
Headline - Julian March
Witty, relevant, useful

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
Jimmy Tomlin headlines
Well thought out

3rd Place
STARNEWS
John Staton
Headline - John Staton
Forward, Edgy, well constructed.

ILLUSTRATION/ PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ GRAPHICS - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS
Megan Davis
The life of Shag Thompson

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Mariano Santillan
A State of Change

3rd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Ethan Walsh
N.C. fights drug epidemic: Police, activists together aim to stop crisis

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Eric Wildstein, Kevin Ellis
Belmont middle school land controversy
This was no easy choice. The top two, especially, did crucial work very well. In the end Gazette investigated on its own. Public officials' emails are a rich resource for bringing the public's business into the open. In this case, taxpayers save on the purchase price of this land, but also by officials' knowing skilled journalists are watching. A small gripe: The 10-year-old decrying politicizing the decision seemed like a plant politicizing the decision.

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
Toxic chemical taints drinking water
The service the StarNews did its neighbors can't be overstated. As a source said, what's more important than drinking water? The newsroom poured an incredible amount of resources into these stories. Organizing a town hall was a great touch. Broad and well-chosen topics and extra elements! Contact info for federal, state and local officials would've been good. Culligan sponsoring a special section seems like a threat to perceived independence. Still staff is to be admired and applauded.

3rd Place
GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS
Rochelle Moore
Investigation of city councilman

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Bill Poteat
Fun, Personal.

2nd Place
SALISBURY POST
Mark Wineka
What a long strange trip/Totally in Greenville/The white stuff cometh
Engaging with a personal tone. Good humor.

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Rich Jackson
Rich Jackson lighter columns
Great humor. Well written.

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY 1ST PLACE

Fayetteville Observer
STAFF
News section design Fayetteville Observer

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
staff
Best News Section Design -- The Daily Reflector

3rd Place
HICKORY DAILY RECORD
Hickory Daily Record Staff
News Section Design

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Laura Greene
Cycling Classic Scenes

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Ken Blevins, Matt Born, Dan Spears
Off to a good start

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Laura Greene
Where did the summer go?

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
Full Steam Ahead

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Andrew Craft
Stress Test
This image captures both the good spirits of the soldiers and the demanding nature of the course they are navigating.

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Shane Dunlap
Pick up your cross
The contrast between the modern world and age old Biblical story here are striking.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Jon Lakey
A'yanna

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Sacrifice

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)

Caroline Brehman
Tactical advantage

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

1st Place
GASTON GAZETTE
Mike Hensdill
Safe at home

Nice framing. Would have liked to see the catcher's whole body in the frame, but that is just nit-picking. All the action is there and the shot just looks crisp.

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Michael Lindsay
Oh, so close
Nice emotion. Maybe crop a little of the dead space to the right of your player. There is nothing going on there and could have been eliminated without losing anything from the moment.

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Michael Lindsay
PTC wrestling champion-ships
Nice shot. Good color balance. I smiled seeing that even though there was action on the mat the crowd is looking in other directions or at their phone.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Melissa Sue Gerrits
Standoff
Great work! Shots captured wide range of emotions and did exactly what good photojournalism is supposed to do -- tell a story!

2nd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Andrew Craft
Matthew Makes Mess
Photographer got in the right spot and showed the readers the magnitude of the event. Nice work!

3rd Place
SALISBURY POST
Shavonne Walker
Wrecker driver pinned

PROFILE FEATURE

1st Place
SALISBURY POST
Rebecca Rider
'There were no men to call': Survivor shares story of his male breast cancer.

2nd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Natalie Stewart
Officer works to develop relationship with community

3rd Place
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
Jimmy Tomlin
A Cut Above

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Kim Grizzard
Time behind bars
"Excellent indepth piece that gives readers a look behind bars. Great quote from a former inmate who is now volunteering for Kairos: "I don't think I fought as hard to get out as I did to get back in."

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Kim Grizzard
Left a scar on all of us; Forged by fire
A searing mark in the history of this church. Good details. Excellent to break out the story on the pastors who forged a relationship.

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Chick Jacobs
A port in the storm
Nice snapshot of how churches responded. Instead of just recounting what they did, writer employed storytelling.

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Tim White
Fayetteville Observer serious columns by Tim White
Tie: Good story teller who has a nice touch with words. Skillfully went from soft and fuzzy story about man's best friend to anger over pollution in the Cape Fear. Nice read!

1st Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Bill Kirby Jr.
Guarding Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; Remembering D.K. "Bud" Taylor; A Poignant Wedding Day
Tie: Has a nice way of taking the reader behind the scenes and into the story. You could almost hear the father give away the daughter with a lump in his throat.

2nd Place
HERALD-SUN
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan
She fought against segregation in 1955. She hasn't stopped. Plus 2

more
Downtown development can easily turn into either a Chamber story or government speak and she did a professional job of making downtown Durham a living, breathing personality. Nice. Also nice job on the 84-year-old who "doesn't take any mess."

3rd Place
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Myron B. Pitts
Myron Pitts serious columns
Nice writing style and very easy to read.

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
staff
After Matthew

2nd Place
STARNEWS
Staff
StarNews 150th Anniversary

3rd Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Staff
Sports section

SPECIAL SECTION - SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS ONLY

1st Place
TIMES NEWS (BURLINGTON)
Staff
Redeem team

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place
DAILY NEWS (JACKSONVILLE)
Rick Scoppe
Rick Scoppe columns

2nd Place
DAILY REFLECTOR
Jordan Anders
Moore than ready; Magical experience; Owners' anthem

3rd Place
ROBESONIAN
Rodd Baxley
Sports Columns

Continued page 45

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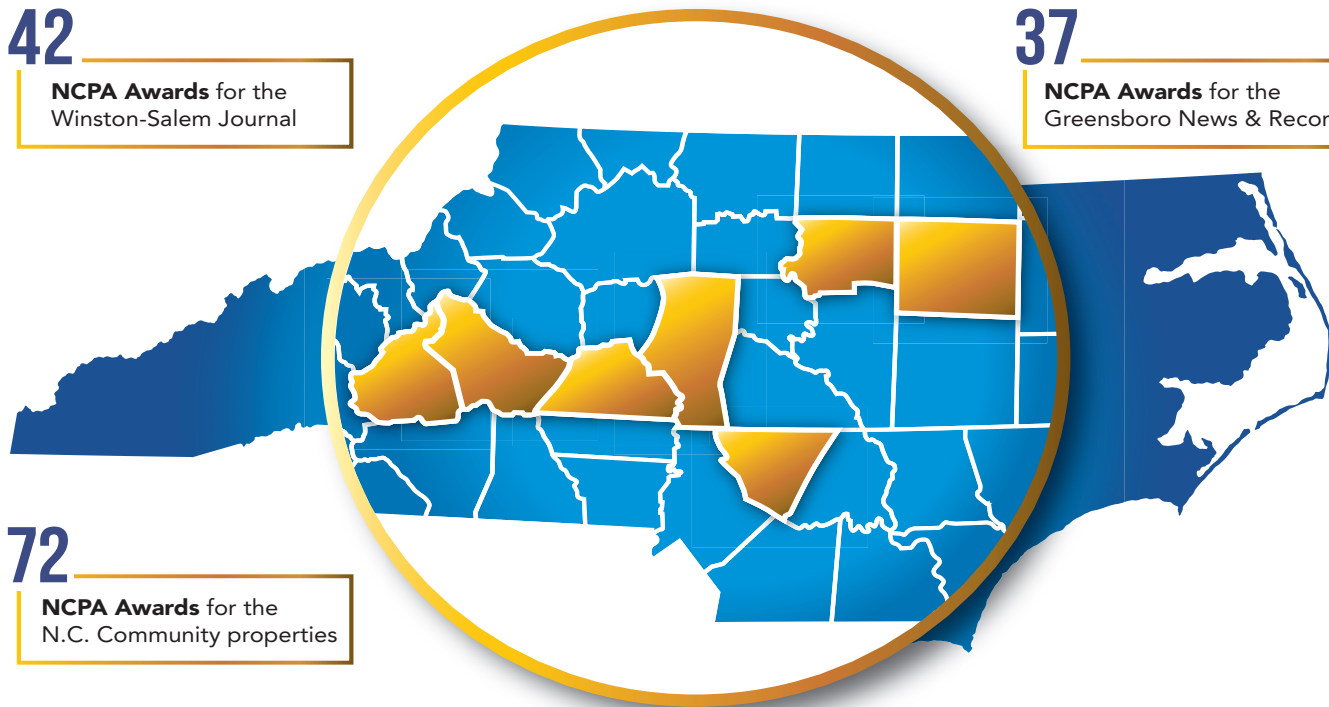
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Greensboro News & Record

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NCPA Awards for the
N.C. Community properties



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

WINSTON-SALEM
JOURNAL

NR NEWS & RECORD
greensboro.com

HDR
Hickory Daily Record

Independent Tribune

The McDowell News

Mooresville Tribune

THE NEWS-HERALD

RECORD & LANDMARK

See the latest career opportunities at this award winning company: bhmginc.com

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

David Menconi

Not just another princess face

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Michael Hastings

Shakin' It Up

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Tim Clodfelter

Amazing Acts

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Mackensy Lunsford

12 Baskets serves message of inclusiveness, similarities

The writer starts with a contrast of conversations in a hip restaurant with those in a charitable feeding location across the street n writes how there are more similarities than differences, and goes on to tell how helping to restore human dignity takes place over good and socializing. Well done.

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Kathleen Purvis

Where are Charlotte's black chefs?

Feature examines an apparent lack of black chefs in management positions, locally and nationally, along with what a grass roots group in Charlotte is doing to change it. Also looks at why it appears to be working in Charlotte but might not in other places.

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Taft Wireback

Chromium hex

Here is a good feature about living with contaminated water frustrations of having to get it from bottles rather than a well, and the struggles to understand conflicting stories about where the contaminant comes from and how harmful it might be. Well told.

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

John Hinton, Jordan Howse

Homicides climb in city

"Excellent research on homicide rate increase in Winston-Salem. Graphics and photo gave the reader more important information."

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Bertrand Gutierrez

No easy fix

3rd Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Mark Barrett

Mission Health and BCBS dispute

BEST COMMUNITY COVERAGE

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff

At home/Time flies

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Best Community Coverage

3rd Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Staff

Asheville Citizen-Times, June 10-11, 2017

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

1st Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff

1808 April 2017

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Walter magazine

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff

1808 magazine Aug. 27, 2017

DEADLINE NEWS REPORTING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Hurricane Matthew hits Eastern North Carolina

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

John Hinton

SUV crashes through roof of group home

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Jenny Drabble

Kalvin Michael Smith — released after 2 decades in prison — in critical condition after shooting

EDUCATION REPORTING

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Ann Doss Helms

Diversity push bring hope, fear and national attention

A well written series on efforts to improve a school system through diversity and reducing economic isolation. Photos, online content and summary column made it a complete package.

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Ann Doss Helms

New CMS chief brings passion, controversy

3rd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

T. Keung Hui

Change in principal pay spurs fear of salary cuts

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Staff

Permission to hate

Very well written and designed package on discrimination of the LGBTQ community. Excellent art and additional content online. Great idea to ask for reader feedback with promise of more followup stories.

2nd Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Beth Walton

WNC poverty: Hidden in plain sight

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Lisa O'Donnell

Young. Addicted. Gone. -- A promising life ends in a heroin overdose

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Martha Quillin

Feature stories from NC wild-fires

2nd Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Beth Walton

Discovering Emma: A kindergarten's transgender journey

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Kathleen Purvis

Can BBQ dynasty rise above father's racism?

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Massive fire destroys unfinished apartment building in downtown Raleigh

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff

Record-breaking rain brings dangerous flooding to Triangle; rivers rising

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Adam Bell, Katherine Peralta, Cristina Bolling

Thousands march in uptown Charlotte in support of immigrants

SPORTS ENTERPRISE WRITING

1st Place

NEWS & RECORD

Joe Sirera and Spencer Turkin

Coaching carousel

Good use of graphics and break-outs to add to the story.

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Andrew Carter

Series on former UNC announcer Woody Durham

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Brant Wilkerson-New
Social activism
Very timely piece. Fair and balanced.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

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

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Luke DeCock
 Roy Cooper the Caniac in chief
The governor is symbolic of the greater story about how residents of the state became interested in a sport in which it was previously unfamiliar.

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

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
 Staff
Appearance and Design

BEST LEDE

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

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

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

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

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

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

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

BEST VIDEO

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

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Ethan Hyman
Men at Work relocating
Such a fun story. The characters were so interesting and relatable. To take a story of a business relocating and produce this video is something special.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Staff
The voice of the Tar Heels, Woody Durham, lives with a painful silence
A touching story about a well known figure in the town. We really enjoyed the intro, you got to know Woody.

BUSINESS WRITING - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 John Murawski
 Got Health Insurance?

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

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

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
 Fred Clasen-Kelly
Will city demolish hotel for squalor?
This unflinching look at the underbelly of Charlotte housing spurred action by city officials. Compelling interviews with nontraditional sources showed enterprise.

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

3rd Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
 Beth Walton
Asheville's Minority Business Program lags
A thorough story sheds light on a hidden problem.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Allen Johnson, Doug Clark
News & Record best editorial page
This editorial did more than share an opinion, it shed light on a damaged political system and a legislature that refuses to cede an inch of power. Nice work.

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Ned Barnett, Jim Jenkins
The News & Observer Editorial Pages 11/6/16, 11/13/16, 11/27/16
These three editorial take readers through the historic election and the aftermath.

3rd Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
 Staff
Editorial Page

EDITORIALS

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

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

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

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Taft Wireback
Following money in elections

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Tim Funk
How Trump resonates in a town called Faith

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Jenny Drabble/Bertrand Gutiérrez
Facing the future -- Local residents share hopes — and fears — after historic presidential election

**FEATURE SECTION
DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY
1ST PLACE**

Winston-Salem Journal

STAFF

Beauty in the unexpected/Silky Smooth
Interesting stories, excellent art and well-designed section. Also, great pullout information.

2nd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff
Sept. 20, 2017 and Sept. 21, 2017

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Jenny Drabble
From refugee camp to summer camp

2nd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Nancy McLaughlin
Nancy McLaughlin

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Kate-Elizabeth Queram
Sonic the hedgehog

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE -
NEWSPAPERS ONLY**

1st Place

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Staff
General excellence
This is an attractive paper all the way through. Good photography, nice display, creative design. It draws you in, and the stories and photography keep you there.

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff
Past, future intertwine/Clinton,

Michelle Obama plan rally

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

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff
News & Record General Excellence
Inside section covers are good, especially on Sunday. Writing is solid on centerpiece stories for most part. Overall design clean."

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE
FOR NEWSPAPER
WEBSITES - NEWSPAPERS
ONLY**

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

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

2nd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff
Greensboro.com

3rd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Staff
The News & Observer

**GENERAL NEWS
REPORTING**

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Staff
Citizens Review Board splits 4-4 on police shooting
Beyond simply reporting a board's decision about a police shooting and not to publicly release its recommendations to the public, articles dig into the board's apparent pro-police bias politics behind why three board members didn't attend its hearings and private communications that probably wouldn't have come to light without digging by journalists. The board's dirty laundry should have made citizens very uncomfortable.

2nd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Mark Washburn
Wildfires ravage NC highlands below eerie glow

These stories go well beyond the reporting of efforts to contain wildfires. Reporter Mark Washburn does a great job explaining the strategies used by the firefighters, and paints pictures of what he sees with colorful descriptions that don't rely on cliches.

3rd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Arika Herron
Brutal assault of homeless man spurs action, compassion; victim undergoes surgery
A homeless man is attacked and gravely hurt, apparently by three teens. The reporter paints a portrait of a quiet, intelligent, peaceable human by talking to those who knew him in his current life as well as others who knew him as a college student many years ago. In so doing, she helps stir a community to come to his assistance.

HEADLINE WRITING

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Staff
Beef about pork a lot of hot air?/Annexation vexation/Shaken values, shaking heads

2nd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Staff
Mike Kernels collection

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Susan Ladd
Susan Ladd collection

**ILLUSTRATION/PHOTO
ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHICS
- DAILIES ONLY**

1st Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Cassandra Sherrill
Eclipse U.S.A.
A lot of information but a very clean look. This is not something that you get to cover all the time. Very well done.

2nd Place

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Cassandra Sherrill
School 101
I love the chalkboard. Nice taking something that kids and adults alike would take would be used to thinking about when they think of schools.

3rd Place

NEWS & RECORD

Tim Rickard

Water

Love the use of the water as the question mark.

**INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING**

1st Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

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

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

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

3rd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Mandy Locke
Cherry Hospital
I love that you took a topic that could have been handled via routine "government" stories and turned it into much more. Great job!

LIGHTER COLUMNS

1st Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

Josh Shaffer
He's Flushed his Friend Down 16 Ballpark Toilets
How can you not read a column about a man who flushes his friend down the toilet! Great stuff! Good writing!

2nd Place

NEWS & OBSERVER

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

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Theoden Janes
Collection of lighter columns:
Theoden Janes

NEWS SECTION DESIGN - DAILIES ONLY

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Staff
News Section Design

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Staff
Jan. 21, 2017, Jan. 22, 2017

3rd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Staff
Dealing with the flow/At home

PHOTO PAGE OR ESSAY

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Caring for Cayden
Beautiful, touching moments offered with unique perspectives and intimacy.

2nd Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
inding the strength
Touching images that take you inside the life of Joan Holcomb. Images offered great focal variety and were very emotional.

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Staff
A Few Final Shots
This page was clean and pleasing to the eye. The photos flowed well and offered a unique perspective into daily life.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Davie Hinshaw
Fog hangs over Charlotte

2nd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Joe Rodriguez
Splash appeal

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Lynn Hey
Watching UNCG

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Allison Lee Isley
Thompson sworn in as chief

2nd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ethan Hyman
Graduation Celebration

3rd Place
NEWS & RECORD
Andrew Krech
Police outreach

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS

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

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

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Ethan Hyman
Locker Room Celebration
We enjoyed how this photograph took us inside. Not only do we feel like part of the team, we felt the energy.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
Andrew Dye
It was Devastating
A quiet image that showed destruction and the one's affected.

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

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

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Mark Barrett
'There are dark days'

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

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

SERIOUS COLUMNS

1st Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
Sarah Nagem
Finding strength in a building, and then seeing it burn; etc.
"It was a deep pool, but the quality of her writing and storytelling put this journalist on the top of the very tall stack. You have a sense that Sarah Nagem knows the subjects of her stories personally, and by the time you've finished, you do too. Her story ideas were original and clearly significant to the community. But it is Sarah's ability to make the reader feel like they know the subjects of

her pieces that made this worthy of No. 1 recognition in a tough field.

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

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

SPECIAL SECTION - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

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

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

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

Continued p. 45

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place

CHARLOTTE AGENDA

Andrew Dunn
Can Charlotte become a music town?

2nd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
What's a dingbatter? New Ocracoke Alive show at Deepwater Theater explains all

3rd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Peter Vankevich
Heard on Ocracoke: Lipbone Redding

BEAT FEATURE REPORTING

1st Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf
There's Hope for the Increasing Number of Babies Born Opioid Dependent

2nd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Catherine Clabby
Camp Lejeune Toxic Water Battle Continues

3rd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Catherine Clabby
Fight n Flight From Poultry Stench

BEAT NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf
Providers of Disability Services See State Budget Cuts Passed Down

2nd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Taylor Knopf
ECU Helps Expand Telemedicine at Duplin County Schools

3rd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen
New Seismic Permitting Process Begins

EDUCATION REPORTING

3rd Place

EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell
Hurricane Matthew: The effects on schools and students

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

1st Place

EDUCATIONNC

Adam Rhew
Youth Suicide EdNC

2nd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Lisa Sorg
GenX

3rd Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Kari Travis
Human trafficking gains legislature's attention

NEWS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Catherine Clabby
Better Housing for Better Health in Greensboro

2nd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Thomas Goldsmith, Rose Hoban
Goldsboro Caskets Unearthed by Matthew Reveal NC 'Achilles' Heel'

3rd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
International friendship and water blend in 75th British Cemetery Ceremony

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

1st Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Staff
Matthew Exits, Record Flooding Continues

2nd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
Ocracoke on extended power outage

3rd Place

NC HEALTH NEWS

Rose Hoban
Coal Ash Language Late Addition to Bill at NCGA

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1st Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
Ocracoke basketball star Sydney Austin captures state title in new sport

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN - ONLINE MEMBERS ONLY

1st Place

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Angie Newsome, Frank Taylor, Michael Gebelein
CPP Appearance and Design

2nd Place

EDUCATIONNC

Staff
EdNC

3rd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Nelle Dunlap
North Carolina Policy Watch website and Progressive Pulse blog

BEST LEDE

1st Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
Painter Douglas Hoover captures island moments in time; new works in Down Creek Gallery Wednesday

2nd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Connie Leinbach
Billfish get a life in Trixie's Fineries

3rd Place

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Michael Gebelein
Ledes from Mike

BEST MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

1st Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Trista Talton, Mark Hibbs
Catching Waves to Save Historic Shoreline

2nd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Jennifer Allen, Mark Hibbs
Our Coast's History: JFK's Visit, 55 Years Later

3rd Place

CHARLOTTE AGENDA

Katie Levans Loveluck

The Chinese Lantern Festival is now open at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and it's incredible

BEST VIDEO

1st Place

EDUCATIONNC

Liz Bell
Seven months later, Edgecombe residents cope with Matthew aftermath

CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT REPORTING

1st Place

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Frank Taylor
Asheville keeps control of its water system

2nd Place

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Michael Gebelein
Breaking down salaries of WNC cities and towns

3rd Place

COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE

Trista Talton
Topsail Beach Battle Over Dunes

EDITORIALS

1st Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Rick Henderson
Underappreciated stories of the 2017 legislative session

2nd Place

OCRACOKE OBSERVER

Peter Vankevich and Connie Leinbach
So, what's it like on Ocracoke in the winter?

3rd Place

N.C. POLICY WATCH

Chris Fitzsimon
North Carolina Legislature

ELECTION/POLITICAL REPORTING

1st Place

CAROLINA JOURNAL

Kari Travis
Raising age would give juvenile offenders a new start, supporters say

2nd Place

EDUCATIONNC

Alex Granados
Legislator proposes teacher preparation program expansion

3rd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
 Kirk Ross
Cape Fear Pollution Fix: Call It a 'Swamp?'

FEATURE WRITING

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
 Sam Bland
Sam's Field Notes: The Polar Bear Connection

2nd Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
 Jennifer Allen
Stewards Aim to Protect Beach-Nesting Birds

3rd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
 Connie Leinbach
Young birders join in local Christmas Bird Counts

GENERAL NEWS REPORTING

1st Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
 Staff
NC Health News - Opioid Epidemic Coverage

2nd Place
N.C. POLICY WATCH
 Melissa Boughton
An in-depth look at N.C. lawmakers' attempt to shrink the Court of Appeals

3rd Place
NC HEALTH NEWS
 Thomas Goldsmith, Rose Hoban, Taylor Knopf
NC Health News - Mental Health Coverage

HEADLINE WRITING

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

2nd Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
 Frank Taylor
Headlines

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

1st Place
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS
 Frank Taylor, Michael Gebel
Questionable care

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

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

LIGHTER COLUMNS

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

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

PHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

1st Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
 Katie Levans Loveluck
Scenes from last night's protest in Uptown

PHOTOGRAPHY, SPOT

1st Place
COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE
 Kip Tabb
Part of N.C. 12 in Kitty Hawk Washed Out

2nd Place
OCRACOKE OBSERVER
 Peter Vankevich
Fire guts Ocracoke home

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

PROFILE FEATURE

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

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

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

RELIGION & FAITH REPORTING

1st Place
CHARLOTTE AGENDA
 Kylie Moore
Young Charlotteans are no longer turning to church to find community like they once did

The screenshot shows the Charlotte Agenda website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories: FOOD+DRINK, REAL ESTATE, BUSINESS, PARENTING, JOBS (17), EVENTS (77), HOMES (15), and NEW TO CLT?. A search icon and social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are also present. Below the navigation bar, the date 'Wednesday, February 7, 2018' is displayed. The main content area features a large image of a sushi bowl. Below the image, the article title is 'Fast-casual sushi concept from O-Ku coming to Uptown' under the 'FOOD+DRINK' category. A short introductory paragraph follows. To the right of the article is a 'SIGN UP FOR DAILY AGENDA' form with an input field for 'EMAIL ADDRESS' and a 'GO' button. Below the form, there is a quote: "It's good. I promise." - Ted, accompanied by a small profile picture. Further down, it says 'TODAY'S VIEWS: 41,901' and 'GOT A NEWS TIP? LET US KNOW'. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'JOBS' section listing: 'DIAMONDS DIRECT: Sales Associate', 'TOWNE & REESE: Production Assistant', and 'BANK OF AMERICA: Relationship'. The article's author is identified as Jason Thomas, dated February 7, 2018, with a total view count of 2,201.

SPORTS COLUMNS

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Jimmy Lewis

Boxing; Tobs; youth boxing

This is a great example of long-form column writing that mixes in quotes with opinions. There is a lot of strong writing here.

2nd Place

COURIER-TRIBUNE

Megan Crotty

It's good to be back; Farewell ungrateful 2016; Requiem

The writer's collection of personal stories transcend sports and develop a personal relationship with the reader. Many columnists try this tack, but this writer does it especially well.

3rd Place

ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

Patrick Mason

Sports columns from Patrick Mason
The writer has a lot of insightful, observant views that go beyond the obvious. Well done.

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place

SANFORD HERALD

Andrew Giermak, Matthew Monarca
sports coverage Aug. 19-20

2nd Place

TIMES-NEWS (H)

Joey Millwood, Dean Hensley
Sports Coverage

3rd Place

NEWS HERALD

Paul Schenkel
Sports Coverage

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place

STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK

Ryan Revock

Basketball Celebration

There are so many different reaction shots in just one shot -- ecstatic coaches, happy players on the winning side, a crushed player on the losing side. Captures the essence of sports.

2nd Place

STATESVILLE RECORD & LAND-MARK

Ryan Revock

Volleyball Celebration

This captures the enthusiasm of the players so well.

3rd Place

ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

Alan Campbell

Out At Third

This photo is so good because one can see the emotion of the player without looking at his face.

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

1st Place

WILSON TIMES

Jimmy Lewis

After first loss, Wilson's Bryant moving to Philly

There was a lot of nice follow-up reporting in this story about a boxing match and its aftermath.

2nd Place

TIMES-NEWS (H)

Dean Hensley

Mickey Marvin funeral

Nicely done collection of anecdotes helped the reader get to know the deceased.

3rd Place

DAILY DISPATCH

Logan Ulrich

Kerr-Vance state title game

The writer deftly weaved in aspects of the game along with the coaches' quotes reflecting on the importance of his father in his life.

EdNC

Congratulations to Alex, Liz, and Adam on their NCPA Recognition



Alex Granados



Liz Bell



Adam Rhew

www.EdNC.org

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
STARNEWS
 Staff
 March 6-7 Sports Coverage
Great section with excellent columns and good headline writing. The choice and display of the celebration photos made the sections more appealing.

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

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

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

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

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

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

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

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

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

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

SPORTS COLUMNS

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

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

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

SPORTS COVERAGE - NEWSPAPERS ONLY

1st Place
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
 Staff
 Sports coverage

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

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

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place
NEWS & RECORD
 Andrew Krech
 wrestling coach
"Photographer captured the coach at just the right moment at the right angle. The intensity on his face tells it all, and the wrestler in the background with his hands on his head is an added bonus. There were a number of great entries in this category but many of them were so similar; this one stood out immediately as the winner."

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

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

SPORTS NEWS REPORTING

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

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

3rd Place
NEWS & OBSERVER
 Dan Kane
 UNC again challenges NCAA jurisdiction
Good reporting on a complicated academic scandal. Clearly written.

Chicago Cubs headed to World Series / B1

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

SUNDAY

Oct. 23, 2016 \$2.00 www.journalnow.com

Mothers of the Movement reach out to students, voters in city / A4

AT&T reaches deal to buy Time Warner for \$85.4 billion / A27

Past, future intertwine in landmark deal

The Forsyth County community and the Reynolds company have been intertwined for 141 years.

BAT purchase offer would not be first time company changed hands

BY RICHARD CRAVER
 Winston-Salem Journal

The potential sale of Reynolds American Inc. has a here-we-go-again aura about it, both for the company and the Forsyth County community that has been intertwined with for 141 years.

PROPOSED REYNOLDS DEAL

offer of \$47 billion, made Friday by top Reynolds shareholder British American Tobacco Plc, has been received by Reynolds' board of directors, which said it will review it.

The proposal represents the culmination of at least 13 years' worth of analyst, industry and local speculation of such a deal.

That's how long it's been since Reynolds announced in October 2003 its plans to spend \$4.4 billion to buy Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corp., BAT's U.S. subsidiary based in Louisville, Ky. The deal was complete on July 30, 2004.

In exchange, BAT acquired a 42.2 percent ownership stake in Reynolds and five appointees to the Reynolds board of directors.

The BAT proposal represents a

REYNOLDS, Page A6

More Inside

Reynolds' management change of a woman replacing a woman as CEO still rare in corporate America. Page C1.

Homicides climb in city

Number of killings eclipses 2015 total

Homicides in Winston-Salem so far in 2016

There have been 21 homicides in the city through Oct. 1. There were 17 in the city in all of 2015.

Arrest made, warrant issued or case otherwise closed

Justifiable homicide

Unsolved

City homicides by year

Year	Homicides
2012	15
2013	15
2014	15
2015	17
2016	21

3 April 2 / 4803 Westmoreland Drive
 Victim: Jonathan Byron Williams, 23

17 July 20 / 3650 Herlick Drive
 Victim: Walter Lee Odom, 66

16 June 7 / 2307 E. 2nd St.

Daily Newspaper Winner

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Allison Lee Isley

Allison Lee Isley portfolio



Community Newspaper Winner

PILOT

Ted Fitzgerald
Ted Fitzgerald Pilot



Committed to excellence

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

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

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

1st Place
Lighter Columns
"He's flushed his friend
down 16 ballpark
toilets"
Josh Shaffer

1st Place
Business Writing
"Got Health
Insurance?"
John Murawski

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

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

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

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

1st Place
Sports Columns
Barry Jacobs

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