Georgia Press Association honors Better Newspaper Contest winners

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA. - The Georgia Press Association honored the winners of the 2017 Freedom of Information Award and the 2017 Better Newspaper Contest on Friday at the Jekyll Island Club during the group's 131st annual convention.

The Valdosta Daily Times won the prestigious Freedom of Information Award for doing the most during 2016 to uphold the principles of the First Amendment and to protect the public’s right to know. The Daily Times was honored specifically for its work getting its local hospital authority to comply with Georgia’s Open Meetings Act, even in the face of the hospital pulling its advertising and canceling subscriptions for its patients — a financial loss of more than $80,000 in a year.

Despite the hospital’s actions, The Daily Times and its parent company, Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. (CNHI) of Montgomery, Ala., stood strong, continuing to write stories and editorials about the authority’s improperly held closed meetings, insufficient meeting minutes and failures to post accurate meeting times. Because of the attention brought by The Daily Times, Georgia’s attorney general fined the hospital authority and ordered board members to undergo open government training.

It is the second straight year that The Valdosta Daily Times earned the Freedom of Information Award from Georgia Press Association. Judging for the award is done by The University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Two young journalists were honored as winners of GPA’s Emerging Journalist Awards. Journalists younger than 30 with less than five years of experience writing professionally for a newspaper — one representing daily newspapers and representing weeklies — were honored for demonstrating excellence and maintaining high standards of quality and ethics. The daily newspaper winner was Brittini Ray of the Savannah Morning News. The weekly newspaper winner was Kathleen Sturgeon of the Forsyth Herald of Appen Media Group.

Winners in the Georgia Press Association Better Newspaper Contest were honored for their outstanding achievements in newspaper journalism. Entries were judged in seven divisions based on circulation. The daily divisions are Division A (circulation of 18,000 or more), Division B (8,000 to 17,999) and Division C (circulation less than 8,000). Weekly divisions are Division D (circulation of 6,000 to 15,000), Division E (weeklies with circulation of 3,000 to 5,999), Division F (circulation less than 3,000) and Division G (all weekly newspapers of more than 15,000 in circulation and all associate media members of GPA).

The photograph chosen as the Photo of the Year was taken by Josh Galemore of the Savannah Morning News. It depicts members of the Savannah Fire Dept. standing at attention at the casket of fellow firefighter. Galemore’s photo won the news photo award for Division A. All first-place winners in photo categories are considered for Photo of the Year.

There were 559 awards presented in 37 categories to 73 newspapers. Judging was done by members of Alabama Press Association. Winners by category are:

General Excellence: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News; General Excellence: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon; General Excellence: Division A: 3rd Place, The Augusta Chronicle; General Excellence: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal; General Excellence: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News; General Excellence: Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times; General
General Excellence: Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Alex Pace; General Excellence: Division G: 1st Place, Sandy Springs Report

Layout and Design: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Layout and Design: Division A: 2nd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Layout and Design: Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Staff; Layout and Design: Division B: 1st Place, The Brunswick News, Staff; Layout and Design: Division B: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Layout and Design: Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Janine Morris; Layout and Design: Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Staff; Layout and Design: Division C: 2nd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Staff; Layout and Design: Division C: 3rd Place, The Moultrie Observer, Staff; Layout and Design: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Staff; Layout and Design: Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup; Layout and Design: Division D: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur; General Excellence: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons; General Excellence: Division E: 2nd Place, The Jones County News, Scott; General Excellence: Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson; General Excellence: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur; General Excellence: Division F: 2nd Place, Jeffferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville; General Excellence: Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville; General Excellence: Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe; General Excellence: Division G: 2nd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock; General Excellence: Division G: 3rd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter

Local News Coverage: Division A: 1st Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Local News Coverage: Division A: 2nd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Robin Nevetral and Amanda Holahan; Local News Coverage: Division A: 3rd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Robin Nevetral and staff; Page One: Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Bill Stewart and Ed Morales; Page One: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Staff; Page One: Division B: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Staff; Page One: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Staff; Page One: Division C: 2nd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Staff; Page One: Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Staff; Page One: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons; Page One: Division D: 2nd Place, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers, Staff; Page One: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons; Page One: Division E: 1st Place, Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys, Staff; Page One: Division E: 2nd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Josh Lurie; Page One: Division E: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Klark Byrd; Page One: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Staff; Page One: Division F: 2nd Place, Donalsonville News, David Maxwell; Page One: Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Staff; Page One: Division G: 1st Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Staff; Page One: Division G: 2nd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff; Page One: Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Staff

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Lifestyle Coverage: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Lifestyle Coverage: Division A: 2nd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff; Lifestyle Coverage: Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Staff; Lifestyle Coverage: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 2nd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 3rd Place, Lawrenceville, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis, Jamie Wachter and Glendon Poe; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 3rd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Gale Gay

Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division A: 3rd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary and Kristin Finney; Editorial Page: Division B: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Editorial Page: Division B: 1st Place, The Greenville News, Woodstock, Staff; Editorial Page: Division E: 2nd Place, Monroe County News, Woodstock, Staff; Editorial Page: Division E: 3rd Place, The Summerville News, Woodstock, Staff; Local News Coverage: Division G: 3rd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Staff

Editorial Page: Division A: 1st Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Editorial Page: Division A: 2nd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Editorial Page: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Editorial Page: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Editorial Page: Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary and Kristin Finney; Editorial Page: Division B: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Editorial Page: Division D: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, James Wolfe; Sports Section or Pages: Division D: 2nd Place, The Rawhide, Bainbridge, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Staff; Editorial Page: Division D: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Monday, Staff; Editorial Page: Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro; Sports Section or Pages: Division E: 2nd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division E: 3rd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Chuck Thompson; Sports Section or Pages: Division F: 1st Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Staff; Sports Section or Pages: Division F: 2nd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Monday, Staff; Editorial Page: Division G: 1st Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff; Editorial Page: Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Staff; Editorial Page: Division G: 3rd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Staff

Editorial Writing: Division A: 1st Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Michael Ryan; Editorial Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Joe Hotchkiss; Editorial Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Editorial Writing: Division B: 1st Place, The Albany Herald, The Albany Herald Editorial Board; Editorial Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Jon Gillooly;
Editorial Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, J.K. Murphy; Editorial Writing: Division D: 1st Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Staff; Editorial Writing: Division D: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Glenn Harbison; Editorial Writing: Division E: 1st Place, Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys, Jill Helton; Editorial Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Staff; Editorial Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, White County News, Cleveland, Staff; Editorial Writing: Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard and Carol McLeod; Editorial Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, John Hewitt; Editorial Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Staff

Headline Writing: Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Khari Sampson and Dawn Davenport; Headline Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Khari Sampson and Kristen Hansen; Headline Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, David Westin and Joey Jones; Headline Writing: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Headline Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff; Headline Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff; Headline Writing: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons; Headline Writing: Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Staff; Headline Writing: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Ron Daniel; Headline Writing: Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Alex Pace; Headline Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, Henry Daily Herald, McDonough, Michael Buckelew, Dawn Davenport and Khari Sampson; Headline Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Robbie Bills; Headline Writing: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Staff; Headline Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, The Johnson Journal, Wrightsville, Deidre Ledford; Headline Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, Donalsonville News, David Maxwell

Special Issues: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Special Issues: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Special Issues: Division A: 3rd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Staff; Special Issues: Division B: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff; Special Issues: Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff; Special Issues: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Special Issues: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Staff; Special Issues: Division D: 2nd Place, The Cordele Dispatch, Angela Barentine; Special Issues: Division D: 3rd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Derrick Mahone; Special Issues: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Special Issues: Division E: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Staff; Special Issues: Division E: 3rd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Staff; Special Issues: Division F: 1st Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Staff; Special Issues: Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Staff; Special Issues: Division F: 3rd Place, Donalsonville News, David Maxwell; Special Issues: Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Staff; Special Issues: Division G: 2nd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Staff; Special Issues: Division G: 3rd Place, The Thomasville Townie, Katie Reeves and Jennifer Westfield

Community Service: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Community Service: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Community Service: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Jan Skutch; Community Service: Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary; Community Service: Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Lee Shearer and Joe Johnson; Community Service: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff; Community Service: Division C: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Staff; Community Service: Division C: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Staff; Community Service: Division C: 3rd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Staff; Community Service: Division E: 1st Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Staff; Community Service: Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Mike Buffington; Community Service: Division E: 3rd Place, The Hartwell Sun, Staff

Business Writing: Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Curt Yeomans; Business Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Mary Mayle; Business Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Linda Morris; Business Writing: Division B: 1st Place, Rome News-Tribune, Doug Walker; Business Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Lindsey Adkison; Business Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Ricky Leroux; Business Writing: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Kayla Elder; Business Writing: Division C: 2nd Place, The
Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Sampson Jenkins; Business Writing: Division C: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Staff; Business Writing: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Tommy Culkin; Business Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Mat Payne; Business Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Lynn Hobbs; Business Writing: Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard; Business Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins; Business Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Angela Gary; Business Coverage: Division G: 1st Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, John Ruch; Business Writing: Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Wayne Tidwell; Business Writing: Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Staff

Religion Writing: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Leslie Moses; Religion Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Michael Pannell; Religion Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Staff; Religion Writing: Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Hilary Butschek; Religion Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff; Religion Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Mary Starr; Religion Writing: Division C: 1st Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Liz Marino; Religion Writing: Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Marie Nesmith; Religion Writing: Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Arthia Nixon; Religion Writing: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Megan Studnard and Tommy Culkin; Religion Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, The Toccoa Record, Tom Law; Religion Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Staff; Religion Writing: Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard; Religion Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Staff; Religion Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Scott Belzer;

Education Writing: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Jenel Few; Education Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Doug Stutsman; Education Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Jenel Few; Education Writing: Division B: 1st Place, The Albany Herald, Terry Lewis; Education Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Lee Shearer; Education Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, John Stephen; Education Writing: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Kayla Elder; Education Writing: Division C: 2nd Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Jordan Barela; Education Writing: Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Donna Harris; Education Writing: Division D: 1st Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Liz Marino; Education Writing: Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Brianne Collar; Education Writing: Division D: 3rd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Ron Daniel; Education Writing: Division E: 1st Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Whitney Crouch; Education Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Lynn Hobbs; Education Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Trevor McNaboe; Education Writing: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Scott Belzer; Education Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, Jackson Progress-Argus, Sherri Ellington; Education Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Staff

Lennon; News Photograph: Division G: 2nd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Phil Mosier; News Photograph: Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Bert Loftman

Spot News Photo: Division A: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Richard Hamm; Spot News Photo: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Spot News Photo: Division A: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Clay Neely; Spot News Photo: Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Spot News Photo: Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Spot News Photo: Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Matt Hamilton; Spot News Photo: Division D: 1st Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Derrick Mahone; Spot News Photo: Division D: 2nd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Christina Santee; Spot News Photo: Division D: 3rd Place, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers, Larry Stanford; Spot News Photo: Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro; Spot News Photo: Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Alex Pace; Spot News Photo: Division E: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Klarl Byrd; Spot News Photo: Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard; Spot News Photo: Division F: 2nd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Angela Gary; Spot News Photo: Division F: 3rd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Wesley Sagon; Spot News Photo: Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Robert Smith; Spot News Photo: Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Wayne Tidwell; Spot News Photo: Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Robert Smith

Sports Photograph: Division A: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Jason Vorhees; Sports Photograph: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Sports Photograph: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Sports Photograph: Division B: 1st Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven; Sports Photograph: Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jamie Wachter; Sports Photograph: Division C: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis; Sports Photograph: Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Ricky Stilley; Sports Photograph: Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Sports Photograph: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Melinda Pease; Sports Photograph: Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Patrick Graham; Sports Photograph: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler; Sports Photograph: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Mat Payne; Sports Photograph: Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Ryne Dennis; Sports Photograph: Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro; Sports Photograph: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Travis Hudgons; Sports Photograph: Division F: 2nd Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Jessica Brown; Sports Photograph: Division F: 3rd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Charles Phelps

Sports Feature Photograph: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Sports Feature Photograph: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Sports Feature Photograph: Division A: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis; Sports Feature Photograph: Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis; Sports Feature Photograph: Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis; Sports Feature Photograph: Division B: 3rd Place, Rome News-Tribune, Jeremy Stewart; Sports Feature Photograph: Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Matt Hamilton; Sports Feature Photograph: Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Matt Hamilton; Sports Feature Photograph: Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Sports Feature Photograph: Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Melinda Pease; Sports Feature Photograph: Division D: 2nd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Reggie Davis; Sports Feature Photograph: Division D: 3rd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Derrick Mahone; Sports Feature Photograph: Division E: 1st Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, T. Michael Stone; Sports Feature Photograph: Division E: 2nd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Greg Finan Jr.; Sports Feature Photograph: Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Clark Buffington; Sports Feature Photograph: Division F: 1st Place, Sylvania Telephone, Enoch Autry; Sports Feature Photograph: Division F: 2nd Place, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette, Scott Herpst; Sports Feature Photograph: Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Dallas Bordon; Sports Feature Photograph: Division G: 1st Place, Columbia County News-Times, Evans, Chris Gay; Sports Feature Photograph: Division G: 2nd Place, Columbia County News-Times, Evans, Chris Gay; Sports Feature Photograph: Division G: 3rd Place, Columbia County News-Times, Evans, Chris Gay
Feature Photograph: Division A: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Woody Marshall; Feature Photograph: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson; Feature Photograph: Division A: 3rd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Woody Marshall; Feature Photograph: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff; Feature Photograph: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven; Feature Photograph: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff; Feature Photograph: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Kathryn Ingbill; Feature Photograph: Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Feature Photograph: Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Matt Hamilton; Feature Photograph: Division D: 1st Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Christina Santee; Feature Photograph: Division D: 2nd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Ricky Stilley; Feature Photograph: Division D: 3rd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Christina Santee; Feature Photograph: Division E: 1st Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Don Richeson; Feature Photograph: Division E: 2nd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Mat Payne; Feature Photograph: Division E: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Trevor McNaboe; Feature Photograph: Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Anna Lush; Feature Photograph: Division F: 2nd Place, Donelsonville News, David Maxwell; Feature Photograph: Division F: 3rd Place, Jackson Progress-Argus, Sherri Ellington; Feature Photograph: Division G: 1st Place, The Braselton News, Welsleigh Sagon; Feature Photograph: Division G: 2nd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Kathryn Ingbill; Feature Photograph: Division G: 3rd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Kathryn Ingbill

Photo Essay: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Dash Coleman; Photo Essay: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Adriana Iris Boatwright; Photo Essay: Division A: 3rd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Emily Selby; Photo Essay: Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrek Vaughn; Photo Essay: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven; Photo Essay: Division B: 3rd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin, Clay Reynolds; Photo Essay: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Emily Selby; Photo Essay: Division C: 2nd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Emily Selby; Photo Essay: Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Melanie Boyd; Photo Essay: Division D: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Jim Tanner; Photo Essay: Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Staff; Photo Essay: Division D: 3rd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Brandon O'Connor and Powell Cobb; Photo Essay: Division E: 1st Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Debbie Lurie-Smith; Photo Essay: Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Welsleigh Sagon; Photo Essay: Division E: 3rd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Don Richeson; Photo Essay: Division F: 1st Place, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette, Scott Herpst; Photo Essay: Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Travis Hudgons; Photo Essay: Division F: 3rd Place, Sylvania Telephone, Enoch Autry

Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Ben Goggins; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Krstopher Monroe; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Joshua Peacock; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Andrew Shearer; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division B: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Damon Poirier; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division B: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Wes Wolfe; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Drew Davis; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division D: 2nd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Joyce Kramer; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division D: 3rd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Lisa Cooper; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division D: 3rd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Kema Clark; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division E: 1st Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, John Reiff; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division E: 2nd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Whitney Crouch; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division E: 3rd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, April Teague; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division G: 1st Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Robin Conte Isaf; Lifestyle/Feature Column: Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Debbie Dickson

Serious Column: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Jane Fishman; Serious Column: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Charles Richardson; Serious Column: Division A: 3rd Place, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Dimon Kendrick-Holmes; Serious Column: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Judy Elliott; Serious Column: Division B: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Jon Gillooly; Serious Column: Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary; Serious Column: Division C: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Rebecca Johnston; Serious Column: Division C: 2nd Place,
The Moultrie Observer, Dwain Walden; Serious Column: Division C: 3rd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Rebecca Johnston; Serious Column: Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Derby Waters; Serious Column: Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Drew Davis; Serious Column: Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Dink NeSmith; Serious Column: Division E: 1st Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Dave Brown; Serious Column: Division E: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, T. Michael Stone; Serious Column: Division F: 3rd Place, White County News, Cleveland, Wayne Hardy; Serious Column: Division F: 1st Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins; Serious Column: Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, John Hewitt; Serious Column: Division F: 3rd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Staff; Humorous Column: Division A: 1st Place, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Tim Chitwood; Humorous Column: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Randy Waters; Humorous Column: Division A: 3rd Place, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Chris Johnson; Humorous Column: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Dick Yarbrough; Humorous Column: Division B: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Judy Elliott; Humorous Column: Division B: 3rd Place, Rome News-Tribune, Severo Avila; Humorous Column: Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Derby Waters; Humorous Column: Division D: 2nd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Lynn Roberts; Humorous Column: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Stephen Milligan; Humorous Column: Division E: 1st Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth, Will Davis; Humorous Column: Division E: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Lisa W. Manus; Humorous Column: Division E: 3rd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, T. Michael Stone; Humorous Column: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, John Hewitt; Humorous Column: Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins; Humorous Column: Division F: 3rd Place, The Dawson News, T. Gamble III; Humorous Column: Division G: 1st Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Hatcher Hurd; Humorous Column: Division G: 2nd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Robin Conte Isaf; Humorous Column: Division G: 3rd Place, Columbia County News-Times, Evans, Chris Gay

Sports Column: Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Nathan Deen; Sports Column: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Daniel Shirley; Sports Column: Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Will Hammock; Sports Column: Division B: 1st Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Chris Hilyard; Sports Column: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Taylor Denman; Sports Column: Division B: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, John Bednarowski; Sports Column: Division D: 1st Place, The Tifton Gazette, Becky Taylor; Sports Column: Division D: 2nd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Staff; Sports Column: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler; Sports Column: Division E: 1st Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Dave Brown; Sports Column: Division E: 2nd Place, Americus Times-Recorder, Michael Murray; Sports Column: Division E: 3rd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Ryne Dennis; Sports Column: Division F: 1st Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Chris Bridges; Sports Column: Division F: 2nd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Zach Mitcham; Sports Column: Division F: 3rd Place, Sylvania Telephone, Burton Kemp Jr.


Feature Writing: Division A: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Joe Kovak Jr.; Feature Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Leslie Moses; Feature Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Wayne Crenshaw; Feature Writing: Division B: 1st Place, The Brunswick News, Tyler H. Jones; Feature Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Lindsey Adkison; Feature Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Tyler H. Jones; Feature Writing: Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Chris Whitfield; Feature Writing: Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Shaka Cobb; Feature Writing: Division C: 3rd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Emily Selby; Feature Writing: Division D: 1st Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Brandon O’Connor; Feature Writing: Division D: 2nd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Brandon O’Connor; Feature Writing: Division D: 3rd Place, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers, Wade Marbaugh; Feature Writing: Division E: 1st Place, Henry Daily Herald, McDonough, Heather Middleton; Feature Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, Henry Daily Herald, McDonough, Chelsea Prince; Feature Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, The Hartwell Sun, David Butler; Feature Writing: Division F: 1st Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Zach Mitcham; Feature Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard; Feature Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard; Feature Writing: Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Barbara Schneider; Feature Writing: Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Staff; Feature Writing: Division G: 3rd Place, Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock, Kayla Elder

Investigative Reporting: Division A: 1st Place, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Michael Owen; Investigative Reporting: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Amy Leigh Womack; Investigative Reporting: Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Brittini Ray and Jenel Few; Investigative Reporting: Division B: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, John Bednarowski; Investigative Reporting: Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Ed Morales; Investigative Reporting: Division B: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Arthia Nixon; Investigative Reporting: Division D: 1st Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Donald Fraser; Investigative Reporting: Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemens; Investigative Reporting: Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Derby Waters; Investigative Reporting: Division E: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Tommy Culkin; Investigative Reporting: Division E: 2nd Place, The Islander, St. Simons Island, Pam Shierling and Matthew Permar; Investigative Reporting: Division E: 3rd Place, The Claxton Enterprise, Mickey Peace; Investigative Reporting: Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Carla Parker; Investigative Reporting: Division F: 2nd Place, The Telfair Enterprise, McRae, Staff; Investigative Reporting: Division F: 3rd Place, The Johnson Journal, Wrightsville, Deidre Ledford

Sports Writing: Division A: 1st Place, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, David Mitchell; Sports Writing: Division A: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Ron Seibel; Sports Writing: Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Will Hammock; Sports Writing: Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis; Sports Writing: Division B: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Buddy Hughes; Sports Writing: Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Nicole Saavedra; Sports Writing: Division C: 1st Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, David Almeda; Sports Writing: Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Citizen, Dalton, Tony Maluso; Sports Writing: Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Andrew Houghton; Sports Writing: Division D: 1st Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Staff; Sports Writing: Division D: 2nd Place, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, Brandon O’Connor; Sports Writing: Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Stephen Milligan; Sports Writing: Division E: 1st Place, White County News, Cleveland, Mark Turner; Sports Writing: Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Ryne Dennis; Sports Writing: Division E: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins; Sports Writing: Division F: 1st Place, Banks County News, Homer, Charles Phelps; Sports Writing: Division F: 2nd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Cameron Whitlock; Sports Writing: Division F: 3rd Place, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette, Scott Herpst
Best Online News Project: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Laura Corley and Stephen Mays; Best Online News Project: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff; Best Online News Project: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Staff; Best Online News Project: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Best Online News Project: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Journal, Buena Vista, Richard Harris; Best Online News Project: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Journal, Buena Vista, Richard Harris and Kendrick Baker

Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Woody Marshall; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Beau Cabell and Jason Vorhees; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Woody Marshall; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Don Richeson; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Staff; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Henry Daily Herald, McDonough, Heather Middleton; Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Travis Hudgons;

Best Use of Graphics and Illustration: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Paige Scott; Best Use of Graphics and Illustration: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Kristen Hansen; Best Use of Graphics and Illustration: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Georgian, St. Marys, Jill Helton; Best Web Photo: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Tattnall Journal, Reidsville, Allison Cobb; Best Use of Graphics and Illustration: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Josh Lurie; Best Use of Graphics and Illustration: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Clayton Tribune, Klark Byrd

Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Staff; Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Staff; Newspaper Website: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Staff; Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Donna Seay; Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Staff; Newspaper Website: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Sandy Springs Reporter, Staff

Editorial Cartoonist: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Augusta Chronicle, Rick McKee; Editorial Cartoonist: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Mark Streeter; Editorial Cartoonist: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Mark Streeter; Editorial Cartoonist: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Jim Powell; Editorial Cartoonist: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Jim Powell; Editorial Cartoonist: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Bob Glover

Magazine Product: Division DAILY: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Staff; Magazine Product: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Staff; Magazine Product: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Staff; Magazine Product: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Staff; Magazine Product: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Staff;

Photo Portfolio: Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Woody Marshall; Photo Portfolio: Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Josh Galemore; Photo Portfolio: Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Telegraph, Macon, Beau Cabell; Photo Portfolio: Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Kat Alikhan; Photo Portfolio: Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Whitney Crouch; Photo Portfolio: Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard