



PRESS RELEASE
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Georgia Press Association honors Better Newspaper Contest winners

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA. - The Georgia Press Association honored the winners of the 2019 Freedom of Information Award and the 2019 Better Newspaper Contest on Friday at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel during the group's 133rd annual convention.

The Valdosta Daily Times won the prestigious Freedom of Information Award for doing the most during 2018 to uphold the principles of the First Amendment and to protect the public's right to know. The Daily Times was honored for its continuing efforts throughout the year to educate the public and public officials about Georgia's sunshine laws.

Over the course of 2018, the newspaper defended the public's right to speak at local school board meetings, published a special section featuring explanatory journalism about open-government laws, made more than 200 public records requests in the course of reporting on subjects such as prison deaths, school safety, immigration, millage rates, banking regulations and college sexual assault, and uncovered violations of the Open Meetings Act by local and state government bodies.

This is the third time in four years that The Valdosta Daily Times has won the Freedom of Information Award from Georgia Press Association. Judging for the award is provided 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 from the state's daily newspapers and one from the state's weeklies — were honored for demonstrating excellence and maintaining high standards of quality and ethics. The daily newspaper winner was Isabel Hughes of the Gwinnett Daily Post of Lawrenceville. The weekly newspaper winner was Sydney Taylor of The News Observer of Blue Ridge.

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 10,000 or more), Division B (6,000 to 9,999) and Division C (circulation less than 6,000). 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 Matt Aiken of The Dahlonega Nugget. It depicts the efforts of Lumpkin County firefighters to battle a blaze at a local hardware store. Water sprayed on the fire as the sun shone down created a rainbow in the image. Aiken's photo won the spot news photo award for Division E. All first-place winners in photo categories are considered for Photo of the Year.

There were 622 awards presented in 46 categories to 71 newspapers. Judging was done by members of the South Carolina Press Association in February and early March. A total of 80 newspapers entered at least one category in this year's contest.

General Excellence Awards are based on overall evaluation of the newspaper. Points toward General Excellence are earned based on awards in contest categories and in Georgia Press Association's advertising contest.

The top-three winning entries in each division of every category are available online at:
https://newspapercontest.com/Georgia/winners/entries_list.php

Winners by category are:

General Excellence:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times
Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald
Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette
Division E: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison
Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville
Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia
Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division G: 2nd Place, Springs Publishing
Division G: 3rd Place, Appen Media Group Inc.

Best Online News Project:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Kristin Patten
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Newton Citizen, Covington, Larry Stanford
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Henry Herald, McDonough, Heather Middleton
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Clayton News, Jonesboro, Heather Middleton

Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones

Albert and Dorothy Jenkins Award

Best Use of Graphics and Illustration:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Kristen Hansen

Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, David Skinner

Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Sarah Warrender

Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons

Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Christina Paige Santee

Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Blackshear Times, Robert M. Williams

Best Web Photo:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson

Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Jason Braverman

Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Will Peebles

Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Covington News, Sydney Chacon

Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Covington News, Sydney Chacon

Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Matt Aiken

Breaking News Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Isabel Hughes

Division A: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Wes Wolfe

Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Shaddi Abusaid

Division B: 1st Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Chris Whitfield

Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Wayne Ford

Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Jeffrey Cullen-Dean

Division C: 1st Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Patti Dozier

Division C: 2nd Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Erik Yabor

Division C: 3rd Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Patti Dozier

Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Mark Stokes

Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Andrew Kenneson

Division D: 3rd Place, Calhoun Times, Alexis Draut and Spencer Lahr

Division E: 1st Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Lynn Hobbs

Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska

Division E: 3rd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska

Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman

Division F: 2nd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard

Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Kandice S. Eberhart

Division G: 1st Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Julia Grochowski

Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Laura Link

Division G: 3rd Place, Springs Publishing, John Ruch

Business Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Jon Gargis

Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Katie Nussbaum

Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, DeAnn Komaneky

Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Wayne Ford

Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Staff

Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Winston Skinner

Division C: 1st Place, Daily Report, Atlanta, Meredith Hobbs

Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, James Swift

Division C: 3rd Place, The Moultrie Observer, Kevin C. Hall

Division D: 1st Place, The Tifton Gazette, Stuart Taylor

Division D: 2nd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Thomas Hartwell

Division D: 3rd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Thomas Hartwell

Division E: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Tia Lynn Ivey

Division E: 2nd Place, The Hartwell Sun, Michael Isom

Division E: 3rd Place, White County News, Cleveland, Staff
Division F: 1st Place, The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville, Christian McKearney
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Kathy Mitchell
Division F: 3rd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, John Ruch
Division G: 2nd Place, The Braselton News, Alex Pace Buffington
Division G: 3rd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Julia Grochowski

Community Service:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Jan Skutch
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Staff
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary
Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff
Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Staff
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Staff
Division C: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland and Stuart Taylor
Division E: 1st Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth, Staff
Division E: 2nd Place, Donalsonville News, David Maxwell
Division E: 3rd Place, The Covington News, Staff

Editorial Cartoonist:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Mark Streeter
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Sarah Warrender
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Caprice Bowman
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Bob Glover
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Dwight Henderson
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Bob Glover

J.C. Williams Trophy

Editorial Page:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Glenn Harbison
Division D: 3rd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia
Division E: 1st Place, Newton Citizen, Covington
Division E: 2nd Place, Henry Herald, McDonough
Division E: 3rd Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
Division F: 1st Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, John Hewitt
Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

H.H. Dean Trophy

Editorial Writing

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Jon Gillooly
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division B: 1st Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Jamie Jones
Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald
Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times
Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
Division D: 2nd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Stuart Taylor
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons

Division E: 1st Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska
Division E: 2nd Place, The Covington News, David Clemons and Jackie Gutknecht
Division E: 3rd Place, The True Citizen, Waynesboro, Roy F. Chalker Jr.
Division F: 1st Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, John Hewitt
Division F: 3rd Place, The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville, Wil Petty

Education Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Shaddi Abusaid
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Ann Meyer
Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Katelyn Umholtz
Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Lee Shearer
Division B: 3rd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin, Clay Reynolds
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Isabella Alves
Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Donna Harris
Division D: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Ellen Harrison
Division D: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Stephen Milligan
Division E: 1st Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Katie Tiller
Division E: 2nd Place, Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys, Staff
Division E: 3rd Place, Henry Herald, McDonough, Heather Middleton
Division F: 1st Place, The Journal, Buena Vista, Richard Harris
Division F: 2nd Place, Clayton News, Jonesboro, Heather Middleton
Division F: 3rd Place, Clayton News, Jonesboro, Heather Middleton

Enterprise Story:

Division A: 1st Place, The Brunswick News, Tyler H. Jones
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Brittini Ray and Jan Skutch
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, DeAnn Komaneky
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joe Johnson
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Terry Richards
Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Marc Weiszer
Division C: 1st Place, The Moultrie Observer, Alan Mauldin
Division C: 2nd Place, Daily Report, Atlanta, Jonathan Ringel
Division C: 3rd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Gabrielle Jansen
Division D: 1st Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland
Division D: 2nd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Dan Pool
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland
Division E: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Tia Lynn Ivey
Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Mike Buffington
Division E: 3rd Place, Fayette County News, Fayetteville, Christopher Dunn
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division F: 3rd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard

Feature Photograph:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Shelly Mobley
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrek Vaughn
Division B: 2nd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Matt Hamilton
Division B: 3rd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin, Clay Reynolds
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker

Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Randy Parker
Division D: 1st Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Lauren Bearden
Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Mark Stokes
Division D: 3rd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Eric Pereira
Division E: 1st Place, The Hartwell Sun, Bill Powell
Division E: 2nd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Josiah Connelly
Division E: 3rd Place, The Chatsworth Times, Scott Kuhn
Division F: 1st Place, Jackson Progress-Argus, Michael Davis
Division F: 2nd Place, Banks County News, Homer, Charles Phelps
Division F: 3rd Place, Sylvania Telephone, Enoch Autry
Division G: 1st Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon
Division G: 2nd Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon
Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon

Feature Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Polly Powers Stramm
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Kim Wade
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Lauren McDonald
Division B: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Sarah Fay Campbell
Division B: 2nd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Shaka Cobb
Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Rebecca Leftwich
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Donna Harris
Division C: 3rd Place, Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Patti Dozier
Division D: 1st Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Angela Reinhardt
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Andrew Kenneson
Division D: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Lauren Bearden
Division E: 1st Place, The Blackshear Times, Jason Deal
Division E: 2nd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Michael Andrews
Division E: 3rd Place, The Hartwell Sun, Michael Hall
Division F: 1st Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard
Division F: 2nd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard
Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Kandice S. Eberhardt
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Anita Rosen
Division G: 2nd Place, Springs Publishing, Joe Earle
Division G: 3rd Place, Springs Publishing, Evelyn Andrews

Headline Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, The Brunswick News
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division B: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans and Alicia B. Hill
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times
Division B: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Jason Greenberg and James Swift
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons
Division D: 2nd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper
Division D: 3rd Place, The Braselton News
Division E: 1st Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
Division E: 2nd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Mark Millican
Division E: 3rd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Lynn Hobbs and Shannon Sneed
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur
Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Staff

Joe Parham Trophy
Humorous Column:

Division A: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Dean Poling
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Jane Fishman
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Dick Yarbrough
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Winston Jones
Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, James Swift
Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Joe Garrett
Division D: 1st Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia, Christina Paige Santee
Division D: 2nd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Caleb Smith
Division D: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Glenn Harbison
Division E: 1st Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Matt Aiken
Division E: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Emily McClure
Division E: 3rd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, T. Michael Stone
Division F: 1st Place, The Dawson News, T. Gamble III
Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins
Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Lisa W. Manus
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Brent Carroll
Division G: 2nd Place, Springs Publishing, Robin Conte
Division G: 3rd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Julia Grochowski

Investigative Reporting:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Mary Landers
Division A: 2nd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Isabel Hughes
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Ross Williams
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Terry Richards
Division B: 2nd Place, Rome News-Tribune, John Bailey
Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Rebecca Leftwich
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 3rd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons
Division D: 2nd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Mark Stokes
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland and Stuart Taylor
Division E: 1st Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska
Division E: 2nd Place, Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys, Jill Helton
Division E: 3rd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Tia Lynn Ivey
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division F: 3rd Place, Sylvania Telephone, Enoch Autry
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, John Ruch
Division G: 2nd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Patrick Fox
Division G: 3rd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Joe Parker

Hal M. Stanley Trophy

Layout and Design:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News
Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division B: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division B: 2nd Place, The Moultrie Observer
Division B: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Jason Greenberg
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Mary Beth Yeary and Becky Taylor
Division E: 1st Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
Division E: 2nd Place, The Covington News, Jackie Gutknecht and Brian Worton
Division E: 3rd Place, Newton Citizen, Covington

Division F: 1st Place, The Leader-Tribune, Ft. Valley, Andrea Banker
Division F: 2nd Place, Clayton News, Jonesboro
Division F: 3rd Place, The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division G: 2nd Place, Springs Publishing, Rico Figliolini
Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Alexandria Pace Buffington and Ben Munro

Lifestyle Coverage:

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily
Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Andrew Shearer
Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times
Division D: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge
Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
Division E: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison
Division E: 2nd Place, White County News, Cleveland
Division E: 3rd Place, The Forest-Blade, Swainsboro
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Gale Gay
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur
Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Gale Gay

Lifestyle/Feature Column:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Diane Churchill
Division A: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Larry Hobbs
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Joshua Peacock
Division B: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Mimi Gentry
Division B: 2nd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Will Scott
Division B: 3rd Place, Rome News-Tribune, Tina Bartleson
Division D: 1st Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Mahdi Al-Husseini
Division D: 2nd Place, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville, Mahdi Al-Husseini
Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Mark Stokes
Division E: 1st Place, White County News, Cleveland, Abigail Cutchshaw
Division E: 2nd Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Whitney Sherrill
Division E: 3rd Place, The Forest-Blade, Swainsboro, Halei Lamb
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, Robin Conte
Division G: 2nd Place, Springs Publishing, Joe Earle
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Bob Anderson

W. Trox Bankston Trophy

Local News Coverage:

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal
Division B: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald
Division B: 2nd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton
Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Division C: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division C: 3rd Place, The Moultrie Observer
Division D: 1st Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 3rd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper
Division E: 1st Place, Times-Courier, Ellijay, Mark Millican

Division E: 2nd Place, Newton Citizen, Covington
Division E: 3rd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia
Division F: 3rd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing
Division G: 2nd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Julia Grochowski
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Magazine Commentary:

1st Place, The Tifton Gazette, Shelby Evans
2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska
3rd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Amber Nagle

Magazine Cover Design:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Robin Harrison, Katy Ruth Camp and Hadley Photography
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, David Jones and Danielle N. Hawkins
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Kemesha Wadley
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Mark Brill

Magazine Photography:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Jackie Kennedy
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Beth Neely
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Sara Moore
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Jesse Walker
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Leila Scoggins
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Lauren Bearden

Magazine Product:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Katy Ruth Camp and Robin Harrison
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Andrea Gable, David Jones and Danielle N. Hawkins
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge

Magazine Story:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Neil Monroe
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, James Swift
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Jackie Kennedy
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Andrea Gable
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Lena Hensley
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, Springs Publishing, Donna Lewis

Multimedia Journalism:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Kevin Eckleberry and Daniel Evans
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, The Union-Recorder, Milledgeville, Taylor Hembree
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Horace Holloman
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Kathleen Sturgeon
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The Chatsworth Times, Chuck Hamby and Kyle Presley

News Photograph:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson
Division A: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Jon Gillooly
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrek Vaughn
Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Randy Parker
Division C: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 3rd Place, The Union-Recorder, Milledgeville, Billy W. Hobbs
Division D: 1st Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Max Caylor
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Sydney Taylor
Division D: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Sydney Taylor
Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Wesleigh Sagon
Division E: 2nd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Emily McClure
Division E: 3rd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Heather Harris
Division F: 1st Place, The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville, Wil Petty
Division F: 2nd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard
Division F: 3rd Place, Sylvania Telephone, Enoch Autry
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, Phil Mosier
Division G: 2nd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Julia Grochowski
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Jim Francis

Newspaper Website:

1st Place, Springs Publishing
2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald

Page One:

Division A: 1st Place, The Brunswick News
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 3rd Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Janine Morris
Division B: 3rd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Division C: 2nd Place, The Moultrie Observer
Division C: 3rd Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division D: 1st Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia
Division D: 2nd Place, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia
Division D: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Glenn Harbison and Lauren Bearden
Division E: 1st Place, The Dahlonega Nugget
Division E: 2nd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Josh Lurie
Division E: 3rd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Danielle N. Hawkins and Patrick Yost
Division F: 1st Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Zach Mitcham
Division F: 2nd Place, Sylvania Telephone
Division F: 3rd Place, Jackson Progress-Argus
Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, Rico Figliolini
Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Alex Pace Buffington

Photo Essay:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Will Peebles
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Adriana Iris Boatwright
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones

Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Clay Neely
Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrek Vaughn
Division D: 1st Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Lauren Bearden
Division D: 2nd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Lauren Bearden
Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, John Eden
Division E: 1st Place, The Dahlonga Nugget, Greg Finan Jr.
Division E: 2nd Place, The Eatonton Messenger, Casey Parrish
Division E: 3rd Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Emily McClure
Division F: 1st Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville, Wesleigh Sagon
Division F: 2nd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Gale Gay
Division F: 3rd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Chuck Thompson
Division G: 1st Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon
Division G: 2nd Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon
Division G: 3rd Place, The Braselton News, Wesleigh Sagon

Photo Portfolio:

Division DAILY: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson
Division DAILY: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Will Peebles
Division DAILY: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division WEEKLY: 1st Place, The Forest-Blade, Swainsboro, Bill Cahill
Division WEEKLY: 2nd Place, Fayette County News, Fayetteville, Michael Clifton
Division WEEKLY: 3rd Place, The News Observer, Blue Ridge, Glenn Harbison

Religion Writing:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Ross Williams
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Leslie Moses
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Lindsey Adkison
Division B: 1st Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, W. Winston Skinner
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jason A. Smith
Division B: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Erin McSwain-Davis
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Andrew Kenneson
Division D: 2nd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland and Stuart Taylor
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Stephen Milligan
Division E: 1st Place, Newton Citizen, Covington, Beth Slaughter Sexton
Division E: 2nd Place, The Summerville News, Gene Espy
Division E: 3rd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Tia Lynn Ivey and Sarah Wibell
Division F: 1st Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Alaina Minshe
Division F: 2nd Place, Jackson Progress-Argus
Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Kathy Mitchell

Otis A. Brumby Trophy

Serious Column:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Judy Elliott
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Dick Yarbrough
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Jane Fishman
Division B: 1st Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Jim Zachary
Division B: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Winston Jones
Division B: 3rd Place, The Albany Herald, Carlton Fletcher
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Andrew Kenneson
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Stephen Milligan
Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Mark Stokes
Division E: 1st Place, The Covington News, Gabriel C. Stovall
Division E: 2nd Place, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth, Don Daniel
Division E: 3rd Place, White County News, Cleveland, Wayne Hardy
Division F: 1st Place, Banks County News, Homer, Angela Gary
Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins

Division F: 3rd Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Scott Thompson
Division G: 1st Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Joe Parker
Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, George Fox
Division G: 3rd Place, Springs Publishing, Robin Conte

Special Issues:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division B: 1st Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin
Division B: 2nd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin
Division B: 3rd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division C: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News
Division C: 3rd Place, The Griffin Daily News
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Division E: 1st Place, Americus Times-Recorder
Division E: 2nd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison
Division E: 3rd Place, Americus Times-Recorder, Ken Gustafson
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur
Division F: 2nd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville
Division F: 3rd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Sports Column:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, John Bednarowski
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Travis Jaudon
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Buddy Hughes
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Ryne Dennis
Division B: 2nd Place, The Moultrie Observer, Matthew Brown
Division B: 3rd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Kevin Eckleberry
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Johnson
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Johnson
Division E: 1st Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Ryne Dennis
Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Jeremy Johnson
Division E: 3rd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Greg Finan Jr
Division F: 1st Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Len Robbins
Division F: 2nd Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Chris Bridges
Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins

Sports Coverage:

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, David Friedlander
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, John Bednarowski
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Travis Jaudon
Division B: 1st Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Emmalee Molay
Division B: 2nd Place, Rome News-Tribune, Jeremy Stewart
Division B: 3rd Place, Rome News-Tribune, Jeremy Stewart
Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Jason Greenberg
Division C: 2nd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Kevin Eckleberry
Division C: 3rd Place, LaGrange Daily News, Kevin Eckleberry
Division D: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Alex Resnak

Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division E: 1st Place, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro, Justin Hubbard
Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division E: 3rd Place, The Covington News, Gabriel C. Stovall
Division F: 1st Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Scott Thompson
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins
Division F: 3rd Place, The Champion, Decatur, Carla Parker

Sports Feature Photograph:

Division A: 1st Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven
Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division B: 2nd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times, Derrick Davis
Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division C: 2nd Place, The Moultrie Observer, Matthew Brown
Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division D: 2nd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Becky Taylor
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Becky Taylor
Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division E: 2nd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division F: 1st Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder, Scott Thompson
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins
Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins

Sports Feature Story:

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville, Will Hammock
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News, Dennis Knight
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Travis Jaudon
Division B: 1st Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Jacob Hoag
Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Ryne Dennis
Division B: 3rd Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin, Rodney Manley
Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Jason Greenberg
Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Nicholas Sullivan
Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Mason Wittner
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division D: 2nd Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Alex Resnak
Division D: 3rd Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, John Eden
Division E: 1st Place, The Covington News, Gabriel C. Stovall
Division E: 2nd Place, The Covington News, Gabriel C. Stovall
Division E: 3rd Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur, Carla Parker
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Lisa W. Manus
Division F: 3rd Place, Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville, Parish Howard
Division G: 1st Place, The Braselton News, Ben Munro
Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Randy Waters
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Sports Photograph:

Division A: 1st Place, The Brunswick News, Bobby Haven
Division A: 2nd Place, The Brunswick News, Derrick Davis
Division A: 3rd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff

Division B: 1st Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division B: 2nd Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Emmalee Molay
Division B: 3rd Place, Athens Banner-Herald, Joshua Jones
Division C: 1st Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division C: 2nd Place, The Moultrie Observer, Matthew Brown
Division C: 3rd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Randy Parker
Division D: 1st Place, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, Davontay Wilson
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division D: 3rd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Brett Fowler
Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division E: 2nd Place, White County News, Cleveland, Mark Turner
Division E: 3rd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Greg Finan Jr.
Division F: 1st Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Shane Scoggins
Division F: 2nd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Lisa W. Manus
Division F: 3rd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Cindy Rewis
Division G: 1st Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Karen Attaway
Division G: 2nd Place, Appen Media Group Inc., Joe Parker
Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Sports Section or Pages

Division A: 1st Place, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Division A: 2nd Place, Savannah Morning News
Division A: 3rd Place, The Brunswick News
Division B: 1st Place, The Courier Herald, Dublin
Division B: 2nd Place, Athens Banner-Herald
Division B: 3rd Place, The Valdosta Daily Times
Division C: 1st Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, Jason Greenberg, Nicholas Sullivan and Randy Parker
Division C: 2nd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Division C: 3rd Place, The Moultrie Observer
Division D: 1st Place, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton, Alex Resnak
Division D: 2nd Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, Staff
Division D: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe
Division E: 1st Place, The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, Ben Munro
Division E: 2nd Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Greg Finan Jr
Division E: 3rd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Jeremy Johnson
Division F: 1st Place, Barrow News-Journal, Winder
Division F: 2nd Place, The Madison County Journal, Danielsville
Division F: 3rd Place, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Spot News Photo:

Division A: 1st Place, Savannah Morning News, Will Peebles
Division A: 2nd Place, Marietta Daily Journal, Cory Hancock
Division A: 3rd Place, Savannah Morning News, Steve Bisson
Division B: 1st Place, Daily Citizen-News, Dalton, Matt Hamilton
Division B: 2nd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Beth Neely
Division B: 3rd Place, The Newnan Times-Herald, Clay Neely
Division C: 1st Place, LaGrange Daily News, Daniel Evans
Division C: 2nd Place, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville, James Swift
Division C: 3rd Place, Times-Georgian, Carrollton, Nadav Soroker
Division D: 1st Place, The Walton Tribune, Monroe, David Clemons
Division D: 2nd Place, Pickens County Progress, Jasper, Angela Reinhardt
Division D: 3rd Place, The Tifton Gazette, Eve Copeland
Division E: 1st Place, The Dahlonega Nugget, Matt Aiken
Division E: 2nd Place, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville, Michael Prochaska
Division E: 3rd Place, Morgan County Citizen, Madison, Josiah Connelly

Division F: 1st Place, The Champion, Decatur

Division F: 2nd Place, The Jones County News, Gray, Chuck Thompson

Division F: 3rd Place, The Clinch County News, Homerville, Laura Nipper

Division G: 1st Place, Springs Publishing, Phil Mosier

Division G: 2nd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe, Mark Green

Division G: 3rd Place, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe