

For immediate release – July 30, 2021

Georgia Press Association honors Better Newspaper Contest winners

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA. - The Georgia Press Association honored the winners of the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest on Friday, July 30 at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel during the group's 134th annual convention.

The Valdosta Daily Times won the prestigious Freedom of Information Award for doing the most during 2020 to uphold the principles of the First Amendment and to protect the public's right to know. Through editorials, columns and the Valdosta Daily Times Video Editorial Series, Valdosta Daily Times Editor Jim Zachary championed the public's right to know and explained the challenges of government transparency during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the fourth time in five years that The Valdosta Daily Times has won GPA's Freedom of Information Award. 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 is Rick Wooten of the Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus. The weekly newspaper winner was Jill Holloway of the Post-Searchlight in Bainbridge.

The Photo of the Year was taken by Riley Bunch of The Valdosta Daily Times. It depicts a young protester in front of a police line in downtown Atlanta in May 2020 when the city joined nationwide protests after the death of Georgia Floyd in Minneapolis. All first-place winners in photo categories are considered for Photo of the Year.

Winners in the GPA 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 8,000 or more) and Division B (circulation of 7,999 or less). The weekly divisions are Division C (circulation of 6,000 to 15,000), Division D (circulation of 3,000 to 5,999), Division E (weeklies with circulation of less than 3,000) and Division F (all weekly newspapers with more than 15,000 in circulation and all associate media members of GPA).

This year's judging was done by members of the South Carolina Press Association. A total of 49 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.

General Excellence

Division A

Third Place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second Place: Marietta Daily Journal

First Place: The Brunswick News

Division B

Third Place: Athens Banner-Herald

Second Place: The Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First Place: The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third Place: The Press Sentinel, Jesup

Second Place: The Newnan Times-Herald

First Place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third Place: The Hartwell Sun

Second Place: Dahlonga Nugget

First Place: Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third Place: The Journal, Buena Vista

Second Place: Donalsonville News

First Place: The Champion, Decatur

Division F

Third Place: Appen Media Group

Second Place: Springs Publishing

First Place: Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Best Newspaper Website**Daily newspapers**

Third place: Brian Clark, Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

First place: The Albany Herald

Weekly newspapers

Third place: The Covington News

Second place: Springs Publishing

First place: Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Best Use of Graphics and Illustration**Albert and Dorothy Jenkins Award****Daily newspapers**

Third place: Terry Wilson, The Brunswick News

Second place: Terry Richards, The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Weekly newspapers

Third place: Karen Webster, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Second place: Cody Rogers, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

First place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Best Online News Project**All newspapers**

Second place: Springs Publishing

First place: Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Website**Daily newspapers**

Third place: Curt Yeomans, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second place: Reginald Christian, The Albany Herald

First place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

Weekly newspapers

Third place: Deborah Stewart, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: Sue Ann Kuhn-Smith, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

First place: Connie Southwell, The Moultrie Observer

Editorial Cartoonist

All newspapers

Third place: Fitzroy James, The Champion, Decatur

Second place: Reed Allen, Morgan County Citizen, Madison

First place: Chuck Cunningham, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Best Magazine Single Photo

All newspapers

Third Place: Zachary Dailey, West Georgia Woman Magazine

Second Place: Chris Martin, The Newnan Times-Herald

First Place: Thomas Hartwell, Marietta Daily Journal

Best Magazine Themed Issue

All newspapers

Third Place: West Georgia Woman Magazine

Second Place: Lake Life

First Place: West Georgia Woman Magazine

Best Magazine Overall Design

All newspapers

Third place: Lake Life

Second place: LaGrange Daily News

First place: The Valdosta Daily Times

Photo Portfolio

Daily newspapers

Third Place: Thomas Hartwell, Marietta Daily Journal

Second Place: Joshua Jones, Marietta Daily Journal

First Place: Robin Rayne, Marietta Daily Journal

Weekly newspapers

Third Place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget

Second Place: Larry Stanford, Jackson Progress Argus

First Place: Rose Scoggins, The Elberton Star

Best Use of Multimedia Journalism

All newspapers

Third Place: Darien Southerland, Marietta Daily Journal

Second Place: Adam Van Brimmer, Mark Murphy, Savannah Morning News

First Place: Mike Haskey, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Page One

Division A

Third place: Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

First place: The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Athens Banner Herald

Second place: Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First place: The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune

Second place: Mary Beth Yeary, The Tifton Gazette

First place: The Moultrie Observer

Division D

Third place: Newton Citizen, Covington

Second place: Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

First place: Henry Herald, McDonough

Division E

Third place: David Maxwell, The Donalsonville News

Second place: Josh Lurie, The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville

First place: Jackson Progress Argus

Division F

Third place: Karen Webster, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Second place: Rico Figliolini, Springs Publishing

First place: Rico Figliolini, Springs Publishing

Business Writing

Division A

Third place: Curt Yeomans, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second place: Jenna Eason, The Telegraph Macon

First place: Rome News Tribune

Division B

Third place: Desiree Carver, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Michael O'Hearn, Ken Denney, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First place: Terry Richards, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Drew Davis, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Second place: Ethan Johnson, The Cherokee Tribune, Canton

First place: Andrew Kenneson, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Alice Queen, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

Second place: The Hartwell Sun

First place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget

Division E

Third place: Rick Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista

Second place: Kandice S. Eberhart, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

First place: Kathy Mitchell, The Champion, Decatur

Division F

Second place: Patrick Fox, Johns Creek Herald

First place: John Ruch, Springs Publishing

Magazine Product

Division A

Third place: Savannah Morning News

Second place: West Georgia Magazine

First place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division B

Third place: Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Second place: The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: LaGrange Daily News

Division C

Third place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: The Newnan Times-Herald

First place: The Moultrie Observer

Division D

Third place: The Covington News

Second place: Lake Life

First place: Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Division E

Third place: The Georgia Post, Roberta

Second place: The Leader Tribune, Fort Valley

First place: The Georgia Post, Roberta

News Photo

Division A

Third place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Second place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

First place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Max Caylor, Pickens County Progress, Jasper

Second place: Ron Daniel, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

First place: Ron Daniel, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Division D

Third place: Michael Hall, The Hartwell Sun

Second place: Josiah Connelly, Morgan County Citizen

First place: Barry Dycus, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro

Division E

Third place: Parish Howard, Jefferson Reporter News & Farmer, Louisville

Second place: Larry Stanford, Jackson Progress Argus

First place: Jay Phillips, The Champion, Decatur

Division F

Third place: Phil Mosier, Springs Publishing

Second place: Denise Ray, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Ben Hendren, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Best Magazine Original Writing

Division A

Third place: Lindsey Adkison, The Brunswick News

Second place: Angela Dailey, West Georgia Woman Magazine

First place: Angela Dailey, West Georgia Woman Magazine

Division B

Third place: Jenna Oden, LaGrange Daily News

Second place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
First place: The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Division C

Third place: Savannah Donald, The Moultrie Observer
Second place: Frances Kidd, The Newnan Times-Herald
First place: Jackie Kennedy, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Michael Hall, The Hartwell Sun
Second place: Lynn Hobbs, Lake Life
First place: Tia Lynn Ivey & Robin Bish, Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Division E

First place: Gary Jones, The Elberton Star

J.C. Williams Trophy for Editorial Page

Division A

Third Place: The Valdosta Daily Times
Second Place: The Brunswick News
First Place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division C

Third Place: The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
Second Place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe
First Place: Dean Poling, Mary Beth Yeary, The Tifton Gazette

Division D

Third Place: Lake Oconee News, Greensboro
Second Place: The Dahlonega Nugget
First Place: The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third Place: Matt Gardner, The Blackshear Times
Second Place: The Journal, Buena Vista
First Place: The Elberton Star

Otis A. Brumby Trophy for Serious Column

Division A

Third place: Emily Boorstein, Marietta Daily Journal
Second place: Adam Van Brimmer, Savannah Morning News
First place: Mark Murphy, Savannah Morning News

Division B

Third place: Joe Garrett, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Second place: Carlton Fletcher, The Albany Herald
First place: Jim Zachary, The Valdosta Daily News

Division C

Third place: Dean Poling, The Tifton Gazette
Second place: Dink NeSmith, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
First place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Matt Aiken, The Dahlonega Nugget
Second place: Will Davis, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
First place: Lee Coleman, The Eatonton Messenger

Division E

Third place: Richard Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista
Second place: Cheryl Hilderbrand, Jackson Progress Argus

First place: Dan Ponder, Donalsonville News

Division F

Third place: Hans Appen, Appen Media Group

Second place: George Fox, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Robin Conte Isaf, Springs Publishing

Best Magazine Commentary

Division A

Third place: Katy Ruth Camp, Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: Katy Ruth Camp, Marietta Daily Journal

First place: Lindsey Adkison, The Brunswick News

Division B

Second place: Jenna Oden, LaGrange Daily News

First place: James Swift, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Division C

Third place: Toby Nix, The Newnan Times-Herald

Second place: Chuck Bowen, The Moultrie Observer

First place: Toby Nix, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Kathy Wright, Lake Life

Second place: Mark Smith Jr., Lake Life

First place: Georgia Heiring, Lake Life

Enterprise Story

Division A

Third place: Thomas Hartwell & Aleks Gilbert, Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: Tim Chitwood, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

First place: Larry Hobbs, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Marc Weiszer, Athens Banner-Herald

First place: Stephanie Allen & Michael O'Hearn, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Division C

Third place: John Eden, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Second place: Drew Davis, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

First place: Sarah Fay Campbell, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Debbie Lurie-Smith, The Jones County News, Gray

Second place: Taylor Beck, The Covington News

First place: Tom Spigolon, The Covington News

Division E

Third place: Parish Howard, Jefferson Reporter News & Farmer, Louisville

Second place: Asia Ashley & Jay Phillips, The Champion, Decatur

First place: Asia Ashley, The Champion, Decatur

Spot News Photo

Division A

Third place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Second place: Thomas Hartwell, Marietta Daily Journal

First place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Second place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times
First place: Joshua L. Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

Division C

Third place: Damon Howell, Pickens County Progress
Second place: Ron Daniel, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville
First place: Clay Neely, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Will Davis, Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
Second place: Grayson Williams, The Hartwell Sun
First place: Michael Hall, The Hartwell Sun

Division E

Third place: Len Robbins, The Clinch County News, Homerville
Second place: Jay Phillips, The Champion, Decatur
First place: Richard Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista

Division F

Second place: Phil Mosier, Springs Publishing
First place: Mark Green, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Lifestyle Coverage

Division A

Third place: Rome News Tribune
Second place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
First place: The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Rebecca Leftwich, Clay Neely, The Newnan Times-Herald
Second place: The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
First place: Kandice Bell, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Rockdale Citizen, Conyers
Second place: Newton Citizen, Covington
First place: White County News, Cleveland

Division E

Third place: The Braselton News
Second place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News
First place: Gale Gay, The Champion, Decatur

Religion Writing

Division A

Third place: Shannon Ballew, Marietta Daily Journal
Second place: Lindsey Adkison, The Brunswick News
First place: Marie Nesmith, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Division C

Third place: Sarah Gove, The Blackshear Times
Second place: The Dahlonega Nugget
First place: Beth Sexton, Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

Best Magazine Cover Design

Division A

Third place: West Georgia Woman Magazine
Second place: West Georgia Woman Magazine

First place: The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Amanda Usher, Derek Schaper, Valdosta Scene

Second place: Jenna Oden, LaGrange Daily News

First place: Ken Denney, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Division C

Third place: The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Second place: Jill Holloway, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

First place: The Times-Herald, Newnan

Division D

Third place: John Bynum, The Dahlonega Nugget

Second place: Lake Life

First place: Danielle Hawkins, Deborah Johnson, Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Breaking News Writing

Division A

Third place: Chamian Cruz, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second place: Larry Hobbs, The Brunswick News

First place: Larry Hobbs, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: LaGrange Daily News

Second place: Karen Gunnels, Th Griffin Daily News

First place: James Swift, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Division C

Third place: Stephen Milligan, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: Jill Holloway, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

First place: Ron Daniel, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Division D

Third place: Grayson Williams, The Hartwell Sun

Second place: Debbie Lurie-Smith, The Jones County News, Gray

First place: Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Division E

Third place: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Second place: Alex Buffington, The Braselton News

First place: Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone

Best Magazine In-House Photography

Division A

Third place: West Georgia Woman Magazine

Second place: The Brunswick News

First place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division B

Second place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First place: Jenna Oden, LaGrange Daily News

Division C

Third place: Jackie Kennedy, The Newnan Times-Herald

Second place: Chris Martin, Sarah Campbell, The Newnan Times-Herald

First place: Jill Stringfellow, Bryce Ethridge, The Moultrie Observer

Division D

Third place: George Dissmeyer, Lake Life Magazine

Second place: Mark Smith, Jr, Lake Life

First place: Jarrod Brock, Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Headline Writing

Division A

Third place: Dean Poling, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Kristen Hansen, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

First place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division C

Third place: Kevin C. Hall, The Moultrie Observer

Second place: The Tifton Gazette

First place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: The Hartwell Sun

Second place: Jeremy Johnson, Justin Hubbard, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

First place: Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Division E

Third place: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Second place: Richard Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista

First place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News

Feature Photo

Division A

Third place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Second place: Terry Dickson, The Brunswick News

First place: Bobby Haven, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

First place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Larry Cavender, Pickens County Progress, Jasper

Second place: Stephen Milligan, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

First place: Blake Moss, Pickens County Progress, Jasper

Division D

Third place: Carrie Dawn Roy, The Dahlonge Nugget

Second place: Bill Powell, The Hartwell Sun

First place: Michael Hall, The Hartwell Sun

Division E

Third place: Sarah Gove, The Blackshear Times

Second place: Gary Jones, Elberton Star

First place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News

Special Issues/Special Sections

Division A

Third place: LaGrange Daily News

Second place: The Brunswick News

First place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division C

Third place: The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

Second place: The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

First place: The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Division D

Third place: The Covington News

Second place: White County News, Cleveland

First place: Michael Prochaska, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News

Second place: The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville

First place: The Elberton Star

Division F

Third place: Appen Media Group

Second place: Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Feature Writing**Division A**

Third place: Curt Yeomans, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second place: Jenna Eason, The Telegraph, Macon

First place: Tim Chitwood, Columbus Ledger Enquirer

Division B

Third place: Terry Richards, The Valdosta Daily Times

Second place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First place: Stephanie Allen, Ken Denney, Michael O'Hearn, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Division C

Third place: Ron Daniel, Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Second place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

First place: Rebecca Leftwich, The Newnan Times-Herald

Division D

Third place: Lauren Malek, The Eatonton Messenger

Second place: Tia Lynn Ivey, Morgan County Citizen, Madison

First place: Julia Fetcher, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third place: Larry Stanford, Jackson Progress Argus

Second place: Sara Gove, The Blackshear Times

First place: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Division F

Third place: Barbara Schneider, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Second place: Anita Rosen, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Springs Publishing

Lifestyle/Feature Column**Division A**

Third place: Damon Poirier, Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: Dean Poling, The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: Larry Hobbs, The Brunswick News

Division C

Third place: Drew Davis, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Second place: Andrew Kenneson, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

First place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Seth McAllister, The Dawson News

Second place: Whitney Crouch Sherrill, The Times Courier, Ellijay

First place: Brando Chonoko, Tribune & Georgian, St. Mary's

Division F

Third place: Joe Earle, Springs Publishing

Second place: Jane Galvin, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Bonnie East, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Hal M. Stanley Trophy, Layout and Design

Division A

Third place: Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Layout and Design

Division C

Third place: Powell Cobb, Jill Holloway, The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

Second place: Emily Lasher, The Newnan Times-Herald

First place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Second place: The Dahlonga Nugget

First place: Josh Lurie, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro

Division E

Third place: The Clinch County News, Homerville

Second place: Josh Lurie, The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville

First place: Clayton News, Jonesboro

Division F

Second place: Karen Webster, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Springs Publishing

Photo Essay

Division A

Third place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

Second place: Emily Boorstein, Eli Boorstein, Marietta Daily Journal

First place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: Pickens County Progress, Jasper

First place: Mary Beth Yeary, Becky Taylor, The Tifton Gazette

Division D

Third place: Leila Scoggins, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro

Second place: Tyler Wilkins, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro

First place: Michael Hall, The Hartwell Sun

Division E

Third place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News

Second place: The Blackshear Times

First place: Weseigh Sagon, The Braselton News

Division F

Third place: Jim Francis, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Second place: Jim Francis, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

First place: Katy Ross, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Education Writing

Division A

Third place: Taylor Denman, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Second place: Lauren McDonald, The Brunswick News

First place: Curt Yeomans, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Division B

Third place: Donna Harris, The Daily Tribune, Cartersville

Second place: Stephanie Allen, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

First place: Riley Bunch, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Stephen Milligan, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: Becky Taylor, The Tifton Gazette

First place: Savannah Donald, The Moultrie Observer

Division D

Third place: Stephanie Hill, White County News, Cleveland

Second place: Sydney Criteser, The News Observer, Blue Ridge

First place: Leila Scoggins, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro

Division E

Third place: Jay Phillips, The Champion, Decatur

Second place: Kandice S. Eberhardt, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

First place: Jason Deal, The Blackshear Times

H.H. Dean Trophy, Editorial Writing

Division A

Third Place: The Valdosta Daily Times

Second Place: Savannah Morning News

First Place: The Brunswick News

Division C

Third Place: The Press Sentinel, Jesup

Second Place: The Newnan Times-Herald

First Place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third Place: Glenn Harbison, The News Observer, Blue Ridge

Second Place: Michael Prochaska, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

First Place: The Dahlonga Nugget

Division E

Third Place: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader, Shane Scoggins

Second Place: John Hewitt, The Champion, Decatur

First Place: Parish Howard, Carol McLeod, Jefferson Reporter News & Farmer

Joe Parham Trophy for Humorous Column

Division A

Third place: James Swift, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Second place: Rome News Tribune

First place: Joe Garrett, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Division C

Third place: Alex McRae, The Newnan Times-Herald

Second place: Drew Davis, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

First place: Caleb Smith, Pickens County Progress, Jasper

Division D

Third place: Emory Jones, White County News, Cleveland

Second place: Matt Aiken, The Dahlonega Nugget

First place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget

Division E

Third place: Richard Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista

Second place: John Hewitt, The Champion, Decatur

First place: Len Robbins, The Clinch County News, Homerville

Division F

Third place: Tim Sullivan, Springs Publishing

Second place: Joe Parker, Appen Media Group

First place: Brent Carroll, Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Sports Feature Photo

Division A

Third place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Second place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

First place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Second place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

First place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald

Division C

Third place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Second place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

First place: Becky Taylor, The Tifton Gazette

Division D

Third place: Caleb Collins, The News Observer, Blue Ridge

Second place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget

First place: Justin Hubbard, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third place: Scott Herpst, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette

Second place: Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone

First place: Carey Best, The Elberton Star

Sports Section or Pages

Division A

Third place: Marietta Daily Journal

Second place: The Brunswick News

First place: Will Hammock, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

Division B

Third place: Ryne Dennis, Athens Banner-Herald

Second place: The Valdosta Daily Times

First place: Kevin Eckleberry, LaGrange Daily News

Division C

Third place: The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Second place: The Newnan Times-Herald

First place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Second place: Mark Turner, White County News, Cleveland

First place: Jeremy Johnson, George Zeliff, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third place: The Elberton Star
Second place: Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia
First place: Scott Herpst, Kelsey Dickerson, Walker County Messenger LaFayette

Sports Coverage Story

Division A

Third place: Jon Bednarowski, Marietta Daily Journal
Second place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News
First place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Ryne Dennis, Athens Banner-Herald
Second place: Marc Weiszer, Athens Banner-Herald
First place: Kevin Eckleberry, LaGrange Daily News

Division C

Third place: The Newnan Times-Herald
Second place: Stephen Milligan, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
First place: Becky Taylor, The Tifton Gazette

Division D

Third place: Justin Hubbard, Lake Oconee News, Greensboro
Second place: Brad Harrison, The Jones County News, Gray
First place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget

Division E

Third place: Larry Stanford, Jackson Progress Argus
Second place: Scott Herpst, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette
First place: Richard Harris, The Journal, Buena Vista

Sports Feature Story

Division A

Third place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News
Second place: Adam Carrington, Marietta Daily Journal
First place: Dennis Knight, Savannah Morning News

Division B

Third place: John Sullivan, The Griffin Daily News
Second place: Ryne Dennis, Athens Banner-Herald
First place: Marc Weiszer, Athens Banner-Herald

Division C

Third place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Second place: Rob Grubbs, The Newnan Times-Herald
First place: Isaiah Smith, The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

Division D

Third place: Grayson, Williams, The Hartwell Sun
Second place: Scott Herpst, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette
First place: Jeremy Johnson, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Sports Column

Division A

Third place: John Bednarowski, Marietta Daily Journal
Second place: Nathan Dominitz, Savannah Morning News
First place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Kevin Eckleberry, LaGrange Daily News

Second place: Ryne Dennis, Athens Banner Herald
First place: Shane Thomas, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Chris Bridges, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Second place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
First place: David Johnson, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Greg Finan Jr., The Dahlonega Nugget
Second place: Jake Cantrell, The Dahlonega Nugget
First place: The Clayton Tribune

Sports Photo

Division A

Third place: Will Hammock, Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
Second place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News
First place: Derrick Davis, The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Joshua Jones, Athens Banner-Herald
Second place: John Sullivan, The Griffin Daily News
First place: Jay Luzardo, Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Division C

Third place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune,
Second place: Davontay Wilson, The Press-Sentinel Jesup
First place: Brett Fowler, The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Division D

Third place: Mark Turner, White County News, Cleveland
Second place: Josiah Connelly, Morgan County Citizen, Madison
First place: Grayson Williams, The Hartwell Sun

Division E

Third place: Larry Stanford, Jackson Progress Argus
Second place: Victor Kulkosky, The Leader Tribune, Fort Valley
First place: Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone

Investigative Reporting

Division A

Third place: Mary Landers, Savannah Morning News
Second place: Mary Landers, Savannah Morning News
First place: Aleks Gilbert, Marietta Daily Journal

Division B

Third place: Desiree Carver, Shane Thomas, The Valdosta Daily Times
Second place: James Swift, The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville
First place: Amanda M. Usher, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: David Clemons, The Walton Tribune, Monroe
Second place: Grayson Williams, The Hartwell Sun
First place: Matt Aiken, Greg Finan, Jr., The Dahlonega Nugget

Division E

Third place: Asia Ashley, Jay Phillips, The Champion, Decatur
Second place: Catherine Edgemon, Walker County Messenger, Lafayette
First place: Len Robbins, The Clinch County News, Homerville

Division F

Second place: Springs Publishing
First place: Springs Publishing

W.G. Sutlive Trophy for Community Service

Division A

Third place: Marietta Daily Journal
Second place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
First place: The Brunswick News

Division B

Third place: Stephanie Allen, Jay Luzardo, Michael O'Hearn, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
Second place: Stephanie Allen, Jay Luzardo, Michael O'Hearn, Times-Georgian, Carrollton
First place: Jim Zachary, The Valdosta Daily Times

Division C

Third place: Sarah Fay Campbell, The Newnan Times-Herald
Second place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe
First place: The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

Division D

Third place: Tom, Spigolon, The Covington News
Second place: Taylor Beck, Tom Spigolon, The Covington News
First place: Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Division E

Third place: David Maxwell, Donalsonville News
Second place: The Champion, Decatur
First place: The Journal, Buena Vista

W. Trox Bankston Trophy for Local News Coverage

Division A

Third place: The Brunswick News
Second place: Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
First place: Marietta Daily Journal

Division B

Third place: The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville
Second place: Times-Georgian, Carrollton
First place: LaGrange Daily News

Division C

Third place: Pickens County Progress, Jasper
Second place: The Walton Tribune, Monroe
First place: The Moultrie Observer

Division D

Third place: Michael Prochaska, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville
Second place: Michael Prochaska, Julia Fletcher, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville
First place: Michael Prochaska, Julia Fletcher, The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Division E

Third place: Jackson Progress-Argus
Second place: Clayton News, Jonesboro
First place: The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville

Division F

Third place: Springs Publishing
Second place: Springs Publishing
First place: Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!