Multimedia Storytelling

Division C

First Place

Lake Okeechobee News
True Okee: The Death of Charles McArthur
Richard Marion

Second Place

Riverbend News
Charlie Kirk Memorial
Christian Peterson

Third Place

Riverbend News
Ride Along with LOFD & LOPD
Jason Futch

Multimedia Storytelling

Division AB

First Place

Florida Weekly
Turkey legs, jousts and meeting the queen
Johnathan Minehan

Second Place

Fort Myers Beach Observer
Fort Myers Beach renourishment collides with shorebird nesting season
Nathan Mayberg (Writer, photography and video)

Third Place

Business Observer
From the Corner Office Podcast
Mark Gordon and Read Corley

Online Slideshow

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Hometown Christmas Brings Thousands To Downtown Wauchula
Lily Strickland

Online Slideshow

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Life On The Venice Pier
Staff

Second Place

Fort Myers Beach Observer
"Fort Myers Beach renourishment collides with shorebird nesting season"
Nathan Mayberg

Online Slideshow

Division A

First Place

The Sarasota Observer
See how a renowned sculptor creates plaster casts of community members
Ian Swaby

Second Place

The Sarasota Observer
Snow comes to First Sarasota
Ian Swaby

Online Breaking News Coverage

Division C

First Place

Nassau County Record
Hilliard Triple Homicide
Anna Newhoff

Online Breaking News Coverage

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Report: Lifeguard couldn't see girls struck on beach
Staff

Online Breaking News Coverage

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
Delray losses effort to keep PRIDE intersection
Staff

Website Excellence

Division C

First Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Website Excellence
Staff

Second Place

The Herald Advocate
Website -- The Herald Advocate
Staff

Website Excellence

Division B

First Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Website General Excellence
Staff

Second Place

The Longboat Observer
Longboat Observer website excellence
Staff

Third Place

Business Observer
Business Observer website
Kaelyn Adix, Elizabeth King, staff

Website Excellence

Division A

First Place

Osceola News-Gazette
Around Osceola
News-Gazette Staff

Second Place

The Sarasota Observer
Your Observer
Staff

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Website Excellence Florida Weekly
Staff

Overall Graphic Design

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Overall Graphic Design: 4-10-25 mandatory. 10-23-25 and 10-30-25 consecutive
Staff

Second Place

Boca Beacon
Boca Beacon, Four Editions
Staff, Daniel Godwin, Art Director

Third Place

Nassau County Record
Nassau County Record
Amanda Bishop

Overall Graphic Design

Division B

First Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Overall Graphic Design
Monty Zickuhr

Second Place

Southwest Orange Observer
Overall Graphic Design: Southwest Orange Obsserver
Jessica Eng

Third Place

The Longboat Observer
Longboat Observer overall design
Staff

Overall Graphic Design

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Overall Graphic Design Entry 1 Florida Weekly
Staff

Second Place

The East County Observer
Overall graphic design
Melissa Leduc

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Overal Graphic Design Entry 2 Florida Weekly
Staff

Front Page Makeup

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
Case Closed
Amber Moore

Second Place

Riverbend News
Spring Sports Makeup
Amber Moore

Third Place

Riverbend News
Breaking News
Amber Moore

Front Page Makeup

Division B

First Place

Business Observer
Jan. 10; Jan. 17, April 11; Oct. 31
Jess Eng, Mark Gordon

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Front Page Makeup
Monty Zickuhr

Third Place

The Longboat Observer
Longboat Observer front-page make-up
Jennifer Edwards

Front Page Makeup

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Front Page Makeup Lyndi and Alisa
Lindi Daywalt & Alisa Bowman

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Front Page Makeup Lyndi A
Lindi Daywalt

Third Place

The East County Observer
Front pages 10-30, 12-4, 12-11
Melissa Leduc

Page Design

Division C

First Place

Polk News Sun
Sea World Orlando
Ari Salguiero

Second Place

Madison County Carrier
"No Fear" - Cowboy Preview
Dona Gilbert Day

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Page Design
Dickie Williams

Page Design

Division B

First Place

Navarre Press
Going out a champ
Richard Williams

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Page Design
Monty Zickuhr

Third Place

Wesley Chapel Beacon
Collection of pages
Chris George

Page Design

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Arts Preview
Lindi Daywalt

Second Place

The East County Observer
Mote Marine
Melissa Leduc

Informational Graphic

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Amber Moore

Second Place

Madison Enterprise-Recorder
Pack and prepare for the hurricane season
Dona Gilbert Day

Informational Graphic

Division B

First Place

The Longboat Observer
Longboat Observer informational graphic
Jennifer Edwards

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Gateway Jax Pearl Square Project Grows
Monty Zickuhr

Third Place

Navarre Press
Blue Angels
Richard Williams

Informational Graphic

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Map It Out
Scott Sleeper

Second Place

The East County Observer
Pack your patience
Melissa Leduc

Third Place

The Sarasota Observer
Affordable housing program taking root
Melissa Leduc

Best Headline

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
Talk birdie to me
Danny Federico

Second Place

Riverbend News
From Pen to Win, Barn to Be Wild!
Danny Federico

Third Place

Nassau County Record
Snow Daze
Amanda Bishop and Anna Newhoff

Best Headline

Division B

First Place

Clay Today
Headlines
Don Coble

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter
Staff

TIE:
Third Place

Navarre Press
Sweet and Sour 16
Brian Lester

Third Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Best Headline: Michael Eng
Michael Eng

Best Headline

Division A

First Place

The East County Observer
A rare restaurant that's well done; She's kiln it; Pig Pig finds pure Bliss
Jay Heater

Second Place

Florida Weekly
A Squeezed Industry
Roger Williams

Third Place

Cape Coral Breeze
Those new corduroy pillows are making headlines
Ray Eckenrode

Sports Column

Division C

First Place

Lake Okeechobee News
Rodeo 101: A guide for greenhorns
Katrina Elsken

Second Place

Boca Beacon
The Island Golfer, Scott Cotherman
Scott Cotherman

Third Place

The Herald Advocate
Bucs Beat Column: A Family Tradition
David Horton

Sports Column

Division B

First Place

Wesley Chapel Beacon
A pitcher-perfect night
John C. Cotey

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Venice has weathered the storm
Evan Lepak

Third Place

Florida Keys Free Press
Cheese Heads in the wild, seagulls in Seattle, pigs in the Capitol, and dollar bills in Buffalo
Joey Cooke

Sports Column

Division A

First Place

Osceola News-Gazette
Athletes and coaches of the sports village still doing it for the right reasons
Ken Jackson

Second Place

The East County Observer
Runners take Florida heat in stride
Jack Nelson

Third Place

Clearwater - Dunedin Beacon
Northerners find a warm refuge at spring training
Bill Zaferos

Sports Page or Section

Division C

First Place

Polk News Sun
Largest baseball event of its kind is now on the field
Ari Salgueiro

Second Place

Riverbend News
Bucs chart course to State Championship
Danny Federico

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Sports Page or Section
Staff

Sports Page or Section

Division AB

First Place

The Independent Florida Alligator
Gator's Basketball Championship Celebration
Alligator Staff

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Venice Gondolier Sports Section
Evan Lepak

Third Place

Navarre Press
Sports section
Brian Lester

Sports Spot News Story

Division C

First Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Finally
Brian Lester

Second Place

Polk News Sun
Lakeland cheerleading squad bounces back, takes national title
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Game 3 heartbreak
Brian Lester

Sports Spot News Story

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Home Run Heater
Evan Lepak

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake CIty Reporter, Aug. 13, 2025, A century of pride
Jamie Wachter

Third Place

Navarre Press
Sweet and Sour 16
Brian Lester

Sports Spot News Story

Division A

First Place

Suncoast News Pasco
A grand achievement
Bob Putnam

Second Place

Cape Coral Breeze
Spring Training Twins
CJ HADDAD

Third Place

Cape Coral Breeze
North Girls Soccer
CJ HADDAD

Sports Feature Story

Division C

First Place

The Islander News
Finding her voice: Local talent brings own style to sports announcing
Hillard Grossman

Second Place

Polk News Sun
A champion's welcome home
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
A consistant winner
Brian Lester

Sports Feature Story

Division B

First Place

Wesley Chapel Beacon
For these veterans, the fight isn't over yet
John C. Cotey

Second Place

Fort Myers Beach Observer
"Red Sox open camp with third base controversy"
Nathan Mayberg

Third Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Oct. 22, 2025 - All in the family
Jordan Kroeger

Sports Feature Story

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
From Player to Piper
Ron Hayes

Second Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Gainesville para track athlete to compete at outdoor championships
Lillian Hamman

Third Place

Clearwater - Dunedin Beacon
Gray hair and black stripes
Bob Putnam

Sports Photo

Division C

First Place

The Hernando Sun
Facing the Ball
Joe DiCristofalo

Second Place

The Herald Advocate
Goggle Drop
Ryan Abbott

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Jaylen Youngblood
Brian Lester

Sports Photo

Division B

First Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, May 17, 2025, Suwannee football attempted catch
Brent Kuykendall

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Venice falls for just second time this season
Justin Fennell

Third Place

Fernandina Beach News-Leader
Kick off in the fog
Ashley Chandler

Sports Photo

Division A

First Place

Land O'Lakes Beacon
A stunning statement
Mike Camunas

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Big-time hoops electrify Southwest Florida Photo
David Wishtischin

Third Place

Osceola News-Gazette
St. Cloud-Tohopekaliga football
Taylor McFee

Portfolio Photography (Robert J. Ellison Memorial Award)

Division C

First Place

Riverland News
Portfolio: A slice of small town life
Julie Mancini

Second Place

Nassau County Record
Anna's Artwork
Anna Newhoff

Third Place

The Herald Advocate
Portfolio Photography
Lily Strickland

Portfolio Photography (Robert J. Ellison Memorial Award)

Division B

First Place

Wesley Chapel Beacon
Mike Camunas portfolio for Wesley Chapel
Mike Camunas

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
The Work of Chloe Nelson
Chloe Nelson

Third Place

The Longboat Observer
Dana Kampa photo portfolio
Staff

Portfolio Photography (Robert J. Ellison Memorial Award)

Division A

First Place

The East County Observer
Portfolio photography
Jay Heater

Second Place

Carrollwood Beacon
Mike Camunas portfolio for Carrollwood
Mike Camunas

Third Place

The Sarasota Observer
Portfolio photography
Ian Swaby

Photo Series in One Issue

Division C

First Place

Polk News Sun
Summer Kickoff Foam Party
Leticia Yglesias

Second Place

Riverland News
Dunnellon Christmas Parade: A Florida Christmas
Julie Mancini

Third Place

Polk News Sun
Lakeland MLK Parade
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Photo Series in One Issue

Division B

First Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Proud and Prepared
Michael Eng

Second Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Revival.
Michael Eng

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
2025 Venice High Graduation in Photos
Chloe Nelson

Photo Series in One Issue

Division A

First Place

The East County Observer
Aquarium opens
Jay Heater

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Sea Turtle Surge Photo Series
David Wishtischin

Third Place

Land O'Lakes Beacon
Showing their true colors
Fred Bellet

Reader-Generated Photo

Division C

First Place

Jefferson County Journal
Kangaroo in the snow
North Florida Wildlife Center

Second Place

Riverbend News
Barred Owl - Snapshot of the Week
Danny Federico

Third Place

Madison County Carrier
You're OUT!
Lindsey Lawson

Reader-Generated Photo

Division B

First Place

Navarre Press
BeBe Booth captures the beauty of 'God's creations' with photography
Photo by Bebe Booth

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Bald Eagle
Glenn Bruno

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
Sihouetted surfers
Glenn Bruno

Feature Photo

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Hometown Christmas
Lily Strickland

Second Place

Nassau County Record
Turning the Tassel
Anna Newhoff

Third Place

Riverland News
Visiting the flowers
Julie Mancini

Feature Photo

Division B

First Place

West Orange Times & Observer
God shed His grace on thee
Michael Eng

Second Place

Palatka Daily News
Chiappini's anniversary
Peter Willott

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
Venice Indians march to a successful graduation
Chloe Nelson

Feature Photo

Division A

First Place

Osceola News-Gazette
Boots, Bulls and Barrels
Taylor McFee

Second Place

The Sarasota Observer
Born to ride
Ian Swaby

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Veterans Day Valor & Legacy
David Wishtischin

Spot News Photo

Division C

First Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Candlelight vigil
Hansen Hasenberg

Second Place

Boca Beacon
Brothers in Survival, Turtle Hatchling in Sand
Arlene Hall

Third Place

Madison County Carrier
Squeals and smiles all around
Tiffany Ottey

Spot News Photo

Division B

First Place

Navarre Press
Rare, unique property
Madison DeVito

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Learning to lift heavy vehicles at a crash
Jess Orlando

Third Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Dec. 27, 2025, Alligator Lake
Ray Carpenter

Spot News Photo

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
Family matriarch in A1A crosswalk fatally struck by cars
Tim Stepien

Second Place

North Pinellas Beacon
Epiphany celebration
Jeff Rosenfield

Third Place

Hernando Today
Speaking to power
Vincent F. Safuto

Special Issue, Section or Supplement

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
Buccaneer Breakthrough
Rachal Deming

Second Place

Madison County Carrier
"No Fear" - Cowboy Preview
Staff

Third Place

Lake Okeechobee News
Okeechobee County Community Guide
Staff

Special Issue, Section or Supplement

Division AB

First Place

Navarre Press
Special Section
Staff

Second Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Local Motion 2025-26
Staff

Third Place

Business Observer
2025 Top Entrepreneurs
Staff

Community History

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
A Legacy of Leadership: J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, Parts 1-4
Jason Futch

Second Place

Polk News Sun
Lakeland civil rights activist memorialized
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Third Place

Boca Beacon
A biography of the favorite neon martini sign at The Temptation
Karen Grace

Community History

Division B

First Place

Clay Today
Relatives, community breathe life into those buried at Pleasant Point
Kyla Woodard

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Nov. 26, 2025, Honoring Hemming's legacy
Jamie Wachter

Third Place

Navarre Press
St. Paul UMC celebrates 70 years of faith, fellowship
Hansen Hasenberg

Community History

Division A

First Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Huff family reflects on Orange Look Overlook's citrus legacy
Lillian Hamman

Second Place

North Pinellas Beacon
Looking back at the Browns
Rick Vaughn

Third Place

The Coastal Star
Old Betsy
Ron Hayes

Best Obituary

Division C

First Place

Perry News-Herald - Taco Times
Carlton, 99, leaves behind legacy
Angela Castelucci

Second Place

The Islander News
Remembering Willy Borroto, the architect who helped shape Key Biscayne
Hillard Grossman

Third Place

Lake Okeechobee News
Gordie Peer was a cowboy and a showman
Katrina Elsken

Best Obituary

Division B

First Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Annie Lee was family
Amy Quesinberry Price

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Local friend of Anne Frank dies at 69
Kim Cool

Third Place

Sumter Sun Times
Community mourns retired local business owner
Brenda Locklear

Best Obituary

Division A

First Place

New Tampa - Temple Terrace Beacon
Ralph Lupton Jr. remembered for his generosity, spirit
John C. Cotey

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Mike Greenwell: Clean, fierce & unforgettable
Glenn Miller

Third Place

The East County Observer
Lakewood Ranch's No. 1 ambassador dies
Jay Heater

Outdoor & Recreation

Division C

First Place

Boca Beacon
Public Beach Access Across U.S., and Florida
Marcy Shortuse

Second Place

Riverbend News
Florida bat houses: a hidden gem
Christian Peterson

Third Place

Jefferson County Journal
A breath of garden air
Laura Young

Outdoor & Recreation

Division B

First Place

The Apopka Chief
Apopka becomes equestrian vaulting hub
Marshall Tempest

Second Place

Palatka Daily News
Shooting club offers inclusive sports outlet
Peter Willott

Third Place

Anna Maria Island Sun
Who Will Protect Our Children's Future - Rusty Chinnis Anna Maria Island Sun 7-9-2025.
Rusty Chinnis

Outdoor & Recreation

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
Rental chairs and erosion combine to make prime beach space scarce
John Pacenti

Second Place

The Coastal Star
Field of Dreams
Faran Fagen

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Wade Into the Wild
Casey Shepherd

Agricultural & Environmental Reporting

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
May Was Busy Time For Watermelon Harvesting
Jim Kelly

Second Place

Jefferson County Journal
What happened to all the dogwoods?
Laura Young

Third Place

Madison Enterprise-Recorder
Quiver Full Farms offers home-grown goodness
Mickey Starling

Agricultural & Environmental Reporting

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Gulf fish farm geets federal approval -- again
Bob Mudge

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Corky Dalton's Nature Series
Corky Dalton

Third Place

The Winter Haven Sun
Cash family loves the Polk County Youth Fair life
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Agricultural & Environmental Reporting

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
FAU's mascot faces a familiar foe — the university itself
Janis Fontaine

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Sting Operation
Carlie Admire

Third Place

The Sarasota Observer
Midnight Pass
Eric Garwood

State & Local Tax Reporting (The TaxWatch Award) |

All Divisions

First Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
The looming debate over the city budget
Ric Anderson and Joe Lister

Second Place

Orlando Business Journal
Visit Orlando audit reveals concerns over millions in tourism funds
Patricia Tolley

Third Place

The Herald Advocate
Municipality Faces Financial Cliff If Property Taxes Are Eliminated
Tom Staik

Business Reporting

Division C

First Place

Boca Beacon
Sale of Historic Useppa Island, Florida
Garland Pollard

Second Place

Monticello News
Stewarts Station says goodbye after 43 years
Hailey Heseltine

Third Place

Nassau County Record
Boiled Success
Anna Newhoff

Business Reporting

Division B

First Place

Orlando Business Journal
Downtown Kissimmee redevelopment
Riley Benson

Second Place

Business Observer
Easy Foods/Steve Allen profile
Anastasia Dawson

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
When is a hotel more than a hotel?
Ronald Dupont Jr.

Business Reporting

Division A

First Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Lawsuit claims Celebration Pointe was built through an investment con
Seth Johnson

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Bash Your Blues Away
Garry Overbey

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Cracking Open Stone Crab Season
Carlie Admire

Local Government Reporting

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Proposed Sheriff's Office SIte Raises Concerns
Tom Staik and Michael Kelly

Second Place

Riverbend News
The Fate of White Springs
Jason Futch, Christian Peterson, Danny Federico

Third Place

Boca Beacon
Lee County Meeting Coverage, Island Parking
Anna Ridilla

Local Government Reporting

Division B

First Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Suwannee County EOC audit
Jamie Wachter

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
Tarbert's Target
Ric Anderson

Third Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Waste of Money
Amy Quesinberry Price

Local Government Reporting

Division A

First Place

The Sarasota Observer
Landlord with a purpose
Andrew Warfield

Second Place

Seminole - Beach Beacon
City of Gulfport swears in all-female leadership
Bob Putnam

Third Place

The Sarasota Observer
SPD's new operations center is already solving crime in real time
Andrew Warfieldd

Roads & Transportation

Division C

First Place

Boca Beacon
Maps detail island parking spots, right of way landscaping
Anna Ridlla

Second Place

The Islander News
Residents learn of a “reimagined" Rickenbacker… Shoreline
Hillard Grossman

Third Place

Polk News Sun
Desantis touts "Moving Forward"
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Roads & Transportation

Division B

First Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
NAVI: Headed for a dead end?
Joe Lister and Ric Anderson

Second Place

Navarre Press
Road Collapse
Hansen Hasenberg

Third Place

Palatka Daily News
Members named to task force for road safety
Brandon D. Oliver

Roads & Transportation

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
trio of storries About A1A traffic chaos
Rich Pollack

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Traffic in Paradise
Roger Williams

Third Place

The Coastal Star
Trio of stories about the hazards of A1A
Rich Pollack

Faith & Family Reporting

Division C

First Place

Boca Beacon
As Shutdown Looms, Pastor Fills Gaps
Anna Ridilla

Second Place

Nassau County Record
Cup Overflows to Provide Aid
Anna Newhoff

Third Place

Perry News-Herald - Taco Times
Rest here awhile
Angela Castelucci

Faith & Family Reporting

Division B

First Place

West Orange Times & Observer
Fostering in faith
Amy Quesinberry Price

Second Place

Clay Today
Family raises awareness of risky social media trends
Kyla Woodard

Third Place

Oviedo Community News
Nazi graffiti incident near Oviedo raises questions about confronting hate
Eric Orvieto, Maci Castillo, Megan Stokes

Faith & Family Reporting

Division A

First Place

New Tampa - Temple Terrace Beacon
Set for their second act
John C. Cotey

Second Place

The Coastal Star
CROS Ministries has a hunger to help
Ron Hayes

Third Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Gainesville influencer discharged from Shands after rattlesnake bite
Lillian Hamman

Arts, Entertainment & Review Reporting

Division C

First Place

Jefferson County Journal
How to tell a story without a word
Hailey Heseltine

Second Place

Polk News Sun
Able Arts continues as awe-inspiring project at Florida Children's Museum
Tessa Kleine

Third Place

Perry News-Herald - Taco Times
Perry native, Ellis, puts personal touch in Ebenezer Scrooge role
Mark Viola

Arts, Entertainment & Review Reporting

Division B

First Place

Navarre Press
A taste of the south
Hansen Hasenberg

Second Place

The Longboat Observer
Tap dance is the star of WBTT's 'Syncopated Avenue'
Monica Roman Gagnier

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
Passion powers the Venice Art Center
Bob Mudge

Arts, Entertainment & Review Reporting

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
A Fight For The Arts
ADDYSON MCCULLOUGH

Second Place

The Coastal Star
Is that Kosher
Jan Norris

Third Place

Seminole - Beach Beacon
Film review: "The Sunday Best"
Lee Clark Zumpe

Health, Medical & Science Reporting

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
Florida Voices for Health pushes for stronger rural healthcare access
Jason Futch

Second Place

Boca Beacon
Mote Marine Tests Shark Repellent Devices
Anna Ridilla

Third Place

Boca Beacon
The Resiliency Summit
Angela McPhillips

Health, Medical & Science Reporting

Division AB

First Place

Oviedo Community News
Best Health, Medical & Science Reporting Oviedo Community News
Eric Orvieto, Isaac Benjamin Babcock, Abe Aboraya

Second Place

The Independent Florida Alligator
A universal vaccine for cancer? UF scientists say they're one step closer
Sofia Bravo

Third Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
New outpatient procedure can reduce hypertension
Dan Macdonald

Education Feature

Division C

First Place

Polk News Sun
IDEA Lakeland students wax on about Black history
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Second Place

Polk News Sun
They're going to Disney World!
Donna Fellows-Coffey

Third Place

Boca Beacon
A Day of Firsts: Kindergarten Drop Off
Angela McPhillips

Education Feature

Division B

First Place

Oviedo Community News
Best Education Feature Isaac Benjamin Babcock Oviedo Community News
Isaac Benjamin Babcock

Second Place

Southwest Orange Observer
'You can do hard things'
Liz Ramos

Third Place

The Independent Florida Alligator
Why are politicians purging 'identity politics' from UF's general education curriculum?
Zoey Thomas & Garrett Shanley

Education Feature

Division A

First Place

Mainstreet Daily News
The Frazer School launches year 2 with 50% growth
Nick Anschultz

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Puppets in prison?
Johnathan Minehan

Third Place

The East County Observer
Don't call Manatee students; you will get a busy signal
Madison Bierl

Education News

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
School Restructuring
Tom Staik

Second Place

Jefferson County Journal
Turning Point turns three
Laura Young

Third Place

Polk News Sun
Polk State College student overcomes ADHD with the power of music
Lisa Fellows-Coffey

Education News

Division B

First Place

West Orange Times & Observer
A numbers game
Liz Ramos

Second Place

Oviedo Community News
Homeless Seminole County students surge 32% in two years
Abe Aboraya

Third Place

The Independent Florida Alligator
UF community defends value of women's studies amid DEI rollbacks
Grace McClung

Education News

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Teaching With Tech
Tyler Gibson

Second Place

The East County Observer
District responds to LWR High mold complaints
Madison Bierl

Third Place

The Sarasota Observer
Capacity concerns a key factor in proposal to close school
Eric Garwood

Feature Story: Non-profile

Division C

First Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Peg the Pelican
Marlo Scafe

Second Place

The Islander News
Director stands firm as Biscayne Nature Center's future remains cloudy
Justo Rey

Third Place

The Hernando Sun
My Jurassic Hometown
Hanna Fox Maglio

Feature Story: Non-profile

Division B

First Place

Business Observer
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino expansion
Louis LLovio

Second Place

The Venice Gondolier
Life on the Venice pier is its own culture
Craig Garrett

Third Place

Clermont Sun
His rescue dog saved his life.
Sharon Keeble

Feature Story: Non-profile

Division A

First Place

The East County Observer
Horsing around with Pig Pig
Lesley Dwyer

Second Place

The Sarasota Observer
Endurance athlete runs for those who run toward danger
Andrew Warfield

Third Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Police sting results in guilty verdict for $7M fraud case
Seth Johnson

Feature Story: Profile

Division C

First Place

The Hernando Sun
Back to the Mountaintop
Patrick Yasinskas

Second Place

Riverbend News
Life, laughter, and love
Christian Peterson

Third Place

The Apalachicola Times
Local folks recall their days with Jimmy Carter
David Adlerstein

Feature Story: Profile

Division B

First Place

Oviedo Community News
Best Feature Story Profile Isaac Benjamin Babcock Oviedo Community News
Isaac Benjamin Babcock

Second Place

The Independent Florida Alligator
From east to west, Fie Scoobie has Gainesville pride
Sydney Johnson

Third Place

Business Observer
Blake Casper profile
Mark Gordon

Feature Story: Profile

Division A

First Place

North Pinellas Beacon
Couple's homecoming follows trans-Atlantic adventure
Christine Bryant

Second Place

The Sarasota Observer
Mark Vengroff finds his one last career stop the most rewarding
Andrew Warfield

TIE:
Third Place

Florida Weekly
A Walk In Her Shoes
Valerie Staggs

Third Place

Florida Weekly
The Life Of Riley
Garry Overbey

In-Depth Reporting (Non-Investigative)

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Dramatic Journey To Justice
Tom Staik

Second Place

Lake Okeechobee News
A series examining the use of chemical herbicides to control invasive plants in Lake Okeechobee
Katrina Elsken

Third Place

Riverbend News
Jason Bullock convicted of organized fraud of over $50k
Jason Futch

In-Depth Reporting (Non-Investigative)

Division B

First Place

Anna Maria Island Sun
In-Depth Reporting Pines Trailer Park
Leslie Lake

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
University of Florida graduate campus in Downtown Jacksonville
Ric Anderson

Third Place

The Longboat Observer
Longboat Key considers renaming road for Gulf of America
S.T. Cardinal and Eric Garwood

In-Depth Reporting (Non-Investigative)

Division A

First Place

Osceola News-Gazette
Sheriff's massage sting raises questions
Kristin Hurst

Second Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Alachua voter debts forgiven as FDLE probes fraud
Lillian Hamman

Third Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Newberry halts railroad tie grinding
Lillian Hamman

Investigative Reporting (Claudia Ross Memorial Award)

Division C

First Place

Riverbend News
County takes control of Emergency Management
Jason Futch

Second Place

Madison Enterprise-Recorder
Were improper payments received?
Rick Patrick

Investigative Reporting (Claudia Ross Memorial Award)

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
The Fear of Room 138
Chloe Nelson

Second Place

Business Observer
Big Top Brewing financial crisis
Elizabeth King

Third Place

Clermont Sun
Food pantries in crisis
Sharon Keeble

Investigative Reporting (Claudia Ross Memorial Award)

Division A

First Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Certain, Democratis criticize antisemite 'on pedestal'
Gary Nelson

Breaking News Story

Division C

First Place

The Herald Advocate
Ammo Plant Dismantled After Juvenile Injured In Fire
Tom Staik

Second Place

The Islander News
Victims speak in court as Olea heads to prison, barred from Key Biscayne
Hillard Grossman

Third Place

Riverbend News
Bill to move forward in dissolution of White Springs government
Jason Futch

Breaking News Story

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Joan Farrell resigns City Council seat
Bob Mudge

Second Place

Jacksonville Daily Record
CSX leadership turns to Angel
Mark Basch, Monty Zickuhr

Third Place

Clermont Sun
Charlie Kirk road naming controversy.
Sharon Keeble

Breaking News Story

Division A

First Place

Osceola News-Gazette
What's Next?; Lopez's arrest not first time under scrutiny
Ken Jackson & Debbie Daniel

Second Place

Osceola News-Gazette
'He is not getting out...Ever'; Emotional family members won't have to endure gruesome trial
Debbie Daniel and Ken Jackson

Third Place

The Coastal Star
Gumbo Limbo loses its sea turtle hospital
Steve Plunkett

General News Story (Gwen Stevenson Memorial Award)

Division C

First Place

Polk News Sun
Still surviving
Leticia Yglesias

Second Place

The Herald Advocate
Employee Failed To Report School Intruder For Over 2 Hours
Tom Staik

General News Story (Gwen Stevenson Memorial Award)

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Miracle
Bob Mudge

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Jan. 9, 2025, Veteran seeks state help
Jamie Wachter

Third Place

Fernandina Beach News-Leader
Gangway collapse
Ashley Chandler

General News Story (Gwen Stevenson Memorial Award)

Division A

First Place

The Coastal Star
Submerged lands buyer faces choppy legal seas
John Pacenti

Second Place

The East County Observer
Electric bikes charge up aggravated residents
Lesley Dwyer

Third Place

Florida Weekly
Saving Sesame Street
Roger Williams

First Amendment Defense (Jon A. Roosenraad Award) |

All Divisions

First Place

Cape Coral Breeze
Freedom of speech: Public comment
Valarie Harring

Second Place

Mainstreet Daily News
Judge dismisses Alachua Today's lawsuit against Mainstreet
Seth Johnson

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
Series of editorials concerning the First Amendment
Gail Acosta

Serious Column (Sally Latham Memorial Award)

Division C

First Place

The Hernando Sun
AI is Hurting Small Publishers
Rocco Maglio

Second Place

Jefferson County Journal
A journey toward volunteering
Laura Young

Third Place

Jefferson County Journal
Ponderings: The marks we leave
Heather Ainsley

Serious Column (Sally Latham Memorial Award)

Division B

First Place

Palatka Daily News
Opinings from an execution witness
Sarah Cavacini

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Feb. 22, 2025, Hall left positive mark on FGC, community
Todd Wilson

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
Ask yourself, "What's Possible?"
Ronald Dupont Jr.

Serious Column (Sally Latham Memorial Award)

Division A

First Place
Belleair - Largo Bee
Couple's love endures to the end
Chris Core
Second Place

The East County Observer
As aquarium opens, transparency is an issue
Jay Heater
TIE:
Third Place
Florida Weekly
The dementia fight: Singing into a storm
Roger Williams
Third Place
The East County Observer
Chalk up a life saved for Lakewood Ranch Medical Center
Jay Heater

Humorous Column

Division C

First Place

Perry News-Herald - Taco Times
Growing old, with a friend
Susan Lincoln

Second Place

Perry News-Herald - Taco Times
On today's episode of 'As the Feathers Fly'
Angela Castelucci

Third Place

Madison County Carrier
Hidden in plain sight
Mickey Starling

Humorous Column

Division B

First Place

Florida Keys Free Press
The Three Ds
Joey Cooke

Second Place

Southwest Orange Observer
This is what it's like to be in a dunk tank
Michael Eng

Third Place

Wesley Chapel Beacon
Your guide to surviving, and loving, the new Aldi
John C. Cotey

Original Local Editorial Cartoon Award

Division AB

First Place

Anna Maria Island Sun
Anna Maria Island Sun - Steve Borggren POLITICAL CARTOON 6-11-2025.
Steve Borggren

Second Place

Anna Maria Island Sun
Anna Maria Island Sun - Steve Borggren POLITICAL CARTOON 9-17-2025
Steve Borggren

Third Place

Florida Weekly
The Joy Of Gardening
Edward Dziura

Editorial Award

Division C

First Place

Nassau County Record
Mum's the Word at Sheriff's Office
Amanda Bishop

Second Place

The Star
The coded essage in our newspaper
David Adlerstein

Third Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
What do East Milton...
Gail Acosta

Editorial Award

Division AB

First Place

Navarre Press
Limiting public comment at proposed task force meetings?
Staff

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Nov. 19, 2025, Personal agendas, Sunshine violations harm the residents
Staff

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
What's in a name? Too much to justify changing it
Bob Mudge

Editorial Page

Division C

TIE:
First Place

Boca Beacon
Editorial Pages, The Boca Beacon
Staff

First Place

Nassau County Record
Community's Opinion
Staff

Editorial Page

Division AB

First Place

Navarre Press
Words, tone and messaging matters
Staff

Second Place

Cape Coral Breeze
Editorial pages for June 6, 2025 and June 13, 2025
Staff

Third Place

Osceola News-Gazette
Viewpoint: News-Gazette Editorial Page
Editorial Board

Community Service

Division B

First Place

The Venice Gondolier
Bay Indies food pantry under threat
Chloe Nelson

Hurricane Feature Story

Division BC

First Place

Fort Myers Beach Observer
"Fighting to Survive"
Nathan Mayberg

Second Place

The Longboat Observer
House raising
S.T. Cardinal

Third Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, June 19, 2025, An act of heroism
Tony Britt

Hurricane Feature Story

Division A

First Place

Seminole - Beach Beacon
From dishwasher to dreamkeeper
Bob Putnam

Second Place

Florida Weekly
Hurricane Special Issue
Mary Wozniak, Roger Williams, Carlie Admire

Third Place

The East County Observer
Sand Branch Creek restoration underway
Lesley Dwyer

Hurricane Coverage- General News Story

Division BC

First Place

The Longboat Observer
Helene and Milton: Six Months Later
Staff

Second Place

Lake City Reporter
Lake City Reporter, Jan. 18, 2025, Live Oak, OMI look to solve flooding issue
Jamie Wachter

Third Place

The Venice Gondolier
County hurricane enhancements in progress
Bob Mudge

Hurricane Coverage- General News Story

Division A

First Place

Florida Weekly
Rebuilding Beaches
Roger Williams

Second Place

The Coastal Star
Hurricane adds to heaps of trouble for sea turtle babies
Steve Plunkett, Tim Stepien, Jerry Lower

Third Place

The East County Observer
SMR president CEO, says LWR has dealt with flooding issues
Lesley Dwyer

General Excellence

Division C

First Place

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
General Excellence
Staff

Second Place

Monticello News
Monticello News
Staff

TIE:
Third Place

Nassau County Record
Nassau County Record
Amanda Bishop, Anna Newhoff, Mariah Arnold

Third Place

The Herald Advocate
General Excellence: 4-10-25 mandatopry; 10-23-25 and 10-30-25 consecutive.
STAFF

General Excellence

Division B

First Place

Fernandina Beach News-Leader
General Excellence
Ashley Chandler; Brooke Bird; Nick Blank; Marisa DeMar; Todd Frantz

Second Place

Sumter Sun Times
Sumter Sun Times - General Excellence
Staff

Third Place

Navarre Press
General Excellence
Staff

General Excellence

Division A

First Place

Belleair - Largo Bee
General Excellence Belleair & Largo Bee
Staff

Second Place

The Coastal Star
October, November December 2025 editions
Staff

Third Place

Osceola News-Gazette
The Osceola News-Gazette
Staff