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State High School Journalist of the Year winners announced

West Henderson (Hendersonville) High School journalist Lauren Stepp has been named the 2014 Rachel Rivers-Coffey North Carolina High School Journalist of the Year.

Alternates are Murphy Grant of First Flight High in Kill Devil Hills and Hannah Lieberman of East Mecklenburg High in Charlotte.

Honorable Mention Awards go to José Valle of First Flight High and Allison DeJong of Northwood High in Pittsboro.

Since 2001 the North Carolina Press Foundation has funded the annual scholarship award in honor of Rachel Rivers-Coffey, journalist and former N.C. Press Association president.

NCPF will award a $2,000 scholarship to Stepp. The two alternates will each receive $500.

The foundation will also award the winners' journalism programs. The Journalist of the Year's program will receive $500. The two alternates’ programs will each receive $250.

Stepp will now represent the state in the National High School Journalist of the Year scholarship competition. Winners will be announced April 13 at the National High School Journalism Convention in San Diego.

The Rivers-Coffey state scholarships and awards will be presented June 19 at UNC-Chapel Hill during the N.C. Scholastic Media Institute, a summer journalism workshop open to students and teachers across the state.