

**North Carolina
Scholastic Media
Association**

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State High School Journalist of the Year winners announced

The North Carolina Scholastic Media Association has announced Riverside High School journalist Elena Paces-Wiles as the 2024 Rachel Rivers-Coffey North Carolina High School Journalist of the Year.

Paces-Wiles is the co-editor-in-chief of the Riverside High school newspaper, The Pirates' Hook. Her portfolio featured investigative work focused on exposing inequities.

Alternates for Journalist of the Year are Courtney Weston of West Brunswick High in Shallotte, Charlize Andrews of Green Level High in Cary and Reagan Bell of East Mecklenburg High in Charlotte.

Weston is editor-in-chief of her school's newspaper, West Wind. Andrews is editor-in-chief of her school's newspaper, The Gator's Eye. Bell is editor-in-chief of her school's newspaper, The Eagle.

Since 2001, the North Carolina Press Foundation (NCPF) has funded the annual scholarship award in memory of Rachel Rivers-Coffey, former N.C. Press Association president.

NCPF will award a \$3,000 scholarship to Paces-Wiles. The three alternates will each receive \$1,000.

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

The Rivers-Coffey state scholarships and awards will be presented June 20-22 during the N.C. Scholastic Media Institute, a summer journalism workshop open to students and teachers across the state.

Paces-Wiles will now represent the state in the National High School Journalist of the Year scholarship competition. Winners will be announced in April at the National High School Journalism Convention in Kansas City.

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The North Carolina Scholastic Media Association (NCSMA) is a statewide organization that serves scholastic journalism education and works for its advancement.