

Living

The News Reporter • Friday, May 17, 2018 1-C

26th annual A.R. Ammons Poetry Contest winners

Division I K-2nd grade

First Place

"School"

I like school. It is fun.
I like to play with every-
one.
I like to draw and design.
I always color in the
lines.
I work real hard and do
my best
To finish up before the
rest.
We read, we write, we
count, we play
We eat our lunch every
day.

I like school. It is fun.

Elijah Long
Old Dock Elementary

Second Place

"Skateboard"

I love skateboard. They
are fun.
I like to ride it in the
sun.
You need a helmet and
knee pads.
So you don't get hurt re-
ally bad.
I ride my skateboard on
the street.
I make it go fast with my
feet.
I love skateboards. They
are fun
Maybe you should get
you one.

Raquel Reynolds
Old Dock Elementary

Third Place

"The Joyful Yellow Sun"

A star-bright light,
Oh what a sight
Always gleaming
The birds a singing
Clouds of marshmal-
lows
Covered up the joyful
yellow
The flowers of May
Slowly fade away.
Away the clouds gently
flow
The radiant light begins
to glow
Hours of fun
Brings back the sun.
Jaliyah Riggins
Tabor City Elementary

Honorable Mention

"My Sister"

My sister and I like to
play.
My sister tells me funny
jokes to say.
My sister and I like read-
ing together.
We read in all kinds of
weather.
My sister is the best,
Far above the rest!
Estrella Arellano
Old Dock Elementary

"Snow at School"

At school it started to
snow,
But everybody was mov-
ing slow.
My toe was starting to
freeze;
Then I started to feel the
breeze.
Everybody wanted to
play in the snow,
But the teacher said it
was time to go.
We came inside and
watched the snow
Then we heard someone
say "Go! Go! Go!"
Eyonna Brown
Whiteville Primary

"Moose"

Moose likes to bite,
Sometimes we may even
fight.
Moose likes to jump,
Then when he jumps, he
bumps.
My dog is a boy,
He like to play with his
toys.
Moose is one-of-a-kind,
I know another dog like
him, I'll not find.
Carson Callahan
Old Dock Elementary

"Orca Whales"

I would like to swim
with an Orca Whale,
I know I could hold on to
his long tail.
Oh how large his fins
would look,
I imagine they would



Division I winners were: Raquel Reynolds, second place; Elijah Long, first place; and Jaliyah Riggins, third place.



Division I honorable mentions were: Morgan Smith, Estrella Arellano, Wyatt Stanley, Eyonna Brown, Jacob McDaniel, Laynee Jo Price, Castle Gibson, Maddison Reynolds.



Division II winners were: Alyssa Sims, third place; Marelin Franco, first place; and Christian Soto, second place.



Division II honorable mentions were: Mariah Long, Pressley Norris, Matthew Smith, Rainey Evans and Shannah Hewett

look like the ones in my
whale book.

I guess for now I'll just
have to dream,
What swimming with a
whale would be!

Castle Gibson
Old Dock Elementary

"What's Going on with Me?"

I have pain –
And it's insane!
I'm so dad
And it makes me mad!
They're running all
kinds of tests...
And it doesn't feel the
best...

It's not a fest:
I need some rest!
It doesn't fee rad...
I just need my dad!
Lillian Inman
Whiteville Primary

"Deer Hunting"

I have to be very still,
The deer must not see
me from the hill.
I go deer hunting every
year.

I'm so excited when dad
says deer season is here!
Maybe this year I will
get a big buck,
I'll keep looking for good
luck!

Jacob McDaniel
Old Dock Elementary

"Red Bird"

Red Birds can fly high,
I love to watch them up
in the sky.
Red birds are bright red,
I enjoy feeding them
brown bread.
My teacher told me they
are called cardinals,
The bird of our state.
Oh, to hear what was
great.

Natalie Noyola
Old Dock Elementary

"My Big Brother"

My big brother is annoy-
ing to me.
Mindcraft and video
games is all I see.
My big brother asks
moma to turn on the wif.
But if she doesn't do it
then he will cry.

He reads books and play
basketball in the gym.
He drives me crazy and I
don't list to him.

Laynee Jo Price
Whiteville Primary

"Fluffy"

My cat looks like a big
fluffy cloud,
He like to purr very
loud.
I feed him tasty food in
his bowl,
When he finishes, he al-
ways digs a hole.
Fluffy runs as fast as the
wind.

I love to watch his ears
bend.

Maddison Reynolds
Old Dock Elementary

"Bella"

Bella and I are best
friends,
We play together as the
day ends.
When it's cold, I bring
Bella inside,
She likes to run, jump
and hide.
Bella's bark can be very
loud.
But she always make me
so proud!
Bella is my best friend,
She sticks with me thru
thick and thin.

Morgan Smith
Old Dock Elementary

"My Granddaddy"

I have a Granddaddy.
He really is grand.

And he's the best gran-
daddy in all the land.
He loves to farm.
And he does no harm
I'm thankful he's mine
Because he's mighty
fine!

Wyatt Stanley
Tabor City Elementary

Division II 3rd -5th grade

First Place

"The Ocean"

The calm soothing ocean
Consistently in back and
forth motion.
The moon shimmers and
dances across the waves
Like a ballerina per-
forming in the spotlights
onstage.
Can you hear the serene
roar?
Can you taste the brack-
ish water?
Can you smell the briny
scent that tingles your
nose?

Making me feel toasty
from the rays of the sun
beating down like a drum.
Wiggling my feet in the
sand feeling the coolness
of grains between my toes.
Marelin Franco
Old Guideway Elementary

Second Place

"Beautiful Earth"

Calming breezes blow
through the trees.
Waves crash into the
sand like a constant beat
of a drum.
Silently moving front-
wards and backwards
The grass is like a soft
silent whisper.
Natural colors shine
through.
Blue skies shine down



Division III winners were: Aaron Gerald, first place; Emma Simms, second place.



Division III honorable mentions were: Mya Pierce and Alexis McLeary.



Division III honorable mentions were: Anett Pineda and Jamias Black.

through the water.
Green grass sways
gracefully in the open
fields.

Yellow sun rays gives us
light and warm heat.
Christian Soto
Guideway Elementary

Third Place

"Death of my Cousin"

I was sitting on the
couch when the call came
in.

Mama picked up the
phone and she began yell-
ing.

She dropped the phone
and said, "He is gone!"

"My cousin!" "My
friend!" "My confidant!"
Now, who is going to
take me to the park?

Thoughts raced through
my mind

My heart was dark.
My cousin was dead

He was in an accident
I can't even talk about
the crazy incident.

The pain, the hurt, I
can't even explain

My favorite cousin, the
one who never complained

I loved him so much
But never told him so

Now I keep wondering
did he know?

Did he know? Did it
show? Could he tell I loved
him?

Is he saved? Was he
brave? Did he lose a limb?

If only I could I would go
back in time.

And I would say I love
you to this favorite cousin
of mine

Alyssa Sims
Carolina Adventist Academy

Honorable Mention

"Gum"

It's chewy and sticky
There is always a ton
You can pull it and
stretch it

It's chewable fun
There's different colors
like

Yellow and blue
And other flavors just
for you.

You can buy it in stores
And gas stations too

But there's always one
pack

That tastes like poo.
Abigail Bowen
Edgewood Elementary

"You are"

You are the flap of my
jack

The only fortune in my
cookie

And the Rock of my Roll
The Zig in the Zaggie
sky

And the high noon lost
in the ocean.

The grand of all Can-
yons

In the Wildest of Wests.

Felix Castrejon
Old Dock Elementary

"Crafty Little Fox"

Crafty little fox
A wisp away from
hound's nose

Dips into its den.

Rainey Evans
Edgewood Elementary

"Family"

There are four people in
my family

That includes me too.
They are caring and
funny

And are stuck like glue.
We like to spend our
time

Shopping and going to
the mall.

Every time we go any-
where

We always have a ball.
On Sundays it's church
time

We go there to hear the
preacher.

He does an awesome job
He's a wonderful Jesus
teacher.

If you do not have a
church

You're welcome to join
mine.

Because a good Chris-
tian church

Is always warm and
kind.

Kenzley Fowler
Old Dock Elementary

"Dance"

When you dance each
movement is a word.

When you dance you fly
like a bird.

When you leap you go up
high.

Just like the birds in the

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Recurring meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at First Presbyterian Church, 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday nights at 8 p.m. A guest speaker will be at the meeting on the last Thursday of each month. The church is located on Thompson Street in Whiteville.

Al-anon meets at First Presbyterian Church, 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville on Mondays at 7 p.m.

VFW Auxiliary 8073 meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 906 E. Fifth St., Tabor City.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at Highest Praise Church, 109 N. Madison St., Whiteville on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., at Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church, 15956 Old Lake Road, Riegelwood on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #962 of Columbus County meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

The American Legion Post #233 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 313 Phillips St., Whiteville.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant AMEZ Church in Riegelwood.

JCPC meetings The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at noon in the Whiteville City Schools Civic Room.

The **Riegelwood** group of **Alcoholics Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the USW Local 9-738, 102 Old Stage Hwy. (87) at Riegelwood.

Whiteville Apparel employees meeting. Former employees of Whiteville Apparel plant will eat lunch Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m. at Southern Sizzler on South Madison Street. For more information call Geneva Thompson.

Compassionate Friends Support Group (Grief group for parents who have lost children to death) meets at Grace Episcopal Church, 105 S. Madison St., Whiteville the second Monday of each month at 3 p.m. For more information call 234-0512. Also on the third Monday of each month the group invites interested persons to join them for lunch.

The American Legion Post #139 meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 208 First Ave., Chadbourne.

VFW Post 8073 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 906 E. Fifth St., Tabor City. For more information call W.H. Morris at 843-582-4636.

Columbus County Leadership Council Steering Committee meets each second Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Bogue Community Park, Hallsboro. This non-partisan, non-profit advocacy group encourages participation of citizens willing to collaborate to effect powerful, positive changes on the local, state and federal levels. Group goals, bylaws, membership information and applications may be secured via email request at www.columbuscountyleadership-council.weebly.com or send written request to Columbus County Leadership Council, P.O. Box 57, Hallsboro, N.C. 28442. For more information call Loris McClellon at 207-6574 or Bridget Stephens at 646-1164.

Cancer Support Group of Donayre Cancer Care Center of Columbus Regional Healthcare meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9-10 a.m. in the CRHS

A Community Garden is available at **Chadbourne United Methodist Church**. Persons are invited to come and plant in the raised bed plots. For more information call 654-5250 or 654-4069 and leave message, name and number.

Yokofellows Prison Ministry is seeking Christians in the Tabor City area to be a part of this ministry. For presentation dates call 918-4531 or 653-2782.

education department. The programs are free. For more information and to register call 641-8220.

Diabetes Support Group meets at Columbus Regional Healthcare, Education Center, Classroom 2 the second Thursday of each month from 2-3 p.m. For more information call Shauna Nobles at 642-9458.

Brain Injury Support Group meets at Columbus Regional Healthcare, Education Center, Room 1A the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information call Shauna Nobles or Sonja Green at 642-8011 ext. 9458.

VFW Auxiliary meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 906 E. Fifth Street in Tabor City.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter #35 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

The **Whiteville Negro/Central High School Alumni** meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Dream Center. Dates for 2019 are April 16, May 21 and June 18. The Nov. meeting will be on the second Tuesday due to Thanksgiving. There will be no December meeting. Members are invited to a holiday luncheon with personal cost. The location is to be determined. The center is located at 403 S. Martin Luther King Ave.

HomeCare MC Special Olympics will meet the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at HomeCare Management Corporation. The meeting is for individuals who want to help improve and grow the Special Olympics program in Columbus County. HomeCare MC is located at 2208 James B. White Hwy. N., Whiteville. For more information call Tammy Whitlow at 640-1153.

Parkinson's Helping Hands Support Group meetings are held the last Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. in the 'Sunshine Room' at Columbus Regional Healthcare. For more information call Larry Hewett at 840-6400 or Judy Nelson at 642-2938.

Veterans Memorial Park of America meets on the last Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. (Location to be determined). For more information call Randy Norris at 840-5207.

Family and Community Hope Resources Inc. would like persons from 20-40 years of age to attend Community Development meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Columbus County Dream Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information call Shelle Blanks at 910-207-8982 or Yolanda Davis at 704-780-8350.

Military Vet Riders Association meets on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Dixie Steel Guns N Ammo, 57 Mercer Road, Chadbourne.

Concerned Bikers Association-Columbus Chapter meets on the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Dixie Steel Guns N Ammo, 57 Mercer Road, Chadbourne. For more information call Will McCulloch at 840-6033.

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meeting at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, May 17 at 11 a.m. In addition to the monthly Flower of the Month program, they will have their annual installation of officers. This will be a covered dish luncheon and will be hosted by Anne Branch and Judy Nelson.

Tickets for the Garden Tour on June 1 are still available from any club member and at The Chamber of Commerce office in downtown Whiteville and Country Nursery on Hwy. 130 just past Lowe's Store.

Abundance of Love sets service May 17

There will be a service at The Abundance of Love Adult Daycare Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Pastor Leona Cromartie of New Beginnings Holiness Church.

The daycare is located at 212 E. Columbus St.

Event sponsored by Dr. Van G. LeSane.

Porter Swamp fundraiser plate sale

Porter Swamp Baptist Church will hold a fundraiser plate sale for Greg Worthington the son of Ann Worthington. Greg has survived heart attacks, cancer, bone marrow transplant and is now struggling with heart failure. Greg and Carolyn have spent many weeks at Duke Medical Center and New Hanover Regional Medical Center over the last few years.

The sale will be held Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The church is located at 8975 Andrew Jackson Hwy. SW, Cerro Gordo.

Lebanon UMC grilled pork chop lunch

Lebanon United Methodist Church will hold its annual grilled pork chop lunch Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. eat in or take out. Plates are \$8.

The church is located midway between Tabor City and Whiteville on James B. White Hwy. South.

Celebrate Recovery outreach event

Celebrate Recovery community outreach event will be held Saturday, May 18 from 4-7 p.m. at Peace Baptist Church. Learn how Celebrate Recovery can help you. There will be food, fun for the entire family, free events, music and giveaways.

Celebrate Recovery is not all about drug and alcohol addictions.

The event is sponsored by Peach Baptist Church Celebrate Recovery and The Good Shepherd Fund.

The church is located at 653 Love Mill Road, Whiteville (located behind Tractor Supply).

For more information or questions call Carol Clark at 234-5628 or Shawn Mentzel at 625-6769.

First St. Paul MBC Missionary Day

First St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will hold its Missionary Day Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Mary Hawkins.

The church is located on Campground Road, Whiteville.

Rev. Lester Frink Sr. is the pastor.

House of Mercy hosts Priscilla Bennett

Pastor Priscilla Bennett, along with the Harrison Creek Church family, will render service at the House of Mercy Church Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m.

The church is located at 113 W. Commerce Street.

Elder Robert D. Williams Sr. is the founder and pastor.

Mt. Hebron AMEZ 100 men/women in white May 19

Mt. Hebron African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will hold its 100 Men and Women in White Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m. The theme is "We're on the move, ain't no stopping us now."

The guest speaker will be Minister LaTanya W. Evans of Upper room Church of God in Christ of Raleigh.

The church is located on Hwy. 211 East, Bladenboro.

For more information call 795-6471 or 228-0247.

Rev. Carl Ballard is the pastor.

New Light MBC Women's Day

New Light Missionary Baptist Church of Hallsboro will hold its annual Women's Day program Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Gabriella Garrett of Wilmington.

Rev. Franklin Graham is the pastor.

Diamond Branch MBC Women's Day

Diamond Branch Missionary Baptist Church will hold its Women's Day program Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Evangelist Gloria Parker Riddick of New Mt. Zion MBC.

The men of Diamond Branch will prepare lunch in honor of all women.

Ronald Alford is the pastor.

Welches Creek MBC pastor celebration

The pastor, members and pastor's aid committee of Welches Creek Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate four years of pastoralship honoring Rev. Frederick W. Bryant Sr. on Sunday, May 19. The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with morning service and lunch will be served following the service in the dining hall.

An afternoon service will continue at 4 p.m. with Pastor Virgil Reaves of First Baptist

Missionary Baptist Church along with his choir and congregation of Chadbourne.

The emcee will be Rev. Anthony Rowell, pastor of New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Brunswick.

The church is located at 1733 Millie Christine Road, Whiteville.

Peace BC family offers free seminar

Peace Baptist Church will hold a free one night, two hour seminar on the loss of a spouse Thursday, May 23 from 7-9 p.m.

Are you widowed? Do you dread days and nights? Wonder what to do with your spouse's belongings? Feel like your brain is in a fog? Unsure of how you'll go on? Help is here and hope is possible.

At the seminar you'll discover

- other people understand and have found ways to make it through
- Why it won't always hurt so much
- Reason for hope
- Practical tips for coping with the death of a spouse.

The church is located at 653 Love Mill Road, Whiteville (located behind Tractor Supply).

To register for this free event call David Ransom at 770-1271 or Peace BC at 640-2013.

St. Paul Holiness usher program

St. Paul Holiness Church will hold an usher's program Friday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Elder Jay Bellamy.

The church is located at 215 W. Smith Street, Chadbourne.

Elder Teresa McClelland is the pastor.

Beaverdam OFWBC hosts The Inspirations

Beaverdam Original Freewill Baptist Church will host The Inspirations Saturday, May 25 at 7 p.m.

The church is located at 2665 Beaverdam Road, Chadbourne.

For more information call 918-3446.

Rev. Buddy Seay is the pastor.

HOPD sets shoe rally

The House of Prayer and Deliverance will hold a shoe rally Sunday, May 26 at 5 p.m.

The speaker will be Pastor Robert Williams of the House of Mercy along with his choir and congregation.

HOPD is located at 1113 S. Madison Street.

Elder Barbara Powell is the pastor.

Hallsboro COG steak sale May 31

Hallsboro Church of God will host a steak sale supper Friday, May 31 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The plates are \$8 each.

For tickets call Hazel Jackson at 840-4305.

The church is located at 312 Giles Byrd Road.

Danny Williams is the pastor.

Bethel UMC fried chicken supper

Bethel United Methodist Church will hold its famous fried chicken supper fundraiser Saturday, June 1 from 4-6:30 p.m. or until sold out. Plates are \$8 and consist of chicken, potato salad, green beans, biscuit, tea and desert. Delivery is available for 10 or more plates by calling 640-0200.

The church is located at 273 MM Ray road, Clarendon.

Cedar Hill FWBC Women's Day

Cedar Hill Freewill Baptist Church will hold a Women's Day service Sunday, June 2 beginning at 10 a.m. with Sunday school followed by morning worship at 11:15 a.m. The guest speaker will be Eldress Valerie McDonald of the famous McDonald Sisters.

The church is located at 1026 Georgia Pacific Road.

Elder Ricky McLean Jr. is the pastor.

Shiloh Church seeking donations

As a member of Shiloh Church of Lee's Lake, formerly known as Shiloh Methodist Church. There is set a new graveyard committee that the goal is to upkeep the final resting place of loved ones keeping them maintained and beautiful. The upkeep consists of power tools, mowing, weedeating, controlling fire ants, mulch, plants and etc.

Therefore donations are being asked. Make donations to Shiloh Church Cemetery c/o Billy Soles, 9640 Hallsboro Road, South, Whiteville, N.C. 28472.

For questions call Billy Soles at 770-5157.

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sky.

There are so many genres of dance you can do.

In lyrical you can wear a pretty tutu.

In hip hop you can wear a tennis show.

Sometimes in Jazz I dance to the blues.

In tap you wear shoes that make noise.

The music you will always enjoy.

You can also be in point, But be careful not to hurt your joints

Dance is really lots of fun.

Be sure to take a bow when you are done.

Kayla Hayes
Old Dock Elementary

"Me: A Simile"

My eyes are as blue as the majestic ocean waves in the heavy winter snow.

My hair is as crazy as me after eating two whole tubs of ice cream at the summer festival.

My nose is as pale as the mountain tops on Mt. Everest in the winter frost.

My cheeks are as big as my pet cat chasing after thin air as I passed by her.

My mouth is as big as the winter peaks of K2 in the winter.

Shannah Hewett
Edgewood Elementary

"School Days"

Hip Hip Hurray!

Come in from the park, Come in from the pool.

Hurry, Hurry, it's back to school!

Our school is great! It's one of a kind.

Lots of grades and tests Many friends who are the best.

If you work hard, you get praise.

From teachers all around.

Don't forget to do your best in school

And you will have a great background.

You should always strive To do your best, Aiming for the stars

And always shooting for Mars.

Kenadee Hill
Old Dock Elementary

"My Dad"

My dad is a great dad

The best you'll ever meet.

He takes good care of our family.

My dad works five days a week.

Selling furniture, waiting on customers

Telling his employees what to do

He loves collecting cars I get to help fix them to.

We do lots of things together

Me and my dad work on the farm

Taking care of the animals

That sleep out in the barn.

My dad is a great dad.

Mariah Long
Old Doxck Elementary

"The Beach"

My favorite place is the beach.

I like all of the sand.

I like to lay in the water. But mostly on the land.

I like to throw the ball I throw it with my brother.

We go to the beach a lot. Mostly with my mother.

As soon as school is out We head towards the sun.

With our chairs and snacks

Ready to have fun.

Our family like to fish, But we fish off of the pier

We cast our reels and wait.

We're going to have fun this year!

Caden McRae
Old Dock Elementary

"Unicorns"

Unicorns are graceful and true.

Their mane consists of red, yellow and blue.

Their muzzle as soft as the wind in the spring.

Their voice as pretty as the birds when they sing.

Their eyes as beautiful as an angel in the sky.

Nor makeup or jewelry do they have to apply.

So as you can see unicorns don't want to hide.

They just don't like to brag, that's the only reason why.

Pressley Norris
Tabor City Elementary

"VANS"

Oh! Oh man! How I love my VANS!

Out of all other shoes, this is the fav brand.

With a variety of colors and patterns to choose

No matter what choice, you will not lose.

High tops, mid-rise or low top

There are tons to try when you shop.

Glitter, sparkles, stripes or plain old black

There is a pair for you, me and for you in the back!

No matter the size, or fit you may like

One pair, two pair, three pair

If I had twenty I would still want plenty, plenty, plenty.

It's safe to say VANS are the best.

They are on top and better than the rest!

Isaac Reynoso
Guideway Elementary

"Bella"

My dog is nice to me

She loves to play and bark.

It sometimes gets annoying

She barks even when it's dark.

She is an outside dog But she comes in when it's cold.

We've had her for a while.

She's getting kind of old. She's brown and white in color

She runs into the woods. I'd love to keep her forever

I certainly, most definitely would.

Matthew K. Smith
Old Dock Elementary

"Fishing"

I have a rod,

I have some bait, I'm heading to the river

Emma Simmons
Central Middle

Second Place

“Mirror”

Mirror, Mirror on the wall,
Perfection here is about to fall.
Creeping up inside of me
Are thoughts of how we all should be.
Pushing back against the social norm
Perfect eyes, perfect hair and perfect form
Pretending that I just don't care
But burning thoughts are always there.
Am I too fat or am I too thin
Do I stand out or do I fit in
Am I ugly or am I cute
Well I guess that point is probably moot
Mirror, Mirror on the wall
Who's the fairest of them all
I say beauty has its own story,
Blended perfectly all in our own glory.
Short, big, small and tall,
We need to learn to love them all.
No matter what society will say
We all are perfect in our own way.

Seth Jackson
Central Middle

Third Place

“The Time When I was Little”

When I was little it was easy.
I played and slept
I watched cartoons.
I got lost in a world in the backyard.
One day my mom took me to a place,
A place she called school.
Here I lost my freedom to play.
I lost my freedom to talk.
I lost my freedom to move.
I got lost in a world in the schoolyard.

Aaron Gerald
Central Middle

Honorable Mention

“A Friend”

A friend is someone we turn to
When our spirits need a lift.
A friend is someone we treasure,
For friendship is a gift.
A friend is someone who fills our
Lives with beauty, joy and grace.
A friend makes the world we live in,
A better and happier place.

Paris Brown
Central Middle

“Basketball is Fun”

Basketball's my favorite sport
I dribble up and down the court
The ball goes bouncing off my toes
And beans the teacher on the nose
He stumbles back and grabs his nose
And hits the wall and down he goes
The other players stop and stare
They've never heard the teacher swear
With no one playing anymore
I grab the ball, I shoot, I score
I love this game! It's so much fun
The teacher cried, but hey—we won!

Camron McLamb
Central Middle

“Food”

It is no surprise that I like food.
Sometimes it puts me in a great mood.
Most of the time I eat store-bought cake.
Because I can get a little lazy when I bake.
My mom makes the best vegan macaroni and cheese.
And when I'm hungry I get down on my knees.
I enjoy eating when my food is well seasoned.

But I'll even eat it plain for no good reason.

When it comes to good food I play no game
I love all kinds equally the same.

Alexis McLeary
Carolina Adventist Academy

“I Almost Died, Again”

It's nighttime again
My family is asleep
But I'm not as usual
I'm going to sneeze
But the tissue is on the dresser
And I'm lazy and don't want to get up
Remember I'm on the top of the bunk bed
And the thing that keeps me from falling is broke
A scooter over to the dresser
Closer, closer, closer, a little closer
BAM!!!!
I fell of my bed
But luckily my brother was there to soften the land
And then I hear something
My sisters is laughing at me
And I'm telling her to be quiet
Cause it's not funny, I almost died
Then I climb up the ladder to my bed as if nothing happened
But at least I got the tissue
Achoo!
And nobody even said bless you.

Mya Pierce
Central Middle

“Windy Rain”

The wind blows up against the trees
Sitting in the house with nothing to do
I walk outside and feel the cool breeze
I guess what they said about this storm was true
Limbs falling
Debris everywhere
The storm is stalling
It the power stays on, that would be rare
Internet down
Cable is out
Wind howling is the only sound
Weather is getting ruff, no doubt
3 days later
The storm is finally gone
Folks out helping others is a good indicator
That when we support each other, we are never alone

Bella Sellers
Central Middle

“Spring is Coming”

Spring is coming
Soon to arrive
The flowers will bloom
The sun will shine
The eggs will hatch
The trees will bud
The birds will return
The bees will buzz
The butterflies will twirl
The rain will pour
The grass will be green
The birds will sing
Spring is coming soon,
But for now winter will do

The sun may not shine,
But I know it will soon!

Taylor Sullivan
Hallsboro Middle

“The Mysterious Void”

Space is a mysterious place
Of which you may even see a face
The man in the moon or the
Famous big dipper
These things make me feel quite chipper
Like a dog with a slipper
Space is endless with
The vast constellations tending
To provide consolation to travelers
As you travel, look up sometimes
You may see stars or even the moon staring back
Space is a beautiful place
A place, which inhabits many strange things
Blackholes and supernovas
These things may have occurred to none of us
For they occur around us instead.

Caleb Thomas
Central Middle

“Friday Night”

Tonight is the night
It's been a long week,
But all of it is forgotten
As everyone takes their

seat.

Tonight is the night.

The players ready to play,

The fans are waiting to watch

To us, it's considered a Holiday.

Tonight is the night,
We take home the trophy.

It's 14-20, only a touch-down away.

Only 2 minutes left to beat the Coyotes.

Tonight is the night
As the ball flies through the air

We intercept the ball
Number 43 is running as fast as a hare.

Tonight is the night
With 35 seconds in the game

We finally reach the end zone,
And number 43 is having his time of fame.

Tonight is the night
We beat the Coyotes,
This Friday night,
We got our trophy.

Emma Williamson
Central Middle

Division IV 9th-12th grade

First Place

“Dreaming Ammons”

The pine sway and sing with wind
Rock stream babble speaks:
A metaphysical moment in the midst of Columbus
I hear my name
Archie calls, Ammons summons
So long ago, memory etched
In word-plough
Harrowed in each row
Empty of weed and stone
Birds pick at fresh turned earth
Thought for food
Lasting across the years
May I too go
Ocean waves and vesser serve
To fight a war
a Forest's Wake
and then New Nderland later York
Far from farmland to Cornell
With generous tutelage, enlightenment
Pedagogy
Tidings of nature and fertile soil
May I too go
And step across
The divide of then and now
And plow my own path
To poetry?

Annaelise Kennedy
Thomas Academy

Second Place

“Dirt”

Rub
It crumbles
And leaves it stain
Only to remain
Life giving
Earth
Ground us in
Terra firma
Others see grime and filth and dust and muck and mire
Soiled by land
We see ground in us
élan vital
pushing forth from darkness
to light
reaching through skin roudure
Terrene
Serene
Offering forth
Produce
Which feeds
The hunger
That lay within
All
Who
Seek to grow

Khalib Kennedy
Columbus Career and College Academy

Third Place

“Hurricane”

It came in a hurry
Worry, With anxiety and a low depression
Far off the shore
Littoral
Force pouring forth
Growing in strength
Prodigious
Temperature rising
Never in historic memory
Atrocious
Waiting no more
Refuge sought
Caught seeking shelter
No friendly intent in the

Torrent wind
Even gravity extends
Rain sideways

Volant structures unte-thered

Exhuming treasure unmeasured

moments left on the hearth of tractate time

earthbound now fly
Oeuvre reminiscences over

Anamnesis
clinging to
Memories dismantled

Detritus around us
Grave destruction
Hope drowned in Ad-

am's Ale
It fell incessantly
Unyielding

Merciless
unrelenting
Lives upended

Crops flattened once tended

With loving care
Where
Family made home

Now gone
Circumventing debris
Witnessing devastating

destruction
uprooted
Aftermath descended

A path extended
Pain
Sitcks and stones and

sand and land unearthed
We meet among the ru-
ins resilient

ready to build again and remember
The future

Annaelise Kennedy
Thomas Academy

Honorable Mention

“Valentines”

Protect your Vision that's all we got.
And in every seAson show love and patience.
But when Love starts fading and your health starts failing, turn on god spiritual

Power of Love because it never fails.
Soon you will see oncE a man, twice a child and memories

Will fade but Jesus love will flow like
RuNning water.
Dementia is not only a disease but a plague of the land that Take our mind.

But in all thIngs, we have to Love,
Give without ceasing aNd run even when we are weary

And be grateful for all life experience for they teach us
How to LovE unconditionally.

“A Lady's Liberty”

For centuries, in countries all over the world,
There have been strict “thought” on the difference between a boy and girl.

A many has to work with machines, a woman has to work as a secretary.

Looking back in our American history, was that truly necessary?

The vast and upsetting amount of discrimination
Was very apparent in the treatment of women who where looking for jobs and a better education.

As the 1960s came and welcomed many new movement.

Women all over the country felt this was the right time to make improvements.

Personal freedom and social equality became more important for young women.

They wanted to make a major and long-lasting difference between the times of now and then.

Organizations like the National Organization for Women tackled serious societal inequality issues.

Women demanded for everyone to correct these problems, but not everyone was willing to walk in their shoes.

Over time, terms like ‘sexual politics’ and ‘sexism’ were introduced and brought into the light.

However, do not think that women began to shy away, instead, they were prepared and continued for fight.

Topics like abortion, and whether it is a woman's personal choice,
Demonstrated that other people, like husbands and even doctors, unapologetically silenced their voice.

Do not think that the only women wanted or

Other times we don't even hesitate to turn on our fellow brother.

In 2005, America faced a terrible natural disaster,

Which wasn't a moment where a single person was astir:

Despite the requests for proper preparation,
It was ignored because it was something that was through to not affect the nation.

On the fateful day of August 29, 2005,

Over one thousand individuals didn't make it out alive.

When Hurricane Katrina quickly arrived,
New Orleans, Louisiana because, unfortunately, de-
rive.

Nature is not the only one that is often blamed for this troubling situation,
The government was also faced with an intense confrontation.

Because of the lack of concern of the mayor of New Orleans and the lack of concern on the federal government.

The people of America, particularly of New Orleans, were filled with nothing but anger and resentment.

That anger and resentment did not get in the way of citizens helping one another, however.

The people of America made sure that their united front was something that no one could ever sever.

Images of a strong and solicitous country were captured.

So, what exactly do you feel?

Do you think that the heroism that is supposedly imbedded into the American principle real?

There are many moments in American history where there has been nothing but chaos and individuals acting hectic,

So do you think that the United States, overall, is heroic or pathetic?

Taliyah Dickson
Columbus Career and College Academy

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Topics like abortion, and whether it is a woman's personal choice,
Demonstrated that other people, like husbands and even doctors, unapologetically silenced their voice.

Do not think that the only women wanted or

want are lower expectations of beauty and the right to choose where they have an abortion or not.

Freedom in sexuality, politics, education and equality in society was or is what they sought.

Women in America were an dare brave enough to let the entire nation see

That nothing can or should stand in the way of a lady's liberty.

Taliyah Dickson
Columbus Career and College Academy

“Turkey Season”

Lying back against the tree
As you sit upon the ground
Being so careful to be still
Trying not to make a sound

In the distance, you hear him gobble
And your blood starts pumping
You hear him coming
Your heart is thumping

You wait until you see him
Strutting into the field
You can hardly stay still
As closer he is nearing

And when the time is perfect
And you have him in your sight
You take your shot and say a prayer
As the pellets takes there flight

You mark is true, the turkey falls and
You rise and walk to where he lies
You bow your head and say a prayer
For the gift, which you have been blessed.

Zack Fonvielle
South Columbus High

“Nature Trashed”

Along Canal Road lamenting
Looking
Where gator may lay
eyes poking above the fray

Moss dangles from the trees
Feeding from moisture epiphytic
Only in measured time and space

Inthis place
Along the swamp
Slough
No movement, stagnant
As ducks still their bill
Amid the muck
Stuck
Where nature spreads
arms and canopy

And embrace desperate leaves impression
Of something from before
Degrees of caste now cast
upon the holy water
cast off
abandoned
promise to care
eschewing fidelity
stewards
Seeking redemption
Coming up is to rise
from death

Yet waste now resides
Where life once moved
Now in passing,
Nature's demise, deceased
Detritus cover
Litter, rubbish waste
Divine dross
Expiry.

Annaelise Kennedy
Thomas Academy

“Humans are to Blame”

Deforestation, what an ugly word.
The Earth is dying, haven't you heard?
And we, the humans, are to blame.
All we care about is fame.

Anett Pineda
South Columbus High

“We Should Do Better”

Mother Nature is majestic,
So why isn't she protected?
They cut her down all around,
Destroy her wonderful, fertile ground.

She is home to many exotic creatures,
But humans make the less because of their features.
“They're just animals,” they say.

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But that doesn't give us the right to rip them away.

Humans are animals too. Would you like that done to you? Your home destroyed by foreign faces, Who think they can take your places.

Mother Nature gives us food, water and shelter, So don't you think we should protect her? Soon, she'll be gone forever, And we'll wish we had done better.

Anett Pineda
South Columbus High

“Black History Month”
Black History is a month where we remember What all of these powerful leaders have done From Harriet Tubman to Dr. King, From underground railroads, to “Let Freedom ring!”

From the “I Have a Dream” speech to getting arrested for staying in her seat, They never stopped Until us African Americans had equal rights and were free from slavery As the years continue, There are more accomplishments achieved, And I'm glad to say, Us African Americans are free!

Nihanuyah Thomas
West Columbus High

“Time to Dance”
Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Pointe Hip Hop and Lyrical to be exact.

It's hard to pick a favorite I love to dance and that's a fact.

Each one makes me feel something different It's like I come alive on the dance floor.

Every week it's lots of practice But I keep going back for more.

In pointe it's all about the arabesque In jazz it's split leaps and jazz hands.

In hip hop it's all about the beat In tap it's draw backs and toe stands.

Ballet makes me feel so relaxed Lyrical requires lots of swaying.

Dance is not for the lazy' It takes dedication – just saying!

Chloe Wikins
South Columbus High

Division V College Division

First Place

“Reuben Brown House”
White planks frame history

lumber from a saw mill on Pine Log Road Walls whipster, speak mystery of days

where Reuben, nine children and wife lived Beneath the North Carolinapine

To teach and share Feedingminds of children meeting the need of education profound

tilling creative ground planting character of those who became the harvest of legacy of present

Late on night a fright Someone rustling in the enhouse

Rousted he went to defend But an accient in the end It seems innocent his son

Took a gun And mistakenly took his daddy's life: We preserved his memory and a touch of time

We present the past from then to now To show how, a house is more than a home

It is a celebration gather in modernity as community a place to share

To care To give contribute live

and never forget **Buddy Kennedy**
Pepperdine University

Second Place

“Church Fans”

you'll find them tucked in the pockets of pews buried in cushions of the same crimson as the carpet

coating the sanctuary floor, behind the African Methodist Episcopal hymnal with the

spruce cover, so worn you can see the thread attempting escape, and the clean black leather of the

King James Bible, unused as regulars use their own. You're bound to see

one or two with the scene of an empty tomb and round boulder

propped against the outside, a cross with cartoon over glow lining it

with a few stray doves and white shawl, or a depiction of White Jesus himself,

but all the others come from funeral home. Different funeral homes each advertising

for new customers in the one place on earth where the people shouldn't care

about how their empty vessels are laid to rest. Elder of the church

don't acknowledge the ads anymore. They just wave their wood and paper

metronomes ticking away from Sunday to Sunday counting the days until

a new client arrives for business. **Sean Beatty**
UNC-Chapel Hill

Third Place

“Time”

Time is a spectrum, so complex so simple, Dictating the enormous and the small alike:

The kindling for supernovas, the motivation of mitosis,

The decider for all who won't decide. In that way time is the most important element that exists.

But it matters not at all, except for what happens within it. Time is a constant, progressing so dauntingly.

Yet years can pass as flashes of lightening, Precious seconds can pass as decades,

Which is which depends on the moment depends on deeds. In that way time is the most important element that exists.

But it matters not at all, except for what we make of it. Time is ironic, at least n physics class it is,

It's learned the faster you go, the slower time moves. Rushing through life we literally have more of it,

But many fail to notice the Autumn leaves fall. In that way time is the most important element that exists.

But it matters not at all, except for what you miss, Time is a bookend,

But not just marking, it controls our fates. The ending and beginning, irreversible like a match,

Once struck fire leaps, once darkened never again. In that way time is the most important element that exists,

But it matters not at all, except for the restraints it gives. Time is invisible, but like the wind can be felt.

Alas, close your eyes, dance with a beautiful girl hear the music sway you,

Melody abruptly tops, hold her close, smear the sweat off your hands.

You can feel moments. Yes, you can feel time.

In that way time is the most important element that exists, But it matters not at all, except for when we sense it.

But there is more, outside of time. It there wasn't what's the point? We're more than slaves.

Time is the engine propelling the world forward, But time is no world, it is not soul-quenching raison d'être.

In that way time is the most important element that exists. But it matters not at all, except for the chance it gives.

James S. Rush
N.C. State University

Fourth Place

“I'm not a love poet”
I'm not a love poet, But if there was a way for me to write every feeling

I have towards you. I would have 10 sonnets... Nothing but 140 lines of how much my heart yearned

for yours. I'm not a love poet, But I would write a series of narrative poems

telling how absolutely painful it is to wake up everyday and not see your smile shine as if the sun wasn't bright enough.

I'm not a love poet But I would tell of great epic battles I internally have with myself of

“Should I approach you?” “Should I not?” “Should I continue falling in love with you?”

Or allow myself to get caught... I'm not a love poet Shakespeare did it right

You're the only reason Why I'm up writing late at night I'm conflicted with all the unsaid words

that has been trapped in my heart for so long I want to write pages and pages of feelings I couldn't admit

I want my words to play in your mind as if it was lyrical song Even though I'm not a love poet.

Breanna N. Williams
Southeastern Community College

Fifth Place

“How to be a Poet”
Many people think, Do I have to rhyme to be a poet?

Or at the very least, Think of a word close ot it? What about flow?

Do I have rhyth. mic. meter? Can I make a voice cadence;

Can I make it pitt. er. patt. er? Alliteration for emphasis? What a wild way of writing!

It works wonders wordlessly, But where's the worthwhile? Or assonance its cousin?

Always accenting along Amid accounts of amusement Attempting to amass a song.

Perhaps I should include gargantuan words? Adding a clever sesquipedalian is always a kicker!

But then follows forged understanding. And the reader gets sick. er. Maybe old English will grab attention?

Verily, woe be ye from rules to stray. Yet. Lovest not, doest most

The Shakespeararian way. So what can be done?

Can words work any better? Or are rules like this, Merely a fetter?

Rules, rules, rules, indeed! Intended as guidelines most of them be.

Descriptive at most, their boundaries like. When prescriptive, often creativity dies.

A stanza, a couplet, two couplets I dare? I for one will be outside the box,

And put this tercet here to avoid being square. But the true power of poems

Comes from within, Not rules or rule breaking. But imaginative limbs.

The qualms of the heart And the angst of the soul. The simple beauty of emotion.

Dreams that make one whole But the most important part, Is you and your touch.

Your qualms, your angst, your dreams – YOUR descriptions of such. So are you one who things

You have to rhyme to be a poet? To use alliteration, assonance and fancy works to be a poet?

No surely you know that simply isn't true. Breaking patters is okay, give inspiration its due!

Pick up your pen. Cast out the shroud of chagrin that follows about. Draw your sword.

Beginning to write will remove your doubt. Linguistic structure may be useful bones,

But do not let them cage what they're meant to protect. For you heart needs to be heard.

Ink and souls interconnected! Do don't fear starting to write, For want of training. Don't sell yourself short!

It's not even worth feigning. Share yourself with the world. I know you can do it.

Go ahead and wright a poem. Or a word close to it!

James S. Rush
N.C. State University

Honorable Mention

“Not”

The men, women and children packaged like cargo across the Atlantic,

used like plows and tractors and replaced as soon as they're worn out, bred for their bodies and beauty

worked like mutts and shown off like purebreds – they were not slaves. When every one of them was brought

into this crooked world, whether in a dingy out-house surrounded by their overjoyed, terrified family

or in the hollow elegance of the master's house that they would eventually care for,

or in some kind stranger's home as they fled their servitude, not a single one said to the parents,

“congratulations” it's a slave.” **Sean Beatty**
UNC-Chapel Hill

“Specter”

I. My grandma's skin looks white, her hair, now white with age,

looks straight, but cut too short to tell.

Both keep the white lie in her nursing home but that nose, round just like her children's

hints at the secret that she'd tell anybody. II. I ask her what it's like, being a ghost here.

She says she hates it, and I believe her. Her skin may be pale, but her soul is blacker than mine.

The moment she says I'm black, tongues tighten around her, eyes shift,

scanning for someone they never saw enter the room. Crooked spines shiver from what they think she might have thought they said.

III. Honestly, I think she loves introducing herself to spook the old white folks she lives with.

Walls rise up, but my grandma walks through walls, but she was never the one that they keep lock in.

Sean Beatty
UNC-Chapel Hill

“From the Big City to the Rural South”
Life was great in my hometown

If was full of smiles and few frowns Surrounded by shopping malls, neighborhoods and mini vans

But it was time for college and I needed a plan I decided to attend Southeastern Community College

To play on the baseball team and gain knowledge Holly Springs was my home for 17 years

And I moved to a place where they rode tractors and shot deer It was hard to get used to the blistering heat and the southern jaw

Whiteville certainly has been a climb but I will soon be over this wall

Although I didn't always enjoy my time in Whiteville, N.C. For college I couldn't imagine another place for me

Of course I miss the area of Holly Springs But it was time to spread my wings. **Brian Chesanek**
Southeastern Community College

“Hug”
A child is born Not knowing of this world, It seems so new

And feels so cold. A mother's hug to keep her warm. She goes to school To learn and learn, A social outcast

Whose heart years to burn. A frien'ds hug to keep her warm. Comes home to parents fussing

Family photo shattered, Goes to live with grandparents Feels like she doesn't matter.

A grandma's hug to keep her warm. Later she learns the truth

What was really going on, She found out that her father Was the one being cheated on

A father's hug to keep her warm. She struggles everyday Can't find the words to say, Grandpa knows a thing or two

To help her get through. A grandpas' hug to keep

her warm. She falls for a handsome boy

Some time passes as they date, Soon there will be wedding bells

And she can hardly wait. A husband's hug to keep her warm. And now she's in the hospital

Going through pain and joy, As she gives one last push

She gains a baby boy. A mother's hug to keep him warm. **Matthew Edwards**
Southeastern Community College

“TOPHET”
Through darkness life was made, An order from chaos laid.

Life to death' A truth beset Upon those who betrayed. Evil turned to truth, All became construed., Life to death

Foretold regret Animus evils portrayed. A path of unknown will The choice of whether to kill.

Hate or love What lies above Freedoms freely relayed. Blankets of sorrow Will there be a tomorrow? Hate or love

Who know whereof Lies the truth that will aide. **Will Sellers**
Southeastern Community College

“One Day”
One day all of the lifelong friendships, seeing of familiar faces will be distant memories one day

I will get in my car and leave this small rural town catching that last glimpse in my review mirror

after I swore I would never look back pay attention to the parting, go in silence

One day a short drive across town will become a journey to the other side of the city the once familiar scenery is nor primal

going somewhere will become a chore and Will be like a scavenger hunt

One day seeing my parents several times a day will turn into seeing them once a month

a call from home, a letter will be the routine correspondence

One day the familiar scenery, backroad rides, will be no more, One day

I will reminisce the simplicity of my life and hot it used to be

One day I will realize I spent so much time thinking about the future

instead of living in the moment right then, right now

Jordan Thompson
Southeastern Community College

“Serotonin”
I want to crawl into bed with you.

Our life a simile Together never alone we grew

Our life a comedy The warmth of your hand flows to my heart

Like lighting striking Ben Franklin Because of young minds we'll depart

But in this moment, you're my serotonin **Arizona Tompkins**
Southeastern Community College

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