



FORUM

VIR GEMEENSKAPJSOERNALISTE / OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS

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PRESS RELEASE: ANNUAL LOCAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The best of the best in the South African community newspaper industry came together at Leriba Hotel and Spa in Centurion on Friday 19 July 2019 for the annual Forum of Community Journalists' Excellence Awards. Journalists and newspapers were honoured for work published in 2018.

Michelle Pienaar of George Herald was awarded the very prestigious title of Journalist of the Year and Salome Kotze of Klerksdorp Rekord was chosen as the Photographer of the Year.

The awards have been presented under the auspices of the Forum of Community Journalists (FCJ) for over two decades now and are widely considered as the "Oscars" of the local and community media industry.

At the FCJ Excellence Awards local and community newspapers and journalists from all over the country and across all media houses compete against each other to award the best of the best in South Africa.

THE WINNERS:

Photography

Photographer of the Year

1. Salome Kotze, Klerksdorp Record – **Winner** –
2. Elsje Vermeulen, Vaalweekblad– **Second** –
3. Carina Roux, TygerBurger - **Third** –

General

1. Ronald Sibiya, Pretoria Record – **Winner**
2. Taylor Meyer, The Village News – **Second**
3. Michelle Pienaar, George Herald – **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Zita Goldswain, Witbank News
Nielen de Klerk, Tyberburger

Kristy Kolberg, George Herald
 Samantha Lee, People's Post
 JP Myburg, Klerksdorp Midweek -
 Elsje Vermeulen, Vaalweekblad -

News – Finalists

1. San-Marie Cronje, South Cape Forum - **Winner**
2. Bianca du Plessis, Hermanus Times - **Second**
3. JP Myburg, Klerksdorp Record - **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Zita Goldswain, Witbank News -
 Kristy Kolberg, George Herald -
 Selogile Leshage, Potchefstroom Herald
 Michelle Pienaar, George Herald
 Bianca du Plessis, Hermanus Times
 Carina Roux, TygerBurger -
 Ronald Sibiyi, Pretoria Rekord

Sport

1. Elsje Vermeulen – Vaalweekblad – **Winner Sport - Voltreffer**
2. Ettiene van Rensburg, Vaalweekblad – **Second Sport– Beast mode on**
3. Hugo Redelinghuys, George Herald – **Third Sport – Matrix move**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Samantha Lee, People's Post –
 Blake Linder, Roodepoort Northsider –
 Wouter Pienaar, Potchefstroom Herald –
 Carina Roux, TygerBurger –
 Stehan Schoeman, TygerBurger
 Ronald Sibiyi, Pretoria Rekord –
 Samantha Trail, Witbank News –

Writing

Journalist of the Year

1. Michelle Pienaar, George Herald – **Winner –**
2. Daleen Naude, Middelburg Observer – **Second**
3. Teresa Dias, Laevelder – **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Hazel Allies-Husselman – Athlone Bulletin News
 Zita Goldswain – Witbank News
 Marinette Hay – Vrystaat Nuus
 Ronel van Jaarsveld – Die Pos
 Arisa Janse van Rensburg - Laevelder
 Kristy Kolberg – George Herald
 Samantha Lee – People's Post
 Selogile Leshage – Potchefstroom Herald
 Liam Ngobeni – Pretoria-Moot Rekord
 Desiree Rorke – TygerBurger
 Tamlynne Thompson – Cape Towner
 Andries Van Zyl – Zoutpansberger

Digital reporting

1. Sibonele Mtshali, Southern Courier – **Winner**
2. Kristy Kolberg, George Herald – **Second**

Headlines

1. Bertus de Bruyn, Letaba Herald - **Winner** –
2. Dalene Naude, Middelburg Observer – **Second** –
3. Danie Jacobs, Klerksdorp Record – **Third** –

Other finalists in no particular order:

Zita Goldswain – Witbank News
Kristy Kolberg – George Herald
Pieter Delport, Bloemfontein Courant
Samantha Lee – People's Post
Wouter Pienaar - Potchefstroom Herald -
Murray Stewart – The Village News
Mariëtte Strydom – Boland Media
Hannes Visser – Oudtshoorn Courant

Editorial Comment

1. Hennie Stander, Potchefstroom Herald – **Winner** –
2. Lerato Serero, Sedibeng Ster – **Second** –
3. Tobie van den Bergh, Middelburg Observer – **Third** –

Other finalists in no particular order:

Tasmin Cupido – District Mail
Daleen Fouche – Hermanus Times
Marlene Jordaan – Worcester Standard
Joline van der Merwe – Weslander
Gerhard Rheeder – Middelburg Observer
De Waal Steyn – The Village News
Keina Swart – Die Pos

Columns –

1. Nielen de Klerk, Tyberburger – **Winner**
2. Murray Stewart, The Village News – **Second**
3. Johnny Masilela, Die Pos – **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Lise Beyers – Paarl Post
Hedda Mittner – The Village News
Daleen Naude – Middelburg Observer
Lana O'Neil – Benoni City Times
Keina Swart – Die Pos
Hannes Visser – Oudtshoorn Courant

Sport

1. Wouter Pienaar, Potchefstroom Herald, **Winner**
2. Hugo Redelinghuys, George Herald, - **Second**
3. Tasmin Cupido – **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Samantha Lee – People's Post

Tandy-Lee Marinus – Paarl Post
 Frank Mavhungo – Limpopo Mirror
 Daleen Naude – Middelburg Observer
 Murphy Roberts – Weskus Nuus
 Nasifa Sulaiman- Worcester Standard

Human Interest

1. Elaine Davie, The Village News – **Winner**
2. Nielen de Klerk, TygerBurger, and Daleen Naude, Middelburg Observer – **Joint Second**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Monique Basson – Kouga Express
 Trish Goosen – Weslander
 Summer Jacobs – Tabletalk
 Kgotsotalang Mashilo – Germiston City News
 Lientjie Mentz – Bloemnuus
 JP Myburg – Klerksdorp Record
 Andries van Zyl – Zoutpansberger / Limpopo Mirror

Investigative Reporting – Finalists

1. Anton van Zyl, Zoutpansberger, - **Winner**
2. Andries van Zyt, Zoutpansberger, - **Second**

Hard News

1. Desiree Rorke, Tyberburger – **Winner**
2. Elmon Tshikhudo, Limpopo Mirror – **Second**
3. Liam Ngobeni, Rekord – **Third**

Other finalists in no particular order:

Trish Goosen - Weslander
 Kristy Kolberg – George Herald
 Samantha Lee – People’s Post
 Selogile Leshage – Potchefstroom Herald
 Daleen Naude – Middelburg Observer
 Gerhard Rheeder – Middelburg Observer
 Andries van Zyl – Zoutpansberger / Limpopo Mirror

Alet Roux Award (Best new journalist with less than three years’ experience)

Kristy Kolberg, George Herald – **Winner**

Newspapers

Best Front pages

Independent commercial newspapers

1. Far North Bulletin – **Winner -**
2. Kokstad Advertiser – **Second**
3. The Village News – **Third**

Corporate-owned free newspapers –

1. Idinga – **Winner -**
2. Sedibeng Ster – **Second**
3. The Beat- **Third**

Corporate-owned paid newspapers - Finalists

1. George Herald – **Winner** -
2. Potchefstroom Herald – **Second**
3. South Cape Forum – **Third**

Newspaper of the year

Independent commercial newspapers

1. Far North Bulletin – **Winner**
2. The Village News – **Second**
3. Zoutpansberger – **Third**

Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination less than 24)

1. Northcliff and Mellville Times – **Winner**
2. Roodepoort Northsider – **Second**
3. Krugersdorp News –

Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination more than 24)

1. Benoni City Times – **Winner**
2. Bedford View and Edenvale News - **Second**
3. Randburg Sun – **Third**

Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation more than 5 000

1. Lowvelder – **Winner**
2. Die Pos – **Second**
3. Hermanus Times – **Third**

Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation less than 5 000

1. Letaba Herald – **Winner**
2. Eikestad Nuus – **Second**

The FCJ congratulates all the winners on a job well done and looks forward to next year's competition and entries.

-End

Press release prepared by Ben Burger, Deputy Executive Director
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About the FCJ:

The FCJ (Forum of Community Journalists) is an independent, non-racial, voluntary non-profit company striving to promote and express the interests of all journalists employed on a permanent or freelance basis at regional community newspapers, magazines and online community publications in South Africa.