



Carmage Walls
Commentary Prize

2018 Entry Form

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What is the subject/title of the entry? County government

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Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation or above 50,000 circulation? Under 50,000

Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.) **2017 was a contentious year for Angelina County's government leaders. Disagreements between the county judge, county commissioners and sheriff often spilled over into embarrassing public displays more suitable for a three-ring circus. Unsurprisingly, the root of the problem could be traced to money. The county judge and commissioners wanted to hold the line on the budget and not raise taxes. The sheriff wanted more money to hire more deputies. County residents also wanted more deputies, in addition to fixing roads, but not if it meant a tax increase. The resulting brouhaha was a distraction that potentially threatened public safety: a rapper was allowed unfettered access to the county jail for a video shoot, and a slaying went unreported by authorities for days.**

