

2024 ALL-OHIO EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

Presented by the Press Club of Cleveland

July 7, 2024

WRITING

Analysis

1st place

How Cleveland City Council directs millions in casino money

Doug Breehi-Pitorak, April Urban, Nick Castele and Cleveland Documenters

Signal Cleveland

2nd place

Using our very human brains to rethink AI

Richard Perloff and Anup Kumar

The Plain Dealer

3rd place

EU 'blacklists' Russia as supply lines settle

Andrew Schunk

Rubber News

Architecture & Design

1st place

Fantastic botanical beasts and how to build them

Jaclyn Youhana Garver

Cincinnati Magazine

2nd place

Shipping container homes offer options and challenges

Jill Sell

Akron Beacon Journal

3rd place:

From offices to apartments

Bonnie Meibers

Columbus Business First

Arts & Entertainment

1st place

Why Sudsy Malone's mattered, and still does

Cedric Rose

Cincinnati Magazine

Judges' comments: Wash, dry, repeat. This story rocks! Clever writing with plenty of historical context. This makes me sad that I never visited the place, and I don't even live in Ohio.

2nd place

Bob Mould staves off Father Time as he brings solo electric tour to Cleveland

Marc Bona

Cleveland.com

Judges comment: Solid writing. Makes me want to see him play.

3rd place

Read my hips

Laurie Pike

Cincinnati Magazine

Breaking News

1st place:

Damar Hamlin's collapse at Paycor Stadium

Enquirer staff

The Cincinnati Enquirer

2nd place

'It just made matters worse.' Critics question police use of tear gas at Akron protest

Derek Kreider

Akron Beacon Journal

3rd place

Dogs found dead

Diane Smith

Record Courier

Business & Financial

1st place

Euclid Beach Mobile Home park debate: affordable housing vs. major redevelopment project

Olivera Perkins

Signal Cleveland

2nd place

Game, set, match?

Steve Watkins

Cincinnati Business Courier

3rd place

Building a bank

Tatyana Tandanpolie

Columbus CEO Magazine

Column or Blog: General News

1st place

Leave drag story hours alone

Rini Jeffers

The Chronicle-Telegram

2nd place

Owe fees, no diploma? CPS grads shouldn't have to rely on philanthropy

Kevin Aldridge

The Cincinnati Enquirer

3rd place

Short Takes community column

Julie A. Short

Cleveland.com / Sun News

Column or Blog: Sports

1st place

Injury to Bills' Damar Hamlin forces fans to deal with uncomfortable feelings

Rob Oller

The Columbus Dispatch

Judge's comment: Rob Oller artfully unspooled his tangle of emotions following the critical game-time injury of an NFL athlete. And he ended with a powerful kicker.

2nd place

Loss and love on Father's Day

Rini Jeffers

The Chronicle-Telegram

3rd place

Jim Ingraham column

Jim Ingraham

The Chronicle-Telegram

Column or Blog: Business

1st place

Side Hustle
Olivera Perkins and Jeff Haynes
Signal Cleveland

2nd place

Grandma got ripped off buying concert tickets from a reseller: Learn from her mistake
Betty Lin-Fisher
Akron Beacon-Journal

3rd place

Tips From the Top
Michael Feuer
Smart Business

Column or Blog: Lifestyle/Feature

1st place

Time in a bottle/box
Jay Gilbert
Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comment: Such nimble writing in the service of writing a brief history of local time capsules. The light touch makes this piece highly enjoyable even when the upshot is that folks don't always follow through on their capsule-burying duties. (Props for subtly handling the inevitable nod to the Looney Tunes frog.)

2nd place

Sounds of a bygone era
David Manley
Tire Business

3rd place

From buckeyes to huckleberries: What it's like traveling cross-country on Amtrak solo
Tawney Beans
Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comment: This writer really found a way to encapsulate a long train (and bus) trip in a piece that's just long enough without belaboring every step of the way. The details offer a wonderful chance to anticipate just what such a trip might entail for those of us who've never done it.

Crime & Justice

1st place

Aliza: Her story at 10 years
Kevin S. Adelstein, Jennifer Sherman, Michael C. Butz, Sara Shookman, DeAnna MacKeigan, Amanda Koehn and Cheryl Sadler
Cleveland Jewish News

Judge's comments: Brilliant use of telling a story without sacrificing the humanity of its

subject.

2nd place

The long shadow of vice

Andy Downing and Joel Oliphint

Columbus Monthly and Matter News

Judge's comments: Beautifully written account of a lawless vice squad. Fascinating from start to finish.

3rd place

No license to drive: Why so many Ohioans are barred from driving

Mark Puente and Tara Morgan

The Marshall Project-Cleveland

Data Journalism

1st place

No license to drive: Why so many Ohioans are barred from driving

Mark Puente and Tara Morgan

The Marshall Project-Cleveland

Judge's comments: The impact of this expert reporting is clear: It prompted a rethink among lawmakers that could improve the lives of thousands of Ohio drivers. The authors combined data, human stories and on-the-ground reporting for the best kind of accountability journalism – a story that reveals a societal problem or injustice and prompts real change.

2nd place

How safe are Akron's schools? Police reports paint disturbing, violent picture

Doug Livingston

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: This story was a service to parents and the Akron community writ large, revealing startling details of violence in schools and incidents that are and are not being reported.

3rd place

Lifespans in parts of Greater Cincinnati are as short as in Afghanistan

Dan Horn and Terry DeMio

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Judge's comments: This entry helpfully combined lifespan and economic data, enriching the reader's understanding of the far-reaching impacts of poverty.

Editorial

1st place

Put the octopus to bed: The case for more mobility solutions

Erin Pustay Beaven

Rubber News

Judge's comments: Excellent! Very balanced. Here's hoping the octopus will one day - and not too soon – be able to rest.

2nd place

Can ADAS solve distracted driving?

David Manley

Tire Business

3rd place

8 reasons for why Issue 1 is wrong for all Ohioans, even conservatives

Mike Shearer

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: Very logical progression in supporting opinion.

Education

1st place

Staffing shortage has child care centers turning away families

Olivera Perkins

Signal Cleveland

2nd place

'Failure is not an option!': Akron school improving after ranking among Ohio's worst

Jennifer Pignolet

Akron Beacon Journal

3rd place

A small Cincinnati college attracted nontraditional students. Now it may collapse

Madeline Mitchell

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Environment

1st place

Down to Earth

Lauren Fisher and Carrie Blackmore Smith

Cincinnati Magazine

2nd place

Soil is our salvation

Randy Edwards

Columbus Monthly

3rd place

Is Cleveland the climate safe haven we think it is?

Dillon Stewart, Annie Nickoloff and Ron Ledgard

Cleveland Magazine

Essay

1st place

Kids should not face the nearly unsurmountable barriers thrown in my dad's path

Jill Sell

The Columbus Dispatch

Judge's comments: A charged topic taken on with compassion and in a personal way.

Very well-done

2nd place

Enduring painful speech to get to understanding

Richard Perloff and Anup Kumar

The Plain Dealer

3rd place

'It Ain't Over' documentary covers the wonderful life of Yogi Berra

Marc Bona

Cleveland.com

Judge's comments: Rich with quotes, background information, and personal stories.

Food/Restaurant

1st place

A chef with intention

Erin Edwards

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: This profile goes down smooth. You get a rounded picture of hard-working chef Andrew Smith and as you near the end, wish you could get a supper club invite and just a taste of that unconventional fig within a fig dessert.

2nd place

Oriental Wok is not 'just another Chinese restaurant.' It's one family's dream come true

Keith Pandolfi

The Cincinnati Enquirer

3rd place

Fowl language

Aiesha Little and Amanda Boyd Walters

Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comments: Bold design paired with snappy, informative writing.

Government & Politics

1st place

East Cleveland police chief faces suspension after antisemitic messages

Lydia Kacala

Cleveland Jewish News

2nd place

The Euclid Model: Shoring up lakefront access

Laura DeMarco

Greater Cleveland Partnership

3rd place

The statesman and the demagogue

Richard Perloff

The Plain Dealer

Headline

1st place

Dear Struggling in Ohio: 'You're not alone.' Love, the sewer district

Annie Wu

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: This clever headline is both funny and on-point. It does the best thing a headline can do - captures the essence of the story.

2nd place

'The Golden Bachelor' could be a golden opportunity

Lois Bowers

McKnight's Senior Living

3rd place

Browns lose? Hail, no

Kevin Aprile

The Chronicle-Telegram

Health & Medical

1st place

Healing hallucinogens

Randy Edwards

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: This story was accessible, cleanly written and thorough in its explanation of the medical, legal and societal contours of psychedelics. A beautiful layout, complete with varied and colorful images and a glossary further strengthened an already stand-out piece.

2nd place

Their journey is going forward

Mary McCarty

Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comments: This story did a good job of capturing the medicine, politics and humanity of gender-affirming treatment.

3rd place

Anatomy of a measles outbreak

Joel Oliphint

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: This story was a helpful tick-tock of an outbreak that helped readers explore the implications of family decisions regarding vaccinations.

History

1st place

What lies underneath

Dave Ghose

Columbus Monthly

2nd place

GE Lighting retirees rescue century of history at Nela Park

Michelle Jarboe

Crain's Cleveland Business

3rd place

Thriving on the fringe of society

Carrie Blackmore Smith

Cincinnati Magazine

Humor

1st place

We have Alberta fires to blame as COVID memories are rekindled

Cliff Anthony

The Plain Dealer

In-Depth Report or Series

1st place

Under fire

Staff

The Columbus Dispatch

Judge's comments: Outstanding approach to covering an ongoing crisis: gun violence.

This series looks at the problem from multiple angles. The investment in this series by the reporters and the rest of the team shows in the comprehensive approach.

2nd place

Displaced: A family forced out of Cleveland rental home by lead hazards finds little support

Candice Wilder

Signal Cleveland

3rd place

The nightmare

Annie Nickoloff

Cleveland Magazine

Judge's comments: This entry tells the story of a community disaster and the failure to address its threatening aftermath following the timeline of events, which is strikingly effective. The attention to detail is exceptional.

Investigative Journalism

1st place

Preying on patients

Staff

Cincinnati Enquirer, The Columbus Dispatch, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository

Judge's comments: Detailed laying out of Ohio's do-nothing Medical Board with sometime painful details of how victims were abused and doctors went unpunished.

2nd place

The long shadow of vice

Andy Downing and Joel Oliphint

Columbus Monthly and Matter News

3rd place

Chaos in Ohio's youth lockups

Staff

Cincinnati Enquirer, The Columbus Dispatch, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository

Judge's comments: Great to see a piece look at an ongoing problem, one officials can't blame on predecessors.

Lifestyle Feature

1st place

Voyage of a lifetime: Married 56 years, Portage Lakes couple owns boat from first date

Mark J. Price

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: Great storytelling with the right flow.

2nd place

I waited 10 hours in line for Taylor Swift merch so you don't have to

Jolene Almendarez

The Cincinnati Enquirer

3rd place

A veteran's path to homeownership

Hannah Poturalski

Dayton Business Journal

Judge's comments: Compelling storytelling, crisp, clear copy.

Neighborhood/Community News

1st place

Over-the-Rhine turns a corner

John Fox and Carrie Blackmore Smith

Cincinnati Magazine

2nd place

Small Nation brings big change to Bellefontaine

Carrie Ghose

Columbus Business First

3rd place

Service with a smile: Four generations have kept Gallucci's Italian Foods going strong

Jo Donofrio

FreshWater Cleveland

Judge's comments: Good story and photo of both old and new.

Newsletter

1st place

To-Do List

Jean-Marie Papoi, Carrie Wise and Lauren Green

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

Cleveland Magazine Daily

Staff

Cleveland Magazine

3rd place

Boker Tov Cleveland

CJN Staff

Cleveland Jewish News

Obituary

1st place

Jim Brown, Cleveland Browns legend and NFL Hall of Famer, dead at age 87

Nate Ulrich

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: This entry is beautifully written and organized into a narrative placing the life of Brown into the proper context within his community. It isn't overly sentimental, acknowledging the difficult truths as well as his accomplishments, making it a thoughtful social commentary as much as an obituary.

2nd place

'One of a kind': Tom Sawyer remembered for 40 years of political service

Stephanie Warsmith

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: The tone of this obituary radiates the personality of Mr. Sawyer, even for a reader who didn't know him. It chronicles his life's accomplishments with his humanity and humor front and center, full of character details. The photos and graphics are outstanding.

3rd place

Vi Spevack recalled for 50 years of 'Cavalcade' coverage in CJN

Courtney Byrnes

Cleveland Jewish News

Judge's comments: A remarkable life shared with loving detail and pride, well written and well expressed. Vi's role within her community received the acknowledge she deserved.

Profile

1st place

'You can do anything': Doctors said she wouldn't live a day. Now this UA grad is a lawyer

Stephanie Warsmith

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: Just beautiful. If this story doesn't make you cry, there's probably something wrong with you.

2nd place

Jack Hanna's long goodbye

Mike Wagner

The Columbus Dispatch

3rd place

Allison Russo is a rising political star, but where do Democrats go as Ohio gets redder?

Anna Staver

USA Today Network Ohio

Judge's comment: A fascinating political portrait.

Race & Diversity Reporting

1st place

'Teach our history': What Akron students are learning in new AP African American Studies

Jennifer Pignolet

Akron Beacon Journal

2nd place

'Who I always was'

Danae King

The Columbus Dispatch

3rd place

Rediscovering Northeast Ohio's connection between the Green Book and green space

Zaria Johnson

Ideastream Public Media

Real Estate**1st place**

Michelle Jarboe, Crain's Cleveland Business

Michelle Jarboe

Crain's Cleveland Business

2nd place

'We're buying homes in your area!': Do you get texts from strangers asking to buy your house?

Frank W. Lewis

Signal Cleveland

3rd place

Subleasing picks up steam

Bonnie Meibers

Columbus Business First

Review/Criticism**1st place**

Southern comfort

Brandon Wuske

Cincinnati Magazine

Science & Technology**1st place**

Battelle spins off pair of big ideas

Carrie Ghose

Columbus Business First

Judge's comments: I thought this piece was superbly reported and precisely written.

Accordingly, it cleverly evaded the temptation to slide into the zone of too much technicality. Well done

2nd place

'A paradigm shifter': The science behind Potenza

Erin Pustay Beaven

Rubber News

3rd place

She's out of this world

Becky Raspe

Cleveland Jewish News

Judge's comments: This was a different take on science and technology, putting, literally, a human face on the story. Therefore, it distinguished itself in this way from the others.

Solutions Journalism

1st place

The 'no car, no job' dilemma is solvable

Frank W. Lewis

Signal Cleveland

Judge's comments: An excellent overview of the efforts to help connect those without transportation to means to get to and from work and job training. Includes data to back up what stakeholders are saying and details how these efforts could be replicated, which is a key feature of solutions journalism.

2nd place

City, police, nonprofits unite to interrupt gun violence

Carissa Woytach

The Chronicle-Telegram

Sports Feature

1st place

How Bengals star DJ Reader lost his dad but found himself

Kelsey Conway

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Judge's comments: Poignant story of resilience marked by top-notch storytelling. It's an insightful and emotional piece that's more than worthy of being celebrated as the category winner. Simply put, a credit to the craft.

2nd place

And this one belongs to the Bengals

Chad Dotson

Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comments: Really intriguing approach to examining city's two main pro clubs through the highlights and foibles of their respective leadership teams. A fun and educational read.

3rd place

Comfortable at the course

Scott Petrak

The Chronicle-Telegram

Judge's comments: Interesting combo of everyday and celeb stories. Took what could've been a potentially run-of-the-mill subject and crafted it into an enjoyable feature.

Sports News

1st place

How Cincinnati Red Elly De La Cruz pulled off another impossible feat

Gordon Wittenmyer

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Judge's comments: A masterful job of weaving one standout historical moment into a broader look at one of the most exciting young players in baseball. Beat writing at its finest. Here's to the luxurious combination of day games, later deadlines and immersive writing.

2nd place

Browns icon Joe Thomas is first-ballot Hall of Famer. How shot put, swimming aided journey

Nate Ulrich

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: An interesting and in-depth look at how the little details combine to make a Hall of Fame player what he is.

Trade Report

1st place

3PMS: What does it really mean?

Kathy McCarron

Tire Business

Judge's comments: A detailed, thoroughly reported package of stories on how some tires might not perform as well in winter driving as claimed.

2nd place

Vehicle safety inspections

Kathy McCarron

Tire Business

3rd place

PFAS: The 'forever chemicals' dilemma

Bruce Meyer

Rubber News

Judge's comments: Interesting package of stories about the impact of regulating PFAS chemicals on the rubber industry.

Travel & Transportation

1st place

Driving change

Cedric Rose

Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comments: This is a detailed, well-reported look at an often overlooked topic: a city's bus service and how its improvements can help the entire community--including people who don't ride the bus.

2nd place

How Cincinnati won British Airways

Chris Wetterich

Cincinnati Business Courier

Judge's comments: A well-written story packed with lots of interesting details (and helpful graphics) on how the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport landed a big win: nonstop service to London.

3rd place

The Ohio you don't know

Staff

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: A nicely packaged travel story that introduces readers to some off-beat and lesser-known Ohio destinations.

VIDEO

Arts & Entertainment

1st place

In this small Ohio town, troll dolls outnumber people

Jean-Marie Papoi and Carrie Wise

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: Highly professional. Excellent flow, edits and transitions. Very well done.

2nd place

'Walk of Fame' planned to honor Cincinnati's history of Black music

Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson

WXIX

Business/Financial

1st place

Greater Cleveland business: 2023 year in review

Michael Collier

Greater Cleveland Partnership

Continuing Coverage

1st place

The 19 Troubleshooters get results: the road to fix a dangerous exit ramp

Sia Nyorkor and Michelle Nicks

WOIO-TV

2nd place

Ohio's long, twisted road to a vote on abortion

Karen Kasler, Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik

Ohio Public Television

Crime & Justice

1st place

Shining a light on dark money: Explaining the FirstEnergy bribery scandal

Stephanie Haney

WKYC

Judge's comments: Loved the open. Solid explanation of a really complicated story. This kind of reporting is incredibly valuable to the audience.

2nd place

Putting names to faces: new technology for Jane and John Does

Jessica Schmidt and Payton Del Bradley

WXIX

3rd place

Hostage to A.I.

Duane Pohlman and Holden Robinson

WKRC-TV

Documentary

1st place

Missing: Ten years later

Amanda Berry, Carrie Gibilisco and Chris Reece

WJW Fox 8

Judge's comments: Highly professional. Excellent flow, edits and transitions. Very well done. Superior production.

2nd place

The 88th Annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

Gabriel Kramer and Natalia Garcia

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: Highly professional. Excellent flow, edits and transitions. Very well done. Seems like an NPR piece.

Education

1st place

Bus driver goes extra mile for student with special needs

Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson

WXIX

Judge's comments: Closeups and soundbites help us to feel like we know Joe, Nina and Aiden. Nice job making us care about them!

Environment

1st place

Oppenheimer's Downwinders

Duane Pohlman and Holden Robinson

WKRC-TV

Judge's comments: Wonderful reporting and storytelling. The piece is well sourced and well paced. Videography and editing deserve credit for excellence too!

General News

1st place

'They were loving boys:' Community members mourn the loss of three brothers

Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson

WXIX

Judge's comments: Well done. You brought together empathy, the spirit of the memory of the victims and light on the perpetrator, all in one story. Nice editing and transitions.

2nd place

Wrong-way survivor

Tara Morgan

WEWS-TV 5

Government & Politics

1st place

Inside the insurrection: One-on-one with Sarah Matthews

Stephanie Haney

WKYC

Judge's comments: Highly professional. Excellent flow, edits and transitions.

2nd place

Beyond left & right on abortion

Brian Calfano

Spectrum News 1 Ohio

Health & Medical

1st place

Dragon boat survivors

Natalie Herbick and David Bradford

WJW Fox 8

Judge's comments: Very well done. Highly professional. Excellent flow, edits and transitions.

History

1st place

A historic Cleveland bridge remains suspended in time

Jean-Marie Papoi and Kabir Bhatia

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

Lucasville legacy: 30 years after deadly prison riot

Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik

Ohio Public Television

Human Interest

1st place

Cincinnati's Hospital among first in U.S. to add Angel Suites for grieving parents

Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson

WXIX

Judge's comments: Well done. You brought the spirit of the victim's memory in the story.

2nd place

Sojourner Truth's legacy in Akron to be enshrined with statue

Carrie Wise

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: The use of historical elements helps to strengthen how this story was told.

3rd place

Side Hustle: The line dance king

Jeff Haynes and Olivera Perkins

Signal Cleveland

Humor

1st place

Hamilton celebrates 'WKRP in Cincinnati' with its own turkey drop

Payton Marshall and Austin Briski

WXIX

Judge's comments: Nostalgic! Funny!

In-Depth Report or Series

1st place

Catching contraband on America's hidden border

Duane Pohlman, News Staff

WKRC-TV

2nd place

No license to drive

Mark Puente and Tara Morgan

WEWS-TV

Investigative Journalism

1st place

Something in that wash ain't clean

Scott Noll and Rob Klein

WEWS-TV 5

2nd place

Speed traps

Peggy Gallek and Ed Gallek

WJW Fox 8

Lifestyle Feature

1st place

An annual WWII reenactment on the beaches of Lake Erie

Ygal Kaufman

Ideastream Public Media

Live On-The-Scene Report

1st place

Factory explosion

Bryan Gruden

WJW Fox 8

News Feature

1st place

How Dolly Parton and Legal Aid helped a Westlake father prove custody to beat the IRS

Stephanie Haney

WKYC

2nd place

Lucasville Legacy: 30 Years After Deadly Prison Riot

Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik

Ohio Public Television

Profile

1st place

Cincinnati parents of children with rare genetic disease bond over dire diagnosis
Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson
WXIX

2nd place

Cleveland Institute of Art student Derek Walker discovers his voice as a painter
Dave DeOreo and Ygal Kaufman
Ideastream Public Media

Race & Diversity Reporting

1st place

Stories on Skates to honor Cincinnati's history of Black music
Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson
WXIX

Science & Technology

1st place

New technology provides evidence in abuse and assault cases
Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson
WXIX

Sports Feature

2nd place

Ward 5 United | A film from Signal Cleveland
Mark Naymik and Ty Choate
Signal Cleveland

1st place

50 years and counting, Cleveland shows it's still a champ in the world of wrestling
Ygal Kaufman
Ideastream Public Media

Transportation & Travel

1st place

Bus driver goes extra mile for student with special needs
Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson
WXIX

Weathercast

1st place

Maintaining perspective: East Palestine impacts (or not)
Betsy Kling
WKYC

AUDIO

Arts & Entertainment

1st place

Unspooling Cleveland's industrial film and musical history

Kabir Bhatia

Ideastream Public Media

Breaking News

1st place

The darkest day: Tusky Valley mourns 3 students, 3 adults killed in fiery crash on I-70

Anna Huntsman

Ideastream Public Media

Business/Financial

1st place

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Fieldglass

Adam Burroughs

Smart Business

2nd place

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Redback

Adam Burroughs

Smart Business

3rd place

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Porter Road

Adam Burroughs

Smart Business

Continuing Coverage

1st place

Jayland Walker grand jury decision

Anna Huntsman and Abigail Bottar

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

Abortion in Ohio: Two ballot issues, two opposite messages

Jo Ingles and Karen Kasler

Ohio Public Radio

Crime & Justice

1st place

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

Kevin S. Adelstein, Jennifer Sherman, Michael C. Butz, Sara Shookman, DeAnna MacKeigan, Amanda Koehn and Cheryl Sadler

Cleveland Jewish News

Documentary

1st place

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

Kevin S. Adelstein, Jennifer Sherman, Michael C. Butz, Sara Shookman, DeAnna MacKeigan, Amanda Koehn and Cheryl Sadler

Cleveland Jewish News

2nd place

Ohio after Roe

Amy Eddings

Ideastream Public Media

Education

1st place

School nurses say they are more than a bandage. Not every Northeast Ohio school has one full time

Conor Morris

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: An educational piece on the importance of school nurses and their importance for the sake of education. A good read.

Environment

1st place

Back to nature

Abigail Bottar

Ideastream Public Media

Food/Restaurant

1st place

Tasty takes and dulcet tones: How Clevelander Stefan Johnson became a TikTok star

Gabriel Kramer

Ideastream Public Media

Government & Politics

1st place

Ohio's long, twisted road to a vote on abortion

Karen Kasler, Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik

Ohio Public Television

Judge's comments: The eyes of the nation were on the the Ohio abortion votes. Karen Kasler and Jo Ingles of the Ohio Statehouse News Bureau brought clear and compelling reporting to a complex, confusing, and dramatic two-step process that was of vital importance to Ohio voters and the nation.

2nd place

Opposition to Ohio's Issue 1 galvanizes disparate Northeast Ohio groups ahead of August election

Abbey Marshall

Ideastream Public Media

History

1st place

A historic Cleveland bridge remains suspended in time

Kabir Bhatia

Ideastream Public Media

Human Interest

1st place

Dancing all the way: Kids with special needs groove at Akron Children's Hospital

Anna Huntsman

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: Nicely written piece that touches the heart.

In-Depth Report or Series

1st place

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

Kevin S. Adelstein, Jennifer Sherman, Michael C. Butz, Sara Shookman, DeAnna MacKeigan, Amanda Koehn and Cheryl Sadler

Cleveland Jewish News

Judge's comments: Brilliant use of telling a story without sacrificing the humanity of its subject.

2nd place

Dr. Roxy: Rise and Fall of the TikTok Doc

Max Filby and Patrick Flaherty

The Columbus Dispatch

3rd place

Connecting with Ohio's Plain community

Kelly Krabill

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: This series gives new insight into an often misunderstood culture.

Investigative Journalism

1st place

Cleveland neighborhood grapples with the loss of its ER

Taylor Wizner

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: Good combination of digging through records and telling personal stories to bring this issue to light.

News Feature

1st place

Despite protests and threats, these Cleveland drag performers aren't backing down

Abbey Marshall

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: Engaging quotes and good background information. The photos are great as well.

Podcast

1st place

Living for We

Marlene Harris-Taylor

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

Kevin S. Adelstein, Jennifer Sherman, Michael C. Butz, Sara Shookman, DeAnna MacKeigan, Amanda Koehn and Cheryl Sadler

Cleveland Jewish News

3rd place

Above the Fold

Andy Brownfield and Tom Demeropolis

Cincinnati Business Courier

Profile

1st place

Sound of Us: German immigrant Alfred Schroeder found a new life in 1950s Cleveland

Ygal Kaufman

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

Former Ohio chief justice talks about new anti-gerrymandering amendment proposal
Sound of Ideas team
Ideastream Public Media

Race & Diversity Reporting

1st place

How do you change young gun violence victims' lives? This UH surgeon says you treat their trauma

Stephen Langel

Ideastream Public Media

Solutions Journalism

1st place

Can grassroots funding create a safer Cleveland?

Abbey Marshall

Ideastream Public Media

Sports Feature

1st place

Violence kept kids out of this Cleveland park. Now it's home to a basketball league hundreds strong

Abbey Marshall

Ideastream Public Media

VISUALS

Drone Photograph

2nd place

An annual WWII reenactment on the beaches of Lake Erie

Ygal Kaufman

Ideastream Public Media

1st place

Cleveland rising

Michael Collier

Greater Cleveland Partnership

Feature Photograph

1st place

Riding high: A year of record ridership for Cincinnati's Connector

Corrie Schaffeld

Cincinnati Business Courier

Judge's comments: Fun point of view brings you into the photo and onto the street.

2nd place

Wild fun at the county fair

Kristin Bauer

The Chronicle-Telegram

3rd place

Damage meditation

Lisa Scalfaro

Record Courier

Illustration, Single Image

1st place

Teens talk guns

Phil Masturzo

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: Sobering illustration on the troubling growth of teen gun use.

2nd place

Gifts to love

Maria Amador

Northeast Ohio Parent magazine

Infographics

1st place

Top private companies

John Lauer

Cincinnati Business Courier

2nd place

Michelin/EV related infographics

Michael McCrady

Rubber News

3rd place

Top 10 tire makers

Michael McCrady

Tire Business

General News Photography

1st place

Invasive species spreading

Kristin Bauer

The Chronicle-Telegram

Judge's comments: Dramatic with excellent composition and use of light, shadow and color.

2nd place

Grace House

Mike Cardew

Akron Beacon Journal

3rd place

New mayor

Mike Cardew

Akron Beacon Journal

General News Videography

1st place

Northeast Ohio seed bank wants to make an investment in Ohio's forested future

Ryan Loew

Ideastream Public Media

Multiple-Photo Essay, Gallery or Slideshow

1st place

Walking the #Streets: The best of #StreetsofCLE

Bob Perkoski

FreshWater Cleveland

Judge's comments: Very nice! Engaging, creative and composition was excellent.

2nd place

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati

Corrie Schaffeld

Cincinnati Business Courier

Judge's comments: Excellent use of depth-of-field. Fun life-style inspiring art.

3rd place

Jayland Walker jury

Jeff Lange

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: Superior showing of emotion, action and motion, communicating struggle.

Multiplatform Project

1st place

Ohio after Roe

Amy Eddings and Stephanie Czekalinski

Ideastream Public Media

Judge's comments: The first place recipients offered an empathetic, sobering account of how the overturn of Roe vs. Wade deeply impacts Ohio residents. Through audio, photography and print, the awardees show the humanity on both sides of this highly emotional debate. Well done!

2nd place

Kol Israel Foundation raises ceremonial flag over its Holocaust National Memorial
DeAnna MacKeigan, Courtney Byrnes and Cheryl Sadler
Cleveland Jewish News

3rd place

IsraelFest
Courtney Byrnes, DeAnna MacKeigan
Cleveland Jewish News

Page Design, Cover, Broadsheet, Tabs & Magazines

1st place

Full court press
Erin Stinard
Cleveland Magazine

2nd place

Old, new, and next in Over-the-Rhine
Brittany Dexter
Cincinnati Magazine

3rd place

The Book
Michael McCrady
Tire Business

Page Design, Single Page, Broadsheet, Tabs & Magazines

1st place

Aliza Sherman timeline
Jessica Simon
Cleveland Jewish News

Judge's comments: There was a lot going on here, but with good organization, the timeline was easy to follow. Great design!

2nd place

Women breaking the mold
Michael McCrady
Rubber News

3rd place

Mid-year tire design
Michael McCrady
Tire Business

Portrait/Personality Photograph

1st place
2023 Woman Who Mean Business
Corrie Schaffeld
Cincinnati Business Courier

2nd place
A life suspended
Kristin Bauer
The Chronicle-Telegram

3rd place
Ted Gantz portrait
Kareem Elgazzar
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Spot News Photograph

1st place
One in custody following shots fired and standoff at Westway Gardens in Elyria
Bruce Bishop
The Chronicle-Telegram
Judge's comments: Excellent composition - having the subject in the middle of a hall - draws the viewer into the photo. Nice lighting.

2nd place
The calm after the storm: 2023 Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon
Corrie Schaffeld
Cincinnati Business Courier

3rd place
'500 year' storm sweeps county
Bruce Bishop
The Chronicle-Telegram

Sports Photography

1st place
Safe at second
Jeff Lange
Akron Beacon Journal
Judge's comments: Wow! What a moment captured on film! Excellent photo.

2nd place

Silly pin

Jeff Lange

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: This is so unusual yet fun and endearing.

3rd place

State track

Phil Masturzo

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: A poignant and heartwarming moment for a super athlete.

Studio Photography

1st place

Courier 100

Corrie Schaffeld

Cincinnati Business Courier

Website Homepage Design

1st place

Fox8.com

Fox 8 web team

WJW Fox 8

COLLEGE STUDENT MEDIA

Writing, General News

1st place

Islamophobic remarks written on chalkboard amidst Israel-Hamas conflict

Laken Kincaid

John Carroll University

2nd place

Firearm found in Dolan Hall before Thanksgiving Break, investigation underway

Laken Kincaid

John Carroll University

3rd place

Persona non-grata

Isabella Cerveira

Tri-C The Voice

Writing, Feature

1st place

How JCU is maintaining its Jesuit Identity with fewer Jesuits

Tate Farinacci

John Carroll University

2nd place

"If it's Sunday..." The story behind the Meet the Press Fellowship

Laken Kincaid

John Carroll University

3rd place

Eric Gordon's vision for Tri-C: A conversation on student success and community building

Rafaela Rezende

Tri-C The Voice

Writing, Sports

1st place

Christine Pendleton makes Tri-C history

Christina Easter

Tri-C The Voice

2nd place

Alumni Spotlight: Max Loeb's impactful presence in sports content

Grant Sarnowski

John Carroll University

3rd place

Women's soccer captures first OAC regular season title since 2013

Leah Harrigan

John Carroll University

Audio, General News

1st place

JCU's classroom service requirement in the face of the Cleveland Diocese's decision

Laken Kincaid and Evan Richwalsky

John Carroll University

Judge's comments: Good coverage of an important topic.

BEST IN OHIO

Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Print/Online)

1st place

Joel Oliphint

Joel Oliphint

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: Beautiful writing, and excellent, in-depth reporting on people and experiences. I couldn't stop reading once I started.

2nd place

Stephanie Warsmith

Stephanie Warsmith

Akron Beacon Journal

3rd place

Haley BeMiller

Haley BeMiller

USA Today Network Ohio Bureau

Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Video)

1st place

Duane Pohlman, chief investigative reporter

Duane Pohlman

WKRC-TV

Judge's comments: The contraband story was especially strong. Quality reporting overall.

2nd place

Scott Noll: Bad hires and a broken neck

Scott Noll

WEWS-TV 5

Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Audio)

1st place

Body of work

Taylor Wizner

Ideastream Public Media

Best in Ohio: Photojournalist (Still Imagery)

1st place

Corrie Schaffeld's Best of 2023

Corrie Schaffeld

Cincinnati Business Courier

2nd place

Kristin Bauer

Kristin Bauer

The Chronicle-Telegram

3rd place

Hatsue Andrews feature photography
Hatsue Andrews
Cincinnati Magazine

Best in Ohio: Photojournalist (Video)

1st place

Body of work

Jean-Marie Papoi

Ideastream Public Media

2nd place

DeAnna MacKeigan

DeAnna MacKeigan

Cleveland Jewish News

Best in Ohio: Sports Reporter (Print/Online)

1st place

Joey Kaufman

Joey Kaufman

The Columbus Dispatch

Judge's comments: The diversity of the submissions was impressive. The reporter took on passion projects like the evolution of a cult hero moment in the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry (and how it has defined the player's life since their playing days). They also identified national stories on the college beat, including the impact of NIL money on campus, the fight for eyeballs in broadcasting/streaming, and the fallout from the local angle in the Connor Stalions sign-stealing scandal at Michigan.

2nd place

Nate Ulrich

Nate Ulrich

Akron Beacon Journal

Judge's comments: A collection of profiles that demonstrate deep reporting. The reporter was able to get their subjects to open up, and there has been significant work put in to identify sources that would take these pieces to the next level. The then-and-now adventures allow the reader to appreciate the journey of where the athletes came from.

3rd place

Scott Petrak

Scott Petrak

The Chronicle-Telegram

Judge's comments: The entries show the versatility of the beat reporter: They cover the revolving door at quarterback for the Browns, they have the pulse of the locker room in identifying how the players respond to Kevin Stefanski, and they understand the importance of organizational history. The Joe Thomas Hall of Fame piece was a gem.

Best in Ohio: Sports Reporter (Video)

1st place

Chris Renkel - sports anchor/reporter

Chris Renkel

WKRC-TV

Judge's comments: Excellent overall. Clever and fun without being snarky. Everything was well researched and explained.

Best in Ohio: Freelance Reporter

1st place

Jill Sell

Jill Sell

Akron Beacon Journal, The Columbus Dispatch and Community Leader

Judge's comments: The writer's entries provided a mix of news stories and columns, each providing colorful prose and picture-building ledes. You can learn a lot from someone who values the details, as she clearly does. From the destinations of a boat, to the concerns of developers, to the obligations of all parties in the real estate market, there are few stones left unturned.

2nd place

Grant Segall

Grant Segall

FreshWater Cleveland, Crain's Cleveland Business, The Land

Judge's comments: The writer attacks a variety of topics. Reporting from the streets was especially evident in the Ukraine piece, which shared the personal stories of refugees and those giving them a place to stay.

3rd place

Matt Florjancic

Matt Florjancic

Freshwater Cleveland, The Chronicle-Telegram, The Blade and Baldwin Wallace University Athletics website

Judge's comments: A wonderful idea to check up on a local kid trying to continue his journey through the minor leagues. I think readers would have liked to hear more from his family and hometown, whoever has known him the longest.

Best in Ohio: Graphic Designer

1st place

Stephen Valentine

Stephen Valentine

Cleveland Jewish News

2nd place

Ignite Magazine

Scott Rutan
Northeast Ohio Medical University

3rd place

Jessica Simon

Jessica Simon

Cleveland Jewish News

Best in Ohio: Art Director

1st place

Jen Kawanari

Jen Kawanari

Cincinnati Magazine

2nd place

Erin Stinard

Erin Stinard

Cleveland Magazine

3rd place

Michael McCrady's range of work

Michael McCrady

Rubber News

Best in Ohio: Illustrator

1st place

Jeff Darcy cartoons

Jeff Darcy

Cleveland.com

Judge's comments: Creative art and pointed words on a variety of topics make this a fine collection of editorial cartoons.

2nd place

Global Health – Spring/Summer 2023 Ignite

J. Leigh Garcia

Northeast Ohio Medical University

Best in Ohio: Headline Writer

1st place

Vince Guerrieri

Vince Guerrieri

Medina County Gazette

Judge's comments: Your heds are clever and thoughtful. You obviously have a sense of humor, and I'm guessing you have a good time at work.

2nd place

Kevin Aprile
Kevin Aprile
The Chronicle-Telegram

3rd place
Ken Schneck
Ken Schneck
The Buckeye Flame

Best in Ohio: Opinion Writer

1st place
Mike Shearer
Mike Shearer
Akron Beacon Journal
Judge's comments: Thoughtful, effective opinion pieces on public policy issues that should matter to the community, backed by comprehensive reporting.

2nd place
Amelia Robinson
Amelia Robinson
The Columbus Dispatch

3rd place
Welcome to Middlehood
Judi Ketteler
Cincinnati Magazine

Best in Ohio: On-Air Talent (Audio)

1st place
Amy Eddings
Amy Eddings
Ideastream Public Media

Best in Ohio: College Newspaper

1st place
The Voice, Spring 2023, Winter-Spring 2024
Eden Amador-Gorby, Scout Bach
Tri-C The Voice

Best in Ohio: Website

1st place
CincinnatiMagazine.com
Staff
Cincinnati Magazine

Judge's comments: Clean and fun. Great look overall.

2nd place

Right Down Euclid website

Evan Dammarell

Right Down Euclid

3rd place

Fox8.com

Fox 8 web team

WJW Fox 8

Best in Ohio: Print Daily

1st place

Akron Beacon Journal

Staff

Akron Beacon Journal

2nd place

The Cincinnati Enquirer

Enquirer staff

The Cincinnati Enquirer

3rd place

The Chronicle-Telegram

Staff

The Chronicle-Telegram

Best in Ohio: Print Weekly

1st place

Dayton Business Journal

Caleb Stephens

Dayton Business Journal

2nd place

Tire Business

Don Detore and David Manley

Tire Business

3rd place

Crain's Cleveland Business

Staff

Crain's Cleveland Business

Best in Ohio: Print Periodical

1st place

Columbus Monthly

Staff

Columbus Monthly

Judge's comments: Great work with balancing hard hitting, punchy content with graphics, art and other visuals. The cover of February's issue is alone enough to grab any person's attention. Solid reporting, great work all-around.

2nd place

Cleveland Magazine

Staff

Cleveland Magazine

Judge's comments: Cleveland Magazine pairs visuals with storytelling. Cleveland's climate change issue is one of the highlights of being able to tell a hard-hitting story in print and imagery.

3rd place

Cincinnati Magazine

Staff

Cincinnati Magazine

Best in Ohio: Video Newscast in Ohio in a Major Market

1st place

WKYC Studios: 3News

Jonathan Adkins, Julie Flynn and Brandon Simmons

WKYC

Judge's comment: The special 6pm newscast "Tragedy to Triumph" was really well done overall. The story with the police officer who was first on scene was exceptional.

2nd place

Best Newscasts of 2023

Andy Fishman, Marc Singer and Jessica Bates

WJW Fox 8

3rd place

19 News At 6

Scott Carlson and Sara Liptak

WOIO-TV

Best in Ohio: Audio Newscast in Ohio in a Major Market

1st place

Amy Eddings

Amy Eddings

Ideastream Public Media

Best in Ohio: Public Affairs/News Talk Show (Video)

1st place

The State of Ohio: Oct. 27, 2023

Karen Kasler, Daniel Konik, Jo Ingles and Sarah Donaldson

Ohio Public Television

Judge's comments: Nice, balanced reporting. Both sides of a contentious debate are allowed to express their side of the argument.

Best in Ohio: Public Affairs/News Talk Show (Audio)

1st place

Jewish faith leaders and Arab community members share their thoughts on ongoing crisis in the Middle East

Sound of Ideas team

Ideastream Public Media

Best in Ohio: Sports Talk Show (Video)

1st place

Bengals Nation

Chris Renkel, Austin Tanner and Kevin Barnett

WKRC-TV