

ONLINE

Online investigative reporting for digital-only website

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“The CIA's Afghan Death Squad”

Andrew Quilty

The Intercept

Judges' comments: This shocking and meticulously reported story exposed the CIA-supported murders of dozens of Afghan children and civilians that can only be described as unprosecuted war crimes. Reporter Andrew Quilty painstakingly pieced together one of the darkest chapters of the Afghanistan War, where women and children as young as eight were summarily executed by CIA-trained paramilitary units that were supported by American air power and advisers - who helped select civilian targets, called “jackpots,” in 10 raids.

Second Place

“Hot Molecules: Low Hanging Greenhouse Gases”

Phil McKenna, Lili Pike, Katrina Northrop and Feng Hao

Inside Climate News

Third Place

“Probing Liberty University”

Maggie Severns, Brandon Ambrosino

Politico

Online investigative reporting for digital partnerships with other news outlets

First Place

“Mauled: When Police Dogs Are Weapons”

Staff of The Marshall Project, AL.com, the Indianapolis Star and the Invisible Institute

Judges' comments: Two media outlets in different parts of the country were working on stories about violent incidents involving K-9 police dogs. They learned of the other's investigations and decided to join efforts. The eventual team of four produced a powerful and timely investigation that has prompted national conversations around the use of police dogs. Well-sourced and compelling storytelling, solid data and tangible results -- including several states revising ways K-9s are deployed -- propelled this story to the top of a very competitive category.

Second Place

“Superfund Super Threats: Climate-Vulnerable Toxic Sites Near You”

Staff of Inside Climate News, NBC News and The Texas Observer

Third Place

“Domestic Terror in the Age of Trump”

David Neiwert
Type Investigations

Online beat coverage

First Place

Laurel Rosenhall
CalMatters

Judges' comments: Laurel Rosenhall's coverage of the California statehouse should be required reading for all statehouse reporters in the country. Her beat coverage this year offered several sure-to-outrage-citizens stories, including how politicians are allowed to set up nonprofits to accept unlimited donations. Her work generates change and is made even more notable by the fact she writes 70 or more stories a year.

Second Place

"Effects of a dysfunctional U.S. Postal Service"
Wallace McKelvey
PennLive and Patriot-News

Third Place

"Out for Blood: Donald Trump's Federal Execution Program"
Liliana Segura
The Intercept

Best blog

First Place

"Bill of the Month"
Kaiser Health News and NPR

Judges' comments: This partnership between Kaiser Health News and NPR means more now than ever, explaining medical bills and the cost of health care in the United States. It is thorough and full of good information, written and reported clearly and skillfully, with not just numbers, but humanity.

Second Place

"Humane Creativity: Art in the Time of Reckoning and a Pandemic"
Michael Cavna
The Washington Post

Third Place

Mary C. Curtis
CQ Roll Call

Online video up to three minutes

First Place

“Surviving the shutdown: Among the L.A. taqueros”

Steve Saldivar

Los Angeles Times

Judges’ comments: This is a poignant, focused look at the toll the coronavirus is having on not just businesses and workers but also their families. It shows the often invisible victims through beautiful videography and storytelling.

Second Place

“Protesters march down Nautical Mile”

Steve Langford, Alexa Coveney and Raychel Brightman

Newsday

Third Place

“11-story tower remains after implosion”

Juan Figueroa

The Dallas Morning News

Online video 3 to 10 minutes

First Place

“60 In 6: How We Got Here”

Wesley Lowery, Ayesha Siddiqi, Emily Cameron and Peter Berman

CBS News

Judges’ comments: Many news organizations dropped into Minneapolis to cover this story, but few offered this level of timely, authoritative, and concise storytelling. “How We Got Here,” went deeper than the tension and protests that followed the death of George Floyd to deliver a nuanced narrative that went behind the calls to “defund the police.”

Second Place

“At 91, she returned to Auschwitz with her family, one last time”

Lauren Schneiderman

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Third Place

“How ICE Exported the Coronavirus”

Emily Kassie and Barbara Marcolini

The Marshall Project and The New York Times

Online video 10 to 30 minutes

First Place

“The Imperfect Alibi: An AJC Short Documentary”

Ryon Horne, Tyson Horne, Hyosub Shin and Joshua Sharpe

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Judges’ comments: It is the kind of story reporters dream of, uncovering information to free an innocent man from prison, and Joshua Sharpe of the AJC provided a template for how it's done. This haunting video presentation follows his painstaking persistence as he digs through hundreds of pages of case files, tracks down witnesses, suspects and previous investigators. In the end it all pays off with a wrongfully convicted man rejoining his family and the world.

Second Place

“Anatomy of Hate”

Emily Kassie

The Marshall Project and TIME

Third Place

“How a nearly all-white Iowa city is trying to shed its racist image”

Jackeline Luna, Maggie Beidelman and Tyrone Beason

Los Angeles Times

Digital presentation of a single news topic

First Place

“One Week in Minneapolis”

Anna Boone

Star Tribune

Judges’ comments: As her colleagues worked feverishly to update the story -- on multiple platforms and in real time -- digital designer Anna Boone stepped into the chaos and assembled a powerful multimedia retrospective of the week following the death of George Floyd. Drawing on the work of dozens of reporters, editors and photographers, she pulled it together even as the news continued to unfold around her. Clear-eyed storytelling in an unconventional format. Exceptionally well done.

Second Place

“The Imperfect Alibi: The forgotten suspect, the DNA and the church murders that haunted a detective”

Product, Visuals, Digital and News teams

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Third Place

“The Grumman Plume: Decades of Deceit”
Newsday staff
Newsday

Digital presentation of a single features topic

First Place

“The COVID-19 Death of a Hospital Worker”
Eric Boodman
STAT

Judges’ comments: Eric Boodman’s story about the death, and life of Marie Deus, a Boston hospital worker, was impossible to pull away from. From the hard facts of her job, and the circumstances around it, to the softness of the love her family had for her, to the irony of her being a Purell enthusiast and the small details of things like the fish she used to cook ... the painful loss of this woman, and hard worker, was turned into a gorgeous piece of journalism.

Second Place

“Black At The Ballot”
Taryn Finley, Philip Lewis and Erin E. Evans
HuffPost

Third Place

“2020 Gallery”
The Public’s Radio
The Public’s Radio staff

Social media

First Place

“The Killing of George Floyd”
Colleen Kelly, Alexis Allston and Anna Boone
Star Tribune

Judges’ comments: The social media coverage of the killing of George Floyd became the hub of the Star Tribune’s reporting, where breaking news, photos, videos and explainers were posted as the fast-moving events unfolded. Their “Twitter Moments,” IGTV and YouTube videos captured history in real time.

Second Place

“Election 2020”
Detroit Free Press staff
Detroit Free Press

Third Place

"#FreeGrace"

Kengo Tsutsumi, Lisa Larson-Walker, Maya Eliahou and Logan Jaffe
ProPublica

Online slideshow**First Place**

Houston Chronicle staff
Houston Chronicle

Judges' comments: Portraits and short stories of those affected by the pandemic. The second entry was disqualified.

No second- or third-place award given**Narrative podcast****First Place**

"Timber Wars"

Aaron Scott, David Steves, Peter Frick-Wright and Robbie Carver
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Judges' comments: Old growth trees. High emotions. Those are the ingredients in this excellent podcast series. While replete with a wonderful historic account of the environmental battle of the 1990s, the series also brought excellent context for today's citizens.

Second Place

Where It Hurts – Season One: "No Mercy"
Where It Hurts Podcast Team
KHN and St. Louis Public Radio

Third Place

"Offshore Season 4: Far From Home"
Honolulu Civil Beat staff

Information podcast**First Place**

"Brought to you by..."

Julia Press, Sarah Wyman and Charlie Herman
Insider

Judges' comments: A delightful podcast series focused on "Brands you know, history you don't". And wow, it delivers -- fascinating glimpses in well-produced segments. Listening to Pan Am flight attendants talking about the Vietnam war convoys they flew was both enlightening and emotional. The list continued with the very enjoyable history of big brands in capitalism.

Second Place

"Foundering"

Ellen Huet and Shawn Wen

Bloomberg

Third Place

"Embodied: Building Empathy With A Shame-Free Show"

Anita Rao

North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Criminal justice and/or crime podcast

First Place

"Somebody"

The Intercept staff

The Intercept

Judges' comments: Shapearl Wells came up against a wall of state secrecy when she decided to investigate her son's death. Together with Topic Studios, The Intercept and The Invisible Institute, she came up with enough new and surprising information that Chicago's Office of the Inspector General has opened an investigation into the case. Her relentless research gained compelling results that are presented in an impressive podcast.

Second Place

"Blood River"

Monte Reel and Topher Forhecz

Bloomberg

Third Place

"Al Jazeera Investigates - The Cyprus Papers Undercover: The Aftermath"

Al Jazeera I Unit

Al Jazeera Media Network

Online pandemic coverage/project

First Place

"KHN Covers Coronavirus From All Angles"

Kaiser Health News in collaboration with The Associated Press and The Guardian

Judges' comments: COVID-19 was the story that Kaiser Health News was born to cover. With blanket coverage, the staff rose to the occasion with spot news, analysis, in-depth features and more. The work they did with media partners is to be highly lauded. Well done!

Second Place

“The sweeping impact of COVID-19 on incarcerated people in the U.S.”
Staff of The Marshall Project

Third Place

Helen Branswell and Sharon Begley
STAT

RADIO STATIONS

Radio stations newscast, all markets

First Place

“6 a.m., June 2, 2020”
Bloomberg Radio Staff
Bloomberg Radio

Judge's comments: Broad sweep of racial justice protests from Manhattan to Washington with crisp writing, good use of sound and a general blend of news of the day made WBBR's morning newscast following the George Floyd shooting a standout.

Second Place

“5 a.m. Nov. 4, 2020”
WBAL News Team
WBAL-AM

Third Place

“WLRN News with Christine DiMattei”
Christine DiMattei
WLRN News

Radio stations breaking news or continuing coverage of a single news event

First Place

“The killing of George Floyd”
MPR News Staff
Minnesota Public Radio

Judges' comments: .MPR reporters set a tone of respect that came through in the clamour, and authoritative delivery of each story they told about the community they inhabit. The feeling that this death was a local story -- indeed it was -- seemed infused to infuse every detail and every

interview. Despite the national attention, MPR told this story so the people who mattered most had the information they needed to try and safely go about their daily lives. And listeners got to know a little about George Floyd from the local people who knew him.

Second Place

“Northwest Baltimore Row Home Fire”

WBAL News Team

WBAL-AM

Third Place

“Voting Rights Restoration Continued: What Happened To Florida's Amendment 4”

Daniel Rivero

WLRN News

Radio stations feature and human interest story, all markets

First Place

“Protecting Texas' Bighorn Sheep”

Michael Marks

Texas Standard

Judges' comments: Textbook example of seamlessly blending narration with expert voices tells the story of snagging bighorn sheep by helicopter and the wildlife management subtext that makes it all necessary. Great writing topped off the entry's oddball appeal.

Second Place

“The USS Doris Miller”

Jay Price

North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Third Place

“Searching for cremated remains in the ashes of Oregon's wildfires”

Jes Burns

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Radio stations documentary or public affairs

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“The Flag and the Fury”

Shima Oliaee and Jad Abumrad

Osm Audio & WNYC's Radiolab

Judges' comments: WNYC and Osm Audio do a pitch perfect job in reporting both angles to an emotional topic. Overall, this is an amazing mix of storytelling and historical audio clips folded in that illustrates what the Confederate flag means to many people.

Second Place

“The Sunshine Economy”
Tom Hudson and Polly Landess
WLRN News

Third Place

“Show Me The State: The Fulton Flash”
Kristofor Husted and Aviva Okeson-Haberman
KBIA

Radio stations news series

First Place

“Dying On The Sheriff’s Watch”
Christine Willmsen and Beth Healy
WBUR 90.9 FM

Judges' comments: WBUR provided a compelling piece that covers topics that don’t often get enough discussion including a prisoner’s right to health care. Through effective writing and reporting, this story is at times compelling, informative, and to a degree, heartbreaking.

Second Place

“COVID Crisis in the Central Valley”
Kathy Novak
KCBS Radio

Third Place

“Where We Live”
Jason deBruyn
North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Radio stations pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“Inside the Frenzied Pandemic Market for Medical Masks”
Beth Healy and Christine Willmsen
WBUR 90.9 FM

Judges' comments: .WBUR uncovers and chronicles a disturbing and heretofore black market rife with price-gouging, fraudulent deals and opportunism in two riveting, well-documented pieces about Covid protection gear and masks.

Second Place

“How Counties and Businesses are Coping with a Patchwork of COVID-19 Enforcement Rules”
Caitie Switalski Muñoz, Jenny Staletovich and Wilkine Brutus
WLRN News

Third Place

“Black Funerals”
Leoneda Inge
North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators newscast

First Place

“World News Roundup, November 3, 2020”
Steve Kathan and Paul Farry
CBS News Radio

Judges' comments: CBS reporters sound as if they're telling the story of a race they're watching. Close your eyes and listen to the cadence of the voices and you can imagine the candidates on a field and spectators in the stands yelling, cheering and booing!

No second- or third-place award given

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators breaking news or continuing coverage

First Place

“The President Tests Positive”
CBS News Radio Staff
CBS News Radio

Judges' comments: Comprehensive coverage of the period of Trump's COVID diagnosis, all the way through his hospitalization and release. Good summary of the medical treatments being given, the background on how there was likely COVID spread at White House events. Absence of political overtones was encouraging.

Second Place

“Delhi Riots: 'How Do You Explain Such Violence?’”
Lauren Frayer, Sushmita Pathak, Nishant Dahiya and Hannah Bloch
National Public Radio

Third Place

“Holding Power Accountable as the Economy Cracked from the Pandemic”

Shannon Bond, Scott Horsley and Chris Arnold

National Public Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators feature and human interest story**First Place**

“Along the Rim of Alaska, the Once-A-Decade U.S. Census Began in Toksook Bay”

Hansi Lo Wang, Acacia Squires and Mark Katkov

NPR

Judges’ comments: This piece took the listener right into the port of a frigid, remote coastal Alaskan village where locals were interviewed about the start of the census. Locals had various interesting takes on the importance of the census, the federal funding aspect of which was not lost on some. Good narration mixed with local audio to tell a very culturally interesting local story.

Second Place

“The Long, Perilous Route Thousands of Indians Have Risked for a Shot At Life in U.S.”

Lauren Frayer, Sushmita Pathak and Nishant Dahiya

National Public Radio

Third Place

“New York City Protests - Making a Difference”

Westwood One

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators documentary or public affairs**First Place**

“CBS Special Edition of America Changed Forever: The Life and Legacy of John Lewis”

Allison Keyes, Gil Gross, Paul Woodhull and Jonathan Clark

CBS News Radio

Judges’ comments: An engaging look back at the incredible life of John Lewis. Interviews from those who knew him early in his life during the civil rights movement to those who served with him in Congress. CBS did a great job of presenting such a well-rounded profile of another of the great non-violent civil rights icons.

Second Place

“China, India Handled COVID-19 Differently. Results Differed Too”

Lauren Frayer, Emily Feng and Nishant Dahiya

National Public Radio

Third Place

“Black Lives Matter: From Protests to Police Reform”
Westwood One

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators news series

First Place

“Profiles in Extremism”
Hannah Allam, Andrew Sussman, Walter Ray Watson Jr. and Jim Urquhart
National Public Radio

Judges’ comments: It’s even easier to assess this profile of Eric Parker after the Capitol riots as many people are still struggling to understand the violence of the Jan. 6, 2021 actions of right wing activists. NPR’s interview can be labeled prescient.

Second Place

“Stuck-At-Home Moms: The Pandemic’s Devastating Toll on Women”
Andrea Hsu, Scott Horsley and Alina Selyukh
National Public Radio

Third Place

“Celebrating a Century of Sound”
CBS News Radio and National Press Club

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“The Summer of COVID-19”
Westwood One

Judges’ comments: We think we remember the whole COVID sequence. But The Summer of COVID-19 brings it all back. Great audio and narration of the many aspects of the pandemic as it affected the U.S. from early in 2020 through the summer months. In retrospect, we see how some reactions may have been overreactions, and how some steps were part of a learning curve. As this focused on the summer of 2020, the pandemic was still around and many questions remained unanswered. But it’s an excellent recap with great audio that will bring back memories, good and bad, in classic radio style.

No second- and third-place award given

TELEVISION

Broadcast or cable television stations newscast

First Place

"NewsCenter 5 at 6: March 13, 2020"

WCVB News Staff

WCVB

Judges' comments: Just about as much information as you can pack into a newscast...typical top-rate production from NewsCenter 5. What you needed to know on a need to know basis. Fast-paced and flawless.

Second Place

"Pittsburgh's Action News 4 At 6:00"

WTAE staff

WTAE

Third Place

"News 9 Tonight: The Democratic Primary Debate"

WMUR News Staff

WMUR-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations coverage of a live breaking news event**First Place**

"Violence Follows Peaceful Protest"

WCVB News Staff

WCVB

Judges' comments: Excellent footage of protest, violence and looting in Boston several hours into protests over the killing of George Floyd. The anchors and reporters were able to provide timely information about what we were seeing on camera.

Second Place

"Police, Protesters Clash in Front of Police Department"

David Bienick and Ted Cooper

WCVB

Third Place

"May 30th Protest"

WTAE staff

WTAE

Broadcast or cable television stations continuing coverage of a single news event**First Place**

"Shredding"

WBFF-TV staff
WBFF-TV

Judges' comments: An amazing amount of research into shredding of documents in the aftermath of a financial scandal in Baltimore County Schools. It produced results: a criminal investigation was instigated, and a new retention policy developed.

Second Place

"Aftermath of Unrest"
WCAU-TV staff
WCAU-TV

Third Place

"Black Lives Matter: Day of Protests"
Tim Tunison and WBAL-TV 11 News Team
WBAL-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations feature, sports or human interest story

First Place

"I Touched Lives"
Boyd Huppert and Chad Nelson
KARE-TV

Judges' comments: Her own terminal cancer diagnosis will not stop this nurse from being there for her patients. Excellent use of archival photos in an emotional story that puts life in perspective, and highlights the selflessness of one remarkable healthcare provider. Interwoven sound bites with short voiceover narration just to bridge the gaps, along with a barrage of smiling faces and intimate closeups of personal interactions, make this piece exceptionally human and inspiring.

Second Place

"Carolina Impact / Brooks' Restaurant Reopens"
Jeff Sonier and Doug Stacker
WTVI PBS Charlotte

Third Place

"The Talk"
Chandi Chapman
WTAE

Broadcast or cable television stations public service

First Place

“Full Disclosure”
ABC15 Staff
KNXV (ABC15 Arizona)

Judges’ comments: Not only did the station document cases of policy dishonesty, it established a searchable database of officers who have officially been cited for transgressions, one that serves the entire community of law enforcement (and criminal attorneys) in a way state oversight officials never did. The system was broken, but ABC 15 took a giant step toward fixing it.

Second Place

“Learned Helplessness”
WBFF-TV Baltimore staff
WBFF-TV Baltimore

Third Place

“Pandemic PASS or FAIL: Solutions for Education Equity”
KXAN Investigates
KXAN

Broadcast or cable television stations documentary or series of reports on the same subject

First Place

“Registered & Enrolled”
WBFF-TV Baltimore staff
WBFF-TV Baltimore

Judges’ comments: This well thought out and written investigation into a high school sex offender was relentless in its desire to give three victims a voice. The shocking details of why the convicted sex offender was allowed to return to high school resulted in sweeping legislation to correct the many flaws and omissions in Baltimore County's handling of sex offenders in public schools.

Second Place

“WESH 2 Project Community: Crusade for Change Part 1”
WESH staff
WESH

Third Place

“Cell Blocked”
Lee Zurik, Cody Lillich and Jon Turnipseed
WVUE-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations investigative reporting

First Place

"Inspecting the Inspectors"

Lee Zurik, Cody Lillich and Jon Turnipseed

WVUE-TV

Judges' comments: A stunning investigation using GPS data on city vehicles compared with logs of inspections reveals a deadly routine -- building inspectors were nowhere near the construction sites when they approved work. A hard story to get...it involved sifting through records, imaginative strategies, and hard questions. When the Hard Rock hotel project collapsed and killed three, Fox 8 moved with laser-like efficiency to do a deep dive on city malfeasance, with a number of personnel changes as a result. And judging from what was uncovered, maybe those results will save lives.

Second Place

"Prone"

Chris Vanderveen and Chris Hansen

KUSA-TV

Third Place

"Action News Investigates: Unemployment In Pennsylvania"

Paul Van Osdol

WTAE

Broadcast or cable television stations business and consumer reporting

First Place

"Ben Has Your Back"

Ben Simmoneau and Sarah Stolper

WCVB

Judges' comments: WCVB's Ben Simmoneau leads the charge against companies who charge for goods and services, but when problems arise, won't completely honor their terms of service agreements to customer satisfaction. Ben & team offer a series of reports in which they uncover the loopholes companies try to slip through, and work to expose those holes and close them for the good of the individuals at their wits' end, who are powerless to get results all alone. From air travel to exercise equipment, unemployment collections to college scholarships, the scenes are well-set and expertly explained, at a pace that is just right to keep the stories moving with engaging interviews and creative visuals.

Second Place

"COVID-19 Pandemic Impact On Restaurants"

WTAE staff

WTAE

Third Place

“The Most Challenging Year”

Chris Hansen and Chris Vanderveen

KUSA-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations health/science reporting

First Place

“KARE 11 Investigates: The Untested”

Brandon Stahl, A.J. Lagoe and Gary Knox

KARE11

Judges’ comments: KARE reveals through victims, lawmakers and law enforcement interviews a troubling problem: Why rape kits go untested. Through the station’s reporting, things changed for the better for the citizens of Minnesota’s key metropolis, and led to an influential debate statewide.

Second Place

“Spotlight on America: Chamber of Hope”

Duane Pohlman, Eric Frisbee and Max McClellan

WKRC-TV - SBG

Third Place

“A Beautiful New Blue Makes Its Debut”

Jes Burns, Brandon Swanson, Dan Evans and Stephani Gordon

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Broadcast or cable television stations environmental reporting

First Place

“WESH 2 Chronicle: Wasted: How Your Recycling Gets Trashed”

WESH staff

WESH

Judges’ comments: This was eye-opening, informative, and transformative environmental story on the hidden truths of recycling. You may have already suspected that recyclables are actually headed for the landfill. The Chronicle exposé reveals this hunch is true and landfills in Orange County will be at capacity in 20 years due to mishandled recyclables. Yet, who is responsible for this carelessness? You may be surprised to learn that the guilty suspect is you! This is truly a life-changing segment on the recycling process and how everyone can take more concerted action in recycling correctly.

Second Place

“Pipeline Exposure”

Jody Barr, Ben Friberg and Josh Hinkle

KXAN

Third Place

“Air Quality Concerns”

Chandi Chapman

WTAE

Broadcast or cable television stations pandemic coverage/project**First Place**

“Kane In Your Corner: COVID Outbreak at Veterans Home”

Karin Attonito, Anthony Cocco and Walt Kane

News 12 New Jersey

Judges’ comments: An inside look at the perils facing patients caught in the worst Covid outbreak of any veterans’ home in the nation through heart-breaking interviews with families isolated from their loved ones and inside descriptions and video from a caretaker within the home. A deep dive beyond the many barriers erected to keep people out.

Second Place

“Arizona’s deadly COVID numbers game”

Melissa Blasius, Nicole Grigg and Garrett Archer

KNXV-TV

Third Place

“Getting Answers for New Hampshire”

WMUR News Staff

WMUR

Broadcast or cable television stations severe weather reporting**First Place**

“Nor’Easter Buries Massachusetts”

WCVB News Staff

WCVB

Judges’ comments: While WCVB covered a massive nor’easter with arresting photography, crisp reporting and fast-paced editing, what sets its entry apart is its tone. Stations tend to act like a big storm equates with Death From Above, but WCVB delivers a calm but compelling wrapup of the storm’s effects throughout the region with a widespread team of reporters and an authoritative and easy-to-understand overview by meteorologist Mike Wankum in the studio.

Graphics instantly and readably told viewers how the storm was affecting their areas and a net of reporters -- the Hub, Foxboro, Brockton, the south side and on and on -- each found a compelling angle for their particular outpost. Best of all was the entertaining piece on snow fever at Boston Commons.

Second Place

“December Snowstorm”

WTAE staff

WTAE

Third Place

“Covering Slow-moving Sally”

Tyler Fingert and Daeshen Smith

WALA FOX10 News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators newscast

First Place

“PBS NewsHour - June 23, 2020”

PBS NewsHour staff

PBS NewsHour

Judges’ comments: Judy Woodruff and the PBS News Hour excel at in-depth coverage providing the context that explains to viewers whether they, and/or their communities, can be part of the problem or part of the solution. The program covered a wide range of content and context -- from the White House to the front lines of the Covid battle to the unrest in Yemen. Every story was explored in depth, looking at not only why it happened, but why it matters.

Second Place

“The CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell, September 17, 2020 broadcast”

Norah O’Donnell, Jay Shaylor and staff

CBS News

No third-place award given

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators coverage of a major news event

First Place

“CBS News: California Burning”

CBS News Staff

CBS News

Judges' comments: Footage is spectacular and reporting is first-rate. Great editing and some excellent sound bites. Those qualities and the overall context -- including maps of the fire's movements -- set this apart.

Second Place

"The President and his Coronavirus Diagnosis"

CBS News staff

CBS News

Third Place

"Nationwide Protests after Death of George Floyd"

Weekend Today Staff

NBC News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators continuing coverage of a major news event

First Place

"Face the Nation: Facing the Pandemic"

Margaret Brennan, Mary Hager and staff

CBS News

Judges' comments: Especially impressive because this was so early in the pandemic. We were getting different answers everywhere, and it was hard to separate fact from rumor, but "Face the Nation" was asked the right questions of the right people. This coverage was exactly what the country needed at the time.

Second Place

"60 Minutes: Voting in the Pandemic Series"

Bill Whitaker, Marc Lieberman, Ali Rawaf and Staff

60 Minutes

Third Place

"COVID-19, Economic Toll"

CBS News staff

CBS News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators feature, sports or human interest

First Place

"NFL Countdown: The Big Mo Show"

Harry Hawkings

ESPN

Judges' comments: A memorial piece on a young teen that inspired professional athletes and sports fans across an entire city. "The Big Mo Show" (both "Mo" the kid, and the piece itself) puts a smile on your face, as it is truly bursting with positive emotion, inspiration and an expertly captured zest for life evoked by the lead character and those around him, despite his dire personal health and life situation challenges. It's not until four minutes into the six-minute piece that the true tragedy is revealed, and the legacy of this remarkable kid is fully realized. Stories and characters are followed across a long-term arc that is more than effectively illustrated with new and archival media, edited with interviews, music and just a bit of narration that keeps the pace up but appropriately holds back for the poignant moments.

Second Place

"CBS Sunday Morning: Americans without Water"
Rand Morrison, Lee Cowan, Sari Aviv and Carol Ross
CBS News

Third Place

"CBS Sunday Morning: Dog is My Copilot"
Rand Morrison, Conor Knighton and Emanuele Secci
CBS News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators documentary or series of reports on the same subject

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

"Desperate Journey"
PBS NewsHour staff
PBS NewsHour

Judges' comments: Extraordinary, embedded, risk-filled documentary of what refugees are going through as they navigate jungles and rivers heading north to the US. Exceptional reporting and documenting. A daring, danger-filled documentation of what many refugees are going through with a degree of difficulty unmatched by competitors.

Second Place

"Bravery and Hope: 7 Days on the Front Line"
CBS News staff
CBS News

Third Place

"20/20: In the Cold Dark Night"
ABC News staff
ABC News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators investigative report

First Place

“60 Minutes: Opioid Playbook”

Bill Whitaker, Sam Hornblower, Matthew Danowski and Emilio Almonte

CBS News

Judges’ comments: Peddlers of misery use flamboyant sales tactics to increase sales of opioids, which trap tens of thousands in addiction. Doctors get speaking contracts, wooed at fancy resorts and sales reps have no boundaries when trying to get their numbers up. “60 Minutes” lays out the whole tawdry scheme and gets insiders to confess their sins.

Second Place

“CBS This Morning: VA Ignores War's Signature Wound, Leaving Vets to Die”

Jim Axelrod, Peter Burgess, Len Tepper and Michael Kaplan

CBS News

Third Place

“20/20: Falling From the Sky”

Staff of 20/20

ABC News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators news magazine program

First Place

“20/20 and Courier Journal: Say Her Name: Breonna Taylor”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Judges’ comments: Sincere and documented attempt to understand a tragic incident. Went many steps beyond the typical coverage; extraordinary level of detail.

Second Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: The Pet Project”

Jane Pauley, Rand Morrison, Jason Sacca and Jon Carras

CBS News

Third Place

“The Long Road to Freedom”

Izhar Harpaz, Craig Melvin and Paul Ryan

Dateline NBC

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators business and consumer reporting

First Place

"60 Minutes: On the Line"

Norah O'Donnell, Keith Sharman, Rome Hartman and Adam Verdugo

60 Minutes

Judges' comments: 60 Minutes is there on the front lines of automotive industry factories for Ford and GM as they pivot from making cars to COVID-19 PPE and ventilators in a rapid changeover not seen since World War II. Interviews with the CEO's as well as the workers assembling the parts reveal how the mindset at all levels was not "if" to help, but how do we help, and how fast can we get started. Reporting also provides full and detailed explanations of the now-commonplace safety measures (temperature checks, plexiglass dividers, proximity sensors) introduced to keep the employees safe in only the first weeks of the situation being realized in the US. A concise history lesson on the automotive industry's relationship with the government is also presented, including reflection on prior government loans and bailouts in recent years.

Second Place

"CBS Sunday Morning: Not So Plain"

Rand Morrison, Seth Doane, Sari Aviv and George Pozderec

CBS News

Third Place

"Patriot Penalty"

Lee Zurik, Owen Hornstein, Jamie Grey and Emma Ruby

InvestigateTV - Gray Television

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators health/science reporting

First Place

"Vital Signs with Dr. Sanjay Gupta: Venom-derived medicine"

Sanjay Gupta, Samantha Bresnahan and John Austin

CNN

Judges' comments: Astonishing photography and cohesive and coherent storytelling. Who knew so many medicines were made from snake venom? More to the point, who knew a story about it could be so fascinating?

Second Place

"60 Minutes: Perseverance"

Anderson Cooper, Andy Court, Evie Salomon and Joe Schanzer

CBS News

Third Place

“Millions of Americans receive drugs by mail. But are they safe?”

Cynthia McFadden, Kenzi Abou-Sabe, Adiel Kaplan, Kit Ramgopal

NBC News Investigative Unit

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators environmental reporting

First Place

“60 Minutes: Cause and Effect”

Scott Pelley, Maria Gavrilovic, Alex Ortiz and April Wilson

CBS News

Judges’ comments: This is an extremely powerful segment, backed by science packaged for the average viewer to understand, about the frightening speed of devastation wrought by human-fueled climate change. The harrowing effects of the California forest fires, predicted by scientist James Edward Hansen in the 1980s, is a testament to the rapid pace of global warming. Fifty million Americans on the West Coast suffered through weeks of the worst air quality on the planet, as the fires charred four percent of the state. Professor Michael Mann of Penn State shares scientific research compounding this startling evidence, but he offers a glimmer of hope. We can reverse this devastation, and we can start by ceasing emissions from coal power plants.

Second Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Seeking to Solve a Pediatric Cancer Mystery”

Rand Morrison, Erin Moriarty, Kay M. Lim and George Pozderec

CBS News

Third Place

“60 Minutes: Array of Hope”

Bill Whitaker, Rome Hartman, Sara Kuzmarov and Matt Richman

60 Minutes

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“60 Minutes: Whistleblower”

Norah O’Donnell, Keith Sharman, Rome Hartman and Adam Verdugo

60 Minutes

Judges’ comments: A longtime federal administrator is suddenly sidelined when his views on the urgency on the unfolding Covid-19 crisis is found to be at odds with the administration’s view

that the contagion was far less serious. He tells all to “60 Minutes” in a calm, sobering and prophetic interview about conflicting views with the White House, and time proves him right.

Second Place

“Race for a Vaccine”

Lester Holt and Dateline Staff

Dateline NBC

Third Place

“On Assignment with Richard Engel: Mexico's Hidden Toll”

NBC News MSNBC staff

NBC News MSNBC