

88th National Headliner Awards winners

The 88th National Headliner Award winners honoring the best journalism in the United States in 2021 were announced today. The awards were founded in 1934 by the Press Club of Atlantic City. The annual contest is one of the oldest and largest in the country that recognizes journalistic merit in the communications industry.

The Best in Show Newspapers award went to Joe Mozingo and Francine Orr of the Los Angeles Times for their series titled “Disease, Inequity and Resilience in South L.A.”

“With the ravages of COVID-19 as a backdrop, the L.A. Times uses the stories of patients at one hospital to explain how a pandemic only exacerbated long-standing separate and unequal treatment of the residents of South L.A. The reporter's humanity shines through the tales of all those with whom he writes about,” the judges said about the series.

The Times was one of the big winners in this year's contest – grabbing a total of 19 awards, including five first places, eight second places and six third places.

Times photographer Kent Nishimura was awarded Best in Show Photography for his pictures of the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot.

“The horrors of the Jan. 6 insurrection are captured in Kent Nishimura's pictures,” the judges said. “Kent Nishimura's pictures show the angry mob storming the capitol, breaking through its doors and sending the joint session of Congress into hiding – fearing for their lives. In the mob's wake lie destruction, death, mayhem and eventual retreat.”

The digital journalism Best in Show winner went to ABC News for a collaboration with the statistical website FiveThirtyEight titled “The Negro League Stars That MLB Kept Out — And Is Finally Recognizing.”

“FiveThirtyEight published a remarkable story that used the publication's facility with statistics and data visualizations to place the Negro League players in their proper historical context, demonstrating the greatness of these players through statistical analysis and comparison that helps modern fans understand the kind of players these less-known Negro League players were by comparing their stats with current players and Hall of Famers,” the judges said.

In the radio categories, the Best in Show winner went to Megan Wahn, Martin Matheny, Devon Zwald and Sarah Train from WUGA FM, a public radio station in Athens, Georgia, for a story called “Sounds of the South.”

“Understanding why we speak as we do is more than skin deep. WUGA explores the fascinating reasons African American Vernacular English and White Southerner speech patterns overlap, causing them to sound so much alike you can't distinguish who's speaking,” the judges said.

The Best in Show Television winner went to reporter Nima Elbagir and CNN for their investigative report “Ethiopia: Exposing All The Hallmarks of a Genocide.”

“This is extraordinary journalism by a fearless reporter unmatched by her peers. Remember her name. We look forward to much more in her promising career,” the judges said.

Below are the first-, second- and third-place awards for the newspaper, photography, online, radio and television categories.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS SYNDICATES

Breaking News in daily newspapers, all sizes

First Place

“Inside the Room on Jan. 6”
Los Angeles Times Staff
Los Angeles Times

Judges’ comments: The idea that reporters write the first draft of history is more important than ever today. Americans should be grateful that the Los Angeles Times reporters and photographers witnessed and documented the events of Jan. 6, 2021 in unflinching detail. Revisionists have worked hard to promote a substitute narrative, and this package will stand as an enduring rebuttal for future generations.

Second Place

“Waukesha Christmas Parade attack”
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel staff
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Third Place

“Henry Ruggs charged with DUI after fatal car crash”
Las Vegas Review-Journal staff
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Local news beat coverage or continuing story in top 20 media market

First Place

“Cook County property assessment failures”
Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick and Caroline Hurley
Chicago Sun-Times

Judges’ comments: Caroline Hurley, Lauren FitzPatrick and Tim Novak used data journalism to expose flawed policies in the Cook County assessment office with a trio of deftly written and extensively researched stories. The stories focused on seniors, disabled veterans and property exclusions. It was a window in the world of assessment and a call for reform that could lead to more equitable practices.

Second Place

“On Homelessness in Los Angeles”
Doug Smith

Los Angeles Times

Third Place

“A Robot, a Whisk and a Body Bag: Waging the War on COVID-19”

Emily Baumgaertner

Los Angeles Times

Local news beat coverage or continuing story not in top 20 media market

First Place

“Green Energy”

Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

The Oregonian, OregonLive

Judges’ comments: Portland officials did not do their job, so Shane Dixon Kavanaugh did it for them. His work in exposing the questionable background of a nonprofit director receiving a \$12 million grant from the city offered a great example of solid beat reporting and tenacity in tracking down the story.

Second Place

“Crime and courts enterprise in Las Vegas”

Briana Erickson

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Third Place

“High profile developer implicated in low-income housing fraud”

Andrew Graham and Ethan Varian

The Press Democrat

International news beat coverage or continuing story by an individual or team

First Place

“Vaccine Inequity in the Americas

Shirsho Dasgupta, Jacqueline Charles, Rosmery Izaguirre, Adriana Brasileiro and Kevin G. Hall
Miami Herald and McClatchy Washington Bureau

Judges comments: The reporters at the Miami Herald and the McClatchy Washington bureau documented the shortages of COVID vaccines from Haiti to South America. Most importantly, their on-the-ground reporting put faces on the shortages, which often had fatal outcomes. As one leader called it: “vaccine apartheid.” Revelatory reporting for a U.S. audience that lived in a nation of vaccine surpluses.

Second Place

“The Fall of Afghanistan”
Nabih Bulos and Marcus Yam
Los Angeles Times

Third Place

“Young People on the Front Lines of Democracies Under Siege”
David Pierson
Los Angeles Times

News series in daily newspapers top 20 media market

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“Disease, Inequity and Resilience in South L.A.”
Joe Mozingo and Francine Orr
Los Angeles Times

Judges comments: With the ravages of COVID-19 as a backdrop, the L.A. Times uses the stories of patients at one hospital to explain how a pandemic only exacerbated long-standing separate and unequal treatment of the residents of South L.A. The reporter's humanity shines through the tales of all those with whom he writes about.

Second Place

“How one gun shop burglary in Wisconsin led to terror on Chicago's streets”
Chicago Tribune staff
Chicago Tribune

Third Place

“East Cleveland police chases”
cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer staff
cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

News series in newspapers not in top 20 media market

First Place

“Abuse of Trust”
Ashley Luthern and Gina Barton
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Judges' comments: This series about the dysfunctional Milwaukee Police Department was loaded with the details that can come only from shoe-leather reporting and deep institutional knowledge. From the lede, which introduced a compelling subject who refused to be interviewed, to the graphics that helped readers keep up with the many characters, the stories

connected all the dots. Each component left us stunned at the cronyism, wrongdoing and injustice uncovered. The writing was clear and interesting throughout. Beautifully executed.

Second Place

“The Obsession”

Douglas Perry

The Oregonian, OregonLive

Third Place

“Fatal Freeze”

San Antonio Express-News staff

San Antonio Express-News

Local interest column on a variety of subjects

First Place

Neil Steinberg

Chicago Sun-Times

Judges’ comments: Steinberg is a lovely writer whose columns have a strong voice and unique point of view, from reminding us of another time when disinformation put us all in danger, to an obituary that made us laugh. RIP, Gizmo.

Second Place

Michael Dobie

Newsday

Third Place

“The People's Column”

Myron Medcalf

Star Tribune

Special or feature column on one subject by an individual

First Place

Scott Vogel

Newsday

Judges’ comments: Food critic Scott Vogel doesn't just dish opinions on high-end restaurants. He provides pithy commentary that readers can use: where to get the best Asian street food. What's the scoop on the place that gets 5 stars from Yelp? And what about fast food fish sandwiches? In the process of rating the fish, Vogel tells us where it comes from. About a

particular piece of street food: "what every crepe wants to be when it grows up." He's entertaining and enlightening and helpful, all the things a columnist should be.

Second Place

Mike Sutter
San Antonio Express-News

Third Place

Mark Lamster
The Dallas Morning News

Editorial writing by an individual or team

First Place

Corey Friedman
The Wilson Times

Judges' comments: Well reasoned, well written and absolutely fearless. Loved the explicit call to action from parents. This school board is on notice that the Wilson Times is on watch.

Second Place

"California's Gubernatorial Recall"
Los Angeles Times Editorial Board
Los Angeles Times

Third Place

"What does it mean to fight climate change in a fracking state?"
Abraham Gutman
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sports column by an individual

First Place

Marcus Hayes
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Judges' comments: Sports opinions have become the hot-take industry, feeding a discussion that runs 24/7 on TV networks and social media. But the best sports columnists know that what makes readers care isn't being the fastest or the most outrageous, but instead telling compelling stories with a distinctive voice, infused with deep knowledge of the sport, the players and the community. The Philadelphia Inquirer's Marcus Hayes demonstrates excellence in sports opinion writing by leaning into his knowledge of the city and its teams and his curiosity about sports and athletes. His column on the Eagles' record on hiring Black coaches takes a

balanced and multifaceted look that relies heavily on Hayes' experience and knowledge of the team. And when he eviscerates the home team, like his takedown of the Phillies over mishandling a top prospect, he presents overwhelming evidence and reporting alongside a powerful voice. Every city's sports fans need someone like Hayes.

Second Place

Terry Pluto
cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

Third Place

Chip Scoggins
Star Tribune

Sports news writing by an individual or team

First Place

"Badger basketball: A perfect marriage fails"
Jeff Potrykus
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Judges' comments: The University of Wisconsin Badgers were supposed to be one of the top NCAA men's basketball teams for the 2019-2020 season, but the real drama happened off the court. After the team was bounced early from the NCAA tournament, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel revealed that former Badger star player turned assistant coach Alando Tucker was jockeying to replace head coach Greg Gard during the season. Relying on multiple sources within the Wisconsin program, reporter Jeff Potrykus demonstrated the value of shoeleather reporting and revealed the power struggles within big-time college athletics and their impact on players' careers and the game itself.

Second Place

"Athletics culture at Mater Dei High"
Scott M. Reid
Southern California News Group

Third Place

Terry Pluto
cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

Sports feature writing by an individual or team

First Place

Andrew Carter
Raleigh News & Observer

Judges' comments: Andrew Carter's work is marked by his understanding of how sports reveal character. His story about how a North Carolina high school basketball team responded to losing a game by 103 points makes the game a starting point to explore the challenges these kids are facing in life, in a poor rural county, during a pandemic. By the end, you have a completely different view of the winners and losers of that game. Remarkable sports writing.

Second Place

Jeff Seidel
Detroit Free Press

Third Place

Callie Caplan
The Dallas Morning News

Feature writing on a variety of subjects by an individual

First Place

"The Jessica Simulation"
Jason Fagone
San Francisco Chronicle

Judges' comments: Science fiction comes to life in this jaw-dropping entry. Well written and constructed and imaginatively presented.

Second Place

Maria L. La Ganga
Los Angeles Times

Third Place

"Covid's Scar"
Annie Gowen
The Washington Post

Business news coverage, business commentary and/or business columns by an individual or team

First Place

"What's in Illinois' legal weed?"
Stephanie Zimmermann and Tom Schuba
Chicago Sun-Times

Judges' comments: In a blend of strong consumer and business reporting, reporters Stephanie Zimmermann and Tom Schuba of the Chicago Sun-Times found just what the series asked: "What's In Your Weed?" And the answers were not pleasant. Through extensive reporting and testing, the reporters found legal marijuana being sold sometimes contained contaminants mold, yeast and bacteria and did not meet the label's potency promise. As more states legalize marijuana, this will become an increasingly important consumer issue.

Second Place

"Corporate America's racial reckoning"

Tracy Jan, Jena McGregor and Meghan Hoyer

The Washington Post

Third Place

"Migrant worker deaths"

Maria Perez

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Education writing by an individual or team

First Place

"Rich School, Poor Students"

Bob Fernandez and Charlotte Keith

The Philadelphia Inquirer, Spotlight PA and ProPublica

Judges' comments: The Milton Hershey School boards and educates children in need and provides funds for college, but with a steep cost. The result is not always sweet. Board members oversee a 20th century will that hasn't adapted to the 21st century needs of the college set. Expectations, finances and board governance are detailed, demonstrating how a good idea is out-of-step with today's reality.

Second Place

"Reading Remedies"

Staff

The Post and Courier, The Christian Science Monitor, The Dallas Morning News, The Seattle Times, AL.com and the Hechinger Report

Third Place

María Méndez

Austin American-Statesman

Health, medical and science writing by an individual or team

First Place

“Mesa monkey farm”

Rob O'Dell

Arizona Republic

Judges' comments: How are monkeys relevant to our health? They are used in essential medical research. Reporter Rob O'Dell of the Arizona Republic/azcentral.com undertook an exhaustive investigation into problems at the University of Washington's monkey farm in Mesa, Arizona. It is the nation's largest. But the monkeys have been plagued by valley fever and subjected to polluted water -- factors that make their efficacy in medical research questionable. The Republic's health-related investigation included a veterinary review of the records of the monkeys. Great, deep work on a health topic that is not so obvious.

Second Place

Nicole Villalpando

Austin American-Statesman

No third-place award given

Environmental writing by an individual or team

First Place

“Rainforest Destruction: The Supply Chains To U.S. Consumers”

NBC News, The New York Times, the Pulitzer Center and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Judges' comments: Fascinating and informative, backed up by ambitious reporting, thousands of documents, and countless miles of travel to some of the world's most remote areas. An important read for American consumers.

Second Place

“Downpour”

USA TODAY and the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting

Third Place

“United States of California”

Evan Halper, Jackeline Luna and Carolyn Cole

Los Angeles Times

Investigative reporting in newspapers in top 20 media market

First Place

“Poisoned”

Corey G. Johnson, Rebecca Woolington and Eli Murray

Tampa Bay Times

Judges' comments: The reporters from the Tampa Bay times executed an excellent investigative, environmental and health project that gave voices to both workers and a local community that normally do not have voices. Their level of detail was so great they even became certified as lead inspectors. This is the kind of journalism that we must continue to do in the face of disruption in our industry.

Second Place

"Windsor mayor investigation"

Alexandria Bordas and Cynthia Dizikes

San Francisco Chronicle

Third Place

"California Medical Board and Troubled Doctors"

Los Angeles Times Staff

Los Angeles Times

Investigative reporting in newspapers not in top 20 media market

First Place

"Death in the Fast Lane"

The Charlotte Observer staff

The Charlotte Observer

Judges' comments: Investigative reporter Ames Alexander drives on the interstate to work and something starts nagging at him -- how many drivers pass him going about 100 mph. He began poking around and found that one key reason North Carolina speeders are so emboldened is that they face minor penalties because it is so easy to plea-bargain tickets down to a minor violation. And, he asked, who would care? He found plenty of examples, including a 6-year-old boy on his way home from getting ice cream killed by a street-racer doing 100 mph, a motorist who had gotten many breaks in the past from a forgiving court system.

Second Place

"Death Sentence"

The Indianapolis Star staff

The Indianapolis Star

Third Place

"Blake Bailey was an ODU star. Faculty and students say he abused and harassed women for years."

Gary Harki

The Virginian-Pilot

Public service in newspapers in top 20 media market

First Place

“Birth & Betrayal”

Carol Marbin Miller, Daniel Chang and Emily Michot
Miami Herald

Judges’ comments: "Birth and Betrayal" incited outrage and action within hours of publication, and with good reason. The fund set up for families of children disabled by doctors wasn't paying out, leaving families to struggle with the most basic needs. Some didn't even know the money was available to them. The stories resulted in NICA falling down like a Jenga game. The director resigned, the board collapsed and families were finally getting the help they needed and deserved.

Second Place

“AP Voting Series”

Christina A. Cassidy, Anthony Izaguirre and Nicholas Riccardi
The Associated Press

Third Place

“Arizona 'audit': Democracy in Doubt”

The Arizona Republic staff
The Arizona Republic

Public service in newspapers not in top 20 media market

First Place

“Uncovered”

The Post and Courier staff
The Post and Courier

Judge’s comments: Recognizing that the decline of the newspaper industry seemed coincident with the rise of local graft in South Carolina, the Post and Courier organized a statewide SWAT team of media outlets to support one another and lend muscle to investigative reporting on the micro level.

Second Place

“Meth Mountain”

Kingsport Times News staff
Kingsport Times News

Third Place

“National Guard investigation”

Katelyn Ferral and Natallie Brophy

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Madison Capital Times and Appleton-Post-Crescent

Editorial cartoons

First Place

Matt Davies

Newsday

Judges’ comments: In a field crowded with purse-lipped presidents and "clusters" of guns, Matt Davies' entry stood out for its out-of-the-box approach and putting politics in our homes: Screen time, global warming, vaccines and school shootings were all set in the everyday. His artistic style is smart and sophisticated. His cartoons leave you impressed, enraged and included.

Second Place

Stephen P. Breen

The San Diego Union Tribune

Third Place

Michael Ramirez

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Journalistic innovation

First Place

“7@7’ daily streaming video newscast”

Las Vegas Review-Journal staff

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judges’ comments: The LVRJ set out to blaze a new trail for an online newscast. After research, they came up with 7@7, a seven-minute newscast each morning and evening at 7. This is not television news, although at first it might appear so. This is no-nonsense, here-are-the facts news. This mobile-oriented innovation has had several thousand views per episode. Segment hosts were selected to reflect diversity in the community. And, innovation needs creativity, but it also needs revenue to be sustained. Each 7@7 segment has a sponsor, with the sponsor's branding in the upper right corner of the screen.

No second- or third-place award given

Best political coverage

First Place

“Political Upheaval in the Heartland”

Jonathan Shorman, Bryan Lowry and Eric Adler

The Kansas City Star

Judges’ comments: When a reporter solidly "goes deep" on a politician, you just do not expect the lede to recount something the politician did as a 15-year-old or the presentation to include a photo of him with fellow students in middle school. But reporters at the Kansas City Star did just that in their fascinating backgrounding on Sen. Josh Hawley, writing that "the junior senator from Missouri is the face of the failed effort to overturn the 2020 election." A great read with fantastic depth.

Second Place

“Texas legislative coverage”

Robert T. Garrett, Allie Morris and Lauren McGaughy

The Dallas Morning News

Third Place

Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press

Newspaper pandemic coverage or project

First Place

“Inside COVID's Siege”

Courtney Crowder and Zach Boyden-Holmes

Des Moines Register

Judges’ comments: This subject matter has been (necessarily) covered endlessly, often with excellent results. And yet this entry blew us away. The writing and reporting are truly exceptional.

Second Place

“POLITICO’s Recovery Lab”

POLITICO staff

POLITICO

Third Place

“Pandemic Spending Accountability Series”

Associated Press staff

Associated Press

MAGAZINES

Coverage of a major news event or topic

First Place

“Insulin’s Deadly Cost”

Geoff Colvin

Fortune Media

Judges’ comments: The story of insulin focused on a common drug and used one person's struggle with its exorbitant costs to show how prescription prices vary across different pharmacies, why the drug isn't generic and how regulators deal with the problem. It's a clear, focused story that illuminates and infuriates.

Second Place

“Dominion Voting: Big Lies vs. Big Lawsuits”

Jen Wieczner

Fortune Media

Third Place

“The Truth About Reconciliation”

Peter Keating and Shaun Assael

Mother Jones

Magazine feature writing by an individual on a variety of subjects

First Place

“Airbnb is Spending Millions of Dollars to Make Nightmares Go Away”

Olivia Carville

Bloomberg

Judges’ comments: Happy faces in beautiful places, an idea that Airbnb will go to great lengths to protect when it comes to its vacation properties and company reputation. This is a fascinating story, with a high degree of reporting difficulty and great sourcing. A must read.

Second Place

“Welcome to the TikTok Economy”

Jeffrey M. O'Brien

Fortune Media

Third Place

“Loaded For Bear”

Brian Burnsed

Sports Illustrated

Magazine political coverage

First Place

Michael Kruse
Politico

Judges' comments: A story like none other, Michael Kruse zeroed in on a pivotal race to explain to readers why national politics matter at the local level. Deeply researched and powerfully written, the three stories are a textbook example of how congressional races should be covered.

No second- or third-place award given

PHOTOGRAPHY AND GRAPHICS FOR DAILY NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, NEWS SERVICE AND SYNDICATES

Spot news photography

First Place

"House Chamber on January 6th"
Tom Williams
CQ Roll Call

Judges' comments: Tom Williams captured the personal terror of the Jan. 6 insurrection with this image of Rep. Jason Crow comforting Rep. Susan Wild while they take cover as rioters attempt to break into the House chamber of the Capitol to disrupt a joint session of Congress to certify the Electoral College vote.

Second Place

"Amid the debris, Gaza mourns loss of life and looks to rebuild"
Marcus Yam
Los Angeles Times

Third Place

"Mandate Opponents"
Elias Valverde II
The Dallas Morning News

Feature photography

First Place

“Wally Funk”
Lola Gomez
The Dallas Morning News

Judges’ comments: The 82 year-old astronaut Wally Funk waves to the crowd during her Wally Funk Parade. The juxtaposition of her to the crowd of Star Wars clad onlookers elevates the humor in this picture.

Second Place

“Head Over Heels in a Field of Blue”
Smiley N. Pool
The Dallas Morning News

Third Place

“Gay Bars”
Juan Figueroa
The Dallas Morning News

Sports action or sports feature photography

First Place

“Flying high”
Carlos Gonzalez
Star Tribune

Judges’ comments: Carlos Gonzalez captured the perfect moment in sports action, as Minnesota basketball player Luke Loewe goes flying through the air after a foul by Michigan State’s Max Christie.

Second Place

“Morning Workout”
J. Conrad Williams Jr.
Newsday

Third Place

“Inside the park Homer”
Steven M. Falk
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Individual photo portfolio

First Place

“The Fall of Afghanistan”

Marcus Yam
Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: As Kabul fell into Taliban control, photographer Marcus Yam made images of frightened Afghans swarming the airport in hopes of escape, of ordinary people on the daily hunt for cash and food and some semblance of safety, and of Taliban fighters ensconcing themselves throughout the city. His portfolio of pictures is an extraordinary feat of tenacity and personal vision as he bore witness to the fall.

Second Place

Aaron Lavinsky
Star Tribune

Third Place

Tom Fox
Dallas Morning News

Staff photo portfolio

First Place

Las Vegas Review-Journal staff
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judges' comments: The Review Journal staff portfolio was outstanding, with powerful, emotive, sometimes funny, creative and sometimes cringe-worthy pictures throughout. The excellence of images throughout the portfolio set it apart from the other entries.

Second Place

Star Tribune staff
Star Tribune

Third Place

"A Day in the Life of Long Island"
Newsday staff
Newsday

Single day photo story

First Place

"Journey fulfilled"
Smiley N. Pool
The Dallas Morning News

Judges' comments: Earnestine Tarrant styled hair in her salon for 41 years – making a lifetime of friendships. Photographer Smiley N. Pool photographed her last day "at the office." He made a heart-warming set of pictures reflecting the kindness and caring nature of Earnestine.

Second Place

"Into The Night"

Thomas A. Ferrara

Newsday

Third Place

"Lebanon Unrest"

Marcus Yam

Los Angeles Times

Multiple day photo story

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

"The Capitol Riot"

Kent Nishimura

Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: The horrors of the January 6th insurrection are captured in Kent Nishimura's pictures. The insurrection began with a fiery speech by Donald Trump exhorting his followers to stop the certification of election returns by Congress that would result in Joe Biden being named our 46th president. Kent Nishimura's pictures show the angry mob storming the capitol, breaking through its doors and sending the joint session of Congress into hiding – fearing for their lives. In the mob's wake lie destruction, death, mayhem and eventual retreat. All shown in this portfolio.

Second Place

"Migrants Keep Crossing Despite Risks and Border Patrol Apprehensions"

Carolyn Cole and Gary Coronado

Los Angeles Times

Third Place

"The Marr, the merrier"

Vernon Bryant

The Dallas Morning News

Portrait

First Place

"Afghanistan's air force is a rare U.S.-backed success story. It may soon fail"

Marcus Yam
Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: The somber face of an Afghan soldier looking out the open door of a UH-60 Black Hawk days before the fall of Kabul foretells the tragedy ahead.

Second Place

"Tani's Game"
Thomas A. Ferrara
Newsday

Third Place

"Clint Eastwood"
Jay Clendenin
Los Angeles Times

Pictorial

First Place

"Moonlight"
Thomas A. Ferrara
Newsday

Judges' comments: A simple composition of repeating parking lot lights punctuated by a waxing crescent moon makes for this arresting pictorial photo.

Second Place

"Holy Hill covered in ice"
Mike De Sisti
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Third Place

"Taking Flight"
Tom Fox
Dallas Morning News

ONLINE

Online investigative reporting for digital-only website

First Place

"Denied"
Emmanuel Martinez, Lauren Kirchner and Malena Carollo
The Markup

Judges' comments: Too often, investigations lose steam when those responsible say that an issue is too complicated and that the public would see something in a different light if they had more information. The Markup followed up on a previous investigation by examining information the mortgage industry argued would prove that their lending isn't discriminatory. The investigation found the opposite to be true and showed the disparity at some of the country's most prominent lenders.

Second Place

"Cabrini-Green: A History of Broken Promises"

Alejandra Cancino

Better Government Association

Third Place

"Equity Erased"

Sally Kestin

Asheville Watchdog

Online investigative reporting for digital partnerships with other news outlets

First Place

"Pandora Papers"

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, The Washington Post, Miami Herald and other media partners

Judges' comments: The judges found the scope and depth of the Pandora Papers investigation to be stunning. As the entrants noted: "More than 600 journalists at 151 media outlets in 117 countries joined forces — the largest news collaboration in history." The journalism's impact was real: from voters booting out the Czech Republic's prime minister to bi-partisan Congressional lawmakers introducing legislation in the U.S. to the impeachment of President Piñera of Chile.

Second Place

"The Failures Before the Fires"

Madison Hopkins and Cecilia Reyes

Better Government Association and Chicago Tribune

Third Place

"Invisible Threat: Carbon Monoxide's Unchecked Toll"

ProPublica/Texas Tribune/NBC News staff

Online beat coverage

First Place

“Pipeline Through the Heart: A black neighborhood's uphill battle against oil developers”

Carrington J. Tatum

MLK50.com

Judges’ comments: It's rare enough to win against an eminent domain challenge; it's even harder for people of color. So when Southwest Memphis residents were able to get the Byhalia Connection Pipeline shut down, it was a major victory. This victory may not have been possible without the dogged stories written by Carrington J. Tatum that gave Black residents the fortitude to fight. The issue got so big that even former Vice President Al Gore weighed in on the controversy.

Second Place

“The Fight to Vote”

Sam Levine

Guardian US

Third Place

“Still Cashing In”

Jay Hancock

Kaiser Health News

Best blog**First Place**

Mary C. Curtis

Roll Call

Judges’ comments: Mary Curtis' work is insightful and engaging. Her topics including race, politics and culture are more important than ever, at a time when we sorely need informed and reasoned voices to lead the discussion.

Second Place

“Systemic Disaster: Racism Riddles Response to COVID”

Derrick Z. Jackson, Union of Concerned Scientists

Third Place

“New Hampshire Primary Source”

John DiStaso

WMUR-TV

Online video up to 1 minute

First Place

“Oceanside students develop wheelchair attachment for first-grader”

Newsday staff

Newsday

Judges’ comments: A class bands together to create a solution that allows their wheelchair-mobile classmate to participate in play and phys ed. Well-told from multiple perspectives and heartwarming, who could ask for more?

Second Place

“Around The World Now in 60 Seconds”

Aaron Gilchrist, Alex Tabet, Andre Brooks, Evan Hirsch, Aaron Gilchrist and Alex Tabet

NBC News NOW / MSNBC

Third Place

“Gingerbread Joy”

WCVB-TV staff

WCVB-TV

Online video up to three minutes**First place**

“The Gift of Shelter After a Wildfire Disaster Destroys a Home”

Dan Wright and Andrea Rainone

The Weather Company | weather.com

Judges’ comments: This well-told tale of a man and his daughter providing housing for victims of disasters is a welcome reminder that goodness wins.

Second place

“Climate Change: How we’re accelerating towards the perilous 2 degree milestone”

Al Roker, Brian Van Aken, Tristan Bresnen, Erin McGarry, Kathryn Prociv, Jordan Malter, Tom Parrinello, Joey Cole

NBC News NOW / MSNBC

Third place

“Vet Gets His Diploma”

WCVB-TV staff

WCVB-TV

Online video 3 to 10 minutes**First Place**

“How marginalized communities in the South are paying for ‘green energy’ in Europe”

CNN staff

CNN

Judges’ comments: CNN exposes the environmental atrocities that plague marginalized communities. In this case, a rural, minority N.C. town where the forests are being clearcut to feed the EU's clean-energy goals by creating biomass fuel from the trees. The destruction of the forests, the grinding of the trees, is creating its own ecological nightmare on the community in the name of clean energy.

Second Place

“A Segregation Wall Still Standing: The Legacy of Detroit’s Birwood Wall”

NBC News Digital and BridgeDetroit

NBC Universal

Third Place

“What It’s Like To Work At A Crematorium In India As The Death Toll Mounts”

Insider’s News and Documentary Team

Insider

Online video 10 to 30 minutes

First Place

“Disaster Road”

Brandon Clement, Andy Coates and Jonathan Petramala

The Weather Company | [weather.com](https://www.weather.com)

Judges’ comments: This in-depth look at the impact of climate-change borne weather disasters tells the story of the communities and the people along I-10 from Texas to Florida. Riveting video and interviews make the issue come alive for viewers.

Second Place

“Afghanistan: The War at Home”

Richard Engel, On Assignment with Richard Engel Staff, NBC News Staff

NBC News

Third Place

“ABC News Prime: Wrongfully Accused”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Digital presentation of a single news topic

First Place

“Assault on Democracy: Paths to Insurrection”

CNN staff

CNN

Judges’ comments: CNN’s depth in exploring the roots of the Jan. 6 insurrection is both shocking and sobering. This piece drills into the why and hits a gusher.

Second Place

“Rebuilding Our Beach Dunes”

Rosanna Xia, Paul Duginski and Sean Greene

Los Angeles Times

Third Place

“Split Screen”

Sam Morris and Surya Mattu

The Markup

Digital presentation of a single features topic**First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

“The Negro League Stars That MLB Kept Out — And Is Finally Recognizing”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Judges’ comments: Major League Baseball officially designated the Negro Leagues as having “Major League” status in December 2020, addressing a prejudice that persisted for more than 70 years after Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color line. Two months later, FiveThirtyEight published a remarkable story that used the publication’s facility with statistics and data visualizations to place the Negro League players in their proper historical context, demonstrating the greatness of these players through statistical analysis and comparison that helps modern fans understand the kind of players these less-known Negro League players were by comparing their stats with current players and Hall of Famers. In FiveThirtyEight’s accessible and engaging visualizations, Josh Gibson is ranked second of all baseball hitters, behind only Babe Ruth. No one can ever recover the opportunities these athletes were denied because of the color of their skin, but FiveThirtyEight shows that we can still give them the place in baseball history they deserve. This work may point to other ways that data can be used to fill in lacunae in our shared history.

Second Place

“The Mechanism”

Cristina Caicedo Smit, Victor Castillo, Guadalupe Rincon, Jessica Jerreat, Amy Reifenrath and Brian Williamson

Voice of America

Third Place

“Gamified NFT auction for a Fortune magazine cover”

Fortune Media Staff

Fortune Media

Social media

First Place

“Winter Freeze”

Dallas Morning News staff

Dallas Morning News

Judges’ comments: When the cold came and the power went, the Dallas Morning News made brilliant use of social media. Its use of SMS updates and Twitter and Instagram posts and videos not only kept its readers informed as conditions changed, but its interactive posts also served to connect them.

Second Place

Insider Social Media Team

Insider

No third-place award given

Narrative podcast

First Place

“Operator”

Topic Studios staff

Topic Studios

Judges’ comments: The little-known story behind the sex-phone industry packs a lot of sizzle, but what really sets it apart is how intriguing a story about technology, labor and business can be in a frontier start-up. Terrific, authentic characters from the era make all the difference.

Second Place

“Al Jazeera Investigates - Degrees of Abuse”

Al Jazeera I Unit

Al Jazeera Media Network

Third Place

“Broken Pledge”

Mike Wagner, Sheridan Hendrix and Patrick Flaherty
The Columbus Dispatch

Information podcast

First Place

“Squawk Pod - The Retail Rebellion”
Squawk Pod
CNBC

Judges’ comments: Fast-moving, slickly produced, information strong, CNBC's "Squawk Pod" provides a fusillade of insight into the day’s market and economic news with intriguing guests.

Second Place

“Embodied”
Embodied Staff
North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Third Place

“The Brainstorm podcast from Fortune”
Fortune Media Staff
Fortune Media

Criminal justice and/or crime podcast

First Place

“On Our Watch from NPR and KQED”
National Public Radio and KQED staff
National Public Radio and KQED

Judges’ comments: A massive project from NPR and KQED used a new California transparency law to get "the rest of the story" on cases of alleged police misconduct. The organizations established a network of news groups to feed in from local jurisdictions and then dug into the records to tell real-life stories of what happened. In gripping accounts from police audio records and more, the reality of front-line policing came to light. The reporting was so strong that it impacted the outcome of some individual cases and future legislation in California. Truly a great swath of journalism.

Second Place

“The Trials of Frank Carson”
Christopher Goffard
Los Angeles Times

Third Place

“Mommy Doomsday”

Joe Delmonico, Shane Bishop, Vincent Sturla, Linda Zhang and Keith Morrison
Dateline NBC

Online pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“Uncounted: The hidden death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic”

MuckRock, the Documenting COVID-19 project and USA TODAY network staff
MuckRock, the Documenting COVID-19 project and the USA TODAY network

Judges’ comments: Accurate reporting of deaths in a community is an important indicator of regional health and has legal and historic significance. Either from shame, fear or for political reasons, COVID deaths are going unreported in significant numbers in multiple jurisdictions. Kudos to the Documenting COVID-19 project at MuckRock and Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation — working with the USA TODAY network — for bringing this practice to light through text, video, links and graphics.

Second Place

“Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker”

Bloomberg staff
Bloomberg

Third Place

“Vaccine Equality”

Epicenter-NYC staff
Epicenter-NYC

RADIO STATIONS

Radio stations newscast, all markets

First Place

“WBAL News Now at 5 a.m. 11-19-21”

WBAL-AM staff
WBAL-AM

Judge’s comments: Terrific organization, straightforward presentation, and classic weaving of sound make this a first-rate, evocative newscast. Brisk, insightful, and to-the-point. WBAL puts a wrapper around the day’s news and captivates in the process.

Second Place

“The resignation of Governor Andrew Cuomo”

1010 WINS staff
1010 WINS

Third Place

Texas Standard staff
Texas Standard

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

First Place

“Chicago Blackhawks’ leaders failed to quickly act on allegations of abuse”
Tony Arnold and Dave McKinney
WBEZ Chicago

Judges’ comments: Dogged reporting by WBEZ uncovers the embarrassing story of how the six-time Stanley Cup winning hometown hockey team had been ignoring a player’s claims of sexual abuse.

Second Place

“Ida slams Tri-State”
1010 WINS staff
1010 WINS

Third Place

“Selections from WLRN’s Surfside Condo Collapse Coverage”
WLRN News Staff
WLRN News

Radio stations feature and human interest story, all markets

First Place

“Overlooked trailblazer: Before Rosa Parks, Sarah Keys refused to back down”
Jay Price
North Carolina Public Radio WUNC

Judges’ comments: A nearly forgotten story in the civil rights movement is brought back to life -- and aural liveliness -- in this story of a Black female soldier who stood up against oppressive authority. The reporters get out of the way and let the story tell itself, and it’s compelling.

Second Place

“You Don’t Say”
KBIA staff
KBIA

Third Place

“9/11 20th Anniversary: Former NYC Police Commissioner Bill Bratton”
Michael Mackey, Host and WLIW-FM Staff
WLIW-FM

Radio stations documentary or public affairs

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“Sounds of the South”
Megan Wahn, Martin Matheny, Devon Zwald and Sarah Train
WGUA FM

Judges’ comments: Understanding why we speak as we do is more than skin deep. WGUA explores the fascinating reasons African American Vernacular English and White Southerner speech patterns overlap, causing them to sound so much alike you can’t distinguish who’s speaking.

Second Place

“Class of COVID-19: An Education Crisis for Florida’s Vulnerable Students”
Jessica Bakeman and Staff
Florida Public Media

Third Place

“Reversing The Trend: Baltimore’s Battle Against Crime”
Phil Yacuboski
WBAL-AM

Radio stations news series

First Place

“Seize and Keep: Civil Forfeiture in Massachusetts”
Saurabh Datar, Shannon Dooling and Beth Healy
WBUR

Judges’ comments: Important story from WBUR, and not one that is easy to report. Careful journalism explains how easy it is for authorities to seize funds in Massachusetts -- and how difficult it is to get those funds back. The piece brought about scrutiny from lawmakers. Certainly more to follow.

Second Place

“Saving Mercy Hospital”
Kristen Schorsch

WBEZ Chicago

Third Place

“Unseen: The Boy Victims of the Sex Trade”
Jenifer McKim, Phillip Martin, Paul Singer
GBH News

Radio stations pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“Coverage of the COVID-19 Pandemic from MPR News”
Catharine Richert, Kirsti Marohn, Hannah Yang
MPR News

Judges’ comments: Sensitive portrayal that brings home the impact on those particularly vulnerable. An excellent look at early days of COVID, before we understood all of the effects but surely felt the pervasive dread of the unknown.

Second Place

“Battling the COVID variants”
1010 WINS staff
1010 WINS

Third Place

“COVID-19 Survivor: 'Corona Is Real. It's Not A Myth”
Veronica Zaragovia
WLRN News

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators newscast

First Place

“CBS News World News Roundup, January 7, 2021”
Steve Kathan and Paul Farry
CBS News Radio

Judges’ comments: Classic use of sound and voice, clear order and progression, and careful reporting distinguish this fast-moving coverage of the Capitol Riot.

Second Place

“1/7/21 Bloomberg Radio 6 a.m. Newscast”
Bloomberg Radio staff
Bloomberg Radio

Third Place

“CBS News Top of the Hour, April 21, 2021 - 7 a.m.”
Deborah Rodriguez, Matt Cherry and Steve Futterman
CBS News Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators breaking news or continuing coverage

First Place

“Assault on the US Capitol”
CBS News Radio staff
CBS News Radio

Judges’ comments: Urgent but factual, unexpected but authoritative, CBS Radio draws on a variety of correspondents inside and outside the Capitol as events unfold on Jan. 6, with audio of chants and gunshots, reporters and representatives, eyewitnesses and analysts. Fast-paced and up to the second.

Second Place

“The Fall of Afghanistan”
CBS News Radio staff
CBS News Radio

Third Place

“NPR coverage of India's yearlong farmer protests”
Lauren Frayer
National Public Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators feature and human interest story

First Place

“CBS News Radio - One Year Later”
CBS News Radio staff
CBS News Radio

Judges’ comments: An eloquent story framed in the transition of CBS’s coverage when COVID hit. It’s not just the story of the news organization, though: Through lucid storytelling we’re reminded of the extraordinary efforts society as a whole made to cope with a brand new way of doing business and living life.

Second Place

“In India, boy meets girl, proposes — and gets accused of jihad”
Lauren Frayer and Sushmita Pathak
National Public Radio

Third Place

“Racial covenants, a relic of the past, are still on the books across the country”
Cheryl W. Thompson, Natalie Moore, Corinne Ruff, Cristina Kim and Roxana Popescu,
inewssource
National Public Radio

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

“Remembering 9/11, 20 Years Later”
Amy Morris
Bloomberg Radio

Judges’ comments: Bloomberg has produced a program that brings back startling and vivid memories. This report is more than a retrospective – it weaves a tapestry of recollections, many from unusual angles, many tempered with retrospect, many still raw in the subjects’ memories.

Second Place

“Lorena's Alcance”
Julia Rocha, Sindy Nanclares, Sofia Cerda Campero and Andrea López-Cruzado
Futuro Media Group

Third Place

“The Debrief: 'Insurrection: Capitol Hell”
Major Garrett, Arden Farhi and Jamie Benson
CBS News Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators news series**First Place**

“Help Wanted: Where are the Workers?”
Alina Selyukh, Scott Horsley and Andrea Hsu
National Public Radio

Judges’ comments: Tells the human story behind the statistics. Balanced, insightful, and eye-opening. A good story told in a strong narrative voice.

Second Place

“Hot Days: Heat's Mounting Death Toll on Workers in the U.S.”
National Public Radio, Columbia Journalism Investigations, and the California and Texas
Newsroom

Third Place

“CBS News Special Series, 20 Years Later, America Remembers 9/11”

CBS News Radio staff

CBS News Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“CBS News Radio - One Year Later”

CBS News Radio staff

CBS News Radio

Judges’ comments: An eloquent story framed in the transition of CBS’s coverage when COVID hit. It’s not just the story of the news organization, though: Through lucid storytelling we’re reminded of the extraordinary efforts society as a whole made to cope with a brand new way of doing business and living life.

Second Place

“NPR coverage of India's spring 2021 COVID wave”

Lauren Frayer and Sushmita Pathak

National Public Radio

Third Place

“The Debrief with Major Garrett, 'Virus of Hate'”

Major Garrett, Arden Farhi and Jamie Benson

CBS Radio News

TELEVISION

Broadcast or cable television stations newscast

First Place

“News at 6: Tragedy at Astroworld”

KPRC staff

KPRC

Judges’ comments: This Astroworld newscast brought out the exceptional chaos with an emphasis on concertgoers in this tragedy. This was quite an expansive edition of an investigation that went beyond the normal. Excellent use of visuals including strong social media graphics. The strong collection of first hand accounts of what happened made the story stick.

Second Place

“Pittsburgh's Action News 4 At 11:00”

WTAE Staff
WTAE

Third Place

“NewsCenter 5 at 6 p.m.: Henri Makes Landfall in New England”
WCVB-TV staff
WCVB-TV

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

First Place

“Shots Fired Inside Ross Park Mall”
WTAE staff
WTAE

Judges’ comments: Quick response and video-driven coverage – much of it from shoppers with cell phones during the disturbance at Ross Park Mall – makes Action News 4 the winner. In the same news cycle, the team even develops the security angle about the mall not installing cameras despite requests by local police.

Second Place

“Tahoe Evacuations”
KCRA 3 News staff
KCRA 3 News

Third Place

“Deadly Standoff After Brockton Shooting”
WCVB-TV staff
WCVB-TV

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

First Place

“Robert Vicoso Manhunt”
WBAL-TV News Team
WBAL-TV

Judges’ comments: There was intense build up across several stories about a police officer who was a father and another officer on the run with his kids. It was compelling and informative, shedding light on an important topic of custody and parenting but through the story of a couple that was desperate. It all happened within the short span of a week that all of these details and interviews were collected to present an attention grabbing story with an amazing ending.

Second Place

“The Durst Diaries”

News 12 staff

News 12

Third Place

“Green Line Derailment Exposes Safety Lapses”

WCVB-TV staff

WCVB-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations feature, sports or human interest story**First Place**

“The Photo”

Adam Harding, Michael DelGiudice and Rachel Belli

WNBC

Judges’ comments: 9/11 NY Port Authority police officer Chris Amoroso’s last valiant effort as a first responder to the World Trade Center tragedy is frozen in time, now for 20 years, by way of a single photograph that shows him saving the life of a woman. The woman’s identity and fate remained unknown, until now. From a new interview with the photographer who snapped the picture to the news organization’s plea and search through social media for information, the story culminates with a videoconference meeting between the officer’s widow and the mystery woman, now living in India, whose face (through two nearly pixel-matched cross dissolves) is immediately matched to the woman in the photograph. This piece tells the story of a single moment in life, the journey of that moment and the unknowns surrounding it for two decades, culminating in an incredibly emotional personal connection offering comfort and closure.

Second Place

“Mrs. Klein’s Greatest Lesson”

Boyd Huppert and Chad Nelson

KARE-TV

Third Place

“In The Name Of A Soldier”

Jeff Abell and Ben Otte

WBFF-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations public service**First Place**

“Failure Factory”

Carolyn Peirce, Chris Papst, Jed Gamber, Dwayne Myers and Ray Rogowski

WBFF-TV

Judges' comments: Fox45 thoroughly details the story of a Baltimore City high school student failed by the system, reporting that revealed widespread deficiencies in passing students despite failing grades, grade fixing, ineffective or non-existent communication with parents, "ghost students," administrators under investigation, and more in classic TV "but wait, there's more" presentation that uncovers a veritable treasure-trove of documents, statistics, and report findings that show the fault does not reside solely at the local level. Interviews with former students, government officials and concerned parents cover the gamut of impact and ongoing efforts to change the broken system.

Second Place

"Politically Charged"

Dave Biscobing, Chief Investigative Reporter; ABC15 Staff
ABC15

Third Place

"Powerless"

KXAS TV staff
KXAS TV

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

First Place

"Paper Tag Nation"

KXAS TV staff
KXAS TV

Judges' comments: KXAS uncovers a huge scam operating right under your nose – or at least on the bumper in front of you. Texas temporary tags are being sold fraudulently on a \$200 million black market abetted by a lack of oversight at the Texas DMV. KXAS pioneered media oversight into the DMV database in exposing this scam.

Second Place

"Crisis in Corrections"

Adam Walser, Kylie McGivern and Matt McGlashen
WFTS-TV

Third Place

"Who Killed Barbara Jean?"

NBC10 Philadelphia staff
NBC10 Philadelphia

Broadcast or cable television stations investigative reporting

First Place

“Risky Rides”

KXAN Investigates Staff

KXAN

Judges’ comments: The Risky Rides paper license problem reveals an in depth look at temporary tags to cover up crimes. Excellent dig into an underground problem that allows fugitives to remain in plain sight. The business of these tags cannot be understated and this team of journalists had the tools to discern and sort through the massive paperwork. Graphics were exceptional and the segment had solid storytelling and issues that affect the community.

Second Place

“Gideon's Army”

Phil Williams and Bryan Staples

WTVF-NewsChannel 5

Third Place

“Sedated”

Lori Jane Gliha and Noah Skinner

FOX31

Broadcast or cable television stations business and consumer reporting

First Place

“Car Warranties and Your Friendly Neighborhood DMV”

Chris Vanderveen and Chris Hansen

KUSA

Judges’ comments: A story that is entertaining and Orwellian at the same time. While there are laws on the books that prohibit the sale of much motor vehicle data, the system is leaky. While this can be an annoyance, it can also be dangerous -- such as for victims of stalkers. A careful investigation and a well-produced piece.

Second Place

“13 Investigates Consumer Concerns”

Bob Segall & 13 Investigates Team

WTHR

Third Place

“Same does not mean equal”

Adam Racusin and Geoff Steven
KGTU

Broadcast or cable television stations health/science reporting

First Place

“Unforgettable Chance for Woman Battling Brain Cancer”
WCVB-TV staff
WCVB-TV

Judges’ comments: Moving, informative, and beautifully produced story of a woman undergoing experimental treatment for a rare and deadly cancer. WCVB not only documents her hope, but the promise of a new type of treatment that is, in effect, custom-made for each individual patient.

Second Place

“Cycle of abuse closes teen psychiatric facility”
Bennett Haeberle and Chris Kettler
WBNS-TV

Third Place

“Plan C Pills: The Debate Over Safety & Access”
KXAN Investigates Staff
KXAN

Broadcast or cable television stations environmental reporting

First Place

“Skagit: River of Light and Loss”
Susannah Frame, Ryan Coe and Eric Derosiers
KING TV

Judges’ comments: This is an extremely moving investigative series about the impact of Seattle City's Light "false narrative" denying the impact of a low cost, “green” power dam's impact on the Chinook salmon and other fish. The narrative has hidden how the dam has choked the river and fish travel producing deleterious effects for Native Americans and orca. King 5 Reporting led to the City of Seattle’s passage of measures to protect the fish habitat. The series is a testament to the power of journalism to restore justice to nature, Indigenous Peoples and humanity.

Second Place

“Discarded Danger”
Lee Zurik, Jon Turnipseed and Cody Lillich

WVUE-TV

Third Place

“Fallout”

Duane Pohlman Eric Frisbee and Tim Geraghty

WKRC-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations pandemic coverage/project

First Place

“Hospital staff continue to walk often deadly road with COVID patients, ‘prepare for chaos every day”

Bianca Marais and Chad Bricks

WJHL

Judges’ comments: A piece that shows the daily agony of decision-making in a small hospital. Short, impactful, and deeply moving. It tells the raw story -- no embellishments, no drama, just gripping fact.

Second Place

“Tennessee's Pandemic Response”

Phil Williams and Bryan Staples

WTVF-NewsChannel 5

Third Place

“COVID-19 Impact: Helping Kids Cope”

WMUR News Staff

WMUR-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations severe weather reporting

First Place

“Severe Weather Triggers Serious Flooding”

WCVB-TV staff

WCVB-TV

Judges’ comments: WCVB tracked fierce storms moving into its coverage area, gave precise coordinates to communities in peril, then delivered a vivid, detailed wrapup of the impact, both flooding and wind damage. High video production values and broad use of helicopter footage elevated this entry, as did strong graphics that showed the regional impact of the storm. Chief meteorologist Harvey Leonard, reporting from the weather studio, delivered calm, non-hysterical narration that bespoke a veteran’s skill.

Second Place

“Tornado Outbreak”

WTAE Staff

WTAE

Third Place

“Monadnock Flooding”

WMUR News Staff

WMUR-TV

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators newscast**First Place**

“Sunday Today, Aug 22, 2021”

Staff of Sunday Today

NBC News

Judges’ comments: An uncharacteristically busy news day for a Sunday, all developing at dawn – Tropical Storm Henri moving into the Northeast, floods overnight in Tennessee and the U.S. pullout gathering steam in Afghanistan. All delivered with up-to-the-minute facts, cool and calm anchoring in New York and well-produced video.

Second Place

“The CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell: October 13, 2021”

CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell staff

CBS News

Third Place

“World News Tonight with David Muir”

ABC News staff

ABC News

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

“ABC News: January 6th 2021”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Judges’ comments: George Stephanopoulos – calm, professional, restrained – presided over a rotary of reports about an unprecedented and deadly surprise attack on the U.S. Capitol, presenting events as they broke from a team of ABC correspondents and other key sources.

Good video and still photo presentation elevated the report. Reported accurately, without speculation, good detail. Real news, real coverage.

Second Place

“Deadly December Tornadoes”

Staff of Weekend Today

NBC News

Third Place

“Belarus - Inside a Manufactured Migrant Crisis”

Matthew Chance, Zahra Ullah and Jeffrey Kehl

CNN

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

First Place

“Afghanistan Continuing Coverage”

Richard Engel, On Assignment with Richard Engel Staff, NBC News Staff

NBC News

Judges’ comments: This is a story that examines an angle little-noticed in the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan – the deadly peril confronting school children who face potential loss of classes and even their lives under Taliban rule, children who project a dignity rarely seen in coverage of the war-torn country. Richard Engle fights his own battle to reach the site of a bombing at a girl’s school that claimed 20 casualties, facing danger and hostility to tell the story and illuminate. This is not an easy report to watch, but everybody should watch it because it reflects grim reality.

Second Place

“The Fall of Afghanistan”

Clarissa Ward & Crew

CNN

Third Place

“Mission’s End: War and Withdrawal in Afghanistan”

Ayesha Tanzeem, Carla Babb, Kane Farabaugh and Arif Aslan

Voice of America

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

First Place

“60 Minutes: The Final Act”

Anderson Cooper, Nichole Marks, David M. Levine and Robert Zimet
CBS News

Judges’ comments: A moving piece about Tony Bennett’s battle with Alzheimer’s, showing how even though he struggles with memory loss, orientation, and the tasks of daily life he was able to light up the stage for one last concert -- a tour de force in which the notes rang out perfectly and the complex lyrics from the old standards flowed. A day or so later, he couldn’t remember having given the concert. The point of the piece is to show that the music of memory lives within all of us, somewhere, and “60 Minutes” portrays this with perfect pitch.

Second Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Bullseye”

Lee Cowan, Dustin Stephens and David Bhagat
CBS News

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Home Free?”

Lee Cowan, Amol Mhatre and Remington Korper
CBS News

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

First Place

“ABC News Originals for Hulu - 3212: Unredacted”

ABC News staff
ABC News

Judges’ comments: Deaths of 4 Green Berets in Africa. An in-depth look at a military cover-up of wrongful deaths in combat. Extremely well structured and researched. The families and major players all interviewed in depth. Seamless editing. Mesmerizing. Many creative graphics and informative styles and techniques. This is what the documentary form was created for.

Second Place

“Big House, The Pearl, and the Triumph of Winston-Salem State”

Blake Berson, Samuel Smith and Gideon Brown
CBS Sports

Third Place

“The Queen Carries On: A Gayle King Special”

CBS News and 48 Hours staff
CBS News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators investigative report

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“Ethiopia: Exposing All The Hallmarks of a Genocide”

CNN staff

CNN

Judges’ comments: Nima Elbagir, Africa correspondent, shouts down, challenges, cows and generally – through patience occasionally, perseverance more often and mostly through sheer force of personality – drives like a spearhead into the killing fields of Ethiopia, overpowering military and rebel opposition to find the relatives of the murdered and get the first-person eyewitness accounts of the horrors of what is the new genocide in one of the world’s most troubled lands. This is extraordinary journalism by a fearless reporter unmatched by her peers. Remember her name. We look forward to much more in her promising career.

Second Place

“Nightline: Out of Bounds”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Third Place

“Al Jazeera Investigations - The Island of Secrets”

Al Jazeera I Unit

Al Jazeera Media Network

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators news magazine program

First Place

“What Happened to the Perfect Child?”

48 Hours staff

CBS News

Judges’ comments: You don’t see this coming. Reporter Troy Roberts tells viewers this “story stuck with him“ and “hit him in his heart.” But it’s viewers’ hearts that’ll be moved by a masterful plot twist. Just when you think you know how the story might end ... boom!

Second Place

“The Story of Somebody”

Liz Brown, Allison Orr and Josh Mankiewicz

Dateline NBC

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Behind the Badge”

Rand Morrison

CBS News

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

First Place

“Collision Division”

Gray Television/InvestigateTV staff

Gray Television/InvestigateTV

Judges’ comments: Crash test dummies are so well-known in American culture that they even do commercials. But who knew they were unisex? Gray Television reporters reveal that the ill-fated stand-ins for motorists are all modeled on the male body. Females in crashes, because of size, weight and skeletal differences, are not represented, with sometimes deadly consequences. This story got immediate results in having the metrics for government crash tests re-examined.

Second Place

“Crypto Nightmare”

Scott Zamost, Eamon Javers and Jennifer Schlesinger

CNBC

Third Place

“Shock To The System”

Joce Sterman, Alex Brauer, Andrea Nejman and Max McClellan

Spotlight on America

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

First Place

“Are You Dense?”

Joce Sterman, Alex Brauer, Andrea Nejman and Max McClellan

Spotlight on America

Judges’ comments: Careful reporting highlights a problem that many women may not know they confront -- the fact that certain breast tissue hides malignancies. An important story that could save lives.

Second Place

“60 Minutes: Geldingadalir”

Bill Whitaker, Heather Abbott, Sean Kelly and LaCrai Mitchell

CBS News

Third Place

“Chamber of HOPE”

Duane Pohlman, Eric Frisbee and Max McClellan

WKRC-TV

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators environmental reporting

First Place

“Exit Honduras”

Laila Al-Arian, Mark Scialla, Monica Villamizar, Neil Brandvold, Warwick Meade and Paulo Cerrato

Al Jazeera English

Judges’ comments: A heart wrenching story that shows the struggles and plight of climate change refugees from Honduras. Not only does this story shed light on this critical issue, its stellar and compelling production should spark change in asylum laws and change of hearts and minds.. Moreover, the report is truly investigative, as many Hondurans are interviewed including an MS-13 female gang member who shares the chaos that ensued after flooding. Overall, this is a splendid and moving piece by Al Jazeera’s Fault Lines.

Second Place

“Climate Crisis: Saving Tomorrow”

ABC News staff

ABC News

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: For the Birds”

Martha Teichner, Mary Lou Teel and David Bhagat

CBS News

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

First Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: On Point”

Lee Cowan, Dustin Stephens and Carol A. Ross

CBS News

Judges’ comments: Point Roberts is a thumbnail of land hanging from Canada that nips below the 48th parallel, making it one of the most remote outposts of the United States, one so distant that you need to drive through Canada for 24 miles to reach the rest of the U.S. ... In this quirky,

clever but altogether engrossing piece, we learn how the border closure has marooned this tight community not only from its native land but from its close neighbors, and how much each depends on the other. Residents of both sides have a voice in this delightful, unexpected piece – over a low cement barrier that separates the two great nations, and so many close friends.

Second Place

“COVID Relief Fraud”

Kate Rogers, Leslie Picker, Scott Zamost, Jennifer Schlesinger and Ritika Shah

CNBC

Third Place

“COVID: One Year Later”

Alan Golds, Martha Teichner and Ed Givnish

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