

## 90th National Headliner Awards winners

The 90th National Headliner Award winners honoring the best journalism in the United States in 2023 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 the staff of the Miami Herald in Florida for “Shakedown City.” The story won first place in the public service in top 20 media market category.

“A pack of gumshoes from the Miami Herald, who in their traditional fashion, break revelation after outrageous revelation. Results: Investigations from the state attorney general, the SEC, the FBI and the IRS among others. ... This is the greatest documented municipal corruption project we have seen in years,” the judges said.

The Nick Oza Best in Show Photography Award went to Sam Gomez of The Oregonian and OregonLive in Portland, Oregon, for his spot news photo titled “A Single Shot.”

Gomez was an out-of-town visitor to Portland walking through downtown when he witnessed the fatal shooting of a road rage victim. As Gomez raised his smartphone to record the scene, he was shot in the leg by the gunman. The award was one of eight won by The Oregonian.

The Digital Journalism Best in Show winner went to the staff of Reuters for “Slavery’s Descendants,” which won in the digital presentation of a single features topic category.

“History and journalism are full of tales of half-truths and other misinformation. Like reporter Tom Lasseter, for whom this is also personal, the reader doesn’t know what to expect or what’ll be revealed. The remarkable efforts Reuters put into the production lead us smoothly along, letting us hover or click on links uncovering more and more,” the judges said.

In the radio categories, the Best in Show winner went to Dan Kraker of Minnesota Public Radio for his story titled “When conditions align, skaters seek out ‘wild ice’.” The story won in the feature and human interest story category.

The judges said “this delightful and thorough adventure from MPR comes with a symphonic rendering of the many sounds the just-right ice can make.”

The Michael Schurman Best in Show Television Award went to the staff of ESPN for “Sacred Dog,” which won in the category for broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators documentary or series of reports on the same subject. The story about a Native American relay race on horses was praised by the judges for its “Kentucky Derby level production value in cinematic visuals, symphonic sound design and captivating story following families fighting for pride and survival, in both the sport and life.”

CBS News was the top award winner with 18 (13 for television and five for radio). Newsday won 14 awards, 12 of which for photography. National Public Radio won 10 awards. NBC News organizations, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Philadelphia Inquirer each collected eight awards this year.

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

## **DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS SYNDICATES**

### **Newspapers breaking news, all sizes**

#### **First Place**

[“Charged: Police Arrest Suspect in Gligo Beach Killings”](#)

Newsday Staff

Newsday

**Judges’ comments:** Newsday flooded the zone when word broke of a suspect in the longtime Gilgo Beach murders mystery. Informative interviews with neighbors and acquaintances of the suspect (an “everyman professional”), spare but impactful video, deep historical angles and graphics, instant profiles of the known victims with photos. All bases were covered and Newsday quickly developed a riveting profile of the suspect. Textbook execution on a story the newspaper has owned for more than a decade.

#### **Second Place**

[“Coverage of MSU shooting on campus”](#)

Detroit Free Press Staff

Detroit Free Press

#### **Third Place**

[“The Covenant Shooting”](#)

The Tennessean Staff

The Tennessean

### **Newspapers local news beat coverage or continuing story in top 20 media market**

#### **First Place**

[“Coconut Grove”](#)

Linda Robertson

Miami Herald

**Judges’ comments:** Robertson deftly wove together a complicated narrative involving 16 families who plucked down hundreds of thousands for Coconut Grove townhomes and then became victims of fraud by a developer known as the king of Coconut Grove. The stories are riveting and infuriating because of the specifics gleaned through interviews; court, financial and property records; mortgages and building regulations. Three of the dozen homes had double contracts; \$20 million was missing, and one home had four contracts on it, with deposits of between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million. As a result of the reporting, a judge appointed a receiver to

investigate the developer's finances, and a subsequent loan settlement led to the victims receiving at least partial reimbursement.

### **Second Place**

[“Immigrant Communities Coverage”](#)

Lautaro Grinspan

The Atlanta-Journal Constitution

### **Third Place**

[“Gilbert Goons”](#)

Robert Anglen and Elena Santa Cruz

The Arizona Republic

## **Newspapers local news beat coverage or continuing story not in top 20 media market**

### **First Place**

[“Restaurant Owner Stiffs Teens: Newspaper Investigation Shuts Him Down”](#)

Phil Barber

The Press Democrat

**Judges’ comments:** The Santa Rosa newspaper's relentless reporting on how a Subway sandwich franchise owner stiffed teenage employees was textbook work: a tip, repeated interviews with victims, visits to the stores, records investigations. What followed was impressive. A federal investigation that confirmed the newspaper's findings, and a judge's orders for the franchisee to pay 184 workers \$475,000 plus \$150,000 in penalties. Very well done. That's the kind of work newspapers are supposed to do.

### **Second Place**

[“At NY’s Northern Border, Asylum Seekers Find Hope in Desperation at a Rural Mini Mart”](#)

Eduardo Cuevas and Robert Bell

Democrat and Chronicle

### **Third Place**

[“72 Hours - Inside the Mental Health Crisis in San Diego County”](#)

The San Diego Union-Tribune Staff

The San Diego Union-Tribune

## **Newspapers international news beat coverage or continuing story**

### **First Place**

[“Immigration Beat Coverage”](#)

Reuters staff

Reuters

**Judges' comments:** Through on-the-ground reporting by its immigration beat reporters, Reuters delivered not only an understanding of the whos and whys contributing to the migration explosion beyond Central America but also a vivid picture — both with words and photography — of the perilous journey made by Afghanistan and Chinese migrants across 11 countries to the U.S.-Mexico border. The work is powerful and brings a huge issue to human scale.

### **Second Place**

["The Cough Syrup Crisis"](#)

Reuters staff

Reuters

### **Third Place**

["Blood Timber"](#)

Shirsho Dasgupta

Miami Herald

## **Newspapers series in top 20 media market**

### **First Place**

["Dying Early: America's Life Expectancy Crisis"](#)

Washington Post Staff

Washington Post

**Judges' comments:** The Washington Post's superb series on America's life expectancy crisis is a testament to the enduring importance of challenging conventional wisdom. While prior coverage of declining life spans in the United States have focused on such factors as opioids or guns, The Post's analysis of decades of death data found that chronic diseases cost Americans twice as many years of life as overdoses, firearm deaths and all other external causes combined. The exceptional reporting in these pieces combined the personal accounts of those affected by chronic disease with a detailed explanation of the multilayered causes of early deaths. The result is a series that reveals a public health crisis that has long been hiding in plain sight.

### **Second Place**

["Extremism in the Ranks"](#)

Dan Mihalopoulos, Tom Schuba and Kevin G. Hall

Chicago Sun-Times, WBEZ Chicago, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

### **Third Place**

["Michigan Kids Dying Under Care of CPS"](#)

Kara Berg

The Detroit News

## **Newspapers series not in top 20 media market**

### **First Place**

[“Widespread Police Fake Ticket Scandal Skews Racial Profiling Data”](#)

Bill Cummings, Joshua Eaton, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas and Taylor Johnston  
Hearst Connecticut Media Group

**Judges’ comments:** The results of this series speak for themselves. The resignations of the state's two top public safety officials, a federal criminal grand jury probe led by the U.S. Dept. of Justice. And at the heart of it, trusted state troopers falsifying tickets to make themselves look better -- worsened by the fact that it all skews racial profiling data. This series exposes everyday corruption, and restores our faith. Well done.

### **Second Place**

[“The Cost of Unity”](#)

The Greenville News Staff  
The Greenville News

### **Third Place**

[“Broken Government”](#)

The Kansas City Star Staff  
The Kansas City Star

## **Newspapers local interest column on a variety of subjects**

### **First Place**

[“Robert Bowers is a Monster, and He Should Live”](#)

Jeffery Gerritt  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Judges’ comments:** Gerritt had us from the first line. His writing is sharp, short, powerful and just plain crackles. There's a confidence there that is clearly hard-won, and that infuses his writing and perspective in ways that can only benefit readers in forming their own opinions and points of view. The best kind of swagger.

### **Second Place**

[Laura Yuen](#)

Star Tribune

### **Third Place**

[“The Toll of Gun Violence in America’s Poorest Big City”](#)

Helen Ubiñas

The Philadelphia Inquirer

### **Newspapers special or feature column on one subject**

#### **First Place**

[“20 Years Ago, a Girl Survived a Deadly Yonkers Fire. Her Story Has Gone Untold Until Now”](#)

Peter D. Kramer

lohud.com

**Judges’ comments:** Peter Kramer of the Journal News (lohud.com) is the next Jimmy Breslin. His column on the Yonkers fire in 2003 that burned a Nodine Hill block to ash is as vibrant and alive as if we are witnessing the disaster. Feature writing at its best.

#### **Second Place**

[“Derrick Taylor Can’t Clear His Name”](#)

Chandra Bozelko

The Connecticut Examiner

#### **Third Place**

[“Brain Matters Column”](#)

Richard Sima

The Washington Post

### **Newspapers editorial writing by an individual or team**

#### **First Place**

[“Political Crisis at the Border”](#)

Express-News Editorial Board

San Antonio Express-News

**Judges’ comments:** The San-Antonio Express News makes a strong argument about the divisive politics of the border crisis by centering the treatment of migrants as a pawn in the debate. Descriptions of the "sawlike discs" of concertina wire in Eagle Pass and a migrant boy in New York covering his face from the cold with a Marvin the Martian backpack lent moral weight to the editorial calls for humane treatment of those who crossed the Southern border and were shipped across the country to make a political point.

#### **Second Place**

[Rebecca Spiess](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

#### **Third Place**

[Brandon McGinley](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## **Newspapers sports opinion by an individual**

### **First Place**

[Sam McDowell](#)

The Kansas City Star

**Judges' comments:** The best gift a columnist can give a reader is an opinion; from there, they are free to decide how they feel. It's even better when it is delivered smoothly, with authority, some humor and some heart. Sam McDowell did all of these things, along with asking questions and making note when they weren't answered by those who should know better. Well done.

### **Second Place**

[Rick Morrissey](#)

Chicago Sun-Times

### **Third Place**

[Shawn Windsor](#)

Detroit Free Press

## **Newspapers sports news writing by an individual or team**

### **First Place**

["Misconduct"](#)

Kenny Jacoby and Matt Mencarini

USA Today and the Lansing State Journal

**Judges' comments:** The result of reporting years in the making, USA Today reporter Kenny Jacoby's expose on a long-running sexual harassment case against Michigan State football coach Mel Tucker rocked the world of college football. Tucker was fired for cause two weeks after the story was published with roughly \$80 million left on his contract. Jacoby's reporting, and partnership with local Lansing State Journal reporter Matt Mencarini, is a testament to the power of building relationships with sources, tireless research and a commitment to holding powerful people and institutions accountable.

### **Second Place**

[Scott M. Reid](#)

Southern California News Group

### **Third Place**

["Beach Volleyball"](#)

James Crepea

The Oregonian/OregonLive

## **Newspapers sports feature writing by an individual or team**

### **First Place**

[Terry Pluto](#)

Cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

**Judges' comments:** Sports writers become more than the voice of their city's fans -- they become the heart of the fans, the conscience of the fans and the memory of the fans. Terry Pluto of the Plain Dealer fulfills that mission. His columns on LPGA pioneer Renee Powell entering the Golf Hall of Fame, former Browns QB Bernie Kosar's struggles with CTE, and the early life of LeBron James show how sports writing at its best is about character, empathy and community.

### **Second Place**

[Chip Scoggins](#)

Star Tribune

### **Third Place**

[Kevin Armstrong](#)

The Star-Ledger

## **Newspapers feature writing by an individual in a top 20 media market**

### **First Place**

["Stories from the Forgotten Countryside"](#)

John Carlisle

Detroit Free Press

**Judges' comments:** These were wonderful, authentic stories told in an easy, seamless and gracious style. John Carlisle is such a gifted writer, with descriptions of dying cherry trees, a dog who finds a home in a nursing home ... But his other great gift is finding these stories in the first place. Thank you for the pleasure of reading these stories.

### **Second Place**

["Searching for Hope"](#)

William Wan

The Washington Post

### **Third Place**

[Amanda Rosa](#)

Miami Herald



## **Newspapers feature writing by an individual not in a top 20 media market**

### **First Place**

[“Finding the Clotilda”](#)

Tony Bartelme and Gavin McIntyre

The Post and Courier

**Judges’ comments:** Cinematic prose, an unsolved mystery, heirs who remember and intrepid reporters. That's what breathes life into Tony Bartelme's beautifully crafted story of two men's search for the Clotilda and the answer to the question of what really was "the last slave ship." Bartelme provides an alluring ride in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and through Africatown history.

### **Second Place**

[“The Murderer Next Door and other stories”](#)

Austin Murphy

The Press Democrat

### **Third Place**

[“Finding Grace”](#)

Kerry Benefield

The Press Democrat

## **Newspapers business news coverage, business commentary and/or business columns by an individual or team**

### **First Place**

[“The Musk Industrial Complex”](#)

Reuters staff

Reuters

**Judges’ comments:** Musk's companies Tesla, SpaceX and Neuralink are transforming the world through innovative applications of emerging technologies, but Reuters' remarkable reporting reveals how this progress has been accompanied by the dark shadow of a cavalier disregard for safety and regulations, with real-world consequences. By penetrating into the inner workings of these companies, Reuters shows the critical role that journalism has in ensuring that companies meet their responsibilities to ensure the safety of their employees and their customers, regardless of the benefits of their technology.

### **Second Place**

[“Milwaukee's Hidden Landlords”](#)

Cary Spivak, Genevieve Redsten and Daphne Chen

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

### **Third Place**

[“Burn Inc.”](#)

Tony Bartelme

The Post and Courier

### **Newspapers education writing by an individual or team**

#### **First Place**

[“The Pandemic's Missing Students”](#)

Bianca Vázquez Toness and Sharon Lurye

The Associated Press

**Judges’ comments:** On a topic largely discussed but not thoroughly studied, The Associated Press provided comprehensive and insightful reporting on the students who fell through the cracks during the pandemic, and where they are today. The database created by its team allowed a number of other media organizations to examine the numbers and write for their own audiences. High utility, very impactful, clearly focused and written.

#### **Second Place**

[Kelly Meyerhofer](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

#### **Third Place**

[“Penn State Coverage”](#)

Wyatt Massey

Spotlight PA

### **Newspapers health and science writing by an individual or team**

#### **First Place**

[Wendy Ruderman](#)

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Judges’ comments:** Doctors who have been reported for inappropriate behavior and medical centers that jeopardize patient lives with medication errors are only a few of the alarming incidents that escape scrutiny and consequences in Pennsylvania. Wendy Ruderman, a Philadelphia institution when it comes to pouring ink on hidden malfeasance, leads us efficiently through a labyrinth of deep-dive reporting on what's wrong -- and how it can be fixed -- in protecting the public from medical wrongdoing.

#### **Second Place**

[“Bleeding Out”](#)

Dallas Morning News and San Antonio Express-News

**Third Place**

[“How Wildfire Smoke is Devastating Firefighter Health”](#)

Julie Johnson

San Francisco Chronicle

**Newspapers environmental writing by an individual or team in top 20 media market**

**First Place**

[“The Bat Lands”](#)

Reuters staff

Reuters

**Judges’ comments:** We often hear about how tree loss increases climate risks, but who knew it can also increase the risk of a pandemic? The Bat Lands offers strong storytelling and engaging visuals to help readers understand how development of the world's wild areas is putting humans at risk to the thousands of harmful and potentially fatal viruses unleashed when the bats in these areas are displaced. Important and fascinating piece.

**Second Place**

[“How to Frack a State Park”](#)

Jake Zuckerman

Cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

**Third Place**

[“Guarding the Great Lakes”](#)

Carol Thompson

The Detroit News

**Newspapers environmental writing by an individual or team not in top 20 media market**

**First Place**

[“The Saharan Connection”](#)

Tony Bartelme, Andrew Whitaker and Borso Tall

The Post and Courier

**Judges’ comments:** Rising dust in the Sahara desert and its effect on South Carolina hurricanes makes this story unique. Well-conceived comparison is part of the Pulitzer Center's "Connected Coastlines" project.

**Second Place**

[“Ancestral Knowledge”](#)

Caitlin Looby, Madeline Heim and Frank Vaisvilas  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Third Place**

[“Louisiana 2050: Our Vanishing Coast”](#)

Mike Smith  
The Times-Picayune

**Newspapers investigative reporting in top 20 media market**

**First Place**

[“Human Toll of Texas Border Enforcement”](#)

Benjamin Wermund, Jeremy Wallace and Jhair Romero  
Houston Chronicle

**Judges’ comments:** Houston Chronicle’s sharp reporting on the human trauma that border barriers cause is so shocking in its revelations that one must question its veracity. But the Chronicle’s detail and careful sourcing carry the issue. Its reporting would bring new, more humane protocols to the controversial issue of border security.

**Second Place**

[“Crumbling City”](#)

Samantha Melamed and Dylan Purcell  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Third Place**

[“The Final Fall”](#)

Michael McGough and Stephen Hobbs  
The Sacramento Bee

**Newspapers investigative reporting not in top 20 media market**

**First Place**

[“Safer Sidelines”](#)

Stephanie Kuzydym, Rob Byers and Kyle Slagle  
The Courier Journal

**Judges’ comments:** A riveting, extensively reported and well written series on high school sports deaths. The stories not only pointed out dozens of cases where authorities failed to act, but they provided solutions. Well done!

**Second Place**

[“Burdened After Death”](#)

Ames Alexander and David Raynor  
The Charlotte Observer and The News & Observer

**Third Place**

[“Hazardous Homes”](#)

Lexi Cortes  
Belleville News-Democrat

**Newspapers public service in top 20 media market**

**First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

[“Shakedown City”](#)

Miami Herald Staff  
Miami Herald

**Judge’s comments:** This is not only an "only in Miami" story; it's an "only in the Miami Herald" story. A mayor with presidential aspirations who has 13 secret "side jobs" with developers and others with civic interests, who is also promoting a Ponzi-type crypto bank for city paychecks (until the day it evaporates), a \$10,000-a-month developer payment for, say, consulting on a Coconut Grove project isn't enough. You get to throw in Arabian money, a Kremlin oligarch, Miami Grand Prix, Gloria Estefan and David Beckham ... And a pack of gumshoes from the Miami Herald who in their traditional fashion break revelation after outrageous revelation. Results: Investigations from the state attorney general, the SEC, the FBI and the IRS among others. Only in Miami: the Herald asks for the SEC's paperwork on the mayor and is denied. Because, the agency explains, it is part of an "active investigation." That's one way to get a confirmation. This is the greatest documented municipal corruption project we have seen in years ... possibly since the Miami Herald's last one.

**Second Place**

[“The Bitter End”](#)

The Arizona Republic Staff  
The Arizona Republic

**Third Place**

[“Children Housed at DCFS Office”](#)

Kaitlin Durbin  
Cleveland.com-The Plain Dealer

**Newspapers public service not in top 20 media market**

**First Place**

[“Behind the Gun”](#)

John Diedrich and Andrew Hahn

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Judges' comments:** Solid shoe-leather reporting went into this project, which was supported by Marquette University. The package included a comprehensive county-by-county database on Wisconsin gun deaths, an in-depth survey of gun owners, and input from gun-store owners on how to address gun deaths. Remarkable facts included were that 75 percent of all gun deaths in Wisconsin are suicides and that Wisconsin's suicide rate is 12 percent higher than the national average. This package was thorough, insightful and well put together. Excellent work.

**Second Place**

["San Antonio's Dangerous Dogs"](#)

Peggy O'Hare

San Antonio Express-News

**Third Place**

["Bias Crimes"](#)

Aimee Green

The Oregonian/OregonLive

**Newspapers best political coverage**

**First Place**

["Uncovering 2020 Election Subversion"](#)

Craig Mauger

The Detroit News

**Judges' comments:** Craig Mauger secured a recording of President Trump pressuring election officials in Michigan's largest county and broke other stories that revealed the extent of the fake electors scheme in his state and contributed to the country's understanding of Trump's efforts to change the results in the Electoral College.

**Second Place**

["The Crooked Arc of Illinois' Politics"](#)

Chicago Tribune Staff

Chicago Tribune

**Third Place**

["Wisconsin Supreme Court Election Coverage"](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Staff

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Editorial cartoons**

**First Place**

[Clay Bennett](#)

Chattanooga Times Free Press

**Judges' comments:** You know a Clay Bennett cartoon as soon as you see it. His clean, uncomplicated style is both soft and cutting. And his message is always a mix of a 2x4 over your head, a smile, and a sigh. The man picking up his newspaper (another shooting on the front page) while waving a white flag speaks for all of us. The "woke" woman in bed between two newspapers does, too. And the prescription pad telling Kate Cox to "Leave Texas" was a true gut punch. Clay is an artist who helps us see how the news of the world impacts our lives in a simple, sadly reassuring way.

**Second Place**

[Mike Thompson](#)

Star Tribune

**Third Place**

[Robert Ariail](#)

Andrews McMeel Universal Syndication

**Journalistic innovation****First Place**

["Tracking U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths"](#)

San Francisco Chronicle Staff

San Francisco Chronicle

**Judges' comments:** The impact of this project is clear, strong -- and necessary. The words of those who have faced drug addiction -- their own, that of their loved ones, or those they have tried to save -- are haunting. "It's easier to get fentanyl than get help." Narcan "is like putting a Band-Aid on a bullet hole." And, of fentanyl overdoses: "They need to start treating these things as murder scenes." Along with the drug overdose tracker, this is such a powerful package, cleanly presented with solid reporting throughout. Kudos.

**Second Place**

["50 Years of Philly Hip-Hop"](#)

Elizabeth Wellington

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Third Place**

["Taylor Swift and Beyoncé Beats"](#)

Bryan West and Cache McClay

The Tennessean

## Magazines coverage of a major news event or topic

### First Place

[“ChatGPT Creates An A.I. Frenzy”](#)

Jeremy Kahn; additional reporting by Michal Lev-Ram and Jessica Mathews  
Fortune

**Judges’ comments:** Honest characterization of the complex problem AI poses for humanity. Artificial intelligence could mean "lights out for all of us" yet artificial general intelligence AGI is "probably necessary for humanity to survive."

### Second Place

[“What Happened to the Women Prisoners at Hickman’s Farm”](#)

Elizabeth Whitman  
Cosmopolitan

### Third Place

[“How the U.S. Funded China's A.I. Ambitions”](#)

Didi Kirsten Tatlow  
Newsweek

## Magazines feature writing by an individual on a variety of subjects

### First Place

[“The Gambler Who Beat Roulette”](#)

Kit Chellel  
Bloomberg

**Judges’ comments:** Written like a detective story, author Kit Chellel takes the reader along as he tracks roulette wizard Niko Tosa to his Croatian home. Very entertaining, great attention to detail.

### Second Place

[“American Coyote”](#)

Julia Love  
Bloomberg

### Third Place

[“Jacked: How Tulsa Cops Brought Down a \\$500 Million Catalytic Converter Crime Ring”](#)

Evan Ratliff  
Bloomberg Businessweek



## **Magazines speciality news coverage**

### **First Place**

["If You Think Drug Addiction Isn't a Problem in Your Workplace, You're Wrong"](#)

Erika Fry

Fortune

**Judges' comments:** Erika Fry focuses on individual stories, though without ignoring statistics, to examine how small companies have led the way to "recovery-friendly" workplaces and in the process restored drug addicted employees' sense of self-worth.

### **Second Place**

["Hollywood Is Broken"](#)

Devin Gordon

Fortune

### **Third Place**

["How a Disgraced Method of Diagnosing Learning Disabilities Persists in Our Nation's Schools"](#)

Sarah Carr

The Hechinger Report

## **Magazines in-depth story or series on a major news event**

### **First Place**

["Inside Elon's Universe"](#)

Fortune Staff

Fortune

**Judges' comments:** Succinct coverage of a dichotomy facing EV owners: the inevitable need for solar panels on every rooftop in America.

### **Second Place**

["Banning Solitary Confinement Won't Remove the Scourge from Prisons"](#)

Chandra Bozelko

Witness LA

### **No Third-Place Award given**

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

### **Spot news photography**

## **First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

### ["A Single Shot"](#)

Sam Gomez

The Oregonian/OregonLive

**Judges' comments:** Out of town visitor to Portland, Oregon, Samuel Gomez takes a stroll downtown which becomes a nightmare as he witnesses the fatal shooting of a road rage victim, and as Gomez raises his smartphone to record the scene, he is shot (in the leg) by the gunman who then pulls away from the scene in his car. The shooter is apprehended and Gomez survived the gunshot. The Oregonian published the picture showing the gunman and his fallen victim as the gunman takes aim – and fires – at Gomez.

## **Second Place**

### ["Anguish"](#)

Nicole S. Hester

The Tennessean

## **Third Place**

### ["Gas Station Car Fire"](#)

Steven M. Falk

The Philadelphia Inquirer

## **Feature photography**

## **First Place**

### ["Haddock Haul"](#)

Derrick Z. Jackson, Union of Concerned Scientists

**Judges' comments:** Science journalist & photographer Derrick Jackson captures the beauty of puffins as he creates a visual record of the successful repopulation of the species along the coast of Maine.

## **Second Place**

### ["Meatballs"](#)

Howard Schnapp

Newsday

## **Third Place**

### ["Adaptable Surfing"](#)

J. Conrad Williams Jr.

Newsday

## **Sports action or sports feature photography**

### **First Place**

[“Aaron Judge”](#)

J. Conrad Williams Jr.

Newsday

**Judges’ comments:** New York Yankee Aaron Judge draws a crowd of adoring fans at Spring training as they line up to seek his autograph.

### **Second Place**

[“Runaway Racehorse”](#)

Thomas A. Ferrara

Newsday

### **Third Place**

[“Stolen Base”](#)

Steven M. Falk

The Philadelphia Inquirer

## **Individual photo portfolio**

### **First Place**

[“Year in Motion”](#)

Heather Khalifa

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Judges’ comments:** Most of Heather Kalifa's portfolio contained great images of athletes in action. But she also captured heartfelt moments of winners and losers and corny publicity stunts. Her portfolio displays a variety of camera angles and pleasing compositions.

### **Second Place**

[J. Conrad Williams Jr.](#)

Newsday

### **Third Place**

[Steve Pfof](#)

Newsday

## **Staff photo portfolio**

### **First Place**

[Newsday Staff](#)

Newsday

**Judges' comments:** A portfolio of pictures taken throughout the year is judged by the power of its best pictures, the lack of poor pictures and the variety of subjects included in the submission.

**Second Place**

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Staff](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Third Place**

[Miguel Gutierrez Jr. Adriana Heldiz and Larry Valenzuela](#)

CalMatters

**Single day photo story**

**First Place**

["The Soul of the Game"](#)

Thomas A. Ferrara

Newsday

**Judges' comments:** Guys playing baseball as it was played in 1864, with historically correct gear and by the rules of that era – that is a visual feast in itself. But Thomas Ferrara embraced the period as well by using a camera and development method of the late 1800s to make portraits of the athletes. The tintypes are spectacular and look as if they were made 150 years ago.

**Second Place**

["The Nutcracker"](#)

Beth Nakamura

The Oregonian/OregonLive

**Third Place**

["The Dance. A Father. A Daughter and their Dream"](#)

Steve Pfof

Newsday

**Multiple day photo story**

**First Place**

["Deadly Dealing"](#)

Gabrielle Lurie

San Francisco Chronicle

**Judges' comments:** We see all too many "drugs are killing our inner cities" stories, but this project visually reported in two countries and successfully tied together the source of the drug trade, the dealers who move and sell their goods, and the users whose lives are ruined by their addiction. We also see the U.S. inner-city police responding to the crisis but doing little to stem the flow of drugs.

**Second Place**

["Bright Lit Place"](#)

Patrick Farrell and Jenny Staletovich  
WLRN News

**Third Place**

["How a Detroit Addict is Finding Her Purpose"](#)

Mandi Wright  
Detroit Free Press

**Portrait**

**First Place**

["Jermaine Owens"](#)

Randee Daddona  
Newsday

**Judges' comments:** A picture that makes you smile, of a happy fisherman. We need more "feel good" moments in journalism and this is one of them.

**Second Place**

["Vintage 'Base Ball' player Andy 'Renman' Lembo"](#)

Thomas A. Ferrara  
Newsday

**Third Place**

["Proud Mom"](#)

Angela Peterson  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Pictorial**

**First Place**

["Rodeo"](#)

Will Lester  
Southern California News Group

**Judges' comments:** In a rodeo ring is not the place we'd expect to find a great pictorial image. but photographer Will Lester employed silhouette and rim lighting to create the outline of a cowboy riding full speed on his horse and about to throw his lasso.

**Second Place**

["Painting Peonies"](#)

Heather Khalifa

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Third Place**

["Sunset Silhouette"](#)

John Paraskevas

Newsday

**ONLINE**

**Online investigative reporting for digital-only website**

**First Place**

["Denied by AI: Consequences for Sick and Vulnerable Americans"](#)

Casey Ross and Bob Herman

STAT

**Judges' comments:** STAT combined two hot topics: Medical insurers cutting off payments and treatment too early and the rise of AI into a stunning look at how insurance carriers are treating their customers. Many may blame their physician or hospital for cutting off benefits while still needing treatment. But, as STAT showed so well, it is often an algorithm used by AI to say that, statistically, the patient should be well by now and no longer needs benefits for a condition. Thumbs up to STAT for a deep, thorough and well-researched investigation.

**Second Place**

["In the Name of Protection"](#)

Ronnie Greene and Holly Barker

Bloomberg Industry Group

**Third Place**

["Inside West Virginia's Chernobyl"](#)

Justin Nobel

Truthdig

**Online investigative reporting for digital partnerships with other news outlets**

**First Place**

["The Truth Behind 'Parental Alienation'"](#)

Olivia Gentile  
Business Insider, Type Investigations, Retro Report

**Judges' comments:** Bravo to Olivia Gentile, who delved deep into the controversial treatment programs in which children are cut off from a parent they trust and forced to live with one they fear. Her work reveals how family court judges are persuaded to order children into 'parental alienation' by proponents of that theory even though top medical groups have shown no support for the process. She reveals that such programs can traumatize children and leave them in the hands of abusers. Her reporting directly resulted in two children being returned to their trusted parent, and a California law ending court-mandated reunification therapy.

### **Second Place**

[“An Activist Group is Spreading Misinformation to Stop Solar Projects in Rural America”](#)

Miranda Green and Michael Copley  
Floodlight and NPR

### **Third Place**

[“Uprooted: How Public Universities Expanded by Displacing Black Communities”](#)

Brandi Kellam, Louis Hansen and Gabriel Sandoval  
Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism at WHRO

### **Online beat reporting**

#### **First Place**

[“Worker Power”](#)

Josh Eidelson and Brendan Case  
Bloomberg

**Judges' comments:** Josh Eidelson's unionization stories went deep into the cultures of major U.S. companies, explaining the resurgence of salting tactics as unions become more powerful; highlighting the conflicting values and practices of seemingly progressive companies such as REI and Starbucks; and pointing out startling safety problems at giant retailer Dollar General. The stories were well reported, seamlessly written and prompted resignations at the top at Dollar General and sooner than expected at Starbucks.

#### **Second Place**

[“A Critical Year in the Unraveling of the ‘Excited Delirium’ Diagnosis”](#)

Markian Hawryluk, Renuka Rayasam, Samantha Young, Chris Vanderveen  
KFF Health News & KUSA-TV

#### **Third Place**

[“The Unwatched”](#)

Jenny Deam and Evan Wyloge

Denver Gazette

## Online beat reporting health and science

### First Place

[“Sex in Space and Other Cosmic Wonders”](#)

Elisha Sauers

Mashable

**Judges’ comments:** Elisha Sauers mined her space beat for the most interesting stories, then wrote them in such a fun, engaging way that everyone wants to read them. "Sex in space" isn't just a titillating topic; as her editors point out, it may be very important to the future of humanity. She divulges that astronauts have acknowledged arousal, writes of the obstacles to copulation, and notes that as space travel becomes more frequent and commercialized, the possibility and how-to's of sex will be of greater interest. She introduces us to the animals who have been at the forefront of the research, including a cockroach named Nadehda, who became a mother in space and "showed the world what happens when multiples are conceived in outer space."

### Second Place

[“Payback: Tracking the Opioid Settlement Cash”](#)

Aneri Pattani

KFF Health News

### Third Place

[Nicholas Florko](#)

STAT

## Online beat reporting government and political coverage

### First Place

[“Government Failures in Maui Fires”](#)

Honolulu Civil Beat Staff

Honolulu Civil Beat

**Judges’ comments:** Honolulu Civil Beat covered the "What, So What and Now What" in its deeply researched stories on the tragic Maui fire. The digital news site demonstrated how a local site fully serves the needs of its community and shines a light on the failings of the system.

### Second Place

[“High Courts, High Stakes”](#)

Aaron Mendelson

The Center for Public Integrity



### **Third Place**

[“China Spy Balloon Coverage”](#)

Courtney Kube and Carol E. Lee

NBC News

### **Online breaking news**

### **First Place**

[“Criminal Trial Coverage of Sam Bankman-Fried”](#)

MacKenzie Sigalos and Ari Levy

CNBC

**Judges’ comments:** CNBC's trial coverage was clear, interesting, thorough, and explained in everyday language what was going on in a month-long, complicated fraud trial. The stories had range, from life inside Bankman-Fried's penthouse to how the reporter nabbed a seat at the trial, transmitted her stories from a park bench, and the factors that allowed the jury to spend only three hours deliberating.

### **No Second- or Third-Place Awards given**

### **News video up to three minutes**

### **First place**

[“Cranberry Harvest”](#)

Samantha Swindler

The Oregonian/OregonLive

**Judges’ comments:** The cranberry harvest, from field to market, told in under 3 minutes. Good variety in the cranberry visuals, from wide angles to tight details. Clean, crisp, educational.

### **Second place**

[“Wool Farm”](#)

Vickie Connor

The Oregonian/OregonLive

### **Third place**

[“Cowboy Dinner Tree”](#)

Samantha Swindler

The Oregonian/OregonLive

### **News video 3 to 10 minutes**

### **First Place**

["The Last Ascent?: Ice Climbing in a Warming World"](#)

Dan Wright and Andrea Rainone  
The Weather Company

**Judges' comments:** This story was all at once gorgeous to look at, hilarious to listen to ("The world doesn't need ice climbers; we're expendable") and absolutely terrifying, in both the act of ice-climbing, and climate change's decimation of the ice on which to climb. We recognize the degree of difficulty in putting this story together, and appreciate being taken to a place we may never see -- and if we do, it won't look as it did in this piece.

**Second Place**

["Good Morning America Digital: Where is My Land?"](#)

ABC News Staff  
ABC News

**Third Place**

["ABC News Live Prime - DACA: A Dream Dashed"](#)

ABC News Staff  
ABC News

**News video 10 to 30 minutes**

**First Place**

["The Secret Terror Inside American Prisons"](#)

Business Insider Staff  
Business Insider

**Judges' comments:** From start to finish the video covered all angles of a topic that hasn't gotten much press before. The helplessness of the vulnerable prison population against the practice of using attack dogs is presented viscerally without being dramatic. The interviews were well chosen and well edited.

**Second Place**

["Fragments of Ukraine: 5 Stories of the DIY Supply Chain"](#)

Michael Nigro  
Truthdig

**Third Place**

["Russia's Ghost Fleet"](#)

Jake Godin  
Scripps News

**Digital presentation of a single news topic**

### **First Place**

[“Deadly Fake”](#)

Dallas Morning News Staff  
Dallas Morning News

**Judges’ comments:** The entry is a rich and multi-dimensional collection of reporting on the fentanyl crisis in Texas. It is beautifully displayed with nearly 50 different points of entry into the content. Each entry point is illustrated and headlined, so you see the people and know the story before diving into it. The pieces are accessible and informative and range from "What can I do?" to "How we lost our son to fentanyl."

### **Second Place**

[“Extremism in the Ranks”](#)

Jesse Howe and Justin Myers  
Chicago Sun-Times

### **Third Place**

[“The Forgotten Four”](#)

Fedor Zarkhin, Mark Friesen and Beth Nakamura  
The Oregonian/OregonLive

### **Digital presentation of a single features topic**

#### **First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

[“Slavery’s Descendants”](#)

Reuters staff  
Reuters

**Judges’ comments:** History and journalism are full of tales of half-truths and other misinformation. Like reporter Tom Lasseter, for whom this is also personal, the reader doesn't know what to expect or what'll be revealed. The remarkable efforts Reuters put into the production lead us smoothly along, letting us hover or click on links uncovering more and more.

### **Second Place**

[“ABC News Digital Buffalo: Healing From Hate. One Year Later”](#)

ABC News Staff  
ABC News

### **Third Place**

[“What Happened to Heather Mayer?”](#)

Andy Mannix, Renée Jones Schneider and Anna Boone  
Star Tribune

## Social media

### First Place

[“Dungeons and Dragons on Death Row”](#)

Kristin Bausch, Keri Blakinger, Ashley Dye and Christopher Vazquez  
The Marshall Project

**Judges’ comments:** The videos were informative and engaging. The topic was interesting and unique, we had no idea inmates played D&D or the challenges they faced to do so. It humanized the people on Death Row without excusing their crimes. We loved that the journalists took the story to Reddit, underutilized by journalism in general, but a place where your target audience of D&D players definitely are. This social media campaign made us excited to read the print story, but also stood on its own as a great collection of journalism.

### Second Place

[“Money Behind Bars”](#)

Christopher Vazquez, Beth Schwartzapel and Alexandra Arriaga  
The Marshall Project

### Third Place

[“Using Social Media to Halt Misinformation. Help Michiganders Cope”](#)

Detroit Free Press Staff  
Detroit Free Press

## Civic/political affairs podcast

### First Place

[“The Uncertain Hour Season 6: The Welfare-to-Work Industrial Complex”](#)

Krissy Clark, Peter Balonon-Rosen and Grace Rubin  
The Uncertain Hour

**Judges’ comments:** "The Uncertain Hour" does a masterful job uncovering parts of a system that are hidden in plain sight to those lucky enough to have never been caught in it. It uses strong interviews and original reporting of people who have been consistently failed by a system that was never meant to really help them. And an unmasking of those who really profit.

### Second Place

[“SOLD OUT: Rethinking Housing in America, Season 3”](#)

KQED Staff  
KQED

### Third Place

[“Imperfect Paradise: Nury & The Secret Tapes”](#)

Antonia Cereijido, Emily Guerin, Meg Cramer and the Imperfect Paradise Staff  
LAist Studios

**Narrative podcast**

**First Place**

[“Grapevine”](#)

Mike Hixenbaugh, Antonia Hylton and Frannie Kelley  
NBC News Studios Audio Unit

**Judges’ comments:** "Grapevine" does a masterful job of placing the fight over LGBTQ rights in a small Texas town within the context of the broader social, cultural, and political changes that are occurring across the nation. It's clear the journalists immersed themselves in town, learning the community and the people involved in the story. They used the voluminous amount of audio they collected — and the other available sound — to craft a compelling narrative that examined multiple sides of a complex issue.

**Second Place**

[“You Didn’t See Nothin’”](#)

Invisible Institute Staff  
Invisible Institute

**Third Place**

[“K-Pop Dreaming”](#)

Vivian Yoon, Fiona Ng and the K-Pop Dreaming Staff  
LAist Studios

**Narrative podcast focused on a single incident, person or time**

**First Place**

[“NPR’s Embedded: Buffalo Extreme”](#)

Na’kya McCann, Marianne McCune and NPR's Embedded Staff  
National Public Radio

**Judges’ comments:** A gripping first-person account of a Black competitive cheerleading and dance team that tries to rise above an unspeakable mass shooting. Hard story to beat and very well produced.

**Second Place**

[“Violation”](#)

Beth Schwartzapfel and Staffs  
The Marshall Project and WBUR

### **Third Place**

[“Unsolved: A Missing Girl, a Search for Truth”](#)

Gina Barton, Ashley Luthern, Bill Schulz, USA Today and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA Today

### **Information podcast**

#### **First Place**

[“Embodied”](#)

WUNC Staff  
WUNC

**Judges’ comments:** The Embodied podcast is remarkable in the way that host Anita Rao brings together guests for candid, informed and empathetic conversations about physical, mental and emotional health and our relations with each other and the world. Engaging episodes about diverse topics like multiracial identities, only children, male infertility and stuttering ultimately become explorations of what it means to be human. A true standout in a very strong category.

#### **Second Place**

[“Click Here”](#)

Recorded Future News Staff  
Recorded Future News

#### **Third Place**

[“How to LA”](#)

How to LA Staff  
LAist Studios

### **Criminal justice and/or crime podcast**

#### **First Place**

[“Letters from Sing Sing”](#)

Dan Slepian and Preeti Varathan  
NBC News Studios Audio Unit

**Judges’ comments:** “Letters from Sing-Sing” distilled 20 years of reporting into a compelling narrative that clearly changed the lives of both the journalist and the subject of the piece. The original reporting, original audio and wide-ranging impact of the story stands out.

#### **Second Place**

[“NPR’s Rough Translation: Love Commandos”](#)

Gregory Warner, Lauren Frayer, Mansi Choksi, and NPR's Rough Translation Staff  
National Public Radio

### **Third Place**

[“Imperfect Paradise: People vs. Karen”](#)

Emily Guerin, Sarah Kate Kramer, Rebecca Katz and the Imperfect Paradise Staff  
LAist Studios

### **Community/Local News Site**

#### **First Place**

[The Berkeley Scanner](#)

Emilie Raguso

**Judges’ comments:** Community and local news websites are creating a model for the future of journalism, and The Berkeley Scanner is defining that future with fast-paced, engaging and energetic coverage of public safety that has a strong voice and edge and a commitment to on-the-scene, shoe-leather reporting. With enterprise reporting, breaking news and community engagement (and producing 30 to 40 stories a month), founder Emilie Raguso is pioneering a new era of journalism with a commitment to the longstanding values that make journalism so essential to our lives.

#### **Second Place**

[Red Bank Green](#)

Kenny Katzgrau, John T. Ward and Brian Donohue

#### **Third Place**

[BridgeDetroit](#)

BridgeDetroit staff

### **RADIO STATIONS**

#### **Radio stations newscast, all markets**

#### **First Place**

[“WBAL News Now at 6 p.m.-11/9/2023”](#)

WBAL-AM Staff

WBAL-AM

**Judges’ comments:** Confident and comprehensive storytelling sets the emotional scene for a complex perjury case. With something for everyone, this day’s sports, weather and vaccination updates are delivered with appropriate voices of authority and cheer. The end of the newscast teases some of the next day’s coverage plans – giving listeners more reasons to tune in to a newscast that screams Baltimore.

### **Second Place**

[Texas Standard staff](#)

Texas Standard

### **Third Place**

[“All Things Considered with Tom Crann on Aug. 1, 2023”](#)

MPR News staff

MPR News

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

### **First Place**

[“Live Coverage: Paxton Impeachment Trial”](#)

Texas Standard & The Texas Newsroom staff

Texas Standard

**Judges’ comments:** A broadcast that’s the next best thing to being there. Reporter captures the humanity of a bustling courthouse scene along with the various details and personalities drawing so much attention.

### **Second Place**

[“Minnesota cannabis boss quits after questions raised about her background”](#)

Matt Sepic, Brian Bakst, Mike Mulcahy, Tom Scheck and Curtis Gilbert

MPR News

### **Third Place**

[“Deep Sea Vessel Disappears”](#)

Walter Wuthmann

WBUR

## **Radio stations feature and human interest story, all markets**

### **First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

[“When conditions align, skaters seek out ‘wild ice’”](#)

Dan Kraker

MPR News

**Judges’ comments:** When conditions are just right, Minnesota’s famed lakes create perfect conditions for ice larking – and this delightful and thorough adventure from MPR comes with a symphonic rendering of the many sounds the just-right ice can make.

### **Second Place**



[“Baltimore County landfill may soon have Hawk Patrol to force unwanted birds to 'get outta dodge.’”](#)

John Lee  
WYPR 88.1 FM

### **Third Place**

[“Want to make friends from a different economic class? Try your local Applebee’s or Olive Garden”](#)

Esther Yoon-Ji Kang and Natalie Y. Moore  
WBEZ Chicago

## **Radio stations documentary or public affairs**

### **First Place**

[“Midday with Tom Hall / Community Conversations”](#)

Midday Staff  
WYPR 88.1 FM

**Judges’ comments:** Tom Hall’s interviews are news you can use. We loved the squeegee story for its downright utility, timeliness and attention to representing so many voices. That discussion, as well as those about the Brooklyn Day shooting and protecting youth rights elicited many ideas for solutions. Hall is a caring advocate for Maryland residents.

### **Second Place**

[“Bad Chemistry”](#)

Alabama Public Radio staff  
Alabama Public Radio

### **Third Place**

[“Pumped: Food, Fuel and the Future of Texas”](#)

Texas Standard Staff  
Texas Standard

## **Radio stations news series**

### **First Place**

[“Empty Public Housing”](#)

Todd Wallack and Christine Willmsen  
WBUR

**Judges’ comments:** A thorough examination of a completely broken system for placing Massachusetts residents in public housing. Good interviews move the piece along. This was a

problem most people probably did not know existed -- clear-headed reporting about a process that really should work better.

### **Second Place**

[“Waiting for America”](#)

WLRN News staff

WLRN News

### **Third Place**

[“The State of Abortion”](#)

Dana Ferguson, Michelle Wiley and Samantha Stroozas

MPR News

## **Radio stations health/science story**

### **First Place**

[“How Baltimore is Trying to Keep its People Safe from Xylazine”](#)

Scott Maucione

WYPR 88.1 FM

**Judges’ comments:** This piece does an exceptional job of describing the dangers of Xylazine and how it folds into America’s opioids issue through strong sources and reporting. The information and interviews effectively advance the story and illustrate how dangerous Xylazine is to the public. The account provided by “Tiffany”, who is dealing with opioid addiction, is a haunting tale of what Xylazine can potentially do to your body. Excellent information and reporting.

### **Second Place**

[“Claws of Crisis”](#)

Kate Stone

KIRO Newsradio

### **Third Place**

[“Lifeline Program for Suicidal Kids is a Bridge to Nowhere”](#)

Sarah Karp, Kristen Schorsch and Kate Grossman

WBEZ

## **Broadcast radio networks and syndicators newscast**

### **First Place**

[“CBS World News Roundup”](#)

Norah O'Donnell, Steve Kathan and Paul Farry

CBS News Radio

**Judges' comments:** Skillfully woven tapestry of sound and interviews in covering the war. Interviews are evocative and advance the story. Tight writing paints a complete picture of the top story and the rest of the day's news in strong, action-filled writing.

**Second Place**

["CBS News on the Hour"](#)

Monica Rix and Mara Rubin  
CBS News Radio

**Third Place**

["CBS World News Roundup Late Edition"](#)

Jennifer Keiper, Matt Pieper and Kathleen Biggins  
CBS News Radio

**Broadcast radio networks and syndicators breaking news or continuing coverage**

**First Place**

["Israel-Hamas War"](#)

CBS News Radio Staff  
CBS News Radio

**Judges' comments:** CBS Radio delivers its trademark calm but authoritative reporting in the early hours of the Israel-Hamas conflict with voices from victims, officials and eyewitnesses. Excellent use of sound in a hectic, dangerous and developing situation.

**Second Place**

["Reporting on the ground from the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria"](#)

Ruth Sherlock, Erin O'Brien, Michael Sullivan and Larry Kaplow  
National Public Radio

**Third Place**

["Israel told Palestinians to evacuate to southern Gaza — and stepped up attacks there"](#)

Ruth Sherlock, Daniel Wood, Abu Bakr Bashir and Anas Baba  
National Public Radio

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

**First Place**

["Improper Conduct"](#)

National Public Radio, Columbia Journalism Investigations, WVXU and The Ohio Newsroom

**Judges' comments:** The expansive research and reporting done on this topic was undoubtedly impressive. The story makes you think, feel and question how much this is happening with prosecutors around the country. Elsewhere, the reporter obtained multiple sides of the story, including the prosecutor in question, which helped bring things into focus. Also, this story painted a troubling picture of what can happen when those in power take shortcuts to win a case - and how those shortcuts can hurt people.

### **Second Place**

["One Mom on What the End of Additional SNAP Benefits Means for Her Family"](#)

Samantha Fields and Jon Gordon  
Marketplace

### **Third Place**

["He Says U.S. Troops Abused Him in Iraq's Abu Ghraib and His Life is Still Ruined"](#)

Ruth Sherlock, Awadh Altaie, Larry Kaplow and Ahmed Qusay  
National Public Radio

## **Broadcast radio networks and syndicators documentary or public affairs**

### **First Place**

["Who Killed George Polk?"](#)

Steven Portnoy and Paul Woodhull  
CBS News Radio

**Judges' comments:** The audience is thrust right into the midst of a "whodunit" murder mystery, but knowing that nothing here is the output of a creative fiction author - but rather, creative writing and audio production, and deep archival research - makes it all the more interesting. Suspected Cold War coverups, political influences and the facts of the case are interwoven with re-enactments of radio reports and dramatic letter readings that build toward what we think is a resolution... but one does not exist as the case is still unsolved.

## **No Second- or Third-Place Award given**

## **Broadcast radio networks and syndicators news series**

### **First Place**

["Why a Mom Turned to Supervising Illegal Drug Use at Her Home"](#)

Martha Bebinger, Andrea de Leon, Elisabeth Harrison and Walter Ray Watson  
WBUR Boston and National Public Radio

**Judges' comments:** No doubt this reporter earned the trust of the mother, family members and others to be allowed to share such intimate details. At the same time it's a compelling story of hope and love. Bravo!

## **Second Place**

["The VA Loan Fiasco"](#)

Chris Arnold, Quil Lawrence and Bob Little  
National Public Radio

## **Third Place**

["Stories of Change from America's Farms"](#)

Ximena Bustillo and Andrea Hsu  
National Public Radio

## **TELEVISION**

### **Broadcast or cable television stations newscast**

#### **First Place**

["News at 6: Tornado Touchdown"](#)

Erica Young and Staff  
KPRC

**Judges' comments:** KPRC had wall-to-wall coverage of a devastating tornado touching down in January. Going to several neighborhoods, the crews show the scope of the damage and the monumental cleanup ahead, as well as the spirit of communities helping each other cope.

#### **Second Place**

["News 9 at 4 p.m.: Lewiston Mass Shooting"](#)

WMUR News Staff  
WMUR

#### **Third Place**

["NewsdayTV's coverage of LI Votes 2023"](#)

Newsday Staff  
Newsday

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

#### **First Place**

["Escaped Inmate Captured Live On Air"](#)

Mac Finney, Kate Amara and the Sky Team 11 Crew  
WBAL-TV

**Judges' comments:** Talk about being at the right place at the right time! Not only did this station cover the inmate's re-capture live, but one of the photographers also talked to the guy

wandering through the search area before he was caught. The crew helped redirect police, and story coverage moved from the ground to the air as police moved in.

### **Second Place**

[“Half Moon Bay: Mass Murders at the Mushroom Farms”](#)

Katie Nielsen, Kristen Stone, Robert R. Horn and Staff

KPIX-TV

### **Third Place**

[“Morgan State University Mass Shooting”](#)

WBAL-TV 11 News Team

WBAL-TV

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

### **First Place**

[“Hoarding Home Danger”](#)

Hearst - WLKY TV staff

Hearst - WLKY TV

**Judges’ comments:** WLKY had expansive coverage of this home filled with explosives, showing how they’re owning that story, from the discovery of the hazardous materials and explosives to the eventual cleanup and the followup with neighbors who still have concerns about long-term effects and the response of officials from various agencies.

### **Second Place**

[“STATE SECRET: Is California's landmark prison reform leading to a change in criminal behavior?”](#)

Julie Watts and Dennis Lopez

CBS News Sacramento

### **Third Place**

[“Continuing Coverage: Tragedy in Maine”](#)

WCVB-TV Staff

WCVB-TV

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

### **First Place**

[“Victory Day”](#)

Eric Hanson and Cortney Kintzer

KCCI-TV

**Judges' comments:** This is a feel-good piece from start to finish, as the Iowa State football team makes kids with special needs the stars of a special event on and off the field. The story follows one young energetic kid from the parking lot, to the locker room, to the field where he gets the experience of scoring a touchdown, meeting the head coach and saying thank you to everyone along the way. Interviews with the players, coaches and parents come only after we feel the excitement and energy of the day, with outstanding point-of-view visuals and wall-to-wall sounds that make us feel like we're there with the kids too.

**Second Place**

["Skiing Double"](#)

Boyd Huppert, Chad Nelson and Rieta Buttaro  
KARE11

**Third Place**

["There Are No Mistakes"](#)

Michael DeGiudice and Andrew Siff  
WNBC

**Broadcast or cable television stations public service**

**First Place**

["Overpayment Outrage: Investigation of Social Security Clawbacks"](#)

Jodie Fleischer, Josh Wade, David Hilzenrath, Cox Media Group TV Stations and KFF Health News

**Judges' comments:** This intriguing look into demands of the Social Security Administration that beneficiaries repay the government even when given overpayments by the agency's own miscalculation became a national story. By telling the tale through its victims, the story takes a potentially complicated money issue and presents a cogent narrative. Results: Some are getting the paybacks waived and Congress is now looking into the situation.

**Second Place**

["Project: Drive Safer"](#)

TMJ4 News Staff  
WTMJ-TV

**Third Place**

["Learned Helplessness"](#)

Project Baltimore  
WBFF-TV

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

### **First Place**

#### ["Georgia's Gitmo"](#)

Andy Pierrotti, Luke Carter, Dimitri Lotovski and Eric Carlton  
WANF-TV

**Judges' comments:** This is an intense journey toward uncomfortable truths, bringing to light the subhuman conditions hidden behind the bars of one of America's most notorious lockups, Fulton County Jail. This piece of journalism pulls the curtain back on a massive government failure, uncovering hundreds of inmates detained with no criminal charges and a court backlog that has created dangerous conditions for people inside, that won't be resolved even if taxpayer funds are raised and allocated to build a new facility. The WANF News team masterfully merged expert reporting with exceptional filmmaking.

### **Second Place**

#### ["Hate Comes to Main Street"](#)

NewsChannel 5 Investigates Team  
WTVF-Nashville

### **Third Place**

#### ["Beneath the Blind Spot: Tragedy of the Innocents"](#)

Wendy Halloran, Michelle Poe and KUTV staff  
KUTV 2News

## **Broadcast or cable television stations investigative reporting**

### **First Place**

#### ["The Unicorn"](#)

Project Baltimore  
WBFF-TV

**Judges' comments:** Fox 45 Baltimore wondered how a school's police officer could be pulling down more than \$200,000 in overtime in a single year. It was remarkable – by checking overtime sheets against social media postings, Fox 45 provided a convincing case that the overtime was earned while the officer was on vacation, or boating on the Chesapeake Bay, or during other activities not related to policing. It was such a convincing case that the FBI decided to follow up. Skillful documents work and persistence in seeking answers made this "Project Baltimore" report a winner.

### **Second Place**

#### ["11 Investigates: Up in Smoke"](#)

Brian Dugger, Eric Rerucha and Silas Tsang  
WTOL 11



### **Third Place**

["Capitol Blunder: A KARE 11 GAP Investigation"](#)

A.J. Lagoe, Gary Knox, Brandon Stahl and Staff  
KARE11

## **Broadcast or cable television stations business and consumer reporting**

### **First Place**

["Deadly Product Recall Delays"](#)

Angie Moreschi, Larry Deal and Alex Brauer  
Spotlight on America - Sinclair Broadcast Group

**Judges' comments:** These reports shed light on product recalls that resulted in tragedies with small children - tragedies that could have been prevented. The reporter works to find the systematic failures within the government and also exposes the loophole exercised by major corporations. Throughout the piece, she asked the pervasive questions the audience is thinking – 'How does this even happen?' And got the answers. The combination of powerful storytelling, dogged journalism and accountability of government proved this to be the winner of the business and consumer reporting category.

### **Second Place**

["New Home Nightmares"](#)

Adam Walser, Matt McGlashen and Melanie Payne  
WFTS

### **Third Place**

["Weapons Detection Loopholes"](#)

Bennett Haeberle and Chris Kettler  
WBNS-TV

## **Broadcast or cable television stations health/science reporting**

### **First Place**

["KARE11 Investigates: Broken Promises"](#)

A.J. Lagoe, Gary Knox and Devin Krinke  
KARE11

**Judges' comments:** KARE's persistence in demanding answers about a number of veterans denied health benefits by the VA yielded two remarkable outcomes: A high public outrage factor and the firing of a VA doctor who consistently and for years misdiagnosed veterans to keep them out of treatment for brain injuries and other dire disorders.

### **Second Place**

#### ["The Cost of Care"](#)

Adam Racusin, Raymond Higgins, Steve Reusch and Adam Hillberry  
KGVT ABC 10News

### **Third Place**

#### ["Chronicle: State of Mind"](#)

Jennifer Mihalic, Jenni Williams and John Hendon  
WYFF-TV, Hearst Television

## **Broadcast or cable television stations environmental reporting**

### **First Place**

#### ["Poisoned without Permission"](#)

Andy Pierrotti and Luke Carter  
WANF-TV

**Judges' comments:** When multiple water sources are determined to contain cancer-causing PFAS toxins, and the Georgia state department of health refuses to test residents for consumption of pollutants, the news station orders and does its own PFAS blood testing on a sample of residents. These tests show that toxins were detected as expected, but at significantly higher levels than the national median. While the state waits for the EPA to release guidelines on how to move forward, the station further reports that even the local freshwater fish are dangerous to eat based on pollutant levels... and a connection is drawn between some resident deaths due to cancer in a more concentrated area that makes it seem causal rather than coincidence.

### **Second Place**

#### ["Warming Signs: Rising Sea Levels in Maryland"](#)

WJZ-TV Staff  
WJZ-TV

### **Third Place**

#### ["Train Derailment: Personal Impact Stories"](#)

WTAE Staff  
WTAE

## **Broadcast or cable television stations severe weather reporting**

### **First Place**

#### ["Tornadoes Leave Path of Destruction"](#)

WCVB Staff  
WCVB

**Judges' comments:** In New England, WCVB continues to be the region's leader in breaking severe weather as its execution in tracking and reporting tornadoes in Rhode Island firmly demonstrates. From its weather center, to the rapid response on the ground and compelling video and sound from victims of the storm and helicopter vantages, Channel 5 owned the scene while it was happening and for hours afterward. Headliners has been impressed in previous years with WCVB's weather response and this year is no exception. Viewers apparently feel the same way too, helping the station with video and stills from the ground including an arresting dashcam of a funnel crossing a major highway and slashing through traffic.

### **Second Place**

["Late Summer Storms"](#)

WTAE Staff

WTAE

### **Third Place**

["Severe Winter Storm"](#)

KCRA 3 News Staff

KCRA 3 News

## **Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators newscast**

### **First Place**

["The CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell, October 12, 2023"](#)

CBS Evening News Staff

CBS News

**Judges' comments:** Comprehensive reporting begins on-location in Tel-Aviv amidst "Israel at War" - leading with the humanitarian crisis and visceral horrors of war that impact a population for which half of the residents are under the age of 18. No one was safe, not at a music festival nor at a hospital, with the latter amazingly having been evacuated days prior to it being leveled by rocket fire. But it's not just the residents of the nation in peril - an estimated 20,000 Americans are unable to leave. CBS is there at the airport as the U.S. government charters planes to evacuate its citizens. Meanwhile back at home, there's a senator facing accusations of corruption and being a foreign agent, while tornadoes - not hurricanes - ravage parts of Florida. This half-hour world news program presents the news of the world and at home in a way that makes it seem like an hour of material was covered.

## **No Second-Place or Third-Place awards given**

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

### **First Place**

["CBS News: Maui Wildfires"](#)

CBS News Staff

CBS News

**Judges' comments:** The fires that ravaged Lahaina were intense and fast therefore the news coverage had to be focused, expansive and timely. CBS News rose to the occasion by placing reporters at key events that allowed them to spend time talking with residents who lost relatives in the fire as well as press officials about their shortcomings. The commitment to the story as well as the content that was produced took viewers on a very personal journey that resonated with those watching. The fact that there wasn't a huge team of reporters was impressive.

### **Second Place**

["CBS News: Israel-Hamas War"](#)

CBS News Staff

CBS News

### **Third Place**

["Attack on Israel October 7"](#)

Saturday Today Staff

NBC News

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

### **First Place**

["Richard Engel Reports: Israel-Hamas War"](#)

NBC News Staff

NBC News

**Judges' comments:** NBC News Chief Foreign Correspondent Richard Engel reported from the Gaza Strip with an intense look at the ground operations into Gaza. While this war has been covered with varied approaches, this risk taking reporting was informative and gripping at the same time. His exclusive interviews over the course of two months, provided insight that viewers needed as questions loomed. With unwavering commitment, Engel made the story come alive as he immersed himself in the story without becoming the story. The exclusive insider's approach took viewers inside, immersing them into details that would not have been gathered through more typical news approaches.

### **Second Place**

["60 Minutes: Chaos on Campus"](#)

Bill Whitaker and Staff

CBS News

### **Third Place**

["ABC News: The Indictments"](#)

ABC News Staff

ABC News

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

#### **First Place**

["CBS Sunday Morning: The Next Battlefield"](#)

Ted Koppel, Dustin Stephens and Ed Givnish

CBS News

**Judges' comments:** It's not a question of which came first, but which decision-making system has ultimate authority - humans or A.I.? CBS unravels a complicated conundrum in tech, and refers back to computer-vs-human chess in 1997 before moving forward to how the Department of Defense could use A.I. in battlefield decisions. The trustworthiness and ethics behind the how and why decisions are made is in question, and through multiple interviews CBS finds a seemingly endless loop of possibilities - humans should have oversight of A.I. decisions, but A.I. should have oversight of human decisions. While CBS points out the challenge between subjective and objective decision making, the impact of A.I. in our world grows.

#### **Second Place**

["ABC News Live Prime: A Tale of Two Mayors"](#)

ABC News Staff

ABC News

#### **Third Place**

["On The Road: Goose Ad"](#)

Steve Hartman, Adam Verdugo and Jessica Opatich

CBS News

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

#### **First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

["Sacred Dog"](#)

ESPN staff

ESPN

**Judges' comments:** What's so special about a relay race on horses? Everything. It's a celebration of Native American culture and history, dating back to the introduction of horses to

North America and the tribal competition of who has the fastest horse. It's a motivating positive force in reservation life, constantly challenged by poverty, alcoholism and drug addiction. "It teaches kids how to stay alive." ESPN provides Kentucky Derby level production value in cinematic visuals, symphonic sound design and captivating story following families fighting for pride and survival, in both the sport and life.

### **Second Place**

["Crypto 911: Exposing a Bitcoin Billionaire"](#)

Eamon Javers, Paige Tortorelli, Scott Zamost, Bria Cousins, Candice Goldman and Ray Parisi  
CNBC

### **Third Place**

["ABC News Studios: The Lady Bird Diaries"](#)

Dawn Porter  
ABC News

## **Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators investigative report**

### **First Place**

["The Coast Guard's Secret"](#)

Melanie Hicken, Blake Ellis, Audrey Ash, Pamela Brown and Curt Devine  
CNN

**Judges' comments:** Many newsrooms receive anonymous tips but the decision to doggedly pursue them doesn't always happen. In this case, CNN received a tip that proved to expose a coverup within the Coast Guard that goes back decades. The CNN team showed their relentless commitment to the truth by fighting for critical supportive documents and systemic change. Without this probe by CNN, the public would be in the dark about the severity of the poor culture, including lack of accountability, within the academy. Tight writing and compelling interviews – along with sparking real change in Washington and beyond — provided exemplary investigative journalism with long-lasting impact.

### **Second Place**

["CBS News: Dishonored"](#)

CBS News Staff  
CBS News

### **Third Place**

["Scripps News Investigates: Ukraine's Stolen Orphans"](#)

Scripps News Investigates  
Scripps News

## **Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators news magazine program**

### **First Place**

[“In Real Life: Crossing the Line”](#)

Keegan Hamilton

Scripps News and the Los Angeles Times

**Judges’ comments:** A much needed approach to covering complicated news stories was found in these reports produced by Scripps News and the Los Angeles Times. The in-depth reporting of very opposite groups at the border shed light on people that we only hear about in soundbites. Taking viewers on the ground and hearing first hand accounts while actually moving with the interview subjects on the ground was risky and exceptionally important. This is a fine example of what journalism is supposed to do. The collaborative effort showed accountability and allowed reporters in TV and print to showcase the best of both worlds with their varied approaches to covering a story.

### **Second Place**

[“On The Brink”](#)

Diane Sawyer, Rachel Scott and Staff of IMPACT x Nightline

ABC News

### **Third Place**

[“Underwater”](#)

Lee Zurik, Owen Hornstein and Brandon Wissbaum

InvestigateTV

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

### **First Place**

[“CBS News: Hospitals in Peril”](#)

CBS News Staff

CBS News

**Judges’ comments:** What began as a look into one hospital’s suspicious closing grew into a problem that was more pervasive. This report not only looked at how private equity executives profited at the expense of patients, it cast a wider net into the implications of the effects of the closings on mostly Black and brown neighborhoods. As the story grew, reporters and producers had to adjust to the evidence they unearthed, switching gears to expose what was happening with taxpayer money. This story checked all of the boxes for good journalism as it informed and held people accountable along the way.

### **Second Place**

[“Derailed”](#)

Fault Lines - Al Jazeera English Staff  
Fault Lines - Al Jazeera English

### **Third Place**

[“CBS Sunday Morning: Payday”](#)

Allison Aubrey, Dustin Stephens and Joseph L. Frandino  
CBS News

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

### **First Place**

[“The Pesticide Playbook”](#)

Fault Lines - Al Jazeera English staff  
Fault Lines - Al Jazeera English

**Judges’ comments:** In much of the world, the pesticide Paraquat is banned as a health hazard. But not in the United States. Through interviews with scientists and farmers and those who work with the insecticide, Al Jazeera takes us close-up to the living hazards and the strong lobby that protects the chemical from being regulated.

### **Second Place**

[“Inside Look at Detroit PD’s Mental Health Response”](#)

Shaquille Brewster, Stefanie Cargill and Melissa Mack  
MSNBC / NBC News Group

### **Third Place**

[“60 Minutes: Star Power”](#)

Scott Pelley, Andy Court and Annabelle Hanflig  
CBS News

## **Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators environmental reporting**

### **First Place**

[“CBS Sunday Morning: At What Cost?”](#)

Seth Doane, Sari Aviv and Ed Givnish  
CBS News

**Judges’ comments:** An impressive foray into the facts and myths behind electronics recycling, and the surprising statistics about global exports of e-waste. CBS documented first-hand the endless piles across shoreline land in Ghana that constitutes a new age of mining operations - and it’s just as dirty and bad for health as traditional underground mining - if not worse, with everyone in town directly exposed to pollutants in the open air. CBS presses cellular phone manufacturers for their sustainability practices, and reveals how little the U.S. regulates its



e-waste exports, compared to 191 other countries that dispense with the buzzwords and simply declare it hazardous waste that must be dealt with like asbestos and lead paint. Some startup companies - CBS profiled one in this piece - are working to combat the problem with innovation in new phone designs.

**Second Place**

["CBS News: Arizona Water"](#)

Ben Tracy, Chris Spinder and Andrew Bast  
CBS News

**Third Place**

["CBS Sunday Morning: A Second Chance"](#)

Lee Cowan, Sari Aviv and Carol Ross  
CBS News