

# 2024 ALL-OHIO EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

Presented by the Press Club of Cleveland

July 7, 2024

## WRITING

### Analysis

#### **1st place**

How Cleveland City Council directs millions in casino money

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

Signal Cleveland

#### **2nd place**

Using our very human brains to rethink AI

**Richard Perloff and Anup Kumar**

The Plain Dealer

#### **3rd place**

EU 'blacklists' Russia as supply lines settle

**Andrew Schunk**

Rubber News

### Architecture & Design

#### **1st place**

Fantastic botanical beasts and how to build them

**Jaclyn Youhana Garver**

Cincinnati Magazine

#### **2nd place**

Shipping container homes offer options and challenges

**Jill Sell**

Akron Beacon Journal

#### **3rd place:**

From offices to apartments

**Bonnie Meibers**

Columbus Business First

## **Arts & Entertainment**

### ***1st place***

Why Sudsy Malone's mattered, and still does

**Cedric Rose**

Cincinnati Magazine

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

### ***2nd place***

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

**Marc Bona**

Cleveland.com

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

### ***3rd place***

Read my hips

**Laurie Pike**

Cincinnati Magazine

## **Breaking News**

### ***1st place:***

Damar Hamlin's collapse at Paycor Stadium

**Enquirer staff**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

### ***2nd place***

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

**Derek Kreider**

Akron Beacon Journal

### ***3rd place***

Dogs found dead

**Diane Smith**

Record Courier

## **Business & Financial**

### ***1st place***

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

**Olivera Perkins**

Signal Cleveland

### ***2nd place***

Game, set, match?

**Steve Watkins**

Cincinnati Business Courier

**3rd place**

Building a bank

**Tatyana Tandanpolie**

Columbus CEO Magazine

### **Column or Blog: General News**

**1st place**

Leave drag story hours alone

**Rini Jeffers**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**2nd place**

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

**Kevin Aldridge**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

**3rd place**

Short Takes community column

**Julie A. Short**

Cleveland.com / Sun News

### **Column or Blog: Sports**

**1st place**

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

**Rob Oller**

The Columbus Dispatch

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

**2nd place**

Loss and love on Father's Day

**Rini Jeffers**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**3rd place**

Jim Ingraham column

**Jim Ingraham**

The Chronicle-Telegram

### **Column or Blog: Business**

**1st place**

Side Hustle  
**Olivera Perkins and Jeff Haynes**  
Signal Cleveland

**2nd place**

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

**3rd place**

Tips From the Top  
**Michael Feuer**  
Smart Business

**Column or Blog: Lifestyle/Feature**

**1st place**

Time in a bottle/box  
**Jay Gilbert**  
Cincinnati Magazine

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

**2nd place**

Sounds of a bygone era  
**David Manley**  
Tire Business

**3rd place**

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

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

**Crime & Justice**

**1st place**

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

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

subject.

### **2nd place**

The long shadow of vice

**Andy Downing and Joel Oliphint**

Columbus Monthly and Matter News

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

### **3rd place**

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

**Mark Puente and Tara Morgan**

The Marshall Project-Cleveland

## **Data Journalism**

### **1st place**

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

**Mark Puente and Tara Morgan**

The Marshall Project-Cleveland

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

### **2nd place**

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

**Doug Livingston**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

### **3rd place**

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

**Dan Horn and Terry DeMio**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

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

## **Editorial**

### **1st place**

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

**Erin Pustay Beaven**

Rubber News

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

**2nd place**

Can ADAS solve distracted driving?

**David Manley**

Tire Business

**3rd place**

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

**Mike Shearer**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**Education**

**1st place**

Staffing shortage has child care centers turning away families

**Olivera Perkins**

Signal Cleveland

**2nd place**

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

**Jennifer Pignolet**

Akron Beacon Journal

**3rd place**

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

**Madeline Mitchell**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

**Environment**

**1st place**

Down to Earth

**Lauren Fisher and Carrie Blackmore Smith**

Cincinnati Magazine

**2nd place**

Soil is our salvation

**Randy Edwards**

Columbus Monthly

**3rd place**

Is Cleveland the climate safe haven we think it is?

**Dillon Stewart, Annie Nickoloff and Ron Ledgard**

Cleveland Magazine

## **Essay**

### ***1st place***

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

**Jill Sell**

The Columbus Dispatch

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

*Very well-done*

### ***2nd place***

Enduring painful speech to get to understanding

**Richard Perloff and Anup Kumar**

The Plain Dealer

### ***3rd place***

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

**Marc Bona**

Cleveland.com

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

## **Food/Restaurant**

### ***1st place***

A chef with intention

**Erin Edwards**

Columbus Monthly

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

### ***2nd place***

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

**Keith Pandolfi**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

### ***3rd place***

Fowl language

**Aiesha Little and Amanda Boyd Walters**

Cincinnati Magazine

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

## **Government & Politics**

### ***1st place***

East Cleveland police chief faces suspension after antisemitic messages

**Lydia Kacala**

Cleveland Jewish News

**2nd place**

The Euclid Model: Shoring up lakefront access

**Laura DeMarco**

Greater Cleveland Partnership

**3rd place**

The statesman and the demagogue

**Richard Perloff**

The Plain Dealer

**Headline**

**1st place**

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

**Annie Wu**

Ideastream Public Media

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

**2nd place**

'The Golden Bachelor' could be a golden opportunity

**Lois Bowers**

McKnight's Senior Living

**3rd place**

Browns lose? Hail, no

**Kevin Aprile**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**Health & Medical**

**1st place**

Healing hallucinogens

**Randy Edwards**

Columbus Monthly

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

**2nd place**

Their journey is going forward

**Mary McCarty**

Cincinnati Magazine

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



### **3rd place**

Anatomy of a measles outbreak

**Joel Oliphint**

Columbus Monthly

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

### **History**

#### **1st place**

What lies underneath

**Dave Ghose**

Columbus Monthly

#### **2nd place**

GE Lighting retirees rescue century of history at Nela Park

**Michelle Jarboe**

Crain's Cleveland Business

#### **3rd place**

Thriving on the fringe of society

**Carrie Blackmore Smith**

Cincinnati Magazine

### **Humor**

#### **1st place**

We have Alberta fires to blame as COVID memories are rekindled

**Cliff Anthony**

The Plain Dealer

### **In-Depth Report or Series**

#### **1st place**

Under fire

**Staff**

The Columbus Dispatch

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

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

#### **2nd place**

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

**Candice Wilder**

Signal Cleveland

### **3rd place**

The nightmare

**Annie Nickoloff**

Cleveland Magazine

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

## **Investigative Journalism**

### **1st place**

Preying on patients

**Staff**

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

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

### **2nd place**

The long shadow of vice

**Andy Downing and Joel Oliphint**

Columbus Monthly and Matter News

### **3rd place**

Chaos in Ohio's youth lockups

**Staff**

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

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

## **Lifestyle Feature**

### **1st place**

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

**Mark J. Price**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

### **2nd place**

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

**Jolene Almendarez**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

### **3rd place**

A veteran's path to homeownership

**Hannah Poturalski**

Dayton Business Journal

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

## **Neighborhood/Community News**

### ***1st place***

Over-the-Rhine turns a corner

**John Fox and Carrie Blackmore Smith**

Cincinnati Magazine

### ***2nd place***

Small Nation brings big change to Bellefontaine

**Carrie Ghose**

Columbus Business First

### ***3rd place***

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

**Jo Donofrio**

FreshWater Cleveland

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

## **Newsletter**

### ***1st place***

To-Do List

**Jean-Marie Papoi, Carrie Wise and Lauren Green**

Ideastream Public Media

### ***2nd place***

Cleveland Magazine Daily

**Staff**

Cleveland Magazine

### ***3rd place***

Boker Tov Cleveland

**CJN Staff**

Cleveland Jewish News

## **Obituary**

### ***1st place***

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

**Nate Ulrich**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

### ***2nd place***

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

**Stephanie Warsmith**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**3rd place**

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

**Courtney Byrnes**

Cleveland Jewish News

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

**Profile**

**1st place**

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

**Stephanie Warsmith**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**2nd place**

Jack Hanna's long goodbye

**Mike Wagner**

The Columbus Dispatch

**3rd place**

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

**Anna Staver**

USA Today Network Ohio

*Judge's comment: A fascinating political portrait.*

**Race & Diversity Reporting**

**1st place**

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

**Jennifer Pignolet**

Akron Beacon Journal

**2nd place**

'Who I always was'

**Danae King**

The Columbus Dispatch

**3rd place**

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

**Zaria Johnson**

Ideastream Public Media

**Real Estate**

**1st place**

Michelle Jarboe, Crain's Cleveland Business

**Michelle Jarboe**

Crain's Cleveland Business

**2nd place**

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

**Frank W. Lewis**

Signal Cleveland

**3rd place**

Subleasing picks up steam

**Bonnie Meibers**

Columbus Business First

**Review/Criticism**

**1st place**

Southern comfort

**Brandon Wuske**

Cincinnati Magazine

**Science & Technology**

**1st place**

Battelle spins off pair of big ideas

**Carrie Ghose**

Columbus Business First

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

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

**2nd place**

'A paradigm shifter': The science behind Potenza

**Erin Pustay Beaven**

Rubber News

### **3rd place**

She's out of this world

**Becky Raspe**

Cleveland Jewish News

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

### **Solutions Journalism**

#### **1st place**

The 'no car, no job' dilemma is solvable

**Frank W. Lewis**

Signal Cleveland

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

#### **2nd place**

City, police, nonprofits unite to interrupt gun violence

**Carissa Woytach**

The Chronicle-Telegram

### **Sports Feature**

#### **1st place**

How Bengals star DJ Reader lost his dad but found himself

**Kelsey Conway**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

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

#### **2nd place**

And this one belongs to the Bengals

**Chad Dotson**

Cincinnati Magazine

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

#### **3rd place**

Comfortable at the course

**Scott Petrak**

The Chronicle-Telegram

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

## **Sports News**

### **1st place**

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

**Gordon Wittenmyer**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

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

### **2nd place**

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

**Nate Ulrich**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

## **Trade Report**

### **1st place**

3PMS: What does it really mean?

**Kathy McCarron**

Tire Business

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

### **2nd place**

Vehicle safety inspections

**Kathy McCarron**

Tire Business

### **3rd place**

PFAS: The 'forever chemicals' dilemma

**Bruce Meyer**

Rubber News

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

## **Travel & Transportation**

### **1st place**

Driving change

**Cedric Rose**

Cincinnati Magazine

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

### **2nd place**

How Cincinnati won British Airways

**Chris Wetterich**

Cincinnati Business Courier

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

### **3rd place**

The Ohio you don't know

**Staff**

Columbus Monthly

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

## **VIDEO**

### **Arts & Entertainment**

#### **1st place**

In this small Ohio town, troll dolls outnumber people

**Jean-Marie Papoi and Carrie Wise**

Ideastream Public Media

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

#### **2nd place**

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

**Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson**

WXIX

### **Business/Financial**

#### **1st place**

Greater Cleveland business: 2023 year in review

**Michael Collier**

Greater Cleveland Partnership



## **Continuing Coverage**

### ***1st place***

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

**Sia Nyorkor and Michelle Nicks**

WOIO-TV

### ***2nd place***

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

**Karen Kasler, Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik**

Ohio Public Television

## **Crime & Justice**

### ***1st place***

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

**Stephanie Haney**

WKYC

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

### ***2nd place***

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

**Jessica Schmidt and Payton Del Bradley**

WXIX

### ***3rd place***

Hostage to A.I.

**Duane Pohlman and Holden Robinson**

WKRC-TV

## **Documentary**

### ***1st place***

Missing: Ten years later

**Amanda Berry, Carrie Gibilisco and Chris Reece**

WJW Fox 8

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

### ***2nd place***

The 88th Annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

**Gabriel Kramer and Natalia Garcia**

Ideastream Public Media

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

## **Education**

### ***1st place***

Bus driver goes extra mile for student with special needs

**Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson**

WXIX

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

## **Environment**

### ***1st place***

Oppenheimer's Downwinders

**Duane Pohlman and Holden Robinson**

WKRC-TV

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

## **General News**

### ***1st place***

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

**Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson**

WXIX

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

### ***2nd place***

Wrong-way survivor

**Tara Morgan**

WEWS-TV 5

## **Government & Politics**

### ***1st place***

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

**Stephanie Haney**

WKYC

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

### ***2nd place***

Beyond left & right on abortion

Brian Calfano

Spectrum News 1 Ohio

## **Health & Medical**

### ***1st place***

Dragon boat survivors

**Natalie Herbick and David Bradford**

WJW Fox 8

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

## **History**

### ***1st place***

A historic Cleveland bridge remains suspended in time

**Jean-Marie Papoi and Kabir Bhatia**

Ideastream Public Media

### ***2nd place***

Lucasville legacy: 30 years after deadly prison riot

**Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik**

Ohio Public Television

## **Human Interest**

### ***1st place***

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

**Payton Marshall and Holden Robinson**

WXIX

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

### ***2nd place***

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

**Carrie Wise**

Ideastream Public Media

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

### ***3rd place***

Side Hustle: The line dance king

**Jeff Haynes and Olivera Perkins**

Signal Cleveland

## **Humor**

### ***1st place***

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

**Payton Marshall and Austin Briski**

WXIX

*Judge's comments: Nostalgic! Funny!*

## **In-Depth Report or Series**

***1st place***

Catching contraband on America's hidden border

**Duane Pohlman, News Staff**

WKRC-TV

***2nd place***

No license to drive

**Mark Puente and Tara Morgan**

WEWS-TV

**Investigative Journalism**

***1st place***

Something in that wash ain't clean

**Scott Noll and Rob Klein**

WEWS-TV 5

***2nd place***

Speed traps

**Peggy Gallek and Ed Gallek**

WJW Fox 8

**Lifestyle Feature**

***1st place***

An annual WWII reenactment on the beaches of Lake Erie

**Ygal Kaufman**

Ideastream Public Media

**Live On-The-Scene Report**

***1st place***

Factory explosion

**Bryan Gruden**

WJW Fox 8

**News Feature**

***1st place***

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

**Stephanie Haney**

WKYC

***2nd place***

Lucasville Legacy: 30 Years After Deadly Prison Riot

**Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik**

Ohio Public Television

## **Profile**

### ***1st place***

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

### ***2nd place***

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

## **Race & Diversity Reporting**

### ***1st place***

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

## **Science & Technology**

### ***1st place***

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

## **Sports Feature**

### ***2nd place***

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

### ***1st place***

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

## **Transportation & Travel**

### ***1st place***

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

## **Weathercast**

### ***1st place***

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

## **AUDIO**

### **Arts & Entertainment**

#### ***1st place***

Unspooling Cleveland's industrial film and musical history

**Kabir Bhatia**

Ideastream Public Media

### **Breaking News**

#### ***1st place***

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

**Anna Huntsman**

Ideastream Public Media

### **Business/Financial**

#### ***1st place***

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Fieldglass

**Adam Burroughs**

Smart Business

#### ***2nd place***

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Redback

**Adam Burroughs**

Smart Business

#### ***3rd place***

Smart Business Dealmakers Podcast – Porter Road

**Adam Burroughs**

Smart Business

### **Continuing Coverage**

#### ***1st place***

Jayland Walker grand jury decision

**Anna Huntsman and Abigail Bottar**

Ideastream Public Media

#### ***2nd place***

Abortion in Ohio: Two ballot issues, two opposite messages

**Jo Ingles and Karen Kasler**

Ohio Public Radio

## **Crime & Justice**

### ***1st place***

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

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

Cleveland Jewish News

## **Documentary**

### ***1st place***

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

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

Cleveland Jewish News

### ***2nd place***

Ohio after Roe

**Amy Eddings**

Ideastream Public Media

## **Education**

### ***1st place***

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

**Conor Morris**

Ideastream Public Media

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

## **Environment**

### ***1st place***

Back to nature

**Abigail Bottar**

Ideastream Public Media

## **Food/Restaurant**

### ***1st place***

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

**Gabriel Kramer**

Ideastream Public Media

## **Government & Politics**

### **1st place**

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

**Karen Kasler, Jo Ingles and Daniel Konik**

Ohio Public Television

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

### **2nd place**

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

**Abbey Marshall**

Ideastream Public Media

### **History**

#### **1st place**

A historic Cleveland bridge remains suspended in time

**Kabir Bhatia**

Ideastream Public Media

### **Human Interest**

#### **1st place**

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

**Anna Huntsman**

Ideastream Public Media

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

### **In-Depth Report or Series**

#### **1st place**

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

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

Cleveland Jewish News

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

#### **2nd place**

Dr. Roxy: Rise and Fall of the TikTok Doc

**Max Filby and Patrick Flaherty**

The Columbus Dispatch

#### **3rd place**

Connecting with Ohio's Plain community



**Kelly Krabill**

Ideastream Public Media

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

**Investigative Journalism**

**1st place**

Cleveland neighborhood grapples with the loss of its ER

**Taylor Wizner**

Ideastream Public Media

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

**News Feature**

**1st place**

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

**Abbey Marshall**

Ideastream Public Media

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

**Podcast**

**1st place**

Living for We

**Marlene Harris-Taylor**

Ideastream Public Media

**2nd place**

Aliza: Her story at 10 years

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

Cleveland Jewish News

**3rd place**

Above the Fold

**Andy Brownfield and Tom Demeropolis**

Cincinnati Business Courier

**Profile**

**1st place**

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

**Ygal Kaufman**

Ideastream Public Media

**2nd place**

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

### **Race & Diversity Reporting**

#### ***1st place***

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

**Stephen Langel**

Ideastream Public Media

### **Solutions Journalism**

#### ***1st place***

Can grassroots funding create a safer Cleveland?

**Abbey Marshall**

Ideastream Public Media

### **Sports Feature**

#### ***1st place***

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

**Abbey Marshall**

Ideastream Public Media

## **VISUALS**

### **Drone Photograph**

#### ***2nd place***

An annual WWII reenactment on the beaches of Lake Erie

**Ygal Kaufman**

Ideastream Public Media

#### ***1st place***

Cleveland rising

**Michael Collier**

Greater Cleveland Partnership

### **Feature Photograph**

#### ***1st place***

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

**Corrie Schaffeld**

Cincinnati Business Courier

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

**2nd place**

Wild fun at the county fair

**Kristin Bauer**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**3rd place**

Damage meditation

**Lisa Scalfaro**

Record Courier

**Illustration, Single Image**

**1st place**

Teens talk guns

**Phil Masturzo**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**2nd place**

Gifts to love

**Maria Amador**

Northeast Ohio Parent magazine

**Infographics**

**1st place**

Top private companies

**John Lauer**

Cincinnati Business Courier

**2nd place**

Michelin/EV related infographics

**Michael McCrady**

Rubber News

**3rd place**

Top 10 tire makers

**Michael McCrady**

Tire Business

**General News Photography**

**1st place**

Invasive species spreading

**Kristin Bauer**

The Chronicle-Telegram

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

**2nd place**

Grace House

**Mike Cardew**

Akron Beacon Journal

**3rd place**

New mayor

**Mike Cardew**

Akron Beacon Journal

**General News Videography**

**1st place**

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

**Ryan Loew**

Ideastream Public Media

**Multiple-Photo Essay, Gallery or Slideshow**

**1st place**

Walking the #Streets: The best of #StreetsofCLE

**Bob Perkoski**

FreshWater Cleveland

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

**2nd place**

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati

**Corrie Schaffeld**

Cincinnati Business Courier

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

**3rd place**

Jayland Walker jury

**Jeff Lange**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**Multiplatform Project**

**1st place**

Ohio after Roe

**Amy Eddings and Stephanie Czekalinski**

Ideastream Public Media

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

**2nd place**

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

**3rd place**

IsraelFest  
**Courtney Byrnes, DeAnna MacKeigan**  
Cleveland Jewish News

**Page Design, Cover, Broadsheet, Tabs & Magazines**

**1st place**

Full court press  
**Erin Stinard**  
Cleveland Magazine

**2nd place**

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

**3rd place**

The Book  
**Michael McCrady**  
Tire Business

**Page Design, Single Page, Broadsheet, Tabs & Magazines**

**1st place**

Aliza Sherman timeline  
**Jessica Simon**  
Cleveland Jewish News

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

**2nd place**

Women breaking the mold  
**Michael McCrady**  
Rubber News

**3rd place**

Mid-year tire design  
**Michael McCrady**  
Tire Business

### **Portrait/Personality Photograph**

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

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

**3rd place**  
Ted Gantz portrait  
**Kareem Elgazzar**  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

### **Spot News Photograph**

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

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

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

### **Sports Photography**

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

**2nd place**

Silly pin

**Jeff Lange**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**3rd place**

State track

**Phil Masturzo**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**Studio Photography**

**1st place**

Courier 100

**Corrie Schaffeld**

Cincinnati Business Courier

**Website Homepage Design**

**1st place**

Fox8.com

**Fox 8 web team**

WJW Fox 8

**COLLEGE STUDENT MEDIA**

**Writing, General News**

**1st place**

Islamophobic remarks written on chalkboard amidst Israel-Hamas conflict

**Laken Kincaid**

John Carroll University

**2nd place**

Firearm found in Dolan Hall before Thanksgiving Break, investigation underway

**Laken Kincaid**

John Carroll University

**3rd place**

Persona non-grata

**Isabella Cerveira**

Tri-C The Voice

**Writing, Feature**

**1st place**

How JCU is maintaining its Jesuit Identity with fewer Jesuits

**Tate Farinacci**

John Carroll University

**2nd place**

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

**Laken Kincaid**

John Carroll University

**3rd place**

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

**Rafaela Rezende**

Tri-C The Voice

**Writing, Sports**

**1st place**

Christine Pendleton makes Tri-C history

**Christina Easter**

Tri-C The Voice

**2nd place**

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

**Grant Sarnowski**

John Carroll University

**3rd place**

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

**Leah Harrigan**

John Carroll University

**Audio, General News**

**1st place**

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

**Laken Kincaid and Evan Richwalsky**

John Carroll University

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

## **BEST IN OHIO**

**Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Print/Online)**

**1st place**

Joel Oliphint

**Joel Oliphint**



Columbus Monthly

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

**2nd place**

Stephanie Warsmith

**Stephanie Warsmith**

Akron Beacon Journal

**3rd place**

Haley BeMiller

**Haley BeMiller**

USA Today Network Ohio Bureau

**Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Video)**

**1st place**

Duane Pohlman, chief investigative reporter

**Duane Pohlman**

WKRC-TV

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

**2nd place**

Scott Noll: Bad hires and a broken neck

**Scott Noll**

WEWS-TV 5

**Best in Ohio: News Reporter (Audio)**

**1st place**

Body of work

**Taylor Wizner**

Ideastream Public Media

**Best in Ohio: Photojournalist (Still Imagery)**

**1st place**

Corrie Schaffeld's Best of 2023

**Corrie Schaffeld**

Cincinnati Business Courier

**2nd place**

Kristin Bauer

**Kristin Bauer**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**3rd place**

Hatsue Andrews feature photography  
**Hatsue Andrews**  
Cincinnati Magazine

**Best in Ohio: Photojournalist (Video)**

**1st place**

Body of work

**Jean-Marie Papoi**

Ideastream Public Media

**2nd place**

DeAnna MacKeigan

**DeAnna MacKeigan**

Cleveland Jewish News

**Best in Ohio: Sports Reporter (Print/Online)**

**1st place**

Joey Kaufman

**Joey Kaufman**

The Columbus Dispatch

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

**2nd place**

Nate Ulrich

**Nate Ulrich**

Akron Beacon Journal

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

**3rd place**

Scott Petrak

**Scott Petrak**

The Chronicle-Telegram

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

## **Best in Ohio: Sports Reporter (Video)**

### **1st place**

Chris Renkel - sports anchor/reporter

**Chris Renkel**

WKRC-TV

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

## **Best in Ohio: Freelance Reporter**

### **1st place**

Jill Sell

**Jill Sell**

Akron Beacon Journal, The Columbus Dispatch and Community Leader

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

### **2nd place**

Grant Segall

**Grant Segall**

FreshWater Cleveland, Crain's Cleveland Business, The Land

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

### **3rd place**

Matt Florjancic

**Matt Florjancic**

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

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

## **Best in Ohio: Graphic Designer**

### **1st place**

Stephen Valentine

**Stephen Valentine**

Cleveland Jewish News

### **2nd place**

Ignite Magazine

**Scott Rutan**  
Northeast Ohio Medical University

**3rd place**

Jessica Simon

**Jessica Simon**

Cleveland Jewish News

**Best in Ohio: Art Director**

**1st place**

Jen Kawanari

**Jen Kawanari**

Cincinnati Magazine

**2nd place**

Erin Stinard

**Erin Stinard**

Cleveland Magazine

**3rd place**

Michael McCrady's range of work

**Michael McCrady**

Rubber News

**Best in Ohio: Illustrator**

**1st place**

Jeff Darcy cartoons

**Jeff Darcy**

Cleveland.com

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

**2nd place**

Global Health – Spring/Summer 2023 Ignite

**J. Leigh Garcia**

Northeast Ohio Medical University

**Best in Ohio: Headline Writer**

**1st place**

Vince Guerrieri

**Vince Guerrieri**

Medina County Gazette

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

**2nd place**

Kevin Aprile  
**Kevin Aprile**  
The Chronicle-Telegram

**3rd place**  
Ken Schneck  
**Ken Schneck**  
The Buckeye Flame

**Best in Ohio: Opinion Writer**

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

**2nd place**  
Amelia Robinson  
**Amelia Robinson**  
The Columbus Dispatch

**3rd place**  
Welcome to Middlehood  
**Judi Ketteler**  
Cincinnati Magazine

**Best in Ohio: On-Air Talent (Audio)**

**1st place**  
Amy Eddings  
**Amy Eddings**  
Ideastream Public Media

**Best in Ohio: College Newspaper**

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

**Best in Ohio: Website**

**1st place**  
CincinnatiMagazine.com  
**Staff**  
Cincinnati Magazine

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

**2nd place**

Right Down Euclid website

**Evan Dammarell**

Right Down Euclid

**3rd place**

Fox8.com

**Fox 8 web team**

WJW Fox 8

**Best in Ohio: Print Daily**

**1st place**

Akron Beacon Journal

**Staff**

Akron Beacon Journal

**2nd place**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

**Enquirer staff**

The Cincinnati Enquirer

**3rd place**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**Staff**

The Chronicle-Telegram

**Best in Ohio: Print Weekly**

**1st place**

Dayton Business Journal

**Caleb Stephens**

Dayton Business Journal

**2nd place**

Tire Business

**Don Detore and David Manley**

Tire Business

**3rd place**

Crain's Cleveland Business

**Staff**

Crain's Cleveland Business

**Best in Ohio: Print Periodical**

**1st place**

Columbus Monthly

**Staff**

Columbus Monthly

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

**2nd place**

Cleveland Magazine

**Staff**

Cleveland Magazine

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

**3rd place**

Cincinnati Magazine

**Staff**

Cincinnati Magazine

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

**1st place**

WKYC Studios: 3News

**Jonathan Adkins, Julie Flynn and Brandon Simmons**

WKYC

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

**2nd place**

Best Newscasts of 2023

**Andy Fishman, Marc Singer and Jessica Bates**

WJW Fox 8

**3rd place**

19 News At 6

**Scott Carlson and Sara Liptak**

WOIO-TV

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

**1st place**

Amy Eddings

**Amy Eddings**

Ideastream Public Media

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

***1st place***

The State of Ohio: Oct. 27, 2023

**Karen Kasler, Daniel Konik, Jo Ingles and Sarah Donaldson**

Ohio Public Television

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

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

***1st place***

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

**Sound of Ideas team**

Ideastream Public Media

**Best in Ohio: Sports Talk Show (Video)**

***1st place***

Bengals Nation

**Chris Renkel, Austin Tanner and Kevin Barnett**

WKRC-TV