Each story has specific data highlighting and explaining the issue. It's followed up with context and resources from a variety of sources for readers to take away.
Real people!
Compelling stories!
Great presentation!
Sharp writing with clear opinions set these editorials apart, providing good examples of an important aspect now missing from too many newspapers and communities.
Just outstanding journalism; the publication should be proud of this piece. A fantastic team effort propels this to first place. Expertly-written by the author, the personal accounts of voucher-bearing students and their families kept the piece moving, and the graphics did exactly what they needed to do – plainly show the scope of the issue.
A powerful, personal look at the local economic impact of the pandemic as told by the residents it hit the hardest. A wonderful collection of very different people with very different viewpoints, but their stories highlight the unified confusion and frustration we felt in 2020. The accompanying video was strong, and the portraits elevated the piece even further. Well-done by all involved.
Compelling journalism. Those two words say it all. This reporter brought Covid 19 vividly home through the stories of families and medical teams. We saw a big news story through a small lens and that actually told us the whole story.
Very well done. This work is the perfect example why Americans need strong newspapers to keep politicians in check.
Headlines catch the readers' attention and provide enough information to get them to want to read the story, but don't sensationalize or giveaway the stories. Well-done!
Excellent reporting on nursing home deaths.
Effectively humanizes the pandemic while serving the public interest.
Great example of exposing an issue so change can happen!
The use of the sources' words along with their photos made for creative and powerful storytelling! This article centers the voices of community members who are affected and proved to be most effective.
In a year marred by COVID, wherever sport was impacted, it's hard to find much else to write about. The stories submitted represent not only great writing, but storytelling that captures readers’ attention and draws them into the piece until the end.
The website benefits from being clean and easy to navigate, but the added value to readers comes from the clear presentation of special sections, multi-part projects and important watchdog journalism. The BuckeyeXtra section does a great job of catering to the passionate OSU sports fans, while the presentation of the site's multiple podcasts makes jumping in and listening to an episode quick and painless.
Jason Williams is a pleasure to read. His columns read less like opinion pieces and more like news. Very well-balanced.
Michael Grossberg's engaging writing and compelling research for these theater reviews makes him a deserving winner in this category.
Distinguished by breadth and aspiration of enterprise work in highly competitive category.
Clean simple flow. Easy to read.
"A grim toll" was eye-catching and easy to read!
Fantastic variety of images, subjects, compositions, and all containing emotion and impact. Well-done set of six images by the winner in this excellent category.

Newspapers (Circulation 60,000+)
Informative pieces with specific data and historical dates. The takeaways at the end of the stories bring up important points to consider and for conversations. Photos, designs and illustrations add to the informative pieces.
An absolute triumph. Beautifully shot and powerfully told stories that display the impact of a year that forever changed us all. A life-altering pandemic, the fight for social justice and the most divisive election we've ever seen – all handled with great care and thought. I love that so many different perspectives were shared. Students, elected officials, pro athletes and regular working folks putting their joy and pain in front of the lense. Even as an outsider, I felt closer to the city of Cincinnati when it ended. Everyone involved with this documentary should be incredibly proud. Well-done.
SMALL PRINT WINNERS
(Circulation Under 60,000)
This entry has a variety of topics among the articles, giving readers an interesting look behind the scenes of artists at work in vastly different types of work. A close winner among several good entries in the category.
The *Save the Crew* story, in particular, was thoroughly reported and compellingly told with a striking presentation.
This is a well-written and researched article, with a wide variety of sources that give valuable insight on the topic of pediatric mental health.
Nice job with these breaking news stories, especially the mall shooting piece. The personal testimony helped elevate the overall entry.
Creative and catchy, the writer was able to use a twist of words to create an interesting headline that draws your attention.
An excellent category, this complete look at the issue of decreased business opportunities for Black-owned institutions was timely, well-sourced and researched. Beautiful portraits throughout – an excellent effort that goes beyond the obvious.
This magazine made effort to feature more minority voices in its pages. It did that and ended up finding some great stories in the process. These aren’t just stories about local non-white entrepreneurs, these are stories of America.
This is a thorough, well-sourced report. A reader unfamiliar with *Shadowbox* is given a clear description of its history and context within the arts community.
Carrie Ghose shows her skills as an excellent writer and storyteller, breaking down complex topics and highlighting their impact for the reader time and time again. In particular, the story about the groundbreaking gene-therapy work being done by Andelyn Biosciences and the two young people who inspired the name was powerful and well-told.
The top two pieces stood out, but this piece, highlighting a topical and often overlooked issue, edged out the second place winner. Nicely illustrated through portraiture and well-researched, this story is one every large corporation's leadership team in the region should have discussed after this was published.
Well-written profiles capture the characters and draw the reader into the story.
The Save the Crew story in particular was thoroughly reported and compellingly told with a striking presentation.
Distinctive voice, erudite but conversational, interesting and varied subject matter.
Akshay Ahuja uses fantastic descriptive writing to make each dining review feel like a true night out. Each piece provides a bit of history, explains the dining experience and lets the food shine. A highlight was the review of Pepp & Dolore, which wonderfully weaves in real-life context to tell a story that makes a significant impact on the reader.
Akshay Ahuja uses fantastic descriptive writing to make each dining review feel like a true night out. Each piece provides a bit of history, explains the dining experience and lets the food shine. A highlight was the review of Pepp & Dolore, which wonderfully weaves in real-life context to tell a story that makes a significant impact on the reader.
Outstanding reporting on important stories that needed to be told. Best of class in a very strong field.
Informative pieces with specific data and historical dates. The takeaways at the end of the stories bring up important points to consider and for conversation. Photos, designs and illustrations add to the informative pieces.
These are exceptional pieces, and I especially enjoyed the fly-fishing video, which was unique and gave voice to women in the sport.
TELEVISION WINNERS
Great sound and easy to understand storytelling!

“Great sound and easy to understand storytelling! "

Television Winners
I really appreciate the work and time that went into this story. It obviously paid off. While I found it compelling to hear from the auto industry professional, I question whether more sound would have helped the story move along. I also would have moved the reporter confrontation up a bit. I enjoyed watching and listening to him confront these companies and ultimately get results.
Outstanding reporting on unemployment issues caused by the pandemic.
Nice job combining widely different events into an easy-to-follow story.
Great "real" people!
Covid-19 dominated newsrooms all across America in 2020. Very strong reporting in Ohio but this story about a brave bouncer trying to save lives during another massive shooting in the United States was touching and very well-done.
It was close, but all the work entered deserves first place. Three stellar pieces that were great for various reason. Love the personal connection, highlighting your colleague's cancer diagnosis. The dad prison story. WOW. So emotional. Had to pause when the guy said he'd be out in eight years! Really tugged at the heart strings. A thought-provoking piece on how the justice system can help incarcerated parents still be parents to their kids. A fantastic use of graphics in the autopsy room piece. Another important topic the community needs to know about, told in a thoughtful, conversation-provoking way. BRAVO!
Fascinating and important topics!
Very good story on something many parents and patients are not aware of.
Excellent reporting.
Very informative reporting on the need for more African-American police officers.
Good explanation of the flow of money and the people involved!
Very thorough and well-documented.
The Mike Hartsock story was incredible. I loved the use of clips and video from the past weaved together with his sound. It was great to hear from former coaches and colleagues as well. The part with his grandson made me tear up. A nice touch to the story. Very well-done! The Shauna Green package was very well shot as well. I loved how the reporter focused on family both on the court and at home. Showing the coach as human and showing that emotional side. Very nice job!
Great job walking viewers through new information!
The preface of how 2020 started on an exciting foot and expectations for a prosperous year for Dayton is a very human way to describe the historic events we would watch unfold. The cold open was well-done and made me wish I could see the entire show. The bouncer story brought me to tears – a classic story of a hero in everyday life. The anchor’s storytelling and tone were on point and do not distract from the overall tone of the story. The shooting survivors’ story is a textbook lesson of the right way. As a consumer, I’m incredibly pleased to see the station follow the shooting with the rallies for gun restrictions, the Strong Ohio bill, and putting the governor on the spot. Impressive job all around.
Strong cold open music changes guided my mood as it should throughout the open. I like how I was immediately taken to the I-TEAM content.
Great content, informative, insightful and in-depth. Very journalistically sound program with important info for Ohio residents, voters. Great work!
Great storytelling!
Interesting and informative reporting based on credible sources. Stories are well-written and feature a good use of interview soundbites.
Very interesting angle on the pandemic. Well-written and reported story that was fairly told, especially in a sensitive environment.
Nice work on a very important subject. Great voices and editing. Very smooth.
Series was well-conceived and executed in a balanced fashion. Listeners heard varied viewpoints from those in their own communities that may have made them re-think their own views. Good journalism!
Amanda Rabinowitz has a very relaxing, calm and beautiful voice. Very professional delivery.
Very comprehensive coverage of the pandemic and other major news stories of the year. Well-written and presented programs of high quality.
Great coverage of a very troubling time. Exceptional work.
Very competitive category but what separates Tana from her competitor is her ability to seek out diverse voices and stories. Ohio is a very diverse state and her stories reflect that. Strong reporter, strong voices and strong stories. Congratulations on being Ohio’s Best Radio Reporter.
Very well-written. Very valid points.
Timely, factual, very well-written. Public education funding is a problem in many states and Ohio is no different. Excellent job.
An engaging and well-rounded piece of digital journalism chronicling the experiences of those affected by COVID-19 through multiple perspectives, skilled videography and eloquent storytelling. From Ohio government officials and local workers to a 7-year-old girl, the perspectives are woven together to humanize a tragedy and chronicle the extraordinary year that was 2020.
Exhaustively and expertly researched, this series beat out an excellent second place entry for the top spot. Sure, it's not always sexy to write about campaign funding issues, but the dark money threads the author and her team pull on should have turned some heads in Ohio, and made lawmakers ask serious questions.
Good explanatory journalism about the need for public information about hospital bed availability during the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Couple that with winning a court challenge for public records access makes this entry the top choice in this category.
Some of the other stories featured compelling subject matter, but the talent of this writer pushed these pieces into the first spot. Both pieces are well-sourced and gripping reads, made even more poignant during the post-Floyd era. The lead of the online harassment story, while lengthy, pulls you right in. Excellent efforts.
Jack Greiner's commentaries are well-written and punchy. They give interesting perspective on legal issues with plenty of background without getting bogged down so that they can be informative to the general public.
Powerful, striking images that evoke strong emotion and do an excellent job of presenting the pain, joy and frustration of 2020.
Detailed, important coverage.
A fun and informative entry that delivers the news while also being exactly the kind of video that will make readers stop, watch and share.
The website has a pleasing look that's easy to navigate. It's a good mix of community stories told very well with an eye on the local scene and a perspective unique to the intended audience. In addition, I don't have to search around all over the place for ways to contact, advertise, or support the website.
TRADE PUBLICATION
Winners
The illustrations are unique in style and effectively communicate the message. Even without words on the cover, I can discern the topic and feel compelled to open the publication. Nice job.
Outstanding work. Novel approaches to these illustrations made them winners. It's a terrific staff of illustrators, and all three pieces were fantastic.
A beautifully told story of family, love and doing what needs to be done when life presents you with challenges. The piece does a great job of bringing out small moments to help the reader connect to the family being profiled, but never loses sight of the overall narrative. Nicely done.
Excellent profile of a man as remembered by his family, friends and the community as they grapple with his loss. The writer did an excellent job balancing technical background with emotional memories of Doug Dye.
I learned so much from this publication. Very nice layout and great reporting.
Best of the best in a highly competitive category. Columns are well-written and challenged readers appropriately to really think about the effects of the pandemic on those working in the senior health care community.
Great design and art!
FREELANCE WINNERS
"Heartfelt and moving."
An impressive body of well-crafted, meticulous work.
Lively and engaging.
From art exhibits to comics to artist-led coalitions pushing for community change, author Shawn Mishak delivers with a wide range of topics highlighted by strong writing and great quotes from his sources.
Well-reported, well-argued, and well-written.
A crisp and comprehensive story that is a deserving winner in this category.

FIRST: Bob Sandrick, cleveland.com
Important reporting at what was just the start of this pandemic! Detailed and interesting with great photos!
This entry from Afi Scruggs wins the category with comprehensive reporting on a variety of tough topics – ranging the digital divide faced by children from poor families and the elderly to the troubles those with criminal records face in finding housing. Scruggs' work in both text and radio demonstrates great versatility as well.
A strong category; it's a shame to pick only two top places. That said, number one was absolutely the clear winner. A sensitive subject, handled maturely by the writers and other journalists working on the project. The audio components were well-handled, and much respect goes to the survivors who were willing to speak and be photographed about their experiences. The multiple parts made sense, and walked the patient reader through the issue, the courts, and smartly lead with the impact of the survivors. It's professional-level work, and everyone who touched this series should be proud.

FIRST: Sarah Szilagy, Maeve Walsh, The Lantern
Strong use of documents and a broad range of sources set Quinlan Bentley's entry apart and made it the winner in this category. The stories demonstrate the good versatility and solid writing of a promising journalist.
XavierNewswire presented a collection of jam-packed issues that both students and members of the community could benefit from. Solid front-page writing, a strong opinions section that tackled some tough topics and a fun entertainment section were the highlights of an impressive body of work.
Stories are well-sourced and written in a way that would appeal to readers beyond just sports fans. Good variety in the submission.