LARGE PRINT WINNERS

Newspapers (Circulation 60,000+)
Engaging content with a balance of news stories and human interest pieces. Consistent writing style pairs well with relatable photography and solid infographics.
Smart, comprehensive, incisive coverage that exposed three pressing issues facing Ohio's educators, children and parents: declining graduation rates, the need to vaccinate preschool teachers against COVID-19 and the need for more translators in schools. The stories made wise use of data while also revealing the human side of each story and what is at stake. Thorough reporting and engaging writing as well.
“Excellent storytelling. These articles almost read like a novel. I was drawn in from the start.”
A clear-eyed take in the wake of 1/6; looking ahead toward healing while looking back to recall "A house divided..."
Powerful, accountable storytelling that explains the complex intersection of real estate, land-use, economics and power that drives — and stalls — industry and development.
Good writing. Interesting variety of topics. I like the embeddables.
Engaging, thorough and impactful — investigative journalism at its best. Excellent work by this team of journalists.
A gripping headline that binds a package of heartbreaking stories about yet another officer killed in the line of duty.
This is top-notch reporting. The use of database reporting of public records is the definition of accountability reporting. This storytelling can and has created real change in how (misuse of) power in policing influences race and poverty in their city. Bravo.
This is an incredibly impressive submission — rich with research, emotional sources, and compelling multimedia. These stories help tell a more complete version of history.
A gripping and important series of audio stories that broke new ground in examining the deadly problem of fraternity hazing. Through impressive reporting and compelling storytelling, The Columbus Dispatch's podcast series, "Broken Pledge," helped lead to the passage of a law in Ohio that makes hazing a felony. This was a tremendous public service that The Dispatch provided to residents of Ohio and beyond.
Great topics.
Excellent writing.
“Comprehensive, helpful, pointed.”
A fraudulent football team that goes viral, a fallen member of a football team remembered and a female football player on a seventh-grade team profiled ... and Columbus was at the center of it all, and this reporter detailed it all.
Kevin Aldridge gives readers an introspective look at many of the most pressing, difficult social issues facing Ohioans, particularly on street violence. His writing style is crisp and clean and to the point. Excellent work overall.
A lively, well-packaged daily chronicle, with the local news more emphasized than any other entry, which set it apart. Design is well thought out. A remarkable array of information in each paper, and the willingness to devote resources to in-depth coverage of local issues is exceptional. The front-page editorial on civil unrest and the “Kids Who Kill” feature stood out. In a strong group of entries, this was still the clear winner.
Nicely done.
Very creative and detailed.
A photographer with a keen eye for composition, Rebecca Benson's photos are reflective of her outstanding talent.
Emil Dansker Award-Best Reporter in Ohio
FIRST: Josh Sweigart, *Dayton Daily News*

Great writing
SMALL PRINT WINNERS
(Circulation Under 60,000)
Wonderful reporting that creates an important record of the origin and process behind a highly visible and permanent public art project. Plus a good look at how school arts programs are coping with the pandemic's effects.
Outstanding business reporting in a very competitive category.
Ivory Towers is a pillar of enterprise education journalism. With a stunning display, this work holds accountable racial disparities in college education.
Kudos to the reporter for recognizing the significance of this event and calling attention to it in a timely fashion.
Important storytelling about a crucial emergency service deserves high praise. Well done!
Lisa Murtha demonstrates excellent versatility in her feature writing, employing a nice mix of anecdotal and narrative storytelling and focusing on the details. She also looks at the stories that are too often overlooked, which, to my mind, is a mark of exceptional feature writing.
This entry is extremely comprehensive in looking at the many facets of life impacted by the issue of equality. Use of numbers and graphics enhanced its presentation. But beginning with a single individual impacted by its issues captures the reader immediately, regardless of personal political views. Outstanding.
A laser focus on the health and science issues that have mattered most to people throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Solid writing and reporting, well-visualized. Overall, an excellent effort.
The story on critical race theory alone is worthy of high praise. Together, this reporting shows an affinity for reporting on issues that intersect race, gender, and class, and the way that impacts education, business and power in Akron. Well done.
Financing, sponsorships and downtown revitalization typically would be elements of a series of business stories. Instead, a series of stories about a new sports complex used those business elements to explain changes coming to the community of Shelby.
An attractive and easy-to-navigate website full of great content.
Rini Jeffers is an excellent writer with incisive arguments and sage advice, who is having an easy-to-follow coffee-house conversation with her readers. That is why she received first place in this category.
Wonderful job with these. I generally like to see the range of a photographer. Obviously you are very good with portraits and people and those were very well done.
I love the wide assortment of your images. Well done. I tend to like a very sharp subject and in most cases you were right on with that. The photo of the swinging child show you have what it takes. Well done.
The writing in Crain's stands out here — crisp, clean, with a nice mix of straight hard-news and feature leads. Excellent reporting. Editorial pages stand out, including the political cartoons. Good mix of opinion with fact-based reporting. All photography is solid and well-presented. Overall, excellent.
TRADE PUBLICATION WINNERS
Nice first-person account of trade show attendance in a pandemic world. Good use of detail and "insider" information.
Good mix of news stories, profiles, features. Easily digestible overall content. Summer issue has a colorful design that is lively and entertaining.
TELEVISION WINNERS
Compelling story with great video elements and new information and voices in each package.
Great coverage of a story that could have been tragic; your reporting helped reunite a family!
WOW! Disturbing attack and cockfight, even more unbelievable the lack of action by police and prosecutors. This investigation is just one of the reasons local journalism is so important. Great job holding those in power accountable.
Really informative. I liked that you showcased what could be the new normal, especially for college student. Online learning was once seen as a lesser form of education, yet this report shows not only how popular it’s become but how beneficial it can be to students.
Great human interest story
Powerful piece that shows what war leaves in its wake.
Powerful story with an emotional, heartbreaking interview. Nice job letting the Good Samaritan tell the story. Her SOTS really give the viewer a front-row seat to the horror of gun violence.
Three very interesting stories that have direct impact on your viewers. You should feel proud knowing your work is helping your community.
I’ve never heard of this treatment; it sounds amazing and is giving relief and progress to those who thought they had no treatments left
Great highlight of how small businesses can have a huge impact on keeping us all safe.
What a powerfully heart breaking story. I hope the I-team continues doing work on this important topic.
Great use of maps to show how many murders are impacting the community.
Great coverage.
Great job, Evan. The pieces you provided highlighted a wide range of news topics. I found that you were personable, easy to follow and engaging in each.
Excellent team coverage on an important and tragic local issue. Holding officials accountable is such an important part of what we do. From the reporters to producers, anchors and writers – great job all around.
Good storytelling, compelling pieces and a confident presence on camera.
“Great visual and storytelling.”
RADIO WINNERS
Excellent package on criminal justice reporting. It doesn't get much better than this when it comes to investigative journalism. Good work. Well done!
A great use of the medium to celebrate the medium; WELL DONE! Sorry, 100 years of DJ patter is contagious. Also, a great story, well written and well-told.
Great story. Good reporting.
Thoughtful, immersive storytelling that goes beyond the sensationalism of Amish community. Well done.
Great storytelling. I felt like I was there at Dave Grohl Alley. Good use of music throughout the piece.
Important life-changing work for Cincinnati residents, especially over-policed, vulnerable communities.
A refreshing mix of the role Black art and music plays in the recognition and reckoning of racism in our communities.
A comprehensive, enlightening exploration of a hopeful, but still-controversial field of study.
The Supremes start a revolution in NCAA sports by allowing payments to scholarship athletes, and we hear insightful analysis about how the court's ruling will upend college sports.
“Very good flow of stories.”
A rich mix of local-regional-national news, including interesting human stories — even about our connection to sports broadcast. This was a purely enjoyable newscast to listen to. Amanda's voice feels authoritative, but familiar — like a friend who I look up to or a voice of reason.
"The Past is never dead. It's not even past." Archival audio is the foundation for an informed discussion of historic violence and contemporary circumstances in Cincinnati. This is a compelling program, framed and supported by historic, recorded reports; the radio-legacy of a community. Outstanding.
Kabir has a knack for storytelling. From breaking news to whimsy, his voice is a trusted source in his community, showing the versatility of a veteran reporter. I especially enjoyed his contributions to OH Really! I am certain Kabir makes his community a better place to live.
DIGITAL MEDIA WINNERS
This was a great display and presentation of the Equity in Art series. The photos and pages were great. And the writing was great. Nice job.
Truly insightful articles put the pandemic into important context by talking about the impact on real people — by talking to them. In the one story, one quote — “I don’t think I ever would have left the service industry if it wasn’t for COVID, but now that I have I don’t want to go back” — summed up an enormous impact that many news outlets missed. Great job.
A well-stated case for readers to consider community history as a guide for decisions affecting the future.
This was a great page featuring audio, videos, graphics and text for this feature. Nice job.
Striking investigative storytelling about Ohioans who sought to overthrow democracy: These stories hold accountability where it matters most. It "comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable." This is a crucial service for Ohio.
Informational, very accessible science reporting. Very nice job.
“Good writing and good use of maps, photos, documents, etc.”
The Athletic knows national-quality work when it hires, and this reporter covering the Cleveland baseball team explores its past, present and possible future in three magazine-quality profiles.
Nicely put together feel-good story that touches just about everyone. Good look at the positive side of policing.
A refreshing online magazine with family friendly things-to-do and culture pieces that makes me want to visit the Buckeye state.
This is a great site - it's easy to use and find stories. Has a great visual presentation. Not too many words/stories on the homepage make it easier to navigate.
Amazing photography and I like that you varied the type. The sharpness of each focused areas was fabulous and the variety showed your capabilities in many ways.
Best Online Still Photographer in Ohio
SECOND: Susan Post, *Columbus Underground*

“Excellent clarity and well done in every image.”
FREELANCE WINNERS
A well-done remembrance of a towering figure in musical theater.
Good first person narrative with good use of photos and a map.
“Very in depth feature article. Great writing.”
A thoughtful review that considers the artists and their work carefully and offers readers a way to approach the theme of the exhibition and the nuances of the individual artworks.
Good writing. Nice use of photos, data and maps.
This was a passionate, equitable retelling of the lingering impacts of industrialization on racial, gender and class systems, and the current health and environmentalism challenges. I was particularly struck with the level of care and precision the writer had in describing the lives of workers who were just doing their jobs and raising their families.
Interesting and easy-to-understand article on bio-encoding – for us non-techie types. Well done and easy to read.