

- THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS PRESENTS -

—2026—

SPJ AWARDS

OHIO'S BEST JOURNALISM



Emil Dansker Award For Outstanding Achievement In Journalism



Jessica Graue

Longtime Journalist, Educator, Student Mentor

Clarion Advisor/Journalism Faculty

Sinclair Community College

Jessica has demonstrated two decades of sustained excellence in newsroom leadership, digital innovation, award-winning student mentorship and sustained service to students and the profession. She elevates journalism through her own work and the journalists she prepares for the future. Her career reflects the very spirit of the “paragraph trooper” Emil Dansker – a journalist, professor, and mentor whose legacy continues to inspire.

David L. Bodary, PhD.
Department Chair
Department of Communication
Sinclair Community College

Rising Star Award

Recognizing Achievements and Abilities
Of An Emerging Ohio Journalist



Kendall Crawford
Reporter

The Ohio Newsroom

Crawford has an amazing versatility, from hard-hitting, data-driven investigations to sensitive interviews with underheard voices to fun features that bring little-known stories to life. The breadth of her work – reporting from more than half of Ohio's counties in just three years – is only matched by its depth – connecting the dots to find shared struggles in disparate communities and diving into research and data to bring Ohioans the news they deserve.

Clare Roth
Managing Director
The Ohio Newsroom

Rising Star Award

Recognizing Achievements and Abilities
Of An Emerging Ohio Journalist



Sarah Donaldson
Reporter/Producer

Statehouse News Bureau, Ohio Public Media

One of the youngest members of the Statehouse press corps, Sarah covers the day-to-day on Capitol Square and the campaign trail, but also seeks out stories exploring the intersection of the public sector and private interests, like the politics behind the slated closure of a longtime paper mill in rural Ohio. Sarah is a versatile, dynamic journalist who's comfortable with audio, video and digital reporting. She digs into complicated policy issues and explains them precisely and accurately.

Karen Kasler
Bureau Chief
Statehouse News Bureau, Ohio Public Media

WELL DONE

Congratulations to *Columbus Business First's* news team for their well-deserved honors and to all the winners of this year's OHIO SPJ Awards. We are inspired by your excellence and achievements.



columbusbusinessfirst.com



The Central Ohio, Cincinnati and
Cleveland Pro Chapters of the
Society of Professional Journalists

**Congratulate all of 2026
Ohio's Best Journalism contest winners!**

To learn more about the contest, visit ohiospjawards.org

To add your email address to our list, email:
contact@ohiospjawards.org



Congratulations to winners of Ohio's Best Journalism awards for 2026, coordinated by the Central Ohio, Cincinnati, and Cleveland Professional Chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists. All winners are listed in this program and are also available for viewing at our competition website – ohiospjawards.org. Many thanks to Studio Pence for contest digital work and data administration.

This year was a busy year for our contest. Earlier this year we combined the former APME contest under our banner in response to comments from many of you that it was becoming increasingly difficult to support three statewide contests. The increases in submissions make us one of the largest SPJ contests nationwide.

Contest categories included large print, small print, radio, television, digital media/freelance, trade publications and college. *Best of Show* distinctions were awarded in all categories except college. Entries were for work done in 2025. Our categories have evolved with the changes in our profession and will continue to evolve as the contest grows. This year we added the Rising Star Award, which was an award from the former APME contest. We had so many submissions for this award this year that we are recognizing two winners. We have heard from some of you requesting some category updates, so please let us hear from others if you have category change suggestions by contacting us at contact@ohiospjawards.org.

A special thank you to journalists/judges from the Minnesota SPJ Contest, who judged our contest, as well as additional judges nationwide, who jumped in to help judge the large number of submissions we received. The Central Ohio, Cincinnati and Cleveland chapters reciprocated by judging the Minnesota contest earlier this year. Many thanks to all of our SPJ members and journalists throughout the Buckeye state for judging.

Many thanks also to our longtime contest sponsor for the coming year – *Columbus Business First* – whose support each year makes the contest possible.

Finally, we would like to extend a special thank you to all journalists and their media outlets for their continued support of our contest. Each year judges acknowledge and praise the high quality of work submitted by Ohio journalists. This year was no exception as you can tell from the judges' comments, which can be found on our website – ohiospjawards.org. We have much to celebrate!

Your participation advances our profession and supports scholarship programs for aspiring young journalists administered by the Ohio SPJ chapters, as well as programming for journalists throughout our state.

We're already making plans for our 2027 contest. Watch your inbox and visit ohiospjawards.org soon for details about the 2027 contest.

Ohio's Best Journalism Advisory Committee

2026 SPJ AWARDS OHIO'S BEST JOURNALISM AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026
Hofbräuhaus Columbus, Stube Hall
800 Goodale Ave., Columbus

Presented jointly by

**The Central Ohio, Cincinnati and Cleveland Professional Chapters
of the Society of Professional Journalists**

Hosted by

The Central Ohio Pro Chapter

7 LARGE PRINT

Winners and Best of Show

9 SMALL PRINT

Winners and Best of Show

10 TRADE PUBLICATION

Winners and Best of Show

11 TELEVISION

Winners and Best of Show

13 RADIO

Winners and Best of Show

13 DIGITAL MEDIA/FREELANCE

Winners and Best of Show

15 COLLEGE

Winners and Best of Show

OHIO'S BEST JOURNALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sarah Mills Bacha
Contest Administrator
Board Member
CENTRAL OHIO SPJ

Mike Livingston
Chapter President
CENTRAL OHIO SPJ

Laura Bednar
Chapter President
CLEVELAND SPJ

Tom Moore
Contest Treasurer
Board Member
CLEVELAND SPJ

Ginny McCabe
Chapter President
CINCINNATI SPJ
Region 4 Coordinator
NATIONAL SPJ
Board Member/Vice Chair
SPJ FREELANCE COMMUNITY

COVER IMAGE:

Nick Graham, *Journal-News*
BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF
SHOW, Runner-Up, Small Print

- THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS PRESENTS -

2026

SPJ AWARDS

OHIO'S BEST JOURNALISM



BEST COLUMNIST IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Leila Atassi, *cleveland.com*,



BEST REPORTER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Jessie Balmert, *The Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Addison Annis, *The Blade*

LARGE PRINT WINNERS

Best Arts Reporting

FIRST: Cedric Rose, Leandro Lassmar, *Cincinnati Magazine*
SECOND: Russell Florence, *Dayton Daily News*

Best Business/Consumer Reporting

FIRST: Alexander Coolidge, *Cincinnati Enquirer*
SECOND: Thomas Gnau, Josh Sweigart, *Dayton Daily News*

Best Children's/Education Issues Reporting

FIRST: Brittany Hailer, *The Marshall Project – Cleveland*
SECOND: Victoria Moorwood, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

FIRST: Haley BeMiller, Stephanie Warsmith, Kevin Grasha, *The Columbus Dispatch, Akron Beacon Journal, Cincinnati Enquirer, Canton Repository*
SECOND: Cameron Knight, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Best Deadline Reporting

FIRST: Cameron Knight, David Ferrara, Quinlan Bentley, Dan Horn, Bebe Hodges, *Cincinnati Enquirer*
SECOND: London Bishop, Holly Souther, *Dayton Daily News*

Best Editorial/Criticism Writing

FIRST: Ray Marcano, *Dayton Daily News*
SECOND: Leila Atassi, *cleveland.com*

Best Explanatory Journalism

FIRST: Anna Staver, *cleveland.com*
SECOND: Sheridan Hendrix, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Best Feature Reporting

FIRST: Kaitlin Durbin, *cleveland.com*
SECOND: Danae King, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Best Government/Political Reporting

FIRST: Jordan Laird, *The Columbus Dispatch*
SECOND: Jeremy Pelzer, *Cleveland.com*



BEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – *The Columbus Dispatch*

Best Investigative Reporting

FIRST: Max Filby, Danae King, Samantha Hendrickson, Samantha Madar, *The Columbus Dispatch*
SECOND: Laura Bischoff, Stephanie Warsmith, *The Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository*



THE COLOR-DRENCHED CULT OF LE CREUSET

April Hershberger is not the only collector of Le Creuset cookware who owns so many pieces that she can't count them. But she may be the only one who built an entire house around one: the deep-red, 9-quart oval Dutch oven she received as a gift for her 2006 wedding. It quailed an obsession.

She had her kitchen stove, the centerpiece of her home in a restored barn in southeastern Pennsylvania, custom-made to match her collection of Le Creuset cherry-red pots, baking dishes, pitchers, plates and more. Hershberger, 42, also has pieces in mustard yellow and sunflower yellow, Mediterranean blue and Caribbean blue, forest green and lime green, which she frequently arranges and rearranges into stripes, swirls and rainbows, documenting it all on Instagram.

"I could never commit to one color," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BEST GRAPHIC DESIGNER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Sharyn Boyle, *Dayton Daily News*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Addison Annis, *The Blade*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW SECOND, Large Print – Jeremy Wadsworth, *The Blade*



BEST SPECIAL SECTION IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Large Print – Sharyn Boyle, *Dayton Daily News*

Best Minority Issues Reporting

FIRST: David Ferrara, Dan Horn, Cameron Knight, Liz Dufour, Bebe Hodges, Aaron Valdez, *Cincinnati Enquirer*
SECOND: Sydney Dawes, *Dayton Daily News*

Best Public Service/Social Issues Reporting

FIRST: Cornelius Frolik, *Dayton Daily News*
SECOND: Sydney Franklin, Dan Horn, Elizabeth B. Kim, Randy Tucker, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Best Religion Reporting

FIRST: Sarah Readdean, *The Blade*
SECOND: Jessie Balmert, Victoria Moorwood, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Canton Repository*

Best Science/Medical/Health Care Reporting

FIRST: Elizabeth B. Kim, *Cincinnati Enquirer*
SECOND: Doug Livingston, *The Marshall Project* – *Cleveland*; Sarah Jane Tribble, *KFF Health News*

Best Sports Reporting

FIRST: Ashley Bastock, *cleveland.com*
SECOND: David Briggs, *The Blade*

Best Website:

FIRST: Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *dispatch.com*
SECOND: Staff, *Dayton Daily News*, *daytondailynews.com*

Best of Show Large Print Winners

Best Columnist in Ohio:

FIRST: Leila Atassi, *cleveland.com*
SECOND: Amelia Robinson, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Best Daily Newspaper in Ohio:

FIRST: Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*
SECOND: Staff, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Best Graphic Designer in Ohio

FIRST: Sharyn Boyle, *Dayton Daily News*
SECOND: Holden Sondergeld, *The Blade*

Best Photographer in Ohio

FIRST: Addison Annis, *The Blade*
SECOND: Jeremy Wadsworth, *The Blade*

Best Reporter in Ohio

FIRST: Jessie Balmert, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Canton Repository*
SECOND: Max Filby, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Best Special Section in Ohio:

FIRST: Sharyn Boyle, *Dayton Daily News*
SECOND: Staff, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

SMALL PRINT WINNERS

Best Arts Reporting

FIRST: Claire Lefton, Emma Balcom, Brianna Connock, Mildred Fallen, John Fox, Amanda Boyd Walters, Emi Villavicencio, *Cincinnati Magazine*

SECOND: Peter Tonguette, Tim Johnson, Sarah Donaldson, *Columbus Monthly*

Best Business/Consumer Reporting

FIRST: Bev Shaffer, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: David Holthaus, *Realm Magazine*

Best Children's/Education Issues Reporting

FIRST: Mackenzi Klemann, *The Lima News*

SECOND: Joe Scalzo, *Crain's Cleveland Business*

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

FIRST: Jeff Saunder, *Record-Courier*

SECOND: J Swygart, *The Lima News*

Best Deadline Reporting

FIRST: Owen MacMillan, Carissa Woytach, *The Chronicle-Telegram*

SECOND: Staff, *The Daily Standard*

Best Editorial/Criticism Writing

FIRST: Cheryl Powell, *Akron Beacon Journal*

SECOND: Rick Logan, *The Vindicator*

SECOND: Ed Puskas, *Tribune Chronicle*

Best Explanatory Journalism

FIRST: Ed Balint, Nancy Molnar, Grace Springer, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: Chris Wetterich, *Cincinnati Business Courier*



BEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Staff, Columbus Business First

Best Feature Reporting

FIRST: Tim Botos, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: Annie Nickoloff, *Cleveland Magazine*

Best Government/Political Reporting

FIRST: David Skolnick, *The Vindicator*

SECOND: Shawn Digity, *Zanesville Times Recorder*

Best Investigative Reporting

FIRST: Jennifer Pignolet, *Akron Beacon Journal*

SECOND: Kelli Weir, *Akron Beacon Journal*

Best Minority Issues Reporting

FIRST: Carrie Ghose, *Columbus Business First*

SECOND: Terry Burton, *Norwalk Reflector*

Best Public Service/Social Issues Reporting

FIRST: Zach Tuggle, *Mansfield News Journal*

SECOND: Tawney Beans, *Akron Beacon Journal*

Best Religion Reporting

FIRST: Charita Goshay, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: Lucas Bechtol, *The Bryan Times*



BEST GRAPHIC DESIGNER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Kandi Thompson, The Ironton Tribune



BEST MONTHLY IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Staff, Cincinnati Magazine

Best Science/Medical/Health Care Reporting

FIRST: Amanda Garrett, *Akron Beacon Journal*

SECOND: George M. Thomas, *Akron Beacon Journal*

Best Sports Reporting

FIRST: Steve Watkins, *Cincinnati Business Courier*

SECOND: Nate Ulrich, *Akron Beacon Journal*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Kevin Whitlock, *Massillon Independent*



BEST COLUMNIST IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Charita Goshay, *Canton Repository*



BEST REPORTER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Tim Botos, *Canton Repository*

Best Website

FIRST: Staff, *Cincinnati Business Courier*, bizjournals.com/cincinnati

SECOND: Staff, *Journal-News*, journal-news.com

Best of Show Small Print Winners

Best Columnist in Ohio

FIRST: Charita Goshay, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: Rini Jeffers, *The Chronicle-Telegram/The Medina Gazette*

Best Newspaper in Ohio

FIRST: Staff, *Springfield News-Sun*

SECOND: Staff, *Journal-News*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW SECOND, Small Print – Nick Graham, *Journal-News*

Best Graphic Designer in Ohio

FIRST: Kandi Thompson, *The Ironton Tribune*

SECOND: Bill Thornbro, *The Daily Standard*

Best Monthly in Ohio

FIRST: Staff, *Cincinnati Magazine*

SECOND: Staff, *Columbus Monthly*

Best Photographer in Ohio

FIRST: Kevin Whitlock, *Massillon Independent*

SECOND: Nick Graham, *Journal-News*

Best Reporter in Ohio

FIRST: Tim Botos, *Canton Repository*

SECOND: Bryce Buyakie, *Akron Beacon Journal*

Best Special Section in Ohio

FIRST: Aiesha Little, Emi Villavicencio, *Cincinnati Magazine*



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Small Print – Kevin Whitlock, *Massillon Independent*

SECOND: Mark Altstaetter, Mike Hirn, Chris Howell, Jim Naveau, Nate Stidham, David Trinko, *The Lima News*

Best Weekly Newspaper in Ohio

FIRST: Staff, *Columbus Business First*

SECOND: Staff, *Cincinnati Business Courier*

TRADE PUBLICATION WINNERS

Best Cover Design

FIRST: Michael McCrady, *Tire Business*

SECOND: Michael McCrady, *Rubber News*

Best General News Story

FIRST: Lois A. Bowers, *McKnight's Senior Living*

SECOND: Don Detore, *Tire Business*

Best Personality Profile

FIRST: Andrew Schunk, *Rubber News*

SECOND: Kathy McCarron, *Tire Business*

Best Trade Publication

Website

FIRST: Lois A. Bowers, Kimberly Bonvissuto, John O'Connor, Kathleen Steele Gaivin, Monica Pizzi, Aminah Beg, Foster Stubbs, *McKnight's Senior Living*

SECOND: Staff, *Tire Business*

Best Trade Report

FIRST: David Manley, *Tire Business*

SECOND: Shane Hoover, *Tire Business*

BEST OF SHOW TRADE PUBLICATION WINNERS

Best Trade Columnist in Ohio

FIRST: David Manley, *Tire Business*

SECOND: Don Detore, *Tire Business*

Best Trade Publication in Ohio

FIRST: Staff, *Ohio Business Magazine*

SECOND: Lois A. Bowers, John O'Connor, Kimberly Bonvissuto, Kathleen Steele Gaivin, Monica Pizzi, Aminah Beg, John Hall, Foster Stubbs, *McKnight's Senior Living*

TELEVISION WINNERS

Best Business/Consumer Reporting

FIRST: Isabel Cleary, Steve Wainfor, *WCMH NBC4*

SECOND: No Award

Best Continuing Coverage

FIRST: Scott Noll, *News 5 Cleveland*

SECOND: Staff, *WTVG -13 Action News*

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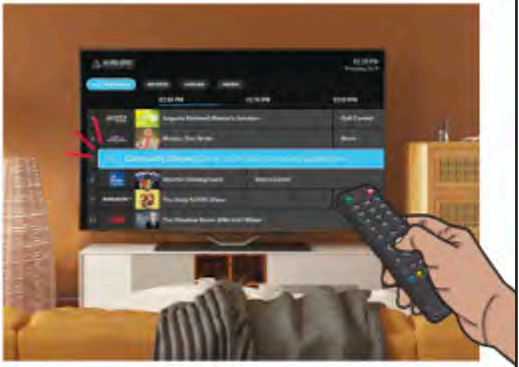
LEADING WITH EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE
178 AWARDS SINCE 2016

McKnight's
Senior Living

ADVERTISEMENT

Setting a new standard for senior living entertainment

TV is one of the most-used amenities in senior living communities. In fact, data shows that adults aged 65 and up typically watch over 4 hours of TV per day. Beyond being a source of entertainment, TV can connect residents to the outside world and instill a sense of familiarity and comfort. Yet, owners and operators often face a trade-off between quality, simplicity and cost. That's why DISH Business partnered with industry experts to create OnStream—a high-quality and easy-to-use entertainment experience designed with senior-friendly features like 400+ live channels and an intuitive guide with channel



BEST TRADE PUBLICATION IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW SECOND, Trade Publications – *McKnight's Senior Living*



BEST TRADE COLUMNIST IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW SECOND, Trade Publications – Don Detore, *Tire Business*

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

FIRST: Scott Noll, Rob Klein, *News 5 Cleveland*

SECOND: Jessica Ralston, Kierstin Lindkvist, Chris Baggs, Donny Sobnosky, Matt Fonow, *WSYX*

Best Documentary

FIRST: Peter Fleischer, Chris Blake, *WKYC 3News*

SECOND: Duane Pohlman, Holden Robinson, Richard Henry, Tim Geraghty, Franco Gentile, News Staff, *WKRC-TV*



BEST TRADE PUBLICATION IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Trade Publications – *Ohio Business Magazine*



BEST TRADE COLUMNIST IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Trade Publications – David Manley, *Tire Business*



BEST ANCHOR IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Television – Jerod Smalley, WCMH NBC4



BEST REPORTER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Television – Nadeen Abusada, WEWS News 5 Cleveland

Best Education Issues Reporting

FIRST: Sheena Elzie, *Spectrum News*

SECOND: Kierstin Lindkvist, Ben Martin, *WSYX*

Best Enterprise Reporting

FIRST: Isabel Cleary, Thomas Gardner, *WCMH NBC4*

SECOND: Kierstin Lindkvist, Kyle Svenson, Andy Harper, Ryan Taylor, *WSYX*

Best Feature Reporting

FIRST: Jean-Marie Papoi, Dave DeOreo, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Sheena Elzie, *Spectrum News*

Best General Assignment Reporting

FIRST: Jenna Jordan, *Spectrum News*

SECOND: Nick Rich, *WKBN-TV*

Best Government/Political Reporting

FIRST: Peggy Gallek, Ed Gallek, *WJW-TV FOX 8*

SECOND: Karen Kasler, Sarah Donaldson, Jo Ingles, Daniel Konik, *Statehouse News Bureau, Ohio Public Media*

Best Health Care/Medical/ Science Reporting

FIRST: Ryan Taylor, Lisa Rantala, *WSYX*

SECOND: Rochelle Alleyne, Chris Kettler, *WBNS-10TV*

SECOND: Jo Ingles, Daniel Konik, *Statehouse News Bureau, Ohio Public Media*

Best Investigative Reporting

FIRST: Duane Pohlman, Holden Robinson, *WKRC-TV*

SECOND: Andy Harper, Lisa Rantala, *WSYX*

Best Investigative Series

FIRST: Tara Morgan, Mark Ackerman, Rob Klein, Dennis Spronck, Andy Sugden, Katie Ussin, Drew Scofield, *WEWS News 5 Cleveland*; Mark Puente, *Marshall Project–Cleveland*

SECOND: Duane Pohlman, Holden Robinson, *WKRC-TV*

Best Minority Issues Reporting

FIRST: Nadeen Abusada, *WEWS News 5 Cleveland*

SECOND: Rochelle Alleyne, Chris Kettler, *WBNS-10TV*

Best Sports Reporting

FIRST: Dave Holmes, *WSYX*

SECOND: Jerod Smalley, *WCMH NBC4*

Best Website

FIRST: John Wise, Matt Thomas, Joe Durbin, Stu Osborne, Mark Schultz, *WSYX*

SECOND: Staff, *WBNS-10TV*

Best of Show Television Winners

Best Anchor in Ohio

FIRST: Jerod Smalley, *WCMH NBC4*

SECOND: Steven Albritton, *WLWT News 5*

Best Newscast in Ohio

FIRST: Patricia McGeever, *WKRC-TV*

SECOND: Waverly Hart, *WBNS-10TV*

Best Public Affairs Program in Ohio

FIRST: Courtis Fuller, David S. Seals, Timothy Paul Rosewood Jr., Sheree Paoello, Austin Maynard, Alexander Korecky, *WLWT News 5*

SECOND: Mark Lammers, Ann Thompson, Emiko Moore, Hernz Laguerre Jr., R. Matthew Schwartz, *CET-ThinkTV-PBS*

Best Reporter in Ohio

FIRST: Nadeen Abusada, *WEWS News 5 Cleveland*

SECOND: Jenna Jordan, *Spectrum News*

Best Videographer in Ohio

FIRST: JD Pooley, *WTVG – 13 Action News*

SECOND: Jean-Marie Papoi, *Ideastream Public Media*

RADIO WINNERS

Best Business/Consumer Reporting

FIRST: George Shillcock, *WOSU 89.7 FM*

SECOND: Shay Frank, *WYSO 91.3*

Best Continuing Coverage

FIRST: Erin Gottsacker, Kendall Crawford, *The Ohio Newsroom*; Stephanie Metzger-Lawrence, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Nick Swartsell, *WVXU*

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

FIRST: Matt Richmond, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Nick Swartsell, *WVXU*

Best Documentary

FIRST: Luckens Merzius, Virginelle Jerome, Miguelito Jerome, Gerly Philidor, Jacques Adler Jean-Pierre, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: Kabir Bhatia, *Ideastream Public Media*

Best Education Issues Reporting

FIRST: Conor Morris, Jonathan Beard, Nikki Gasiewski, Avantika Pai, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Kathryn Mobley, *WYSO 91.3*

Best Enterprise Reporting

FIRST: Erin Gottsacker, *The Ohio Newsroom*

SECOND: George Shillcock, *WOSU 89.7 FM*

Best Feature Reporting

FIRST: Luckens Merzius, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: J. Nungesser, *Ideastream Public Media*

Best General Assignment Reporting

FIRST: Kathryn Mobley, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: Tana Weingartner, *WVXU*

Best Government/Political Reporting

FIRST: Karen Kasler, Jo Ingles, Sarah Donaldson, *Statehouse News Bureau, Ohio Public Media*

SECOND: Kathryn Mobley, *WYSO 91.3*

Best Health Care/Medical/Science Reporting

FIRST: Erin Gottsacker, *The Ohio Newsroom*

SECOND: Kendall Crawford, *The Ohio Newsroom*

Best Investigative Reporting

FIRST: Adriana Martinez-Smiley, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: Katie Geniusz, Renee Fox, *WOSU 89.7 FM*

Best Minority Issues Coverage

FIRST: Luckens Merzius, Virginelle Jerome, Miguelito Jerome, Gerly Philidor, Jacques Adler Jean-Pierre, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: Erin Gottsacker, *The Ohio Newsroom*

Best Sports Reporting

FIRST: Trae Grace, *WYSO 91.3*

SECOND: Kendall Crawford, Erin Gottsacker, *The Ohio Newsroom*

Best Website

FIRST: Staff, *Ideastream Public Media, ideastream.org*

SECOND: Staff, *WYSO 91.3, wyso.org*

Best of Show Radio Winners

Best Anchor in Ohio

FIRST: Maryanne Zeleznik, *WVXU*

SECOND: Brittany Otto, *Cox Media Group*

Best Newscast in Ohio

FIRST: News Team, *WVXU*

SECOND: Amy Eddings, *Ideastream Public Media*



BEST ANCHOR IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Radio – Maryanne Zeleznik, *WVXU*



BEST REPORTER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Radio – George Shillcock, *WOSU 89.7 FM*

Best Public Affairs Program in Ohio

FIRST: Stephanie Haney, Rachel Rood, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Lucy May, Selena Reder, Harper Carlton, *WVXU*

Best Reporter in Ohio

FIRST: George Shillcock, *WOSU 89.7 FM*

SECOND: Tana Weingartner, *WVXU*

DIGITAL MEDIA/FREELANCE WINNERS

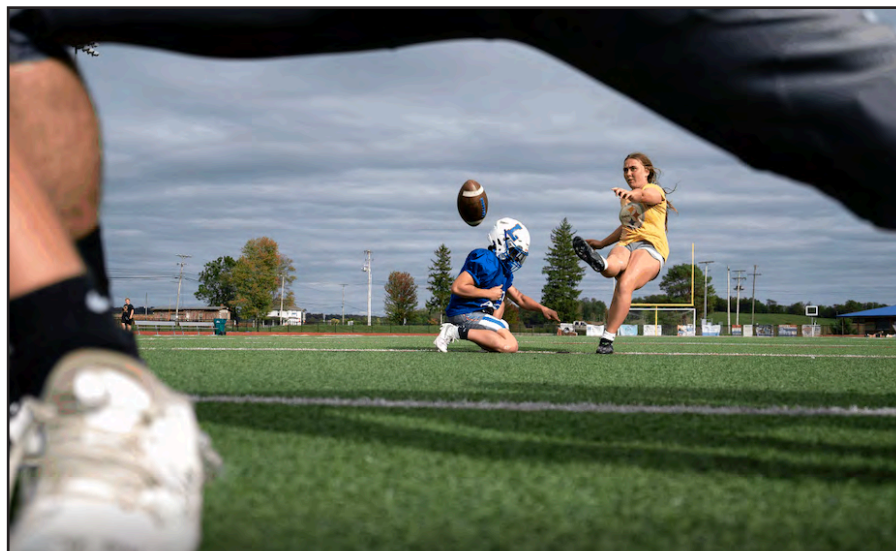
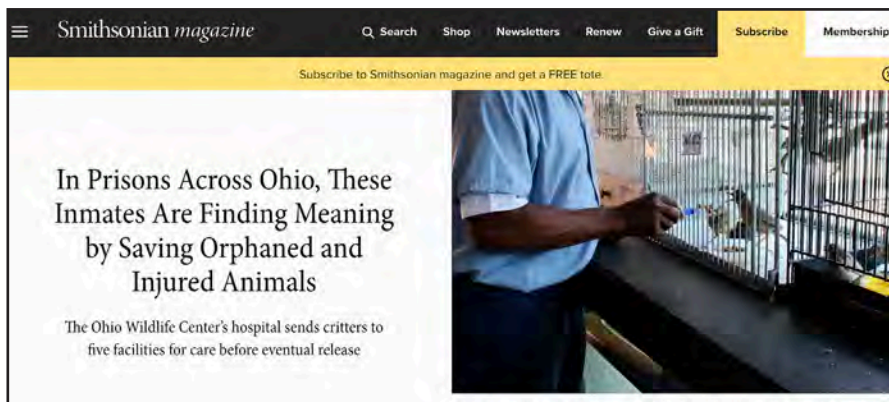
Best Arts/Entertainment Reporting

FIRST: H.L. Comeriato, *The Buckeye Flame*

SECOND: Katie Geniusz, *WOSU 89.7 FM*



BEST DIGITAL/FREELANCE WRITER, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Digital Media/Freelance – Olivia Young, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Sierra*, *Atlas Obscura*



BEST ONLINE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW, FIRST, Digital Media/Freelance – Jessica Phelps, *The Reporting Project*



BEST ONLINE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER IN OHIO, BEST OF SHOW, SECOND, Digital Media/Freelance – Stephen Zenner, *Toledo Free Press*

SECOND: Katie Ellington Serrao, *Richland Source*

Best Feature

FIRST: Marty Schladen, *Ohio Capital Journal*

SECOND: Owen Baker, Mia Fischel, Sophie LeMay, Ella Diehl, *The Reporting Project*

Best Government/Political Reporting

FIRST: Morgan Trau, *Ohio Capital Journal*

SECOND: Megan Henry, *Ohio Capital Journal*

Best Graphic Design/Navigation

FIRST: Jacque Schrag, Sarah Grillo, Alissa Widman Neese, Andrew King, *Axios Columbus*
SECOND: No Award

Best Investigative Reporting

FIRST: Andy Downing, *Matter News*
SECOND: Morgan Trau, *Ohio Capital Journal*



BEST GENERAL NEWS SITE, BEST OF SHOW FIRST, Digital Media/Freelance – David DeWitt, Nick Evans, Megan Henry, Marty Schladen, Susan Tebben, Morgan Trau, Marilou Johaneck, *Ohio Capital Journal*

Best Business/Tech Reporting

FIRST: Kathiann M. Kowalski, *Canary Media*
SECOND: Nick Evans, *Ohio Capital Journal*



BEST DIGITAL/FREELANCE WRITER, BEST OF SHOW SECOND, Digital Media/Freelance – Nick Evans, *Ohio Capital Journal*

Best Editorial/Criticism Writing

FIRST: Jack Shuler, *Matter News*
SECOND: Walker Evans, *Columbus Underground*

Best Education Issues Reporting

FIRST: Corinne Colbert, Dani Kington, Emma Hartman, *Athens County Independent*

Best Medical/Science/Health Care Reporting

FIRST: David Holthaus, Patrice Watson, Natalie Grilli, *Soapbox Media*

SECOND: Alan Miller, Shaye Phillips, Brin Glass, Andrew Theophilus, *The Reporting Project*

Best News Story

FIRST: Cheryl Splain, Dillon Carr, *Knox Pages*

SECOND: Andy Downing, *Matter News*

Best Newsletter

FIRST: Carrie Wise, Jean-Marie Papoi, Dave DeOreo, Kabir Bhatia, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Julia Lerner, *The Reporting Project*

Best Overall Blog (news organization)

FIRST: David DeWitt, Marilou Johanek, *Ohio Capital Journal*

SECOND: No Award

Best Podcast

FIRST: Marlene Harris-Taylor, Myesha Watkins, *Ideastream Public Media*

SECOND: Amanda Rabinowitz, Brittany Nader, *Ideastream Public Media*

Best Sports Coverage

FIRST: Maddie Luebker, *The Reporting Project*

SECOND: Jeff Gilbert, *PressProsMagazine.com*

Best Videographer

FIRST: Doral Chenoweth, *The Columbus Dispatch*

SECOND: Kris Sproles, *wright.edu/news*

BEST OF SHOW DIGITAL MEDIA/ FREELANCE WINNERS

Best Digital/Freelance Writer in Ohio

FIRST: Olivia Young, *Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, Sierra, Atlas Obscura*

SECOND: Nick Evans, *Ohio Capital Journal*

Best General News Site in Ohio

FIRST: David DeWitt, Nick Evans, Megan Henry, Marty Schladen, Susan Tebben, Morgan Trau, Marilou Johanek, *Ohio Capital Journal*

SECOND: *Fox 8 Web Team*

Best Online Still Photographer in Ohio

FIRST: Jessica Phelps, *The Reporting Project*

SECOND: Stephen Zenner, *Toledo Free Press*

COLLEGE WINNERS

Best College Feature Writing

FIRST: Sean Connelly, Carter Leonard, Kevin Hutchinson, Steven Schulden, Austin Roose, *BG Falcon Media*, Bowling Green State University

SECOND: Maggie Fipps, *Cedars*, Cedarville University

Best College News Writing

FIRST: Grace Rooney, *BG Falcon Media*, Bowling Green State University

SECOND: Noah Schlarman, *Sinclair Clarion*, Sinclair Community College

Best College Newspaper

FIRST: Alivia Hartpence, Gabrielle Monk, *BG News*, Bowling Green State University

SECOND: Staff, *The Lantern*, The Ohio State University



BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER FIRST, College – Alivia Hartpence, Gabrielle Monk, *BG News*, Bowling Green State University



BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER SECOND, College – Staff, *The Lantern*, The Ohio State University

Best College Opinion Writing

FIRST: Sunny Lloyd, *Northern Review*, Ohio Northern University

SECOND: Julia Swain, *Cedars*, Cedarville University

Best College Sports Writing

FIRST: Noah Weiskopf, *The Lantern*, The Ohio State University

SECOND: Evelyn Mergery, *Northern Review*, Ohio Northern University



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