

86th National Headliner Awards winners

The 86th National Headliner Award winners honoring the best journalism in the United States in 2019 were announced today. The awards were founded in 1934 by the Press Club of Atlantic City. The annual contest is one of the oldest and largest in the country that recognizes journalistic merit in the communications industry.

The Best in Show for newspapers was a story titled “Uncovering Abuse at Reform School for Boys” by Lisa Gartner of The Philadelphia Inquirer. The story won first place in the Investigative Reporting in a Top 20 Media Market category. The judges’ comments for the story are below:

“A reporter’s long quest into the dark culture of a Pennsylvania reform school reveals an atmosphere of brutality and violence. So damning are the facts and so compelling are the stories from those who suffered that the school is shut down.”

The Best in Show for photography went to Tom Fox of the Dallas Morning News for “Police Thwart Attack.”

“Gun violence is on the rise in America. But we rarely look into the eyes of the perpetrator moments before law enforcement officers return fire and end his life,” the judges said. “This haunting photo asked much of the photographer. To look through the lens and make this frame, he pushed aside fear and took chances that could have ended his life.”

The Best in Show for online journalism went to a story titled “In El Salvador, Violence is Driving Girls to Kill Themselves” by Univision News Digital in the Digital Presentation of a Single News Topic category. Almudena Toral, Patricia Clarembaux, Mauricio Rodriguez Pons, Jose Osuna and Justine Simons were credited with the story.

“‘Femicide Suicide’ in El Salvador is death by suicide resulting from physical and mental abuse. This Univision entry blended compelling spot news video, heartfelt personal stories of fear and loss, illustrations, data, reporting to reveal the threats women and girls face in El Salvador,” the judges said.

The Best in Show for radio went to WBEZ’s Natalie Moore, Jeremy McCarter and Mikhail Fiksel for “City On Fire: Chicago Race Riot 1919” in the Documentary or Public Affairs category.

“This documentary recounts the harrowing events and painful legacy of the 1919 Chicago Race Riots by creatively fusing drama into the reporting, both captivating and educating the listener,” the judges said. “This reporter interjects much life into the drama of this look back in history. She wrote the script for this re-creation by the actors. This is innovation that grabs the attention of those turned off by ‘the news.’”

Finally, the Best in Show for television went to KPIX-TV for its report titled “The Kincade Fire: Battle to Save Alexander Valley” by Katie Nielsen, Bob Horn, Devin Fehely and the KPIX Staff. The award was in the Broadcast or Cable Television Stations Coverage of a Live Breaking News Event category.

“We all want to see the ‘big picture,’ but sometimes the ‘small picture’ tells a different story. Here is a close-up, house by house recounting of the battle for a rapidly spreading fire,” the judges said. “Mesmerizing. I’ve seen lots of fire footage, but this really brings it home.”

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

DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS SYNDICATES

Spot News in daily newspapers, all sizes

First Place

“Philadelphia police find themselves in a standoff with a hostage-taking gunman.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer Staff

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Judges’ comments: Fast. Complete. Accurate. Multiple angles were covered with high skill with a human element near the top. Hit all qualities of excellent breaking news journalism.

Second Place

“Henry Pratt mass shooting reveals Illinois' gun revocation failures”

Chicago Tribune Staff

Chicago Tribune

Third Place

“First 24 Hours of Former Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh's Indictment”

The Baltimore Sun Staff

The Baltimore Sun

Local news beat coverage or continuing story by an individual or team

First Place

“Inglewood coverage”

Jason Henry

Southern California News Group

Judges’ comments: Henry's strong takes on three very different types of stories were supported by his excellent sourcing, clear tone, and an ability to simplify information for readers. Exceptional beat reporting.

Second Place

Libor Jany

Star Tribune

Third Place

“The Chicago Police's secret background checks and dossiers”

Jeremy Gerner and Gregory Pratt

Chicago Tribune

International news beat coverage or continuing story by an individual or team**First Place**

“Japan's uneasy relationship with whales and dolphins”

Simon Denyer

The Washington Post

Judges comments: We've heard the controversies about Japanese whaling. Simon offers a look at the issue from the Japanese cultural and historical perspectives. Well-told, enlightening stories.

Second Place

Alfredo Corchado

The Dallas Morning News

No third-place award given**News series in daily newspapers Top 20 Media Market****First Place**

“Beyond the Binary”

Samantha Schmidt and Tara Bahrapour

The Washington Post

Judges comments: Touching, even-handed, immensely human account of changing lives and the search for understanding

Second Place

“The Price We Pay”

Julia Prodis Sulek, Katy Murphy and Kaitlyn Bartley

Bay Area News Group

Third Place

“Abuse of Faith”

Houston Chronicle Staff

Houston Chronicle

News series in newspapers not in top 20 media market

First Place

"Polluted By Money"

Rob Davis

The Oregonian - OregonLive

Judges' comments: Solid, thorough reporting and articulate writing by Davis, combined with excellent graphic/data presentation, showed how unlimited contributions has made Oregon one of the top money states in America politics - at a major cost to the state's once-pristine environment. This was great stuff.

Second Place

"24th and Glory"

Dirk Chatelain

Omaha World-Herald

Third Place

"Taken"

Nathaniel Cary, Anna Lee and Mike Ellis

The Greenville News

Local interest column on a variety of subjects

First Place

Robert Wilonsky

The Dallas Morning News

Judges' comments: Wilonsky's columns are extremely well-reported and have a clear point of view. He isn't afraid to get out in the community and talk to people, connect, and undoubtedly find more columns. He's in it without it being all about him. He takes the reader somewhere and shows them what he thinks.

Second Place

Melinda Henneberger

The Kansas City Star

Third Place

Dahleen Glanton

Chicago Tribune

Special or feature column on one subject by an individual

First Place

Rick Nelson
Star Tribune

Judges' comments: Bright, engaging and authoritative, Nelson takes the reader everywhere he goes, considers the cost and time of restaurant dining and writes beautifully. The State Fair project is BRILLIANT, cleverly presented and fun to read.

Second Place

Mark Lamster
The Dallas Morning News

Third Place

"Take A Ride Along the Punjabi American Highway"
Jaweed Kaleem
Los Angeles Times

Editorial writing by an individual or team

First Place

"Death Without Conviction"
Jeffery Gerritt
Palestine Herald-Press

Judges' comments: A bold, focused cry for decency and justice. In the best tradition of journalists challenging the powerful for the benefit of all.

Second Place

Tom McNamee
Chicago Sun-Times

Third Place

Rosemary O'Hara and Martin Dyckman
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Sports column by an individual

First Place

Terry Pluto
The Plain Dealer

Judges' comments: Terry Pluto writes with passion and authority and, best of all, a point of view. He isn't afraid to call out team ownership, coaches and players, which is what a columnist should do. A strong voice in a sea of chatter.

Second Place

Tim Cowlshaw
The Dallas Morning News

Third Place

Jeff Seidel
Detroit Free Press

Sports writing by an individual or team

First Place

Tom Silverstein
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Judges' comments: Tom Silverstein delivers the goods. Whether writing about a shakeup in team management or filing a comprehensive story of a last-minute win that maybe shouldn't have been, his reporting is concise and authoritative. His ability to give readers an in-depth look behind the scenes of one of the NFL's most storied franchises makes you think that he's actually in the room while team decisions are being made. We hope readers of the Journal Sentinel realize the gift he is on this beat.

Second Place

Joseph Hoyt
Dallas Morning News

Third Place

Andrew Carter
The News & Observer

Feature writing on a variety of subjects by an individual

First Place

Bill Glauber
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Judges' comments: Bill Glauber helps readers see the growing complexities of farm life in the 21st century. Weaving the stories of a veterinarian, banker, auctioneers and their families and neighbors, he brings understanding to issues affecting a state and its legacy industry. At the same time, he beautifully captures the dignity of those he writes about.

Second Place

Jason Nark
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Third Place

Christopher Spata
Tampa Bay Times

Business news coverage, business commentary and/or business columns by an individual or team**First Place**

“Out of Gear”
Phoebe Wall Howard
Detroit Free Press

Judges’ comments: An investigation into the use of faulty transmissions in the Ford Fiesta & Focus led to a congressional investigation and manufacturing changes. The information was hard to find but the result was a polished look at a company that put profits over safety.

Second Place

“Big Profits, Tiny Taxes”
Jason Garcia
Orlando Sentinel

Third Place

“Flawed Analysis, Failed Oversight: The Boeing 737 MAX”
The Seattle Times Staff
The Seattle Times

Education writing by an individual or team**First Place**

“Broken Trust”
Susan Carroll, David Hunn and Jeremy Blackman
Houston Chronicle

Judges’ comments: Who knew public schools were buying and selling property, investing in the stock market and passing around the huge fees for transactions to preferred people? Susan Carroll took a look at the practice. in Texas and the result was increased accountability and a state constitutional amendment to make sure the money went to the students, not into the pockets of wealthy investors.

Second Place

Kristen A. Graham
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Third Place

“How America's College-Closure Crisis Leaves Families Devastated”
Michael Vasquez and Dan Bauman
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Health, medical and science writing by an individual or team**First Place**

“Smokescreens”
Emily Baumgaertner
Los Angeles Times

Judges’ comments: Vaping had become a public health crisis and Baumgaertner provided the data to show how and why and who is responsible. Written with a keen eye for detail and a steady hand, the series is informative without being preachy.

Second Place

“Abortion coverage”
Claire McNeill
Tampa Bay Times

Third Place

“Medical Bond”
Connor Sheets
Alabama Media Group and ProPublica

Environmental writing by an individual or team**First Place**

“Arizona's Next Water Crisis”
Ian James and Rob O'Dell
The Arizona Republic

Judges’ comments: The Republic's extensive investigation into Arizona’s water crisis is clear, concise and important public service. The work expertly outlines how the lack of regulation in rural areas benefits companies, while leaving local people and the environment to suffer.

Second Place

“Climate Change and the Great Lakes”

Tony Briscoe

Chicago Tribune

Third Place

Michael Dobie

Newsday

Investigative reporting in newspapers in top 20 media market**First Place AND BEST IN SHOW**

“Uncovering abuse at reform school for boys”

Lisa Gartner

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Judges’ comments: A reporter’s long quest into the dark culture of a Pennsylvania reform school reveals an atmosphere of brutality and violence. So damning are the facts and so compelling are the stories from those who suffered that the school is shut down.

Second Place

“Public Crisis, Private Toll”

Daniel Gilbert

The Seattle Times

Third Place

“Copy, Paste, Legislate”

Staffs of the Center for Public Integrity, USA Today and Arizona Republic

Investigative reporting in newspapers not in top 20 media market.**First Place**

“The ‘Healthy Holly’ and UMMS investigation”

The Baltimore Sun Staff

The Baltimore Sun

Judges’ comments: Just a few hours before we voted this category, former Mayor Catherine Pugh was sentenced to three years in prison for the crimes that this package exposed. It started with an offhand comment made in the well-tuned ear of a good reporter . The hard and thorough work that followed exposed a culture of entitlement. Well done.

Second Place

“Drunk With Power”

Marnie Eisenstadt and Patrick Lohmann

Advance Media New York

Third Place

“Dismissed”

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off and David Raynor

The Charlotte Observer

Public service in newspapers in top 20 media market**First Place**

“Unprotected: Broken Promises in Georgia’s Senior Care Industry”

Carrie Teegardin and Brad Schrade

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Judges’ comments: Innovative and deep. This is the definition of public service. The stories of abuse are sickening, but the AJC went further to tell this story. They developed a searchable online database for consumers that delivered information and ratings on every home by zip code. It filled a gap in public understanding that government entities could or did not.

Second Place

“The Quiet Rooms”

Jennifer Smith Richards, Jodi S. Cohen and Lakeidra Chavis

Chicago Tribune

Third Place

“Long Island Divided”

Newsday Staff

Newsday

Public service in newspapers not in top 20 media market**First Place**

“Throwaway Kids”

Laura Bauer, Judy L. Thomas and Eric Adler

The Kansas City Star

Judge’s comments: Ambitious reporting on a topic that is too often overlooked. Period. That's what the Kansas City Star's Throwaway Kids package of stories delivered. From intensely personal interviews to a survey of prisons in a dozen states around the country, the Star's Staff

was all-in. More foster kids go to prison than college? Wow. Reaction was strong and this series offered some hope for this intransigent problem with a solutions component.

Second Place

“Policing the Police”

Andrew Ford

Asbury Park Press

Third Place

“Cancer Cloud”

Brad Schmidt

The Oregonian - OregonLive

Editorial cartoons

First Place

Michael Ramirez

Las Vegas Review Journal

Judges’ comments: Sharp, sophisticated, daring. Michael Ramirez skewers the pompous and defends the vulnerable. Excellent work.

Second Place

Clay Bennett

Chattanooga Times Free Press

Third Place

Clay Jones

CNN/Claytoonz

Journalistic innovation

First Place

“Long Island Divided”

Newsday Staff

Newsday

Judges’ comments: An incredible piece of work, involving Herculean efforts in training, sourcing, content gathering, producing and editing. Wildly innovative in presentation, down to showing the reader where all the hidden cameras were placed! The 3-year reporting investment paid off, and the reaction to and results from the investigation's revelations were impressive.

Second Place

“Alabama’s War on Women”
Alabama Media Group Staff
Alabama Media Group

Third Place

“Hostage to Heat”
Jeremy Schwartz, Andrea Ball and Dan Keemahill
Austin American-Statesman

Best political coverage**First Place**

Craig Gilbert
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Judges’ comments: Using strong sourcing and expertly parsed data, Gilbert writes with an authority that provides readers with context, not only of their state’s politics, but with an important understanding of how their state fits into the national perspective.

Second Place

“The Chicago mayoral frontrunner and the power broker’s son”
Gregory Pratt
Chicago Tribune

Third Place

Chris Brennan
The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAGAZINES**Magazine coverage of a major news event or topic****First Place**

“How former ref Tim Donaghy conspired to fix NBA games”
Scott Eden
ESPN

Judges’ comments: From the throat-grabbing lede to the satisfying kicker, a thorough reconstruction of the NBA’s points-shaving scandal written in a forceful and energetic narrative.

Second Place

“The Football Player and the Bank Robber”

Vince Beiser

Los Angeles Magazine

Third Place

“The Massacre That Spawned the Alt-Right”

Peter Keating and Shaun Assael

Politico

Magazine feature writing by an individual on a variety of subjects

First Place

Jen Wieczner

Fortune

Judges’ comments: Wieczner's depth of reporting, vivid writing style and broad selection of topics gave her the edge in a category full of excellence.

Second Place

Paul Tullis

Third Place

Vivienne Walt

Fortune

Magazine column by an individual on a variety of subjects

First Place

Simi Horwitz

The Hollywood Reporter

Judges’ comments: Horwitz's writing demonstrates a keen understanding of movie-making and film history, and this collection of reviews gives readers insight into the film's value, or lack thereof.

Second Place

Peter Keating

ESPN

No third-place award given

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

Spot news photography AND BEST IN SHOW

First Place

“Police Thwart Attack”

Tom Fox

Dallas Morning News

Judges’ comments: Gun violence is on the rise in America. But we rarely look into the eyes of the perpetrator moments before law enforcement officers return fire and end his life. This haunting photo asked much of the photographer. To look through the lens and make this frame he pushed aside fear and took chances that could have ended his life.

Second Place

“Rescue on the Rio Grande”

Bob Owen

San Antonio Express-News

Third Place

Dave Dildine

WTOP

Feature photography

First Place

“Philadelphia Eagles”

Kaitlin Marron, Karen Frank and Andrew Hetherington

ESPN

Judges’ comments: We all laughed out loud when viewing this picture of big, tough, NFL football linemen naked and high kicking. Great idea. Great execution.

Second Place

“Gift of life from husband to wife”

Robert Cohen

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Third Place

“Spell ‘Pressure’”

Thomas A. Ferrara

Newsday

Sports action or sports feature photography**First Place**

“Celebration”

Steven M. Falk

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Judges’ comments: The colorful and well paid MLB player Bryce Harper gets a celebratory ice water bath after winning the game for his Philadelphia teammates with a walk-off double. His outstretched arms and placement in the frame make him look almost angelic.

Second Place

“Amanda Nunes”

Jason Potterton, Julianne Varacchi and Joe Amon

ESPN

Third Place

“Head over Heels”

J. Conrad Williams Jr.

Newsday

Individual photo portfolio**First Place**

Tom Fox

The Dallas Morning News

Judges’ comments: Tom Fox's portfolio displays his technical skills, his ability to capture human nature and his courage to put himself in harm's way in the pursuit of visual journalism.

Second Place

Robert Cohen

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Third Place

“Immigrants Facing Issues”

Bob Owen
San Antonio Express-News

Staff photo portfolio

First Place

Star Tribune photo Staff
Star Tribune

Judges' comments: Great vision and diversity of subjects! From sporting events to spot news this portfolio contains pictures that go beyond the obvious and show us thoughtful, impactful and (in some cases) funny snippets of life.

Second Place

The Dallas Morning News photo Staff
The Dallas Morning News

Third Place

Newsday photo Staff
Newsday

Single day photo story

First Place

"Aerial views of tornado devastation from north Dallas to Garland"
Smiley Pool
The Dallas Morning News

Judges' comments: A tornado strikes Dallas and destruction is everywhere. This coverage comprised of only aerial photos, seems foolish on the outset, but is quite successful. Why? Because each photo has a human element, is well composed and takes the viewer beyond the obvious.

Second Place

"Rescue on the Rio Grande"
Bob Owen
San Antonio Express-News

Third Place

Alejandro Alvarez
WTOP

Multiple day photo story

First Place

“Crawford County Wolfpack”

Mykal McEldowney

The Indianapolis Star

Judges’ comments: The Crawford football team photos are both happy and sad. But what makes them so successful is their intimacy and their storytelling quality.

Second Place

“Capable of Greatness”

Tim Tai

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Third Place

“San Antonio Evictions”

Bob Owen

San Antonio Express-News

Portrait

First Place

“John Coli guilty”

Ashlee Rezin Garcia

Chicago Sun-Times

Judges’ comments: Power and arrogance are on full display in this Teamsters boss photo. He may have pleaded guilty, but his strut, stare and posture say he's still in charge.

Second Place

“Kevin Durant”

Nick Galac, Karen Frank and Shayan Asgharnia

ESPN

Third Place

“Brolylegs”

Robert Booth, Karen Frank and Dan Winters

ESPN

Pictorial

First Place

“Father Roy’s mission”

Ryan Michalesko

The Dallas Morning News

Judges’ comments: This pictorial entry goes beyond good composition, lighting and color. It gets to matters of the mind and heart by showing a religious leader engaged in his ecclesiastical rituals.

Second Place

“Clear View”

Alejandra Villa Loarca

Newsday

Third Place

“Enjoy your drive”

Thomas A. Ferrara

Newsday

ONLINE

Online investigative reporting

First Place

“In Plain View”

Emily Hoerner and Rick Tulsy

Injustice Watch

Judges’ comments: Injustice Watch’s reporting on how social media posts by hundreds of law enforcement officers in eight cities reflected racism, misogyny, homophobia, and xenophobia brought significant response and resulted in new media policies and discipline action against dozens of officers.

Second Place

“Amazon: Behind the Smiles”

Will Evans and Reveal Staff

The Center for Investigative Reporting

Third Place

“Small Town Government, Chicago-style Politics”

Casey Toner and Dane Placko
Better Government Association/Fox 32

Online beat coverage

First Place

“No Mercy”
Sarah Jane Tribble
Kaiser Health News

Judges’ comments: Graceful writing focused on the people impacted by the decision to close Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott. The physical closing was detailed well (loss of jobs, identity etc.). The emotional impact simmered in each story, adding a literary tone to each report. Casting the stories as an example faced by other people in other towns created a universal connection to the reader, as well as solutions to consider as hospitals are closed in rural communities nationwide.

Second Place

“Breakdown: Mental health in California”
Jocelyn Wiener
CalMatters

Third Place

“The Future of Learning”
Tara García Mathewson
The Hechinger Report

Best Blog

First Place

“Fumes in South Portland”
Sabrina Shankman
InsideClimate News

Judges’ comments: What an engaging way to write about an issue: From the perspective of an everyperson, but with a reporter's eye and skill. This was a refreshing and interesting read -- with photos! -- that may not have offered a solution, but inspired empathy and frustration.

Second Place

“Immigration Decoded”
Susan Ferriss
The Center for Public Integrity

Third Place

Mary C. Curtis
Roll Call

Online video up to one minute**First Place**

“The Greasy Pole”
WCVB Digital Staff, Russ Reed
WCVB

Judges’ comments: Hilarious annual tradition goes viral in a feel good news moment.

Second Place

“Violinist Overcomes Homelessness to Reach Greatness”
WBALTV.com Digital Team
WBAL-TV

Third Place

“Classmates Befriend Lonely Student”
WBALTV.com Digital Team
WBAL-TV

Online video up to three minutes**First Place**

“Meet The Students Walking Out of School to March for Climate Change Action”
Kevin Urgiles, P.J. Tobia and Ludwig Hurtado
NBC News NOW

Judges’ comments: Well-done package followed students in a mini-doc style in a large march for climate change.

Second Place

“Remembering the Victims”
WBALTV.com Digital Team
WBAL-TV

Third Place

“Death-Cap Mushrooms are Terrifying and Unstoppable”
Kasia Cieplak-Mayr von Baldegg and Elyse Kelly
The Atlantic

Online Video 3-10 minutes

First Place

“Extreme violence is driving girls to kill themselves”

Univision News Digital and TIME

Almudena Toral, Patricia Clarembaux, Mauricio Rodriguez Pons, Jose Osuna, Justine Simons

Judges’ comments: A beautiful, brave video told with authenticity. The cinematography is exceptional for a news topic, shot on site under extreme circumstances.

Second Place

“An Abortion in Mississippi”

Maisie Crow, Jordan Smith and Lauren Feeney

The Intercept

Third Place

“State care of another kind”

Shelly Yang and Tammy Ljungblad

The Kansas City Star

Online Video 10 to 30 minutes

First Place

“Legendary: 30 Years of Philly Ballroom”

Lauren Schneiderman, Raishad Hardnett and Cassie Owens

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Judges’ comments: Compelling story, told with great energy and cinematography. Strong sourcing is evident.

Second Place

“Christians Build Bridges, Not Walls”

Jeremy Raff and Kasia Cieplak-Mayr von Baldegg

The Atlantic

Third Place

“Chaotic Care”

Renee Jones Schneider

Star Tribune

Digital presentation of a single news topic and BEST IN SHOW

First Place

“In El Salvador, violence is driving girls to kill themselves”

Almudena Toral, Patricia Clarembaux, Mauricio Rodriguez Pons, Jose Osuna and Justine Simons

Univision News Digital

Judges’ comments: “Femicide Suicide” in El Salvador is death by suicide resulting from physical and mental abuse. This Univision entry blended compelling spot news video, heartfelt personal stories of fear and loss, illustrations, data, reporting to reveal the threats women and girls face in El Salvador.

Second Place

“Silent Killer: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Public Housing”

Suzy Khimm and Laura Strickler

NBC News

Third Place

“American Climate”

Anna Belle Peevey, Neela Banerjee and Adrian Briscoe

InsideClimate News

Digital presentation of a single features topic

First Place

“Detained”

Emily Kassie

The Marshall Project in partnership with The Guardian

Judges’ comments: The Marshall Project and The Guardian provided a smart blend of text, video and graphics to draw attention to how the U.S. got the immigration detention system it has.

Second Place

“Crack vs. Heroin”

Asbury Park Press Staff

Asbury Park Press

Third Place

“Manufacturing In Chicago: The Legacy, The Promise”

Esther Kang, Natalie Moore, Odette Yousef, Maria Zamudio, Paula Friedrich, Manuel Martinez and Alden Loury
WBEZ

Social Media

First Place

The Dallas Morning News Staff
The Dallas Morning News

Judges' comments: The team brought quality reporting and an understanding of the audience of each platform to their work. The reporters' notebooks for Instagram were smart. The podcast was compelling. Teaming with other news organizations on the twitter feed about the Texas legislature was executed well.

Second Place

"Amazon: Behind the Smiles"
The Center for Investigative Reporting Staff
The Center for Investigative Reporting

Third Place

KC Downey, Kirk Enstrom and James Lalli
WMUR-TV

Online Slideshow

First Place

"12 hours with 'Live From Here'"
Aaron Lavinsky and Anna Boone
Star Tribune

Judges' comments: Creative, insightful, intimate and a different look at a show we have listened to for 20 years: "A Prairie Home Companion." The online presentation did not subjugate the visuals for the words. Just the opposite – with full-screen imagery throughout.

Second Place

"Tornadoes cause widespread destruction in Dallas"
The Dallas Morning News Staff
The Dallas Morning News

No third-place award given

Best Narrative Podcast

First Place

“Dolly Parton's America”
Jad Abumrad and Shima Oliaee
Osm Audio

Judges' comments: Who knew? Who knew Dolly Parton is one of the most interesting people in the world? Who knew her impact across generations has touched millions? In an era when many narrative podcasts focus on crime or big important issues, this one tells a simple story - of an amazing woman. And on the technical side, well-done!

Second Place

“Broken Pledge”
The Columbus Dispatch Staff
The Columbus Dispatch

Third Place

“White Lies”
Andrew Beck Grace, Chip Brantley and Graham Smith
NPR

Best Information Podcast

First Place

“Mbituaries with Mo Rocca”
Rand Morrison, Mo Rocca and Megan Marcus
CBS News

Judges' comments: The measure of a good podcast is that you just can't stop listening. And that was the case with Mo Rocca's "Mbituaries." Quirky stories presented in a smooth and happy format. We met the archive guy at CBS, and remembered how much we loved Laura Branigan.

Second Place

“Critical Condition”
Shea Johnson and Reed Redmond
Las Vegas Review Journal

Third Place

“Show Me The State”

Kristofor Husted and the KBIA Staff
KBIA

Digital Innovation in Storytelling

First Place

“A Game of College”
The Hechinger Report and CalMatters Staff
The Hechinger Report and CalMatters

Judges’ comments: An easy, fun and informative way for families to start the college planning process. Information is helpful to students trying to chart their courses through coursework, extracurriculars, SATs/ACTs, financial aid, and more. A great resource!

Second Place

“Assemble Your All-Star Crew”
Neil Paine
ESPN

Third Place

“Chicago Mayoral Election Questionnaire”
Paula Friedrich
WBEZ

RADIO STATIONS

Radio stations newscast, all markets

First Place

“KCBS Morning News, 10/24/19”
KCBS Staff
KCBS

Judge’s comments: This well-paced newscast covers California’s Kincaid Fire and reports on its destructive impacts on the area and its residents. Regular updates from reporters on the scene compliment official information to keep listeners up to speed on rapidly changing conditions. On-the-scene reports, actualities, interviews with citizens and officials, create a vivid sense of the disruption and destruction produced by this disastrous event.

Second Place

“July 8, 2019 10 a.m.”
WTOP Staff
WTOP

Third Place

“August 2, 2019 Texas Standard Newscast”

Texas Standard Staff

Texas Standard

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

“FBI Raids Mayor Pugh's Home”

WBAL-AM Staff

WBAL-AM

Judges' comments: Beginning with the early morning report of activity at the Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh's home, WBL NewsRadio was among first area news outlets to report on an FBI early morning raid on the mayor's residence. Reporter Scott Wykoff was at the Mayor's home less than 20 minutes after the story broke and among the first to file a live report. The news team worked quickly to gather reaction from local leaders, including the City Council President. The WBAL news team, tapped into its collective knowledge of the city and their connections with local officials to quickly pull together reaction and the latest information about this rapidly developing situation.

Second Place

“Capitol Crises”

WTOP Staff

WTOP

Third Place

“Days of Wind And Fire”

KCBS Radio Staff

KCBS

Radio stations feature and human interest story, all markets**First Place**

“Rock Creek Rescue”

Megan Cloherty

WTOP

Judges' comments: This is a riveting and fascinating story about a WTOP Staffer that becomes a hero after saving a woman who had fallen into an icy, life-threatening Rock Creek. His serendipitous timing of a photograph led to a happenstance rescue that saved her life. This broadcast takes the listener to the scene of the rescue to recreate the event.

Second Place

"Translating Is An Art: Behind The Scenes At Telemundo's Spanish Broadcast Of First Miami Debate"

Alexander Gonzalez
WLRN

Third Place

"Realism and Rebellion"

Sara Fishko, Olivia Briley, Wayne Shulmister and Karen Frillmann
WNYC

Radio stations documentary or public affairs**First Place and BEST IN SHOW**

"City On Fire: Chicago Race Riot 1919"

Natalie Moore, Jeremy McCarter and Mikhail Fiksel
WBEZ

Judges' comments: This documentary recounts the harrowing events and painful legacy of the 1919 Chicago Race Riots by creatively fusing drama into the reporting, both captivating and educating the listener. This reporter interjects much life into the drama of this look back in history. She wrote the script for this re-creation by the actors. This is innovation that grabs the attention of those turned off by "the news."

Second Place

"Selling Kids: Human Trafficking in Alabama"

Pat Duggins, Stan Ingold and Tina Turner
Alabama Public Radio

Third Place

"Highway to the Moon: How Texas Paved the Way for Apollo"

Texas Standard Staff
Texas Standard

Radio stations news series**First Place**

"West Texas Illegal Dumping Woes"

Jill Ament
Texas Standard

Judges' comments: The Texas Standard is thorough in its reporting of a subject -- illegal dumping -- that most people take for granted and/or ignore. It is an eye-opening report that

unearths the devastating impact this practice imposes on the environment and local communities. The Standard's comprehensive investigation reports that even law enforcement and government leaders are being re-educated about dumping's effects on communities. And just as importantly, the reporting ends with a discussion of potential solutions.

Second Place

"The Fog of Espionage"

J.J. Green

WTOP

Third Place

"Broken Systems"

Stan Bunger and KCBS Staff

KCBS Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators newscast

First Place

"10/28/19 11 a.m. Network Newscast"

ABC News Radio Staff

ABC News Radio

Judges' comments: Every word counts in this punchy, impactful newscast. Powerful wild sound, crisp editing, and precise newswriting provide the listener insight in a hurry.

Second Place

"CBS World News Roundup"

Steve Kathan, Steve Futterman, Jim Krasula and Paul Farry

CBS World News

Third Place

"America in the Morning"

Westwood One News Staff

Westwood One

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators breaking news or continuing coverage

First Place

"Mass Shootings in El Paso and Dayton"

Westwood One News Staff

Westwood One

Judges' comments: Two mass shootings in a span of a weekend. Even though stories like this seem almost ubiquitous, it can still be difficult to report the newest of the latest incident. Yet Westwood One does this with the El Paso and Dayton shootings by capturing -- in real time -- the humanity of the incidents on opposite sides of the country. Extremely moving and dramatic, this coverage captures the attention and emotions of its listeners.

Second Place

"California is Burning"
ABC News Radio Staff
ABC News Radio

Third Place

"Jeffrey Epstein Coverage"
ABC News Radio Staff
ABC News Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators feature and human interest story

First Place

"NHL Dentists"
Brad Mielke
ABC News

Judges' comments: Beautifully produced ESPN story about team dentists for hockey teams. Action sound from games and music beds interspersed with quick comments and voiceover result in a wonderful, informative and entertaining short feature.

Second Place

"Woodstock"
Steve Futterman
CBS News Radio

Third Place

"Migrant Produce Pickers"
Jason Nathanson
ABC News Radio

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators documentary or public affairs

First Place

"Under a Watchful Eye"
Jill Barshay and Sasha Aslanian
The Hechinger Report & APM Reports

Judges' comments: Is there nothing technology isn't changing? The Hechinger Report documentary reminds us that higher education is a business. Success and failure are normal attributes. One of the latest trends on college and university campuses is predictive analytics. It has the potential to positively change outcomes for some. Thanks to this reporting, institutions around the world are exploring whether they'll get on the bandwagon.

Second Place

"1939: America on the Eve of War"

Westwood One News Staff

Westwood One

Third Place

"Homewreckers"

Aaron Glantz, Katharine Mieszkowski and Deborah George

The Center for Investigative Reporting

Broadcast radio networks and syndicators news series

First Place

"The New Cybercrime Boom"

Martin Kaste

National Public Radio

Judges' comments: Digital fraudsters are looming and this story does a fantastic job of explaining what it is and how it can happen. But the best thing it does is offer some solutions to the problem. Consumers -- and that's practically all of us at one time or another -- need more stories like this. Present the issue and tell us what we can do about it.

Second Place

"Faith Under Fire"

Pierre Thomas and Tara Gimbel

ABC News

Third Place

"Apollo 11"

Peter King

CBS News Radio

TELEVISION

Broadcast or cable television stations newscast

First Place

“12 News at 6pm: Police Protest”
Kacie Talamante and Matt Wendt
KPNX 12 News

Judges’ comments: Balanced, careful and thoughtful exploration of an incident of alleged police brutality. Cool-headed journalism provided clear insights into both sides of the story, incorporating person-on-the-street interviews with perceptive questioning of officials, activists, and witnesses.

Second Place

“News 4 at 11 - Jersey City Shootout”
Evan Stulberger
WNBC

Third Place

“NewsCenter 5 at 6pm: Worcester Firefighter's Death, Heroic Acts”
WCVB Staff
WCVB

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

First Place and BEST IN SHOW

“The Kincade Fire: Battle to Save Alexander Valley”
Katie Nielsen, Bob Horn, Devin Fehely and KPIX Staff
KPIX-TV

Judges’ comments: We all want to see the "big picture," but sometimes the "small picture tells a different story. Here is a close-up, house by house recounting of the battle for a rapidly spreading fire. Mesmerizing. I've seen lots of fire footage but this really brings it home.

Second Place

“News 4 New York: Jersey City Shootout”
WNBC Staff
WNBC

Third Place

"Imelda's Wrath"
KPRC 2 News Staff
KPRC 2

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

"The Secret Foundation"
Bill Sheil, Mary Stiene and Chris Reece
WJW-TV

Judges' comments: A reasoned and reasonable examination of expenditures in higher education. Dogged pursuit of an important story that set an important precedent. Sober presentation. Not hyped, not oversold.

Second Place

"Where is Home?"
Carolyn Sachse, Chris Papst, Dwayne Myers and Jed Gamber
WBFF-TV

Third Place

"Inconceivable"
Chris Vanderveen, Corky Scholl and Chris Hansen
KUSA-TV

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

"Journalists Matter"
Joy Lambert and Alanna Delfino
WBFF

Judges' comments: A year following the deadly attack at the Capital Gazette a photojournalist who was there at the time describes his photo project to honor the journalists who were slain, and speaks with emotion about the tragic events, the journalists died, and their loved ones as he leafs through haunting black and white photos of those who perished and their loved ones.

Second Place

"Til Death Do Us Part"
Karen Meyers and Chris Shepherd

WMUR

Third Place

“Impact: Waiting For a Heart”

William Pitts and Phillip Mathews

KPNX 12 News

Broadcast or cable television stations public service

First Place

“Project Community: Shining Light on Mental Health”

WMUR News Staff

WMUR

Judges’ comments: A mix of packaged reporting and testimonial interviews detail the personal tragedies resulting from mental health issues, but also the stories of those who sought help and are seeking to change the stigmas associated with mental illness care. Content covers a wide range of factors and populations - from the typical everyday adult to teens succumbing to the pressures of life and social media influences, to police officers suffering from PTSD, and even those incarcerated and needing rehabilitation support and specific healthcare more than criminal punishment.

Second Place

“KARE 11 Investigates: Mission Critical”

A.J. Lagoe, Steve Eckert, Gary Knox and Staff

KARE 11

Third Place

“Unlocked and Unsafe”

ABC15 Staff

ABC15

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

First Place

“Abuse of Force”

ABC15 Staff

ABC15

Judges’ comments: ABC15 reveals a shocking series of police encounters based on brutality and even sadistic conduct. Layer by layer, the station dug into the arrests of problem officers and using body cameras and other security video presented an astonishing picture of a

department out of control in Glendale, Ariz. ABC15's ceaseless reporting resulted in a federal probe of the department, which had all but ignored problem cops for years.

Second Place

"Sam Sheppard: Case Closed"

Bill Sheil, Carrie Largent and Dave Arnold

WJW-TV

Third Place

"Off Track: Examining California's High-Speed Rail Project"

Stephen Stock, Kevin Nious and Michael Horn

NBC Bay Area\KNTV

Broadcast or cable television stations investigative reporting

First Place

"The Rape Law Loophole"

Chris Glorioso and Evan Stulberger

WNBC

Judges' comments: This segment reveals the loophole that many women faced when trying to bring attention to their rapes. This hard hitting piece examined what consent is if someone was under the influence and unable to give any explicit consent. The reporter followed women providing intimate details of their experiences. Legislators, including the governor of New York, took note to finally change the law so that women and men could formally file charges. An especially timely piece in the #metoo era where what is consent is literally on trial in cases from Harvey Weinstein and on.

Second Place

"Fooling the Feds"

Jeff Keene, Carolyn Sachse, Chris Papst, Dwayne Myers and Jed Gamber

WBFF-TV

Third Place

"5 Investigates: Police Powers, No Accountability or Training Required"

Karen Anderson, Kevin Rothstein and David Hurlburt

WCVB

Broadcast or cable television stations business and consumer reporting

First Place

“Up in Flames: Investigating the Cause of Kia and Hyundai Fires”

Jackie Callaway, Matt McGlashen and Erin Smith

WFTS-TV/ABC Action News

Judges’ comments: This is a major piece ... lots of work into an important subject. If you believe the reporting, the Senate started probe based on this station's reporting. Good video, too. Lots of factual backup and documentation. Got some statements of the company at the end...also concluded with specific advice on what to do.

Second Place

“Kane In Your Corner: Robocalls”

Karin Attonito, Anthony Cocco and Walt Kane

News 12 New Jersey

Third Place

“Carolina Impact / Camp North End: (Re)Making History”

Jeff Sonier and Doug Stacker

WTVI PBS Charlotte

Broadcast or cable television stations health/science reporting

First Place

“A Disturbing Diagnosis”

Chris Vanderveen and Anna Hewson

KUSA-TV

Judges’ comments: Tainted DNA tests lead a young Colorado woman to an unneeded and unwanted hysterectomy, a story compassionately and tastefully told, with a tragic twist -- such contaminated samples occur 1 to 2 percent of the time.

Second Place

“Lessons from a Preschool Cell Tower”

Julie Watts, Dennis Lopez and KOVR Staff

KOVR

Third Place

“May Thurner Syndrome”

Mindy Basara, Chuck Cochran and James Searles

WBAL-TV

Broadcast or cable television stations environmental reporting

First Place

“Left in the Dust”

Tony Plohetski and Brian Bell

KVUE-TV

Judges’ comments: This is a well-balanced, thorough investigative report on the exponential growth of quarries in Texas as a result of the oil boom. The reporters do a wonderful job of presenting both sides of the argument, exploring the pros and cons of regulation and the tradeoff between quarries’ contribution to jobs and economic development versus environmental degradation. The report covers the many legal and political conflicts being carried out in state courts and the legislature. This was also an excellent example of journalists enacting change as the station brought together all the major stakeholders - state regulators, business interests, environmentalists, and citizens, to a community deliberation on the issue.

Second Place

“Bald Eagles' Path to Recovery”

Stephanie Jarvis and Mary Fecteau

Ideastream

Third Place

“Warming Ocean, Changing Lives”

Tracy Sinclair and Beth Verge

KTUU-TV

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators newscast

First Place

“World News Tonight with David Muir - June 5th 2019 Reporting from Normandy”

World News Tonight with David Muir Staff

ABC News

Judges’ comments: A fast-moving newscast that leads with a touching story about WWII veterans reunited for the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Beautiful video, tight production, and great dignity afforded to an important story.

Second Place

“The CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell: July 17, 2019 broadcast”

CBS Evening News Staff

CBS Evening News

Third Place

“CBS This Morning: October 24, 2019 Broadcast”

CBS This Morning Staff

CBS This Morning

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

“PBS NewsHour Weekend: Mass Shootings in Dayton, Ohio & El Paso, Texas”

Dana Roberson, PBS NewsHour Weekend Staff

PBS NewsHour Weekend

Judges’ comments: A straightforward wrap of the horrific events reported with poise and dignity. Viewers emerge with a clear understanding of the events. In addition, the reporting took advantage of experts from local media, avoiding the cliché of dropping in an anchor. Special attention is paid to the emergence of social networks of the type that may have played a role in prompting one of the gunmen to wage the massacre.

Second Place

“ABC News: California Burning”

ABC News Staff

ABC News

Third Place

“ABC News: Notre Dame Inferno”

ABC News Staff

ABC News

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

“Richard Engel Continuing Coverage, Syria 2019”

Richard Engel, Marc Smith, Randall Brown, Ian Sherwood and Engel Unit Staff

NBC News/MSNBC

Judges' comments: Insightful, informative, and courageous coverage of a complex story. Some interesting angles – and some that are probably unique – coupled with fine photography and innovative story-telling.

Second Place

“CBS This Morning: The Life and Death of Jeffrey Epstein”

CBS This Morning Staff

CBS This Morning

Third Place

“ABC News: Notre Dame Inferno”

ABC News Staff

ABC News

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

First Place

“World News Tonight with David Muir & Nightline - Return to Normandy”

ABC News Staff

ABC News

Judges' comments: ABC follows World War II vets on an emotional trip back to the beaches of Normandy. The men -- who had not met before they returned for the 75th anniversary of the landing -- recount the terror, tragedy, and heroism. Production is astonishingly creative, featuring juxtaposition of old photos and historical film with their present-day recollections. Moving and visually stunning.

Second Place

“Nightline - Mexico: The Disappeared”

Nightline Staff

Nightline

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Final Entry”

Jim Axelrod, Wendy Krantz and Heather Spinelli

CBS News

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

First Place

“American Betrayal”

Richard Engel, Tim Gallagher, Leon Ferguson, Marc Smith, Ian Sherwood and the On Assignment with Richard Engel Staff
NBC News/MSNBC

Judges’ comments: NBC’s Richard Engel is on the ground in Syria as US troops stand down and pull out of the area, leaving its allies in the war on ISIS - the Kurds - at the mercy of a violent Turkish invasion. A brief history lesson in the US-Kurdish alliance in Middle East conflicts gives way to breaking news when the strike on Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi reignites US-foreign relation tensions and criticism. At times the visuals are strikingly cinematic in an otherwise war-torn land; the editing is tight but breathes appropriately; audio of fired bullets serve as bullet points for detail, and story punctuation.

Second Place

“ABC News - 1969: The FBI and the Panther”

ABC News Staff
ABC News

Third Place

“NBC News Group's Justice For All”

NBC News Group Staff
NBC News Group

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators investigative report

First Place

“CBS News: Healthcare Fraud in America”

Jim Axelrod, Dr. Jon LaPook and the CBS News Investigative Unit
CBS News

Judges’ comments: CBS News uncovered a vast scheme to get the Medicare numbers of unsuspecting seniors and charge their accounts for thousands of dollars of needless tests. It followed the trail to a parking garage in Houston, where it confronted the doctor who enabled the scam. A few days later, CBS was in the parking lot when federal authorities arrived to arrest the doctor as a result of the reports.

Second Place

“Zone Rouge: An army of children toils in African mines”

Cynthia McFadden, Christine Romo, Lisa Cavazuti and Bill Angelucci

NBC News Investigations

Third Place

“Prime Risk”

Will Evans, Rachel de Leon and Adam Raney

Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting and PBS NewsHour

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators news magazine program

First Place

“20/20 President Trump: 30 Hours”

ABC News Staff

ABC News

Judges’ comments: Media have access to people the average person can't even get close to -- such as the president of the United States. This interview is a perfect example of why this is so important. And the benefit to the public includes being able to see and hear for themselves the questions and responses and just how the interview process works.

Second Place

“Unchecked Evil”

Justin Smith, Izhar Harpaz and Allison Orr

NBC Universal - Dateline

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: A Sunday Morning in Florence”

Jane Pauley, Jon Carras and David Bhagat

CBS News

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

First Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: Made in the USA”

John Blackstone, Dustin Stephens and Emanuele Secci

CBS News

Judges’ comments: Diligent and intelligent reporting showing why it is difficult -- but not impossible -- for a manufacturer to make and source a product from entirely within the U.S. An palatable economics lesson in the workings of the supply chain, showing how one enterprising entrepreneur is attempting to revive the U.S. apparel-manufacturing industry through a series of small victories.

Second Place

“How Social Casinos Leverage Facebook User Data to Target Vulnerable Gamblers”

Nathan Halverson, David Ritscher and Richard Coolidge

Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting and PBS NewsHour

Third Place

“Missed Opportunity”

Lee Zurik, Megan Luther, Owen Hornstein and Jamie Grey

InvestigateTV

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

First Place

“Under Attack”

Joce Sterman, Alex Brauer and Max McClellan

Spotlight on America

Judges’ comments: Health care workers are being violently attacked by their patients in rising numbers, a story told through the victims and shocking video collected by reporters in a surprising and well-produced presentation.

Second Place

“Tainted Drugs”

Brenda Breslauer, Stephanie Gosk, Didi Martinez, Katie Boyle and Robert Kaplan

NBC News Investigative Unit

Third Place

“CBS Sunday Morning: In Their Lane”

Jonathan LaPook, Dustin Stephens and Lauren Barnello

CBS News

Broadcast television networks, cable networks and syndicators environmental reporting

First Place

“Climate change pushes Florida's mangroves north”

Dana Roberson, Hari Sreenivasan, Sam Weber, Connie Kargbo, Lisa Overton and Judith Starr-Wolff

PBS NewsHour Weekend

Judges’ comments: This story highlights a unique and perhaps surprising side effect of climate change- the proliferation of mangroves, trees that benefit ecosystems and actually stem global warming by storing carbon. PBS applies a critical lens to examine this phenomenon along Florida’s east coast, sharing some unsuspecting ecological changes in a warming world.

Second Place

“NBC News Group's Climate in Crisis”

NBC News Staff

NBC News

Third Place

“Nightline: Journey to the Edge”

Nightline Staff

Nightline