

Category Name	Award	Organization	Entry Title	Credits	Comments (First Place Only)
<b>RADIO</b>					
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	WDET	DNC Protest 081924	Russ McNamara	Great use of natural sound/ambi. Reporter did a good job describing an active scene.
	2	WDET	Trump In Detroit 120224	Alex McLenon	
Community/Local News Repor	1	Michigan Public	Stateside Podcast: A bittersweet Ramadan for Sudanese Michiganders	Ronia Cabansag	Exceptional use of audio. This story was descriptive and fun, and transported listeners to a vibrant scene. I appreciated the play on bittersweet as a surprise in the story to also touch on the local impact of foreign conflict.
	2	WDET	Bridges of Grosse Ile	Pat Batcheller	
	3	WDET	Ramadan Changed	Nargis Rahman	
	4	WDET	10th Congressional District Race	Quinn Klinefelter	
Education Reporting	1	WDET	Detroit Students Follow the Path of the Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite	Sascha Raiyn	Creatively put together package showcasing a special learning moment.
	2	WDET	Education Election Series	Sascha Raiyn	
	3	WDET	Pro-Palestinian students, faculty share concerns at virtual WSU Board of Governors meeting	Nargis Rahman, Amanda LeClaire, Sa	

Environment Reporting	1	Michigan Public	Lester Graham: The Environment Report	Lester Graham	Interesting collection of stories that shows the reporter has command of this beat. The work demonstrates the range of topics that can come along with reporting on the environment, and that this reporter has a pulse on what stories have impact. Well done!
Feature Reporting	1	Michigan Public	Mornings in Michigan	Doug Tribou, Caoilinn Goss , Tyler S	Exceptional radio. This radio makes the mundane fascinating and uplifts regular people in everyday jobs through strong audio scenes.
	2	WDET	Tickets to drive-through holiday light show at Eloise Asylum available through the New Year	Tristan McFolley	
	3	WDET	CuriosiD – Strata Concert Hall	Rob Reinhart, Amanda LeClaire	
	4	WDET	CuriosiD: Medicinal Magic of Vernors	Amanda LeClaire	
General News Reporting	1	Michigan Public	The painful legacy of Detroit's rape kit backlog	Sarah Cwiek	Exceptional and essential reporting that touches on all the victims in a broken system.
	2	WDET	Democratic National Convention	Russ McNamara, Quinn Klinefelter, N	

	3	WDET	Uncommitted delegates at DNC aim to put pressure on Harris' Gaza policy	Nargis Rahman	
	4	WDET	Detroit Election Security	Quinn Klinefelter	
Health Reporting	1	Michigan Public	Kate Wells: Health care reporting	Kate Wells	This reporter has very good on-air delivery. Great writing in these story samples. The characters in the pieces help connect us to the content and they show the depth of knowledge the reporter has on this beat. Genuinely enjoyed listening to every story!
News/Public Affairs (regular schedule)	1	Michigan Public	Stateside	April Baer	Stateside does a great job bringing people timely stories that inform and spark curiosity. Along with interviews that share unique stories. Host April Baer does a great job leading with curiosity and welcoming people into the conversation with her warm tone and creative writing!
	2	WDET	The Metro 121024	Robyn Vincent, Tia Graham, Sam Cole	
	3	WDET	The Metro 111824	Robyn Vincent, Tia Graham, David Leins	
	4	WDET	The Metro 120924 - Black Churches and Beyond	Cary Junior, Sam Corey, David Leins,	

News Special and Documentary	1	Michigan Public	The Bird Connection: Change and decline in our world	Lester Graham, Rebecca Williams	This program had a great throughline that connected birds to our greater world. The show had many scenes and guests that helped tell the story as well!
Newscast	1	WDET	WDET News 704 am 053124	Pat Batcheller	Great urgent, on the scene debrief. Host/reporter did a good job asking/answering questions that had both knowns and unknowns. Good recap by host after.
	2	WDET	WDET News 504 am 020624	Pat Batcheller	
	3	WDET	WDET News 504 am 060624	Pat Batcheller	
	4	WDET	WDET News 504 am 072224	Pat Batcheller	
Sports Reporting	1	WDET	Downtown Detroit Grand Prix attracts new and old fans in second year	Alex McLenon	Great topic to cover and great interviews gathered. Getting that many interviews can be a lot of work in a story like this. I thought the reporter told a good story, and the variety of interviews were used at the right time to make it complete.
	2	WDET	Detroit Lions first home playoff in 30 yrs vs. Stafford	Quinn Klinefelter	
	3	WDET	NFL Draft - Detroit	WDET News	
<b>TELEVISION</b>					

Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	WJBK Fox Detroit	Community in Mourning: Nine Wounded in Rochester Hills Splash Pad Shooting	Hilary Golston	Hilary was seamlessly guiding the audience through a tragic and serious mass shooting. Adlibbing for several minutes as a time was done very well. Hilary was asking the questions the audience needed to know, even if there wasn't an answer.
Community/Local News Report	1	Detroit PBS	Silence the Violence March and Rally	Daphne Hughes, Daijah Moss, Dan K	This story was the most representative of the category's description. It was well shot, with compelling narratives throughout.
	2	WXYZ-TV	New details emerge about athlete who died during 2024 Detroit Marathon	Faraz Javed, Jeremy Johnson	
	3	WXYZ-TV	Daughter of a man assaulted outside a Detroit Coney Island shares chilling details	Faraz Javed, Brandon Speagle, Matt D	
Education Reporting	1	Detroit PBS	Wayne State University's AI for Mobility Project seeks to improve Detroit's public transit system   University of Michigan becomes first college to create AI tools for campus, students   AI's impact on the workforce: A conversation with the Workforce Inte	William Glover	Compelling interviews and video that localize developing uses of AI at Michigan universities, showing potential solutions on issues from Pell Grants to transit use, as well as pitfalls to watch out for.

Environment Reporting	1	Detroit PBS	Stocking the Mighty Great Lakes Muskie	Kathy Johnson, Jordan Wingrove	I was really impressed with the visuals in this story and the access the journalists had to these teams. Interesting story, addressing the challenges of breeding these sought after fish.
Feature Reporting	1	Detroit PBS	Haunted Detroit	Chris Jordan, Andrea Riley, Leland St	
	2	WJBK-TV	Alexander Zonjic	Lori Pinson, Howard Mitchell	
	3	WXYZ-TV	Local family trains in jiu-jitsu after son is bullied	Faraz Javed, Jon Austin	
General News Reporting	1	Detroit PBS	The Secret Rivers Fueling Urban Flooding	Jena Brooker, Greg King, Adam Fox-Lo	Interesting topic with good characters to tell us the story. Story structure helped it move and the video/images brought it to life.
	2	WXYZ-TV	'We lost a hero.' fallen Melvindale officer remembered by brother	Faraz Javed	
	3	WXYZ-TV	Missing teenage twins found after woman reports stolen debit card	Faraz Javed, Brandon Speagle	

Health Reporting	1	Detroit PBS	"Detroit People's Food Co-op opening broadens access to healthy foods in the city's North End "	Jonathan Shead, Jena Brooker	An interesting look at a Black-owned grocery food co-op on a mission to fill a food desert with healthy, socially conscious food options tailored to the Black community, including locally grown produce from urban farmers. The piece benefited from interviews with multiple co-op founders, members and growers.
News/Public Affairs (regular schedule)	2	Detroit PBS	The Black Church & Young People's Mental Health	Stephen Henderson, Daphne Hughes	
	1	Detroit PBS	Great Lakes Now	Rob Green, Anna Sysling, Jordan Winship	
	2	Detroit PBS	American Black Journal	American Black Journal , BridgeDetroit	
	3	Detroit PBS	One Detroit on Detroit PBS	One Detroit	
News Special and Documentary	1	Michigan State University	Missing Paige - Part 1	Geri Alumit Zeldes, Aidan Binford, Jason	A heartbreakin story told with care. You can tell the reporting team did a great job building trust with Paige's family. A great use of archival video and old photos to tell the story.
<b>DIGITAL</b>					
Breaking News via Social Media	1	The Detroit News	Gunman attacks splash pad	Kayman Whaley	Effective social media posts sharing important information as the breaking news unfolded. Great use of graphics, photos and short videos to show the scene.

Collaborative Coverage	1	New York & Michigan So	Collaborative coverage of caregiving in SE Michigan	LaToya Cross, Allie Jacobs, Randiah	This collaboration amounts to a powerful series on life and death. Stories are unique and lovely portraits on quiet leaders.
	2	BridgeDetroit / Outlier M	Mural contracts spark ethics investigation into Detroit planning director	Malachi Barrett, Aaron Mondry	
	3	Michigan Solutions Jour	Michigan has a maternal and infant health crisis	Nushrat Rahman, Hayley Harding, Bi	
	4	BridgeDetroit / Outlier M	Detroit FY2025 budget hearings: What you need to know	Malachi Barrett, Kayleigh Lickliter, Aa	
Community/Local News Repor	1	Outlier Media	The low-rent trap	Aaron Mondry, Jacob Wooten, Cyndi	Mondry's ongoing coverage of the broken Detroit Housing Commission clearly had community impact. Powerful human narratives and deeply reported data combine to illustrate the shortcomings of an agency serving some of the city's most vulnerable residents -- news that was surely important to those living in DHC properties as well as the community at large.
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	A new breed of gas station is here — and metro Detroit competitors are worried	Jay Davis	

	3	BridgeDetroit	Uncommitted vote in Southeast Michigan not just an Arab-American issue	Tom Perkins	
Consumer/Watchdog/Investigation	1	Outlier Media	The Speculators of Detroit	Aaron Mondry, Sarah Alvarez, Cyndi E.	Astounding series with good data, compelling narrative, strong visuals, and helpful information for readers.
	2	BridgeDetroit	Detroit said auto theft victims shouldn't pay fees. Some still are	Kayleigh Lickliter	
	3	Model D	What is it like to be homeless in Detroit?	Patrick Dunn	
	4	BridgeDetroit	Moroun-owned firm built east side concrete plant without permit	Jena Brooker	
Digital-Media Presentation	1	Michigan Advance	Harris outpaces Trump in Michigan campaign stops: See where the presidential hopefuls have been	Andrew Roth	Great multimedia story! The photos, charts, and map helped to tell the complete story of Trump and Harris' campaign stops. Great work!
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	What will it take to get people to move to Michigan and Ohio?	Kayla Byler	
	3	WDET	WDET Voter Guide	Jenny Sherman	
	4	Michigan Public	Voter Voices	Mia Goldstein, Jodi Westrick, Michigan	
Education Reporting	1	Bridge Michigan	Flint water crisis casts long shadow over education	Ron French	Provocative series upending conventional wisdom about the long-term impacts, with strong voices from affected people and experts along with smart use of data and studies.

	2	BridgeDetroit, Climate Change	With more hot days, Detroit students' learning and health suffers	Jena Brooker, Katie Worth	
	3	Chalkbeat Detroit	Michigan education policy coverage	Hannah Dellinger	
	4	BridgeDetroit, Bridge Michigan	How Michigan schools are teaching the Israel-Hamas war	Micah Walker, Isabel Lohman	
Engagement-Driven Coverage	1	Bridge Michigan	Voter-Driven, Fact-Driven Election Coverage	Staff of Bridge Michigan	This is an excellent series! Well done! This is how you meet the information needs of community members and readers; as well as, tackle misinformation and disinformation online. Great engagement-driven coverage!
	2	BridgeDetroit	BridgeDetroit 2024 events series	Bryce Huffman, Christine Ferretti, Stacey Johnson	
	3	BridgeDetroit, Detroit Free Press	The eviction process: What Michigan renters should know	Nushrat Rahman	
Environment Reporting	1	Bridge Michigan	Questioning State Response to a Mysterious Downstate Wolf Killing	Kelly House	This is journalism. Going beyond a press release given by a government entity and digging deeper than trusting the word of officials. This is what it's about. Thank you. This is truly what accountability and public service journalism is. Excellent job.

	2	Detroit PBS	How Detroit neighborhoods have been pushing back against heavy industry	Nicole Macdonald, Bill Kubota	
	3	Planet Detroit	BASF's Pollution in the Detroit River	Brian Allnutt, Tom Perkins	
	4	Bridge Michigan	Michigan's "Critical Minerals" Bonanza	Kelly House	
Feature Reporting	1	BridgeDetroit	Salvadoran grocery store in SW Detroit keeps culture, connection alive	Martina Guzmán, Alejandro Ugalde S.	Brilliant writing. It's well paced, descriptive, informative. Through this profile, readers get to learn about foreign conflict and its impact on immigration and local community.
	2	Eater Detroit	Compilation of Works by Serena Maria Daniels	Serena Maria Daniels	
	3	New York & Michigan So	Art therapy helps family caregivers cope with challenging times	Eleanore Catolico	
	4	BridgeDetroit	Black men bond where they feel at home — in the barbershop	Bryce Huffman, Orlando Bailey, Quin	

Health Reporting	1	Bridge Michigan	The Day of Death	Robin Erb	Excellent reporting, writing and pacing mark this whirlwind look at a mass drug overdose across 29 hours in Kalamazoo that claimed at least six lives and impacted at least 19 people. Lab inspectors, drug court judges, advocates and survivors all frame a piece full of both facts and heart. Quite a well-written tragic and dramatic tale!
	2	Outlier Media	What the cure doesn't fix	Koby Levin, Cyndi Elledge	
	3	Bridge Michigan	Rural Health Care Challenges	Ron French	
	4	BridgeDetroit, Detroit Free Press	Medical care for Detroit's homeless gets half a million dollar boost	Nushrat Rahman	
Newsletter Strategy	1	BridgeDetroit	JB's Bites samples	Jena Brooker	The reporter's personal touch to the newsletter makes it super engaging. Well done!
	2	Planet Detroit	Planet Detroit Newsletter	Nina Ignaczak	
	3	BridgeDetroit	City Council Notebook	Malachi Barrett	
	4	BridgeDetroit	Culture Canvas samples	Micah Walker	
Social Media Strategy	1	Bridge Michigan	Bridge Michigan Social Media Strategy	Asha Lewis	Compelling storytelling through video. Creative and personable scripting and editing that keeps viewers engaged!
	2	Michigan Public	Hosted Short-form Videos	Paulette Parker, Ronia Cabansag, Ad	
	3	The Detroit News	The Detroit News gets social	Detroit News staff	

PRINT CLASS A					
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	The Detroit News	Gunman attack at Rochester Hills splash pad	George Hunter, Marnie Munoz, Kara E	When tragedy struck on a weekend, this newsroom mobilized to deliver clear, comprehensive coverage that tells readers what happened and captures the emotional impact this shocking act of violence had on the community.
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	Michigan works to land mammoth \$55B microchip project	Kurt Nagl, David Eggert	
	3	The Detroit News	Paul Whelan comes home after years in Russian prison	Melissa Nann Burke, Grant Schwab	

Community/Local News Report	1	Detroit Free Press	The War in Gaza at the doorstep of metro Detroit by Detroit Free Press staff	Detroit Free Press Staff	<p>The breadth of work from the Detroit Free Press consistently approaches a complicated subject with nuance and care. Staff found and built trust with a wide mix of sources representing a variety of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. That allowed the paper to explore how the conflict affected so many members of Detroit's large Arab American and Jewish communities — a job they did effectively with compelling narratives thoughtful writing and powerful photos.</p>
	2	The Detroit News	Life-saving crews dispatched late to Oxford attack, fire chiefs say	Jennifer Chambers	
	3	Crain's Detroit Business	Megasite development ignites hopes and fears in Flint area	Kurt Nagl	
	4	The Grand Rapids Press	Ottawa County's firing of John Gibbs	Grand Rapids Press staff	

Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	"Failure to Fix," an investigation into the safety of used vehicles by Matthew Dolan	Matthew Dolan	Matthew Dolan's reporting on used car dealers being able to sell cars with unaddressed recalls is exemplary consumer watchdog journalism. His stories are rich with interviews from victims, experts and lawmakers. His stories also serve as a useful public service announcement for consumers to check the open recalls on their vehicles and get them fixed!
	2	The Detroit News	Mobile home residents grapple with water issues	Anne Snabes	
	3	The Grand Rapids Press	Michigan nuclear plant seeks to slash its tax bill, putting schools at risk	Lucas Smolcic Larson	
	4	Detroit Free Press	Personal Finance Columns by Susan Tompor	Susan Tompor	
	1	The Detroit News	Cheers!	Diana McNary	Great photo - good focus with sharp foreground close-up and blurred background. Cut-out over the mast is a nice added touch. Color contrast brings more clarity, and the design is well balanced. Helps tell the story.
Cover Design	2	The Detroit News	Horribly hip	Diana McNary	

Editorial Writing	1	Detroit Free Press	Editorials by the Detroit Free Press	Nancy Kaffer, Khalil AlHajal	
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's editorials	Mickey Ciokajlo, Michael Lee	
	3	The Detroit News	Editorial: Make Lansing more transparent	Kaitlyn Buss	
Education Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Education reporting by Lily Altavena	Lily Altavena	Compelling student-centered reporting that traces Michigan's education inequities past and present.
	2	The Detroit News	Finding Michigan's missing schoolkids	Jennifer Chambers	
	3	Crain's Detroit Business	Michigan's schools rank near the bottom. Fixing that will take more than just money	Julie Mack	
	4	The Grand Rapids Press	Cooley Law in decline	Matthew Miller	
Environment Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Environmental Reporting by Keith Matheny	Keith Matheny, Eric Seals	Devastating and lasting images that sears into the reader's mind. The reporting is top-notch and leads into the daunting uncertainty of what it means for the future of the planet and as wildfires become more frequent and how it'll affect everyone's health and lives. Haunting. Important and sobering.
	2	The Grand Rapids Press	Whitefish	Garret Ellison, Sheri McWhirter	
	3	Detroit Free Press	Mystery water hose in woods of U.P. became source of contention between residents, state	John Carlisle	

	4	The Detroit News	Pollutants and World Cup grass	Carol Thompson	
Explanatory Story	1	The Detroit News	Michigan farmers squeezed by wage hikes under migrant worker program	Candice Williams, Grant Schwab	Excellent reporting, tightly written copy humanizing agricultural policy and making sense of the numbers.
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	With local journalism 'in crisis,' Michigan newsrooms get creative to fill the gap	Julie Mack	
	3	The Grand Rapids Press	Nuclear project	Garret Ellison, Sheri McWhirter	
	4	The Detroit News	Trump's first trade war	Chad Livengood	
Feature Page Design- Newspaper	1	The Detroit News	Crazy stuff	Diana McNary	Good color and balance in a pleasing design.
	2	The Detroit News	Detroit's spooky side	Diana McNary	

Feature Photography	1 Detroit Free Press	Feature photography by Kimberly P. Mitchell	Kimberly P. Mitchell	<p>The winning photograph featuring three schoolchildren in Detroit catching snowflakes on their tongues represents photojournalism at its most genuine and affecting. This image triumphs through its remarkable ability to find profound beauty in an everyday moment.</p> <p>What immediately strikes the viewer is the photograph's authentic joy. The children's expressions reveal that rare, unselfconscious delight that adults so often forget. The photographer has masterfully frozen this fleeting moment, allowing us to linger in their pure experience of simple pleasure.</p> <p>Technically, the composition shows exceptional skill. The positioning of the three children creates a natural visual rhythm across the</p>
	2 Grand Rapids Press	Bubbles	Charlie Nick	
	3 The Detroit News	Lollipop Tree	David Guralnick	

Feature Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Feature Reporting by Jeff Seidel	Jeff Seidel	A heartbreaking, somber yet undeniably important series focusing on what happens to gun violence survivors and how they continue to rebuild their lives after. This is a remarkable story about Amedy and her will to help others remained the central focus of the story, never taking away the power and agency of her voice. Excellence all around.
	2	The Grand Rapids Press	Joe Moss doesn't have a comment for the press	Gus Burns	
	3	Detroit Free Press	Dying Michigan teen starts fundraiser to help his dad	John Carlisle	
General Column Writing	1	Detroit Free Press	Columns by Khalil AlHajal	Khalil AlHajal	The columnist brings insider insights and passion to the Gaza War, which was hugely important to Michigan and the 2024 presidential choice. I particularly liked how he framed the presidential choice among family members.
	2	The Detroit News	The best of Kaitlyn Buss	Kaitlyn Buss	
	3	Detroit Free Press	On Guard Columns by M.L. Elrick	M.L. Elrick	
General News Reporting	1	The Detroit News	Detroit Riverfront CFO in fraud scandal	Robert Snell, Louis Aguilar, Nolan Fin	
	2	The Detroit News	Misconduct at troubled Wayne County juvenile jail	Kara Berg	

	3	The Detroit News	Freighters lose power	Beth LeBlanc, Luke Ramseth, Grant S	
Headline Writing	1	Detroit Free Press	Headlines by Tanya Wildt	Tanya Wildt	The headlines pulled the most interesting aspects out of the story, telling readers exactly why they should be interested!
	2	Detroit Free Press	Headlines by Elissa Robinson	Elissa Robinson	
	3	Detroit Free Press	Headlines by Janet Graham	Janet Graham	
Health Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Health Reporting by Kristen Jordan Shamus	Kristen Jordan Shamus	Compelling long-form stories with striking personal details chronicling a young man's face transplant after a suicide attempt, complete with interviews with his parents, siblings and doctors; a thorough look at the impact of avian flu statewide; a thorough look at despair and despondency in Flint, Mich. years after efforts to replace lead lines; a group reporting effort on how one of the nation's worst mass shootings impacted ER doctors at the hospital that treated multiple victims, not all of whom survived.
	2	The Detroit News	Colorectal cancer rates nearly double	Hannah Mackay	
	3	Crain's Detroit Business	911 and mental distress — can more be done to avert tragedy?	Dustin Walsh	

	4	The Grand Rapids Press	Michigan woman dies from rare brain disease that's 100% fatal. She's not the first.	Rose White	
Investigative Reporting	1	The Grand Rapids Press	Horrible nursing home conditions	Matthew Miller	Matthew Miller's exceptional reporting exposes how one of the country's worst nursing home companies profits off the horrendous abuse of Michigan's most vulnerable residents. His stories are well-rounded, with personal stories, policy analysis and public records. Well done.
	2	The Detroit News	\$4,500 for a coffee maker? Grant spending draws scrutiny	Beth LeBlanc	
	3	Detroit Metro Times	The Closer	Steve Neavling	
	4	The Detroit News	Erroneous reports lead to charges for 2 families	Kara Berg	

News Photography	1	Detroit Free Press	Capturing heated moments of protest by Ryan Garza	Ryan Garza	<p>The winning photo of the University of Michigan protest captures a profoundly emotional and dynamic moment. The image masterfully balances technical excellence with raw storytelling. The composition draws the viewer's eye directly to the central figures: a protester being arrested by police officers.</p> <p>The image also excels in its context and relevance. Taken during a pro-Palestinian protest, it reflects timely social and political issues, including freedom of expression and campus activism. It not only documents an event but also invites viewers to reflect on the complexities of protest, authority, and human emotion.</p>
	2	The Detroit News	Never Surrender	Katy Kildee	
	3	The Detroit News	Saying Goodbye	Clarence Tabb Jr.	

Open-Government Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Investigating non-fatal police shootings by Violet Ikonomova	Violet Ikonomova	Violet Ikonomova's investigation into nonfatal shootings by Detroit police officers is exceptional. This investigation shows immense dedication and doggedness in obtaining public records, while also shining a spotlight on victims of wrongful police shootings who are too quickly forgotten. All law enforcement agencies should be doing internal investigations as thorough as Ikonomova's to ensure they are preventing fatal and life-altering mistakes.
	2	The Detroit News	Secret money flows in Lansing	Craig Mauger	
	3	The Detroit News	Nassar documents released	Kara Berg, Kim Kozlowski, Beth LeBlanc	
Page One Design- Newspapers	1	The Detroit News	Solar power	Genna Barner, James Hollar	A solid and well-balanced page design with great lede and headline treatment. Using an eclipse crescent for the 'o' in 'Detroit' on the masthead was creative 'frosting on the cake' - great job!
	2	The Detroit News	The depths of love	James Hollar	
	3	Detroit Free Press	"October Surprise," Ryan Ford	Ryan Ford	

	4	Crain's Detroit Business	Page 1, Michigan Central reopens	Karen Freese Zane	
Portrait Photography	1	The Detroit News	Mary Barra	Daniel Mears	<p>The first-place winning portrait of General Motors CEO Mary Barra at GM's Design Studio is a stunning example of how photography can transform a corporate subject into a work of modern art. The image's use of geometry and contrast is remarkable, with the staircase serving as both a structural and symbolic element, guiding the viewer's eye through the frame while emphasizing Barra's position.</p> <p>The interplay between the sleek staircase and the textured black brick wall creates a striking visual contrast, lending the photo an architectural elegance. Barra's poised stance on the staircase exudes confidence and leadership, perfectly complementing the bold lines and symmetry of the setting.</p>
	2	Crain's Detroit Business	Hilary Doe	Nic Antaya	
	3	The Detroit News	Model T Mustache	David Guralnick	

Sports Column Writing	1	Detroit Free Press	Sports Columns by Jeff Seidel	Jeff Seidel	I loved the variety of stories in this submission. Non-sports fans might've enjoyed reading these articles as well as the "sports-junky." That overall, in my opinion, gave this submission the nod for first place.
	2	The Detroit News	The best of Tony Paul	Tony Paul	
	3	The Detroit News	The best of Bob Wojnowski	Bob Wojnowski	
	4	The Detroit News	The best of John Niyo	John Niyo	
Sports Page Design- Newspaper	1	Detroit Free Press	"Forward Down the Field," Ryan Ford	Ryan Ford	Excellent layout, super double-truck graphic. It's a first place graphic that's a true keepsake- great job!
	2	The Detroit News	Headstrong	Richard Epps	
	3	The Detroit News	For the roses and more	Richard Epps	

Sports Photography- Newspapers	1	The Detroit News	Lions Head Stand	Daniel Mears	<p>This photograph transcends the mere documentation of a sporting moment, capturing the raw, unbridled joy of athletic achievement with stunning visual impact. The photographer presents us with a visceral tableau of celebration amidst the elements. St. Brown's audacious headstand, a gesture of pure, uninhibited elation, becomes the focal point, a defiant exclamation mark in the pouring rain.</p> <p>The composition is masterful. St. Brown's inverted form, suspended in mid-air, creates a striking visual contrast against the blurred, yet vibrant, backdrop of the roaring crowd at Lambeau Field. The photographer's ability to freeze this ephemeral moment of pure exuberance, while simultaneously conveying the</p>
	2	Grand Rapids Press	Head over heals	Isaac Ritchey	
	3	Michigan Advance	Lions Win!	Andrew Roth	

Sports reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Detroit Lions beat reporting by Dave Birkett	Dave Birkett	Punchy writing with strong images and no wasted words.
	2	The Grand Rapids Press	Calvin throttles Oberlin to kick off university's inaugural football season	Patrick Nothaft	
	3	The Detroit News	For Lions' Kalif Raymond, a life's work finds a home	John Niyo	
<b>PRINT CLASS B</b>					
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	The Flint Journal	Grand Blanc tornado	Dylan Goetz, Ron Fonger	
	2	Kalamazoo Gazette	'Hell broke loose': Residents in shock after reported tornadoes rip through Portage	Kalamazoo Gazette staff	

Community/Local News Reporters	1	The Flint Journal	Flint water crisis anniversary	Flint Journal staff	. Through vivid firsthand accounts, this series captures the human cost of the Flint water crisis, elevating the voices of residents who fought for justice while exposing the failures of government officials. The article is both a testament to resilience and a damning indictment of systemic neglect, weaving together personal struggles, scientific findings, and policy failures with precision and depth. Its impact extends beyond remembrance—it serves as a crucial historical record and a call to prevent such tragedies in the future.
	2	Kalamazoo Gazette	Yes, housing really is more unaffordable in Kalamazoo — here's why	Brad Devereaux, Julie Mack, Scott Lev	
	3	The Bay City Times	State Theatre controversy	Cole Waterman, Joey Oliver	
	4	The Saginaw News	Saginaw United	Justin Engel	
	1	The Macomb Daily	Mobile Stability	Susan Smiley	Layered, human-centered reporting that underscores the need for reform.

Education Reporting	1	The Ann Arbor News	Concordia University coverage	Samuel Dodge	Compelling reporting about the near-collapse of a local university, showing everything from the money troubles to student perspectives.
	2	The Jackson Citizen Patriot	Jackson Public Schools texting scandal	Mitchell Kukulka	
	3	The Ann Arbor News	Town v. gown series	Samuel Dodge, Makayla Coffee, Ryan	
	4	The Oakland Press	Spend it or lose it; FAFSA delays	Matthew Fahr	
Environment Reporting	1	The Macomb Daily	Amy's Quest	Gina Joseph	
Feature Page Design	1	The Oakland Press	Say What?!	Joe Pas	

Feature Photography	1	Flint Journal	Eclipse masks	Jake May	<p>The winning photograph brilliantly captures a moment where childhood wonder intersects with cosmic spectacle. What immediately strikes viewers is the powerful juxtaposition of the ordinary and the extraordinary—a familiar playground setting transformed into something otherworldly by the children's ritual-like arrangement and their handcrafted solar viewing apparatus.</p> <p>The photographer demonstrates exceptional timing and compositional skill, arranging the cross-legged children in a way that evokes ancient ceremonial gatherings while maintaining the authentic spontaneity of childhood. The vibrant, individual expressions on each paper plate mask reveal both the children's artistic personalities and their</p>
	2	Ann Arbor News	Lightning strikes	Jacob Hamilton	

Feature Reporting	1	Kalamazoo Gazette	His family was fleeing war in Gaza. The same night, he was killed in Kalamazoo.	Brad Devereaux	A heartbreaking account of how despite a Palestinian family escaped war in Gaza, their loved one still ended up dying in the one place they thought would be safe. Written sensitively and beautifully. Thank you.
	2	The Macomb Daily	Keeping Up the Fight	Gina Joseph	
	3	The Bay City Times	From Titanic wreck to presidential yacht, Bay City shipbuilder left mark on history	Joey Oliver	
General News Reporting	1	The Ann Arbor News	Towing is big business in Ann Arbor. Some call it 'hostile suburbanism.'	Ryan Stanton	
	2	The Ann Arbor News	Ann Arbor restaurant owners fear closures	Makayla Coffee	
	3	The Morning Sun	Anishinaabek Caucus applauds Nessel's task force	Sue Knickerbocker Field	
Headline Writing	1	The Macomb Daily	Jail, Wildcats!, The Sun, On Your Mark, 2024-Ward	David Grocki	Fun and creative, while also straightforward, headlines. Well done!
	2	Michigan Alum	Michigan Alum headlines - Jeremy Carroll	Jeremy Carroll	
Health Reporting	1	Macomb Daily	Taking turf to task	Gina Joseph	
	2	The Oakland Press	Ticks, Mosquitos, Flu and the Inflatable colon	Anne Runkle	
Investigative Reporting	1	The Flint Journal	Flint on Fire	Ron Fonger, Matthew Miller	
	2	The Oakland Press	Voter Rolls Scrutiny; Vetting Challenges	Peg McNichol	

	3	The Ann Arbor News	Adriana's final hours: Details emerge in missing girl's death at Ann Arbor high school??	Jordyn Pair	
	4	Muskegon Chronicle	Timothy's tragic story: Teen murdered by mom exposes troubling holes in child welfare system	Brad Massman	

News Photography	1	Jackson Citizen Patriot	Mourning Seth	J. Scott Park	<p>The winning image captures an intensely personal moment of grief with both sensitivity and documentary power. The photographer has created a visual narrative that speaks to both an individual tragedy and broader social realities.</p> <p>What distinguishes this photograph is its delicate balance of intimacy and context. The woman's posture and expression convey profound loss in a way that invites empathy without exploiting her vulnerability. Her presence beside the memorial creates a visual dialogue between the living and what remains of the deceased—the carefully arranged mementos telling the story of a life beyond its tragic end.</p> <p>The composition thoughtfully</p>
	2	Kalamazoo Gazette	Tornado damage	Devin Anderson-Torrez	

Page One Design	1	The Oakland Press	Page One Design: Solidarity	Jeff Hoard	A solid page design with good placement of the hed within the lead photo and good dekhed. Good job.
	2	The Oakland Press	Page One Design: Biden pulls out of race	Joe Gray	
	3	The Oakland Press	Guilty.Guilty.Guilty.Guilty.	Emily Ridener	

Portrait Photography	1	MLive.com/Flint Journal	Super bowl dreams	Jake May	<p>The first-place winning portrait of 83-year-old Larry Benjamin lying in hospice care with blue-dyed hair, is a deeply poignant and visually stunning image. The photograph masterfully combines powerful storytelling with artistic composition, capturing a moment that is both intimate and symbolic.</p> <p>The striking contrast between the blues and whites creates a visual harmony that draws the viewer's eye while emphasizing the emotional weight of the scene. The soft natural light falling across his body adds a gentle warmth, enhancing the tenderness of the moment without detracting from its gravity. The texture of Larry's hands and arms, juxtaposed against the smooth fabric of the jersey,</p>
	2	Flint Journal	First day of school	Jake May	
	3	Saginaw News	Trump	Kaytie Boomer	

Sports Photography	1	Ann Arbor News	Mud bowl	Jacob Hamilton	<p>In this extraordinary photograph, the raw essence of collegiate competition is distilled into a single, breathtaking moment—the 90th Michigan Mud Bowl transformed from a simple fraternity football match into an epic tableau of youthful exuberance and athletic determination.</p> <p>The winning image captures a heart-stopping instant of athletic prowess: a fraternity brother suspended mid-air while an opponent lunges to tackle him through a sea of thick, churning mud. The photographer's impeccable timing freezes this moment of athletic struggle, transforming a chaotic muddy contest into a near-classical composition of motion and tension.</p> <p>What elevates this photograph beyond mere</p>
	2	Jackson Citizen Patriot	Struck	Rebecca Villagracia	

Sports reporting	1	The Ann Arbor News	Consumed: Restoring Michigan basketball the new obsession of Dusty May	Andrew Kahn	This story helps the reader understand who May is and how he became the coach he is today. Well-organized story with great use of details throughout.
	2	The Macomb Daily	Six years later, Lincoln's coach has proven himself; 'IN THE GAME'; A tale of two Blackwells	Brayden McAtamney	
	3	Michigan Alum	How New Rules Helped Fuel U-M's National Title Run	Jeremy Carroll, Steve Zoski	
<b>PRINT CLASS C</b>					
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	Detroit Jewish News	"Goodman Acker Law Firm Vandalized"	Danny Schwartz	Well written and thoroughly reported story on an act of vandalism that outraged a community.
	2	C & G Newspapers	Priests move to close St. Germaine despite fundraising efforts	Alyssa Ochss	
	3	Grosse Pointe Times	Gearheads make district history scoring silver medals at international competition	K. Michelle Moran	

Community/Local News Report	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	Who's Got The Kids?	Stephanie Steinberg	Excellent article, very well written and filled with good statistics. Writer did extensive research locally and nationally on the child care crisis and then put the human face on the story by including families and working moms faced with the dilemma of taking care of their children. Package includes good information on where to go for help, who to contact and how parents can get involved. Very good community article. Nice photos and layout made the package even better. Kudos to a good writer. The story is very readable, timely and helpful.
	2	C & G Newspapers	Animal rescue in crisis after its Facebook account is closed	Andy Kozlowski	
	3	Michigan Chronicle	Block Clubs Are One of the Few Threads Holding Together Detroit's Underserved Communities	Ebony JJ Curry	
	4	C & G Newspapers	St. Clair Shores leaders respond to double-voting allegations	Alyssa Ochss	

Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	1	Woodward Talk	Ferndale bar lives to see another day	Michael Koury	Good reporting on the potential loss of a community business with interesting insight on the transfers of liquor licenses.
Cover Design	1	Detroit Jewish News	"Bearing Witness"	Michelle Sheridan	Photo immediately shows the reader why Israel needs help and exactly what its citizens are facing,
	2	Detroit Jewish News	"We Remember"	Michelle Sheridan	
	3	Downtown Publications	Restaurant inspections	Chris Grammer	
Editorial Writing	1	Michigan Chronicle	Black Men, It's Time to Show Our Support for Black Women	Jeremy Allen	A very powerful editorial, offering a strong opinion backed with research and historical insight.
Education Reporting	1	Detroit Jewish News	"Landmark Settlement"	Barbara Lewis	A revealing story that illustrates the plaintiff's legal journey to establish more equitable educational opportunities not only for Jewish students but those from other faiths.
	2	Grosse Pointe Times	Language teacher brings the world to her students	K. Michelle Moran	
	3	Grosse Pointe Times	CEO dishes about school food service during visit to North	K. Michelle Moran	

Environment Reporting	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	Detroit Underwater	Drew Saunders	Excellent depth and the voices of people affected come through. A better way to get into the story would be starting with the third paragraph to show rather than tell.
	2	Downtown Publications	Flouride: Age-Old Controversy	Stacy Gittleman	
	3	C&G Newspapers	Animals of Metro Detroit	Dean Vaglia	
	4	Michigan Chronicle	Urgent Action Needed to Combat Detroit's Ongoing Air Quality Crisis	Ebony JJ Curry	
Explanatory Story	1	Detroit Jewish News	"On the March" -- A brief history of America's Labor Movement and its Jewish Leaders.	Mike Smith	AN excellent, readable and informative history of the American labor movement and the Jewish contribution to its cause.
Feature Page Design- Newspapers	1	Detroit Jewish News	"Mixing Traditions"	Kaitlyn Iezzi	Clever use of photo to draw reader's eye straight into the story. Colors blend with subject's jacket and white letters on black background makes for easy read.
Feature Page Design- Newspapers Only		Detroit Jewish News	"Unstoppable" - Matisyahu Feature Story	Michelle Sheridan	The Unstoppable headline was the best part of the design. The photo was interesting.

Feature Photography	1	The Detroit Writing Room	Motor City Night Lights	Kendall DeLaine	The photo evokes action, color, composition, and speed without showing cars or people. Imaginative use of lighting and lens to make a compelling image.
	2	The Detroit Writing Room	Cycling By	Damon Primus Jr.	
	3	edibleWOW	Oysters	Chuk Nowak	
	4	The Detroit Writing Room	Birthday Bash	Alexia Stephenson	
Feature Reporting	1	C&G Newspapers	Behind the Wheel: Camping trails from the dusty roads of the Southwest to the Atlantic City Boardwalk	Maria Allard	What a pleasure to read. The crazily exact details up high kept me reading to see where they came from. After that, a childhood worth of great stories.
	2	Grosse Pointe Times	'I'm just like every other kid' As regional youth ambassador, Grosse Pointe Woods boy raises awareness after own diagnosis with Type 1 diabetes	K. Michelle Moran	
	3	Detroit Jewish News	"A Second Home, A Second Family"	Danny Schwartz	
General Column Writing	1	Detroit Jewish News	Mike Smith's "Looking Back" Columns	Mike Smith	These columns are a fascinating voyage through Jewish history, finding interesting stories with great depth from the newspaper's archives.
	2	Detroit Jewish News	Sy Manello's "Just For Fun" Columns	Sy Manello	

General News Reporting	1	C & G Newspapers	City Hall conference room named after Lindell Ross	Andy Kozlowski	What could have been a routine story about the honoring of a former city council member is transformed into thorough background reporting that sets the stage for the councilman's reflections on the times.
	2	C&G Newspapers	Fallen GIs remembered an ocean away	Maria Allard	
Headline Writing	1	Detroit Jewish News	David Sachs' Headlines: Music Class to Moot Court; Buy the Books!; A Young Soldier's Soul; A Groundswell of Solidarity; Thank God It's Friday!	David Sachs	
Health Reporting	1	Novi Note	Novi police officer's wife spreading awareness after breast cancer diagnosis	Charity Meier	What made this story compelling was the human element. The second paragraph would make a better lead, but overall the voices of the patient, her husband, doctors and the use of data came together to shine light on a less common form of breast cancer. Katie's and Adam's courage in telling their story could help others. The writer did a good job of letting them speak.

	2	Downtown Publications	Food Safety: Government Inspections	Mark Stowers	
Inside Page Design- Newspaper	1	Detroit Jewish News	"Michigan's First Klezmer Festival"	Kaitlyn Iezzi	Great two-page spread. Curved photo boxes made the portraits of entertainers more interesting. The "flood light" effect across the top helped connect the varied musical styles visitors would hear.
	2	Detroit Jewish News	"We Remember"	Michelle Sheridan	
Magazine Spread Design	1	edibleWOW	Beyond Barbecue	Hannah Gerig Meyer, Chuk Nowak	Using TWO photographs gives readers view of staff and available food choices. Red highlighted headline also draws attention.
	2	edibleWOW	Oysters feature	Hannah Gerig Meyer, Chuk Nowak	
Open-Government Reporting	1	Woodward Talk	Ferndale voters reject Headlee millage restoration	Michael Koury	Solid coverage on an important local taxing issue.
Sports Column Writing	1	Michigan Chronicle	Why University of Michigan Football Coach Sherrone Moore Had the Best Month in College Football; Thank You, Detroit Lions, for a Season to Remember; Detroit-Native Scott Perry Should Be the Pistons' New Head of Basketball Operations	Jeremy Allen	Allen provides solid background to support his points, and he has a nice writing style that will appeal to even the most casual fan.

Sports reporting	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	Bless You Boys	Bill Dow	Bless You Boys by Jack Thomas relies on deft writing, vivid details, historic context, and updated quotes from fans and players to capture the magical spirit of the Detroit Tigers circa 1984. Thomas describes the team's meteoric start to the season, the glee of fans, a groundskeeper's frequent dancing, and the debut of the wave. He even touches on the stadium's design and how it helped create a season that still inspires fans - and writers today. Thomas includes many interesting details in a story that reads easily.
<b>PRINT CLASS D</b>					
Cover Design	1	Michigan Alum	Summer 2024 - When Pride Prevailed	Katie Grimm	Creative treatment of historical photos and utilization of solid color blocks over background photos to offset the focus images in an otherwise black and white photo collage. A well-balanced design.
	2	Michigan Alum	Fall 2024 - Popcorn U	Katie Grimm	
	3	Michigan Super Lawyers	The Rockweiler	Scott Stewart	

Feature Reporting	1	Michigan Super Lawyers	The Rockweiler	Anne Brash	Nice profile on a lawyer standing up for the "little guy." I particularly found Rockind's quote on the legal system's place in society poignant represented with jury trials really interesting. Well done.
	2	Michigan Alum	When Pride Prevailed	Katherine Fiorillo	
	3	Michigan Alum	The American Dream Kid	Jeremy Carroll	
Health Reporting	1	Michigan Alum	A Trip to Healing	Katherine Fiorillo	Revealing interviews with a researcher, graduate student in social work, counselor and others connected to the University of Michigan working in the field of psychedelics.
Magazine Spread Design	1	Michigan Alum	Meet Gen Z's Big Sister	Katie Grimm	An excellent photo and strong layout over this 2-page spread, utilizing angles to direct design flow into the story. Good font selection and color choices. Overall, an excellent composition.
	2	Michigan Alum	Business is Finished	Scott Pryor	
	3	Michigan Alum	The American Dream Kid	Katie Grimm	

Portrait Photography	1	Michigan Alum	Coming Up Roses	Jeremy Carroll	<p>The winning photograph captures an exquisitely intimate moment amid the frenzy of victory. What distinguishes this image is the photographer's remarkable ability to find a quiet pocket of genuine human connection in what is typically a cacophony of celebration.</p> <p>The composition is masterful—Jenkins and Goode seated on the field, their powerful defensive frames now at rest, creating a symmetrical focal point that draws the viewer directly to the key gentle gesture: two roses tapped together in a toast. The juxtaposition of these fierce competitors engaged in such a delicate ritual creates visual poetry that transcends the typical sports action shot.</p> <p>Color plays a crucial role in</p>
	2	Michigan Alum	American Dream Kid	Jessica Yurasek	
	3	The Detroit Writing Room	Brotherly Love	Alexia Stephenson	
	OPEN				

Automotive Reporting	1	CNBC.com	Michael Wayland's Auto Reporting	Michael Wayland, Michael Wayland,	
	2	The Detroit News	GM, Ultium paid \$600M in tax incentives before jobs created	Beth LeBlanc	
	3	The Detroit News	Is fed money enough to reopen closed auto plant?	Luke Ramseth	
	4	Detroit Free Press	EVs and the auto industry -- Detroit Free Press Auto Team	Jamie LaReau, Phoebe Wall Howard,	
Car Review	1	The Detroit News	Henry Payne reviews	Henry Payne	
Criticism	1	Detroit Free Press	Lyndsay C. Green -- Food and cultural criticism	Lyndsay C. Green	Green's writing is rooted deeply in research and heavy on reporting, but offers insights that are authoritative. Green's style is more akin to feature column writing, but her engagement with fraught and challenging issues in the Detroit area is delightfully insightful--giving the reader firm examples to back up her claims.
	2	Hour Detroit Magazine	Danny Palumbo's Restaurant Criticism	Danny Palumbo	
	3	The Detroit News	Music biopics are hotter than ever. How long can they last?	Adam Graham	
	4	Hour Detroit Magazine	Jack Thomas's Restaurant Reviews	Jack Thomas	
Editorial Cartoon	1	The News-Herald	Life Downriver	Dan Saad	

Informational Graphics	1	Model D	Mapping Detroit (Series)	Alex B. Hill	An interesting example of plotting data that might benefit from further visual interpolation. Nevertheless, a good job researching and visualizing data.
Videography	1	The Detroit News	Mackinac Island, a Michigan Marvel	Andy Morrison	Excellent visuals, pacing, use of sound and archival content.
	2	MLive.com	Michigan's beloved whitefish on brink of disaster	Lori Chapman, Santino Mattioli, Garr	
	3	The Detroit News	The Boathouse	David Guralnick	
	4	MLive.com	Couples celebrate 10 years since Michigan briefly legalized same-sex marriage	Kaytie Boomer, Lori Chapman, Rose	
<b>SOROURNER TRUTH AWARD</b>					
	1	The Saginaw News	Michigan State Police were sent into cash-strapped towns to help. Beatings, complaints and lawsuits followed.	Gus Burns, Cole Waterman	This investigative report exemplifies the core of why journalism matters: shining a light on injustice. Great use of FOIA and excellent at balancing viewpoints of the many stakeholders. It also offered solutions for officials.
	2	WJBK Fox Detroit	Rhythms of Reform: Cultural Currents in Curbing Crime	Hilary Golston	
	3	Detroit Free Press	Asian Americans in metro Detroit facing bias	Niraj Warikoo	
	4	Detroit Free Press	Reporting and Commentary on Racial Justice by Darren Nichols	Darren Nichols	