

Category Name	Award	Organization	Entry Title	Credits	Comments (First Place Only)
RADIO					
Arts Reporting/Criticism	1	WDET	Container on the Metro: Elonte Davis	Tia Graham, Conor Anderson, Jose Llanas, David Leins	This was a very compelling story that was well told by Davis and his mom. Why he wanted to become a photographer and the reaction from others as he took shots of everyday life was great, as was the idea of making a liquor store a gallery.
Arts Reporting/Criticism	2	WDET	Container on the Metro: Bev Love	Tia Graham, Conor Anderson, Jose Llanas, David Leins	
Arts Reporting/Criticism	3	WDET	Container on the Metro: Ijanja Cortez	Tia Graham, Conor Anderson, Jose Llanas, David Leins	
Arts Reporting/Criticism	4	WDET	Container on the Metro: La Cecille	Tia Graham, Conor Anderson, Jose Llanas, David Leins	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	1	WDET	CuriosID: Did Automakers Sabotage Public Transit?	Quinn Klinefelter	An excellent deep dive into a painful subject in the U.S., casting a critical eye to the region's defining industry. Very well done!
Autos Reporting/Reviews	2	WDET	Ford Motor Company Opens New World Headquarters Building	Alex McLenon	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	WDET	Tesla Takedown	Alex McLenon	The voicing, writing and topic of this story are good and the natural sound is integrated well. The photos and anchor intro/outro are a nice touch.
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	2	WDET	No Kings Protest 061425	Russ McNamara	

Community/Local News Reporting	1	WDET	Dearborn: Coffee Capital	Bre'Anna Tinsley	This was a really cool story! I enjoyed listening to it.
Consumer/Watchdog/Investigative Reporting	1	WDET	Trump Tariff Effects	Russ McNamara	Excellent reporting! As someone not from Michigan, this was a very interesting perspective that covered a lot of ground on a topic that impacts every area very differently. Great work.
Education Reporting	1	WDET	DSA West African Dance Students Bring Kwanzaa to the Community	Sascha Raiyn	This is a great story and the use of sound from the performance is perfect. Keep telling these stories that might not get as much coverage as they deserve.
Feature Reporting	1	WDET	CuriosiD: What's the Oldest Bar in Detroit?	Ryan Patrick Hooper	Fun and lighthearted. The audio felt shorter than it was, which means I was engaged. Interesting characters. I would have preferred to have a link in which I could judge the audio that didn't start with an ad.
Feature Reporting	2	WDET	What Up Doe?	Russ McNamara	
Feature Reporting	3	WDET	WDET Origins: 75th Anniversary	Jerome Vaughn	

General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	WDET	Shustho: Mind, Body, and Spirit	Nargis Rahman	An interesting and important topic that I would not have encountered otherwise. Very detailed in four parts. Good voicing and use of natural sound. A long piece like the first part would benefit from some excellent microphone in-person audio. The audio of the interviews in the other three parts improved on that.
General News/Enterprise Reporting	2	WDET	CuriosID: Why Isn't Lake St. Clair a "Great Lake"?	Pat Batcheller	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	3	WDET	Paul Whelan Trapped by Red Tape	Quinn Klinefelter	
News/Public Affairs (regular scheduled programs)	1	WDET	The Metro: Hmong detained in Michigan - Lue Yan and execution	Robyn Vincent, Sam Corey, Tia Graham, Cary Junior II, David Leins	An important, interesting discussion that is relatively unique to the place where the story is being told. I appreciated the different voices and the solid explanation of what's happening and why. Great work!
News/Public Affairs (regular scheduled programs)	2	WDET	The Metro: A voyage toward Gaza and into custody	Robyn Vincent, Sam Corey, Tia Graham, Cary Junior II, David Leins	
News/Public Affairs (regular scheduled programs)	3	WDET	The Metro: Michigan ICE detention Ernesto Cuevas Enciso	Robyn Vincent, Sam Corey, Tia Graham, Cary Junior II, David Leins	
Newscast	1	WDET	704am WDET news 101625	Pat Batcheller	A solid, comprehensive newscast treatment of election coverage complete with vox pop. Anchor has an effortless, relatable delivery and the newscast itself is very well-structured.

Newscast	2	WDET	704 pm WDET News 110525	Alex McLenon	
Newscast	3	WDET	1104 am WDET news 092525	Amanda LeClaire	
Newscast	4	WDET	804 am WDET news 021825	Pat Batcheller	
Podcasts	1	BridgeDetroit	Detroit Next	Malachi Barrett, Bryce Huffman, Stephen Henderson, Khary Frazier	A strong podcast, well-produced with a good interview with a mayoral candidate.
Sports Reporting	1	WDET	Detroit Grand Prix Secures New Contract Despite Uncertainties	Alex McLenon	Lots of interesting angles and voices in this report.
Sports Reporting	2	WDET	Lions Fans Struggle to Believe Team is Super Bowl Favorite	Quinn Klinefelter	A good mix of fans hoping for a better outcome for the team that year.
TELEVISION					
Arts Reporting/Criticism	1	One Detroit; Detroit PBS	Chris Jordan for One Detroit	Chris Jordan	Excellent coverage of the arts. These stories give wonderful insight into the industry in Detroit. Well done.
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	WXYZ-TV	Grand Blanc Twp. Church Attack	Faraz Javed	
Community/Local News Reporting	1	WJBKTV	The Karens	Lori Pinson	
Community/Local News Reporting	2	American Black Journal; Detroit PBS	Silence the Violence March & Rally	Daijah Moss, Bill Allesee, Jonathan Sessions, Nate Turner	
News/Public Affairs (regular scheduled programs)	1	American Black Journal; Detroit PBS	American Black Journal	Stephen Henderson, Daphne Hughes, Dain Evans	Insightful and compelling. Great sources and a strong story.
Environment Reporting	1	WXYZ-TV	CUSTOMS CONTRABAND	Faraz Javed, Brandon Speagle	
Environment Reporting	2	Great Lakes Now; Detroit PBS	Whitefish are disappearing. What can we do?	Rob Green, Kelly House	

General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	One Detroit; Detroit PBS	Michigan's first Pride: LGBTQ+ historymakers look back on Christopher Street Detroit '72 march	Bill Kubota Zosette Guir, Chris Jordan	
Category Name	Award	Organization	Entry Title	Credits	Comments
DIGITAL					
Arts reporting/criticism	1	Oakland Press	Arts/Entertainment features	Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff	The comfortable historical knowledge of the regional music scene evident in Graff's feature on Third Man Records and a polished profile of Richard Thomas are the strongest parts of his first place entry.
Arts reporting/criticism	2	Hour Detroit Magazine	Arts reporting and criticism by Natalia Holtzman	Natalia Holtzman	
Arts reporting/criticism	3	Independent Substack Journalist	Real Art Detroit	Kim Fay	
Arts reporting/criticism	4	BridgeDetroit	Culture Canvas	Micah Walker	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	1	The Detroit News	Chinese auto competition	Breana Noble	Excellent writing, engaging approach to topic and great sources give the author the win by a nose in a very competitive division.
Autos Reporting/Reviews	2	The Detroit News	EV battery boom fizzles	Luke Ramseth	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	3	Shifting Gears with Phoebe Wall Howard (substack)	Key players and their complicated roles	Phoebe Wall Howard	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	4	Crain's Detroit Business	Automakers stop tracking spending with minority-owned suppliers amid DEI pullback	Kurt Nagl	

Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	Bridge Michigan	Sandisk	Paula Gardner	Huge breaking news business story that led the reporter to dig into records which uncovered a much larger story. Well done!
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	2	Bridge Michigan	Trump changes hit Michigan	Lauren Gibbons, Kelly House, Isabel Lohman, Ron French	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	Walmart attack suspect a danger fell for years, fell through the cracks	Eli Newman	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	4	Shifting Gears with Phoebe Wall Howard (substack)	Red Herring sinks, sailors fight to stay alive	Phoebe Wall Howard	
Community/Local News Reporting	1	NowKalamazoo	Profits from Prisoners	Kristanitie May, Raine Kuch, Reid Williams	The reporter did a masterful job of going beyond the usual bureaucracy of municipal contracts to uncover a unique story about an underrepresented community.
Community/Local News Reporting	2	Chalkbeat Detroit	Local reporting on Detroit schools	Hannah Dellinger	
Community/Local News Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	A stampede for child care in Traverse city reveals heartbreaking crisis	Ron French	
Community/Local News Reporting	4	BridgeDetroit	Detroit police don't prioritize auto thefts. Some victims are taking matters into their own hands	Kayleigh Lickliter	

Consumer/Watchdog/Investigative Reporting	1	Outlier Media	Detroit's crypto landlord	Aaron Mondry, Cydni Elledge, Matt Daniels	An exceptional dive into a topic that could be difficult for some readers to wrap their heads around. Excellent sourcing including data, experts and more. Well explained and written, with clean copy and visuals.
Consumer/Watchdog/Investigative Reporting	2	Shifting Gears with Phoebe Wall Howard (substack)	Fallout when a high-profile sailor is found guilty of child sexual assault	Phoebe Wall Howard	
Consumer/Watchdog/Investigative Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	Singapore owns 5 percent of the Upper Peninsula	Simon Schuster	
Consumer/Watchdog/Investigative Reporting	4	MLive Media Group	Invisible Workforce	Rose White, Lucas Smolcic Larson	
Digital-Media Presentation	1	Outlier Media	Meet Your Mayor Quiz	Briana Rice, Kate Abbey-Lambertz, Cydni Elledge, Dajah Callen, Patrick Sier	This is the kind of smart, engaging digital journalism that really connects with audiences. It feels familiar, much like a social quiz you might see on Facebook, but it's grounded in real reporting and transparency. Features such as showing candidate alignment when you skip a question, and letting users go back or reset answers, reflect a thoughtful design focused on the user. It's a strong example of how digital tools can inform and engage people without losing credibility.
Digital-Media Presentation	2	Freep.com, Detroit Free Press	50th Anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald	Detroit Free Press Staff	

Digital-Media Presentation	3	The Detroit News	Astronomy buffs fight to save observatory	Tom Gromak	
Digital-Media Presentation	4	Bridge Michigan	Michigan bucket list: sea plane to Isle Royale	Bridge Staff	
Editorial Writing	1	Michigan Advance	Jon King Editorials	Jon King	Imagine a politician who was against chalk art! Some might say that Jon King got lucky with his subject matters (the U.S. Army calls it a "Target Rich Environment") this year, but the writing here was head-and-shoulders over the competition. Doubtless a must read in Michigan.
Education Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Losing grant funding	Matt Miller	Fantastic reporting!
Education Reporting	2	Chalkbeat Detroit	Michigan and Detroit education reporting	Hannah Dellinger	
Education Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	More free money for college, but where are the students?	Mike Wilkinson, Isabel Lohman, Kim Kozlowski, Justin Hinkley	
Education Reporting	4	Bridge Michigan	Michigan's education crisis	Isabel Lohman, Mike Wilkinson, Ron French	
Environment Reporting	1	Bridge Michigan	Iconic whitefish on verge of collapse as Great Lakes biodiversity crisis deepens	Kelly House	This package does an excellent job of showing an issue through the eyes of real people affected by it. The issue's significance is established early and clearly, stories are paced and written well and feel focused despite a wide scope.
Environment Reporting	2	MLive Media Group	Using fire to fight wildfires	Sheri McWhirter	
Environment Reporting	3	MLive Media Group	Why Old Dams Are Creating New Problems in Michigan	Lucas Smolcic, Garret Ellison	

Environment Reporting	4	Crain's Detroit Business	Action to mitigate climate change is tough — and it just got harder	John Gallagher	
Explanatory Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Tax incentives for billionaires	Rose White	A really well done explanation of a complex topic, and one that quietly affects so many communities. These stories serve the public interest by using real examples and following local money, and plain language and formatting makes it super understandable for readers.
Explanatory Reporting	2	NowKalamazoo	Bad 'news': Mysteries, misrepresentation, and misinformation	Andrew Minegar, James Sanford	
Explanatory Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	Michigan Medicaid has ballooned. Cuts are likely. Here's what to know	Robin Erb	
Explanatory Reporting	4	Bridge Michigan	Fact check: What's true, false and misleading about Michigan's education slide	Mike Wilkinson, Ron French	
Feature Photography	No Winner				
Feature Photography	No Winner				
Feature Photography	No Winner				
Feature Photography	No Winner				

Feature Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Kevin Graves — an Electric Forest death	Gus Burns	<p>Gripping reporting on the struggles of a mother and father seeking closure after their son's disappearance. The reporter's trusting relationship with the family is evident, and it pays off in powerful, empathetic storytelling. Including Kaela Lull's story strengthens the series.</p> <p>The only notable gap is the absence of insight from Kevin Graves's sister. Her perspective could have added another emotional layer to this series.</p> <p>There also remains significant unanswered questions over how the investigators failed to locate Graves's body for so long, and why cadaver dogs were unsuccessful. Those issues may merit a separate follow-up piece.</p> <p>As it stands, this is an impressive, information-rich, and compelling series that highlights strong reporting and writing skill.</p>
Feature Reporting	2	Outlier Media	Miquelle West grew up with a mother in prison. Then she helped set her free.	Erin Perry, Cydni Elledge, SaMya Overall, William Jenkins	
Feature Reporting	3	Planet Detroit	Stuck and Sick in the Motor City	Eleanore Catolico	

Feature Reporting	4	Bridge Michigan	Fentanyl came to a tiny UP town. Then the funerals began	Ron French	
Food Reporting/Reviews	1	BridgeDetroit	Detroit's Clique still the spot for hot cakes, hot takes	Jena Brooker	
Food Reporting/Reviews	2	Midwest Mexican; TASTE	Reporting on Detroit's Mexican Food Community in a Year of Strain	Serena Maria Daniels	
Food Reporting/Reviews	3	Crain's Detroit Business	Jay Davis	Jay Davis	
Food Reporting/Reviews	4	Oakland County Times	Oakland County Restaurant Quest	Crystal Proxmire	
General Column Writing	1	Detroit Free Press	Detroit's missing voters: Voter turnout in Detroit	Nancy Kaffer, Kristi Tanner, Khalil AlHajal	These columns rang the alarm when nearly 80 percent of voters didn't go to the polls in local elections. And the in-depth reporting included comparing local voting patterns to "peer cities." This took a lot of time, a lot of work, a lot of research, and somehow the whole thing was still readable. Usually this kind of effort comes with a warning to subscribers: DO NOT READ, FOR CONTEST PURPOSES ONLY. These columns, however, were probably devoured by the locals.
General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Immigration detention in Michigan	Rose White, Gus Burns	Excellent reporting on an important topic. Good job following the money!

General News/Enterprise Reporting	2	Shifting Gears with Phoebe Wall Howard (substack)	DC policies trigger rapid reponses on land and water	Phoebe Wall Howard	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	3	Michigan Advance	A Black man says officials in Howell, Michigan, targeted him after he confronted white supremacists	Jon King	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	4	MLive Media Group	Amish buggy crashes	Gus Burns	
Headline Writing	1	Bridge Michigan	AWWHELLNO: See which license plates are 2DAMFUN for Michigan	Jonathan Oosting	
Headline Writing	2	Freep.com/Detroit Free Press	Digital headline writing	Tanya Wildt	
Health Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Paraquat: Lethal and Legal	Rose White, Matt Miller, Maggie Kates	Great work!
Health Reporting	2	Planet Detroit	In-depth public health reporting for Detroiters that offers solutions	Nina Ignaczak, Brian Allnutt, Ethan Bakuli, David Sands	
Health Reporting	3	MLive Media Group	Mental health complaints go nowhere	Gus Burns	
Health Reporting	4	Bridge Michigan	Aging in Michigan	Robin Erb, Ron French	
News Photography	1	MLive Media Group	Iced	Kaytie Boomer	The wide shot was a great choice to show the extent of the damage and include stop signs that made it look like a spot color photo
News Photography	2	WDET	No Kings Protest 102025	Russ McNamara	
News Photography	3	WDET	June No Kings Protest 061425	Russ McNamara	
News Photography	4	MLive Media Group	Schurr	Joel Bissell	
News Videography	1	Bridge Michigan	How we know if water is safe to swim	Eli Newman	

News Videography	2	MLive Media Group	Not Playing: Hobby Horsing Goes Big in Small Town Michigan	Lori Chapman, Santino Mattioli, Neil Blake, Devin Anderson-Torrez	
News Videography	3	Bridge Michigan	Restocking Michigan waterways	Janelle James	
Open-Government Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	Inside Michigan's secret public bodies	Gus Burns	This work delved deep into an elected body that garners little attention but wields some real power. It shown light on a part of government that had previously been in the dark, and did so in an informative, interesting and well-written way. Excellent reporting and all-around work.
Open-Government Reporting	2	Bridge Michigan	Who funds Michigan lawmakers? Most get cash from PACs, not voters they represent	Simon Schuster	
Open-Government Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	Michigan quickly deletes government chats, raising transparency concerns	Simon Schuster	
Open-Government Reporting	4	Michigan Advance	Ethics concerns over double duty for legislative staff	Ben Solis	

Social Media Strategy	1	Bridge Michigan	Absenteeism	Isabel Lohman, Asha Lewis	I loved both of the two-part social media stories detailing critical education issues in Michigan. The story detailing the high rate of chronic absenteeism in Michigan's schools and what causes it was well done. It uses vertical video, was past faced, well researched, informative, and engaging. The second series on Michigan losing out to Mississippi of all states on being a top contender in education was equally as good, and this one was even more entertaining. These social media posts are very creative, funny, informative, and highly engaging.
Social Media Strategy	2	Bridge Michigan	Michigan bucket list videos	Laura Herberg	
Social Media Strategy	3	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's Detroit Business social media pivot	Emilia Tinajero, Matthew Pollock	
Sports Commentary	1	MLive Media Group	No Super Bowl, just bust: The Detroit Lions' new curse is playoff failure	Benjamin Raven	Insightful and thorough.
Sports Photography	1	MLive Media Group	Elite Eight loss	Neil Blake	This photo stands out from the typical jubilee shot
Sports Photography	2	MLive Media Group	BIG champs	Devin Anderson-Torrez	
Sports Photography	3	Bridge Michigan	Au Sable river race start	Josh Boland	
Sports Photography	4	MLive Media Group	Touchdown	Jacob Hamilton	
Sports Reporting	1	MLive Media Group	How 3 Lions saw their brotherhood come full circle in Detroit	Kory Woods	

Sports Reporting	2	MLive Media Group	The lone Wolf: How Michigan's 7-foot guard became college basketball's most unique player	Andrew Kahn	
Sports Reporting	3	Bridge Michigan	Ice fishing as an Olympic sport? On a frozen Michigan lake, they dare to dream	Laura Herberg	
Sports Videography	1	MLive Media Group	The Bridge Swim: Conquering the Mackinac Straits	Neil Blake, Joel Bissell, Santino Mattioli	
Sports Videography	2	Bridge Michigan	Au Sable boat race	Laura Herberg	
Web Design	1	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's Forum	Crain's Staff	Wonderful design. This brings the reader in and draws them down the page. It's smooth and well put-together.
PRINT CLASS A					
Arts Reporting/Criticism	1	Detroit Free Press	Reporting on the opera, federal cuts	Duante Beddingfield	The vivid writing in Beddingfield's broad-ranging entry fully exemplifies this competition's title: excellence in journalism. His submission combines investigative and analytical prowess in scrutinizing a major company's financial reversals with incisive and knowledgeable live arts criticism, before a comprehensive multi-level canvass of regional non-profits hit by the notorious Rescissions Act of 2025.
Arts Reporting/Criticism	2	Detroit Free Press	Leading arts coverage in metro Detroit	Julie Hinds	

Arts Reporting/Criticism	3	Detroit Free Press	'Mo' on Netflix breaks stereotypes, resonates with Michigan's Arab and Muslim communities	Nour Rahal	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	1	Detroit Free Press	Ford, tariff coverage coverage	Jamie L LaReau	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	2	Detroit Free Press	UAW coverage	Liam Rappleye	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	The Detroit News	Stabber targets Traverse City area Walmart	Aya Fayad, Jacob Carah, Robert Snell, Jennifer Chambers, George Hunter	This entry makes me feel sorry for the second-day story team who has to follow it. The reporting and editing staff turned every stone, found every detail and created a series of stories that, rather than repeated the information from other simultaneous work, made each highlight a unique angle to a developing story. In our current time, few outlets have the resources for this sort of effort. The News brings it in this coverage.
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	2	Detroit Free Press	Coverage of a church under siege in Grand Blanc	Detroit Free Press staff	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	3	The Grand Rapids Press	MISTRIAL: Hung jury for police officer Christopher Schurr in murder trial	Grand Rapids Press staff	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	4	The Grand Rapids Press	Walmart stabbing	Grand Rapids Press staff	

Community/Local News Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Two Square Miles	John Carlisle	In a very difficult category to judge -- every piece submitted was award-worthy -- this series was a clear winner. Lights out! What a fascinating and empathetic portrait of a community's rich ethnic history and how it's evolving. Great photos, too.
Community/Local News Reporting	2	Detroit Free Press	Dearborn communities in spotlight amid tensions	Niraj Warikoo	
Community/Local News Reporting	3	The Grand Rapids Press	Blacks in Grand Rapids - 10-year anniversary of Forbes piece	Brian Mc Vicar	
Community/Local News Reporting	4	The Detroit News	ICE draws scrutiny	Ben Warren, Apurva Mahajan	
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Fixing dangerous rails in Michigan prisons	Paul Egan	Magnificent investigative Reporting! Journalism that makes an impact!
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	2	The Detroit News	Auto insurer accused of taking vehicles, denying claims	Chad Livengood	
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	3	The Detroit News	Taxpayer cash flows to U.P. group	Craig Mauger, Beth LeBlanc	
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	4	Detroit Free Press	Fighting everyday scams	Susan Tompor	
Cover Design	1	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's Detroit Business Feb. 10 issue	Rodolfo Jimenez	Great visual timeline for an anniversary issue.
Cover Design	2	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40 issue	Rodolfo Jimenez	
Cover Design	3	The Detroit News	Gardening season	Diana McNary	

Editorial Writing	1	The Detroit News	On open meetings and Whitmer trips	Nolan Finley, Kaitlyn Buss, Nicole Cook	This is biting editorial writing. Which is getting more and more infrequent in the United States. From the governor's trips abroad to the open state senate seat, this kind of writing probably left some scar tissue in high political office. (NB: That's a good thing in editorial writing.)
Editorial Writing	2	Detroit Free Press	Detroit Free Press Editorials	Nancy Kaffer	
Editorial Writing	3	The Detroit News	On education reforms, auto industry	Nolan Finley, Kaitlyn Buss, Nicole Cook	
Education Reporting	1	The Detroit News	Classroom sizes push limits as reading falters	Craig Mauger	In a very tight category, this entry wound up on top because of its data collection and analysis. It is a great example of looking beyond the official numbers and finding the ones that truly explain what is going on.
Education Reporting	2	Detroit Free Press	Coverage of early childhood education	Beki San Martin	
Education Reporting	3	The Detroit News	The science of reading	Jennifer Pignolet	
Education Reporting	4	The Grand Rapids Press	More than 35,000 students in Michigan are homeless, schools are racing to find solutions.	Danielle James	
Environment Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	New frontiers, challenges as Michigan looks to harvest underground energy sources	Keith Matheny	Great voice in explaining what are obviously very well-researched and well-documented topics.

Environment Reporting	2	The Detroit News	Declining winters impact Great Lakes	Carol Thompson	
Explanatory Story	1	Detroit Free Press	Wages, taxes and roads: explaining it all, and exposing the holes	Clara Hendrickson	These stories offer clear, timely coverage of complicated topics, and they do a good job of showing both impact and many perspectives. I also appreciated how the numbers were used without negatively impacting readability. The package as a whole demonstrates the versatility that marks a great reporter.
Explanatory Story	2	Detroit Free Press	The Dark Side of AI	Tresa Baldas	
Explanatory Story	3	The Detroit News	A Michigan problem: Too many deer + too few hunters = stressed farmers	Candice Williams	
Feature Page Design- Newspapers Only	1	Detroit Free Press	Detroit Music History in the Making cover design	Julie Frady	This page absolutely pops. The bold typography and punchy color palette grab you right away, and the illustration adds energy and personality, elevating the design. What really works is how it brings those older photos to life — instead of feeling dated, they feel dynamic and central to the story. It's a great example of using design to enhance storytelling, not just decorate it.
Feature Page Design- Newspapers Only	2	The Detroit News	Captain America	Diana McNary	
Feature Page Design- Newspapers Only	3	The Detroit News	Blues festivals	Diana McNary	

Feature Page Design- Newspapers Only	4	Crain's Detroit Business	Crain's Forum	Rodolfo Jimenez	
Feature Photography	1	The Detroit News	Steaming through the steam	Andy Morrison	Striking photo at golden/blue hour. Good composition and sun as focal point for leading lines.
Feature Photography	2	Detroit Free Press	First Day of 7th Grade	Ryan Garza	
Feature Photography	3	The Detroit News	After a stroll in Detroit, a humanoid robot goes viral	David Guralnick	
Feature Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	After a parent's suicide, this camp helps kids cope	Georgea Kovanis, Mandi Wright	Heartbreaking and heartwarming. Appropriately part of "Firsts" and relatable.
Feature Reporting	2	The Detroit News	Cemetery turns into a ghost	Francis X. Donnelly	
Feature Reporting	3	Detroit Free Press	U.P. teen buys restaurant, becomes its only employee	John Carlisle	
Feature Reporting	4	Detroit Free Press	Car crash changes everything for high school golfers	Jeff Seidel	
Food Reporting Reviews	1	The Detroit News	Oysters, fudge and a magical year	Melody Baetens	
Food Reporting Reviews	2	Detroit Free Press	Unforgettable, essential coverage of what food means to Detroiters	Lyndsay C. Green	
Food Reporting Reviews	3	Detroit Free Press	Susan Selasky's food, dining reporting	Susan Selasky	
General Column Writing	1	The Detroit News	Daniel Howes columns	Daniel Howes	
General Column Writing	2	The Detroit News	Chad Livengood columns	Chad Livengood	
General Column Writing	3	Detroit Free Press	Columns by Nancy Kaffer	Nancy Kaffer	
General Column Writing	4	Detroit Free Press	'On Guard' for Detroiters	M.L. Elrick	

General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Threats, money problems and cops: Alleged cover-up may cripple Detroit's Irish epicenter	Dave Boucher	Is a corruption scandal in the city's Irish League more important than judicial scandals? Maybe not, but it's hard to beat the detailed reporting and compelling storytelling by Boucher. I couldn't wait to read on and see what happened next.
General News/Enterprise Reporting	2	The Detroit News	Oxford High survivor still recovering	Jennifer Chambers	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	3	The Detroit News	Growing unease: Michigan farmers grapple with inflation, low crop prices and tariffs	Candice Williams	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	4	Detroit Free Press	Michigan following NRA shooting guidelines from book that can't be found	Paul Egan	
Headline Writing	1	The Detroit News	Uplifting headlines	Steve Wilkinson	These headlines are fun and sharp. The wordplay shows, but never sacrifices clarity—the reader always understands the message. Lines like “Millionaires in America about a dime a dozen” and “Michigan U-pick farms ripe with optimism” balance cleverness with information. This confident voice enlivens the story without overdoing it.
Headline Writing	2	Detroit Free Press	Janet Graham: Clever, engaging headlines	Janet Graham	

Health Reporting	1	Detroit Free Press	Hyperbaric chamber fire coverage	Kristen Jordan Shamus, Andrea May Sahouri	Wow! Just wow! Theoretical possible, but who knew the probability! Heart wrenching story!
Health Reporting	2	The Grand Rapids Press	They got COVID-19 five years ago, and they don't know why they're still sick.	Justin Hicks	
Health Reporting	3	Detroit Free Press	The Michigan stories behind medical advancements	Kristen Jordan Shamus	
Health Reporting	4	The Detroit News	Pediatric flu deaths surge in Michigan	Anne Snabes	
Informational Graphics	1	Detroit Free Press	Long hauls	Ryan Ford	Very nice! The use of the blue, the logos, the numbers - this is a great way to enhance a feature story.
Inside Page Design- Newspapers Only	1	The Detroit News	Edmund Fitzgerald anniversary	James Hollar	
Inside Page Design- Newspapers Only	2	Detroit Free Press	'Route LX'	Ryan Ford	
Inside Page Design- Newspapers Only	3	The Detroit News	Pope Francis: Peace be with you	James Hollar	
News Photography	1	Detroit Free Press	In prayer, at scene of shooting	Ryan Garza	The foreground, middleground and background all tell an emotional story
News Photography	2	The Detroit News	Family mourns 4-year-old shooting victim	Katy Kildee	
News Photography	3	The Detroit News	Mourners pack funeral for two children who died in van	Clarence Tabb Jr.	
News Photography	4	The Detroit News	Dad seeks justice as boat club murder trial looms	Andy Morrison	
News Videography	1	Detroit Free Press	Inside grief camp: A place where kids who lost a parent to suicide	Mandi Wright, Georgea Kovanis, Brian Kaufman	

News Videography	2	The Detroit News	Michigan Marvels: John King Books has a 'secret,' owner says	Andy Morrison	
News Videography	3	The Detroit News	Michigan Marvels: The Detroit Masonic Temple	David Guralnick	
Open-Government Reporting	1-tie	Detroit Free Press	Detroit police shootings after nonviolent stops coverage	Violet Ikonomova	Great coverage on a difficult topic. Don't let up. Stay on this and keep reporting. Accountability on this issue is essential and the public needs to know the extent on both sides.
Open-Government Reporting	1-tie	The Detroit News	MEDC under scrutiny	Beth LeBlanc, Craig Mauger	Great investigative work that raises serious questions about influence donors are having on government decisions.
Open-Government Reporting	2	Detroit Free Press	Michigan 'Prisoner Benefit Funds' hold millions as inmates struggle for essentials	Paul Egan	
Open-Government Reporting	3	The Detroit News	Crack fallout lingers	George Hunter	
Page One Design- Newspapers Only	1	The Detroit News	Ford moves headquarters	James Hollar, Genna Barner	
Page One Design- Newspapers Only	2	The Detroit News	Fenkell neighborhood	Diana McNary	
Page One Design- Newspapers Only	3	The Detroit News	It's hip to be square	Genna Barner	
Page One Design- Newspapers Only	4	The Detroit News	Trump inaugurated	Richard Epps	
Portrait Photography	1	Detroit Free Press	Hockey State Champs	Junfu Han	Excellent "portrait" of a championship!
Sports Commentary	1	Detroit Free Press	Columns by Shawn Windsor	Shawn Windsor	

Sports Commentary	2	The Detroit News	Tigers', Moore's seasons end in pain	Bob Wojnowski	
Sports Commentary	3	The Detroit News	Trouble for Billups, change agent at MSU	John Niyo	
Sports Page Design	1	The Detroit News	Stafford vs. Lions	James Hollar	
Sports Page Design	2	The Detroit News	Lions grades	James Hollar	
Sports Page Design	3	The Detroit News	Williams and the Lions	Richard Epps	
Sports Page Design	4	Detroit Free Press	Deja Skub!	Ryan Ford	
Sports Photography	1	The Detroit News	Tigers drop Game 3	David Guralnick	
Sports Photography	2	The Detroit News	Claressa Shields retains heavyweight title	Katy Kildee	
Sports Photography	3	The Detroit News	Ohio State snaps four-game skid in The Game	John Greilick	
Sports reporting	1	The Detroit News	Relentless Gibson	Tony Paul	
Sports reporting	2	Detroit Free Press	Red Wings photographer given special moment after tragic loss	Helene St. James	
Sports reporting	3	The Detroit News	The UM star his kids never really knew	Angelique Chengelis	
Sports reporting	4	Detroit Free Press	From Russia to U-M Basketball, top player makes a new home	Tony Garcia	
Sports Videography	1	The Detroit News	No horsin' around	Katy Kildee	This is such a cute story, but the videography really tells the story. You could not truly envision the popularity of this sport or really put together the importance of the competitions without this thorough video work. Well done!
PRINT CLASS B					

Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	The Flint Journal	Coverage on Grand Blanc Township church shooting	Flint Journal staff	This was a state and national story, and The Flint Journal did a wonderful job covering it from every angle. They were first on the scene and covered the breaking story from the mass shooting and fire at the church to the family reunification and the police press conference. Wonderful photos, quotes, videos, and up-to-the-minute information, keeping readers informed. Great example of journalists pulling together. Online journalism at its best. A master class on how to use good reporting, hustle, and technology to completely cover a major breaking news event using technology.
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	2	The Ann Arbor News	Ann Arbor Foster Family shooting	Nathan Clark, Jennifer Eberbach, Dylan Goetz	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	3	The Macomb Daily	Christmas event marred by chaos	Mitch Hotts	

Community/Local News Reporting	1	The Macomb Daily	A look at the homeless crisis	Gina Joseph, Susan Smiley	Great series of stories about homeless shelters and how they provide so much more than just shelter from the cold. These articles detail not only the financial struggles homeless shelters face, but also go in dept to show how they, among other things, assist veterans, offer housing assistance, family crisis assistance, and overall stability to those who need help. A great deal work went into these stories and they will help the local community understand how important the shelters are.
Community/Local News Reporting	2	The Oakland Press	Can animals and people co-exist; Deer Culls	Anne Runkle	
Community/Local News Reporting	3	Kalamazoo Gazette	He poured his life savings into a party store. A proposed Dollar General threatens it.	Aya Miller	
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	1	Kalamazoo Gazette	Portage pulled \$500K pledge for new homeless shelter due to hotel conflict	Audrey Whitaker	Great story about the challenges cities face when trying to attract new development, and providing services, such as housing, for the homeless. Indepth reporting, excellent use of data and comments from all sides. Great example of consumer/watch dog reporting.

Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	2	The Flint Journal	Board president offers to repay Flint Housing Commission after questions over \$9K in cash advances	Ron Fonger	
Education Reporting	1	Kalamazoo Gazette	'Unacceptable' Black male graduation rate sees massive improvement in Kalamazoo	Aya Miller	Low graduation rates for black males, crowded classrooms and loss of neighborhood schools are issues public school districts across the country are facing and they are often underreported. The articles raise awareness about challenges public schools are facing how the districts are trying to address them. Well written, informative with good quotes and good use of data. Well done.
Education Reporting	2	The Ann Arbor News	Small, private university in southern Michigan to close in 2026 after 105 years	Jackie Smith	
Education Reporting	3	The Oakland Press	State Aid impact; Graduation Trend; Court provision stays; First school eliminates position DEI policy	Matthew Fahr	
Environment Reporting	1	The Oakland Press	County airport agrees to PFAS monitoring plan	Peg McNichol	Great job. This story didn't just stop at reporting on an environmental issue, it provided context and additional insight. Well done.
Explanatory Reporting	1	The Oakland Press	Backyard chickens ruffles feathers	Anne Runkle	Nice work! I learned more about backyard chicken ordinances and the struggles associated with how this is imposed than I expected. Great job.

Feature Photography	1	Flint Journal	Adoption Day	Jake May	Photo captures a powerful moment. As a consumer of this content, I am immediately engaged and want to learn more about the stories of the people within this picture. My only concern is whether this is a Feature or News photo. Nonetheless, the photographer captures a powerful moment during adoption day.
Feature Photography	2	Muskegon Chronicle	Prom showoff	Isaac Ritchey	
Feature Photography	3	Grand Rapids Press	Pyramid	Joel Bissell	
Feature Reporting	1	Oakland Press	Feature Articles	Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff, Gary Graff	Great series! I enjoyed each story.
Feature Reporting	2	The Macomb Daily	Farewell party at Victory Inn draws huge crowd	Susan Smiley	
Feature Reporting	3	The Bay City Times	Vaudeville's 'Lion Queen' mauled to death in Bay City: The Dolores Vallecita story	Cole Waterman	
Food Reporting/Reviews	1	Kalamazoo Gazette	Hidden gem in Southwest Michigan keeps menu creative, constantly changing	Ryan Boldrey	Well-crafted story that illustrates the people behind the food at a hidden gem of a restaurant.
Food Reporting/Reviews	2	The Ann Arbor News	'Christmas Vacation' pop-up in Ann Arbor bar serves a yummy drink with unprintable name	Samuel Dodge	
Food Reporting/Reviews	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	Mickey Lyons' Drinks Column	Mickey Lyons	Entertaining reads about drinks and the bar industry. The ode to the dive bar was the best of the collection.
Food Reporting/Reviews	2	The Detroit Jewish News	Traverse City Chef Nominated	Esther Ingber	
Food Reporting/Reviews	3	The Sun Times News	New Restaurant Stories	Karen Lambert	

General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	Flint Journal	'He just had too many demons,' says childhood friend of Michigan church mass killing suspect	Jake May	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	2	Kalamazoo Gazette	Homelessness in Kalamazoo	Brad Devereaux	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	3	Kalamazoo Gazette	'I still have nightmares': Trailer park tornado survivors can't stop reliving the trauma	Devin Anderson-Torrez	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	4	The Flint Journal	A white casket, middle fingers and F bombs: governing through chaos?	Gus Burns	
Headline Writing	1	The Macomb Daily	Cents - penny halt; Dugout Docs; Grace under pressure; Pup of Gold; All-started	David Grocki	
Health Reporting	1	The Macomb Daily	Taking a swing at addiction	Jameson Cook	This is an important story to tell and this report covered a lot of angles and explained the issue through great perspectives.
News Photography	1	Flint Journal	Church tragedy	Lukas Katilius	This image grabs your attention because of everything it shows at once. The "All Visitors Welcome" sign in the corner, surrounded by destruction, makes a strong and haunting contrast. With the firefighter stepping in and the wrecked truck, the photo tells a full, layered story on its own. It's a powerful, perfectly timed shot that remains with you.

News Photography	2	Flint Journal	Remembered	Ayrton Breckenridge	
News Photography	3	Jackson Citizen Patriot	Engulfed	J. Scott Park	
News Photography	4	Kalamazoo Gazette	Restrained	Devin Anderson-Torrez	
News Videography	1	Saginaw News	News videography Northbound - Tractors and Tradition on the Backroads	Santino Mattioli	Heck yeah! The videography told this story and the guys who were interviewed were just a supporting role. Well done all the way around. I thoroughly enjoyed viewing this entry.
Open-Government Reporting	1	The Oakland Press	Zaydlogix Contract Probe	Peg McNichol	As someone who knew nothing about this issue, I enjoyed the consistent reporting. Reading each story and seeing the progression of the issue showed exactly how well-written the coverage was and how much went into keeping this topic in the news. Well done.
Page One Design	1	The Macomb Daily	Ready to be thrilled?	Emily Ridener	Great holiday cover design. Nicely done without being too thematic.
Page One Design	2	The Oakland Press	Second Chances	Joe Pas	
Page One Design	3	The Oakland Press	American born cardinal elected Pope	Emily Ridener	
Sports Videography	1	Grand Rapids Press	Michigan teens swim all the Great Lakes in a day	Neil Blake	Excellent videography and use of sound. This story was beautifully conveyed.
Portrait Photography	1	Saginaw News	King and queen	Kaytie Boomer	Multiple elements made this the winner. The fireworks, football uniform and crowns make it a classic of Friday night football games in many places.
Portrait Photography	2	Grand Rapids Press	Drag smoke	Joel Bissell	

Portrait Photography	3	Flint Journal	Jahmyr	Jake May	
Sports Photography	1	Flint Journal	She's out	Ayrton Breckenridge	Nice clean action photo stood out among the entries.
Sports Photography	2	Ann Arbor News	Football rainbow	Abra Richardson	
Sports Photography	3	Flint Journal	Out of the ring	Jake May	
Sports reporting	1	Flint Journal	Four girls bring international hobby horse phenomenon to rural Michigan	Jake May	
Sports reporting	2	The Morning Sun	Way of the Warriors; Oilers face final challenge; Without Limits	Shawn Robinson	
Sports reporting	3	Flint Journal	How a simple race photo from 1992 became this family's most powerful symbol of hope and healing	Jake May	
PRINT CLASS C					
Arts Reporting/Criticism	1	Michigan Chronicle	Ruth E. Carter and PLC Detroit Launch Apparel STU/DEO at National Black Footwear Forum	Ebony JJ Curry	Curry's sleek, seamless, polished prose mirrors the stylistic achievements of her subject.
Arts Reporting/Criticism	2	The Detroit Jewish News	The Texas Jew Boy	Gary Graff	
Arts Reporting/Criticism	3	Michigan Chronicle	DIA Honors the Origin and Evolution of Black Art with New African American Galleries	Ebony JJ Curry	
Arts Reporting/Criticism	4	The Detroit Jewish News	Screen to Stage	Julie Yolles	
Autos Reporting/Reviews	No Winner				
Autos Reporting/Reviews	No Winner				

Autos Reporting/Reviews	No Winner				
Autos Reporting/Reviews	No Winner				
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	1	Grosse Pointe News	A life saved	Bradley Lindberg	Great job of allowing those involved to tell the story. The chronological approach works perfectly in this case.
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	2	The Novi Note	Woman, 95, sentenced to home confinement for death of Novi woman	Charity Meier	
Breaking/Spot News Reporting	3	Michigan Chronicle	Some UAW Members Break with Leadership to Support Mary Sheffield for Detroit Mayor	Sam Robinson	
Community/Local News Reporting	1	Pride Source/Between The Lines	Features Focused on Michigan's LGBTQ+ Community - Sarah Bricker Hunt	Sarah Bricker Hunt	In this series of stories, Hunt went beyond just statistics and talking heads to get to the heart of the stories in this community. Giving people the trust it takes to reveal their inner thoughts, fears and hopes to you as a reporter is at the core of transformative journalism. Hunt accomplishes that here with honesty and understanding.
Community/Local News Reporting	2	Warren Weekly	Detroit Memorial Park cemetery celebrates centennial	Maria Allard	
Community/Local News Reporting	3	Woodward Talk	Man arrested, found guilty of murder in DoorDash driver	Michael Koury	

Community/Local News Reporting	4	Michigan Chronicle	Community/Local News Reporting - District 7 Coverage	Sam Robinson	
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	1	C&G Newspapers	Centuries-old tree endangered by new development	Andy Kozlowski	A tree doesn't often make headlines, but when it's a historic tree that dates to our nation's founding that merits some attention. A well-reported look at the consequences of development.
Consumer/Watchdog Reporting	2	Grosse Pointe News	Egregious odor persists at Chalfonte pump station	Laurel Kraus	
Cover Design	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	July 2025 Cover — Lake Towns	Lindsay Richards	The detailed illustration gives a great survey of activities, and each element flows into the other so well! Great detailed linework, great color choices too. The whole piece is brought together with the complimenting colors of the gradient, the integration of the title with the birds/ice cream, and the colors and fonts of the typography. Well done!
Cover Design	2	The Detroit Jewish News	Play Ball	Katie Lezzi	
Cover Design	3	The Detroit Jewish News	Music That Connects Generations	Michelle Sheridan	
Cover Design	4	The Detroit Jewish News	Stories From Sinai Physicians	Katie Lezzi	

Education Reporting	1	Grosse Pointe Times	Student-run restaurant at Ferry serves up more than popular dishes	K. Michelle Moran	Well-written, in depth story that really immerses the reader into the elementary restaurant. It truly demonstrates the importance of this to the community.
Education Reporting	2	Grosse Pointe News	GPPSS spent over \$50K to send student to private school	Ted O'Neil	
Education Reporting	3	Michigan Chronicle	Black Students, White Curriculum: A Three-Part Series	Ebony JJ Curry	
Education Reporting	4	The Novi Note	Venardos Circus gives special sensory-friendly performance for Novi schoolchildren	Charity Meier	
Environment Reporting	1	Planet Detroit	Compost or Combust: Why wasted food is heating up the planet — and how Michigan can stop the rot	Nina Ignaczak, Nick Hagen, Shelby Jouppe	
Environment Reporting	2	Grosse Pointe News	Raccoon distemper spreads in Pointes	Laurel Kraus	
Environment Reporting	3	C&G Newspapers	Animals of Metro Detroit 2025	Dean Vaglia	
Explanatory Story	1	C&G Newspapers	Macomb County nonprofit shines light on plight of foster kids	Andy Kozlowski	solid reporting, good stats
Explanatory Story	2	The Sun Times News	Election Confusion	Karen Lambert	
Feature Photography	1	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	A Splash of Joy	Ryan Bell	Nicely compose and good use of light to highlight the water.

Feature Photography	2	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	The Way Forward	Eryn Williams	
Feature Photography	3	Grosse Pointe News	Pure Grosse Pointe: "Doggles"	Renee Landuyt	
Feature Photography	4	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	Bridging Countries	Khloe Hrabowski	
Feature Reporting	1	Hour Detroit Magazine	The Search for Jimmy Hoffa	Allan Lengel	Well researched, very detailed, beautifully written — this story takes you on a journey.
Feature Reporting	2	Hour Detroit Magazine	Tom Selleck Returns to His Roots	Bill Dow	
Feature Reporting	3	Pride Source/Between The Lines	Safe Space, Sacred Trust: The Incredible 53-Year Legacy of Grand Rapids' Apartment Lounge	Chris Azzopardi	
General Column Writing	1	Michigan Chronicle	Affordable Housing; Hulk Hogan; Mackinac; Kinloch;	Jeremy Allen	This columnist has a lot to say, and his outfit gives him plenty of room to say it. But somehow the reader is pulled through to the last word -- the writing is just that good. And he covers a range of topics. His is a column that readers in his latitude need to be familiar with.
General Column Writing	2	The Tecumseh Herald	Squibs column	Renee Collins	
General Column Writing	3	The Detroit Jewish News	A New Friend, Something to Smile About, Tanuga Revisited	Alan Muskovitz	
General Column Writing	4	The Detroit Jewish News	Musical Misses, Big Bang, All Out	Sy Manello	

General News/Enterprise Reporting	1	Pride Source/Between The Lines	Michigan Cop Used Fake Grindr Profile and This Torso Picture to Arrest Gay Man — But Was It Legal?	Sarah Bricker Hunt	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	2	Pride Source/Between The Lines	Three LGBTQ+ Metro Detroit Professionals Charged in Child Sex Abuse Sting	Sarah Bricker Hunt	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	3	Pride Source/Between The Lines	For Emmy-Winning News Anchor David Custer, Truth-Telling Came With a Price	Sarah Bricker Hunt	
General News/Enterprise Reporting	4	The Sun Times News	Milan Seniors for Healthy Living Funding	Karen Lambert	
Headline Writing	1	Battle Creek Enquirer	Michigander Headlines	Robin Ferguson	subtle puns, combined with other headers that draw the reader in -- great stuff
Headline Writing	2	Grosse Pointe News	Headlines R Us	Bradley Lindberg	
Health Reporting	1	Hour Detroit Magazine / Hour Detroit's Health Guide	Examining Cancer Care	Natalia Holtzman	Wow! This was a compelling, thorough look at cancer and those who are affected by it on all sides. This was well-written and provided a well-rounded look at some many aspects of this disease. Excellent work.
Informational Graphics	1	Grosse Pointe News	I'll show you my database if you show me yours	Ken Schop	Love this illustration - witty and relevant.
Informational Graphics	2	Plastics News	Blow Molders Ranking	Amy Steinhauser, Hollee Keller	

Inside Page Design	1	Battle Creek Enquirer	Core Memories	Robin Ferguson	Everything about this design just pops. The red of the apple, header, and the girl's rosie cheeks all stand out beautifully, and I love how the darkened background contrasts with the girl's face. This would have been a lovely design even without those details, but those value and color choices give this design a very nostalgic, almost dream-like tone.
Inside Page Design	2	The Detroit Jewish News	Some Dreams Do Come True	Michelle Sheridan	
Inside Page Design	3	Battle Creek Enquirer	Magical Mackinac	Robin Ferguson, Naasha Dotiwala	
Inside Page Design	4	Plastics News	Numbers that Matter	Amy Steinhauer	
Magazine Spread Design	1	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	Healing the Whole	Michelle Sheridan	Love the use of the silhouette in the spread design.
News Photography	1	Grosse Pointe News	Burn baby burn	Renee Landuyt	Great color and use of the heat waves put off by flames made this the winner.
News Photography	2	Grosse Pointe News	AirTag saves cat in house fire	Renee Landuyt	
Open-Government Reporting	1	Woodward Talk	Ferndale, residents debate on Flock Safety cameras	Michael Koury	Fantastic work!
Open-Government Reporting	2	Grosse Pointe News	BoE trustee faces scrutiny over tax forms	Ted O'Neil	
Open-Government Reporting	3	Grosse Pointe News	School board may have broken state law	Ted O'Neil	
Open-Government Reporting	4	Grosse Pointe News	Our View: No creativity allowed	Ted O'Neil	

Page One Design	1	Plastics News	The Book	Amy Steinhauser	I'm really impressed with the design and craftsmanship of this cover. The layers of the design- the graphics, shelves, bottles, and background- integrate together seamlessly, leading my eye around the page and through the layers. I can't immediately tell if "The Book" and "2025" text were made digitally through photo editing or physically through arranging actual pellets, but I'm impressed either way; this cover required skill and attention to detail, and it shows.
Page One Design	2	The Monroe News	200 years	Holly Mahaffey	
Page One Design	3	Plastics News	Nov. 10, 2025.	Amy Steinhauser	
Sports Page Design	1	Grosse Pointe News	Kickoff! Guide to the Gridiron	Mike Adzima, John Pigott, GP News Production, GP News Sales Team	Nice work! The designs are crisp and interactive. Be attentive to small details like text spacing under the players' legs and whether you're bringing the player's leg in front of the sidebar or behind. Consider a background of some sort. You've got a great foundation here and can easily build on this.
Sports reporting	1	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	The 'D1 or Bust' Mindset: How It Impacts Young Athletes' Mental Health	Robert Thompson	
Sports reporting	2	Grosse Pointe News	A win for the ages	Mike Adzima	

Sports reporting	3	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	1 Lap at a Time: How Swimming Brings Seniors Health and Happiness	Luke Jahnke	
Sports reporting	4	Grosse Pointe News	'It's been a wonderful ride': Longtime youth football coach bids gridiron farewell	Mike Adzima	
PRINT CLASS D					
Community/Local News Reporting	1	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	Amid Federal Cuts, Hey Y'all Detroit Offers a Story of Hope	Willow Lagrou	This is a wonderful story of an important community topic. Well done.
Cover Design	1	Michigan Alum	Michigan Alum's James Earl Jones Cover	Steve Anderson	This cover looks like a collector's edition item. Such a beautiful design and illustration.
Cover Design	2	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	Perspectives Magazine 2025: Our Detroit, Our Future	Ella Miller, Michelle Sheridan, Stephanie Steinberg	
Education Reporting	1	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	High School Students Face Exhaustion, Burnout	Solomon Spann IV	This is excellent storytelling by such a young writer. Keep it up.
Environment Reporting	1	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	Toxic Air, Tired Lungs: The Cost of Growing Up in Detroit	Anya Desai	Well-written and well-reported and ready for prime time.
Environment Reporting	2	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	How Community Gardens Benefit Detroit	Aysha Uddin	
Environment Reporting	3	Michigan Alum	Michigan's Great Assets	Katherine Fiorillo	

Feature Reporting	1	Michigan Alum	Developing a Legacy Collection	Katherine Fiorillo	Good take on looking behind the collection.
Feature Reporting	2	Michigan Alum	Goal-Oriented	Jeremy Carroll	
Feature Reporting	3	Michigan Super Lawyers Magazine	Saved But Not Forgotten	Anne Brash	
Health Reporting	1	Michigan Alum	Covid's Long Haul	Jessica Yurasek	Well reported, well written.
Health Reporting	2	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	Sharon Chang	
Health Reporting	3	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	Healing the Whole: Gilda's Club Members and Staff Contribute to the Conversation on Mental Health Care	Stella Dougherty	
Portrait Photography	1	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	Glamour at the Disco	Marcus Washington	Love the contrast and light - looks like the photographer enjoyed playing with the shadows.
Portrait Photography	2	Michigan Alum	Zan Jones	Becky Duffyhill	
Portrait Photography	3	The Detroit Writing Room & Coaching Detroit Forward	The Sky's the Limit	Ella Miller	
OPEN					
Breaking News Via Social Media	1	Detroit Free Press	Grand Blanc Township church shooting - Sept. 28, 2025	Detroit Free Press staff	This is a tragic event. Using social media is the best avenue to share news of this type and this team did a thorough job of reporting on this difficult situation and covering all possible angles. Well done.
Collaborative Coverage	1	BridgeDetroit and Detroit Free Press	Work of Nushrat Rahman	Nushrat Rahman	Extraordinary reporting that paints a picture of the difficulties for lower income people of Detroit.

Collaborative Coverage	2	The Detroit Writing Room, Coaching Detroit Forward & Planet Detroit	Our Detroit, Our Future: Detroit Teens Report on What Matters to Them — Health, Environment and Equality	Stephanie Steinberg, Nina Ignaczak	
Collaborative Coverage	3	BridgeDetroit, Detroit PBS and Great Lakes Now	Voices for Manoomin	Bill Kubota, Jena Brooker	
Engagement-Driven Coverage	1	Outlier Media	Profits and Losses	Koby Levin, Cydni Elledge	Excellent reporting! This was a great series of stories following an important topic for your readers. The firsthand perspectives were right on.
Engagement-Driven Coverage	2	BridgeDetroit	BridgeDetroit Meet the Candidates series	Bryce Huffman, Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, Malachi Barrett, Christine Ferretti	
Newsletter Strategy	1	Axios Detroit	Axios Detroit Newsletter Strategy	Joe Guillen, Annalise Frank	This is a well-executed and informative newsletter. The design is visually engaging, with effective use of color and graphic elements that support the content and improve overall readability. Information is presented in concise, bite-sized sections, making it easy for readers to navigate and absorb.
Newsletter Strategy	2	Bridge Michigan	Bridge Michigan newsletter strategy	Bill Emkow	
Newsletter Strategy	3	BridgeDetroit	City Council Notebook	Malachi Barrett	
Newsletter Strategy	4	NowKalamazoo	NowKalamazoo gains 7,660 subscribers in 2025 alone	NowKalamazoo	

Social Media Strategy	1	Detroit Free Press	Vertical video reporting	Dave Boucher Boucher, Tony Garcia, Shawn Windsor, Jared Ramsey, Nancy Kaffer	Our social media staff are great proponents of vertical videos, and the entrants utilized it well in their entries, especially their coverage on the fired football coach. Watching the reporters cover the issue directly on scene made the story feel more timely and authentic. I love the personal touch that the reporters add with these social media videos.
Social Media Strategy	2	MLive Media Group	Social strategy	MLive staff	
Social Media Strategy	3	Outlier Media	Social Media Strategy - Outlier Media	SaMya Overall, Kiran Saini	
SOJOURNER TRUTH AWARD					
Sojourner Truth Award for Reporting on Racial Justice	1	Detroit Free Press	Detroit police shootings after nonviolent stops coverage	Violet Ikonomova	Excellent, thorough work looking beyond police accounts to give the public a better understanding of what's driving officer-involved shootings. Readers benefit from deep investigative work and on-the-ground reporting.
Sojourner Truth Award for Reporting on Racial Justice	2	BridgeDetroit	Work by Jena Brooker	Jena Brooker	
Sojourner Truth Award for Reporting on Racial Justice	3	Michigan Public	Everyone has rights. How to handle encounters with immigration enforcement.	Dustin Dwyer, Michelle Jokish-Polo, Lindsey Smith	
Sojourner Truth Award for Reporting on Racial Justice	4	PBS NewsHour	In Michigan, a push to make pregnancy and childbirth safer for people of color	Frances Kai-Hwa Wang	