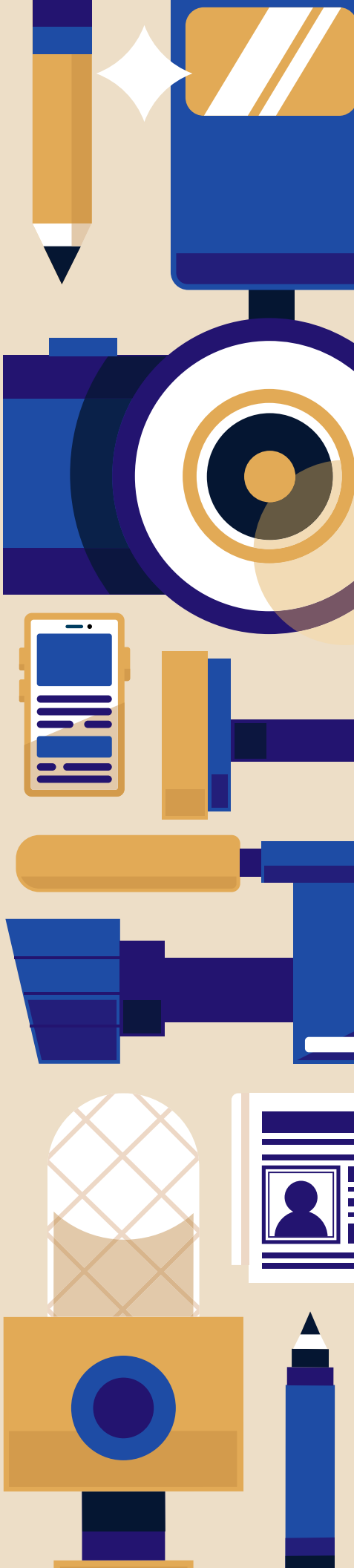
2026 KEYSTONE MEDIA AWARDS



Presented by

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSMEDIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION



Welcome to the 2026 Professional Media Awards!

Each and every year, it is our privilege to recognize and celebrate the very best of journalism across the commonwealth. The Keystone Media Awards is a tried-and-true competition, and the depth, breadth and quality of journalism represented this year are truly remarkable, as demonstrated by the 2,545 entries submitted by 124 news organizations.

Today, we have the honor of recognizing your exceptional work—journalism that informs local communities, holds people and institutions accountable, uncovers critical issues and brings injustices to light. Your work matters. A strong Fourth Estate is essential to a strong democracy, and the dedication and professionalism represented in this room are an important part of keeping our communities informed and our democracy healthy.

In addition to our annual awards luncheon celebration, the PNA Foundation is pleased to offer three educational sessions as part of the Keystone Awards experience. We understand the time and budget constraints facing news organizations today, as well as the importance of continuous learning and professional development. That is why we have brought three powerhouse speakers to Harrisburg, giving you an opportunity to take advantage of valuable training and fresh ideas while you are here with us for the day.

We hope you enjoy this expanded “mini convention” and that you leave today not only proud of the work you have accomplished, but also energized and inspired for the work ahead. Again, congratulations to all of our winners and finalists. Thank you for your commitment to journalism, your communities and the important role you play in our Commonwealth. We are proud to celebrate you and your outstanding work today.

Warmly,

Tanya Henderson

Tanya Henderson
Executive Director
Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation



About the Keystone Awards

The Keystone Media Awards, which date back to the 1950's, reinforce excellence by individuals in the news profession, by recognizing journalism that consistently provides relevance, integrity and initiative in serving readers, and faithfully fulfills its First Amendment rights and responsibilities. Further, the Keystone Media Awards stimulate journalists to improve their craft and ultimately improve their community.

First, second and honorable mention awards are presented in each category, as determined by the judges. Judges are given the discretion to not award a winner in any place or category or give no award at all based on the number of entries received in that category. Points are tallied for each winning entry. The news media organizations accumulating the highest total points in each division are recognized as Sweepstakes winners. Broadcast organizations accumulating the highest total points in each division are recognized as Outstanding News Operation winners.

The PNA Foundation will supply plaques to all first-place winners and certificates to all second place and honorable mention Keystone Media Award winners in attendance today. At the conclusion of today's presentation, you may pick up certificates for those at your news organization who were unable to attend. Plaques may be ordered for your second place and honorable mention certificates directly from Present A Plaque. Visit the PNA website at **panewsmedia.org/contests-and-awards** for more details.

Ballard Spahr congratulates the 2026 Professional Keystone Media Award winners!

Our Media and Entertainment lawyers help news organizations, reporters, and editors navigate challenging legal issues in Pennsylvania and across the country. We are proud to support the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and journalists throughout the Commonwealth.

Ballard goes beyond.®

Ballard Spahr LLP

PRESENTATION ORDER

Welcome from Bill Cotter, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association

John V. R. Bull First Amendment Award
Presented to Wyatt Massey, Spotlight PA

Investigative Reporting

Best Investigative Reporting (Broadcast)

Sweepstakes Division I - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Enterprise Reporting

Best Enterprise Reporting (Broadcast)

Public Notice Journalism Award
Presented to Frank Lesnefsky, The Times-Tribune, Scranton

News Beat Reporting

Best Newscast (Broadcast)

Sweepstakes Division II – *Altoona Mirror*

Breaking News

Breaking News Photo

G. Richard Dew Award for Journalistic Service
Presented to Ed Mahon, Spotlight PA

Best Spot News Coverage (Broadcast)

Headline Writing

Ongoing News Coverage

Best Continuing Coverage (Broadcast)

Outstanding News Operation (Broadcast) - Radio II - WDIY 88.1 FM, Lehigh Valley

News Feature Story

News Event Photo

News Page Design

Sweepstakes Division III – *York Daily Record*

Business or Consumer Story

Reader Initiative Award
Presented to Staff, Spotlight PA

Best Series (Broadcast)

Special Section

Outstanding News Operation (Broadcast) -*TV II - WGAL-TV, Lancaster*

Editorial

Column

Public Service Award
Presented to Staff, Altoona Mirror

Best Public Service (Broadcast)

Best Regularly Scheduled News or Sports Talk Program (Broadcast)

Best Weathercast (Broadcast)

Society of Professional Journalists Keystone Pro Chapter

Sweepstakes Division IV *– Bucks County Courier Times*

Sports Beat Reporting

Best Sportscast (Broadcast)

Sports/Outdoor Column

Freelance Journalist of the Year Award
Presented to Ann Rejrat, Spotlight PA

Sports Feature

Best Sports Feature (Broadcast)

Sports Feature Photo

Sweepstakes Division V - *The Burg, Harrisburg*

Sports Enterprise

Best Sports Coverage (Broadcast)

Sports Breaking News/Event Coverage

Outstanding News Operation (Broadcast) - Radio I - WESA-FM, Pittsburgh

Sports Action Photo

Sports Page Design

Sports Videos

Paul Vathis Memorial Photography Portfolio Award *Presented to **Justin Guido,** Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Best Use of Photography (Broadcast)

Photo Story / Essay

Graphic / Photo Illustration

Outstanding News Operation (Broadcast) TV I - KYW-TV, Philadelphia

Personality Profile

Lifestyle/Entertainment Beat

Distinguished Writing Award
*Presented to **John Luciew,** PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg*

Best Digital Presence (Broadcast)

Best Use of Sound (Broadcast)

Sweepstakes Division VI – Bethlehem Press

News Videos

Features Videos

Calkins Family Distinguished Video Award
Presented to Mitch Blacher, Spotlight PA

Feature Story

Best Feature (Broadcast)

Sweepstakes Division VII - Lancaster Farming

Feature Photo

Feature Page Design

Lenfest Institute Emerging Journalist of the Year *presented to **Sarah Nicell,** LNP, Lancaster*

Best Reporter/Anchor (Broadcast)

Documentary

Best Documentary (Broadcast)

Podcast

Podcast (Broadcast)

Lenfest Institute Diversity Champion Award
*presented to **Shaylah Brown,** Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Excellence in Reporting on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in Pennsylvania Awards

The Lenfest Institute for Journalism

congratulates the

Professional Keystone Media Award Winners

for their work to inform communities across Pennsylvania, hold institutions accountable, and demonstrate the enduring value of a strong local press.

The Institute is proud to support publishers across Pennsylvania with free programs and advisory services.

Scan here to learn more and speak with an expert.

THE LENFEST INSTITUTE
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

2026 Sweepstakes Winners

DIVISION I – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

DIVISION II – Altoona Mirror

DIVISION III – York Daily Record

DIVISION IV – Bucks County Courier Times

DIVISION V – TheBurg, Harrisburg

DIVISION VI – Bethlehem Press

DIVISION VII – Lancaster Farming

2026 Outstanding News Operation Winners (Broadcast)

TV I – KYW-TV, Philadelphia

TV II – WGAL-TV, Lancaster

RADIO I – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh

RADIO II – WDIY 88.1 FM, Lehigh Valley

2026 Specialty Award Winners

John V. R. Bull First Amendment Award – Wyatt Massey, Spotlight PA

Distinguished Writing Award – John Luciew, PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg

Paul Vathis Memorial Photography Portfolio Award – Justin Guido, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Calkins Family Distinguished Video Award – Mitch Blacher, Spotlight PA

Lenfest Institute Diversity Champion Award – Shaylah Brown, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Lenfest Institute Emerging Journalist Award – Sarah Nicell, LNP, Lancaster

Freelance Journalist of the Year Award – Ann Rejrat, Spotlight PA

Public Service Award – Staff, Altoona Mirror

G. Richard Dew Award for Journalistic Service – Ed Mahon, Spotlight PA

Reader Initiative Award – Staff, Spotlight PA

Public Notice Journalism Award – Frank Lesnefsky, The Times-Tribune, Scranton

A-Mark prize for Investigative Journalism in Pennsylvania

Investigative reporters are trained to follow the money, but it takes resources to follow the money. New this year, the PNA Foundation partnered with the A-Mark Foundation to create the A-Mark Prizes for Investigative Journalism in Pennsylvania. These awards total up to $15,000 for Pennsylvania reporters and their newsrooms.

2026 A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism Award Winners

First Place: Pittsburgh's Public Source

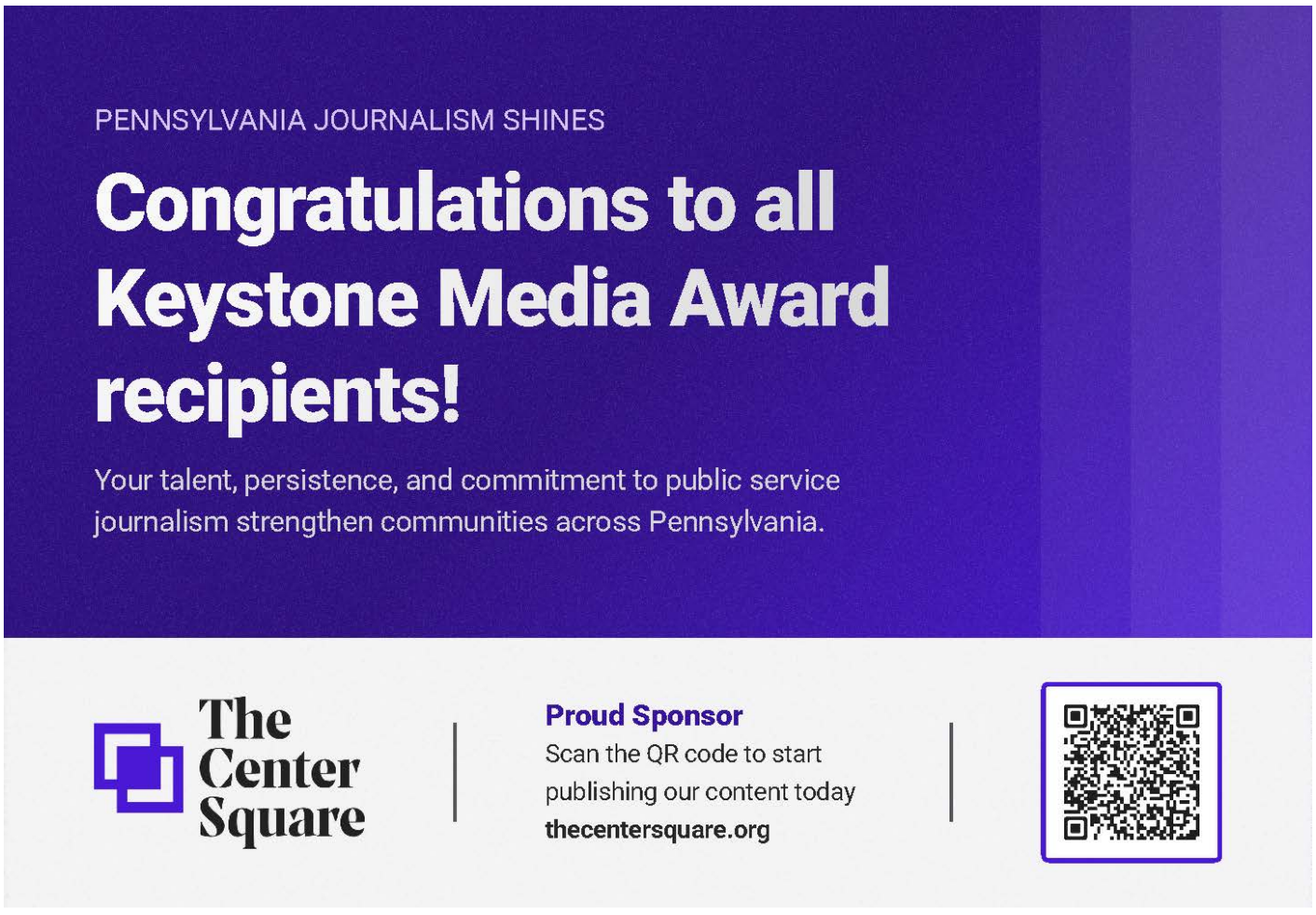
"Pittsburgh's Alcoa" series by Quinn Glabicki and Jamie Wiggan

Second Place: PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg

"Death County, PA" a series by Joshua Vaughn

Third Place: PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg

"Dauphin County Commissioner DUI Investigation" by Juliette Rihl, Joshua Vaughn, Jonathan Bergmueller and Jenna Wise



PNAF AND THE CENTER FOR JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE

The Center for Journalism Excellence is a Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation initiative dedicated to strengthening local journalism and supporting the journalists who make it possible. From investing in reporters to recognizing outstanding work, the Center helps ensure communities across the commonwealth have access to trusted, impactful news.

What We Do

The Center for Journalism Excellence focuses on strengthening journalism across Pennsylvania by:

- Investing in journalists through training, mentorship and professional development
- Fueling newsroom innovation by supporting new approaches to reporting, storytelling and audience engagement
- Building the next generation through internships, partnerships and career pathways
- Recognizing excellence by celebrating outstanding journalism that serves communities and upholds the values of a free and ethical press



PENNSYLVANIA NEWSMEDIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

CJE Center for Journalism Excellence
Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation

Broadcast Categories

Best Newscast

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Jeremy Scott
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Jennifer Lynn & Cory Sharber

TV II

First Place – WHP-TV, Harrisburg | Joel D. Smith, Tyler Jeski, Michael Collins & Candace Scalese
Second Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | WJAC-TV News Team
Honorable Mention – Centre County Report, State College | Allie Wenskoski, Sarah Schultz, Francie Ebert & Hannah Neurohr

Best Spot News Coverage

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Julia Maruca, Kiley Koscinski, Glynis Board & Cindi Lash
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper, Phil Davis & Emily Neil
Honorable Mention – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Cory Sharber & Kenny Cooper

TV II

First Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | WJAC-TV News Team
Second Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | WJAC-TV News Team

Best Continuing Coverage

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | P. Kenneth Burns
Second Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Kiley Koscinski

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | James Zipprodt
Second Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | James Zipprodt

TV I

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

TV II

First Place – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | WGAL Staff
Second Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | Emily Marines, Jim Platzer & WJAC-TV News Team

Best Series

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Cory Sharber
Second Place – The Allegheny Front | Reid Frazier, Julie Grant, Kara Holsopple & Kathy Knauer
Honorable Mention – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Susan Scott Peterson, Jakob Lazzaro & Katie Blackley

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Grace Mansfield & James Zipprodt
Second Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Maddie Yang & James Zipprodt
Honorable Mention – WDIY 88.1 FM | Margaret McConnell, Becky Bradley, Matt Assad & James Zipprodt

TV II

First Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Jayne Ann Bugda, Mark Hiller, Brian Orbin & Kelly Egrie
Second Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Paola Giangiacomo & Kelly Egrie
Honorable Mention – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Tasmin Mahfuz & Daniel Maddox



First Place Best Spot News Coverage – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Julia Maruca, Kiley Koscinski, Glynis Board & Cindi Lash

Best Investigative Reporting

Radio I

First Place – The Allegheny Front | Julie Grant
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper
Honorable Mention – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Jillian Forstadt

TV II

First Place – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Tom Lehman, Daniel Maddox & Joe Sanks
Second Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | WJAC-TV News Team
Honorable Mention – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Susan Shapiro & Tony Manning

Best Enterprise Reporting

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Kiley Koscinski, Glynis Board & John Beale
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Zoe Read
Honorable Mention – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Rachel McDevitt

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | James Zipprodt
Second Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Mike Flynn

TVI

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

TV II

First Place – WHP-TV, Harrisburg | Grace Miller, CJ Christy & Katie Brader
Second Place – Centre County Report, State College | Sarah Grosch
Honorable Mention – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | Valory Myers & Sierra Smay

Best Documentary

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | The Pulse at WHYY

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Margaret McConnell & James Zipprodt

TV II

First Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Jayne Ann Bugda, Matthew Ingargiola, Tony "Ingy" Ingargiola & Nick Toma
Second Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Jayne Ann Bugda, Paola Giangiacomo, Matthew Gronski & Tony "Ingy" Ingargiola
Honorable Mention – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | WJAC-TV News Team

Best Feature

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Kiley Koscinski
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | James Zipprodt

TV I

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

TV II

First Place – WHP-TV, Harrisburg | Joel D. Smith
Second Place – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Gabriel Thomas & Tony Manning
Honorable Mention – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Sarah Metts & Ian Lowery

Best Public Service

Radio I

First Place – The Allegheny Front | Julie Grant
Second Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Kate Giammarise
Honorable Mention – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Kate Giammarise & Julia Maruca

TV II

First Place – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | WGAL Staff
Second Place – Centre County Report, State College | Eric Morris

Best Reporter/Anchor

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Tom MacDonald

TV I

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

TV II

First Place – WHP-TV, Harrisburg | Joel D. Smith
Second Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Chris Bohinski
Honorable Mention – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Katelyn Smith

Best Weathercast

TV II

First Place – WHTM-TV, Harrisburg | Brett Thackara
Second Place – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | Christine Ferreira
Honorable Mention – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | Joey Walker

Best Regularly Scheduled News or Sports Talk Program

TV II

First Place – WBRE/WYOU-TV, Wilkes-Barre | Jayne Ann Bugda, Andy Mehalshick & Matthew Gronski

Best Digital Presence

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Patrick Doyle, Katie Blackley & Jakob Lazzaro
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | WHYY News Digital & Reporting Teams

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Shamus McGroggan

TV II

First Place – WJAC-TV, Johnstown | Travis Gary, Ryan Graffius & WJAC News Team

Best Sportscast

TV II

First Place – Centre County Report, State College | Andrew Matz, Jake McGlinchey, Jenna Wissman & Owen Cameros

Best Sports Coverage

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Jennifer Lynn

TV II

First Place – Centre County Report, State College | Cailey Thalman

Best Sports Feature

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Bill O'Driscoll
Second Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Jeremy Scott
Honorable Mention – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper & Emily Neil

TV I

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

TV II

First Place – Centre County Report, State College | Jake Hernick
Second Place – Centre County Report, State College | Anneke Wagner



First Place Best Weathercast – WHTM-TV, Harrisburg | Brett Thackara

Best Use of Photography

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | John Beale
Second Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Kenny Cooper
Honorable Mention – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Emma Lee, Kimberly Paynter, Tom MacDonald & Meir Rinde

Radio II

First Place – WDIY 88.1 FM | Shamus McGroggan

TV I

First Place – KYW-TV, Philadelphia | Madeleine Wright

Best Use of Sound

Radio I

First Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Julia Fraser

Podcast

Radio I

First Place – WHYY-FM, Philadelphia | Tom MacDonald, Charlie Kaier, Mark Eichmann & Sarah Glover
Second Place – WESA-FM, Pittsburgh | Susan Scott Peterson
Honorable Mention – The Allegheny Front | Reid Frazier, Julie Grant, Kara Holsopple & Kathy Knauer

Radio II

First Place – WITF-FM, Harrisburg | Karen Hendricks
Second Place – WITF-FM, Harrisburg | Asia Tabb, Emma Halsey, David Payne & John Kinzer

TV II

First Place – WHTM-TV, Harrisburg | Brady Doran & Hayden Sherry
Second Place – WHTM-TV, Harrisburg | Brett Thackara & Dan Tomaso



First Place Best Use of Photography– WDIY 88.1 FM | Shamus McGroggan



First Place Best Public Service – WGAL-TV, Lancaster | WGAL Staff



PNA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES

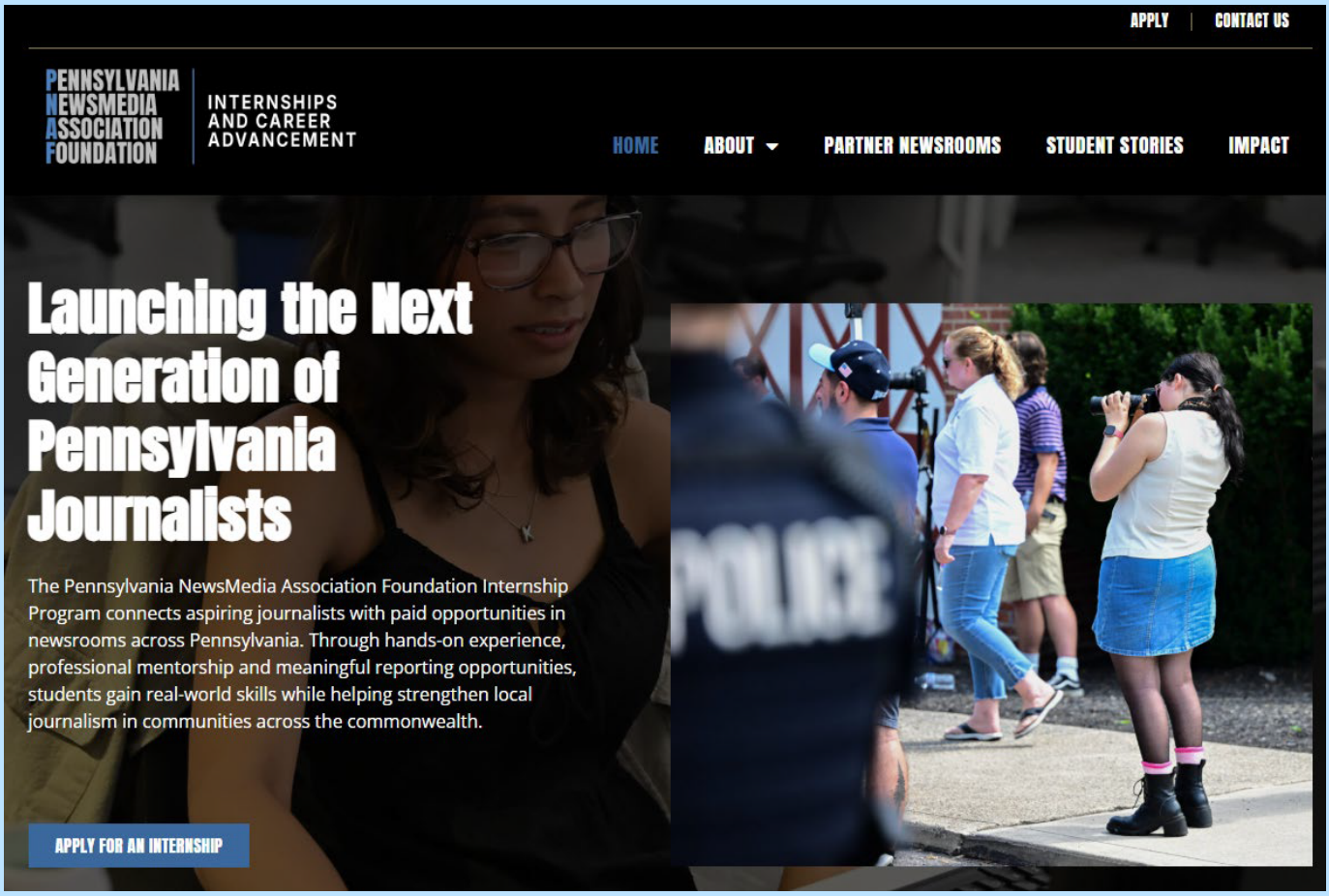
The Newsroom Internship Program Website

Connecting next generation journalists to Pennsylvania newsrooms.

PNA Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the first statewide internship website for the 2027 program!

Students will be able to apply for the internship and see the work of previous interns at participating Pennsylvania newsrooms. A special thank you to the Allegheny Foundation, The Lenfest Institute and Calkins Foundation/Sandra Hardy for their generous support.

For more information on the 2027 summer program, contact Tanya Henderson at TanyaH@pa-news.org



News Organization Categories

Investigative Reporting

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Barbara Laker & David Gambacorta
Second Place – Spotlight PA | Min Xian & Mark Fazlollah
Honorable Mention – Spotlight PA | Wyatt Massey & Charlotte Keith

Division II

First Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Dave Sutor
Second Place – Bucks County Beacon | Melinda Rizzo
Honorable Mention – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Frank Lesnefsky

Division III

First Place – The Latrobe Bulletin | Abigail Hakas & Joe Wells
Second Place – The Mercury, Pottstown | Evan Brandt
Honorable Mention – Hazleton Standard-Speaker | Kent Jackson & Dave Janoski

Division IV

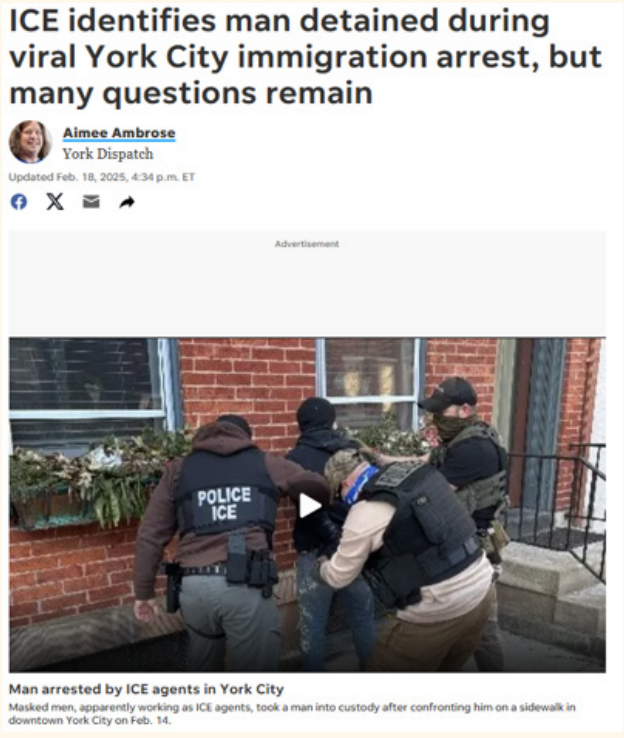
First Place – The York Dispatch | Aimee Ambrose
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jess Rohan

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Andy Holtzman

Division VII

First Place – City & State PA | Harrison Cann
Second Place – City & State PA | Harrison Cann
Honorable Mention – Delaware Currents | Susanna Granieri



First Place Investigative Reporting – The York Dispatch | Aimee Ambrose



First Place Enterprise Reporting – Altoona Mirror | Mirror Staff

Enterprise Reporting

Division I

First Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Jack Troy
Second Place – LocalNews1 | Robb Helfrick
Honorable Mention – Spotlight PA | Stephen Caruso

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Mirror Staff
Second Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Dave Sutor
Honorable Mention – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Staff

Division III

First Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Donald Serfass
Second Place – The News-Item, Shamokin | Chienne Herman
Honorable Mention – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Justin Strawser, Nick Rex, Bill Bowman & Christian Wade

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | JD Mullane, Michele Haddon & Chris Ullery
Second Place – The York Dispatch | Catherine Rose
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia

Division V

First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Lawrance Binda, Maddie Gittens, Alexandra Jones & M. Diane McCormick
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Maddie Gittens, Lawrance Binda, M. Diane McCormick & Rebekah Teuscher Honorable Mention – The Spirit, Glenolden | Julie Flandreau

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Kyle Bagenstose
Second Place – Bethlehem Press | Theresa O'Brien
Honorable Mention – Dillsburg Banner | Chanty Webb

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Carolyn Beans
Second Place – City & State PA | Harrison Cann
Honorable Mention – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber

News Beat Reporting

Division I

First Place – Spotlight PA | Stephen Caruso
Second Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Sarah Gantz
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Kristen Graham

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Zach Zimmerman
Second Place – Erie Times-News | A.J. Rao
Honorable Mention – WVIA Public Media | Borys Krawczeniuk

Division III

First Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Ian Karbal
Second Place – The Latrobe Bulletin | Joe Wells

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Lacey Latch
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jess Rohan

Division V

First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | M. Diane McCormick
Second Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Kathryn Finegan Clark
Honorable Mention – Town and Country, Pennsburg | Bradley Schlegel

Division VI

First Place – East Penn Press, Allentown | Tabitha Schade
Second Place – The Canton Independent-Sentinel/Troy Gazette Register | Sherry Lambert
Honorable Mention – Bethlehem Press | Ed Courrier

Division VII

First Place – Chesapeake Bay Journal, Seven Valleys | Karl Blankenship
Second Place – City & State PA | Justin Sweitzer & Hilary Danailova


AROUND THE BURG

RESTORATION & FRUSTRATION

Long after a destructive blaze, the Broad Street Market endures, abides, presses ahead. | BY M. DIANE MCCORMICK

First Place News Beat Reporting – TheBurg, Harrisburg / M. Diane McCormick


GOVERNMENT & POLITICS HEALTH LABOR

Job cuts reversed at Pittsburgh lab that certifies nation's respirators

Federal employees had been preparing to shutter the lab in June.

BY IAN KARBAL - MAY 15, 2025 6:42 PM

First Place Breaking News – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Ian Karbal, Peter Hall, Tim Lambert & John Cole

Breaking News

Division I

First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Staff
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Post-Gazette Staff
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Staff

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Zach Zimmerman & Sol McCormick
Second Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Jim Lockwood
Honorable Mention – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | David Hurst

Division III

First Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Ian Karbal, Peter Hall, Tim Lambert & John Cole
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Mike Argento, Harrison Jones, Teresa Boeckel & Lena Tzivekis
Honorable Mention – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Francis Scarcella & Rick Dandes

Division IV

First Place – The York Dispatch | York Dispatch Staff
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Lacey Latch, Chris Ullery, Jo Ciavaglia & JD Mullane
Honorable Mention – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Taylor Brown & Jennifer Codeluppi

Division V

First Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Rob Taylor Jr.
Second Place – Town and Country, Pennsburg | Bradley Schlegel

Division VI

First Place – The Rocket-Courier, Wyalusing | Warren Howeler
Second Place – The Potter Leader-Enterprise, Coudersport | Donna LeSchander
Honorable Mention – The Wellsboro Gazette | Donna LeSchander

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Tim Schooley

Ongoing News Coverage

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Staff
Second Place – LocalNews1 | Zack Taylor
Honorable Mention – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Haley Daugherty & Tawnya Panizzi

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | William Kibler
Second Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Susan Schwartz & Drew Mumich

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Scott Fisher & Teresa Boeckel
Second Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Peter Hall, Ian Karbal, Tim Lambert & John Cole
Honorable Mention – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Mike Argento

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jess Rohan & Chris Ullery
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jess Rohan

Division V

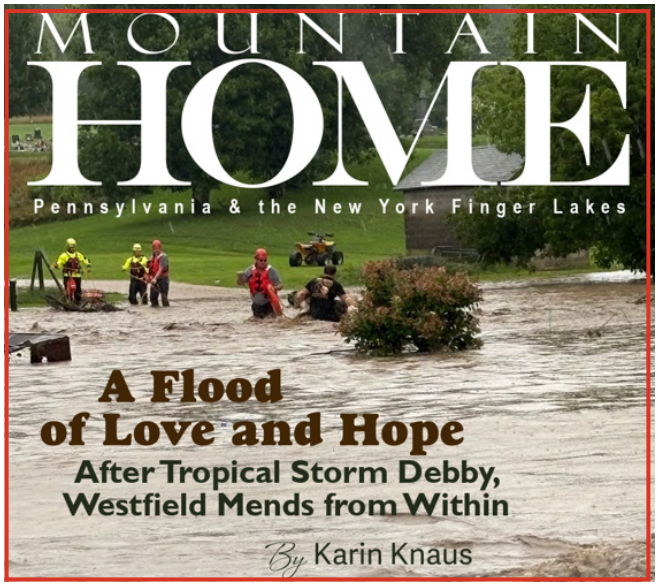
First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Maddie Gittens & Susan Ryder
Second Place – The Spirit, Glenolden | Loretta Rodgers, Julie Flandreau & Paul Bennett
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Freda R. Savana

Division VI

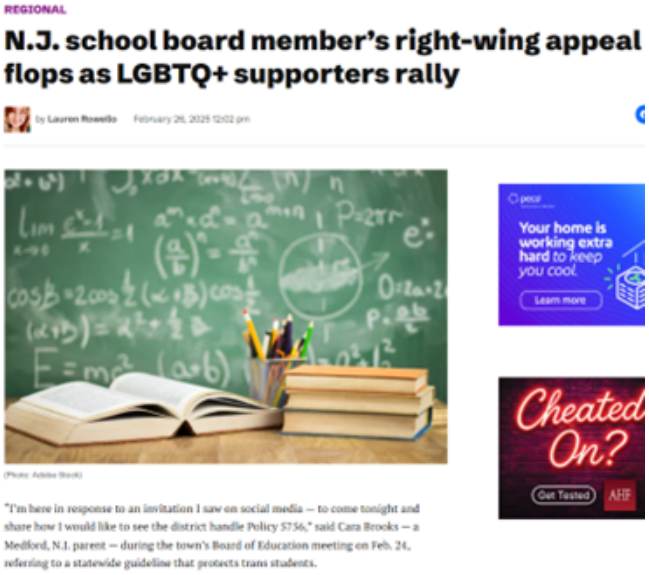
First Place – The Wellsboro Gazette | Kristie Bowles, Donna LeSchander & Natalie Kennedy
Second Place – The Rocket-Courier, Wyalusing | James Loewenstein
Honorable Mention – East End Print, Pittsburgh | Ann Belser

Division VII

First Place – Philadelphia Gay News | Lauren Rowello
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber, Tom Venesky, Candice Wierzbowski & Stephanie Speicher
Honorable Mention – Delaware Currents | Chris Mele



First Place News Feautre Story - Mountain Home, Wellsboro / Karin Knaus & Staff


REGIONAL

N.J. school board member's right-wing appeal flops as LGBTQ+ supporters rally

by Lauren Rowello · February 26, 2025 12:02 pm

Your home is working extra hard to keep you cool.
Learn more
Cheated On?
Get Tested
AHF

"I'm here in response to an invitation I saw on social media — to come tonight and share how I would like to see the district handle Policy 5756," said Cara Brooks — a Medford, N.J. parent — during the town's Board of Education meeting on Feb. 24, referring to a statewide guideline that protects trans students.

First Place Ongoing News Coverage - Philadelphia Gay News / Lauren Rowello

News Feature Story

Division I

First Place - The Philadelphia Inquirer / Wendy Ruderman
Second Place - Spotlight PA / Danielle Ohl
Honorable Mention – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Staff

Division II

First Place – Erie Times-News | Matthew Rink & Greg Wohlford
Second Place – LehighValleyNews.com | Stephanie Sigafoos
Honorable Mention – Butler Eagle | William Pitts

Division III

First Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Whitney Downard
Second Place – Beaver County Times | Garret Roberts

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | JD Mullane, Chris Ullery & Michele Haddon

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Karin Knaus & Staff
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | M. Diane McCormick
Honorable Mention – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Maddie Gittens

Division VI

First Place – The Potter Leader-Enterprise, Coudersport | Natalie Kennedy
Second Place – Bethlehem Press | Theresa O'Brien Honorable Mention – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Abby Weiss

Division VII

First Place – Philadelphia Gay News | Lauren Rowello Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Dave Lefever Honorable Mention – Votebeat Pennsylvania | Carter Walker

Business or Consumer Story

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Laura Malt Schneiderman
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Madaleine Rubin
Honorable Mention – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Julia Burdelski

Division II

First Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Robert Tomkavage
Second Place – The Morning Call, Allentown | Evan Jones
Honorable Mention – Altoona Mirror | Matt Churella

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Mike Argento
Second Place – Beaver County Times | Garret Roberts
Honorable Mention – Beaver County Times | Patrick O'Shea

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon

Second Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Maddie Seiler

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Gayle Morrow
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | M. Diane McCormick
Honorable Mention – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Lilace Mellin Guignard

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | Theresa O'Brien

Second Place – The Lititz Record Express | Laura Knowles
Honorable Mention – Dillsburg Banner | Chanty Webb

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Rebecca Schweitzer-Benner
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Dan Sullivan

Honorable Mention – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber



OUR VIEW

Public notices must remain accessible

Some state lawmakers seem to think they have come up with a way to modernize how local governing bodies get the word out about their meetings, pending actions, tax increases, new ordinances and other measures.

But Senate Bill 194 which resurrects the idea of putting public notices on governmental websites is another way to keep the public in the dark because the idea begs the question: "Who's going to see them there?"

Public notices have long been published in the classified section of local printed newspapers. Those who follow local governments regularly monitor that section for notices of meetings and pending actions like budget adoptions, tax increases, zoning proposals and ordinance changes.

But that doesn't mean Pennsylvania newspapers haven't changed with the times. For those who prefer to read news on computers and cellphones, many newspaper websites have been revised so every reader can have free access to public notices.

First Place Business or Consumer Story – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Robert Tomkavage

Editorial

Division I

First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Joyce Davis
Second Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Paul Davies
Honorable Mention – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Brandon McGinley

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Kay Stephens
Second Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Peter Kendron
Honorable Mention – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Mark Pesto

Division III

First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Michael Maneval
Second Place – Herald-Standard, Uniontown | Jennifer Garofalo

Honorable Mention – The Times News, Lehighton | Marta Gouger

Division IV

First Place – The York Dispatch | Wallace McKelvey

Second Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Arianna McKee

Division V

First Place – The Spirit, Glenolden | Paul Bennett

Second Place – Philadelphia Jewish Exponent | Editorial Board

Division VII

First Place – Philadelphia Gay News | Jeremy Rodriguez



ICE's Gestapo tactics with Pennsylvania's Bhutanese community mark a shameful era in American history | PennLive Editorial

First Place Editorial – PennLIve/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg / Joyce Davis

Column

Division I

First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Nancy Eshelman
Second Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Lori Falce
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Stephanie Farr

Division II

First Place – Observer-Reporter, Washington | Katherine Mansfield
Second Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Christopher Kelly

Division III

First Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Willam Bowman Second Place – The Indiana Gazette | Kylie Jasper
Honorable Mention – The Times News, Lehighton | Kelly Monitz Socha

Division IV

First Place – The Record-Argus, Greenville | Earl Corp
Second Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Stacy Wolford
Honorable Mention – The Bradford Era | Marcie Schellhammer

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Maggie Barnes
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Lawrance Binda
Honorable Mention – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Gayle Morrow

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Len Lear Second Place – The Ephrata Review | Andy Fasnacht Honorable Mention – Parkland Press, Allentown | Bonnie Lee Strunk

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Tom Venesky

Sports Beat Reporting

Division I

First Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Seth Rorabaugh
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Gerry Dulac
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Max Ralph

Division II

First Place –WVIA Public Media / Sarah Hofius Hall
Second Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton / Scott Walsh
Honorable Mention –Altoona Mirror/ Michael Boytim

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News / Shelly Stallsmith
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News / Frank Bodani
Honorable Mention – Williamsport Sun-Gazette / Chris Masse

Division IV

First Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Jon Sauber
Second Place – Pocono Record | Mason Smith
Honorable Mention – Lebanon Daily News | Zavier Gussett

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Don Leypoldt

Division VI

First Place – Dillsburg Banner | Joe Guty
Second Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Tom Utescher
Honorable Mention – The Rocket-Courier, Wyalusing | Pete Hardenstein

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Travis Barrett
Second Place – Philadelphia Business Journal | John George
Honorable Mention – Delaware Currents | Meg McGuire

Sports/Outdoor Column

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Marcus Hayes
Second Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Tim Benz
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Johnny McGonigal

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Michael Boytim
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Neil Rudel
Honorable Mention – Erie Times-News | Tom Reisenweber

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Frank Bodani
Second Place – New Castle News | Ron Poniewasz Jr.
Honorable Mention – New Castle News | Cody W. Pattison

Division IV

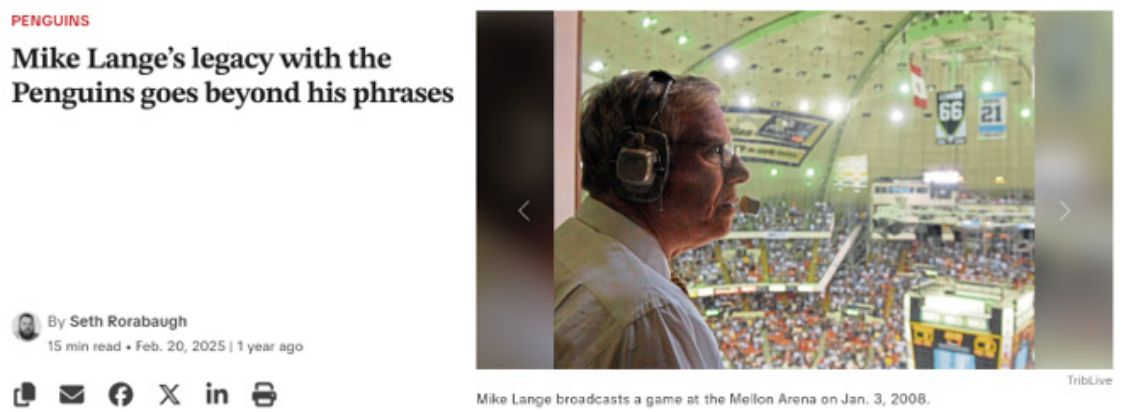
First Place – The York Dispatch | Thomas Kendziora
Second Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Jeremy Sellew
Honorable Mention – Centre Daily Times, State College | Mark Nale

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Wayne Fish
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Natalie diSanto
Honorable Mention – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Lilace Mellin Guignard

Division VI

First Place – The Potter Leader-Enterprise, Coudersport | David Orlowski


PENGUINS

Mike Lange's legacy with the Penguins goes beyond his phrases

By Seth Rorabaugh
15 min read • Feb. 20, 2025 | 1 year ago

TribLive

Mike Lange broadcasts a game at the Mellon Arena on Jan. 3, 2008.

First Place Sports Beat Reporting – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Seth Rorabaugh

Sports Feature

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Alex Coffey
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Noah Hiles
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Evan Wheaton

Division II

First Place – The Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre | Tom Fox
Second Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Mike Mastovich
Honorable Mention – Erie Times-News | Bethany Rodgers

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Jack Gleckler
Second Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Justin Carlucci
Honorable Mention – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Jack Gleckler

Division IV

First Place – The Meadville Tribune | Alex Topor
Second Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Jon Sauber
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Tom Moore

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Jeff Moeller
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Rachel Curry

Division VI

First Place – The Lititz Record Express | Bruce Morgan
Second Place – Dillsburg Banner | Joe Guty
Honorable Mention – Jeffersonian Democrat, Brookville | Rich Rhoades

Division VII

First Place – Philadelphia Gay News | Lauren Rowello
Second Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Tony Regina & Martin Emeno
Honorable Mention – Philadelphia Business Journal | John George

Sports Enterprise

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Alex Coffey, Lochlahn March, Matt Breen & Claire Smith
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Sports Staff

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Jake Merda Adams, Derek Pyda, Brendan Howe & John Enrietto
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Michael Boytim

Division III

First Place – New Castle News | Ron Poniewasz Jr. & Cody Pattison
Second Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Patrick Matsinko

Division IV

First Place – Daily American, Somerset | Adam Ripple
Second Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Jon Sauber & Josh Moyer

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Don Leypoldt

Division VII

First Place – City & State PA | Harrison Cann

Sports Breaking News/Event Coverage

Division I

First Place – LNP, Lancaster | Jason Guarente
Second Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Seth Rorabaugh
Honorable Mention – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Noah Hiles

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Michael Boytim
Second Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Dave Fegley, Dan Reilly & Jimmy May
Honorable Mention – Reading Eagle | Rich Scarcella

Division III

First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Chris Masse
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Shelly Stallsmith
Honorable Mention – The Latrobe Bulletin | Anthony DiCerbo

Division IV

First Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Jon Sauber
Second Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Tim Gross
Honorable Mention – Centre Daily Times, State College | Jon Sauber

Division V

First Place – The Almanac, McMurray | Eleanor Bailey

Division VI

First Place – Dillsburg Banner | Joe Guty
Second Place – The Lititz Record Express | Kevin Frey


Remembering No. 5: Donegal boys basketball team pays tribute to senior killed in car accident

First Place Sports Breaking News/Event Coverage – LNP, Lancaster / Jason Guarente



Bucks County

A Dream Realized: The African American Museum of Bucks County's Journey from Mobile Museum to Modern Day Learning Center

By Lee Davis, 2025-12-01

First Place Feature Story – Bucks County Beacon | Lee Davis

Feature Story

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Laura Malt Schneiderman
Second Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Tirzah Christopher

Division II

First Place – Bucks County Beacon | Lee Davis
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Holly Claycomb
Honorable Mention – WVIA Public Media | Lydia McFarlane

Division III

First Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Tim Lambert
Second Place – Bedford Gazette | Heather Koontz

Division IV

First Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Josh Moyer
Second Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Benjamin Orner
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | JD Mullane

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Lilace Mellin Guignard
Second Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | David O'Reilly
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Jacqueline M. Sofia

Division VI

First Place – The Leader-Vindicator, New Bethlehem | Josh Walzak
Second Place – Catasauqua Press | Samantha Anderson
Honorable Mention – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Abby Weiss

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber
Second Place – Chesapeake Bay Journal, Seven Valleys | Jeremy Cox
Honorable Mention – Delaware Currents | Isabella Darcy

Personality Profile

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Noah Hiles
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Megan Guza
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | John Luciew

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Matthew Glover
Second Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | Dave Sutor
Honorable Mention – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Arthur Dowell & Jimmy May

Division III

First Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Amy Miller
Second Place – Herald-Standard, Uniontown | Jennifer Garofalo
Honorable Mention – The News-Item, Shamokin | Mackenzie Witt

Division IV

First Place – The Meadville Tribune | Chloe Forbes
Second Place – Lebanon Daily News | Matthew Toth
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Jo Ciavaglia

Division V

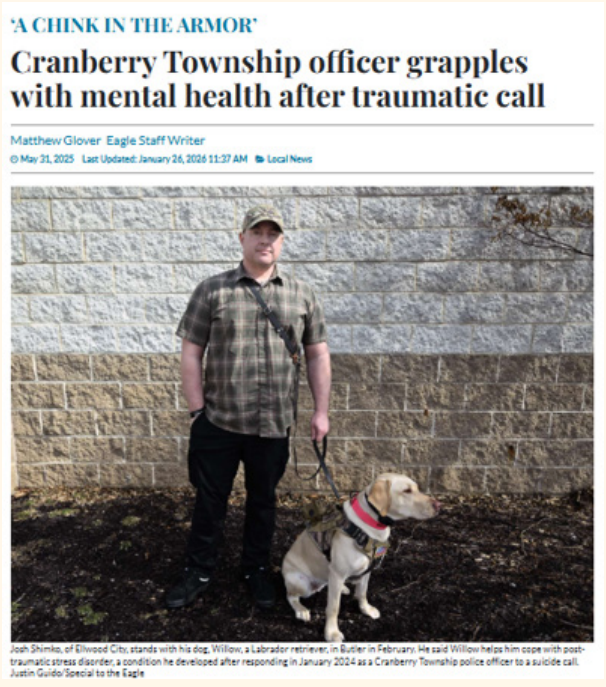
First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Melissa Komar
Second Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Naomi C. Ilochi
Honorable Mention – Philadelphia Jewish Exponent | Aaron Troodler

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Kristin Holmes
Second Place – Bethlehem Press | Ed Courrier
Honorable Mention – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Robert Calandra

Division VII

First Place – Philadelphia Business Journal | Emma Dooling
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Dan Sullivan



'A CHINK IN THE ARMOR'

Cranberry Township officer grapples with mental health after traumatic call

Matthew Glover Eagle Staff Writer

May 31, 2025 Last Updated: January 26, 2026 11:37 AM Local News

Josh Shimko, of Ellwood City, stands with his dog, Willow, a Labrador retriever, in Butler in February. He said Willow helps him cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, a condition he developed after responding in January 2024 as a Cranberry Township police officer to a suicide call. Justin Guido/Special to the Eagle

First Place Personality Profile – Butler Eagle | Matthew Glover

Lifestyle/Entertainment Beat

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Hal B. Klein
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Scott Mervis
Honorable Mention – LNP, Lancaster | Mickayla Miller

Division II

First Place – The Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre | Bob Kalinowski
Second Place – WVIA Public Media | Haley O'Brien

Division III

First Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Donald Serfass
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Lena Tzivekis

Division IV

First Place –First Place – The Progress, Clearfield | Angel Turner & Jeff Corcino
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Karey Solomon
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Gina Napoli

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | Tami Quigley
Second Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Hugh Hunter

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jake Dabkowski
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Margaret High
Honorable Mention – City & State PA | City & State PA Staff

Breaking News Photo

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Alejandro A. Alvarez
Second Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Kristina Serafini
Honorable Mention – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Kristina Serafini

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Rob McGraw
Second Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May
Honorable Mention – Altoona Mirror | Holly Claycomb

Division III

First Place – The Republican-Herald, Pottsville | Matthew Perschall
Second Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Rob Inglis
Honorable Mention – The News-Item, Shamokin | Larry Deklinski

Division IV

First Place – The York Dispatch | Dawn Sagert
Second Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Abby Drey
Honorable Mention – The Evening Sun, Hanover | Harrison Jones

Division V

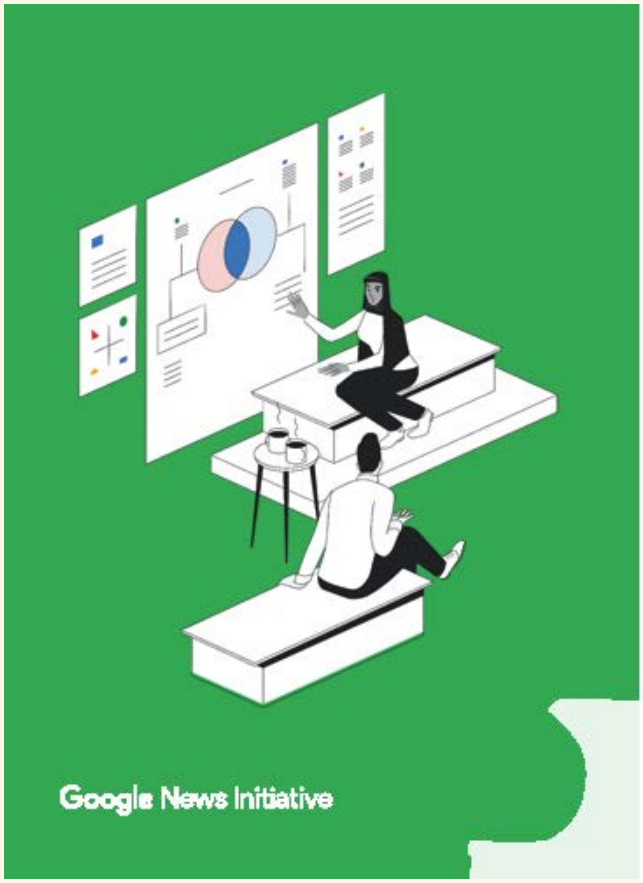
First Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Rob Taylor Jr.
Second Place – Town and Country, Pennsburg | Steve Pestrock
Honorable Mention – Town and Country, Pennsburg | Steve Pestrock

Division VI

First Place – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner
Second Place – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner
Honorable Mention – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jim Harris



The Google News Initiative works side-by-side with publishers and journalists to build a more sustainable, diverse and innovative news ecosystem.

Visit newsinitiative.withgoogle.com/about to find out more about GNI resources, programs, tools and more.

News Event Photo

Division I

First Place – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash
Second Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Joe Hermitt
Honorable Mention – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash

Division II

First Place – The Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre | Bill Tarutis
Second Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Sean McKeag
Honorable Mention – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May

Division III

First Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Donald Serfass
Second Place – The Indiana Gazette | Jessica Uptegraph
Honorable Mention – The Latrobe Bulletin | Joe Wells

Division IV

First Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Jeff Helsel
Second Place – The Evening Sun, Hanover | Harrison Jones
Honorable Mention – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Jason Malmont

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Sara Pinkus
Second Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Peg Quann
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Sara Pinkus

Division VI

First Place – The Lititz Record Express | Mykenzie Davis
Second Place – Whitehall-Coplay Press, Allentown | Donna Gewertz
Honorable Mention – The Ephrata Review | Mykenzie Davis

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jim Harris
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer



Sleigh Bells and Train Whistles

By Curt Weinhold

Heavy snow falls as Mike Berberich shuts the door of the Shay Locomotive shed at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum near Galeton. After a day of skiing I visited the museum just prior to closing, knowing it would be photogenic in the new snow. Then along came Mike, aka "Iron Mike," the former museum maintenance man. As he closed the door, I knew I'd captured a special moment for many, and especially for Mike.

The "Shay" was used as a logging locomotive in the day and is one of many exhibits. Santa himself will be inside the locomotive cab December 13 from noon to 3 for pictures with good little boys and girls.

First Place News Event Photo – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Sara Pinkus



First Place Feature Photo – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jim Harris

Feature Photo

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Tom Gralish
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Giuseppe LoPiccolo
Honorable Mention – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Sarah Qu

Division II

First Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | John Rucosky
Second Place – The Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre | Jason Ardan
Honorable Mention – Altoona Mirror | Cynthia Wise

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Dan Rainville
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Paul Kuehnel
Honorable Mention – The Latrobe Bulletin | Joe Wells

Division IV

First Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Jeff Helsel
Second Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Jeff Helsel

Division V

First Place – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Curt Weinhold
Second Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | David Garrett
Honorable Mention – Mountain Home, Wellsboro | Bernadette Chiaramonte

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Julia Lehman
Second Place – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner
Honorable Mention – The Rocket-Courier, Wyalusing | Nancy Sharer

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jim Harris
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Vinny Tennis

Sports Feature Photo

Division I

First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Joe Hermitt
Second Place – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | David Maialetti

Division II

First Place – The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown | John Rucosky
Second Place – Butler Eagle | Rob McGraw
Honorable Mention – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May

Division III

First Place – Hazleton Standard-Speaker | John Haeger
Second Place – The Herald, Sharon | Tanner Mondok
Honorable Mention – The Courier-Express/Tri-County Sunday, DuBois | Chris Wechtenhiser

Division IV

First Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Jason Malmont
Second Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Jason Malmont
Honorable Mention – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Jason Malmont

Division V

First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Lawrance Binda
Second Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Marlon Martin
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Michael A. Apice

Division VI

First Place – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner
Second Place – The Canton Independent-Sentinel/Troy Gazette Register | Joseph Carreon

Division VII

First Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Dalton Balthaser
Second Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | John T. Iswalt
Honorable Mention – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno

Sports Action Photo

Division I

First Place – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash
Second Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Sean Simmers
Honorable Mention – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Chaz Palla

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Patrick Waksmunski
Second Place – The Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre | Jason Ardan
Honorable Mention – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May

Division III

First Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Rob Inglis
Second Place – The Courier-Express/Tri-County Sunday, DuBois | Chris Wechtenhiser
Honorable Mention – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Dave Kennedy

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon
Second Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Jeff Helsel
Honorable Mention – The Meadville Tribune | Shannon Roae

Division V

First Place – Town and Country, Pennsburg | Robert Esposito Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Lawrance Binda
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Michael A. Apice

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | Mark Kirlin
Second Place – Dillsburg Banner | Curt Werner
Honorable Mention – The Ephrata Review | Dennis Bicksler

Division VII

First Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Dalton Balthaser
Second Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno
Honorable Mention – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno



First Place Sports Feature Photo – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Jason Malmont



First Place Sports Action Photo – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon



First Place Photo Story/Essay – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May

Photo Story/Essay

Division I

First Place – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash
Second Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Tom Gralish
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | David Maialetti

Division II

First Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Jimmy May
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Cynthia Wise
Honorable Mention – Altoona Mirror | Cynthia Wise

Division III

First Place – The Times News, Lehighton | Amy Miller
Second Place – The Latrobe Bulletin | Ernie Sistek
Honorable Mention – The Latrobe Bulletin | Bill Pribisco

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon
Second Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon
Honorable Mention – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Maddie Seiler

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Scott Roman & John Crawford
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Landon Wise
Honorable Mention – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Gina Napoli

Division VI

First Place – The Ephrata Review | Mykenzie Davis
Second Place – The Lititz Record Express | Mykenzie Davis
Honorable Mention – Bethlehem Press | Dana Grubb

Division VII

First Place – Pittsburgh Business Times | Jim Harris
Second Place – Delaware Currents | Preston Ehrler
Honorable Mention – Philadelphia Gay News | Kelly Burkhardt

News Page Design

Division I

First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Patriot-News staff
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Melanie Wass
Honorable Mention – LNP, Lancaster | Abby Rhoad

Division II

First Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Rebecca Kivak
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Cynthia Wise

Division III

First Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Eric Pehowic
Second Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Tim Wertz
Honorable Mention – The Herald, Sharon | John Zavinski

Division IV

First Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Arianna McKee
Second Place – The Meadville Tribune | Kevin Hart

Division V

First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Landon Wise
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Maddie Gittens

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | George Taylor
Second Place – The Canton Independent-Sentinel/Troy Gazette Register | Joseph Carreon
Honorable Mention – The Rocket-Courier, Wyalusing | Joseph Carreon



First Place News Page Design – The Express, Lock Haven / Arianna McKee

Feature Page Design

Division I

First Place – LNP, Lancaster | Elizabeth Patton
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Ashley Marchetti
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Anton Klusener, Sterling Chen & Julia Duarte

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Nicholas Anna
Second Place – Butler Eagle | Bob Weible

Division III

First Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Kyra Smith-Cullen
Second Place – The Indiana Gazette | Jennifer Woomer
Honorable Mention – The Times News, Lehighton | David Rowe

Division IV

First Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Arianna McKee

Division V

First Place – Bucks County Herald, Doylestown | Beth Schroeder
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Megan Caruso
Honorable Mention – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Megan Caruso

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | George Taylor
Second Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Richard Stein

Sports Page Design

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Daniel Mann
Second Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Luke Reasoner, Anton Klusener, John Duchneskie & Max Guther
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Patriot-News staff

Division II

First Place – Altoona Mirror | Buck Frank

Division III

First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Tim Wertz
Second Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Jon Gerardi
Honorable Mention – The Times News, Lehighton | Times News Sports Department

Division IV

First Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Tim Wertz
Second Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Jon Gerardi



First Place Sports Page Design – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Daniel Mann



PRESS PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY DAWN MOSER

ArtsQuest's Banana Factory, long the staple of arts performances, teaching and arts residency on the Southside, is demolished, beginning with the large front gallery.

First Place Headline Writing – Bethlehem Pres / Nate Jastrzemski, Ed Courrier & George Taylor

Headline Writing

Division I

First Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh / John Lehner
Second Place – LNP, Lancaster / Amanda Dash

Division II

First Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Arthur Dowell & Dan Reilly
Second Place – Press Enterprise, Bloomsburg | Shannon Flynn

Division III

First Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Tim Lambert & Ian Karbal
Second Place – The Herald, Sharon | John Zavinski
Honorable Mention – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Jon Gerardi

Division IV

First Place – The Express, Lock Haven | Jon Gerardi
Second Place – The Sentinel, Carlisle | Maddie Seiler
Honorable Mention – The Meadville Tribune | Kevin Hart

Division V

First Place – Allied News, Grove City | John Zavinski
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Lawrance Binda

Division VI

First Place – Bethlehem Press | Nate Jastrzemski, Ed Courrier & George Taylor
Second Place – The Ephrata Review | Andy Fasnacht

Division VII

First Place – City & State PA | City & State PA Staff
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Phil Gruber

Graphic/Photo Illustration

Division I
First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Julia Duarte, Matt Mullin & Steve Madden
Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | James Hilston
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | John Duchneskie

Division II
First Place – Altoona Mirror | Nicholas Anna
Second Place – Altoona Mirror | Nicholas Anna

Division III
First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Tim Wertz
Second Place – New Castle News | Pete Sirianni

Division IV
First Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Trebor Maitin
Second Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Matt DiSanto

Division V
First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Aron Rook
Second Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Aron Rook
Honorable Mention – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Rich Hauck

Division VI
First Place – Bethlehem Press | Ed Courrier
Second Place – East End Print, Pittsburgh | Jason Togyer

Division VII
First Place – Lancaster Farming | Heidi Krall & Phil Gruber

Documentary

Division I
First Place – Spotlight PA | Mitch Blacher & Angela Couloumbis
Second Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | TJ Smith
Honorable Mention – LNP, Lancaster | Tyler Huber

Division VII
First Place – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer



First Place Documentary – Spotlight PA | Mitch Blacher & Angela Couloumbis

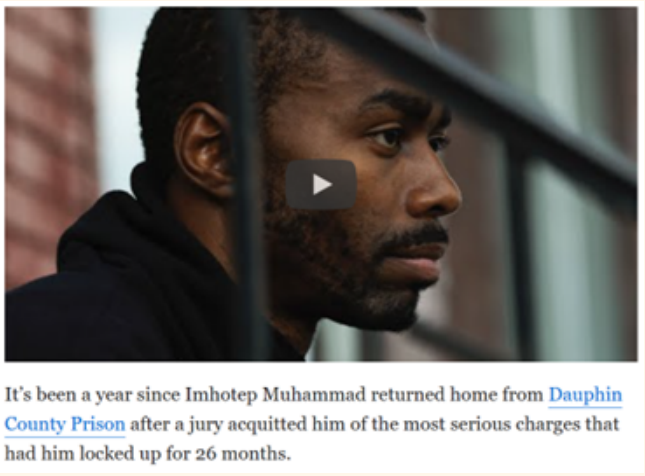
News Videos

Division I
First Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Joshua Vaughn
Second Place – Spotlight PA | Danielle Ohl & Mitch Blacher
Honorable Mention – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Staff

Division III
First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Dave Kennedy
Second Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Paul Kuehnel
Honorable Mention – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Paul Kuehnel

Division IV
First Place – The York Dispatch | Catherine Rose
Second Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Trebor Maitin
Honorable Mention – The York Dispatch | Dawn Sagert

Division VII
First Place – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer



First Place News Video – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, / Joshua Vaughn



First Place Graphic Photo Illustration – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Tim Wertz

Sports Videos

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Jenna Miller
Second Place – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | TJ Smith
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Gabe Coffey

Division II

First Place – Erie Times-News | Tom Reisenweber & Jeff Uveino
Second Place – Erie Times-News | Jeff Uveino

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Shelly Stallsmith
Second Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Dave Kennedy
Honorable Mention – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Dave Kennedy

Division IV

First Place – Centre Daily Times, State College | Abby Drey
Second Place – Lebanon Daily News | Zavier Gussett
Honorable Mention – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Daniella Heminghaus

Division V

First Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Rob Taylor Jr.

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer

Features Videos

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Ariane Datil
Second Place – lehighvalleylive.com/The Express-Times, Easton | Saed Hindash
Honorable Mention – Spotlight PA | Kate Huangpu

Division II

First Place – WVIA Public Media | Haley O'Brien
Second Place – WVIA Public Media | Haley O'Brien

Division III

First Place – York Daily Record/Sunday News | Paul Kuehnel
Second Place – Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Harrisburg | Tim Lambert
Honorable Mention – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Dave Kennedy

Division IV

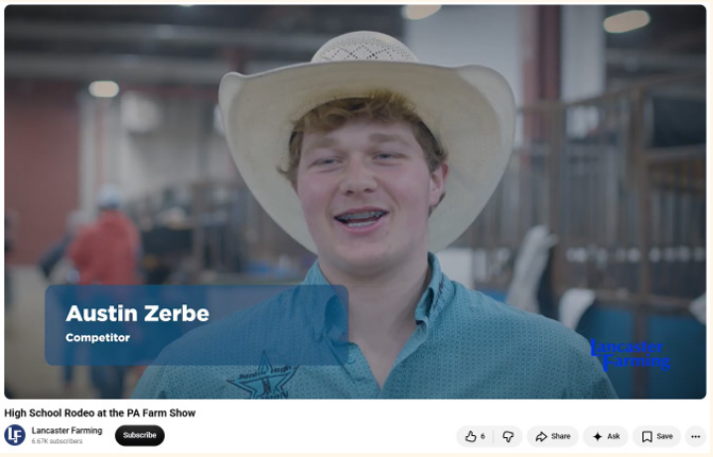
First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Daniella Heminghaus
Second Place – Lebanon Daily News | Matthew Toth
Honorable Mention – The York Dispatch | Catherine Rose

Division V

First Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Julian Hill

Division VII

First Place – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno, Tony Regina, Dalton Balthaser & John T. Iswalt
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer



First Place Sports Video – Lancaster Farming | Drew Oberholtzer

Podcast

Division I

First Place – TribLive, Pittsburgh | Tim Benz & Mark Madden
Second Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer & The Logan Center for Investigative Reporting at Temple University | Daniel Rubin, Yvonne Latty, Linn Washington Jr. & Natalie Reitz
Honorable Mention – PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg | Claudia Dimuro

Division II

First Place – Butler Eagle | Laura Crago
Second Place – Butler Eagle | Laura Crago
Honorable Mention – Butler Eagle | Derek Pyda, Brendan Howe, Jake Merda Adams & Laura Crago

Division III

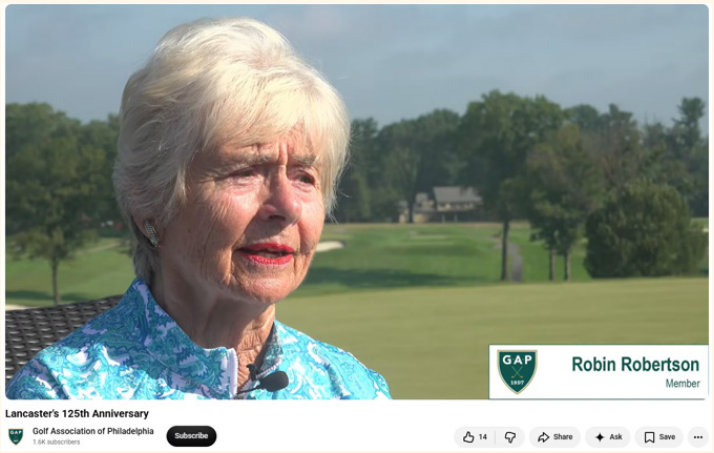
First Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Todd Hummel & Bill Bowman
Second Place – The Herald, Sharon | Tanner Mondok, Rob Malsom & Ty Kohler
Honorable Mention – New Castle News | Ron Poniewasz Jr., Larry Kelly, Cody Pattison & Pete Sirianni

Division VI

First Place – The Canton Independent-Sentinel/Troy Gazette Register | Joseph Carreon

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Candice Wierzbowski & Stephanie Speicher
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Eric Hurlock



First Place Features Video – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno, Tony Regina, Dalton Balthaser & John T. Iswalt



First Place Special Section – The Philadelphia Inquirer / Evan Benn, Suzette Moyer, Anton Blusener & Danese Keno

Special Section

Division I

First Place – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Evan Benn, Suzette Moyer, Anton Klusener & Danese Kenon

Second Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Daniel Mann
Honorable Mention – The Philadelphia Inquirer | Anton Klusener & Inquirer Staff

Division II

First Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Times-Tribune staff

Second Place – Observer-Reporter, Washington | Staff
Honorable Mention – Observer-Reporter, Washington | Staff

Division III

First Place – Williamsport Sun-Gazette | Jon Gerardi
Second Place – The Daily Item, Sunbury | Chelsea Ritter, Kyra Smith-Cullen & Rob Inglis
Honorable Mention – The Courier-Express/Tri-County Sunday, DuBois | Ben Destefan, Tyler Kolesar & Josh Walzak

Division IV

First Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Editorial Staff
Second Place – Mon Valley Independent, Monessen | Sports Staff

Division V

First Place – Philadelphia Jewish Exponent | Staff

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Catherine Lee, Anndee Hochman, Clark Perks & Richard Stein
Second Place – Bethlehem Press | George Taylor
Honorable Mention – The Leader-Vindicator, New Bethlehem | Josh Walzak

Division VII

First Place – City & State PA | City & State PA Staff
Second Place – Lancaster Farming | Stan Hough
Honorable Mention – Golf Association of Philadelphia | Martin Emeno, Dalton Balthaser, Tony Regina & John T. Iswalt

Excellence in Reporting on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Division I

First Place – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Hanna Webster
Second Place – Spotlight PA | Gabriela Martínez

Division II

First Place – Erie Times-News | Erie Times-News staff
Second Place – The Times-Tribune, Scranton | Donnie Collins

Division III

First Place – New Castle News | Debbie Wachter
Second Place – The Mercury, Pottstown | Evan Brandt

Division IV

First Place – Bucks County Courier Times, Levittown | Michele Haddon

Second Place – The York Dispatch | York Dispatch staff

Division V

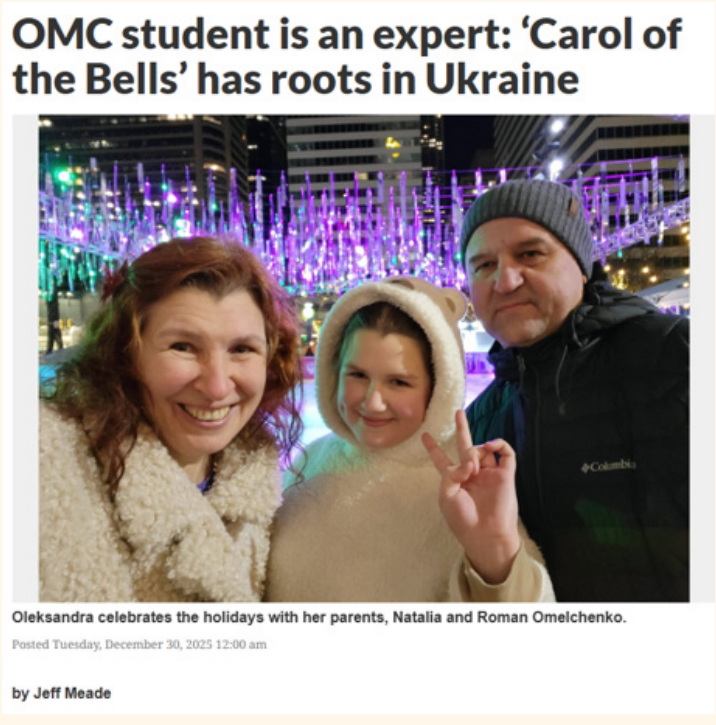
First Place – TheBurg, Harrisburg | Susan Ryder, Colin McGuire, Bob MacGinnes & Stephanie Kalina-Metzger
Second Place – New Pittsburgh Courier | Rob Taylor Jr. & Naomi C. Ilochi

Division VI

First Place – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Kristin Holmes, Jeff Meade, Maggie Dougherty & Len Lear
Second Place – East End Print, Pittsburgh | Ann Belser & Jan Kurth

Division VII

First Place – Lancaster Farming | Eric Hurlock
Second Place – Philadelphia Gay News | PGN Staff



OMC student is an expert: 'Carol of the Bells' has roots in Ukraine

Oleksandra celebrates the holidays with her parents, Natalia and Roman Omelchenko.

Posted Tuesday, December 30, 2025 12:00 am

by Jeff Meade

First Place Excellence in Reporting on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Chestnut Hill Local, Philadelphia | Kristin Holmes, Jeff Meade, Maggie Dougherty & Len Lear

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