

Oklahoma SPJ Award Winners 2024

1. Print photographer of the year – Nathan Poppe
2. Print Outstanding Sports Photography:
 - 1st – Oklahoma Daily, “Drake Stoops Top Tap Catch;”
 - 2nd – Oklahoma Daily, “Coleman Walker Walk Off;
 - 3rd - Cherokee Phoenix - [FC Tulsa hosts Indigenous Peoples' Night](#)
3. Print Outstanding Newspaper:
 - 1st – Cherokee Phoenix;
 - 2nd – OU Daily
4. Print Outstanding sports report:
 - 1st – “Big Man on Campus: Ryan Minor made memories at OU,” NonDoc, Jeremy Cowen;
 - 2nd - “Unfinished business': Dillon Gabriel wills Sooners to Red River Rivalry victory after missing 2022's blowout , OU Daily, Jason Batacao
 - 3rd – “Moss agrees to NIL deal with California business,” Cherokee Phoenix, D. Sean Rowley
5. Print Outstanding general photography:
 - 1st - Double amputee gets second chance to walk, Cherokee Phoenix, Chad Hunter
 - 2nd – Coming Home, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal Tribune, Rosemary Stephens
 - 3rd - Bench monument dedicated in honor of Cherokee Medal of Honor recipient, Cherokee Phoenix, Will Chavez
6. Print Outstanding spot news:
 - 1st – “Drag queen controversy puts Western Heights Public Schools in national spotlight,” Oklahoma Voice, Nuria Martinez-Keel
 - 2nd – “Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt orders review of DEI in higher ed; OU re-commits to values,” OU Daily, Karoline Leonard, Peggy Dodd
7. Print Outstanding Video:
 - 1st – “Double Amputee Gets Second Chance to Walk,” Cherokee Phoenix, Stacie Boston
 - 2nd - Cherokee Nation citizen celebrates doing a 5K for 1,000 days in a row, Cherokee Phoenix, Micah Fletcher
 - 3rd - 8-year-old Cherokee wins golf championship in Las Vegas, Cherokee Phoenix, Micah Fletcher
8. Print Outstanding newspaper photography:
 - 1st – “Officer Salute,” McAlester News-Capital, Derrick James
 - 2nd – “Dancers reunite for holiday powwow,” Cherokee Phoenix, Chad Hunter
 - 3rd – “Head Cook Steps In,” Osage News, Echo Reed
9. Print Outstanding magazine photography:
 - 1st – Kelsey, Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
 - 2nd – “Golden girls” and “Bee-hind the scenes,” TulsaPeople, Greg Bollinger
 - 3rd – “Intentional Spaces,” TulsaPeople, Greg Bollinger

10. Print Outstanding Page 1 newspaper layout and design:
 - 1st – Cherokee Phoenix, “September 1, 2023,” Mark Dreadfulwater
 - 2nd – Oklahoma Eagle, “August 25, 2023 Cover,” Ross D. Johnson
11. Print Outstanding magazine illustration/graphic:
 - 1st – “March Musings,” TulsaPeople, Ashley Guerrero
 - 2nd – “Swimming in Addiction,” Curbside Chronicle, Zach Raw
12. Print Outstanding magazine cover:
 - “Issue 97 - Batter up!,” Curbside Chronicle, Sam Washburn
 - “May 2023,” TulsaPeople, Madeline Crawford, Michelle Pollard
 - “Issue 102 - The Animal Issue,” Curbside Chronicle, Kathleen Neeley
13. Print Outstanding review:
 - 1st – “REVIEW: Killers of the Flower Moon and the strength of Indigenous women,” Osage News, Shannon Shaw Duty
14. Print Outstanding magazine page design:
 - 1st – “Behind the Count,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
 - 2nd – “May Summer Fun Guide,” TulsaPeople, Madeline Crawford
 - 3rd – “2023 City Council Voter Guide,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
15. Print Outstanding profile:
 - 1st – “Top Banana,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
 - 2nd – “Cooking in a New Direction,” Curbside Chronicle, Miguel Rios
 - 3rd - “Shooting for the Stars: Tribal youth wins AISES National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair,” Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal Tribune, Latoya Lonelodge
16. Print Outstanding editorial:
 - 1st – “A Whistle Blew About 5:00 A.M., And The Invasion Of Greenwood Began,” Oklahoma Eagle, Ross D. Johnson
 - 2nd – “Opinion: Oklahoma may be losing in bids for businesses because lawmakers focus on wrong issues,” Oklahoma Voice, Janelle Stecklein
 - 3rd – “Why libraries are important to an open society,” Christian Chronicle, Cheryl Bacon
17. Print Outstanding investigative report:
 - 1st – “Seeking Respite,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe, Kayla Branch
 - 2nd – “Students & Teachers of The COVID-19 Era,” Oklahoma Eagle, Gary Lee
 - 3rd – “Oklahoma’s permit system ushered in new wave of industrial poultry farm growth,” Investigate Midwest, Ben Felder
18. Print Outstanding feature:
 - 1st – “The Many Hats of Shorty Koger,” Cowboys & Indians Magazine, Heide Brandes
 - 2nd – “Demons were calling my name ... A Story of Life and Death,” Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal Tribune, Rosemary Stephens
 - 3rd – “The Depression Burger of Route 66,” BBC News, Heide Brandes
19. Print Outstanding column/commentary:
 - 1st – “Losing Luggage and Finding Hope,” AARP, Heide Brandes
 - 2nd – “‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ a missed opportunity,” Osage News, Ruby Hansen Murray
 - 3rd – “My badass dinner party”, TulsaPeople, Connie Cronley

20. Print Outstanding general news:
 - 1st – “Nation commemorates new grave markers at Osage mass gravesite,” Osage News, Shannon Shaw Duty
 - 2nd – “Fired professor sues Oklahoma Christian University,” Christian Chronicle, Cheryl Bacon
 - 3rd – “Textbook publishers withdraw from Oklahoma as fight over classroom content grows,” Oklahoma Voice, Nuria Martinez-Keel
21. Print Outstanding online story:
 - 1st – “OU leaders appraise value of college degree amid shifting attitudes toward higher ed,” OU Daily, Karoline Leonard
22. Print Outstanding online slideshow
 - 1st – “This week in Cherokee Nation History,” Cherokee Phoenix
 - 2nd – “2023 Big Deer Contest,” Cherokee Phoenix
 - 3rd – “2023 Cherokee National Holiday,” Cherokee Phoenix
23. Print Outstanding newspaper graphic illustration:
 - 1st – “Cover Illustration - July 21, 2023,” Oklahoma Eagle, Ross D. Johnson
24. Print Outstanding newspaper story/photo essay:
 - 1st – “Revivalists Envision Future For All-Black Towns,” Oklahoma Eagle, Basil Childers, Kimberly Marsh
25. Print Outstanding newspaper story
 - 1st - Students of the COVID-19 Era: How the Pandemic followed them to Langston University, Oklahoma’s only HBCU, Oklahoma Eagle, Gary Lee
 - 2nd – “Oklahoma governor says China is buying up the state’s farmland. The data he cites points to other countries,” Investigate Midwest, Ben Felder
 - 3rd – “Federal legislation under review to create avenue for headright return,” Osage News, Shannon Shaw Duty
 - Honorable Mention- “‘Kasey Alert’ system signed into law,” Cherokee Phoenix, D. Sean Rowley
26. Print Outstanding magazine story/photo essay:
 - 1st – “Bike-minded Individuals,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
 - 2nd – “Eating Matters,” Curbside Chronicle, Nathan Poppe
27. Print Outstanding magazine story
 - 1st – “The Quest to Save the World's Most Coveted Chocolate,” The Smithsonian Magazine, Heide Brandes
 - 2nd – “Making Peace,” TulsaPeople, Tim Landes
 - 3rd – “The Women Who Logged 18 Months in the Arctic,” Sierra Magazine, Heide Brandes
28. Print Outstanding Podcast
 - 1st - “Podbean,” VI Marketing, Lindsey Funk
29. Print Outstanding magazine
 - 1st – TulsaPeople
 - 2nd – Curbside Chronicle
 - 3rd – OU Daily Magazine
30. Print Outstanding web design:
 - 1st – Oklahoma Eagle, Ross D. Johnson

- 2nd – Cherokee Phoenix
31. Print Outstanding website (overall)
- 1st – Oklahoma Voice
 - 2nd – OU Daily
32. Print reporter of the year:
- 1st – Bobby Ross, The Christian Chronicle, Religion Unplugged and The Associated Press
 - 2nd – Nathan Poppe, Curbside Chronicle
 - 3rd – Miguel Rios, Curbside Chronicle
 - Honorable Mention – Karoline Leonard, OU Daily

RADIO

33. Radio Outstanding spot news –
- 1st – “City begins new 1921 Race Massacre gravesite search,” KWGS-FM, Ben Abrams
 - 2nd – “Opponents of legislation targeting drag performers voice concerns,” KGOU, Hannah France
 - 3rd – “CEO that sued Bacone may bid on the school in upcoming auction,” KWGS-FM, Ben Abrams
34. Radio Outstanding newscast:
- 1st - PM NewsBrief: Aug. 17, 2023, KGOU, Deborah Shaar
 - 2nd - AM NewsBrief: May 30, 2023, KGOU, Nyk Daniels
 - 3rd - November 15 newscast, KOSU, Michael Cross, Allison Herrera, Anna Pope, Robby Korth
35. Radio Outstanding feature:
- 1st – “OU’s swatting event was a hoax, but the trauma it caused was real,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - 2nd – “5 years after the teacher walkouts, Oklahoma’s GOP has changed its tune,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - 3rd – “Oklahoma support organizations work to provide Afghan refugees with halal food,” KGOU, Hannah France
 - Honorable Mention – “How do you find love on the farm? Dating apps, long-distance drives or maybe a reality TV show,” KOSU, Xcaret Nuñez
36. Radio Outstanding documentary or special program:
- 1st – “Stephanie Stein Crease explores the music and life of noted jazz drummer and bandleader Chick Webb,” KGOU, Jim Johnson
37. Radio Outstanding investigative reporting:
- 1st – “‘We will strive to survive the Ryan Walters time’: Oklahoma superintendents respond to Walters’ claims, rhetoric,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - 2nd – “Big bonuses, bigger risks: Oklahoma’s new teacher sign-on bonus program raises concern,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis, Jennifer Palmer
38. Radio Outstanding reporter:
- 1st - Beth Wallis, StateImpact Oklahoma

- 2nd – Hannah France, KGOU
 - 3rd – Grayson Wheeler, KOSU
39. Radio Outstanding editing (audio production):
- 1st – “Tobacco Stops With Me - Shapeshifter Radio Spot,” statewide radio stations, Kelli Brodersen, Dylan Jasna, Chase Harvick, Tyler Klaassen, Lindsey Funk
 - 2nd – “Tulsa elementary hoists Muscogee Nation flag,” KWGS, Elizabeth Caldwell
 - 3rd – “‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ is shining the Hollywood spotlight on the tiny Oklahoma town of Fairfax. Here’s how they’re handling it ,” KOSU, Allison Herrera
40. Outstanding Podcast –
- 1st – “The TSET Better Health Podcast,” Oklahoma TSET, James Tyree, Dylan Jasna, Samuel Carrillo
41. Radio Outstanding sports story:
- 1st – “Back-to-back-to-back: Oklahoma Sooners capture third straight softball championship,” KOSU, Ryan LaCroix
 - 2nd – “Oklahoma-born runners win big at Route 66 Marathon,” KWGS, Ben Abrams
42. Radio Outstanding discussion program, series or segment:
- 1st – “New laws hit the books as calendar turns to November,” KGOU, Dick Pryor, Shawn Ashley, Jim Johnson
 - 2nd – “ This Week in Oklahoma Politics,” KOSU, Michael Cross, Ryan Kiesel, Neva Hill
 - 3rd – “KGOU Readers Club: Fatherland,” KGOU, Logan Layden
43. Radio Outstanding extended form news story or series:
- 1st – “Killers of the Flower Moon coverage,” KOSU, Allison Herrera
 - 2nd – “What does it mean for Oklahoma to partner with PragerU?,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - 3rd – “Justin Hooper says all he wanted was to be tried in the proper court. Will Tulsa agree?,” KWGS, Max Bryan, Allison Herrera
44. Radio Outstanding interview:
- 1st – “Tulsa police chief suggests nation transform response to gun violence,” KWGS, Max Bryan
 - 2nd – “Looking ahead to the 2024 elections,” KGOU, Dick Pryor, Shawn Ashley, Jim Johnson
 - 3rd – “KGOU Readers Club: Killing the Negative,” KGOU, Logan Layden
45. Radio Outstanding news story:
- 1st – “‘Of course we should be here’: ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ receives a 9-minute ovation at Cannes,” KOSU, Allison Herrera
 - 2nd – “‘Deeply tainted’: Oklahoma conservatives call for moratorium, abolition of the death penalty,” KGOU, Hannah France
 - 3rd – “Oklahoma schools adapt recreational activities to sweltering summer heat,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - Honorable Mention – “Without paid family leave, teachers stockpile sick days and aim for summer babies,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
46. Radio Outstanding online reporting:
- 1st – “FAQ: Answers to your questions about driving with tribal tags in Oklahoma,” KOSU, Allison Herrera, Robby Korth

- 2nd – “Oklahoma voters reject recreational marijuana,” KOSU, Robby Korth, Xcaret Nuñez, Kateleigh Mills
 - 3rd – “In ‘significant’ findings, city auditor points to gaps in Tulsa’s \$87.8 million COVID relief fund accountability,” KWGS, Elizabeth Caldwell, Ben Abrams
 - Honorable Mention – “Demonstrators at city hall call for end of violence in Gaza,” KWGS, Max Bryan
47. Radio Outstanding use of sound:
- 1st – “Oklahoma schools adapt recreational activities to sweltering summer heat,” StateImpact Oklahoma, Beth Wallis
 - 2nd – “Which Oklahoman Got a Hippopotamus for Christmas?” KGOU, Rachel Hopkin
 - 3rd – “‘Of course we should be here’: ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ receives a 9-minute ovation at Cannes,” KOSU, Allison Herrera
48. Radio Outstanding producer
- 1st - Xcaret Nuñez, KOSU
 - 2nd – Jim Johnson, KGOU

TV

49. TV Outstanding feature
- 1st – “The Oklahoma City Sit-In That Changed America,” KFOR-TV, Laura Hess, Ashley Moss, Chris McBee
 - 2nd – “30 years since deadly Catoosa tornado,” KJRH, Amanda Slee
50. Outstanding news story
- 1st – “Woman creates magazine showcasing Tulsa women,” KJRH, Amanda Slee
 - 2nd – “‘We were dying’: Nonprofit aims to improve maternal health outcomes across OKC,” KFOR-TV, Ashley Moss, Undrell Maholmes
 - 3rd – “‘It’s not right’: Black-owned businesses claim federal food programs were fined, shut down, KFOR-TV, Ashley Moss, Ontario Byrd
51. Outstanding extended form news story or series:
- 1st – “‘Fly in the buttermilk’: Black farmers fight decades long discrimination, KFOR TV, Ashley Moss, Justin Young , William Ezzell

Public Relations

52. PR Outstanding publication:
- 1st – “2023 Tulsa Guest Guide,” staff
 - 2nd - “ Building Blocks of Health: FY22 Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Annual Report,” Oklahoma.gov TSET, Thomas Larson, Sarah Carson, Shauna Schroder
53. PR Outstanding promotional material:
- 1st - “TSET - Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline: Diabetes - Kitchen Counter ,” Oklahoma.gov TSET, Kelli Brodersen, Dylan Jasna, Chase Harvick, Lindsey Funk, Sarah Powers

- 2nd – “141st Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment Flyer,” Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Jewell Horinek, Aihanna Payne, Heather Payne
54. PR Outstanding campaign:
- 1st: Tobacco Stops With Me Campaign Press Kit,” Oklahoma TSET, Kelli Brodersen, Dylan Jasna, Chase Harvick, Tyler Klaassen, Lindsey Funk
55. PR Outstanding Press Release Writing
- 1st - “Worage-Stories of the People,” Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Heather Payne
56. PR Outstanding Newsletter
- 1st - “Shape Your Future,” VI Marketing, Lindsey Funk