

*Unless otherwise specified in parenthesis, comments are for first place only. If a category is not listed, its judge(s) did not leave comments.*

## Public Relations

**Newsletter (Category):** Two competitive newsletters. Both did an outstanding job.

**Promotional material (category):** Very hard category. Multiple ties. But if I had to choose the "winners," they have been selected. Very good artwork and great messaging!

**Annual report:** OMRF A to Z offered an innovative and creative approach to the generally predictable foundation annual report genre. The format, succinct writing, and graphics were informative and entertaining. Well done.

**Press release writing (category):** Great storytelling from all the nominees!

**General writing:** Good writing should evoke some type of feeling and this piece hit all the right buttons. It was emotional without being contrived and flowed seamlessly, bringing the writer's grandmother to life again. Congratulations on a piece extremely well-done.

Second place: I've read a lifetime of healthcare/cancer stories and found this to be one of the most compelling.

Category: Very interesting articles and topics - I enjoyed reading them all.

**Publication cover:** Although this was tough with some great entries, the first place winner made me emotional. I kept clicking the next button to try and read more on what the cover was about. It was a great tease.

## Radio

**Sports reporting:** The behind-the-scenes/social media angle of this sports interview is an interesting and creative approach.

**Feature:** Great use of scene tape to move the story along.

**Investigative and Enterprise reporting:** The conversational tone of the writing kept me as a listener engaged and made the material easy to understand. Great reporting on an important topic.

**Government and Criminal Justice reporting:** Important historical context. Great research. The scene tape and archival tape kept me wanting more.

**Election reporting:** I found this explainer to be interesting and informative. The pace of the conversation moved along nicely.

**Diversity:** Great audience engagement tool created this informative, historical story with modern-day implications.

**Special program/Interview/Talk show:** Nice use of the band's songs during the conversation.

**Live broadcast:** Insightful and revealing interview with an important figure feels aimed at the local audience.

**Best newscast:** Solid newscast focuses on highlights of governor's state of the state address, which outlined his leadership and legislative priorities.

## TV

**General news:** Nice build-up to the question of who the man was. Well-shot and edited. Comprehensive story.

Second place: Emotional story. I liked how you let the daughter tell the story and didn't over track it.

Third place: Good commitment to a story and localization.

**Spot news:** Excellent story from start to finish. Great interactive live shot, storytelling with clear characters, beautifully shot and edited and loved the "surprise" of the good deed with the emotional pay off!

Second place: Strong spot news coverage with conversational live reporting, characters in the story and nat sound.

Third place: Great interactive live shots and really getting close to the scene. Good spot news coverage. Very comprehensive.

**Special program/live program/documentary:** Fantastic! Amazing archival footage and great story telling. Lighting on the interviews were spot on.

Category: Great job by all of the contestants! Congrats to all of you for the amazing work. These were all very well told complex stories. These great quality projects made it difficult to pick only one first place winner.

**Feature:** Creatively planned and shot. Well done engaging story.

Category: Tough competition! Other stories worthy of recognition too but no ties were allowed.

**Investigative and In-Depth:** This was an interesting story showing the stark contrast of how convicted male perpetrators are sentenced in a more lenient way than their female counterparts. Good shooting. Good empathy. Good use of subject singing.

**Sports:** Excellent job by Maureen and her photographer/editor.

**Criminal justice and government:** Well done!

**Health reporting:** Great job! Love the story.

**Diversity:** Highlighting how a town responded to white nationalism, this spot masterfully uses mixed media to tell a story succinctly and with impact.

**Video editing:** Great job!

**Videography (category):** Great job by both contestants. The detail shots really help sell the point for these stories.

**Best newscast:** Good newscast that began with a fast-paced assessment of current flooding conditions affecting the city. Well produced and presented.

## Online

**Online writing:** This story was one that was told to the best of its ability online. Anyone can easily see how the presentation of the articles, from subheaders to photos, was created while keeping online readers in mind. The story itself was compelling, well-written and solidly sourced. A great read, through and through.

**Breaking news:** In depth and detailed, great work. Congratulations on breaking this story statewide -- and then keeping a close eye on it...

**Election reporting:** Nice continued coverage of an important issue

**Special report/enterprise:** Impressive five-part series -- strong coverage and a complete multimedia package. Nice job!

**Blog:** Important coverage of a complicated issue!

**Multimedia/podcast:** This is a great example of a topic most likely not on the radar of many people, but extremely interesting. Great research and sound design.

**Video journalism:** Giving voice to the voiceless is perhaps the highest and best use of journalism, and *The Invisibles* does it with heart, dignity and superb street reporting. The journalists took the time to build relationships with their subjects and earn their trust. Dedra Ray and her great granddaughter speak as naturally about drug addiction with video journalist Whitney Bryen as they might with a family member. Mashiur Rahaman's homeless subjects are so at ease in his company, and he in theirs, that he is able to bring his camera intimately close, taking us with him. The storytelling is refreshingly real, told in unpretentious documentary style with excellent weaving of natural sound and narrative, B-roll and talking head. This is laudable work for its depth of care and fine listening ear. Journalism needs more like it.

Second: A first-rate example of a genre, the anti-tobacco campaign, we wish didn't have to exist. Ronnie's shocker of a story is told in his matter-of-fact drawl, with unembarrassed flashbacks from seven cancer surgeries while he pours liquid breakfast into a port in his stomach. Great production values, perfectly paced and edited.

Third: This admirable, lengthy tribute to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's culture holds our interest through seven galleries thanks in part to the way it creatively interleaves visuals from the museum's assets, and to the intelligent delivery of museum director Kelli Mosteller. Plus the fact that the Seven Fires and other Potawatomi traditions are just plain fascinating.

**Slideshow:** Beautiful array of images - great emotion and movement.

**Interactive graphic or resource:** Very unique, user friendly and detailed way to showcase an impressive amount of data.

**Audience engagement:** You clearly know your audience and found multiple avenues to engage with them and continue the conversation.

**Best website:** Site is full of engaging content that is easy to navigate and presented with clean design. There are a lot of sub sections but it's impressive to see they all have fresh content and creative tech elements. Great work.

## Magazine

**Feature writing:** Engaging in-scene narrative, backed by science. I appreciated this classic feature-story approach of first-person exploration and solidly sourced reporting!

Second place: What I loved about this piece was the way it used the concept of warmth to tie the package together. The reader is easily transported from character to character without being jarred or confused. Beautiful writing and human-centered reporting.

Third place: This piece does an excellent job of telling you something new about someone you thought you knew everything about: Hitler. The lovely twist in which his boyhood interests are part of the machine that ends his reign have roots in the classic Greek hubris drama. Excellent work here making this feature interesting, educational, entertaining, and well-shaped.

**News writing:** With its sheer number of sources, anecdotes and storytelling, "The Ultimate Goal" walks readers through the concept of community policing and what it does for Tulsa in an unrivaled form.

Second place: Housing First uses masterful tight writing and organization to explain what could be a tricky concept with ease.

Third place: Let's Talk About Hunger breaks down Oklahoma City's food desert situation by talking to a mix of people directly affected by it and government officials.

Category: This category showcases the best of community news reporting — explaining meaty concepts that impact a whole town and breaking them down so readers can easily understand why they matter.

**Column writing:** M.J. Alexander swept the category with her mix of the visual with the visual - that's her descriptive words with her great pictures. "Quotelahoma" gets the

edge in this category with a new angle on a beloved musical and the state it represents. Creative approach.

**Profile:** The reporter worked to find interesting, descriptive details to both tell the story of an artist and to give an idea of what her working life is like.

**Reader service:** It's clear a lot of work went into creating the food guide by The Curbside Chronicle, with bold photos to showcase what each person profiled is eating every day. It's a stark reminder of food insecurity, while also telling the story of the person being featured.

**Photo story/essay:** Very well done. Great photography. Very appetizing and appealing.

Category: This category was full of great work. It was very tough to decide. Everyone should be proud of the work they did.

**General photography:** This is a very well done portrait. I really enjoyed this image. This photographer did a great job.

**Page design:** Bold & bright indeed! Very clean, well-conformed, and utilizes very snappy and wise design choices. This is an incredibly delightful story layout.

Second: A lot of hard work went into this one, and it was well worth it! The graphics are easy to navigate and have a very sharp impression.

Third: Rugged, moody.... my favorite genre, and one often forgotten in print. It can be dangerous to play with texture behind white text, since the eyes may get lost more easily - but it's a risk that otherwise paid off.

Category: Very tough choices! Everyone submitted highly-professional examples, and I'm proud of every single contestant for the effort they put into their designs. Every submission was a winner in its own way.

**Illustration/graphic:** A big, bold beautiful graphic that sweeps across the page; it's sharp, relevant, and has a unique style. Nicely done!

Second: This is an intensive graphic that adds a whimsical appeal to the story. Its unconstrained borders are highly attractive.

Third: A sharp, beautiful graphic that helps narrate the story, and quickly grabs the readers.

Category: Very tough choices!

**Cover:** Unique layout, with vibrant colors and eye contact from the subject. A very fun style that is vibrant and professional, nicely done!

Second: Great use of layout and layers; colors are sharp, and the subjects meet the reader's eyes. Very nice!

Third: Very impressive use of illustration! The colors are unique, and the layout immediately grabs the viewer.

**Best magazine:** The Curbside Chronicle has created a unique magazine that not only gives a voice to the homeless, but showcases how diverse the community is.

Underrepresented groups are given a chance to tell their stories, and some of the most successful people in the city share their stories of tough times to show what can happen when someone is given an opportunity. Fantastic photography, creative design, and wonderful storytelling.

## Newspaper A

**Government reporting:** This article efficiently explains how vaccination became such a hot-button issue in Oklahoma politics. If the reader did not understand how this happened, they will have a much clearer understanding after reading this article, which fairly showing all sides on this issue, including the experts. The sources in this story provide informative examples of just how influential and fearsome the anti-vaccination constituency has become, even if their numbers may be small, thanks in part to the surprising sums of money they've raised.

Second: This series uses an easy-to-understand subject, liquor sales, to introduce the reader to the world of Oklahoma lobbying. The other stories in this series, while interesting, informative and clear, are less accessible to the general public. It's certainly newsworthy that outgoing lawmakers immediately become lobbyists, or that special interests have spent near record levels on lobbying. But what could've pushed this series to first place would have been details on what these interests got for their

money, or evidence based on campaign finance data showing that lawmakers who accept money from a big donor vote in their favor more often than those who don't.

**Feature:** Lovely writing on an interesting man. It made me want to learn more. How did he survive the massacre? I'm curious on more details to where he was when it happened and what he remembers. And I think the story is missing authority from an expert who can weigh in what Mr. Singer meant to jazz's history. I wonder if Mr. Singer's wife can speak to how it affects him to no longer be able to play? He spent so much of his life playing music. Emotionally, how does that weigh on him to have to stop in old age? Again, a lovely story although I wish the writer had added a few more layers.

**Personal column:** This fun, funny column manages to pull off the trick of being both highly personal and speaking to a detail of modern life that will be familiar to most readers.

**Criminal justice reporting:** Fascinating story about the lack of transparency behind the powerful Oklahoma District Attorneys Association and why that matters. Persistent reporting as Oklahoma Watch attempted to gain access to the meetings twice and was asked "politely" to leave. I hope the reporter keeps following the issue and covers any reaction from officials that might create change to the system.

**Diversity:** Strong coverage and a truly powerful photo

**Education:** Good watchdog reporting to shed light on how Epic schools manipulated its enrollment. It's pretty shocking to read former teachers detailing how they were pressured to withdraw students. The reporter's other stories follow the issue, looking deeper into Epic's controversial history and the lack of oversight. The reporter writes with confidence. I do wish more voices (students and parents) appeared in some of the stories. But overall, good beat reporting which proves why education reporting matters.

**Science, health, technology and environmental reporting:** This series of stories gives the reader a detailed answer to the question, "What is up with these surprise medical bills?" Beyond explaining the issue, this series shows what lawmakers have done, or failed to do, to address this issue. The infoboxes and charts interspersed throughout keep the reader going, an apt tool for longer, dense stories.

**Entertainment/arts/leisure:** Wonderful layout and engaging story. It truly stood out!

Second: This was an amazing story to judge and it was certainly a close call while reviewing these entries.

Third: The story of this artist was engaging and truly wonderful. Great reporting and voice.

Category: While all the entries truly stood out, I'm happy to have chosen three solid winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Thank you all for your submissions, engaging arts and culture content and wonderful commentary.

**Sports reporting:** Murray Evans' coverage of a memorial service for a legendary high school football coach went far beyond the night's glowing tributes. Evans' reporting also provided depth and context, offering a much fuller picture of a man who touched so many lives.

**General photography:** Good color and nice framing. I enjoyed this image.

**Sports photography:** It's a nice frame. It's clean and decent sports photo.

**Page one layout & design:** A sharp, attractive design with very clean and easily-navigated graphics; a clean combination of layout and graphics. Nicely done!

**Feature page layout & design:** Great use of texture to break up the layout and create something unique. The colors work very well together, and the fonts are attractive.

Nicely done!

**Use of graphic/illustration:** Nice clean use of layout, consistent with fonts but also fun! A charming little guide, nicely designed.

## Newspaper B

**In-Depth enterprise & investigative reporting:** This reporter stood out for initiative, clarity and detail as she covered Elgin's wastewater system woes from all angles.

Category: The competition was strong, with many solid entries from reporters doing great work covering local government.

**Election reporting:** This series of articles explains to the reader the sometimes convoluted world of campaign finance, and how its laws disqualified a candidate from

running for tribal office. Knowing who Walkingstick's supporters were would have informed the reader about who feels hurt by the candidate's forced exit.

**Spot news:** This entry has a lot of things going for it. Kudos to the daily deadline decision to have some watchdog work with the sidebar on sirens not going off. I'm sure that was a talker. The "how to help" box on the cover was smart; it reminds folks that the newspaper is there to help and be a part of the community it loves. The photos helped you tell the story well. This team should be proud.

**Feature:** Powerful story, powerful topic. This story tries to put a face on many women who did not have a voice. A valuable public service indeed. Don't be afraid to rely less on quotes. Use your own reporting and writing to propel the story forward without relying on quotes, which honestly, aren't that strong. Overall, good job. I hope you continue reporting on these cold cases and whether law enforcement is able to make any arrests.

**Personal column:** Lyrical and vivid, Ruby's column feels like a poem. Her appreciation for nature, community and cute critters shines through and is a pleasure to read.

Second: Man, 119, Suffers Dehydration is an amusing, self deprecating thank you note to his rescuers. Nicely done.

Third: Intellectually and morally persuasive. Chandra's well-crafted column shows the absurdity of giving children toys that trivialize mass incarceration.

**Editorial/commentary:** This opinion piece was succinct and covered a relevant and pressing concern. Instead of simply arguing for or against an issue the writer took an idea from a neighboring state that would solve an urgent problem inside Oklahoma and argued for its implementation. Additionally, the writer included plenty of facts and data to support his argument.

**General news reporting:** The reporter achieved an comprehensive and comprehensible analysis of the state's workers' comp program. They used voice and sound reporting to parse through the complexities for the reader.

Second: This is the work of a reporter. Thank goodness they were there with context and follow-through for readers.

Third: There's not much better than watchdog work from a college newspaper. This journalist pulled paper, examined whether their dollars were being put to good use and then got answers from officials. Gardetto's or not, that's watchdog journalism. If only for an expense account could the reporter have not stopped at the Dr. Pepper and Chewy Spree candy but bought out the entire machine to analyze the expiration dates. This was surely a talker on campus, and for good reason.

Category: If journalists are not there to cover the machinations of government, including the ways in which officials try to hide, communities become worse places. From college vending machines, to tribal matters and Oklahoma's workers' comp program, these stories helped make their communities better. All these reporters should be proud.

**Criminal justice reporting (category):** These hard-working crime reporters should be proud. There was a range of criminal justice issues examined, but the winner tackled the most important question in journalism: how did it end up like this? In this case, the topic was prisons. The story could have been at home in any of the state's newspapers. The other two winners looked at local crime, where newspapers have such an impact. We're there to be witnesses to history, and all three certainly did so.

**Diversity:** This series provides a critical and deeply insightful account of multiple issues impacting indigenous peoples. Well-researched and written, this series represents an important journalistic voice for diversity.

Second: Unique, in-depth and enlightening commentary on LGBTQ issues within the Methodist Church. Well written and supported.

Third: A deeply engaging article exploring a very newsworthy "hot-button" issue impacting the author's community and, to a wider extent, the entire nation.

Category: Many exceptional entries exploring issues diversity and inclusion across a wide spectrum of underserved populations. Excellent journalistic contributions throughout made this a very difficult category to judge. Well done!

**Education:** This piece does more than share information. It tells me a story. The introduction walks me through how we got here and how momentous of a vote it is, and the rest of the article clearly walks me through all sides of the issue.

Second: This story clearly puts a magnifying glass on the complex problems in school funding since the recession.

**Science, health, technology and environmental reporting:** Although the choice was difficult for first place, "Beleaguered Budget" was well-deserving of the award. It was a thoroughly interesting story, with striking data and methodical presentation. The reporting left no stone unturned and answered every question. In the end, I was left wanting to read more.

**Entertainment/arts/leisure:** This could have been a run-of-the-mill profile, but the reporter honed in on a traumatizing event that the sheriff went through to tell the story of his career and tenacity. Well written and researched.

Second: The making of this film had a huge impact on the Osage community, and the reporter followed it every step of the way. The reader is taken into the audition grounds, where we learn not only about the event but also why this is such an important story to the Osage people.

**Sports reporting:** Brian Johnson's game coverage was excellent, with pertinent details and quotes, but he also highlighted the unusual circumstances of the game with sensitivity. The tragic death of a Tecumseh player earlier in the week, and the response from both communities, was as much a part of the story as the actual game.

**Sports feature:** Rosemary Stephens takes a look at an eighth-grade football prodigy that goes beyond his exploits on the field. Sage "Tha Rage" Lone Bear is an athlete I'll be following in the coming years.

**Sports column:** Brian Johnson effectively contrasts the ugliness of the Cleveland Browns' helmet-swinging incident with the class act of rival communities coming together to mourn the death of a high school football player. The column provided a touching slice of small-town life in Oklahoma.

**General photography:** Tough choice between first and second but the emotion won out. Great image with creativity.

Second: A very well done storm photo that helped tell the story. Great framing.

Third: Good photo. Some things could be done better but photographer should be happy as they put together a good frame.

Category: This was a tough competition to work through but the winners stood out above the rest. Photography, done right, enhances the story. These images were done right.

**Sports photography:** Great job covering peak action. Stood out above the rest, though a tighter crop would make it even better.

Second: Two things would make this better. First a better crop and second change of angle. Outside of that, this photo was a good one.

Third: Nice frame with good action. A faster shutter would freeze all the action.

Category: This was a daunting category to cover. There were only a few images that stood out. Things like better cropping and sharp, crisp images would have helped others possible compete for the top positions. First place did a great job capturing peak action and was clearly the best image in the competition.

**Story/photo essay:** Tells a story with photos. Everything works well together. Nice photo story.

Second: I enjoyed the photos though a few let down the overall page. Also a few could be better by getting closer.

Third: I like the concept and creativity. Would have been better by being closer.

Category: The winners stood out above the rest of the competition. They were fun and used their photos wisely to tell a story. Too many entries failed to do that. Far too many entries were just a bunch of photos thrown on a page instead of using the photos to tell a story. There was a huge lack of creativity outside of the top three and the winner did a great job of mixing it up. From detail to wide, from low to high angles, first place did the extra work that deserves the win.

**Spot news photography:** Photographer did a good job finding the right angle to tell the story in the frame. This stood out from the other entries for that reason.

Second: Not a bad frame though I would have loved to see, if it was possible, a frame that incorporated the scene in the fore ground with the choppers in the background.

Third: I wasn't sure which image was to be judged though the three from the story are very similar. They could be cropped better and faces. As a photojournalist the faces tell the story.

**Page one layout & design:** Unique; daring to add so much color to a text-heavy layout, yet masterfully done! Full of bright graphics that will grab any reader.

Second: Clean, attractive, and even a little bit daring in its use of dark colors - nicely done!

Third: Unique fun homage to the story and its subjects; a very fun play on the standard layout.

Category: Very tough choices! Everyone submitted very fun examples.

**Feature page layout & design:** Fantastic use of layers and elements to create a stylized layout that grabs the reader, very attractive!

Second: Great diversity of photos; strong layout, nice and clean. Very fun for a reader to gaze through!

Third: This is a very fun layout that plays with unique elements and visuals to create a highly unique and immersive design.

**Use of graphic illustration:** Excellent balance of typography, with very clean rows and highly-readable information. The image is sharp, and has great contrast against the dark text, which is great for print. Stunning design, nicely done!

Second: Clean, effective, and attractive. Very tidy and readable, with a subtle burst of graphics for flavor. Nicely done!

Third: Simple, clean, effective. A very tidy and highly-readable graphic, nicely done!

**Headlines:** Catchy headlines matching with the stories and photos! "Eagle Edition" had the additional bonus of the whole page being a wonderful read!

**Best newspaper:** The Osage News is strong in all categories - reporting, writing, editing, headline writing, design, photography. It provides thorough coverage, depth and context, and appears to know its audience well.

## Best of the Best

**Best reporter:** Trevor demonstrated consistent, insightful, focused reporting that revealed practices public institutions would rather keep hidden.

Second: Whitney deserves accolades for documenting the hideous violence too many women and children face. Her writing shows the urgency of the problem and demands public attention.

Third: Jennifer's investigative reporting on Oklahoma's largest charter school operator is excellent and commendable.

Category: Tough category from top to bottom. Outstanding work by Oklahoma Watch. All of their reporters had strong entries. They were deeply reported stories on important topics.

**Best broadcaster:** Very engaging. very likeable reporter. It is clear he loves people and loves telling a good story.

Second: Very natural. Brings his personality to his job and stories. Very interesting storyteller.

**Best photographer:** Nice photography. Photographer captures some nice frames on a consistent nature.