

Society of Professional Journalists San Diego Pro Chapter
2025 Journalism Awards

Audio — Feature Story

First Place: “48 hours in migrant encampments: San Diego’s remote border region is now a destination for US-bound migrants from around the world”

Cody Dulaney, Sofia Mejías-Pascoe, Zoë Meyers and Philip Salata (KPBS/inewssource)

Second Place: “Forty years: ‘He’s pumped to give the gift of life’”

Phil Farrar (KOGO)

Audio — News

First Place: “‘The McDonald’s Massacre’ California’s deadliest mass shooting”

Phil Farrar (KOGO)

Second Place: “FBI warns of rise in ‘sextortion’ scams targeting teens”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Third Place: “SANDAG starting environmental work at Batiquitos Lagoon ahead of rail project”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Audio — Newscast

First Place: “KOGO Newscast AM 600”

Phil Farrar (KOGO)

Audio — Podcast

First Place: “Pop Culture Happy Hour”

Hafsa Fathima, Jessica Reedy, Mike Katzif and Elizabeth Metzger (NPR)

Second Place: “Happy Half Hour Podcast”

Troy Johnson and Jackie Bryant (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “Free Jane”

Katie Hyson and Claire Trageser (KPBS)

Audio — Sports Story

First Place: “Tate Carew: ‘The grind for Paris Olympic gold’”

Phil Farrar (KOGO)

Second Place: “Recent deaths put spotlight on contact sports. Should kids be playing?”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

College Media — Arts/Entertainment Story

First Place: “Godfather of Chicano theater”

Blanca Esthela Castañeda García (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Southwestern Superman JMS”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Every little thing they do is magic: Billy Joel and Sting’s rainy night at Petco Park”

Isabella Dallas and Isabella Biunno (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Best News Media Website

First Place: “The Southwestern College Sun Online”

The Sun staff (Southwestern College)

Second Place: “The Daily Aztec”

Madison Cadena and Isabella Biunno (San Diego State University)

Third Place: “The Mesa Press”

Mesa Press staff (San Diego Mesa College)

College Media — Best Newspaper

First Place: “The Southwestern College Sun”

The Sun staff (Southwestern College)

College Media — Column

First Place: “I stand to honor my military family, reject injustice”

Zeke Watson (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “How to romanticize college life”

Isabella Dallas (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Election 2024

First Place: “Palomar Governing Board election”

Cynthia Cunningham and Victoria Gudmundson (The Telescope)

College Media — Feature Photo

First Place: “Chicana Impala”

Emily Esparza (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Otherworldly dance”

Mijail Jones (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Series

First Place: “Tiny homes: A solutions-journalism approach to ending homelessness”

María José Durán, Jeremy Burton, Joshua Silla, Shanti Velasco and Isabella Canale
(SDSU - School of Journalism & Media Studies)

College Media — Feature Story

First Place: “Dreaming of an orange Christmas”

Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Remembering a legend”

Sydney Brammer (The Point)

Third Place: “Sit down with an artist: Koecean’s Kaitlyn Thomas influences ‘rage state’ with the sound of Koecean”

Serena Neumeyer (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Headline Writing

First Place: “Dreaming of an orange Christmas”

Alexa Lima, Xiomara Santospieve, Jose Guzman and Carla Gutierrez
(The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Soldiering on for student vets”

Carla Gutierrez and Jose Guzman (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Prism a rainbow of light for campus LGBTQ community”

Diego Higuera, Rebecca Esparza and Alexa Lima (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — In-depth Reported Story

First Place: “Outdated website and unclear training misrepresent reality of PLNU sustainability”

Sydney Brammer (The Point)

Second Place: “PLNU again listed as anti-LGBTQ”

Diego Higuera (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Layout & Design

First Place: “Fast world, fast fashion”

Victoria Gudmundson (The Telescope)

Second Place: “Spirit of revolution animates Chicano Park”

Luz Maria Clayton, Ivan Medida and Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Godfather of Chicano theater”

Blanca Esthela Castañeda García (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Multicultural Story

First Place: “Native American students advocate for missing women”

Juan H. Estrada (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Good day to be an Indian”

Alexa Lima, Emily Esparza and Briana Nuñez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Deep in our roots”

Emma Tam (The Telescope)

College Media — News Photo

First Place: “A banner year”

Yanelli Z. Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Protest against anti-immigration policies”

Cynthia Cunningham (The Telescope)

Third Place: “COLA demands bubble over as SCEA seeks raise”

Yanelli Z. Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — News Series

First Place: “Advocating for Access”

Sydney Brammer (The Point)

College Media — News Story

First Place: “AI bots stealing classes, FAFSA”

Xiomara Santospieve (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Miramar professor among 3 injured en route to Hurricane Helene relief efforts”

Mia Jabbour (The Mesa Press)

Third Place: “VPFS fired After DUI”

Dira Wong (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Opinion/Editorial

First Place: “Frustrated student calls out detached admins”

Dira Wong (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Gun violence steals young Americans’ futures and dreams”

Alexa Lima (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “When did concerts become a battle to prepare for? I’m exhausted”

Isabella Dallas and Alex Martinez (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Original Illustration or Cartoon

First Place: “Feeding the magazine illustration”

Victoria Gudmundson (Palomar College Impact Magazine)

Second Place: “Clawing back hard-earned speech rights”

Carla Labto (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Unselfish soccer squad takes one for the team”

Robert Navarro (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Photo Essay

First Place: “San Diego State students ally and rally for undocumented rights”

Christie Yeung, Ysa Garcia, Catherine Nicole Domingo and Carlos Jimenez (The Daily Aztec)

Second Place: “Spirit of revolution animates Chicano Park”

Yanelli Z. Robles, Emily Esparza, Anahy Gutierrez and Maritza Prieto
(The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Otherworldly dance”

Mijail Jones (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Review/Criticism

First Place: “Book review: Gratitude, ecology and a new take on science fiction”

Teal Davis (The Daily Aztec)

Second Place: “A vibrant reflection: ‘Look Back’ is a timeless gem”

Kiran McKee (The Mesa Press)

Third Place: “Satan’s sandbox”

Valeryah Lara-Urrea, Yanelli Z. Robles and Emily Esparza (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Sports Photo

First Place: “SDFC home opener”

Sam Nichols (The Daily Aztec)

Second Place: “Vertically challenged”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Palomar TE Quincy Herron looking towards scoreboard”

Hector Flores (The Telescope)

College Media — Sports Story

First Place: “NIL: what is it, and how did we get here?”

Trevor Speetzen (The Daily Aztec)

Second Place: “Ted Leitner: The voice of San Diego sports bids farewell after decades behind the mic”

Roman Aguilar (The Daily Aztec)

Third Place: “Palomar stunned after blowing 13-point lead”

Connor Larson (The Telescope)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Arts/Entertainment Story (Performing Arts)

First Place: “Miles Davis’ ‘Kind of Blue’ is, at 65, a shape-shifting album that transcends time and genre”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “This acoustician is transforming the San Diego Symphony’s sound. Here’s how.”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Les Ballets Jazz Montreal sets the music of Leonard Cohen to dance”

Marcia Luttrell (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Breaking News Story

First Place: “San Diego swamped by powerful storm”

Karen Kucher, Teri Figueroa and Gary Robbins (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Flood of lawsuits? 42nd St. residents say city ignored culvert cleanup pleas”

Ken Stone (Times of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First Place: “How Gen Z is transforming the vintage scene in San Diego”

Serena Neumeyer (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Hollywood strikes back: San Diego Comic-Con to have major star power this year”

Phillip Molnar (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “NAMM, the Super Bowl of music trade shows, resumes in Anaheim with new CEO who welcomes AI and influencers”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Column

First Place: “The Progress Report”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “Someone San Diego Should Know”

Jan Goldsmith (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Ham on Wry”

Irv Erdos (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First Place: “Powerful sedatives and in-custody deaths”

Dorian Hargrove and Katy Stegall (CBS 8)

Second Place: “Nearly four years after protests took a violent turn in La Mesa, the healing continues”

Lauren J. Mapp (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “A cross, a bracelet and a body: Who was the woman found in Forester Creek?”

Blake Nelson (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First Place: “San Diego’s virtual schools are not working”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “San Diego Unified high schoolers: Getting great grades but troubling test scores”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “San Diego Unified is slowly embracing science of reading”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Election 2024

First Place: “KPBS Voter Hub 2024”

Elma Gonzalez and KPBS staff

Daily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First Place: “Ranches flood in the Tijuana River Valley following January storm”

Julieta Soto and Elaine Alfaro (The Coronado News)

Second Place: “Research reveals how long baby sharks stay in San Diego coast nursery”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First Place: “Dad duty: Same-sex flamingo couple hatches egg, cares for chick at Safari Park”

Karen Kucher (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Reflections on Street Scene: San Diego’s original music fest was vital precursor to Coachella, Wonderfront, CRSSD, KAABOO and more”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Aging gracefully: Casa de Mañana celebrates its centennial”

Elisabeth Frausto (lajolla.ca)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First Place: “48 hours in Jacumba’s migrant encampments”

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe, Cody Dulaney, Zoë Meyers and Philip Salata (inewssource)

Second Place: “8 minutes, 19 seconds: Inside one man’s dying body as Narcan molecules rush to reverse an overdose”

Blake Nelson (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “San Diego County judge orders conditional release of sexually violent predator, after protests scuttled earlier attempts”

Elaine Alfaro and Scott Rodd (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First Place: “Michelin Guide goes to Mexico for 1st time, spotlights Tijuana, Baja California restaurants”

Renee Schmiedeberg and Brian Holt (NBC 7 San Diego)

Second Place: “Cold cash or cream cheese captures crafty columnist”

Irv Erdos (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First Place: “A San Diego judge got paid when he didn’t work. He hasn’t been told to pay it back.”

Greg Moran (inewssource)

Second Place: “A fight in an elevator is roiling Rancho Santa Fe School District”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “Lemon Grove City Council member was absent or late to half of meetings in 2023”

Lauren J. Mapp (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First Place: “Investigating medical emergencies at the U.S.-Mexico border”

Sofía Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Second Place: “San Diego County still has a detox shortage”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “From caregiving to mourning: Navigating the end of the road as a family caregiver”

Lauren J. Mapp (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing Insecurity Story

First Place: “Island life for these unhoused San Diegans means few police – and many hazards”

Cody Dulaney and Zoë Meyers (inewssource)

Second Place: “The county promised big moves on shelter. Years later, it hasn’t delivered.”

Kathryn Gray (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First Place: “A new six-story building is proposed in downtown San Diego to house one man”

Phillip Molnar (San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “In Hillcrest, San Diego seeks to balance new housing with protections for LGBTQ+ nightlife”

Andrew Bowen (KPBS)

Third Place: “The story behind the sticker shock: 5 pricey affordable housing projects”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Story (Series)

First Place: “Educator misconduct”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Story (Single Subject)

First Place: “Investigating Border Patrol”

Sofía Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Second Place: “Project: Imperial County residents flee for health care”

Philip Salata (inewssource)

Third Place: “‘Discarded’ & forgotten: Two mothers seek justice after children’s bodies left unidentified”

Dorian Hargrove and Katy Stegall (CBS 8)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First Place: “Linda May Han Oh has all the basses covered: ‘She’s a singular, deeply creative jazz master’”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Spring arts preview 2024: San Diego composer Texu Kim’s profile is on the rise”

Beth Wood (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “No plans for replacement of Indigenous plaque at UCSD’s SIO”

Elisabeth Frausto (lajolla.ca)

Daily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First Place: “Carried by the wind, Velella velella reach Coronado South Beach”

Julieta Soto (The Coronado News)

Second Place: “Animated San Diego GOP crowd hoots, hollers as Trump, Harris tangle in debate”

Ken Stone (Times of San Diego)

Third Place: “FBI warns of rise in ‘sextortion’ scams targeting teens”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Opinion/Editorial

First Place: “Saudi Boxing League isn’t what the fans think”

Gayle Falkenthal (NY Fights)

Second Place: “The looming war on federal environmental protections will hurt San Diegans”

Lisa Ross (Times of San Diego)

Third Place: “As we celebrate Independence Day, our democracy is at risk”

Miriam Raftery (East County Magazine)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Politics Story

First Place: “‘We are the king makers’: How San Diego’s Awaken Church pushes politics from the pulpit”

Jake Kinkaid (inewssource)

Second Place: “Pro-Faulconer PAC, backed by developers, pushes a questionable record on homelessness”

Jake Kinkaid (inewssource)

Third Place: “Executive orders rollback DEI as country celebrates Black History Month”

Madeline Yang (The Coronado News)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First Place: “With more lithium-ion batteries comes more fire risk. San Diego now has an expert for that.”

Karen Kucher (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Lang Lang on Alicia Keys, Herbie Hancock, Disney and ‘Tom and Jerry’ cartoons”

Beth Wood (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Judy Collins, a happy workaholic at 85, talks music, sobriety and testifying at 1968’s Chicago 7 trial”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First Place: “Sabrina Carpenter gets fizzy with it at her flirty San Diego concert”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Willie Nelson’s San Diego concert defined, not defied, the passing of time. He turns 91 on April 29.”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Science/Technology Story

First Place: “New technology helping San Diego researchers study elusive rattlesnake”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Second Place: “A teenager once symbolized personalized medicine’s failures. But now he could be the future”

Jared Whitlock (Endpoints News)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Series

First Place: “Why San Diego’s homeless hospital patients end up back on the street”

Lisa Halverstadt and Peggy Peattie (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “San Diego Unified superintendent misconduct”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “Water Conservation Garden’s growing pains”

Miriam Raftery (East County Magazine)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First Place: “Recent deaths put spotlight on contact sports. Should kids be playing?”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Second Place: “San Diego Wave bids farewell to Alex Morgan at last game”

Cesar Hernandez (ESPN)

Third Place: “Blood Brothers: Fundora upsets Tszyu, wins WBC/WBO titles”

Gayle Falkenthal (NY Fights)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Travel Story

First Place: “Montreal Jazz Festival a treat for music fans of multiple genres – and a bargain, with 150-plus free concerts”

Beth Wood and George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Design Elements — Breaking News Photo

First Place: “Victim of San Diego flood”

Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Design Elements — Feature Photo

First Place: “Artillery salute for USS Canley”

Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Second Place: “December Nights in Balboa Park”

Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Third Place: “Taste the freedom”

Thomas Melville (Beach & Bay Press)

Design Elements — Headlines

First Place: “The night life: Plants that bloom in the dark” and other headlines

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Second Place: “San Diego’s Journalist of the Year can’t smell, but sniffs out news quite well” and other headlines

Ken Stone (Times of San Diego)

Design Elements — Layout and Page Design

First Place: “South Bay proud”

Samantha Lacy (San Diego Magazine)

Design Elements — Photo Essay

First Place: “Up-close at the U.S. Olympic Trials: Noah Lyles, Sha’Carri Richardson, Snoop Dogg”

Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Second Place: “On the shores of the Salton Sea, a glimmer of the American Dream drives growth”

Zoë Meyers and Giovanni Moujaes (inewssource)

Third Place: “LA Chargers ‘touch down’ at Camp Pendleton”

Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Design Elements — Sports Photo

First Place: “Anna Hall after heptathlon 800”

Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Digital — Blog

First Place: “Tides & Tacos Substack”

Lauren J. Mapp (Tides & Tacos)

Second Place: “Bishop Snow is as real as it gets: An interview with Bishop Snow” and other entries

Tony Le Calvez and Madi Coe (AmplifiedSD)

Third Place: “Here before the U.S.”

Jeanne Ferris (News from Native California)

Digital — Multimedia Presentation

First Place: “Stripper energy”

Beth Accomando (KPBS)

Second Place: “Where’s my village?”

Tania Thorne (KPBS)

Third Place: “The devastating flood of 2024, told by those who were there”
inewssource staff

Digital — News Site

First Place: “The San Diego Sun”

Ron Donoho

Digital — Social Media Account

First Place: “San Diego Magazine Instagram”

Jeremy Sazon, Emily Heft and Troy Johnson (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “inewssource Instagram”

Iran Martinez (inewssource)

Third Place: “The Daily Aztec Instagram”

Mimi Simons and Charlize Tungol (The Daily Aztec)

Digital — Social Media Storytelling

First Place: “inewsource Instagram reels”

Crystal Niebla and Iran Martinez (inewsource)

Second Place: “SDM’s Guide to Food & Drink”

Troy Johnson, Jeremy Sazon and Emily Heft (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “The Ocean Beach Pier: Its history and what’s next”

Brenden Tuccinardi (KPBS)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Arts/Entertainment Story (Performing Arts)

First Place: “Bishop Snow is as real as it gets: an Interview with Bishop Snow”

Tony Le Calvez (AmplifiedSD)

Second Place: “Maysa: On her own and on a roll”

Marcia Luttrell (Smooth Jazz News Magazine)

Third Place: “North County Academy of Dance’s Nutcracker ballet is mesmerizing”

Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Arts/Entertainment Story (Visual Arts)

First Place: “The trouble with Trash Lamb”

Amelia Rodriguez (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Crowd cheers as Ramona archway centerpiece is unveiled on Halloween”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Third Place: “Globe-trotting wildlife photographer has exhibit at Rancho Bernardo Library”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First Place: “Making waves”

Cole Novak (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Environmental awareness supports 46 years of growth for organic plant nursery in Pacific Beach”

Regina Elling (PB Monthly)

Third Place: “Rancho Bernardo couple created a growing fig jam business in their home”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Column

First Place: “Unhinged: A Dating Series”

Nicolle Monico (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Education Matters”

Marsha Sutton (Del Mar Times)

Third Place: “Wayne’s World”

Wayne Chan (Poway News Chieftain)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First Place: “The heavy toll”

Roberto Camacho and Ricardo Sandoval-Palos (Palabra NAHJ)

Second Place: “Victims speak out after MMA fighter pleads guilty to domestic abuse”

Jordan Ingram (The Coast News)

Third Place: “Friends & Family Community Connection disbanded after embezzlement”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First Place: “Words Alive! Nonprofit strives to turn the page on literacy shortfalls”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Second Place: “We’re grateful to have a place to call home”

Denis Grasska (The Southern Cross)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Election 2024

First Place: “Developer PAC floods \$40k into Vallecitos Water District races”

Leo Place (The Coast News)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First Place: “To the rescue: Saving wildlife, one animal and plant at a time”

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Second Place: “A breath of fresh air in San Diego port communities’ long fight against industrial pollution”

Roberto Camacho (Next City)

Third Place: “Poway City Council paves way for 300-megawatt battery energy storage system”

Julie Gallant (Poway News Chieftain)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First Place: “Belle Benchley: The trailblazing ‘Zoo Lady’”

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Second Place: “For some kids, guinea pigs are favorites to show at Ramona Junior Fair”

Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Third Place: “Mahjong, a game of skill and luck, has come to Rancho Bernardo Library”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First Place: “Rebuilding Lahaina”

Danielle Allaire (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Niam’s Run for Kids with Cancer raises \$33,000 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society”

Karen Billing (Carmel Valley News)

Third Place: “Who is San Diego’s Bubble Pirate?”

Joshua Silla (The San Diego Sun)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First Place: “Food forestry: Partnering with the trees that nourish us”

Lauren J. Mapp (Edible San Diego)

Second Place: “Discover downtown San Diego’s only Filipino pulutan bar”

Joshua Silla (The San Diego Sun)

Third Place: “Unique sourdough breads a specialty at Sweet Heart Farms in Ramona”

Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First Place: “County offers clarification that allows live music at Ramona”

Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Second Place: “Former Solana Beach council candidate agreed to pay \$775K to settle a defamation case. Then he tried to back out.”

Luke Harold (Solana Beach Sun)

Third Place: “Ramona Planning Group chair raises concerns about frequent absences by members”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First Place: “RB man hopes his autobiography will inspire others with medical challenges”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Second Place: “Transgender teens face discrimination from gender-affirming care bans”

Sylvia Mendoza (Respect)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First Place: “Homelessness progress in San Diego hampered by lack of leadership”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Second Place: “Residents raise concerns over 122 townhomes proposed for Rancho Bernardo”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third Place: “Board of Supervisors approves resolution in support of affordable housing at Del Mar Fairgrounds”

Luke Harold (Del Mar Times)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Story (Single Subject)

First Place: “The U.S. minimum wage: Would raising the long-stagnant federal standard alleviate poverty?”

Sylvia Mendoza (CQ Researcher/CQ Press)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First Place: “Horse girls”

Amelia Rodriguez (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Chinese Historical Museum can’t locate accurate city records”

Joshua Silla (The San Diego Sun)

Third Place: “Savoring freedom: How food plays a part in Juneteenth celebrations”

Lauren J. Mapp (Tides & Tacos)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First Place: “The ‘Clubber Lang’ approach to going head-to-head with Mayor Todd Gloria”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Second Place: “Backcountry women ranchers maintain legacies while embracing the future”
Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Third Place: “Community rallies for Ramona 11-year-old whose lemonade stand was stolen”
Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First Place: “Ramona woman, son have cared for long-forgotten cemetery for 20 years”
Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Second Place: “Embracing the beauty: Through the looking glass with fine-art gallerist Ruth-Ann Thorn”

Jeanne Ferris (News from Native California)

Third Place: “Pacific Beach streets, sidewalks are getting cleaned by unhoused residents striving to overcome adversity”
Elaine Alfaro (PB Monthly)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First Place: “The Legend of Rocky’s”
Troy Johnson (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “‘A View from the Bridge,’ North Coast Repertory Theatre”
Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Third Place: “‘Stir,’ The Old Globe Theatre”
Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Series

First Place: “Poway Unified superintendent placed on paid administrative leave amid investigation”
Julie Gallant and Kristen Taketa (Poway News Chieftain)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First Place: “City is richer for having the San Diego Open”
Thomas Melville (The Peninsula Beacon)

Second Place: “Climbing El Capitan”
Cole Novak (San Diego Magazine)

Non-daily Reporting and Writing — Travel Story

First Place: “Pala Mission - 208 years of history”
Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Second Place: “San Luis Obispo: The heartwarming charm of California’s Central Coast”
Ron Donoho (Ranch and Coast Magazine)

Third Place: “You probably think this story’s about you”
Nicolle Monico (San Diego Magazine)

Spanish Media - Print — Breaking News Story

First Place: “Cardenas siblings convicted”

Arturo Castaños (La Prensa San Diego)

Spanish Media - Print — Feature Story

First Place: “Perspective: Browning used brown voice to mock Vargas”

Arturo Castaños (La Prensa San Diego)

Spanish Media - Print — Investigative Story

First Place: “Inzunza residency investigation”

Arturo Castaños (La Prensa San Diego)

Spanish Media - Video — Feature Story

First Place: “Luchando contracorriente”

Claudia Buccio (KBNT Channel 17)

Video — Business/Consumer Report

First Place: “Bank of America customer out \$38K after falling victim to SIM swapping”

Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “San Diego businesses worry about fallout from Trump’s Canada-Mexico tariff threat”

Alexander Nguyen and Carlos Castillo (KPBS)

Video — Community Services Program or Series

First Place: “Contaminated coast: Call for federal action”

Enedina Cisneros, Kimberly Hunt, Deyja Charles, Jessica Howard and Luella Mata
(KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Government Story

First Place: “State bill would allow family access to nursing homes during declared emergencies”

J W August, David Washburn and Amita Sharma (KPBS)

Second Place: “Tough to swallow: Asbestos water pipes”

Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise (Series)

First Place: “Osprey: The widow maker”

Austin Grabish, Ray Higgins and Stephen Reusch (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise (Single Story)

First Place: “‘Wandering officer’ case highlights struggle to hold police accountable”
J W August, David Washburn and Maya Trabulsi (KPBS)

Second Place: “Four deaths at San Diego ‘safe’ sleeping sites”

Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “Comic books industry is changing, slowly, adapting to more Spanish first readers”

Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Video — News Feature (Light News Reporting)

First Place: “Jimmy Carter’s ‘kindred spirit’”

Ava Kershner and Mike Howder (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “New technology helping San Diego researchers study elusive rattlesnake”

Alexander Nguyen and Carlos Castillo (KPBS)

Third Place: “Pulque: Drink of the gods”

Enedina Cisneros and Adam Campos (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — News Feature (Serious News Reporting)

First Place: “San Diego is running out of ‘quick fixes’ at deadly intersections”

Andrew Bowen and Mike Damron (KPBS)

Video — Photography

First Place: “Vietnam-era Navy SEALs homecoming in San Diego”

Ken Stone and Chris Stone (Times of San Diego)

Video — Sports Story

First Place: “Recent deaths put spotlight on contact sports. Should kids be playing?”

Alexander Nguyen and Carolyn Corelis (KPBS)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Diversity Award

“San Diego’s remote border region is now a destination for US-bound migrants from around the world” and other inewssource stories
inewssource staff

First Amendment Award

“New legal precedent & SDSU documents”

Arturo Castaños (La Prensa San Diego)

Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting

“A San Diego judge got paid when he didn’t work. He hasn’t been told to pay it back” and other stories

Greg Moran (inewssource)

Herbert Lockwood “Woody” Award for Humor Writing

“Subway hates us”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

James Julian Memorial Award for Community Service Story

“After outcry, city council punts on plan to end virtual public comment”

Crystal Niebla and the San Diego Documenters (inewssource)

Neil Morgan Community Impact Award

“Someone San Diego Should Know” series

Jan Goldsmith (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

TOP AWARDS

Distinguished Coverage Award

“Floods, freeways and the path to ‘net zero’ emissions”

Andrew Bowen (KPBS)

SPJ Excellence in Journalism Award

“Fentanyl: A decade of death”

Steve Breen, Iran Martinez, Giovanni Moujaes and Jamie Self (inewssource)

Journalist of the Year

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe

(inewssource)

SCHOLARSHIPS

San Diego Area Journalism Awards \$1,500 Merit Scholarship

Sydney Brammer (Point Loma Nazarene University)

Lindsey Brintwood (San Diego State University)

Lesley Garcia (San Diego State University)

Carla Gutierrez (Southwestern College)

Yanelli Zavina Robles (Southwestern College)

Agnes Diggs Road to College \$1,450 Scholarship

Diego Higuera (Southwestern College)

Bradley J. Fikes \$1,000 Scholarship

Alexa Lima (Southwestern College)