

Society of Professional Journalists San Diego Pro Chapter
2026 Journalism Awards

Audio — Breaking News Story

First place: “No Kings Day: San Diego”
 Phil Farrar (KOGO-AM)

Audio — Business/Consumer Report

First place: “SANDAG exploring Temecula-San Marcos Rapid Bus to ease I-15 congestion”
 Alexander Nguyen (KPBS-FM)

Audio — Community Services Program or Series

First place: “KPBS Roundtable”
 Andrew Bracken, Ashley Rusch and Brooke Chan (KPBS)

Audio — Feature Series

First place: “In Paradise Hills, a legendary art wall lives again”
 Kori Suzuki (KPBS-FM)
Second place: “San Diego celebrates 250th anniversary of military”
 Phil Farrar (KOGO-AM)

Audio — Feature Story

First place: “Who will be there when they come for you?”
 Miriam Raftery (East County Magazine Show on KNSJ Radio)
Second place: “The Conclave: San Diego and the world waits”
 Phil Farrar (KOGO-AM)
Third place: “Carlsbad brothers share final marching band moment at this year's Rose Parade”
 Alexander Nguyen (KPBS-FM)

Audio — Newscast

First place: “KOGO: 12-Noon News with Phil Farrar”
 Phil Farrar (KOGO-AM)

Audio — News Story

First place: “Tuskegee Airmen: Shoot Down D.E.I.”
 Phil Farrar (KOGO-AM)

Audio — Podcast

First place: “One of their own”
 Katie Hyson, David Washburn, Emily Jankowski and Liz Hames (KPBS)

College Media — Arts/Entertainment Story

First place: “National City's immortal ‘Angel Baby’”

Alexa Lima (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “ArtReach: Revitalizing San Diego communities and classrooms one brushstroke at a time”

Hannah Psalma Ramirez (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Third place: “Mariachi in U.S. propelled by superstar singer and professor”

Gabriel Gordillo (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Best News Media Website

First place: “Lomabeat.com”

Joy Russell and The Point 2025-26 staff (The Point)

Second place: “The Mesa Press”

Staff (The Mesa Press)

Third place: “The Southwestern College Sun Online”

The Sun Staff (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Best Newspaper

First place: “The Southwestern College Sun”

The Sun staff (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “The Point”

Sydney Brammer, Hailey Snyder, Grace Chaves and The Point 2025-26 staff (The Point)

College Media — Column

First place: “Education department flawed but essential” and other columns

Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “First-generation students are worth the extra effort” and other columns

Carla Gutierrez (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Photo

First place: “Montse La Maravilla”

Sisy Sannoh (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “Pompom powerhouses”

Yanelli Zavina Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third place: “La Familia Mora”

Josh Whitehead (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Series

First place: “Fashion Club series”

Valeryah Lara-Urrea and Dira Marie Wong (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Story

First place: “Tackling textile waste: How fashion in California is becoming more sustainable”

Ava Turner (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Second place: “From selling to serving: Restructuring America’s malls for the public good”

KT Devera (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Third place: “Honorary degree for activist McCormick”

Julio Rodriguez (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Headline Writing

First place: “SPAM calls are welcome” and other headlines

Yanelli Zavina Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — In-depth Reported Story

First place: “San Diego’s phantom stadium costs taxpayers nearly \$5 million annually”

Roman Aguilar and Teal Davis (The Daily Aztec)

Second place: “Can San Diego keep its climate promises? Budget cuts erode the path to net-zero”

Nate Tubbs (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Third place: “SDSU to spend \$1.3M on AI-enabled surveillance cameras”

Teal Davis (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Layout & Design

First place: “Fashion Club Elegance”

Andrea Aladin, Carla Labto and Yanelli Zavina Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “Las Chicanas of Chicano Park”

Andrea Aladin (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Multicultural Story

First place: “Borderlands alive honoring the dead”

Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “White hands of prayer and hope”

Toni Gibson (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third place: “SPAM calls are welcome”

Natalia Rivera Banuet (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Newscast

First place: “The Daily Aztec Live 11/20”

Emily Barrera and Lindsey Belsky (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — News Photo

First place: “Smoke and fire”

Carla Gutierrez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “San Diego State students rally for undocumented rights”

Ysa Garcia (The Daily Aztec)

College Media – News Series

First place: “Rat infestation”

Josh Whitehead and The Sun Staff (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — News Story

First place: “San Diego universities fight student hunger as CalFresh cuts take effect”

Phoenix Miller (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Second place: “PLNU’s campus wildlife vanishes due to illegal poisoning”

Angelica Moser (The Point)

Third place: “Despite repeated reports of mold from Maya and Olmeca residents, SDSU Office of Housing Administration denies widespread issue”

Thomas Harrison and Arabella Boychuck (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Original Illustration or Cartoon

First place: “Indigenous people targeted by government again”

Carla Labto (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “The make America great dictator”

Carla Labto (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third place: “Defending diversity is the correct move”

Carla Labto (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Opinion/Editorial

First place: “Is SDSU really the Hispanic-serving institution it claims to be?”

Sarah Sanchez and Yuliana Valdez (The Daily Aztec)

Second place: “Behavior toward student journalists is unprofessional”

Yanelli Zavina Robles (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third place: “Gun violence steals young Americans’ futures and dreams”

Alexa Lima (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Photo Essay

First place: “Borderlands alive honoring the dead”

Josh Whitehead, Yanelli Zavina Robles, Luz Maria Clayton, Sisy Sannoh and Natalia Rivera Banuet (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “Seven bands compete for the chance to perform at the annual GreenFest concert next semester”

Carlos Jimenez (The Daily Aztec)

Third place: “Fashion Club Elegance”

Josh Whitehead, Luz Maria Clayton and Dominik Sinsabaugh (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Review/Criticism

First place: “Glorious Gloria”

Toni Gibson (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “Fashion Club Elegance”

Dira Marie Wong (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third place: “Review: Squid Game season two teaches a masterclass in recycling plot points yet capturing the attention of its audience”

Arianna Hull (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Social Media Account

First place: “The Point’s Instagram”

Mackenzie Lackey, Joy Russell and Sydney Brammer (The Point)

Second place: “The Daily Aztec Instagram”

Adrielle Hasara and Lindsey Brintwood (The Daily Aztec)

Third place: “The Mesa Press Instagram”

Yui Matsuwaki and Luis Cuevas (The Mesa Press)

College Media — Sports Photo

First place: “Tuff N Uff 148”

Dakota Gray (The Daily Aztec)

Second place: “Armed and dangerous”

Natalia Rivera Banuet (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Sports Story

First place: “College loses beloved, eccentric baseball coach”

Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second place: “Colleges expand mental health resources as student-athletes face growing demands”

Jenna Fee Feyerabend (SDSU School of Journalism and Media Studies)

Third place: “From bowler to Bowl games”

Julio Rodriguez (The Southwestern College Sun)

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

First place: “How Ramona’s Bob Knight saved the San Diego Symphony’s 104-year-old organ from impending oblivion — one pipe at a time”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Three-time jazz Grammy Award-winner Cécile McLorin Salvant goes from baroque to garage band”

Beth Wood (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

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

First place: “In the curator’s words (series)”

Michael Rocha (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Can San Diego’s artists step out of our city’s shadow?”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “‘Glass in flight’: A dance of light and colors at Carlsbad Flower Fields”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Breaking News Story

First place: “ICE arrests several workers from South Park restaurant”

Lara McCaffrey (KPBS)

Second place: “Six presumed dead when small plane crashes into military homes in Murphy Canyon neighborhood”

Teri Figueroa, Kristina Davis, Tammy Murga and Karen Kucher (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “ICE detains Ukrainian wife of U.S. citizen following green card interview”

Kori Suzuki (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First place: “Home insurance was already hard to get. Then came L.A.’s fires. Here’s what San Diegans need to know.”

Lori Weisberg and Kristen Taketa (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “ICE raids push workers into the shadows, disrupting the economy”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Third place: “California’s last beet sugar plant is closing. Can Imperial County keep the industry alive?”

Kori Suzuki (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Column

First place: “Drones at border” and other opinion columns

Tania Navarro (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “The Progress Report”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “Someone San Diego Should Know”

Jan Goldsmith (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First place: “Murder alleged in fetish sex encounter”

Teri Figueroa (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Some pet owners given wrong ashes as San Marcos pet crematorium abruptly closes”

Karen Kucher (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “International tribunal condemns U.S. border officials for torturing, killing immigrant”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First place: “Free speech at issue after U-T deletes, reinstates UCSD student op-ed on Gaza”

Roberto Camacho (Times of San Diego)

Second place: “San Diego Unified’s housing push is a big deal. Should it be even bigger?”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “A life-changing youth behavioral program is set to lose funding under Trump”

Carolyne Corelis and Katie Anastas (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First place: “Sea lions and birds sickened as toxic algae bloom reaches San Diego”

Karen Kucher (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “National City pledged to reduce pollution. Now it’s considering a new industrial biofuel depot”

Kori Suzuki (KPBS)

Third place: “Demolishing of domes next up as decommissioning of San Onofre nears end”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First place: “This San Diego cop also trains dolphins at SeaWorld. The police wetsuit says it all.”

Teri Figueroa (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Only a few historic movie theaters remain in San Diego County. These are their stories.”

Olivia Petty (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “‘I attended the EUSD board meeting so you didn’t have to’: How parents get you to care about schools in Encinitas”

Katie Futterman (inewssource)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First place: “San Diego musicians reflect, 5 years later, on the pandemic that paused their careers”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “‘I have so much fear that they’re going to torture me’”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First place: “Salad instead of scampi? Not in this house, Never a dull meal in this house, How is he supposed to follow doctor's orders?”

Irv Erdos (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Food in San Diego airport’s new terminal is local, local, local — although there is one McDonald’s”

Lori Weisberg (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First place: “The San Diego job that councilmembers never approved”

Greg Moran and San Diego Documenters (inewssource)

Second place: “Trump's nominee to head Customs and Border Protection could be implicated in alleged cover-up”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Third place: “Ramona Cemetery District - one of the many special districts in California. Many have little or no oversight. We had reason to watch this one.”

JW August (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First place: “With a jar of blood as evidence, detained man tells immigration judge ‘I am dying little by little’”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Second place: “San Diego ER nurse recounts experience as medical crew member in Gaza”

Roberto Camacho (Times of San Diego)

Third place: “California families will face major care challenges as Baby Boomers age”

JW August (Times of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First place: “Using ADUs as San Diego vacation rentals”

Cody Dulaney and Charis Johnston (inewssource)

Second place: “San Diego might be having its slowest year ever for newly built housing”

Phillip Molnar (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “San Diego housing data reveal fastest growth in urban core”

Andrew Bowen and Michael Wayne (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing Insecurity Story

First place: “San Diego is on the hook for monthly \$77,000 payments of shuttered senior shelter”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Second place: “Along freeways, homeless San Diegans are further from city sweeps and medical care”

Katie Anastas, Mike Damron and Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Third place: “Carlsbad expands illegal camping ordinance to include people sleeping in cars”
Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Series

First place: “Investigating San Diego's sexually violent predator program”

Greg Moran (inewssource)

Second place: “El Cajon halts some mental health call responses”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “CARE Court series”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Story

First place: “City flagged San Carlos intersection as dangerous, then denied safety improvements for it before child’s death”

Calista Stocker (Times of San Diego)

Second place: “Proposed Lakeside sand mine owner sues city of San Diego for damages from water release at El Capitan Dam”

Karen Pearlman (East County Magazine)

Third place: “Does the San Diego region have adequate aerial firefighting capability for the coming season?”

Miriam Raftery (East County Magazine)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First place: “Spring Arts Preview 2025: Cellist Peter Ko is thriving at UCSD and beyond”

Beth Wood (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Young music phenom D.K. Harrell lighting up the blues: ‘He has this electricity’”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “Fear and expulsion: Under Trump, history is poised to repeat itself”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Daily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First place: “How a TikTok’s ICE patrol spiraled into a violent confrontation at a trolley stop”

Roberto Camacho (Times of San Diego)

Second place: “People in ICE custody face invasive strip searches after visits with loved ones”

Kate Morrissey (Capital & Main)

Third place: “California just overhauled its main environmental law. Here’s what it means for San Diego”

Phillip Molnar (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Opinion/Editorial

First place: “California on its own authoritarian path with housing law”

Roman S. Koenig (North Coast Current)

Second place: “A century of local history lives, but what of tomorrow?”

Roman S. Koenig (North Coast Current)

Third place: “Opinion on tariffs”

Jan Goldsmith (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First place: “A Republican school board member came out as trans. Then came the calls for resignation”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Second place: “James Taylor on his new musical, songwriting, Ukraine and more: ‘It helps to have a deadline’”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First place: “The Who’s final farewell tour concert was powerful, poignant and unforgettable”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Happy Together Tour’s name game: Will The Turtles (the real Turtles) please stand up?”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Science/Technology Story

First place: “Looking for a pole saw? The National City library has you covered”

Kori Suzuki (KPBS)

Second place: “Marine slayer: Why La Jolla’s ‘June Gloom’ exists”

Elisabeth Frausto (lajolla.ca)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Series

First place: “Someone San Diego Should Know: True turnaround stories”

Jan Goldsmith (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “The community college bot crisis”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “Selling humans-examples of this year’s coverage starting with the PIMP CIRCUIT, the mayor exaggerated claim debunked and efforts to protect minors from trafficking”

JW August (Times of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First place: “San Diego American Legion team broke color barrier; made history 85 years ago”

Bill Swank (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Soccer as sanctuary: How the beautiful game saved Christina Burkenroad”

Cesar Hernandez (ESPN)

Third place: “San Diego resident golfers teed off at their vanishing access to city-run courses”

JW August (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Travel Story

First place: “Ahoy! Two cruise-ship virgins do Viking’s three-river Grand European Tour”

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

Second place: “San Diego airport’s \$4 billion gamble was a new terminal”

Lori Weisberg (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “Our guide to San Diego’s desert destinations”

Karen Pearlman and Miriam Raftery (East County Magazine)

Design Elements — Feature Photo

First place: “One kite chaser actually goes airborne in his quest for the tail.”

Criselda Yee (Point Loma-OB Monthly)

Second place: “Poway’s Christmas in the Park kicks off the holidays”

Criselda Yee (Poway News Chieftain)

Design Elements — Headline

First place: “Eyes in the sky: Drones provide a new view of conservation” and other headlines

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Design Elements — Layout and Page Design

First place: “Healthier Hanukkah”

Kenneth Pagano (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second place: “Hike. Eat. See: Oahu”

Kenneth Pagano (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third place: “A jewel in the crown”

Kenneth Pagano (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Design Elements — Photo Essay

First place: “How the tiniest domestic violence survivors heal with the help of a San Diego preschool”

Adriana Heldiz (CalMatters)

Second place: “Light over darkness: Diwali brings hundreds to Balboa Park”

Brittany Cruz-Fejeran (Daylight San Diego)

Digital — Blog

First place: “News Updates for News Avoiders”

Ashlyn Raine Lipori-Russie (Ask Ashlyn)

Digital — Entertainment Site

First place: “KPBS Arts & Culture”

Julia Dixon Evans, Beth Accomando, Anthony Wallace, Audy McAfee and Chrissy Nguyen (KPBS)

Digital — Multimedia Presentation

First place: “HOME SICK: Chronic illness and longing define life in the Tijuana River valley”
inewssource staff (inewssource)

Second place: “Fall of Sàigòn at 50: Stories of loss, legacy and identity”

Alexander Nguyen, Elaine Alfaro, Lara McCaffrey and McCoy Knapp (KPBS)

Digital — News Site

First place: “Daylight San Diego”

Daylight San Diego staff

Second place: “The San Diego Sun”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Digital — Social Media Account

First place: “Voice of San Diego Instagram”

Bella Ross (Voice of San Diego)

Second place: “Art with Bob Pincus”

Robert Pincus, Matthew Pincus and Jennifer van Alstyne (Art with Bob Pincus on YouTube)

Digital — Social Media Storytelling

First place: “San Diego's complex issues, explained”

Iran Martinez Jr. and Crystal Niebla (inewssource)

Second place: “Sea level rise threatens Sunset Cliffs (and its parking)”

Bella Ross and MacKenzie Elmer (Voice of San Diego)

Third place: “Daylight San Diego on Instagram”

Daylight San Diego

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

First place: “‘Madness takes its toll:’ Crazy Imaginations celebrates 50 years of ‘Rocky Horror’”

Lauren J. Mapp (Daylight San Diego)

Second place: “Peter Noone and Herman’s Hermits captivate crowd at Solana Beach’s Belly Up”

Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Third place: “Noel Paul Stookey — of Peter, Paul and Mary — comes to RB”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Arts/Entertainment Story (Visual Arts)

First place: “A mark of development”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Second place: “A different presence”

Amelia Rodriguez (San Diego Magazine)

Third place: “Rancho Bernardo Library exhibit features artist’s ‘Personal Connections’”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Breaking News Story

First place: “County supervisors force top lawyer to retire”

Arturo Castanares (La Prensa San Diego)

Second place: “Renaming Navy ship dedicated to LGBTQ icon Harvey Milk called ‘homophobic’”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First place: “NONPROFIT VOICES: This Barrio Logan vo-tech school teaches civilian work skills to vets”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Column

First place: “A View from the Chair”

Lisa Ross (High Sierran)

Second place: “Walking in the City”

Deanna Ratnikova (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First place: “San Diego advocates push to end girls’ incarceration”

Lauren J. Mapp (Daylight San Diego)

Second place: “From hardship to hero: RMD’s new star employee”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Third place: “After deadly car chases, San Diego police oversight body wants to restrict pursuits”

Roberto Camacho (Bolts)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First place: “CSU San Marcos to open new Native student center this fall”

Lauren J. Mapp (Daylight San Diego)

Second place: “NONPROFIT VOICES: Reality Changers boosts at-risk kids into college”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First place: “Local brewery is first to be triple-certified in sustainable accreditations”

Elena Gomez (HomeTold with Elena)

Second place: “Del Mar Butterfly Beach Ranch sees butterfly boom”

Karen Billing (Del Mar Times)

Third place: “It's mutual: Wildlife and symbiotic relationships”

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First place: “House music”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Second place: “Sail-setting partners settle in La Jolla after decades on the water”

Noah Lyons (La Jolla Light)

Third place: “Del Mar true crime writer Aleida Wahn takes readers into the courtroom”

Karen Billing (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First place: “The murder, the museum and the monument”

Kori Suzuki (High Country News)

Second place: “Celebration of Courage shines spotlight on domestic violence”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third place: “A foster kid’s harrowing story of life in the system”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First place: “Fish farm to table”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Second place: “Meet Rancho Bernardo Inn's new executive chef”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third place: “Rancho Bernardo to-go senior meal program going strong”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First place: “Local nonprofits unite amid Trump-era funding cuts”

Lauren J. Mapp (Daylight San Diego)

Second place: “City of San Diego, Gaslamp Quarter Association in dispute over street-closure funding”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Third place: “U.S. Rep introduces bill to rename Ramona Post Office after boxer Archie Moore”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First place: “La Jolla blazes own path in fight to prevent blindness from rare illness”

Noah Lyons (La Jolla Light)

Second place: “RB woman’s first book focuses on son’s death from fentanyl”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third place: “A clear vision of the course ahead”

Jennifer McEntee (San Diego Health)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First place: “Can Grant Oliphant transform Downtown San Diego into a ‘Cathedral?’”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Second place: “Del Mar, fair board discuss proposed 61 units of affordable housing on fairgrounds property”

Luke Harold (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Housing Insecurity Story

First place: “‘Seniors Safe At Home’ homeless prevention program gets funding boost”

Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Investigative/Enterprise Story

First place: “Blighted Fault Line Park in East Village remains a monument to bad management”

Joshua Silla and Madison Geering (The San Diego Sun)

Second place: “Public bathrooms: San Diego keeps kicking the can down the road”

Calista Stocker (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First place: “Native Star Boutique reclaims ancestral grounds in San Diego”

Jeanne Ferris (News from Native California)

Second place: “Makkin Mak Nommo. We Are Still Here.”

Jeanne Ferris (News from Native California)

Third place: “Salon for trans youth provides gender-affirming care”

Sam Barney-Gibbs (Daylight San Diego)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First place: “Laura Fink: Why she’s not mourning the death of Bob Filner”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Second place: “Players, parents urge district to reinstate lacrosse coach”
Karen Billing (Carmel Valley News)

Third place: “San Diego ICE arrests expand to green card appointments”
Kate Morrissey (Daylight San Diego)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Opinion/Editorial

First place: “PERSPECTIVE: Supervisors to appoint treasurer amid talk of backroom deal”
Arturo Castanares (La Prensa San Diego)

Second place: “OPINION: What would Jimmy Carter do?”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Third place: “Unanswered questions about ethnic studies in San Dieguito”
Marsha Sutton (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Politics

First place: “San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria not following his own parking laws”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First place: “Observing Jane Goodall”
Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Second place: “NONPROFIT VOICES: The Lucky Duck Foundation’s publicity shy point man”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Third place: “Brother Ali was blackballed over Palestine. Now the rapper is back with a new album”
Roberto Camacho (Analyst News)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First place: “Noises Off”
Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Second place: “Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground”
Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Third place: “Indulge in delightful culinary creations at the San Diego County Fair!”
Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Science/Technology Story

First place: “Touching the future”
Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Series

First place: “Poway Councilmember Blain resigns a day after voters show support for his recall”
Julie Gallant, Susan Gill Vardon and Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Poway News Chieftain)

Second place: “Nonprofit Voices”
Ron Donoho (The San Diego Sun)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First place: “Poway teacher gearing up to run 7 marathons in 7 days on 7 continents”
Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Poway News Chieftain)

Second place: “Young triathlete sweeps Triple Crown Triathlon Series”
Karen Billing (Carmel Valley News)

Third place: “Local snowboarder Kate Delson named to Team USA”
Karen Billing (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Travel

First place: “Once upon a time in Sweden”
Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Second place: “Weekend guide to exploring South Coast Plaza”
Isabella Dallas (San Diego Magazine)

Third place: “The soul-stirring lure of Joshua Tree National Park”
Nathalie Taylor (Village News)

Spanish Media — Print (Feature Story)

First place: “Borderlands alive honoring the dead”
Alfonso Julián Camacho (The Southwestern College Sun)

Video — Business/Consumer Report

First place: “Receipt paper sparks wave of lawsuit threats”
Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Community Services Program or Series

First place: “Marie Widman: A legacy worth preserving”
Enedina Cisneros, Wale Aliyu and Jimmy Dedios (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second place: “Volunteer-run mobile library helps kids discover love for reading in communities south of the border.”
Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Video — Government Story

First place: “What’s in — and what’s missing from — San Diego’s new ‘Street Design Manual’”
Andrew Bowen, Carlos Castillo and Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Second place: “Mother of teen furious no charges filed after daughter exploited on military base”

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

Third place: “Votes are being counted following a historic election day in Mexico”
Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise Series

First place: “License to abuse: Doctors, sexual misconduct and a broken law”
Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise Story

First place: “Hidden cameras, hidden secrets: The SDPD scandal”
Austin Grabish and Amol Brown (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second place: “Police violence against Latinos: The shocking data we now know/Meet the BIPOC Press”

Roberto Camacho, Jeremiah Cothren and Sabrina Artel (Laura Flanders & Friends)

Video — News Feature (Light News Reporting)

First place: “Schools, families, Y La Música Que Los Une”
Enequina Cisneros, Lindsey Peña and Maria-Camila Murica (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second place: “Strength has no age”
Eric Kahnert (CBS8)

Third place: “Tijuana honors International Jazz Day with cross-border celebration”
Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Video — News Feature (Serious News Reporting)

First place: “A ball with wings”
Eric Kahnert (CBS8)

Second place: “HOME SICK: Rancher shares how pollution in Tijuana River changed his life”
Philip Salata and Iran Martinez Jr. (inewsourc)

Third place: “Life on hold: Brain surgery patient caught in insurance dispute”
Austin Grabish, Amol Brown and Gerald Labrador (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Politics

First place: “North County market owner gets temporary reprieve in immigration court”
Alexander Nguyen and Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Second place: “New Tijuana shelter ready for deportees”
Matthew Bowler (KPBS)

Video — Sports Story

First place: “Rain doesn’t dampen pickleball nationals’ San Diego debut”

Alexander Nguyen and Mike Damron (KPBS)

Second place: “Soccer a la Frontera”

Jacob Aere, David Washburn, Roland Lizarondo, Elaine Alfaro and Brenden Tuccinardi (KPBS)

Third place: “The blueprint, Olympian volleyball”

Eric Kahnert (CBS8)

Video — Video Editing

First place: PLNU International Student Documentary

Grace Chaves, Jonathan Raditsas, Garrison Tso and Aubrey Bechard (YouTube)

Special Awards — Diversity Award

The Southwestern College Sun

The Sun Staff

Special Awards — Sol Price Award for Responsible Journalism

“How vermin make life – and business – miserable for Coronado restaurateurs”

Julieta Soto (The Coronado News)

Special Awards — Neil Morgan Community Impact Award

“Flaws in the San Diego Police Department Portal”

JW August (Times of San Diego)

Special Awards — Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting

“Investigating organized labor in San Diego County”

Cody Dulaney and Greg Moran (inewssource)

Special Awards — First Amendment Award

“City of San Diego paid law firm \$37K to probe allegations made against police chief”

Austin Grabish (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Special Awards — James Julian Memorial Award - Community Service Story

“Community loves like Jesus”

Denis Grasska (The Southern Cross)

Special Awards — Herbert Lockwood "Woody" Award - Humor Writing

“The changing shape of San Diego’s Zonie-Hate”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Top Awards — Distinguished Coverage Award

Topic: ICE – Immigration, enforcement and deportations

“How volunteer patrols are working to protect San Diego immigrant communities from ICE”

Roberto Camacho (Bolts)

Top Awards — SPJ Excellence in Journalism Award

“HOME SICK: Chronic illness and longing define life in the Tijuana River valley”

inewsourc staff

Journalist of the Year finalists

Austin Grabish

Katie Hyson

Journalist of the Year

Kate Morrissey

San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarship

Sophia Barancic (Mesa College)

Sydney Brammer (Point Loma Nazarene University)

Ines Cervantes (Southwestern College)

Izzy Garcia (San Diego State University)

Sydni Lewis (San Diego State University)

Luis Zavala (San Diego State University)

Agnes Diggs Road to College Scholarship

Eva Zuniga (San Diego State University)

Bradley J. Fikes Scholarship

Polly Hill (San Diego State University)