

Society of Professional Journalists San Diego Pro Chapter
2023 Journalism Awards

Audio — Feature Series

First Place: “The Miramar Air Show: ‘Fight, Evolve, Win’”

Phil Farrar and Charles Newton (KOGO)

Second Place: “Child care providers are a casualty of California’s transitional kindergarten”

Claire Trageser (KPBS)

Audio — Feature Story

First Place: “Influential: Ric Scales’ playlist”

Julia Dixon Evans and Harrison Patiño (KPBS)

Second Place: “Wooden high rises? San Diego hopes ‘mass timber’ can help with climate goals”

Andrew Bowen (KPBS)

Third Place: “Adopted a dog during the pandemic? Put a leash on it or pay, if you live in San Diego”

Claire Trageser (KPBS)

Audio — Investigative/Enterprise (Series)

First Place: “Questions raised over similarities in San Diego Police Department requests for COVID-19 vaccine exemptions”

Claire Trageser and Katy Stegall (KPBS)

Second Place: “Two years of performance in the COVID-19 pandemic: 3-part series”

Julia Dixon Evans and Emilyn Mohebbi (KPBS)

Audio — Investigative/Enterprise (Single Story)

First Place: “More San Diegans could enter mental health conservatorships. But the system is already struggling”

Jennifer Bowman (inewssource)

Second Place: “Police discrimination cases are now public records, but few released by San Diego County departments”

Claire Trageser (KPBS)

Third Place: “Veterans Village San Diego”

Jill Castellano (inewssource)

Audio — News

First Place: “A tenant was killed. Employees weren’t surprised.”

Cody Dulaney (inewssource)

Audio — Newscast

First Place: “5:00 News with Phil Farrar”

Phil Farrar (KOGO)

Audio — Podcast

First Place: “Happy Half Hour”

Troy Johnson and David Martin (San Diego Magazine)

Audio — Sports Story

First Place: “Game on: Pickleball battles San Diego for space in the kitchen”
Claire Trageser (KPBS)

College Media — Arts/Entertainment Story

First Place: “Essay: Are we watching the death of variety in theaters?”
Fabian Garcia (UCSD Guardian)

Second Place: “Immortalizing NC’s Beloved Photographer”
Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “A rare songbird”
Lesley Garate (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Best News Media Website

First Place: “City Times Media”
San Diego City College staff

Second Place: “The Mesa Press”
San Diego Mesa College staff

College Media — Best Newspaper

First Place: “The Southwestern College Sun”
Southwestern College Sun staff

Second Place: “The Daily Aztec”
Gabriel Schneider, Xiomara Villareal-Gerardo, Emily Forschen, Christian Houser and editorial board (San Diego State University)

Third Place: “The UCSD Guardian”
Jocelyn Brossia and Raymond Tran (University of California, San Diego)

College Media — Column

First Place: “Chicanisma”
Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Something to ponder”
Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “All sorts of sports”
Sebastian Sanchez (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Photo

First Place: “No home in this world”
Esteban Preciado (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Professor leaves academia to pursue a career as a violinist”
Brittany Cruz-Fejeran (The Daily Aztec)

Third Place: “Mother knows best”
Esteban Preciado (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Feature Story

First Place: “We must never forget”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Tribe adapts to increased temperatures, drought to preserve cultural roots”

Aurora Slaughter (SDSU Journalism School)

Third Place: “Letting their hair down”

Diego Higuera (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Headline Writing

First Place: “Acknowledging a tragic history and other headlines”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “‘Fake slave persona’ assignment outrages students, SDSU community”

Christian Houser, Amina Idoui, Xiomara Villarreal-Gerado and Brittany Cruz-Ferjeran
(The Daily Aztec)

College Media — In-Depth Reported Story

First Place: “Rosarito: Paradise under attack”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “No home in this world”

Esteban Preciado (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Contrary to popular belief, litter and encampments are not as bad a threat to the health of San Diego beaches as old sewage systems are”

Justin Cox (SDSU Journalism School)

College Media — Layout & Design (Story or Series)

First Place: “No home in this world”

Esteban Preciado and Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “We must never forget”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Mexico’s women demand change”

Ailyn Dumas and Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Multicultural Story

First Place: “Mexico’s women demand change”

Ailyn Dumas and Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “National City mayor a Latina role model”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “City College celebrates its first ‘Lavender Graduation’ ceremony”

Jakob McWhinney (City Times)

College Media — News Photo

First Place: “Monumental struggle”

Ailyn Dumas (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Abuelita”

Ailyn Dumas (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Shadows of assault”

Han Pсалma (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — News Series

First Place: “Student homelessness”

Liliana Anguiano (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “The knowledge industry”

Jakob McWhinney and Philip Salata (City Times Media)

Third Place: “The UAW Academic Union workers strike”

Niloufar Shahbandi, Tianrui Huang and Kaitlin Lee (UCSD Guardian)

College Media — News Story

First Place: “SDSU mum on rape charges”

Han Pсалma and Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Area anti-Semitic incidents on the rise”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “UCSD sororities suspend social relations with fraternities amidst allegations of misconduct, sexual assault, drugging and violence”

Jocelyn Brossia (UCSD Guardian)

College Media — Newscast

First Place: “Palomar News – Ep.113”

Reina Leftwick, Patrick Shartzter, Kyle Patton, Joseph Serrata and Raelle Vargas
(Palomar News)

Second Place: “CTTV Newscene”

CTTV Staff (City Times Media)

Third Place: “The Daily Aztec Live! Nov. 30, 2022”

Mackenzie Stafford and Flower Smith (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Opinion/Editorial

First Place: “Racists co-opt First Amendment”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “UC San Diego’s acceptance of controversial TikToker shows administration’s disregard toward Indian women”

Medha Upadhya (UCSD Guardian)

Third Place: “Surfers as modern-day transcendentalists”

Steve Anderson (The Point)

College Media — Original Illustration or Cartoon

First Place: “Blame game”

Alicia Rivero (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Come back when normal”

Ji Ho Kim (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “There’s always beer”

Ji Ho Kim (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Photo Essay

First Place: “Mexico’s women demand change”

Ailyn Dumas (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “No home in this world”

Esteban Preciado (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “Wonderfront music festival rocks San Diego”

Ethan Karlin (The Daily Aztec)

College Media — Review/Criticism

First Place: “Review: Native American cast revitalizes Predator franchise with ‘Prey’”

Noah Lyons (The Daily Aztec)

Second Place: “Review: Urinetown returns to the City College stage after a two-year hiatus”

Philip Salata (City Times Media)

Third Place: “Dance concert was twisted, twirling femme fatale fun”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

College Media — Sports Photo

First Place: “Mesa women’s volleyball”

Aaron Luna (The Mesa Press)

College Media — Sports Story

First Place: “Football coaching G.O.A.T. leaves the field”

Sebastian Sanchez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Second Place: “Freewheeling skateboard culture is zig zag zen”

Camila A. Gonzalez (The Southwestern College Sun)

Third Place: “What is a Dodger?”

Hector Arrieta (UCSD Guardian)

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

First Place: “Gone, but not forgotten: San Diego’s five best concert venues you can no longer visit”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Is 1972 the best year ever for great albums? From Aretha and Stevie to Bowie and the Stones, quite possibly”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “From Oceanside to the open road: Kimmi Bitter’s musical journey”

Charlene Pulsonetti (North Coast Current)

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

First Place: “‘Park Social’ to bring art to San Diego parklands”

Julia Dixon Evans (KPBS)

Second Place: “Artist Niki de Saint Phalle’s radical decade”

Julia Dixon Evans (KPBS)

Third Place: “San Diegan wins two PEN America Prison Writing Awards”

Julia Dixon Evans (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Breaking News Story

First Place: “Murders of journalists spur marches in Mexico”

Tania Navarro (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Ukrainian family fleeing Russian invasion turned away from U.S. border”

Kate Morrissey and Alejandro Tamayo (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Heroic bystander and deputies save drowning woman at Lindo Lake”

Miriam Raftery and Shiloh Ireland (East County Magazine)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First Place: “‘She was on top of the world’: The rise and fall of San Diego’s largest Ponzi schemer”

Lori Weisberg, Greg Moran and Adriana Heldiz (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “As life science grows, small businesses scramble for space in Sorrento Valley and Sorrento Mesa”

Natallie Rocha (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Want to work at an office but can’t find child care in San Diego? These moms have a solution”

Natallie Rocha (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Column

First Place: “Fine city”

Jesse Marx (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “Tania Navarro’s column”

Tania Navarro (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “The Old World (of textbooks) is dying, and the New World (of textbooks) hasn’t arrived” “Walking the Red Road — How cultural education has encouraged a culture of educating” “Chula Vista already had community schools — nearly 50 years ago”

Jakob McWhinney (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First Place: “What happened after the city cracked down on homeless camps”

Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “A small court with a big mission: A second chance for criminals with mental illness”

Teri Figueroa and Morgan Cook (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Stopped by police in San Diego? A lot depends on where you live, drive”

Greg Moran, Lyndsay Winkley and Lauryn Schroeder (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First Place: “Hundreds of San Diego Unified students could need special education. Many wait months for access”

Andrea Figueroa Briseño (inewssource)

Second Place: “The messy road to bring a bachelor’s degree to San Diego City College”

Jakob McWhinney and Philip Salata (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “San Diego Unified flagged for unfair discipline toward Black special education students”

Andrea Figueroa Briseño (inewssource)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First Place: “Crossing Imperial County’s open desert, migrants increasingly find death”

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Second Place: “Honeybees, consumers face threat from mite-fighting pesticides”

J.W. August (North Coast Current)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First Place: “Amid the Comic-Con crowds, one group of teen artists looked for validation - and found it”

Blake Nelson (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “North County groups, schools partner to help homeless veterans”

Charlene Pulsonetti (North Coast Current)

Third Place: “Labors of love shine in San Diego County Fair contests”

Charlene Pulsonetti (North Coast Current)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First Place: “A voice message in a laundromat, and a rebirth across the border. One trans woman’s journey to U.S. soil”

Kate Morrissey and Ana Ramirez (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “You may never look at the Sports Arena the same again”

Scott Lewis (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “For Haitian migrants, waiting in Tijuana brings fear, discrimination, even death”

Kate Morrissey and Ana Ramirez (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First Place: “This San Diegan’s BBQ sauce earned a spot in grocery stores across SoCal. But it wasn’t easy getting there”

Natallie Rocha (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “11 tips you need for the absolute best homemade pizza”

Kristen Castillo (The Daily Meal)

Third Place: “At Thanksgiving, there’s no need to go outside for a smoke”

Jackie Bryant (The New York Times)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First Place: “Developers paid \$1.8B to San Diego communities, but few reap benefits”
Crystal Niebla (inewssource)

Second Place: “The U.S. sends millions to Mexico for migrants. Tijuana shelters ask where it’s going.”

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Third Place: “Encinitas City Council unanimously sacks Planning Commission chairman”
Roman S. Koenig (North Coast Current)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First Place: “Chula Vista mother fought to get her ‘little warrior’s’ rare disease diagnosis confirmed”

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

Second Place: “No guns, no badges, no sirens. County reimagines response to mental health calls”

Lyndsay Winkley and Tammy Murga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing Insecurity Story

First Place: “‘These people do heroic work.’ Outreach workers refuse to give up on the homeless”

Kelly Davis (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Kicked out for repairs: How San Diego, Chula Vista plan to curb evictions”
Cody Dulaney (inewssource)

Third Place: “Streets of despair: Street homelessness appears to be surging in San Diego”
Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First Place: “San Diego officials said rural homes were safe from fires. They were listening to developers”

Camille von Kaenel (inewssource)

Second Place: “Why is San Diego falling so far behind on housing? Here are a few reasons”
Cody Dulaney (inewssource)

Third Place: “UCSD students fight for a voice in University City zoning debate”
Andrew Bowen (KPBS)

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

First Place: “Eviction series: Who gets to live on Bermuda Avenue?”

Roxana Popescu (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Veterans Village investigation”

Jill Castellano (inewssource)

Third Place: “Active-duty service members are dying by suicide at alarming rates”
Will Huntsberry (Voice of San Diego)

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

First Place: “Docs: City officials knew ‘volunteer’ real estate guru wanted compensation”
Lisa Halverstadt (Voice of San Diego)

Second Place: “Requesting asylum is supposed to be free. But corruption in Tijuana means many have to pay”

Kate Morrissey (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “County health clinics turn away undocumented San Diegans without IDs, advocates say”

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First Place: “As part of cultural revitalization, Kumeyaay community celebrates launch of 50 tule boats”

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

Second Place: “DJ, producer and UCSD ‘Blacktronika’ creator King Britt does it all: ‘He’s had so much impact on so many’”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Kumeyaay tribal members want tipis at Lake Cuyamaca campground removed”

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

Daily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First Place: “Media, legislators sound alarm on law enforcement radio encryption”

J.W. August (North Coast Current)

Second Place: “Why are cops leaving the San Diego Police Department? City sees biggest spike since 2009”

Lyndsay Winkley (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “For reporter, ‘The press was her family’”

Tania Navarro (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Opinion/Editorial

First Place: “Don’t look up global warming...”

Chris Reed (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Education can’t solve poverty alone, but it should do its part”

Will Huntsberry (Voice of San Diego)

Third Place: “Video games don’t undermine society”

Chris Reed (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Politics/Election Story

First Place: “‘We have every right to be cautious’: How Propositions 26 and 27 could transform tribal gaming”

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

Second Place: “Voting in Indian Country: Local effort aims to get more Native Americans registered”

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

Third Place: “In a California border city, young activists shake up local elections”

Zoë Meyers (inewssource)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First Place: “Who was Thomas Moreno?”

Shiloh Ireland (East County Magazine)

Second Place: “Linda Ronstadt on her new book, Parkinson’s disease, racism and religion: ‘I’m a practicing atheist’”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “Known for big trials and a bigger personality, Superior Court Judge Frederick Link retires”

Dana Littlefield (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First Place: “Olivia Rodrigo gives fans one Shell of a time at sold-out San Diego debut concert”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Bob Dylan’s ‘The Philosophy of Modern Song’ book is a love letter to music — and, um, polygamy”

George Varga (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Third Place: “When art touches your heart, it’s magical. It’s happening in Escondido with CCAE Theatricals”

Michael Rocha (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Science/Technology Story

First Place: “ICE uses cellphones to track thousands in San Diego, Imperial counties”

Sofia Mejías-Pascoe (inewssource)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Series

First Place: “Jail deaths”

Kelly Davis (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Conservatorships”

Jennifer Bowman (inewssource)

Third Place: “SDSU gang-rape investigation”

Teri Figueroa and Lyndsay Winkley (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First Place: “Friend still taking shots at World Cup”

Irv Erdos (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “With local player in the World Cup, San Diego soccer fans are fired up”

Alexander Nguyen (KPBS)

Daily Reporting and Writing — Travel Story

First Place: “Best vacation rentals in Charleston, South Carolina”

Kristen Castillo (House Digest)

Design Elements — Feature Photo

First Place: “Festa love”

Thomas Melville (Peninsula Beacon)

Second Place: “Reegens Novalus cuts the hair of his son, Reedjy, at the Templo Embajadores de Jesús shelter in Tijuana”

Zoë Meyers (inewssource)

Design Elements — Headline

First Place: “What’s the skinny on ‘Fat Leonard’s’ escape?” and other headlines

Andrew Kleske (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Linked in: Early golf courses drew top players, champions to Coronado” and other headlines

Martina Schimitschek (Coronado 365)

Third Place: “Scott headline compilation”

Peggy Scott (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal)

Design Elements — Layout and Page Design

First Place: “Arts + Culture: Spring Arts 2022”

Gloria Orbegozo (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “Slower tempo”

Martina Schimitschek (Coronado 365)

Third Place: “Consider the whale”

Samantha Lacy (San Diego Magazine)

Design Elements — Photo Essay

First Place: “12 paths to housing: What happened after San Diego’s hotel shelters closed”

Zoë Meyers (inewssource)

Second Place: “Studio of the Streets”

Peggy Peattie, Jackie Bryant and Samantha Lacy (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “A look inside the movement reshaping politics in one California border city”

Zoë Meyers (inewssource)

Design Elements — Sports Photo

First Place: “Bryce Wettstein”

J. Grant Brittain (San Diego Magazine)

Digital — Blog

First Place: “Off the Mapp Food, Beverage and Travel Blog”

Lauren J. Mapp (Off the Mapp)

Second Place: “Cannabitch”

Jackie Bryant (Cannabitch)

Third Place: “HomeTold with Elena”

Elena Gomez and Brandon McCray (HomeTold)

Digital — Entertainment Site

First Place: “The San Diego Union-Tribune – Entertainment”
Arts & Entertainment Staff (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers website”
Staff (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance)

Third Place: “KPBS/Arts”
Julia Dixon Evans (KPBS)

Digital — Multimedia Presentation

First Place: “Poison pill: San Diego’s battle against fentanyl”
Catherine Garcia, Aws Haidari and Sarah Lee (NBC 7 San Diego)

Digital — News Site

First Place: “The San Diego Union-Tribune”
Staff (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Second Place: “North Coast Current”
Roman S. Koenig (North Coast Current)

Digital — Social Media Account

First Place: “@SanDiegoMag — Instagram account”
Troy Johnson, Emily Heft and Jeremy Sazon (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “@SDRedSoxGirl on Instagram”
Lauren J. Mapp (Off the Mapp)

Digital — Social Media Storytelling

First Place: “In your neighborhood: What’s happening this weekend in San Diego”
Brenda Gregorio Nieto (NBC 7 San Diego)

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

First Place: “The Petty Nicks Experience coming to Poway on July 8”
Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Second Place: “City Ballet of San Diego returns to the stage with trio of dances spanning 145 years”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (PB Monthly)

Third Place: “Shannon Taylor has a flair for filmmaking!”
Nathalie Taylor (Sourcebook Magazine)

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

First Place: “Totally metal”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Palm trunk is carved with images to represent Pacific Beach resident’s memories”

Regina Elling (PB Monthly)

Third Place: “‘Beyond Van Gogh’ to land at Del Mar Fairgrounds”
Michael J. Williams (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Business Story

First Place: “RSF native appears in ‘Shark Tank,’ lands six-figure deal”

Joe Tash (Rancho Santa Fe Review)

Second Place: “The view from on high”

Jackie Bryant and Ariana Drehsler (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “Pennywise Books, a Pacific Beach tradition for more than 40 years”

Regina Elling (PB Monthly)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Criminal Justice Story

First Place: “43 years later, siblings from Cardiff seek answers in brother’s unsolved murder at Torrey Pines State Beach”

Luke Harold (Del Mar Times)

Second Place: “Husband of first defendant sentenced in PB riot begs court to place her in women’s prison”

Drew Kendra Sitton (San Diego Downtown News)

Third Place: “San Diego community demands more from law enforcement than non-binding policies to increase police accountability”

Roberto Camacho (Prism Reports)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Education Story

First Place: “UCSD professor was punished for working with Chinese scientists. Is it an ethics breach or discrimination?”

Elisabeth Frausto (La Jolla Light)

Second Place: “San Dieguito students push for resolution against LGBTQIA+ discrimination”

Karen Billing (Carmel Valley News)

Third Place: “Vines and wines: Ramona’s grape growers help SDSU researchers study impact of climate change on vineyards”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Environment Story

First Place: “Consider the whale”

Mateo Hoke (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Aldi warned that fairy shrimp habitat may need to be restored near Ramona store”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Third Place: “Urban forest tempers heat waves”

Drew Kendra Sitton (San Diego Downtown News)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Light Subject)

First Place: “Old drought new wine”

Jason Wilson and Eric Wolfinger (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “For the love of Black community”

Nylah Burton and Ariana Drehsler (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “With a Little Free Library, Pacific Beach residents share their love of reading with neighbors”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (PB Monthly)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Feature Story (Serious Subject)

First Place: “Veterans seek help in keeping Liberty Station’s deteriorating 52 Boats Memorial on eternal patrol”

Regina Elling (Point Loma-OB Monthly)

Second Place: “Rancho Bernardo woman and sister recount horrors of Holocaust in new book”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third Place: “RSF resident helps father and others leave Ukraine”

Joe Tash (Rancho Santa Fe Review)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Food Story

First Place: “Avant’s new chef de cuisine works to expand culinary experiences”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Second Place: “Ramona couple are experts at training their dragon fruit”

Regina Elling (Ramona Sentinel)

Third Place: “More than ‘just beer’”

Beth Demmon (San Diego Magazine)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Government Story

First Place: “Exclusive: ‘I’m a Whistleblower’ — former SD City COO confirms she leaked”

Arturo Castañares (La Prensa San Diego)

Second Place: “Torrey View construction prompts height concerns”

Karen Billing (Carmel Valley News)

Third Place: “Del Mar Fairgrounds board responds to court injunction”

Luke Harold (Del Mar Times)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Health Story

First Place: “Restoring dignity to sex trafficking survivors, one tattoo removal at a time”

Doug Brunk (Dermatology News)

Second Place: “Encinitas couple copes with 2-year-old’s unique condition”

Michael J. Williams (Encinitas Advocate)

Third Place: “Three San Diego nurses on the challenges and rewards of the job”

Jennifer McEntee (San Diego Magazine)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Housing Insecurity Story

First Place: “Solana Highlands tenants prepare to vacate as redevelopment proceeds”

Luke Harold (Solana Beach Sun)

Second Place: “Rent prices increase up to 100% at North Park building”

Drew Kendra Sitton (San Diego Uptown News)

Third Place: “Michael’s House in Ramona closes after 45 years of serving people with disabilities”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Housing/Development Story

First Place: “State law has turned to ADUs to help address the housing crisis”

Luke Harold (Del Mar Times)

Second Place: “Mission Valley is finally growing up”

Jennifer McEntee (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “20-story building opens in Bankers Hill”

Drew Kendra Sitton (San Diego Uptown News)

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

First Place: “28 years, 160 arrests: What one man’s record reveals about San Diego’s broken justice system”

Kelly Davis (The Appeal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Multicultural Story

First Place: “Mesa Grande tribe embarks on plans to repurpose Ramona’s Golden Eagle Farm”

Julie Gallant (Ramona Sentinel)

Second Place: “Chabad of Poway hosts matzah event to teach children about Passover tradition”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third Place: “Rancho Santa Fe residents help support girls boarding school in Nicaragua”

Luke Harold (Rancho Santa Fe Review)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — News Story

First Place: “Discomfort stations? Locals frustrated by ‘terrible state’ of restrooms, showers at Shores’ Kellogg Park”

Elisabeth Frausto (La Jolla Light)

Second Place: “La Jolla Shores divers and residents want the brakes put on ‘vanlife’ on Vallecitos”

Ashley Mackin-Solomon (La Jolla Light)

Third Place: “San Dieguito remembers alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice”

Karen Billing (Encinitas Advocate)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Opinion/Editorial

First Place: “Education matters: Fearing the ‘other’”

Marsha Sutton (Del Mar Times)

Second Place: “John McCann for mayor of Chula Vista: Our city is not for sale”

Arturo Castañares (La Prensa San Diego)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Politics/Election Story

First Place: “San Diego race will decide new leadership for California’s deadliest jail system”

Kelly Davis (Bolts Magazine)

Second Place: “‘Jamuligan’ running for CV mayor contradicts himself on residency issues”

Alberto Garcia and Arturo Castañares (La Prensa San Diego)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Profile

First Place: “The not-so-lonely hedonist”

Jackie Bryant (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Catholic University law student Joseph Hurley persists despite tragedy”

Jennifer McEntee (The National Jurist)

Third Place: “Temple Adat Shalom’s cantor to retire after 40 years in trailblazing role”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Review/Criticism

First Place: “Sea change”

Troy Johnson and Kimberly Motos (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Annabella in July, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Solana Beach”

Lynne Friedmann (Culture Vulture)

Third Place: “Wonderful — and sometimes wacky — San Diego County Fair food”

Nathalie Taylor (Fallbrook Village News)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Science/Technology Story

First Place: “Successful local sports analytics business Hookit acquired by New York-based software company”

Joe Tash (Encinitas Advocate)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Series

First Place: “No room to rest — a series on homelessness”

Elisabeth Frausto and Ashley Mackin-Solomon (La Jolla Light)

Second Place: “Rancho Bernardo man’s 3,400-mile cross-country bike trip to raise money for diabetes research; RB man completes 3,373-mile cross-country bicycle ride”

Elizabeth Marie Himchak (Rancho Bernardo News Journal)

Third Place: “Roadblocks to repair — a series on fixing the streets”

Ashley Mackin-Solomon and Elisabeth Frausto (La Jolla Light)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Sports Story

First Place: “Mammoth calling”

Julie Brown Davis (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “My own private ride”

Ryan Bradford, Madeline Yang and Grant Brittain (San Diego Magazine)

Third Place: “Torrey Pines’ Alyssa Ahn in running for prestigious girls tennis honor”

Ken Grosse (Carmel Valley News)

Nondaily Reporting and Writing — Travel Story

First Place: “Montréal’s Women of Wine”

Laura Feinstein (San Diego Magazine)

Second Place: “Barcelona: Back from the brink”

Jackie Bryant (Cannabis Now Magazine)

Third Place: “Memories of Hearst Castle”

Nathalie Taylor (Fallbrook Village News)

Video — Breaking News Story

First Place: “Dashcam catches plane making emergency landing on San Marcos road”
Madison Weil and Raymond Higgins (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “Drivers rescue CHP officer from gunman on I-8”
Deyja Charles, Eric Solomon, Kimberly Hunt, Derek Staahl and Frank Castillo Jr.
(KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “San Diego DA’s Office won’t charge former SDSU football players accused of sexual assault”
Brenda Gregorio Nieto, Eric S. Page, Rafael Avitabile, Christina Bravo and Dave Summers
(NBC 7 San Diego)

Video — Business/Consumer Report

First Place: “Chula Vista Brewery”
Vince Meehan (San Diego Downtown News)

Second Place: “Healthcare in action”
Joe Little (NBC 7 San Diego)

Third Place: “Pig butchering: A digital scam”
Melissa Mecija and Ray Higgins (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Community Services Program or Series

First Place: “Safer schools: An ABC 10News special”
Enedina Cisneros and Luella Mata (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “Opioids: San Diego’s quiet addiction — An ABC 10News special”
Eric Solomon, James Gorcos, Kimberly Hunt and Isaac Cadriel
(KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “Latin in America”
Enedina Cisneros, Deyja Charles, Isaac Cadriel and Lindsey Pena
(KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Government Story

First Place: “After pledging ‘net zero’ emissions, San Diego wants to spend \$22.5M to expand a freeway”
Andrew Bowen and Carlos Castillo (KPBS)

Second Place: “San Diego County and the \$85 million problem”
Adam Racusin and Steve Reusch (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “San Diego’s ambulances and the failing contract”
Melissa Mecija (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise (Series)

First Place: “A plastic surgeon. A dead patient. A broken system.”
Jennifer Kastner (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “A schizophrenic veteran legally buys a gun & murders his neighbor”
Jennifer Kastner (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “Used, reused or euthanized: A dog’s life in animal research”
Maya Trabulsi (KPBS)

Video — Investigative/Enterprise (Single Story)

First Place: “Sheriff conceals multiple jail overdose death records”

Jennifer Kastner (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Second Place: “When a tree falls”

Adam Racusin, Raymond Higgins and Steve Reusch (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “Advocates alarmed by use of private messaging app by San Diego public officials”

Claire Trageser, Katy Stegall and Nicholas McVicker (KPBS)

Video — News Feature (Light News Reporting)

First Place: “Oh my darling, Clementine”

Joe Little (NBC 7 San Diego)

Second Place: “Right at home where he belongs”

Andrew Luria, Ruby Chen, Doug Downing and Aaron Eudaley (FOX 5 San Diego KSWB)

Third Place: “Goodbye Chopper”

Joe Little (NBC 7 San Diego)

Video — News Feature (Serious News Reporting)

First Place: “Poison pill: San Diego’s battle against fentanyl”

Catherine Garcia, Aws Haidari, Elroy Spatcher, Sarah Lee and Jay Yoo (NBC 7 San Diego)

Second Place: “Innocent but guilty”

Adam Racusin and Geoff Stevens (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Third Place: “Family torn apart by war in Russia kept apart by U.S. immigration policy”

Kitty Alvarado (KPBS)

Video — Newscast (Evening)

First Place: “ABC 10News at 4 - Padres Game 3 NLDS team coverage Oct. 14, 2022”

Sofia Seikaly, Natay Holmes and Eddie Ray (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Video — Sports Story

First Place: “Surprise meeting on lacrosse field bonds two players with alopecia”

Allison Edmonds and Joaquin Duncan (KUSI-TV)

Second Place: “In pursuit of red, white, blue and gold”

Andrew Luria (FOX 5 San Diego KSWB)

Third Place: “My heart’s going 100 MPH”

Joe Little (NBC 7 San Diego)

Video — Video Editing

First Place: “Ray Higgins 2022 video editing”

Raymond Higgins (KGTV 10News ABC San Diego)

Special Awards

First Amendment Award

“COVID Year Two: After the vaccine”

Jesse Marx and Will Huntsberry (Voice of San Diego)

Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting

“SANDAG coverage”

Jennifer Bowman (inewssource)

Herbert Lockwood “Woody” Award (Humor Writing)

“Sharing San Diego’s infinite treasures”

Irv Erdos (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

James Julian Memorial Award (Community Service Story)

“Holocaust remembrance” and “Area anti-Semitic incidents on the rise”

Nicolette Monique Luna (The Southwestern College Sun)

Neil Morgan Community Impact Award

“One family’s homelessness nightmare”

Lisa Halverstadt and Peggy Peattie (Voice of San Diego)

Sol Price Award for Responsible Journalism

“Veterans Village: An investigation”

Jill Castellano (inewssource)

Top Awards

2023 Distinguished Coverage Award

“San Diego’s cost-of-living crisis”

Andrea Lopez-Villafaña, Andrew Keatts, MacKenzie Elmer, Lisa Halverstadt and
Will Huntsberry (Voice of San Diego)

2023 Excellence in Journalism Award

“‘She was on top of the world’: The rise and fall of San Diego’s largest Ponzi schemer”

Lori Weisberg, Greg Moran and Adriana Heldiz (The San Diego Union-Tribune)

2023 Journalist of the Year

Kelly Davis

Scholarships

San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarship

Elaine Alfaro (Point Loma Nazarene University)

Brittany Cruz-Fejeran (San Diego State University)

Jillian Fortner (University of California, San Diego; San Diego City College)

Serafina Gargiulo (San Diego State University)

Diego Higuera (Southwestern College)

Agnes Diggs Road to College Scholarship

Razylin Avendano (Southwestern College)

Bradley J. Fikes Scholarship

Mackenzie Stafford (San Diego State University)