The Orange County Register wins multiple awards at the Orange County Press Club’s 2018 Excellence in Journalism Contest

June 14 – The Orange County Register was honored for excellence in journalism in multiple categories at Orange County Press Club’s June 14 gala at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa.

Winners include:

**Best Public Affairs Story**
Second Place: Jordan Graham, “Orange County homeless deaths hit all-time high”
Third Place: Jeff Collins, “Eviction decline is no solace for thousands of renters losing their homes”

**Best Feature Story**
First Place: Chris Haire, “Is time running out on Holy Jim Canyon? Nature, feds are threatening”

**Best Education Story**
First Place: Roxana Kopetman, “Pink slips lead to a special court hearing for hundreds of local teachers facing possible layoffs”
Second Place: Roxana Kopetman, “Anaheim Union denying hundreds of school transfer requests, sparking tears and appeals”

**Best Series**
First Place: Teri Sforza, “Twins Divided” for Orange County Register
Second Place: Denisse Salazar, “Gang Victims: A Program Aimed at Helping and Healing” for Orange County Register

**Best Sports Columnist**
First Place: David Jerome, Mr. Bucketlist in Orange County Register

**Best Sports Story**
First Place: **Ryan Kartje**, “Inside the unregulated world of recruiting consulting services”
Second Place: **Mirin Fader**, “California doesn’t regulate athletic trainers. Here’s why that’s bad for high school athletes”
Third Place: **Chris Haire**, “On Saturday, a rematch will play out in Little Saigon”

**Best Business Story:**
First Place: **Margot Roosevelt**, “Is it fair that the amount of bonding time you get with your baby hinges on the size of your employer?”
Second Place: **Jeff Collins**, “Investor demand for SoCal apartments contributes to rising rents”
Third Place (TIE): **Jeff Collins**, “Meet YIMBY: Pro-development groups join the battle in California housing wars”

**Best Cannabis Coverage**
First Place: **Brooke Edwards Staggs**

**Best Religion Story**
Second Place: **Deepa Bharath**, “A Bible and a gun? How churches, temples, mosques are rethinking security”

**Best Travel Story**
Second Place: **Anne Valdespino**, “Touring Castle Country in Scotland”
Third Place: **Kedric Francis**, “Road trips for a realist” (OC Family)

**David McQuay Award for Best Columnist**
Second place: **Kedric Francis**, Orange County Register / OC Family

**Best Profile**
First Place: **Ryan Kartje**, “The Ballfather: Lavar Ball and his three sons intend to change basketball forever”
Second Place: **Keith Sharon**, “Would you kill if ordered? Orange County resident and WWII Navy survivor
Third Place: **Margot Roosevelt**, “July 4th fireworks: Meet the Orange County maestro who lights the nation’s skies”
**Best Food/Restaurant Review**
Third Place: **Brad A. Johnson**, “Pacific Hideaway channels a rebellious surfer vibe”

**Best Round-Up or Best Of**
Second place: **Brad A. Johnson**, “These are Orange County’s 20 Best Mexican Restaurants”

Best Beat Reporting
Second Place: **Deepa Bharath**, Orange County register

**Best Breaking News Story**
Second place: **Alma Fausto, Tony Saavedra** and **Sean Emery**, “Serial killings: 5th victim identified in cases of men accused of murdering 4 women”

**Best News Feature Story**
Second Place: **Margot Roosevelt**, “Is Social Security cheating the disabled? The wait time to get a hearing is nearly 2 years”
Third Place: **Denisse Salazar**, “Here’s one Santa Ana family’s story of generational gang violence. Can the city’s latest efforts break the cycle?”

**Best News Story**
First Place: **Roxana Kopetman**, “Same visa Trump uses at his hotel helps bring workers to Southern California fairs”

**Best Investigative Story**
First Place: **Jordan Graham** and **Tony Saavedra**, “Southern California jailers are injuring inmates with abusive ‘chicken winging’ holds”

**Watchdog Award**
First Place: Orange County Register Staff

**Marjorie Freeman Award for Best Humorous Story**
First place: **Kedric Francis**, “Women of Influence”
Second Place: **Anne Valdespino**, “These are the worst restaurant and food trends of 2017”
Third Place (TIE): **David Jerome**, “Scattered Thoughts for Your April
Fool’s Day”

**The Real O.C. Award**
First Place: **Deepa Bharath**, “Most Influential 2017: Rida Hamida and Benjamin Vazquez bring halal tacos, cultural mingling, to mosques throughout Southern California”
Second Place: **Brooke Edwards Staggs**, “Seniors board ‘cannabus’ for trip to medical marijuana dispensary” (TheCannifornian.com)