IRVINE, CALIF. -- June 27, 2022 -- Southern California News Group (SCNG) journalists have been honored with 68 California Journalism Awards, presented by the California News Publishers Association. SCNG’s wins included 11 first place and 42 top-three finishes.

Photographer Sarah Reingewirtz had two second-place finishes to go with her first place for photo story/essay. Michael Hixon added a second-place award to the first he shared with Tyler Evains, Lisa Jacobs and Paul Kryczko for the Beach Reporter's special section "Kindness 2021, Good News from the South Bay." Harry Saltzgaver finished first for editorial comment and second for columns.

Team efforts also received honors. The Inland news team --- entered through The Press-Enterprise --- took first place for its series on warehouses in the Inland Empire. The Press-Telegram took second for coverage of youth and education, and SCNG PREMIUM magazine --- led by editor Samantha Dunn --- took second for its special section "Illuminate: The Brave New World of Back to School."

In the general excellence category, The Orange County Register and the Grunion Gazette took third place in their respective circulation/publication levels.

A complete list of SCNG’s CNPA honorees follows:

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS:**
Keith Birmingham: Sports Action Photo
Sarah Reingewirtz: Photo Story/Essay
Tyler Evains, Michael Hixon, Lisa Jacobs, Paul Kryczko: Special Section
Jason Henry: Investigative Reporting
Jennifer Iyer: Land-Use Reporting
The Press-Enterprise Staff: Coverage of Business News
Mark Rightmire: Artistic Photo
Daniella Segura: Artistic Photo
Javier Rojas: Profile Story
Harry Saltzgaver: Editorial Comment
Brooke Staggs: Coverage of Newsom Recall Election

**SECOND PLACE WINNERS:**
Olga Grigoryants, Sarah Reingewirtz: In-Depth Reporting
Chris Haire, Michael Hixon: Land-Use Reporting
Michael Hixon: Profile Story
Jeff Horseman: Coverage of Newsom Recall Election
Kristy Hutchings: Profile Story
Leonard Ortiz: News Photo
Press-Telegram Staff: Coverage of Youth and Education
Scott M. Reid: Sports Feature Story
Sarah Reingewirtz: News Photo
Harry Saltzgaver: Columns
Steve Scauzillo: Coverage of the COVID-19 Pandemic
SCNG Staff: Special Section

THIRD PLACE WINNERS:
Keith Birmingham: Sports Action Photo
Jeff Collins: Coverage of Business News
Daily Bulletin Staff: In-Depth Reporting
Tyler Evains, Chris Haire, Lisa Jacobs: Investigative Reporting
Grunion Gazette: General Excellence
Mike Guardabascio: Sports Feature Story
Chris Haire: Writing
Sharleen Higa: Columns
Michael Hixon: Land-Use Reporting
Jennifer Iyer: Agricultural Reporting
Donna Littlejohn: Coverage of Business News
Gary Metzker: Profile Story
Orange County Register: General Excellence
Terry Pierson: Artistic Photo
Scott M. Reid: Coverage of Youth and Education
Mark Rightmire: Sports Action Photo
Daniella Segura: Breaking News
Mindy Schauer: Feature Photo
Jean Shriver: Columns

FOURTH PLACE WINNERS:
Deepa Bharath: Coverage of the COVID-19 Pandemic
Allyson Escobar, Beau Yarbrough, Nikie Johnson: Coverage of Youth and Education
JJ Fiddler: Sports Feature Story
Ruby Gonzales: Feature Story
Mike Guardabascio: Columns
Paul Kryczko: Special Section Cover
Emily Rasmussen: Feature Story
Javier Rojas: Agricultural Reporting
Harry Saltzgaver: Land-Use Reporting
Daniella Segura: Photo Story/Essay
Daniella Segura: Profile Story
Cindy Yamanaka: News Photo

FIFTH PLACE WINNERS:
Paul Bersebach: News Photo
Jeff Collins, Jeff Goertzen, Nikie Johnson: Land-Use Reporting
Daily Breeze Staff: In-Depth Reporting
Allyson Escobar, Jennifer Iyer, Javier Rojas: Coverage of Business News
Keith Birmingham of the Southern California News Group won first place in the Sports Action Photo category for this shot of USC wide receiver Tahj Washington diving for the first down against the Brigham Young Cougars at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday, November 27, 2021. The photo also won first place in the 2021 Associated Press Sports Editors contest in the Division A Action Photos category.

About the Southern California News Group