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ARIZONA  
PRESS ★ CLUB

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**BEST IN  
ARIZONA  
JOURNALISM**

**'14**

**AWARDS PARTY  
MAY 31, 2014**



# **BEST IN ARIZONA JOURNALISM**

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## **ARIZONA PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The Arizona Press Club is honored to recognize the best journalism in 2013 produced by reporters, designers, headline writers, and photographers. Plus, we give a special nod to the selfless editors behind the scenes who are fine tuning this work.

These dedicated journalists continue their pursuit of informing and entertaining news consumers despite working in an industry so in flux.

Shrinking newsrooms have given way to a new breed of purely mobile reporters, web hits have become as important as exposing government corruption, and news organizations have continued to reinvent themselves in hopes of finding new footing.

Despite the challenges, journalists across the state press on. They know how to adapt, hone their skills, and continue to serve as the strong watchdogs especially needed in Arizona. The proof is contained herein.

Congratulations to all the winners.

**Monica Alonzo**  
**President, Arizona Press Club**

# **THANKS TO OUR EMCEE FOR THE EVENING!**



## **DENNIS WELCH 3TV POLITICAL REPORTER**

Dennis Welch, a veteran political reporter, joined 3TV in June 2012, where he serves as both an anchor and oversees political coverage across the station's digital platforms.

Welch was one of several reporters who launched the Arizona Guardian, an online news site dedicated to covering the state's politics and its politicians. Before that, he was a reporter at the East Valley Tribune. He has also appeared on numerous television and radio programs and shared with listeners his unique political analysis based on more than a decade of experience.

# VIRG HILL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

## Virg Hill Arizona Journalist of the Year

Bob Ortega, The Arizona Republic

*"While there was some strong work in this category, Ortega stood out from the field," Best wrote. She praised his "deep and aggressive reporting, clear and vivid writing, ambitious topic selection, a regional and national approach." Katches wrote that, "Ortega's reporting shows remarkable breadth and depth, with sharp leads, strong data and telling anecdotal details to highlight important stories for Arizona residents."*



## First runner-up

John Dougherty, InvestigateMEDIA and Phoenix New Times  
*"Powerful, aggressive reporting," Schrade wrote. "Dougherty's determination to get at what went wrong raised accountability questions about the events that led to the Yarnell Hill fire tragedy. His immersion in the story produced significant information on a major state and national story."*



## Second runner-up

Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times

*"Wyloge used every tool in the box to dig deeply and bring to light facts that Arizona's powerful wanted to keep hidden," Best wrote.*



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## About the Judges

*Kathy Best is editor of the Seattle Times and previously was managing editor for digital news and innovation. During her tenure as a managing editor, The Times won two Pulitzer Prizes — for breaking news in 2010 and investigative reporting in 2012.*

*Brad Schrade is an investigative reporter at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He previously worked at the Tennessean in Nashville and the Star Tribune in Minneapolis where he was part of a team that won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize.*

*Mark Katches is the editorial director for the Center for Investigative Reporting, which includes California Watch and The Bay Citizen. He was the primary editor of Pulitzer Prize-winning projects in 2008 and 2010 and has edited or managed five other stories that have been Pulitzer finalists.*

# ARIZONA COMMUNITY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

## Arizona Community Journalist of the Year

Glenn Gullickson, Echo Magazine

*"Gutsy coverage of a vital issue," Hundsdorfer and Pawlaczyk wrote. "Gullickson, a one-individual operation aided by freelancers, does it all with stories about individuals and the effect of local government on social outcomes. Well-written and richly varied."*



## First runner-up

Adam Curtis, Sierra Vista Herald

*Curtis "tackles tough issues with gusto and verve," Bartelme wrote. "Environmental stories, such as his water series, require lots of time and study, and because of that, are often left out of community-focused papers. His series was an excellent example of public-service journalism."*



## Second runner-up

Curt Prendergast, Nogales International

*"Curt does hard-hitting stories of exceptional depth and importance, and he does them in a clear, detailed and effective manner," Bartelme wrote. "He's doing major-league work in a community that needs tough journalists. Well done."*



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## About the Judges

*Beth Hundsdorfer and George Pawlaczyk are reporters at the Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat who have worked together on investigative reporting projects for more than 13 years. They won a Robert F. Kennedy Award in 2007, a George Polk and a John Jay Criminal Justice Reporting Award in 2009 and an Investigative Reporters and Editors certificate in 2012.*

*Tony Bartelme is a longtime investigative reporter with The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina. His work has earned national praise, including top awards from the Gerald Loeb Foundation, APME, Sigma Delta Chi, and the National Press Club. He was a 2011 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and has twice been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.*

# ARIZONA DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

## Arizona Designer of the Year

Rick Konopka, The Arizona Republic

*Judges' comments: "His work is a testament to the power of print design for big breaking news. The Yarnell firefighter death cover was simple yet powerful. His other covers featured effective and sophisticated for what could be tougher stories to illustrate".*



## First runner-up

Adrienne Hapanowicz, AZ magazine (The Arizona Republic iPad edition)

*Judges' comments: "Great tablet designs. I was especially drawn to the Digital Wonderland layout that allowed readers to take a self-directed path based on the choices made. Great work all around!"*



## Second runner-up

Peter M. Storch, Phoenix New Times

*Judges' comments: "Powerful, sophisticated use of illustration, type and color throughout. 'Best of Phoenix' and 'Psycho Killer' spreads were highlights for me."*



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About the Judges

*The design and graphics staff of the Dallas Morning News.*

# ARIZONA COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

**Arizona Community Photographer of the Year**  
Jarod Opperman, Daily News-Sun (Sun City)



**First runner-up**  
David C. Jolkovski, Ahwatukee Foothills News

**Second runner-up**  
Beatrice Richardson, Sierra Vista Herald



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About the Judges  
*The photo staff of the Seattle Times.*

# **SPANISH LANGUAGE WRITING**

*About the judge: Dino Chiecchi is the editor of Hispanic publications for the San Antonio Express-News.*

## **A1. SPANISH-LANGUAGE NEWS REPORTING**

### **First place**

Perla Trevizo, La Estrella de Tucson

### **Second place**

Maritza Lizeth Felix, Prensa Hispana

### **Third place**

Maritza Lizeth Felix, Prensa Hispana

## **A2. SPANISH-LANGUAGE FEATURE REPORTING**

### **First place**

Liliana Lopez Ruelas, La Estrella de Tucson

### **Second place**

Joseph Trevino, La Estrella de Tucson

### **Third place**

Samuel Murillo, La Voz Arizona

### **Honorable mention**

Marco Arreortua, La Voz Arizona

## **A3. SPANISH-LANGUAGE COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS**

### **First place**

Ernesto Portillo Jr., La Estrella de Tucson

### **Second Place**

Maritza Lizeth Felix, Prensa Hispana

### **Third place**

Maritza Lizeth Felix, Prensa Hispana

# INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

*About the judge: David Barstow, a senior writer for the New York Times, won the Pulitzer for Prize for investigative reporting in 2009, shared that prize in 2013 and was a finalist three other times.*

## B1. COMMUNITY INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

### First place

Evan Wyloge and Hank Stephenson, Arizona Capitol Times

For their careful and well-researched examination of lobbying loopholes.

*Judge's comments: "The Capitol Times thoroughly documented how these loopholes make it impossible to know which legislators benefited from most of the lobbying largess in Arizona."*

### Second place

Cindy Yurth, Navajo Times

For her aggressive coverage of gross mismanagement at Sage Hospital.

### Third place

Curt Prendergast, Nogales International

For his consistently sharp coverage of the local criminal justice system.

## C1. STATEWIDE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

### First place

Bob Ortega, Rob O'Dell and Daniel Gonzalez, The Arizona Republic  
"Force at the Border"

*Judge's comments: "Making extensive use of public records requests, the paper raised important questions about the use of force by border law enforcement officials, and most of all, exposed a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability for fatal shootings by border police."*

### Second place

Evan Wyloge and Hank Stephenson, Arizona Capitol Times

For their careful and well-researched examination of lobbying loopholes.

# **PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM**

*About the judge: David Jackson, an investigative reporter for the Chicago Tribune, has won a Pulitzer Prize and been a finalist for three others. His stories have prompted congressional hearings, law enforcement indictments and legislative reform.*

## **B2. COMMUNITY PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM**

### **First place**

Hillary Davis, Yuma Sun

“Far West Water & Sewer”

*Judge’s comments: “Yuma County’s sharply rising sewer and water bills affected every local resident. Davis used top-notch journalistic standards to bring all players to the table and present records and interviews that shed light on the eye-popping costs and contentious public hearings.”*

### **Second place**

Luige del Puerto, Jeremy Duda, Hank Stephenson, Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times; and the Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting

“Inside the ballot box”

### **Third place**

Chris Flora, The Explorer

“Living With Crohn’s”

## **C2. STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM**

### **First place**

Stephanie Innes, Emily Bregel, Carli Brosseau, Alexis Huicochea and Patty Machelor, Arizona Daily Star

“Losing Ground: Tucson kids pay poverty’s high price”

*Judge’s comments: “This is a model of public service journalism, tackling the seemingly oceanic and intractable issue of poverty by looking closely at its local face. The community’s trust in the newspaper was evident in the intimate, on-the-record portraits of impoverished families — the frank photos and profiles brought the data home and made it clear to readers that the people suffering were their neighbors. The newsroom’s impressive commitment to this project was matched by its smart framing and presentation of stories and online resources. The payoff came in the truly*

*glorious response from readers, who dug deep and found creative ways to help Tucson's disadvantaged youth."*

**Second place**

Craig Harris, Beth Duckett and Dustin Gardiner, The Arizona Republic  
"The steep price of pensions"

**Third place**

Shaun McKinnon, The Arizona Republic  
"Alone on the hill"

**BREAKING NEWS**

*About the judge: Lee Ann Colacioppo, senior editor for news at The Denver Post, has been the investigative editor, enterprise editor and city editor. She was part of the newspaper's Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of the Aurora shootings.*

**B3. Community breaking news**

**First place**

Cindy Yurth and Bill Donovan, Navajo Times  
"Monsoon lashes Nation"

*Judge's comments: "This story covers a lot of ground quickly and clearly. It captures the chaos that follows the flood and provides a strong overview of the event."*

**Second place**

Hank Stephenson, Jeremy Duda and Ben Giles, Arizona Capitol Times  
"Brewer gets her way"

**Third place**

Shar Porier, Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review  
"Bisbee ordinance draws Attorney General response"

**C3. Statewide breaking news**

**First place**

Tim Steller, Carli Brosseau, Stephanie Innes, Kimberly Matas, Becky Pallack and Kim Smith, Arizona Daily Star

“What Loughner's parents knew”

*Judge's comments: “This was a comprehensive, easy-to-digest distillation of thousands of pages of documents. It was rich in details and clearly the writers had a strong command of the material that comes through in the authoritative writing.”*

### **Second place**

Staff, The Arizona Republic: “Murder in the first degree”

### **Third place**

Perla Trevizo and Carli Brosseau, Arizona Daily Star

“Crowd scuffles with Border Patrol”

## **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTING**

*About the judges: Police Reporter Christine Vendel and Crime and Justice Editor Donna McGuire of The Kansas City Star have won national honors from the National Association of Black Journalists, Investigative Reporters & Editors, and in the National Headliners Awards.*

### **B4. Community public safety reporting**

#### **First place**

Gary Grado, Arizona Capitol Times

“Death row inmate struggles with cancer”

*Judges' comments: “This jaw-dropping story shines for its findings, impact, reporting depth and fluid, concise writing. If this story didn't shame correctional and state officials into making changes, what would?”*

#### **Second place**

Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly

“Image problems”

#### **Third place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch:

“Mental illness a challenge for police”

## **C4. Statewide public safety reporting**

### **First place**

Richard Ruelas, The Arizona Republic

“Justice delayed”

*Judges’ comments: “Great reporting and deft writing make this narrative series impossible to put down. It leaves readers wondering how so much could go so wrong for so long. Bravo.”*

### **Second place**

Gary Grado, Arizona Capitol Times

“Death row inmate struggles with cancer”

### **Third place (tie)**

Ray Stern, Phoenix New Times

“Shooting people from a car in alleged self-defense is no crime in Arizona”

Shanna Hogan, The Valley Times

“The stranger beside her”

## **POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT REPORTING**

*Judges: The national political staff of McClatchy Newspapers’ Washington, D.C. Bureau*

## **B5. Community politics and government reporting**

### **First place**

Glenn Gullickson, Echo Magazine

"The Marriage Question"

*Judges’ comments: “A comprehensive look at the motivation behind a little-known group with a giant agenda. We found it compelling reading, full of interesting characters, references to the 2016 presidential race and a rare deep dive into a fight between two seeming allies over getting a politically-charged measure on the ballot.*

### **Second place**

Luige del Puerto and Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times

"From dry policy to bitter politics"

### **Third place**

Jeremy Duda, Arizona Capitol Times  
"Too Big?"

## **C5. Statewide politics and government reporting**

### **First place**

Rob O'Dell, The Arizona Republic

"For many homeowners facing foreclosure, aid came too late"

*Judges' comments: "Lots of these entries were terrific examples of accountability reporting — a hallmark of government coverage. This one particularly stood out, because of the exact and no-nonsense writing. The number crunching behind it was evident, but it was an easy read, with the addition of homeowner voices. The graphics and the accompanying photographs were also a hit — right from the start, a solid package. That it was backed up with a confirming federal audit was impressive."*

### **Second place**

Paul Giblin and Caitlin McGlade, The Arizona Republic  
"Audit: Glendale covered up losses."

### **Third place**

Joe Ferguson, Darren DaRonco, Jamar Younger, Alexis Huicochea and Patrick McNamara, Arizona Daily Star  
"You pay accused workers to stay home"

## **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL/SCIENCE REPORTING**

*About the judge: Sam Roe, an investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune, was a member of the reporting team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2008 for an examination of unsafe children's products. He was a Pulitzer finalist in 2000, 2011 and 2013.*

## **B6. Community health reporting**

### **First place**

Angela Gonzales, Phoenix Business Journal  
"Prescription for disaster"

*Judge's comments: "A thoroughly researched, tightly written and well-documented package about the misuse of pain medication, an issue crucial to employers and workers alike."*

**Second place**

Angela Gonzales, Phoenix Business Journal  
"Dirty secrets"

**Third place**

Mark Cowling, Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune  
"Inmate patients leaving Florence for treatment"

**C6. Statewide health reporting**

**First place**

Bob Ortega, The Arizona Republic  
"A test you can't trust"

*Judge's comments: "Dogged reporting that drilled down on an underreported medical issue, helping expose the questionable use of a cervical cancer screening test. A superb public service."*

**Second place**

Amy B Wang, The Arizona Republic  
"Tough spirit, delicate skin"

**Third place**

Monica Alonzo, Phoenix New Times  
"After the fall"

**B7. Community environmental/science reporting**

**First place**

Alastair Lee Bitsoi and Larissa L. Jimmy, Navajo Times  
"Feral horses"

*Judge's comments: "An intriguing and memorable series of articles that explore the political, economic, ethical and cultural questions surrounding the problem of roaming horses."*

### **Second place**

Adam Curtis, Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review  
“Finding balance”

### **Third place**

Hayley Ringle, Phoenix Business Journal  
“Chasing the sun”

## **C7. Statewide environmental/science reporting**

### **First place**

Mary Jo Pitzl, Brandon Loomis, Matthew Dempsey and Michael Squires,  
The Arizona Republic  
“In harm’s way”

*Judge’s comments: “An impressive series about the hazards of building in overgrown forests. The reporters analyzed a variety of documents to show that problems with coordination, funding and awareness have put citizens and firefighters at greater risk.”*

### **Second place**

Tony Davis, Arizona Daily Star  
“Rosemont Copper”

### **Third place**

Brenna Goth and Tom Beal, Arizona Daily Star  
“Gender bias still strong in the scientific world”

## **SOCIAL ISSUES REPORTING**

*About the judge: Arelis Hernandez, a reporter with the Washington Post, previously worked for the Orlando Sentinel covering cops and crime, including the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Her work exploring identity in the aftermath of the case against George Zimmerman won her the 2013 ASNE/ Freedom Forum award for excellence in diversity reporting along with two colleagues.*

## **B8. Community social issues reporting**

### **First place**

Lynn Trimble, Raising Arizona Kids

"You matter: preventing teen suicide"

*Judge's comments: "Trimble used poignant details to narrate a story about a tragedy that has too often been repeated in American households. She sensitively weaved glimpses of a mother's sorrow through the revelations of her son's pain through friends, in social media and in text messages -- the new frontier for troubled teens. The quotes used to move the story were jarring and did everything a human-interest feature is supposed to do, inspire empathy."*

### **Second place**

Alysa Landry and Bill Donovan, Navajo Times

"Redskins controversy"

### **Third place**

Hillary Davis, Yuma Sun

"Bemoaning bedbugs"

## **C8. Statewide social issues reporting**

### **First place**

Emily Bregel, Veronica Cruz and Patty Machelor, Arizona Daily Star

"Arizona's foster care crisis"

*Judge's comments: "The reporters on the series took an enormously challenging topic like foster care and demonstrated how the problem is unique for Arizona in that while the removal of children from their birth parents is declining nationally, the state has gone in the opposite direction. The writers examined the issue from various angles with compelling anecdotes about drug-addicted parents, homeless dads and an abused teen-turned mother who had all her children removed from her own custody. Voices from experts, the state and advocates deepened the reporting and added the context needed to understand the width of Arizona's crisis. The photographs also took the reader deep into the homes of these suffering families."*

### **Second place**

Jimmy Magahern, Phoenix Magazine

"Legend City — arrested amusement"

### **Third place**

Karina Bland, The Arizona Republic

"If I could go back in time..."

## **EDUCATION REPORTING**

*About the judge: Stephanie Simon, a senior education writer for POLITICO is the 2013 winner of the Education Writers' Association beat reporting award for large publications.*

### **B9. Community education reporting**

#### **First place**

Gary Grado, Arizona Capitol Times

"New set of school standards searches for success"

*Judge's comments: "An ambitious look at a very contentious topic. Great decision to focus on the infrastructure angle (will schools be ready for the online testing demands of the Common Core?) while sprinkling in the political debate. Excellent quotes; strong writing; very good organization and flow. The addition of the district profiles put this story over the top into the first place category. That was a lot of extra work for the reporter but it added great value to readers and each profile was written in a very engaging style. Congratulations!"*

#### **Second place**

Alastair Lee Bitsoi and Cindy Yurth, Navajo Times

"Window Rock School Board stories"

#### **Third place**

Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune

"Training for the worst"

### **C9. Statewide education reporting**

#### **First place**

Anne Ryman, The Arizona Republic

"Colleges skimp on overdue repairs"

*Judge's comments: "This is a fantastic story -- an illuminating look at a hidden problem of concern to parents, students and taxpayers across the*

*state. An article about corroding pipes on a university campus could have been deadly dull, but Anne really makes this issue come to life with strong descriptive writing and excellent reporting that explores all facets of the problem -- how it came about, where things stand now, and what it will take to fix it in the future. Great work!"*

### **Second place**

Gary Grado, Arizona Capitol Times

"New set of school standards searches for success"

### **Third place**

Eugene Scott, The Arizona Republic

"No jobs, no school, no direction"

### **Honorable mentions**

Amy B Wang and Shaun McKinnon, The Arizona Republic

"Proud and loud to the end."

Richard Ruelas and Anne Ryman, The Arizona Republic

"ASU fraternities package"

## **IMMIGRATION REPORTING**

*About the judge: Elizabeth Aguilera, a senior reporter Southern Arizona Public Radio KPCC, previously covered immigration and demographics for the San Diego Union-Tribune, where she traveled to Mexico to cover cross-border sex trafficking.*

### **B10. Community immigration reporting**

#### **First place**

Todd Miller, Tucson Weekly

"Following their footsteps"

*Judge's comments: "While Miller's piece is written in a first-person style, he does a great job of keeping the news narrative flowing. He knows just how far to go with himself in the story and allows the walkers to be the story. Great writing that takes the reader there with him and the group, and also backs away to give an overall perspective of the issue and the route where the narrative takes place."*

## **Second place**

Curt Prendergast, Nogales International

“Immigration takes center stage” and other stories

## **C10. Statewide immigration reporting**

### **First place**

Bob Ortega and Nick Oza, The Arizona Republic

“The border is more secure than it has ever been – but is the border secure enough?”

*Judge’s comments: “In this special report on immigration, Ortega and Oza provide a comprehensive and informative picture of border security and other issues. It was thorough, narrative and understandable. The series is attractive and it is compelling in both words and pictures. Well done series that included not just the expected issues of security but it also explored the impact on the environment and the animals that live along the border.”*

### **Second place**

Perla Trevizo, Arizona Daily Star

“Ministering in a brutal land”

### **Third place**

Daniel Gonzalez, The Arizona Republic

“Migrants from India surge across border”

## **BUSINESS REPORTING**

*About the judge: Benjamin Hallman, HuffPost business and finance reporter, covers the housing crisis and financial reform. He formerly worked for the Center for Public Integrity and American Lawyer.*

## **B11. Community business reporting**

### **First place**

Luige del Puerto, Arizona Capitol Times

"Power struggle"

*Judge’s comments: “Comprehensive, continuing coverage of a measure proposed by the state legislature to deregulate Arizona’s public utilities. Examines issue in full context: what such a move might mean to consumers, to businesses and how deregulation in other markets, such as*

*telecommunication and airlines, led to lower prices and greater choice. Follow-up stories examine the legal roadblocks to such a move -- giving readers a preview of the forces that would eventually kill the measure."*

### **Second place**

Mike Sunnucks and Angela Gonzales, Phoenix Business Journal  
"On the horizon" / "Ready to depart"

### **Third place**

Jonathan Clark, Nogales International  
"Business leaders see mixed results for Nogales"

## **C11. Statewide business reporting**

### **First place**

Ronald J. Hansen, Catherine Reagor and Michelle Ye Hee Lee, The Arizona Republic

"Taxation vexation"

*Judge's comments: "Why didn't property taxes fall as much as home prices? Reporters used this question as a starting point for a deep, multi-part examination of the confusing forces that dictate the wildly differing sums homeowners in different neighborhoods -- and sometimes across the street from each other -- pay each year in property taxes. Reporters analyzed millions of tax records and presented their results with lots of helpful graphics and personal stories that highlight taxation disparities. The story on the maze of special taxing districts that operate with virtually no oversight deserves special praise."*

### **Second place**

Robert Anglen, The Arizona Republic  
"Sex-offender data is used to collect money and intimidate"

### **Third place**

Dawn Gilbertson, The Arizona Republic  
"Higher fares, fewer flights ..."

### **Honorable mention**

Josh Brodesky and Rob O'Dell, The Arizona Republic  
"Title loans hurt poor, critics say"

# **SPORTS REPORTING**

*About the judge: Tommy Deas, executive sports editor at The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, was part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning team that covered the aftermath of a devastating 2011 tornado that ravaged Tuscaloosa, and has won numerous Associated Press Sports Editors writing awards.*

## **B12. Community sports reporting**

### **First place**

Mike Sunnucks, Phoenix Business Journal  
“Pole position” and related NASCAR stories

*Judge’s comments: “Superior research, reporting and writing. Covers all the bases and answers all the questions.”*

### **Second place**

Jason Skoda, Ahwatukee Foothills News  
“Valley Christian’s Ottmueller vaults over disability”

### **Third place**

Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune  
“Gophers’ coach McKane dies at 38”

## **C12. Statewide sports reporting**

### **First place**

Scott Bordow and Matt Dempsey, The Arizona Republic  
“Uneven playing field”

*Judge’s comments: “Enterprise reporting at its finest. Superior organization, use of data to form thesis and in-depth analysis tells the reader how it works and why it matters.”*

### **Second place**

Doug Haller, The Arizona Republic  
“Ever wonder what happens in the locker room between halves during an ASU football game?”

Third place: Bob Young, The Arizona Republic  
“Greatest of them all”

## **COLUMN WRITING**

*About the judge: Al Lewis, a columnist for The Wall Street Journal Sunday, has won the Society of American Business Editors and Writers contest for column writing seven times. He's also been honored by the Society for Professional Journalists and the Associated Press.*

### **B13. Community column writing**

#### **First place**

Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor

*Judge's comments: "Gaub does a nice job of knocking down the claim of a local sheriff that his department is woefully understaffed, using raw data that is difficult to dispute. He's also not afraid to take a contrarian view within his Christian Republican viewpoint on same-sex marriage, and celebrates a long-time school official in a genuine voice."*

#### **Second place**

Michael Rinker, Lake Powell Chronicle

#### **Third place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch

### **C13. Statewide column writing**

#### **First place**

Tim Steller, Arizona Daily Star

*Judge's comments: "Steller nails ironies many overlook: A call to the police ends up in loss of life, the Border Patrol denies ride-alongs except to reality TV shows, and how can a government that can't stop gun smuggling, actually quantify it? He makes his points deftly by simply arranging the facts."*

#### **Second place**

Dan Bickley, The Arizona Republic

#### **Third place**

Stephen Lemons, Phoenix New Times

## **EDITORIAL WRITING**

*About the judges: Tim Nickens and Joni James, editor and deputy editor of the Tampa Bay Times editorial board.*

### **B14. Community editorial writing**

Jonathan Clark, Nogales International

*Judges' comments: "Clark shows a knack for juxtaposing the news in his border community with broader issues playing on the national stage in an accessible way."*

No second or third place awarded.

### **C14. Statewide editorial writing**

#### **First place**

Doug MacEachern, The Arizona Republic

*Judges' comments: "The best editorials show a path forward for progress. In these three pieces, but particularly the one on the Yarnell Hill Fire tragedy, this writer places news events in the context of broader policy and makes meaningful suggestions for the next step."*

#### **Second place**

Jonathan Clark, Nogales International

#### **Third place**

Sarah Garrecht Gassen, Arizona Daily Star

## **PERSONALITY PROFILE**

*About the judge: Eli Saslow, a staff writer for the Washington Post, won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory writing and was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer for feature writing. He also has won a Polk award for national reporting and an ASNE Award for non-deadline writing.*

### **B15. Community personality profile**

#### **First place**

Gillian Drummond, 3 Story Magazine

"The F word"

*Judge's comments: "A strong lead that established tension and welcomed the reader into a smart profile that showed the complexity of the subject."*

**Second place**

David Mendez, Tucson Weekly  
"Tiger's tap room"

**Third place**

Adam Curtis, Sierra Vista Herald  
"God's work"

**C15. Statewide personality profile**

**First place**

Ron Dungan, The Arizona Republic  
"Not quite alone"

*Judge's comments: "A deftly reported profile that takes us into the life of a fascinating character. Thorough and beautifully written, this is a long piece that never feels long, and that carries momentum all the way to the ending."*

**Second place**

Angela Pittenger, Arizona Daily Star  
"Zay"

**Third place**

Robrt L. Pela, Phoenix New Times  
"Is Scottsdale's John Smith the secret love child of Elvis Presley?"

**HUMAN INTEREST WRITING**

*About the judges: Jeanne Grinstead, deputy managing editor for features, and Janet K. Keeler, food and travel editor, Tampa Bay Times.*

**B16. Community human-interest writing**

**First place**

Curt Prendergast, Nogales International  
"For deportees, a Christmas meal at a crossroads"

*Judges' comments: "Fine job of bringing readers to the heart of the scene of a challenging situation. Strong reporting and writing, with extra points for being there on Christmas morning!"*

**Second place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch  
"Service dog goes to work at school"

**Third place**

Mari Herreras, Tucson Weekly  
"All souls, all community"

**C16. Statewide human-interest writing**

**First place**

Karina Bland, The Arizona Republic  
"The strength of love's memory"

*Judges' comments: "A stirring piece that brings readers to the heart of the life and death of Billy Warneke, and to the heartache and hope of his widow Roxanne. Vivid writing, excellent reporting and meticulous attention to detail."*

**Second place**

Scott Craven, The Arizona Republic  
"Connections through canvas"

**Third place**

Dianna M. Nández, The Arizona Republic  
"Even as a teen mom, Judy Robles never let her son think he couldn't be a champion"

**Honorable mention**

Shanna Hogan, The Valley Times  
"Let it glow"

**SHORT-FORM WRITING**

*About the judge: Lee Ann Colacioppo, senior editor for news at The Denver Post, has been the investigative editor, enterprise editor and city editor and was part of the*

team responsible for the newspaper's Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of the Aurora shootings.

## **B17. Community short-form writing**

### **First place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch

“Hard times set back family, but don't break its spirit”

*Judge's comments: “Often in these types of stories, the writer inserts himself too much into the story. Not so here. He stood back and let the thoughts and feelings of this remarkable family and the details of their home carry the day. It made for a powerful read.”*

### **Second place**

Luige del Puerto and Ben Giles, Arizona Capitol Times

“Speeding trucks and a flying SUV”

### **Third place**

Mark Cowling, Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune

“Inspector complains to cops about mayor”

## **C17. Statewide short-form writing**

### **First place**

Richard Ruelas, The Arizona Republic

“A feeling, a prayer lead to ring missing in fire rubble”

*Judge's comments: “A sweet story nicely told. You find yourself cheering for the daughter, the father, the mother and this family's love. The narrative unfolds at a perfect pace. Great word choice and eye for detail.”*

### **Second place**

Dianna M. Náñez, *The Arizona Republic*

“Inspirations of the artists”

### **Third place**

Kristen Cook, Arizona Daily Star

“Clothing goes au naturel”

## **ARTS CRITICISM AND REPORTING**

*Judge: Mary McNamara, a television critic and culture editor for the Los Angeles Times, was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for criticism. She is the author of two novels, "Oscar Season" and "The Starlet."*

### **B18. Community arts criticism**

#### **First place**

Margaret Regan, Tucson Weekly

### **C18. Statewide arts criticism**

#### **First place**

Kerry Lengel, The Arizona Republic

*Judge's comments: "Bright ledes, informed insights and a clear love of the subject make these reviews a pleasure to read."*

#### **Second place**

Cathalena Burch, Arizona Daily Star

#### **Third place**

Laura Hahnefeld, Phoenix New Times

### **B19. Community arts reporting**

#### **First place**

Gillian Drummond, 3 Story Magazine

*Jude's comments: "In her pieces about Pollyanna Pavement, graffiti art, and the Sonoran Glass School, Drummond uses lively language and deft details to capture the color and significance of local artists and their work in a way that is both evocative and explanatory."*

#### **Second place**

Matt Hickman, Sierra Vista Herald

#### **Third place**

Shondiin Silversmith, Navajo Times

## **C19. Statewide arts reporting**

### **First place**

Benjamin Leatherman, Phoenix New Times

*Judge's comments: "With evocative description and engaging voice, Leatherman captured the feel of the artists he writes about and the venues they have helped make iconic."*

### **Second place**

Cathalena Burch, Arizona Daily Star

### **Third place**

Gillian Drummond, 3 Story Magazine

## **OPINION BLOG**

*About the judges: Sharon Chan, associate opinions editor for The Seattle Times op-eds and digital content, previously was a senior producer and reporter for The Seattle Times. Thanh Tan, a multimedia editorial writer for The Seattle Times, previously was a political and general assignment reporter in Boise and Portland as well as an Emmy-winning reporter, producer and host with Idaho Public Television.*

## **B20. Community opinion blog**

No awards given.

## **C20. Statewide opinion blog**

### **First place**

Ray Stern, Phoenix New Times

"Valley fever"

*Judges' statement: "Stern's Valley Fever posts were meaty, nicely illustrated with visuals and entertaining to read. We liked how he wove context into his commentary on variety of topics from DUIs to solar power."*

No second or third place awarded.

## **NEWS BLOG**

*About the judge: Joseph Neff is an investigative reporter with The News & Observer in North Carolina.*

### **B21. Community news blog**

#### **First place**

Hayley Ringle, Phoenix Business Journal

“Tales from Crazy Amy's Baking Company”

*Judge's comments: “Good follow-up of local restaurant getting national infamy. Reader gets the full story.”*

No second or third place awarded.

### **C21. Statewide news blog**

#### **First place**

Matthew Hendley, Phoenix New Times

*Judge's comments: “The writer is witty, does not shy from controversy and has a keen eye for hypocrisy. Most importantly, he shows and does not tell.”*

#### **Second place**

Rebekah L. Sanders, The Arizona Republic

No third place awarded.

## **FEATURES BLOG**

*About the judge: Jonathan Curiel is an arts blogger for KQED, the main San Francisco affiliate of PBS and NPR.*

### **B22. Community features blog**

#### **First place**

Dan Gibson, Tucson Weekly

*Judge's comments: “A strong range of topics, particularly around music, where the writer weaves passionate opinions with evidence of facts to offer readers timely insight on the arts.”*

## **C22. Statewide features blog**

### **First place**

Benjamin Leatherman, Claire Lawton and Janessa Hilliard, Phoenix New Times

“Jackalope Ranch”

*Judge’s comments: “Through solid interviews and reporting, the stories spotlighted arts and culture-related topics that piqued readers’ interest and begged for thorough explanations. The blogs’ writers introduce readers to real people — whether artists or pedicab drivers — who humanize stories that are intimately connected to the Arizona arts scene.”*

### **Second place**

Rachel Miller, Lauren Saria, Laura Hahnefeld, Amy Silverman and Brandon Huigens, Phoenix New Times

“Chow Bella”

### **Third place**

Dan Gibson, Tucson Weekly

## **MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE**

*About the judge: Dai Sugano is senior multimedia editor with the San Jose Mercury News.*

## **B23. Community multimedia package**

### **First place**

Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times

“Stand your ground impacts”

*Judge’s comments: “We were struck by the quality of the multimedia elements in this project, and were impressed with how the reporters deftly used the data they had gathered in a way that brought the national debate over Stand Your Ground into strikingly sharp relief. The graphs were easily accessible to average readers and they greatly informed the project’s audience about the real impact the controversial law is having on crime rates around the country.”*

## **Second place**

Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times

“Arizona’s most lobbied lawmakers and busiest lobbyists visualized”

## **C23. Statewide multimedia package**

### **First place**

Cheryl Evans, Adrienne Hapanowicz and Jeff Metcalfe, The Arizona Republic

“The road to the Macy’s Parade”

*Judge’s comments: “The Arizona Republic’s iPad presentation is stunning. With photo, video, illustration, charts and text, the package is full of well-produced multimedia content, yet they are presented in a way that is simple to navigate for users which often the most important yet sometimes overlooked factor in multimedia story telling. I was delightfully surprised to find how behind-the-scene stories of one high school can be so engaging. A big congrats to all the journalists involved in the project.”*

### **Second place**

Staff, Phoenix New Times

“Best of Phoenix 2013”

### **Third Place**

Evan Wyloge, Arizona Capitol Times

“Stand your ground impacts”

## **HEADLINE WRITING**

*About the judges: Judges: Brad Bonhall, supervisor of multiplatform editing; Kevin Leung and Bobbi Olson, managers of multiplatform editing, Los Angeles Times*

## **B24. Community news headline writing**

### **First place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch

“Money Goes Down the Drain When Nothing Else Will”

“The Opening Line of a Good Scam – ‘Grandma, I’m in Jail’ ”

“A Tale of Two Pursuits, as a Doctor Takes on Dickens of a Role”

*Judge's comments: "Sophisticated and clever. They draw the reader in with language that is compelling. All work well with their stories."*

### **Second place**

Cindy Yurth, Navajo Times

"Obscure Baseball Word Put Yeager Out at Third Base"

"First Native Astronaut Had to Overcome His Own Inertia"

"Code Talker Was Gentle Dad, Hard-Working Teamster"

### **Third place**

Michael Rinker, Lake Powell Chronicle

"Regatta Popularity Continues to Balloon / Number of vendors up more than 50 percent"

"Bonejolais Nouveau / Wine event to benefit pet-adoption agency"

"Agencies, Divers Begin Intensive Effort to Out-Mussel Quaggas"

## **C24. Statewide news headlines**

### **First place**

Bill Coates, Casa Grande Dispatch

"Money Goes Down the Drain When Nothing Else Will"

"The Opening Line of a Good Scam – 'Grandma, I'm in Jail' "

"A Tale of Two Pursuits, as a Doctor Takes on Dickens of a Role"

*Judge's comments: "Sophisticated and clever. They draw the reader in with language that is compelling. All work well with their stories."*

### **Second place**

Ron Solomon, Arizona Daily Star

"Sedona's Our Turf, Quoth the Ravens / But 2 experts try to shoo away the destructive birds"

"Couched in Simple Terms, Junk Sofas Are an Eyesore"

"Holy Houses, Bat Fans! Smaller Is Better, Madera's Fliers Decide"

### **Third place**

Ron Solomon, Arizona Daily Star

"It's Your Fault!...No, No, It's Yours! So Partial Gov't Shutdown May Go On"

"Best News of All: Eat Chocolate, Stay Sharp / Now the caveat (you knew it was coming): There's a 'maybe'"

"Turkeys Knock the Stuffing Out of Recovery Statistics"

## **C25. Community feature headlines**

### **First place**

Cindy Yurth, Navajo Times

“Putting a Sheen on Native Theater / Actor says he learned more than he taught at drama workshop”

“Checkmates / Young chess players enjoy learning from their opponents”

“Corralling the Coffee Market / Dibe Biccino leaves light tracks, shepherds profits to good cause”

*Judge’s comments: “All three headlines were informative and clever too. The main headlines work well with the decks, and both heads work well with the photos and design elements.”*

### **Second place**

Michael Rinker, Lake Powell Chronicle

“PHS Band Turns Brass Into Gold”

“City Is Not Hapless”

“A Coat of Many Colors”

### **Third place:**

Michael Rinker, Lake Powell Chronicle

“Asfalt! When a 150-foot section of Highway 89 buckled and broke in the morning hours of February 20, it posed immediate challenges to Page residents, business and schools. With no quick fix in sight, how will they deal with the long-term effects?”

“Runner’s High”

“Wild and Woolly”

## **C25. Statewide feature headlines**

### **First place**

Sylvia Cody, The Arizona Republic

“Season’s Gratings / Experts share ways to keep holidays bright by taking charge, setting boundaries in stressful situations”

“Luvly Cup O’Tee-hee: Brit Zombie Flick”

“Homer’s Oddities / Tantalizing signs continue to draw I-10 travelers to the Thing as craftsman’s other macabre creations lure collectors”

*Judge's comments: "These all three showed fresh twists on language. We all three enjoyed the cleverness of these headlines. They were fun without us needing to read the story to get the point of the article."*

### **Second place**

Sylvia Cody, The Arizona Republic

"Reward a la Card / Issuers serve up more perks for customers"

"More cheep thrills: 'Night of Chicken 3' "

"Liquid Bold / Homemade marinades pair perfectly with grilled meats"

No third place awarded.

## **PAGE DESIGN**

*About the judges: Design and graphics staff of the Dallas Morning News.*

### **D1. Community Front-page design**

#### **First place**

Michael Rinker, Lake Powell Chronicle

"Asfalt!"

*Judges' comments: "Lets the powerful photography tell the story."*

#### **Second place**

Bethany Strunk, Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review

"Game on" or "Where has all the water gone")

#### **Third place**

Janet LaValley, Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review

"Flying high!"

### **D2. Community non-deadline layout/design**

#### **First place**

Randy Metcalf, Explorer Newspaper

"Wind, snow, rain, upsets and golf"

*Judges' comments: "Wonderful job of showcasing great photography."*

**Second place**

Bethany Strunk, Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review  
“Linemen’s rodeo”

**Third place**

Luis Solano, La Voz  
“Ben Miranda: The champion of the people”

**D3. Statewide Page One Design****First place**

Rick Konopka, The Arizona Republic  
“Tragedy”

*Judges’ comments: “A great primer on what a newspaper should do for big breaking news (great photo, simple, clean effective layout, quick hitting informative graphic).”*

**Second place**

Danielle Rindler, The Arizona Republic  
“I miss my brothers”

**Third place**

Gabe Turner, Arizona Capitol Times  
“Rino hunters”

**D4. Statewide non-deadline layout/design****First place**

Luis Solano, La Voz Arizona  
“El Cruce/Crossing”

*Judges’ comments: “Simple, clean, elegant coverage of Mexico’s World Cup draw.”*

**Second place**

Rachel Van Blankenship, The Arizona Republic  
“A slice of heaven”

**Third place**

Rick Konopka, The Arizona Republic  
“Cybersecurity Valley”

**D5. Statewide tabloid/magazine cover design****First place**

Peter M. Storch and Kyle T. Webster, Phoenix New Times  
“Lambs to slaughter”

*Judges’ comments: “Perfect illustration for a follow on a powerful story.”*

**Second place**

Adrienne Hapanowicz, AZ Magazine (The Arizona Republic)  
“Boo!”

**Third place**

Peter M. Storch, Phoenix New Times  
“Half baked”

**D6. Statewide multi-page design****First place**

Peter M. Storch, Andrew Pielage and Evie Carpenter, Phoenix New Times  
“Best of Phoenix 2013”

*Judges’ comments: “Great work of carrying an illustrative concept through an entire issue.”*

**Second place**

Jeff Randall, Arizona Daily Star  
“College Basketball 2013-14”

**Third place**

Staff, Phoenix New Times  
“Manifesto”

## **D7. Statewide illustration, drawn**

### **First place**

Peter M. Storch and Graham Smith, Phoenix New Times

“Psycho killer”

*Judges’ comments: “The striking, raw and haunting illustration of Arias was the clear winner of a stacked category.”*

### **Second place**

Chiara Bautista, Arizona Daily Star

“Summer programs guide”

### **Third place**

Tammie Graves, Arizona Daily Star

“A new chapter awaits her”

## **D8. Statewide illustration, photo-based**

### **First place**

Rachel Van Blackenship, The Arizona Republic

“Building a better burger”

*Judges’ comments: “Cool conceptualization of an illustration/graphic on great additions to traditional burgers.”*

### **Second place**

Rachel Van Blackenship, The Arizona Republic

“Arizona through your lens”

### **Third place**

Peter M. Storch and Jesse Lenz, Phoenix New Times

“McShameless”

## **BRICK WALL AWARD**

**The Arpaio First Amendment Disservice Award**, also known as the “Brick Wall” award, “honors” officials and government agencies that do their utmost to ignore public records requests and open meeting laws, hide or destroy public documents and place themselves above the public’s constitutional right to know about their government.

**This year’s recipient is the Apache County Board of Supervisors.**

The board eliminated its Call to the Public from its meeting agendas because of criticism from residents, the *White Mountain Independent’s* Mike Leiby reported. “I don’t like being criticized in public and to have people come here and say we are doing this or doing that is not OK. I come here to conduct business and I don’t have time (to be criticized),” Supervisor Joe Shirley Jr. said at the meeting. Supervisor Barry Weller tried to restore the Call to the Public but couldn’t get a second on his motion. The board also ejected a resident who tried to livestream a board meeting, denied public records requests, refused to e-mail public records, and charged fees to review public records regardless of whether copies were requested.

## **SLEDGEHAMMER AWARD**

**The Sledgehammer Award** is a tribute to reporters who relentlessly hunt for the truth despite obstacles thrown their way.

**This year’s recipient is *Arizona Daily Star* reporter Carli Brosseau.**

She is tireless in her pursuit of public records. When told by police departments she couldn’t scan public records related to SB 1070 and would have to pay for copies, she pushed the Arizona Ombudsman to request an opinion from the Arizona Attorney General. The resulting opinion says journalists and the public may use smart phones to scan and photograph records instead of paying for copies. As a result, several police departments have changed their public-records policies. In a separate stand, Brosseau wrote about the South Tucson City Council refusing to make executive-session agendas more specific. As a result, the council has made changes.

## **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**Caitlin Schmidt**, University of Arizona

**Josh Burton**, Arizona State University

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For complete judges'  
comments visit:  
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