

Arizona Press Club 2007 Awards Competition for the Best Journalism in Arizona

Best of Writing and Reporting

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to anyone who regularly works in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service. Trade publications, student media and house organs do not qualify.

Entries must have been originally published in 2007. All entries must be produced for the editorial department of an Arizona publication, news Web site or wire service. Work produced for advertising, marketing or other departments is not eligible.

A majority of the stories in a series must have been published in the contest year. Online entries are eligible providing they were published under the auspices of an Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service.

Stories that comprise a project can be reported and written by a single news outlet or by more than one Arizona media outlet — i.e., two newspapers within a chain — working together. Stories partially or fully reported or written by newspapers not based in Arizona are not eligible.

ENTRY FEES

- Daily publications under 25,000 circulation and non-daily newspapers of any size: \$10/person contest fee plus \$5 for each entry.
- Daily publications with circulation of 25,001 and over, and magazines of any size: \$30/person contest fee plus \$10 for each entry.

NOTE: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING MULTIPLE BYLINES

Entries with at least five contributors may be submitted as a staff entry at an entry fee of \$50. No individuals may be named on the entry form and winning certificates will list only “staff,” not individual names. If you want multiple individuals listed on certificates and in the contest winners’ brochure, each person listed on the entry form must pay a separate category entry fee (\$5 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$10 per person for large publications) as well as a one-time contest entry fee (\$10 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$30 per person for large publications. The

contest fee needs to be paid only once, while the category entry fee needs to be paid for each category entered).

Other entry fees

- Community Journalist of the Year: \$10.
- Virg Hill, Photojournalist and Designer of the Year awards: \$25.

Note: Entrants in these categories must also pay a contest fee of \$10 for Community Journalist of the Year and \$30 for Virg Hill, Photojournalist and Designer of the Year (That fee allows entry in as many categories as the entrant wishes).

Unpaid or improperly submitted entries will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded.

DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2008 unless entrants make special arrangements with contest chair Jill Jordan Spitz (jspitz@azstarnet.com or 520-573-4177) in advance. Entries will not be opened until the Thursday before the Feb. 9, 2008 pack-up day and only by the contest chair.

Mail entries to:

Arizona Press Club, P.O. Box 16427, Phoenix AZ 85011-6427

JUDGING

Entries will be judged by out-of-state journalists selected by the board of directors. Judges' decisions are final, unless winning entries do not conform to rules.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet, May 10, 2008 at the Heard Museum in downtown Phoenix.

GENERAL RULES

Ethics and disqualification

The Arizona Press Club promotes ethical journalism and recognizes that contest rules cannot envision every potential breach of professional standards. The club reserves the right to disqualify any entry or withdraw any award, based on ethical violations or violations of the rules as noted in the rules, as deemed by the board. Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified. If an entry is disqualified, the prize will be awarded to the next place winner. Disqualified entrants will forfeit their entry fees.

Circulation categories

A - Small: Daily and non-daily newspapers with circulation of 25,000 or less.

B – Non-daily newspapers with circulation of 25,001 or more and daily papers with circulation of 25,001 to 75,000.

M – Magazine: Periodical publication containing multiple articles with photographs

and/or illustrations, Magazines are bound and typically on glossy and/or color-coated paper with the publishing date on the cover. They can publish weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly or quarterly.

C - Any publication: No circulation restrictions. Includes wire services.

Note: If an entry has material that appeared in two or more publications under the same ownership, or a smaller publication is distributed inside a larger one, the combined circulation of those publications must be used to determine the proper category.

Grievance policy

For problems, concerns and complaints about the contest, the contest chairperson shall notify the Grievance Committee (president and executive officers). The committee will rule on the matter or forward it to the full Press Club board for final approval.

Disclaimer

The Arizona Press Club is not responsible for lost, mislaid or damaged entries but will take reasonable care processing the entries.

AWARDS

- If there is a tie for first place, no second-place award is given. If there is a tie for second, no third-place award is given.
- First place receives an award and a certificate.
- Second place, third place and honorable mention receive a certificate.
- Cash awards of \$100 are given only to the top winner in the following categories: Arizona Community Journalist of the Year, Arizona Designer of the Year, Arizona Photojournalist of the Year, Virg Hill Arizona Journalist of the Year.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

- Entries must be submitted exactly as they were published.
- Nominating letters will be allowed in the following categories only: Breaking news reporting, Don Bolles Award, Virg Hill Award, Photographer of the Year, Designer of the Year and Community Journalist of the Year.
- Breaking news categories may include a letter explaining the circumstances and time pressure under which the story was reported and written.
- All entries must include a signed entry form. The form is the last two pages of this document and may be copied. If more than one person contributed to an entry, only one of the entrants or a representative has to sign. List headlines completely to help identify entries.
- Enter as many times and in as many categories as desired. However, no story may be submitted more than once, except for the Virg Hill Award, Community Journalist of the Year, Photographer of the Year, Designer of the Year and other exceptions only as noted.
- Entries must be neatly packaged in an 8 1/2 x 11-inch file folder with a completed entry form stapled to the outside. Larger folders are allowed for Virg Hill entries. Do not

staple the folder shut. Please do not use more than two staples to affix the entry form to the folder.

• **Spanish-language publications can enter any category provided that — except in Spanish-language writing categories — all stories, headlines and captions are translated into English.**

• Entries will not be returned.

ENTRY PREPARATION

Categories A, B, M and C — writing and reporting

Entries may include clips, tear sheets or legible copies. Complete printouts from electronic databases that maintain verbatim copies may be submitted, provided they include proof of publication. Entries may include headlines, graphics illustrations and photographs.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

WRITING CONTEST QUESTIONS?

Contact Jill Jordan Spitz at (520) 573-4177 or jspitz@azstarnet.com

A - SMALL: DAILY AND NON-DAILY NEWSPAPERS WITH CIRCULATION OF 25,000 OR LESS.

A1. Politics/government reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any political or government event or topic.

A2. Public safety reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any public safety event or topic.

A3. Environmental/health reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any environmental or health event or topic.

A4. Education reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any education event or topic.

A5. Sustained coverage

Up to five stories showing sustained coverage by a single reporter on a single subject or up to five stories of a series. May also include sidebars.

A6. Lifestyle reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about people and the way they live.

A7. Personality profile reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, detailing the life of a person.

A8. Business reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any business event or topic.

A9. Sports reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any sporting event or sports topic.

A10. Commentary/analysis

A single column, commentary, analysis or editorial.

A11. Layout/design

A full page (or part of a page) or double truck from any section of the newspaper dealing with a single topic or packaging a variety of unrelated stories and art.

B – MID-SIZED: Non-daily newspapers with circulation of 25,001 or more and daily papers with circulation of 25,001 to 75,000.**B1. Politics/government reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any political or government event or topic.

B2. Public safety reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any public safety event or topic.

B3. Environmental/health reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any environmental or health event or topic.

B4. Education reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any education event or topic.

B5. Sustained coverage

Up to five stories showing sustained coverage by a single reporter on a single subject or up to five stories of a series. May also include sidebars.

B6. Lifestyle reporting

A single feature story, and any sidebars, about people and the way they live.

B7. Personality profile reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, detailing the life of a person.

B8. Business reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any business event or topic.

B9. Sports reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any sporting event or sports topic.

B10. Commentary/analysis

A single column, commentary, analysis or editorial.

B11. Layout/design

A full page (or part of a page) or double truck from any section of the newspaper dealing with a single topic or packaging a variety of unrelated stories and art.

M - MAGAZINES

NOTE: In addition to the categories listed below, magazine journalists may enter any C category.

M1. News Issues Reporting

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about politics, government, public safety, education, environment, or immigration.

M2. Lifestyle and entertainment reporting

A single feature story, and any sidebars, detailing people, their families, and their lives.

M3. Personality profile reporting

A single feature story, and any sidebars, detailing the life of a person.

C. ANY PUBLICATION: WRITING & REPORTING

C1. Investigative reporting — Don Bolles Award

Bolles, an investigative reporter for the Arizona Republic, was fatally wounded June 2, 1976, when a bomb exploded in his car outside a Phoenix hotel. He died 11 days later.

One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day or over the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation. May also include sidebars. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining the obstacles overcome in reporting the story.

C2. John Kolbe Politics and Government Reporting Award

Political reporter and columnist John Kolbe wrote about Arizona politics for more than a quarter century for the Phoenix Gazette and the Arizona Republic. He died in 1999.

A single story or series presented within an eight-day period concerning local, state or federal government, politics or campaigns.

C3. Breaking news reporting

A single day's reporting of one or more pieces of unscheduled news reported and written in a single shift. May also include sidebars. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining deadline circumstances.

C4. Project reporting

A preconceived project reported and written by a single journalist or a team of journalists. Stories can be reported and written by a single news outlet or by more than one Arizona media outlet — i.e., two newspapers within a chain — working together. Stories partially or fully reported or written by newspapers not based in Arizona are not eligible. A project may be of any length on any subject and include all accompanying

sidebars. Must be clearly identified as a project or series and must show continuity between pieces and within the entire series or package.

C5. Environment and science reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning natural resources, growth and development, and related topics or trends, discoveries or trends in science or technology. May also include sidebars.

C6. Health reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning advances in treatment, research and knowledge. May also include sidebars.

C7. Public safety reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning all aspects of law enforcement, courts, corrections, fire and rescue, and related areas. May also include sidebars.

C8. Religion, faith or values reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning the impact of religion and values. May also include sidebars.

C9. Education reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning education and related topics. May also include sidebars.

C10. Immigration reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning immigration and related topics. May also include sidebars

C11. Children, families and seniors issues reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning children, families, seniors and related topics. May also include sidebars

C12. Growth and development reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning growth, development and related topics. May also include sidebars

C13. Sustained community reporting

A portfolio of up to five stories that demonstrate informed coverage of a particular community or neighborhood.

C14. Storytelling in graphic form

A special section, multi-page package or individual story – which can include charticles, alternative presentations or text-heavy graphics. It will be judged for the way its words and visual elements work together to tell the story.

C15. Personality profile

A single story and any sidebars that give an in-depth look at an individual or a group of people.

C16. Human Interest reporting

A single story, along with any sidebars, that reflects a slice of real life, conveying the way people live their daily lives.

C17. Short-form writing

A single story of 750 words or less that showcases the reporter's ability to tell a news or feature story completely but quickly. **IMPORTANT: ACCURATE WORD COUNT**

MUST BE LISTED ON THE ENTRY FORM OR THE ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

SPORTS

C18. Sports enterprise reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period on any sports event, person or situation.

C19. Sustained sports coverage

Up to five stories by a single reporter that demonstrate expertise and knowledge of a particular sports beat. May also include sidebars. **At least one story must be written on deadline, in a single shift, and must be listed on the entry form as a deadline story.** One double byline is allowed.

BUSINESS

C20. Business enterprise reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning business or financial issues.

OPINION WRITING

C21. News column writing

Three news columns from any section of the publication.

C22. Editorial writing

Three opinion pieces expressing views of a publication as an institution, not those of an individual writer, and advocating a position or course of action.

C23. Features column writing – Don Schellie Award

For more than 22 years, Don Schellie, a columnist for the Tucson Citizen, turned out thousands of finely crafted, upbeat columns in a simple feeling and style. He died of lung cancer at the age of 50 in 1983.

Three feature columns.

C24. Food writing or criticism

A single story about a food trend or issue, or a critique of a restaurant or dining experience.

C25. Arts writing or criticism

A single story about the arts, or a critique of any visual or musical art form except for film, video or television.

C26. Film, video and television writing criticism

A single story about film, video or television, or a critique of a film, video or television program or event.

HEADLINE WRITING

C27. News headlines

Any three headlines composed by the same person. Include stories that the headlines accompanied.

C28. Feature headlines

Any three headlines composed by the same person, generally of a no-count variety, for feature and special-project applications. Include stories that the headlines accompanied.

D. SPANISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

D1. News reporting

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period, and any sidebars, about any news event or issue.

D2. Feature reporting

Up to five parts of a single story, along with any sidebars, that reflects how people live their daily lives.

D3. Commentary/analysis

A single column, commentary, analysis or editorial.

D4 Design portfolio

Up to five examples of page design, one of which can be a multi-page layout, from a Spanish-language publication. Pages entered as part of the portfolio can also be entered in other categories.

H. ANY PUBLICATION — ONLINE

Small and mid-sized newspapers

H1. Creative use of online, small and mid-sized newspapers

Use of content, design, navigation, multimedia, interactivity, personalization and community in providing service to users. An entry consists of a single story, a series, a package or an information application. Online entries consist of a live link or a CD copy.

H2. Online breaking news, small and mid-sized newspapers

Each entry may be a single story, a package or an information application published during a single midnight to midnight cycle. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining the deadline circumstances under which the work was produced.

Any publication (includes magazines)

J1. Creative use of online, any publication

Use of content, design, navigation, multimedia, interactivity, personalization and community in providing service to users. An entry consists of a single story, a series, a

package or an information application. Online entries consist of a live link or a CD copy.

J2. Online breaking news, any publication

Each entry may be a single story, a package or an information application published during a single midnight to midnight cycle. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining the deadline circumstances under which the work was produced.

VIRG HILL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

- AWARD: \$100
- ENTRY FEE: \$25

This award, the Press Club's most prestigious, is named after Virg Hill, a popular political columnist and reporter for The Phoenix Gazette. Hill died of a heart attack while covering the Arizona House of Representatives in January 1969 at the age of 62. Because of his wit, he was often sought as an after dinner speaker. The award was created in December 1969.

The Virg Hill Award goes to the writer or editor who, in the opinion of the judges, has done the best work during 2007. The winner will be selected by three out-of-state judges.

- Entries shall include at least five and no more than eight main stories (sidebars may also be included and do not count as part of the total).
- Up to two of those stories may have a double or multiple byline. All others must have a single byline.
- Entries may include a one-page letter explaining the obstacles overcome in reporting one or all of the stories in the entry.
- Entrants must submit **FOUR COPIES OF THE COMPLETE PACKAGE**, including stories, letters and explanations. One copy goes to each judge, and the fourth is kept by the board.
- The winner will receive \$100 and an award vase, first runner-up and second runner-up an award vase and a certificate.

PAST WINNERS OF THE VIRG HILL AWARD

2006 - Chris Hawley, The Arizona Republic
2005 - Paul Rubin, Phoenix New Times
2004 - Robert Anglen, The Arizona Republic
2003 - Susan Carroll, The Arizona Republic
2002 - Susan Carroll, Tucson Citizen
2001 - Amy Silverman, New Times
2000 - Laura Laughlin, New Times
1999 - Amy Silverman, New Times
1998 - Terry Greene Sterling, New Times
1997 - Paul Rubin, New Times
1996 - Tony Ortega, New Times

1995 - John Dougherty, New Times
1994 - John Dougherty, New Times
1993 - Mark Flatten, Tribune Newspapers
1992 - John Dougherty, Tribune Newspapers, Southwest Sage
1991 - Chuck Kelly, Randy Collier, The Arizona Republic
1990 - Cathryn Creno, The Arizona Republic
1989 - Terry Greene, New Times
1988 - Deborah Laake, New Times
1987 - Terry Greene, New Times
1986 - Paul Rubin, New Times
1985 - Jane Kay, Arizona Daily Star
1984 - Ray Ring, Arizona Daily Star
1983 - Charles Bowden, Tucson Citizen
1982 - Jana Bommersbach, New Times
1981 - Jon Kamman, Arizona Daily Star
1980 - Bob Lowe, Clark Hallas, Arizona Daily Star
1979 - Jerry Seper, The Arizona Republic
1978 - John S. Long, Arizona Daily Star
1977 - Tom Kuhn, The Arizona Republic
1976 - Robert J. Early, The Arizona Republic
1975 - Alex Drehsler, Arizona Daily Star
1974 - Lois Boyles, The Phoenix Gazette
1973 - Don Bolles, The Arizona Republic
1972 - Gene McLain, KTAR-TV
1971 - Albert J. Sitter, The Arizona Republic
1970 - Bill Sherman, KTAR-TV
1969 - Walter W. Meek, The Arizona Republic

COMMUNITY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

- AWARD: \$100
- Entry fee: \$10

The Community Journalist of the Year Award is given to the writer or editor of a weekly or small publication who, in the opinion of the contest judge, has done the best work in 2007 to enhance the goals of the journalism profession and the quality of life in the community.

- Entries should include no more than 12 samples of the entrant's work, such as news and feature stories, photographs, page designs and editorials. Sidebars are not included in that total.
- Entries also should include a one-page letter explaining the qualities of the individual's work.
- **New this year: ENTRANTS MUST INCLUDE FOUR COPIES OF THEIR ENTIRE ENTRY PACKET, as the award is selected by a panel of three out-of-state judges rather than a single judge.** One copy goes to each judge, and the fourth is kept by the board.
- The winner will receive \$100 and an award vase, first runner-up and second runner-up will receive an award vase and a certificate.

PAST COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR

2006 – Thelma Grimes, San Pedro Valley New Sun/Arizona Range News
2005 - Marley Shebala, Navajo Times
2004 - Al Stevens, Fountain Hills Times
2003 - Jim Keyworth, Payson Roundup
2002 - Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly
2001 - Bob Svejcara, Northwest Explorer
2000 - Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor, Daily News-Sun
1999 - Patrick Cavanaugh, Northwest Explorer
1998 - RuthAnn Hogue, Surprise Today
1997 - Anne Ryman, Paradise Valley Independent
1996 - Anne Ryman, Paradise Valley Independent
1995 - Jeff Ofstedahl, Echo Magazine
1994 - Angela Gonzales, The Business Journal
1993 - Anne Ryman, Sun Cities Independent
1992 - Michael Hart, Glendale Star

Arizona Press Club 2007 Entry Form

Category Name and Number _____

Headlines and dates of publication. Every headline in the entry must be listed, with the date of publication following. For example: "Dog bites man" (1-24), "Man bites back" (2-3)

Word count for C17. Short-form Writing (must be under 750 words) _____

Name of entrant _____

Publication _____

Home Phone _____ Cell phone _____

E-mail _____ Business phone _____

Eligibility Certification

I certify that I am eligible for membership in the Arizona Press Club and have paid all applicable contest fees. IN ENTERING THIS CONTEST, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL DECISIONS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND JUDGING OF ENTRIES AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF AWARDS IS DONE AT THE COMPLETE AND SOLE DISCRETION OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB. IF AN ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED, I MAY APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE BOARD OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB, WHOSE DECISION CONCERNING THE APPEAL SHALL BE FINAL. IN ENTERING THE PRESS CLUB CONTEST, I HEREBY RELEASE THE PRESS CLUB, ITS BOARD, OFFICERS AND AGENTS FROM ANY LOSS, CLAIM, DAMAGE OR INJURY THAT I MAY SUFFER FROM ENTERING OR PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST. BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE LANGUAGE AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

NOTE: Journalists who work in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service are eligible Press Club members.

Signature _____

Date _____

Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified and fees will not be returned.

REGARDING MULTIPLE BYLINES

Entries with at least five contributors may be submitted as a staff entry at an entry fee of \$50. No individuals may be named on the entry form and winning certificates will list only "staff," not individual names. If you want multiple individuals listed on certificates and in the contest winners' brochure, each person listed on the entry form must pay a separate category entry fee (\$5 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$10 per person for large publications) as well as a one-time contest entry fee (\$10 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$30 per person for large publications. The contest fee needs to be paid only once, while the category entry fee needs to be paid for each category entered).

(To be filled out by publication, or individual if not entering as a group; choose one)

1. Daily publications under 25,000 circulation and non-daily newspapers of any size: \$10/person contest fee plus \$5 for each entry. (NOTE: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.)

A. No. of people entering _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
B. No. of regular entries _____ x \$5 = \$ _____
C. No. of staff entries _____ x \$50 = \$ _____
D. Virg Hill/POY/DOY _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
E. Comm Journalist _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D+E): \$ _____

2. Daily publications with circulation of 25,001 and over, and magazines of any size: \$30/person contest fee plus \$10 for each entry.

A. No. of people entering _____ x \$30 = \$ _____
B. No. of regular entries _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
C. Staff entries _____ x \$50 = \$ _____
D. Virg Hill/POY/DOY _____) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D): \$ _____

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2008 unless entrants make special arrangements with contest chair Jill Jordan Spitz (jspitz@azstarnet.com or 520-573-4177) in advance. Entries will not be opened until the Thursday before the Feb. 9, 2008 pack-up day and only by the contest chair.

Mail entries to: Arizona Press Club, PO Box 16427, Phoenix AZ 85011-6427

The 84th annual Arizona Press Club awards banquet will be held May 10, 2008 at the Heard Museum in downtown Phoenix.