

Suzanne Hurt

JOURNALIST

7911 Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503
C: 916-804-2856
suzanne_hurt@yahoo.com
www.wildjournalism.com

SKILLS

- Committed to high-quality journalism
- Narrative storytelling and other writing styles
- Strong enterprise reporting
- Skilled at using storytelling for major news followup
- In-depth reporting and watchdog journalism
- Experience covering breaking news and beats
- Adept at cultivating great sources
- Storyteller for print and digital platforms
- Photography, multimedia and social media
- Accurate and detail-oriented
- Talented and innovative
- Research expert
- Experience working independently and on teams
- Strong ethics

EXPERIENCE

The Press-Enterprise, Riverside, Calif.

Reporter, June 24, 2013 – Present. Narrative storytelling and general assignment with emphasis on Riverside, region's largest city and paper's central focus, plus photos and multimedia content. Narratives profiled a 25-year-old who gave his best friend a kidney, a microbrewery's demise and mustang adoptions. Broke stories on FBI subpoenas to stop city records destruction amid council corruption investigation, alleged recall sabotage, book bannings and zip line closures. A-1 stories include increase in pot extraction lab explosions, the "mother" orange tree scientists won't let die and the "Jesus pancake."

Journalist, Sacramento, Calif.

Freelance journalist, July 19, 2011 – June 20, 2013. Produced hard news and other content, including multimedia, for Reuters, the *Sacramento Business Journal*, radio and other clients. For Reuters, covered state pension reform, Sacramento Kings sale and more.

The Sacramento Press, Sacramento, Calif.

Reporter/Photographer, May 11, 2009 – July 18, 2011. Produced stories, photos, multimedia and layout for innovative daily news website. Helped establish fledgling site's journalistic credibility. Analytics showed my stories drew the most readers to the site. Covered business, development, government/politics and general assignment. Enterprise included watchdog pieces on Nestlé's effort to open a water-bottling plant and on Kings' possible departure/new arena and a narrative on the courthouse auction of the historic Sacramento railyards. Used social media to do research, engage readers and promote site.

Wild Journalism, Sacramento, Calif.

Freelance journalist, Jan. 1, 2003 – May 11, 2009. Produced hard news, feature and nature/science/adventure content, including narrative storytelling and multimedia, for newspapers, wire services, magazines, radio and websites. Clients included Reuters, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *Her Sports*, *Rock & Ice*, *Mammoth Monthly*, *Mercator's World*, and *Forest Magazine*.

The Modesto Bee, Modesto, Calif.

Reporter, Nov. 15, 1999 – Dec. 23, 2002. Covered immigration, homelessness, city government/politics and other news. Enterprise included a narrative on a Californian surviving the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack and a ground-breaking package about a hidden disability – untreated learning disabilities – causing individuals and society more problems than most people know. An environmental justice story on locally unwanted land uses helped win team first place in environmental reporting from the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore.

General assignment reporter, May 31, 1995 – Oct. 28, 1998. Enterprise included literary journalism stories on homelessness, such as a piece exploring one man's effort to end his chronic homelessness.

The Journal and **The Daily Journal**, (Copley Newspapers) Naperville and Wheaton, Ill.

Assistant features editor, June 1992 – Dec. 23, 1994. Wheaton City Reporter, March 1992 - June 1992. Managed and produced

twice-weekly features section. Planned news coverage, developed story ideas, wrote stories, selected and edited content, assigned art, designed layout and proofread. Managed four freelancers.

City News Bureau of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Reporter, March 1988 – March 1992. Earned awards covering some of Chicago's biggest breaking stories for legendary wire service. Cook County political/government reporter during historic, tumultuous 1990 campaign year. Worked up from the police/fire beat and rewrite to general assignment, weekend city desk editor, broadcast desk, county government/politics, civil courts and education.

MULTIMEDIA AND WRITING WORKSHOPS

UC Berkeley Knight Digital Media Center Video Storytelling Workshop, July 25 – 27, 2012, Berkeley, Calif.

Flathead River Writers Conference Nonfiction Workshop with Tim Cahill, 2005, Whitefish, Mont.

Book Passage Travel Writers & Photographers Conference 2004, Corte Madera, Calif.

Harvard University Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism 2001, Cambridge, Mass.

National Writer's Workshops, in Oregon (1998), Washington (2000) and California (2001).

Regional writing workshop, by Jack Hart of *The Oregonian*.

EDUCATION

University of Oregon

***Master of Science, Journalism*, September 1998.**

Literary nonfiction writing program focused on use of literary techniques such as narrative storytelling, character development and story structure in journalism. Studied with Director Lauren Kessler and Pulitzer Prize winner Jon Franklin. Workshops with Robin Cody, Sallie Tisdale and John Daniel. Lecturers included Barry Lopez and Ms. co-founder Suzanne Braun Levine.

Northern Illinois University

***Bachelor of Arts, News/Editorial Journalism*, May 1986.**

NIU Dean's List and National Dean's List, spring 1984. NIU Honors Program, 1981.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

White Bird Clinic, Eugene, Ore.

Marketing and InfoDesk Staff, June 28, 1999 – Oct. 28, 1999. Staffed information desk and did marketing for clinic offering aid to the homeless, addicts and other disadvantaged people.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.

Graduate Assistant, Sept. 30, 1996 – July 15, 1998. Editor of journalism school's alumni newspaper. Developed, assigned and wrote stories; selected and edited graphics; designed layout; did desktop publishing; and managed freelancers.

Oregon State House of Representatives, Salem, Ore.

Legislative Assistant to Rep. John Schoon, house finance committee chairman, Jan. 5, 1995 – May 30, 1995. Managed Capitol office. Wrote press releases and speeches. Helped draft legislation. Supervised and trained worker and interns. Managed constituent events. Worked with legislators, staff, constituents, lobbyists and reporters.

AWARDS

California Newspaper Publishers Association, First Place, environmental reporting, (75,001-200,000 circ.), 2000. "Aftermath of a Disaster" was a special team report on the one-year anniversary of a tire-pile fire.

Illinois Associated Press Editors Association, Second Place, spot news, 1992. Team coverage of police officer killing.

Society of Professional Journalists Lisagor Award, Business Journalism, 1991. Team coverage of Midway Airlines closing.

City News Bureau of Chicago, three excellence awards plus honorable mentions.

INTERESTS

Exploration, science, nature, conservation, world cultures and immersion in nature via rock climbing, diving, backpacking and other means. Travel: Southeast Asia (Thailand, Borneo, Laos, Malaysia, November 1998 – April 1999; Sulawesi and Bali, fall 2006; Thailand, March 2010), Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, U.S., Maui and Canada.