

# Suzanne Hurt

## JOURNALIST

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[Wild Journalism](#)

### QUALIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative, high-impact enterprise reporting
- Accurate, deeply reported narratives and investigation
- Ability to work quickly and accurately under deadline
- Experience covering government, politics, breaking news
- Beats have included environment, health, business and GA
- Adept at generating ideas and cultivating great sources
- Committed to high-quality journalism
- Storyteller for print and digital platforms
- Multimedia including photos, audio and video
- Clear, engaging writing
- Collaborative team player
- Proficient in social media, online production

### EXPERIENCE

**The Press-Enterprise**, Riverside, CA June 24, 2013 – Feb. 28, 2018

**Reporter:** Narrative storytelling, GA, environment and health, plus photos and some video. Played leading role in award-winning team and individual coverage of region's biggest stories, including the San Bernardino terrorist attack, Vegas shooting, Turpin torture case, wildfires and more. Narratives recreated the terrorist attacks, a lost hiker's night on Southern California's highest mountain and a kidney transplant. Broke investigative stories on state workers' comp system's failure to help San Bernardino attack survivors, FBI subpoenas to stop city records destruction amid corruption probe, paupers' cemetery desecration, alleged recall sabotage, etc. Produced front-page story-and-photo packages (reporter photos) on invasive plant removal, desert hiking, avalanche awareness training and more. Enterprise A-1 stories examined the danger and science of flash floods, SoCal quicksand and avalanches, Pacific Crest Trail fire closures, rabid bats and the "mother" orange tree scientists won't let die.

**Freelance**, Sacramento, CA July 19, 2011 – June 19, 2013

**Journalist:** Produced hard news and adventure/science/nature content for Reuters, KQED and others. Wrote about wildlife-friendly wind turbines, urban forest issues, zombie apocalypse fears and the first known birth to a rehabbed Pacific Coast sea otter. For Reuters, covered pension reform at Capitol, Sacramento Kings, wolf OR7, Vancouver graffiti artist's death and more. Shot/produced videos, slideshows and photos on elephant seals, a mushroom-hunting chef and more.

**The Sacramento Press**, Sacramento, CA May 11, 2009 – July 18, 2011

**Reporter/Photographer:** Produced stories, photos, multimedia and layout for innovative daily news website while covering business, development, government and general assignment. Helped establish fledgling site's journalistic credibility. Analytics showed my stories drew the most readers to the site. Enterprise included a watchdog series on Nestlé's effort to open a water-bottling plant that helped bring illegal city practices to light and intensified public scrutiny of city officials and the project. Other stories included Kings' possible departure/new arena, bee swarm responders and railyards hazardous materials cleanup.

**Wild Journalism**, Sacramento, CA Jan. 1, 2003 – May 11, 2009

**Freelance Journalist:** Produced hard news, features and adventure travel/sports/nature content, including narrative storytelling and multimedia. Clients included Reuters, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Sacramento Bee*, public radio, *Rock & Ice*, *Climbing*, *Mammoth Monthly*, and *Forest Magazine*. Produced content on cross-country skiing, dog sledding, kitefishing, surf kayaking, diving in Indonesia, climbing, a cave poet, sphinx moths, Mojave mustangs, open space and Top 10 things to do in Yosemite with your dog. For Reuters, covered lost humpbacks, swine flu outbreak, Manson follower's parole hearing, low-carbon fuel standards, the Laos coup plot federal court case, mortgage fraud and more.

**The Modesto Bee**, Modesto, CA Nov. 15, 1999 – Dec. 23, 2002

**Reporter:** Covered immigration, homelessness, city government and other news. Enterprise included a narrative on a Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack survivor and a ground-breaking package on the "hidden" disability, adults with untreated learning disabilities. Environmental justice story on locally unwanted land uses helped win team first place award.

## **AWARDS**

**Los Angeles Press Club 60<sup>th</sup> SoCal Journalism Awards**, First Place, news feature/society and culture, for USC Health Journalism Fellowship project on San Bernardino attack survivors' recovery and broken state workers' compensation system, June 25, 2018.

**Society of Professional Journalists**, team award for deadline reporting on San Bernardino terrorist attack, 2016.

**California Newspaper Publishers Association**, Finalist, team local government coverage, 2013.

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

## **MULTIMEDIA AND WRITING WORKSHOPS**

**University of Southern California School of Health Journalism Fellowship**, March 2017

**Excellence in Journalism workshops**, Orange County Press Club, 2015 and 2014, Orange, CA

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

**Sacramento City College Multimedia Capture I**, Aug. 25 – Dec. 20, 2012

**Flathead River Writers Conference Nonfiction Workshop with Tim Cahill**, 2005, Whitefish, MT

**Book Passage Travel Writers & Photographers Conference 2004**, Corte Madera, CA

**Harvard University Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism 2001**

**National Writer's Workshops**, in Oregon, Washington and California

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

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Oregon**

***Master of Science, Journalism***

Literary nonfiction writing program focused on narrative storytelling.

**Northern Illinois University**

***Bachelor of Arts, News/Editorial Journalism***

NIU Dean's List and National Dean's List. NIU Honors Program.

## **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, Sulawesi and Bali), Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, U.S., Maui and Canada. Studied French.