

**The Minnesota Professional Chapter  
of the  
Society of Professional Journalists  
presents:  
The 2017 Page One Awards**



**June 15, 2017  
Town & Country Club, St. Paul  
#PageOne**



**The Minnesota Professional Chapter of the Society  
of Professional Journalists  
Page One Awards Banquet**

June 15, 2017

7:00 p.m.

**Welcome**

Ben Garvin  
MN SPJ Chapter President

**Student Scholarships**

Presented by Jenna Ross  
MN SPJ President Elect

Presented to Madeline DeBilzan, of  
White Bear Lake, Minn.

**Peter S. Popovich Award**

Presented by Anna Pratt  
MN SPJ Board Member

Presented to Tony Webster

**President's Award**

Presented by Ben Garvin  
MN SPJ Chapter President

**Keynote**

Hannah Allam  
*BuzzFeed News*

**Page One Awards Presented**

Tom Weber  
*Minnesota Public Radio News*

## Student Scholarship Award Winners

Each year, the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists board of directors provides college students studying in the field of journalism annual student scholarships. This year, MNSPJ is pleased to award a \$2,500 scholarship.

The funds for the scholarship are generated, in part, through your donations at this banquet. In addition, the board traditionally directs a portion of the local membership dues to fund the scholarships.

The scholarship application process is highly competitive, and applicants must either be enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Minnesota or be a Minnesota high school graduate enrolled in a post-secondary institution outside of Minnesota.

**Madeline DeBilzan, of White Bear Lake, Minn.,** just finished her first year at Bethel University, where she is studying journalism and business. DeBilzan covered sporting events on deadline and wrote longer sports profiles for The Clarion, Bethel's student newspaper. Next year, she will be that newspaper's sports editor. She is an intern at the Star Tribune, where she reports on high school sports for the newspaper's online prep sports hubs. And this summer she's also writing for a recently-launched high school volleyball website called Prep Digs.

While in high school, DeBilzan interned at her hometown White Bear Press, giving her real-world reporting experience before even starting college. Just a year into her college career, DeBilzan has established herself as a standout collegiate journalist. "She can write," her journalism professor wrote in his letter of recommendation. "But she can also report. Unlike most collegiate reporters, she recognizes a story when she sees it and she's never short on questions to ask in the field."

The committee was impressed with the strength of DeBilzan's prose and a portfolio that illustrates a commitment to rigorous reporting. "I'm much more concerned with telling a story than I am about summarizing a game," she wrote. "Sports provide a platform, allowing me to tell stories that will convey meaning and significance."

## 2017 Peter S. Popovich Award Winner

The Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists is excited to announce Tony Webster, a public records researcher and data activist, as its 2017 Peter S. Popovich Award winner. Webster's dogged work to make government more transparent exemplifies the spirit of the award, which honors those who fight for First Amendment rights.

Journalists could learn a lot — and many have — by watching how Webster, a software engineer and researcher, uses the Data Practices Act and Freedom of Information Act. He requests records early and often about topics important to Minnesotans, like law enforcement's use of emerging surveillance technology and housing fraud in North Minneapolis. Over the past two years, Webster has been in court challenging a sheriff's denial of access to emails about facial recognition technology. The Court of Appeals recently rejected the sheriff's argument that requests to access emails by topic or keyword are too difficult to comply with.

This spring, Webster plans to launch Goverage ([twitter.com/goverage](https://twitter.com/goverage)), a non-profit organization to help journalists and the public use and enforce their rights under state public records laws. In addition to making data policies and court documents about freedom of information litigation more accessible, Webster says Goverage will do research on how compliant government agencies are with the many transparency provisions of law.

Webster publishes much of what he finds on his website, [tonywebster.com](http://tonywebster.com), where he calls himself a “web engineer, public records researcher and policy nerd.” Through his Twitter account, @webster, Webster raises awareness in real time about efforts to keep public information secret, calling out public officials and their offices for bad — and sometimes good — handling of data requests.

## **Peter S. Popovich Award winners 1979-2016**

- 1979 The Minnesota Supreme Court & Chief Justice Robert Sheran  
1980 Newell Grant, Publisher, Tri-State Daily News, Wahpeton-ND  
1981 Roger Adams, Star and Tribune Freedom of Information Committee  
1982 Jeanette McDougal, Data watch of Minnesota  
1983 T.J. Western; WCCO TV and Radio; St. Cloud Times  
1984 Mark Baker, Editor, Lake Region Press and Lake Region Echo  
1985 John R. Finnegan, St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch  
1986 Star and Tribune First Amendment Committee  
1987 Duane Rasmussen, Forest Lake Times, ECM Post Review  
1988 John Fisher, Annandale Advocate;  
Debra Flemming, Owatonna People's Press  
1989 The Minnesota Daily and Marshall Tanick, Attorney  
1990 Peter S. Popovich, Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court  
1991 Patricia Hirl Longstaff  
1992 Robert Franklin, FOI Director, Minnesota SPJ  
1993 Kevin Burke, Chief Judge, Hennepin County  
1994 Mark Anfinson, Media Attorney  
1995 Jim Pumarlo, RedWing Republican Eagle  
1996 The Minnesota Daily and Michelle Ames, Editor;  
John Stanoch, District Judge, Hennepin County  
1997 Donald R. Casey, St. Cloud Times  
1998 Reps. Matt Entenza and Bill Macklin; Sen. Richard Cohen  
1999 Lucy Dalglish, FOI Director, Minnesota SPJ  
2000 Tim McGuire, Editor, Minneapolis Star Tribune  
2001 Randy Lebedoff, Minneapolis Star Tribune  
2002 John Borger, Media Attorney  
2003 Bill Lawrence and Mark Bartel  
2004 Donald S. Gemberling, former director, Minnesota Department of Administration,  
Information Analysis and Policy Division  
2005 Walter Kuckes, Avon, Minn.  
2006 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg; Sen. Don Betzold  
2007 Gary Hill, former KSTP-TV journalist  
2008 Mary Flister, Open government advocate, Maplewood, Minn.  
Robbie La Fleur, Director – MN Legislative Reference Library  
2009 The Echo student newspaper, Faribault High School: Kelly Zwagerman, adviser;  
Vicky Carillo, Christen Hildebrandt and Ben Jackson, editors  
2010 Randy Furst, Star Tribune  
2011 Jane E. Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law, School of Journalism & Mass  
Communication, University of Minnesota  
2012 Glenn Howatt & Richard Meryhew, Star Tribune  
2013 The Timberjay Newspapers, Marshall Helmberger, publisher  
2014 Joan Gilbertson, WCCO-TV and Art Hughes, freelance journalist  
2015 James Eli Shiffer, Minneapolis Star Tribune  
2016 Paul McEnroe, Executive Producer for Investigations and Special Projects at KSTP 5  
2017 Tony Webster, public records researcher and data activist

## Keynote Speaker - Hannah Allam



Hannah Allam is a veteran journalist who covers U.S. Muslim life for BuzzFeed News.

Allam previously reported for McClatchy, spending a decade as bureau chief in Baghdad during the Iraq war and in Cairo during the Arab Spring rebellions. She was part of a McClatchy team that won an Overseas Press Club award for exposing death squads in Iraq and a Polk Award for coverage of the Syrian conflict.

Allam spent the early part of her career in the Twin Cities, working as a reporter for the Pioneer Press and as a summer intern for the Star Tribune. She was a 2009 Nieman fellow at Harvard and serves on the board of the Overseas Press Club. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her 6-year-old son, Bilal.

## **Awards Presentation**

We ask all winners, or a representative from the winning news outlet, to come forward to accept their awards during the presentation.

Duplicate awards are available for purchase from MNSPJ. If you would like to order a duplicate plaque or certificate, please contact us by email at [minnesota.spj@gmail.com](mailto:minnesota.spj@gmail.com).

Congratulations to all of the award winners!



# Newspapers

## Spot News

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Castile - The first 24 hours"

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Prince 1958-2016"

## Meeting/Planned news event

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Jenna Ross, Pam Louwagie, Jennifer Brooks, *Star Tribune*

"Jacob Wetterling 1978-1989"

**Second Place:** Chris Tomasson, *Pioneer Press*

"Shock, disbelief, tears: Vikings' devastating defeat is one for the ages"

## Feature

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Allie Shah, *Star Tribune*

"Destiny's Child"

**Second Place:** Randy Furst, Stephen Montemayor, *Star Tribune*

"Black defendants, white jurors: Does race make a difference in the courtroom?"

## Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Josephine Marcotty, *Star Tribune*

"Danger Downstream"

**Second Place:** Christopher Magan, *Pioneer Press*

"Minnesota's racial disparities"

**Third Place:** Christopher Snowbeck, *Star Tribune*

"Patient's wishes are tough to see in electronic health records"

## Investigative

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Andy Mannix, *Star Tribune*

"Solitary -- Way down in the hole"

**Second Place:** Jennifer Bjorhus, Kelly Smith, *Star Tribune*

"A cry for help"

**Third Place:** Cory Zurowski, *City Pages*

"Wildlife petting zoo turns furrier slaughterhouse when nobody's watching"

### **Business Story**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Jim Spencer, Maryjo Webster, Joe Carlson, *Star Tribune*  
"Infuse"

**Second Place:** Jerard Faberberg, *City Pages*  
"Is Minnesota brewing a craft beer bubble"

**Third Place:** Jeff Meitrodt, *Star Tribune*  
"Too many taking a risky ride"

### **Sports Story**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Dennis Bracken, *Star Tribune*  
"Richfield High School - Where Hockey Died"

**Second Place:** Joe Christensen, *Star Tribune*  
"U Players Revolt"

### **Arts & Entertainment Story**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Kristoffer Tigue, *City Pages*  
"Century-old artist haven succumbs to luxury apartment craze"

**Second Place:** Chris Riemenschneider, *Star Tribune*  
"Fans burned by ticket scalping"

### **Arts Criticism/Review**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Jon Bream, *Star Tribune*  
"Tony Bennett keeps 'em smiling at State Theatre show"

**Second Place:** Hannah Sayle, *City Pages*  
"Beyoncé's unapologetic Formation Tour takes TCF Bank Stadium by storm"

**Third Place:** Neal Justin, *Star Tribune*  
"Jon Stewart casts long shadow over late-night TV's political coverage"

### **Column**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** John Reinan, *Star Tribune*  
"Too late for kindness"

**Second Place:** Jon Tevlin, *Star Tribune*  
"Another tragic shooting - Please Jesus no more"

**Third Place:** DJ Tice, *Star Tribune*  
"As radicals arise, gridlock never looked so good"

### **Editorial**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** Patricia Lopez, *Star Tribune*  
"After Philando Castile's death, promises ring hollow"

### **Graphics/Art and Illustration**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** *Star Tribune*

"North Star: Inside the New U.S. Bank"

**Second Place:** *Star Tribune*

"How America voted / Minnesota moves right"

**Third Place:** *City Pages*

"Final Cut"

### **Page Design**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** *Star Tribune* Design Team

"The Pressure of Playing for Pride"

**Second Place:** Valerie Reichel, *Pioneer Press*

"Last stop for Boudreau"

### **Headlines**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** *Star Tribune* Staff

"Jailed, abused for no crime, et al"

### **Best Issue**

Newspaper - 50,000+ Circulation

**First Place:** *Star Tribune* Staff

"Issue of Oct 23, 2016"

### **Spot News**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** *Duluth News Tribune* Staff

"Gloria Dei church fire coverage"

**Second Place:** Brett Boese, *Post-Bulletin*

"First the World Series, then the wedding"

**Third Place:** Brian Johnson, *Finance & Commerce*

"Cities halt two rental projects"

### **Meeting/Planned news event**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Hannah Yang, *Post-Bulletin*

"Motion rejected for hog processing plant in Mason City"

**Second Place:** Michelle Bruch, *Southwest Journal*

"Breaking the silence"

## Feature

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Brett Boese, *Post-Bulletin*

“Woman is deathly allergic to everything – including her husband”

**Second Place:** Katharine Grayson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Power Brothers”

**Third Place:** Nate Gotlieb, *Southwest Journal*

## Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** David Unze, *St. Cloud Times*

“Simple Question, Difficult Answer”

**Second Place:** Tom Olsen, *Duluth New Tribune*

“Courts Seek New Approach to Mental Illness”

**Third Place:** John Lundy, *Duluth News Tribune*

“It Really Blindsided Us”

## Investigative

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Jana Hollingsworth, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Discipline Disparity”

**Second Place:** Brady Slater, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Decaying Dock Rises as Priority”

**Third Place:** Patrick Rehkamp, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Minneapolis Park Board's ill-timed goodbye gifts”

## Business Story

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Nick Halter, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Greater MSP had local governments fighting over Prime Therapeutics”

**Second Place:** Eric Best, *The Journal*

“Signs of the times”

**Third Place:** Jana Hollingsworth, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Napa of the North”

## Sports Story

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Brett Boese, *Post-Bulletin*

“Wingers show they're winners on, off court”

**Second Place:** Brady Slater, *Duluth News Tribune*

“A save for Duluth hockey”

**Third Place:** Matt Wellens, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Little guy is big Corrin fan”

### **Arts & Entertainment Story**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Edie Schmierbach, *The Free Press*

"Walters resident credited with taking last photos of Buddy Holly"

### **Arts Criticism/Review**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Jay Furst, *Post-Bulletin*

"Four Stars: Lucky Austin has Spam galore"

**Second Place:** Christa Lawler, *Duluth News Tribune*

"A night on the growl at Pioneer Hall"

### **Column**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Steve Lange, *Post-Bulletin*

"'Connor on three' defines baseball season"

**Second Place:** Robb Murray, *The Free Press*

"Dig if you will the sadness"

**Third Place:** Jay Furst, *Post-Bulletin*

"Skyway issue is all about connections"

### **Editorial**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Joe Spear, *Mankato Free Press*

Chuck Frederick, *Duluth News Tribune*

### **Graphics/Art and Illustration**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Creative Director, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

### **Page Design**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Creative Director, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

### **Headlines**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Mark Reilly, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

"Headlines - Mark Reilly"

**Second Place:** *Park Bugle*

"Peace Train, HOLY MOLY!" / "Fast, furious and fined: Police plan series of weekend stings to stop area street racers." / "These kids rock: The Murray Rock Band gives young musicians the freedom to shake it up."

### **Best Issue**

Newspaper Less than 50,000 Circulation

**First Place:** Staff, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Aug 26, 2016 edition”

**Second Place:** *Park Bugle*

“Park Bugle March 2016 issue”

**Third Place:** *Duluth News Tribune*, Bey-Ling

“Duluth News Tribune July 31, 2016”

## **Magazines**

### **Best Profile Story**

**First Place:** Jim Walsh, *Super Lawyers Magazine*

“The Counter-Balancing Force”

**Second Place:** Jen Wittes, *Minnesota Good Age*

“The Sweet Life”

### **Best Feature Story**

**Second Place:** Raya Zimmerman, *Twin Cities Business*

“Good Jobs, Zero Bedrooms”

**First Place:** Chris Clayton, *Twin Cities Business*

“Crisis of Faith”

**Third Place:** John Rosengren, *Minnesota Monthly*

“Bet Your Life Minnesota”

### **Best Department**

**First Place:** Jennifer Koski, *Rochester Magazine*

“Random Rochesterite”

**Second Place:** Chris Marshall, A.J. Hamler, Kimberly McNeelan, *Woodworker's Journal*

“Weekend Projects”

### **Best Column**

**First Place:** Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“Oddchester”

**Second Place:** Dale Kurschner, *Twin Cities Business*

“Editor's Note”

**Third Place:** Michael Dresdner, *Woodworker's Journal*

“Finishing Thoughts”

### **Best Cover**

**First Place:** Erica Sorrentino, *Super Lawyers*

“That Kind of Invisible”

**Second Place:** Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“Risk, Rescue and the Perils of a Female Firefighter”

**Third Place:** Lisa Houghton, *Rochester Magazine*

“Single in The City”

### **Best Page Design**

**First Place:** Valerie Moe, *Minnesota Good Age*

"Sue Z"

**Third Place:** Lisa Houghton, *Rochester Magazine*

"Single in the City"

**Second Place:** Dana Croatt, *Minnesota Parent*

"Houdini"

### **Graphics/Art and illustration**

**First Place:** Jeff Jacobson, *Woodworker's Journal*

"Compound Cut Flower Box"

**Second Place:** Jennifer Koski, *Rochester Magazine*

"12 Stories from Courtroom 2"

**Third Place:** Jeff Jacobson, *Woodworker's Journal*

"Grecian Columns"

### **Best Issue**

**First Place:** Brian Brown, Patty Petersen, Sara Klomp, Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

"Winter 2016"

**Second Place:** Sarah Jackson, *Minnesota Parent*

"October 2016"

**Third Place:** Joanna Takes, Chris Marshall, Jeff Jacobson, Rob Johnstone, *Woodworker's Journal*

"August 2016"

## **Television**

### **Spot/Breaking News**

Television 50+ Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** Boyd Huppert, Rob Collett, *KARE*

"Litchfield Toronado"

**Second Place:** *WCCO NEWS TEAM*

"Philando Castile Shooting"

### **Hard News Report**

Television 50+ Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** Tom Lyden, Brad Swagger, *KSMP*

"A Gray State of Affairs"

**Second Place:** Boyd Huppert, Chad Nelson, *KARE*

"50 years an Inmate"

**Feature**

Television 50+ Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** Jennifer Mayerle, Dave Porter, *WCCO*

“Spreading Kindness”

**Second Place:** Boyd Huppert, Chad Nelson, *KARE*

“The Dress”

**Special Project/In-depth Series**

Television 50+ Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** Boyd Huppert, Rob Colett, Chad Nelson, Jeff Wiltgen, *KARE*

“Lost on the Lake”

**Investigative**

Television 50+ Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** A J Lagoe, Steve Eckert, Gary Knox, *KARE*

“Invisible Wounds”

**Second Place:** Tom Lyden, *KMSP*

“Secrets in the Family”

**Spot/Breaking News**

Television Fewer than 50 Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** *KTTC* Newsroom

“September Flooding”

**Hard News Report**

Television Fewer than 50 Newsroom Employees

**First Place:** Baihly Warfield, Kyle Aune, *WDIO*

“The Ace of Hearts”

**Second Place:** Niala Charles, Chuck Sibley, *KTTC*

“Breaking Away”

**Feature**

Television Fewer than 50 Newsroom Employees

**Third Place:** Chris Yu, *KTTC*

“Home for Christmas”

**First Place:** Baihly Warfield, Glenn Kellahan, *WDIO*

“Threads of Blessing”

**Second Place:** Dan Williamson, *WDIO*

“Up North, Pro Wrestling”

**Investigative**

Television Fewer than 50 Newsroom Employees

**Second Place:** Baihly Warfield, Glenn Kellahan, *WDIO*

“Caring for Carson”

**First Place:** Devin Bartolotta, Chuck Sibley, *KTTC*

“Behind the Cages”



## Radio

### Spot/Breaking News

**First Place:** *MPR Newsroom*

"Music icon Prince dead at 57"

**Second Place:** Wendy Wilde, Don Rivet, Dan McCarver, Brandon Lewis, *KTOE-AM*

"Breaking and Developing News - Blizzard plus downtown Madelia fire"

**Third Place:** Andrea Swensson, Jade Mary Lucia, *The Current/Minnesota Public Radio*

"Music legend Prince dies at age 57"

### Feature

**First Place:** Nancy Rosenbaum, *KFAI*

"How Black Live Matters Got An Anthem"

**Second Place:** Will Wright, *KFAI*

"Minneapolis 1931: A Blitzkrieg of Bigotry"

**Third Place:** Marianne Combs, *MPR News*

"For this fiddler, a tiny concert led to big things"

### Special Project/In-depth Series

**First Place:** Laura Yuen, Brandt Williams, Tim Pugmire, Bill Wareham, *MPR News*

"Without support, Minnesota students left behind at graduation"

**Second Place:** Melissa Olson, Ryan Katz, Todd Melby, *KFAI*

"Stolen Childhoods"

**Third Place:** Will Wright, *KFAI*

"Jitney: A Conversation with Lou Bellamy and T. Mychael Rambo"

### Investigative

**First Place:** Laura Yuen, Riham Feshir, Bill Wareham, *MPR News*

"Black drivers bear brunt of citations from routine stops by St. Anthony PD"

### Newscast

**First Place:** Wendy Wilde, Don Rivet, Dan McCargar, Brandon Lewis, *KTOE-AM*

"KTOE 705am Newscast Feb 3, 2016 Blizzard and Madelia Fire"

## Online

### Best Website

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

**Second Place:** Andy Putz, Corey Anderson, *MinnPost*

"MinnPost website"

**Third Place:** *MPR Newsroom*

"MPRNews.org website"

### **Best Single News Story**

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“How Denmark is trying to subvert the call to Terror”

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“Can our Moose be Saved?”

**Third Place:** Allison Herrera, *Public Radio International*

“This chef is cooking Native American Thanksgiving meals for everyone at Standing Rock”

### **Best Continuing Coverage**

**First Place:** Josette Elieff, Shaymus McLaughlin, *GoMN*

“Marisa Bocanegra Series”

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“Full coverage of the Somalis in Minnesota”

**Third Place:** Gregg Aamot, *MinnPost*

“Rural Dispatches”

### **Arts & Entertainment**

**First Place:** Neal Justin, Leila Navidi, Shari L. Gross, *Star Tribune*

“Sun is setting on Garrison Keillor's time on Lake Wobegon”

**Second Place:** Jon Bream, Renee Jones

“Schneider”

### **Arts Criticism/Review**

**First Place:** Andrea Swenson, Nate, Ryan, *The Current*

“The Revolution power through the pain at first of three reunion shows”

**Second Place:** Jon Bream, *Star Tribune*

“Revolution grieves rather than celebrates Prince in reunion concert at First Avenue”

**Third Place:** Pamela Espeland, *MinnPost*

“The Jungle's 'The Oldest Boy': a metaphor on parenting”

### **Best Use of Multimedia**

**First Place:** David Unze, David Schwarz, Stephanie Dickrell, Jenny Berg, *St. Cloud Times*

“Sex Trafficking: The Victims Next Door”

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“Danger Downstream”

**Third Place:** David Unze, David Schwarz, *St. Cloud Times*

“A Night So Cold”

### **Best social media account - Individual**

**First Place:** Rick Nelson, *Star Tribune*

“Rick Nelson on Twitter”

**Second Place:** Jennifer Brooks, *Star Tribune*

“Jennifer Brooks on Twitter”

**Third Place:** Shane Frederick, *The Free Press*

“@puckato”

### **Best social media account – Institutional**

**First Place:** MPR Newsroom, Michael Olson, MPR

“MPR News Facebook”

**Second Place:** Newsroom, GoMN

“Facebook Page”

**Third Place:** Leah Garaas, Jay Gabler, Nate Ryan, Luke Taylor, *The Current*/MPR

“The Current”

### **Best News Video**

**First Place:** Josette Elieff, Shaymus McLaughlin, GoMN

“Marisa Bocanegra Series”

**Second Place:** Mark Vancleave, *Star Tribune*

“Waiting 100 years to cast a ballot for Clinton”

**Third Place:** Hannah Yang, *Post-Bulletin*

“Kenyon Police Chief shares struggle with PTSD”

### **Best Newsroom Blog**

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“Star Tribune Sports Blog”

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“Star Tribune Politics Blog”

**Third Place:** Jay Furst, *Post-Bulletin*

“Furst Draft”

### **Best Independent News Blog**

**First Place:** Ron Meador, *MinnPost*

“Earth Journal”

**Second Place:** Susan Perry, *MinnPost*

“Second Opinions”

**Third Place:** Eric Black, *MinnPost*

“Eric Black Ink”

### **Meeting/Planned Event Feature**

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

“U.S. Bank Stadium”

**Second Place:** Sam Brodey, *MinnPost*

“Republican National Convention”

**Third Place:** Briana Bierschbach, *MinnPost*

“The four big takeaways from Gov. Mark Dayton's 2016 State of the State address”

# Photography

## Best News Photography

**First Place:** Evan Frost, Jackson Forderer, *MPR News*  
"News Photography"

**Second Place:** Aaron Lavinsky, *Star Tribune*  
"The Funeral of Philandro Castile"

**Third Place:** Bill Klotz, *Finance & Commerce*  
"Photo Portfolio"

## Best Feature Photography

**First Place:** Elizabeth Nida Obert, *Post-Bulletin*  
"Nerd"

**Second Place:** Andrew Link, *Post-Bulletin*  
"Prowl Visit"

**Third Place:** Richard Tsong-Taatarii, *Star Tribune*  
"Kids Splashing in the Cannonball"

## Best Portrait Photography

**First Place:** Richard Tsong-Taatarii, *Star Tribune*  
"We Belong to the River"

**Second Place:** Andrew Link  
"Cook Eugene Roth"

**Third Place:** Jeff Wheeler, *Star Tribune*  
"Lizzo's 'Big' Blowout"

## Best Sports Photography

**First Place:** Nate Ryan, Derek Montgomery, Richard Marshall, *MPR News*  
"MPR Sports photography"

**Second Place:** Andrew Link, *Post-Bulletin*  
"County Fair Rodeo"

**Third Place:** Aaron Lavinsky, *Star Tribune*  
"A day at the races meets a trip to the zoo"

# Special Awards

## Young Journalist of the Year

Andy Mannix, *Star Tribune*

*Judge's Comments: This is an ambitious series, and an important topic. Andy covers it as well – if not better – than reporters who've been on the job for decades. He's an effective storyteller who puts names and faces to the issue of solitary confinement while seamlessly weaving in key data and context. It's reporting like this that (hopefully) gets results. The Star Tribune is lucky to have Andy on its staff, and this award is well-deserved.*

## **Journalist of the Year**

Laura Yuen, *MPR News*

*Judge's Comments: Laura's entries are exceptional works of journalism that tackle tough issues with sensitivity and intellect. She adds important context to subject matter that's often given short-shrift, sensationalized or entirely overlooked because of its complexity. Really beautiful storytelling here, too, with a compelling narrative voice.*

## **Story of the Year**

**First Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Prince Rogers Nelson - 1958 - 2016"

**Second Place:** Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Philando Castile's death"

**Third Place:** A.J. Lagoe, Steve Eckert, Gary Knox, *KARE-TV*

"Invisible Wounds: Treatment & Reform"

## **Best Use of Public Records**

**First Place:** A.J. Lagoe, Steve Eckert, Gary Knox, *KARE-TV*

"Invisible Wound: Treatment and Reform"

**Second Place:** Andy Mannix, *Star Tribune*

"Solitary"

**Third Place:** Eric Roper, *Star Tribune*

"Pedestrian deaths"

## **Best Beat Reporting**

**First Place:** Brooks Johnson, *Duluth News Tribune*

"Coverage of manufacturing in the Twin Ports"

**Second Place:** Katharine Grayson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

"Health care, business startups and venture capital beat"

**Third Place:** Hannah Yang, *Post-Bulletin*

"Best Beat Reporting"

## About Minnesota SPJ

Founded as Sigma Delta Chi in 1909, the Society of Professional Journalists is the oldest, largest and broadest-based organization of journalists in the U.S. The Minnesota Chapter was founded in 1956. Chapter membership totals about 160. In 1998 and 2011, the Minnesota Pro chapter was named national large chapter of the year and was one of three finalists in 2014. The chapter has also been honored for its efforts in FOI advocacy, chapter programming and member communications.

SPJ provides a wide variety of professional development programming at the local and national level, including annual national and regional conferences as well as monthly programs sponsored by MN SPJ. Locally and nationally, SPJ is working hard to ensure a free flow of information, fighting battles for freedom of information and First Amendment rights.

SPJ promotes excellence in journalism through its local journalism awards programs, such as the Page One Awards, as well the national Sigma Delta Chi awards for professional journalists and The Mark of Excellence awards for collegiate journalists.

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