

PTCC - 2017 - PHOTOJOURNALISM GROUP A

44 images from 15 members

01 - 'Heart of Heaven' Student Play, San Juan Batista.jpg

Interesting content. The boy on the left is lost in his costume. Dodging some of the backlit characters may bring them to life. Cropping the left side and expanding the right side to see the entire golden symbol might have made the entire image cleaner and more interesting.

ThB title gives us only the event and location. What is the boy's name? What is the play about? Why is it important?

02 - 1901 Panhard et Levassor Type B1 Race Car.jpg

Clean capture. The partial man on the left side should either be completely in or out of the picture. Simply framing the photograph slightly would have brought him in while reducing the open space on the right. The title tells us only details of the car. What about "Sally Jones presents Bill Smith with the second place trophy for his "1901 Panhard et Levassor Type B1 Race Car. This is the second trophy Mr. Jones received in this year's show."

03 - 1956 Ferrari 290 MM Scaglietti Spider.jpg

Another clean capture. However, the caption tells us little more than name of the car. Who are the three people in the center? Why are they posing for their picture? We need more for tomorrow's paper.

04 - A Christmas to remember.jpg

The image appears to be a simple and warm holiday snapshot for the family. While the photographer and his or her family knows and understands its import, without an informative caption I, as a stranger, can only make my own narrative from it.

05 - A morning firecrew marches into the burn zone.jpg

The line of fire fighters provides for a respectable compositional element. Would it have been more interesting as a horizontal image? I like the shapes and tonal differences in the background and how it all fills the frame. Simple, clean.

The caption, by itself, does not give us enough information. If this image appears in a series of like photographs and the text with them tells the story, this partial caption may be enough, but not as a single image.

Is it the Soberanes Fire? In Big Sur or Santa Cruz? In California or Washington State? In what fire company are the firefighters?

A caption from KPCC's web site:

"A firefighter from the Palo Alto and Santa Clarita County strike team works on the Soberanes Fire on Tuesday, July 26, 2016."

06 - Bridge Out.jpg

The capture fills the frame with what appears to be all the information visually available. The shot does its job well.

This picture contains some information. We know the Highway Patrol has closed Highway 1 and we must turn around - but why? What bridge?

Where is it?

07 - Buffalo Soldier Memorial Junction City, KS.jpg

Nice black and white tonality. The texture in the uniform and saddle is very nice.

The capture is very tight. Would a wider shot show us more? Can we see the front of the soldier and his horse? Would it show more of a proud or weary fighter? All this is left to our imagination.

Is this a specific soldier, Major Smith or Corporal Jones? What regiment does he represent?

Some of this information cannot be known. However, a well written caption would reveal what we can and should know.

08 - Cal Fire drops fire retardant on Carmel Valley hills.jpg

Good photograph showing the action. The large background hints at the immensity of the danger and the distant smoke looms over all of it. The red plume emphasizes the plane in the composition. I wonder if another shot was available with the plane in profile and the retardant leaving a red smear across the frame.

The title forms only a part, but an important part, of a good caption.

09 - Cleaning Up Tree Limbs After The Storm.jpg

Another good photograph graphically showing the mess left by the storm.

The composition feels right and the action of the saw is readily visible.

Title requires significant work to form a caption.

10 - Coach Born Without Limbs Has Full Attention Of Sidelined Player.jpg

This image has all the makings of a very powerful photograph! The access afforded the photographer was a gift. Two steps to the right would have revealed more and made the photograph all the better.

I found this caption below a picture of Coach Mendez in The Mercury News:

"San Jose High School varsity quarterbacks coach Rob Mendez gets a push from Salvador Mercado (29) after the battery in Mendez's wheelchair died in the second quarter of their game against Ann Sobrato High School at San Jose High in San Jose, Calif., on Friday, Nov. 4, 2016. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group)"

11 - Crowd and Participants Await Judging at Venice Carnivale.jpg

A few steps to the right might have eliminated the annoying rope and post in the lower left. If the venue did not allow for a reframing you may want to find another way to make a similar image.

I think this image could use more contrast, more highlights, to brighten the

*colorful costumes. The image seems flat throughout.
What competition? What do the costumed characters represent?*

12 - Demolition reveals lost '20s Advertising.jpg

The chain link fence, while sometimes effective in other shots, seems annoying here. Would the capture be more informative if it included the bar to its right and some of the new construction on the left?

The picture lacks contrast and appears muddy.

13 - Demonstrators Represent Victims of Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Lawrence Livermore Lab 2016.jpg

Good framing from a low perspective. The line of troops works well to give context and importance.

A good caption here would tell the reader that the troops are not a part of the protest, but forces sent to control the protest.

A caption from the same protest in 2013:

"Daniel Ellsberg lies on the street within his chalk outline that represents people vaporized by the nuclear blasts in Japan. He was arrested in Livermore later Aug. 6 2013, by an officer from LLNL Protective Forces at a protest of nuclear weapons at the lab on the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WWII."

14 - Elite runners start Big Sur Half Marathon.jpg

Very nice photograph. You captured the moment when the runners burst from the starting line. The energy is evident. They lean into their work. The energy is visible.

The image appears over saturated. While the fog flattens the colors and contrast you might find increasing the highlights more effective than saturation.

Good photograph.

A caption might read like this:

"At the sound of the starter's gun elite runners burst from the starting line of the Big Sur Half Marathon in Monterey, CA."

15 - Fear of deportation.jpg

A subject fraught with fear, confusion, and uncertainty. The image would be more potent in a horizontal frame. The ceiling adds nothing to the shot and the long line would trail off out the distant door

How about asking someone in line if they are willing to talk to you? Or maybe someone you know can describe the event and how they feel. Might be tough to do but it could make a meaningful caption.

16 - Feb 2017 Lover's Pt & race.jpeg

Not sure how to approach this photograph. The title alludes to Lover's Point and a race. Yet, the image includes a tow truck, a hidden car, and an apartment building (motel?). Where is the news value? Where is the story?

17 - Firecrews march in to fight the Highlands Wildfire.jpg

Well done. Good composition, color, and content. The photograph requires only a more informative caption to be media ready.

18 - Firefighters battle trailer fire in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.jpg

Great drama and impact! We are sometimes blessed by the photo gods and come across a golden opportunity. Our challenge is to make the most of the opportunity. I think you did.

The "Light" logo is obviously ironic.

How about adding the specific location like Western Park or Summit School parking lot? How about the names of the trailer's owners?

19 - Fruitless Search for Chinese Tourists.jpg

A nice capture in difficult wind and lighting conditions. Would it have been possible to try more shots hoping for a convergence of more active waves thereby accenting the hazard, and the helicopter? Probably not, and that is one of the difficulties when meeting a deadline. Watch your horizon.

Again - could use a more detailed caption.

20 - Grandma can still surf.jpg

What an opportunity for a human interest story - a story of aging, of generations, of perseverance, etc....

The capture is good, the vignette focuses the eye on the surfers, and the POV works much better than standing on the beach. Well done. A complete caption might even inspire others.

21 - GRIEVING FAMILY.jpg

Powerful photograph with great composition. The angled line pulls you to the casket and the lone soldier leading the cortege. The black and white reduces the image to its essentials. The respect paid by the onlookers is rightly muted. I struggled a bit with the blaring crosswalk element but quickly got over it. This is a good photograph.

Unfortunately for the newspaper the title begs for an equally powerful caption.

22 - Hang Glider Over Ft Ord.jpg

Nice capture. Is this a photograph of a hang glider or an abandoned concrete structure covered with graffiti? The latter overpowers the former reducing the hang glider to a small ornament.

Either way it begs for a clear caption.

23 - Heavy Snow Day In Yosemite National Park 2017.jpg

This photograph might generate more interest if owners were seen digging out or somehow reacting to the snow, it just doesn't carry much of a story.

24 - Helicopters dwarfed by smoke from Soberanes Fire.jpg

Very nice! The sense of scale seems immense. The color and texture really help the story. The brief caption works OK. A simple addition of location and time - afternoon, sunset - would have completed a terrific piece of photojournalism.

25 - Highlands Firesky.jpg

This photograph is a very well seen landscape, a more contemporary fine art piece. The tonality looks a bit surreal. The helicopter and its bucket quickly bring us back to reality. We can see the scale and the smoke for what it is. I really like this photograph but feel like I'm viewing something I should not like. A title for fine art requires a caption for the media.

26 - hover craft leaves the isle of wight.jpg

Good travel photograph! You captured the dramatic clouds which help the water as an interesting ground.

Where is the hovercraft going? Why?

27 - Jan 2017 Hang gliding, Marina, Jetty Rd.jpeg

Nicely framed and captured. Unfortunately, only the gull adds anything to the shot. No sense of scale, height, location or other information.

28 - Jay Leno inspects Ford GT at the 2016 Concours D'elegance - Pebble Beach, CA.jpg

Good celebrity shot. Maybe more visual information on the car would make the picture even more interesting.

The caption comes very close. How about this?

Jay Leno, on the left, with John Smith and Fred Jones inspect a Ford GT at the 2016 Concours D'elegance - Pebble Beach, CA

29 - Mayor Returns for the Centennial.jpg

What mayor returns to what town? Maybe a bit over saturated?

Love the GoPro touch in this old town scene.

30 - Moment of Joy.jpeg

Is this a photojournalistic picture or a family snap shot?. No way to know.

31 - New Condo Project Cannery Row (1 of 1).jpg

Great framing and exposure. The machinery of progress overwhelms art. I walked past this project numerous times and never saw this scene. Well done. The picture's caption should at least include the name of the artist and the fact that, once complete, the new condos will hide the entire painting.

32 - Pacific Grove's Annual Good Ol' Days Provides Fun For All Ages.jpg

Good capture and a useable caption. Gould you get their nannes?

33 - PG Memorial Bench for Suzanne Calley, 9-11 Victim.jpg

Poignant remembrance piece. Nice framing. Watch the depth of field. It tails off on the further side of the bench and I think you want the words clear. I would only add the location for the bench in the caption. Others may want to visit it.

34 - Pie eating contest at PG Good Old Days Festival.jpg

Great fun! Well done montage. Readers should be able to sense the carnival atmosphere.

Names are always important to the press for these events. Friends and family will smile at the picture in the paper

35 - Pigeons Outnumber Tourists on Venice's San Marco Square.jpg

Nice capture and the beautiful bokeh frames him well. Tonalty and clarity are great.

Who is he? A tourist from where? A Local?

36 - REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST.jpg

*The Viet Nam War Memorial is a powerful monument. You captured it well and used the angled approach to good effect. Using Black & White also helps. The more interesting element is the reflection. The light does not appear to help you, but the far right gives us the sight of a mourner kneeling. Could you have pulled him further in the frame?
Again a title, but no caption.*

37 - Searching for Lawrences Goldfinch.jpg

More questions than answers. We know little but the common name of the bird that the well-equipped photographer is chasing. This seems to be a very long way from photojournalism.

38 - Space Shuttle Endeavours Last Flight.jpg

Great shot. The photo gods blessed you with great cloud cover and you took advantage of it. Love the black and white treatment.

So close for the caption. Try "The Space Shuttle Endeavour passes Monterey on its last flight to its final resting place in Los Angeles."

39 - street birdman paris.jpg

The capture tells a good part of the story. The movement injects energy into the picture while the bokeh rids it of the possible distractions. Nice photograph. How about a frontal shot with the birds in front of the birdman?

Who is the birdman? How long has he done this?

40 - street fair visitor in coat of many colors.jpg

I love this shot. The color, the child's hand in her mother's, the mother's footstep are all nice elements.

The caption has a great start. What fair? Where? Names?

41 - Traffic stopped for 5 hours on 101.jpg

The photograph gives us all the visual information we need including the emergency lane carved from the traffic. Nice framing that includes the distant cars. Well done.

The obvious missing caption elements include where, when, why, who, and how.

42 - tree falls in windstorm.jpg

Color appears oversaturated with blown out highlights in the upper right. A better exposure would have eliminated these issues. The tree appears as if it was moved. Would the broken roots and the mess around it made a more dramatic picture? Maybe circle around the tree to frame the highlights and show more detail-

Caption need a lot of work.

43 - Water basket on its way to fill for Soberanes Fire.jpg

An OK capture with little information about the fire. If you used a zoom lens you may have dialed it back for more interest. This is just not very interesting.

A good caption may help but we really need more visual information.

44 - WINTER STORM.jpg

The nice framing really tells the story. Good shot. I cannot decide if the "Closed until spring" is ironic or one of the sad details where children once played.

This photograph begs for a caption. So many possible narrative elements that should be shared.

Winners:

1st Place: Elite runners start Big Sur Half Marathon

2nd Place: Helicopters dwarfed by smoke from Soberanes Fire

3rd Place: Firefighters battle trailer fire in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin

Honorable Mention: Highlands Firesky

Honorable Mention: A morning firecrew marches into the burn zone

Honorable Mention: WINTER STORM

