

Category 1 – Best Breaking News Story

Large

1. Mary Pemberton, Associated Press, "Alaska's Mount Redoubt volcano erupts 6 times" In addition to reporting the news of the eruption, the writer explained the hazards in simple language, reached far and wide to show the effects and incorporated excellent quotes and details from people who were affected. Extra-mile reporting, here, with disciplined writing.
2. Alex DeMarban, The Tundra Drums, "Man arrested for stealing Bethel police car" Excellent, simple writing carries the day here. The writer is almost conversational, telling the story to readers as if he were telling it to friends, at points tongue-in-cheek sophistication. For example: "(The stolen police car) was speeding (on the frozen river), sometimes spinning in circles, with emergency lights flashing and sirens blaring. A four-wheeler accompanied it. ... He heard lots of hollering." I bet he did.
3. Rachel D'Oro, Associated Press, "Investigator rules against Palin in ethics probe" Solid reporting of a potentially complicated story. The writer talked to the key players in the story (except Palin), and the result was a remarkably balanced story.

Small

1. Tyler Rhodes, Nome Nugget, "Mackey is unstoppable" Vivid language, done with taste and economy, make this story a pleasure to read. Context is incorporated flawlessly, quotes do their job.
2. Michael Armstrong, Homer News, "40 homes threatened by blaze" Solid reporting, straight language. The writer delivers the news without unnecessary ornament or affectation.

No third place was awarded.

Judge: Stephen Busemeyer is the editor of the Hartford Courant in Hartford, Connecticut.

Category 2 – Best General News Story

Large

1. James Halpin, Anchorage Daily News, "Rabid Wolf Attacks Hunter in Southwest Alaska" This story is simultaneously vivid and informative. Halpin tells us about the danger of rabid wolves through people, the most important element in any news or feature story. His description of the hunter fighting off the wolf is reminiscent of Hemingway in its simplicity and clarity. This is a great example of the journalistic edict, "just tell the story."
2. Eric Lidji, Anchorage Press, "Alaska's Natural Gas Dilemma" Kudos to Eric Lidji for his strong use of explanatory prose. Lidji relies heavily on narrative, both an asset and a detraction, to paint a picture of the state's heavy reliance on natural gas, and what that really means. His explanations are clear and succinct, easy to understand even for a layperson. However, Lidji could use more voices from "real people" to tell his story. Still, he advances the understanding of a complicated issue through a well-executed "explainer" piece.
3. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, "By Her Own Hand" Suicide is a tough issue to take on in any context. Rural suicide adds a challenging new wrinkle. Hopkins writes about this issue with a clear eye, never asking us to have excessive sympathy for his subjects, and yet inducing us to do so because the story is so

patently sad. Hopkins could have strengthened this story with a little more national context--are there any comparisons in other highly rural areas in the U.S.?

Judge: Elizabeth Mehren is a professor of journalism at Boston University and former national correspondent and New England Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times.

Small

1. Alex DeMarban, Tundra Drums, “Drawing lines in the water”

Excellent story. Very well written with great descriptions and difficult interviews. Takes a very complicated story and tells it well. Shows that the reporter has established trust with the community (it's not always easy to get people to open up like that). Good enterprise, actually going there. Really tells me the whole history of Alaska. Tells an important story. Stood out from the others in that it had all the elements.

2. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Road Kill”

Very well written story. Takes what could have been a very ordinary police blotter item -- if that much - and instead uses it to explore hunting as an issue. Good quotes. Deeply reported. Get both sides of the issue. And gives us a peek at life in Alaska.

3. McKibben Jackinsky, ???, “HEA rates dropped too late for some”

Very well reported, well-written story about what is clearly an important local topic. Has great community input and good quotes. Again takes what could have been an ordinary story and turns it into extraordinary.

Judge: Janet Kornblum is a former USA Today feature writer.

Category 3 – Best Use of Story and Photos by a Journalist

Large

1. Roy Corral, First Alaskans, “A Yup’ik weatherman and natural knowledge”

A beautiful narrative that makes you feel like you are there. A package that explores a place and a personality with great care. The first two paragraphs had me hooked as if starting a great novel. The photos are elegant bookends to the package. Great work! A great feature on a place and people. Writing that makes you believe you are traveling alongside the reporter. Excellent photos taken under extreme conditions. A wonderful package that clearly deserved first place.

2. Joseph Robertia, Peninsula Clarion, “Dipnet disaster averted”

An amazing spot-news piece with multiple sources and great photos that capture the peak action. A very clear and concise news piece that was turned around quickly. The dramatic photos capture our attention immediately and the story competes the scene. Great work!

3. Abby Lowell, Juneau Empire, “Deep”

A great adventure piece that takes readers where they cannot go. Full of educational information and real substance. A fun read with great photos. A feature that captivates with tension and suspense. The reporter went above and beyond to share an off-limits part of Alaska to readers. Well-researched and written. The photos add to the intrigue.

Judges: Dan Schlatterer and Jenny O’Brien, staff photographer and assistant managing editor of Puget Sound Business Journal in Seattle, Wash.

Small

1. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Crystal cool”

“Crystal cool” is totally cool. Very nice attention to detail. The photos are well-played and each one is a surprise to the eyes. Of course, since it’s only snowed three times in the last 40 years in New Orleans, anything to remind us of cool weather is a welcome relief.

2. Jessica Hoffman, The Sun Star, “Students carve ice at annual World Championships”

Terrific cover photo really sets the mood for what's to come. Lots of intriguing visuals and it's nice to see students' talents on display.

3. Jennifer Canfield, Alaska Dispatch, "The base at night"

Very nice idea that is well-executed. Very challenging subject matter.

Judge: Doug Parker is the photo editor at the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Category 4 – Best Short Feature

Large

1. Rachel D'Oro, Associated Press, "Militia movement resurfaces across nation"

Good stories take us places we can't go alone, and introduce us to people we'd never otherwise meet. This story is straightforward in its effort to understand the militiamen, and thorough in its reporting and context. In a story about fear, the writer takes us on a simple walk through the woods to help us confront some anxieties of our own.

2. Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire, "A day Juneau can be thankful for"

Ah, the annual, unavoidable Thanksgiving Day story. While many reporters dive under the desk to avoid this assignment, or phone it in with cliches, this writer thoughtfully crafted a clean simple narrative and saved the holiday for the reader. Nicely reported and structured, we follow three people who would probably never otherwise meet as they find something in common.

3. Greg Johnson, Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman "A New Leaf"

Another example of making the most of a fluffy assignment – a world record-setting cabbage – the writer has fun with the story so the reader does too. This story deserves an award for this line alone, describing the last-place finisher "who apparently got lost on the way to the giant Brussels sprout contest."

Small

1. Naomi Klouda, Homer Tribune, "The skinny on Slim's new outhouse"

The writer asks what needs to be asked and then gets out of the way of the material, bringing Slim Sorrows (you can't make that up) to life on the page. We love hearing his voice come through so clearly. One thing we'd like to ask the reporter: Did you use the outhouse?

2. Jennifer Canfield, UAF Journalism (Alaska Dispatch), "A shot in the dark, Part 1"

A deceptively quiet little story from a place where stories can overwhelm. Jennifer Canfield finds a way to narrow the frame and let a moment unfold. This little piece does a lot right. It has focus, a sense of movement, a larger theme, nice dialog, and spare, elegant writing. It doesn't try to sound newsworthy, and recognizes the power inside a small moment. We were not surprised to see so many fine entries from the UAF journalism school.

3. Mary Noden Lochner, The Northern Light, "Fall 2009 Fashion Guide"

Lively writing with ample attitude, useful and engaging, just as fashion coverage ought to be.

Judge: Kelley Benham is the enterprise editor for the St. Petersburg Times.

Category 5 – Best Long Feature

1. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, "Booze returns to ballot"

Take an important social issue, a timely news hook and add a very talented reporter, and this is the kind of awesome journalism you can get. Obviously an awful lot of time and effort and coordination from colleagues in photo and graphics went into this, but it all

hangs on the top-shelf reporting and writing. The writer found the right people and moments to tell the story from both sides. It reads like a breeze and brings home how very important – and challenging to deal with – the issue is.

2. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Crash Course”

Strong writing and pacing, compelling details and a true understanding of the struggles faced after traumatic brain injury separate this story from most other “personal tragedy” tales. The writer’s sympathetic eye and ear clearly deliver the family’s challenges.

3. Lisa Demer, Anchorage Daily News, “Out of the deep”

A fascinating tale, told with patience and deliberation, careful reporting and smooth writing. Nothing gets between the reader and the story.

Judge: Stephen Busemeyer is the editor of the Hartford Courant in Hartford, Connecticut.

Category 6 – Best Magazine Feature

1. Alex Demarban, “Newtok’s Opening Move”

How do you move an entire village before it sinks? That’s the question Alex Demarban masterfully answers in a piece that combines solid reporting, human interest, and a vivid portrayal of the cost of global warming. It is clear from reading the piece that Debarban interviewed dozens of experts and residents in order to balance the engineering and human sides of his story. The prose is clear and direct, drawing readers through the many technical difficulties of bringing Newtok to its new location.

2. Mike Peters, “Relics Returned to Life”

Mike Peters has written a feature that could serve as a model for meeting audience interests of a magazine called *First Alaskans*. The cultural relics at the center of the Smithsonian collection he describes are interesting in themselves, but he also gives the history of how they came to be collected over a century ago; the political and cultural saga of how the new traveling exhibit came to be, and the scientific story of restoring artifacts that were falling apart with age. The text meshes well with an extensive, well-captioned photo spread worthy of *National Geographic*.

Judge: Michael Taylor chairs the communication and theater arts department at Henderson State University, where he teaches courses in advanced journalism, creative nonfiction and writing for new media.

Category 7 – The Vern McCorkle Award for Best Business Reporting

Large

1. Pat Forgey, Juneau Empire, “Attack on a Tax”

Excellent watchdog reporting. Forgey takes on a major industry for Southeast Alaska and digs up major contradictions between what the cruise industry officials cited as the cost of a cruise when they talked to the Juneau Chamber of Commerce and the actual costs, which were more than triple that number. This was crucial information in assessing the effects of a controversial \$50 per-head tax assessed on passengers.

2. Chris Eshelman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “The Price at the Pump”

Delving into the high price of gas in Alaska, Eshelman produces an even-handed account of the factors influencing the pump costs and looks to Hawaii and elsewhere to broaden understanding of whether proposed state legislation to step-up regulation might be effective.

3. Jeff Richardson, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “Artistic Struggle”

An informative look at how the economy has made the tough lives of struggling artists and art-galleries even tougher.

Small

1. Molly Dischner, The Skagway News, “Pricey Flights Out”

A strong business story that ferrets out important information about extraordinarily high costs for medevac flights out of this small southeast Alaska community. This also gives consumers important tips on how to avoid getting stung by a big, unexpected bill.

2. Sarah Richards (Teeple), The Sun Star, “Students Struggle to Achieve Good Credit”

Interesting first person account by this 19-year-old reporter of their research into the tangled world of credit ratings, and how to improve them. The topic was timely because the Alaska Student Loan Corporation had just set a minimum credit score to qualify for a crucial type of student loan. Richard had a strong lead into the story that showed me why I should care, and dug up some good information with her interviews.

3. Victoria Barber, Arctic Sounder, “The Chard's In the Mail”

Interesting look at innovative enterprise that sends fresh organic vegetables to rural Alaska, where such farm produce has often been high-priced and hard to find. Reporter dug into the economics of the venture and also took the time to visit a sorting warehouse, and that helped add color and detail to the story.

Judge: Hal Bernton has been a reporter with the Seattle Times since 2000, covering a wide range of regional and national stories.

Category 8 – Best Government or Political Reporting

Large

1. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, “Changing Gears”

First rate reporting and writing on how a policy change affects the average person.

Nothing journalists do is more important.

2. Leila Kheiry, Ketchikan Daily News, “Phoning In Gets New Look”

An only-in-Alaska story that elevates local reporting to a must read yarn.

3. Sean Cockerham, Anchorage Daily News, “Senate Outcasts' Roles Fade in Juneau”

Sophisticated reporting and analysis that help readers understand how their state government works.

Small

1. Naomi Klouda, Homer Tribune, “Council Ends Eagle Feedings”

A beautifully written (even with the misplaced graf) account of a small vote with major consequences.

2. Ryan Long, Homer News, “Cities Offer Similar Health Benefits”

Kudos for bringing much needed context to the topic that will be front and center for the next decade.

3. Michael Armstrong, Homer News, “Homesteader Lifestyle or Eyesore?”

Vivid reporting on the human side of a bureaucratic decision.

Judge: Susan Rasky is a former congressional correspondent for the New York times and winner of a George Polk award for national reporting. She is a J-School senior lecturer at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

Category 9 – Best Education Reporting

Large

1. Dante Petri, Peninsula Clarion, “All under one roof”

What a well-told, fascinating story. Dante takes us fully into the world of this little one-room school and its financial challenge with such fine detail and flowing writing that by the end of the tale, I felt like I knew everything I needed to know. Great context, great choice of quotes, great organization.

2. Jeff Richardson, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Stocks and Students"

Fine handling of a tough-to-tell story. Jeff didn't get lost in the wonky details of inside financial baseball, and instead laid out a clear, informative narrative of a very interesting, unusual program. Nice kicker-quote ending.

3. Mary Catharine Martin, Juneau Empire, "Fitting School to Life"

A punchy, to-the-point piece with impeccable organization that told me all about this important new program with no wasted words. Nice lede, nice scope, nice flow.

Small

1. McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News, "You've Got to Have Heart"

A cleverly, clearly written treatment of an oddball topic. The story could have come off tasteless or flat in lesser hands, but McKibben turned a routine feature into a truly pleasurable read, without resorting to bad puns or stand-offish delicacy. I even liked that McKibben added in the dog food angle; fun way to milk the topic for all it was worth.

2. Patricia Coll Freeman, Catholic Anchor, "Losing Their Religion"

I appreciated the way this article cut right to the chase with good, succinct writing and construction. Patricia's lede pulled me right in, the second and third grafts gave me the nuts and bolts, and the rest flowed nicely on with well-researched sourcing and perspectives. She deftly developed the real story behind a simple set of study numbers, and that's a hallmark of good reporting.

3. Jessica Hoffman, The Sun Star, "Students use their voice to silence discrimination"

This was a sensitive treatment of a routine assignment, and it showed that Jessica went the extra yard. She made sure to get observations from those just passing by as well as the participants, and hung in there until after the end of the "Silence" day to give us a full sense of the experience. Nicely complete job.

Judge: Kevin Fagan has been a reporter and editor for 30 years, working for BBC Radio in London, the Oakland Tribune and, since 1992, the San Francisco Chronicle.

Category 10 – Best Profile

Large

1. Julia O'Malley, Anchorage Daily News, "Flight for Life"

Meticulously observed, evocative, moving portrait of a young village woman grappling with life in the city, and representing a demographic trend with statewide implications.

2. Mike Dunham, Anchorage Daily News "Siren from Sleetmute"

Story of a rising musician, rendered with telling description, thorough reporting and skillful prose

3. Todd Disher, Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, "Camp Kahiltna,"

Lively snapshot of a Denali base camp manager on the job.

Small

1. Victoria Barber, Alaska Newspapers/The Arctic Sounder, "Rapping Inupiaq culture around her"

A wealth of detail and description, plus an engaging prose style, distinguish Barber's portrait of a young performer mashing hip-hop style with indigenous themes.

2. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, "Wild Life"

An elderly couple's buoyant personalities shine through, courtesy of Neyman's way with quotes and anecdotes about 30 years in the bush. So deftly written, I'll forgive the phrase "the inevitable march of time."

3. Michael Armstrong, McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News "Homer's Eagle Lady Dies" Lively, descriptive tribute to a unique Homer personality.

Judge: Paula Span was a longtime reporter for the Washington Post and Washington Post Magazine. She currently writes the "New Old Age" blog for the New York Times.

Category 11 – Best Environmental Reporting

Large

1. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, "How to move a village"

Kyle Hopkins' tale about how the remote village of Newtok is losing a battle against the sea is a clear winner because of the enterprise involved in bringing home a gripping and bewildering story. The Anchorage Daily News writer brought up-close-and-personal details – military reservists paying \$1.44 for a can of Coke, for instance – that helped keep readers with the story.

2. Yereth Rosen, Christian Science Monitor, "Alaska oil's new Gulf of Mexico"

Yereth Rosen's piece on the attempt to rid an island of rats was a fascinating topic helped by Rosen's well-executed story top.

3. Kim Marquis, Juneau Empire, "Mine mess"

Kim Marquis' look at a mine that went belly-up, leaving environmental damage behind, highlights an important issue to anyone who pays taxes or cares about the environment.

Honorable mention: Kate Golden, Juneau Empire, "What not to flush"

Kate Golden's story on the inner workings of sewers and how they clog was a wonderful look at a little-known but costly problem. The writer took some chances, enlightened her readers and left us better informed about how we might be better environmental stewards.

Small

1. Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget, "Arctic and ocean policies are needed"

This story is one among several submitted by Haecker that demonstrates a commendable focus on the environment and how public policy affects it. That's crucial. This particular piece is notable because even though it is basically a meeting story, the writer offered revelatory context and depth.

No second or third place awarded.

Judge: Robert McClure is the chief environmental correspondent for Investigate West and a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He is a board member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Category 12 – Best Reporting on Crime or Courts

Large

1. James Halpin, Anchorage Daily News, "DUI victim's family learned of death on his birthday"

The first two paragraphs make anyone with a pulse want to keep reading. Halpin does a phenomenal job of telling this story in a compelling way and doesn't let details get in the way. He puts all the necessary details in the story, but doesn't make them distracting. This news-feature answered all the questions I had about the crash and those involved. The second place entry by Brendan Joel Kelley also was an outstanding piece that could have taken first in this category. Halpin's had an edge because his delivered on a shorter

time frame, presenting both sides of the story and telling with style. He's clearly a very talented writer and reporter.

2. Brendan Joel Kelley, Anchorage Press, "Did Alaska convict an innocent man of murder?"

Great detail in this story. The story reads like a TV episode, and is very engaging. It's obvious Kelley did a great deal of research, and his writing makes it easy for the reader to be at the scenes. I could imagine seeing the gory murder scene, with the 62 knife wounds, and the scene where the 7-year-old identified the man later convicted and the nurse clapped. I especially like how Kelley weaved in details about the project and the people behind it. He did that at the right times, keeping the details from being awkward

3. James Halpin, Anchorage Daily News, "Death in the snow is final episode in life gone wrong."

It seems that the death of Rick Van Cleve easily could have been a short news brief, but Halpin makes the story really memorable, even though it's grim. It reads like something that might make for an episode of CBS' "Cold Case" had it been a homicide. I liked how Halpin found the retired judge who presided over the 1979 murder case and the brother of the victim. Pairing that with the Daily News archive photos made the story really stand out. And the quote high in the story – the one from the victim's brother about how he still clearly visualized the murder scene - made it impossible not to continue reading.

Honorable Mention: James Halpin, Anchorage Daily News, "Suspect stormed kids' party"

Very impressive reporting.

Small

1. Sean Pearson, Homer Tribune, "Practical joke gone wrong"

Pearson's writing was the best in the category. The story relied on one trooper – that was its only big downfall – but the way it's presented makes up for it. While this easily could have been a boring news brief, Pearson writes as though he's talking in person to the reader and that makes his story memorable.

2. Tyler Rhodes, Nome Nugget, "Broken boat, booze put trio in hot water"

Rhodes does a good job putting together this interesting story. The last two paragraphs, which some people would have left out, are the best part of the story. By putting them there, Rhodes makes the story stick with readers, lets the officer make the joke and shows he knows not to place it too early.

3. Alex DeMarban, Tundra Drums, "Tribal officer vanishes after violent arrest"

DeMarban did a great job of trying to track down people to interview. I put this story third instead of second because it seems to tell a lot of what isn't known. However, that's probably good for readers in a small town, and I'm sure readers of the Tundra Drums are thankful for his dedicated work

Honorable Mention: Michael Armstrong, Homer News, "Romero 'had people who loved him.'"

Armstrong does a good job reporting a story and a life that could have easily been overlooked.

Judge: Casey McNerthney is a reporter at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the main contributor to Seattle 911, a police blog.

Category 13 – Best Reporting on Health or Science

Large

1. Kim Marquis, Juneau Empire “Detox Dilemma”

Engaging story that did a fine job of illustrating the difficulties of sophisticated medical treatment reaching an isolated area. Sidebar was a clever idea. Writer did a fine job of communicating what being hooked on this terrible drug feels like. These are the kinds of stories that work only if you can put the reader in the shoes of a stranger. A close friend of mine struggled with this drug, and the writer captured the pain I had been hearing on the telephone. I had never heard of the drug’s name (or its horrible financial cost) before my friend started using. Kim’s readers are fortunate that she put them in the know.

2. Dan Joling, Associated Press, “Alaska volcano warning system”

A delicious little piece that good-naturedly flogs a show-boating national politician for dismissing an apparently vital emergency response technique. Editors: Make all your reporters read the first five grafis; they are a very good model for getting to the point AND keeping it interesting.

3. Chris Eshleman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “Air Pollution is an issue that isn’t blowing away”

Interesting concept, well reported but spots of unfortunate cute writing cropped up.

Small

1. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Stuck in the Middle”

A lesson in putting the reader in a stranger’s shoes so that abstract problems are communicated more effectively and without clichés. The moments when the protagonist recalls being counseled to file for legal separation (a paperwork trick to qualify for benefits) and the moments when Mom has to shy away from her daughter for fear of infection are heart-breaking. The tone was appropriately measured, never bathetic.

Because of class differences, many readers with insurance would never come across someone like the protagonist. Kudos for the introduction to the writer and her editors.

2. Patricia Coll Freeman, Catholic Anchor “Soldotna IVF doctor admits moral dilemma”

A device that print journalism can use the way broadcast competitors do. How about one stylish, informative long-form conversational Q? This piece made it possible for a reader to bring herself up to speed with a 45-minute investment.

3. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Arsenic on tap”

Excellent detail consumer reporting and writing without going over the comfort zone of the reader.

Judge: Bob Baker is a freelance writer, editor and writing coach and a newspaperman for 35 years, the last 26 at the Los Angeles Times. He writes the blog “Newsthinking.com” which offers writing tools for journalists.

Category 14 – Suzan Nightingale Award for Best Columnist

Large

1. Krestia DeGeorge, Anchorage Press, “Rough Draft”

Advocacy is a tricky dance of seduction, and DeGeorge does it with assurance and grace. The voice in the wilderness that pierces hot air can easily sound shrill; instead, Rough Draft builds sensible, well-researched and -reasoned arguments.

2. Will Morrow, Peninsula Clarion, “Voices of the Clarion”

Morrow’s columns must strike a chord with every reader who has a family. He makes his relatives and experiences immediate and human with fondness and respect that eschews easy mockery.

3. Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire

A good exercise buddy is hard to find, and Stolpe is knowledgeable, encouraging and human. He's not a drill sergeant or cheerleader; his love for the outdoors and vigorous interaction with it is offered as a gift, with pervasive warmth.

Small

1. John Aronno, The Northern Light

Lucid, wry, honest and measured political writing is, sadly, increasingly rare, but Aronno educates and provides context with intelligence and passion but without overheated partisan mantras and doomsday threats.

2. McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News

Readers must feel they have a friend in Jackinsky, whose personal storytelling is thoughtful, funny and sincere without ever being maudlin or self-indulgent. The insights she shares avoid preachiness and oversimplification.

3. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter

Neyman's musings about her adventures and mistakes are disarming in their candor and engaging thanks to vivid and unselfconscious writing. She's unafraid to reveal foolishness and foibles, but she does it with a good-natured energy and a refreshing lack of cynicism.

Judge: Samantha Bennett is a freelance columnist based in Pittsburgh and president of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

Category 15 – Best Sports Columnist

1. Andrew Cremata - "Fish This"

I chose to go with a columnist that covers a single beat rather than Bartz, who showed a wide range. But I agonized with the choice and in fact, consulted with four journalist friends (while not showing them any of the material) about the process. I liked the way Cremata weaved the story. I'm not a fisherman but he got me to read every word. Very comprehensive storyteller. I liked his historical perspective.

2. Jeremiah Bartz, Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman

Bartz's material was a very close second.

Edge's first two stories weren't really columns, more like news commentary, they also didn't grab me. I'm a huge college hockey fan (I teach at BU) but these didn't shake me, didn't say "read me."

Judge: Frank Shorr is a senior lecturer at Boston University's college of Communication and a veteran of more than 30 years in sports television. Shorr is an eight-time Emmy award winner.

Category 16 – Best Sports News

Large

1. Danny Martin, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "The DelCastrillo Ordeal"

Very thorough story

No second or third place chosen.

Small

1. Tyler Rhodes, Nome Nugget, "Mackey a rock as winds shake up race finish"

Nicely done

Judge: Frank Shorr is a senior lecturer at Boston University's college of Communication and a veteran of more than 30 years in sports television. Shorr is an eight-time Emmy award winner.

Category 17 – Best Sports Game/Event Story

Large

1. Jeremiah Bartz, Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, "Historic Signing"

Terrific piece – it held my interest throughout. I like the story about an individual over the group piece. Bartz's other story was a close second. I found Pemberton's to be a lot of independent sentences but no thread.

Small

1. Tom Hewitt - "Strong Defense Can't save Ferris"

It was the only entry that had any drama to it. Brady's had no punch to it. Smith's repeatedly gave the score backwards! Yikes...too many clichés.

Judge: Frank Shorr is a senior lecturer at Boston University's college of Communication and a veteran of more than 30 years in sports television. Shorr is an eight-time Emmy award winner.

Category 18 – Best Sports Feature

Large

1. Craig Giammona, The Daily Sitka Sentinel, "Sitkans choose sides in series"

Nicely done. It shows some imagination.

2. Shaun T. Cox, Juneau Empire, "Tompkins' Last Turn"

Well constructed.

3. Shaun T. Cox, Juneau Empire, "Juneau's Famous First Son"

Small

1. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, "Matti leaves a mark"

Nice story, well written, well constructed

2. Craig Giammona, The Daily Sitka Sentinel, "Only in Fairbanks: Baseball at midnight"

Clever, interesting but he's all over the place in time sequence

No third place chosen

Judge: Frank Shorr is a senior lecturer at Boston University's college of Communication and a veteran of more than 30 years in sports television. Shorr is an eight-time Emmy award winner.

Category 19 – Best Arts Coverage (Mark Baechtel)

1. Michael Armstrong, Homer News, "Spill artists, writers revisit tragedy"

2. Scott Christiansen, Anchorage Press, "The most abstract"

3. Mike Dunham, Anchorage Daily News, "Back alley artist"

Category 20 – Best Sustained Coverage

Large

1. Yereth Rosen, Reuters, "Climate Change in Alaska"

Rosen's individual pieces do an excellent job of telling the broader story of climate change. Taken as a whole, Rosen's work shows a dedication to an important story, with deep understanding of the beat. Rosen also does an excellent job of writing science stories that are compelling for a lay reader to consume.

2. Eric Morrison, Juneau Empire, "The Hill"

Morrison treats the subjects of his stories with great care. He makes it easy to put yourself in the shoes of one of the men uprooted. It also appears his work helped bring

attention to the issue, allowing the city to step in. That's an important role journalists need to play.

3. Dante Petri, Peninsula Clarion, "Mt. Redoubt Eruption"

Petri does a great job of telling the story of an eruption, while weaving in interesting explainer elements that answer broader scientific questions. It's a great blend of community and science reporting.

Small

1. Tyler Rhodes, Nome Nugget, "Nome Emergency Shelter Team"

Rhodes' coverage of the struggles of a Nome homeless shelter is both well reported and written. The work demonstrates a care and commitment to an important local story. I appreciate his ability to switch up ledes, writing straight when needed and using anecdotes and detail throughout his stories to give them terrific texture. I remember reading about "the 15th night in a row" or a line that juxtaposed the warmth of the June sun against church workers trying to solve a shelter problem the next time it drops below zero. The care that went into the writing shows.

2. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, "Kenai Hydro"

Neyman's work serves as an excellent explanatory piece of journalism, the kind a community needs when big decisions are being made. Neyman also got her fair share of scoops covering the long-term story.

3. McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News, "Information Gap"

Jackinsky makes a seemingly uninteresting bureaucratic problem come alive in his stories. He's picked up on a problem with serious consequences for the community.

Judge: Laura McGann is the Washington reporter for TPMmuckraker.com. Her stories have appeared on the Dow Jones Newswires, Associated Press and in the Wall Street Journal, among other papers.

Category 21 – Best Series

Large

1. Rebecca George, Chris Freiberg, Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "A Chronic Problem" (Sept. 2-9, 2009)

2. Kate Golden, Juneau Empire, "Hoonah chief"

(March 1, 2009; March 8, 2009) (Note: the entry lists Eric Morrison, however, he wrote a story in September 2009, months after the two-day series. In my view, that third story was more of a follow-up rather than part of the series.)

Small

1. Naomi Klouda, The Homer Tribune, Cook Inlet series

July 22, 2009-Aug. 19, 2009 (Note, Adrian Lysenko shared a byline on July 29, 2009)

2. Naomi Klouda, The Homer Tribune, "Alaska's 50 years of statehood"

January-July 2009

3. Jenny Neyman, The Redoubt Reporter, "Soldotna Cemetery – Laid to rest"

June 17, June 29, July 1, July 15, 2009

Judge: Barbara Serrano is managing editor at Yakima Herald-Republic.

Category 22 – Best Headline Writing

1. Gary Black, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Utterly falsified objects."

This is a big, boldface headline in a very tight space that sucks the reader into the story whether he wants to go or not. I remember the talented Mr. Black from last year. If the

Arizona Daily Star didn't have a hiring freeze in place, I'd try to grab him from the News-Miner.

2. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, "Kenai River be dammed."

A nice one-letter play on words that works in both directions.

3. Cheryl Chapman, Anchorage Daily News, "Alaska factoid herder retires."

Beautifully crafted and to the point, filling out all four lines in a tough head order. The deck, "Bruce Merrell was the brain on call for wild or wonderful tales of the state," fleshes out the main head, succinctly telling the reader why the story is worth reading. A fine effort.

Honorable mention: I'd like to award my just-inaugurated 2010 Multiple-Tasking Prize to Tyler Rhodes of the Nome Nugget. He wrote a slew of very nice headlines, but he's also a reporter and an accomplished photographer. I know a lot of newspeople on small papers fill multiple roles, but Mr. Rhodes seems particularly adept at it. To wit: "A river runs too close to it" and "Buy now, pay way later" are both excellent heads that came within a whisker of winning. But I'm thinking also of his lovely photo of three people on skis out on the snow near the Nome River. That really gave this desert boy a look at what life is like in the frozen North. On the same front page (Jan. 15, 2009) he caught four martial-arts practitioners in mid-leap. And his byline is all over the place. He looks like a one-man band. I know I'm not judging photography or news writing, but I don't want to let this go by.

Judge: Ron Solomon of the Arizona Daily Star, is a frequent award winner for news headline writing.

Category 23 – Best Editorial Cartoon

1. Peter Dunlop-Shohl, Frozen Grin

Peter Dunlop Shohl's poignant, funny and well drawn cartoons made his work the clear winner. I was particularly impressed that the cartoon with the two polar bears, in one drawing commented on both global warming in a way particularly germane to Alaska, as well as the floating trash island. He takes full advantage of using color to enhance his cartoons' strong ideas.

2. Michael O'Meara, Homer News

At a time when many larger newspapers are shedding their staff cartoonist, Homer News is wisely defying that trend by featuring Michael O'Meara's work on its editorial page. Of the three cartoons he submitted, I felt the two which were most locally oriented, one on Premera and the other on taxes, were particularly effective.

Judge: Jimmy Margulies is a cartoonist for the New Jersey record, which he joined in 1990 after working for the Houston Post for six years. He was recently featured on a CNN "American Morning" segment highlighting President Obama in political cartoons.

Category 24 – Best Section

Large

1. Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Latitude 65

The News-Miner presented the best complete package. I liked the eye-catching cover designs as well as the the coverage of the local arts and entertainment scene. The News-Miner covered everything from larger entertainment events to community theater. The inclusion of an advice column and horoscope added a nice mix to the section. I especially liked that many of the stories were original. The If You Go information with the stories

added a nice, concise summary.

2. Anchorage Daily News for Play

This section had by far the best design and great energy, lots of photos, etc. I especially liked the design of the movie listings and all the information contained there. What kept it out of first place was the lack of local stories. While the centerpieces were primarily local, most of the other stories were wire movie reviews. I'd like to see more local stories in a section that is already strong in design.

3. Juneau Empire for Outdoors

This section contained plenty of photos of wildlife and many local stories. This section was both informative and well-designed. The addition of local columns added a nice local touch. I especially enjoyed Jill Homer's column.

Small

1. Homer Tribune for Weekender

This is a catchy local section, including a complete calendar. The design is clean and crisp and especially liked the headers on each page that organized the information and made navigating this tab easy.

Since there were only two entries in this category, I did not choose other entries.

Judge: Donna Roberson is features editor at the Nashua Telegraph in New Hampshire.

Category 25 – Best Weekly Newspaper

1. Homer Tribune

Arresting graphics, good mix of stories, balancing hard news with features but always keeping its community in mind. Careful attention to diversity in news and feature coverage: for instance, men's fashion, and in a nod to age diversity, high school news. Opinion and op-ed pages reflect community voices and a variety of issues.

2. Homer News

The five-story front is almost too busy, but with its heavy news focus ultimately delivers actual information to its community (which, after all, is at least one goal of a good newspaper).

Good packages, such as the stories not just about a fire, but about how it affected a community. The local editorial cartoonist adds irony and humor. The LTE (Letters-to-the-Editor) spread represents a fine community forum in its broad spectrum of voices and topics.

3. Anchorage Press

Although this weekly takes a more featurized approach than some of the other entrants, its strong cover graphics and intriguing front-page headlines make a reader want to move inside to the rest of the material. This is a paper to linger over with a cappuccino. Its long, dominant feature reflects good writing and strong reporting in short, what old-school journalists and loyal readers alike regard as a good yarn. The columns cover a good array of subjects, from beer reviews to gay love advice.

Finally, a shout-out to the newest weekly in the bunch. The Redoubt Reporter has edge and energy, not to mention a lovely logo.

Judge: Elizabeth Mehren is a professor of journalism at Boston University and former national correspondent and New England Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times.

Category 26 – Best Illustration

1. Dean Potter, Anchorage Press, "Hidden Punishment" cover

The combination of collage and other graphic elements was fresh and really eye catching, as well as being expertly done. It definitely made me want to open the paper and read the article it accompanied.

2. Lukas Ketner, Anchorage Press, "Dirty Hippies and Trophy Hunters" cover
A very well-drawn illustration of a moose strapped to the top of a VW minibus brought a smile to my face, both for the wit and irony of the image, as well as reminiscing about owning one of those vehicles about 30 years ago.

Judge: Jimmy Margulies is a cartoonist for the New Jersey record, which he joined in 1990 after working for the Houston Post for six years. He was recently featured on a CNN "American Morning" segment highlighting President Obama in political cartoons.

Category 27 – Best Page Layout and Design

Large

1. DeeDee Hammond, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Latitude 65, Nutcracker"
Even though this is a poster page, it shows a good amount of balance and juxtaposition in the overall presentation.

2. Abby Lowell, Juneau Empire, "Pop Quiz"
A nice overall layout. The main package is easy to follow vertically. The hierarchy is readily understandable as well.

3. Jill Homer, Juneau Empire, "Pipeline to the Future"
The headline seems cut off from the rest of the page, but it's an intriguing image and way to present an important national issue. The secondary stories are well placed and let the centerpiece stand out.

Small

1. Naomi Ozuru, The Northern Light, "Hug-A-Sutra"
This layout gives a fun approach to get readers' attention. The reverse silhouettes were used very well to encapsulate the text. It's well-balanced and engaging.

2. Jody Mastey, Homer News, "Tatts – Body Art Explored"
Engaging and colorful. The use of graphics to highlight the text provides a fun distinction between explainer text and quotations.

3. Naomi Ozuru, The Northern Light, "Fall 2009 Fashion Guide"
A very nice use of the grid which fits well with the fashion theme. Clean and easy to follow. Contemporary handling of typography.

Judge: Adrian Johnson is layout editor for the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Category 28 – Best Graphic

1. Jill Homer, Juneau Empire, "Pipeline to the future"
Although the photo was not ideal for this idea (a straighter stretch of pipeline would be easier for the reader's eye to follow), it was an excellent concept. Good use of color and good connection between headline and story. Overall, it was easier to comprehend than the other entries.

2. Lindsay Johnson, Rickey Teel, The Northern Light, "Energy decrease"
3. Naomi Ozuru, The Northern Light

Judge: Scott Griffin is design editor of the Republican-American in Waterbury, Conn. He also operates "Griff's Chicken Shack" there.

Category 29 – Best Magazine Cover

1. First Alaskans Magazine

Beautiful photography. The cover photo evokes emotion. The designer respected the photo's integrity with the layout choice. Type usage is clean and easy to navigate. It has great "magazine rack appeal" based on design and content placement.

No second or third-place chosen.

A note from the judge: It's hard to judge "best of" in any category with only one entry and no comparisons. After thinking about it I felt giving a second-place in such a situation may be seen as an insult. My judgment notes are partially based upon what I have seen in the past. Rather than kicking both (entries) out due to a lack of entries, I'm calling them winner-by-default, as I feel the overall quality level is of a high enough standard.

Judge: Greg Epkes is a former advertising and newspaper designer now running his own design firm, Epkes Creative, in Portland, Oregon. He formerly worked for the San Diego Tribune and the Anchorage Daily News.

Category 30 – Best Magazine Overall Design

1. First Alaskans Magazine

Beautiful photography. Again, a strong cover that evokes emotion. The designer respected the photo's integrity with its layout choices throughout the magazine. The Table of Contents page is clear and well-designed. I feel the overall quality level is of a high enough standard to invite repeated readers.

No second or third-place chosen.

A note from the judge: It's hard to judge "best of" in any category with only one entry and no comparisons. After thinking about it I felt giving a second-place in such a situation may be seen as an insult. My judgment notes are partially based upon what I have seen in the past. Rather than kicking both (entries) out due to a lack of entries, I'm calling them winner-by-default, as I feel the overall quality level is of a high enough standard.

Judge: Greg Epkes is a former advertising and newspaper designer now running his own design firm, Epkes Creative, in Portland, Oregon. He formerly worked for the San Diego Tribune and the Anchorage Daily News.

31. Best News Photo

Large

1. Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Log home burns"

Drama of the fire is heightened by a great moment with the fireman and almost perfect composition.

2. Sam Harrel, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Fire Aftermath"

The cluttered nature of this photo really works with good layering of the subjects in the photo. You can keep studying this photo for a while.

3. M. Scott Moon, Peninsula Clarion, "Bear rescue"

Not your everyday spot news photo, good job by photographer capturing an unusual moment.

Small

1. Jessica Hoffman, UAF Journalism/Anchorage Daily News, "Redeployment"

Perfectly composed photo, combines use of dramatic light & shadow to form a dramatic news photo.

2. James Poulson, Daily Sitka Sentinel, "Candlelight vigil"
Beautiful light and strong composition, well executed by the photographer.
3. Sean Pearson, Homer Tribune, "Take out"
Great moment & dramatic cropping add to the drama of this photo.
Judges: Gary Barber, Tom Fox, Michael Hamtil, Ahna Hubnik & Chris Wilkins of Dallas Morning News

Category 32 – Best picture story

Large

1. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Soldiers return"
A well-told story with a really terrific lede image filled with the emotional release and tensions of the soldiers returning home. An excellent variety of angles of view and good seeing on this photographer's part to capture this we've-seen-it-before event. Especially like the cleverness of that low angle contrast of soldier boots and women's high heels.
Very well done.
2. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Village Funeral"
Five pictures tell this story in a simple, straight-forward and chronologically appropriate fashion. Tightly edited and well photographed, this is a strong example of story telling with as few pictures as necessary. Sense of place, overall scene-setting, emotion and surprise fill out this nicely done story.
3. Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Chronic Inebriates"
A really sad story also told with dignity and variety of imagery in a way that touched the judges. Strong caption information really helped as well.
Honorable mention, Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Yukon Quest"
Again, another five-picture story that is tight and well-edited. Really loved this photographer's ability to show us different scenes from this well-honed Alaskan event.
Lede dog photo, at left, really hooked us and showed clever seeing on shooter's part.

Small

1. McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News, "Redoubt Volcano"
Although the strength of the composition was not as strong as in the first two places, this photographer also did a nice job of including four very different, and story-telling photos that show us different aspects of this volcano's eruption. That's classic picture telling to do it in that fashion and the judges applauded the leanness of this edited solution.
2. Jesse Hoff, The Sun Star, "Forest Games"
Really just a collection of different photographs from this outdoor event. Not a picture story in the classic sense. Some fine photos (especially this lede photo here) but not enough variety in terms of angle of view, subject-to-camera distance and chronological story-telling. There is no narrative here as in the first place.
No third place chosen.

Judge: Randy Cox is the visuals and production editor at The Oregonian in Portland, Oregon.

Category 33 – Best Sports Photo

Large

1. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News, "Startled baby"

Here's a hockey photo we haven't seen before, nice action away from the puck.

2. Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire, "Raining region champ"

Another unusual sports photo. Good use of the extreme crop to really make this photo work.

3. Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire "Heads or tails"

Small

1. James Poulson, Daily Sitka Sentinel, "Sitka-Edgecumbe Wrestlers"

Clear winner, good tight composition captures action and reaction all at once.

2. Greg Lincoln, The Delta Discovery, "Brodie Smith"

Elevated angle and clean background give you a different look at a team sport.

3. Ryan Long, Homer News, "Swimming up for air"

Shallow depth of field and use of long lens takes you right into the action. Clean & simple, a well executed photo.

Judges: Gary Barber, Tom Fox, Michael Hamtil, Ahna Hubnik & Chris Wilkins of The Dallas Morning News

Category 34 – Best Scenic Photo

Large

1. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Birds"

A classic confrontation between a raven and an eagle. The height of action. A rare moment of conflict between two fleeting creatures not at all happy with each other. Could be a little sharper, but a terrific moment captured!

2. Hall Anderson, Ketchikan Daily News, "Morning Fog"

A wonderful flavor of the northwest and how the juxtaposition of this lovely fog settles in over the terrain as that lonely boat pushes it way, slowly, along this waterway. Good seeing, well composed. A very nice scenic

3. Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire, "Lounging on a ledge"

Great angle, classic composition. A vertical!

Small

1. Greg Lincoln, The Delta Discovery, "Toksook Bay Cross Country"

Not the classic scenic kind of photo, but scenic nonetheless. Much more in the documentary tradition that gives us the cation of cross country runners kind of out in the middle of nowhere contrasted with those sleek new windmills of the future. Just a wonderful photo thoughtfully composed by this photographer. Choosing b&w was also a good choice forcing the viewer to focus more on the action and detail rather than the color.

2. McKibben Jackinsky, Homer News, "Redoubt Eagle"

Yes, this is about as classic a scenic as it gets from our standpoint. Perfect in so many ways and excellently handled if a little expected. Time of day resulted in not as compelling a light as we would have preferred and lack of any caption information hurt this a bit in our eyes as well.

3. James Poulson, Sitka Sentinel, "Moonlight"

Also a wonderful composition delicately contrasting the warm moon tones with the still bright-enough cold colors of the fishing harbor. Excellent seeing and the patience to capture that oh-so-appealing horizontal shaft of orange moonglow.

Judge: Randy Cox is the visuals and production editor at The Oregonian in Portland, Oregon.

Category 35 – Best Portrait

Large

1. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “Alaskan cowboy”
An absolutely wonderful portrait. The best photo of all we judged in these three categories. Everything in this portrait is entrancing from the stances of all three, the incredibly careful composition and the stoic western-ness of it all. Coupled with the very revealing and story-telling caption this was an easy choice as a great first place.

2. John Wagner, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “Flood refugee”
It’s all in the eyes in this simple, straighty-forward portrait. Again, excellent caption information helps tell an additional part of this story. Remembering it’s always words and picture working together to tell the best stories. Tight composition and sensitivity for this subject make this a winner. Wish the moment of hand-to-face was a little less nose-crushing. Perhaps a split second earlier or later?

3. M. Scott Moon, Peninsula Clarion, “Ear Gauger”
A fine example of an illlustrated portrait. Geometrically well-handled and compelling in this created composition. Generally, we much prefer documentary and wonder if a better controlled portrait might have been possible in a more straight-forward fashion. Despite that, this is excellently crafted and worthy of an award.

Small

1. Serine Halverson, The Northern Light, “Foot Washing”
Just a delightful moment captured of the intensity of this woman’s joy during this foot-washing for the homeless day. Strong composition and good use of light rounded out this fine documentary portrait. Nicely done!

2. Libby Sterling, Capital City Weekly, “Kathy and Phil”
Outstanding composition and excellent seeing by this photographer resulted in this fine portrait of human and bird. Just the right amount of depth of field shows the skills brought to this almost static image.

3. Libby Sterling, Capital City Weekly, “Jeff Brown”
The humor in this rather silly portrait won us over despite the too-shallow depth of field. Good composition and Jeff’s expression helped make this more than it might have been. Yes, applause for being different as well in the arena of portraiture, the single biggest category still of most newspaper photography.

Judge: Randy Cox is the visuals and production editor at The Oregonian in Portland, Oregon.

Category 36 – Best Feature Photo

Large

1. Erik Hill, Anchorage Daily News, “Bison”
Wow, what a great photo! This was by far the strongest category of the ones we judged and this image takes it with a great moment and peak action.

2. Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “Bee sting”
Could have been a routine assignment, but the photographer was on his toes when the moment happened.

3. TIE Tom Miller, Ketchikan Daily News, “Ready for summer”
Just a great feature photo and moment. This could be a Hallmark card.
Michael Penn, Juneau Empire, “Survival”
Good combination of moments within this photo make it a winner.

Small

1. Michael Armstrong, Homer News, “Frosty lights”
Photographer made art out of an everyday situation, good seeing.
No 2nd or 3rd place awarded

JUDGES (31, 33, 36)

Judges: Gary Barber, Tom Fox, Michael Hamtil, Ahna Hubnik & Chris Wilkins of The Dallas Morning News

Category 37: Best Breaking News

1. Ed Schoenfeld, CoastAlaska, “Logjam Timber Sale OK’d.”
It’s difficult to award first place in a category where there are no other entries to compare. In this case, though, I think Ed Schoenfeld’s piece would stand out in a field of very strong entries. It brings us the immediate impact of the Tongass supervisor’s decision; then, in a few well-chosen quotes, it sketches out the history of the dispute and positions of the various parties. I’ve been away from Alaska news for a long time, but this piece really stood by itself and brought me up to date.

No second or third place chosen

Judge: Corey Flintoff is a correspondent with National Public Radio’s foreign desk. He’s part of NPR’s “Alaska Mafia,” which includes Peter Kenyon, Elizabeth Arnold and other top NPR reporters who got their start at Alaska Public Radio Network.

Category 38 – Best Single Story Reporting

1. Casey Kelly, KTOO, “Wind Spire”
A really nice piece with excellent use of natural sound throughout. The story seems at first blush like a “TV story,” but the narrative and blending of audio helps us imagine the workers installing a turbine. Organization of the story, returning to the construction site itself at the end, was done well to bring it all full circle. Nice editing, good use of sound overall.

2. Jay Barrett, KMXT, “Snow Day Ridealong”
Good first-person account, with good Q&A and natural sound. You found a good subject for the story and did a nice job of describing things in response to a good set of questions. Reporter did a good job of describing things as needed to help the story flow and pacing.

3. Alaska Teen Media Institute “Refugees”
Very nice, unique use of music/scripting at the beginning to get us interested in the story. Nice scripting and blending of sound bytes and material to keep the story moving. Good treatment of the topic, with good information and interesting natural sound behind the sound bytes. Good introduction of the multiple sources to help us keep them straight. A nice, solid effort overall.

Judge: Jeff Stein is the R.J. McElroy chair and executive-in-residence in communication arts, and assistant professor of communication arts at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Category 39 – Best Comprehensive Reporting

1. Ed Ronco, KCAW, "Homeless in Sitka"
Strong use of natural sound and brilliant writing.
2. Rosemarie Alexander, KTOO, "Parnell residence"
Interesting topic. Good writing for the ear.
3. Ben Stanton, KDLL, "Kenai Dipnet"
Interesting topic.

Judge: Tom Scheck is a reporter with Minnesota Public Radio.

Category 40 – Best Ongoing Public Affairs Program

1. Jay Barrett, KMXT-Kodiak, "The Alaska Fisheries Report"
2. Kristin Spack, KSKA-Anchorage, "Addressing Alaskans: Climate Change and the Impact on Human Health - An Alaska Perspective."

No third-place award was given
Honorable Mention to The Alaska Teen Media Institute for its program: "In Other News." Since these teenagers have entered a professional (adult) news category and not some "student awards competition," we felt compelled to judge them the same as everyone else, not cutting them any slack for being young and inexperienced. Having said that, we admire their effort.

Judge: J Schafer is news director for Kansas Public Radio.

Category 41 – Best Documentary

1. KNBA "Alaska Native Perspectives on Statehood: The KNBA Public Forum"
A thoughtful examination of the impact of the past 50 years on Alaska and its people, segmented nicely by topic and with a wealth of information and experiences provided by a diverse cross-section of citizens. The series took the time to do full justice to the topic.
2. "Alaska Teen Media (Kelsey Hernandez)"
Good topic, with a broad base of material. Some good natural sound elements of the teens doing their work...but the audio levels were inconsistent and it was hard to follow. The hosting elements also sounded too scripted (it was presented as an interview...but it appeared that the participants were reading from prepared remarks which detracted from the credibility of the piece). The studio segments were also at a different audio level from the 'natural' elements, which detracted from the piece also. Editing was done well overall.

No third place awarded.

Judge: Jeff Stein is the R.J. McElroy chair and executive-in-residence in communication arts, and assistant professor of communication arts at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Category 42 – Best Government or Political Reporting

1. Rosemarie Alexander, KTOO, "Palin – not politics as usual"
2. Libby Casey, APRN, "Begich won't step down"

Judge: Paul Glickman is the news director for Southern California Public Radio.

Category 43 – Best Business Reporting

1. Jay Barret, KMXT, "Northern Fiber Line"

No 2nd or 3rd Place

Judge: Chuck Fox is past president of the San Diego Press Club and creative director at Fox Marketing Network in San Diego.

Category 44 – Best Environmental Reporting

1. Mike Mason, KDLG, “Pebble Forum”

You selected really great pieces of tape for this – humor from the proponent speaking at the beginning, passion from the opponent at the end, thoughtfulness (or an attempt at it) from the pebble company representative. The piece captured a snapshot of a community facing an intensely difficult decision and illustrated a lot of the nuances.

While the tape was great, some of the bites went on rather long. I would have liked to hear some of them broken up, even just taking out a sentence or two and inserting your own paraphrase would have picked up the pace a bit. And the structure was a bit strange – having the mining rep reacting to a person who speaks later in the piece was a bit jarring. I wonder if there was a way you could have kept the continuity a bit straighter? Also, if you were at the hearing, I would have been interested to hear more description of the meeting itself and the people there. Could you find anyone in the audience who hadn't already made up their mind, who was really struggling? (If you weren't there, I understand these questions are moot.)

I also wanted a bit more context about the Pebble mine. This is obviously a big issue in Alaska, so possibly your audience doesn't need that, but even just a sentence about how big the mine's expected to be and what it would produce (it wasn't until I did a web search that I realized they wouldn't be mining gravel). Again, most of your audience might not need this, but even just for the guy who moved to Alaska the week before, it would be nice.

2. Nikki Navio & Nithya Thiru, Alaska Teen Media Institute, “Shishmaref”

Your story artfully focused an entire global issue down to a perfectly human level. Instead of making it a simple story of tragedy and loss, which you could have, the piece gives listeners a more nuanced sense of what it means to know you're losing your home. I was fascinated by the people in your piece; you let them tell their stories well and selected very compelling tape. The first and last speaker in the piece has a compelling voice, but he's pretty hard to understand. With situations like that, if possible, you might try starting the bites a sentence or two early so listeners can get used to the voice before he gets to the important content.

One thing I would have liked to hear was the ocean. I don't know if you were able to visit the town itself for the story. If you did, just doing some of your interviews out by the seawall would have added an extra sense of immediacy to what the people were saying. If the people in your story were recording themselves, getting them to walk out to the beach and talk about what isn't there any more (like the seawall) would have been nice.

I'm guessing you're both fairly new to radio, but you could both use some work with your voicing. Of course, this is a difficult thing that comes with time and practice. (I started radio in my teens and it was a decade before I was remotely happy with my delivery.)

Think about telling each other the story as you record your scripts. Overall it was an excellent story!

3. Jay Barrett, KMXT Radio, "Tanner bycatch"

This was a thorough and interesting feature that took a breaking news moment and expanded it to the larger question of how to prevent illegal bycatch. The piece is well paced and your voicing is authoritative yet conversational.

It's hard for me to judge how much context your listeners needed, but I did have some trouble with the fishing jargon – what is directed pot fishing? What are tanner crab are and why are they a prohibited catch? Possibly these aren't things your audience needs explained; it's hard to tell.

One other thought – the photograph was a compelling and vivid way to get into the story, but I wanted some direct reaction to it: a fisheries board member describing their reaction when the fisherman pulled it out, the person who brought it speaking to why they showed it. Something like that would have just drawn me into the drama of the moment a bit more.

Judge: Megan Verlee is a reporter with Colorado Public Radio. She is the winner of six regional Edward R. Murrow awards and her work has appeared on numerous national radio programs and in several magazines.

Category 45 – Best Reporting on Crime or Courts

1. Libby Casey, APRN, "Supreme Court hears Weyhrauch case"

Solid focus to a controversial incident that is surprisingly complex. Libby Casey puts an Alaska political corruption story into a national context, and gives listeners insights into how current court justices deliberate the vagaries of law. Libby Casey is a Nina Totenberg in the making.

No second or third place chosen.

Judge: Cathy Duchamp is a radio journalist and urban planner in training based in Baltimore, MD. She reports on growth, housing, transportation and Baltimore issues for NPR and WAMU in Washington, DC.

Category 46 – Best Education Reporting

1. Tony Gorman, KSTK in Wrangell, "Carter Hammer"

This is good stuff and not only because it raises awareness about an issue not typically covered. It's worth the listener's time, enveloping their minds, magnetically drawing them into the story by putting them in the room with Carter and his family.

No second or third place chosen.

Judge: Norman Ellis-Flint has a 30-year career in radio broadcasting. His voice has been heard on more than 760 radio stations around the nation.

Category 47 – Best Radio Feature

1. Ed Ronco, KCAW, "Hatchery Tour"

The story kept surprising the listener. The writing was crisp and entertaining. It told a good story about the importance of "hands on" learning. And who can forget the bear!

2. Matt Lichtenstein, KFSK, "Youth Firefighters"

This story had great character development. Nice writing and use of sound.

3. Ben Stanton, KDLL, "Johnson Lake"

Nice scenes and high quality production values.

Judge: Susanna Capelouto oversees news operations for Georgia Public Broadcasting's 17-station radio network.

Category 48 – Best Radio profile

1. Maggie Wall, Kodiak Maritime Museum, Kodiak, "The Fishermen"

Nice approach to the guest as a cameo/teaser cold at the beginning. Good interview technique making the guest the key to listener focus. It meets radio's obligation to inform in a compelling and entertaining manner

2. Tina Johnson, Alaska Teen Media Institute, "Dancing on 15th

I like the way Tina lead the subject into areas of discovery. The dancer talked about what it was like to encounter people's perspective[s] without losing himself. I feel I learned something about the person, in addition to his being a dancer. A thought for Tina: Your interview with the dancer was interesting. I believe the power of the 'live, on site sound,' should have been maintained when you did your set ups. May I suggest that, next time you do a live, [on site] interview [where the background is specific – i.e. traffic] you do one of two things; take about 5 –10 minutes of the sound back to the studio with you [the texture might change if you came back later] or, write your script then go back to the site to record it. It will maintain the emotional environment and be a little easier on what the listener's mind's eye is seeing.

3. Jay Barrett, KMXT Radio, "Sawyer Olsen, fiddler"

Jay communicated with Sawyer in a way that profiled an up and coming talent, and, although a key element of the story, did so without making his lack of years the focus. Very professional.

Judge: Norman Ellis-Flint has a 30-year career in radio broadcasting. His voice has been heard on more than 760 radio stations around the nation.

Category 49 – Best Sports Reporting

1. Aaron Selbig ,WHERE, "Basketball Opener"

2. Jay Barrett, KMXT, "Baseball"

3. Annie Feidt, APRN, "Iditarod Rookies"

Judge: Chuck Fox is past president of the San Diego Press Club and creative director at Fox Marketing Network in San Diego.

Category 50 – Best Arts Coverage

1. Annie Feidt, APRN "Aniak raises the curtain"

Annie Feidt takes an unconventional approach to a conventional Alaska story about a small town's holiday school play. Great character development and story structure come together through nice writing to convey a sense of community. Feidt quotes the school choir director saying the principal "creates great theater with kids." Feidt has done the same for radio listeners.

2. Marcia Lynn, KBBI, "New Harmonies"

Marcia Lynn turns a profile of a music exhibit into a sound safari that makes the listener stop what they're doing, to lean in and enjoy. This story is an example of radio's power to convey a sense of discovery.

3. Jay Barrett, KMXT, "Conta Dolce singers"

Jay Barrett does an excellent job of 'showing, not telling,' through this soundtracked story of a high school singing group. Wonderful voices and little anecdotes make this story a gem.

Judge: Cathy Duchamp is a radio journalist and urban planner in training based in Baltimore, MD. She reports on growth, housing, transportation and Baltimore issues for NPR and WAMU in Washington, DC.

Category 51 – Best Reporting on Health or Science

1. Robert Woolsey, KCAW-FM Raven Radio, "Baby it's warm[er] outside"

Robert Woolsey untangles the science behind Sitka's False Spring in a straightforward, conversational manner. This is the type of story that helps listeners understand their experience in a global climate change context, and provides fodder to listeners to debunk common but often inaccurate folk wisdom on weather.

2. Ed Schoenfeld, CoastAlaska News, "Cave Discoveries"

Ed Schoenfeld understands the importance of a great first line and compelling scene to transport listeners into a science story. We're taken to an underground world most people know nothing about to understand the link between logging and groundwater ecosystems, all while we experience the adventure of dropping down into deep dark holes.

3. Ben Stanton, KDLL, "CES Training"

Great writing and scene sound transform a staged media event into an interesting story about emergency care in rural Alaska.

Judge: Cathy Duchamp is a radio journalist and urban planner in training based in Baltimore, MD. She reports on growth, housing, transportation and Baltimore issues for NPR and WAMU in Washington, DC.

Category 52 – Best Daily News Program

In the opinion of the judges, no award should be given in this category. There were only two entries and neither one achieved high enough marks from the judges as to be considered "award-worthy."

Judge: J Schafer is news director for Kansas Public Radio.

Category 53 - Best Breaking News Story

1. Ashton Goodell and Mike Nederbrock, KTUU, "Service High School stabbing"

Great use of natsound throughout package. Watch your use of police language, no one uses the word perpetrator. When you are tracking, get energized, it sounded as if you were reading a text book. Try using sound up higher in the package, we loved how it picked up, wished it had started that way.

2. Jason Lamb and Rich Jordan, KTUU, "Neighborhood gas leak"

Very active live, everything was going on right then, you gave your report urgency, but please start with a shot on the reporter, it is disconcerting to hear a toss then hear some voice start talking while we are looking at a fire truck. Be careful how you intro your

soundbites, you said the exact same words as the woman, which to me says the soundbite is useless. Find a bite that has emotion or energy, especially in breaking news situations. No third place entry chosen.

Judge: Rebecca Malone is the senior news producer with KLAS-TV in Las Vegas, Nev.

Category 54 - Best Single Story Reporting

1. "Sand Lake search"

A perfect piece of local news. Excellent visual storytelling and cinematic camera work. Effective use of interviews of family and officials. Emotionally compelling.

2. "A season to remember"

Striking shots of whale butchery. Unflinching depictions of flensing. I love this piece because it puts the kill in an emotional context. Taking down the whale with the 100-year-old whale gun of a dead loved one is a great narrative hook.

3. Ashton Goodell, KTUU, "Another Sunday sermon"

Nice use of Christian iconography to set the scene. The piece is a deft study in contrasts between two very different pastors and two starkly different visions of Christianity.

Captures the emotional stakes of a controversial issue.

Judge: Lindsay Beyerstein is an award-winning investigative journalist based in Brooklyn, NY. Her photojournalism has appeared in TIME, The Wall Street Journal, Salon and the Austin-American Statesman, and on PBS.

Category 55 – Best Series Reporting

1. Ted Land and Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Stuck in a rut"

This project was exceptionally well-shot and edited. Ted Land used tons of creativity and solid journalism to find out why Alaska's roads develop deep and dangerous ruts. There are two main theories: studded tires and inadequate materials used to build the roads; Land and Jensen's creativity included riding in a big rig truck, "down low" shots and creative use of standups and demonstrations. They go into the laboratory and into a tire shop. It was the kind of topic that affects everybody.

2. KTUU, "Exxon Valdez, beyond the spill"

This exceptionally strong story looked back at the battle to clean up Prince William Sound on the 20th anniversary of the Valdez accident. KTUU's extensive coverage of the story for two decades helped to build this reporting, but it was not just a story built on file tape. The station found some of the first responders to the accident, experts who now are making the oil transportation industry safer and environmentalists and fishermen. There is no doubt this is a vital topic for Alaskans and, in fact, the nation. The piece was beautifully shot and edited. The story was deftly organized and well-told. We especially appreciated how KTUU avoided the hyperbolic language to describe the spill and the aftermath. This story didn't need heated drama or overdone production and the journalists were mature enough to know that.

No third place given.

Judge: Al Tompkins is The Poynter Institute's group leader for broadcasting and online. He writes a daily online journalism story idea column entitled "Al's Morning Meeting," at Poynter.org.

Category 56 – Best Live Shot

1. Ted Land, KTUU, "Dipnetting"

Creative camera work makes this segment. The camera gradually draws back to reveal the true size of the net. The viewer is wondering, "Is it going to get any bigger? Surely, it's not going to get any bigger." The final reveal is striking. Land shows remarkable poise for a reporter who's standing in a freezing river holding a gigantic net.

2. Ted Land, KTUU, "Crime scene"

Great shot of the trail of footprints ringed in glowing green ink. Creates an eerie ambience. Nice work on the standup, walking the viewer through the snowy crime scene, including the bullet holes.

3. Lori Tipton, KTUU, "A run on guns"

A vivid glimpse of a gun subculture in Alaska. Strong visual storytelling.

Judge: Lindsay Beyerstein is an award-winning investigative journalist based in Brooklyn, NY. Her photojournalism has appeared in TIME, The Wall Street Journal, Salon and the Austin-American Statesman, and on PBS.

Category 57 – Best Documentary

No winner selected. Two entries, "neither rises to the level of filmmaking excellence to qualify to be awarded best documentary."

Judge: Steve Engel is president of New York-based Engel Entertainment and executive producer of all its projects.

Category 58 – Best Reporting on Health or Science

1. Lori Tipton, KTUU, "Music to the lungs"

Nice job setting up the reveal/surprise of the kazoo. Excellent choice of health topic - unusual to viewer. Very well written. Good pacing and use of natural sound. Shot and edited nicely with a variety of angles, shots and cuts. The use of a zoom in/exterior to begin the report and a zoom out/exterior to close did a nice job of bookending the story.

2. Ashton Goodell, Joshua Borough, KTUU, "On target"

Excellent use of natural sound and interviews to illustrate the story. Nicely shot and edited. Good use of rule of thirds. Reporter did a good job of writing to the video, especially when the kids kept jumping in front of the camera. Way to use it for the benefit of the story!

3. Ashton Goodell, Zac Gooch, KTUU, "A sensible change"

Well shot. Good editing. Nice nature shots. Watch out for trailing audio on set and cuts levels. We would encourage the reporter to use a more conversational voice on her audio tracks. Standup audio was very good. Try to maintain that same tone in the booth. Tighter writing would pick up pace. Also, avoid cliches such as 'wreak havoc.'

Judge: Karen Larsen is the news anchor for Tulsa, Oklahoma's KJRH. She has won three Emmy awards and several honors from the Society of Professional Journalists and Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

Category 59 – Best Education Reporting

1. Jason Lamb, Zac Gooch, KTUU-TV, "The reality of budget cuts"

Good story telling technique. Nice setup with books, clock and computer in the beginning of the story. Nice beginning, middle and end to this report. Good job placing less

interesting meeting video in the middle. Photographer did a very nice job with editing and use of natural sound.

2. Ashton Goodell, KTUU, "Framing an argument"

Solid use of natural sound in the beginning of the story. Good audio/video links. Subject teacher was animated and dynamic with students - which helped draw viewers in.

Some interviews were too long and slowed the pace of the story. Reporter may want to keep sots tighter to hasten pace and keep viewer interest.

No third place awarded.

Judge: Karen Larsen is the news anchor for Tulsa, Oklahoma's KJRH. She has won three Emmy awards and several honors from the Society of Professional Journalists and Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

Category 60 – Best Environmental Reporting

1. Ted Land, KTUU-TV, "Warning signs"

"Warning Signs" took a complex topic - climate change science - and found a simple human interest angle that helped tell the story without hyperbole or controversy. The location sequences provided a sense of the place and the difficult conditions faced by scientists working there, and the interviews provided color that humanized the science.

2. Ashton Goodell, Shawn Wilson, KTUU-TV, "Look what they're doing now"

"Look What They're Doing Now" was even-handed and not preachy, while raising an issue of real concern to the health and the environment of the area.

3. Ted Land, Rich Jordan, KTUU-TV, "Empty nets"

"Empty Nets" provided an interesting perspective on invasive species, shedding light on what was going on in Cheyney Lake, while providing context about the issue. The live feed from the lake was also a nice touch.

Judge: Scott Edward Anderson is founder of VerdeStrategy and The Green Skeptic. An award-winning poet, Scott was a John Sawhill Conservation Leadership Fellow, a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, and is a frequent commentator on Fox Business Network.

Category 61 – Best Reporting on Crime or Courts

1. Christine Kim, Mike Nederbrock, KTUU, "Showers-Glover trial begins"

Careful, detailed reporting on the trial of an alleged double-murder. The reporter used 911 tapes to good effect to get the story "out of the courtroom."

2. Jason Lamb, Mike Nederbrock, Ted Land, Scott Jensen, Shane Pike, KTUU, "Sports Authority shooting"

Good live presence on the shooting of a man in broad daylight at a local retailer.

3. Ashton Goodell, Joshua Borough, KTUU, "Leveling justice"

An unusual twist to a story about a rape case as the victim goes on the radio to warn the public.

Judge: Anna Werner is a top national investigative reporter for CBS 5 KPIX's investigative unit in San Francisco, Calif. She received Emmy "Reporter of the Year" awards in 2008 and 2009.

Category 62 – Best government or political reporting

1. Jason Lamb, Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Memorable messages"

These guys took what could have been a run-of-the-mill story about campaign commercials and made it into something fun, something special. They went above and beyond the call to make this an informative and entertaining political story.

2. Rebecca Pasha, Phil Walzak, KTUU, "Sign up"

Nothing fancy or too cute—just fair, straightforward political reporting which conveyed the excitement, jitters, and insecurities that are generated during the last minutes of a tightly contested campaign. We don't have a sign-waving tradition here where the judges live, but maybe it's time to start one. Good piece.

3. Ashton Goodell, Kyle Stalder, KTUU "Palin chalk talk"

Very creative approach to what could have been a mundane story about political polling. The intro with the Palin dog was hilarious. The idea of using chalk on the sidewalk was unique.

Judge: George Knapp is the chief reporter for the I-Team on KLAS-TV in Las Vegas.

Category 63 – Best Business Reporting

1. Ted Land, Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Bouncin' Bears"

Excellent choice of story. Very visual, lots of nats/video linkage. Good pace and use of background shots. Loved the action shots - up close and personal. You could "feel" the action with such tight shots. Loved that. Nat pops very good. Supported the storyline. The video matched the script very well.

2. Ashton Goodell, Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Welcome to the neighborhood"

Clever use of kids and natural sound to begin and end piece. Good job writing to video. However, some camera shots held a bit long. Reporter did a nice job writing to sound and video while letting people tell the story.

3. Ashton Goodell, Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Look but don't touch"

Captivating sound with children. Very good photography, however some lack of illustration of problem within the story. Lacking in clarity. Be sure to include problem within the body of the report - not just in the anchor intro.

Judge: Karen Larsen is the news anchor for Tulsa, Oklahoma's KJRH. She has won three Emmy awards and several honors from the Society of Professional Journalists and Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

Category 64 – Best Television Feature

1. Jason Lamb and Dan Carpenter, KTUU, "Turning darkness into light"

There were several really good stories in this category but "Turning darkness into light" stood out. It is very difficult to photograph a story like this – it is in the dark, after all, and in cramped quarters. But the photographer/editor overcame the challenges and did a wonderful job. It was well-written, too. It was a pleasure to watch.

2. Ashton Goodell and Kyle Stalder, KTUU, "A battleship and weegie board"

3. Ted Land and Scott Jensen, KTUU, "Roses for Alaska Deb"

Judge: Deborah Horne has been a reporter at Seattle's KIRO-TV since 1991. She created KIRO InColor, a public arrairs show about the diversity of the Pacific Northwest and recently created KIRO Backstage about women in the Northwest.

Category 65 – Best Arts Coverage

1. Joshua Borough, KTUU, "The art of destruction"

The journalist here gives us a clear sense of the delicate, time-consuming work done by artists creating masks, who spend hours painstakingly creating the masks of real people, only to destroy them in the name of art. Creatively shot, with lots of comments from the artists who give meaning to their work.

2. ???, KTUU, "The Lion King's coming to Anchorage"

No third place was chosen.

Judge: Anna Werner is a top national investigative reporter for CBS 5 KPIX's investigative unit in San Francisco, Calif. She received Emmy "Reporter of the Year" awards in 2008 and 2009.

Category 66 – Best Ongoing Public Affairs Program

No entries

Category 67 – Best Sports Story

1. Kevin Wells, Carolyn Hall, KTUU, "Musher profile: Jim Lanier"

No second or third-place entry awarded.

Judge: Tony White is the sports director for KING-TV in Seattle.

Category 68 – Best Profile

1. Ashton Goodell and Kyle Stalder, KTUU, "Falling in Line"

Captivating and emotional from beginning to end, this piece was beautiful to watch, and heartbreaking to hear. The photographer clearly understands the emotion of a soldier's memorial, and he delivered the setting and texture of the sad event, by showing simple, but powerful images (like the falling leaves)--while we hear the somber music inside the church.

The reporter takes her time (and this piece deserved *more* time) to gather memories of the three fallen MPs, by listening to the stories of three of their comrades. My only regret here is the brevity of the piece. It left me wanting more. More memories. More about the soldiers, and maybe how they were killed in action. Perhaps it was a matter of trimming the script for story count in a newscast. If that's the case, that's a shame. Well done--but it deserved at least another minute to let the piece--and the viewer--breathe.

2. Maria Downey, KTUU, "George Sullivan's legacy"

This profile was extremely thorough, capturing the amazing legacy of a legendary man. My favorite part (I watched it three times) was the last half. When George Sullivan's son described his father's peaceful death, and his father's longing to be reunited with his late wife--Wow. Now that was good stuff. The photographer's rack-focus of the family pictures was the perfect way to color in the emotional story I was hearing.

My one wish is that the emotional stuff would have been presented at the beginning of the piece. All the memories about the mayor carrying Anchorage into the future with huge oil-boom building projects is really good to know ... but that, and the phone interview, would have been easier to absorb in the middle of the piece.

It was very well written, and the part about the mayor's son picking up the torch – well told.

3. Steve MacDonald , KTUU, "Remembering Red"

This piece might've taken first-place, if the ending (the old man exuberantly giving a speech in his Navy uniform) was put at the beginning. Transition from that, to his brave service in the battle at Midway and right there, you've sucked me helplessly in. Then, if you show the veteran in better days showing the same uniform, proudly saying "this uniform is older than most of your viewers!" Then, I've got context about what the uniform meant to Red.

The elements in this piece were really really great--great pictures, great interviews--great writing--but the puzzle pieces seemed out of sequence. To show the man in his end days--then go back and show me the young sailor--the middle-aged ballplayer--the aging politician--then the elder's stroke--and *then a bit of the end speech again*. That would have been the winner, hands down.

Judge: Gary Horcher is a reporter with Seattle-based KIRO 7 Eyewitness News.

Category 69 – Best Editing

No entries.

Category 70 – Best Feature Photography

No entries.

Category 71 – Best Spot News Photography

Only one entry, judge declined to make an award.

Category 72 – Best Sports Photography

No entries.

Category 73 – Best Daily Newscast

1. Annie Davis, KTUU, Channel 2 Newshour

Good, concise writing, with good use of video and sound. Watch your graphics- using the wrong imagery distracts from the story for example the homeless tent with the sexual assaults title. Also, you do not need to write out laws in graphics for people- they trust you, you are the news, legal language is just confusing. Tell them the law in layman's terms.

2. Jordana Anderson, KTUU, Channel 2 Late Edition

Really need to work on shortening your scripts, there is a lot of unnecessary language in there that makes your vo's and vsv's extremely too long. Also, watch your intros to soundbites, avoid explaining the whole story and then using a soundbite that explains it again. Sound should be subjective, emotional, it does not need to be used if it is just the facts of the story - your anchor can handle those on their own. Find those good sots and use them in headlines, get viewers attentions, we noticed a few missed opportunities in that area. Get your male anchor, Mike, energized before the show. In one newscast we were falling asleep listening to him.

No third place chosen.

Judge: Rebecca Malone is the senior news producer with KLAS-TV in Las Vegas, Nev.

Category 74 – Best Online Breaking News

1. Andrew Hinkelman, Jill Burke, KTUU.com, "Justice Department to drop all charges against Ted Stevens"

Great leveraging of online assets like hyperlinks to related stories and documents.

Impressive gallery of images and videos. The writing is multilayered and authoritative.

The online story shows rigorous use of screen shots, photo captions, and other labor-intensive assets. The reporting team's familiarity with all the players in the investigation paid off. The video segment showed polish and a high level of visual interest. Also evident in the online article were an expert grasp of the investigative process and Alaskan political history. Superior access and guidance for readers under deadline!

2. Andrew Hinkelman, Lori Tipton, Jason Lamb, Ted Land, KTUU.com, "Palin announcement an early start to weekend fireworks"

Well organized (and helpfully subbed-labelled) article which is comprehensive and has local flavor, at a time when all eyes were on the Alaskan media for insight into this national story. Video, screen shots, hyperlinks all good guideposts for the interested reader. Public opinions (in the hundreds) showed that your extra effort was merited on the Palin story.

3. Andrew Hinkelman, Jill Burke, Sean Doogan, Casey Grove, KTUU.com, "Redoubt erupts after months of anticipation"

How much do you love a story in which a reporter named Ashton covers a volcano story about a giant ash plume? Great visuals, scientific explanation of the impact of the eruption. The posting of eight minutes of raw ash fall video was very smart, knowing the fascination some readers/viewers have with the subject. Good to have flight status links and other news people can use on a public impact story like this. Some of your top comments say it all "very useful!"

Judge: Demetria Gallegos is the community editor for The Wall Street Journal Online.

Category 75 – Best Multimedia Presentation

No First or Third Place Awards

2. Casey Grove, Cody Thompson, KTUU, "Perspectives on Palin"

Interesting treatment of eight prominent Alaskans, including former staffers, talking via video about Sarah Palin after her resignation. While their quotes would have worked in a story, it was more effective seeing and hearing what they had to say. The Flash treatment worked well, although some of the audio was uneven.

Judge: Anne Saul is a former news systems editor for Gannett Company, Inc.

Category 76 – Online Coverage of a Single Topic

1. Casey Grove and Leyla Santiago, KTUU "Voices of violence"

2. Jill Burke and Rena Delbridge, Alaska Dispatch, "Fuel and rural Alaska"

3. Rena Delbridge, Alaska Dispatch "Alaska energy issues"

Judge: Erin Kotecki Vest run the blog "Queen of Spain" and reports for The Huffington Post. She logged 10 years as a broadcast journalist in Los Angeles, Orlando and Detroit.

Category 77 – Online Video Journalism

No First or Second place awards.

3. Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, "How much alcohol can you order per month in a 'damp' town?"

Good story about how much liquor one can purchase legally each month for shipping to rural Alaska "damp" towns as part of a package about a proposal to allow the sale of liquor in Bethel. While the story about the monthly liquor quota could have been told in print, it was more effective in video as we watched reporter Kyle Hopkins load up his grocery cart at a liquor store. There was lots of B-roll, which matched the audio nicely, as

well as a nice variety of shots and good use of natural sound, all of which are critical for a story with a single voice. Technical issues, such as shaky shots, too much panning and a humming noise in the audio kept the story from getting higher marks.

Judge: Anne Saul is a former news systems editor for Gannett Company, Inc.

Category 78 – Best Blog

1. WHO, WHO, "Log Book"

I liked Log Book because the pictures are stunning and compelling and the writing is pithy. They were also really good at being consistent with posting.

2. WHO, WHO, "Frozen Grin"

I liked Frozen Grin because the original art work is fabulous and I feel like I really understand this person's point of view. He also posts consistently.

3. WHO, WHO, "Bush Pilot"

Although I don't know a darned thing about being a bush pilot, I could see how the content was really targeted and would be something I would be interested in were I a bush pilot -- and relevancy is key for a good blog. Plus they posted consistently.

Judge: Lena West is an award-winning social media consultant, blogger, speaker, journalist and technologist. She is the CEO and chief strategist of xynoMedia Technology, a social media strategy firm.

Category 79 – Audio Slideshow

1. Eric Engman, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "Yukon Quest"

Excellent integration of natural sound (dogs barking, snow crunching, crowd). Exemplary photography; good pacing with close-up, medium and long shots; no filler images.

Opened and closed with title slides that provided context for the viewer, and the opening made it clear that this was not one narrative ("a story") but a series of profiles of contestants. Each contestant "chapter" of the story had a profile photo with name, alerting the viewer that a new "story" was about to begin.

Note to newspapers: unlike most other "slideshow" entries, this Flash-player included a "forward" and "back" arrow that enables the reader to "jump" through the images -- and she could read the captions while listening to the audio and have an even richer experience.

2. M. Scott Moon, Peninsula Clarion, "Learning to ski"

Title slide frames the story; pacing relies on medium shots and long shots. Images capture the fun and essence of learning to ski, especially the sequence where Jenna falls. Smooth audio transitions between the three interviewees, although visual of the adults speaking would have helped frame the story. Inconsistent use of titles to identify who is speaking. Note to newspapers: unlike most other "slideshow" entries, this Flash-player included a "forward" and "back" arrow that enables the reader to "jump" through the images but there were no captions to supplement the audio.

No third place was chosen.

A note from the judge: In general, the photography was good to excellent in the entries. However, most entries lacked context (did not have an introduction) and did not tell a story. They "just ended" or were missing both the beginning and an end. All entries were delivered as video (one was on YouTube) and many had Ken Burns effects which should make them candidates for video entries, not slideshow, in my opinion.

Judge: Kathy Gill teaches at the University of Washington in the Digital Media Program, Department of Communication and undergraduate classes in digital media and digital journalism.

Category 80 – Leslie Ann Murray Award for Best Editorial Writing

1. Craig Medred, Alaska Dispatch

Terrific long-form commentary – good mix of personal perspective, reporting and background knowledge told with a distinctive, controlled voice. Good stuff. Mr. Medred is a craftsman.

2. Maia Nolan, Alaska Dispatch

She has a Molly Ivans-like touch, using humor, history, people and events to engagingly make a strong and well-reasoned point. She has a witty, conversational style that is a pleasure to read.

3. Ron Loesch, Petersburg Pilot

He brings a straightforward take to important local issues. Editorials such as his are sometimes the hardest to write, because they step on local toes, but they are the sine qua non of a good local newspaper. There is no question where Mr. Loesch stands, and he backs up his opinion with solid reporting.

Judge: Tom Condon is an editorial writer and columnist at The Hartford Courant.

Category 81 – Best Alaska Outdoor Story

1. Jill Burke, Alaska Dispatch, “An appetite for revenge”

Good initiative on part of reporter tracking down the truth behind a legend emerging from the Bush. The writing was tight, taut and well organized, and deployed a playful tone and interesting imagery, such as comparing the marauding bear to Edward Scissorhands.

Reporter cleverly steers readers to find photos online that the pilot would not let the paper print. Built to good ending quote, about the bear not knowing how famous he had become.

2. Shane Iverson, KYUK, “81si-wolf”

The nocturnal attack by a rabid wolf on a group of hunters was vividly recounted, with well-organized and crisply edited quotes from the hunters themselves, and deft commentary from the narrator.

3. Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, “Good as gold”

This is a good, exploratory travel narrative that weaves personal experience and frontier history in a seamless tale, enlivened by a wry and bantering tone. (Unfortunately, the page 13 with the end of the story, was missing from the entry.)

Judge: Paul McHugh is the former outdoors writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. He currently writes for New York Times, Washington Post and the L.A. Times, as well as writing short and long fiction and non-fiction books.

Category 82 – Best Alaska History Story

1. Steve MacDonald, KTUU, “Statehood: Alaska at 50” video compilation

2. Mike Dunham, ADN, “Student locates segregated compound”

3. Clark Fair, Redoubt Reporter, “Goat woman”

Judge: Steve Haycox is an American cultural historian specializing in the history of the American West and Alaska. He teaches Alaska history, American West and American environmental history at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Category 83 – Best Humor

1. Joe Viechnicki, WHERE, “Crabbait Consulting”

Good concept, good satire, good use of the medium.

2. Stephen Nowers, Maia Nolan, Andrew Halcro, Alaska Dispatch, “Going Rogue: A reading by Andrew Halcro”

Proves that a simple visual is indeed worth a thousand words. Plus, it has some funny words.

3. Scott Woodham, WHERE, “Alaska State Troopers can be salvaged”

I will be altering the venue when I steal the line, “We always thought you couldn’t swing a dead cat at Arctic Man without hitting someone else swinging a dead cat.”

Judge: Steve Mirsky keeps his humor while writing for Scientific American.

Category 84 – Best Investigative Reporting

It is with considerable ambivalence I write this, because I felt that most of the stories were not what I would associate with investigative reporting. At the risk of sounding pretentious and/or cranky, an investigative story succeeds by changing what we thought we knew about something. It exposes. It proclaims a new truth. It does not simply say, “There are two competing views of this issue.” It does not force the reader to extrapolate. It exposes.

I loved Jill Burke’s story, but I think it should have been entered in a feature-writing category, not investigative. The story, while compelling, seems to be satisfied without stating who the bad guys are. My sympathies are with Jill for trying hard. But I didn’t think she succeeded. And so I must, in good conscience, rank the stories in the following order:

1. Pat Forgey, Juneau Empire, “Palin, former ethics champion, leaves amidst a storm of complaints”

Comprehensive, fair-minded assessment of the contradictions that surround Palin. Good use of public records. They allow the writer to hit you hard from the start. This is not he-said-she said, it is a story about the truth as the writer was able to record it, and while it is a long story, it is free of time-wasting tangents. Had I been editing this, I would have asked: Can we get the beef—the 5th-paragraph contrast between the way Palin’s supporters see the world and the way the reporter does—a little higher up in the story? Just being picky.

2. Jill Burke, Alaska Dispatch, “Point Hope: Wounds and the hunt for the truth”

Excellent, intrepid reporting. If somebody leaves a container of animal feces on my door, I won’t blame them.

3. Denny Martin, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, “The Delcastillo ordeal”

A little nightmare that should be copied and handed to every college coach by every college athletic director.

Category 85 – Best Media Web Site

1. Anchorage Daily News <http://www.adn.com> .

This is a very rich website with a huge variety of offerings for viewers interested in everything from mushing to fashion. The Anchorage Daily News knows its franchise and resists the temptation to run national stories on its home page (as too many local newspapers are prone to do). Nearly every item (story, blog, photos, videos, etc.) on the site was about Alaska. Good job! Reader blogs from prominent/knowledgeable Alaskans provide a nice variety of different voices (although some are rather old, which always is a problem with reader contributions). The number of reader comments on most of the stories also is impressive; ADN viewers having something to say, and feel comfortable about expressing their opinions in a civilized manner. The section offering are deep and truly reflect the locale (bears and mushing under Outdoors; oil and commercial fishing under Money, etc.). While the videos were uneven, the sound slides overall were strong – nice variety of well-composed photos, in particular. (Suggest using a wind baffle on the audio recorder for outside recording. Some of the pieces also could have been a little shorter – as with video shoot for a maximum of 90 seconds to hold viewer interest.)

2. Alaska Dispatch (<http://www.alaskadispatch.com>)

This new online newsmagazine has an edgy and entertaining feel. It includes a number of offbeat stories such as video story about Iditarod canines' calorie consumption. Bush Pilot blogger Matthew Keller's video of his solo ski trip in his Super Cub was great fun. While the video was shaky, the audio was very good. It was like being there. The 49th Estate videos, (also shaky) provide a real sense of life in Alaska told through the voices of some really interesting characters. The Point Hope project was gutsy, raising a number of issues related to caribou hunting, although the project page should have been updated with the results of the trials. The "Fixing Anchorage" blog's interactive map provides information/comments on everything from potholes to moose neighborhood intrusions. While not as sophisticated as some websites, AlaskDispatch.com does a great job of capturing the very different lifestyle of our 49th state.

3. Extreme Alaska (<http://www.uaf.edu/extreme>)

The site does a good job of living up to its name and focus. The students do a nice job of using online tools (Flash, video, audio, etc.) to tell the stories effectively. Photography and video were particularly strong -- professionals could learn from some of the students' Web technology work.. One nit: Many of the projects are timeless, but a few are pegged to news stories, some of which ("Iditarod" 2003; "Paid Just to Live Here" 2004, "The Hartman Murder Files" 2004) should be retired or updated. Frequently Asked Alaska blog has only one post – from April 2008.

The judge: Anne Saul spent more than 40 years as a journalist, primarily with Gannett newspapers, including USA TODAY where she was a founding editor. Her work included working with Gannett editors on their Web site content and coordinating a program that trained more than 700 reporters, photographers and editors to shoot and edit video stories for the Web.

Category 86 – Public Service Award

Tied presentation to the Skagway News and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks Journalism Department

The winners of the Public Service Award are the Skagway News for its crusading and balanced reports on the high cost of medevac flights and the University of Alaska at

Fairbanks Journalism Department for its courageous and creative multi-media reporting from Iraq while embedded with Alaska's Stryker Brigade. Both of these entries represent the best in public service journalism.

The Skagway News is a small newspaper that produced big-time journalism. Starting with the stories of two local residents who were overcharged for medevac flights, the newspaper shined a spotlight on the high cost of medevac insurance. The newspaper showed how local residents were being double-billed for medevac flights and that the cost of such flights had quadrupled in a year. The paper's reporters interviewed health care providers, medical experts, medevac company executives, rescue workers and insurance carriers to give its readers a clear picture of a growing problem of huge importance to local residents. And the paper went beyond just pointing out the problems: its stories discussed possible solutions and helped frame a public policy debate about the best and most-affordable way to ensure that all residents and visitors to Skagway would have access to medevac insurance. Its stories came as the nation was engaged in an ongoing debate about health care and health insurance. This was public service journalism at its best, by a small and determined newspaper that takes its civic responsibilities seriously. Congratulations to Editor Jeff Brady and reporter Molly Dischner and the entire staff of the Skagway News.

The University of Alaska at Fairbanks Journalism Department performed an extraordinary public service by sending three journalism students and their professor to Iraq, where they were embedded for a month with Alaska's Stryker Brigade. The four filed multi-media reports that were made available for free to news outlets throughout the state as a public service. Their excellent work appeared in the state's largest newspapers and newspaper web sites, was broadcast on commercial television and aired statewide on Alaska Public Radio Network. The UAF project was the first-ever college-sponsored embed. It filled a huge void on an issue of great statewide importance at a time when the state's largest newspapers and broadcast stations had stopped sending reporters to Iraq. Congratulations to UAF professor Brian O'Donoghue and UAF journalism students Jennifer Canfield, Tom Hewitt and Jessica Hoffman for their creativity, determination, courage and excellence work in transforming an audacious idea into a huge public service success.

Judge: Gary Cohn is a former Atwood Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and numerous other national journalism awards.