

Alaska Press Club Awards 2013 – Judge's comments

Best Single Story Reporting - Radio

Judge: Laura Lorson

Overall

Comments: Interesting group of entries. I felt like the more low-key stories really gave me a lot; the ones with the high-profile issues really just seemed to fall flat...possibly by trying to do too much. The winners in this category all integrated sound into the storytelling in a seamless way. Good writing all around, as well.

Winner: Annie Feidt / Alaska Public Radio Network.

Entry: Providence Hospital Tests New Breed of Medical Professional: Health Coaches

Judge's comment: Good use of nat sound; well-organized. A good way to tell what could have been a very "meh" story. I would have liked to hear more about why the hospital decided to go this route with hiring health coaches, and what it means for their bottom line...but all in all, a nice, well-written, professional piece that was engaging.

Second: Mark Arehart / KYUK

Entry: Akiak Declares Erosion Disaster

Judge's comment: Solid piece of radio reporting. I felt that I could see the scene through use of the sound. Not overwritten: all around good work with evident care in sound and script selection. Very nice delivery with good pacing and meter. Bread-and-butter radio journalism -- we could use more of this sort of thing.

Third: Mark Arehart / KYUK

Entry: Middle Kusko residents fear subsistence culture dwindling

Judge's comment: Sound made this piece work for me. The writing was very good, too: I liked the open very much. It really set up the story for me at an oblique angle, and I was drawn into the story more than I thought I would be. Would have gotten a higher score if the writing at the end had been a bit more cohesive. All in all, though, a good piece and I'm glad I got to hear it.

Alaska Press Club Awards 2013 – Judge's comments

Best Scenic Photo - Print-Small

Judge: Randy Cox

Overall
Comments:

Winner: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery.
Entry: Morning Blanket

Judge's comment: An outstanding pictorial captured. It immediately conjures memories of "Moonrise over Hernandez" by Ansel Adams. The color here, unlike with Adams, is so central to the beauty of this view and, like the mark of many an award-winning image, my desire to spend more time spanning across this image for the surprise and detail within mark this as the stand-out first place. Exceptionally well done!

Second: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery
Entry: Green Ghosts in the Night

Judge's comment: Eerie, almost creepy, but a gorgeous view nonetheless. Wisely vertical and carefully and appropriately exposed, this green-hued tribute to this very strange northern phenomenon also demands extra time spend wondering through the photograph. Sure would enjoy seeing strong front page display for this compelling image. Hurrah for this seeing!

Third: Ron Loesch / Petersburg Pilot
Entry: Shoreline pod

Judge's comment: What a wonderful piece of timing, dare I say happenstance, captured. At least five in this pod who've chosen to reveal their majesty to those watching at this moment in time. Wonderful seeing, excellent timing and thoughtful cropping make this an easy winner among these top three views. B&W, in this instance enhances this view without the color that might have been so disruptive.

Best Scenic Photo - Print-Large

Judge: Randy Cox

Overall

Comments: A very strong set of photos to select from and certainly more than three award winners. Some in this grouping hang more on sheer composition that I would rank and color can sometimes be a powerfully draw even if composition is a little lacking. Moment and context in pictorial views is still as important, for me, as it is in feature photography and news. There are exceptional examples of that here along with wanna be's. That said, not a poor photographs in this collection.

Winner: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Norton sound at -40

Judge's comment: Like tiny ants against the vastness of mother Nature's endless panorama. Such symmetry, such appealingly colorless composition, such care with framing and subject-to-camera distance. An outstanding first place for me. And, yeah, I'd hang this on my wall in a minute.

Second: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Electric Aurora

Judge's comment: It's like the fires of hell announcing themselves to an unremorseful planet. It seems so fiery and volcanic-like and then we realize, captioned as we weren't initially, this it's the borealis instead: rather a coldly and strangely visual phenomena of Alaska. It's the contrast of those so-warm oranges against our memory set of much colder colors that makes this so appealing. That and how much this appears to be something we'd see in much warmer, volcanic climes. And exceptional view and almost first place for me.

Third: Michael Penn / Juneau Empire

Entry: Fighting over fish

Judge's comment: Take that you cad, you intruder, you thief. This is my fish and you will feel my wrath if I have to warn you again. The anthropomorphic tendency to ascribe human-like emotions when seeing this obviously angered big bird draws me in. I want to know what happened, next and later on as well. Who won this encounter? The photographer graced us with this moment of raw nature and competition among the wild. I so appreciate having had the opportunity to witness this, and consider it over time as still photographs will always allow us. Moment captured, nature revealed, anger witnessed. Well done!

Best Sports Reporting - Radio

Judge: Gayle Falkenthal

Overall

Comments: What made the difference for the first place winners Cochran and Selbig of KDLL was the outstanding use of natural sound from the game. From the first seconds of the report, the listener is there. This is what great radio is all about. Compliments to 2nd place winner Mike Mason of KDLG, who clearly put in a lot of work on his report.

Winner: Shaylon Cochran, Aaron Selbig / KDLL Kenai .
Entry: SoHi Rocks Homer, Takes State Title 62-20

Judge's comment:

Second: Angela Denning-Barnes / KYUK
Entry: Rohn Buser wins Kuskokwim 300

Judge's comment:

Third: Mike Mason / KDLG
Entry: Results of the Western Alaska Sled Dog Championship

Judge's comment:

Best Multimedia Presentation - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Bob Collins

Overall

Comments: Unfortunately, all of my comments disappeared as I made them in the spaces below the winners. But I've attached comments to each of the entries in the "private comments" section. I very much enjoyed judging these and seeing the effort these fine journalists brought to each story. Each had a challenge that had to be overcome; each required extra effort and I'm very much appreciative of it. There wasn't a "stiff" in the bunch of entries. Not one. If any entrant wants some more information about why I judged the way I did, they are more than welcome to contact me at bcollins@mpr.org.

Winner: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: How to be a nude model

Judge's comment:

Second: Jeffrey Rivet / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Denali Timeline

Judge's comment:

Third: Rashah McChesney / Peninsula Clarion

Entry: Tuning In

Judge's comment:

Best Profile - Print-Small

Judge: Paula Span

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Riza Brown / F Magazine.

Entry: Daphne For Mayor

Judge's comment: Lively portrait of the engineer as cross-dressing equal rights activist.

Second: Heather Lende / Chilkat Valley News

Entry: White, launched Hotel Halsingland, dies at 98

Judge's comment: Obit celebrates a Port Chilkoot settler who was a hearty, hard-working hotelier.

Third: Teeka Ballas / F Magazine

Entry: Running in Circles to Find Meg Mackey

Judge's comment: A revealing look at a promising performer.

Best Photojournalist - Television

Judge: Darren Durlach

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Shawn Wilson / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Best Photojournalist Entry Shawn Wilson

Judge's comment: Some really memorable stories on this entry. This tape won because it had the most moments and story crafting. Nice pacing and just funny stuff. My favorite piece was the Farkas-style cafe politics story. Very clean edit with great emotion. I also liked the guy trapped in snow story. Good job sticking with him and letting the moment develop. Nice job!

Second: John Thain / KTVA TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Best Photojournalist - John Thain

Judge's comment: This was a solid entry from beginning to end. Great technique and nothing was out of place. The last story was very touching. The winning entry simply had more memorable stories. Most on this reel were technically pretty and solid but weren't as memorable as the first place entry. Nevertheless nice work!

Third: Eric Stratton / KYUR KTBY

Entry: Eric Stratton

Judge's comment:

Best Spot News Story - Television

Judge: Deborah Potter

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Abby Hancock, Shawn Wilson, Dan Carpenter / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Merrill Field Inn Shooting

Judge's comment: Good job telling this breaking news story clearly and in sequence. Good use of natural sound and interviews to convey the details.

Second: Heather Hintze, John Thain / KTVA TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Cordova Snow

Judge's comment: Multiple locations and interviews added different perspectives to what could have been a standard snow/weather story.

Third: Heather Hintze / KTVA TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Seward Flooding

Judge's comment: A good opening sequence and decent elements told the story of the flood and its impact.

Best Solo Video Journalist - Television

Judge: Charlie Tuggle

Overall

Comments: good voice, solid shooting and editing. Good edit pace, LOTS of good nats. Strong closeups, good subjective sound. Solid writing overall, particularly in and out of bites and nats breaks. I plan to use this compilation as an example to my students of what they can do with little or no help if they pay attention to details and let the stories tell themselves. Nicely done.

Winner: Heather Hintze / KTVA TV (Anchorage).
Entry: Heather Hintze - Solo Video Journalist

Judge's comment:

Second: / None Selected
Entry:

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected
Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Same-Day Feature - Television

Judge: Charlie Tuggle

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Heather Hintze / KTVA TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Catching Reds

Judge's comment: strong nats... good central character... nice shooting and quick edit pace..... of all the pieces on this person's compilation, this would have placed below others, yet was still the strongest entry in this particular category. Had some of the others been entered (perhaps they took longer than a day) this journalist could have swept this category

Second: Blake Essig, Eric Sowl / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Aurora Draws Photographers to Fairbanks, Eyes to Sky

Judge's comment:

Third: Natalie Travis, Eric Stratton / KYUR KTBY

Entry: Rooftop Snow Removal

Judge's comment:

Best Headline Writing - Print-Small

Judge: Lillie Dremeaux

Overall

Comments: The single entry for small newspapers wins. The single entry for large newspapers doesn't; no winner in that category. Or, if both are competing together, then first place for Redoubt Reporter, second place for Ketchikan Daily News.

Winner: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter.

Entry: Not so elementary, Watson; Dream distilled; Peak of misinterpretation; Frills of the hunt; It's a rap, naturally

Judge's comment:

Second: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Reporter - Television

Judge: Boyd Huppert

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Lauren Maxwell / KTVA TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Best Reporter - Lauren Maxwell

Judge's comment:

Second: Natalie Travis / KYUR KTBV

Entry: Natalie Travis

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best General News Story - Print-Large

Judge: Steve Reed

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Suzanna Caldwell / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Fairbanks air quality a dirty shame locals call a community health crisis

Judge's comment: Among an impressive field of entries, this is the best -- important, comprehensive, readable and touching home. The effects of air pollution on Fairbanks are staggering. Suzanna Caldwell provides voices with whom readers can't help but identify. The lead wields a big hook and is followed by an array of facts and unsettling examples. Breathing is natural and necessary. It shouldn't be dangerous.

Second: Jill Burke / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Fuel crisis threatens remote Alaskan island village

Judge's comment: This article provides an unsettling summation of the consequences of convergence -- changing times, the drive for corporate profits and living on borrowed money in remote isolation.

The reporting wisely provides historical context. Life long has been tough and unfair to the residents of St. George. Now, there's no clear route to survival, much less a thriving community.

Readers cannot help but be haunted by the limited options facing the people of St. George. Jill Burke performs a public service in sharing St. George's predicament with a broader audience.

Third: Mary Lochner / Anchorage Press

Entry: Arctic oil rush

Judge's comment: This deeply reported and clearly written entry makes clear the higher stakes facing Alaskans as energy exploration, production and transport shift to the Arctic Ocean.

Best Breaking News Story - Print-Large

Judge: Lew Simons

Overall

Comments: All three entrants were professional and the competition was close.

Winner: Kyle Hopkins / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: 'Mushing Mortician' gives mouth-to-snout CPR after dog collapses

Judge's comment: "Mushing Mortician" is yet another advance on the perennial man-bites-dog variable. The reporter handled it with understatement and sophistication.

Second: Ben Anderson / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Courtroom erupts as defendant tries to flee Alaska barista trial

Judge's comment: High-quality reporting and writing. Story would have been improved if the nut graf were elevated.

Third: Casey Grove / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Officer and suspect wounded in hotel gunfire and standoff

Judge's comment: Excellent on-scene reporting of a breaking story. Editing out some of the excessive detail would have made the piece even better.

Best Breaking News Story - Print-Small

Judge: Lew Simons

Overall

Comments: Overall, reporting thoroughness exceeds writing quality.

Winner: Scott Yahr, Michelle Easty / Copper River Record.

Entry: Copper Center Lodge to rebuild after Sunday fire

Judge's comment: Exactly what a breaking story should look like.

Second: Greg Knight / Wrangell Sentinel

Entry: Clean sweep: WMC board whittled to one member

Judge's comment: Skilfully crafted lede invites readers into a local political piece they might otherwise have skipped.

Third: Shannon Haugland / Daily Sitka Sentinel

Entry: Fisherman Rescued After Day Adrift

Judge's comment: Fully reported but could have benefited from an artful inclusion of such details as weeping, pep talk and singing "Rudolph" in the lede.

Best Government or Political Reporting - Print-Large

Judge: Lew Simons

Overall

Comments: Most entries boasted superior reporting and good, clear writing. Several exhibited imagination and creativity. Generally, the scope and penetration of the reporting surpassed the writing. A competition in which all concerned should take pride.

Winner: Lisa Demer / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: Legislature mulls two gasline projects

Judge's comment: Expertly organized. A penetrating, easy-to-follow examination of the complex, high-stakes gas pipeline game being played out in corporate boardrooms and the state legislature.

Second: Amanda Coyne / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: In Alaska Senate oil tax testimony, still no production commitments

Judge's comment: A fine interpretive piece that takes readers along on a ride through the bumpy and often foggy terrain where Big Oil and state government intersect.

Third: Amanda Coyne, Craig Medred / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Alaska Senate candidate under investigation for controversial hunt

Judge's comment: Exceptional piece of investigation into a murky area of state law. No meaningful shortcomings, though moving up the quote about the characters being "guilty of "skirting their own rules and regulations" would have summed up the issue sooner.

Best Reporting On Crime or Courts - Print-Large

Judge: Christine Clarridge

Overall

Comments: Judging this really reminded me that a lot of crime stories are the same. A great story takes more than just a great writer or reporter. It takes the right story (and granted, you may have to wait for it!!,) the right reporter and the right touch. With that in mind, I had to give the first place spot to the story about the man fighting to regain custody of his 22 cats. Despite other good entries, this story rose above the others.

There were other far more serious entries, but this reporter took this unusual moment and wrote it with just the right note. It piqued my curiosity and made me laugh. It's the story I retold to other reporters and family members. I loved graph where the reporter writes that the man is looking to lay in some supplies and find a woman. I also liked the quote in which he says his cats need to be "primed" for winter and I liked the detailed descriptions of what the suspect fed them.

The FBI story took a lot of work and a lot of investigation and I applaud the authors for the piece. It's an important story and you can hear their competence and authority throughout it.

I ultimately chose the story on the fatal hit and run for third place because I thought the reporter did a good job getting telling details about the victim.

A shout out to Craig Medred. He also has a nice eye for detail. His inclusion of the names of the streets made this my third favorite paragraph among all the entries.

" Tazlina residents live scattered nearby along the practically named roads branching off the Richardson: "Old School Road," "Trailer Court Road," "DOT Access Road," and "Pipeline Road." "

I also want to say that there are several reporters that I expect to see winning awards in the coming years. Don't lose heart. There are years when the big story isn't there. But keep working and honing your craft you'll be ready when the big one comes along.

Keep up the good work everyone!!

Winner: Casey Grove / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: Bush dweller fights to regain his 22 cats

Judge's comment:

Second: Tony Hopfinger, Amanda Coyne / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Why is lead FBI agent in botched Ted Stevens case still employed?

Judge's comment:

Third: Michelle Theriault Boots / Anchorage Daily News
Entry: Family struggles with loss in woman's unsolved hit-and-run death

Judge's comment:

Best Education Reporting - Print-Large

Judge: Steve Reed

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Alex DeMarban / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Local Alaska foods make way into school lunch menus

Judge's comment: The article explains important changes in the in-school diets of Alaska's student population and the consequences of maintaining the status quo. The tie-in to locally or regionally grown and caught foods provides the link to agribusiness that some readers and slow-witted legislators need. Without scolding the guilty, Alex DeMarban illuminates the political dysfunction that serves to punish kids, farmers and fishers. Local Alaska foods making their way onto school lunch menus is an example of a win-win for growers, fishers, students, educators and taxpayers.

Second: Alex DeMarban / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: California dreams realized, rural Alaska students seek help to reach Washington, DC

Judge's comment: Debi Rubera's elementary students stared blankly when she asked what they dreamed of someday doing.

Facing a dilemma common to teachers in isolated rural Alaska, she opened windows to the world beyond village schools.

Good reporting and writing by Alex DeMarban provided insight into the effects of the remoteness of village life and examples of how to overcome them.

The article performs a public service.

Third: Suzanna Caldwell / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Revolution in rural Alaska education? Many embracing regional schools.

Judge's comment: Excellent example of explanatory journalism on a big, complicated issue and bringing it home with people-like-me examples.

Amending funding for residential education programs to include district-based and variable-length programs might enable some rural districts to establish their own residential programs while boosting the existing regional ones.

Best General News Story - Television

Judge: Al Tompkins

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Rhonda McBride, Shawn Wilson / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: When Every Call Counts

Judge's comment: Fantastic moments with the volunteers. The viewer also learns a lot about this problem while you tell us about the program. What rare access.

Second: Natalie Travis, Eric Stratton / KYUR KTBV

Entry: Fill the Boot

Judge's comment: If there could have been two first place winners, this one would be there too. We particularly appreciate your taking on what could have been a boring topic- an award- but you did so much more. You worked hard to get visuals, the photography and editing was top-notch. Don't think of this as second place, think of this as the second first-place.

Third: Abby Hancock, Albert Lutan / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Talkeetna Flooding

Judge's comment: You were everywhere. Great video, nice characters, strong attention to detail. Dogs, people, houses, roads, guys in trucks. Just a nice full story.

Best Reporting on Health or Science - Radio

Judge: Tom Banse

Overall

Comments: The winning stories had some features in common that are always good to emulate. 1) The reporter went to the scene and gathered most or all of the tape in-person.
2) Writing was descriptive and painted a picture.
3) There was a clear statement near the beginning of why the listener should care.
Bonus points for including the story intro in the audio file.

Winner: Annie Feidt / Alaska Public Radio Network.

Entry: APU Students Dig for Answers on Eklutna Glacier

Judge's comment: Story transported me to the glacier. Lovely descriptive writing. Script clearly established why we should care about the topic. Then it answered the obvious questions that listeners might ask. Good, conversational delivery of the narration. Closing lines of the story were a bit trite, my only criticism.

Second: Matt Lichtenstein / KFSK Radio (Petersburg)

Entry: First mammogram easier than you think

Judge's comment: Scores points for originality and then more points for telling a story with minimal narration. Good production values except for an off-mic scene in the middle, which could have been tightened up.

Third: Margaret Friedenauer / KHNS

Entry: An update on the inflatable suspender distribution event in Haines.

Judge's comment: Good story beginning on a topic that deserved attention. Appreciated the in-person tape. Wanted to hear more from the fishers, though.

Best Alaska History Story - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Tom Watson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Mike Dunham / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: Alaska's World War II civilian POWs recall their lost village of Attu

Judge's comment: Smooth flowing text and content arranged in a manner that kept my attention throughout the piece.

Second: James Brooks / Kodiak Daily Mirror

Entry: When the sky turned black

Judge's comment: Detailed accounting with a well orchestrated narrative flow.

Third: Andromeda Romano-Lax / Alaska Magazine

Entry: Novarupta Volcano: 100 Years Ago

Judge's comment: A solid arrangement of oft-quoted facts carried along by a well-balanced narrative.

Best Weekly Newspaper - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Cheryl Thompson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Pilot Publishing, Inc. / Petersburg Pilot.

Entry: The Petersburg Pilot

Judge's comment: Nice layout. Great mix of stories. Headlines draw readers in. And in how many newspapers do you see a photo of a brown bear? Bravo!

Second: Staff / Homer News

Entry: Feb. 9, 2012, Homer News; Aug. 23, 2012, Homer News; Oct. 11, 2012, Homer News

Judge's comment: Michael Armstrong and McKibben Jackinsky owned the front page!

Third: Staff / Capital City Weekly

Entry: Best Weekly

Judge's comment:

Best Education Reporting - Print-Small

Judge: Bill White

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter.

Entry: Health on the menu — Student Nutrition Services digs into new school year

Judge's comment: The reporter takes an in-depth look into the choreography, under strict rules, of an award-winning student-meals program. Her writing is clear and organization deft, all the more so on both accounts considering the topic's many nuances. She sprinkles her story with student voices, details and anecdotes -- including the airlift of food in Cessnas to some schools. All in all a meaty effort that gives readers a look behind the curtain at an unsung but important aspect of the regional school system.

Second: McKibben Jackinsky / Homer News

Entry: Rotarians make special delivery

Judge's comment:

Third: McKibben Jackinsky / Homer News

Entry: Students bring outside world to HHS

Judge's comment:

Best Current Events/News Blog - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Tom Condon

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Scott Woodham, staff / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Alaska Beat

Judge's comment: A go-to site with a great mix of stories, clearly written and well presented.

Second: Kyle Hopkins, Marc Lester, Beth Bragg / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Iditarod Live: The Sled Blog

Judge's comment:

Third: Jeffrey Rivet, Rebecca Palsha / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Alaska Bites with Rebecca Palsha

Judge's comment:

Best Reporting On Crime or Courts - Radio

Judge: Mike Mulcahy

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Rosemarie Alexander / KTOO TV-Radio.

Entry: Court Watch: Two teens are headed to prison a year after the murder of Kevin Thornton

Judge's comment: This piece stood out from the competition in terms of being a compelling story that obviously had a lot of time and effort put into it. Also had good Web component.

Second: Angela Denning-Barnes / KYUK

Entry: Two Sentenced To 104 Years In Killing Of Hooper Bay Man

Judge's comment: This story featured compelling tape of a family member coming to terms with justice being done after a terrible crime. Well crafted storytelling.

Third: Stephanie Joyce / KUCB Unalaska Community Broadcasting

Entry: Pet Rat Aboard Deadliest Catch Boat Draws State Scrutiny

Judge's comment: This was a well written piece about a novel legal issue.

The Suzan Nightingale Award for Best Columnist - Print-Small

Judge: Samantha Bennett

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter.

Entry: Dealing with freeze-up — of the brain; Time flies when you're having bunions; Soldotna: Real good, then — Cheechako reporter covered community with love

Judge's comment: It's a tremendously complex balancing act to write with both humor and insight, to make the jokes funny and the observations keen, and Neyman manages to pull it off. Her self-deprecation is disarming -- which allows her message and meaning to hit home.

Second: McKibben Jackinsky / Homer News

Entry: Some hobbies more than money pit; What matters most is what comes before final chapter; Let's face it, mistakes happen

Judge's comment: Jackinsky's columns are like really good soup: warm, nourishing, complex in flavor and more filling than they might seem.

Third: Michael Armstrong / Homer News

Entry: Best Bets, Sept. 27; Best Bets, Oct. 11; Best Bets, Dec. 13

Judge's comment: An "items" column doesn't always have a personality and isn't always fun to read, but this one succeeds at both.

Best Profile - Print-Large

Judge: Paula Span

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Louise Freeman / Anchorage Press.

Entry: Two more old-timers gone

Judge's comment: Lovely, personal hail-and-farewell to two long-time denizens of Eagle, population: 135.

Second: Jill Burke, Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Dallas Seavey, Inc.

Judge's comment: Lively visit with champion musher, full of action, description, behind-the-scenes insight -- and dogs.

Third: Mike Dunham / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Mourners recall the humanitarian side of 'Miss Wiggles'

Judge's comment: Funny, moving obit of a local legend, Miss Wiggles.

Best Light Feature - Television

Judge: Karen Larsen

Overall

Comments: Overall, very impressive story-telling from Alaska. When you combine talented photographers with solid writing from the reporter, you are guaranteed to deliver stories that make a definitive impact on viewers.

Winner: Heather Hintze / KTVA TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Life is good in AK

Judge's comment: Incredible story-telling. Terrific writing, pacing, use of natural sound and interviews to provide depth to the story. Wide range of emotional delivery for viewers.

Second: Mike Nederbrock, Steve Mac Donald / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Extreme Alaska Speed Wing

Judge's comment: Beautifully shot. Creative use of go-pro camera and photography.

Third: Jason Lamb, Shawn Wilson / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Talkeetna Mayor is a Cat Named Stubbs

Judge's comment: Solid story-telling technique. Reporter did an excellent job with the surprising "reveal."

Best Business Reporting - Print-Large

Judge: Hal Bernton

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Kyle Hopkins / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: The reel deal; Despite state film subsidy, Alaskans usually aren't paid much

Judge's comment: Great idea to probe how much film production companies actually spend in Alaska as they soak up state subsidies. Some surprising findings.

Second: Jill Burke / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Firewood offers rural Alaskans alternative to crippling expense of heating oil

Judge's comment: An insightful look into efforts to make a business out of providing firewood to heat homes in Bush Alaska.

Third: Ben Anderson / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Olive Garden opens its doors in Alaska. Expect company records to fall.

Judge's comment: Ben probes the Anchorage psych to try to figure out why so many people flock to national chains such as Olive Garden.

The Suzan Nightingale Award for Best Columnist - Print-Large

Judge: Samantha Bennett

Overall

Comments: There was a real and bloody battle here for third place, and if I could give Honorable Mentions, I would surely start with Scott Woodham, Blotter, and Mike Dingman. And I might not stop there. The top prizes went to standouts, but hard on their heels was a large and tight field of diverse, engaging and highly competent contenders. No one should feel discouraged.

Winner: Ivan Moore / Anchorage Press.

Entry: Moore Report

Judge's comment: Insightful, thorough, engaging -- how can this much important, detailed information be so entertaining and readable? Punchy, crystal-clear writing, that's how. And Moore's voice, which is instructive without being pedantic and opinionated without being bullying or shrill. Bravo.

Second: Craig Medred / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Craig Medred

Judge's comment: Medred explores a variety of topics in a way that illuminates them and gives them context and relevance for any reader. His confident, sometimes even bold or startling premises are backed up with reasoned arguments and sound reporting.

Third: James "Dr. Fermento" Roberts / Anchorage Press

Entry: Dr. Fermento on Beer

Judge's comment: Let's face it, beer is fun; but in the wrong hands a beer column can be fussy, obsessive and obtuse to the point of dreariness. In the hands of Dr. Fermento (I wish I had thought of that name) it's entertaining, humorous and skillful. Nicely balanced hops.

Best Government or Political Reporting - Print-Small

Judge: Lew Simons

Overall

Comments:

Winner: John Aronno / Alaska Commons.

Entry: House Bill 80: The Long Journey of a Bad Idea

Judge's comment: Lively approach to some serious material works well.

Second: Sarah Day / Capital City Weekly

Entry: The redistricting dance

Judge's comment: Personalizing successfully draws the reader into what might otherwise be a turnoff of a story.

Third: Diana Haecker / Nome Nugget

Entry: Alaska Sea Party outspent in battle over Ballot Measure 2

Judge's comment: Nice opening to what could have been an obscure bit of reporting elevates this piece.

Leslie Ann Murray Award for Best Editorial or Commentary - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Matt Zencey

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Rick Sinnott / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Rick Sinnott

Judge's comment: (NOTE: Winner is "Should recreational hunters use smart bullets?") A thoughtful, well-constructed persuasive essay about the role of technology in hunting. It blends solid information with personal perspective informed by art and literature. Long, but well worth the read.

Second: James Shewmake / Alaska Commons

Entry: Invisible Enemies: Science vs. Religion

Judge's comment: A strong personal essay that features good arguments, effective rhetoric and a touch of eloquence.

Third: Thad Poulson / Daily Sitka Sentinel

Entry: Health Care, Yes on 2, Choices

Judge's comment: (Note: Winner is "Yes on 2"). A short, hard-hitting case for voters in the community to go against the wishes of powerful statewide interests who seek to diminish local communities' ability to influence decisions in their own backyard.

Best Arts Coverage - Radio

Judge: Colin Fogarty

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Daysha Eaton / Alaska Public Radio Network.

Entry: Pamyua Double Album: A Soundscape of Identity

Judge's comment: Nice work telling the story of the band while weaving traditional and new music together. The mixing and the writing were smooth.

Second: Annie Feidt / Alaska Public Radio Network

Entry: Anchorage Opera Putting On 'Mrs. President' Show

Judge's comment: What a compelling story.

Third: Ed Ronco / KCAW Radio (Sitka)

Entry: After 2 weeks' rehearsal, 'Birdie' to open Friday

Judge's comment: Nice job capturing the feeling of young kids doing hard work on a project they love.

Best Sports Photo - Print-Small

Judge: Chris Wilkins

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery.

Entry: Daniel highlight GJE NYO meet

Judge's comment: First-place entry was the best peak action & perfectly composed, the clear winner for us in this category.

Second: James Poulson / Daily Sitka Sentinel

Entry: splash - rainy game finale

Judge's comment: Good anticipation by the photographer on these two photos, neither was the perfect photo but they work well together.

Third: James Poulson / Daily Sitka Sentinel

Entry: Olympic Moment

Judge's comment: A different look at the same type of event that won first place, not as much impact as the winner but more context in this image.

Best Sports Photo - Print-Large

Judge: Chris Wilkins

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Ramey Smyth, Norton Sound

Judge's comment: Beautiful image, the kind of photo that you hang on the wall. Everything about this photo works well.

Second: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Lead dog hug

Judge's comment: Wonderful moment between man and dog, shot well considering how quickly this probably happened & how busy the background could have been.

Third: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Slush Cup

Judge's comment: Great moment shot perfectly. A very strong photo for third place in a loaded category.

Best Feature Photo - Print-Small

Judge: Chris Wilkins

Overall

Comments:

Winner: James Poulson / Daily Sitka Sentinel.

Entry: Success

Judge's comment: Clear winner, just a great moment and shot very well. good moment and composition.

Second: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery

Entry: Celebrating World Eskimo Indian Olympics

Judge's comment: Really fun moment and good expressions on the crowd, the kind of photo that brings a smile to the reader's face.

Third: Dale Smith / Capital City Weekly

Entry: Surf's Up

Judge's comment: Very intriguing photo that works well within the layout. Nice use of long lens here.

Best Picture Story - Print-Small

Judge: Chris Wilkins

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Ron Loesch / Petersburg Pilot.

Entry: Humpbacks feeding

Judge's comment: We loved the photo of the birds and the whale. Would have liked to have seen a couple more images if possible, but still comes out on top in a light category.

Second: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery

Entry: 2012 Cama-i Festival

Judge's comment: There were some really nice individual images in the layout, but it's way too many photos to process at one time. Less would have been more here.

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Picture Story - Print-Large

Judge: Chris Wilkins

Overall

Comments: Judged by Ahna Hubnik, Lisa LeVrier & Chris Wilkins, The Dallas Morning News.

Winner: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Kaktovik and the whale

Judge's comment: Wow, tremendous job the the photographer. Great all-around storytelling, this was by far the highlight of all the entries we judged in all categories.

Second: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Iditarod, the last great race

Judge's comment: Another great shoot by this photographer. Good use of light and composition, good mix of action and moments.

Third: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Alaska's first Chassidic Jewish wedding

Judge's comment: Looks like a sweep of this category. This photog really understands how to tell a story with pictures, lots of great moments within this piece.

Best Long Feature - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Carol Simons

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Winston Featherly-Bean / Anchorage Press.

Entry: Three Days in August

Judge's comment: Gripping first-person account of a horrendous experience in a bloody war zone. Combat and political reporting at its best. I couldn't put it down.

Second: Michelle Theriault Boots / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Standout Kenyan runner rebuilds his life

Judge's comment: Excellently written account of a return to living after a shocking, self-inflicted tragedy.

Third: John Woodbury, Jill Tillion, Justin Matley, Steven Merritt / Alaska Coast Magazine

Entry: Adventure Unlimited

Judge's comment: Detail-packed, well designed and accessible, this package knows its target audience and delivers. The polished writing and use of the second person makes the reader want to try it all.

Best Editorial Cartoon - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Jimmy Margulies

Overall

Comments: As an out of state journalist, I am not familiar with Alaska issues. So I would have benefited from an explanation of the background which inspired the cartoons. That way I would have been better able to determine if the cartoon commentary hit the mark.

The winner in this category was able to deliver his commentary in a way that I did not need to know some of the state issues. But I would have been able to get more out of the others with more knowledge.

Winner: Chuck Legge / Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman.

Entry: Susitna Ferry; Newtown; Oil Taxes

Judge's comment: Chuck Legge's entry stood out for both the sharp wit, and the drawing style.

Second: Michael O'Meara / Homer News

Entry: Sept. 6 cartoon; May 24 cartoon; July 26 cartoon

Judge's comment:

Third: Tony Newman / Juneau Empire

Entry: Sunday's TOE toon

Judge's comment:

Best Illustration - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Jimmy Margulies

Overall

Comments: All the entries displayed skill and imagination, so there were a lot of good entries to choose from here

Winner: Aaron Jansen / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Ketchikan: my own personal hellhole

Judge's comment: This cover was both graphically and conceptually bold, as well as very nicely rendered. It does what a good piece of art in this case should do, which is the pull the reader in.

Second: Christina Barber / Anchorage Press

Entry: Snow Queens: Breeding bees to survive winter

Judge's comment: I thought the illustration was beautifully done.

Third: Aaron Jansen / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Is the oil industries nose growing?

Judge's comment: I enjoyed the contrast of the wooden children's toy with the oozing oil on the hand holding it.

Best Government or Political Reporting - Radio

Judge: Paul Glickman

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Casey Kelly / KTOO TV-Radio.

Entry: Crunch time for hotly contested Ballot Measure 2

Judge's comment: A thorough treatment of the debate over Measure 2.

Second: Ed Ronco, Margaret Friedenauer / KCAW Radio (Sitka)

Entry: Final HD 34 ballots in: JKT 4,123; Thomas 4,091

Judge's comment:

Third: Joe Viechnicki / KFSK Radio (Petersburg)

Entry: Boundary commission approves amended Petersburg borough

Judge's comment:

Best Series - Print-Small

Judge: Steve Smith

Overall

Comments: I have chosen to award only first and second place in this category. The Daily Sitka entry appears to be a single news story so may be mis-categorized.

First place goes to Naomi Klouda of the Homer Tribune. Her series on the voyage of the Tiglax is full of interesting details and observations and is particularly strong in its use of quotes. The stories deal with environmental science issues, but in an accessible way. Her series on area schools boasts many of the same attributes, but the topic just isn't as inherently interesting. One bit of constructive criticism...Klouda's stories could use some trimming. As interesting as they are, they can be a bit of a slog as they go on and on.

Second place goes to Clark Fair of the Redoubt reporter. The story of a long-ago small-plane crash was full of interesting details. The drama of survival in the wilderness is great stuff for a writer. But giving away the ending with the first part deprived the story of any suspense. But a good read.

Winner: Naomi Klouda / Homer Tribune.
Entry: Voyage of the M/V Tiglax

Judge's comment:

Second: Clark Fair / Redoubt Reporter
Entry: Thanks, no thanks for the wild plane ride

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected
Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best News Photo - Print-Small

Judge: Ted Warren

Overall

Comments: I'm not sure if caption information was a requirement or not for the contest, but it definitely helps all entries to have it accompany the photos. The fire photo was dramatic, but lacked the scale and action that would have come from including people or trucks in the foreground instead of nearly off frame on the sides. I appreciate also the documentary style effort of the election night photos but they didn't quite rise to the level of the other entries.

Winner: Diana Haecker / Nome Nugget.

Entry: HISTORIC— The U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Healy, right and the Russian tanker T/V Renda parked in the Nome roadstead made history when they delivered 1.3 million gallons of fuel to Nome in the midst of winter.

Judge's comment: First place goes to a dramatic picture that tells the story -- a vast expanse of ice and two ships that managed to cut through it and deliver fuel. The crop and layout of this photo added to its impact, as did the elevated viewpoint. I'm glad the ships don't dominate the frame. Readers really get a good perspective as to the scale of the job they had to do by seeing them small against all of the ice. Nice work.

Second: James Poulson / Daily Sitka Sentinel

Entry: On the rocks

Judge's comment: Second place seems to be the reward of effort and luck -- effort on the part of the photographer for getting in a boat themselves and heading to get a closer view, and luck in coming across the crew from the grounded boat en route. Nice work getting both in the same frame and editing for the moment of lighting up the cigarette.

Third: James Brooks / Kodiak Daily Mirror

Entry: Memorial Service

Judge's comment: Human emotion is part of a good news photo, and this one has it. Perhaps a tighter crop or lens would have eliminated the distracting red chairs or emphasized the emotion even more.

Best News Photo - Print-Large

Judge: Ted Warren

Overall

Comments: This was overall a strong category to judge. First place was a slam dunk, and I found elements to like in most of the other photos. Also very pleased with solid technical exposure and lighting across the range of entries. Several photos, Visitors Still Welcome, Washed Away, and Crowded House would have all benefited from wider lenses or a step back if that was an option.

Winner: Bill Roth / Anchorage Daily News.
Entry: Kayaker Rescue

Judge's comment: First place is an obvious winner. Great drama punctuated by the peak action of the piece of wood flying away. Good for the photographer for being ready with a long lens for unexpected moments like this and for using a fast enough shutter speed to freeze the action. Nicely edited and cropped as well.

Second: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch
Entry: 80 Polar Bears

Judge's comment: Very nice photo here of the unusual event of so many bears attracted to one place. This seems like a large scene overall with a lot going on, yet this single image tells the story nicely. Good for the photographer in capturing some action and expression at the upper left, which draws the eye to the whale carcass as well.

Third: Bill Roth / Anchorage Daily News
Entry: Firefighter waits for water

Judge's comment: There were a lot of good candidates for third, but I kept coming back to this one because of the immediacy of the scene and the very human element that was captured here. Good caption info confirmed the information I gleaned from viewing the photo as well.

Best Feature Photo - Print-Large

Judge: Ted Warren

Overall

Comments: Wow. An impressive set of entries. This was a pleasure to judge and making decisions was difficult. This category came down to a mixture of unique situations, and the emotion of moments for me. Several photos that nearly placed lacked that instance where something special is captured in the act, not just a pretty scene. I'd like to mention "Mendenhall ice," "Light March," and Firefighter tradition" as all being strong entries. I so much wanted to place "Butchering the whale!" It is a beautiful and meaningful photo, with the luck of a wonderful natural setting. What knocked it down the list was that the two subjects on the left were not really doing anything in this frame, and are overlapping each other so it's difficult to make them out or even figure out what they are about to do. I'm curious if the rainbow went away quickly, or if the photographer tried too hard to include the ATV rider in the photo, because for me, this photo would have placed if it had been shot a a time when the rainbow was still there and the people around the whale head were actually in action and doing something, rather than just standing there.

Winner: Erik Hill / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: Make way for ducklings!

Judge's comment: First is a classic old-school feature that seems to be rarer and rarer these days. It's a make-you-look twice photo that rose to the top, and was likely found by a photographer doing some grind-it-out hit-the-streets searching for a moment like this. The three layers of ducks, motorcycle and car give this a little depth as well.

Second: Bill Roth / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Hitching a ride

Judge's comment: There's a lot going on here, and it's nice to see a feature-type moment come out of a news situation. The dog's expression here makes this strong, as does the unusual situation of using a surf or paddle board to stay afloat. While it might have been tempting to go in tighter on the dog, keeping in a lot of the environment and background really helped set the scene and visually explain what is going on.

Third: Bob Hallinen / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Daddy's Home

Judge's comment: It took a while to pick third place, due to many strong entries, but in the end I kept coming back to this image and its unique composition and framing, which help isolate and emphasize the emotion of the little girl.

Best Business Reporting - Print-Small

Judge: Hal Bernton

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter.

Entry: Berry bright future — Soldotna-area farmer pioneers haskap plants in Alaska

Judge's comment: Well done profile of the haskap, an Asian berry that is an intriguing new offering to Alaska agriculture

Second: Jamie Rogers / Alaska Contractor

Entry: Help wanted: The issue of Alaska Hire

Judge's comment: Diving into the prickly terrain of Alaska hire, the reporter offers strong context and sense of history

Third: Diana Haecker / Nome Nugget

Entry: Gold resort offers real mining experience to visitors

Judge's comment: Turning a Nome gold mine into a tourist mecca can't be easy. This story offers us the tale of how one mining family made that happen.

Best Series - Print-Large

Judge: Steve Smith

Overall

Comments: I am only awarding first and second place here as only one organization has entered the contest and the staff is, essentially, competing with itself.

Having said that, the two cited entries would stack up in any contest.

First place goes to Alex DeMarben, Tony Hopfinger, Craig Medred, Jill Burke and Loren Holmes for the incredibly comprehensive report on the debate over offshore vs land-based oil drilling. This report puts to shame all other reporting I have seen on the subject, finally putting Shell Oil's offshore activities into perspective. The Alaska Dispatch staffers write with attitude -- some would call bias. As an editor, I would have preferred more temperate choice of language in a few places. But overall this is an amazing bit of work. And credit to the editor who took the work of several writers and made of it a coherent whole. And credit the photographers for contributing to the project's impact.

Second place goes to Medred for his report on a climbing tragedy on Mt. McKinley. The story has great details, good use of quotes and an inherent sense of drama and tragedy. A good read.

Winner: Alex DeMarben, Craig Medred, Jill Burke, Tony Hopfinger, Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.
Entry: Special Series: Arctic Ocean vs. ANWR

Judge's comment:

Second: Craig Medred / Alaska Dispatch
Entry: Anatomy of a tragedy high on Alaska's Mount McKinley

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected
Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Magazine Feature - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Michael Taylor

Overall

Comments: All of the submissions were well-written and professional, although it would have been nice to see a greater range of publications represented.

Winner: Susan Harrington / Alaska Business Monthly.

Entry: Icebreakers Importance in the Arctic: The Healy, the Renda and Vitus Marine

Judge's comment: This story was both gripping narrative with broad impact, and a profile of a uniquely Alaskan business that became the story's hero. Very well suited to the intended audience, well researched, and written in a readable style.

Second: / Alaska Business Monthly

Entry: Alaska's Fishing Industry: The universal relevance of a multi-billion dollar industry

Judge's comment: An engaging character profile offers a fresh window on a major Alaskan industry.

Third: Teeka Ballas / F Magazine

Entry: Red Bull & Couture

Judge's comment: An offbeat profile of interesting artists, this article works well with its illustrations, and gives the reader thoughts to ponder.

Best Short Feature - Print-Small

Judge: Michael Taylor

Overall

Comments: All of these were informative and well-researched features. It was hard to choose a winner.

Winner: Katie Emmets / Skagway News.

Entry: Park tracks Dyea's boreal toads with new radio study

Judge's comment: Like all good writing about science, this article is imminently readable, well researched, and provides a surprising window into the natural world.

Second: Shelly Pope / Petersburg Pilot

Entry: USCG Cutter SPAR pays honor to Petersburg woman

Judge's comment: An excellent example of a feel-good profile of someone being recognized for wartime service.

Third: Shawna Sweeney / F Magazine

Entry: Autism: Inking Social Responsibility

Judge's comment: This article shows that anyone can make a meaningful contribution to improving lives.

Best Short Feature - Print-Large

Judge: Steve Smith

Overall

Comments: I love this category. The best short features take the reader someplace they have not been -- provide a real sense of place while also offering a bit of insight into the human condition and experience. For a lower-48 reader, these stories are a treat.

The winning entries are good reads, generally well written. But they also reflect a slightly twisted news sense and relaxed approach to narrative.

Winner: Larry Hodge / Alaska Magazine.

Entry: Chasing Adak's Ghosts: Mysterious Aleutian island provides sanctuary to caribou

Judge's comment: This is a travel piece, a short story, a bit of historical reporting and a personal chronicle. I had read about Adak before, but never felt quite so close to the reality of the island. The story made me want to visit, and that is its real strength.

Second: Craig Medred, Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: He's no George, but Tubby the rabbit will steal your heart, too

Judge's comment: Ok, maybe the writing style is a bit loose. But in terms of providing a sense of place, this quirky story hits all the right marks. Only out of Alaska could you find the story of a paraplegic rabbit subbing for another paraplegic rabbit carried away by a black bear fleeing an enraged owner. This is a "talker," a story people will remember long after the news of the day fades.

Third: Laurel Andrews / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Arrogantly Shabby fashion blog brings new meaning to Fairbanks dump-diving

Judge's comment: As with the second place winner, this is a sense-of-place story unlike any I had read before. It is short, but well observed. It held up from lede to bailout and made want to know more about the young people behind dumpster diving fashion. If I were still an editor, I would make their blog must reading for my lifestyle staff. Great fun

Best Environmental Reporting - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Boyce Rensberger

Overall

Comments: I found it difficult to separate my top six entries. As a result, my choice of winners is almost arbitrary. If I could have nominated a fourth place entry, it would be the Redoubt Reporter's "Last of the salmon people." I had to score it a bit lower because of the number-heavy, concept-heavy lede. I would have sent this back to the writer for a shorter lede that pointed straight at the apples-and-oranges conundrum.

Winner: Rhonda McBride / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Crisis of Kings

Judge's comment: An intelligently reported examination of an Alaskan phenomenon that, because of its relationship to a global phenomenon, would be of interest to news media in the Lower 48.

Second: Alex DeMarban / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: 'Venice of Northwest Alaska' sinking because of climate change

Judge's comment: An excellent look at one of Alaska's most important industries both economically and culturally. Good reporting. Good scope. One caveat--the piece needed more on the science underlying estimates of salmon stocks.

Third: Josh Edge / Alaska Public Radio Network

Entry: Acoustic Sensors Give Scientists A New Perspective In The Arctic

Judge's comment: Excellent use of the medium to tell a story that is pure radio.

Best Radio Feature - Radio

Judge: Susanna Capelouto

Overall

Comments: It was not easy judging this category this year. The level of reporting on Alaska radio seems to be getting better every year. There are so many good stories in this category and to some degree they all deserve attention. Keep up the good radio feature reporting from Alaska. You have a lot of stories to tell and a lot of talented people who can tell them well.

Winner: Lauren Rosenthal / KUCB Unalaska Community Broadcasting.
Entry: AK: Necropsy

Judge's comment: This story has great scenes. It pulls the listeners right to the beach from the beginning. The writing is strong and there's just enough detail to make this a winner. The delivery and production are excellent.

Second: Mark Arehart / KYUK
Entry: Rural Residents Struggle with Low King Returns on the Yukon

Judge's comment: Very nicely delivered. The characters are strong and the listener gets a sense of their struggle. Very good production value.

Third: Daysha Eaton / Alaska Public Radio Network
Entry: Anchorage Prepares to Vote on Anti-Discrimination Proposition

Judge's comment: This story has the wrong entry title. It is about a new Album by the group Pamyua. The story was well executed with a wonderful mix of music and interviews.

Best Investigative Reporting - Radio,Print-Small,All,Print-Large

Judge: Amy Pyle

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Kyle Hopkins / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: New accusations emerge against Rumrunners

Judge's comment: Very well-done look at an amazing loophole in Alaska law, where bouncers don't have to be backgrounded. The video, with the close-up of a victim's broken nose, was a good addition, both because of the visual proof and because it helps fill out the details of the kinds of guys attracted to these brawling bars. This honesty was perhaps the fairest way to balance the stark realities of the situation.

Second: Matt Miller / KTOO TV-Radio

Entry: What is Juneau Fest 2012?

Judge's comment: A great get, well told. While the actual harm is negligible, the reporter's tenacity in acting on his hunch, and his hustle to get this published quickly online, were notable.

Third: Brian Smith / Peninsula Clarion

Entry: Coming Clean: An investigation into the Arness Septage Site

Judge's comment: A tour de force in many ways that is both thorough and clear to even a lay person. Two things would have moved this even higher in the rankings: more clear findings of harm and a little less indulgence in length (each story) and breadth (so many parts).

Public Service Award - Television,Radio,Print-Small,All,Print-Large

Judge: Mike Doogan

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Alaska Dispatch , Alex DeMarban / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Rural Alaska Dreams

Judge's comment: This is an interesting package well told. The twin stories -- what is going on with shrinking schools like Stony River and the effects of the students getting to go Outside and hoping to go again -- complement each other. And, of course, having cute subjects doesn't hurt either.

Second: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Reporting on Health or Science - Print-Small

Judge: Charles Ornstein

Overall

Comments: Overall, I'd say that the entries were weaker than I was looking for. Perhaps this category should be reconsidered.

Winner: Hal Spence / Homer News.

Entry: Invasion of the Hares

Judge's comment: This piece does a good job documenting how the fragile and cuddly looking snowshoe hares are destroying trees on the Kenai Peninsula. The article includes voices from a biologist and local residents describing the challenges these rabbits pose.

Second: Rindi White / Alaska Contractor

Entry: Frost Heave Prevention

Judge's comment: An interesting take on what could be a scientific marvel. The piece nicely describes how a road project on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks might help stave off the effects of global warming.

Third: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter

Entry: Good data, bad run — Kenai sonar technology improves, documents paltry return of kings

Judge's comment: A solid explanation of how improvements in sonar technology have led to a more accurate count of king salmon in the Kenai River--and the consequences of this better count.

Best Reporting on Health or Science - Print-Large

Judge: Charles Ornstein

Overall

Comments: A healthy category with an ample selection of well-done stories.

Winner: Kyle Hopkins / Anchorage Daily News.

Entry: Super-charged chew

Judge's comment: A fascinating story about the super-charged smokeless tobacco popular in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, even among children and health workers. The story engages readers in detailing its origins and the consequences of its use.

Second: Rosemary Shinohara / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Some Alaskans get Outside options for medical care

Judge's comment: Believe it or not, it can be much cheaper for Alaska residents to travel to the lower 48 states for surgery, even if their insurer pays for travel costs. This story nicely explains how such trips are gaining in popularity and how it impacts Alaska health care provider.

Third: Jill Burke / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: How Iditarod dogs outrun Grim Reaper

Judge's comment: This story does a good job describing the fascinating quest to learn from dog deaths in Alaska sled dog races and hopefully prevent them in the future. Vets are hoping for more "boring" races, in which no dogs die.

Best Daily News Program - Radio

Judge: Corey Flintoff

Overall

Comments: Alaska News Nightly was the obvious winner here, but it seems clear that this competition should be broken up.

There's no comparing the resources that ANN is able to devote to a program with the efforts of individual stations.

Admittedly, ANN would be left without competition if there were a separate, small station competition, but the current system is really not fair to stations.

Winner: Lori Townsend, Annie Feidt / Alaska Public Radio Network.

Entry: Alaska News Nightly

Judge's comment: Alaska News Nightly continues to be a lively, comprehensive, well-reported and presented news program. Congratulations!

Second: KHNS News Dept. / KHNS

Entry: KHNS News

Judge's comment: Margaret Friedenhauer made a strong showing with good reporting, writing and technical quality. Her top story on the mining exploration controversy on Oct. 1 was especially strong.

Third: Jay Barrett, Brianna Gibbs / KMXT Radio, Kodiak

Entry: KMXT Morning News with Jay Barrett

Judge's comment: Jay Barrett provides good variety, writing and delivery.

Best Breaking News Story - Radio

Judge: Corey Flintoff

Overall

Comments: The top entries this year were very impressive.

There were two disappointments: I could not find a like to the radio story from KUCB. I found links to the web text and the reporter's introductory comment, but no audio.

The two entries from KDLG linked to the current web page, but not to the relevant stories. I searched the story titles, but found only one where the page would open.

Winner: Aaron Selbig / KBBI Radio, Homer.

Entry: Heinze crash

Judge's comment: Aaron Selbig produced an amazingly comprehensive report from the crash itself, to an eyewitness report, to an obituary. Good journalism on short notice.

Second: Tim Ellis / KUAC Radio, Fairbanks

Entry: Newscast: Thursday 7/12/12

Judge's comment: Tim Ellis built this report with strong, descriptive writing about a father and the search for a missing son. Good, poignant actualities about the most difficult kind of story to report.

Third: Matt Lichtenstein / KFSK Radio (Petersburg)

Entry: State ferry hits seafood processor dock in Petersburg

Judge's comment: Matt Lichtenstein uses good, on-the-scene reporting and eye-witness reports to put us at the scene of a ferry crash.

Best Reporting On Crime or Courts - Print-Small

Judge: Abraham Hyatt

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Karen Garcia / Chilkat Valley News.

Entry: DUIs reduced after illegal blood tests

Judge's comment: An excellent example of watchdog journalism. Using court and other public records Garcia creates a damning picture of a broken system.

Second: Greg Knight / Wrangell Sentinel

Entry: Salard sues for Facebook defamation

Judge's comment:

Third: Ron Loesch / Petersburg Pilot

Entry: D.A. Brower won't attend town meeting, Svobodny will Public meeting set for Feb. 21 in council chambers

Judge's comment:

Best Social Media Package - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Abraham Hyatt

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Tony Hopfinger, Eric Adams, Ben Anderson, Scott Woodham, staff / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Alaska Dispatch - social media package

Judge's comment: Since its launch, Alaska Dispatch has inexorably grown into one of the -- or perhaps the -- strongest and smartest news organization in the state. Over the last few years it has developed a vibrant, energetic and comprehensive social media presence that has given it the ability to reach out to and connect with smaller communities around the state to a degree that is unrivaled in Alaska. Like other kinds of journalism, social media is much more than just a set of tools. Alaska Dispatch's journalists have woven that mindset deeply into the fabric of their site.

Second: Jeffrey Rivet, Neil Torquiano, Chris Clint, Jessica Ridgway, Mike Ross, Maria Downey, Rebecca Palsha, Sheila Balistreri, David George, Mallory Peebles, Caslon Hatch, Rick Schleyer, Abby Hancock, Blake Essig, Adam Pinsker, Corey Allen-Young, Garrett Turner, Tracy Sinclair, Charlie Sokaitis, Kari Bustamante / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Channel 2 News, KTUU.com Social Media

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Sports Feature - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Scott Griffin

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Klas Stolpe / Juneau Empire.

Entry: Playing For Love And Life, On And Off The Court

Judge's comment:

Second: Greg Johnson / Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman

Entry: Sisters swing a mean club, qualify for USGA event http://www.frontiersman.com/news/sisters-swing-a-mean-club-qualify-for-usga-event/article_c0de4bca-b12e-11e1-a28c-001a4bcf887a.html

Judge's comment:

Third: Jill Burke / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Can Lance Mackey win a fifth Iditarod title?

Judge's comment:

Best Magazine Cover - Print-Small,Print-Large

Judge: Scott Griffin

Overall

Comments:

Winner: John Woodbury, Jill Tillion, Simon Evans / Alaska Coast Magazine.

Entry: coast nov 12 cover.jpg

Judge's comment:

Second: Corwyn Wilkey / F Magazine

Entry: The Culture of AK Roller Derby; March/April 2012; Volume 4, Issue 2

Judge's comment:

Third: Justin Ritter / Alaska Contractor

Entry: The Alaska Contractor Winter 2012

Judge's comment:

Best Graphic - Print - Print-Small

Judge: Scott Griffin

Overall

Comments:

Winner: James Brooks / Kodiak Daily Mirror.

Entry: Autumn of the Bears

Judge's comment:

Second: Deb Purington / Homer News

Entry: Week of the young child

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Graphic - Print - Print-Large

Judge: Scott Griffin

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Melissa Griffiths / Juneau Empire.

Entry: How does your garden grow?

Judge's comment:

Second: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best User-Submitted Online Package - Television,Radio,Print-Small,All,Print-Large

Judge: Suzanne Yada

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Jeffrey Rivet, Neil Torquiano, Chris Clint / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Alaska Windstorms and Flooding

Judge's comment:

Second: Eric Sowl, Jackie Purcell / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Assignment Alaska-Weather pictures

Judge's comment:

Third: Kyle Hopkins / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: State pride guides Alaskans in choosing tattoos

Judge's comment:

Best Online Video Journalism - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Suzanne Yada

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Diana Haecker, Nils Hahn / Nome Nugget.

Entry: Historic Winterfuel Delivery to Nome

Judge's comment:

Second: Jeffrey Rivet, Steve MacDonald, Tracy Sabo / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: One Alaska: Extended Discussion

Judge's comment:

Third: Jeffrey Rivet / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Live Stream: Israel Keyes' Interrogation Videos, APD Press Conference

Judge's comment:

Best Serious Feature - Television

Judge: Deborah Horne

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Lauren Maxwell, John Thain / KTVA TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Gideon's Story

Judge's comment: Excellent!

Second: Steve Mac Donald, Mike Nederbrock / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Eielson's F 16 Move

Judge's comment: Nicely Done. A well told story.

Third: Natalie Travis, Eric Stratton / KYUR KTBV

Entry: Harboring Seward's Waters

Judge's comment: Beautifully Shot. Story very nicely told!

Best Ongoing Public Affairs - Radio

Judge: Sadie Babits

Overall

Comments: It was such a treat to listen to some wonderful and diverse shows that truly capture community and what public affairs programming is all about.

It's always tough to declare a winner when there's such good radio to hear. But the selections here represent public affairs programs that truly capture a sense of place and deliver important information to communities.

Congratulations to the winners.

Winner: Debra Schnabel, Margaret Friedenauer / KHNS.

Entry: Talk Around Town

Judge's comment: This is a hyper local public affairs show that has a lighthearted spirit but also addresses important issues that are critical to the community. I felt like I was part of the community listening and felt transported.

One area of critique, the host needs to turn up her microphone as she comes through too quiet compared to her guests.

Second: Jay Barrett / KMXT Radio, Kodiak

Entry: The Alaska Fisheries Report with Jay Barrett

Judge's comment: This is a true public affairs show that consistently delivers valuable updates, stories and more on all things fisheries related from the beginning of crab season to the show the Deadliest Catch, this show covers a lot of ground. It's well produced but I would like the pace of the show to slow down so that we're not moving so quickly between issues.

Third: Jacob Holley-Kline, Max Jungreis, Robert Stanley, Tiana Johnson / Alaska Teen Media Institute

Entry: In Other News

Judge's comment: This show was captivating. from a live interview with an Alaska pro wrestler to an amazing tale about a fractured relationship with the Unabomber told in a This American Life style that really resonates.

That said, pieces need a clear focus to them from the beginning and I felt lost at times. And with the unabomber, setting up this idea of a fractured relationship from the beginning (without revealing that yes, indeed we're talking about the Unabomber) would have helped.

Best Humor - Television,Radio,Print-Small,All,Print-Large

Judge: Tom Goldman

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Klas Stolpe / Juneau Empire.

Entry: Skiing With Jesus

Judge's comment: Wonderful personal writing. Funny and passionate. A lovely and joyful slice of Alaskan life.

Second: Jenny Neyman / Redoubt Reporter

Entry: Get over yourself: Hell in a 737 basket

Judge's comment: Very funny writing. Again a nice slice of distinctly Alaskan life.

Third: Joe Viechnicki / KFSK Radio (Petersburg)

Entry: Crabbait Board of Fish Baseball

Judge's comment: There were some laugh out loud moments ("a fish has balls?") and good overall effort - funny concept and that made up for a few klunky moments when the baseball analogy didn't quite hold up.

Best Comprehensive Coverage - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Jeff Stein

Overall

Comments: Several entrants understand the concept of comprehensive coverage...going beyond the surface level and providing full context for audiences. Much good work done...far beyond merely the "top three" place winners. If it were possible to give "honorable mention" awards, they would also go to "Alaska Militias" by the Alaska Dispatch, and "Kenai Peninsula School" by Redoubt Reporter...each was very close to being a place winner.

Winner: James Brooks, Nicole Klauss / Kodiak Daily Mirror.
Entry: Kodiak Coast Guard Murders

Judge's comment: Good coverage of breaking event, with follow up stories designed to help the community cope with the tragedy.

Second: Jill Burke, Craig Medred, Zack Steer, staff / Alaska Dispatch
Entry: Iditarod 2012

Judge's comment: Excellent storytelling makes this a nice package of stories.

Third: Casey Grove / Anchorage Daily News
Entry: Coverage of serial killer Israel Keyes

Judge's comment: Very good writing and follow through of a story with unexpected twists.

Best Business Reporting - Radio

Judge: John Ryan

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Stephanie Joyce / KUCB Unalaska Community Broadcasting.

Entry: Akutan Builds Harbor First, Access Later

Judge's comment: Crisp writing; good scenes and sound; and solid reporting of a big project in a remote community. The kind of watchdogging that the far-flung reporters of Alaska's public radio newsrooms should aspire to do more of.

Second: Ed Ronco / KCAW Radio (Sitka)

Entry: Group wants input to improve Sitka's downtown

Judge's comment: Great writing and good scenes. Turned two ho-hum events staged by the town's powerful institutions into something more: a look at the hollowing out of a community's center. Would have liked some other voices or context: do such efforts work, in Alaska or elsewhere?

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Graphic - Online - Television,Radio,Print-Small,All,Print-Large

Judge: Susie Cagle

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Jeffrey Rivet / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Denali Timeline

Judge's comment:

Second: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Third: / None Selected

Entry:

Judge's comment:

Best Media Website - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Susie Cagle

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Staff / KTOO TV-Radio.

Entry: www.ktoo.org

Judge's comment:

Second: Tony Hopfinger, Alice Rogoff, staff / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Alaska Dispatch

Judge's comment:

Third: Josh Edge, Travis Gilmour, Slavik Boyechko, Patrick Yack, Kristin Spack, Lori Townsend, Annie Feidt / Alaska Public Radio Network

Entry: alaskapublic.org

Judge's comment:

Best Portrait - Print-Large

Judge: Barbara Davidson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Kerry Tasker / Anchorage Press.

Entry: Branding Billy: How mental illness drove a man to sell his own face

Judge's comment: This image had the best overall concept and technique in this category. Wonderful way to illustrate a difficult subject. .

Second: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch

Entry: Mountain running champion

Judge's comment: Very nice composition and lighting.

Third: Bill Roth / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Learning to Dance

Judge's comment: A wonderful little moment in an uncontrolled situation. I think this image might have placed higher in the feature category.

Best Portrait - Print-Small

Judge: Barbara Davidson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Greg Lincoln / The Delta Discovery.

Entry: Fox and stars

Judge's comment: Some might wonder how a portrait of an animal places first but it's simple – this photographer made a wonderful image of a very difficult subject. Technically and compositionally this image stood above the rest in this category.

Second: Nick Bradford / F Magazine

Entry: Yard Art

Judge's comment: Very nice portrait and also nicely shot yard art.

Third: McKibben Jackinsky / Homer News

Entry: Ho! Ho! Ho!

Judge's comment: Lovely moment of a shy little girl meeting with Santa.

Best Use of Story & Photographs by a Journalist - Print-Large

Judge: Barbara Davidson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Loren Holmes / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Kivalina: An Arctic Alaskan village straddling 2 worlds

Judge's comment: This story on Kivalina stood out from the rest. The images are both intimate and informative. As a reader, I get a wonderful sense of this important story through the skilled combination of compelling images and detailed writing. Beautiful piece.

Second: Klas Stolpe / Juneau Empire

Entry: Many Faces Of Eaglecrest / Play Ball

Judge's comment: Really nice photography and writing by this photographer. It is a difficult task making strong images and writing at the same time. Very well executed on both fronts.

Third: Rashah McChesney / Peninsula Clarion

Entry: Shore Patrol

Judge's comment: I really enjoyed this story. I wish there was room for more images though. There is a reason the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Best Use of Story & Photographs by a Journalist - Print-Small

Judge: Barbara Davidson

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Justin Matley, John Woodbury, Jill Tillion / Alaska SnowRider magazine.

Entry: 2012 Arctic Man: Go fast or go home

Judge's comment: Really nice photography with a combination of skilled peek action and wonderful moments. That combined with the writing put this piece into first place.

Second: Libby Stringer / Capital City Weekly

Entry: Field Trip

Judge's comment:

Third: Annie Bartholomew, Lex Treinen / The Sun Star

Entry: First ever Ally Week at UAF a success

Judge's comment:

Best Sports Feature - Television

Judge: Gayle Falkenthal

Overall

Comments: All of the pieces demonstrated good storytelling skills and good use of interviews. It was a tough choice!

Winner: Blake Essig, Dan Carpenter / KTUU TV (Anchorage).

Entry: Barrow Whalers Take on Challenges on and off the Field

Judge's comment: This story is an example of what local TV news does best when a reporter and photographer are given the time and opportunity. An informational, inspirational story. Congratulations.

Second: Lacie Grosvold, Jaime Schwartzwald / KXD

Entry: Healing on the Ice

Judge's comment: Nice job of letting the interviews tell the majority of the story in the participants' own words.

Third: Charlie Sokaitis, Kevin Wells / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Recruiting for Alaskan Athletes

Judge's comment: Good story, well shot and told. The lede about the difficulty faced by Alaskan high school athletes getting attention from college coaches should have come earlier in the story, but otherwise a good topic and nicely done.

Best Alaska Outdoor Story - Television, Radio, Print-Small, All, Print-Large

Judge: Chad Harder

Overall

Comments:

Winner: Ben Anderson / Alaska Dispatch.

Entry: Limbless Frenchman plans swim from Alaska to Russia

Judge's comment: Wow what a moving and powerful story. A relevant and newsworthy topic well-covered and deeply researched. The reporter provided a captivating lead and then built an impressive and long feature. I only wish there had been more images, and a follow-up to hear how the swimmer faired on his adventure, but I'll find that elsewhere. Very well done.

Second: Steve Mac Donald, Mike Nederbrock, Ted Land, Albert Lutan, Ashleigh Ebert, Tracy Sinclair, Tracy Sabo / KTUU TV (Anchorage)

Entry: Denali: A Delicate Balance

Judge's comment: Extremely enterprising piece. Fact-filled, historically interesting and forward-looking. Visually stunning too- an impressive showcase for KTUU's videographers. The only negatives were that some transitions between segments could have been more fluid, and some were stronger than others. Overall a solid update of what's happening in Alaska's most popular park.

Third: Casey Grove / Anchorage Daily News

Entry: Valdez digs out from world class snowfall

Judge's comment: A solid piece of reporting with well-sourced and compelling interviews. The diverse and gorgeous multi-media piece accompanying it helped elevate this piece to its third place finish in the category.

Best Education Reporting - Radio

Judge: Bob Collins

Overall

Comments: The one thing I want to stress is how much better a piece can be when it connects to the heart.

The easiest sound to get often isn't the sound that does that. That's true everywhere. So pieces that have a young person talking about what music does for them, or how they were bullied, or how a program helped a young man rediscover his motivation REALLY stand out.

That is what these three pieces did -- stand out -- for this reason.

Winner: Kelsey Gobroski / KTOO TV-Radio.

Entry: Glacier Valley Elementary violinists play for special guests

Judge's comment: Beautiful. The Can Can on violin! That's gold!

Nicely mixed, lovingly told. If I had a criticism, it would have been to put Lorrie Heagy a little higher in the story and built around the point she was making -- that Kennedy Ctr visitors were astounded that a community of 30k a community of just over 30,000 can support a symphony, three opera companies, and lots of arts. YES! That is astounding! And that's the core strength of the piece. Go with it.

Loved the cut of Guo Hua Xia followed by the music.... throw that , along with what I mentioned above, higher in the piece, and you get a perfect "10."

Loved it.

Second: Mark Arehart / KYUK

Entry: Hybrid High Schools Help Kids Imagine Their Futures

Judge's comment: Great piece! Terrific mix. Fine writing.

You got lucky, too. I built my own airplane and have done a few stories over the years on aviation in the classroom.

I do think the back half of the piece is a little stronger than the beginning, partly because there's a better mix of audio (interview and sfx), and partly because Dan Walker waits until there to really drive the point about the reason for the hybrid high school. The young man who says "It's given me my motivation back," shouldn't be near the end of the story, it should be near the beginning. Those two quotes together are the guts of the story.

Third: Chloe Chaobal / Alaska Teen Media Institute
Entry: Aggressors, Victims, Bystanders

Judge's comment: Really nice perspective not just about anti bullying but WHAT bullying is, how does it look different as a kid than it does to a teacher. It needed a little tighter editing to keep it moving ahead, but that's relatively minor.

Best Profile - Radio

Judge: Mike Mulcahy

Overall

Comments:

Winner: John "Radio" Active / KYUK.

Entry: John Active remembers Buster Richardson

Judge's comment: Well written, funny, heartfelt rememberance of a colorful character.

Second: Max Jungreis / Alaska Teen Media Institute

Entry: David and Ted

Judge's comment: A long non-narrated piece requires patience from the listener. That patience is rewarded with an emotional pay-off.

Third: Aviva Hirsch / Alaska Teen Media Institute

Entry: Religion

Judge's comment:

NOTE: All of the following comments were received by Alaska Press Club via email, which is why the format is not identical to the preceding comments above.

Best Arts Coverage – Print Large

Judge: Robbie Brown

First place: "Friction and flame." - Peninsula Clarion / Brian Smith

Concise, punchy writing. A profile that pulls you in from the very start.

Second place: "Bloody fun." - Anchorage Press / Kris Farmen

An in-depth, well-written story about an eerie father-daughter filmmaking duo.

Third place: "Fish skin artists." - Anchorage Daily News / Mike Dunham

Smart, gripping writing about a uniquely Alaskan form of art.

Best Specialty News Program – television

Judge: Greg Luft, Colorado State University

Winner: KYUR KTBY / Megan Mazurek, Jared Mazurek for "Dialed in: connecting Alaska"

The program that focused on digital expansion and the opening of the electronic frontier in Alaska. This program was very focused, included great historical information, as well as great historical footage, which obviously took a lot of time. It was segmented in a way that helped to advance the program even with commercial breaks, and in-studio hosting segments. I will now always remember the shot of the man in the middle of nowhere answering his phone, and then complaining to his friend that he can't shake his stockbroker.

Second: KTUU TV / Ashleigh Ebert, Steve MacDonald, Ted Land, Clinton Bennett, Josh Greiner, David Degraffenreid, Jim Filley, Tracy Sinclare, Tracy Sabo for "49th Report: Denali, a delicate balance"

The piece on Denali national park. This was an excellent overview of the park, its value to visitors and to the state of Alaska. It included excellent footage of wildlife, of buses traveling through otherwise untouched territory, and of the majestic scenery. I thought the piece was a little host-heavy, but not in an overly-burdensome way. (This is especially true in the beginning, with the piece opening with a long in-person host segment before we actually got to see much of the park. However, the content in this was excellent, with valuable historical content and interesting points of view about the value of such a place. My favorite sound segment was of a woman talking about her 80s aunt, who spent most of her time in the park before passing away.

Third: KTVA / staff for "CBS 11 New Years show"

The program that opened with some behind-the scenes newsroom footage, with the two reporters/anchors then using the newsroom as the base for introducing other reporters who produced in-depth program segments about their experiences covering special stories. All of these segments were strong, and I'm sure interesting for the viewers, as they got into the personalities of the reporters, as well as providing more context for long-form news stories. the photojournalism was strong, with good use of natural sound, and solid production values.

Best General News Story – Print Small

Judge: Warren Wheat

Winner: Redoubt Reporter / Jenny Neyman for “Rescued – fisherman pushes cub out of eddy, back to mama”

Loved this unusual story detailing how a sportsman and his friends would risk their own safety to save an endangered bear cub, within sight of its mother. Nice use of quotes.

Second: Daily Sitka Sentinel / Shannon Haulgland for “Fisherman rescued after day adrift”

Excellent job capturing the horror of being stranded at sea in frigid waters and the drama of the rescue. Details and liberal use of quotes put the reader on the scene.

Third: Catholic Anchor / Rasha Ophus Johnson for “Alaska blogger inspired people”

Evangelizing by social media. web as a pulpit. worldwide audience. A lot of quotes, but they work to help tell the story.

Best Sports Reporting – Print Small

Judge: Frank Shorr

Winner: Homer Tribune / Sean Pearson for “Mariner Football: Bleeding Green and Gold”

Had some flair to the writing.

Second: The Sun Star / Erin McGroarty for “...brings home medals from the London Olympics”

Third: No award

Best Sports Columnist (Print Large and Small)

Judge: Frank Shorr

Winner: Skagway News / Andrew Cremata for "Fish This!"

had some good writing and most importantly the story held my interest

Second: Daily Sitka Sentinel / Tom Hess for "The Baranof Blowhard"

seems out of place to put an opinion column with the others but some original thinking

Third: No Award

Best Sports Reporting (Print Large)

Judge: Frank Shorr

Winner: Alaska Dispatch / Craig Medred for "An exorcism of dog-racing demons on Alaska's Iditarod Trail"

Excellent writing, not just the headlines.

Second: Alaska Dispatch / Jill Burke for "First to Koyuk, frosty Seavey looks to press his advantage"

Very well written but I gave the edge to the "story" and not the "event" if that makes sense.

Third: No award

Best Sports / Game Event Story (Print Large)

Judge: Frank Shorr

General Comment: Best category as far as writing and story telling

Winner: Alaska Dispatch / Craig Medred for "In human-powered Iditarod, foot soldiers put up fight, but bikers will win again, Aging attorney limps into Rainey Pass, leading Iditarod Invitational"

loved it ...pics too!

Second: Alaska Dispatch / Jill Burke for "Dallas Seavey heralds new order of Alaska mushing"

well done but a close second

Third: Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman / Greg Johnson for "Senior's 31 leads Wasilla boys past stars, Valley students show sportsmanship, compete at NYO district meet"

well done but just a notch below numbers 1 & 2...