

FINAL RESULTS WITH JUDGES' COMMENTS

ALL MEDIA

James Batten Award for Public Service

1) The Miami Herald; Matthew Haggman, Charles Rabin, Jack Dolan, Larry Lebowitz & Staff; Public piggy banks

Comments: *This is journalism with consequences. Holding public officials to account is exactly what readers expect of a newspaper. It's the kind of investigative reporting only a large daily with good resources can perform.*

2) Sun Sentinel; Sally Kestin, Peter Franceschina & John Maines; Trust betrayed

Comments: *Career criminals as child care providers? The Sun Sentinel exposed this horror and the state of Florida made reforms in screening procedures for caregivers. It was an excellent example of public service journalism.*

3) Orlando Sentinel; Dan Tracy; Florida's Blood Centers

Comments: *The Orlando Sentinel exposed a non-profit blood bank as a thriving industry handsomely rewarding its executives and board members. The paper's reporting resulted in dramatic reforms at an important resource in the health and well-being of Floridians.*

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

Deadline News Reporting - Large

1) Orlando Sentinel; Orlando Sentinel Staff; Downtown rampage

Comments: *An impressive staff collaboration to produce six pages of in-depth coverage in a short amount of time. The timeline of events helped the reader get a snapshot of what happened, the photos captured the trauma of the day, and the reporting provided detailed information about the shooter, his victim and first-hand accounts by survivors. An amazing job.*

2) Sun Sentinel; Staff; Rothstein's Ponzi scheme

Comments: *Great detail piecing together a complex scheme and the downfall of Rothstein into easy-to-read stories that show who was affected and how it was accomplished.*

3) The Miami Herald; Staff; Coral Gables High School stabbing

Comments: *Good job using every advantage (including student interns inside the school) to provide a complete coverage on the incident. The school safety sidebar and the brief history of violent incidents at other Florida schools helped bolster the package.*

Deadline News Reporting - Small

1) Naples Daily News; Staff; Worst of the worst

Comments: *Breaking news at its best. Captivating writing with excellent details about the family and the suspect. Multiple sources were key to getting these details. Impressive access to family, friends and the suspect and somehow you got them all to talk.*

2) Daily Business Review; Jordana Mishory, John Pacenti, Terry Sheridan & Wayne Tompkins; Rocked by fraud

Comments: *Good use of multiple sources to explain a complex story, and when the main people involved weren't talking. Good details on how Rothstein lived. Reader really gets a feel for where all that money went.*

3) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Will Greenlee, Kelly Tyko, Keona Gardner & Eve Samples; Teens killed in crash will not be forgotten

Comments: *Good job talking to multiple sources on deadline. Follow-up stories put this accident into context by telling reader about an ongoing problem with underage drinking.*

Deadline Business Reporting

1) Naples Daily News; Laura Layden; Golf courses in limbo

Comments: *Excellent series of six stories written over a period of seven months outlining how the financial and real estate crisis led to the demise of the company owning seven golf courses affecting hundreds of members and about 1,500 employees. Balanced reporting from all sides of the issue. Breaking news in the stories was bolstered by good background reporting.*

2) The Miami Herald; Martha Brannigan; BankUnited

Comments: *Strong first-day story about the seizure of a \$13 billion bank caught up in the risky home mortgage business. Two excellent follow-ups on the how the bank floundered over adjustable rate mortgages and how the founder of the bank prospered by deals.*

3) Daily Business Review; Jordana Mishory, John Pacenti, Terry Sheridan & Wayne Tompkins; Rocked by fraud

Comments: *Excellent series of stories on how Fort Lauderdale attorney Scott Rothstein's fraud brought down a respected South Florida law firm and how investors were duped. Well-written and well-researched.*

Non-Deadline Business Reporting - Large

1) The Miami Herald; Michael Sallah, Rob Barry & Lucy Komisar; Allen Stanford's Miami connection

Comments: *The stories' topic is compelling: How billionaire Allen Stanford scammed Florida residents out of \$7 billion by selling fraudulent certificates of deposit without much regulatory oversight by state financial officials.*

But thanks to an exhaustive review of public records and a willingness to ask tough questions of financial regulators and those involved in the scandal, readers were not only able to understand the minutia of the scandal but got into the minds of those involved. The stories' ultimate result — a tightening in Florida banking laws — is a reminder of why such detailed, well-written business stories need to be pursued.

2) The Miami Herald; Staff; Cuban embargo

Comments: *The Miami Herald staff showed great resourcefulness in explaining to readers what the U.S. embargo in Cuba is really through various points of view from local Miami families to the larger-scale U.S. and Cuban economies. A variety in story angles — from a short story on what U.S. products can be found in Cuba to a more in-depth story on Cuba's readiness for tourism and trade from the United States — helped the series become accessible to different readers.*

3) Orlando Sentinel; Staff; Sunshine State slowdown

Comments: *The expertise of each of the different Orlando Sentinel reporters provided readers with a comprehensive explanation on the evolution of the Florida economic landscape and its impact on every aspect of a reader's daily life. The series is also enhanced by a variety of charts, graphics, photos and other points of entry.*

Non-Deadline Business Reporting - Small

1) South Florida Business Journal; Brian Bandell; BankUnited

Comments: *Covering a story with national implications, reporter Brian Bandell wastes no time in implicating the executives of Bank United for what turned out to be the most costly US bank failure in 2009. Breaking a story this size, and holding the people at the top accountable, is what business reporting is all about.*

2) Daily Business Review; Jordana Mishory, John Pacenti, Terry Sheridan & Julie Kay; Rocked by fraud

3) Tampa Bay Business Journal; Jane Meinhardt; Pinellas School District

Light Feature Reporting - Large

1) The Tampa Tribune; Donna Koehn; Colorful life fading away

Comments: *It was evident that Koehn spent a lot of time immersing herself in this topic. I enjoyed the glimpse in to an unfamiliar world, and the wide array of colorful voices within the story. She evoked compassion for the subjects while still remaining neutral.*

2) The Florida Times-Union; Michael DiRocco; Tebow can't...

Comments: *A humorous look at a subject that has likely been over-reported in Florida. Funny, entertaining, and harmlessly voyeuristic. An enjoyable read about a person of interest.*

3) The News-Press; Mary Wozniak; It's an ocean of sunflowers

Comments: *The simple, straightforward prose and copious direct quotes were the ideal way to cover a simple subject. I started out not caring about sunflowers; now I want to go to Florida to see them myself.*

Light Feature Reporting - Small

1) Miami New Times; Gus Garcia-Roberts; Park or die tryin'

Comments: *Garcia-Roberts' multifaceted examination of Miami's parking morass is equal parts illuminating, infuriating and hilarious. Well-reported and colorfully written, it is a story greater than the sum of its many spectacular details. Well done.*

2) Charlotte Sun; Patrick Obley; Sons of the muck

Comments: *Rich context and exhaustive detail elevate this story beyond its peers in the athlete-transcends-hard scrabble upbringing genre.*

3) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Derek Catron; Truth behind the tree

Comments: *Stories about trees are so often, uh, wooden. This one is alive. Its roots reach far into the past to tell a complex story.*

Serious Feature Reporting - Large

1) The Associated Press; Matt Sedensky; Alzheimer's Killing

Comments: *Skilled, broad reporting and a deft touch with language. The story touches on the sad plight of caretakers of those with dementia, but only lightly, focusing instead on this tragic story of father and son.*

2) The Palm Beach Post; Adam Playford; Lock your doors, he's killing people

Comments: *A horrific tale told with subtlety. The writer smartly stayed out of the way of the story, allowing it to be told from the voice of a man still wearing his daughter's blood on his shirt.*

3) The Florida Times-Union; Steve Patterson; A trail, and a tale, of fatal errors

Comments: *It's difficult to write a story about faulty building construction that can measure up to the types of subjects covered by stories in this feature category. The reporting in this story is exhaustive, but Patterson doesn't let it weigh down his writing.*

Serious Feature Reporting - Small

1) Miami New Times; Gus Garcia-Roberts; Curse of the Class of 2006

Comments: *Garcia-Roberts has a filmmaker's eye for image, character and pathos. His unflinching portrayal of youth violence is as harrowing as it is in large part because of the work he did getting to know its victims. This is a piece with fully-drawn, aching human characters. It is compelling.*

2) Florida Today; Kaustuv Basu; Boldy, scholar tries to change homeland

Comments: *Basu ably communicates the challenges felt by Middle Eastern immigrants in the United States by telling the story of an individual. His subject, Usmani, is unique, certainly and compelling too. But what makes the story so valuable is the universality of some of these issues.*

3) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Audrey Parente; Mother soldiers on

Comments: *Parente's work illuminates a largely unknown problem, a valuable accomplishment on its own. What distinguishes her work though is the poignancy she finds within the subjects. This is a story about an important issue, yes. But foremost it's a story about a mother and son.*

Gene Miller Award for Investigative Reporting - Large

1) The Miami Herald; Matthew Haggman, Charles Rabin, Jack Dolan, Larry Lebowitz & Staff; Public piggy banks

Comments: *A mammoth package of classic civic journalism.*

2) Sun Sentinel; Sally Kestin, Peter Franceschina & John Maines; Trust betrayed

3) Sun Sentinel; Paula McMahon; Freedom for Anthony Caravella

Gene Miller Award for Investigative Reporting - Small

1) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Ron Hurtibise; Beating the DUI rap

Comments: *This was a classic piece of investigative work that dug out the damning statistics of how often DUI charges are being pleaded down to lesser offenses. In addition to thorough reporting and clear writing, it was well supported by a pull-out box of flagrant offenders who drove drunk repeatedly, by data in charts, by online video and a clear vision of the story to be told. But why did it get so little respect from the layout editors?*

2) Naples Daily News; Aisling Swift; Jail inmate loses baby

Comments: *A good example of how good follow-up work can turn a routine story into a fine piece of work. It appears the first story — that this con artist was back conning people — led to revelations that he had used forged federal documents, had bilked scores of blue-collar people and, finally, his investors as well.*

3) The Ledger; Jeremy Maready; Jobs firm owner out on bail

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Election Reporting - Large

1) The Miami Herald; Beth Reinhard; Charlie Crist

Comments: *Reinhard's tale of Gov. Charlie Crist's nonstop U.S. Senate campaign gives readers a sense of what it is that makes the formidable Florida politician tick. Using a series of well-sourced, exquisitely-detailed anecdotes, this compelling story imparts a sense of the urgency that fuels Crist's 24-7 drive to raise money and influence voters through a personal, hands-on effort in the digital era.*

2) The Associated Press; Brendan Farrington; Florida Senate election

Comments: *Farrington's thorough reports illustrate the progress of one of the nation's most-watched political battles. His careful, well-balanced reporting provides the reader with an insider's perspective on how an underdog legislator has managed to mount a serious threat to a popular, once seemingly-unbeatable Republican governor.*

3) NO AWARD

Election Reporting - Small

1) Naples Daily News; Ryan Mills; Rambosk campaign under scrutiny

Comments: *Wow -- a lot of research and reporting clearly went into this series. Mills did an impressive job of juggling all the accusations and giving opposing parties the opportunity to respond -- a situation complicated by the fact that several players were former employees of the Daily News. Every time a question surfaced in the reader's mind, it quickly was answered. A well-written and well-rounded example of journalism.*

2) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Jim Turner; Senate hopeful a convicted felon

Comments: *Good job digging into the distant past -- in another state and with non-electronic archives, no less! Not only did Turner find the politician lied on election-related questionnaire, but also on professional licensing. It also was impressive Turner was able to get Ramos to comment at length on the discrepancies and his past. Story included important revelations for voters -- and for public officials who believe they can lie with impunity.*

3) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Elliott Jones & Ed Bierschenk; Lawsuit alleges Charlie Wilson did not meet qualifications

Comments: *Good primer on how lawyers and politicians can twist even the most basic of election laws! Interesting to observe the changes in Wilson's explanations of his residency as the series progresses. Writers provided intriguing background information on both the election issues and history of council replacements.*

Civil Law Reporting

1) Orlando Sentinel; Scott Powers; Theme-park lawsuits

Comments: *This comprehensive, year-long investigation by a Sentinel beat reporter gave readers a rare insight into what's really going on at the state's major theme parks with hundreds of personal-injury lawsuits in court that often result in confidential settlements or dismissals. The reporter's task was not easy here, but he reviewed countless case files spanning five years, compiled the numbers and interviewed people who'd filed injury claims, all to inform the "park-going public" of a subject that usually only garners coverage with the extreme cases. Excellent work.*

2) The Ledger; Gary White; Dirty deeds: how quit-claim fraud occurs

Comments: *Real estate scams have been a hot topic in recent years, and this report on the filing of fraudulent quit-claim deeds brings it home for readers who likely are unaware until it's nearly too late. The reporter clearly took time to search case files and was thorough in his sourcing to cover a relevant issue for homeowners.*

3) South Florida Parenting; Dina Weinstein; Invisible children: children overlooked in the battle of immigration

Comments: *The judges recognize that it isn't always easy getting answers out of federal agencies, like ICE, for news stories. Yet this reporter interviewed a number of sources and wrote a concise piece on children of undocumented parents and the resulting class action lawsuit that claims their civil rights were violated when their families were ripped apart by deportation.*

Criminal Law Reporting

1) The Florida Times-Union; Matt Galnor; Shots fired: police-involved shootings

Comments: *Matt Galnor's examination of the dramatic increase in police-involved shootings in Jacksonville provides an expert incorporation of statistics, a wide variety of sources and knowledge of the crackdown that started the trend. The stories, along with its breakouts and graphics, pull together a nuanced overview of the surge in such violence on the city's streets.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Henry Pierson Curtis; Cuban pot rings

Comments: *Henry Pierson Curtis weaves together a data-rich package on how Cuban refugees have come to dominate Florida's indoor marijuana-growing trade. Pulling together statistics from a variety of sources since no central database existed, he gives readers a deep understanding of how such operations work and why those involved often receive little punishment.*

3) Sun Sentinel; Paula McMahon; Freedom for Anthony Caravella

Comments: *The stories by Paula McMahon do a superb job explaining how a man was wrongly convicted and spent nearly 26 years in prison before being released. She provides readers with a close look at the convicted man's adjustment to life outside prison, but her review of the prosecutor-turned-judge who handled the case takes them even deeper into the criminal justice system.*

Medical/Health Care/Science Reporting

1) Miami New Times; Natalie O'Neill; Piece of mind

Comments: *This story combines aggressive reporting with strong narrative writing to reveal a hospital system rife with examples of neglect. What makes this article truly remarkable is that the reporter backs up her writing with classic shoe-leather reporting based on state health records, court records and comments from former hospital employees.*

2) The Miami Herald; John Dorschner; Healthcare costs

Comments: *100 milliliters of radioactive I-131: \$12,400; anti-nausea medication: \$79; 100 milligrams of ducosate sodium, a stool softener: 30 cents. Thanks to Dorschner's detail-oriented reporting, readers of The Miami Herald learned just how much a 45-hour hospital stay for thyroid treatment might cost. Dorschner did not stop there either, confronting the hospital with the charges and asking them to justify the expenses -- which they declined to do. As it turned out, even the 30-cent stool softener had been marked up 545 percent. Healthcare costs dominated the news in 2009, and Dorschner's reporting gave readers a chance to understand exactly what was at stake.*

3) The Palm Beach Post; Stacey Singer; Swine flu

Comments: *So many stories were written about swine flu in 2009 but few of them provided the human details and intimate touches of Stacey Singer's reports. She introduces us to the people who were deeply affected by the flu, especially the expectant mothers and their children who were most vulnerable to it. She tells their stories with vivid, insightful details.*

Consumer Reporting

1) The News-Press; Mary Wozniak; Drywall debacle

Comments: *The News-Press broke this important story and Wozniak was all over it as it unfolded. She did an excellent job of keeping readers in mind while writing the stories, providing answers and resources, and keeping officials on the record and accountable.*

2) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Jim Saunders; Slammed by insurance

Comments: Readers definitely benefited from Saunders' persistent question about Florida's rising insurance rates. No doubt this story resonated with the state's readers. This is an excellent project story that covers all angles of a complicated story that affects so many people's wallets.

3) Orlando Sentinel; Scott Powers & Sara K. Clarke; Dirty hotels

Comments: No doubt this story kept people out of hotel beds for a while! Solid reporting here about the state's inspection process.

International Reporting

1) Miami New Times; Tim Elfrink & Jesse Hyde; Guantanamo's final days

Comments: From the lead to the end of the story, Tim and Jesse vividly describe conditions at the Cuban facility and, especially, the plight of teen-now-adult Omar Khadr. The story balances the experiences of Khadr and those of the American soldier wounded by Khadr. I felt the pain of both men. The story is compelling – I couldn't put the article down until I read it completely, despite some distractions at home that I ignored. I did, however, find a few biased phrases – such as the phrase that Khadr's imprisonment is a symbol of "America's many mistakes in the War on Terror" – the word "many" wasn't objective. But, their excellent writing – descriptions of scenes with strong verbs and brilliant phrasing of sentences, provide new insight into a controversial, continuing challenge for the United States on resolving the situation. Also, the photographs enhanced the story.

2) The Associated Press; Jennifer Kay; Haitian boat sinks

Comments: Jennifer's stories were written a year before the devastating earthquake, which brought to life the miserable living conditions and abject poverty for many residents in the Caribbean nation. The quake brought an outpouring of charity. When I read Jennifer's stories, I intentionally blocked out of my mind the earthquake in January and went back in time with her. Her stories vividly depict the horrid conditions aboard a boat deemed not safe but used regardless by Haitians seeking a better life. Who wouldn't read these two stories and not have empathy. She touches a reader's emotions, and skillfully takes a reader aboard the boat sinking and feeling helpless at the sight of Haitians clinging for life while others plunge to their deaths. And I read her stories without any photos, although when they ran in 2009, the AP certainly sent pictures for newspapers to run with the stories. Again, like the first-place winners, I couldn't let distractions at home force me to quit reading.

3) NO AWARD

State & Federal Political/Government Reporting

1) Orlando Sentinel; Robert Block, Aaron Deslatte & Mark K. Matthews; Space Florida

Comments: A triumph of reporting.

2) The Miami Herald; Jay Weaver, Marc Caputo & Scott Hiaasen; Alan Mendelsohn fraud case

Comments: A rare window into the world of politics.

3) Sun Sentinel; Peter Franceschina, Josh Hafenbrack & Megan O'Matz; The plane truth

Comments: Dogged, determined reporting.

Local Political/Government Reporting - Large

1) The News-Press; Ryan Lengerich; Government spending

Comments: Solid reporting on how government is spending money on salaries and perks the average taxpayer may not know about. Reporting is backed up by databases and documents that readers can view, adding to the reporter's transparency and credibility, and allowing them tools to hold their local governments accountable.

2) Sun Sentinel; Andy Reid & Peter Franceschina; Power and persuasion

Comments: Good reporting on how lobbyists influence government and what's being done to change the situation.

3) Sun Sentinel; Jennifer Gollan; They travel on your dime

Comments: Nice enterprise work rounding up elected officials' travel expenses and showing taxpayers how their money is being spent.

Local Political/Government Reporting - Small

1) Naples Daily News; Matt Clark; Nobody listens to David

Comments: There is a lot of information contained in these stories, and it's all presented in digestible and understandable bits. Not only did Clark present the material in a digestible and understandable manner, but his writing skills on the subject were superb. Fantastic job.

2) Naples Daily News; Ryan Mills; Changing of the guard

Comments: Mills used in-depth details to tell a tale that many reporters would have paid brief attention to. So often, offices change hands and it gets lost in the shuffle of our desks. The four stories Mills put together are interesting, well-written and detail-driven. Great job.

3) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; John Bozzo & Sara Kiesler; Where tourists seldom go

Comments: Bozzo and Kiesler put a human face on the situation, drawing in readers who could easily put themselves in her shoes. Well-written and well-researched, this piece shed light on something that folks coming through the area would never realize was an issue. Good job.

Education Reporting

1) The Miami Herald; Kathleen McGrory; School on the brink

Comments: *An important story, scrupulously reported and well told.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Erika Hobbs; Orange County desegregation

Comments: *This is how reporting should be done.*

3) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Mark Harper; Lesson in life

Comments: *A great idea for a story, well-executed.*

Social Policy Reporting

1) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Deborah Circelli; No home for homework

Comments: *These stories exist in every community, but by telling the stories of homeless teens in her community, Circelli inspired others to offer a solution to the problem. The story and its results show the true power of community journalism.*

2) Naples Daily News; Steven Beardsley, Katherine Albers & Elysa Batista; Hard times for South Florida migrants

Comments: *A moving and comprehensive look at the experiences of migrant families and how their experiences affect the community as a whole.*

3) The Palm Beach Post; Daphne Duret; Children of Death Row inmates

Comments: *A well-written examination of a topic not often considered in death penalty discussions.*

Sports Reporting - Large

1) Orlando Sentinel; Jeremy Fowler; Gator players thick with traffic tickets

Comments: *This was such an interesting story. First of all, it was a great topic and very-well researched. It is almost unbelievable because of the number of tickets! I thought the "breakdown by charge" on Page C5 complemented the story. I also liked the fact Jeremy talked to a lot of sources. The best line in the story..."Jermaine Cunningham,defensive end...has almost as many career tickets (14) as sacks (18). He handled a very serious matter in a way that is easy to read...Sometimes too many numbers can be overwhelming but he used numbers to help tell the story.*

2) The Palm Beach Post; Carlos Frias; Superman is human after all

Comments: *This story is very well written. The attention to detail is what makes it a very good read. And he wrote it without talking to Tebow, but just watching, which for reporters isn't always easy to do. I like the line, "Those muscles listed in press guides, all 240 pounds of them, they can, in fact hang heavily on a man. Carlos painted a picture with his description of Tebow holding hands with his parents and posing for pictures when he probably didn't feel like it. And the part about Tebow being Wuerffel's role model was a great tidbit.*

3) The News-Press; David Dorsey; A winning formula

Comments: *This story tells us about winning on the field and at the gate in terms of money. It is well researched and David tells us right away what we will read about in this story. I like him comparing how much money Naples High had in ticket sales compared to the other six Collier schools combined. The breakouts of revenue by the two counties give us some good information in terms of dollars for three school years. The chart showing where the money goes gives a good indication to those who may not realize all the costs involved.*

Sports Reporting - Small

1) Charlotte Sun; Patrick Obley; The sinner who would be a saint

Comments: *A powerful and well-written examination of a professional athlete who seemingly had it all but threw it away drink after drink, and his battle to get back into the game.*

2) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Michael Lewis; Shawn shares his sad secret

Comments: *A poignant and inspiring tale of a high school football player who shares with his teammates the loss of his brother.*

3) Miami New Times; Francisco Alvarado; On the level

Comments: *A pull-no-punches look at the colorful and often seedy world of Mixed Martial Arts and one of its participants, whose own past is just as checkered.*

Spanish-Language Publication

1) El Nuevo Herald; Staff

Comments: *The Herald looks and reads like a complete newspaper. The design is crisp and easy to navigate, but the main asset of this newspaper is the abundance of local staff-written stories. Every section front had a nice mix of relevant wire copy with original local stories. Also, local stories are properly sourced and the organization looks clean. I particularly enjoyed the VIERNES weekend guide section. El Nuevo is clearly ahead of other Spanish-language newspapers in South Florida.*

2) El Sentinel (Orlando); Staff

3) El Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale); Staff

Trade/Special Interest Publication

1) The Miami Herald; Business Staff; Business Monday

Comments: *Business Monday made a huge impression on me. As someone who usually reads the business section of my newspaper last, I was impressed with the selection of stories, which undoubtedly have a broad appeal, and the clear, crisp, punchy writing. My newspaper should take a cue from this publication!*

2) South Florida Business Journal; Darcie Lunsford, Brian Bandell, Oscar Pedro Musibay & Paul Brinkmann; Real Estate Journal

3) Sun Sentinel; Mark Gauert, Anderson Greene & Elyse Ranart; City & Shore

Special Publication/Section

1) Orlando Sentinel; Staff; Football preview

Comments: *A comprehensive, fun and eye-catching section. So well-designed it might have even grabbed some non-football fans eyes as well. Especially appreciate the weight given to each sport. With the cohesive design, high school, college and pro all seem to have equal footing, which I'm sure many on each level appreciate. This is something to be proud of as it displays a tremendous team effort from photo to copy to design. Well done.*

2) The Florida Times-Union; Sports Staff; Bobby Bowden farewell

Comments: *Incredibly well-designed tribute to a coach who, depending on where you are in Florida, you either love or hate — but still respect. What this section does, in a really comprehensive way, is provide perspective on a career that spanned decades of highs and lows and put it into a package that the die-hard and the novice can still learn from and appreciate. Thought the "by the numbers" package on Page 9 was particularly well-conceptualized and provided a quick and captivating way to show off his hall of fame resume.*

3) Creative Loafing; Staff; The decade in review

Comments: *This was something we think many dailies didn't do very well, but CL excelled at. Instead of running just a top 10 in local stories or regurgitated AP pop culture decade top 10s you really got into it, assigning your staff to dig deep and look back on what has shaped your community over 10 years. It did what newspapers are supposed to, provide perspective and context, in a fun, informative and easily digested format.*

Editorials

1) Orlando Sentinel; Victor Schaffner; SunRail

Comments: *Schaffner's extensive knowledge of the political debate surrounding the SunRail proposal shows in his authoritative analyses. The editorial board's mandate — to influence changes that benefit the community — is well served by these editorials. Almost as importantly, they let readers know who to blame and who to credit.*

2) The Florida Times-Union; Joe Adams & Mike Clark; Missing students: the lost city

Comments: *This ambitious series shines a light on a significant problem, identifies solutions and challenges the community and its leaders to take action. Their extensive reporting shows through on nearly every line, forcing the community to pay attention.*

3) The News-Press; David Plazas & Mark Stephens; Various

Comments: *Their submissions were clearly written and hard-hitting. They're aiming their sights in the right direction by trying to hold public officials accountable.*

Editorial Cartooning

1) Sun Sentinel; Chan Lowe

Comments: *Chan's cartoons were like a seasoned prize fighter. They hit hard. And fast.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Dana Summers

Comments: *The Sentinel has a treasure in Dana. His work is more than good, it's fun to look at. His "Tiger Woods" cartoon made us laugh out loud.*

3) The Florida Times-Union; Ed Gamble

Comments: *A worthy addition to any Opinion page. His bold style grabs readers and pulls them in.*

Religion Reporting

1) Miami New Times; Natalie O'Neill; Pint-size preacher

Comments: *Excellent story. Strong reporting and writing. Went beyond the obvious, fluffy feature to paint a real picture of the young preacher's life and family.*

2) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Kari Cobham; The man and the promised land

Comments: *Well-written and reported enterprise story. Touching and thought-provoking.*

3) The Tampa Tribune; Michelle Bearden; Ruin to revival

Comments: *Strong profile of a complicated man. Gave a real glimpse of his life and spiritual/emotional state.*

Real Estate Reporting

1) The Miami Herald; Staff; State of Foreclosure

Comments: *These reporters didn't just rely on numbers or talking heads to cover the local impact of declining residential property values. They found real people. They told their stories eloquently, weaving in raw detail that doesn't spare the reader discomfort.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Mary Shanklin; Foreclosure crisis

Comments: *Shanklin's reporting pinpoints a statewide housing crisis using hyper-localized statistics and stories from families who fell prey to foreclosure. She took the time to study the lesser-known angle of what happens to renters whose landlords fail to pay the mortgage. The research paid off with rich, in-depth stories.*

3) Daily Business Review; Polyana da Costa; Doing the limbo

Comments: *It's apparent that this reporter spent hours sifting through public documents and grilling key sources to make this three-story package a reality. De Costa exhausted her source list, not stopping after four, five or six interviews. The package is a comprehensive look at who the winners and losers after commercial mega-projects dwindle.*

Environmental Reporting

1) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Dinah Pulver; Exotic menace

Comments: *Pulver did an excellent job of going beyond the obvious high-profile story that others reported on about the release of pet pythons and their potential impact on the Everglades. Instead, she dug into the much broader issue of the introduction of exotic species into the wild. She showed the problem goes well beyond large snakes and involves many plant and animal species. This series was exhaustively reported, well-written and comprehensive and stood out among the entries as the best work.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Kevin Spear; Energy reporting

Comments: *Spear took on explanations of the very technical subject of the environmental issues associated with different sources of energy and managed to make it highly readable. He provided a well-balanced report on the issues and translated them into terms that everyday consumers could understand.*

3) The News-Press; Kevin Lollar; Wildlife poaching

Comments: *Lollar dug into public records to show the impact of poaching on the state's wildlife resource and revealed how state law is largely ineffective in punishing violators. He showed where the problems are and how law enforcement is spread thin in trying to catch violators.*

Arts Reporting

1) Sarasota Magazine; Charlie Huisiking; Leading man

Comments: *This is a very well-written and well-reported article about a prominent yet controversial figure in the arts community. It shows all sides to the subject, for both fans and foes.*

2) The News-Press; Charles Runnells; Naples painter finds fame, but faces challenges

Comments: *A nicely done profile on a painter with an interesting spiritual background. The writer weaves elements of the modern and artsy with the historical background of the painter and his lineage.*

3) The News-Press; Drew Sterwald; Something wicked

Comments: *The writer brings the appeal of the "Wicked" show to life, and captures the "entertainment" in entertainment writing. I now want to go see "Wicked."*

Food/Beverage Writing

1) Miami New Times; Jackie Sayet; Bogus beef

Comments: *The writer did a good service for fine diners who may think they are getting Kobe beef, but aren't getting the true designer meat. This article was informative and well-written, and akin to a fashion piece on whether your purse is a true Kate Spade or a knockoff.*

2) NO AWARD

3) NO AWARD

Criticism

1) Creative Loafing; Mark E. Leib

Comments: *There's no whitewashing in Leib's style. He eloquently tells readers the good, the bad and the ugly about a production and its cast. And he does it matter-of-factly without a Simonized you-suck attitude.*

2) Naples Daily News; Chris Silk

Comments: *Good leads and nice storytelling.*

3) Creative Loafing; Brian Ries

Humorous Column Writing/Commentary

1) Naples Daily News; Brent Batten

Comments: *Batten brings crisp, lively writing and slightly twisted sensibilities to his pieces. While he aims for the standard targets of politicians, bureaucrats and social networking sites, it's the crooked arrows he hits them with that make his columns so richly entertaining.*

2) The Palm Beach Post; Frank Cerabino

Comments: *Cerabino uses offbeat imagery and clever puns to make serious points. To do that as often and as successfully as Cerabino does is to have mastered one's craft.*

3) NO AWARD

Serious Column Writing/Commentary

1) Orlando Sentinel; Scott Maxwell

Comments: *Maxwell doesn't suffer fools kindly, whether their actions lead to tragic consequences as in the case of the wonder dog whose handler's misdeeds sent numerous innocent victims to jail or the state's Republican party chairman who can't see beyond his overblown conceit when blathering on about President Obama's proposed speech to schoolchildren. Maxwell brings together insight and a depth of knowledge that packs a considerable punch. Just ask the state's lieutenant governor, who probably is now looking for a new job thanks to the columnist's withering attack on his extravagant travel expenses. A very impressive entry.*

2) The Miami Herald; Fred Grimm

Comments: *It reads like an outtake from Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central. The trouble is the way in which Miami and Dade County deal with sex offenders — by forcing them to live under a bridge — is no laughing matter. Fred Grimm approaches the absurdity of these residency laws without a heavy hand but with a caring heart. He treats the convicted sex offenders, not as objects of scorn, but as people caught in a world even Kafka would find odd. Grimm is likewise up to the task of delivering a devastating critique of the deadly drugs being dispensed to foster children that contributed to the suicide of a 7-year-old boy. Grimm's commentaries are exceptional.*

3) Creative Loafing; Peter Meinke

Comments: *Yes, poetry does matter, and Meinke proves that convincingly with his trio of commentaries that offer insight along with a shot or two of iambic pentameter. His handling of John Updike's contributions was particularly impressive as well as his blending of science and Walt Whitman into a short treatise on the inter-connectivity of life. In the words of a lesser known but equally engaging poet, the great prizefighter Muhammad Ali, Meinke's prose floats like a butterfly. Nicely done.*

Sports Commentary

1) The Miami Herald; Dan Le Batard; Shattered soul

Comments: *Not just a finely crafted piece of writing, but the detailed reporting gives the reader a unique look into the agony currently infiltrating Jim Leyritz's life.*

2) Charlotte Sun; Patrick Obley

Comments: *The writer backs up his analysis of what Steve Spurrier's coaching career has become with some interesting facts.*

3) Orlando Sentinel; Mike Bianchi

Comments: *The writer's insight into Bowden's career and his blunt writing style make this a fine example of how to combine news and opinion.*

NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINE COPY EDITING, PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHICS

Breaking News Photography - Large

1) Sun Sentinel; Ron Reid & Photo Department; Neighborhood in shock

2) The Florida Times-Union; Rick Wilson; Waterspout

3) NO AWARD

Breaking News Photography - Small

1) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Matthew Ratajczak & Deborah Silver; Rio fires

Comments: *First place offered a complete overall look at the impact of the fires. Judges especially were drawn to the main photo of the student evacuation.*

2) Naples Daily News; Davd Albers; 90 percent contained

Comments: *Second place showed great use of lighting and composition.*

3) The Ledger; Ernst Peters; Brush fire

Comments: *Third place was a solid shot showing the not-so-obvious fire victims — homeowners' pets.*

Sports Action Photography

1) The Miami Herald; Al Diaz; Heisman hammer

Comments: *First place was superb peak action, timing, anticipation and composition by the photographer. Clearly stood out to the judges as the top photo of the category.*

2) Orlando Sentinel; Stephen M. Dowell; Daytona fire

Comments: *Second place was an intense photo from a difficult situation for access and placement. Nice job by the photographer to be in position to get the driver diving out of the burning race car.*

3) The Ledger; Rick Runion; Girls' softball

Comments: *Judges were drawn to the clean background and timing of the third-place photo.*

Feature Photography

1) The News-Press; Lindsay Terry; Fish finder: local predator enjoys picnic

2) Naples Daily News; Greg Kahn; Art at a glance

3) The Florida Times-Union; Jon M. Fletcher; Tears of joy

Feature Photography Series

- 1) **Naples Daily News; Greg Kahn; Resurrection of Amalia Mendoza**
- 2) **The Palm Beach Post; Brandon Kruse; Season to share**
- 3) **Sun Sentinel; Michael McElroy; Alone in the shadows**

Art/Photo Illustration

- 1) **The Florida Times-Union; Jon M. Fletcher; Childhood depression**

Comments: Outstanding work in an illustration that walks the fine line between being easily interpreted and being heavy handed or obvious. The color palette is beautiful and the judges loved the little detail of a tire swing reflected in the window.

- 2) **The Palm Beach Post; Brennan King; Various**

Comments: The artist's style shines through in the three selections. Judges especially enjoyed the Florida take on the holidays and the repurposing of champagne corks, wire and foil into parachutes. Overall, these covers aren't particularly grabby, but all are nice subtle images that are smart and fun to look at.

- 3) **The Miami Herald; Zach Folzenlogen, Ana Larrauri & Dave Wheeler; Various**

Comments: Nice selection of pieces from a talented art staff. Love the simplicity and colors of "Check Mates." The Halloween cover was a clever take on a holiday that easily succumbs to clichéd imagery, and works well with a fun headline. Judges enjoyed the moody colors of "Healthcare Hardships" and the macro depth of field conveys a sense of smallness in a big, frightening health crisis.

Magazine Cover Design

- 1) **The Tampa Tribune; Sherry Hutchinson**

Comments: Bright, fun and colorful, these covers all took the road less traveled. The easy way out with a lot of these subjects would have been a photograph; the subject matter lends itself to that. However, the illustrations lent an air of playfulness to the magazines that help invite the reader in. Each has a clear focus, with headlines prominently displayed (without being too wordy, I might add). The fact that the logo moves around shows the editors aren't locked into one line of thought. They are flexible — a commendable trait in a features mag like this one. The covers each made me anxious to explore further and check out the interior (which I sadly couldn't do).

- 2) **Sun Sentinel; Anderson Greene**

Comments: These covers were high-gloss, high-production value and quite classy. There is no denying their quality. Images were clean and clear, with a definite sense of focus. The small logo lets the readers put their focus on the image and headlines.

- 3) **The News-Press; Lindi Daywalt-Feazel**

Comments: Fun art helps these designs draw the reader in. ("Modern Dad" was particularly strong). Short and snappy heads also benefit. The logo could use a bit of redesign (the Helvetica-style font seems a bit antiquated and simplistic). The production value is quite good, and all of the text on the cover has enough contrast to not get lost in the shuffle.

Front Page Design - Large

- 1) **The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Kelly Ann Markowitz, Jennifer Cason & Octavio Diaz**

Comments: Very clean and balanced overall look on all pages. Rail on left is well-illustrated and easy to navigate. Nice use of shading and headers on info boxes and refers to avoid making packages too cluttered. Judges especially drawn to the eye-catching "Exotic Menace" illustration.

- 2) **The Florida Times-Union; Staff**

Comments: Bold use of strong art helped set these pages apart. Centerpiece packages are well-defined and attractive. Good use of color and text on "Champions" poster.

- 3) **Orlando Sentinel; Wonetha Jackson & Nick Masuda**

Comments: Photos, graphics and teasers grab readers on these pages. Judges liked creativity of "Convict Casey" and "We'll Be Back" illustrations.

Front Page Design - Small

- 1) **The Ledger; Laurie Lawrence & Steve Antley**

Comments: Strong use of art, variety of elements and cleanliness of design defined these pages. Even in black & white, the Frank Lloyd Wright package caught the judges' eyes. "Dirty Deeds" package with illustrated info box also was well-defined centerpiece.

- 2) **Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Joe Mountain, Jim Urick & Jason Kendall**

Comments: "Fire Rages in Rio" front page helped Stuart News secure second place. Page had multiple entry points including map, info box, web refer and an appeal to readers for photos all attractively packaged. Use of color in the headline elements on the top of the page also helped get more information out front in a way that was easy to scan.

- 3) **Tampa Bay Business Journal; Pam Huff & Alexis Muellner**

Comments: The Business Journal is able to get a number of different elements on the cover without it feeling too cluttered. The use of spot color, shading and varying headline sizes and styles makes it easy to navigate and helps readers find their way inside.

Local Front Design

1) The Daytona Beach News-Journal; Sue Pearson & Ruth Oneufer

Comments: All three of these pages were well-designed, with nice use of photos and typography. We especially liked the varied layouts, leading us to believe the designer does not simply follow a formatted template. The use of color on the headline for "Bloodshed at Astor Bridge" pulled the centerpiece package together; the charticle package for "Beat the Heat" was easy to navigate; and the use of alternate photo frames for the horses in "Adopting Royalty" helped to add a sense of the past to this package. Suggestions Be aware of odd breaks and trapped white space, as in the "On the Spot" and "Coming Monday" items. Despite multiple entries in this category, the News-Journal was the only winner.

2) NO AWARD

3) NO AWARD

Business Front Design

1) The Palm Beach Post; Jenna Lehtola

Comments: Each of these page designs had excellent organization — from the centerpiece package to the regular "Week in Review" feature and additional features and columns. The use of art (without being cheesy or over-the-top) in the "Week in Review" really made the feature rail pop without taking away from the main story. The centerpiece packages are designed from top to bottom — taking into consideration the need for the "Sunday Tipsheet" header to signal that this is a regular feature. Labels, different sized fonts, color and shapes were used wisely to add emphasis where needed and were well-organized to assist the reader, not overwhelm them.

2) The Tampa Tribune; Carol Parker

Comments: These pages were designed well with good use of art, fonts and color. The use of color blocks on "Today's Menu" tied the photos to the descriptions; the typography on "Dressing for Success" is simple and clean — a great choice for this package — and the offset cutline bars on "They Did It" introduced the subjects of the story before the reader even gets to the story.

3) South Florida Business Journal; Stacey Shervan

Comments: Organization of the pages is very well done, as is the use of graphics and text over the centerpiece photos. Also impressive was the use of art in the banner refers to get readers inside.

Sports Front Design

1) The News-Press; Adam Pavkov & Robyn George-Holmes

Comments: Organization, varied layouts and excellent use of photos and typography won this category. Running the art for "Concussions cause fear" into the banner to the top of the page was a risk that paid off. While this was not the geographical centerpiece on the page, the designer made it clear that this story was the most important. The live Steelers' Super Bowl win was clean and neat. The designer did not attempt to do too much with a deadline-driven topic. The quarter-by-quarter recap at the bottom of the page was a nice touch and made the package special. The National Championship preview page was well-planned with simple reader-friendly (and important) game information at the top of the package and a game breakdown to the left to complement the story. The varied selections / layouts of this entry won the category.

2) The Villages Daily Sun; Matt Fry & Staff

Comments: All three designs were well-planned. The fact that all three were off live sporting events was a bonus and the sharp designs off of those live events was impressive. We especially liked the use of the Florida Gators logo on the BCS cover — the logo was understated and did not detract from the page / design. The only downfall of these pages are their similarity in that they are all just one, big photo with little text — poster pages. The lack of a more extensive game plan that would have required more organization or thought is the only thing holding these pages back from a win. Suggestion: Be careful of putting text over "loud" backgrounds as in "Gator Glory"

3) The Miami Herald; Zach Folzenlogen & Robert Cohn

Comments: The designs in this entry were impeccable. What held it back from the others, though, was that each page / design was a pre-planned, poster-like page. We would have liked to see some varying designs or live event coverage with more need for organization. That being said, the use of art and typography on all of these pages was excellent, well-planned and well-executed. All three projected a magazine-like feel, which left us wishing we could see the rest of the section.

Feature Front Design - Large

1) The Palm Beach Post; Tonya Favata

Comments: The use of background art and varying typography was impressive in this entry. The clean, airy feel given by "The Vanderbilts" headline makes us want to visit the area and using the beach shell background on "Back to the beach" was a great way to add detail without adding clutter to the page.

2) The Florida Times-Union; Erin Patterson & Kyzandra Zarate

Comments: Great organization on all entries. We especially liked "The Best Way Out." This idea was well-planned and well-executed. We also liked the use of different fonts in "The prose" rail to draw in the reader. The designer did a great job of organizing the photos on "Gadgets" so not to clutter the page or confuse readers.

3) NO AWARD

Feature Front Design - Small

1) Naples Daily News; Kate Palazzi

Comments: Organization and great use of photos, color and typography won this category. "The Best Places to Eat in Naples" and "Cool Drinks" included a lot of information but the designer did a good job of not overwhelming the reader.

2) The Villages Daily Sun; Anthony Casto

Comments: The use of art to give a magazine feature feel was very well-executed on all three of these page designs. We especially liked the typography on "Clawing his way to the top." Suggestion: Be careful using bold fonts on backgrounds, as in "Clawing ..." the bold font can get a little overwhelming for a reader. Perhaps simply using a light font but in a bigger size would be better.

3) The Ledger; John Pitts & Steve Antley

Comments: The designer had very good ideas on all three of these entries. While some of the execution may have fell short (i.e., the way the back half of the cheeseburger was cut off on "Fast n Cheap." There was no depth to the photo) the ideas were clearly there. This designer shows a lot of potential in their details (i.e., the slanted subhead separated by green dots on "Canning Craze" and the great use of labels on "Fast n Cheap").

Informational Graphics/Special Page Design

1) Sun Sentinel; Karsten Ivey, Len DeGroot & Tim Frank; How the Bloodhound Supersonic Car works

Comments: Very well organized and technically well executed. Your eye starts at the top and works its way down to the last detail.

2) The Miami Herald; Paul Cheung & Zach Folzenlogen; Obama's network

Comments: An impressive spread, layout a feature like this with the amount of headshots can be daunting, the color scheme and space invested make it work.

3) Sun Sentinel; Cindy Jones-Hulfachor, Karsten Ivey, Len DeGroot & Tim Frank; Homegrown teeth

Comments: A difficult subject explained in a very clean presentation.

Headline Writing

1) Orlando Sentinel; Dan Wine

Comments: The headline entries combine playful humor and wordplay while still conveying enough information to engage interested readers without attempting to seem superior. They seem to respect the intelligence of the reader while not aiming the wit either too high or too low. It's far too easy to let ever-increasing deadline pressures drain the life from your newspaper, or to be so cautious about offense that you keep it bland, but fun headline writing can help keep some of the spark of individuality that makes a reader want to pick up YOUR news product, rather than letting it just become disposable background noise.

2) Orlando Sentinel; Liam Miller

3) The Florida Times-Union; Catie Fry

BROADCAST

Deadline Reporting - Television

1) NO AWARD

2) NO AWARD

3) NO AWARD

Feature Reporting - Television

1) WFTV-TV; Berndt Petersen & Octavio Torres; 360 Church

Comments: This piece captured several stories at once, all of which were interconnected and compelling. It was original, relatable and understandable to any viewer.

2) First Coast News; Jennifer Lindgren; Remembering 9/11

Comments: This heartfelt piece took a national story and made it local and personal to the community.

3) Central Florida News 13; Scott Fais; Florida on a tankful

Comments: This piece was informative, fun and very well produced.

Investigative Reporting - Television

1) WBBH-TV; Amy Oshier, Jeff Woods & Lauren Bernaldo; 10th Life Sanctuary

Comments: Outstanding work from start to finish! This report prompted investigation and resulted in change. Well done!

2) WPBF 25; Terri Parker; The Bulldog Exchange

Comments: Great work in exposing a crime. The investigative work in tracking down victims, exposing the suspects, and other follow ups to the story are evident.

3) NO AWARD

Sports Reporting - Television

1) WTVT FOX 13; Chris Clark; John Henson, All-American

Comments: *Excellent work, especially considering this piece was a one-man show.*

2) WTVT FOX 13; Chris Clark; Buccaneers football: scary bad

Comments: *Funny, yet informative and very creative.*

3) NO AWARD

Criminal Justice Reporting - Television

1) WTSP-TV; Mike Deeson & Paul Thorson; DUI problems

Comments: *Outstanding work from all sides of the issue. The three months of investigative work shows in the report.*

2) First Coast News; Jackelyn Barnard & Justin Patterson; Finding Kamiya

Comments: *Good work in making a cold case current once again. The challenges of the report were handled well as was the presentation of the background in the case.*

3) NO AWARD

Consumer Reporting - Television

1) First Coast News; Jackelyn Barnard, Justin Patterson, Jamie Valet & Chris Turner; Selling gold

Comments: *This report was informative, thorough, and complete leaving no questions for the viewers.*

2) NO AWARD

3) NO AWARD

Political/Government Reporting - Television

1) WTSP-TV; Mike Deeson & Paul Thorson; DROP double dip

Comments: *This piece displayed how the practice exposed in the report affected taxpayers and the general public. The investigation was very thorough and showed in how the facts were presented.*

2) NO AWARD

3) NO AWARD

Public Affairs Program - Television

1) WFTS-TV; Lisette Campos, Jennifer McVan, John Fulton & Rich Pegram; Taking action against domestic violence

Comments: *This program went over and beyond the definition of public awareness. This was an extraordinary effort to make the general public aware of an issue from a variety of angles while giving the general public the tool and information to act, all while keeping it close to home. Well done.*

2) WBBH-TV; Lauren Bernaldo, Todd Ofenbeck & Yn Pragne; Five years after Charley

Comments: *Well-written, Well-video-taped, and well produced. A great illustration of what a community has gone through and how it has grown in the face of tragedy.*

3) WFTV-TV; Craig Patrick, Maggie Norman, Bob Opsahl & Martie Salt; Rachel's challenge

Comments: *A well put-together piece that took a national issue and made it local as well as helping to influence a community with its message.*

Continuing Coverage - Radio

1) WLRN Radio/ZG Public Media; Ruth Morris, Dan Grech & Alicia Zuckerman; Under the Sun: condo refugee

Comments: *"Condo Refugee" not only told the story of a first-time homebuyer struggling to hold on to her condo during the real estate crisis, but, in understandable terms, explored the problems and challenges facing many property owners in South Florida.*

2) 92.5 FOX News Radio; Nadia Ramdass; Hurricane Charley: five years later

Comments: *This two-part series went beyond recapping the damaged caused by Hurricane Charley five years. It looked at the positive changes in the community that resulted from it, including a better built, and hopefully safer, public safety building.*

3) WUSF 89.7 News; Bobbie O'Brien & Joshua Stewart; My last tour

Comments: *This is an original idea that is executed well. The audience gets a firsthand audio "look" into the daily life, challenges and responsibilities of one soldier deployed to Afghanistan. Informative and interesting.*

Feature Reporting - Radio

1) AM-640 WVLG; Rob Newton; 9/11 tribute

Comments: *Rob Newton localizes the impact and memories of 9/11 upon the residents of his market. This is important, since most similar programs naturally focus on New York City, where the attack took place. Strong audio makes this a memorable feature.*

2) WLRN Radio/ZG Public Media; Alicia Zuckerman & Dan Grech; Under the Sun: second(hand) chances

Comments: *This is more than a moving feature about who women with multiple convictions for drugs and prostitution who have been able to turn their lives round through the efforts of Heather Klinker, who runs a thrift store and charity to benefit women like them. It stands out because it shows how and why Klinker started these efforts. Sound bites from the former addicts and especially strong and tells the story better than anyone else could.*

3) WLRN Radio/ZG Public Media; Trina Sargalski, Kenny Malone, Dan Grech & Alicia Zuckerman; Under the Sun: velvet rope

Comments: *A different and fun feature about the "psychology" of getting chosen from the crowd to get into a club. It was also informative and showed creativity and originality in topic choice and delivery.*

ONLINE

News Website

1) Orlando Sentinel; Staff; OrlandoSentinel.com

Comments: *Orlandosentinel.com offers viewers lots of information and links but uses white space and photos to make it seem less crowded and easy to navigate. The site has a great focus on regional breaking news and also offers a sense of humor and fun with features like panoramic photos, the Stan Van Gundy game and the celebrity then and now photos. We like the "Daily Disney" feature for out-of-town visitors and the "Hot Topics" links below the navigation bar that keeps the page looking fresh.*

2) WFTV-TV; Staff; WFTV.com

Comments: *WFTV.com goes beyond the typical TV website offerings providing viewers a more serious site with easy to find breaking and local news stories. Many stories included not only video but documents, slideshows and other content. We liked the "iewitness" feature to encourage viewer submissions. And the hurricane site offers interesting and vital content.*

3) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Staff; TCPalm.com

Comments: *Tcpalm.com is a highly visual site with an elegant and clean design that gives viewers a good sense of place. The slideshow presentation for news photos at the top is attractive and complements the site's emphasis on local news. The prominent reader photo link is a great way of involving viewers. A great site for a smaller publication.*

Original Reporting for Internet

1) 1h2o.org; Ramu Suravajjula; India: an enduring plague, parts 1-3

Comments: *Strong story that to us is the heart of the entire water project.*

2) Sun Sentinel; Carey Wagner, Liz Doup, Cindy Jones-Hulfachor & Sarah Dussault; The scar

Comments: *Tough subject to cover and compellingly written. Good use of video and strong photography.*

3) 1h2o.org; Janet Jarman; Mexico City: worldwide problem of fertilizing with raw sewage

Comments: *Good video package that may be a bit long to digest (Especially if the video takes forever to load) but nice use of shots and story concept. It's third because the story seemed like a long cutline, and this could have played a much larger part especially for people who could not see the video, or watch all of them. Overall the well thought out videos complement the entire water project.*

Blog - Affiliated

1) WLRN Radio/ZG Public Media; Trina Sargalski, Ruth Morris, Alicia Zuckerman & Dan Grech; Under the Sun

Comments: *As an online supplement to the well-produced and interesting radio stories, "Under the Sun" does a good job of using the online medium. Judges wanted to see stronger photography (yes we know it's a radio program), but liked the animation that accompanied "Velvet Rope."*

2) Sun Sentinel; Chan Lowe; The Lowe-Down

Comments: *A simple, well-executed idea, and the clever title doesn't hurt either. The art of editorial cartooning hinges on the ability to distill complex issues into a humorous stance that's easy to understand in a small square of artwork and a handful of words. Lowe clearly has this ability and it's fascinating to read some of his thoughts and to get a glimpse into this process.*

3) Creative Loafing; Staff; The Daily Loaf

Comments: *The eclectic tidbits that come over the Daily Loaf blog seems like a good way for new readers to approach the daunting amount of content found on the main Creative Loafing page. It serves its purpose well, but judges would have liked to see more innovative and alternative ways to use the online medium.*

Blog - Unaffiliated

1) Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Rex Temple & Liisa Hyvarinen Temple; Afghanistan - my last tour

Comments: *In this category of worthy entrants the difference was slim: reader engagement. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Rex Temple's folksy style managed to ground his deployment in Afghanistan with details of daily life on and off base, with stunning pictures and good video. This is one American's journal of military service served straight up and his readers are the better for it. And those readers responded, which made the difference. Thoughtful, caring and literate responses to the stories that moved them. Genuine communication between a writer and his audience delivered in real time half-way around the world. Sgt. Temple's home now, back to his wife who assembled his words and pictures into a graphically pleasing format that makes this the best unaffiliated blog in the contest. Congratulations!*

2) 1h2o.org; Joseph B. Treaster; Water and the World

Comments: *Joseph Treaster's in-depth and thoughtful takes lacked just one thing: response. In this era engaging readership is critical to making the most of the medium. Treaster's work deconstructing environmental issues deserves more interplay with readers. Then again, it may be so thoroughly presented that there is little room for argument. This was a tough choice.*

3) NO AWARD

Multimedia Project

1) 1h2o.org; Janet Jarman, Deborah Acosta & Alessandra Villaamil; Aguas negras

Comments: *This was a powerfully told story about sewage issues and farming in Mexico. It was beautifully photographed and edited, and the presentation was impeccable. Though the entire video was in Spanish, the subtitles allow English speakers to follow along and understand the issues and potential solutions.*

2) The News-Press; Mike Donlan, Online Team & Multimedia Team; Fighting cancer: waves of hope

Comments: *This presentation took a complex subject and broke it down into easily consumable parts that help the reader understand the potential of John Kanzius' invention and the opportunity it has to change science and society. This was a nice mix of info graphics, timelines and video to create a complete picture.*

3) Naples Daily News; Greg Kahn; The resurrection of Amalia Mendoza

Comments: *This video tells the amazing story of a Colombian woman who lost her face in a traffic accident and came to Naples, Fla., to be fitted with a prosthesis. The story is told in a powerful way and includes interviews with Mendoza, her family, her doctors and her friends. It follows the story from Columbia to Florida and back to her home, where it shows how the prosthesis has transformed not only her appearance but also her outlook on life. The mix of video and still photos was particularly skillful.*

Web Design

1) Sun Sentinel; Lindsay DuBois, Karsten Ivey, Len DeGroot & Tim Frank; The Edge Multimedia

Comments: *This feels like a glimpse of the future. At a time when too many traditional media sites are revolutionary only in the digitization of typical content, this site clearly was built for the web. Games? Databases? Interactive? News? More? So much more that the biggest complaint is that it takes 20 seconds to load. That's annoying, but the variety and depth of this site win out.*

2) Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Staff; TCPalm.com

Comments: *This is a beautiful site. It is clear, easy to navigate and I've yet to find an unappealing story in the main carousel. These folks know how to sell what they produce, but in the end the site's just not content-rich enough. But it doesn't miss by much. Very good work.*

3) NO AWARD

STUDENTS

College Journalist of the Year

Michele Boyet; Florida Atlantic University

Comments: *Her work for the University Press is excellent and it, alone, would make her a strong candidate for this award. However, her work as editor of the UP is only a part of what she has done during her college career. Her internships, part-time job at the Sun-Sentinel, her service on the board of the South Florida Chapter of SPJ, her work with CMA/ACP and her role as co-creator of the First Amendment Free Food Festival make up an extraordinary list of accomplishments for a college journalist. Her work on the First Amendment Free Food Festival has had an impact not only in Florida but on college campuses across the country. Ms. Boyet well deserves to be named College Journalist of the Year.*