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Former KXII reporter named quarterfinalist in national novel contest

April 20, 2009 03:41 pm

— BRUSH PRAIRIE, Wash. — Former Ada resident and KXII reporter Shannon Capps and his soon-to-be-released novel, "Train in the Distance," have made it to the quarterfinals of the 2009 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards (ABNAs).

"I feel extremely honored to be in the top five percent," Capps, who lived in Ada, Okla., in the late 1980s and still has several friends in the area, said. "In a difficult industry like publishing, anything you can do to set yourself apart from the masses can only help."

From here, the ABNA list will be whittled down to the top 100, then the top 10, with contest finalists announced on May 15th. Those finalists will be flown to Seattle for a celebratory gala in late May, where one grand prize winner will be chosen to receive a publishing contract from Penguin Books and a \$25,000 advance.

"Obviously, winning a national contest like this would be a wonderful thing for my career," Capps, who writes under the name S.W. Capps, says. "But with this novel set almost entirely in Oklahoma, this type of recognition would bring some much needed attention to the Sooner State and its great writers."

Capps, 45, lived in Ada from 1988 to 1989. While in Ada, he worked as a news reporter and bureau chief for KXII-TV Channel 12, the local CBS affiliate, where he was nominated for an Oklahoma Broadcasters Award. He has since moved on to the Pacific Northwest, where he now writes full-time and coaches high school baseball.

Train in the Distance, which is tentatively scheduled for a fall release, is Capps' second novel.

Additional info is also available on Capps's Web site at www.swcapps.com.

he story details the plight of a young TV reporter forced to confront the sinister forces behind the station he works for. Under increasing threat of danger, he fights tirelessly to expose the truth, but in the process uncovers something far more powerful—the truth about himself.

Capps' first novel, Salmon Run, was published in 2007, and is available on-line at Amazon.com, Borders.com and BarnesandNoble.com. To read more about the ABNA contest or to download the first chapter of Train in the Distance for free, readers are encouraged to visit: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B001UG39WO>.

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