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2011 C.B. BLETHEN MEMORIAL AWARDS PRESENTED

The 2011 C.B. Blethen Memorial Awards for Distinguished Newspaper Reporting were presented today to writers from 12 daily newspapers in the region. The awards were established in 1977 in honor of C.B. Blethen, publisher of The Seattle Times for 26 years, from 1915 to 1941. Frank Blethen, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer at The Seattle Times presented this year's awards at the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association (PNNA) in Tacoma, Washington. The first- and second-place winners in each category received plaques provided by The Seattle Times.

PNNA daily newspaper members in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Alaska, Alberta and British Columbia are eligible to enter the contest, which is administered completely independent from The Seattle Times by PNNA. Judges are top news executives from respected daily newspapers outside the PNNA area and are not affiliated with PNNA member groups.

The awards honor reporters from newspapers in two circulation divisions (over 50,000 circulation and under 50,000 circulation). There are five regular award categories: deadline reporting, feature writing, enterprise reporting, investigative reporting, and distinguished coverage of diversity issues.

In the competition for the special Debby Lowman Award for Distinguished Reporting of Consumer Affairs, all entrants compete together, regardless of circulation. This award honors Debby Lowman, a Seattle Times consumer reporter who died of cancer in 1978.

Winners of the 2011 C.B. Blethen Memorial Awards are:

Distinguished Coverage of Diversity

Under 50,000 circulation:

1. The Herald & News, Klamath Falls, OR. Herald and News Staff: "Living on the Edge" series
2. The Idaho State Journal, Pocatello, ID. John Bulger, Vanessa Grieve, John O'Connell, Sean Ellis, Kendra Evensen: "Tribes Look Past Mistrust, Fort Hall Then & Now" series

Over 50,000 circulation:

1. The Oregonian, Portland, OR. Nikole Hannah-Jones: "The Census and Portland"
2. The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA. The Seattle Times Staff for their diversity entry

Deadline Reporting

Under 50,000 circulation:

1. The Daily News, Longview, WA. Daily News Staff: "Shock in Rainier: Police Chief Shot, Killed"
2. The Chronicle, Centralia, WA. Dan Schreiber, Adam Pearson, Brian Mittge and Brandon Swanson: "Triple Murder in Salkum"

Over 50,000 circulation:

1. The Oregonian, Portland, OR. Bryan Denson: "Behind the Portland Bomb Plot"
2. The Oregonian, Portland, OR. Joseph Rose: "A Quiet Town is Mangled in the Grip of a Twister"

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Enterprise Reporting

Under 50,000 circulation:

1. Lewiston Tribune, Lewiston, ID. William L. Spence, Brad W. Gary, Kerri Sandaine, Kevin Gaboury, and Kathy Hedberg: "Thy Brother's Keeper"
2. The Columbian, Vancouver, WA. Laura McVicker: "A Life Interrupted"

Over 50,000 circulation:

1. The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA. Ken Armstrong and Jonathan Martin: "The Other Side of Mercy"
2. The Oregonian, Portland, OR. Bryan Denson: "Like Father, Like Spy"

Feature Writing

Under 50,000 circulation:

1. Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK. Julia O'Malley: "Hooked: One Addict's Story"
2. The Daily Herald, Everett, WA. Debra Smith: "A Long-Lost Voice"

Over 50,000 circulation:

1. The Oregonian, Portland, OR. Nikole Hannah-Jones: "Can \$100 Change a Life?"
2. The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA. Maureen O'Hagan: "The Fight of Her Life"

Investigative Reporting

Under 50,000 circulation:

1. The Herald and News, Klamath Falls, OR. Herald and News Staff: "Chronicles: Water and Drought"
2. The Daily Herald, Everett, WA. Debra Smith: "Spent: Years of Overspending"

Over 50,000 circulation:

1. The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA. Michael J. Berens: "Seniors for Sale"
2. The News Tribune, Tacoma, WA. Sean Robinson: "Dale Washam"

Debby Lowman Award for Distinguished Reporting of Consumer Affairs

1. The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA. Christine Willmsen: "Lender of Last Resort: I am a Wolf"
2. Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, WA. Michelle Dupler: "Pasco Day Care's Actions Anger Parents"

The Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association (PNNA) is an association of daily newspapers in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Alberta and British Columbia advancing the newspaper industry through information, education and service. The PNNA Foundation sponsors contests for PNNA-member newspapers, provides institutional grants to college journalism programs and supports training events for newspaper professionals in the Pacific Northwest. The Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) corporation, is supported by an endowment created through donations from members. To learn more, contact our Executive Director Tom Newton at (888) 344-7662.

The Seattle Times is a 115-year-old locally owned journalism and community service company. Founded in 1896 by Alden J. Blethen, The Seattle Times is a fourth and fifth generation family business. The family's flagship newspaper, The Seattle Times, is the largest daily newspaper in Washington state and the largest Sunday newspaper in the Northwest. The flagship website, seattletimes.com, is the largest local news information website in the Northwest. Other Blethen-owned newspapers in Washington are the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, the Yakima Herald-Republic, The Issaquah Press and its affiliated community newspapers: the Newcastle News, the Sammamish Review and the SnoValley Star.

More company information, including links to the newspaper websites, is available at <http://www.seattletimescompany.com>.

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