



# THE McCLATCHY COMPANY

*Since 1857*

Contact: Anders Gyllenhaal  
Vice President, News  
(202) 383-6002  
agyllenhaal@mcclatchy.com

## **McCLATCHY ANNOUNCES 10 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE AND TWO HONORS FOR INNOVATION**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif., Feb. 2, 2012** – The McClatchy Company (NYSE: MNI) today announced the winners of 10 President's Awards for journalism excellence in 2011 for superior work in investigative reporting, breaking news coverage, narrative writing and digital journalism. The company also recognized two newspapers with special prizes for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Staff members in Charlotte, Miami and Modesto won for investigative reporting that brought swift responses from authorities. *The Charlotte Observer* reported on vast irregularities in auto inspections in the state. *The Miami Herald* documented a wave of abuse and neglect at Florida assisted care facilities that claimed the lives of 70 people. The *Modesto Bee* uncovered a nonprofit housing agency that misused millions of dollars meant to go to providing much-needed housing support.

*El Nuevo Herald* and McClatchy's international staff won for excellence in foreign coverage. *El Nuevo Herald* was honored for a series of exclusive stories by reporter Antonio Maria Delgado about the secretive inner workings of the Venezuela government and its leader, Hugo Chavez. Four members of McClatchy's foreign staff won for coverage of the Arab Spring revolts that shook the Mideast and reshaped the leadership across the region.

The company recognized two newspapers with special awards for ingenuity. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* was honored for innovation with its "News Feed," which was part of the paper's recent redesign. "News Feed" pulls digital coverage from its website and social media exchanges and arranges Page 2A into a spread of reader comments, postings, tweets and commentary that blends the papers print and digital work. The *Idaho Statesman* was recognized for entrepreneurship for its creation of a weekly magazine, *Business Insider*, which expands local coverage at a time when readers are thirsty for thoughtful and thorough economic reporting.

*The Sacramento Bee* won for Marjie Lundstrom's narrative stories and Manny Crisostomo's photography of a young girl who was held captive in her own home and how she found a way to rebuild her life. The series also documented the failure of social services to help

the girl despite 11 visits to the home. *The State* in Columbia, S.C., was recognized for its use of public records, particularly e-mails of state leaders that took readers into the inner chambers of government.

*The Kansas City Star* won for its massive coverage of the Joplin tornado, including spectacular photography, extensive breaking news and explanatory work as well as a book that assembled the best of the coverage. The *Centre Daily Times* in State College, Pa., was honored for coverage of how its community responded to the Penn State scandal that has rocked a town built around the university and its football program.

The *Anchorage Daily News* won for its superior digital and print coverage of the annual Iditarod sled dog race across Alaska, which the newspaper documented in stories, videos, graphics and photography that drew followers from across the world.

The annual President's Awards are the highest employee honors given by The McClatchy Company. Judging the competition this year were Nancy Barnes, executive editor of the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis; Jan Schaffer, head of J-Lab at the American University in Washington, D.C., and Anders Gyllenhaal, McClatchy's vice president for news and Washington editor.

Here are the judges' comments and internet links, where available, to the winning entries:

### **Anchorage Daily News**

Iditarod

[www.adn.com/iditarod](http://www.adn.com/iditarod)

Team

Anchorage's Iditarod coverage is a great example of two achievements: How to make the most of digital storytelling and how to breathe life into an annual event that's been going for decades. A terrific blend of visuals and reporting, the coverage pulled together stories, maps, videos and photos with equal emphasis in print and online. One measure of a newspaper's spirit is how it covers the events that define the community. Nobody did it better this past year than the *Anchorage Daily News*.

### **Centre Daily Times**

Penn State Scandal

[www.centredaily.com/sandusky/](http://www.centredaily.com/sandusky/)

Team

The *Centre Daily Times* faced enormous challenges with the Penn State scandal that has drawn the attention of the country since November. With a small staff working nearly around the clock for weeks, the *Times* put out sweeping, compelling coverage of the startling events that reshaped State College. The *Centre Daily Times* did not break all the news on this story, but found ways to capture every angle of a waterfall of emotions that swept over this town. "It's hard to overstate what it took for a paper and staff this size to deliver the kind of big-city coverage they did day after day," the judges said.

## **The Charlotte Observer**

North Carolina Auto Inspections – Failing the Test

[www.charlotteobserver.com/inspections/](http://www.charlotteobserver.com/inspections/)

Fred Clasen-Kelly, reporter; Gavin Off, reporter; David Raynor, database reporter; Doug Miller, assistant metro editor

*The Charlotte Observer's* auto inspection story takes on a subject that touches readers where it counts – behind the steering wheel. Every year, car owners in North Carolina must take vehicles to private garages for state-mandated safety and emissions testing. The *Observer's* four-part series “Failing the Test” found a sprawling government program full of problems with little evidence of improving highway safety. “This is the kind of watchdog work that affects just about everybody,” the judges said. The series made the case so convincingly that it led to immediate response from lawmakers. And it presented its case in print and online in a way that readers could look up how their local inspection stations stacked up. The data was breathtaking – and almost certainly will force much needed improvements.

## **The State**

FOI Exclusives – University of South Carolina and Gov. Nikki Haley

[www.thestate.com/2012/02/02/2137321/presidents-award-story-links.html](http://www.thestate.com/2012/02/02/2137321/presidents-award-story-links.html)

Reporters Wayne Washington and Gina Smith

Using Freedom of Information requests like surgeons, the staff of *The State* delivered story after story about the inside workings of two powerful institutions – the University of South Carolina and the state’s new governor, Nikki Haley. The relentless reporting helped readers better understand these institutions, held them accountable and got results. The stories so riled Gov. Nikki Haley that she tried to deny access to her e-mails as if covering up the tracks would solve the problem. But once again, a little sunlight served as a disinfectant – and she had to change her course. “It’s hard to imagine a better use of Freedom of Information laws than we saw on these stories from *The State*,” the judges said.

## **El Nuevo Herald**

Venezuela Coverage

Antonio Maria Delgado, reporter

Persona non grata in his homeland, and the country he covers, *El Nuevo Herald's* Antonio Maria Delgado nonetheless delivered one exclusive story after another this past year on Venezuela, a topic of intense interest to *El Nuevo* readers. His stories ranged from breaking the news on Hugo Chavez’s secretive cancer treatment to his reports that the Libyan government wanted to turn its oil tankers over to Venezuela, revelations that led the deal to fall apart. Delgado produced his stories despite repeated warnings from high-level sources in the government telling him not to travel to Caracas. “Antonio’s work is extraordinary on several fronts, but above all shows the power of developing sources on your beat under the most difficult of circumstances,” the judges said.

## **The Kansas City Star**

The Joplin Tornado

[www.kansascity.com/news/joplin/index.html](http://www.kansascity.com/news/joplin/index.html)

Team

*The Kansas City Star's* coverage of the Joplin tornado – the most powerful single tornado in the past 50 years – put readers at the center of the storm with a comprehensive and sensitive report that was so detailed and powerful that it made you feel as if you were there. With stunning photography, full narratives and a massive reporting effort, the *Star* not only reported the news, but captured events, explained the phenomenon and traced the narratives of countless individuals. Then it assembled the work into a book to make sure this story is preserved forever. “We felt like we came to know these people and this town through the pages of the newspaper,” the judges said.

## **The Miami Herald**

Neglected to Death

[www.miamiherald.com/1688](http://www.miamiherald.com/1688)

Reporters Michael Sallah, Carol Marbin Miller and Rob Barry

This 18-month investigation into the deplorable and dangerous state of Florida’s assisted living facilities will change the course of events in Florida and almost certainly save the lives of some of the state’s most fragile residents. Uncovering evidence that will likely lead to criminal convictions, the paper forced the state to take action it should have a long time ago. On several fronts, including investigative reporting and project storytelling, “Neglected to Death” is the best of class.

## **The Modesto Bee**

SCAP Scandal

[www.modbee.com/scap](http://www.modbee.com/scap)

Reporters J.N. Sbranti and Ken Carlson

At a time when the nation is still in the midst of the housing debacle, *The Modesto Bee* tells the story of a brazen betrayal of the public trust: Federal funds meant to help low-income, sick and homeless residents with housing and support services were instead lining the pockets of the directors of a local nonprofit housing agency. The reporters pried loose story after story until the coverage developed momentum that led to an FBI investigation and a number of changes by the city.

## **The Sacramento Bee**

Girl with 100 Scars

[www.sacbee.com/manning/](http://www.sacbee.com/manning/)

Marjie Lundstrom, reporter; Manny Crisotomo, photographer

Marjie Lundstrom's series on Lilly Manning begins as a horror story of unspeakable dimensions, but ends up as a tale of triumph and recovery. Along the way, the stories uncover shortcomings of social services that visited girl's home 11 separate times without discovering the abuse taking place under the roof of this troubled home. The work is a tribute to the remarkable young girl at the center of this story and also to the power of storytelling in the hands of true veteran.

## **McClatchy Washington Bureau**

Arab Spring

Roy Gutman, Baghdad bureau chief; Hannah Allam, Cairo bureau chief; Shashank Bengali, foreign correspondent; Nancy A. Youssef, Pentagon correspondent

The Arab Spring, the most far-reaching story of the year, was also one of the most complicated to cover well, with layer upon layer of forces at work across the Mideast. From the time the first protests erupted through the conflict in Libya, McClatchy's foreign staff delivered a series of astute, elegantly written stories that reflected their collective decades of covering this region. "This is where we found some of the best writing of the year," the judges said. "You couldn't put these stories down."

## **The McClatchy President's Awards this year are awarding two special prizes for innovation and entrepreneurship:**

## **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

News Feed

Team

As part of the paper's print redesign this past year, the *Star-Telegram* developed a new feature that mines the newsroom's digital coverage and social media exchanges each day to build a rich, informative and entertaining Page 2 called News Feed that makes the most of the multimedia operations that our newsrooms are becoming. It's a magnificent effort that every newsroom should consider incorporating into their newspapers.

## **Idaho Statesman**

Business Insider

[www.idahostatesman.com/businessinsider/index.html](http://www.idahostatesman.com/businessinsider/index.html)

Team

The *Idaho Statesman* saw an opportunity to create a new kind of business magazine at a time when new products were hard to come by. By first listening to the region's business community,

and then pulling together a determined team of editors, writers and sales staff, the *Business Insider* found a way to achieve editorial and financial success from the start. As the magazine celebrates its one-year anniversary, other papers should look at this high-end, top -quality weekly as a model.

### About McClatchy

The McClatchy Company is a leading news and information provider, offering a wide array of print and digital products in each of the markets it serves. As the third largest newspaper company in the country, McClatchy's operations include 30 daily newspapers, community newspapers, websites, mobile news and advertising, niche publications, direct marketing and direct mail services. The company's largest newspapers include *The Miami Herald*, *The Sacramento Bee*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Charlotte Observer* and *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, N.C. McClatchy is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MNI.