

NEW YORK NEWS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Diane Kennedy

President

April 11, 2012

Albany—Times Union
Amsterdam—The Recorder
Auburn—The Citizen
Batavia—The Daily News
Binghamton—Press & Sun-Bulletin
Buffalo—The Buffalo News
Canandaigua—The Daily Messenger
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Dunkirk—The Observer
Elmira—Star-Gazette
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Glens Falls—The Post-Star
Gloversville—The Leader-Herald
Herkimer—The Evening Telegram
Hornell—The Evening Tribune
Hudson—Register-Star
Ithaca—The Ithaca Journal
Jamestown—The Post-Journal
Kingston—Daily Freeman
Little Falls—The Evening Times
Lockport—Union-Sun & Journal
Long Island—Newsday
Malone—The Malone Telegram
Massena and Potsdam—
Courier-Observer/The Advance News
Medina—The Journal-Register
Middletown—The Times Herald-Record
New York City—The New York Times
New York City—The Wall Street Journal
Niagara Falls—Niagara Gazette
Norwich—The Evening Sun
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Olean—The Times Herald
Oneida—Oneida Daily Dispatch
Oswego—The Palladium Times
Plattsburgh—Press-Republican
Poughkeepsie—Poughkeepsie Journal
Rochester—Democrat and Chronicle
Rochester—The Daily Record
Rome—Daily Sentinel
Salamanca—Salamanca Press
Saranac Lake—Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Saratoga Springs—The Saratogian
Schenectady—The Daily Gazette
Staten Island—Staten Island Advance
Syracuse—The Post-Standard
The Tonawandas—Tonawanda News
Troy—The Record
Utica—Observer-Dispatch
Watertown—Watertown Daily Times
Wellsville—Wellsville Daily Reporter
White Plains—The Journal News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2010-2011 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, April 11 at The State Room in Albany. The annual contest recognizes journalistic excellence among the association's member newspapers.

Newspapers competed against one another in five circulation classes: Under 10,000; 10,000-24,999; 25,000-49,999; 50,000-175,000; and Over 175,000.

Contest judges selected winners from 512 entries submitted by 28 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Michael Anastasi, Managing Editor of *The Salt Lake Tribune* in Utah; Anthony DeBarros, Senior Database Editor for *USA Today*; Heather Henline, Publisher and General Manager of *The Inter-Mountain Newspaper* in Elkins, West Virginia; Carolyn Levin, Faculty Advisor for Long Island University's School of Visual and Performing Arts; and Wendy Zang, Director of Special Sections at the *McClatchy-Tribune* in Sewichley, Pennsylvania.

Awards were presented in each of 16 traditional print categories:

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Investigative Reporting, Distinguished Business Reporting, Distinguished Editorial Writing, Distinguished Feature Writing, Distinguished Column Writing, Distinguished Headline Writing, Distinguished Sports Writing, Distinguished Community Service, Distinguished State Government Coverage, Distinguished Sports Coverage, Distinguished Page Design/Presentation, Distinguished News Photography, Distinguished Feature Photography, Distinguished Sports Photography, and Specialty Supplement Feature Writing.

Awards were also presented in each of three online categories:

Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Online Blog, and Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Breaking News Coverage category reflect effective newspaper response to deadline demands; and clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Investigative Reporting category demonstrate thorough, thoughtful, fair, and resourceful reporting of local stories that reveal corruption, or malfeasance, or inherent flaws in the functioning of society's institutions; and/or effectively measure the performance of those institutions against their stated missions.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Business Reporting category show effective newspaper coverage of business and the economy, skillful investigative reporting and excellence in writing style, editing, display and other pertinent criteria. The subject matter deals primarily with how business and economic events relate to individuals and the newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Editorial Writing category stress the concern for local community problems, courage in taking a position regardless of the popular view, and originality of viewpoint and style.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Writing category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations. Submissions can include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features, and must demonstrate style, originality and the ability to connect emotionally with the readers.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Column Writing category demonstrate originality, insight, wit, the capacity to illuminate character, and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of people and events in the community served by the newspaper.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Headline Writing category show clarity, creativity, and the capacity to distill and capture the essence of the story.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Writing category demonstrate quality and clarity of writing, originality, and local appeal.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Community Service category show effort and effect on the part of a local newspaper toward improvement of the community it serves.

Winning entries in the Distinguished State Government Coverage category demonstrate effective coverage of state government as manifested in service to the community, skillful investigative reporting, and excellence in writing style, editing and display, with subject matter dealing primarily with an aspect of state government and how it relates to a newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Coverage category exhibit innovative layout, design and photography, scope of content (variation of local sporting events), writing skill, headline suitability and appeal, and use of local features.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Page Design/Presentation demonstrate strong visual appeal, style and originality, and enhance the written content, making it easy to understand or navigate.

Winning entries in the Distinguished News Photography category stress news value, timeliness, communicative effectiveness, and skill as shown in composition and technical quality.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Photography category demonstrate imagination, communicative effectiveness, appeal to reader interest, and skill in composition, technical quality and cropping.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Photography category sharply capture the drama inherent in human athletic competition and draw the reader's eye to peak action, capturing the moment and communicating it on an emotional level with a high degree of technical skill, composition and quality.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage category demonstrate effective newspaper response to a breaking news story online, while exhibiting clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Blog category show timeliness, originality, insight, reader interaction and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of persons and events in the community served by the newspaper.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation category demonstrate work that incorporates distinguished journalistic storytelling via media other than the print format, while clearly showing creativity, ease-of-use for the Web site visitor, impact on the community and overall technical execution.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations, and may include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features. Submissions should demonstrate style, originality and the ability to make readers laugh, cry or feel.

Following is the list of winners:

Under 10,000 Circulation Class

The Recorder in Amsterdam won awards in **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "A season to remember" by Adam Shinder, and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for "Eyes on the Prize" by Paul Antonelli, Adam Shinder, Michael Kelly, Dave Wojeski, and Mark Perfetti.

The Observer in Dunkirk won the award for **Distinguished Headline Writing** with "It takes talent to be a dummy" by Diane R. Chodan.

The Malone Telegram won the award for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** with "Historic building collapses" by Doug Buchanan, Tricia Livernois, and Andy Gardner.

The Adirondack Daily Enterprise in Saranac Lake won nine awards, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for "After 40 years, DEC orders camps removed" by Mike Lynch; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for "Lost icon?" by Chris Knight; **Distinguished Editorial**

Writing for “Don't cheer for a killing” by Peter Crowley; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “Adirondack Gadabout” by Joe Hackett; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Communication breakdown” by Mike Lynch; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Unoccupied house burns to the ground” by Mike Lynch; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Two-Fly Challenge” by Mike Lynch; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Eyes on the finish line” by Mike Lynch; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Big Deal @ Big Tupper” by Jessica Collier.

The Saratogian in Saratoga Springs won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “The Corrosive Culture of Alcoholism” by Staff; **Distinguished Community Service** for “The Corrosive Culture of Alcoholism” by Staff; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for pages by Paul Tackett; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Saratoga Race Course” by Staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “At Double H Ranch, the Impossible is Possible” by Paul Post.

10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class

The Citizen in Auburn won awards in **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Biogas pipeline coverage” by Justin Murphy; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Older inmate population grows, puts strain on system” by Justin Murphy; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Eye on NY” by Robert Harding; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Girl Scout Pinewood Derby” by Katie Roupe.

The *Finger Lakes Times* in Geneva won awards in eight categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “School Budget Squeeze” by Staff; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “La Experiencia: Migrants in the Finger Lakes” by Heather Swanson; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Chuck Schading; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Looking for gain from a lifetime of pain” by Chris Marquart; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Summer of Healing” by David L. Shaw, Heather Swanson, Mike Hibbard, and Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Summer of Healing” by Chuck Schading; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Concert was a ball” by Spencer Tulis; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Snow racers” by Spencer Tulis.

The Daily Star in Oneonta won the award for **Distinguished Headline Writing** with “Being holy can make you roly-poly, study says” by Mike Root.

The *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Toddler dies in blaze” by Dan Heath and Gabe Dickens; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “It's a matter of civil rights” by Lois Clermont; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Airborne Speedway series” by Matthew Hamilton; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “Stepping up to the plate” by Matthew Hamilton.

The Record in Troy won awards in **Distinguished News Photography** for “Home ablaze” by Eli Gill and **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Irene hits the Capital District” by James V. Franco and Tom Caprood.

25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class

The Post-Star in Glens Falls won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “The 55” by Maury Thompson; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Saratoga: The most puzzling division” by Shannon MacCue; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Room to Grow” by Aaron Eisenhauer; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The 55” by Maury Thompson, Jonathan Davenport, and Kevin Locke; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “Vital Signs” by Scott Donnelly, Blake Jones, Omar Ricardo Aquije, Thomas Dimopoulos, and Maury Thompson.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* was the biggest winner of the competition, taking home eleven awards, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Irene” by Staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Money Pit/Money Maker: Ills of the Institution” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Chiefs, pay hikes dwarf teachers” by Michael Valkys; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “A city mourns” by Staff; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for selections by Mike Benischek; **Distinguished Community Service** for “The Public Pays: Government Jobs with Benefits” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Death in Prison: Suicides and mental illness” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Mourning his Children” by Lee Ferris; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Airborne” by Jason Lenhart; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Irene” by Staff; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish 'n' That” by Barbara Gallo Farrell.

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won awards for **Distinguished Editorial Writing** with editorials by Dave Dudajek and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Boilermaker 15K” by Staff.

50,000 – 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Times Union* in Albany won awards in **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “New York's Property Tax Nightmare” by Bob Port, James M. Odato, Chris Churchill, and Sarah Hinman Ryan, and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Capitol Confidential” by Jimmy Vielkind, Casey Seiler, Rick Karlin, and James M. Odato.

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Irene's path of destruction: Our region hammered” by Staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “What happened to these champs?” by Justin Rodriguez; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Bracing for the Boomer Boom” by Staff; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Diving grab” by Chet Gordon.

The *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester won awards in **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Erica Bryant, and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Attica Prison Riot” by Kyle Omphroy, Shawn Dowd, and Gary Craig.

The Post-Standard in Syracuse won awards in **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Practice What You Preach” by Renee Gadoua; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Smoke” by

Lauren Long; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “CNY Sports: Jim Brown” by Bud Poliquin.

The Journal News in White Plains won awards in **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Climbing Back” by Diana Costello, Gary Stern, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, and Andrew Klappholz; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Hats off!” by Heather Salerno, Bill Cary, Peter D. Kramer, and Linda Lombroso; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “The tortoise and the care” by Ron Bittner; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Playing a high-stakes game” by Josh Thomson; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Senior Players Championship” by Mike Dougherty and Rick Carpiello; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Costly Detours” by Jill Mercadante; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Prevention is Power in the Fight against Breast Cancer” by Tania Savayan; and **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Irene” by Staff.

Over 175,000 Circulation Class

The Buffalo News won awards in **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “The lion, the fish and the wardrobe” by Melinda Miller; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “It ain't hooking” by Jerry Sullivan; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Rx for Danger” by Sue Schulman, Henry Davis, Dan Herbeck, and Lou Michel; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Depth perception” by Vince Chiaramonte; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Feeling the Heat” by Sharon Cantillon; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Eyes on the Prize” by Mark Mulville.

Newsday on Long Island won awards in **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Baseball Preview Section” by the Newsday Staff; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “A little girl's fight to live” by Alejandra Villa; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “10th anniversary of 9/11” by the Newsday.com Staff.

The New York Times won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Carnage on the Highway” by Robert McFadden; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Abused and Used” by Danny Hakim and Russ Buettner; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “Crime Scene” by Michael Wilson; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Same-Sex Marriage” by Michael Barbaro, Thomas Kaplan, Nicholas Confessore, and Danny Hakim; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Irene” by The New York Times Metro Desk; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “City Room” by Andy Newman.

The Wall Street Journal won awards in **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “New Breed of Patent Claims” and other stories by Dionne Searcey, and **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “A Solitary Jailhouse Lawyer Argues His Way Out of Prison” by Sean Gardiner.