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PRESS RELEASE

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ANA/APME Announce 2009 Winners

The 2009 Better Newspapers Contest, presented jointly by the Arizona Newspapers Association and the Arizona Associated Press Managing Editors, took place on Oct. 10, 2009 at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

The East Valley Tribune and Payson Roundup once again took the coveted award for Arizona Newspaper of the Year in their respective circulation divisions. Newspaper of the Year awards are calculated from honors won in the Excellence in Advertising Contest added together with winning entries from the Better Newspapers Contest.

Dean Knuth, *Arizona Daily Star* was selected as the 2009 Photographer of the Year for daily newspapers and Dave Brown, *San Pedro Valley News-Sun* and *Arizona Range News* was named the 2009 Photographer of the Year in the non-daily division. The 2009 Journalist of the Year in the dailies division is Rob O'Dell, *Arizona Daily Star* and in the non-daily division, Peter Aleshire, *Payson Roundup*.

The Story of the Year was selected from the first place winners of categories 10 to 17. The winner of Story of the Year from the daily newspapers is Blood and Money, by Mark Flatten, *East Valley Tribune*. The non-daily winner for Story of the Year is Operation Firewater by Cindy Yurth and Duane Beyal, *Navajo Times*.

This year, 54 newspapers and 16 high schools entered in the Better Newspapers Contest with a total of 1,155 entries. The Better Newspapers Contest consists of nine categories that measure the overall quality of the newspapers and 19 categories that honor individuals who contribute to journalism excellence. A special thank you to the Mississippi Press Association for judging the entries.

The event concluded the ANA 2009 Fall Convention. Attached is a complete list of winners by category. Congratulations to all the winners!

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Newspaper Winners by Category

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place (tie): Arizona Capitol Times
San Pedro Valley News-Sun

2nd place: Verde Independent/The Bugle

3rd place: Coolidge Examiner

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Payson Roundup

2nd place: Fountain Hills Times

3rd place: Sedona Red Rock News

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Prescott Valley Tribune

2nd place: Tucson Weekly

3rd place: Explorer

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: Sierra Vista Herald

2nd place: The Daily Courier

3rd place: The Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: The Arizona Republic

2nd place: East Valley Tribune

3rd place: Arizona Daily Star

#1 REPORTING & NEWSWRITING EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Arizona Capitol Times

2nd place: Maricopa Monitor

3rd place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Eastern Arizona Courier

2nd place: Payson Roundup

3rd place: Sedona Red Rock News

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: West Valley View

2nd place: Prescott Valley Tribune

3rd place: Navajo Times

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: the Daily Courier

2nd place: Kingman Daily Miner

3rd place: Sierra Vista Herald

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: The Arizona Republic

2nd place: Arizona Daily Star

3rd place: East Valley Tribune

#2 DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & COPYWRITING EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun

2nd place: Arizona Capitol Times

3rd place: Arizona Range News

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Payson Roundup
- 2nd place: Fountain Hills Times
- 3rd place: Eastern Arizona Courier

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Tucson Weekly
- 2nd place: Green Valley news and Sun
- 3rd place: Explorer

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Sierra Vista Herald
- 2nd place: The Daily Sun
- 3rd place: Eastern Arizona Courier

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: The Arizona Republic
- 2nd place: Arizona Daily Star
- 3rd place: East Valley Tribune

#3 PAGE DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun
- 2nd place: Coolidge Examiner
- 3rd place: Camp Verde Journal

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Payson Roundup
- 2nd place: Jewish News of Greater Phoenix
- 3rd place: Sedona Red Rock News

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Scottsdale Times
- 2nd place: Phoenix Business Journal
- 3rd place: Tucson Weekly

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Today's News-Herald
- 2nd place: The Sun
- 3rd place: Mohave Valley Daily News

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: The Arizona Republic
- 2nd place: Arizona Daily Star
- 3rd place: East Valley Tribune

#4 EDITORIAL PAGE EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Camp Verde Journal
- 2nd place: Verde Independent/The Bugle
- 3rd place: Arizona Capitol Times

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Payson Roundup
- 2nd place: Eastern Arizona Courier
- 3rd place: Fountain Hills Times

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Explorer
- 2nd place: West Valley View
- 3rd place: Tucson Weekly

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Daily News-Sun
- 2nd place: The Sun
- 3rd place: The Daily Courier

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: The Arizona Republic
- 2nd place: East Valley Tribune
- 3rd place: Arizona Daily Star

#5 BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Coolidge Examiner
- 2nd place: The Eloy Enterprise
- 3rd place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Sedona Red Rock News
- 2nd place: Fountain Hills Times
- 3rd place: White Mountain Independent

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Navajo Times
- 2nd place: Prescott Valley Tribune
- 3rd place: West Valley View

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: The Sun
- 2nd place: Today's News-Herald
- 3rd place: Daily News-Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Arizona Daily Star
- 2nd place: The Arizona Republic
- 3rd place: East Valley Tribune

#6 COMMUNITY SERVICE/JOURNALISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Arizona Capitol Times
- 2nd place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun
- 3rd place: Arizona Range News

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: White Mountain Independent
- 2nd place: Fountain Hills Times
- 3rd place: Sedona Red Rock News

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: The Catholic Sun
- 2nd place: West Valley View
- 3rd place: The Communicator

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: The Daily Courier
- 2nd place: Daily News-Sun
- 3rd place: Arizona Daily Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: East Valley Tribune
- 2nd place: None awarded
- 3rd place: None awarded

#7 SPECIAL SECTION, NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT OR MAGAZINE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Verde Independent/The Bugle - Kudos

2nd place: Arizona Capitol Times - Focus

3rd place: None awarded

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Jewish News of Greater Phoenix – Chosen

2nd place: Sedona Red Rock News – Artscene

3rd place: Payson Roundup – A community of learners

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Explorer – Healthcare Directory

2nd place: The Business Journal – Healthcare heroes

3rd place: None awarded

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: Sierra Vista Herald – Our Community

2nd place: Mohave Valley Daily News – Desert Currents

3rd place: The Daily Courier – Go Green

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: East Valley Tribune – Within Reach

2nd place: None awarded

3rd place: None awarded

#8 NEWSPAPER WEB SITE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Verde Independent/The Bugle

2nd place: San Pedro Valley News-Sun

3rd place: Arizona Capitol Times

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Fountain Hills Times

2nd place: Payson Roundup

3rd place: White Mountain Independent

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Prescott Valley Tribune

2nd place: Tucson Weekly

3rd place: The State Press

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: Sierra Vista Herald

2nd place: Arizona daily Sun

3rd place: The Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: The Arizona Republic

2nd place: Arizona Daily Star

3rd place: None awarded

BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Scholastic Division: Large Schools (4A & 5A)

1st place: *The Crusader*, Salpointe Catholic High School

2nd place: *The Cactus Chronicle*, Tucson High Magnet School

3rd place: *The Cornerstone*, Carl Hayden High School

Scholastic Division: Small Schools (3A & smaller)

1st place: *The Gregorian Chant*, St. Gregory College Prep

2nd place: *Lobo Nation*, Many Farms High School

3rd place: *The Eagle's Eyrie*, Bourgade High School

Individual Winners by Category

#9 BEST HEADLINE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Don Harris, Arizona Capitol Times – Land-locked out: Dispute with state strands homeowners
- 2nd place: Matt Bunk, Arizona Capitol Times – Dirty bond money: AZ judge cleared to probe suspicious payments”
- 3rd place: Don Harris, Arizona Capitol Times – The biggest elections nobody watches

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Salvatore Caputo, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix – Mr. Gordon goes to Israel
- 2nd place: Trista Steers, Cottonwood Journal Extra – Food, fox-trot finance future
- 3rd place: Andy Staten, White Mountain Independent – Hurricane blows away Show Low 36-6

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

No entries submitted

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Matt Hickman, Sierra Vista Herald – From atrophy to a trophy
- 2nd place: Amy Crawford, The Sun – Holey ground
- 3rd place: Rich Thurlow, Kingman Daily Miner – Loose lips sinks Frippe rezone effort

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Joe McDermott, Arizona Daily Star – Did foot in face kick-start the Cats?
- 2nd place: Ron Solomon, Arizona Daily Star – Laundry basket as a nest: Will that wash?
- 3rd place: None awarded

#10 BEST NEWS STORY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Luige Del Puerto, Arizona Capitol Times – Amid fiscal crisis, lawmakers buy new computers
- 2nd place: Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor – Grandmother fights
- 3rd place: Jeremy Duda, Arizona Capitol Times – Arizona 0-for-4: Echoes of Goldwater as McCain falls to Obama

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Peter Aleshire, Payson Roundup – Tribute wall roars into town
- 2nd place: Maria Knaub, White Mountain Independent – Garbage attracting bears to residential areas
- 3rd place: Alexis Bechman, Payson Roundup – Firefighter shocked pinching gas line

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Cindy Yurth and Duane Beyal, Navajo Times – Operation Firewater
- 2nd place: Cindy Yurth and Duane Beyal, Navajo Times – Ranchers denied relief
- 3rd place: Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly – Bloodbath at city hall

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Neil Young, Mohave Valley Daily News – Extinguished
- 2nd place: Dana Cole, Sierra Vista Herald – Building matter sparks heated moments in Tombstone streets
- 3rd place: Joyce Lobeck, The Sun – Yuma wheat goes kosher

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: John Leptich, East Valley Tribune – Heroic mom saves 6 kids from blaze
- 2nd place: Brady McCombs and Alex Huicochea, Arizona Daily Star – Officer on life support after crosstown pursuit
- 3rd place: Hayley Ringle, East Valley Tribune – Gilbert district votes to cut 400 teachers

#11 BEST SUSTAINED COVERAGE OR SERIES

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Luige del Puerto, Arizona Capitol Times – Religion and politics
- 2nd place: Lee Pulaski, Lake Powell Chronicle – The local economy

3rd place: Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune – School technology

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Peter Aleshire, Payson Roundup – Vietnam

2nd place: Sean Dieterich, White Mountain independent – St. Johns double homicide

3rd place: Alison Ecklund, Sedona Red Rock News – Sedona Fire District

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Shanna Hogan, Scottsdale Time – Funeral Homes

2nd place: Staff, Phoenix Business Journal – Cardinals

3rd place: Jason Begay, Navajo Times – Boondoggle

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: T.M. Shultz, The Daily Courier – Healthcare

2nd place: Shar Porier, Bisbee Daily Review – 4-day school plan

3rd place: Suzanne Adams, Kingman Daily Miner – Meth bust

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: Rob O’Dell, Arizona Daily Star – Rio Nuevo

2nd place: Stephanie Innes and Aaron Mackey, Arizona Daily Star – Phoenix Mars Lander

3rd place: Mike Sakal, East Valley Tribune – PVCC Professor

#12 INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Jim Small, Arizona Capitol Times – SCA contributions

2nd place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro valley News-Sun – Hospital deficiencies

3rd place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro valley News-Sun – Power rate hike

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Peter Aleshire, Payson Roundup – Endangered species

2nd place: Alexis Bechman, Payson Roundup – Star Valley town manager investigation

3rd place: John Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier – Coach Parmeter

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Shanna Hogan, Scottsdale Times – Baseline Killer case

2nd place: J.D. Long-Garcia, Catholic Sun – Iraqi refugees

3rd place: Marley Shebala, Navajo Times – Top officials avoid charges

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: T.M. Shultz, The Daily Courier – VA Medical Center

2nd place: Joanna Dodder Nellas, the Daily Courier – Yavapai County Assessor

3rd place: Larry Hendricks, Arizona daily Sun – Kidnapped, robbed, killed for drugs

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: Mark Flatten, east Valley Tribune – Blood and money

2nd place: Carol Ann Alaimo and Shelly Shelton, Arizona Daily Star – Wildcat Mitsubishi

3rd place: Jack Gillum, Andrea Rivera, George Sanchez, Jamar Younger, Sarah Garrecht Gassen and Rhonda Bodfield, Arizona Daily Star – High school students

#13 BEST SPORTS STORY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune – 1947 Gophers

2nd place: Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune – A swing and a prayer

3rd place: Daniel Dullum, Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune – Board fires

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Keith Morris, White Mountain Independent – Snowflake’s Terel Nichols joins late brother as state champion

2nd place: Nick Prevenas, green Valley News and Sun – Cats find redemption in wild comeback

3rd place: Keith Morris, White Mountain Independent – Moro still going strong after reaching another milestone

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Dave Devine, Tucson Weekly – Less than accommodating

2nd place: Candace Begody and Duane Beyal, Navajo Times – I ride to win

3rd place: Jimmy Magahern, Scottsdale Times – Eating Arizona

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Rich Bolas, Daily News-Sun – No. 1 Tailgaters
- 2nd place: Heather Smathers, Mohave Valley Daily News – This girl has guts
- 3rd place: Rob Weiler, The Sun – Glory days: Matadors' 1996 World Series team reunites, reminisces about historic run

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Patrick Finley, Arizona Daily Star – Deaf, hearing teammates in same wavelength now
- 2nd place: Mark Heller, East Valley Tribune – ASU sacks tradition
- 3rd place: Mark Heller and Kyle Odegard, East Valley Tribune – Examining the progress and problems of Title IX

#14 BEST TEAM, SPORT OR SPORTS BEAT COVERAGE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor – MHS football
- 2nd place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro Valley News-Sun – Benson football
- 3rd place: Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor – MHS soccer

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Andy Staten, White Mountain Independent – Alechesay girls high school basketball
- 2nd place: Sean Dieterich, White Mountain Independent – Mogollon football
- 3rd place: Nick Prevenas, Green Valley News and Sun – UA Wildcats

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Gina Mizell, The State Press – ASU women's basketball
- 2nd place: Jason Begay and Duane Beyal, Navajo Times – Begay skins game
- 3rd place: Richard Smith, Peoria Today – Centennial football 2008

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Rob Weiler, The Sun – Arizona Western College
- 2nd place: David Hirigoyen, The Daily Courier – Yavapai College soccer
- 3rd place: Ed Petruska, Casa Grande Dispatch – Vaqueras basketball

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Bruce Pascoe, Arizona Daily Star – Arizona Wildcats
- 2nd place: Patrick Finley, Arizona Star – Arizona Wildcats basketball
- 3rd place: Norm Frauenheim, The Arizona Republic – Olympics coverage

#15 BEST SPORTS COLUMN

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro Valley News-Sun – Bobcats have good mental game in win
- 2nd place: None awarded
- 3rd place: None awarded

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Max Foster, Payson Roundup – Remembering Jim McBurney
- 2nd place: Max Foster, Payson Roundup – YMCA
- 3rd place: Keith Morris, White Mountain Independent – AIA individual and team wrestling tourney dates need to be switched

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Tom Danehy, Tucson Weekly – Soccer sends kids like Brianna Caceres to college, so it can't be all bad
- 2nd place: Tom Danehy, Tucson Weekly – Even on their way to the Super Bowl, the Cardinals don't deserve Tom's love
- 3rd place: None entered

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Edward Carifio, The Sun – Let's go to prison – the obvious solution
- 2nd place: David Hirigoyen, The Daily Courier – Cards change their stripes
- 3rd place: Matt Hickman, Sierra Vista Herald - Dialogues

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

No entries

#16 BEST NEWS FEATURE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro Valley News-Sun – Book was promise to late Sheriff Jimmy Judd
- 2nd place: Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor – Healing in focus
- 3rd place: Carol Broeder, Arizona Range News – Real life hero honored

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Suzanne Jacobson, Payson Roundup – Adventure bound
- 2nd place: Josh Sayles, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix – The lone soldier experience
- 3rd place: Sean Dieterich, White Mountain independent – Ride-along puts people in police cruisers without being on wrong side of law

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Shanna Hogan, Scottsdale Times – Justice Delayed
- 2nd place: Jon Shumaker, Tucson Weekly – State of the Desert
- 3rd place: Patrick O’Grady, Phoenix Business Journal – Nanotechnology could offer jolt to memory chips

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Bill Hess, Sierra Vista Herald – Lady Leatherneck
- 2nd place: Jonothan Shacat – Providing foundation
- 3rd place: Pam Ashley, Today’s News-Herald – Love at first sight

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: George Sanchez, Arizona Daily Star – Testicular cancer
- 2nd place: James Gregg, Arizona Daily Star – The professor
- 3rd place: Ari Cohn, East Valley Tribune – Tainted well cuts area groundwater

#17 ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Jeremy Duda, Arizona Capitol Times – Jan brewer transitions to governor
- 2nd place: Christian Palmer, Arizona Capitol Times – Locking ‘em up, but at what cost?
- 3rd place: Jim Small, Arizona Capitol Times – Big-money donors sidestepped state GOP in 2008

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Peter Aleshire, Payson Roundup – Russian roulette in Rim Country
- 2nd place: Alexis Bechman, Payson Roundup – Getting arrested for DUI is costly
- 3rd place: Susan Johnson, Sedona Red Rock News – 100 bottles of beer

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Shanna Hogan, Scottsdale Times – Cyber Bully
- 2nd place: Shanna Hogan, Scottsdale Times – Lottery’s lucky losers
- 3rd place: J.D. Long-Garcia, Catholic Sun – Plight of the Iraqi Christians

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Shar Porier, Sierra Vista Herald – County not responsible for many washed out roads
- 2nd place: Joe Meahl, Casa Grande Disptach – one step ahead
- 3rd place: Bill Hess, Sierra Vista Herald – Linguist uses diverse background

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Carla McClain, Arizona Daily Star – Our deadly dificiency
- 2nd place: Alexis Huicochea and Tim Steller, Arizona Daily Star – Home invasions
- 3rd place: Josh Brodesky, Arizona Daily Star – Picture-perfect to dust bowl

#18 BEST COLMN: ANALYSIS OR COMMENTARY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Lee Pulaski, Lake Powell Chronicle – Pledge resolution taking away culture in name of ‘unity’
- 2nd place: Adam Gaub, Maricopa Monitor – Maricopa’s no-man’s land
- 3rd place: None awarded

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Michael Scharnow, Fountain Hills Times – Handing out drugs like sweet candy

- 2nd place: Greg Ruland, Sedona Red Rock News – When the angles speak
- 3rd place (tie): Vicki Cabot, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix – Day of Hope
- 3rd place (tie): Amy Hirshberg Lederman, Arizona Jewish Post – Asking for forgiveness

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Don Sorchych, Sonoran News – Hernandez’s fools errand
- 2nd place: Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly – The skinny
- 3rd place: Becky Fenger, Sonoran News – Fenger pointing - One ring-a-ding-y

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Tim Wiederaenders, The Daily Courier – Bad economy extends beyond the border
- 2nd place: Alan Levine, Casa Grande Dispatch – Bad timing for fair director
- 3rd place: Alan Levine, Casa Grande Dispatch – Fascism targets people with a habit

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Ann Brown, Arizona Daily Star – We can learn from Denver
- 2nd place: Sarah Garrecht Gassen, Arizona Daily Star – Journalistic objectivity
- 3rd place: None awarded

#19 BEST COLUMN: FEATURE OR CRITICISM

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

No entries

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Dan Sheerer, Green Valley and Sun – Metric history worth saving?
- 2nd place: Michael Scharnow, Fountain Hills Times – Sweet Dreams for ‘Sleepy’, my father
- 3rd place: Andy Staten, White Mountain Independent – Staten the facts: Waitin’ for the bus

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Margaret Regan, Tucson Weekly – Urban tales
- 2nd place: Andrew Junker, Catholic Sun – Marriage matters
- 3rd place: Slim Smith, Scottsdale Times – Famous last words

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Tim Wiederaenders, The Daily Courier – Children have the answers to tough problems
- 2nd place: Alan Levine, Casa Grande Dispatch - Origin
- 3rd place: Matt Hickman, Sierra Vista Herald – Three reasons victorious athletes thank God

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Sarah Garecht Gassen, Arizona Daily Star – Spirit driving Mars mission
- 2nd place: Martin Rosales, Arizona Daily Star – Protection from unscrupulous car sales needed
- 3rd place: Ann Brown, Arizona Daily Star – Immigration required at federal level

#20 BEST MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Steve Ayers, Verde Independent/The Bugle – The curious bottom of Montezuma Well
- 2nd place: None awarded
- 3rd place: None awarded

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Michele Bradley Pacheco, Sedona Red Rock News – Belly dancing
- 2nd place: None awarded
- 3rd place: None awarded

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Staff, The State press – Fighting for funding
- 2nd place: Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly – ScrambleWatch08
- 3rd place: Adam Kress, Phoenix Business Journal – Local CEOs coping with tough times

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Josh Biggs, Arizona Daily Sun – 20 Years with HIV
- 2nd place: Ashley Lowery, Daily News-Sun – Makayla Miller
- 3rd place: Jared Dort, Janet Chasse, The Sun - Deployed

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: Ljilijana Ciric-Hoffman, Paul Giblin and Ryan Gabrielson, East Valley Tribune – Reasonable Doubt

2nd place: Ljiljana Ciric-Hoffman and Mark Flatten, East Valley Tribune - Immigration

3rd place: Ljiljana Ciric-Hoffman and Michelle Reese – Election Roadtrip

#21 BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Bill Coates, Arizona Capitol Times – State prison hotshot crew fights fires in Arizona

2nd place: Bill Coates, Arizona Capitol Times – Education advocates and a state senator protest

3rd place: Maxine Heimerl, Mogollon Connection – Holding the last dance

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Scott Taras, Green Valley News and Sun – Funeral

2nd place: Mike James, White Mountain Independent – Fire chars five acres

3rd place: Ryan Winslett, Fountain Hills Times – Balloon in lake

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times – Operation Firewater

2nd place: Leigh T. Jimmie, Navajo Times – Treaty

3rd place: Paul Natonabah, Navajo Times – House blessing

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: Oscar Perez, Casa Grande Dispatch - Fire

2nd place: JC Amberlyn, Kingman Daily Miner – Owls, with help, get a new home

3rd place: Les Stukenberg, The Daily Courier – Slurry drop

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: James S. Wood, Arizona Daily Star – Officer down

2nd place: Jill Torrance, Arizona Daily Star – Trailer fire

3rd place: Ralph Fresco, East Valley Tribune, Vietnam memorial

#22 BEST SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Sean Higgins, Coolidge Examiner – CHS swimmer

2nd place: Dave Brown, San Pedro valley News-Sun – Baseball pitcher

3rd place: Dave Brown, Arizona Range News – Cameron Bonner

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Andy Staten, White Mountain Independent – Bovine air

2nd place: Andy State, White Mountain Independent – Only the strong survive

3rd place: Michele Bradley Pacheco, Sedona Red Rock News – Pole vault

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

1st place: Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times – MV wins

2nd place: Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times – Junior roper

3rd place: Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times – Bareback

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st place: Josh Biggs, Arizona Daily Sun – Brother-sister swim team

2nd place: Les Stukenberg, the Daily Courier – Going for the ball

3rd place: JC Amberlyn, Kingman Daily Miner – A rodeo to remember

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st place: Dean Knuth, Arizona Daily Star – Super catch

2nd place: Ralph Fresco, East Valley Tribune – Football catch

3rd place: Greg Bryan, Arizona Daily Star – Champs

#23 BEST FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st place: Dave Brown, Arizona Range News – Heat of competition

2nd place: Sean Higgins, Coolidge Examiner – Tim McGraw

3rd place: Lindsey Gemme, Eloy Enterprise – Role model day

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

1st place: Tom Brossart, Payson roundup – Flyin' high

2nd place: Andy Towle, Payson Roundup – Motocross

3rd place: Andy Towle, Payson Roundup – Santa sighting

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Jim Poulin, Phoenix business Journal – Cora
- 2nd place: Kevin Kelsch and Eric Hendrix, Scottsdale Times - Cheapskate
- 3rd place: Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times – Fancy dancer

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

- 1st place: Oscar Perez, Casa Grande Dispatch – Lightning
- 2nd place: Oscar Perez, Casa Grande Dispatch – Shooter
- 3rd place: Matt Hinshaw, The Daily Courier – Restin’ up

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: James S. Wood, Arizona Daily Star – Dancers
- 2nd place: Ralph Fresno, East Valley Tribune – Arc of light
- 3rd place: David Sanders, Arizona Daily Star – Mudslide

#24 BEST FEATURE PHOTO LAYOUT OR PHOTO STORY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

- 1st place: Bill Coates, Arizona Capitol Times – State prison hotshot crew fights fires in Arizona
- 2nd place: Dave Brown, Ainslee Wittig, Carol Broeder and Steve Reno, Arizona Range News – Year in review
- 3rd place: Thelma Grimes, San Pedro Valley News-Sun – Graduation

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000

- 1st place: Tom Brossart, Payson Roundup – Wildflowers
- 2nd place: Andy Towle, Max Foster and Tom Brossart, Payson Roundup – Wall photos
- 3rd place: Tom Brossart, Payson Roundup – A second chance

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000

- 1st place: Jill Adair, Scott Adair and Kristin Doetsch, Mesa Independent – Mesa Old West Days
- 2nd place: J.D. Long-Garcia, Catholic Sun – The church in the middle east
- 3rd place: Terrance Thornton and Kristin Doetsch – The first 100 days: Chief Monahan

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

No entries

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

- 1st place: David Sanders, Arizona Daily Star – Parkinson’s lock on life
- 2nd place: Jill Torrance, Arizona Daily Star – Senior class achievers
- 3rd place: None awarded

#25 STORY OF THE YEAR

Division: Non-Daily

Cindy Yurth and Duane Beyal, Navajo Times – Operation Firewater

Division: Daily

Mark Flatten, East Valley Tribune – Blood and Money

#26 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Division: Non-Daily

Dave Brown, San Pedro Valley News-Sun and Arizona Range News

Division: Daily

Dean Knuth, Arizona Daily Star

#27 JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Division: Non-Daily

Pete Aleshire, Payson Roundup

Division: Daily

Rob O’Dell, Arizona Daily Star

AP MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Daily Courier