ANA Announces 2018 BNC Winners

The Arizona Republic (daily newspaper) and Navajo Times (non-daily newspaper) took home the coveted award for Arizona Newspaper of the Year during the Arizona Newspapers Association’s 2018 Better Newspapers Contest. 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.

The reporting team of Yvonne Wingett Sanchez and Rob O’Dell, from The Arizona Republic and Rachel Leingang, Arizona Capitol Times, were named the ANA 2018 Journalists of the Year.


Kelly Presnell, of the Arizona Daily Star and Keith Morris, Payson Roundup, were named the ANA 2018 Photographers of the Year.

This year, 53 newspapers and entered in the Better Newspapers Contest for a total of 1,183 entries. The Better Newspapers Contest consists of nine categories that measure the overall quality of the newspapers and 26 categories that honor individuals who contribute to journalism excellence. A special thank you to the Utah Press Association, for judging the entries this year.

Attached is a complete list of winners by category or they can be viewed at www.ananews.com (by October 9). The awards were presented on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at the conclusion of the ANA Fall Convention and Annual Meeting, at Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino, Ariz. Congratulations to all the winners!

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Questions or comments can be sent to j.okeefe@ananews.com.
## Newspaper Winners by Category

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

1st Place  
Arizona Capitol Times  
Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto

2nd Place  
Verde Independent  
Publisher: Babette Cubitt

3rd Place  
Nogales International  
Publisher: Manuel Coppola

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

1st Place  
Phoenix Business Journal  
Publisher: Ray Schey

2nd Place – Tie  
Payson Roundup  
Publisher: Brian Kramer

2nd Place – Tie  
Green Valley News  
Publisher: Dru Sanchez

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

1st Place  
Navajo Times  
Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

2nd Place  
Prescott Valley Tribune  
Publisher: Joe Soldwedel  
Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

1st Place  
Casa Grande Dispatch  
Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper

2nd Place  
Daily Courier  
Publisher: Joe Soldwedel  
Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

3rd Place  
Herald/Review  
Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

1st Place  
The Arizona Republic  
Executive Editor: Greg Burton

### #1 REPORTING & NEWSWRITING EXCELLENCE

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

1st Place  
Arizona Capitol Times  
Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto

2nd Place  
Eloy Enterprise  
Publisher: Donovan Kramer Jr.

3rd Place  
Nogales International  
Publisher: Manuel Coppola

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

1st Place  
Green Valley News  
Publisher: Dru Sanchez

2nd Place  
Phoenix Business Journal  
Publisher: Ray Schey

3rd Place  
Maricopa Monitor  
Publisher: Kara Cooper

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

1st Place  
Navajo Times  
Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

2nd Place  
Prescott Valley Tribune  
Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

1st Place  
Arizona Daily Sun  
Publisher: Don Rowley

2nd Place  
Casa Grande Dispatch  
Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper

3rd Place  
Kingman Daily Miner  
Publisher: Debbie White-Hoel

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

1st Place  
The Arizona Republic  
Executive Editor: Greg Burton

### #2 DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & COPYWRITING EXCELLENCE

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

1st Place  
Arizona Capitol Times  
Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto

2nd Place  
Eloy Enterprise  
Publisher: Donovan Kramer Jr.

3rd Place  
Verde Independent  
Publisher: Babette Cubitt

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

1st Place  
Phoenix Business Journal  
Publisher: Ray Schey

2nd Place  
Arizona Jewish Post  
Executive Editor: Phyllis Braun

3rd Place  
Maricopa Monitor  
Publisher: Kara Cooper
#2 DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & COPYWRITING EXCELLENCE / continued

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
2nd Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Casa Grande Dispatch Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper
2nd Place Arizona Daily Sun Publisher: Don Rowley
3rd Place Herald/Review Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place The Arizona Republic Executive Editor: Greg Burton

#3 PAGE DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Arizona Capitol Times Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto
2nd Place Verde Independent Publisher: Babette Cubitt
3rd Place Coolidge Examiner Publisher: Donovan Kramer Jr.

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Phoenix Business Journal Publisher: Ray Schey
2nd Place Green Valley News Publisher: Dru Sanchez
3rd Place Maricopa Monitor Publisher: Kara Cooper

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
2nd Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Arizona Daily Sun Publisher: Don Rowley
2nd Place Yuma Sun Publisher: Lisa Reilly
3rd Place Casa Grande Dispatch Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Arizona Daily Star Publisher: John D’Orlando

#4 EDITORIAL PAGE EXCELLENCE

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Nogales International Publisher: Manuel Coppola
2nd Place Verde Independent Publisher: Babette Cubitt
3rd Place The Camp Verde Journal Publisher: Robert Larson

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Sedona Red Rock News Publisher: Robert Larson
2nd Place White Mountain Independent Publisher: Brian Kramer
3rd Place Phoenix Business Journal Publisher: Ray Schey

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.
2nd Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Yuma Sun Publisher: Lisa Reilly
2nd Place Kingman Daily Miner Publisher: Debbie White-Hoel
3rd Place The Daily Courier Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place The Arizona Republic Executive Editor: Greg Burton
#5 BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place Arizona Capitol Times Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto
2nd Place Verde Independent Publisher: Babette Cubitt
3rd Place The Camp Verde Journal Publisher: Robert Larson

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
1st Place Sedona Red Rock News Publisher: Robert Larson
2nd Place Maricopa Monitor Publisher: Kara Cooper
3rd Place Green Valley News Publisher: Dru Sanchez

**Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000**
1st Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.
2nd Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**
1st Place Herald/Review Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson
2nd Place The Daily Courier Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
3rd Place Today’s News-Herald Publisher: Michael Quinn

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**
1st Place The Arizona Republic Executive Editor: Greg Burton

#6 COMMUNITY SERVICE/JOURNALISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place Arizona Capitol Times Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto
2nd Place The Tribune-News Publisher: Matthew Barger

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Payson Roundup Publisher: Brian Kramer
2nd Place White Mountain Independent Publisher: Brian Kramer
3rd Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**
1st Place Casa Grande Dispatch Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper
2nd Place The Daily Courier Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
3rd Place Today’s News-Herald Publisher: Michael Quinn

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**
1st Place The Arizona Republic Executive Editor: Greg Burton

#7 SPECIAL SECTION

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place Nogales International Publisher: Manuel Coppola
2nd Place Williams-Grand Canyon News Publisher: Madeline Keith
3rd Place Arizona Capitol Times Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
1st Place Phoenix Business Journal Publisher: Ray Schey
2nd Place Chino Valley Review Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
3rd Place Payson Roundup Publisher: Brian Kramer

**Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000**
1st Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
2nd Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**
Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Arizona Daily Star Publisher: John D’Orlando
2nd Place The Daily Courier Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
3rd Place Herald/Review Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson
DIVISION 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Verde Independent Publisher: Babette Cubitt
2nd Place Lake Powell Chronicle Editor: Steven Laws

DIVISION 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Green Valley News Publisher: Dru Sanchez
2nd Place Payson Roundup Publisher: Brian Kramer
3rd Place The Fountain Hills Times Publisher: Brent Cruikshank

DIVISION 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
No Entries

COMBINED Divisions:

DIVISION 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place The Daily Courier Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
2nd Place Yuma Sun Publisher: Lisa Reilly
3rd Place Herald/Review Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson

DIVISION 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Arizona Daily Star Publisher: John D’Orlando

DIVISION 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Arizona Capitol Times Associate Publisher: Luige del Puerto
2nd Place Verde Independent Publisher: Babette Cubitt
3rd Place Williams-Grand Canyon News Publisher: Madeline Keith

DIVISION 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Payson Roundup Publisher: Brian Kramer
2nd Place Chino Valley Review Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell
3rd Place The Fountain Hills Times Publisher: Brent Cruikshank

DIVISION 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Navajo Times Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.
2nd Place Prescott Valley Tribune Publisher: Joe Soldwedel, Co-Publisher: Kit Atwell

DIVISION 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Casa Grande Dispatch Co-Publishers: Donovan Kramer Jr., Kara Cooper
2nd Place Herald/Review Publisher: Jennifer Sorenson
3rd Place Today’s News-Herald Publisher: Michael Quinn

DIVISION 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Arizona Daily Star Publisher: John D’Orlando

**Individual Winners by Category**

**BEST HEADLINE**

DIVISION 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Darren Barakat Assorted headlines Coolidge Examiner
2nd Place Chelsea Curtis Assorted headlines Parker Pioneer
3rd Place Gary Grado No Joke Arizona Capitol Times

DIVISION 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Darren Barakat Assorted headlines Maricopa Monitor
2nd Place Makenna Lepowsky Opportuni-trees and various headlines Sedona Red Rock News
3rd Place Dan Shearer Click bait Green Valley News

DIVISION 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Cindy Yurth Bullish on Bears Ears and Assorted headlines Navajo Times
2nd Place Arianna Grainey Polar bear leaves under ‘unbearable' circumstances Apache Junction Independent
3rd Place Bill Van Nimwegen Leave Us Alone Say Gold Canyon Residents Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News
#10 BEST HEADLINE / continued

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Joseph Terry 100 degrees: ASU Havasu reaches milestone Today's News-Herald
2nd Place Darren Barakat Assorted headlines Casa Grande Dispatch

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Jim Wambold Assorted headlines The Arizona Republic
2nd Place Dave Ord Assorted headlines Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place Peter Sibley Assorted headlines Arizona Daily Star

#11 - BEST NEWS STORY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Ben Giles Controversial researcher hired to update prison population study Arizona Capitol Times
2nd Place Paulina Pineda Legislators’ complaints of lawbreaking by cities on the upswing Arizona Capitol Times
3rd Place Jonathan Clark, Arielle Zions Cop killed by suspected carjacker Nogales International

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Kim Smith Police: Reports policy hurting work Green Valley News
2nd Place Hayley Ringle What’s next for Uber Phoenix Business Journal
3rd Place Bob Burns Council fires legal team The Fountain Hills Times

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Pauly Denetclaw Akonizaad Dine Bizaad Yit’ih (The state of the Diné language) Navajo Times
2nd Place Danyelle Khmara Backpage Bust Tucson Weekly
3rd Place Cindy Yurth One woman’s courage Navajo Times

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Megan Janetsky Passage Prevented Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting
2nd Place Claire Cleveland Pregnant and Addicted Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting
3rd Place Blake Herzog Residents defend area’s water rights Yuma Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Caitlin Schmidt Tucson police make changes after detective’s investigative failures The Arizona Republic
2nd Place Dustin Gardiner, Yihyun Jeong Iconic Phoenix library assesses storm’s toll The Arizona Republic

#12 - BEST SUSTAINED COVERAGE OR SERIES

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Kendal Blust Border Patrol murder trial Nogales International
2nd Place Rachel Leingang Letter Grades Arizona Capitol Times
3rd Place Katie Campbell #REDforED Arizona Capitol Times

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Michael Johnson District in distress: White Mountain Lake Fire District coverage White Mountain Independent
2nd Place Michele Nelson Pine Water Payson Roundup
3rd Place Alexis Bechman Wildfire Prevention Payson Roundup

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Krista Allen Bears Ears coverage Navajo Times
2nd Place Danyelle Khmara DACA coverage Tucson Weekly
3rd Place Matt Roy Surprise Today Homelessness Series 2017-18 Surprise Today

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Cindy Barks PSPRS - pension woes The Daily Courier
2nd Place Eric Petermann The San Pedro River Herald/Review
3rd Place Blake Herzog E. coli outbreak in Yuma romaine Yuma Sun
#12 - BEST SUSTAINED COVERAGE OR SERIES / continued

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st Place Alden Woods  The New Housing Crisis  The Arizona Republic
2nd Place Staff  Big talk, little change on Trump's border  Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place Yvonne Wingett Sanchez, Dustin Gardiner  Sexual harassment scandal at the Arizona Capitol

#13 - INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st Place Rachel Leingang, Katie Campbell  Rep. Shooter accused of repeated sexual harassment of Capitol women  Arizona Capitol Times
2nd Place Kendal Blust  Discipline at NPD  Nogales International
3rd Place Rofida Khairalla  Former CPD officers make a plea for change  Coolidge Examiner

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

1st Place Bethany Blundell  MUSD driver high on drugs?  Maricopa Monitor
2nd Place Mike Sunnucks, Hayley Ringle, Angela Gonzales  The Big Hang-up: How Phoenix became a mecca for call centers  Phoenix Business Journal
3rd Place Michele Nelson  Fire Series  Payson Roundup

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

1st Place Danyelle Khmara  Death Sentence  Tucson Weekly
2nd Place Jim Walsh  Eight years and still no trial  Gilbert Sun News
3rd Place Cindy Yurth  Woman dies waiting for NHA home  Navajo Times

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000

1st Place Evan Wyloge, Carrie Jung  Building Relationships  Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting
2nd Place Heather Smathers  Under water and ignored  Casa Grande Dispatch
3rd Place Cody Bashore  Campos vs. Souers at NAU  Arizona Daily Sun

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st Place Yoohyun Jung  Public Schools, Inc.  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place Robert Anglen  Buy Local Food Programs Deceive Consumers  The Arizona Republic
3rd Place Robert Anglen  Mafia in Our Midst  The Arizona Republic

#14 - BEST SPORTS STORY

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500

1st Place Wendy Howell  Vikings deliver  Williams-Grand Canyon News
2nd Place Mark Cowling  1975 Florence state champs to honor 1947 state champs  Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune
3rd Place Kendal Blust  Samantha Schadler is running her own race  Nogales International

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

1st Place Andy Staten  Alchesay grad comfortable as coach of alma mater  White Mountain Independent
2nd Place Mike Sunnucks  Cubs Win! How the Chicago team is shaping Arizona spring training baseball  Phoenix Business Journal
3rd Place Keith Morris  Youngster, veteran team up for title run  Payson Roundup

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

1st Place Mark Carlisle  Glendale family takes baseball back to its roots  Glendale Today
2nd Place Christopher Boan  Julian Molina Story  Explorer Newspaper
3rd Place Brian Smith  Sticky Summer Nights  Tucson Weekly

COMBINED Divisions:
Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000

1st Place Jon Gold  Craig Cunningham making the most of overtime  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place Cody Bashore  NAU's Peter Lomong  Arizona Daily Sun
3rd Place Beau Bearden  An Unexpected Ending  Kingman Daily Miner
#15 - BEST TEAM, SPORT OR SPORTS BEAT COVERAGE

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place  Jonathan Clark,  Apaches title run  Nogales International
2nd Place  James Kelley  Mingus football  Verde Independent

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
1st Place  Keith Morris  Payson Girls Basketball  Payson Roundup
2nd Place  Daniel Hargis  Sedona Red Rock High School basketball  Sedona Red Rock News
3rd Place  Keith Morris  Rodeo  Payson Roundup

**Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000**
1st Place  Quentin Jodie  Rodeo cowboy series  Navajo Times
2nd Place  Daniel Dullum  High School Softball  Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News
3rd Place  Daniel Dullum  AJHS Football  Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**
1st Place  Cody Bashore  NAU basketball  Arizona Daily Sun
2nd Place  Doug Cook  Whiskey Off-Road  The Daily Courier
3rd Place  Brian Bergner Jr.  Prescott Frontier Days - Legends  The Daily Courier

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**
1st Place  Caitlin Schmidt  Title IX coverage  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Bruce Pascoe  UA Basketball Coverage  Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place  Nick Piecoro  2017-2018 Arizona Diamondbacks  The Arizona Republic

#16 BEST SPORTS COLUMN

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place  Corky Simpson  Can golfers of tomorrow keep game alive?  Green Valley News
2nd Place  Keith Morris  Casteel big loser in blowout victory  Payson Roundup
3rd Place  John Gutekunst  Best Sports Column - From the Dugout  Parker Pioneer

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
1st Place  Richard Smith  Fetkenhier's unceremonious departure from Cactus remains baffling  Glendale Today
2nd Place  Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi  Love trumps rivalry as players don Aztec colors  Navajo Times
3rd Place  Christopher Boan  Arizona Baseball  Explorer Newspaper

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**
1st Place  Greg Hansen  Assorted columns  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Brian Wright  Assorted columns  Casa Grande Dispatch
3rd Place  Grady Garrett  A plane ride with Minnick's coaching influence  Yuma Sun

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**
1st Place  Caitlin Schmidt  Assorted columns  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Bruce Pascoe  Assorted columns  Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place  Nick Piecoro  2017-2018 Arizona Diamondbacks  The Arizona Republic

#17 BEST FEATURE STORY

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**
1st Place  Steven Law  The joys of sleeping on a raft in the Grand Canyon  Lake Powell Chronicle
2nd Place  Erin Ford  Ancient art finds new life  Williams-Grand Canyon News
3rd Place  Mark Cowling  Tragic tale in Texas  Florence Reminder and Blade-Tribune

**Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000**
1st Place  Kitty Bottemiller  Thiers is a bug’s life  Green Valley News
2nd Place  Trudy Balcom  A guardian of the mountain  White Mountain Independent
3rd Place  Kim Smith  Narrow escape  Green Valley News
#17 BEST FEATURE STORY / continued
Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Danyelle Khmara  Home is a Tenacious Heart  Tucson Weekly
2nd Place Colleen Sparks  Chandler Lookalikes  SanTan Sun News
3rd Place Philip Haldiman  Castle Hot Springs bubbling back four decades after closure  Peoria Today

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Emery Cowan  Is Fredonia Forgotten  Arizona Daily Sun
2nd Place Amy Crawford  Preschooler’s choice: Classroom breakfast program sees success  Yuma Sun
3rd Place Lauren Renteria  The cocktail renaissance  Herald/Review

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Alden Woods  Outsiders, FLDS battle for control of towns Warren Jeffs left behind  The Arizona Republic
2nd Place Mary Jo Pitzl  DNA testing yields complicated results  The Arizona Republic
3rd Place Cathalena Burch  Tucson Symphony to mark 90th year — and the man who made that possible just turned 98  Arizona Daily Star

#18 ENTERPRISE REPORTING
Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Ben Giles  Swing-district Dems  Arizona Capitol Times
2nd Place Rachel Leingang  Ducey record on pardons, commutations not forgiving  Arizona Capitol Times
3rd Place Kelcie Grega  Up in Arms  Verde Independent

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Michele Nelson  Fire Series  Payson Roundup
2nd Place Alexis Bechman  Wildfire Prevention  Payson Roundup
3rd Place Peter Aleshire  Keepers of Time have returned  Payson Roundup

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Danyelle Khmara  Dreams Deferred  Tucson Weekly
2nd Place Danyelle Khmara  Rugrat Referendum  Tucson Weekly
3rd Place Jimmy Magahern  Stardust Ranch ready for next alien adventure  West Valley View

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Claire Whitley  Diving into the mind of the Kingman area arsonist  Kingman Daily Miner
2nd Place Lauren Renteria  Tunnels of trouble  Herald/Review
3rd Place Jude Joffe-Block, Terry Greene Sterling  Wrongfully Detained  Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Stephanie Innes, Mamta Popat  The Good Samaritan  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place Dustin Gardiner  Arizona faces potential groundwater shortages  The Arizona Republic

#19 BEST COLUMN, ANALYSIS OR COMMENTARY
Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Jonathan Clark  UniSource’s big blackout secret  Nogales International
2nd Place Jonathan Clark  Reach out  Nogales International
3rd Place Kelcie Grega  Fruits of progress on the Seder plate  Verde Independent

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Dan Shearer  Driven by rage, facts be damned  Green Valley News
2nd Place Dan Shearer  Telling the truth from the start  Green Valley News
3rd Place Peter Aleshire  Keepers of Time have returned  Payson Roundup
#19 BEST COLUMN, ANALYSIS OR COMMENTARY / continued

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Arlyssa Becenti Corralling the press won't stop us from doing our job Navajo Times
2nd Place Jim Nintzel Behind Closed Doors Tucson Weekly
3rd Place Jim Nintzel Back From the Dead? Tucson Weekly

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Joey Chenoweth Confederate flags represent hate Casa Grande Dispatch
2nd Place Shawn Byrne Too much democracy is like too much honey Kingman Daily Miner
3rd Place Tim Wiederaenders ‘Only the Brave’ is not for everyone The Daily Courier

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Luis Carrasco Disdain for migrants doesn't begin or end at Trump’s wall Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place Tim Steller When things heat up in Mexico, Tucson can be a haven Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place Tim Steller Worrying signals that agents distort border dangers Arizona Daily Star

#20 BEST COLUMN, FEATURE OR CRITICISM

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place John Gutekunst Super Flush Parker Pioneer
2nd Place Steven Law I love that autumn heater smell Lake Powell Chronicle

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Christopher Fox Graham When Seuss day comes ‘round, find city library-bound Sedona Red Rock News
2nd Place Ryan Winslett May the Force be with you The Fountain Hills Times
3rd Place Scott Dyke Nazis, Patton & the mafia Green Valley News

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
1st Place Tom Arviso Jr. A tip of the hat to two brothers Navajo Times
2nd Place Jim Nintzel The Hard Stuff Tucson Weekly
3rd Place Margaret Regan Present Future Tucson Weekly

Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000
1st Place Roxanne Molenar Chart sparks appreciation for chemistry Yuma Sun
2nd Place Bill Coates Son of CG fingerprint away from becoming John Doe Casa Grande Dispatch
3rd Place Tim Wiederaenders Give the gift of music to a local student The Daily Courier

Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000
1st Place Luis Carrasco Where are all the Latinos in movies? Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place Kathleen Allen Man of La Mancha is riveting Arizona Daily Star

#21 BEST MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING

Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500
1st Place Katie Campbell The Breakdown, Episode 4: Moving on – or trying to Arizona Capitol Times
2nd Place Vyto Starinkas Big Bertha Roars Again at the Gold King Mine in Jerome Verde Independent
3rd Place Katie Campbell Arizona woman alleges sexual misconduct by former detention officer Arizona Capitol Times

Division 2: Non-Daily circulation 3,500 to 10,000
1st Place Alexis Bechman Celebration turns to tragedy on East Verde Payson Roundup
2nd Place Kim Smith, Dan Shearer Q&A with Valenzuela Sahuarita Sun
3rd Place WMIndependent staff Catastrophe: A Forest in Flames White Mountain Independent

Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000
No Entries
#21 BEST MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING / continued

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

1st Place  Staff  Big talk, little change on Trump’s border  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Cindy Barks  Fix is coming for 99-year-old dam at Watson Lake  The Daily Courier
3rd Place  Mark Levy  Salute to Service  Herald/Review

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

1st Place  Staff  Big talk, little change on Trump’s border  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Cindy Barks  Fix is coming for 99-year-old dam at Watson Lake  The Daily Courier
3rd Place  Mark Levy  Salute to Service  Herald/Review

#22 ONLINE COVERAGE OF BREAKING NEWS

**NEW CATEGORY BEGINNING 2018**

**COMBINED – All Divisions**

1st Place  Bruce Pascoe, Caitin Schmidt, Greg Hansen, Curt Prendergast  Arrest of UA coach exposes ‘dark underbelly’ of college basketball  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Alexis Bechman  Flash flood in East Verde  Payson Roundup
3rd Place  Tim Wiederaenders  Strange lights in sky were rocket launch  The Daily Courier

#23 BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

1st Place  Arielle Zionts  Defendant jailed without bond  Nogales International
2nd Place  Hunt Mercier  One World, One People  The Camp Verde Journal
3rd Place  Wendy Howell  In the line of fire  Williams-Grand Canyon News

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

1st Place  Jake Green  Bikes, Beers & Batman at annual race  Sedona Red Rock News
2nd Place  Peter Aleshire  After the parade passes  Payson Roundup
3rd Place  Bobby Joe Smith  Going down hard  Green Valley News

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

1st Place  Donovan Quintero  Last salute to fallen brother  Navajo Times
2nd Place  Katherine Locke  Candlelight vigil remembers Nicole Joe and other missing and murdered Native women  Navajo-Hopi Observer
3rd Place  Donovan Quintero  Encounter with a lion  Navajo Times

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

1st Place  Randy Hoeft  Dove hunt silhouette  Yuma Sun
2nd Place  Mark Levy  Travis is gone  Herald/Review
3rd Place  Oscar Perez  Three injured in accident  Casa Grande Dispatch

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

1st Place  Mamta Popat  New Bishop  Arizona Daily Star
2nd Place  Kelly Presnell  Mordor  Arizona Daily Star
3rd Place  Ron Medvescek  Dog saved, home lost  Arizona Daily Star

#24 BEST SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

1st Place  Hunt Mercier  Barreling Through  The Camp Verde Journal
2nd Place  Jonathan Clark  State champions!  Nogales International
3rd Place  Jonathan Clark  Burst of speed  Nogales International

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

1st Place  Rick McCallum  Heads up?  Sahuarita Sun
2nd Place  Keith Morris  Football celebration  Payson Roundup
3rd Place  Andy Staten  By a nose  White Mountain Independent

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

1st Place  Donovan Quintero  Nice pass  Navajo Times
2nd Place  Arianna Grainey  Mounted Shooter  Queen Creek Independent
3rd Place  Arianna Grainey  Female Wrestlers  Queen Creek Independent
### #24 BEST SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH / continued

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mark Levy</td>
<td>Thing of B-eauty</td>
<td>Herald/Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Les Stukenberg</td>
<td>Rodeo - in your face</td>
<td>The Daily Courier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>AWC bunter</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kelly Presnell</td>
<td>Bananas Arizona</td>
<td>Daily Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kelly Presnell</td>
<td>Hollering Hurley</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kelly Presnell</td>
<td>Clowning around</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### #25 BEST FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Arielle Zionts</td>
<td>Standing out with style</td>
<td>Nogales International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Wendy Howell</td>
<td>Mending fences</td>
<td>Williams-Grand Canyon News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Hunt Mercier</td>
<td>Tights and Frights</td>
<td>The Camp Verde Journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jim Poulin</td>
<td>Capturing the sun</td>
<td>Phoenix Business Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jake Green</td>
<td>Let There Be Light – Santa</td>
<td>Sedona Red Rock News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jake Green</td>
<td>I Saw the Sign</td>
<td>Sedona Red Rock News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
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<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Paul Natonabah</td>
<td>Little drummer boy</td>
<td>Navajo Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Arianna Grainey</td>
<td>Restoration of carousel</td>
<td>Queen Creek Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Logan Burtch-Buus</td>
<td>Sticky Affair</td>
<td>Explorer Newspaper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>Winter visitors too</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>Just add water</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>Multi-step process</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mamta Popat</td>
<td>Frog exhibit</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kelly Presnell</td>
<td>Dillinger Days</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mike Christy</td>
<td>Monsoon runoff</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### #26 BEST FEATURE PHOTO LAYOUT OR PHOTO STORY

**Division 1: Non-Daily circulation under 3,500**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
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<th>Newspaper</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jonathan Clark</td>
<td>Dia de los Muertos</td>
<td>Nogales International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kendal Blust</td>
<td>Hard at work in Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>Nogales International</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jim Poulin</td>
<td>ADAPT Shop meets the needs of the disabled</td>
<td>Phoenix Business Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Keith Morris</td>
<td>Rodeo Town</td>
<td>Payson Roundup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Pia Wyer</td>
<td>Lunar Eclipse: Lifetime Wonder</td>
<td>Payson Roundup</td>
</tr>
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**Division 3: Non-Daily circulation greater than 10,000**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Arianna Grainey</td>
<td>Roots and Boots</td>
<td>Queen Creek Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kimberly Carrillo, Christy Byerly Madison Rutherford</td>
<td>Valley Festival Fever</td>
<td>College Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Arianna Grainey</td>
<td>Back to School in QCUSD</td>
<td>Queen Creek Independent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMBINED Divisions:**

**Division 4: Daily circulation under 25,000**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kelly Presnell</td>
<td>Living hotel to hotel</td>
<td>Arizona Daily Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>Blue Angels</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>The other green season</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
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**Division 5: Daily circulation greater than 25,000**

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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Randy Hoeft</td>
<td>Multi-step process</td>
<td>Yuma Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
#27 STORY OF THE YEAR
Non-Daily
Danyelle Khmara  Tucson Weekly  ‘Death Sentence’

Daily
Alden Woods  The Arizona Republic  ‘The New Housing Crisis’

#28 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
Non-Daily
Keith Morris  Payson Roundup

Daily
Kelly Presnell  Arizona Daily Star

#29 JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Non-Daily
Rachel Leingang  Arizona Capitol Times

Daily
Yvonne Wingett Sanchez and Rob O’Dell  The Arizona Republic

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
Non-Daily
Navajo Times  Publisher: Tom Arviso Jr.

Daily
The Arizona Republic  Executive Editor: Greg Burton

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - SCHOLASTIC DIVISION 2018
Small Schools (3A, 2A, 1A)
Sedona Red Rock High School  The Sting  Advisor: Maureen Barton

Large Schools (5A, 4A)
Sunnyslope High School  Viking News  Advisor: Deanne Hutchison