

MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

2021 AWARDS

THE BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

On the record since 1864



Photography | Design

News Photo Weekly 1

- 1. Joseph Cyr**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Graduation explosion
Nice atmospheric shot that captures the moment. Good job.
- 2. Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Lead photo:
Camden cheers
Nice long view of this graduation march. Captures the overall atmosphere well.
- 3. Mark Robinson**
Island Ad-Vantages
Dozens 'march' in July 4 car parade
Nice parade view with a good twist: The faces on the crowd really make this work.

Weekly 2

- 1. Stephen Betts**
The Courier-Gazette
Citizens turn out for democracy vigil
A good low-light photo that employs soft colors to convey the message. Well done.
- 2. Katie Brown**
The Maine Monitor
BLM protest escape
Good action shot. It might have been better if the frame was broader.
- 3. Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
Jefferson Voter
Good use of reflection to convey the moment.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Michael G. Seamans**
Morning Sentinel
Silva protest
The most emotional moment from all the entrants as well as well-composed with the individual on the right side of the frame. A slight crop from the left and bottom would make the photo even stronger.
- 2. Troy R. Bennett**
Bangor Daily News
Faceoff
You can feel the intensity between these two and there's almost a third

intensity from the proximity of the photographer as well utilizing clearly a wider-lens than telephoto to bring us into this frame.

- 3. Troy R. Bennett**
Bangor Daily News
BLM protest
You can feel the passion from Tanisha's expression. Photo might have moved up if the subject wasn't looking out of the frame, but rather was on the left side of the frame and a stop sign wasn't coming out of her head.

Spot News Photo Weekly 1

- 1. Jessica Potila**
St. John Valley Times
Frenchville fire
The image does a great job of capturing the action. The cutline could use some work.
- 2. Leslie Landrigan**
Island Ad-Vantages
High water
The image made good use of framing to make a photo without people more interesting. Tightening the frame to bring the water and plants to the bottom left corner would have made it stronger with a good leading line.
- 3. Carolyn Zachary**
The Republican Journal
Pickup truck skids off Route 137
A strong image, but repositioning to the left could have improved it by making the skid mark a leading line without losing the people or vehicle.

Weekly 2

- 1. Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
Through the window
Well-framed image. A tighter crop could've elevated this even higher.
- 2. Letitia Baldwin**
The Ellsworth American
11/19/20 front (Fire)
Clearly devastating fire and the expression on the

firefighter's face is quite interesting.

- 3. Stephen Betts**
The Courier-Gazette
Two injured after vehicle plunges
Nice job of arriving on scene while the action was still going on.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Michael G. Seamans**
Morning Sentinel
Apartment fire
Great job being on scene and capturing the intensity of what is going on.
- 2. Derek Davis**
Portland Press Herald
Storm prep
A very unique and atypical spot news photo. Also, kudos on identifying the individual when it's clearly a distance to the subject.
- 3. Rich Abrahamson**
Morning Sentinel
Three-alarm fire
Just the right moment and time.

Scenic Photo Weekly 1

- 1. Morgan Mitchell**
St. John Valley Times
Farmer's sunset
Nice light and composition with lovely colors.
- 2. Eli Forman**
The Weekly Packet
A comet for the centuries
Not an easy photo to make. Well done.
- 3. Camille Fine**
York Weekly
Nubble Lighthouse
Very scenic photograph, if the people in the foreground were positioned better it would've elevated this photo to a higher placement.

Weekly 2

- 1. Lynda Clancy**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Rainbows arc over Midcoast
A great rainbow shot. Beautiful colors.
- 2. Christine Simmonds**
The Courier-Gazette
Sunset in St. George
A pleasing sunset

show that draws you in.

- 3. Cyndi Wood**
The Ellsworth American
Pop of red – 2/18/21
You make winter look bearable.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Rich Abrahamson**
Morning Sentinel
Deer dash
Excellent composition. Not only is the background very pleasing to the eye, the photographer was ready and in the right place at the right time to get a technically perfect shot. The deer looks like she is just out for her morning jog. Good work.
- 2. Derek Davis**
Portland Press Herald
Surfer
Awesome shot! My first place choice was more aesthetically pleasing to me for the "scenic" category, but technically, this is every bit as good. If this had been in the feature photo category, I probably would have given it a first. I love the way the silhouette of the man shows he is trying to conquer the waves. I do have a question about the date. Was this really taken in December in Maine? If so, that might make this a spot news photo. I guess I don't know enough about the Maine surfing season!

- 3. Linda Coan O'Kresik**
Bangor Daily News
Patten colors
There were other really good photos in this category, but this really captures the beauty of fall in Maine. It is well set up and aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The only difference between this and the first two place shots is that to capture this, a photographer could still have gone back to his or her car, gotten the camera and taken time to set this up. But as far as what has been catered, this is every bit as beautiful.

People Photo Weekly 1

- 1. Camille Fine**
York Weekly
Esports player
This was the best portrait demonstrating composition, use of light and illustrates the kid as an e-sports player.
- 2. Paula Brewer**
The Star-Herald
Splash
Can tell there's a fun side to this kid who's trying to cool off in the summer heat.
- 3. Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sherman Vet
A nice portrait utilizing the soft light on King's face.

Weekly 2

- 1. Yoon S. Byun**
The Maine Monitor
The Last Responders
While the light in the back created some challenges for the photographer, this image immediately drew me in with its starkness. The photo illustrated the grief of those who can't be there to pay their last respects for their loved ones because of COVID. Great job!
- 2. Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
Millard Hassan
Portrait photos can prove challenging, but the photographer did an excellent job capturing not only the intricate features of the man's face but also the background that added to the image. Great work!
- 3. Sarah Hinckley**
Mount Desert Islander
Splish splash
Action shots, including features, can be difficult. As this photo proves, it's all in the timing. I really liked the enjoyment shown in the photo and the way the water action was captured at the right moment. Great work!

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Troy R. Bennett**
Bangor Daily News
Juneteenth dancers

Captures joy of dancer and crowd and illustrates well a big story from the past year.

2. **Michael G. Seamans**
Morning Sentinel
Birthday ride
Beautiful and heart-warming. I love the expressions on their faces.
3. **Ben McCanna**
Portland Press Herald
Madden Porter & Morgan Locklear
A beautiful, power photo for a story about a sad subject - homelessness.

Picture Story Weekly 1

1. **Jayna Smith**
The Calais Advertiser
Heroes Honored and Remembered
I like the shot of the musician in front of the men saluting on the bridge. It tells the story all by itself.
2. **Fran Gonzalez**
The Republican Journal
Sled races on Unity Pond
3. **Jackson Long**
The Camden Herald
Clock installed
Lots of great angles showing different aspects of the install.

Weekly 2

1. **Fred J. Field**
The Maine Monitor
The rise of angels
Wonderful collection of portraits and personalities.
2. **PenBayPilot.com**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
PenBayPilot Pandemic Galleries
I love this idea and engagement, and clearly so did your readers. Well done. Not sure how to judge this in a competition of professional photogs, but if Maine had some sort of engagement or innovative category, this would be stronger.
3. **Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
NC Hunt
Nice collection of equipment/wood. No link or story so I'm not sure exactly what I'm looking at. Not many people/faces in this series.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Staff**
Portland Press Herald
Racial justice
This is an incredible package that captures a broad range of actions and reactions -- from broad to intimate, from encouraging to disturbing. Terrific work.
2. **Michael G. Seamans**
Morning Sentinel
Rural Covid soldiers
This is a very strong package that chronicles a shared

experience among all readers. Very good work.

3. **Troy R. Bennett**
Bangor Daily News
Summer protests
Very good work here in capturing harrowing moments. It really tells the emotional story.

Feature Photo Weekly 1

1. **Joseph Cyr**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Clowning Around
A serious moment for a humorous character. Very touching picture.
2. **Shawn Sullivan**
York County Coast Star
Pink ribbon
Great way to capture a sad moment in the community.
3. **Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Rockport residents throw parade
The dog in the back seat just makes this photo - great job.

Weekly 2

1. **Paula Roberts**
The Lincoln County News
Alewives Harvest
This photo is the best display of a situation where the subjects are unaware of the photographer and isn't from a staged/planned event.
2. **Dick Broom**
Mount Desert Islander
Patiently waiting
This is a fun find to come across. Would've liked it more if the dogs weren't all staring at the photographer as the photo was taken.
3. **Yoon Byun**
The Maine Monitor
Maine Gov. Janet Mills

Daily/Weekend

1. **Rich Abrahamson**
Morning Sentinel
Ice fishing friends
A great shot in a tough, competitive category. The look in the dog's eyes is priceless.
2. **Daryn Slover**
Sun Journal
Helpful Kid at Outdoor Market
A very unique photo. Great human touch here.
3. **Andree Kehn**
Sun Journal
Farmers Market
During a Pandemic
Really nice shot at an interesting angle that captures a lot about an everyday moment during the pandemic.

Spots Photo Weekly 1

1. **Jayna Smith**
The Calais Advertiser
You're Out!

Great action shot with everything remaining sharp. Good call on not going to tight and losing the background reactions.

2. **Ken Waltz**
The Republican Journal
Sports photo
Good positioning with the ball centered and the golfer on the right side of the frame. Proper camera settings made for a sharp image with the sand creating a great effect.
3. **Ken Waltz**
The Camden Herald
Journal
Sports photo
The image shows a good eye for an interesting image. The camera settings could use some adjustment to sharpen the image better.

Weekly 2

1. **Ken Waltz**
The Courier-Gazette
Sports photo
Players not being in pads because of COVID-19 created a great opportunity for the photographer to capture what is much more difficult on a normal football night: facial expressions. They are expertly shown in this photo and the action fills the entire frame without being busy. In addition, the legs form a mirror of one another. Great composition!
2. **Paula Roberts**
The Lincoln County News
In the paint
Even though we are used to seeing people wear masks, it's still jarring to see it represented in athletic events. This photo definitely has a sense of time and place, plus the competing action of both players forms a compelling shape of the photo.
3. **Ken Waltz**
The Courier-Gazette
Sports photo
Nice sense of action and framing. You can tell the fielder is kind of surprised to catch it.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Linda Coan O'Kresik**
Bangor Daily News
Empty seats
Great use of leading lines to make an empty gym interesting and capture the lack of fans during the pandemic.
2. **Brianna Soukup**
Portland Press Herald
Swimmers
The center focal point is a unique take that increased the value of an otherwise actionless point in an event.
3. **Michael G. Seamans**
Morning Sentinel
Swimmers
Night ball

Interesting use of silhouetting to make the image more interesting. It was a better call than shooting from the other side and using the lights to see the players.

Illustration Weekly 1

1. **Cheryl Stabinski**
The Calais Advertiser
Teacher Appreciation
By default, you are getting a first place on this. According to the rules, though, it is supposed to be "accenting a story or page" but it doesn't refer to any story or anything else your paper is doing for Teacher Appreciation Week. I guess, it provides an "accent" for your front page, but it would have been nice if you did something about one or more teachers on the front page.

Weekly 2

1. **Chloe Cushman**
The Maine Monitor
A low bar for criminal defense
Artwork illustrates the chaos of this feature well. While nearly hidden in the art - the dramatic image of the inmate really captures your attention. Beautiful work. Well used in this feature story.
2. **Nadean Gilliland**
Mount Desert Islander
Toboggan run
Great image. Well done.
3. **Rebecca Reinhart**
Portland Phoenix
Love in the time of Covid

Daily/Weekend

1. **Coralie Cross**
Bangor Daily News
Police discipline
This was a tough category to judge! This piece is impressive because of the concept and news value ... also using the faces either blacked out or with the documents as shown absolves the editor of running a photo of an actual trooper (who may or may not be part of the story).
2. **Michael Fisher**
Portland Press Herald
Getting to the truth
Good concept that helps the reader connect with a piece that would be hard to represent visually without the piece. This is why we want graphics/illustrations sometimes instead of just photography.
3. **Michael Fisher**
Portland Press Herald
Democrats can learn to win
Very well done illustration. As good as anything in the "big leagues."

Graphics Weekly

1. **Nadean Gilliland**
Mount Desert Islander
Subdivision chart
Clean - goes well with the story.
2. **Anne Berleant, David Fickett**
The Ellsworth American
Cost for re-building one mile of road
The graphic drew you in and the ease of reading the numbers kept you engaged.
3. **Meg Robbins**
The Maine Monitor
Metal mines and deposits
Simple but effective. Nice to see important locations mapped out.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Karen Schneider, Jason Rathbun**
Sun Journal
2020 weather:
The warmest on record
Nicely done graphic and overall layout of pages. There's a lot of information here but it's visually appealing and easy to read.
2. **Michael Fisher**
Portland Press Herald
American Nations election results
This is a good graphic. Wish I could see how it was used on the full page.
3. **Michael Fisher**
Portland Press Herald
HVAC and COVID-19
Nice graphic. Hard to judge its effectiveness without seeing it on the full page with the story.

Specialty Page Design Weekly 1

1. **Cheryl Stabinski**
The Calais Advertiser
Class of 2020
Nice balance of ads, content and photos. Layout made for a nice display of both the seniors and advertisers.
2. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Castine Patriot
Community Concierge
Nice repetition in the shape of the boxes and variety in brick background.

Weekly 2

1. **Nadean Gilliland**
Mount Desert Islander
2020--An island in review
2. **Ashley Carter**
The Ellsworth American
Grad pages 6/18/20

Daily/Weekend

1. **Jason Rathbun**
Sun Journal
Passenger Pigeons:
The last wild one

Hands down best in this category. The layout and color use is beautiful! Text wraps around the image well and the birds grab your attention. Well done!

2. **Sally Tyrrell**
Portland Press Herald
Food & Dining,
November 22
Graphics are done nicely.
Good use of white space.
3. **Sally Tyrrell**
Portland Press Herald
Food & Dining, May 3
Nice graphics in the head-
line. My eye goes right to
the film projector at the
bottom though, wish the
page was balanced so I see
the main feature story

first. Good effort.

Front Page Design Weekly 1

1. **Kim Slawson,**
Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
April 30, 2020 TRJ
Visually appealing, clean
and easy to navigate. Not
too busy. Good use of pho-
tos to pull reader in.
2. **Lanette Virtanen**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Front Page Design
I like your front page in
large part because you've
limited the number of ele-
ments on it. Keeps it simple
and clean. Pleasing on
the eye.

3. **Jeremiah Savage**
The Weekly Packet
May 7, 2020
I would live like to seen a
dominant hed or package
and then build the other
elements around it. Overall,
tho, clean and well pre-
sented.

Weekly 2

1. **Nadean Gilliland**
Mount Desert Islander
Sept. 10, 2020 front page
Creative layout. Nice use of
color and graphics. Good
visual appeal. Easy to read.
2. **Daniel Dunkle,**
John Cross
The Courier-Gazette
Front Page June 11, 2020

3. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
April 16, 2020

Daily/Weekend

1. **Zack Aldrich**
Portland Press Herald
December 13
Clean layout, easy to read.
Feature story has interest-
ing photo that tells a story
by itself. Good use of fonts
in headlines. Nice job turn-
ing the flag into a gift sub-
scription promo. Overall,
nicely done.
2. **Brian Robitaille**
Portland Press Herald
January 17
Intentional or not, the "In
search of a sunny side..."

- graphics really brighten up
this page with all the heavy
(mood) news content. The
layout of the page as a
whole is well done. Feature
story on the young activists
draws your attention.
Well done!
3. **Brian Robitaille**
Portland Press Herald
January 31
Feature story gets
the attention it
deserves. Good photo
and headline to draw
focus. I like the teaser
graphic and
headline on your pages -
consistent and eye
catching without taking
away from the main
news stories.



Advertising Circulation

Local ad Weekly 1

1. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Castine Patriot
Do you love our local
area?
Eye catching, easy to read,
beautiful photos, and nice
use of negative space.
2. **Jayna Smith,**
Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Shop Calais this Holiday
Season
Cute and simple - Love the
pattern created with the
presents and ornaments.
Still easy to read but not
overwhelming.
3. **Jean Lamontanaro**
The Weekly Packet
Grand opening: Lawrence
Family Fitness
Nice variety in shapes/
photos and good use of
color.

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth Jewelers
Both of the ads have great
movement. My eye was
able to flow naturally
throughout both pieces.
Good graphics in "Every
Memory" as well as pro-
moting their products.
2. **Amber Clark**
The Lincoln County News
Coastal Car Wash, Mid-
coast Blooms
Nice balance of text and
graphics as well as picking
typography to marry the
content with the product.

3. **Staff**
Mount Desert Islander
Best Wishes Subaru

Daily/Weekend

1. **Roberto Lemus**
Portland Press Herald
Calling all
Subscribers
Nicely done! Using comics
graphics to convey message
about change to comics.
Great tie-in.
2. **Callie Picard**
Bangor Daily News
Saliba's
Love the use of this art-
work. Had lots of details
to convey and the artwork
helps to get it across with-
out it being cluttered.
3. **Mark Shipsey, Jake Laws**
The Times Record
Brunswick Veterans Plaza
Nice looking ad. Great job
of conveying lots of details
without the ad appearing
cluttered.

Campaign or Series Weekly 1

1. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Castine Patriot
Corona Island
Consistent artwork helps
connect these ads to make
a nice series. Well done.
2. **Jean Lamontanaro**
The Weekly Packet
Maine Craft- The Way
Beer Should Be
This is a good series of ads
showcasing area brewing
companies.

3. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Island Ad-Vantages
NEW! Lobsters &
lobstering connect
Nice ads, could use some
help with layout. There's a
lot of information and my
eye doesn't know where to
look first. Good effort.

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Lincoln County News
Sponsored Recipe
The layout and consistency
between all the ads are
great. The pictures and
color chosen are good.
2. **Heidi Anderson-Belcher**
The Courier-Gazette
One Community
Many Voices
It is very well put together.
It flows very nicely.
3. **Natalie Ladd,**
Suzanne Piecuch
Portland Phoenix
Portland Symphony
The layout is ok. The ads
could have been a little
more eye-catching.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Dawn Tantum**
Morning Sentinel
Safety Series
Great idea and the ads
are laid out nicely. Some
of them maybe a little too
crowded.
2. **Carolina Rave**
Bangor Daily News
Super Slow Zone
Very nice use of color and
the pictures are great. I am
not a fan of text over pho-
tos. It is hard to read.

3. **Coralie Cross**
Bangor Daily News
Dunnett
Good consistency from ad
to ad. The ads are nicely put
together.

Supplement/ Special Section Weekly 1

1. **Staff**
The Weekly Packet
Lawrence Family Fitness
Center
The layout is great. The
photos along with the
information draw my eye in
and make me want to know
more about the Lawrence
Family! Great job!
2. **Staff**
Castine Patriot
Spring Fever
It is a very great idea. The
colors and flow are very
nice. I love the chart, bird
haven and all of the infor-
mative information.
3. **Editorial & Design Staff**
The Camden Herald
Knox Election 2020
It has a great layout and
flow and is very informative.

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Tournament Memories
All pages are nicely done.
Good amount of advertis-
ers and editorial. Graphics
at the top of each page are
well done.
2. **Staff**
The Lincoln County News
Made in Lincoln County

I like the concept of this
magazine. The layout needs
some help. It's hard to dif-
ferentiate between stories
and ads on some pages -
clearer separation needed.
Graphics/image clarity
issues throughout - could
be an upload problem.

3. **Staff**
The Lincoln County News
Outdoors

Daily/Weekend

1. **Nancy Fickett,**
Tyler Roma, Kelly Wade
Sun Journal
Clarity on cannabis
Good, timely context. in-
formative and great layout/
look.
2. **Amy Allen**
Bangor Daily News
Welcome Home
Great looking magazine
full of good content and
photos.

Best Supplement Cover Weekly 1

1. **John Cross**
The Camden Herald
Knox Graduation
Keepsake
Clean, memorable and a
true keepsake cover.
2. **Staff**
Boothbay Register
2020 Dining Guide
Wonderful photos and grid
layout draws you in.
3. **Jeremiah Savage**
Island Ad-Vantages
Spring Fever!

Nice hierarchy in photos and headings.

Weekly 2

1. **Amber Clark**
The Lincoln County News
Outdoors
The arrangement is nice and the colors are great. It is very eye-catching.
2. **John H Cross Jr.**
The Courier-Gazette
Wellness 2020
The layout is ok, however I would have liked to see the words laid out better. The pictures are great, but would have preferred some space between them.
3. **David Fickett**
The Ellsworth American
Out and About July 2020
The colors are great. Would have preferred a different angle of the photo.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Alicia Tuttle**
Kennebec Journal
Fall Home and Garden
Love the fall color and the layout is beautiful.
2. **Callie Picard**
Bangor Daily News
On the Move
This pops out at me. It has a nice layout.
3. **Melissa Pritchard**
Portland Press Herald
Holiday Gift Guide
Nice design. Very simple and sleek.

Best Young Reader Engagement Idea Weekly

1. **Bailey Beltramo**
The Maine Monitor
2020: A class dismissed
Compelling and profound. This gave a voice and a listening ear to a significantly impacted group, making the most of detrimental circumstances in a

positive and insightful manner. These stories are both interesting and important. Well done.

2. **Maia Zewert**
The Lincoln County News
GSB Students Investigate
Exposing youth directly to journalism through practice and publication is a great way to get young readers not only engaged but involved, interested, and educated. Nice job.
3. **Staff**
Mount Desert Islander
What is Love?
A heartfelt approach to including young readers in community publications. Certainly an idea that was appreciated by both young and their parents/community.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Amy Allen, Coralie Cross**
Bangor Daily News
BDN Junior
What a great idea. Great layout and designs to draw in a younger age group. Will truly get kids to pick up a paper and read it. Nice work!
2. **Staff**
The Times Record
Spirit of the Holidays
The pages of submitted artwork speaks volumes on the success of this project. Kids will definitely open the paper to see if they made it in.
3. **Staff**
Sun Journal
Turkey hunt
Clear instructions, fun design, great pre and post promotion as well.

Best Circulation Promotion Weekly 1

1. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Castine Patriot
We work hard to bring the news

Great layout. The idea is right on point on promoting your newspaper.

2. **Jean Lamontanaro**
The Weekly Packet
Fall Into Savings
Great way to promote your newspaper and get new subscribers.
3. **Jean Lamontanaro**
Island Ad-Vantages
The news is changing rapidly
The idea of promoting your newspaper is clear, but could have used more colors and made it pop more.

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Dine around
Great looking ad, good offer. Like that the offer wasn't based on a holiday promo, was just something for March.
2. **Staff**
The Lincoln County News
Give the Gift
Good layout and like the idea of "gift lasts the whole year".

Daily/Weekend

1. **Alicia Tuttle**
Portland Press Herald
Early Bird
Like the series of two turtle doves, three French hens, etc., good idea, artwork
2. **Alicia Tuttle**
Morning Sentinel
Gift of Maine
Great artwork to fit the idea

Self-Promotion Weekly 1

1. **Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski**
The Calais Advertiser
We Believe
The idea is good. I don't like the layout or the cropping of the photos. Could have used more colors.

Weekly 2

1. **Amber Clark, Maia Zewert**
The Lincoln County News
100 Years
Great series! From concept to design, this series is a well deserved first place! Great idea reaching out to advertisers – loved the quotes from each. Well done and congrats on 100 years!
2. **Staff**
Mount Desert Islander
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Good idea to pay it forward. Hopefully all businesses will remember this gesture when they get back on their feet. Nicely done.
3. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Real people
Good idea to introduce your staff to the community. Hopefully these ads ran in the paper too.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Staff**
Portland Press Herald
Editor's Pick
Wonderful campaign - beautiful design - great execution.
2. **Marcie Coombs**
Bangor Daily News
Community Free Advertising
Clean and eye catching. Great way to show unity among other businesses during hardship.
3. **Alicia Tuttle**
Kennebec Journal
Spelling Bee Contest
Nice and clean ad - love the idea of newspapers promoting learning and education with the spelling bee. And that it was moved to zoom when we couldn't gather in person.

Best New Revenue Idea Weekly 1

1. **Jayna Smith**
The Calais Advertiser
Shop Local Tips

I like this campaign. Something that could be done anytime of the year and could be ongoing. Can never do enough to support local!

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Hancock County Yearbook
A terrific section saluting the graduates. Well done! A keepsake!
2. **Staff**
Mount Desert Islander
Halloween Sale October 28, 2021
Visually appealing and packaged. Good work.
3. **Advertising & Design Staff**
The Courier-Gazette
Midcoast Strong!

Daily/Weekend

1. **Kelly Wade, Melissa Logan, Jennifer Gendron**
Carlton Sun Journal
Thank a nurse
Nurses always deserve more recognition and this year was no different. Loved the community involvement as well as gaining revenue.
2. **Events Staff**
Portland Press Herald
Like a Boss NOW
It was a very smart approach to a program you already had. Building off of it given the circumstances of the year and providing resources for fellow business owners to help each other in this time was wonderful!
3. **Creative Team**
Bangor Daily News
Graduation 2020
Great keepsake for the class

Editorial Page Weekly 1

1. **Staff**
The Republican Journal
The Republican Journal
A wonderful editorial page.

Nicely designed and full of opinion and commentary. Well done!

2. **Staff**
The Camden Herald
Camden Herald Editorial Section

Great to see this newspaper is back. Good work! Excellent editorial page! Keep up the good work.

3. **Staff**
The Calais Advertiser
Editorial Page

Weekly 2

1. **Staff**
The Courier-Gazette
Editorial Page -
2. **Staff**
Mount Desert Islander

Mount Desert Islander Editorial Page.

3. **Staff**
The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth American Editorial Page

The Best Sections

Daily/Weekend

- 1. **Staff**
Portland Press Herald
Editorial page
Robust pages full of opinion and commentary. Nicely packaged. Easy to navigate. Well done!
- 2. **Ben Bragdon, Megan Bachelder**
Kennebec Journal
KJ opinion section
Plenty of good, local perspectives and opinion on these pages.
- 3. **Ben Bragdon, Megan Bachelder**
Morning Sentinel
MS opinion section
Consistent locally written

editorials reflecting the newspaper's viewpoint. Key to any strong editorial page.

Sports Section Weekly 1

- 1. **Staff**
The Camden Herald
3/4/21,6/11/20, 10/22/20
Lots of outstanding articles, graphics and photos. Reader-friendly layout. Difficult to judge between first and second because two-thirds of these two entries were the same issues. I gave this entry first because its stand-alone section was slightly better than second-

- place entry's stand-alone section.
- 2. **Staff**
The Republican Journal
3/4/21, 6/11/20, 3/11/21
Tough call between first and second as two-thirds of these entries were the same. Very nice job overall of local sports coverage.
- 3. **Staff**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sports Section
Very solid coverage with several good photos and articles. Could use a bit more color, but this is a top-notch sports section.

Weekly 2

- 1. **Staff**
The Courier-Gazette
3/4/21, 6/11/20, 2/25/21
Head and shoulders above the rest ... well done.
- 2. **Mike Mandell**
The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth American Sports
Overall, great range of coverage by Mike Mandell. Nice work.
- 3. **Mike Mandell**
Mount Desert Islander
Sports sections--all 3

Creative use of photos and graphics draw readers into the text. Well written and well-edited copy.

- 2. **Staff**
Portland Press Herald
Sports section
Like the occasional use of big, bold heads. Nice layout with some top-shelf game photos.
- 3. **Sports Staff**
Morning Sentinel
MS sports sections
This entry had some fine staff produced features - especially on section fronts.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. **Sports Staff**
Kennebec Journal
KJ sports section



Game Story Weekly 1

- 1. **Joseph Cyr**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Southern Aroostook girls win title
Engaging lead and four different sources with good quotes. Nice job!
- 2. **Ken Waltz, Mark Haskell**
The Camden Herald
Back-to-back: Anderson dominates
Lots of good detail in this tournament report.
- 3. **Chris Bouchard**
Aroostook Republican
Vikings victorious in Aroostook League
Solid coverage of game that capped an undefeated season.

was covered just about perfectly. Very nicely done.

- 3. **Mike Mandell**
Mount Desert Islander
MDI girls win over Ellsworth
A very thorough and detailed effort. Captured the game well.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. **Mike Lowe**
Portland Press Herald
Field hockey: Biddeford and Thornton
Inviting start to the story which had nice mix of good quotes.
- 2. **Mike Lowe**
Portland Press Herald
Black Bears put on an offensive show
Well written game story.
- 2. **Randy Whitehouse**
Sun Journal
Falcons beat Cougars
Liked the lead. Good story noting effects of Covid on high school sports season.

Blue Devils
Nice job.

- 3. **Kevin G. Burnham**
Boothbay Register
Laurie Reed
Great job of doing your research and bringing what was a forgotten story into the light. Great work.

Weekly 2

- 1. **Mark Haskell**
The Courier-Gazette
Like everyone, ADs long
The top entry by far. Some of the best writing I've come across in a while. The author did a tremendous job with this profoundly impactful piece from start to finish. Well done.
- 2. **Mike Mandell**
Mount Desert Islander
New guidelines bode well
An enjoyable and interesting read. The information is presented well and easy to follow. The compelling topic is explored with several nice touches.
- 3. **Paula Roberts**
The Lincoln County News
With no spectators allowed, television
A pretty solid and interesting article.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. **Steve Craig, Mike Lowe**
Portland Press Herald
State tells youth hockey
- 2. **Drew Bonifant**
Morning Sentinel
Sure, face masks can be

- 3. **Tony Blasi**
Sun Journal
'Patron saint of helping others'

Sports Headline Weekly 1

- 1. **Ken Waltz**
The Republican Journal
Iowa farmer Battani ready to plant, nurture success for Lion athletes
Nice use of AD's background to project his philosophy on new job.
- 2. **Ken Waltz**
The Camden Herald
Looking in mirror can be reflective experience
- 3. **Bill Pearson**
Boothbay Register
Glorious night' for Blethen family as daughter scores 1,000th point

Weekly 2

- 1. **Hal Madsen**
The Maine Monitor
From his seat in a wheelchair, nobody ever stood taller
Nice juxtaposition. The headline makes a great story even better.
- 2. **Ken Waltz**
The Courier-Gazette
No fishing for this answer: Benner catches on as best
Clever. Tells the story and brings attention to it. One of the best in the group.
- 3. **Mike Mandell**
The Ellsworth American
Moving Out
Well done.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. **Joe Grant**
Portland Press Herald
Alone again, naturally
Clever use of the old Gilbert O'Sullivan tune in this header.
- 2. **Scott Martin**
Portland Press Herald
Familiar ring
This headline has a nice ring to it.
- 3. **Joe Grant**
Portland Press Herald
With border closed, Canadian golfers can't get there from here

Sports Profile Weekly 1

- 1. **Mark Haskell**
The Republican Journal
Iowa farmer Battani ready to plant
A nicely written article with an interesting and captivating lede and great quotes throughout. The background information provided was presented quite well. Held my interest from start to finish. Very good work.
- 2. **Holly Vanorse Spicer**
The Republican Journal
Keach earns first Kari J. Cross
The writer's voice is compelling and captivating; the quotes are well chosen, and the information is relayed nicely. A heart-felt and impactful piece.
- 3. **Jessica Potila**
St. John Valley Times
Musher makes

historic run
An interesting and well written piece that makes a historical impact. The writer made good choices with the direction of the storytelling.

Weekly 2

1. **Steve Solloway**
The Maine Monitor
From his seat in a wheelchair
An outstanding piece on an outstanding individual. I'll admit I'm probably biased toward this entry. You see, I was at the game in which Travis was injured and I've followed him ever since. Great headline ... great tribute. Well done ... and thank you.
2. **Ken Waltz**
The Courier-Gazette
Jones, Masters champion Johnson
A couple of good pieces here ... nice job.
3. **Ken Waltz**
The Courier-Gazette
Moving 10 steps felt like

Daily/Weekend

1. **Steve Craig & Mike Lowe**
Portland Press Herald
No fans, no playoffs.
2. **Mike Lowe**
Portland Press Herald
Field hockey creates bond

3. **Drew Bonifant**
Morning Sentinel
Mourning hockey community

Sports Columnist Weekly 1

1. **Ken Waltz**
The Camden Herald
Even in old age; and Loving legacy
Really liked the "appreciation for athletes' loss" column in which writer used athletic memories from his youth to explain potential impact of Covid on boys and girls who have been put on the sidelines by the virus.
2. **Zack Miller**
The Republican Journal
Wife always right; and In world of lefts
Column about Confederate flag ban at NASCAR events was thought-provoking.
- 3-Tie. **Mark Haskell**
The Camden Herald
Pandemic throws family's routine
Tie for third place. Enjoyed the disc golf vs ball golf column.
- 3-Tie. **Holly Vanorse Spicer**
The Camden Herald
Sports column
Tie for third place. Column about 4-year-old driven by desire for

trophy was good. Column about weight lifting was interesting, but needed to be trimmed down as was the case for many entries in this category.

Weekly 2

1. **Tiger Cumming**
The Lincoln County News
Tiger's Tidbits
Interesting read.
2. **Holly Vanorse Spicer**
The Courier-Gazette
Hooked on fishing; and Can Revs break
3. **Paula Roberts**
The Lincoln County News
On the Trail in Lincoln County

Daily/Weekend

1. **Drew Bonifant**
Morning Sentinel
Sports columns by Drew Bonifant
Well-written column comparing Election Day to a sports event.
2. **Dave Dyer**
Kennebec Journal
Sports columns by Dave Dyer
Writer's column about his sideline work as a pro wrestler was interesting. P.S. I think 'Dyer Straits' would make an even better ring name than 'Belfast Bulldog.'

3. **Kevin Thomas**
Portland Press Herald
Kevin Thomas
Good 'inside baseball' Red Sox columns on Pedroia and Cora.

Sports Page Design Weekly 1

1. **Ken Waltz**
The Camden Herald
Sports page design - March 4, 2021
Similar issues to the March 11 submission, however this page is easier to read and focus on due to one less story on the page. Overall, the layout is consistent with headlines and photos. This page has room to breathe...
2. **Lanette Virtanen**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sports Page Design
Overall the page layout is easy to read. I wish you selected a feature photo and made it larger (ie: Emma Ardell photo) as it captures the action well and is an interesting photo. Feature a larger photo on the page to draw attention.
3. **Cheryl Stabinski**
The Calais Advertiser
Sports page design

Weekly 2

1. **Mike Mandell,**
Ashley Carter
The Ellsworth American
Tournament pages
Great job compiling and reporting local sports

history! This section is sure to be a keeper for any and all alumni, former athletes/coaches and local sports fans. Good use of photos and artwork.

2. **Nadean Gilliland**
Mount Desert Islander
MDI Winter Sports
Good use of photos ... I'm sure this page was clipped and hung on many bulletin boards and refrigerators. Depending on what you charge the auto parts store for its good luck ad you might think about moving it and selling \$30 sigs. My newspaper is in a rural community of 600 and we'll make \$500-600 on a page like this.

3. **Paula Roberts**
The Lincoln County News
The Lincoln County News
Well-written stories, good use of photos. Work on your design ... the coverage is good but it's not a page that's easy on the eyes.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Lee Horton,**
Joel Matuszczak
Sun Journal
Pulling his weight
2. **Scott Martin**
Portland Press Herald
February 8
- 3-Tie. **Sandra Pooler**
Kennebec Journal
KJ sports page design
- 3-Tie. **Randy Whitehouse,**
Joel Matuszczak
Sun Journal
Some memories fade

News Story Weekly 1

1. **Leslie Landrigan**
Island Ad-Vantages
COVID-19 spread by partying
2. **Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Canada's worst mass shooting.
3. **Hannah Catlin**
St. John Valley Times
Ambulance coverage

Weekly 2

1. **Sean Murphy**
The Forecaster
Black Lives Matter march
2. **Jennifer Osborn**
The Ellsworth American
Riot gear ruckus
3. **Sarah Hinckley**
Mount Desert Islander
Drive like a local

Daily/Weekend

1. **Randy Billings**
Portland Press Herald
Family of deceased resident
These early pandemic stories are so harrowing to read. With all we've seen over the last year and a half, this story still had me viscerally mad and heart-broken at the same time. In a very strong category, this piece left me thinking the longest.
2. **Mark Laflamme**
Sun Journal
A tour of the 165-year-old
This story was awesome. I was hanging on each transition, and I appreciated the author's first-person voice. The design, with FIFTY-SIX words worth of hed and

sub-hed felt intended to make me not read the story. Far too much text.

3. **David Marino Jr.**
Bangor Daily News
More than 700 Mainers died from
To try and tell the tale of a year of pandemic like that is daunting. I appreciated the subheads breaking up the topics, infographics giving me strong visuals and the narrative set up.

Spot News Story Weekly 1

1. **David Marino Jr.**
The Star-Herald
PI standoff began after man
First off – the photo; WOW! It makes the reader aware how serious the situation was. Second – wonderful

attention to detail to tell the story. Third – the dedication it took for a reporter, let alone two, to cover a nine-hour standoff to get all the facts. Wonderful job!

2. **Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
FBI searches home of Houlton man
I was really interested to read this article, the headline attracted me right away. Since you weren't able to get the information desired from FBI, I enjoyed that you wrote of his background to give the reader's more of a detailed history of the individual.

3. **Sarah Craighead**
Dedmon
Machias Valley News Observer
Two die in trailer fire,

three saved
This article is the definition of spot news, especially the photos. Spot news doesn't mean you know all the details yet; you come across it and report on what you know at the time. This article was well-balanced with the tragedy and saving of individuals. The reporter did a great job of explaining the situation, but not diminishing the impact of the two lives lost while explaining the three that were able to be saved. Keep up the great work!

Weekly 2

1. **Evan Houk**
The Lincoln County News
Sea Gull Shop Destroyed
2. **Stephen Betts**
The Courier-Gazette
Police release identity of

driver killed

3. **Faith DeAmbrose**
Mount Desert Islander
Hiker airlifted from icy Precipice Trail

Daily/Weekend

1. **Staff**
Sun Journal
Explosion at Jay paper mill
There was another paper that submitted an article on this same incident. It was interesting to see the differences in approaching the situation. I feel this article had more information and flowed a lot better than the other. Awesome job!
2. **Mark LaFlamme, Christopher Williams, Steve Collins**
Sun Journal
Turner couple slain in violent stabbing
This article was extremely sad. As many spot news stories go, it left me with many questions. The reporting was nicely covered giving the reader information available at the time. The only thing that would've been nice to find out was why Maher was living with the Varneys. Keep up the great work!
3. **Gillian Graham, Matt Byrne**
Portland Press Herald
'The bank kept moving'
The photos showed the impact this landslide had on the community and surrounding areas and businesses. Information from witnesses, business owners and experts flowed nicely together and told the story. It was very interesting and kept the reader's attention. Wonderful job!

Political Story
Weekly 1

1. **Fran Gonzalez**
The Republican Journal
Hundreds voice out rage
Nice job covering a local event on a national issue. Well-written and good use of several different sources. This story was much more than just reporting on what was said and done at a local rally. Also, nice use of photos.
2. **Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli**
The Star-Herald
Fort Fairfield declares itself sanctuary
Great explanation of this sanctuary city movement. Those in favor will like the idea that certain elected officials support it, but most readers should recognize that the move-

ment doesn't accomplish anything. The story makes this clear, but it is not "preachy."

3. **Susan Johns**
Wiscasset Newspaper
Private email goes public in Alna
I always like a good local political scandal! Good work reporting it.

Weekly 2

1. **Susan Cover, Darren Fishell, Meg Robbins**
The Maine Monitor
How record sums of money
Great research and reporting. The writing made a tough subject clear and the graphics helped tell the complete story well.
2. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
Maine's governor born for hard times
A lot of history in this political story. Great depth and breadth in a profile piece.
3. **Colin Ellis**
Portland Phoenix
City councilor slams Portland
Great piece tying together a news event and a trend.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Greg Levinsky**
Morning Sentinel
Which Nadeau is running for office
A crazy story that was well-told. It was clear and I'm not sure how. Great reporting and writing
2. **Scott Thistle**
Portland Press Herald
Ascension to legislative leadership
This is a great story about another glass ceiling breaking. It was anything but formulaic. The reporting led the writing. Well done.
3. **Caitlin Andrews**
Bangor Daily News
A Black doctor will be first Democrat
Good writing. Solid reporting. The news value was good.

Courts Story
Weekly 1

1. **Chris Bouchard**
Aroostook Republican
Suit against city, councilor
Very complete, detailed information on the whole process. Not an easy subject to write about when individuals are involved but well done to present both sides.
2. **Stephen Betts**
The Camden Herald
Charge upgraded to attempted murder

Very easy to understand how the events unfolded.

3. **Joseph Cyr**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Ormsby wants murder convictions

Weekly 2

1. **Samantha Hogan**
The Maine Monitor
Lawyers who were ineligible
Revealing story on what seems to be a disturbing problem. Excellent use of individual cases to make the point.
2. **Doug Rooks**
Portland Phoenix
Pandemic tests Maine judiciary
Very in-depth story on all aspects of the judiciary system and how they are coping with COVID.
3. **Sarah Hinckley**
Mount Desert Islander
Emergency calls to police increased
In-depth look at what caused the emergency calls to be what they are, rather than just reporting the numbers.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Megan Gray**
Portland Press Herald
'What would Patrick want?'
2. **Callie Ferguson**
Bangor Daily News
She reported a game warden
3. **Megan Gray**
Portland Press Herald
Impasse on funding leaves

Investigative Report
Weekly 1

1. **Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Pulling back the curtain on bullying
A good topic and the reporter provided enough numbers for a more detailed picture. Also a good call on the reporter finding and centering the story around a parent and child facing challenges from bullying rather than relying on experts discussing the problem.
2. **Jayna Smith, Natalie Boomer**
The Calais Advertiser
Maine CDC Opens Formal Outbreak
The topic was good, but the reporters relied on long quotes too heavily. Also, the reporters need to watch their active and passive voice.

Weekly 2

1. **Samantha Hogan**
The Maine Monitor
Defenseless: An

investigation
Insanity. Had no idea this public defender issue existed, and this series is of the highest impact. Clear winner.

2. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The preacher and the outbreak
3. **Chance Viles**
American Journal
Westbrook police use of force
Good, important data reporting. Holding gov accountable.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Erin Rhoda, Callie Ferguson, Josh Keefe**
Bangor Daily News
Lawmen off limits
The Bangor Daily News investigation into lack of accountability for county law enforcement was incredibly reported and written. The package rightfully resulted in legislation at the state level. Beyond the thorough reporting, the stories were presented in an accessible and engaging way online. Excellent work.
2. **Lindsay Tice**
Sun Journal
Education under siege
'Uncharted Waters' was a thoroughly investigated project that raises a lot of interesting questions about how students, particularly those in poor households, learn, and the disparities between schools. I'm sure this is the plan, but please do this once again when data from the COVID-19 school year is available. The results will surely be even more fascinating.
3. **Randy Billings**
Portland Press Herald
For thousands of unemployed Mainers
Randy Billings investigated the unemployment claims problems that were an issue across the country, but he put several faces to it to show how it was affecting people who weren't receiving the money they were owed. Well done.

Analysis
Weekly 1

1. **Chris Bouchard**
Aroostook Republican
After 10 years, new school
2. **Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Future uncertain for the traditional
3. **Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Proposed mine is first real test

Weekly 2

1. **Kay Stephens**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
The impact of COVID-19's urban flight
Such good writing. Lots of information, along with empathy for both sides of the invasion. I liked that you presented all the angles and then drew a conclusion.
2. **Stephen Betts**
The Courier-Gazette
Rockland revaluation prompts
So much good information and real-life stories showing the negative effects. Loved the statewide comparisons, You might have paraphrased some of the Gordon info; the quote got really long. Nevertheless, you made your readers understand the issue.
3. **Marina Schauffler**
The Maine Monitor
Green bank could help Maine turn tide
You present a lot of information in an easy to understand format. Love the subheads that give a natural pause before forging ahead. However, the story got a bit overwhelming with its detail. It might have benefitted from two parts - the first detailing the need and the second explaining how a green bank concept would help.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Lindsay Tice**
Sun Journal
Education under siege
'Uncharted Waters' was a thoroughly investigated project that raises a lot of interesting questions about how students, particularly those in poor households, learn, and the disparities between schools. I'm sure this is the plan, but please do this once again when data from the COVID-19 school year is available. The results will surely be even more fascinating.
2. **Kevin Miller**
Portland Press Herald
Maine has nation's worst COVID-19
Kevin Miller took an incredibly important issue, one that was not reported nearly enough nationwide, and simplified it using clear data to explain the COVID-19 racial disparities in the state. Well done. This is a story every newspaper across the country should have written.
3. **Jessica Piper**
Bangor Daily News
What it means to be from away
As someone who has

never been to Maine or is that familiar with the state's politics, I was fascinated by this analysis. The writer did a great job of explaining the difficulties those not born in Maine face when trying to get into politics

Continuing Story Weekly 1

1. **Chris Bouchard**
Aroostook Republican
BluShift Aerospace
The writer handled a rare and fascinating topic very well, with professional finesse. Each and every article was thorough and detailed. Great work.
2. **Joseph Charpentier**
Boothbay Register
Navigating through COVID-19
Great storytelling. A very interesting and impactful series that highlights the people and businesses of the community.
3. **Fran Gonzalez,**
Kendra Caruso
The Republican Journal
State of the art waste facility
Solid writing that covers the story quite well.

Weekly 2

1. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The Last Responders
This was an outstanding series that drew my attention immediately. It put a face on the COVID-19 victims who often die alone and their families and others whose lives are also affected. Awesome job!
2. **Samantha Hogan**
The Maine Monitor
Breach of attorney-client privilege
This was a well-done series that brings to light the question of attorney-client privileges in jails and the practices of those facilities. This series resonated with me as I cover two state prisons on my beat along with county jails. Great work!
3. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The Preacher and the outbreak
This was a really well done look at the super-spreader events that touch and even claim the lives of unconnected victims. The issue also illustrates the battle that rages over individual freedoms and making choices for the common good. Great work!

Daily/Weekend

1. **Greg Levinsky,**
Taylor Abbott
Morning Sentinel
Unity College laying off

- 15% of staff
Great job of advancing the story one topic after the other.
2. **Staff**
Sun Journal
Explosion at Jay paper mill
Nice progression of the story with different angles.
3. **Emily Duggan**
Kennebec Journal
Mental Health in Our Schools
Great stories and timely topic even today.

Arts/Lifestyle Feature Weekly 1

1. **Eli Forman**
Castine Patriot
'All you need is love.'
Local resident
Great reporting about a story for our time. Well crafted. Flows nicely.
2. **Jessica Potila**
St. John Valley Times
Married 62 years
A great love story well chronicled. Good work.
3. **Christine Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Into the Light: Window exhibit
Good reporting about an important topic. Your story helps bring awareness to domestic abuse in a nicely written story.

Weekly 2

1. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
Together, to the compassionate end
A powerful story well told. Excellent reporting.
2. **Steve Solloway**
The Maine Monitor
The Wonderful Life of Bob Bahre
A nice collection of sources helps tell this story about a wonderful man. Good reporting.
3. **Steve Solloway**
The Maine Monitor
From his seat in a wheelchair
This is well written. A nice tribute piece of reporting and writing.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Victoria DeCoster**
Sun Journal
Welcome to Burgundar
2. **Ray Routhier**
Portland Press Herald
Couples finding out if they can go
3. **Bob Keyes**
Portland Press Herald
Star of Hope, the Vinalhaven home

Feature Story Weekly 1

1. **Leslie Landrigan**
Island Ad-Vantages
Sandy Eaton: Life at the other end
A terrific feature profile about a terrific woman and provider of health care.
2. **Steven Porter**
York Weekly
Cashing in
I love this story. Wonderfully told. Warms the heart.
3. **Carolyn Zachary**
The Republican Journal
Remembering a beloved town columnist
An excellent remembrance about someone certainly beloved in the community. Nice tribute.

Weekly 2

1. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The rise of angels during a hellish year
What a wonderful COVID-era story. Inspirational. We all need that these days.
2. **Steve Solloway**
The Maine Monitor
A Maine traveling nurse doing her part
Excellent reporting about a nurse's work during the height of COVID in New York. Full of detail, emotion and the sense of the time.
3. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
Maine's governor born for hard times
Well done. An excellent profile. Too bad other elected officials are not as transparent personally as Maine's governor.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Mark Laflamme**
Sun Journal
Walking the beat with Officer Ryan
2. **Gillian Graham**
Portland Press Herald
Jack Weeks' mobility was taken away
3. **Andree Kehn**
Sun Journal
Serving their country in hiding

Food Story/Feature Weekly 1

1. **Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
How historic drought affects potato
2. **Jessica Potila**
St. John Valley Times
Haskap berry farmers

3. **Cece King**
The Camden Herald
Food establishments get creative

Weekly 2

1. **Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
Best Thai
You did a good job marrying their history and pandemic response. The food descriptions were spot-on; anyone reading it would surely be picking up the phone to order!
2. **Faith DeAmbrose**
Mount Desert Islander
Cranberries make the holidays
Short and sweet! A great way to use your iconic berries.Thanks for sharing more than one way to enjoy them.
3. **Kay Stephens**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Back off squirrel, these acorns are mine
Your self-deprecating humor made this an entertaining read. I wish you had explained why acorn flour is so wonderful as to justify all the hard work.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Greg Levinsky**
Morning Sentinel
'Donut Day' at the Amish Community
2. **Peggy Grodinsky**
Portland Press Herald
Is the Well at Jordan's Farm
3. **Sam Schipani**
Bangor Daily News
How wild blueberry wine could save

Religion/Spirituality Weekly 1

1. **David Marino Jr.**
The Star-Herald
Churches draw in big digital crowds
Great story on how this church adapted to COVID-19, something all churches had to do. Good quotes to give it human interest.
2. **Joseph Cyr**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Prayer vigil seeks end to abortions
Good lede to the story, nice quotes. Very easy read on a sometimes difficult topic.
3. **Sarah E. Reynolds**
The Republican Journal
The Rev.
Jim Culbertson
Would like to see the note at the beginning of the story put at the end so we can get right to the article.

Weekly 2

1. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The Last Responders: Consoling
Powerful reporting about "last responders." Important story about an overlooked subject. Excellent!
2. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
The preacher and the outbreak
Thorough and detailed reporting here. Well written.
3. **Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
Playing God with public health

Daily/Weekend

1. **Kelley Bouchard**
Portland Press Herald
Mainers grapple with faith
Excellent reporting on an important topic and subject matter of our time. This is a very good story. Nicely done.
2. **Staff**
Sun Journal
Power of Faith
A terrific package of reporting about the importance and power of faith and prayer.
3. **Kelley Bouchard**
Portland Press Herald
The Abyssinian and the struggle

Local Columnist Weekly 1

1. **Sarah E. Reynolds**
Republican Journal
Long Journey Home
Nicely written. You write about important topics with grace and style. Well done.
2. **Barbara Dyer**
The Camden Herald
Making History
040920
Great story-telling about fascinating local history.
3. **Phil Di Vece**
Wiscasset Newspaper
Salt 'n Spar local columns
I love the spoons column! Good job.

Weekly 2

1. **Natalie Ladd**
Portland Phoenix
Leftovers: Survivors rise above, Romance
Top of the class in this category. Well done. I love your writing. Can we have coffee sometime?
2. **Dan Dunkle**
The Courier-Gazette
What Were We Talking About?
Great topics and well written. I like your writing style.

3. **Kris Ferrazza**
The Courier-Gazette
The Beat Goes On
I hope the cat and daughter are doing well!

Daily/Weekend

1. **Bob Dushesne**
Bangor Daily News
Good Birding
Duchesne provides well written columns that combine solid information with personal anecdotes. The light-hearted style keeps the reader entertained, even if they aren't interested in birds.
2. **Amy Calder**
Morning Sentinel
Local columnist Amy Calder
Calder presented solid columns that left the reader informed and entertained with interesting topics or people.
3. **Sandy Oliver**
Bangor Daily News
Taste Buds
Oliver offered a personal touch to her recipes with a little background on her experiences. Oliver's clear writing also made it easy for the reader to follow along and replicate the dishes.

Critic's Award Weekly 1

1. **RJ Heller**
Machias Valley News Observer
Review: Beneficence
Clear writing, easy to follow
2. **Lisa Kristoff**
Boothbay Register
At one with nature
Clearly written and easy to follow topic.
3. **Jon Reisman**
The Calais Advertiser
Freedom Studies
Well written, but also dense with information.

Weekly 2

1. **Megan Grumbling**
Portland Phoenix
Documentary helps change
A compelling, well-written look at this documentary. Gives due to an important issue. Well done.
2. **Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
Review: Wiscasset Restaurant Looks
An excellent restaurant review. Thorough and easy to read.
3. **Nan Lincoln**
Mount Desert Islander
Actors get personal in Flying Solo

Daily/Weekend

1. **Jorge Arango**
Portland Press Herald
Portland Museum of Art

exhibit
A nice balance of critique and historical and cultural perspective. Excellent piece!

2. **Andrew Ross**
Portland Press Herald
Dine Out Maine: Best of 2020
I love the "best" blurbs. Easy read, covers a lot of ground.
3. **Judy Harrison**
Bangor Daily News
Joy of live performance returns
An excellent local review with good perspectives and knowledge.

Feature Headline Weekly 1

1. **Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
Video made the library star
I absolutely love the play on a song title! The photos of the upbeat librarian also helped to attract the attention to the headline and article. This headline attracted my eye right away and piqued my interest.
2. **Susan Johns**
Wiscasset Newspaper
Mask maker, mask maker
I really like the play on words from a well-known song; it definitely attracts the reader's eye and grabs their interest.
3. **Sarah Craighead Dedmon**
Machias Valley News Observer
Cemetery preservation project lifts spirits, unearths stories
The headline was eye catching and leads well into the article on the restoration efforts for the cemetery.

Weekly 2

1. **Hal Madsen**
The Maine Monitor
From his seat in a wheelchair
This headline sends a feeling of a charitable person to the reader – a feel good story. The fact that the article is his life's story after his passing made the reader really feel the words in the headline and those in the article.
2. **Dick Broom**
Mount Desert Islander
Deposit, withdrawal or wedding?
This headline really confused me at first. However, it drew me in. I needed to know the meaning behind it. This was definitely an interesting article and, more importantly, unique to the communities the newspaper serves.

3. **Hal Madsen**
The Maine Monitor
The rise of angels during a hellish year
In a time when upbeat, feel good articles were definitely needed, this one was spot on. The headline suggests this article is going to be about someone struggling and someone helping; it didn't disappoint. It also showed readers that there is still good in the world, even amongst a pandemic.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Sally Tyrrel**
Portland Press Herald
Fattening the curve
Humorous play on words.
2. **Sally Tyrrel**
Portland Press Herald
Wearing their art on your sleeve
Nice turn of the phrase.
3. **Leslie Bridgers**
Portland Press Herald
Sear ye! Sear ye! Scallop season is here
Clever.

News Headline Weekly 1

1. **Sarah Craighead Dedmon**
Machias Valley News Observer
Union files grievance after dispatcher fired for spit milk
As soon as I saw the entry title, I was intrigued. It instantly piqued my interest and I knew I had to read the article. (Thank you for connecting the jump, I really had to finish it!) The best part about this headline is it wrote itself. How could someone not write about the weird actions taken by the dispatcher. Awesome job! Keep up the wonderful work!
2. **Bill Pearson**
Boothbay Register
Sew what
I love this headline! I knew it was going to be about seeing and that it would be an upbeat, feel-good story. Anytime people are willing to volunteer to a cause to better the communities around them, they deserve recognition. Congratulations!
3. **Kendra Caruso**
The Republican Journal
Councilor takes heat for illegal fireworks, social media use
Coming from a state where fireworks aren't illegal (during certain times of the year), it was a very intriguing headline and beginning of the article. I can see the resident's concerns over illegal activities on the part of a public official. Nicely done

Weekly 2

1. **Christine Simmonds**
The Courier-Gazette
Marijuana business hopes for joint operation
I laughed! The headline had me right away. Amazing! Keep it up!
2. **Maia Zewert**
The Lincoln County News
Secret Snoopy Spreads Stimulus to Small Shops
I love this headline! The play on Secret Santa and the use of all s's was very clever!
3. **Christine Simmonds**
The Courier-Gazette
Station 118 'meats' Main Street
I loved the play on words here and it worked perfectly with the article. Keep up the great work!

Daily/Weekend

1. **Ben Pinette**
Morning Sentinel
Anxiety on the rise
This is a great headline that brings attention to a complicated issue that was made more prominent due to the pandemic. It works in play with the actual feeling on anxiety (that it rises) so creates a double meaning. It also pulls the reader in to see what the article is about. Wonderful job! Keep up the great work!
2. **Becky Bowden**
Bangor Daily News
Going over their lines
Clever twist on words for an article relating to ropes. An all-around great article. The headline matches perfectly and grabs the reader's attention and intrigue. Awesome job!
3. **Patrick Cochran**
Sun Journal
Fundraising Scouts take a bough
Great play on words and the headline matches the article perfectly. Keep up the great work!

Editorial Weekly 1

1. **Nat Barrows**
The Weekly Packet
E pluribus unum
This presents a good message for everyone to remember before voting. I liked how you worked in local, state and national elections. You used the position of the paper to give voters something important to think about. Well-written, short and to the point. Easy to read and digest. It leaves your readers with a good message.

2. **Susan Mustapich**
The Camden Herald
How can we all be in this together
Nice piece. You call for finding a "middle ground" for more local control of gatherings. You take a very definite stance and provide examples how this can work. It may be a bit long, though. Sometimes long is OK, but there are definitely ways you could have shortened this a bit. Overall, though, very good work.
3. **Staff**
The Republican Journal
Portland Press Herald
Editorials
I apologize that I am not clear on your entry process. You had two editorials attached here. But I am going to concentrate on the "pot moratorium" piece. This was a well-written, good, local editorial about a governing board. But it should have ended with the moratorium. I am not sure of the relevance of the plastic waste spill; that should have been a separate editorial (or left out). If you had done that, the moratorium piece would have landed you a higher place.

Weekly 2

1. **Dan Dunkle**
The Courier-Gazette
Courier-Gazette editorial
Well written. On target with topics and your commentary as well as calls for action/correction. Excellent.
2. **Cyndi Wood**
The Ellsworth American
When is the City Council
3. **Faith DeAmbrose**
Mount Desert Islander
Rental resolve

Daily/Weekend

1. **Greg Kesich**
Portland Press Herald
Editorials
Direct. Clear. Concise. Taking on important topics. Including calls to take action. Everything a good editorial should be.
2. **Editorial Board**
Bangor Daily News
Susan Collins should make
Well written. A clear message to the Senator.
3. **Ben Bragdon**
Morning Sentinel
Our View: Anti-mask resolution
Calling out those who misconstrue and skew what is right and true. Well done.

Opinion Columnist Weekly 1

1. **Paula Brewer**
The Star-Herald
Walkabout: Aroos-took
A pleasure to read on so many levels. This column is the obvious work of a seasoned veteran, who conveys her messages quite well and with a lot of heart.
2. **Sam Patten**
The Camden Herald
Grace Notes
Very sound writing that is gutsy, open, and thought-provoking. This powerful column draws the reader's interest from start to finish.
3. **Shawn Sullivan**
York County Coast Star
Looking at life
Well written. A great writer's voice is showcased here in a refreshing, professional style. Great stuff.

Weekly 2

1. **Jill Goldthwait**
Mount Desert Islander
State of Maine
I really enjoyed your column. I absolutely loved the analogy to bring the column together; all while trying to relate an opinion on a sensitive subject for the lobstermen. Nicely done! Keep up the great work!
2. **David Grima**
The Courier-Gazette
Rockland Gothic
I was interested in the two different columns. The first was almost like the way some people's thought processes work, jumping from one thought to another connected by one word or a phrase. The second column was on one topic and I thought it was concise and well-written. Keep it up!
3. **Shlomit Auciello**
The Courier-Gazette
Letter from Away
I really liked your writing style. It was easy to follow and I felt like you got your point across in a clear and concise manner. Keep it up! Awesome job!

Daily/Weekend

1. **George Smith**
Kennebec Journal
Opinion columns by George Smiths.
2. **Marla Hoffman**
Sun Journal
Irish traditions, fairy tales
3. **Victoria Hugo-Vidal**
Portland Press Herald
The Maine Millennial

Editorial Cartoonist Weekly 1

1. **Bob Bryson**
Machias Valley News Observer
Editorial Cartoonist
Localizing bigger issues ... in cartoon form. What's better than that?
2. **Bob Bryson**
The Calais Advertiser
Editorial Cartoonist
Really liked the kids in church/school piece, I'm sure plenty of readers connected with that.

Weekly 2

1. **Glenn Chadbourne**
The Lincoln County News
Editorial Cartoonist
Wonderfully illustrated. Powerful, concise commentary in these cartoons. Well done.
2. **Joe Marshall**
Mount Desert Islander
Aids to social distancing & 2 more

Daily/Weekend

1. **Steve Meyers**
Portland Press Herald
Steve Meyers
2. **George Danby**
Bangor Daily News
Editorial cartoons

Outdoors Story Weekly 1

1. **Zack Miller**
The Camden Herald
Pulling in same direction
2. **Jessica Potila**
St. John Valley Times
Ice carousel machine
3. **Holly Vanorse Spicer**
The Republican Journal
Through exploration, education

Weekly 2

1. **Shannon Bryan**
Portland Phoenix
Into the Great Wide ocean
A wonderful lede, beautiful descriptions, a lovely story concept that cleverly ties itself to the coronavirus pandemic – this expertly written piece features all of the hallmarks of great writing and a great writer. It was a pleasure to read. Very well done.
2. **Lynda Clancy**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
A strong storyteller was at work here, and it is clear that the work was extensive. This piece offered a thorough exploration into an interesting project and was riddled with many nice touches.

3. **Bisi Cameron Yee**
The Lincoln County News
From Forest to Table
Very nicely written. The details of this piece are so beautifully presented by a wonderful writer. I wish this story were a little longer and did some more exploring.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Deirdre Fleming**
Portland Press Herald
Spending the winter
Wendy Weiger is a fascinating character. Enjoyed reading about her Thoreau-style winter in the Maine woods
2. **Kathryn Skelton**
Sun Journal
Seven special Maine roads
Writing flows smoothly. Article is interesting, informative and well organized. Feature is nicely illustrated, too.
3. **Steve Craig**
Portland Press Herald
Catch of a lifetime: Fisherman reels in Angler reels in whopper to smash state record. Great quotes fleshed out this fishing adventure.

Environmental Story Weekly 1

1. **Alexander MacDougall**
Houlton Pioneer Times
Maine tribes worry mining project
Very thorough research. Good use of quotes from both sides. Stories like this helps keep our readers informed.
2. **Fran Gonzalez**
The Republican Journal
Cargo ship dumps plastic
I enjoyed this piece. It is seems very detailed, but I am just a little confused. How is plastic used to produce energy? What you write makes sense if plastic would burn, but I have only ever known plastic to melt when it gets hot. You could have explained this more.
3. **Pam Harnden**
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Dawn Brown gives bears
I love a good bear rescue story! Well-written piece. This is the kind of story that sells papers.

Weekly 2

1. **Marina Schauffler**
The Maine Monitor
The drive toward vehicle electrification
2. **Katie Brown**
The Maine Monitor
Environmental experts push back

3. **Stephen Betts**
The Courier-Gazette
State says Dragon violated air quality

Daily/Weekend

1. **Colin Woodard**
Portland Press Herald
4 dams, the future of Kennebec fish runs
So complicated and so well explained. Wonderful journalism.
2. **Kevin Miller**
Portland Press Herald
State investigating ‘very startling’ levels
OMG. Seriously important reporting.
3. **Julia Bayly**
Bangor Daily News
Maine farmer discovers source

Business Story Weekly 1

1. **Shawn Sullivan**
York County Coast Star
Silver screen solitude
Best lede I've read for a long time! You did a superb job melding local and national information
2. **Chris Bouchard**
Aroostook Republican
New Limestone restaurant pays homage
Nice job conveying the owners' kookiness and how they translate it into food. Long, long sentences sometimes lost me with too many thoughts.
3. **Daniel Dunkle**
The Camden Herald
A closer look at the Rockport hotel
Appealing writing style. Long sentences sometimes were exhausting. The first half of the story does little to indicate the degree of opposition to the project. Some of your praise, like "a history of giving back," isn't really backed up. You seem a bit too impressed by the family and their plans.

Weekly 2

1. **Samantha Hogan, Meg Robbins**
The Maine Monitor
Maine enters recession
How you wove three interviews, a wealth of statistics and human interest into what was an understandably lengthy story is incredible. The flow is magnificent. I could not stop reading. This is the best of all the stories I considered in my judging, and the only 10 I've awarded.
2. **Jordan Bailey**
The Maine Monitor
Online directory aims to help
This story tells not only

how Black Owned Maine was founded, but why it is so needed. The four business stories helped demonstrate that need, (although they were a bit more detailed than necessary.) Kudos for using the right statistics to support the story.

3. **Colin Ellis**
Portland Phoenix
Portland, business owner in battle
You did a good job of describing a confusing situation. Your story would have been stronger if the cutline of the house photo had been included earlier in the story. It really sums up the situation: "Portland officials have said Curran might have already received his business licenses if he had followed city guidance."

Daily/Weekend

1. **Penelope Overton**
Portland Press Herald
Farmers lose hope – and money
Black's story, the lead and the zoom out on this mess of an industry really drove the human interest behind a failed market. Read like John Carreyou but with local flavor. Great story.
2. **Peter McGuire**
Portland Press Herald
Employment barriers for highly skilled
Appreciated the positive section and mention of the legislature and the community/business push to help immigration processes. A 'zoom-out' graph or breakdown on where most immigrants are from, or even more emotion on the violence they faced up, higher in the graf would've pushed this to the top for me.
3. **Kathryn Skelton**
Sun Journal
They opened a business in 2020!
Really enjoyed the format and service journalism element of what other business owners can learn from their opening.

Education Story Weekly 1

1. **Kendra Caruso**
The Republican Journal
Students return to RSU 71 schools
2. **Nicole Carter**
Advertiser Democrat
A glimpse to the future: Tiana James
3. **Sarah E. Reynolds**
The Republican Journal
Schools, families forge new partnership

Weekly 2

1. **Rose Lundy**
The Maine Monitor
As students resume classes
Excellent story - a big lengthy but so much good information and loved hearing how children in the same families would handle remote learning differently. It really told the story from the beginning to the end, from remote learning to back to school.
2. **Sean Murphy**
The Forecaster
South Portland grapples
3. **Kay Stephens**
Penobscot Bay Pilot
What are Maine families
Good story on a common problem for all schools during COVID.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Eesha Pendharkar**
Bangor Daily News
Racism is my high school experience
Strong writing, great

interviews and good context. Also appreciate the update at top of story displaying impact. Well done.

2. **Lindsay Tice**
Sun Journal
Education under siege
Appreciate the data-focused reporting here.
3. **Rachel Ohm**
Portland Press Herald
Portland second-grade teacher
Good example of finding a specific class/teacher to give window to broader/wider topic.

Health Story Weekly 1

1. **Fran Gonzalez**
The Republican Journal
The forgotten floor
This article really makes the reader stop and think. Especially, in a time during the pandemic when health care workers are being hailed as heroes. To learn how this women was treated is

appalling. This article shares her struggles and a good portion of what she's gone through to advocate for herself. Nicely written. You told her story nicely.

2. **Nicole Carter**
Advertiser Democrat
Fryeburg family learns how invisible
This was a nicely-written article explaining one family's experience and struggles with COVID-19, even through all of their precautions. Well done. Keep up the great work.
3. **Melissa Lizotte**
The Star-Herald
For recipients, clinics mark first steps
This was a different perspective on the pandemic. The article started off telling a story of a older woman's loneliness during the pandemic to her socializing by getting her shot and continued into where the vaccinations sites were, how to receive a shot and

what the current requirements were. Nicely done.

Weekly 2

1. **Sarah Hinckley**
Mount Desert Islander
Women cold-water swimming to raise
A good cause, strong personalities and an absolutely crazy sport make this a great story. You added statistics where necessary, but made it really about the people who care enough to freeze for themselves and others.
2. **Doug Rooks**
Portland Phoenix
Gloves come off in union fight
Great headline. It really drew me into the story. You have a lot of good information, especially the history and background for prior elections. The story would have benefitted by some response from Maine Medical, if possible.

3. **Evan Houk**
The Lincoln County News
Bristol Woman Celebrates End of Cancer
Bravo for making Meg's story so moving, melding her treatment with ACS support. This is a needed feel-good story. (I was impressed with the correction at the end. So few publications are hesitant to admit a mistake!)

Daily/Weekend

1. **Joe Lawlor**
Portland Press Herald
The Recovered: Mainers
This story just drew me in and kept me reading, Good job.
2. **Greg Levinsky**
Morning Sentinel
The Recovered: Mainers
3. **Hannah LaClaire**
The Times Record
For those with intellectual disabilities



News Video Weekly 1

1. **Susan Johns**
Wiscasset Newspaper
For those who didn't come home
Nice b-roll, good short feature. Interviews with iphone are tough. Gotta get closer to subject or use a mic so we can hear the interview better.

Weekly 2

1. **Yoon S. Byun, Barbara Walsh**
The Maine Monitor
Maine's governor born for hard times
The video of the Maine governor is well composed and the audio is crystal clear. The governor also seems very comfortable in the setting.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Linda Coan O'Kresik**
Bangor Daily News
Newport mail carrier
This was the most complete video package. Had an interview, b-roll and narrative that took you from point a to point b, even if the video was

shorter than some others it was the most complete.

2. **Russ Dillingham**
Sun Journal
Cover or Uncover in LA ?
This had some strong interviews/comments from people. B-roll footage of perhaps signs about masks, these people either working/moving about with/out masks on would have really helped this.
3. **Gregory Rec**
Portland Press Herald
Racial justice
This is a solid b-roll package, but lacks some sort of audio narrative. Without that narrative parts of it just begin to drag on. It's weird to say, but the most important part of a video is the audio and here we don't have any audio interview to guide us through.

Sports Video Weekly 1

1. **Zack Miller**
The Republican Journal
Sports video
That was several minutes of my life I'd like to have back ... but it's something I

guess. Would have expected a few more details - like rules and strategy maybe? Otherwise, is this really reporting anything other than the place is open. Here's the deal: I'm giving you first place because the only other entry in this category is a link to a sports page with no video attached. No bull. When you receive it, lock this award away and never mention it to anyone ever again.

2. **Roger McCord**
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The Messenger
Lovely photography, but several sections where dancer was speaking while seated on a bench were inaudible, so I can only award this a second place.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Russ Dillingham**
Sun Journal
2021 KVAC Nordic Championship
Nicely done. Well produced. Good mix of vid and stills. Captures the competition of the boys and the strenuous work involved. Tells the story well.

2. **Linda Coan O'Kresik**
Bangor Daily News
Pandemic practice
A good package of comments and visuals from boys and the coach about the times we live in.

Features/ Lifestyle Video Weekly

1. **Roger McCord**
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The Boneyard Hunter
Lots of great images and explanation. Love it.
2. **Roger McCord**
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The Harvesters
3. **Staff**
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: A Banner Day
The captions asking the question were almost unnecessary.

Daily/Weekend

1. **Troy R. Bennett**
Bangor Daily News
Werewolf serenade
Great visuals and explanation tying it together.

2. **Linda Coan O'Kresik**
Bangor Daily News
Time capsule camp
Great story and nice quick presentation.

3. **Joe Phelan**
Kennebec Journal
Online school birding class
Good presentation of what's happening. It could have used one clip of the teacher explaining what she was doing to tie it all together.

Best Digital Ad Campaign Weekly

(No entries)

Daily/Weekend

1. **David Tripp**
Portland Press Herald
Colony Great artwork.
2. **Jake Laws, David Pierce**
Morning Sentinel
Kenn. Eye Care, care credit, liquidation
Nice variety, good job of lots of details in small package without looking cluttered

TOP

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Freedom of Information Weekly 1

1-Tie. Daniel Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Hope will not release \$13K
This was great work and persistence to make sure readers were informed. The efforts to get to the records resulted in well-told stories that changed a community. Great work!

1-Tie. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
Machias Valley News Observer
Freedom of Information
There has never been a time in America's history when good information was needed. The efforts to get the official, detailed records told the story of the pandemic more accurately and could have saved lives. Good decisions come from good information.

Weekly 2

1. J.W. Oliver
The Lincoln County News
WHAT POLITICS IS ABOUT?
A little slow to get started, but very interesting.

Daily/Weekend

1. Callie Ferguson, Josh Keefe, Erin Rhoda
Bangor Daily News
Records request
This entry, by far, displayed how important it is for the public to not only have the right to know how government officials and agencies are operating, but left room for a community to improve as well by shining a light on what gaps existed when it came to holding law enforcement accountable. Can't wait to see how this issue continues to shape and change the conversation to better the community through informative, document-driven reporting that no one would've known about otherwise.

2. Staff
Portland Press Herald
Portland Press Herald/ FOI Award
Amid an ongoing public health crisis, the way the

Portland Press Herald helped the public navigate the pandemic when so much was unknown and public officials were deciding how much info to release, is commendable. I'm sure this reporting helped residents make informed decisions as the pandemic evolved.

3. Staff
Sun Journal
Sun Journal FOAA
This is good, solid reporting that shows how open records request can be - and should be - part of the daily reporting process. Great work!

Photography Best in Show Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Asher Enjoying the Fun
You captured this toddler at the perfect time, and the composition makes this a very special photo.

Weekly 2

1. Katie Brown
The Maine Monitor
BLM protest escape
The chaos, expressions and look in people's eyes while having the proper depth-of-field within the photo worked well together. You can feel the chaos going on all the while everyone's face tells the story. Good action shot.

Daily/Weekend

1. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Silva protest
There were three real close images that all deserved recognition from a devastating apartment fire to a kid's virtual learning. But this photo's emotional impact and composition with a focus right on Samantha with the framing of the individual to the right makes this image stand above those others. All around, some great photos were made in 2020.

Advertising General Excellence Weekly 1

1. The Republican Journal
Overall advertising looks

good; page layout is done well. I would suggest stronger headings in classifieds and maybe create a separate layout for community events.

2. The Camden Herald 3. Boothbay Register/ Wiscasset Newspaper Weekly 2

1-Tie. The Ellsworth American
Great color on ads, creative layout with "down the garden path", lots of classified advertising - well organized, shop local section is well done. Overall, well done here.

1-Tie. Mount Desert Islander
Great color on ads, creative layout with "down the garden path", lots of classified advertising - well organized, shop local section is well done. Overall, well done here.

2. The Courier-Gazette
All advertising looks good and is well placed/organized. The classified section would benefit from stronger organization and headings.

3. The Lincoln County News
I don't see this page width very often anymore; the advertiser is getting their money's worth here. Good color ads throughout. Ads in the main section are well done. Display classified (help wanted) ads could use some creative effort. I would also like to see the public notices with a different layout that doesn't run them into editorial content...it's a little odd.

Daily/Weekend

1. Bangor Daily News
Lots of ads throughout all issues submitted. Page layout well done, organized. I appreciate the "How to reach us" box with contact info being easily viewable - encourages readers to reach out. Nurses tab is very well done with the layout, wish it had more advertising though.

2. Portland Press Herald
Plenty of inserts in the Sunday issues and print ads throughout all issues submitted. Classifieds are sparse. Nurses Week

section well done, lots of ads, nice layout. The only thing slightly odd to me is the section fronts seem out of order. "Sports" and "Classifieds" main headers run at the end of each section.

3. Sun Journal
Sun Journal: Not a lot of advertising to judge, some ads seem too dark (design issue, not print) and not as creative as they possibly could be. Nurses Week section is well done, lots of ads. Not a fan of centered text for the classified section, makes it difficult to read.

General Excellence Digital Weekly 1

1. Boothbay Register
Easy to navigate, not many updates. Appreciated the top left treatment for the COVID news. Multiple stories had poor online headlines "Southport Yacht Club" or "Devyn" that give reader nearly zero information as to what that story is about. Stronger social media presence here. Good interaction and engagement on Facebook, and active Twitter.

2. The Republican Journal
Clean, clear layout. Easy to read. Good headlines and art display. Liked the timestamp of publication AND update time. Poor social media presence that I could find. Twitter not updated since 2017, FB a mix of three papers in one site.

Weekly 2

1. The Maine Monitor
The Maine Monitor's design stands out, even when compared to some bigger newspaper websites. The navigation is clean, the color scheme unique and engaging and frequent use of photos and other visuals help guide readers through in-depth stories. It's easy to tell that a lot of thought goes into digital presentation.

2. The Courier-Gazette
The website has a clean design, and the dominant story at the top gives clear prominence to top and trending stories. I also like how the front is divided

into sections -- it's easy to scroll down the homepage and get a good feel for the top news of the day. Article design does not get bogged down with frequent ads. Watch the crops on some of the homepage photos, however, as two preview photos have cut-off heads on day I viewed website.

3. Mount Desert Islander
Website appears to be frequently updated with the latest news and sports. Navigation is clean.

Daily/Weekend

1. Portland Press Herald
Strongest content of the bunch. Appreciated Q/A, Covid tracker, data hub, etc.

2. Bangor Daily News
Fairly text-heavy, but easy to navigate and discern importance. Nice mix of topics, breaking, sports... looks like a great timely report! Strong and varied social media presence.

3. Sun Journal

General Excellence Print Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald
This is a newsy, well-written newspaper. The front pages are attractive, even if the stories there all seem to jump to different pages. It has lively opinion pages and a first-rate sports section.

2. York Weekly
This newspaper takes second on the strength of its fine writing. Feature stories, in particular, are notable. Overall, there may be some question if readers of a weekly newspaper are really looking for so much material from The Associated Press and USA Today.

3. Boothbay Register
This newspaper has a consistent, attractive design that easily handles the challenge of dealing with such a large web. The Register has a spirited editorial page and, from the looks of these editions, a hustling advertising staff.

Weekly 2

1. Portland Phoenix
Unlike many tab-sized newspapers, this one does

- not overload its front page, opting to take an attractive magazine approach. The writing here is superb. Page layouts were always attractive as the contest editions didn't seem to be hampered by too much advertising.

2. Mount Desert Islander
The Islander's big web doesn't keep it from having a clean, consistent, attractive design on its front page and throughout. It has a strong editorial page and perhaps the most thorough
- police report in the state.

3. The Courier-Gazette
Front pages have decent writing and an attractive design. Inside readers are treated to two editorial pages and a muscular sports section.

Daily

1. Portland Press Herald
Clearly the class of this division. Front page designs are attractive and leave no doubt about the day's top story. It features a robust editorial page with local
- editorials and an attractive sports page, always conveniently located for readers on the back of the B Section. The writing ranges from professional to first-rate.

2. Bangor Daily News
This newspaper has an attractive front page and a wealth of staff-produced stories. Photos are crisp and clear and used well. The editorial page is filled with good ideas.

3. Sun Journal
Some thought went into
- designing these attractive front page layouts. There are plentiful and well-written local stories. A good use of photos throughout.

Weekend

1. Maine Sunday Telegram
There's not much getting done on Sundays in Portland for the readers of this newspaper. It's stuffed with ads and sections that feature stories from staff writers in each one. The sports news pops off the page. Headlines are
- solid and photos are crisp.

2. Bangor Daily News
This weekend newspaper has a newsy, staff-written front page and a decent sports section. Its two opinion pages boast good, local editorials.

3. Central Maine Sunday
Well-designed front pages and section fronts. Good use of photos. Sports and Editorial pages are interesting.



Thank you
to the Maine Press Association's 2021 contest partner, the South Dakota Newspaper Association

#factsmatter

At a time in our nation's history when disinformation is peddled as "news" and journalists are under attack, we at Broadreach Public Relations recognize the importance of truth, of objective facts, and above all, a free and robust press.

Broadreach has been a proud sponsor of the Maine Press Association and its annual awards, recognizing excellence in journalism, for years. This year especially, we want to thank the journalists, including the editors, staff, photographers, fact-checkers, owners, creatives, press technicians, and countless others, who uphold, live, and demonstrate the ideal and the importance of a free and vigorous press.

Thank you for weathering the storm. We recognize the value of your profession at a time when it is most in need.



2021 Maine Press Association Hall of Fame Inductees

Dorothy “Dot” Roderick, Dieter Bradbury and Judy Meyer have been selected by the MPA’s Hall of Fame Committee as the 2021 inductees. Due to continuing COVID concerns and the decision to forego this year’s in-person conference, the formal induction ceremony will be held at next year’s MPA Conference, Oct. 22 in Bar Harbor.

Dot Roderick was one of the first women advertising executives in the newspaper industry.

Roderick worked 43 years for Gannett, starting in 1937 with the Central Maine Morning Sentinel and then transferring to Portland in 1940 to work for The Portland Press Herald, Evening Express and Sunday Telegram.

She became national ad manager in 1956, working with advertisers and advertising agencies throughout the United States and with the newspapers’ national advertising representative, Landon Associates.

Roderick frequently spoke fondly about her days in a heavily male-dominated industry, jet-setting across the country to meet with execs and clients as well as entertaining the same, along with her husband Arthur, when clients came to Maine.

Dot retired in 1980 from Gannett’s Portland newspapers and died on March 1, 2020, at the age of 101.

Dieter Bradbury has been a force in Maine journalism for more than four decades.

Upon graduating from the University of Southern Maine in 1980, Bradbury was hired part-time for the Portland Press Herald’s afternoon paper, the Evening Express. Two years later, he became a full-time reporter for the Press Herald, covering the night cops beat and later was the environment reporter.

Bradbury then went to the assignment desk, later served a short time as the Press Herald’s business editor and then in 2012 he was promoted to deputy managing editor, overseeing the news desks, directing specialty beats and political reporting, and managing some of the paper’s most important work.

For the past 10 years, Bradbury has directed the State House, political and election coverage and he has shepherded some of the Herald’s top projects during his time as deputy managing editor. Among them: the 2012 series “Deadly Force,” which investigated police shootings; the 2014 series “The Challenge of Our Age,” which examined the issues facing our aging population; and the 2017 series “Lost,” which chronicled the tolls that the opioid epidemic was taking on our state and our people.

Bradbury retired from the Portland



Dot Roderick

Dieter Bradbury

Judy Meyer

Press Herald in September.

Judy Meyer began working for the Sun Journal as a freelancer out of the Norway (Maine) bureau, where she covered local selectmen’s meetings and breaking news in nearby towns.

In 1996, she was hired full-time to run that bureau, and from there she rose swiftly through the ranks of one of the largest daily newspapers in Maine. In 1998, she was made editorial page editor at the newspaper’s headquarters in Lewiston. Five years later, she was named day-

time managing editor. In April 2016, she was named the Sun Journal’s executive editor, replacing Rex Rhoades upon his retirement.

Today, Meyer is responsible for overseeing the Sun Journal, the third-largest daily newspaper in Maine, as well as at a half-dozen weekly newspapers spread throughout Sun Media’s western Maine coverage area. She also serves as executive editor of the central Maine dailies: Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal.

A fierce advocate for first amendment

rights, Meyer was instrumental in the formation of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition (MFOIC), a group that’s been the leading advocacy organization for improving open meeting and public record laws in Maine.

The MPA Hall of Fame, established in 1998, honors newspaper people with Maine connections who have made outstanding contributions to the profession. Its members are on the MPA website, at <http://mainepressassociation.org/hall-of-fame/>



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2021 Individual Awards



Bob Drake Young Writer Award
Emily Bader
Lakes Region Weekly
(now at Sun Journal)

Emily joined the Lakes Region Weekly as its sole reporter a few short weeks before The Forecaster/American Journal/Lakes Region Weekly newsroom was vacated in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her first newspaper job out of college, Emily found herself working remotely without the benefit of experienced colleagues' support and camaraderie. On top of that, she was responsible for covering nine towns, a challenge for any reporter, and she started during the towns' and schools' budget season. Emily quickly learned to read and analyze a municipal budget and more, moving beyond meeting stories to enterprise work.

She did an especially good job in her coverage of a hot story in New Gloucester involving a selectman who made a comment deemed racist during a public (Zoom) meeting. Emily reported on how, first, the town edited the comment out of the video it posted of the public proceeding.

She filed a FOA request over that and also, to confirm the authenticity of emails she had been provided by a source, requested copies of questionable emails written by the same selectman during the Obama presidency. She dealt with town councilors and a town manager who weren't forthcoming. She pursued the story through a citizens' petition to recall the selectman and attended a weekend petition drive at the town transfer station to get residents' reaction. She was watching the Zoom selectmen's meeting when the selectman quit in a huff. She provided full coverage on this story from start to finish to New Gloucester residents and other readers.

Emily has proven she has the intelligence and news judgment and drive to truly excel as a reporter.



Unsung Hero Award
Keith Taylor
MaineToday Media

In April 1976, Keith Taylor joined Guy Gannett Communications (now Maine Today Media) in the distribution facility, then located on Congress Street. He became nightside distribution manager when the current Press Herald Printing/Distribution Facility opened at 295 Gannett Drive in South Portland in the early 1990s.

After business side employees turn in for the night, the newsroom meets (but often misses) their deadlines, and the pressroom is halfway through their run, it's only then that Keith springs into action. He oversees the team that inserts all the flyers, bundles the papers, and send them out the door to our delivery depots throughout the state.

Keith exemplifies unsung hero because few people in our organization cross paths with him, yet without him, we'd be lost. He and his team make certain all our insert customers get their flyers in front of our home delivery customers. His role is critical in the retention of our ad and circulation revenue.

Keith is a logistics master. He oversees a complex operation and runs the shop with urgency and accuracy. He has worked every Christmas Eve for 44 years until we decided to not publish the Press Herald on Christmas Day in 2020. And assembling the Thanksgiving packages, well that's like Prom night for Keith and his team. He's made sacrifices in family time, vacation time, and personal time all in the name of getting our papers out the door jam-packed with inserts and special sections. Whether it's staffing shortages or mechanical failures, Keith finds a way to overcome the obstacles. Keith's energy level and dedication to the task has not wavered for these past 45 years.



Advertising Person of the Year
Jane Patriquin
Portland Press Herald

National newspaper advertising sales requires persistence, curiosity, product knowledge and passion, acute listening skills, and relationship building ability along with hard work and a strong orientation to goal achievement. Jane Patriquin exhibits all of these traits. The result not only shows in her consistent revenue results but her cross-selling tenacity.

The most successful salespeople are driven by their commitment to meet their monthly revenue targets. 2020 was a desperate year for many sales departments as our clients closed their doors, changed their strategies, and worried about the coming months. The National book of business was a little more resilient but where Jane really shined in 2020 was her ability to take an inquiry for the Portland Press Herald and turn it into revenue across many other publications.

When Jane would reach out to other papers and ask if they could accommodate these large ad placements the answer was always a resounding YES as everyone was looking to offset losses in local advertising.

Many people believe that National and particularly Advocacy revenue just comes in over the transom and there is very little influence to be exerted. Jane blew that theory out of the water with her ability to add on papers beyond the requests she received from her clients. In addition to her sales skills, managing all these ad placements was a second full time job.

Jane has been a newspaper sales consultant since 1978 when she started at the Boston Globe. She has been a top contributor since she started with us in 2004, and this past year proves why.



Journalist of the Year
Samantha Hogan
The Maine Monitor

For the past two years, Samantha has been reporting and writing about the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services — the state agency responsible for providing legal services to residents who can't afford their own attorney. Maine is the only state in the nation without a true public defense system. All of the defense attorneys assigned to represent poor citizens are contracted through the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS). Not a single one of them is a state employee.

What started with a single tip about concerns over billing practices by state-contracted attorneys has turned into a series of over 35 stories on one of the state's most important — yet highly dysfunctional — agencies. In two years of investigating MCILS, Samantha's reporting has shined a light on a state agency that has continuously failed defendants and taxpayers. Her reporting has had significant impact. Samantha's work epitomizes accountability journalism.

In the past two years, Samantha has filed over 150 FOAA requests with the state and county jails. The Maine Monitor sued the state in 2020 for the MCILS database and Samantha has spent countless hours sifting through data while doggedly pursuing Maine voices that have helped amplify her reporting.

She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize this year for her reporting on MCILS and was a finalist for the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award and for a Livingston Award. In terms of impact, the fact that the entire legislature voted unanimously to approve the creation of the state's first public defender office speaks to the power of local journalism and the determination of a single reporter.

Don't Miss next year's conference:
October 22, Atlantic
Oceanside Hotel
& Event Center,
Bar Harbor

