MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

2022 Awards
THE BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION
On the record since 1864
Hallowell Pride parade news

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Weekly 1
1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Spot News Photo
2. Sarah Craighead
Deer Islander
News Observer
3. David DiMinno
The Star-Herald

Weekly 2
1. Sarah Thompson
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Hope Street Fire, January 2022
2. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
More Water
3. Glenn Billington
The Courier-Gazette

Daily/Weekend
1. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Catch a Wave
2. Ben McCanna
Morning Sentinel

PEOPLE PHOTO

Weekly 1
1. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times

Weekly 2
1. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
Morning Sentinel
2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times

Before I read the caption I knew what was happening. Context and capture are perfect.
3. Fred J. Field
The Maine Monitor
Keeping a culture alive
Beautiful photos that help tell the story.

Daily/Weekend
1. Staff photographers
Portland Press Herald
SEALED and Delivered
The body language, composition, lighting, and negative space convey a very quiet, almost haunting, moment.
2. Michael G. Seams
Morning Sentinel
Pool feature
The overhead angle in this case suits the scene well. Moreover, the facial expressions and alignment of pool toys plus swimmers makes for a wonderful storytelling frame.

SPORTS PHOTO

Weekly 1
1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sports Photo
Really great peak action and expression on the players’ faces.
2. Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Camden Herald
Last year's NH State Champions
I am so drawn to this photo. The quirkiness of the event and your subject’s expressions have made for a fun image.
3. Jayna Smith
Houlton Pioneer Times

Weekly 2
1. Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot
A midsummer's morning From a technical standpoint it's a perfect photo. Well done.
2. Garrick Hoffman
The Maine Monitor
Thornrike Fire
Department
A picture is worth a thousand words.
3. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette
Historic schooner
Great photo.

Wednesday
1. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Snow place like home
Snowman in Machias
2. Jason Overby
Piscataquis Observer
Marie Paul
Not my favorite of the group but the best photo from a technical standpoint.

Thursday
1. Sarah Craighead
Deer Islander
News Observer
Snow much fun in Machias
2. Jason Overby
Piscataquis Observer
Snowman in Machias

Friday
1. Staff photographers
Portland Press Herald
Seafood
The body language, composition, lighting, and negative space convey a very quiet, almost haunting, moment.
2. Michael G. Seams
Morning Sentinel
Pool feature
The overhead angle in this case suits the scene well. Moreover, the facial expressions and alignment of pool toys plus swimmers makes for a wonderful storytelling frame.

Best Photography | Design

NEWS PHOTO

Weekly 1
1. Kay Neufeld
The Franklin Journal
New Sharon’s ‘Vote No’ movement
Loved the juxtaposition of not only the snow and protesters in animal costumes, but also the body language between the two as well. A great moment.
2. Emily Jenkins
St. John Valley Times
News Photo
Nice composition, and loved the expression of the lead sled sled dog.
3. Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Camden Herald
Winterfest activities return
Good action, and nice showing of various facial expressions as participants entered the cold water.

Weekly 2
1. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
Fire Training
Really not sure why but my eyes kept going back to this photo.
2. Jill Brady
The Maine Monitor
Downeaster train
A well done photo!
3. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
Graduation Celebration
Great timing Daily/Weekend

Weekend
1. Linda Coan O’Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Deputy Funeral
2. Daryn Slover
Sun Journal
Military medical team thanked
3. Joe Phelan
Kennebec Journal

People

Weekly 1
1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
2. Ben McCanna
Morning Sentinel
3. Michael G. Seamans
Portland Press Herald

Weekly 2
1. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times

Great job finding the story. The overhead angle in this case suits the scene well. Moreover, the facial expressions and alignment of pool toys plus swimmers makes for a wonderful storytelling frame.
Daily/Weekend

1. Derek Davis
Portland Press Herald
One for All and All for One
This is such a beautiful photo. The framing where you can see down the line of all of the players holding hands is great, and the expression on the boy in the wheelchair is absolutely heartwarming.

2. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Crash derby sports photo
This photo great. What a neat photo. To only be able to see the man’s hand reaching out of his window with the fire extinguisher makes the photo really interesting and evokes a sense of urgency for the viewer while also making it seem like this is normal for the man and he is unbothered.

3. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Rodeo sports photo
This photo is spectacular. To only be able to see the man’s hand reaching out of his window with the fire extinguisher makes the photo really interesting and evokes a sense of urgency for the viewer while also making it seem like this is normal for the man and he is unbothered.

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly 1
1. Dan Kinchhoff
The Camden Herald
Megunticook River
Great mix of visual design and storytelling. The ability to see state-specific data by hovering over the map is a good way to engage online readers.

2. Paula Roberts
Portland Press Herald
Soccer players in rain
A colorful way to celebrate Veterans Day to allow the newspaper’s readers to have ownership of the paper.

3. Nadine Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
Mount Desert Islander Lobster facts
This was not the slickest entry in this category, but it has the potential to be an ad page. I would have moved the 3-col ads to the top of the page to avoid having half of the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!

Weekly 2
1. Karen Schneider, Jason Dunkle
Mount Desert Islander
Smart treatment of the weather presentation. Very nice page. Love the large photo with the inset story. Nice work on the modular size ads. If this is meant to be an ad page, I would have moved the 3-col ads to the top of the page to avoid having half of the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!

2. Ashley Carter
Mount Desert Islander
The Ellsworth American Grad Pages
Good use of headline graphics and cutouts to make this page interesting. Picking one photo to run large at the top of page 2 would have made this a stronger entry. Trying to use a variety of photo sizes would also help to make this page more interesting but good job overall.

3. Nadine Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
No other place they want to be
Like the graphics across the top and the smaller headlines to break up the story. The challenge with this layout is that there is so much text to read. Larger graphics and a shorter story or info boxes to explain the information would have made this page design stronger.

Daily/Weekend

1. Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
Bigger. Faster. Smarter. Great mix of visual design with practical info, and well-proportioned. Works great!

2. Sally Tyrell Ericson
Portland Press Herald
Food June 13
Great job of mixing various elements to create that “wino” vibe, while delivering textual info.

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 1
1. Staff
Aroostook Republican & News
Aroostook Republican and News
Great mix of visuals with practical info, and well-proportioned. Works great!

2. Dylan Lingley
Mount Desert Islander
Mount Desert Islander Lobster facts
This was not the slickest entry in this category, but it has the potential to be an ad page. I would have moved the 3-col ads to the top of the page to avoid having half of the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!

3. Ashley Carter
Mount Desert Islander
Front page Feb 10 2022
The bold use of color here risks being too much, but I like the end result. The rail down the left side of the page works well, and the designer created an eye-catching and memorable package for the lead story. Great work!

Weekly 2
1. John Cross, Daniel Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Front Page Design
Busy, but nicely balanced. Tough to place so many stories but you’ve pulled it off.

2. Dylan Lingley
Mount Desert Islander
Mount Desert Islander Lobster facts
This was not the slickest entry in this category, but it has the potential to be an ad page. I would have moved the 3-col ads to the top of the page to avoid having half of the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!

3. Brian Robitaille
Portland Press Herald
Mount Desert Islander
Mount Desert Islander Lobster facts
This was not the slickest entry in this category, but it has the potential to be an ad page. I would have moved the 3-col ads to the top of the page to avoid having half of the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!

There are a few too many elements here for my taste, but strong design always does the day. Well done!

2. Christine Dunkle, Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
Front Page Design
03/24/22
This page has a clean look with an eye-catching, colorful photo providing a good lead design element. It’s a little on the crowded side with so many stories, but still very pleasing to the eye.

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Best Sections

Design holds this back a little; it's not easy to navigate and is rather dated. But I like the "from the editor" pieces and the local op-ed content. Would have been close between this and the Mount Desert Islander, but the Islander submitted its March editorial section twice instead of including three separate entries.

Daily/Weekend 1. Susan Young, Matt Junker Bangor Daily News March 2, June 16, May 1-2 Lots of space dedicated to opinion and commentary. A good thing. Mostly the content is state and local, and good play given to letters, like the team comments as well. So many papers and online sites have given up on them.

2. Staff Portland Press Herald Editorial page Nice amount of space dedicated to opinion and commentary. Like the extra political cartoons. Unusual layout for a section front. One ding: the issue of public power (fossil and the local edit) should have been played as a point, counterpoint.

3. Ben Bradgon, Megan Bachelors Morning Sentinel Editorial page Pretty consistent content for the edit page, but not a lot of variety of its looks. That's usually common for most pages, but from time to time. The paper should step outside its ox to give reader a more indepth look at some pressing issues.

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly 1 1. Joseph Cyr, Lanette Virtanen Houlton Pioneer Times Sports Sections Impressive photography, the black and white reproduction is so good color would be a distraction! Layouts could use a dominant lead "hen and chicks" layout, with a clear dominant photo. Fonts are very readable, centered and decked headlines well balanced. Great photos by Cyr and Kies. Looks like they are cooperating to outperform each other, and the athletes are the beneficiaries. Clear winner. 2. Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski The Calais Advertiser Sports Sections A small section is challenging, and this entry does it very well. Short, concise stories, very readable. Page number is nicely laid out with dominant photograph and additional detail shots (hen and chicks), a common problem among issues in this category. Clean design. I like the partial box around the sidebar. Good use of clip art and white space. Like the fans picture block. Like having elementary students on the page! Double deck headline, second lines short, looks slightly off balance. 3. Ken Waltz, Mark Haskell, Holly Vanorse Spicer The Calais Herald Sports Sections Content is broad, and there is a lot of it. Colored headers are nice, font styles readable, good headline font. Like small photos in banner. Most pages, photographs all one size, no lead/ dominant photo. The two column layout does not allow any photo over 2 col. BUT Good photos, and plenty of them. The wide but light gray lines work well. To avoid “tombstoneing” photos are dropped in mid-text, so the reader has to jump over the photo. BUT it does get a greater number of grades and photos on the section front — without looking cramped. Four and two column front and a greater number of pictures (feb.) Nice to have outdoors in the mix! Some fun headlines. Two column vertical layout is interesting, sort of retro. Majority of stories jump. Photo credits would look better flush right on bottom line, not broken.

Weekly 2 1. Mike Mandell The Ellsworth American Sports Sections 7 columns just looks off to the eyes. Scoreboard is nice, but formatting is difficult to easily glance at and understand. 2. Mike Mandell Mount Desert Islander Sports sections Missing Page 9 FROM 6/1. Single column on left is clean and good, consistent spot for reader to see briefly. Clear hierarchy of stories. Headlines are similar sizes at times. 2/24 top stories' headlines both start with same word (Trogan, Trojans). Top basketball photo on jump 2/24 is mid, and with swim jump story.

3. Staff The Lincoln County News Sports Section Tons of local, great state basketball coverage — love the "Varsity Maine" headers, great photos, well designed — thorough coverage.

2. Staff Portland Press Herald Sports section Takes a page of great photos, love the "Varsity Maine" headers, well designed — thorough coverage.

3. Staff The Calais Herald sports section Like the Outdoors coverage in the section.
Best Sports

GAME STORY

Weekly 1

1. Ken Waltz
   The Republican Journal
   Cooled nets 1,000th
   Love the lede, but so little
   to the atmosphere of
   the actual game. And then
   when it did, much of the
game did feel like just
another game and lacked
the special feel the lede
owed.

2. Bill Pearson
   The Republican Journal
   Love the lede, but so little
   of the contest, but the
   reaction was strong move.
   Disappointing that school
   principals wouldn’t say more,
   but you did well to work around
   that roadblock with multiple
   sources. Heading downtown to
get local reaction was strong move.
   Using the social media
   reactions allowed you to take
   on both sides of the story.

3. Mike Mandell
   The Ellsworth American
   Interesting aspect to the
   story. Really get a feel for Pinch’s
   motivations, and its how
   he’s trying to rebound
   against that.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 1

1. Greg Levinsky
   Sports Page Design
   They’re not just another game,
   they’re a game that brings
   life to the atmosphere of
   the game. A reminder that sports
   bring life to the community.

2. Holly Vanorse Spicer
   Portland Phoenix
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

3. Cheryl Stabinski
   Portland Phoenix
   A sports profile
   that works because
   of a blend of history and
   celebration.

SPORTS NEWS STORY

Weekly 1

1. Sarah Craighead
   Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   Love the lede, but so little
   of the game. The lede
   dropped the story.

2. Steve Craig
   Daily/Weekend
   trimmed.

3. Larry Mahoney
   Bangor Daily News
   Good. The lede
   was winded and could be
   of the quotes seem long
   and rambling.

4. Steve Craig
   Daily/Weekend
   Morocco
   Brad Levesque leads
   UMaine
   Love the lede, but so little
   of the game. The lede
   dropped the story.

SPORTS NATION

Weekly 1

1. Joel Matuszczak
   Stag Nation
   Excellent example of
   part of the headline.

2. Matt Soward
   The Midcoast
   Excellent use of a pun that
   makes the subject stand
   out.

3. Travis Lazarczyk
   Portland Press Herald
   Great headline.

SPORTS PROFILE

Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
   The Calais Advertiser
   A great story about a sport
   that is helping to breathe life
   into mid-game. Some
   of the quotes seem long
   and rambling.

2. Ken Waltz
   The Republican Journal
   Love the lede, but so little
   of the game. The lede
   dropped the story.

3. Sarah Craighead
   Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   High school senior
   recruited
   This is a topic that in
   less capable hands could
   become repetitive and
   boring — a mere list of
   statistics. This story has
   great detail, but what
   sets it apart is how deeply
   it examines Norton’s
   motivations, and
   in particular the sibling
   rivalry.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 2

1. Greg Levinsky
   Portland Phoenix
   Very strong news story,
   one that really gets at
   the heart of the story.

2. Dave Dyer
   Morning Sentinel
   “Mountain of a Man” for
   a profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

3. Paula Roberts
   The Lincoln County
   News
   great detail, but what
   sets it apart is how deeply
   it examines Norton’s
   motivations, and
   in particular the sibling
   rivalry.

SPORTS PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 1

1. Danforth
   The Portland Phoenix
   Making the story subject
   at the front of the story.

2. Ken Waltz
   The Camden Herald
   Spectators Look to
   Athletes, Basketball
   Athletes
   Drop the whole concept of
   “critical” is condition of
   athletes.

3. Sarah Craighead
   Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   High school senior
   recruited
   This is a topic that in
   less capable hands could
   become repetitive and
   boring — a mere list of
   statistics. This story has
   great detail, but what
   sets it apart is how deeply
   it examines Norton’s
   motivations, and
   in particular the sibling
   rivalry.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 2

1. Staff
   Portland Phoenix
   Why not use instead
   something like “athletes.”

2. Travis Lazarczyk
   Portland Press Herald
   “Critical” is condition of
   athletes.

3. Sarah Craighead
   Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   High school senior
   recruited
   This is a topic that in
   less capable hands could
   become repetitive and
   boring — a mere list of
   statistics. This story has
   great detail, but what
   sets it apart is how deeply
   it examines Norton’s
   motivations, and
   in particular the sibling
   rivalry.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 3

1. Bill Graves
   Portland Phoenix
   ‘Game on’ by Greg
   Levinsky
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

2. Holly Vanorse Spicer
   Portland Phoenix
   ‘Game on’ by Greg
   Levinsky
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

3. Cheryl Stabinski
   Portland Phoenix
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 3

1. Jill Badger
   The Times Argus
   Making the story subject
   at the front of the story.

2. Ken Waltz
   The Republican Journal
   Spectators Look to
   Athletes, Basketball
   Athletes
   Drop the whole concept of
   “critical” is condition of
   athletes.

3. Sarah Craighead
   Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   High school senior
   recruited
   This is a topic that in
   less capable hands could
   become repetitive and
   boring — a mere list of
   statistics. This story has
   great detail, but what
   sets it apart is how deeply
   it examines Norton’s
   motivations, and
   in particular the sibling
   rivalry.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 3

1. Bill Graves
   Portland Phoenix
   ‘Game on’ by Greg
   Levinsky
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

2. Holly Vanorse Spicer
   Portland Phoenix
   ‘Game on’ by Greg
   Levinsky
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.

3. Cheryl Stabinski
   Portland Phoenix
   ‘Game on’ by Greg
   Levinsky
   A profile that reminds
   readers that there are
   things in life more
   important than winning.
SPORTS PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 2
1. Ken Waltz
   The Republican Journal
   Sports Page Design
   Great story count, inclusion of kids names and variety of photos.
   When it comes to Refrigerator Journalism (stories displayed on your refrigerator) this is it. Like the use of small photos in the banner at the top. From a design standpoint the page needs a centerpiece. With so many stories, it is challenging to make this work well from purely a design standpoint. Anchoring the page with your best photo and making it dominate the page would be more impactful. And even though you have lines around stories and photos, I still thought some of the photos corresponded to the story on the right and not above or below. And even though you have lines around stories and photos, I still thought some of the photos corresponded to the story on the right and not above or below.
   2. Ken Waltz
   The Courier-Gazette
   Sports Page Design
   Great story count, inclusion of kids names and variety of photos. When it comes to Refrigerator Journalism (stories displayed on your refrigerator) this is it. Like the use of small photos in the banner at the top. From a design standpoint the page needs a centerpiece. With so many stories, it is challenging to make this work well from purely a design standpoint. Anchoring the page with your best photo and making it dominate the page would be more impactful. And even though you have lines around stories and photos, I still thought some of the photos corresponded to the story on the right and not above or below.
   3. Mike Mandell
   The Ellsworth American
   Sports Page Design
   Organized page design with a centerpiece and easy to follow layout. Suggestions would run to the scoreboard down the full left side of the page. Think about the page as a poster that a kid would want to hang on their wall and design with that idea in mind. Try slightly longer and shorter headlines for your centerpiece. Break up your stories with pull quotes and include mug shots of player or coaches.

Daily/Weekend
1. Joe Grant
   Portland Press Herald
   June 20
   Fanastic lead photo pairs well with headline subhead to create a great package. Really like the teasers at the bottom with photos. Makes it feel like the high school championships are your Super Bowl.
   2. Bill Stewart
   Kennebec Journal
   Sports page design from March 6, 2022
   Excellent design with great photos (even the dejection shot in the teasers at the bottom). Even like the hoop and basketball with hands in the page topper, that takes it to another level. Admit centering the photo credits is a bit of a shock to the system, but if that’s your style, then so be it.

NEWS STORY

Weekly 1
1. Stephen Betts
   The Camden Herald
   Father still seeks answers
   Well-written story about a father’s quest for answers after the tragic death of his teen son in an electrical fire. Great overall reporting work with a variety of sources.
   2. Alexander MacDougall
   Houlton Pioneer Times
   News Story
   What a great enterprise story! I found it fascinating that so many small towns are still dry in this day and age.
   3. Kay Neufeld
   The Franklin Journal
   UMF debuts new land
   Interesting read that focused on the Indigenous people of the area and how their land was taken. This turned a potentially dry topic of the reading of a land acknowledgement into an educational and well-written piece.

Weekly 2
1. Samantha Hogan
   The Maine Monitor
   Norridgewock for Maine’s public defense
   Good partnership investigation especially considering the public defenders are not reported on very often.
   2. Colin Ellis
   Portland Phoenix
   Upsetting an ecosystem
   Unoubtedly well read because of widespread community interest and difficulty in understanding such a complex subject.

Weekly 1
1. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
   Machias Valley News Observer
   Murder in Machias
   Print beats broadcast at their own game, excellent use of video and Facebook to report on this big story in a town with one other murder over the years. Excellent use of the top of the story and getting information needed. Excellent use of resources.
   2. Paula Brewer
   The St. John Valley Times
   Police fatality shot man
   Great work by Paula Brewer, using all the resources at hand to tell a breaking news story.
   3. Valerie Royzman
   Piscataquis Observer
   Dover-Foxcroft man found dead
   Good coverage of what is becoming all too common in America today.

Weekly 2
1. Staff
   The Republican Journal
   As fire investigation continues
   Impressive reaction of newspaper staff to breaking news story in their town. Stories covered all the bases, from the cause of the fire to the reaction of the community. I appreciated the initiative displayed by all staff members to give the community a complete package.
   2. Faith DeAmbrose
   Penobscot Bay Pilot
   Fire tears through portion
   Good, detailed coverage of a fire.
   3. Andrew Houk
   The Lincoln County News
   Fatal October Crash
   Well written and one of the best in journalism: Calling the family and friends of a young girl who died in a car accident. The story was effective and included heartbreaking quotes from those who knew her. Professionally done!

SPOT NEWS STORY

Weekly 1
1. Matt Byrne
   Portland Press Herald
   Man shot by Portland police
   Great story, suicide by cop is a trend that is rarely looked at.
   2. Randy Billings
   Portland Press Herald
   Ticket agent struggling with guilt
   Unique approach to the 20th anniversary coverage and a cop for the paper to reach out to and others associated with the attack. Well written, flows well. Great idea for a series.
   3. Andrew Rice
   Sun Journal
   ‘Teetering on the edge’
   Good, detailed coverage of a nagging issue that no one seems to be able to find a solution for. Lots of voices in this story, which makes it resonate.

Weekly 2
1. Lynda Clancy
   Penobscot Bay Pilot
   Camden proposes easing density
   Great story, suicide by cop is a trend that is rarely looked at.
   2. Andrew Howard
   The Maine Monitor
   Make your case, avoid the verdict
   3. Douglass Rooks
   The Maine Monitor
   Lawmaker pushes to restore parole

DAILY/WEEKEND
1. Colin Woodard
   Portland Press Herald
   Bureaucratic error: Driver gets of the closest fire station.
   Excellent example of taking a somewhat routine, albeit tragic, story and digging in to uncover a significant failure that contributed to the crash.
   2. Steve Collins
   Sun Journal
   It changed people’s minds…
   Great lead and well told story!
   3. Steve Collins
   Sun Journal
   Upstream towns worry
   A complex story told clearly and well.

COURTS STORY

Weekly 1
1. Joseph Cyr
   Houlton Pioneer Times
   Courts Story
   2. Jessica Potila
   St. John Valley Times
   Courts story
   3. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
   Machias Valley News Observer
   Washington County crime spike

Weekly 2
1. Jordan Andrews
   The Maine Monitor
   Judge orders evidentiary hearing
   Great work explaining the complex legal process behind an attempt to introduce new evidence.
   2. Samantha Hogan
   The Maine Monitor
   Attorney general sues ME lawyers
   Good use of court documents and builds well on prior reporting.
   3. Andrew Howard
   The Maine Monitor
   COVID-19 forces York County Jail
   Interesting and well reported.

DAILY/WEEKEND
1. Megan Gray
   Portland Press Herald
   Low morale and pay
   Ahead of the curve story about a crisis now sweeping the country. Even states with professional public defenders (like Oregon) are facing severe shortages for the same reasons identified in the story, like low pay and too much caseload.
   2. Judy Harrison
   Bangor Daily News
   Maine missed a law to prevent sports page design.
   Unusually well read because of widespread community interest and difficulty in understanding such a complex subject.
be, but how complicated it is to administer.
3. Joaquin Contreras Sun Journal
From prison to redemption
Rare uplifting story about Brandon Brown, a potential career criminal who confronted his demons in prison and is turning his life around with the help he received there.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Weekly 1
1. Hannah Catlin, Jessica Potilla St. John Valley Times
Investigative reporting
These are thorough and incredibly important reports. There are times we are lucky to have these reporters. I am impressed with the breadth of interviews and sourcing - from students to teachers, to government and education officials - in addition to the ample background history and contextual information. It felt like all of the right questions were asked and I liked these articles feeling like I have a firm understanding of the situations that unfolded, and left me with no unanswered questions.

Weekly 2
1. Vanessa Paolella The Maine Monitor
Lack of data/stimmy efforts
Revenue
This article caught my eye as interesting reading about how one man's retirement has a wide-ranging effect on local dental health. I also liked the subtle plays on words in the lead — gap — fill. Good job by reporter in showing how one man's life decision can have a cascading effect on others in the community.

ARTS/LIFESTYLE

Weekly 1
1. Kay Neufeld Sun Journal
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Homeless in Cumberland County
Informatively three-part series about a crisis that seems to be hitting all metropolitan areas in the country. Well done. It was a nice job on presenting the crisis while still presenting the cold hard stats.

Weekly 2
1. Penelope Overton, Jenna Russell Portland Press Herald
The Lobster Trap
A compelling, beautifully-crafted and illuminating story.

FOOD STORY/FEATURE

Weekly 1
1. Dan Dunkle The Camden Herald
Bookmarks in fight
Very readable story about a woman fighting domestic violence in an interesting — say novel — way. Well done. Well done to reporter to give her the promotion she deserves!

Weekly 2
1. Joseph Cyr The Maine Monitor
SAFE WATERS
TO CONSIDER

Mystery in time for the Halloween edition is clutch. Kudos on the timing of it all. It appears the paper is on top of the human interest perspective. The jump pages could have been more haphazard. It would have been more user-friendly to jump all related articles to the same page.

MOMENTS

1. kay Neufeld Livermore Falls Advertiser
Homeless in Cumberland County
Informatively three-part series about a crisis that seems to be hitting all metropolitan areas in the country. Well done. It was a nice job on presenting the crisis while still presenting the cold hard stats.

Weekly 2
1. Barbara A. Walsh The Maine Monitor
Unsafe Homes: Children in Peril
Evacuating children’s homes through a big news day, and the design should reflect that.

DAILY/Weekly
1. Matt Byrne Portland Press Herald
State error lets deadly driver live
Great investigative piece that clearly laid out the issue. Good use of public records, public officials, covered bases for conclusions, and forced officials to take action quickly. It would be a nice addition if the reporter wrote “how I got that story”.

2. Melissa Lizotte Bangor Daily News
Teen Energy
Excellent investigative reporting that is so needed to check out some of the claims of firms bidding for public contracts. I hope this company will fail in its bids thus to the coverage. Good watchdog reporting, and it needed the press to ask the hard questions when public agencies seem to fail at that.

NEWS STORY

Weekly 1
1. Greg Levinsky Portland Press Herald
Interesting story about how one man’s retirement has a wide-ranging effect on local dental health. I also liked the subtle plays on words in the lead — gap — fill. Good job by reporter in showing how one man's life decision can have a cascading effect on others in the community.

Weekly 2
1. Valerie Rozyman Piscataquis Observer
Aroostook Republican & News
First Pride festival in County
This article caught my eye as interesting reading about how one man’s retirement has a wide-ranging effect on local dental health. I also liked the subtle plays on words in the lead — gap — fill. Good job by reporter in showing how one man's life decision can have a cascading effect on others in the community.

ARTS/LIFESTYLE

Weekly 1
1. Kay Neufeld Sun Journal
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Bigfoot in Maine author
How can one not enjoy an article about Bigfoot? This was a fun one and it was interesting learning about how the “Bigfoot in Maine” author covered FAQs that are typically reluctantly told her about their experiences.

Weekly 2
1. Kay Neufeld The Franklin Journal
Rick Davis spills the beans
Breezy, very readable profile of disc jockey. Loved the pacing of this story, which helped propel me through. Good observations and intriguing background information. Just a fun one.

2. Valerie Rozyman Piscataquis Observer
Aroostook Republican & News
First Pride festival in County
This article caught my eye as interesting reading about how one man’s retirement has a wide-ranging effect on local dental health. I also liked the subtle plays on words in the lead — gap — fill. Good job by reporter in showing how one man's life decision can have a cascading effect on others in the community.

FEATURE STORY

Weekly 1
1. Andrew Rice Sun Journal
Sun Journal
A neighborhood that people want
Story about planning can be deadly serious but this story draws together details on a major plan that affects a lot of people. Well done! Submitted this to the winner circle was finding another winner circle was finding another
Innovative approach to pizza. Kept reader engaged.

Weekly 2
1. Colin Ellis
Portland Phoenix
Food for thought
A thought-provoking piece exploring a booming area of town that is becoming a hot spot. The excitement and enthusiasm of the area makes the reader want to head right to South Portland.
2. Rebecca Alley
The Ellsworth American
To Mr. Baker, with love!
The writer does a great job of captivating the reader about the subject, Bill Baker, and showing the impact he’s had on the local restaurant industry and his commitment for his students.
3. Marina Schaufler
The Maine Monitor
What will it take to grow

Daily/Weekend
1. Meredith Goad
Portland Press Herald
The story of how lobster Who knew? Fun, informative, story all readers, not just those in your state.
2. Steve Collins
Sun Journal
Hard cider bounces back
Took what could have been a routine story and made it great with the historical context.
3. Peggy Grodinsky
Portland Press Herald
At South Portland woman Putting a personal touch on a food story with a 102-year-old cook. Loved the first person account of the failed mujqudara.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY
Weekly 1
1. Kay Neufer
The Franklin Journal
Friday nights: county Jewish community
2. Dan Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Getting back to worship
3. Alexander MacDougall
Houlton Pioneer Times
Religion_story

Weekly 2
1. Barbara A. Walsh
The Maine Monitor
Keeping a culture alive Article is well written and very interesting.
2. Rachel Vitello
Forecaster
Native people are scared Well written and very interesting.
3. Doug Warren
Harpwell Anchor
Domestic violence survivor
This was an interesting read and well written.

Daily/Weekend
1. Gillian Graham
Portland Press Herald
“A 21st Century Shaker story” That’s a great read. The description takes me there.
2. Amy Caldes, Jessie Lowell
Wiscasset Newspaper
Local column

LOCAL COLUMNIST
Weekly 1
1. Alison McKellar
The Camden Herald
Alison McKellar
Combination of compelling topics, solid research, and wonderful writing. A clear view above all other categories. McKellar’s voice and passion and thoughtfulness shine through her writing.
2. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
Machias Valley News Observer
From the state house There is a conversational tone to the two column entries — an editor speaking to her readers. The piece on Ruth could have started out on the cover; it is a beautiful testament.
3. Prentiss Grey
Machias Valley News Observer
Transplants Always interesting to hear an “outsiders” view of their new community. I’m sure readers enjoy the take “From Away”

Weekly 2
1. Marina Schaufler
The Maine Monitor
Sea Change
In-depth, thoughtful, research-oriented.
2. Diane O’Brien
Penobscot Bay Pilot
This Week in Lincolnville Mean, raw, authentic, nice blend of observing the inevitable and pointing out the oft overlooked.
3. Natalie Ladd
Portland Phoenix
Natalie Ladd: Lovers
Well written, personal, authentic, written with purpose.

Daily/Weekend
1. Bill Nemitz
Portland Press Herald
Bill Nemitz
Well written pieces. Most importantly, pointing out the foibles of people taken in by “alternative” medicine. And the bridge piece is just good to lift spirits by profiling people who get things done for the betterment of society. Tightly written, leads the reader through the story, keeps their interest.
2. Angie Bryan
Portland Press Herald
Bar Guide
Love the playfulness of these columns, clever use of language and really entices the reader to take a sip.
3. Amy Calder
Morning Sentinel
Amy Calder: “Reporting Aside” Good topics to capture the reader's attention. Strong reporting, but doesn’t really read like a column; more of a feature story that leaves the reader without a strong opinion one way or the other.

CRITIC’S AWARD
Weekly 1
1. Joyce Harper
Machias Valley News Observer
Book Review by RJ Heller
The plot summary was thorough. When writing a book review. The writer does a great job of visually showcasing the middle school’s performance by getting some great shots of the kids and in class time. Highly engaging writing.
3. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
Critics Award
Very thoughtful review of the school’s musical.

Weekly 2
1. Maia Zewart
The Lincoln County News
The story of how lobster Who knew? Fun! I like the descriptions, the fact that the kitchen workers were given names — and there are even photos! The top photograph with the plate was especially nice. And the “chatty” font made me feel quite welcome.
2. Nan Lincoln
Morning Sentinel
Noisy Desert Islander
It’s a good musical, Charlie Brown
The writer clearly loves theater, and fans familiar with the play but had the guts to point out a flaw here and there — a “critical” tone that makes the writer feel quite welcome.
3. Lisa Kristoff
Boolector
Brewster Wilde well done
Clever headline, even! I’ve read in my own newspaper about local “Zoom” productions, and appreciated the author walking me through all the challenges involved. Writing a theater presentation with multiple actors via Zoom. Entertaining.

Daily/Weekly
1. Judy Harrison
Bangor Daily News
Bangor Daily News
Monmouth Theater’s Sofonisba
Excellent angle that no doubt resonated in the rights figures. A solution-oriented message. Evident (and deserved) pride in community.
2. Bisi Cameron Yee
Wiscasset Newspaper
Boolector
From Allium to Zinnia and All
Dentophobia? There’s relief.
Weekly 1
1. Jayna Smith
The Maine Monitor
The Calais Advertiser
Math Tests, Spelling Tests, and...
No doubt it resonated in the audience. What they write is an accurate headline. The piece on Ruth could have been more specific but overall informative.
3. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Wiscasset Newspaper
The night that the lights went out in Alna

Weekly 2
1. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette
Our View: Response to Drug Crisis
This is another powerfully written and clear-thoughted opinion.
2. Sculptor
Wiscasset Newspaper
Our View: Reestablishing Tradition
Peters out a bit at the end but still good. The reference to Moultonborough has customers now.

OPINION COLUMNIST
Weekly 1
1. Reade Brower
The Camden Herald
Camden’s candle
Strong authorial voice, presents good news-you-can-count-on (hotlines, websites, etc.) and paints a clear, compelling portrait of a major social issue.
2. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Hold the expedites
Overly wordy. Undercuts its point at several points, but at least I feel like it was written with a general audience in mind.
3. Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
McCrum fire brings devastation Clever headline, even! I’ve read in my own newspaper about local “Zoom” productions, and appreciated the author walking me through all the challenges involved. Writing a theater presentation with multiple actors via Zoom. Entertaining.

Weekly 2
1. Maia Zewart
The Lincoln County News
Restablishing Tradition
Clean, compelling, clearly written with target audience in mind. Strong use of authorial voice.
2. Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
Our View: To head right to South Portland
Very thoughtful review of the story for all readers, not just those in your state.
3. Kendra Caruso
The Maine Monitor
City’s eminent domain attempt Clean, simple but direct. Hyperlocal and written with target audience in mind. Watchdog journalism. Could have maybe been gotten from getting a quote or two.

Daily/Weekly
1. Tie Ben Bragdon
Morning Sentinel
Our View: To head right to South Portland
Local zoning drives
This is a principled and stern message regarding human dignity and housing and a commitment to make it better. Do notixerated in the community, and is applicable all across the nation.
2. Judith Meyer
Sun Journal
Poetic justice for a man
Unique and well-crafted story and issues bed to international civil rights figures. A solution-oriented suggestion at the end adds punch.

EDITIORIAL
Weekly 1
1. Dan Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Camdin Hills students
Peters out a bit at the end but still good. The reference to Moultonborough has customers now.

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Not always the cleanest/ strongest writing, but a clear voice and good journalist perspective.

3. Paula Brewer

The Star-Herald

Weekly 2

1. Shilom Auciielo

The Courier-Gazette

Letter From Away

Sharp writing.

2. Carla Schaffer

The Maine Monitor

Sea Change

1. Benjamin Yee

The Lincoln County News

After Deadline

Photographer's accounts of how stories came to be, and the stories within a story. Beautiful, compelling narratives.

Daily/Weekend

1. Victoria Hugo-Vidal

Portland Press Herald

The Maine Millennial

Well-written and honest/ personal. Writer is very talented at painting scenes with her words. A valuable perspective not seen enough in traditional media.

2. Benjamin Verrey

Kennebec Journal

Unvaccinated Mains

A very close second. Writer uses plenty of both national and local examples and makes his arguments well. Strong writing and engaging narrative.

3. Amy Fried

Bangor Daily News

Trump looms large.

A little workmanlike but makes compelling, effective arguments with good referencing. Not the most pleasantly written but very good at showing the receipts.

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Weekly 1

1. Bob Brewer

Aroostook Republican News Observer

The editorial cartoons of Bob Brewer

There is only one cartoonist in the state.

2. Bob Brewer

The Calais Advertiser

Bob Brewer, Cartoonist

Weekly 2

1. Glenn Chadbourne

The Lincoln County News

Editorial Cartoons

The art is really good, especially the drawing of the foreground. The use of (what I assume to be) a caricature of the artist in the corner is a fun way to provide commentary; however, the messages can be a bit obscure, making it difficult to understand what the artist is trying to communicate.

Daily/Weekend

1. George Danby

Bangor Daily News

Cold trick or treat?

Simple, clean style with efficient wording to maximize the message and impact. Didn't need to be an expert on local issues to understand the editorial perspective on subjects that touch all.

2. Ernie Anderson

Sun Journal

Anderson cartoons

No problem tackling tough issues, and presenting a strong take with words and images.

3. Steve Meyers

Portland Press Herald

Steve Meyers Artwork is distinctive, and the submissions show both local and topical issues. A lot to process with extraneous wording and subject.

OUTDOORS STORY

Weekly 1

1. Joseph Cyr

Houlton Pioneer Times

Outdoors Story

Effectively draws a retirement story into a more engaging profile, while still maintaining the news hook.

2. Valerie Rozymzan

The Pisataquis Observer

Sled dogs brave the cold

Leaves the reader in. Whole story does a good job balancing hard info and engaging writing and quotes about the experience.

3. Jayna Smith

The Calais Advertiser

Boat Visit Highlights Capabilities

Nice job of making a small story and drawing out what both the city has to offer and what is lacking for sailors.

Weekly 2

1. Rose Lundy

The Maine Monitor

Bicycling alone, no more

A fun story about a post-retirement endeavor that also shows what sort of work happens on an orchard.

2. J.W. Oliver

Bar Harbor Anchor

Accessible to all, Strawberry Creek

Ken Waltz, Holly Vanorose Spicer

The Courier-Gazette

Whiskey Flows: Splash downs

ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

Weekly 1

1. Paula Brewer

The Star-Herald

A voracious insect is coming back

2. Pam Harnden

The Maine Monitor

Impact of locally spread sewage

3. Valerie Rozymzan

The Pisataquis Observer

Dam reconstructions

Weekly 2

1. Kate Cough

The Maine Monitor

Staggering $1.5 billion Lithium Refinery a plus for an important topic, great reporting, excellent lede and kicker.

2. Kate Cough

The Maine Monitor

The Maine Monitor

Maine's prime farmland

Very effective lede that gives the reader an understanding of the issue at the overaching issue. Overall this is an interesting and well organized and researched piece. First place quality but liked the top piece just a tad more.

3. Kate Cough

The Maine Monitor

There are more devices

Daily/Weekend

1. Andrew Rice

Sun Journal

Dawn of a new era

Strong use of imagery language.

2. Tux Turkel

Portland Press Herald

In northern Maine, forestry

More in-depth issue piece.

3. Pam Harnden

The Franklin Journal

New Mainers, new jobs

As COVID-19 surged

Excellent story about how much of the state economy has been dependent on low-wage foreign student workers and how unprepared these workers were to respond to Covid-19 and other travel restrictions.

3. Kay Neufeld

The Franklin Journal

New Mainers, new jobs

Arriving, inspiring stories that immigration is under attack. New Mainers, new jobs

Portland Press Herald

COVID-19 quarantines

This article wove excellent examples and quotes with important data, policies, key definitions and watchdog reporting. It flows well and includes a great variety of voices. It would have benefited to have teacher's voice in it as well, but very well done.

3. Vanessa Paolilla

Sun Journal

Auburn drivers share

This is an article that is clear and concise. The writer does an excellent job of hitting on the key points and impact to families and students early on. They also write with authority and are often under-covered group of workers. They included statewide insights and watch dogs, while also diving into the individuals' experiences on staff. Stories like these can be very "he said, she said," but the writer here did an excellent job of weaving together the different perspectives with respect and care.

HEALTH STORY

Weekly 1

1. Hannah Catlin

St. John Valley Times

Health story

Compelling lede, good and illuminating story overall.

2. Joseph Cyr

Houlton Pioneer Times

Health Story

Comprehensive snapshot of this point in the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Kay Neufeld

The Franklin Journal

Franklin County battling

A problem that is seen in so many places across the country.

Weekly 2

1. Tim Chance Viles

American Journal

Westbrook Police hope to add

Engaging writing style and
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strong use of quotes to support the story.

1. Tie Sarah Thompson
   Penobscot Bay Pilot
   Edit Call to Thomaston eatery
   Moving and impactful. Say to read and follow, pertinent and timely.

2. Rose Lundy,
   Braedden Waddell
   The Maine Monitor
   Nursing homes faces
   Informative and well written.

3. J.W. Oliver
   Harpswell Anchor
   Cundy’s Harbor 10-year-old
   Good writing and use of information to move the story forward.

Daily/Weekend

1. Joe Lawlor
   Portland Press Herald
   Maine's long-haul COVID patients
   Strong story on long-haul COVID with great personal examples.

2. Mark LaFlamme
   Sun Journal
   There's relief. Here's the drill
   Great package with illustration and sidebar inside. Could hear the dentist's drill firing up while reading.

3. Nick Schroeder
   Bangor Daily News
   This woman guides dying Mainers
   Nice limerick lead, very interesting read.

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly 1

1. Pierre Little
   The Calais Advertiser
   Union Street Fire

2. Susan Johns
   Wiscasset Newspaper
   A Winterfest nonetheless

Weekly 2

1. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Oasis
   Other than some audio issues, this is a lovely short doc that evoked emotions and was visually very nice.

2. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Rodeo Clown
   Great use of B-Roll. You've got some really beautiful and clean shots here with an awesome character as your subject.

FEATURES/ LIFESTYLE VIDEO

Weekly 1

1. Susan Johns
   Wiscasset Newspaper
   Wiscasset resumes Fourth of July
   Nice mix of photos and video. Photos were varied and did a great job telling the story of the town's 4th of July festivities.

Weekly 2

1. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   Indomitable Spirit
   Very moving story. This would've benefited from more b-roll to break up the interview but well done!

2. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Place of Peace
   I had a smile on my face during this entire video. It left me with such warm and fuzzy feelings inside. Great job!

SPORTS VIDEO

Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
   The Calais Advertiser
   CHS Band Returns to the Sidelines

2. Zack Miller
   The Camden Herald
   Golf in memory of teenager

Weekly 2

1. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Ball Game

2. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Gold Ball

3. Roger McCord
   The Maine Monitor
   The Epic Comeback

Daily/Weekend

1. Troy R. Bennett
   Bangor Daily News
   Cowboy action shooting
   This is such an interesting thing you've discovered. The movement and sounds made for a great, fast-paced video that didn't lose my attention. The man you interviewed is also quite the character which made for more incredible storytelling. Well done.

2. Troy R. Bennett
   Bangor Daily News
   Maine's first futsal court opens
   You did a really great job at finding great subjects to talk you. The video was informative but fun.

3. Joe Phelan
   Kennebec Journal
   Augusta Civic Center bball floor
   This is a unique way to show an event unfolding. Great use of time lapse.

BEST DIGITAL AD CAMPAIGN

Weekly

No entries.

Daily/Weekend

1. Roberto Lemus
   Portland Press Herald
   Salvation Army Wallpaper

2. Marcie Coombs
   Bangor Daily News
   Downtown Bangor Partnership

3. Marcie Coombs
   Bangor Daily News
   The Rock and Art Shop
that efforts to conceal public information will be met by vigorous pressuring to enter the secrecy. That’s an invaluable message to send, regardless of the success of the pending lawsuit.

PHOTOGRAPHY BEST IN SHOW

Weekly 1

1. Dan Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Jan. 6 Vigil

Weekly 2

1. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette
Historic Schooner

Daily/Weekly

1. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Canoe Scenic

ADVERTISING GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald
Beautiful work with great use of composition to place ads throughout the paper giving advertisers premium access to new business.

2. The Calais Advertiser
Good edition with some great designed work throughout. Some places do get a little overlapping and feel more imprested by keeping space between advertisers.

3. Machias Valley News Observer
Good design, but quality appears to be poor across the board, the majority of images are fuzzy and overall layout could use more balance.

Weekly 2

Overview Statement from Judges: From all the entries, the Mount Desert Islander was the superior ad product. This was a close decision because first and second place winners jointly produce classifieds and some special sections. The classified section due to layout, ad count, use of color and overall look made it head-and-shoulders above any other submission. But the ads in the Mount Desert Islander grabbed my attention more often compared to the other entries. I had a very strong production with great ad count and well-designed ads throughout. Very nice work!

1. Mount Desert Islander
Great classifieds and real estate sections with useful news content. Like the Maine County Yellow Pages. Ads are well designed. Good use of color, white space, photos and headlines to draw in reader engagement. These were also well spaced out throughout the paper helping the reader experience. Even the smaller spaces such as the Mainely Vinyl ads running on several pages. They caught my eye and I looked at every one of them. I also liked the way you group your teacher section. Too bad it wasn’t supported by a local business or businesses. Nice job on the Lobster Week pullout and sponsored story section. Good work on having a variety of ad focus pages in each issue. Like the sponsored up coming Games of the Week in sports! Out & About – nice section, lots of content. From a design standpoint I would suggest going to a modular ad sizes which would help with cleaning up the design. The news pages had a lot going on and these pages look nothing like your newspaper pages in use of white space and design flow. If you could simplify the look of some of the pages with more white space this section may be more appealing to younger readers.

2. The Ellsworth American
I almost wanted to make this a tie because the quality of both publication’s ads are so well done. I also realize that first and second place winners jointly produce classifieds and some special sections. The classified section’s layout, use of color, ad count and overall look was head- and-shoulders above any other submission. The Ellsworth American has great ad count, lots of variety in ad sizes along with a decent number of advertising focus pages in each issue. I had to compare those side by side to make sure I was judging fairly each issue. In the end, the quality of the ads in the first-place winner jumped out at me more. I’m sure this could have easily gone the other way depending on the quality of the ads. Lots of shared ads and classifieds sections. Ads are well designed. Good use of color, white space and headlines. Small space ads worked well like the Mainely Vinyl ads running on several pages. They caught my eye and I looked at every one of them. Like the draw your teacher section. Too bad it wasn’t sponsored by a local business or businesses. Nice job on the Lobster Week pullout and sponsored story section. Good work on having a variety of ad focus pages in each issue. Like the sponsored up coming Games of the Week in sports! Out & About – nice section, lots of content. From a design standpoint I would suggest going to a modular ad sizes which would help with cleaning up the design. The news pages had a lot going on and these pages look nothing like your newspaper pages in use of white space and design flow. If you could simplify the look of some of the pages with more white space this section may be more appealing to younger readers.

3. The Republican Journal
Strong publication with a good ad count and lots of focus pages. Classified section was also well done making it easy to follow. I also liked your Best of the Best section as well as some of your other ad sections like your Home and Garden focus pages and you Shop Local section. In the end, the quality of the ad design by first and second place winners just beat out this entrant. Good mix of ads and focus pages. Really good ad count as well. I like the Pet Adoption Spirit of the Season and Christmas by the Sea pages. My only suggestion on this is if you can re-arrange these pages to have the information flow down the middle with the ads running up the sides. This way the content is touching each ad and you avoid deep stacks of ads on top of one another. Classifieds appear healthy and are easy to search. Easy to follow Professional section.

Comments on other entries

The Camden Gazette: This was a really strong entry and was almost a finalist. I realize this publication is somehow produced in advertising in all 3 issues including car, furniture and smaller ad count paper. You have well designed pages throughout. A lot of really strong ad count. The Republican Journal. The biggest difference between these two publications came down to the individual design of the ROB ads. It was razor close between these entries but in the end, The Republican Journal stood out to me more. Nice ad count in each paper. Good job to your ad staff for selling a lot of ads. Strong classified section with lots of focus pages. Nice ads on top of one another. Best of Ballet count. Home and Garden section has great ad count. Pages appear busy but the ads are also news so they work. Really like the “To the Season Shop Local” holiday section. Good variety of ad design with nice use of photos and art to help ads attract attention. Also the merchant snipits in the back are cool to look through with good ideas for people to consider for shopping during the holidays.

The Lincoln County News: Nice sponsored calendar by First National Bank. Classifieds have a really strong ad count. Shopping Holiday Guide – nice section, lots of ads, good content. Like the ads using people or animals as art. These ads jumped out at me. Nice Arts and Entertainment section.

Best Special Categories

with strong ad count and interesting mix of stories. Love some of the larger ones but would like to see these in premium positions – if the advertiser deserves to make the ads dominate or at least break up the pages with lots of little retailer inserts. Running across the bottom.

Portland Phoenix: Not very good design quality. Paper would benefit with a more modular ad format to square off pages.

Harpwell Anchor: Good ad count. Wide variety and ad count in different sizes. Really like the real estate ads – especially the Harpwell Realty Group ads. You might consider a modular ad design to avoid having random dog hats and having ads stacked across the bottom of a page.

Daily/Weekly

1. Portland Press Herald

This newspaper looks somehow produced in advertising in all 3 issues including car, furniture, and smaller ad count paper. You have well designed pages throughout. A lot of really strong ad count. The Republican Journal. The biggest difference between these two publications came down to the individual design of the ROB ads. It was razor close between these entries but in the end, The Republican Journal stood out to me more. Nice ad count in each paper. Good job to your ad staff for selling a lot of ads. Strong classified section with lots of focus pages. Nice ads on top of one another. Best of Ballet count. Home and Garden section has great ad count. Pages appear busy but the ads are also news so they work. Really like the “To the Season Shop Local” holiday section. Good variety of ad design with nice use of photos and art to help ads attract attention. Also the merchant snipits in the back are cool to look through with good ideas for people to consider for shopping during the holidays.

The Lincoln County News: Nice sponsored calendar by First National Bank. Classifieds have a really strong ad count. Shopping Holiday Guide – nice section, lots of ads, good content. Like the ads using people or animals as art. These ads jumped out at me. Nice Arts and Entertainment section.
GENERAL EXCELLENCE DIGITAL

Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald

The most comprehensive, easily digested, and most attractive of the three entries, with the best use of graphics, including photography.

2. Wiscasset Newspaper

3. The Calais Advertiser

Weekly 2

1. Boothbay Register

2. The Maine Monitor

3. The Courier-Gazette

Daily/Weekly

1. Portland Press Herald

2. Kennebec Journal

3. Sun Journal

GENERAL EXCELLENCE PRINT

Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald

This publication had the most unique and differentiating content of all newspapers reviewed, most of which the other publications borrow articles and information from its umbrella media group – oftentimes with the same headlines and story copy. Clearly, a missed opportunity to add an agate font, with more focus on the players and their contributions to the story. The “Things to Do” page is a great addition and is being well-done and nicely localized. Great use of color for elementary school stories. Inconsistent use of the ad format change every week like “things to do” and obituaries. It would help if each edition was always in the same area of the paper. Style. Story leads could be more catchy and engaging.

Weekly 2

1. Portland Phoenix

This tabloid newspaper is attractive, well-covered with stories. Each cover is appealing without being overly flashy. Coverage had a comprehensive mix of government, lifestyle, and features, as well as some investigative stories. Wonderful use of the ad space, nicely placed, allowing designers room to work on the pages. Headlines are interesting; perhaps a missed opportunity to add more subheads within stories.

2. Harpswell Anchor

What we most appreciated about The Anchor was the dedication the staff put into their publication, the staff does not try to overdo the headlines; each cover worked organically. In addition, it is obvious who writes the headlines and how much care is put into running and playing with the headlines. The resident editors placed the ads and the out the ads stand leave plenty of room for designers to maneuver.

3. Mount Desert Islander

We were surprised by the number of broadsheet publications entered in the contest, but each one did a good job. Each one added an agate font, with more focus on the players and their contributions to the story. The “Things to Do” page is a great addition and is being well-done and nicely localized. Great use of color for elementary school stories. Inconsistent use of the ad format change every week like “things to do” and obituaries. It would help if each edition was always in the same area of the paper. Style. Story leads could be more catchy and engaging.
Thank you to the Maine Press Association’s 2022 contest partner, the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Don’t miss next year’s conference: October 14, 2023 DoubleTree by Hilton, South Portland
Earl Brechlin had a distinguished career in Maine journalism that began in 1977 at the Bar Harbor Times. Brechlin got his start in the job shop hand-setting lead type. From there he went to the production darkroom, taking photos and writing a photo column. In 1981 he joined the newsroom staff as a reporter and was promoted to editor in 1983.

Under his leadership the Times consistently earned general excellence press awards in Maine and New England. In 2001 Brechlin, along with Ellsworth American publisher Alan Baker, founded a new, locally owned weekly newspaper on Mount Desert. With no reporters, no staff, no name and no design, the two got to work and the first edition of the Mount Desert Islander rolled off the presses six weeks later on November 15, 2001.

Under Brechlin’s leadership, the Islander earned first place among Maine small weeklies 12 out of its first 13 years, best in New England for several years and was honored by a first-place award from the National Newspaper Association.

Since 1981 Brechlin has been a member of the Maine Press Association in some form. He served as the association’s president four times along with 17 years on the board. In 1997 he was named Maine Journalist of the Year for a series of articles on financial improprieties at a local bank.

Earl retired from journalism in 2017, but only after receiving more than 150 individual awards for writing, photography, layout, news, featured videos and Freedom of Information.

Earl is a registered Maine Guide, the author of more than a dozen books on the outdoors and history of Maine and New England.

Christopher A. Roberts began life with ink in his veins, being born into the family business of running The Lincoln County News. As many children involved with family-run businesses, he was always at the shop, helping with operations as early as he was able.

While he always worked in some capacity at the paper, he started his career after graduating from the University of Maine, at the end of 1977. Over the 44-plus years, he would go on to lead the paper and make a huge impact on the company and the community it serves.

Paula Flagg met Chris while in high school at Lincoln Academy and they became sweethearts. They were engaged in 1977 and married on Nov. 25, 1978. Before Paula began her full-time career at the newspaper, she worked as a physical education teacher and raised two sons. She joined the staff part time in 1981 and became a full-time sports reporter in 1993.

Paula remains the newspaper’s sports reporter and photographer. She logs tens of thousands of miles a year as she crisscrosses the state to cover sports, mostly at the high school level. She routinely covers several games at different schools in the same evening. She has won awards for her photography and writing in the Maine Press Association Better Newspaper Contest, including first place for Sports Photo in three of the last seven years.

Today, Chris is publisher of The Lincoln County News and president of Lincoln County Publishing Co., the newspaper’s parent company. He represents the fourth generation of the Erskine-Roberts family to own and publish The Lincoln County News. His great-grandfather, Samuel H. Erskine, published his first edition of the newspaper Dec. 9, 1920. He took over this role in 1992 from his father, Samuel E. Roberts.

Chris has overseen many changes during his time as publisher. The company upgraded its newspaper press in 2000, 2004 and in 2017 to allow for more color to flow onto its pages and has always ensured that production of the newspaper has been at the cutting edge. He has overseen the newspaper’s advancement into the digital age with a series of websites, the latest of which launched in 2016 and won first place in the 2018 Maine Press Association contest. He has also invested in new publications, like Lincoln County Magazine — another award-winning product now in its 18th year.

In addition to this year’s slate of inductees, the MPA also honored last year’s inductees — Dorothy “Dot” Roderick, Dieter Bradbury and Judy Meyer — who were unable to be recognized in-person after that portion of the conference was canceled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

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

Bradbury, who retired from the Portland Press Herald last year, was hired part-time in 1980 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. For the last 10 years of his career, Bradbury directed the State House, political and election coverage and he supervised some of the Herald’s top projects during his time as deputy managing editor.

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. 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.

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/.

Earl Brechlin and Chris and Paula Roberts were inducted into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame on October 22.

Earl Brechlin

Chris & Paula Roberts
Unsung Hero Award

Caroline Spear
Penobscot Bay Press

2022 marked the 33rd year that Caroline Spear has worked for Penobscot Bay Press. During these years she has done nearly every job in the company. She has been Assistant to the Editor and Assistant to the Publisher, Page Proofer, Copy Editor, News Editor, Paste up tech, Quality assurance leader, Administrative Assistant to multiple departments and managers, Front office receptionist and manager—and many more. The titles tell a story of versatility, adaptability, flexibility, creativity with a can and will do history. But there is much more. Caroline owns her responsibilities and outcomes. If there is a need for a job to be done promptly and correctly, staffers turn to her. She handles all the internal systems, owns the company keeper of standards and procedures role, and is a major and important member of the management team. Since being given the job as the first Editor of the company’s book publishing division, she has edited and steered several dozen books through the publication process. Several of the books have received acclaim. Her commitment is boundaryless. While on vacation visiting a friend in Norway months ago, she arranged to receive a fax so she could edit and critique an assignment on vacation. Caroline has edited and steered several books through the publication process. Several of the books have received acclaim. Her commitment is boundaryless. While on vacation visiting a friend in Norway months ago, she arranged to receive a fax so she could edit and critique an assignment. She has worked through illness and physical disability. Simply, Caroline has been a foundation employee who has made, and continues to make, Penobscot Bay Press an enduring and successful company.

Bob Drake Young Writer Award

Sawyer Loftus
Bangor Daily News

Sawyer joined the Bangor Daily News in June 2021 immediately after graduating from the University of Vermont. Since then, he has been an invaluable addition to the BDN’s reporting team. He is consistently curious and tenacious, and he is a smart and skilled researcher. He has embraced every assignment thrown his way, and he has sought out many more meaningful stories on his own. Sawyer brings a three-part mission every day to his job as a reporter. He strives to hold those in power accountable, ensure that government operations happen in the open and make a difference for those who have no other recourse. In his past year with the Bangor Daily News, he has consistently fulfilled all three parts of that mission. His work on two sets of stories in particular stands out, as Sawyer’s reporting led to an accused fraudster’s arrest on a bail violation and inspired votes of no confidence against the University of Maine System’s chancellor. It’s rare that any reporter has such an impact. Throughout his first year with the Bangor Daily News, Sawyer has reported courageously and aggressively. His work has made a difference in people’s lives, held public officials and institutions accountable, and ensured that more government operations take place in the open. Sawyer’s work exemplifies why local reporting is so important.

Advertising Person of the Year

Melissa Logan
Sun Journal & Western Maine Weeklies

Persistent: Continuing firmly or obstinately in a course of action despite difficulty or opposition. The word “persistent” is the epitome of how Melissa approaches her job and each project that she encounters. She is amazingly organized, fully aware of deadlines and is always looking ahead at the big picture. When selling a project, she aims for her goal and does not stop until she reaches or exceeds the goal. Melissa has approached each project that she encounters. She is a smart and skilled researcher. She has earned the job as the first Editor of the company’s book publishing division, she has edited and steered several dozen books through the publication process. Several of the books have received acclaim. Her commitment is boundaryless. While on vacation visiting a friend in Norway months ago, she arranged to receive a fax so she could edit and critique an assignment. She has worked through illness and physical disability. Simply, Caroline has been a foundation employee who has made, and continues to make, Penobscot Bay Press an enduring and successful company.

Journalist of the Year

Steve Collins
Sun Journal

Steve Collins came to the Sun Journal in August 2016, eight months after he walked off his job at The Bristol Press in Connecticut. A journalist for more than two decades, he resigned on Christmas Eve as soon as he learned the newspaper’s owner, Michael Schroeder, printed a plagiarized article under a fake byline, targeting Nevada judges who questioned some business dealings of billionaire Sheldon Adelson. His actions earned him praise in journalism circles across the country, and he was awarded the 2016 Ethics in Journalism Award from the National Society of Professional Journalists and the I.F. Stone Whistle-Blower Award. His job search brought him to our newsroom in Lewiston, for which we will always be grateful. Steve was assigned the politics and legislative beat when he was hired. And he has done that, covering lawmakers and bills in the Legislature as well as Maine’s Congressional District 2 candidates and issues. But it’s all the things he does that have nothing to do with his beat that begin to define Steve. He is the first to volunteer to fill in on someone’s beat on vacation, take a weekend cop shift when the police reporter is out… never complains about being asked to take on something out of the blue, and is always helping a fellow reporter brainstorm or come up with an angle. Steve is both a student and teacher of history, having written dozens of in-depth features on Lewiston-Auburn and Maine, often revealing to readers interesting, odd and significant events of the past. He is a voracious reader — of everything. And his news antenna is huge for stories that will get people reading, and then he writes them in a highly readable way.