

MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

2022

Awards

THE BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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PUBLIC RELATIONS



Column

B

est

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 Jerkins
St. John Valley Times
News Photo
Nice composition, and loved the expression of the lead lead 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
1. Linda Coan O'Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Deputy Funeral
2. Daryn Slover
Sun Journal
Military medical team thanked
3. Joe Phelan
Kennebec Journal

Hallowell Pride parade news

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

- Weekly 1**
1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Spot News Photo
2. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon Machias Valley News Observer
Jasper Beach breach
3. David DiMinno
The Star-Herald
Bison crossing road
- Weekly 2**
1. Sarah Thompson
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Hope Street Fire, January 2022
Nice use of lighting and composition from the fire during in a tough, nighttime environment.
2. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
More Water
Good lighting and framing. The tired face of the subject does a good job telling some of the story.
3. Kip Wing
Mount Desert Islander
Fire at the Bluenose Hotel
Interesting angle that you don't see everyday, with nice lighting and color.
- Daily/Weekend**
1. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Catch a Wave
I really like this photo. The massive wave, the "beach" sign and the person watching ties together such an incredible scene. Great find.
2. Russ Dillingham
Sun Journal
Man prays at the scene
There's a lot of elements going on in this photo that

tell a clear story. You really worked this scene very well.

3. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Family displaced by home fire
Great job finding the moment in the chaos. The emotion in this photo says it all, and your caption just adds another layer of storytelling. Well done!

SCENIC PHOTO

- Weekly 1**
1. Pam Harnden
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Foliage bursts with color
2. Valerie Royzman
Piscataquis Observer
Dover-Foxcroft bridge
3. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Wiscasset harbor
- Weekly 2**
1. Paula Roberts
The Lincoln County News
Memorial Sunset
2. Letitia Baldwin
The Ellsworth American
Daybreak at Joy Bay
3. Glenn Billington
The Courier-Gazette
Sunrise
- Daily/Weekend**
1. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Canoe scenic
2. Ben McCanna
Portland Press Herald
Life is but a dream
3. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
In the long run

PEOPLE PHOTO

- Weekly 1**
1. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Pace car pride
Captured joy
2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
People Photo

Before I read the caption I knew what was happening. Context and capture are perfect.

3. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
People Photo
Good copy block and photo.

Weekly 2

1. Fred J. Field
The Maine Monitor
Marie Paul
Not my favorite of the group but the best photo from a technical standpoint.
2. Sarah Thompson
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Snowpants, badges, fun
Would have liked to see it cropped closer but it's a fun photo.

Daily/Weekend

1. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Remembering 9/11
2. Rich Abrahamson
Morning Sentinel
Stanley Yocz beard
3. Ben McCanna
Portland Press Herald
All's Fair

PICTURE STORY

- Weekly 1**
1. Valerie Royzman
Piscataquis Observer
Hometown holidays
2. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Memorial Day Ceremony
3. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Picture Story
- Weekly 2**
1. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
Viola Stone
Excellent use of photos to help tell the story.
2. Fred J. Field
The Maine Monitor
Deaths of Despair
Excellent use of photos to tell a story.

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
Seeking Asylum
2. Brianna Soukup
Portland Press Herald
The Lobster Trap
3. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Greaney family turkey farm

FEATURE PHOTO

- Weekly 1**
1. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon Machias Valley News Observer
Snow much fun in Machias
2. Jason Overby
Machias Valley News Observer
Bringing in the alewives
3. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Feature photo

Weekly 2

1. Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot
A mid-summer's morning
From a technical standpoint it's a perfect photo. Well done.
2. Garrick Hoffman
The Maine Monitor
Thorndike Fire Department
A picture is worth a 1000 words.
3. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette
Historic schooner
Great photo.

Daily/Weekend

1. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Snow place like home
A great slice-of-life moment captured that's both layered, and yet a clean

read. A nice story told in one image.

2. Derek Davis
Portland Press Herald
SEALED and Delivered
The body language, composition, lighting, and negative space conveys a very quiet, almost haunting, moment.

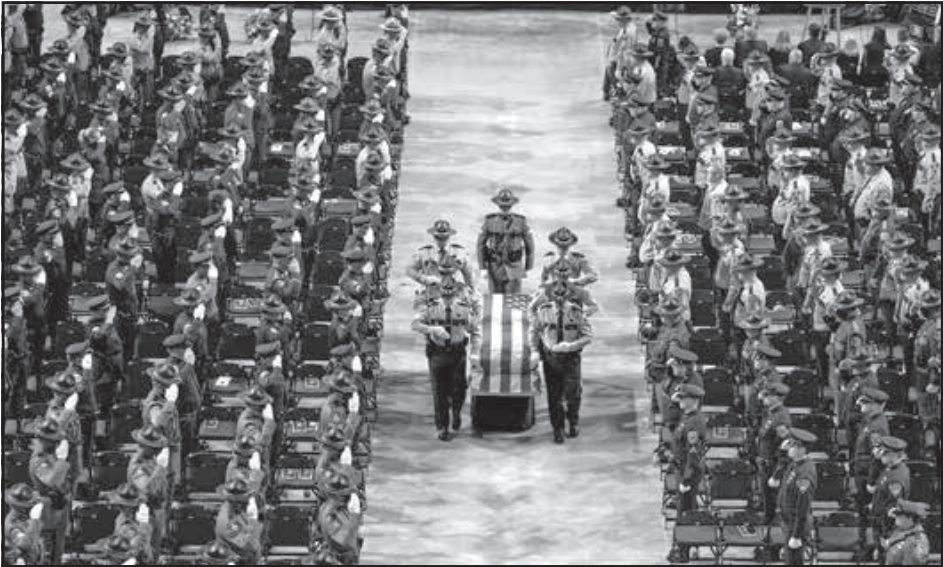
3. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Pool feature
The overhead angle in this case suits the scene well. Moreover, the facial expressions and alignment of pool toys plus swimmers makes for a wonderful storytelling frame.

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
U.S. Natl. Toboggan Championships
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
The Calais Advertiser
A diving catcher tags out the runner
I really like that this photo shows the whole scene. Sometimes our background can add so much to an image and tell a different part of the story. It would be nice to have the players' names in the caption.

Weekly 2

1. Mark Haskell
The Republican Journal
Upside down cheerleader
The expression on the cheerleader makes this



LINDA COAN O'KRESIK, BANGOR DAILY NEWS



JOSEPH CYR, HOULTON PIONEER TIMES



FRED J. FIELD, THE MAINE MONITOR



BISI CAMERON YEE, THE LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS



LYNDA CLANCY, PENOBSCOT BAY PILOT



GREGORY REC, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD

photo great.
2. Paula Roberts
The Lincoln County News
Late Tag
3. Ken Waltz
The Republican Journal
Soccer players in rain

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
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 see the man flying in the air, one hand reached toward the bull, while it is clearly mid-buck, tells such a story. This is the epitome of an action shot.

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly 1
1. Dan Kirchoff
The Camden Herald
Megunticook River
2. Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser

Teacher Appreciation Week
Weekly 2
1. Rebecca Reinhart
Portland Phoenix
Vote like Portland depends on it
Nice mixed media presentation, very eye catching.
2. Rebecca Reinhart
Portland Phoenix
2 years of COVID-19
3. Olivia Martin
The Maine Monitor
The Maine Monitor audio

Daily/Weekend

1. George Danby
Bangor Daily News
In the Year 2100
Great concept and execution, even though that's a scary big baby. Wish page designer had run it larger.
2. Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
Facing the effects
Nice use of the skiing photo, really drew package together.
3. Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
Believing in ghosts
Nice use of black and white on a color page.

GRAPHIC

Weekly 1
1. Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Protection from Ticks
2. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon, Christopher Dedmon
Machias Valley News
Observer Washington County's COVID-19
Important information —

but a bit hard to read the dates at the bottom. might have been better served to run larger.

Weekly 2

1. Kate Cough
The Maine Monitor
Taxes and fees on gasoline
Easy-to-read, eye-pleasing graphic. The ability to see state-specific data by hovering over the map is a good way to engage online readers.
2. Christine Simmonds
The Courier-Gazette
Social Media Terms
Illustration
Simple, well-executed concept that results in a visually pleasing design element.
3. Nadine Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
Lobster facts
This was not the slickest entry in this category, but it was by far the most fun.

Daily/Weekend

1. Karen Schneider, Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
Weather 2021
Great graphic to illustrate the point of the story.
2. Jake Laws
Portland Press Herald
Arctic Explorer
Nice job of creating a map that clearly indicates what her plan(s) is/are.

SPECIALTY PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 1
1. Dylan Lingley
Machias Valley News
Observer
Veterans Day Downeast

A colorful way to celebrate Veterans Day to allow the newspaper's readers to have ownership of the paper.
2. Lanette Virtanen
Houlton Pioneer Times
Specialty Page Design
3. Staff
Aroostook Republican & News
Breast Cancer Awareness

Weekly 2

1. Christine Dunkle
The Courier-Gazette
Specialty Page, 03/31/22
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 the page being an ad stack. Overall really nice work!
2. Ashley Carter
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 Tyrrell Ericson
Portland Press Herald
Food June 13
Great job of mixing various elements to create that "wine" vibe, while delivering textual info.

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 1

1. Staff
Aroostook Republican & News
Aroostook Republican and News
Nice balance of images, stories and column widths.
2. Dylan Lingley
Machias Valley News
Observer
Goodbye to 2021
Eye-catching and effective for the purpose.
3. Christine Dunkle, Daniel Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Front Page Design
Busy, but nicely balanced. Tough to place so many stories but you've pulled it off.

Weekly 2

1. John Cross, Daniel Dunkle
The Courier-Gazette
Front Page Design
Very clean design and a strong lead story combine to make a winning front page.

There are a few too many elements here for my taste, but strong design carries 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.
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. Good work!

Daily/Weekend

1. Becky Bowden
Bangor Daily News
Stay Cool
Right photo, right treatment, and a clean presentation.
2. Joel Matuszczak
Sun Journal
Power of faith
Smart treatment of the centerpiece — breaking it on the front page into easy chunks for readers. Well done.
3. Brian Robitaille
Portland Press Herald
March 27
Clean look, not busy, good use of subtle graphic elements, such as the photo extending outside the blue border.



KAY NEUFELD, THE FRANKLIN JOURNAL



MARK HASKELL, THE REPUBLICAN JOURNAL



SUSAN JOHNS, WISCASSET NEWSPAPER



LOCAL AD

Weekly 1

1. Heidi Anderson-Belcher, Glenn Billington
The Camden Herald
Bay View Collection Open House
Great ad with superb uniformity. It has enough to draw a reader's eye with plenty of supporting information in correct hierarchy.

2. Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Music on the Green
I like the Idea behind this ad a lot, however it has some technical issues; from the stroke on the months that does not help it pop off of that color background well, or the "DOWNTOWN CALAIS" that should be fit into the circle on two lines with the circle made slightly enlarged to ensure everything has enough breathing room. My eyes have a hard time following where to go in hierarchy.

Weekly 2

1. Stephen Enggass
The Courier-Gazette
Windhill Organics

2. Natalie Ladd, Suzanne Piecuch
Portland Phoenix
Gone fishing

3. Heidi Belcher, Justin Riley
The Courier-Gazette
Shelley's Flowers & Gifts

Daily/Weekend

1. Marcie Coombs
Bangor Daily News
Pat's Bike Shop
Clean, tight, visually interesting and well-composed. A winner.

2. Dawn Tantum, David Pierce
Kennebec Journal
Enchanted Gables
That photo does the deed for this ad. Good font choices to carry that elegance.

3. Callie Picard
Bangor Daily News
Saliba's
Other than some rather redundant wording, this ad works pretty well!

CAMPAIGN OR SERIES

Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski, Ebonica

Carson
The Calais Advertiser
Shop Local Tips
Great idea. You've created a promotion that engages your readers and directs them to support the local businesses that support your community. This is one of the things that community newspapers do best!

Weekly 2

1. Ashley Carter, Chausa Tra, Than Jarujinda
Mount Desert Islander
Bark Harbor
These really pop. Good use of color and the photos are really engaging and attractive. I'll bet the advertiser was pleased.

2. Ashley Carter
The Ellsworth American
Winter Harbor
Lobster Co-op
Gotta love that lobster. He makes for fun and compelling ads that draw the eye and create consistency that readers recognize across the campaign.

3. Staff
The Lincoln County News
Medomak
Cheerleaders
Great job of bringing the community together to support the kids. This is something newspapers do best!

Daily/Weekend

1. Melissa Pritchard, Joanne Alfiero
Portland Press Herald
Black Owned Maine
Very nicely done campaign. Very tasteful and not over the top to other business owners. It is a unique way of creating a local business promotion.

2. Dennis Gears, Mackenzie Gregory, Roberto Lemus
The Times Record
Community Matters & More
These are a bit busy with the sponsors, however, it is a great idea and an excellent way of showing local community.

3. Coralie Cross
Bangor Daily News
Whittens2way
2-way radio ads are clean and standout among the busy. Very simple design, to the point and easy to understand what is being offered.

SUPPLEMENT/ SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly 1

1. John Cross, Design & Sales Staff
The Camden Herald
Special Section, 07/01/21
Great overall composition & Hierarchy, inside images are clear and have great supporting design. Everything looks like it was kept tidy by a watchful eye and just enough creativity was added to keep people interested throughout the guide.

2. Sarah C. Dedmon, Dylan Lingley, Ebonica Carson
Machias Valley News
Observer
The New Mainer's Guide Great Composition and overall layout. The headers unfortunately look unfinished and break too many stylistic rules without any real purpose to do so.

3. Staff
The Calais Advertiser
St. Croix Homecoming Festival
Good communication with your community and getting everyone informed. However, design and hierarchy fall short, the headlines are all so similar if not the same, causing nothing to stand out. The color ads with one color could easily use a little more of it to draw the eye equally with the pictures. Photos also did look like a lower resolution.

Weekly 2

1. David Fickett
Mount Desert Islander
Out & About July 2021
Beautiful Guide, such a perfect balance of content and ads, making the reader flow all the way through the guide with well developed design and clear images. Fantastic job.

2. David Fickett
The Ellsworth American
Get Ready for Winter
Great placement and Color, the cover doesn't use all of the space but that is really the only negative I have out of all the layout in this guide. Ads are clear and well made for each business.

3. Christine Dunkle, Sales Staff
The Courier-Gazette
Special Section, 07/08/21
Great layout and representation of business' in the ads. Clear and

concise guide but gets a little crowded when it comes to ads vs content space.

Daily/Weekend

1. Advertising Staff
Morning Sentinel
Summer Guide
I like the graphic art cover, full of fun and easy to read. Page 10, not sure about design, with varying column width. Interesting solution to the problem, as all narrow columns would have been out of character with rest of section. Like the blue community headers. Mix of modular ad pages and stacks. Liked the bathing suit story!

2. Amy Allen, Sarah Walker Caron
Bangor Daily News
Bangor Metro/Holiday Gift Guide
Nice cover choice. Clean and open page design, nice use of graphics. Like "MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS" Best thing you ate in Maine in 2021. Also, mug staff list is informative, makes a connection with the staff. Good mix of long and short items. Very well produced.

3. Advertising Staff
Kennebec Journal
Best of the Best Readers Choice
This is all about readers connecting with advertisers, which is great. Ad and reader based section, without editorial content which should be a boon to editorial department! The eEdition is well done, I liked having the graphic explaining how to navigate the edition, very intuitive.

BEST SUPPLEMENT COVER

Weekly 1

1. Dylan Lingley, Sarah Craighead Dedmon
Machias Valley News
Observer
The New Mainer's Guide Love the look and feel of this cover. Art is impactful and gets my attention immediately. The old post card feel makes this entry stand out over the others.

2. Christine Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Supplement Cover, 02/17/22
The challenge with this cover is that the art elements on the left compete with the two photos on the right. Covers

should be impactful and not distracting. In this case, too many elements clutter this entry. The entry would have been stronger by reworking the design to be only the headline and the art on the left.

3. Staff
The Calais Advertiser
Downeast Basketball Review
I like the idea behind this cover but it reads more like page 3 of the special section and not a cover. Having some actual game images of the top 6 teams would have been more impactful.

Weekly 2

1. Amber Clark
The Lincoln County News
Outdoors
Where did you find that photo? What a gem. A very compelling cover that really pops and engages the reader. I can only imagine what other gems are inside.

2. Christine Dunkle
The Republican Journal
Supplement Cover, 03/03/22
Great packaging of your "best of" contest. Encompasses the section, plus you have really attractive branding assets that make it highly recognizable.

3. Amber Clark
The Lincoln County News
Live from Lincoln County
Strong, colorful and attractive photo that speaks to the theme. A page turner.

Daily/Weekend

1. Callie Picard
Bangor Daily News
Maine Forest Products
Love this cover. Great use of graphic and text to create an interesting cover that speaks to the subject matter.

2. Amy Allen
Bangor Daily News
Discover the Katahdin Region
Great choice of photo, makes me want to turn the page and see what's inside.

3. David Tripp
Portland Press Herald
Portland Peninsula Guide
Great layout to showcase multiple photos, really does showcase what the Portland Peninsula is all about.

BEST YOUNG READER ENGAGEMENT IDEA

Weekly 1

1. Staff
The Calais Advertiser
Downeast Basketball Review
Well, this is the only entry, but it is definitely attracting advertising and, likely, eyes.

Weekly 2

1. The Talon & LCN staff
The Lincoln County News
The Eagle's Talon
This is truly a labor of love. A tremendous amount of work has gone into working with these young people and what a pleasure to be able to share their work with the community. Student newspapers are an endangered species these days, and reporters don't have the time or resources to volunteer in schools as they once did, especially in the kind of sustained capacity you have here that allows you to develop relationships with students. You are growing the next generation of journalists!

2. Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News
GSB Students Investigate
Thank you for your service! This is a great idea that many of us no longer have time for as resources become more limited. You're engaging a new generation of readers, but better yet, a new generation of would-be reporters and writers. This is a lot of work, and it speaks to the great relationship you must have with your community, as well as your dedication and service.

3. Chausa Tra, Mike Riley
Mount Desert Islander
Thank You Teachers
This is a simply charming way to get children and families to read the newspaper — and to recognize teachers for all of their good work during tough times. What a fun promotion.

Daily/Weekend

1. Amy Allen, Callie Picard
Bangor Daily News
Summer Camps
Well laid out special section with great info.

2. Alicia Tuttle, Inside Sales
Morning Sentinel
Christmas Word Search
These things are just fun.

Great idea.
3. Alicia Tuttle
Kennebec Journal
Thanksgiving Word Search
Again, great idea here.

BEST CIRCULATION PROMOTION

Weekly 1

1. Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Weekly Wildlife Photos
Love how you use photos to engage your readers and create compelling content. This is a great idea that lends itself to print and digital applications and could be used to create and maintain reader engagement in any market.
2. Staff
The Camden Herald
Best Circulation Promo, 10/21/21
This is an oldie but goodie that we could all use.

Weekly 2

1. The Maine Monitor
The Maine Monitor
Reader-submitted photos
Best use of content and images to support stories

people want to see and interact with.
2. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Autumn Gold Savings
The stroke on that initial typeface is blown out and generating sharp edges around a smooth typeface. The image used is clear and well masked, while the color composition is calm and appealing. If that Stroke on the type was just massaged a bit it could easily compete for 1st.
3. Staff
The Courier-Gazette
Best Circulation Promo, 09/30/21
Image at the top is low resolution and it will be difficult to get people to search through all of those places just to find the one closest to them. For a Circulation Promotion it is best to find ways to drive attention using content or benefits of the paper itself rather than a plain list of locations to buy.

Daily/Weekend

1. Melissa Pritchard,
Emily Payrits

Portland Press Herald
Gift Subscription Campaign 2021
This a great campaign. Catchy looks with beautiful, local photos and the catchy headlines make it! Well done. Good idea to use multi media in campaign.
2. Emily Payrits, David Greer, Melissa Pritchard
The Times Record
Gift Subscription Campaign
This a great campaign. The photos are amazing and make you want to purchase them! Multi-media aspects are a plus!
3. Alicia Tuttle
Sun Journal
The Buzz
Clever and eye catching. I also like the 6 column format. Could use this theme in multiple ways.

SELF-PROMOTION

Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Business of the Year
Congratulations on being named Business of the Year. I am glad to hear that your

community, and especially your business community, recognizes all your hard work and contribution to community you serve. Never be afraid to celebrate or enjoy a little shameless promotion!

Weekly 2

1. Ashley Carter
Mount Desert Islander
Celebrating 20 Years!
Assuming your readers are like mine, they enjoy looking back at old photos and stories.
2. Staff
The Maine Monitor
An Evening with The Monitor
What a great idea. Kinda like Maine's version of the "11th Hour."
3. Janice Thompson, Sam Allen
Harpwell Anchor
2021 Annual Report
Nice to show your supporters what you did with their contributions.

Daily/Weekend

1. Staff
Portland Press Herald
Newsroom Live Event

Series
This was brilliantly done and a great way to bring staff into the reader's living rooms beyond print.
2. Staff
The Times Record
Midcoast for the Record
Well done campaign with multi-media involvement and letter from editor. Also looks like you had strong results.
3. Coralie Cross, Amy Allen
Bangor Daily News
Experience Maine
Very attractive and well put together campaign.

BEST NEW REVENUE IDEA

Weekly 1

No entries

Weekly 2

1. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Holiday Greetings Promotion
This is an interesting way to frame something that isn't uncommon in community newspapers, but isn't always promoted this way.

2. Janice Thompson
Harpwell Anchor
2021 NewsMatch Challenge
This is a significant achievement.

Daily/Weekend

1. Advertising Staff
Morning Sentinel
GHM 120th Anniversary
There are not too many celebrating 120 years these days. The way you were their partners in this beautifully done section will be memorable for many in the community not just this business.
2. Advertising Staff
Kennebec Journal
Nonprofit Guide
We too do a non-profit section and they are a lot of work. But in addition, they serve an important need in the community.
3. Staff
Portland Press Herald
Staff
Self-branding is important and you do a good job here. I like the ease of the ads and the idea of photos and merchandise to purchase.



EDITORIAL PAGE

Weekly 1

1. Staff
The Camden Herald
Editorial pages
The clear winner. Good range of local perspectives.
2. Staff
The Star-Herald
Viewpoints
The local history column is nice.
3. Staff
Houlton Pioneer Times
Editorial Pages

Weekly 2

1. Staff
The Republican Journal
Editorial/Op-ed Sections
Very well-designed and easy to follow. Lots of local perspectives. A consistently solid opinion section.
2. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Opinion
Clean design and a lot of local voices.
3. Staff
The Lincoln County News
Editorial Section

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. I like the .com 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 Bragdon, Megan Bachelder
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 Kresik, Looks like they are competing 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 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 headlines, second lines short, looks slightly off balance.
3. Ken Waltz, Mark Haskell, Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Camden Herald
Sport 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 stories and photos on the section front — without looking cramped. Four and two column front allows bigger 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 Section
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 6/10. Single column on left is clean and good, consistent spot for reader to see briefs. Clear hierarchy of stories. Headlines are similar sizes at times. 2/24 top stories'

headlines both start with same word (Trojan, Trojans). Top basketball photo on jump 2/24 is placed with swim jump story.
3. Staff
The Lincoln County News
Sports Section
Headlines are all the same small size, what's dominant? Story placement awkward in places. Photo heavy layouts don't have a dominant image.

Daily/Weekend

1. Bill Stewart,
Sports staff
Morning Sentinel
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
Tons of local, great photos, love the "Varsity Maine" headers, well designed — thorough coverage.
3. Bill Stewart,
Sports staff
Kennebec Journal
Sports Section
Like the Outdoors coverage in the section.

Best Sports

GAME STORY

Weekly 1

1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Warrior girls capture crown
Good, simple lead. Good quotes and history. Author's style is apparent but not up front. (And very good photos.)

2. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Shipbuilders sink Windjammers
Fun, descriptive lead sets the atmosphere, with a flashback or two back to the lead, returning to the atmosphere of the game later in the story. Reporting appears complete, with plenty of names and stats.

3. Emily Jerkins
St. John Valley Times
Sports game story
Good lead, history and description. No byline unfortunate.

Weekly 2

1. Ken Waltz
The Republican Journal
Coolen nets 1,000th
Love the lede, but so little of the story reflects her small stature and how scoring 1,000 points at 5'3" should be looked at as possibly an even greater accomplishment.

2. Mike Mandell
The Ellsworth American
Fitting Finale
Good lede painting a picture that this isn't just another game, but takes too long to get to any information about 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 gave.

3. Wayne E. Rivet
The Bridgton News
Jones' blast awakens Raiders
Like the lede dropping us into mid-game. Some of the quotes seem long winded and could be trimmed.

Daily/Weekend

1. Steve Craig
Portland Press Herald
Boys' basketball: Cooper Flagg leads Nokomis
This was a great story about a freshman willing his team to a state title.

2. Dave Dyer
Morning Sentinel
Football: Messalonskee snaps
You can never go wrong with a well written story about a broken losing streak.

3. Larry Mahoney
Bangor Daily News
Goalkeeper Borley leads UMaine
A great story about a sport I don't read a lot of articles about. Good job.

SPORTS NEWS STORY

Weekly 1

1. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon
Machias Valley News
Observer
Local cross country moment
Pretty good lead, then a great story well told.

2. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Basketball Athletes, Spectators
Good lead. Good explanation of complicated and changing local rule making.

3. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sports News Story
Good lead. Good explanation of complicated rule making.

Weekly 2

1. George Harvey
The Maine Monitor
Under represented: Numbers lag
Excellent article detailing the issues that prevent or discourage women from becoming coaches. I can really relate to the work-life balance portion as a former cross country coach. Well-written and informative.

2. Eric Conrad
The Maine Monitor
Pennsylvania community places hope
Fantastic story about how a new wrestling coach is helping to breathe life back into a high school program plagued by declining enrollment and other economic issues. I am not a wrestling fan, but thoroughly enjoyed reading this. Great work making the story subject very relatable to the average person.

3. Mike Mandell
Mount Desert Islander
MDI rallies, reflects in aftermath of tragedy

Great human interest piece. The author did a stellar job reporting on the details of basketball games while also including reactions to the tragic death of a beloved community member.

Daily/Weekend

1. Travis Lazarczyk
Morning Sentinel
Six Colby College female
Great that your story forced this issue into the open. Lot of good examples from the complaint. This is a story that could bring change.

2. Steve Craig
Portland Press Herald
Hazing incidents
Disappointing that school officials 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 touch on both sides of the story.

3. Travis Lazarczyk
Portland Press Herald
After year in the red
Very strong news story, with good supplementary information like charts of revenue for past five years. Did well to get multiple sources, compare other states in region. Old editor once aid only thing that's "critical" is condition of a patient in the hospital, that "crucial" is the word you should use instead since it's not life and death.

SPORTS HEADLINE

Weekly 1

1. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Cutting-edge excitement
Laughed out loud when I saw this headline, although it might have been better if the main hed was just "Cutting-edge excitement" and the rest was included in a subhead. Realize this was just the headline portion of the contest, but the page design would be better if you varied the point sizes on the heds to guide the readers around the page.

2. Staff
The Piscataquis Observer
Anglers fishing to end food insecurity
Smiled when I saw this headline. Picked just the

right verb.

3. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Basketball Athletes, Spectators Look to Rebound Against COVID
Nice use of word rebound as the verb, though might have used "athletes" instead of "athletes." Wondered if the spectators are truly trying to rebound as well, but I think, against a pandemic, it's valid.

Weekly 2

1. Bill Pearson
Boothbay Register
Meader sticking around for another UMaine field hockey season
Short, snappy headline with active vigorous verbs.

2. Mike Mandell
The Ellsworth American
A home away from home
Headline is a succinct, clever play on words summing up the story.

3. Ken Waltz
The Courier-Gazette
Meatballs' saucy play enough to outlast Maritme
Great headline and word choice. Ranking it third as its a little long.

Daily/Weekend

1. Bill Stewart
Kennebec Journal
"Mountain of a Man" for Sept. 4, 2021
Simple but effective — the definition of a great headline.

2. Wil Kramlich,
Joel Matuszczak
Sun Journal
Court adjourned
I like the use of an unusual word — adjourned — in a sports headline.

3. Joe Grant
Portland Press Herald
Stag Nation
Excellent use of a pun that also accurately describes the event.

SPORTS PROFILE

Weekly 1

1. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
Sports profile
The story itself is obviously inspiring, but the writer makes the subject stand out with a deft blend of quotes and medical detail. The lead is excellent, as it gives the reader a vivid idea, in just a few lines, of Lavoie's challenges.

2. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Shook makes final hoop
Excellent example of capturing an episode

of sportsmanship. The quotes from Shook convey both her gratitude and disappointment.

3. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon
Machias Valley News
Observer
High school senior recruited
This is a topic that in less capable hands can 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.

Weekly 2

1. Eric Conrad
The Maine Monitor
Pennsylvania community
Clearly the work of a writer who has learned that deep reporting makes great writing. Words alone are never enough. This is a story that works because of a blend of history and the present. Wonderful profile that closes, in a sense, a circle.

2. Mark Haskell
The Courier-Gazette
After life-altering health
A profile that reminds readers that there are things in life more important than winning. Clearly the writer had established the trust to gain such access.

3. Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Republican Journal
Homeschooled trio races
A fun story about. A wonderful opening paragraph that draws a reader into the story.

Daily/Weekend

1. Drew Bonifant
Morning Sentinel
New Winslow High baseball coach
I like the start to it all, shows LaFountain's personality and sense of humor. Quickly helps me get to know her.

2. Wil Kramlich
Sun Journal
'Heck of a ride' for Vikings
Interesting aspect to the lede. Soehren is such a focal point of the story, it would be nice to get him in even earlier, but that would take out the Danforth lede.

3. Nathan Fournier
Sun Journal
'It's family to him'
Good lede, a different path to a sport is always nice, so often it's the same

story of parents or siblings introducing someone to a sport Great quotes in the middle section. Really get a feel for Pinch's personality and style.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 1

1. Bill Graves
The Star-Herald
Mainly Outdoors

2. Bill Graves
Aroostook Republican & News
Mainly Outdoors

3. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly 2

1. Greg Levinsky
Portland Phoenix
'Game on' by Greg Levinsky
A columnist rooted in the community who brings voice and history to his work. Keeps the focus on the subject, not on himself.

2. Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Republican Journal
Will new Super League change
So enjoyed reading this writer. Learned something — as did readers — about a nice sport and league.

3. Paula Roberts
The Lincoln County News
On the Trail
A reminder that sports is not just about games, venues and arenas. A nice voice to look beyond the obvious.

Daily/Weekend

1. Travis Lazarczyk
Morning Sentinel
Sports columns by Travis Lazarczyk

2. Drew Bonifant
Kennebec Journal
Sports columns by Drew Bonifant

3. Lee Horton
Sun Journal
Dropping Dimes

SPORTS PAGE DESIGN

Weekly 1

1. Lanette Virtanen
Houlton Pioneer Times
Sports Page Design

2. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Sports Page Design

3. Cheryl Stabinski,
Natalie Boomer,
Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser

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

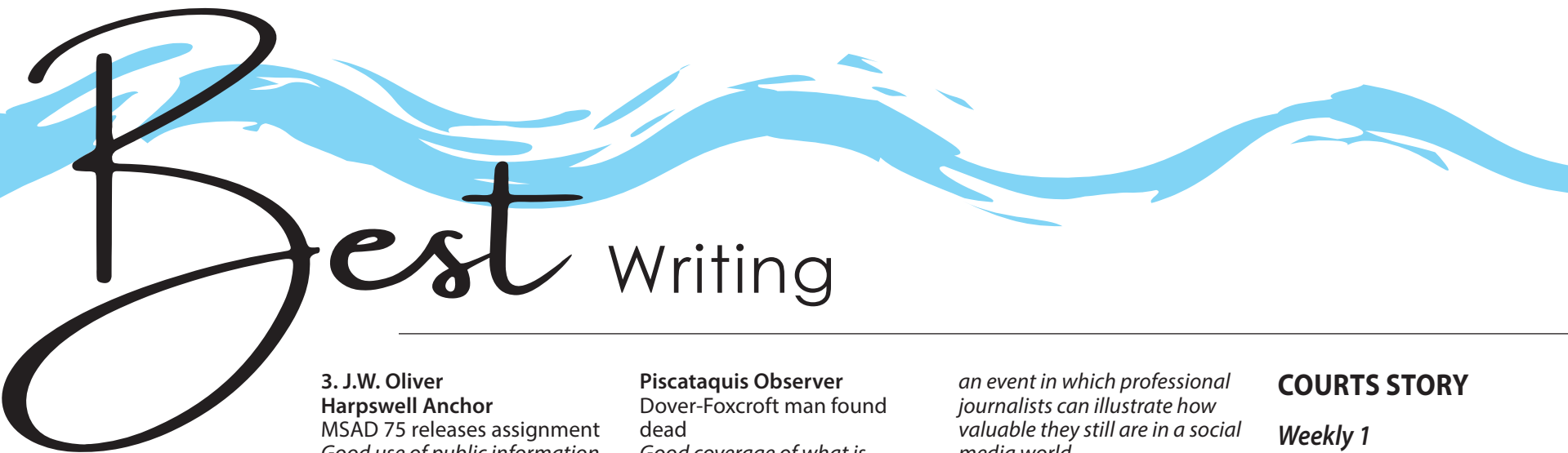
from purely a design standpoint. Anchoring the page with your best photo and making it dominate the page would be more impactful. And even though you have lines around stories and photos, I still thought some of the photos corresponded to the story on the right and not above or below. And even though 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 to run 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 larger 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 teases 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 teases 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.
3. Bill Stewart
Morning Sentinel
Sports page design from July 25, 2021
Fantastic photos with rodeo package. Nice balance with prep story at bottom and Olympics. Only slight criticism is VARSITY MAINE label is so big and bold, it kind of draws your eye, even when downpage. Maybe a smaller version when not the centerpiece?



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 stolen. 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
Nominees 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
Undoubtedly well read because of widespread community interest and difficulty in understanding such a complex subject.

3. J.W. Oliver
Harpswell Anchor
MSAD 75 releases assignment
Good use of public information request to shed light on hot-button education issue with more details than the school system wanted released.

Daily/Weekend

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 struggles with guilt
Unique approach to the 20th anniversary coverage and a coup for the paper to reach out to this 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.

SPOT NEWS STORY

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. Editor was on top of the story and getting information needed. Excellent use of resources.
2. Paula Brewer
The Star-Herald
Police fatally shoot 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
Mount Desert Islander
Fire tears through portion
Thorough coverage of fire affecting local hotel. Well-written and numerous sources.
3. Evan Houk
The Lincoln County News
Fatal October Crash
Writer did one of the hardest jobs 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!

Daily/Weekend

1. Matt Byrne
Portland Press Herald
Bureaucratic error: Driver
Great example of taking a somewhat routine, albeit tragic, story and digging in to uncover a significant failure that contributed to the crash. Excellent public service.
2. Abigail Curtis,
Lauren Abbate
Bangor Daily News
Blaze destroys Belfast potato
Very thorough coverage of a major fire — the epitome of

an event in which professional journalists can illustrate how valuable they still are in a social media world.
3. Judy Harrison
Bangor Daily News
Cops, prosecutor and selectmen
A challenging reporting task that was done thoroughly, rapidly and well.

POLITICAL STORY

Weekly 1

1. Kay Neufeld
The Franklin Journal
Organizers, campaigns buckle
2. Kay Neufeld
The Franklin Journal
Youth-led 'green' organization
3. Kay Neufeld
The Franklin Journal
New Sharon's 'Vote No' movement

Weekly 2

1. Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Camden proposes easing density
2. Andrew Howard
The Maine Monitor
Make your case, await the verdict
3. Douglas Rooks
The Maine Monitor
Lawmaker pushes to restore parole

Daily/Weekend

1. Colin Woodard
Portland Press Herald
One year on, the Jan. 6 attack
Exceptional writing and vivid storytelling, congratulations!
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 lawyer
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 high caseloads.
2. Judy Harrison
Bangor Daily News
Maine passed a law to prevent
Story that is even more timely now than when it was published about a version of "red flag" gun safety laws, how successful it can

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 Potila St. John Valley Times
Investigative Report
These are thorough and incredibly important reports. Their communities 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 amount of background, historical and foundational information. It felt like all of the right questions were asked. I finished these articles feeling like I have a firm understanding of the situations that unfolded, and left me with no unanswered questions - a great accomplishment for these reporters. A bit of constructive feedback: This appears to be a big enough news week for this publication to have gone with a bolder package on the front cover to amplify this quality reporting. Consider how the page may have benefited from a strong six-column photo with an embedded, bold headline, followed by the three articles paginated cleanly and orderly. Instead of shoehorning in two additional stories on the cover for a total of five, consider what the design would have accomplished by giving the three school stories room to breathe, kicking the other two inside. It was a big news day, and the design should reflect that. From a reader usability perspective, the jump pages could have been less haphazard. It would have been more user-friendly to jump all related stories to the same page. Hats off to Hannah and Jessica for a job well done!

2. Jayna Smith The Calais Advertiser
Florida Woman Seeks Answers
Sniffing out a possible murder mystery in time for the Halloween edition is clutch. Kudos on the timing of it all. It appears the paper worked with the historical society and the source to uncover information that is of the utmost importance to a particular person; in addition to helping this person find answers, the story has enough intrigue that it also appeals to a mass of readers - demonstrative of good news sense.

Weekly 2

1. Samantha Hogan The Maine Monitor
Eavesdropping in Maine Jails
Impressive and detailed look into a very troubling practice occurring in Maine jails. Well-written and thorough.

2. Chance Viles, Drew Johnson, Rachel Vitello

Forecaster
Homeless in Cumberland County
Informative three-part series about a crisis that seems to be hitting all metropolitan areas in the country. Writer did a nice job personalizing the crisis while still presenting the cold hard stats.

3. Rose Lundy The Maine Monitor
Maine's effort to address
Very informative story about important health issue in a state with many homes built before 1978. I also liked the fact that the writer found that many of these homes are being rented to new immigrants, who might not know of the dangers of lead paint.

Daily/Weekend

1. Josh Keefe, Erin Rhoda, Callie Ferguson Bangor Daily News
Maine State Police misdeeds
This wins for the careful work done to hold those who enforce the law accountable to the law themselves. The contrast between state policy and actual practice is stark. Diligent use of records and interviews makes this a strong report.

ANALYSIS

Weekly 1

1. Kay Neufeld Livermore Falls Advertiser
Domestic violence victims face
Excellent analysis making the story real and bringing it home.

2. Valerie Royzman The Piscataquis Observer
What we know about
Excellent analysis that informs well.

3. Kay Neufeld The Franklin Journal
The Better Living Center
Clear story localizing national issue.

Weekly 2

1. Samantha Hogan The Maine Monitor
15-minute phone calls from jail

2. Kate Cough The Maine Monitor
How 'green' is Maine?

3. Samantha Hogan The Maine Monitor
Defense lawyers say system

Daily/Weekend

1. Andrew Rice Sun Journal
A neighborhood that people want
Stories about planning can be deadly reading but this story draws together details on a major plan that affects a lot of people. What moved this to the winner circle was finding another city that went through a similar process, foreshadowing what locals might expect.

2. Peter McGuire Portland Press Herald
The tables have turned
Readers get important context of what's happening in the labor market, drawing together the pieces to explain the puzzling nature of today's work force.

3. Kaitlyn Budion Morning Sentinel
Broader testing
This chronicles an unfolding environmental crisis that gives

readers a clear understanding of what caused the issues, why it matters and what's being done to protect the public.

CONTINUING STORY

Weekly 1

1. Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli, Melissa Lizotte The Star-Herald
Fort Fairfield town budget
Important and consistent reporting on topics that directly impact the paper's citizens. Writing reflects heightened tensions without flaming the fire. Takes readers through step by step decision making and important context for readers. Ledes are intriguing and make this reader want to read more.

2. Valerie Royzman The Piscataquis Observer
Moosehead resort proposal
Consistent and thorough reporting from start to finish. Covers large swath of situations and takes from the community members up to the officials calling the shots. Important reporting on something that is of great impact on the community.

3. Dan Dunkle, Susan Mustapich The Camden Herald
Montgomery Dam
Coverage is consistent, doesn't miss a beat, and is important and impactful reporting for the community. Offers differing views and perspectives, while also outlining the history and "how we got here" component that is so important for contextualization.

Weekly 2

1. Barbara A. Walsh The Maine Monitor
Unsafe Homes: Children in Peril
Haunting, evocatively written story that hooks reader early and holds attention.

2. Barbara A. Walsh The Maine Monitor
Deaths of Despair
Excellent reporting and humanizing of a story many communities are dealing with.

Daily/Weekend

1. Matt Byrne Portland Press Herald
State error lets deadly driver
Nice investigative piece that clearly lays out the issue. Good use of public records, public officials, covered bases for contacting officials. Plus, it forced officials to take action quickly. It would be a nice addition if the reporter wrote "how I got that story" column.

2. David Marino Jr. Bangor Daily News
Delta Thermo Energy
Excellent investigative reporting that is so needed to check out so many claims of firms bidding for public projects. I suspect this company will fail in its bid thanks to the coverage. Good watchdog example of why the press is needed to ask the hard questions when public agencies seem to fail at that.

ARTS/LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Weekly 1

1. Kay Neufeld Livermore Falls Advertiser

'Bigfoot in Maine' author
How can one not enjoy an article about Bigfoot? This was a fun one to read, and it was interesting learning about how the "Bigfoot in Maine" author coaxed folks who are typically reluctant to tell her about their experiences.

2. Kay Neufeld The Franklin Journal
'Woodsqueer': Farmington author
Great article with a catchy headline. It was interesting to read, especially the author's explanation of what "Woodsqueer" meant to her.

3. Melissa Lizotte Aroostook Republican & News
First Pride festival in County
This article caught my eye as newspapers in conservative areas often don't cover events like Pride. It was great to see that your newspaper did. Nice work on the article and finding several sources.

Weekly 2

1. Barbara A. Walsh The Maine Monitor
From child refugee to "proud"
A well written piece that captures some of the life that Moon experienced as an Ethiopian refugee in Maine, a mostly white state. The story is heartbreaking at times from the racism and the drive to present oneself with dignity, and it ends on a powerful note.

2. Sam Allen Harpswell Anchor
The Harpswell Sound
A fun look back at another life that these four women had singing in an all-female barbershop quartet.

3. Barbara A. Walsh The Maine Monitor
Keeping a culture alive
The writer does a wonderful job of maintaining the excitement of the drum gatherings while conveying some of the issues that bring people to it.

Daily/Weekend

1. Ray Routhier Portland Press Herald
Portland has changed
A clever story idea, one readers sense, but don't know about. Takes a storyteller to see the story — or smell it — and then write something that makes readers say: "That's right."

2. Greg Levinsky Morning Sentinel
On their first Mother's Day
Finding new angles for Covid coverage is hard. This writer came up with something I have never read about. Very good idea and well executed.

3. Steve Collins Sun Journal
"If she can paddle, why can't I?"
Writing about the past can be tricky. How to make it interesting. Nice story here that weaves the past and and makes it relevant. Very good ending, too

FEATURE STORY

Weekly 1

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 interweaving of background information. Just a fun read!

2. Valerie Royzman Piscataquis Observer
One man's retirement
Interesting story about how one man's retirement will have a wide-ranging effect on local dental health. I also liked the subtle plays on words in the lede — gap & fill. Good job by reporter in showing how one man's life decision can have a cascading effect on others in the community.

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

Weekly 2

1. Vanessa Paoella The Maine Monitor
Lack of data stymies efforts
Really a well-composed report. The content was shocking and engaging — well-structured, rich, succinct and diverse quotes, great sub head execution. Article reads at the right pace - a clean read with continuous momentum the whole way through.

2. Rose Lundy The Maine Monitor
Tiny Coopers Mills reeling
Lede is great scene setting. Frank's story an excellent touch of human interest and a heartbreaking account the readers can feel through the page. Well-researched, cited with a variety of sourcing. Great use of distilling national news on a local level.

3. Chris Wolf Penobscot Bay Pilot
Dramatic 911 call
A great story that would otherwise have gone untold should this reporter had not been there to capture it. Lots of interesting bits that make it a fun read.

Daily/Weekend

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

2. Kelley Bouchard Portland Press Herald
Room at the inn
Excellent use of scenes to tell an important story.

3. Megan Gray Portland Press Herald
Man deported to Guatemala
Well-told story filled with human emotion.

FOOD STORY/FEATURE

Weekly 1

1. Dan Dunkle The Camden Herald
New England boiled dinner
Fun cooking article with good history. strong writing.

2. Joseph Cyr Houlton Pioneer Times
Food Story

3. Paula Brewer Aroostook Republican & News
Restaurant offers uniquely

*Innovative approach to pizza.
Kept reader engaged.*

Weekly 2

1. Colin Ellis
Portland Phoenix
Food for thought
A well written 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 capturing the subject, Bill Baker, and showing the impact he’s had on the local restaurant industry and his commitment for his students.
3. Marina Schauffler
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 for 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 102, 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 mujadara.

RELIGION/
SPIRITUALITY

Weekly 1

1. Kay Neufeld
The Franklin Journal
Franklin 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
Harpswell Anchor
Dingley Island cancer survivor
This was an interesting read and well written.

Daily/Weekend

1. Gillian Graham
Portland Press Herald
`A 21st Century Shaker story’
What a great read. The description takes me there.
2. Amy Calder, Jessica Lowell, Greg Levinsky
Morning Sentinel
Central Maine faithful celebrating
3. Sun Journal Staff
Sun Journal
Power of Faith

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Weekly 1

1. Alison McKellar
The Camden Herald
Alison McKellar
Combination of compelling topics, solid research, and wonderful writing. A clear notch above all other entries. McKellar’s voice and passion and thoughtfulness shine through her writing.
2. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
Machias Valley News Observer
From the desk of...
There is a conversational style 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 Gray
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 Schauffler
The Maine Monitor
Sea Change
In-depth, thoughtful, research-oriented.
2. Diane O’Brien
Penobscot Bay Pilot
This Week in Lincolnville
Meaningful, raw, authentic, nice blend of observing the inevitable and pointing out the oft overlooked.
3. Natalie Ladd
Portland Phoenix
Natalie Ladd: Leftovers
Well written, personal, authentic, written with purpose.

Daily/Weekend

1. Bill Nemitz
Portland Press Herald
Bill Nemitz
Well done pieces. Most importantly, pointing out the foibles of people taken in by “alternative” medicine. And the bridge lighting piece is just ideal to lift spirits by profiling people who get things done for the betterment of all. 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.

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CRITIC’S AWARD

Weekly 1

1. RJ Heller
Machias Valley News Observer
Book Review by RJ Heller
Very strong lede and nut graf. The plot summary was comprehensive without getting into the minutia as is easy to do when writing a book review. The review itself was thoughtful and thorough.

2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Critics Award
The reporter did a great job of visually showcasing the middle school’s performance by getting some great shots of the kids and in print with solid writing.
3. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
Critic’s Award
Very thoughtful review of the school’s musical.

Weekly 2

1. Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News
Brunch, Please! River House
Very 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” flow of it made me feel quite welcome.
2. Nan Lincoln
Mount Desert Islander
It’s a good musical, Charlie Brown
The writer clearly loves theater, and is familiar with the players, but had the guts to point out a flaw here and there — a “critical” critic — which makes me believe what they write is an accurate critique of the performance.
3. Lisa Kristoff
Boothbay Register
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 in creating a theater presentation with multiple actors via Zoom. Entertaining.

Daily/Weekend

1. Judy Harrison
Bangor Daily News
Monmouth Theater’s Sofonisba
2. Judy Harrison
Bangor Daily News
Portland Mad horse Theater
3. Jorge Arango
Portland Press Herald
‘Freedom, A Fable’

FEATURE HEADLINE

Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Math Tests, Spelling Tests, and...
Pooled Tests
Very clever, without knocking the reader over the head with puns or cliches. Headline creates intrigue.
2. Staff
The Piscataquis Observer
Feel like a kid at Maison de Chevre baby goat yoga
Love myself a good goat pun. Right tone for this type of piece.

Weekly 2

1. Barbara A. Walsh
The Maine Monitor
Child homicides are the tip of Maine’s ‘iceberg of abuse’
This headline is the perfect mix of informative and attention-grabbing. This is a great example of using part of a quote for headline, which can be difficult to do correctly. It’s a gut-wrenching headline for a gut-wrenching story.
2. Letitia Baldwin
The Ellsworth American
A loom with a view

Though this headline is short, it makes good use of a play on words without being too vague. Loom is specific enough that it gives a good idea of what’s being talked about, even without more information being given in the headline.

3. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
From Allium to Zinnia and All the Blooms Between
The idea of a play on ‘From A to Z’ with flower names is really fun, and ‘All the Blooms Between’ is almost poetic. However, it almost feels like the name of a guide to flowers, and with just the headline it’s hard to tell it’s a feature on a gardener.

Daily/Weekend

1. Mark Mogensen
Sun Journal
Dentophobia? There’s relief.
Here’s the drill. Clever and made me smile. Fits the story perfectly.
2. Brian Robitaille
Portland Press Herald
Beans to an End
Very clever.
3. Brian Robitaille
Portland Press Herald
Portland’s evolving scents of place
Nicely done.

NEWS HEADLINE

Weekly 1

1. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Icy review: Alna complains about plowing contractor’s response to Jan. 5 conditions
Both engaging and informative
2. Kay Neufeld
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Whiplashing weather whacks local winter activities
3. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
The night that the lights went out in Alna

Weekly 2

1. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette
It takes a village to raise a park
Great hed; has a little wordplay and captures the focus of the story well.
2. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County
News Retro Restaurant in Waldoboro Has Customers
Asking for S’more I like it, the play on words is nice. Makes it stand out to the reader.
3. Hal Madsen
The Maine Monitor
Maine’s pollen problem is nothing to sneeze at
Nice wordplay and it’s appropriate!

Daily/Weekend

1. Universal desk staff
Kennebec Journal
“Winging It”
2. Kathryn Skelton
Sun Journal
Hold the thongs! Look before giving
3. Nate Thompson
Portland Press Herald
The cranes behind the operation

EDITORIAL

Weekly 1

1. Dan Dunkle

The Camden Herald
Camden Hills students
Peters out a bit at the end but presents good news-you-can-use (hotlines, websites, etc.) and paints a clear, compelling portrait of a major social issue.

2. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Hold the expletives
Overly preachy and undercuts its own point at several points, but at least I feel like it was written with a general audience in mind.

3. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
Read this
Unclear. No idea who the target audience is (fellow journalists, maybe?).

Weekly 2

1. Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News
Reestablishing Tradition
Clean, compelling, clearly written with target audience in mind. Strong use of authorial voice.
2. Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
McCrum fire brings devastation
Clean, hyperlocal, strong message. Evident (and deserved) pride in community.
3. Kendra Caruso
The Republican Journal
City’s eminent domain attempt
Clean, simple but direct. Hyperlocal and written with target audience in mind. Watchdog journalism. Could maybe have benefited from getting a quote or two.

Daily/Weekend

1. Tie Ben Bragdon
Morning Sentinel
Our View: Some wisdom
Powerful message written without finger-wagging. Excellent angle that no doubt spoke to your readership and would have value in every community across the country. Great local anecdote for jumping off on the topic.
1. Tie Ben Bragdon
Kennebec Journal
Our View: Response to Drug Crisis
This is another powerfully written and clear-throated opinion.
2. Greg Kesich
Portland Press Herald
Local zoning drives
This is a principled and stern message regarding human dignity and housing and a commitment to make it better. No doubt it resonated in the community, and is applicable all across the nation.
3. Judith Meyer
Sun Journal
Poetic justice for a man
Unique take on local history and issues tied to international civil rights figures. A solution-oriented suggestion at the end adds punch.

OPINION COLUMNIST

Weekly 1

1. Reade Brower
The Camden Herald
Common Sense
Strong authorial voice, presents some challenging arguments in his writing that are worthy of thought.
2. Ruth Leubecker
Machias Valley News Observer
The View Downeast

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

3. Paula Brewer
The Star-Herald
Walkabout: Aroostook
First column is a little weak, but second column was stronger with more of a personal perspective.

Weekly 2

1. Shlomit Auciello
The Courier-Gazette
Letter From Away
Sharp writing

2. Marina Schauffler
The Maine Monitor
Sea Change

3. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
After Deadline
Photojournalist's accounts of how stories come 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. Douglas Rooks
Kennebec Journal
Unvaccinated Mainers
A very close second. Writer uses plenty of both national and local examples and makes his arguments well. Strong writing and good narrative flow.

3. Amy Fried
Bangor Daily News
Trump looms large
A little workmanlike but makes compelling, effective arguments with good referencing. Not the most original thinking, but very good at showing the receipts.

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Weekly 1

1. Bob Bryson
Machias Valley News Observer
The editorial cartoons of Bob Bryson
There is only one cartoonist in this contest.

2. Bob Bryson
The Calais Advertiser
Bob Bryson, Cartoonist

Weekly 2

1. Glenn Chadbourne
The Lincoln County News
Editorial Cartoons
The art is extremely skillful and the art style suits a newspaper perfectly. Additionally, the messages are clear, even without, or with only very little, text.

2. Tom Brudzinski
Harpswell Anchor
How Lobsters Celebrate
The theming around the lobster is really fun, I particularly enjoy the art of the lobster in the pumpkin. There doesn't really appear to be much of an editorial message, but the cartoons themselves are fun and enjoyable to read.

3. Joe Marshall
Mount Desert Islander
Editorial cartoons
The art is really good, especially the drawing of the groundhog. 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 temps, Masks
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 of us.

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 topic issues. A lot to process with extraneous wording and subtext.

OUTDOORS STORY

Weekly 1

1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Outdoors Story
Effectively turns a retirement story into a more engaging profile, while still maintaining the news hook.

2. Valerie Royzman
The Piscataquis Observer
Sled dog teams brave the cold
Lede draws 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 taking a small story and drawing out both what the city has to offer and what is lacking for boaters.

Weekly 2

1. Rose Lundy
The Maine Monitor
Bicycling alone, no more

2. J.W. Oliver
Harpswell Anchor
Accessible to all, Strawberry Creek

3. Ken Waltz,
Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Courier-Gazette
Whiskey flows: Splash downs

Daily/Weekend

1. Deirdre Fleming
Portland Press Herald
Woman embraces another winter
Extremely well told, put readers right in the story.

2. Vanessa Paoella
Sun Journal
The art of getting lost
Really fun — and interesting — first-person story. Love the packaging and the quiz.

3. Deirdre Fleming
Portland Press Herald
Birders cap off 2021
Fascinating story, very well told.

ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

Weekly 1

1. Paula Brewer
The Star-Herald

A voracious insect is coming back

2. Pam Harnden
The Franklin Journal
Impact of locally spread sewage

3. Valerie Royzman
The Piscataquis Observer
Dam reconstruction

Weekly 2

1. Kate Cough
The Maine Monitor
Staggering \$1.5 billion lithium
Really interesting piece on an important topic, great reporting, excellent lede and kicker.

2. Kate Cough
The Maine Monitor
Maine's prime farmland
Very effective lede that gives the reader an on-the-ground look at the overarching issue. Overall this is an interesting and well organized and researched piece. First-place quality but I 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'
Solid writing style. strong content. Easy to follow and encouraged me to want to finish the article/ created interest.

2. Tux Turkel
Portland Press Herald
In northern Maine, forestry
Strong use of imagery language.

3. Jordan Andrews
Portland Press Herald
New research raises concerns
Informative and topic driven. Moved along naturally.

BUSINESS STORY

Weekly 1

1. Valerie Royzman
The Piscataquis Observer
Moosehead area businesses
The writer does a great job of balancing the proposed economic boosts with residents wondering whether it's worth the loss of the area's soul.

2. Pam Harnden
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Greenhouses find ways
An in-depth piece about what local greenhouses experienced during stay-at-home orders — from infestations to newbie g ardeners.

3. Pam Harnden
The Franklin Journal
New Sharon orchard grows
A fun story about a post-retirement endeavor that also has some interesting angles about what sort of work happens on an orchard.

Weekly 2

1. Kate Cough
The Maine Monitor
'Dark store' theory: Walmart
A fascinating topic, with excellent use of data collected by the reporter.

2. Eric Conrad
The Maine Monitor
Headwinds at 20:
Great look at an industry in transition on multiple fronts.

3. Janine Pineo
The Maine Monitor
Help needed! Maine tourism
Good lede, comprehensive reporting with lots of voices.

Daily/Weekend

1. Peter McGuire
Portland Press Herald
Maine summer tourism relies
Excellent story about how much of the state economy has been dependent on low-wage foreign student workers and how unprepared employers were to respond to Covid-19 and other travel restrictions.

2. Kathryn Skelton
Sun Journal
New Mainers, new jobs
Well-researched story about how immigrants are working hard to start new lives and succeed after arriving, inspiring stories that are not told often enough when immigration is under attack.

3. Lori Valigra
Bangor Daily News
Squeezed by low prices
Insightful story about how the economic downturn caused by the pandemic and related upheavals are hurting even well-established businesses.

EDUCATION STORY

Weekly 1

1. Melissa Lizotte
Aroostook Republican & News
Colleges, businesses unite
The author of this piece did a great job taking a simple partnership story and turning it into a broader topical enterprise. They included a great use of student quotes, as well as insight from education leaders and business owners. By looking deeply at the impacts of this partnership on both the education and business sides, it gave the story needed balance and further demonstrated its importance to more readers.

2. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Education Story
This journalist wrote clearly and concisely. The article flows well and comes across very fair and balanced. They used quotes and data well, and did an excellent job showing how to take a public meeting story and turn it into a more in-depth issue piece.

Weekly 2

1. Rose Lundy
The Maine Monitor
As COVID-19 surged
This story included great data, quotes and balance. The introductory chapter was especially strong. I would love to have seen more faculty data at the end to round out that section.

2. Andrew Howard
The Maine Monitor
Education officials
This story has an excellent grasp on the point where politics meets education. The journalist has a strong understanding of state funding and the historic moment of this funding. Their writing style is conversation and makes complex information accessible to more readers. That said, since this is an education entry, I would have liked more input from teachers and families on what what effects we can expect to see in the classroom. There's also more work on this topic to explore in terms of equity issues. How are lower socio-economic schools impacted by this, for example? More rural schools?

What disparities, if any, are there with how the funding is distributed?

3. Isabelle Curtis
Boothbay Register
BRHS grads reflect
This story flows nicely and makes great use of the quotes and data. I was impressed by the subtle watchdog elements woven in. While this could have easily been a simple feature on students, the writer was able to highlight the students while quickly delving into meatier topics. Well done.

Daily/Weekend

1. Rachel Ohm
Portland Press Herald
Educators in Portland autism
This is an example of quality investigative and watchdog reporting in education. The journalist was clearly well-sourced in an arena of education that can be very difficult to access. The story is balanced, fair and thorough. It holds educational leaders to account while showing the deep impacts of staffing challenges and other obstacles facing educators today. I would have liked the story to include parents and/ or student insights as well, but this piece does a great job really looking into the world and responsibilities of the teachers.

2. Rachel Ohm
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. I would have loved to have a teacher's voice in it as well, but very well done.

3. Vanessa Paoella
Sun Journal
Auburn bus drivers share
This article 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 about an often under-covered group of workers. They included statewide insights and watchdog angles, 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
Clear-eyed look at a problem that is seen in so many places across the country.

Weekly 2

1. Tie Chance Viles
American Journal
Westbrook Police hope to add
Engaging writing style and

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,
Braeden 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.

Best Online

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 Cultural Ambassador
Really great character feature. Well done and

engaging.
3. Roger McCord
The Maine Monitor
The Antique Car Show

Daily/Weekend

1. Troy R. Bennett
Bangor Daily News
OOB Christmas tree bonfire
2. Russ Dillingham
Sun Journal
Cat On A Hot Thin Roof
3. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Protest & March

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
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.
2. 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!
3. 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!

Daily/Weekend

1. Derek Davis
Portland Press Herald
A new face in the lifeguard chair
2. Troy R. Bennett
Bangor Daily News
From log to bike rack
3. Derek Davis
Portland Press Herald
Maine kids on eating lobster

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
The Rock and Art Shop
3. Marcie Coombs
Bangor Daily News
Downtown Bangor Partnership



GREGORY REC, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD

Best Special Categories

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Weekly 1
No entries.

Weekly 2

- 1. Samantha Hogan**
The Maine Monitor
Eavesdropping in Maine Jails
What happens in small places when officials think no one is watching. The importance of the press, especially in cases of city councils, school boards and the like, is borne out in this series. Coverage certainly made a difference. Excellent work all around.
- 2. Christine Simmonds, Dan Dunkle**
The Courier-Gazette
Thomaston secret highway
Excellent use of sources, great job of telling the story in a series of articles that are easy for readers to understand. Editorial stance is exactly was needed in this case. This is an example of community journalism that every paper should know and learn from. The press cannot be bullied.
- 3. J.W. Oliver**
Harpswell Anchor
MSAD 75 homework assignment
Not much in the way of a Freedom of Information case. Disturbing? Sure.

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Staff**
Sun Journal
Freedom of Information
The tenacity of the Sun Journal is apparent - and essential. While not every FOI fight is major, each one makes clear to public officials that they will be held accountable to the community. This sort of diligence should be replicated and it is the range of pursuit that makes this the winner.
- 2. Staff**
Portland Press Herald, Bangor Daily News
Freedom of Information
This is a remarkable and important collaboration between competing news organizations. The message to government agencies is pretty clear

that efforts to conceal public information will be met by vigorous press moves to counter 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/Weekend

- 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 papers 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 overstacked where you could have made better impressions 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 Island

grabbed my attention more often compared to the other entries. Overall, a very strong publication with great ad count and well-designed ads throughout. Very nice work!

- 1. Mount Desert Islander**
Good classified and real estate sections with useful news content. Like the Hancock 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 small space ads like the Mainely Vinyl ads running on several pages were well done. They caught my eye and I looked at every one of them. I also liked the draw your teacher section. Too bad it wasn't sponsored by a local business or businesses. Good job on having a variety of ad focused pages throughout the paper. These group efforts standout and are an important way to offer smaller space advertiser a way to stay in the paper on a consistent basis. Nice job on having a sponsored Athlete of the Week ad. Out & About – good section with a ton 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 have 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's section 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 issues 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 often. I'm sure this could have easily gone the other way depending on what issue was submitted. Lots of shared ads and classified section. 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 upcoming Games of the Week in sports! Out & About – good section with a ton 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 have 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 additional 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. Like the Pet Adoption, Spirit of the Season and Christmas by the Sea pages. My only suggestion on these 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 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 Directory. Like the Garage Sales broken out in a yellow box. Glad to see you are selling larger Help Wanted ads. Really helps these ads standout as well as the flow of the Classified section. Good job of selling a mix of quarter and half page ads in color. Nice, large front page ad. Like the Home and Garden pages with news related to the ads – but horoscopes seems out of place? Nice Shop Local and Best of the Best sections.

Comments on other entries

The Courier-Gazette: This was a really strong entry and was almost a finalist. I realize this publication is somehow produced in conjunction with The Republican Journal. The biggest difference between these two publications came down to the individual design of the ROP ads. It was razor close between these entries but in the end, The Republican Journal ads stood out to me more often. Nice ad count in each paper. Good job to your ad staff for selling a lot of ads. Strong classified section with lots of ads. Nice Best of Ballot section with very strong ad count. Home and Garden section has great ad count. Pages appear busy but the ads are also news so they work. Really like the “tis 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 snippets 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. Holiday Shopping 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

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

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

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

Daily/Weekend

- 1. Portland Press Herald**
This newspaper looks supported in advertising in all 3-issues including car, furniture and smaller retailer/events. House ads are well done, I like "There's much more at Thepressherald house ad particularly. It is strong in real estate which is not as common these days. The service directory is full with small businesses. The nurses week is very nicely done including layout- great idea! Maine Today appears to be doing well, particularly for the frequency of print and a recovering pandemic. The holiday gift guide—WOW! This is amazing to see such a well- supported shopping section. Very strong package to readers with all of these items and the multiple sections. Great work. (Editorially—we really enjoyed the Thanksgiving edition with the What To Be Thankful For. Well done.)

2. Kennebec Journal
This newspaper has a great variety and participation of ads from the full page to the 1x1. Therefore it is well supported by the community. Great thought on the house ads. Downtown Quarterly looks great. The Sports Sigs are very well done, the format mixing in with the local sports is a brilliant idea. Classifieds are strong and like the car ads mixed

in here. The Nurses week is a great idea, however, layout was a bit busy on these pages and not as well done as other paper who participated.

3. Morning Sentinel
This newspaper has good participation of ads including the Shop Small pages. The Classified section had support from display ads making it very full and easy to look through. The Sports Sigs are well done and the format of mixing in with sports is a plus. Varsity Maine house ad is very nicely done. Humane society is a fun ad/ reader content—even if not looking for pet. From furniture ads to birthdays this paper had a good mix of advertising participation.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE DIGITAL

Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald
The most comprehensive, easy to navigate and attractive of the three entrees, 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/Weekend

1. Portland Press Herald

2. Kennebec Journal

3. Sun Journal

GENERAL EXCELLENCE PRINT

Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald
This publication has the most unique and differentiating content of all newspapers reviewed; most of the other publications borrow articles and information from its umbrella media group – oftentimes with the same headlines and story play verbatim. Cleanest design - easy to read, an obvious hierarchy to stories on pages ... thoughtful execution of larger, bolder headlines. Great news judgement on the covers, from business development, important ballot information, property transactions – most all of which include imagery or photos. Comments: 09/16/21 Edition: Between the hairlines and the tan screen behind the photo, an attempt was clearly

made on the 9/11 image on the Sept. 16 edition to separate it from the rest of the coverage on the cover; however, the image could have used a headline to further further distinguish itself from the Mill Pond property story. Appreciate the consistent use of editor notes and explainers through out the pages. The 9/11 guest column would have been better served prior to the anniversary, rather than post-anniversary in the Sept. 16 edition. Love the utility in some of the content like the court news, the house ad directing readers to single copy sales of the paper, the tide chart, deed transfers and the real estate section. The Sports teasers on the Sept. 16 edition could use more pep, and the headlines would be better served as three decks rather than four. Also in this sports section, it'd be beneficial to change up the column widths so that they're not all three columns. By making one story three, the next two, and the following three columns would add to readability and general aesthetic. Home & Garden header could use a spruce. Comments: 12/30/21 Edition: Important storytelling on the dams story. The cover illustration could have used an explainer. Conversely, the live image on A2 of the dam may have been better served on the cover rather than the illustration. Having the actual photo on the cover may have helped readers more easily grasp and identify the dam's location and impact. Great image! The illustrations on the inside have excellent explainers and are well-positioned to wrap around the story. The subheads in the story add to the ease of reading and provide clear transition points in the story. The Waterpower story could have benefited from being treated as part of a "package" with the dam story. The Year in Review feels underplayed as positioned and designed. Nice use of a pull out quote on Page 5 to break up that wall of text. Again, changing column widths between stories would make A8's content more easily readable and distinguished between the obits and the jump pages. Comments: June 10, 2021 Edition: Cover story could've used a headline in the blank space above the marching grads to utilize negative space better. Love the decision to prioritize a person with a LGBTQ+ flag on the cover - demonstrates a commitment to diversity and inclusion when possible. Excellent

coverage around worship services resuming and off-street parking changes. It must have been a conscious decision to NOT include the actual swastika graffiti with the news story – and I think that was an admirable choice. By not using that image, you chose to not perpetuate hate symbols in print.
2. Houlton Pioneer Times
Comments: 6/09/21 Edition: Coverage and photos of graduation shows real commitment to hyper-local coverage and an important part of serving community-wide interest. Section B: I don't know what the lead headline/story is Solid Memorial Day coverage; an event that's always ripe for a few photos. Cover teasers are squeezed into their boxes, sometimes overlapping rules and text. Comments: 9/15/21 Edition: Firefighters photo also was a strong piece of storytelling by itself. Strong mix of stories on the cover ... BUT a common theme throughout all sections is that headlines don't differentiate. Cover teasers are squeezed again. I found the bodyguard story interesting; perhaps even under-played. Lots of names on the sports pages, which is great. Too much play-by-play in sports game stories. Take advantage of being a weekly and find a feature/ trend/profile to build stories around. The police info is terrific, and I know readers love it. It might be worth running it like sports agate, or at least a smaller size than body copy. Use hairline rules between the columns to help readers' eyes. Like many of the headlines, photos are played at similar sizes. Give one photo — the best image — bigger display than the others. Hierarchy with headlines and photo sizes will communicate what's important to readers. Comments: 10/13/21 Edition: Again, the teasers are too tight on the cover. Strong strip story across the cover of this edition. Lots of great content on this cover ... Retirement story could have used better display than a soft one-column "news hole." Would have liked to see some kind of info box with the domestic violence story. Strong photo and good story; "where can I get help?" or police data on DV in our communities would have made a nice package even better. I liked the newsy mining story, too. Inconsistent byline for Joe Cyr on the cover. Again, too much play-by-play for sports coverage. I wonder if the Covid story on Page 6 might be

under-played. I don't have context for how much Covid coverage you've had week to week. Three stories on the B Section cover don't have bylines; are those rewritten press releases? Again, virtually no differentiating among headlines and photo sizes. What's important? Where should I look first? Hairline rules would help between columns on Police calls and sports schedule/ results.
3. Aroostook Republican & News
Content seems to be hyper-local and largely services Caribou. Good mix of local stories - from 9/11 coverage and community events, to hard news relating to Covid-related struggles in daycare, schools and federal grants in relation to how it will affect the county the newspaper serves. A clear hierarchy on the covers - love the large display of the cover images. Noticed that some stories that run in Aroostook also ran in other papers in the same media group. I don't mind the double-dipping as it relates to the area, but changing the headlines and integrating additional information from this specific newsroom would make for a unique read, notably the "People keep leaving the county" and the "potato crop" story had the same heads and treatment in all other newspapers. Design is pretty clean and consistent - especially that little "swoosh" treatment on the obits, viewpoints and business sections. Appreciate that consistency. Like that the teasers on the cover have room to breathe. The obituary notices font is hard to read and the gray screen is too dark. The plumpest baby record being broken could have been a contender for the front cover – a super local story that a community newspaper could treat differently. Hairlines and jump lines are consistent.

Comments on other entries

Piscataquis Observer
Comments 6/11/21 Edition: Solid news judgment on cover ... unfortunately, agate-style content displayed in regular copy font. Felt odd for a news hole. Weak headline on solar panel story; this is huge news, with big impact. 67K solar panels. And the head simply states it was a ribbon cutting. Front-page tease on track is mundane. Tell me more than the event happened. Cutline on solar panels story repeats info from the lead graph of the story. Consider cutlines "display type" and an

opportunity to add to the story. Is the lede story on Page 3 a press release? No byline. Strong Opinion page ... great to see all of the letters from readers. No quotes in the Hall of Excellence story. Seems like a missed opportunity. No quotes in sports stories. Is the back page a paid ad? Comments 9/17/21 Edition: Good story mix, strong photos on the cover. Stuart Hedstrom with four cover stories! Good choice to put lighter / trend story on disc golf. Nice packaging and photos on the back page. Hunter story is great; love the element asking for photos; but where is a photo?? Page 3 history story was interesting read; surprised to see very old AP photo with the story; entire presentation would have been helped with labeling or an explainer for context. Covid vax story feels buried on Page 5. Solid sports coverage ... lots of local names! Good read on Execter / Mountain biking. Too much play by play for a weekly ... take the opportunity to tell better stories about the fans, coaches, players, boosters ... Pg. 7: Healthy Living ... no bylines. Is everything a paid ad? Pg. 8: Rerun article from four years ago. "Please" on jump lines are polite, but not necessary. Beautiful church picture in the middle and a really great story about fundraising, could be on the cover. Park story is a great local piece, but could be better without back to back quotes and more information. Comments 11/26/21 Edition: Good photos / story play for state champs. Love that the paper went bold and made it a six-column photo ... don't be afraid to make that headline bigger. ... Extra exclamation points are a bit of an overkill. Stories overall have too much play by play for a weekly Holiday story is a timely piece, good packaging on the jump. Page 3: All press releases? Registration during the printing process is poor (Page 2). Consistently strong Opinion pages. School story is well done. Good utility (news you can use) with electric bill piece. Selectboard or Select Board?
St. John Valley Times
Lots of great entry points on the pages. Headlines could stand to be shorter and snappier - perhaps with assistance from a subhead or two. Cutlines could be more distinguished with a bold or different front from the body text. Too much play by play on the sports pages for a weekly. Stories are mostly data and could be reduced to

an agate font, with more focus on the players and the stories that surround them. The "Things to Do" page is a great addition to a local publication - nicely localized. Great use of color for elementary school story. Inconsistent placing of sections for every week like "things to do" and obituaries. Reader will find them easier if always in the same area of the paper. Style was different in at least two editions. Cutlines well-distinguished from body font. Story ledes could be more snappy and engaging.

Weekly 2

1. Portland Phoenix
This tabloid newspaper is attractive, well-written and the design is appealing without being overtly flashy. Coverage had a comprehensive mix of government, lifestyle and features, as well as some investigative stories as well. Attractive ads are nicely placed, allowing designers room to work on each page. All three covers did an appealing job of melding the headline type with the photos. We enjoyed the editorial page writers, as well. If I lived in Portland, I'd make sure I picked up a copy of this crisply presented weekly, well, weekly to read over lunch.
2. Harpswell Anchor
What we most appreciated about The Anchor was that for a monthly publication, the staff does not try to overload the cover with stories. Each cover worked organically. In addition, it is obvious that whoever writes the headlines puts some effort into using and playing with the language. The inside pages are well laid out and the ad stacks leave plenty of room for designers to maneuver. Stories are well-written and edited, as well. Someone at The Anchor pays attention to detail in both the editing and design of the paper, which we appreciated! Perhaps the only criticism we would have is the photography could be improved and better cropped. For instance, when there's a personality profile, run a photo that is much closer to the subject instead of far away. Overall, The Anchor does an admirable and professional job of reporting Harpswell news on a monthly basis and presenting it in a visually appealing package. Residents are lucky to have such a professional publication in their small community.
3. Mount Desert Islander
We were surprised by the number of broadsheet publications entered in

this competition! That said, the Mount Desert Islander did the best job of cohesively using all of that extra space to present a visually appealing and understandable design. Unlike some other entries, the editors do not try to shoehorn too many stories and photos on the cover and actually make the decision for the reader as to what the most important story is on Page 1. However (there's always a "but," right?), there were stories where only a few lines of the cover story were on Page 1 before we hit the jump. Maybe one less cover story would have provided space for a better design? Just a thought. On the plus side, we appreciated the play many photos received, especially on Page 1. If you have the room, play those photos big! There's a lot of news in the Islander and on occasion that leads to very gray pages, which was a drawback. All three Arts covers were well done, using type, photo cutouts and other

design techniques to create attractive covers. The Islander's news, lifestyle and sports coverage appears to have the community completely covered on a weekly basis in what, by today's journalism standards, is an unwieldy package.

Daily

1. Bangor Daily News
What impressed us most is the all local front pages, all local bylines and stories that not only report the news, but give readers insight, context. Lots packed onto the section fronts. The Daily News series "Unguarded" on Maine Army National Guard and sexual misconduct was well sourced, detailed and compelling. Covid coverage was on top of the issue. One offs, such as the couple that died within days of each other, also points to looking for the unusual, unique, compelling. (Suggest running a Covid numbers chart daily. More graphical,

explainer elements needed). Layout was clean, page reproduction clear. Local sports layout and stories draws in the reader, adds some excitement to the mix. One critique: Jump pages are too gray and inside pages a bit staid, rote looking.

2. Portland Press Herald
Lots of local bylines on A1. Compelling mix of news, good crime reporting with context, depth. Following the Covid numbers always important, and presenting it clearly with stories and graphics was well done here. Didn't really like the back page Sports front that jumped inside, but the design is nice and we can live with it. What I like about sports is the layout and one should try that from time to time on A1. Also, front page photos were not too compelling, ie. building pictures. Do like the Page 2 "More online" teaser at the top. Funny to see an Oregon story (Dutch Brothers) on the business page. Inside pages were a bit gray, need breakout,

pull quotes. Subheads are also too small. Sell the story, don't tell the story. Your local columnist present a nice voice for local readers. Overall good presentation, layouts, and press reproduction.

3. Morning Sentinel
Lots packed into A1 and lots of focus on people — people affected by govt. decisions. Good entry points on A1. Photos of people important, as are the locator maps and graphics, but they tend to run a bit too small. Many papers put so much effort into the front page, that they forget some art would play better and be more reader friendly on inside and jump pages. Sports layout is exceptional. Try that on the front from time to time. I liked the Maine Compass logo, but was unsure what it was meant to represent. Too much nation/world in the A section, but perhaps your readers demand that. I'd push more local up front and nation/world to the back. Like your local

columnists and the sharing of content with other papers to give it more of a regional feel. Overall, excellent work by what is likely a small, yet talented staff of reporters.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE PRINT

Weekend

Overview Statement:
These papers represent the best of local journalism. In an era of diminishing resources, the leaders of all these papers are clearly committed to serving readers. I would subscribe to all of them. And I would eagerly await receiving them at my home each Sunday.

1. Maine Sunday Telegram
Each Sunday paper was an example of outstanding journalism that serves readers. Wonderful photography, layout, column, stories and opinion. Very clear that the goal of everyone from

the top editor on down is focused on giving readers an outstanding paper. Great mix of national, regional and local news. Impressed with having the Maine Millennial Column. In addition to praise given to top leadership and reporters and photographers — the people named in the pages — this paper's impact rests on the foundation of those not in the public — layout, copy editors, city editors and assistants. Great work here from a true team.

2. Bangor Daily News
This is a paper rooted in the community. Front pages of sections full of stories and work from staff, covering and explaining issues and people within the community. An example of how a paper builds ties with readers, who know the paper and the people who work there are part of the community, but still report on state and national issues.

3. Sun Journal
Excellent sections, well-written and photographed.

Thank you

to the Maine Press Association's 2022 contest partner, the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Don't miss next year's conference:

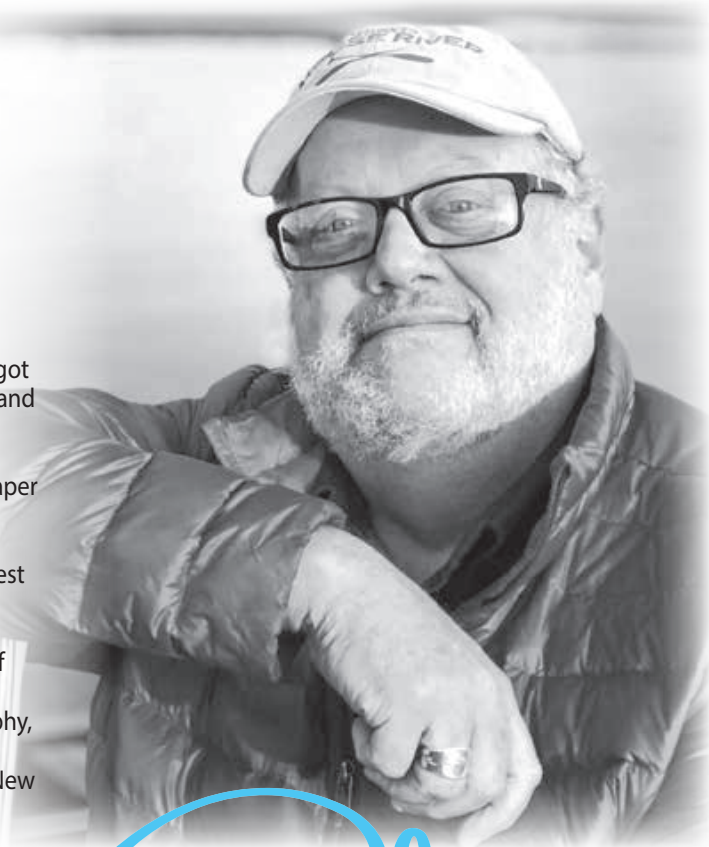
October 14, 2023
DoubleTree by Hilton, South Portland

2022 Maine Press Association
Hall of Fame Inductees

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

Earl Brechlin

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.



Chris & Paula Roberts

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.



2021

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 shepherded 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.

2022 Individual Awards



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 acclaimed awards. Her commitment is boundaryless. While on vacation visiting a friend in Norway many years ago, she arranged to receive a fax so she could edit and critique an editorial on a particularly sensitive and potentially controversial editorial. 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, her sales results are proof. She has exceeded her sales goals in 17 out of the last 18 months. Melissa's sales generate almost one third of the entire advertising sales revenue and what makes this particularly extraordinary is Melissa is an inside salesperson who does 100% of her business by telephone and email. She is confident, dedicated, cares about her customer's interests, resilient, perceptive, and fully understands the value of what she is selling...She has turned around many underperforming special sections into 3-part in-paper series which is not only a boom for revenue but a win for advertisers. Melissa not only works on all the inside sales projects but is also the Recruitment Specialist and her recruitment performance is spectacular. Melissa doesn't rely only on her current and past customers; she is always pursuing new advertisers. In the last 12 months she has generated over 66 new, active customers. Melissa has excellent communication skills and is always willing to help or give ideas to her co-workers.



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, a source, a good question, a helpful approach to a tough interview or a worthy perspective. As a journalist 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.



MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION
On the record since 1864