

2023 Better Newspaper Contest Results

Advertising - Circulation	Division	Place	Name	Newspaper	Headline	Judges Notes
Local Ad	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Weekly Packet	Support your local chamber members	I love the design.Great ad! Well done!
Local Ad	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News Observer	Helen's famous blueberry pie	Love the recipe. I am a huge blueberry fan. Vivid imagery. Well done!
Local Ad	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Island Ad-Vantages	Island Agency	Great legacy ad.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Pumpkinfest Sale	Great use of color and information
Local Ad	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Composing and Advertising Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Stanley Subaru	Nice thought out ad!
Local Ad	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sam Allen	Harpswell Anchor	Moses Dyer Coffee Roasters	Very simple, yet effective
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ben Cyr	Bangor Daily News	Cornerstone Barbershop	Very eye catching design. The use of black and white in this ad really catches my attention then the use of the yellow really makes the ad pop.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Claire Hanley	Portland Press Herald	Toy Fund	This is very clean ad that has a direct message.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Marcie Coombs	Bangor Daily News	Saturday Nighters	Very colorful ad.
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Weekly Packet	Summer Guide	Beautiful cover photo. The layout of the magazine with the photos and stories looked great. Nice use of color throughout. Headline usage in the circle was cool. All content flowed well together. Very nice!!!
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith, Ebonica Carson, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	International Homecoming Festival	Stories and photos all flowed nicely showcasing your festival. Maybe next festival do something really cool design wise on the cover introducing the festival.
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 1	3rd Place	John Cross, Ad Design & Sales Staff	Camden Herald	Knox County Best of the Best Results	Great cover layout. With it being a results publication with so many ads I think the placement of ads and results were well done.
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Farm and Table	I really enjoyed the cover and the articles. This was well put together!
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Made in Lincoln County	Another amazing magazine. God layout and cover.
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Dunkle, Ad Design & Sales Staff	Republican Journal	tis the Season	love the layout.
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Amy Allen & Sports Desk	Bangor Daily News	Basketball Preview	
Best Suppl/Special Sect.	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Nancy Fickett, Jennifer Gendron Carleton	Sun Journal	Veterans Day Special Section	

Best Suppl./Special Sect.	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Callie Picard, Amy Allen	Bangor Daily News	Discover Aroostook County	
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 1	1st Place	Christine Dunkle	Camden Herald	KnoxBoBResults	Amazing cover! Draws you in!
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Castine Patriot	Holiday Entertainment	Love the way Christmas is portrayed through the kids!
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Island Ad-Vantages	Spring Fever	Colors are vibrant and great!
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Dunkle	Republican Journal	WaldoBoBResults	This cover is a clear winner to me. I love the 4 local photos used. Most covers would only show 1 photo. But this is works better showing all 4 photos. All local. Great job!
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Amber Clark	Lincoln County News	Live from Lincoln County	Excellent subject matter that goes along great with this magazine. I am a drummer and this appeals to me. Good cover design.
Best Suppl. Cover	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Composing, Editorial, Advertising Teams	Mount Desert Islander	Out & About Downeast III	Great photo to go with this title. Design is great.
Best Suppl. Cover	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Callie Picard	Bangor Daily News	Maine Forest Products	Beautiful work! Incorporating the trees into the main font of the cover was a great idea and really made your cover go the extra mile.
Best Suppl. Cover	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Karen Hamel	Morning Sentinel	Back to School	This is a very colorful, eye catching design that fits perfectly as a "Back to School" program.
Best Suppl. Cover	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Lindsey Frappier, Molly Adams	Times Record	Fall Home Improvement	This is a very clean cover that is very bright and enticing.
Best Young Reader Engagement Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Ad & composing team and arts editor	Ellsworth American	Youth Art Month	This is wonderful/ Greatest up and amazing design.
Best Young Reader Engagement Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Staff	Advertiser Democrat	Advertiser Democrat - Kids Edition	Love the info and the crossword. Great implementation of what they learned with the crossword.
Best Young Reader Eng. Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Jayna Smith, Ebonica Carson, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Downeast Basketball Review	lovve to see the recognition!
Best Young Reader Eng. Idea	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Times Record	Spirit of the Holidays Through Children's Art	I love that this campaign published the children's own work.
Best Young Reader Eng. Idea	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Holiday Hoops Basketball Tournament	A great way to highlight young athletes.
Best Young Reader Eng. Idea	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dawn Tantum	Morning Sentinel	Thanksgiving Word Search	Visually appealing and great for all ages. Good job!

Best Circ. Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Circulation and Composing Staff	Mount Desert Islander	25 on the 25th	This small ad had some great growth for the newspaper - and that's important! Simplicity at its finest.
Best Circ. Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Circ, Ad and Composing Staff	Ellsworth American	Get the Scoop	Whenever two entities can promote each other, it's definitely a win for the community!
Best Circ. Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Castine Patriot	Give the gift of connection	We all want CONNECTION!
Best Circ. Promo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Sun Journal 175th birthday celebration	This project sounded like a great success in bringing up the number of subscribers by demonstrating what your newspaper has been doing for the last 175 years.
Best Circ. Promo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	David Greer, Melissa Pritchard	Portland Press Herald	Reasons to Give	This was a well thought out campaign using your own staff to promote what your newspaper can offer them if they subscribe.
Best Circ. Promo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Morning Sentinel	The Perfect Gift Subscription Offer	
Campaign/ Series	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Ad and Composing Staff	Ellsworth American	Downtown Ellsworth Shop Local passport	This a great campaign not only for the newspaper but for the local businesses as well.
Campaign/ Series	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Advertising and Composing Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Swan Agency	This campaign was very cleanly designed and flowed well on the page which is sometimes a struggle with real estate pages.
Campaign/ Series	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Suzanne Piecuch and Natalie Ladd	Portland Phoenix	Building the Phoenix brand: House ads	This campaign is great idea for branding the newspaper with fun ads in the paper each week. Great job!
Campaign/ Series	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Sun Journal 175th birthday celebration	An amazing accomplishment celebrated in a fun and educational way!
Campaign/ Series	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	MDI Biological Lab: Amazing Discoveries	Not only is this educational, but it brought revenue to the organization. Great idea!
Campaign/ Series	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Times Record	Community Matters	I love that this campaign found a way to spotlight a non-profit while also bringing in revenue to support the endeavor.
Self-Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Ad/Composing Team, Chausa Tra and Tracy Scheckel	Ellsworth American	Daily Planner Calendar	Have not seen one of these advertising planners for a while. Very detailed. It would persuade me to run some ads if I were in that shoe. I love the messages of to the side and showing the deadlines. Clear winner. Excellent!
Self-Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Staff	Calais Advertiser	MPA Awards	Excellent way to show off the awards you won. smart to devote a lot of space to show all of these awards. Love the ribbons and the use of color.
Self-Promo	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Sam Allen, Janice Thompson	Harpowell Anchor	2022 Harpswell Anchor Annual Report	This is a great piece. The amount of donors is impressive. That is something the all nonprofits need to do.
Self-Promo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Sun Journal 175th birthday celebration	This was no small undertaking and it showed in the end result. Well done!

Self-Promo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Best 75 Restaurants	These are always great ways to engage readers and businesses alike. Nice work incorporating all you did.
Self-Promo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Morning Sentinel	Carriers of the Year	Simple, clean and effective and recognizing a group who often only get complained about when the paper isn't on the doorstep or mailbox. Nice work.
New Revenue Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Composing, Advertising and Circulation Staff	Mount Desert Islander	NIE Wrap	What a wonderful idea!
New Revenue Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register	Christmas advertising section	Very engaging!
New Revenue Idea	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Ad, composing and Sports Staff	Ellsworth American	Athlete of the Week	Great way to engage local business with
New Revenue Idea	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Michael Blanchet	Morning Sentinel	Central Maine Athlete of the Week	Very creative idea and I love that they knew which of their reader population would be most likely to get involved in something like this!
New Revenue Idea	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Times Record	Celebration Pages	I love this for its simplicity. It's something that wasn't hard to implement but produced quite a bit of revenue! The production cost was also very low so it didn't take much of an initial investment.
New Revenue Idea	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	The Launch of HOMES	This was a great rebranding because they still kept the core content, but just expanded on it to include other sources of advertising revenue. I also appreciate their adaptability in how they recognized a problem and implemented a long term solution.

ONLINE

News Video	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	The 60-Hour Bridge	This took a lot of planning. The one thing missed in the execution of this video was there should have been a VO.
News Video	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Camden Fire Dept., ME Forest Ranger pilots	Would have been first if the audio had been balanced throughout — the helicopter taking off nearly ruined my eardrums with headphones on. The speaking part should have had the volume bumped.
News Video	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Wiscasset Newspaper	Runway of happiness	This was the only video to incorporate VO, but the overall production was far less than the other entries.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Troy R. Bennett	Bangor Daily News	Diving for ghost gear	Great videography, especially the underwater shots! Nice addition of music. The voiceover was great and the interview was clear and interesting!
News Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	New Mainers Take Root in Wales	Great use of aerial videography. Did a great job of mixing live video with still images. Sound quality was good and interviews were meaningful!

News Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Christmas Coastal Flooding	Great raw video showing really good action shots! Also did a great job of showing different perspectives and conveying scale.
Sports Video	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	Catching 90 mph baseballs	This is an amazing video. Love how it not only shows the sport but the athlete behind it.
Sports Video	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Blue Devil Nation	Very well done hype video!
Sports Video	Weekly 1 & 2	No Winner	x			
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Derek Davis	Portland Press Herald	The Route 1 Boxer	By far the most complete video package submitted even though there was no actual video, just photos. VO was clear and story was compelling.
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Lost Valley Ice Cross	Could easily have cut 30-40 seconds to speed up the overall storytelling. Needed another interview — or one which was a bit longer...
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Hip-hop Exchange	Would have loved actual audio from the event along with an interview with one of the hip-hop dancers.
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	Inside the Penobscot Narrows Bridge	Great use of photography and sound to tell bridge's story
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	From Mexico to Maine	Great storytelling and use of sources
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Wiscasset Newspaper	Strawberry Festival returns	Superior effort for a small paper. Nice interviews
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Loving Life on a Lake Lighthouse	Between a unique story and beautiful shots, this video was very encapsulating. Great storytelling through film. Nice use of of the drone.
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Troy R. Bennett	Bangor Daily News	You don't need to be a musician	From the great intro to the amazing storytelling, I loved this video. Great job at getting a wide variety of shots. I liked how the bands music played in the background, and it wasn't too loud to be distracting from the interviews.
Feats/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Shawn Patrick Ouellette	Portland Press Herald	Artist Amy Goodness	This is a really great story and it's portrayed very well through the images you chose. Great variety of angles and sound quality is great.
Digital Ad Camp	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Advertising and Composing Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Stanley Subaru Weekly Flydown Series	Multiple ad campaign. for the car dealership. relatable and eye catching. WELL DONE!
Digital Ad Camp	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Ad staff	Ellsworth American	EA//Bud Connection Obituaries eBlast	I love a good e-newsletter. This is a good ad. Especially for the. funerals.
Digital Ad Camp	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Blue Devil Nation	This was a fun video, sometimes the words were a bit hard to read with black background. Otherwise, well done.
Digital Ad Camp	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ted Duguay	Portland Press Herald	Evergreen Credit Union	Evergreen Credit Union - Balloon ad. Great use of movement to catch viewers attention.
Digital Ad Camp	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Kennebec Journal	Clark Marine Winterization	
Digital Ad Camp	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Times Record	Topsham Tractor	

Photography-Design

News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Bagnall	Star-Herald	PI Landfill	Powerful photo that speaks to me regarding the topic at hand. I also appreciate the journalist's forward thinking of setting up this stinky photo. This show medication to the craft.
News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Holly Vanorse Spicer	Camden Herald	Polar plunge	Great action. Good timing. All around good photo. Great pre-positioning by the photog.
News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Scott's Place 2.0	I enjoyed the timing and the way the photog captures the event.
News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Jessica Picard	Harpwell Anchor	Fireworks at Garrison Cove	Nice composition of what is certainly a big community event
News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Malachy Flynn	Mount Desert Islander	For whom the bells toll	Nice moment
News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Lincoln County News	Firefighter Memorial	Emotion is clearly on display in this photo
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Michael G. Seamans	Morning Sentinel	Homeless flooding	This photo brought tears to my eyes before even reading the cutline.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	The Line is Drawn	This photo shows division, emotion, social issues and more in one snap shot in time. Well done.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Linda Coan O'Kresik	Bangor Daily News	Vet handshake	A heartwarming photo in a world with so much division.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Fire Destroys Downtown Business	The composition of the photo, with the slightly red light illuminating the remnants of the house, adds to the somber atmosphere of the moment. The photo successfully conveys the profound loss and challenges Carl is facing, and it serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience and strength of individuals in times of adversity. The photographer skillfully captured a powerful and emotional moment, making this photo a compelling and impactful piece of visual storytelling.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Ronie Strout	Machias Valley News Observer	Belfry Collapse	The photographer's skillful composition and timing have resulted in a visually compelling image that not only documents the incident but also preserves the memory of this significant piece of history. By highlighting the architectural details of the belfry amid the ruins, the photo evokes a sense of nostalgia and reverence for the past.

Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Starting off on the right foot	The contrast between the young, green students and the matured, yellow surroundings symbolizes the potential growth and development of the younger generation. It serves as a powerful visual representation of the transformative nature of education, where these students, full of potential, are nurtured and guided to blossom into capable and confident individuals.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Natalie Ladd	Portland Phoenix	Taking it to the streets	The faces are great, perfect shot for the story.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Stephen Betts	Courier-Gazette	Pre-holiday storm batters Midcoast	Really tells a story.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Arrest warrant issued	Great angle, really put me at the scene.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Driver injured in rollover	
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Troy R. Bennett	Bangor Daily News	Bomb hoax	
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Michael G. Seamans	Morning Sentinel	Snow rollover	
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Ryan Malagara	Machias Valley News Observer	Up, up, and away in Lubec	I enjoyed the overall exposure of the image. The bird's-eye view makes the image.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Winter magic	I like the shallow depth of field captured in this images. The vibrant colors of the rose hips are amazing.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	On time and on budget	I like the leading lines from left to right. I enjoy how the image keeps my attention with various items captured in the image.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kip Wing	Mount Desert Islander	Quiet reflection	Great positioning and color.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Alex MacLean	The Maine Monitor	Camden	Great positioning and quality.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Glenn Billington	Courier-Gazette	Sea Smoke	Great reflection of local lifestyle
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Peak pike fishing	Exactly what I picture when I think of Fall in Maine. What a beautiful shot!
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Augusta fireworks	The light and the timing are fantastic.
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Michael G. Seamans	Morning Sentinel	Rodeo colors	I love the chaos the light creates and the caption was perfect.
People Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Please don't come any closer, Santa	The boy's expression makes this a winner. Other outstanding features: the candy in the boy's hands, Santa leaning toward the boy and you can see the smile in his eyes.

People Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	Woman musher makes history	A wonderful moment. What made this stand out from the other photos of people hugging was that you can see the expression on both faces; the hand about to touch the head adds to the emotion. The fur, jacket, number and the headlight provide context for the viewer, that this was some sort of competition in the cold and at night.
People Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Wiscasset Newspaper	Technology is great	The photographer chose a unique angle to illustrate this story
People Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kevin Burnham	Boothbay Register	First bus ride	I love this photo. You captured a great photo showing the mother taking a photo of here daughter and the excitement on the daughters face. I live that the daughter is in clear focus. Her hand is in a perfect position in that it doesn't block here face. Great job and congratulations on a great photo.
People Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Lincoln County News	Noyes	This photo does a great job in showing the expression of this elderly person. The design on the pages is great. Great photo!
People Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Lincoln County News	Spreading Cheer	I love the design of this photo. Also the focal point is great. excellent photo.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Greg Rec	Portland Press Herald	'Til the Cows Come Home	In this heartwarming photo, despite facing challenges from PFAS contamination, Fred's dedication to his heritage breed cows is evident, as they reciprocate the love and trust he offers them. The photograph captures a beautiful display of friendship and sadness, showcasing Fred's unwavering bond with his animals, as he cherishes every precious moment spent together on the Farm -- their home.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	"I'm Still Here"	Having weathered the storms of the Great Depression and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sally's determination to continue working reflects her unwavering passion for what she does. Despite her frailty, her eyes radiate the strength of her indomitable spirit, a testament to her lifelong dedication and never-give-up attitude throughout the store's rich history.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Andy Molloy	Kennebec Journal	Teacher salute	This photo captures a truly heartwarming moment. Only showing the back of Pat, the photo symbolizes a powerful tribute not only to her but to all teachers across the country, extending the meaning of salute to the dedicated educators who shape the future with their unwavering commitment and passion.

Picture Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Camden Herald	Cool rides: Toboggan racers	These photos are fantastic! They show all of the action, fun, and most importantly they show the reactions of the people in the photos! That is so important to show faces in photos.
Picture Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Joseph Cyr	Houlton Pioneer Times	Houlton Band of Maliseets	I love how all of the photos are showing a persons face, that is so important for pictures! These photos tell a great story while also being real and candid.
Picture Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Science, farming and positive energy	These photos tell the story so well, they give me a feel of gardening and what it was like to be standing there taking these photos.
Picture Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Alex MacLean	The Maine Monitor	The Unstoppable Ocean	Beautiful arial photos that tell a scary story of rising sea levels. Well done!
Picture Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jessica Picard	Harpowell Anchor	Harpowell Community Theater One-acts	The lighting was fantastic in these series of photos, helped capture the characters in the play. I loved each individual facial expressions of the cast members. Each photo is well thought out.
Picture Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register	Windjammer Days 2022	A lot of very beautiful photos capturing the towns celebratory day.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Michael G. Seamans	Morning Sentinel	Greaney turkey farm	Clear storytelling capturing all the work it takes for a turkey farm to prepare for Thanksgiving. Attention to submitted images played a big part in placing first. Only as strongest as the weakest and this entry shows this curation.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Shawn Patrick Ouellette	Portland Press Herald	Ukrainians find Refuge in Maine	Great work capturing what refugees are facing in Maine. It would have been great for a few more images with a wider span of time.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Michael G. Seamans	Morning Sentinel	Working homeless man in Waterville	These can be tough to follow as long as you did. Nice work. This might have placed higher if one or two of the weaker images were left out of the submission.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Elsie Theriault	It's hard to beat cute kids for a great feature photo, but this one captures action, emotion and cuteness all in one shot. Well done.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	David Cale	Machias Valley News Observer	Darker than a pocket	Light is the essence of good photography, and the photographer created an eerie and telling photo by using the lack of light in this image.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	"Please don't come any closer, Santa	This is a nice twist on the classic photo of a baby crying in Santa's lap. Of course Santa's scary at first. He's big and a stranger. This reaction, however, shows a level of both hope and skepticism.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Derrick Z. Jackson	The Maine Monitor	Puffin	Gorgeous photo full of detail! Tells the story of how these beautiful birds eat.

Feature Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Lincoln County News	At Work	I love the way the dark border of construction items showcase the women that does the work. Her smile is also very inviting, beautiful.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lizzie Heintz	Ellsworth American	Freezin' for a reason	A clever way to show a photo within a photo.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Rich Abrahamson	Morning Sentinel	Urban skier feature	excellent photo, love the depth of field.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Andy Molloy	Kennebec Journal	Kids play in driveway	The expression on the "boxer's" face speaks volumes.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Kennedy Park pool opens	great perspective.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Jace Cook Hits 1,000 Point Mark	A player enjoyed the historical moment while a photographer accurately captures the moment. Perfect timing with great photo quality showing the determined expression of the local star.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Joseph Cyr	Houlton Pioneer Times	Crashing together to head the ball	The photo beautifully captures the intensity of the fierce competition, showcasing the true spirit of sportsmanship. The stark contrast between the players' determination and the prevailing gender stereotypes is truly inspiring.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Ken Waltz	Camden Herald	Camden-Rockport Middle School girls	The photo vividly portrays the team spirit and the joyfulness of sports, drawing attention to the happiness and aspirations it represents.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	Photo Finish	Great action shot. I like the following: 1. The baseman's eye on the ball 2.The players focus on sliding to be safe. An amazing play at a base showing offense and defense in one image. Love the dirt that is captured from the player sliding.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Zach Lanning	Mount Desert Islander	Outdoor track	This image has the perfect shallow depth of field while maintaining enough sharpness and focus on the main subject.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ken Waltz	Courier-Gazette	Oceanside's Sophie Vose	Great shallow depth of field in the background. Timing was amazing while keeping the ball in the image.
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Winners and losers	
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ben McCanna	Portland Press Herald	Raining Champions	
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Devils upset Eddies	
Illust/Graphic	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Jeremiah Savage	Castine Patriot	MDOT three-year work plan	I love this map. It conveys the information so well. It's not too busy to where it's distracting from the information. It's so detailed and intricate. The only thing I would recommend is making the dots with the numbers a color to make them pop out more. Like making them the same red and the outline around the map.

Illust/Graphic	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Children's state books	At first glance, I didn't get that these were the covers of children's books. The angles are a bit awkward and they do look a bit stretched and wonky. But I love the cartoon vibe.
Illust/Graphic	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Rebecca Reinhart	Portland Phoenix	Lights, Camera, Inaction	I love the watercolor effect in the background. I assume it's a landscape of Maine. I don't know if it fits with the topic of movie makers, but it still looks beautiful.
Illust/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Jason Rathbun	Sun Journal	Pet-demic	This graphic is eye-catching and fun!
Illust/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	George Danby	Bangor Daily News	Malcolm X	As the only image on this page, the illustration was very eye catching.
Illust/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Sally Tyrrell Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Lobster farming	The graphic is bright and complements the layout well.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Memorial Day	The layout for this page is beautiful! The photos were chosen wisely, in my opinion, and they tell the story very well without reading the story. The story adds to the photos and gives the reader great context.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kelly Drake, Kathleen Tomaselli, Lanette Virtanen	Houlton Pioneer Times	Business Tribute	These photos were chosen very wisely, they make the story that much better and tells the reader all they need to know about the people in the story and the photos.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Fire Prevention Week	I like how this page is outlined, the important facts are at the top of the page and the ads are on the bottom. I love the colors as well, they made sections of words pop out more.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Letitia Baldwin and David Fickett	Ellsworth American	EA Arts & Leisure	The layout of this page flows very well and it is very eye catching.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Christine Dunkle	Courier-Gazette	CourierGazette_SpecialtyPg	With the main photo in the middle, this layout flows very smoothly and is not overwhelming to the eye.
Specialty Pg Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ashley Carter	Mount Desert Islander	Islander Adventure	This layout is very informational and includes a lot of pictures to see on the hike. I personally like the tab on the right with the map, hike information and directions. Great job!
Specialty Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Jason Rathbun	Sun Journal	Drawn into another world	I love everything about this. I love how everything has a comic book vibe. It's not too distracting either. I immediately want to read this story, it looks like it would be a fun read.
Specialty Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Sally Tyrrell Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Twice the yum	I love this cover. I like how the lobster is the center of attention and his arm being up helps to frame the headline. I think the font choice and the colors of the headline were a very good choice.
Specialty Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Jason Rathbun	Sun Journal	Derby devotion	I love the font choice on the headline. It shows so much motion and really ties the picture in. I also love how the text is at the same slant as the picture.

Front Pg Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Christine Dunkle	Camden Herald	FrontPgDesign	The page is not crowded and makes good use of typography. The use of the house icon as a frame is very well done, and all information is easy to find and flows well.
Front Pg Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Weekly Packet	The Weekly Packet 4/7/22	Very well organized and everything is spaced evenly. The page is not crowded and there is good use of white space.
Front Pg Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	St. John Valley Times	6/28/22 Front Page	I like the overall design, it incorporates classic newspaper design with fun colors and fonts
Front Pg Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Suzanne Piecuch	Portland Phoenix	What's next for Portland	This is the best designed front page in this category. Simple, but elegant. The use of space, shadow and art draw the reader's attention immediately to the main story, which is the point. Good use of color on the bottom.
Front Pg Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	John Cross, Christine Simmonds	Courier-Gazette	FrontPgDesign_092222	Wonderfully designed front page. Good use of dominant art to draw the reader in. Overall excellent art and story placement throughout.
Front Pg Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Dunkle, Jim Leonard	Republican Journal	FrontPgDesign	Solid front page design. Dominant art was a bit dark. But overall good use of art, spacing, headlines. Nice job.
Front Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Brian Robitaille	Portland Press Herald	November 27, 2002	I love the use of the element squares above the story. It grabbed my attention right away. I like the affect of the gradient between the picture and the text at the bottom. The map is also a cool feature to give more context.
Front Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brian Robitaille	Portland Press Herald	August 7, 2022	I love the cool crime board it grabs the readers interest very quickly and draws them into the story. The rest of the layout is very clean and organized.
Front Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Marla Hoffman, Patrick Cochran	Sun Journal	Legacy of Pain	I love the use of the artistic effect on the opioid bottles throughout the story. It really helps to guide the reader through. I also really like the blue border that separates the main story from the smaller ones one the sides.

Sections

Editorial Pg	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Camden Herald	Camden Herald	Great mixture of large issue and small local focus for editorials. Taking on the subject of mass shootings, then diving into a local cleanup problem is what it's all about.
Editorial Pg	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Aroostook Republican & News	Viewpoints (Editorial Page)	Seems wanting of a voice from the editor of the newspaper in addition to the letters, etc.
Editorial Pg	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Star-Herald	Editorial Page	Nice section of opinions from letter writers and guest submissions. Would like to see something from the paper's editor.

Editorial Pg	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Courier-Gazette	Courier_Editorial Pages	Great balance with side by side on public notice
Editorial Pg	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Commentary--editorial pages	Good reader balance and views
Editorial Pg	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Republican Journal	Republican Journal Editorial Pages	Good reader engagement and balanced views
Editorial Pg	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Portland Press Herald	The depth and breadth of these editorial/opinion section pages combined with really good graphic design (notably the election 'our choices' pages) along with more locally-based columnists than other entries was big factor in my No. 1 choice for your entry. I also felt the writing was good on all levels, notably columnist Victoria Hugo-Vidal. Usual letters to the editor, which seemed robust given the decline of letter writing (means readers are engaged) and plenty of editorial cartoons/comics. Small dings (do they matter much when in 1st?) were the election choices graphic being a stock graphic, not locally made. Then had a story in there on where energy comes from, odd for op-ed sections; and the Iraq piece centered prominently yet not local. Overall, though, really great sections and dedication. Thank you.
Editorial Pg	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Ben Bragdon and Megan Bachelder	Morning Sentinel	Editorial Page submissions	These entries are from same company apparently that owns Kennebec paper; and the shared content shows. In fact: one page (Oct. 23) is entered for both paper's submission. Mistake? Not sure, but either way hard to differentiate one better than the other with same columnists for most part. They're both really good products, which is why I give y'all a double second with Kennebec. Make sure to share the lobster bisque at the celebration party. Good job; I like that there is a lot of local content/columns, not canned syndicated stuff.

Editorial Pg	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Ben Bragdon and Megan Bachelder	Kennebec Journal	Editorial page submissions	These entries are from same company apparently that owns Maine Sunday paper; and the shared content shows. In fact: one page (Oct. 23) is entered for both paper's submission. Mistake? Not sure, but either way hard to differentiate one better than the other with same columnists for most part. They're both really good products, which is why I give y'all a double second with Maine Sunday. Make sure to share the lobster bisque at the celebration party. Good job; I like that there is a lot of local content/columns, not canned syndicated stuff.
Editorial Pg	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Sun Journal	SJ editorial sections	I thought the look back at past paper editorial opinions that are now considered gross was very brave of the paper's ownership and staff; well written, too, with good layout and photos for some historical perspective. Bravo. However, I dropped Y'all to third place because of the over-reliance on the same old, tired syndicated columnists that are rampant in these pages. Your competitors had much more local, Maine-native/focused commentary and columns than your pages did. If you'd found some local voices with locally important takes/opinions, I'd have placed you into 2nd place. Good work, though, and thanks for being brave with the introspection of the past.
Sports Sect	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith, Ebonica Carson, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Sports Section	Clean layouts and easy to digest and understand what is going on.
Sports Sect	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Ken Waltz, Mark Haskell, Holly Vanorse Spicer	Camden Herald	Sports section	Push some of this online rather than cramming it on a page. Nice work covering as much as you do.
Sports Sect	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ken Waltz, Mark Haskell, Holly Vanorse Spicer	Republican Journal	Sport section	
Sports Sect	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Zach Lanning	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth American Sports	
Sports Sect	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	The Lincoln County News	
Sports Sect	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Sports section	Complete sections with solid attention to detail on layout focusing on the images. Nice work.
Sports Sect	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Portland Press Herald	Clean layouts, nice use of big photos to draw in readers to great reporting.
Sports Sect	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Bill Stewart and KJ Sports Staff	Kennebec Journal	KJ sports sections	Dedication to features and highlighting of state softball tournament helped these pages squeak in for a third place.

Sports

Game Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	Katherine Langlais becomes 1st woman	This reporter did an excellent job combining coverage of the event and focusing on Langlais and her historic win. This article is engaging even for readers unfamiliar with the sport and event.
Game Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Bulldogs prove there's more to life	This story highlighted an athlete's personal story while providing an informative recap of the game. The interviews are strong and interesting to read.
Game Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Caribou's first SnowBowl	I appreciated that this story's unique local angle focused on how the event affected not just the athletes but the local economy and culture. Some photo captions were accidentally included in the body of the text.
Game Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Doug Warren	Harpwell Anchor	Family tradition of challenging	A wonderful story expertly told, as one would expect from a writer with his pedigree.
Game Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ken Waltz and Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Phoenix rise over Mariners	Nicely detailed account of a huge upset win.
Game Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	Medomak Valley Football Wins	A thorough and entertaining story on the title game. Well done.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Dave Dyer	Morning Sentinel	Wrestling: Maddie Ripley of Oceanside	This was well written with great quotes, but give your photo of Maddie and her stepfather/coach for putting this story over the top.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Oxford Hills overtakes Thornton	Great game coverage, and first championships are always a reason to dive into the writing.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	David Bailey	Morning Sentinel	A North boys basketball	Mr. Bailey writes a thrilling tale. I felt like I was in the gym when that last shot was taken. Kudos.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Foxcroft Academy opens Jim Robinson	A thorough and well-written, comprehensive story about the completion of a significant community asset.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	UMFK basketball coach explains reason	Solid news story about a topic of high community interest.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Two qualify for derby in Ohio	A fun but also newsy story about a long-standing local tradition with good supporting detail.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Cici Yu, Emma Sánchez, Kendall Richards	The Maine Monitor	Ugly side to harness racing	Best by far, or should I say a furlong? Great writing, great reporting and great use of quotes and stats. Well-researched story that will certainly educate your audience. These sorts of investigative stories remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their lives. Keep up the good work!

Sports News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Small-sided soccer should benefit	I bet this story grabbed a lot of readers' interest. It was very educational and insightful. I'm certain many of your readers enjoyed the report and commented on it to others at the office and at the kitchen table. Keep up the good work.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Zach Lanning	Ellsworth American	Referee shortage threatens youth sports	This is a problem nationwide and many, many sports reporters have told this story. However, you did an excellent job of reporting and writing on the issue with great clarity and scope. Great job!!!
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Larry Mahoney, Adam Robinson	Bangor Daily News	Many Maine high schools don't have	Very well written story about an important topic. Story is well researched and presents ideas in an easy to understand format. Very well done.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Craig & Drew Bonifant	Portland Press Herald	Why are fewer Maine students playing	Very well written. well researched and presented clearly.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	Former Bates football coach files lawsuit	This is important investigative journalism and is very well done. Story is fair and balanced. It tells us what has happened, what has been alleged but doesn't take a side or have any bias.
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	Maine coach is 1 of 3 women	I was very happy to read this very well done profile of a ground-breaking female coach in the world of men's collegiate basketball. The reporter hit all the bases with this profile, from the perspective of her being one of two female coaches in the nation; to adding in comments from a player on her impact; also good background info and some personal touches. Great article and it offers women and girl readers inspiration and a role model, something we should show more of in newspapers. Thank you.
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	County champions hope to inspire more girls	This was a very nice, not-too-long article on a fascinating sports issue: women wrestling. While female wrestling teams are everywhere in Texas, Iowa and Nebraska, it is a rare sight in the rural area of Maine. This article was filled with perspective-giving information; lots of quotes from a range of sources both coach, admin and athlete and showcased something that needs a spotlight. I feel we need more of these articles showcasing the "out-of-the limelight" sports and their participants, who are very passionate, as this story astutely relays to readers. Congrats and thank you.

Sports Profile	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Mark Haskell	Camden Herald	Christie, Kyli to put one foot	I felt this was a very well put-together profile of a neat person who is doing some cool things. I loved the weaving together of his website/adventure help "app" and the walking adventure he was about to embark on with his doggo. Good detail, quotes and information. If you'd added more than one source, it could've been a top winner. Either way, 3rd place IMO. Thank you for several quality entries.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	1st Place	Greg Levinsky	Portland Phoenix	'The closest thing to superwoman'	Very well written story with a great subject. These are the kind of stories that people want to read, inspiring and uplifting. This is detailed but not too long where the reader loses interest. Very well done.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Book on courageous Frisone is dedication	Very well done. Great subject and inspiring story. This is what local journalism is all about.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Barbara A. Walsh	The Maine Monitor	Maine woman's best shot pays off	Very well written story. In-depth reporting and excellent handling of a situation that can be very polarizing. I felt the story to be very politically neutral.
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Glenn Jordan	Portland Press Herald	South Portland swim team	Love htis story! Great pics as well!!
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Glenn Jordan	Portland Press Herald	Sea Dogs coach	You go girl! Awesome!!
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Mike Mandell	Kennebec Journal	Pieces of Augusta history headed to Baseball	Such a cool story! Love it
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Camden Herald	Time to lament loss of Bogaerts	Well-written, thoughtful consideration of the topic backed up by many specific examples and a clear point of view.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Bill Graves	Aroostook Republican & News	Mainely Outdoors	According to the contest rules, the three examples of this column were to be a single entry and so they were judged that way. This writer is articulate, knowledgeable and very specific in his recommendations and reasoning. There is good information for both novices and experienced sportsmen in the topics he covers.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Greg Levinsky	Portland Phoenix	Soccer the Universal Language: PHS' Bethune	Excellent features on relevant topics in the local sports community, but lacking a clear point of view that would be expected in a "column" entry.
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Dropping Dimes	Very well written and very engaging to the reader. Brings the reader into the story and makes them feel like they experience what the team is experiencing. I like the personalization of the story and the writer expresses his thoughts and feelings about the subject.
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	David Bailey	Morning Sentinel	Sidelines columns by David Bailey	Great story. Very well written and engaging. I loved the humor.

Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Travis Lazarczyk	Portland Press Herald	Travis Lazarczyk	Great story. Very well written and very engaging. I enjoyed the articles call for patience. Very refreshing to have patience with a young kid who is trying to deal with his talent and the expectations of people he has never met.
Sports Pg Design	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	The Lincoln County News	Love all the faces and sports covered on this page
Sports Pg Design	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Ken Waltz	Courier-Gazette	Sports page design	Nice page of sports covered
Sports Pg Design	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Ken Waltz	Republican Journal	Sports page design	Great use of photos!
Sports Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Joe Grant	Portland Press Herald	October 2, 2022	This page is simply dynamite in print. Using the backdrop of trees for the lead story was eye-catching and very effective in communicating the subject of the piece. The typography is excellent throughout but I especially like the outline headline for the lead item. Two minor quibbles: The bottom two stories have the same headline font. I would think the Ask Maine Audubon would have a distinctive one that would be reused if this is a repeating element of the paper as the title suggests. Also, the color wash at the bottom around the "Questions ..." paragraph should be extended so it completely encloses the text to match the treatment of the top story. As it is it looks like someone made a mistake. Overall though, a stunning layout, beautifully executed.
Sports Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Firsts and dynasties	This layout doesn't have a dominant photo but it perfectly suits the subject matter and so it works. It's clean, balanced and brilliantly takes the page palette from the colors of the issue used as the backdrop for the section letter. Does a great job of conveying to the reader what to expect from the section. Excellent use of typography. Outstanding job!!
Sports Pg Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Bill Stewart	Morning Sentinel	Sports page design for Feb. 24, 2023	The lead photo would have been much better shot from the other side so as to show the face of the subject of the article. The Center Court banner is a deft touch but takes up a lot of room for a label. The page is otherwise nicely balanced and the typography is well done.

Sports Headline	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Ken Waltz	Courier-Gazette	Believe it or not, Ripley is special	Why would readers NOT believe Ripley is special? The story clearly shows she IS someone special, and had earned accolades from her peers and coaches alike. Be careful using word play just to use a cute headline. Lots of editors used Star Trek heds in the 80s and 90s that didn't work but sounded cute (I groaned each time they used "going where no man had gone before" on stories about budgets or street repairs), or they used "If you build it, they will come" for any story concerning construction. Of course, they will come, it's a school! See the problem? "Believe it or not, Ripley is humbled by honor" gives you the word play you wanted while being technically correct. Sometimes, you've got to take a few minutes to think it out. I'll give you high marks for trying.
Sports Headline	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Ken Waltz	Republican Journal	On pitch, Eagle has Field day	So you're saying the school had a "Field day" in reference to the soccer player? That is to say, the soccer team had it pretty easy this season because of Ms. Field? Not a great hed but I'll give you high marks for trying. By the way, the hed at the top of the page about "double trouble" was the best hed I saw in this competition and would have won first place had it been entered. Just FYI.
Sports Headline	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Bill Pearson	Boothbay Register	Boothbay football begins season with 'Gr-Eight' start	I never could find the "eight" in "Gr-Eight." If you use it in the hed make certain readers can spot the reference fast and clearly in the lede or first several inches of copy. If you were talking about the team scoring eight touchdowns to start the season off, then the lede should have said "scored eight touchdowns...", not scored four in the first quarter..." It was confusing. You had the right idea when you wrote the hed and then crashed when it didn't match the story.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Ramblers Trott past Poland in Class D quarterfinals	Very well done incorporating the players name into the headline as a verb. Very creative.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Crusaders upend Raiders	Great headline to match the photo. very well done.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Crappie name, but a tasty fish	Humorous headline that catches the eye and makes you read the story.

WRITING

News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Narcan can save a life for one day	The article is very powerful and does a great job of writing with empathy while not inflicting personal bias. The information is important and thorough.
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News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	To hell and back: local business owners	This story explains the event in great detail and with personality while remaining unbiased and informative. The article also does a good job of advocating for fire safety.
News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Midcoast volunteer on front lines	This article is well-written and the content is important. The information is explained well. Sources are quoted well and coherently.
News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Colin Ellis	Portland Phoenix	Gridlock, Groupthink, ghost committees	EX. CEL. LENT. I cannot have enough praise for this. It was equitably done; you get the frustration Chong feels without getting editorialized.
News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Victoria DeCoster	Mount Desert Islander	Caring for Maine’s wildlife – one animal	I really liked this article; I'm always a sucker for a feel-good, family oriented piece.
News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	Prosecutors drop indictment	Well done. It was a tie between this piece and another for third place. Ultimately, this won out. I feel it could've worked for news or court submissions.
News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Colin Woodard	Portland Press Herald	Could a notorious serial killer	(8.5) This is a solid, and disturbing story about a new development in a 30-plus-year-old conviction of a man for a brutal kidnapping and murder of a young girl. Are there other viable suspects?
News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Rachel Ohm	Portland Press Herald	Portland shaken over recent killings	A well-reported story about the homicides of two homeless residents.
News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Sun Journal & Central Maine Sunday	Homeless in Maine	The entry consists of the first three parts of a five-part series that appears to be part of a multi-pronged report on homelessness in Maine. (The fourth and fifth parts were published outside the eligibility period.) The outstanding series is a great service to the community. The stories are chock full of intimate interviews with homeless members of the community, but occasionally gets bogged down in details as it bites into a huge topic.
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Bus bullying, frustration, threats, arrest ...	Very thorough, good follow up with sources
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Two fires in one day devastate downtown	Good use of sources
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	Fort Kent wants dead tree removed	Solid story
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Colin Ellis	Portland Phoenix	Portlanders say they were misled and lied to	This article was really well written, I especially loved how well the article explains what is going on in a way the reader can understand.
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jim Leonard	Republican Journal	Lincolville man charged with murder	Great lead! I love how the story is quick to get to the point and how the lead has everything the reader really wants to know incased in it, as well as getting the readers attention.

Spot News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Car goes under porch at intersection	I love the writing style of this story, the way the writer asks questions with a quick answer and makes it very easy for the reader to imagine what the scene looked like at the time of the event. This is great reporting and shows that the reporter was there and did their research on the event.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	David Marino Jr.	Bangor Daily News	Shooting hoax plunges Maine school	This was such a massive event in the state. Coverage here was thorough and as clear as could be in the moment. I especially appreciated the follow up story from Nov. 19 on the impact on the students.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	Thanksgiving Day SPOT NEWS	Good explanation of how stories came to be. Thorough story, especially with the time and information constraints.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Leela Stockley, Sawyer Loftus, Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Sheriff's deputy shoots and kills man	While details in heat of the moment can be sketchy, Stockley and Loftus did a good job putting together what they had into a cohesive article. Harrison's follow up is rich in details and lays out the events in an easy to follow manner.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Nightingale found guilty in double murder	This was an interesting read, and could have qualified for a series entry as well.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	2 small Aroostook towns form neighborhood	I loved this piece! It was wonderful to know there's community members out there willing to watch out for neighbors.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Stephen Betts	Camden Herald	Judge OKs lien on Rockport man accused	Coincidentally, there has been quite a few scam artists in my area. So this was a particularly interesting piece to read concerning the level individuals will go to deceive and defraud others.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	(Lack of) speedy trials	Excellent work! This was informative, interesting and well-paced. Feedback-wise, I think this story would have benefited from a call to action, something at the end to offer the reader a way to interact with the situation - maybe locations for further data or a public official to contact? Overall, excellent piece.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jane Carpenter	Boothbay Register	Thistle Inn: Law court's call rests on one word	That's a hard story to read for all the write reasons; well done, well written and reported. The only feedback I can offer is that a story like this is in regard to the title; that headline is snappy and attention getting, and I think it could have been resolved with a little more impact! Overall, excellent piece.

Courts Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	Courts stretch to find defense attorneys	Another great piece from Hogan and the Monitor. Not much feedback I can offer - perhaps a quote from someone who has suffered from the flaw in the system, rather than just a participant in it would have fleshed out the content? I'm reaching; just a good piece.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Colin Woodard	Portland Press Herald	Could a notorious serial killer	Very comprehensive look at the murder of this young child, does very well at covering each of the most likely scenarios surrounding her murder.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	Are we having a crime wave in Lewiston	Very interesting read that takes into account crime statistics and psychological theory to make the author's case.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	A tale of two Justins	The punny title is a bit too much for my taste, but the harrowing incident was reported on thoroughly
Political Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Patten board calls for vote on mining resolution	Thorough coverage. Strong analysis
Political Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Fighting over the future of Maine's power	Thorough coverage; good use of sources
Political Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	An interview with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins	Strong coverage
Political Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	J.W. Oliver	Harpwell Anchor	McCreight reflects on 8 years in Legislature	Great detail and storytelling. Was able to really understand the elected official without any prior knowledge.
Political Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Sam Pfeifle	Portland Phoenix	Desperately seeking Paul	Good detail and background.
Political Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	Vacant and newly filled clerk jobs a concern	Good story to inform the public of challenges facing the community. Good amount of detail.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Randy Billings	Portland Press Herald	The race for governor: This one is personal	A highly intriguing take on a political rivalry and all the accusations and allegations attached to it
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	David Marino Jr., Callie Ferguson, Sawyer Loftus	Bangor Daily News	Scenes of outrage, joy and democracy	Short but sweet look into election day in Maine. Doesn't sacrifice being dense in sources for its length.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	Does your vote matter? More than you know	An important read for those doubting whether or not they should engage in the American democratic system.
Investigative Rpt	Weekly 1	1st Place	Sarah Craighead Dedmon	Machias Valley News Observer	New state law bans PFAS -- is it	Article explained the information well and had good sourcing. I especially liked the "What are PFAS" box explaining the article further. Well done.
Investigative Rpt	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Superintendent waited 3 months to inform	This article was well-written and easy to follow. It follows the inverted pyramid pattern well and gives essential information.
Investigative Rpt	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Suspected antique auto scam	Sources were quoted and cited well and the article follows the inverted pyramid well. The article is easy to read and follow.

Investigative Rpt	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kate Cough, Alex MacLean	The Maine Monitor	Unstoppable Ocean	Really good example of comprehensive beat reporting.
Investigative Rpt	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Marina Schauffler	The Maine Monitor	Invisible and Indestructible	
Investigative Rpt	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Camden issues violation notice for alleged	
Investigative Rpt	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal & Central Maine Sunday	Homeless in Maine	This series covers every base - People, mental illness, substance abuse, youths, just poor luck everything. The photos and graphics are amazing. And it has refreshing emphasis all the way through on people, and how almost any one of us could be a paycheck or two or a lost job from being there. Even the presentation of the obligatory wonky statistics commanded a reader to continue.
Investigative Rpt	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Emily Bader, Andree Kehn	Sun Journal	Legacy of Pain	Easily the best treatment of the opioid crisis I have read in years. The article on how well-intentioned but very short-sighted legislation not only allowed but encouraged criminal market is seldom included in these stories and series. An excellent decision.
Investigative Rpt	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Colin Woodard	Portland Press Herald	Could a notorious serial killer	Well crafted in terms of research, reporting and writing. I have covered crime and courts for three decades, including national cases. Before reading the next contest entry on the list, I felt compelled to search for stories on what has happened in this case since publication last year. And the reporter has guaranteed that I will be following this story in the future.
Analysis	Weekly 1	1st Place	Ricky Cleghorn	Calais Advertiser	Oil Prices are Back on the Rise	Excellent piece; current, topical and specific. I especially liked the inclusion of data. One paragraph, starting "this is especially bad news for..." felt just a little out of place; it's pretty much the only subjective paragraph in the piece, and includes a first-person (if plural) reference that might better have been avoided. Otherwise, really well done!

Analysis	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Sparse chargers hinder electric vehicle use	Excellent piece! Professional delivery, good citations of facts and quotes, and pertinent to the community. I read this and thought "Man, I need to follow what's happening in Aroostook County more often." My only feedback would be the density of the followup page - the big wall of text was a bit intimidating - and maybe an inclusion of a call to action. The piece was interesting, and I think it would benefit greatly by including a way for the reader to engage with the topic, "send your opinions to your county commissioner at..." or "Share what you think with us via [email address.]" Overall, very well done!
Analysis	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	State Economist sees challenges from inflation	Good coverage of an important topic. Directing quotes from the expert elevated it significantly. I would advise caution using too many pronouns to refer to experts in long and dense pieces like this in the future; too many nonspecific "her"s and "she"s can get a bit confusing for a reader, especially when mixed with "we"s and "us"s in between.
Analysis	Weekly 2	1st Place	Colin Ellis	Portland Phoenix	With hotel space disappearing, Portland struggles	I think the content of this story is very interesting and communicates in a great way the struggles of the residents of that particular Portland Hotel.
Analysis	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Knox County law enforcement agencies	I like the design of the website and article display. I think the information is relevant and well written.
Analysis	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Elizabeth Walztoni	Lincoln County News	Local Food Pantries Navigate Inflation	I like the content of the article but for me personally it doesn't caught my interest too much as a topic.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Zara Norman and Emily Duggan	Morning Sentinel	Active shooter hoax calls at Maine schools	I think this article presents a very important topic for the audience that reads the article, is well written as well.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Kelley Bouchard	Portland Press Herald	In Maine, a stubborn housing crisis	
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Randy Billings & Penelope Overton	Portland Press Herald	Maine's complicated history with abortion	This article presents a very controversial topics like abortion, It shows very good facts and data about the topic and well written as well.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Sun Journal & Central Maine Sunday	Homeless in Maine	This article is well written and has good information but I don't find it too relevant as other topics.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Housing crisis series	This series was well-written, and it was obvious the reporter did a great deal of work on the story. The writing was assisted by compelling layout.

Continuing Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jack Beaudoin, Leslie Landrigan	Island Ad-Vantages	Lobster industry whale rules continuing	This was an excellent series detailing the real-world consequences of legal rulings, and how they can affect a community's livelihood.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Leslie Landrigan	Island Ad-Vantages	Island Nursing Home continuing coverage	This entry is a great example of writing to your community's interests on a topic that might not fly in other communities. Well done.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Drew Johnson	Forecaster	Cape Elizabeth's controversial school project	A well-written article. The facts were presented impartially. Unfortunately, an issue around the country. This was my first place article.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Kate Cough, Alex MacLean	The Maine Monitor	Unstoppable Ocean	As a Utahn, this article gave me an interesting perspective on city planning. I had questions about who controls the development in these coastal communities. I love the writing and felt it captured my interest from beginning to end.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Kate Cough, David Dahl	The Maine Monitor	Columbia Falls proposed development	There are really two stories here. Both deserving a thorough explanation. The writing was good. I would have like more responses from city officials.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emily Allen	Portland Press Herald	Priest abuse	One of the most important subjects of our modern time. This is a thorough look at one community's progress toward justice for the victims and their families.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Bangor Daily News	Maine's PFAS/sludge crisis	Can't think of many things scarier than drinking oneself to death with toxic water that was allowed to become contaminated. Great reporting and writing.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Lana Cohen	Portland Press Herald	Portland school payroll crisis	Excellent detail on the problems, and this story is an example of exactly why local communities need newspapers. Who is going to inform the community about these problems if newspapers are not here to do it?
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	You can get a cut at museum's replica	Great story - well written and paced, with great quotes and potential for the public to interact.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	O'Brien Returns to Racing After 20 Years	Good piece! Lots of excellent quotes, and well-written for pacing. Only piece of feedback I have, I would love to see some more number for context; for example, the first paragraph on the second page has some statistics for O'Brien, I'd be interested to see how the average racer compares. Overall, an enjoyable read, great work.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Weekly Packet	New Surry Theatre celebrates 50 years	I really liked this piece! Well written, fun photos and a wonderful call to action at the end. It was a touch lengthy, but I think it was paced well enough that it didn't detract, just be aware of unneeded content! Great piece.

Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Lemonick	Harpwell Anchor	Longtime Orr's librarian out as board pursues new vision	a great feature story and does a good job at showing what is happening with the library for local readers.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Drew Johnson	Forecaster	Portland-based rock band Rigometrics ready	The sentence structure flowed together well and made the story very engaging and easy to follow. linking their socials at the end was a great call.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Lincoln County News	Reaching for 'The Golden Ring:' 20 Years	there is a good amount of quotes that help to reinforce the narrative.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Zara Norman	Morning Sentinel	Waterville woman collaborates with Santa	This story was so touching, and the writing is excellent. From the humor in parts like suggesting you heard it from a north pole source, to including blurbs from the letters so we get a better idea, I couldn't help but be pulled into this story. Excellent job.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ray Routhier	Portland Press Herald	B&M fans say makers from away don't know	Great hook, and I loved how you spoke with a nutritionist to understand the difference between the cans. Really helped me understand this community. It runs a bit long, but I think this is a great story.
Arts/Lifestyle Feat	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	This retired UPS driver from Maine tries	This is a very good profile. Your hook was enticing and you painted a vibrant picture of Cook's life. The only thing I would suggest is that I forgot halfway through that the story's point was supposed to be about how he was going to try stand up comedy. Perhaps mention that earlier in the story and tie back to it or change to headline so it reflects just an overall profile of Cook's life.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Daniel Dunkle	Camden Herald	Local pilot pays it forward for those	Heartwarming story that gives great detail and sheds the light on a very giving heart.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Stockholm a draw for families before COVID-19	Great way to spotlight the area and possibly draw in new eyes, while reminding residents why they live there.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jessica Potila	St. John Valley Times	Ice carousel records connect 3 men	A fun, interesting feel good story.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Barbara A. Walsh	The Maine Monitor	A cancer survivor, former Marine	A heartwarming story that I think everyone should read!
Feature Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mikayla Patel	Forecaster	Performance honors two young Freeport	A touching story of a school play helping the community heal.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Simmonds	Courier-Gazette	Keys to the heart of Thomaston	A smile that I'm sure brighten many days. Great story!
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	The moose, the deer and beaver	So interesting! Well written
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	'Don't call it a comeback, I been here for years'	Full of information, interesting read
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	Maine custodian guides Hampden chess	A fun and enjoyable read

Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jim Leonard	Camden Herald	Maine course, with a lot of sides	the title was great wordplay and the article did a good job at covering giglio's story.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Bean-hole dinner celebrates heritage	does a solid job at reviewing and displaying the event and its importance to the history of the community.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	One of Caribou's oldest farm families hopes legacy continues	well written and tells the story of the farm well
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	1st Place	Marina Schauffler	The Maine Monitor	How PFAS got into soils and food systems	This was impressive work.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Connie Sage Conner	Harpwell Anchor	More than a business': Vegetable Corner	This is a good story about a devoted family who made a difference.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Evan Edmonds	Portland Phoenix	Recipe for success: Location, cost, demand	This was a great story about the value of community college programs.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Tim Cebula	Portland Press Herald	Good Waffle Hunting: Is there a waffle-size	This article is phenomenal. Between the good humor, the willingness to dive deep in your reader's questions, and the fantastic descriptions of the waffles, this article was easily my favorite to read. Well done.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Tim Cebula	Portland Press Herald	How one Maine town made sure it had a place	You did an amazing job at painting a picture of this community. I feel that I know it well having never been there. Between peppering in special anecdotes like the money on the ceiling going to 9/11 victims, to detailing the history of Dennett's Wharf, this article was very intriguing. My one suggestion is to watch for details that don't necessarily make sense within the story, as I was confused on what the elm blight had to do with anything.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ethan Genter	Bangor Daily News	What the Seafood Watch 'avoid' designation	You've done a very good job at taking what seems to be a highly controversial topic and showing why it matters. You clearly outline how sustainability plays in here yet also show multiple perspectives. Well done.
Critics Award	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Lisa Kristoff	Boothbay Register	'Made in Maine' show at Maine Art Gallery	Lisa's writing was engaging. She not only put herself into the paintings. She took me with her.
Critics Award	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Colin Ellis	Portland Phoenix	After the Oscar review: A bunch of 2022 movies	The reader gets the sense Colin really loves the movies. Solid writing and, in fact, I'll actually have something to search for when I boot up my streaming device tonight.
Critics Award	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Nan Lincoln	Mount Desert Islander	"Oliver!" is promising for new drama team	Very well done. I might have asked for a quote from one of the actors, but overall, crisp, confident writing.
Critics Award	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Andrew Ross	Portland Press Herald	Best 75 places to eat and drink in Greater Portland	this topic is great! this information is relevant and also light hearted as well as something that would catch everyone's attention and fun for the residents of Portland

Critics Award	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Andrew Ross	Portland Press Herald	Dine Out Maine	Fun and interesting article!
Critics Award	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Violinist brings concerto brilliantly to life	Great article and good information
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 1	1st Place	Susan Johns	Wiscasset Newspaper	Amistad wins \$916K for possible housing units inside St. Philip's in Wiscasset	Good job delving into controversy, doing background research and interviewing multiple sources.
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Valerie Royzman	Piscataquis Observer	More than 170-year-old Dover-Foxcroft church	A well-written, easy-to-read story. Flowed well, interesting history, good photos.
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Church opens coffee shop in downtown	Great photos and an interesting, creative story to cover. Good job interviewing patrons of the coffee shop.
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ellie Wolfe	The Maine Monitor	Religious leaders hope to stem	This is some excellent reporting, incorporating both the Pew Research Center and Gallup, the two organizations that do the most research on religion in the U.S., as well as local churches. I especially love the generational analysis and inclusion of Islam. Well done.
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J.W. Oliver	Harpwell Anchor	1800s chapel on Bethel Point to host first service	This almost was a story about a building, but the history of the meaning of "bethel" and the naming of the area touched me in a way I can't quite explain. I also respect the dedication of the small band of people who restored this little chapel out of love.
Religion/Spirituality	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Malachy Flynn	Ellsworth American	Growing Christian school offers	This is a good feature story and does a nice job of incorporating faith values into the narrative of a classical education.
Religion/Spirituality	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Power of faith	This entry is a series of stories about Christians putting their faith to work in a variety of community ministries. Well done and a clear winner. It is one of the few entries in the competition that is truly about religion at work rather than religion being caught up in everyday news stories.
Religion/Spirituality	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Creator of female role model book to sing	A good entry about the role of a cantor in Jewish services and the unusual role of a female cantor.
Religion/Spirituality	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Bangor woman will open her home during	A pretty good news feature about a local Muslim woman sharing her religion with the community.
Local Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Valerie Royzman	Piscataquis Observer	As my family in Ukraine braces for bombs	This is a moving, well-written piece that gives a personal and local connection to a global event. While there were not two columns submitted, I feel this is the strongest, most unique work and should be recognized.

Local Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Lynette Walther	Camden Herald	Good Seasons	The writing is engaging for a general audience no matter what they already know about the subject matter. There is clear expertise on the subject matter and practical advice for readers.
Local Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Sarah Craighead Dedmon	Machias Valley News Observer	The Desk of the Editor	The writer's voice came through clearly, giving a personal perspective to interesting local topics.
Local Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Marina Schauffler	The Maine Monitor	Sea Change	Cool stories about important topics.
Local Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Natalie Ladd	Portland Phoenix	Always a sister' and 'An uncomfortable month'	I loved these columns...so much honesty and truth.
Local Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ed O'Brien	Penobscot Bay Pilot	This Week In Lincolnville: Who do we want	Thank you for this. It was a great view into a world I'm not too familiar with.
Local Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Alex Lear	Sun Journal	Learics	Great writing.
Local Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	Street Talk	Very nice tribute to a building. Nicely done
Local Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	J.P. Devine	Morning Sentinel	"On the Edge" columns by J.P. Devine	Enjoyable read
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jim Leonard	Camden Herald	The women in the window	
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Generation Z abandon internet to shop locally	
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Piscataquis Observer	Dover and Foxcroft failed to merge 5 times. Then women got the right to vote.	
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Evan Edmonds	Portland Phoenix	Roy's Shoe Shop cobbles together a century of success	Some headlines write themselves and this is one of them.
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Victoria DeCoster	Mount Desert Islander	Triple Chick Farm hatches a reopening	I paused to consider which headline would get first place and this was a close call.
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Amy Canfield	Forecaster	Quick with the bricks: Cumberland teen smashes Lego world record	This was a tough category to judge. It's a shame there were only awards for the top three.
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Sally Tyrrell Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Happy tiers	Excellent use of words
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark Mogensen	Sun Journal	A real Swede ride	Great headline and positioning
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Leslie Bridgers	Portland Press Herald	Let the games be in	Great use of words, clear and concise to readers
News Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	David Avery	Castine Patriot	Passionate pickleballers pitch plan for public place to play	Perfect prose - Nice headline
News Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Council greenlights Main Street project	Nice pun
News Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Piscataquis Observer	Airport building purchase will allow replacement project to take off	

News Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Simmonds	Courier-Gazette	Christmas tree prices may leave you humbugging Wheels on the bus still go round and round, even as schools struggle to find drivers	
News Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Hal Madsen	The Maine Monitor	Pine Grove project leaves some residents wondering where forest went	
News Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Amy Canfield	Forecaster		
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Zack Aldrich	Portland Press Herald	As gas prices decline, some drivers on cloud 9/10	Excellent headline. Creative and visually draws the attention of readers. Nice job.
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Nate Thompson	Portland Press Herald	And we have a winter	Strong headline, particularly in combination with lead art. Very nice job.
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Mark Mogensen	Sun Journal	Lewiston: Auburn plans don't hold water	Good headline given the subject of the story. I'm sure readers who follow the issue in both cities appreciate the creativity.
Editorial	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Camden Herald	Time to focus on what we can do about	Yes. Such a critical topic.
Editorial	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Nat Barrows	Weekly Packet	Rediscovering our common humanity	Thanks for this reminder.
Editorial	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pierre Little	Calais Advertiser	Preventing Derailment: Conquering Rancor	People can be so petty...this is a good reminder that these people are SERVING their community.
Editorial	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Courier-Gazette	Public notices keep taxpayers informed	An important, specific issue that many readers probably aren't thinking about. Good "Hitchiker's" reference and angle about social equity.
Editorial	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Maia Zewert and John Roberts	Lincoln County News	LEND A HAND	An important, specific, local issue to weigh in on. And clear, concise writing.
Editorial	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Courier-Gazette	Banning books is dangerous	A sound take on a relevant issue -- both national and local. Presents clear arguments and sticks to a single example for simplicity.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Siobhan Brett	Portland Press Herald	Portland diocese displays a brazen lack	The depth of the reporting and the thoroughness in telling the story, together with the serious weight of the subject make this one tops.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ben Bragdon	Morning Sentinel	Our View: As abortion rights disappear	If you're going to take a shot at a politician, this is how to do it.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Judith Meyer	Sun Journal	Everyone wants a warm home. Here's how	Kudos for not only taking on a difficult subject, but also for zeroing in on an example of how each single incident can lead to larger patterns of help.

Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Shlomit Auciello	Courier-Gazette	Letter from Away	The piece known as "Isolation," hit me in the feels and reminded me of what it was like to be a journalist reporting during the pandemic. I love how the writer connects their personal life and what they went through, while also writing about everything happening in the world around them at the same time. It makes everything that happened real to the reader and brings you back to the hardest parts of the pandemic where you were living your life, but at the same time the world seemed like it was burning down and there was nothing you could do about it.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Jill Goldthwait	Ellsworth American	State of Maine	I must say I absolutely love the story called "Is better the alternative the best we can do?", the way the third paragraph is written hits me a lot, it truly shows the opinion of the writer. A note to Jill, I love the way you write both of these stories! The way you write in the beginning connects the reader to your story so well and definitely gets their attention while also helping them to understand where you are coming from and your thought process!
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Edgar Allen Beem	Portland Phoenix	The Universal Notebook: Opinion columns	I have to say, I love the paragraph where you talk about the kids, "Liam and Emma," and the parents, "Ken and Karen." It made me laugh and it makes the reader feel like you are having a conversation with them face-to-face, rather than them reading your opinions.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Susan Young	Bangor Daily News	Miscarriage treatment; America's mistreatment	Solid voice with localizing issues for community.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Siobhán Brett	Portland Press Herald	Siobhán Brett	The community connection and call to action is strong — easy for someone not from the area to understand the issues and what should be done.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Douglas Rooks	Kennebec Journal	Opinion columns by Douglas Rooks	Clear and concise columns leading the reader to the important issues and why they should care.
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 1 & 2	1st Place	Dan Kirchoff	Republican Journal	The Republican Journal	There are by far the most relatable and accurate cartoons I have ever seen. Well done!
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 1 & 2	2nd Place	Dan Kirchoff	Courier-Gazette	The Courier-Gazette	The third cartoon was my favorite. Well done!
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 1 & 2	3rd Place	Joe Marshall	Mount Desert Islander	Editorial cartoons	Great humor! Good and relatable cartoons!
Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	George Danby	Bangor Daily News	PFAS cow, Affordable lobster roll, LePage	Love the style of the short jab into the heart of of the matter!
Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Meyers	Portland Press Herald	Steve Meyers	Great strong visual and written themes.

Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Ernie Anderson	I'm not familiar with the local public figures, but the skill of the cartoonist and the written message still came
Environ. Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Forest Management is for the Birds	Excellent story.
Environ. Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Local farm is helping create climate-resistant	Top notch entries. Very difficult to judge.
Environ. Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Sarah Craighead Dedmon	Machias Valley News Observer	Machias aims to solve the sewage/softshell	Nice story. This was a very difficult category to judge.
Environ. Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	The sea is rising, and so is the angst	Excellent piece. Great storytelling with homeowner narratives mixed with expert opinions. Easy to read, concise writing. Well done!
Environ. Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Annie Ropeik	The Maine Monitor	Researchers seek changes to save clam fishery	Great article. The storytelling is evocative and intriguing. The story is unique and told with nuance. Well done.
Environ. Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	Maine's decades-old flood maps	Another excellent piece. Relevant story for many residents -- and a serious financial impact. Tons of good background.
Environ. Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Vanessa Paoella, Steve Collins	Sun Journal	A look at the Andro 50 years after	Indepth and intertesting
Environ. Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Penelope Overton	Portland Press Herald	From Maine to California, the solution	
Environ. Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Christopher Wheelock	Sun Journal	Auburn businessman could face huge fines	tough but not demeaning. Well done
Business/Econ Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	The new business owners hoping to revive	Of all the entries in this class, I felt this reporting was the best definition of a business article of the group. The reporter included a large number of sources from assorted businesses, got some locals in there, too; had city officials and also provided background and context of why new businesses are crucial to the town. Well done and a great example for other entrants. Thank you.
Business/Econ Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Norway's Odd Fellows Hall to become affordable	A very well done redevelopment business story, with multiple sources, lots of background info and detail as well as illustrative photos that helped move this into second place, IMO. The need for this type of housing was explained, who could possibly live in these apartments was detailed; the importance of such redevelopment was touched on. I liked the structure, flow and feel of this well done business article. Thank you.

Business/Econ Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Local bankers calm fears in aftermath of crisis	A classic finance-focused business story which is a localized explainer of a national-level story/issue. I thought the reporter kept the bank-ese lingo to a minimum, weaved good quotes from credible (and numerous) sources and also tossed in some analysis that understanding of the Maine banking scene. No photos drops this down to third). Good stuff, though.
Business/Econ Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Joyce Kryszak	The Maine Monitor	New faces showing up Down East	The quality of writing on this piece was simply outstanding.
Business/Econ Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	Small town faces huge decision	Both of this reporter's entries were excellent and on a similar theme. This story was the most compelling because of the unusual and interesting situation.
Business/Econ Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Maia Zewert	Lincoln County News	Family-Owned Fernald's for Sale	Small, family-owned businesses are the lifeblood of most communities, and this is a good article detailing the history and pending sale of one such business.
Business/Econ Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Tux Turkel	Portland Press Herald	Maine's cannabis producers see high costs	Excellent writing.
Business/Econ Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Christopher Wheelock	Sun Journal	Chaga farming in Maine	very informative and interesting story.
Business/Econ Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Megan Gray	Portland Press Herald	At 103, Portland supply-store owner	Great story, well written
Education Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	PCES launches virtual classroom	Good, well-rounded news piece about a virtual reality classroom, essentially the first of its kind. Lots of good details. I particularly enjoyed the writer's attention to nuance, from who painted the walls to how the system was financed. Good job.
Education Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Students learn food production at The County's	Nice piece! Well-written, well-sourced, interesting look at a valuable educational program for students in the agriscience space. Very enjoyable read.
Education Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Caribou school working to boost mental health	I appreciated the attention to detail and clear explanation of how the school approached mental health issues post-pandemic. This type of story highlights some of the challenges facing young students and their teachers/counselors these days. Well done.
Education Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Caitlin Andrews	The Maine Monitor	Mills administration removed LGBTQ	Excellent example of investigative reporting, from use of FOI request to exploring the various sides of the issue. The reporter addressed a timely, sensitive issue without showing bias. On top of this, solid writing: strong lede that gave a concise description of the article, compelling quotes, wide range of sources.

Education Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Rose Lundy		The Maine Monitor	Addressing youth mental health challenges	The topic is timely and compelling, the lede made it personal, and the strong reporting gave the facts, not only the statistics but quoting experts. Good use of quotes to move the story along and to put statistics into context. I liked how the story moved from the one school in the lede to the wider view of the youth center.
Education Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Joyce Kryszak		The Maine Monitor	Small schools struggle, thrive, and fight to stay	well-researched story that explained the issue well. Good use of quotes to move the story along. the chart at the end was a nice summary.
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Vanessa Paoella		Sun Journal	Finding their way	Well-written and interesting from start to finish. This story spotlights an underserved group and will likely spur readers to action.
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Lana Cohen		Portland Press Herald	In gender clash, Maine schools caught	Reporter did an excellent job showing both sides of a complicated issue without obvious bias.
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Vanessa Paoella		Sun Journal	'The system is really flawed'	Thorough and readable look behind the scenes.
Health Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden		Franklin Journal	Stephan Bunker's message: 'Don't do...	Riveting story; well written.
Health Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jessica Potila		St. John Valley Times	Teen with hearing disorder is drama star	Encouraging story, well written.
Health Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle		Camden Herald	Neighbors rally around premature twins	Very nice read. Wanted to know about family and father..
Health Story	Weekly 2	Joyce Kryszak	Joyce Kryszak		The Maine Monitor	Washington County EMS approaches crisis	This is an important story, and the author made it come alive with the anecdotes about why it matters, how it affects real people's lives. It combines solid reporting with good writing.
Health Story	Weekly 2	Caitlin Andrews	Caitlin Andrews		The Maine Monitor	A death of choice	This is an ambitious and lovely story. The effort that went into following the subject for years is impressive, and it covers all the needed bases. A stronger nut graf would have helped with a story this long.
Health Story	Weekly 2	Sydney Richelieu	Sydney Richelieu		Forecaster	Games with grandfather inspire new chess	While it didn't go in-depth into Alzheimer's, this story did a nice job of showing one solution that is being tried and providing numbers to back up the need for it. It left me wanting more.

Health Story Daily/Weekend 1st Place-Tie Emily Bader, Andree Kehn Sun Journal Legacy of Pain

Because of this contest's format, I have no choice but to award this entry 1st place. The problem is, this is a SERIES (6 articles, 2 "explainer" stories and 2 full pages of statistical graphics) all done over 6 months with the assistance of USC Annenberg's program/fellowship. To be blunt: it is unfair this series is in same class as one-off, individual stories done on shorter timeframes and again, one article. To make this more unusual: another reporter/paper did a series, too, but entered the individual stories of the series as independent articles, not tied together as this was. I highly suggest to MPA to make a series category for entries like this to maintain fairness to one-story entrants. That said, this series was incredible in depth, breadth, research, sourcing and explanations. Great photos, awesome graphics and clearly very intense, microscopic editing (afterall, y'all had 6 months!). Very, very impressive SERIES, but because of the format/rules of contest, I must give first to this as is considered "one story." I'm very impressed with the deep research, the personal tales and digging into family histories, as well as superb explanatory writing and flow. Great stuff.

Health Story Daily/Weekend 1st Place-Tie Jessica Piper, Erin Rhoda Bangor Daily News Maine surgeon's career advanced

I am awarding a co-1st place to this article. The other 1st place honoree was actually a 6-part series (2 more explainer articles included) with 2 pages of graphics done over six months & should be in a different (doesn't exist) series category. This lurid tale of a harassing surgeon was a masterful one-off investigative story which had EVERYTHING needed for a great reported investigation. There was hard documents, sourcing/interviews with almost 20 people; both sides given proper space to make claims and also dispute claims. Very good flow, nicely broken up with subheads, the whole situation made sense because the reporter and editors took care to ensure a timeline that was accurate. The impact and reasons why this scandal was so hurtful and important also explained. As judge, this would be the lone first place entry but due to format, the mega-huge series had to be judged as "one story," and I didn't feel it was fair to not honor your amazing work, too. Hope that makes sense. Very well done; I wish you the best in future reporting adventures.

Health Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Joe Lawlor	Portland Press Herald	Hidden charges, denied claims: Medical bills	It was impossible for me to choose which was better, this article of the "months in hospital" report by the same journalist. This was, as the other story, masterfully reported with mix of researched statistics and info, personal stories of patients, explanations of how we got here as state and what potential solutions are. Having dealt with this issue myself recently, it hit home more than maybe it would have to a judge not facing everything described in this piece. I literally could've been one of your interviewees/sources. Great work on this. Thank you.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place-Tie	Joe Lawlor	Portland Press Herald	With no place to go, some patients in Maine spend	It was impossible for me to choose which was better, this article of the "hidden charges " report by the same journalist. Another mix of personal stories, information found through deep reseach, flowing writing, good structure and an article that kept me through til the end. Good stuff, yet again.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Joe Lawlor	Portland Press Herald	The Narcan effect: A new lease on life	Once again, an excellent piece of reporting on a critically important issue. Hard to drop this to third place, but it seemed to be a bit shorter and less depth than the two stories I had tied for second place. Really outstanding health reporting from this journalist. Be proud of your work and the impact it clearly had/has on readers by explaining with ease of reading important issues to all. Thank you.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Upgrades aim to repopulate brook trout	This is an informative story about the community's efforts to restore delapidated waterways. While not as sexy a story as recreational features, it is an important ecology story for the community.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Ken Waltz	Camden Herald	Cool rides: Toboggan racers refuse to be left	Community officials adjust to changing weather consitions to pull off an annual fund-raising toboggan competition. Listing the winners is essential, but it bogged down the story a bit. The publication may want to consider running lists of winners in a sidebar in the future.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Developer plans to transform a County school	This is an interesting story about the tranformation of an abandoned school into a low-cost resort for snowmobilers.

Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Derrick Z. Jackson	The Maine Monitor	Seabirds on the rise	A fascinating article with engaging interviews and detailed descriptions that brings the story to life for readers. The writer connected a large global issue to a local topic that connects to the audience. Readers gain an understanding of the issue's recent history and possibilities for the future.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Maggie Trovato	Ellsworth American	Push for accessible trails ramps up	This article connects the outdoors to a relevant social issue, and includes several perspectives to illustrate the issue's impact.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Evan Edmonds	Portland Phoenix	Bicyclists advocate for safer transportation	This story effectively covered the outdoors and an issue of local politics. The writer illustrated possible solutions and the impact of the issue on individuals. If possible, I would have liked to see a couple of statistics to explain the scope of the issue (ie how many people in the city use biking as a form of transportation.)
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Deirdre Fleming	Portland Press Herald	Shark sightings abound off Maine's coast	
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Keith Edwards and Amy Calder	Kennebec Journal	Thaws in December and January lead to poor	
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Vanessa Paoella	Sun Journal	Climbing interest	

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

FOI	Weekly	1st Place	Staff	The Maine Monitor	The Maine Monitor	Impressive use of FOI to obtain a variety of records that provide the public with information not otherwise available.
FOI	Weekly	2nd Place	Staff	Courier-Gazette	Freedom of Info	Solid coverage and editorial about proposed law but no indication of use of FOI to inform public
FOI	Weekly	x				
FOI	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Freedom of Information	This piece is incredibly thorough and provides all the necessary detail. It does a good job of explaining the freedom of information and what it means.
FOI	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Freedom of Information	The piece cites their information and the context of the events well. It does a good job telling what happened and why.
FOI	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Duggan, Chris Bouchard, staff	Kennebec Journal	Freedom of Information	The article does a good job of bringing up the question of whether or not public records should be released during an ongoing investigation. The article seems well-researched but could have included more quotes and expanded on the pursuit of the records more than it did.

Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Wiscasset Newspaper	Wiscasset Newspaper website	Nice dominance in center with big photo. Stories read clearly -- I like the photos all right-justified, to make it easier to follow the text. Overall, a nice, easy-to-navigate website.
Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 1	x				
Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 1	x				
Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Harpowell Anchor	harpowellanchor.org	Clean and easy to navigate.
Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 2	2nd Place	The Maine Monitor	The Maine Monitor	The Maine Monitor	Simple format allows you to find just about anything you need without a lot clicks.
Gen Exc--Digital	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	The Lincoln County News	Straightforward approach to delivering the news online.
Gen Exc--Digital	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Portland Press Herald	This website is clean and easy to navigate. The inclusion of audio in most articles makes the journalism more accessible, and the staff has an impressive amount and range of coverage. There are many links to navigate to other relevant stories, and extensive newsletters. There are more opportunities to use and integrate multimedia on the site.
Gen Exc--Digital	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Sun Journal	SunJournal.com	The website covers a wide range of stories in the community and is updated frequently. The website is easy to navigate and read. The homepage highlighted a more in-depth series (How Homelessness Impacts Maine,) which led readers to important stories they might not engage with otherwise. I would like to see the weekly publications integrated more clearly and prominently on the homepage to connect those communities to the coverage.
Gen Exc--Digital	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Centralmaine.com Staff	Kennebec Journal	Centralmaine.com	This had a similar design to the Portland Press Herald. Some features, like a current epaper, were either missing or hard to navigate to. The website overall is clean and user-friendly. Though the articles are less frequent than others in the category, the homepage highlights local areas to make the content relevant to a larger audience. Videos are updated frequently and could be more engaging.
Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 1	1st Place	The Camden Herald			A nice layout adds to the appeal of the advertisements in this publication. Some ads are eye-catching and bold, with a good use of photography in them. Front page ad is outstanding. Nicely done!
Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 1	2nd Place	The Calais Advertiser			We loved the ads on the Veterans Day pages, as well as the dining guide. All great uses of shallow horizontal spaces.
Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Machias Valley News Observer			This paper proves that black and white ads can be as effective as color ads, when done well. Very nicely laid out so all ads shine.

Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mount Desert Islander	<p>The layout for the advertisements were excellent. Each design was quality and clear. The Out and About inserts and the classifieds were attractive. The advertisements and the community calendar were eye catching as was the business directory. The local ad showed community support.</p> <p>The community involvement in the advertisements on the pages celebrating the baseball success were great. The car success were great. The "Out and About" inserts and classifieds were attractive. The car classified sidebar showed quality pictures and prices to help attract readers.</p> <p>The real estate page had wonderfully designed ads and the inserts from local businesses were attention grabbing.</p>
Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 2	2nd Place	The Ellsworth American	
Gen Exc--Advg	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Boothbay Register	
Gen Exc--Advg	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Bangor Daily News	<p>Wow. Each edition delivered. Ads were placed well with eye-catching visuals and striking photos / art. Ads in the center of a page where it seemed odd at first really draws us in. Cars, comics, classifieds, all call a reader to react. Easy to read.</p> <p>These papers were well planned with excellent placements of ads and editorial. The special sections were exceptional and had a mix of well-rounded ads. Each was easy to read and stayed true to the message.</p> <p>Nice layouts and mix of advertisers. Attention to detail in each ad that was easy to follow. Placements were solid.</p>
Gen Exc--Advg	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Portland Press Herald	
Gen Exc--Advg	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Sun Journal	
Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 1	1st Place	Houlton Pioneer Times	<p>LOVE the tag line on the front page... "The only newspaper in the world interested in Houlton, Maine. This is a true community newspaper, with every story something that will be of interest to the readers. Beautifully laid out, crisp color, and a nice classified section.</p> <p>Nice use of local photographs to help tell stories. Use friendly layout, excellent community calendar. Informative and interesting. Love the spread of Memorial Day parade photos.</p> <p>We love Tommy Tom Tom, the office cat. (Full disclosure: We have two office dogs on our masthead -- Georgie is Chief Morale Officer, and Penny is Community Liaison.) Nice coverage of local sports, and beautifully in depth obituaries. Nice layout and photos, too! We liked the wildlife photos!</p>
Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Machias Valley News Observer	
Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 1	3rd Place	The Calais Advertiser	

Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mount Desert Islander	<p>The design of this newspaper is unbelievable. The layout is assembled with phenomenal traits in each section. The support of local ads and the incredible photojournalism used to show local events demonstrate overwhelming local support for this publication. The writing is clear and concise and keeps up with what's going on. This newspaper is the total package.</p> <p>Writing is an essential part of the newspaper business and The Ellsworth American is one of the best in this category. They have a unique way of putting together a layout and design and they have quality community news and pictures. Their pictures and stories of community events are outstanding.</p> <p>Each section had great local photos documenting different local events. Their layout was easy to follow. Good local business ads which provided community support for the paper.</p>
Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 2	2nd Place	The Ellsworth American	
Gen Exc--Print	Weekly 2	3rd Place	The Courier-Gazette	
Gen Exc--Print	Daily	1st Place	Portland Press Herald	<p>Stunning. Great layouts and photos that brought our eyes to a story. Nice layouts. Clear stories. It is obvious this newspaper knows the community and serves it well. Great coverage of every single event.</p> <p>A beautiful paper. Great leads. Strong photos. Easy to read. Nice placements. Great ads. Nice follow throughs and community involvement.</p> <p>Love the amount of news in each edition. Great use of color and graphics. Nice flow throughout.</p>
Gen Exc--Print	Daily	2nd Place	Kennebec Journal	
Gen Exc--Print	Daily	3rd Place	Morning Sentinel	
Gen Exc--Print	Weekend	1st Place	Maine Sunday Telegram	<p>What a paper! This paper covers it all and covers it well. Cover to cover each edition is absolutely beautiful. Great photos. Nice stories. Total package. The ads were great. There was literally something for everyone to read and enjoy. World, state, local. it's all covered.</p> <p>Great paper with timely topics and easy to follow layouts. Good use of separation and color to help readers slow down and absorb a story's meaning. Nice photos. Great stories.</p> <p>These newspapers had great leads and photos. Their passion for community was evident. Nice layouts. Good balance of stories.</p>
Gen Exc--Print	Weekend	2nd Place	Bangor Daily News	
Gen Exc--Print	Weekend	3rd Place	Central Maine Sunday	

Best in Show	Weekly 1	1st Place		Castine Patriot	<p>Fireworks are very difficult to capture. This shot is beautiful. It is perfectly composed, exposed and focused. The fireworks reflecting off the water give the photo an extra sizzle and are the result of precise timing. Very well done.</p> <p>Gorgeous photo full of detail! Tells the story of how these beautiful birds eat.</p> <p>This is an outstanding human interest photo. It makes you wonder who is the actual crossing guard watching out for the children. By capturing the golden retriever's glance up at the crossing guard and the expression in her eyes the photographer made her the center of this touching scene. A beautiful moment well composed and shot!</p>
			Rosemary Wyman		
Best in Show	Weekly 2	1st Place	Derrick Z. Jackson	The Maine Monitor	
Best in Show	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Rich Abrahamson	Morning Sentinel	
Journalist of the Year		1st Place	Michael Shepherd	Bangor Daily News	
Advq Person of the Year		1st Place	Peter Filippelli	Portland Press Herald	
Bob Drake Young Writer		1st Place	John Terhune	Portland Press Herald	
Unsung Hero		1st Place	George Harvey	The Maine Monitor	
Unsung Hero		1st Place	Monica Speranza Cochran	The Times Record	