

2024 MPA Better
Newspaper Contest

Advertising-Circulation	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Local Ad	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Weekly Packet	Grand opening of Tradewinds Gymnasium	Love the font and use of the nautical theme throughout the ad - nicely done!
Local Ad	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Riverview Specials	Between the photo and description of the burger, my mouth was watering! Very eye pleasing design on this ad.
Local Ad	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Island Ad-Vantages	Local books make great gifts	It's a pretty ad, but there are lots of words. Appropriate, I suppose, for a book store - but can be a little cumbersome for the reader. Overall nice ad.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Allen	Harpswell Anchor	Midcoast Maine Plumbing LLC	I really liked the simplicity of this ad. It was clean and to the point. A great ad.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ashley Carter	Mount Desert	Bar Harbor Coin & PMX	A great use of graphics and space.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Louis Doe's Home Center	Very creative and cute. A memorable ad for sure.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ron Robbins,	Kennebec Journal	Charlie's Jeep Holiday Ad	Love this colorful and creative ad!
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Amy Allen	Bangor Daily News	Bixby Chocolate	This ad gets attention not only because of it's pleasing design and layout, but because of its creative content! Good job.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	David Pierce, Karen Hamel	Morning Sentinel	Town of Winslow - EMS Week Ad	Love the layout of this ad and the colorful, patriotic design. Great job honoring local EMS workers.
Campaign or Series	Weekly 1	1st Place	staff	Calais Advertiser	Shop Local	Clean ads and like the use of type styles.
Campaign or Series	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News	Wall's TV & Appliance	Love this ad. I am sure it got lots of comments.
Campaign or Series	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ashley Carter	Mount Desert Islander	Swan Real Estate December Campaign	Nice use of distinct colors and clean artwork throughout gives a definite upscale feel to this ad campaign. Nice job of packing in a lot of information in an easy to follow format for the readers.
Campaign or Series	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Michelle Christian	Republican Journal	TEEN VOICES	Great way to engage readers, bring in younger audience, and mentor young journalists. The subject matter fits in well with the sponsors mission.
Campaign or Series	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ashley Carter	Ellsworth American	Stanley Subaru May Campaign	Each ad has a distinct look and focus. Lots of copy in a small space but the use of a nice clean bold header help keep the reader focused. Fun use of color in each ad as well.
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Morning Sentinel	Athlete of the Week	Good layout and eye-catching design.
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press	Corporate Spelling Bee	Great concept! Very creative idea! Love the community
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Kennebec Journal	Patriot Series	LOVE LOVE LOVE this series of ads! Very well done, creative, and instills patriotism in those who view the ads. Good job.

Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Weekly Packet	Blue Hill Fair Handbook	What a beautiful tab! Great photos, good information, fun stories, and wonderful layout! The shadow around the photo frames adds so much eye appeal...Great job!
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Castine Patriot	Spring Fever	What a great idea for a spring tab! Packed with good information; great use of photos and artwork; and very nice
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	3rd Place-tie	Staff	Island Ad-Vantages	Holiday Entertainment	Such a pretty tab! Lots of good information and variety - great layout and design!
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	3rd Place-tie	Staff	Island Ad-Vantages	Summer Guide	I love everything about this special section! The design, the photos, the useful information - it is just a beautiful package. There were several really good entries in this category!
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Summertime 2023	So much content, and a very nice "package," promoting "local." The graphics really stood out though, and "summer" was captured. Excellent job!
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Holiday Shopping Guide	Loved the content, and promotion of the community. This special section had a "personality" and was so fun to read. Great way to reach the shoppers in your community.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Dunkle, Ad Sales and	Courier-Gazette	North Atlantic Blues Festival	Wonderful special advertising section to promote this event. Graphic art and ads was exceptional. Super job.
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Kennebec Journal	Central Maine Summer Guide	This is fantastic! I have put many of these together and know how time consuming it is--this is awesome! Well done!
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Morning Sentinel	Holiday Guide	I love this guide! Very well put together and informative.
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Out and About - Southern Maine Summer	This is very well written and put together! Great job.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Downeast Basketball Review	Good use of color and photos. Schedule is readable and would be something you could keep for future reference.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	1st Place	Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Dining Guide 2023	The combination of the cover design, the magazine flag and the image convey everything this magazine is about with almost no words. The image captures it all: A variety of people coming together over delectable food and drink. The foreground focus was the right choice for this image. The reader is interested in everything inside, thanks to the powerful cover.

Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	2nd Place	David Fickett	Mount Desert Islander	Out & About July 2023	The use of the hand-painted old photo and the beautiful graphic treatment accomplish two goals at a single glance: The historic legacy of recreation in this area, and highlighting what remains one of the best things to do. Innovative, interesting and well-designed.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Dunkle	Courier-Gazette	Knox County Best of the Best Ballot	Enjoyed the montage of photos that capture the theme of the magazine, expertly integrated with the magazine name and its purpose. Perfect selection of photos. Delivers a clear, compelling message.
Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Amy Allen	Bangor Daily News	Then & Now magazine	Good use of graphics and added textures. Bright, eye-catching design. Well done.
Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Times Record	Bath Heritage Days Cover	Simple and eye-catching. Dates in the sails is clever. Nicely done.
Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Callie Picard	Bangor Daily News	Tourney Time	Wish I could tell if these are clipart or local players (jersey's appear generic). Would be cool (even better) if they are local players...regardless, nice layout.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 1	1st Place	Dylan Lingley, Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Valentine's Day	What a good way to celebrate love on Valentines Day. Looks like you got a lot of photos and I am sure lots of reader interest and extra paper sales.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Calais Advertiser	Veterans Day	There were so many photos in your Veterans Day salute and it was a great way to honor your Veterans.
Community Engagement	Weekly 1	3rd Place	John Governale	Advertiser Democrat	Christmas in Livermore	Unique way to give readers something to enjoy at Christmas.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Youth Art Month	What a clever idea that is sure to foster a great reception from all facets of a community.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Holiday cards to the community	Has impact and is very creative.
Community Engagement	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Mount Desert	Adopt a Pet	Filling a great need in a great manner.
Community Engagement Idea	Dailly/Weekend	1st Place	Jake Freudberg, Ben Pinette and	Morning Sentinel	Skowhegan Now newsletter	To the point!!!
Community Engagement	Dailly/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Times Record	Spirit of the Holidays	An excellent, creative way to include kids with the Christmas
Community Engagement Idea	Dailly/Weekend	3rd Place	Jeremiah Elwell, Alicia Tuttle	Kennebec Journal	Ugly Sweater Photo Contest	Everyone really wants to wear an ugly sweater - this is a great excuse to allow that frivolity!
Self-Promotion	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Awarding Winning Coverage	Sports photo is always an eye catcher and when you add award winning who wouldn't subscribe. Well done.

Self-Promotion	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jean Lamontanaro	Island Ad-Vantages	We are committed to the local community.	Community photos make this ad work. Information tells why you should subscribe. This would make a great series.
Self-Promotion	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Brette Miller	Castine Patriot	New, easy-to-use website	Good use of color and just enough information. Good use of graphics. Nice clean ad.
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Allen, Janice Thompson, Eric Zelz	Harpswell Anchor	Annual Report	Annual reports are BORING - however, the art on this one, along with relatable statistics made this one outstanding. Impressive thank you list!
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	NIE 2023 Enrollment Ad	Great way to ingrain newspapers for youths by free subscriptions to school teachers.
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Mount Desert Islander by the Numbers	Excellent commitment!
Self-Promotion	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Portland Mayoral Debate	First place based on concept and outcome. Couldn't see much of the entry itself (paywall) and only one ad design sample provided is quite small. Overall, hosting events like this for the community is important. Providing opportunities for your readers to be a part of events like this an experience they can keep with them, not just read about after. Well done!
Self-Promotion	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Kennebec Journal	Carrier of the Year	Nice ad and idea. I'm not sure that there are any papers in our state that still have carriers, so this is good to see. Font choice is pretty tough to read and quite small given this is a full page ad.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly 1	1st Place	Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News Observer	Veterans Day	Nicely done Veterans Day section. Good ads and layout make this the winner in this division.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Calais Advertiser	Veterans Day	Great way to honor veterans. Well done.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Weekly Packet	Word Festival schedule	Good color and design. Sponsor ads are well done.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly 2	1st Place	Natalie Haberman-	Forecaster	Kaleidoscope Thinking	Well deserved first place, and a refreshing perspective.
Best Sponsored Content	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press	Hub Furniture	Unique way to celebrate an business anniversary.
Best Customized Advertising Solution	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Tammaro Oil	This was the only item in the customized advertising category.
Best Customized Advertising Solution	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Brenda Allen, Molly Adams,	Portland Press Herald	Hub 110th Anniversary	Clever and captivating.

Best Multi-Media Campaign	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Memorial Day	This was the only entry in the category. Nice sentiments for Memorial Day. A tripod would be helpful for steadiness.
Best Multi-Media Campaign	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	MDI Biological Lab	This is so impressive. Professionally some of the best and surely the most comprehensive of works.
Best Multi-Media Campaign	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Marcie Coombs	Bangor Daily News	Don Dickel Flooring	Beautifully done. Advertising/messaging must create an image of high quality and this does that extremely well.

Online	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
News Video	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Memorial Day 2023	The video works without a voiceover or explanation because the topic is universal. Good variety in photography and video.
News Video	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Heavy damage along coastline	Exceptional! The story was well written, the video footage and the generous amount of demonstrative photographs photos rounded it out.
News Video	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Legion Post 54 gives to Wiscasset causes	Great job on community interest story. Well edited video.
News Video	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Dig into Wormfest June 8	Would have liked to seen footage from outside the living room, with perhaps "(wo)man on the street" interviews from or businesses that will be sponsors. A shot of the National Geographic with town being named worm capitol of the world would have added a lot to this.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Mass shooting in Lewiston	Kudos to this journalist who was on the scene and ready to get the story. They were there and in danger, but prepared to get the story, danger or no danger. The footage is great and the first shot of the policewoman gave a great sense of urgency. It told a lot of the story in such a short amount of time. Sometimes we have to put so much of ourselves on the line to get a story. Stay safe, but great work.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Demolition of the Tara Lynn	Wow. This is fantastic footage that I'm sure very few other reporters were able to get. Interesting and haunting. Great work.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Coastal flooding	Really great footage. Kudos to the reporters who got out and reported in this weather.

Sports Video	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Keen competition, fast times	Good job capturing the moment. Video was a little shaky at times. Maybe next time set up in a couple different locations and edit the different angles together.
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Shawn Patrick	Portland Press	Play ball!	The variety of views is excellent. Now I want to go to a ball game.
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Mud Run in Minot	Nicely shot. Interesting angles.
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Nina Mahaleris	Sun Journal	The Tournament	Great theme. Well shot.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Memorial Day 2023	Overall, a good overview of a local ceremony. Some still images could remain on screen longer so viewers get full effect. The mix of horizontal and vertical video is distracting. Consistency is important. Lots of powerful angles in the photos and video content, especially at the bridge and laying of wreaths.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 2	1st Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Wiscasset Easter egg hunt	Nice job. Incorporated interviews and "action shots", and it created a community feel.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Welcoming the New Year	I enjoyed the video, especially the band footage.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Lift All Boats	The videography was really interesting in how it cut from the sounds of the water, to the silence of underwater. Interesting perspective on lobster fishermen, and a way to be more
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	The Songwriter	Humble perspective from a musician.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree	The timelapse was really neat to see. I'd loved to have seen the tree decorated!
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Weekly 2	1st Place	Heather Eriole	Ellsworth American	New Sweden Historical Society	The choice of font is excellent, and the colors, combined with the graphics, effectively capture the essence of the Swedish Festival. Outstanding work!
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ted Duguay	Portland Press	Merry Madness	Colorful for that special time of the year.
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jeremiah Elwell, Alicia Tuttle	Kennebec Journal	Holiday Campaign	Festive!
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Marcie Coombs	Bangor Daily News	Downeast Scenic Railroad	Ride the train!!!
Photography/Design	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook	Salute to a veteran	The photo is a quiet, easy to read image.
News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls	Honoring veterans	Nice timing to capture the guns firing spark.
News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Roger E. Davis Baseball Field	Some good reaction during dedication ceremony shows the excitement for the honorees.

News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Paddler Victorious	This was a clear winner. The photographer captured Felter's moment of glory, face full of the emotion of exertion, paddle raised, the second-place finisher coming in strong. Great composition, great timing, great photo.
News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jessica Picard	Harpwell Anchor	Lookout Flooding	The photo demonstrates the effort put into getting this image from the photographer. It's flooded; it's still raining; Chris Hole is struggling to get a grip on the floating lumber. The first step of confronting the mess caused by the flood. I like his dangling cigarette; tells us something about him. Great image.
News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Simmonds	Camden Herald	Camden Fourth of July	Photographer climbed behind the band to capture the delight of the large crowd at this event. Many faces captured; I'm sure locals had a fun time looking for themselves or their friends. Nice effort, great photo.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Anna Chadwick	Morning Sentinel	Gaza hostages vigil	Wow. What a powerful image you captured. His eyes tell an entire story and isn't that what we try to do with our photos? Tell a story? that's exactly what you've done here. Wonderful job.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Vigil for Lewiston victims	I am in absolute awe of this image. It's hauntingly beautiful with the children, the moon and the mother. Extremely powerful. Great capture.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ben McCanna	Portland Press Herald	Pride Parade	This is a gorgeous photo that shows the pride and happiness of Ms. Knight. A fantastic shot.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Will Robinson	Island Ad-Vantages	The rain and wind storm	Tells a story of damage and endeavors to recover. Well done nice framing.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Some of Bravo Company's members	When you can include people the image often speaks volumes. This does so, as mysterious as it may be.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Structure fire at Houlton Intl. Airport	Interesting and telling. Nicely framed.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Dean Kotula	Ellsworth American	Run aground	Great shot! Good angle and just generally good photography.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Michael Connelly	Republican Journal	Emu on the loose in	Not your usual photo opportunity! Good job!
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Stephen Betts	Courier-Gazette	Water rescue	Great spot news photo. Photographer responded to the scene at just the right time. Great job!

Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Daryn Slover	Sun Journal	Veterans Memorial Park	Super picture. Caught the power of the storm in a real way.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press	Grounded boat	The power of the perspective. Well done.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Troy R. Bennett	Bangor Daily News	Bowdoin Shooting Body	This elicits a number of emotions including sympathy for the guys who had to handle the assignment and move the body.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	David Cale	Machias Valley News Observer	Scalloping at Dawn	Nice use of light and subject placement to create a visually appealing silhouette.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Powdered perfection	Good use of reflection in the lake adds depth to the image's top and bottom.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls Advertiser	Sun and wind effects	Somber and peaceful scene that makes a person want to visit the Brettuns Pond.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Schooner Eastwind	Very nice composition and lighting on this photo. You really captured the feel of being on the water.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Michelle Christian	Republican Journal	Dew Drop In	This photo has beautiful detail, and is a fun, unexpected visual for a weather caption.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Anne Berleant	Ellsworth American	A new day dawns	This photo is full of moodiness and even serenity. Great timing for your shot!
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ben McCanna	Portland Press	Song of the City	Excellent composition. The emotion is incredible.
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Linda Coan	Bangor Daily News	Ice Storm Sunset	Beautiful contrast.
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Liberty Festival Fireworks	Lovely capture. Top fireworks photo I've seen.
People Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Happy Faces and Festive Cheer	This photo shows the most emotion in this category. This is a photo that says "Merry Christmas!"
People Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Bittersweet Moments	Not all graduation photos have to have happy faces and mortar boards in the air. This student looks like she already knows what's in store for her in the "real world."
People Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Nick Hannigan and Nova	Cat lovers have to be a special breed. This photo captures the owner's love and the cat's indifference.
People Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mic LeBel	Lincoln County News	Celebration	Nice capture of the emotion of the moment. Good action shot.
People Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Cod fish race runner	This photo captures the intent of the subject in their eyes. Good job making the scene come alive.
People Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	Housing Crisis Portland	The photo choice works well with the story, and provides a vivid picture of the topic at hand. The downfall is that it is staged.

People Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Rich Abrahamson	Morning Sentinel	Hanukkah celebration	Great photographers have an eye for moments, and this is definitely a great shot of a powerful moment. From the contrast to the framing to the candlelight in the child's eyes, this photo was an instant winner in a strong category. I keep going back to it just because each time I do I notice another detail! Great job. What a photograph! If there ever was a photograph that was worth 1,000 words, this would be it. Clearly the photographer put some thought into the lighting and framing, and it paid Bit of a personal choice here in a strong category. While the framing is off a bit in this photo, there was a definite "people" component, with the picture illustrating the care, concern, and connection between the owner and the birds.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	In sickness and in health	
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Linda Coan O'Kresik	Bangor Daily News	Bangor Therapy Chickens	
Picture Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Renaissance Faire	This photo story captures the vibrant atmosphere and excitement of the Renaissance Fair in Limestone, highlighting the diverse crafters, cosplayers, and musicians that contribute to the event. The series of images effectively conveys the lively and positive energy of the fair, offering a compelling glimpse into the festivities. Excellent job!
Picture Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Castine responds to devastating storms	These photos powerfully convey the devastating impact of the storm, showcasing the flooded docks and widespread destruction. They draw the viewer in, evoking a profound sense of sorrow and empathy for those affected by the damage. In photojournalism, the goal is to evoke the emotions captured in the images, and these photos achieve that effectively. They convey a deep sense of sorrow and honor, reflecting the profound emotions experienced during the memorial days celebration. Your work successfully draws the viewer into the moment, creating a powerful emotional connection. Great job!
Picture Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Veterans Honored, Remembered	
Picture Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lizzie Heintz	Ellsworth American	Aging candlepin bowling alley	Clear-cut winner! These photos tell the story. What variety! Especially like the bowling shoes and Autumn's shoes. Creative!
Picture Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Pumpkinfest Regatta	Wow! Colorful, crisp and creative. Amazing work.
Picture Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Simmonds	Camden Herald	August Camden Art Walk	Fun photos. The broad crowd shots show a lot of people, but not a lot of action. I understand why they're included - variety. Nice work!

Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ben McCanna, Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Clearing the encampments	This impactful photo essay was first IMO as judge for many reasons, among them telling the robust story about a pressing issue not just in Maine, but around the nation that all communities are coping with. The photographer did well to be on scene of the clean-up, catching emotions and reactions that were handled well and framed perfectly. There was also depth of photos, going beyond the clean up and showing life in the homeless area. The gallery clearly and powerfully gave to readers a story via images. Well done on all levels. Thank you.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Hallowell mural	A great and wonderful photo essay which was excellent in how handled the color and detail and process of this mural's creation. I loved this gallery and each image was great in its own. I had you barely, and I mean barely, missing the first place. It was very close. Great job on these images. Thank you.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Portland Press Herald staff	Portland Press Herald	Tale of a Tragedy	As I've noted with other entries that covered the tragic mass shooting, thank you for your courage and efforts to report on this sad event as well as to honor and remember the victims in a respectful manner for readers, families and friends of those lost. Many of the entries on this event were very similar and basic, however this entry stood out for a variety of reasons: depth of images, from the day of the shooting to memorials and vigils afterward. Good subject selection, nice framing and good technical skill displayed esp with night images and the moving police vehicle. Thank you for your work and efforts.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News	Musketeers	Nice leading lines and timing capturing the action occurring.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Rosemary Wyman	Castine Patriot	Welcome, Yule!	Easy to read image with clear subject matter and action that tells the story.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Weekly Packet	Great Maine Lumberjack	Good action that looks like a tight race in the in lumberjack game.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Oh, the smell of rotten fish!	The emotion in this photo is priceless on the face of the racer and the crowd behind her. The colors, the fish that appear to be trying to escape, and then the expression of "ick" on her face all combined to keep drawing me in!
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Frida Hennig	Lincoln County News	New Graduates	Good composition and clean background. You can almost hear the conversation between these graduates. A real moment in time has been captured!

Feature Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Paddler Victorious	Good leading line with the paddle image. Lots going on in this photo, but the important action is isolated and front and center.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Shawn Patrick Ouellette	Portland Press Herald	Dance of Maine mermaids	Excellent use of the mirror to capture both expression and motion. The exposure adds to the composition by blending the real and mirror images together.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Therapy dogs at library	This photo captures the joy in the room. Centering the dog, from the dog's level, draws the viewer to the subject of the composition while not diminishing the humans, and there is enough of the surrounding space in the frame as well.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Rich Abrahamson	Morning Sentinel	Ducks in river foam	A great use of a vertical. The viewer is drawn in wondering what the photo is depicting, and the ducks anchor what is a somewhat chaotic scene from nature. This would be a fun piece of wild art I'd choose for an A1 placement.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Frank Miliano Soars High	Best action shot in this category - the players are in focus and the focal point of the photo. Well done!
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Kaden Small Scores Over Opponent	Nice action shot. The Grinch(es?) though...
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News	Off to the Races	Nice capture.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	Head-On Collision	A great shot of a sport that can be difficult to shoot. Obviously the ball hitting the athlete in the face is a big part of the impact of the photo. Not fully in focus, but a great shot nonetheless.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	Swarm	A crystal clear shot that tells a story..apparently this girl was trouble for the other team since she's being quadruple-teamed. great facial expressions as well.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Composed Mariners weather	Great capture of emotion and expression, celebration photos are always good for high-impact photography, and this is no exception. You can really feel their joy. Nice crisp photo.
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Baseball final	This shot was just the perfect shot. there was nothing wrong with this shot. It was just perfect.
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Shawn Patrick Ouellette	Portland Press Herald	Double overtime win	This photo shows the excitement of the winning team and the agony of the other teams defeat. What a great shot!
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Cross Country race	This shot showed everything on her face, the struggle, the pain and the determination. It was the perfect shot and timing. The photographer chose a great area to be in for the race.

Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Daylight Saving Time	This graphic conveys its message in a small, attractive space. It's the kind of information readers need, offered in a small space.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	1st Place	Eric Zelz	Harpowell Anchor	A Way Out?	This captivating illustration captures the reader's attention and suggests the reason behind the myriad of challenges for would-be homeowners is nothing less than the almighty dollar. The expression on the characters is great.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Eric Zelz	Harpowell Anchor	House of Phones	This illustration conveys the subject in an evocative manner, drawing in the reader to learn more while also reflecting the possibility for there to be unintended consequences.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sam Allen	Harpowell Anchor	Tide chart	Subtle elements make what could be a ghastly array of text into a visually appealing element that draws the reader's eye across the information.
Illustration/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Gratuities: Have we reached	These illustrations are well-designed and eye-catching, effectively complementing the article. The added humor is a delightful bonus, bringing a refreshing touch of cartoons back to the newspaper. First place all the way!
Illustration/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Data brokers know everything	First off, the giant eyeball in this illustration is highly eye-catching! The type wrapping around the eyeball and the use of colors, strokes, and shadows on the fonts are executed brilliantly. I also appreciate how the illustration seamlessly transitions into the editorial section with color blocks for the story to rest on. Great job!
Illustration/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Jake Laws	Portland Press Herald	Ropeless technology	Excellent illustration effectively depicting the lobstering process without the use of lines. The use of color is particularly noteworthy, as it skillfully conveys depth and enhances the overall clarity of the scene.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Yvonne Tardie, Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Star-Herald Business Page	This Business Page effectively features a wealth of local business articles. The design maintains a substantial flow and ensures that the abundance of content doesn't feel overwhelming. The balanced placement of photos further enhances the page's readability and visual appeal. Excellent Job

Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Castine Patriot	Solar eclipse April 8	This page design excels with its top border symbolizing the solar eclipse and includes a well-organized list of local events, a clear map of the eclipse path, and a helpful safety tip article. The design is both informative and visually engaging, enhancing the reader's experience effectively.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Veterans Honored	This specialty page design offers a compelling tribute to the Memorial Day service in your area. The photos capture a lot of emotion, and the use of colors and graphics effectively ties the entire page together.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Pet Page	I absolutely loved this! There were great photos and even better information for pet owners in the community. All valuable and smart to have businesses support the page. A great idea that was executed very well.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	David Fickett	Ellsworth American	Year in Review	This was a really clean and lovely layout. I liked including photos in the spread. A lot of the year-in-reviews that I see don't include photos. It drew the eye in and made me want to read it. Great job!
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Chausa Tra	Mount Desert Islander	Thrill of the Chase	This was a really nice layout. You can tell someone took their time and put a lot of creative thought into it.
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Maine silent film festival	Great use of the theme across the entire page. Nicely done!
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Sally Tyrrell	Portland Press Herald	Keep clam and carry on	Good play on the "keep calm" phrase. Bright, catchy, simple and attractive layout.
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Sally Tyrrell	Portland Press Herald	About time	I like the question mark layout using the fiddleheads. My question wasn't about cook time prior to reading the article, but what the heck is a fiddlehead? Nice layout, attractive and catchy.
Front Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Star-Herald	Star-Herald Front Page	The front page design is highly engaging and exhibits a well-considered flow. The strategic placement of photos contributes to a balanced and aesthetically pleasing layout. Excellent work overall. This design is deserving of first place recognition.

Front Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Weekly Packet	WPK pg1 08032023	This front page design is notably clean and effectively incorporates a wealth of information. The use of headlines and subheadlines is particularly well-executed, providing clear structure and emphasis. The application of drop shadows on the photos adds depth and enhances their prominence. Excellent work!
Front Page Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Weekly Packet	WP pg 1 2023-12-07	The front page design is clean and well-organized. While the right side of the page feels a bit heavier, overall the layout is effective. The headlines and subheadlines are used to great effect, providing clear and engaging structure. The drop shadows on the photos add a nice touch of dimension, making them stand out beautifully. Well done!
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Dunkle	Camden Herald	Front page design Aug 11	Nice clean front. Strong use of graphic for story. Nice simple teasers on top. Overall great front page.
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Christine Dunkle	Camden Herald	Front page Camden Herald	Another great front page. Nice use of color to match graphics. Clean, simple to read front page.
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sam Allen	Harpswell Anchor	February 2024	Simple, clean attractive layout. All bold headlines compete with each other making it hard to know what is most important.
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Marla Hoffman	Sun Journal	Lewiston shooter found	You can feel the emotion in these pictures..
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Marla Hoffman & Patrick Cochran	Sun Journal	Quality of life or a homeless crackdown	This pictures says it all
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Lewiston Veterans Memorial Park	Great use of the front page
Sections	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski, Pierre Little	Calais Advertiser	Editorial Sections	The editorial page is the heart and soul of the newspaper. This paper is doing it right and has fairness, balance, and has engaged the people as is evident by the Letters to the Editor. This paper is not afraid to be bold and make a difference.
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Machias Valley News Observer	Editorial Pages	Nice mix of contributors and Letters to the Editor. The Editorial Pages seem to be doing their job!
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Yvonne Tardie, Staff	Star-Herald	Star-Herald Viewpoints	The Editorial Pages exhibit that the newspaper cares about its community. Nice work!
Editorial Page	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Simmonds, Daniel	Courier-Gazette	The Courier-Gazette editorial sections	Good editorials, local columns and a cartoonist sets this above the rest. Well done.

Editorial Page	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth American Editorial Page	Good editorials and good local columns. Nice work.
Editorial Page	Weekly 3	3rd Place	Faith DeAmbrose	Mount Desert	Islander editorial pages	Good editorial.
Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Editorial pages	In a very strong category, this entry stood out in both content and presentation. The feature-length articles accompanied by graphics on the front pages appealed to the eye and were well-written. The longer op-eds in the "Maine Voices" were nicely balanced by the shorter letters to the editor. Nice mix of columnists.
Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Sun Journal Perspective	Nice balance of local and syndicated voices, as well as a young person and a person of color. Good variety of topics. Several letters to the editor with submission information shows community involvement.
Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ben Bragdon and Megan Bachelder	Morning Sentinel	MS Editorial Page	Nice selection of voices and issues, with particular emphasis on local matters. I was particularly struck by having a millennial as a regular contributor. Bonus points for the one editorial cartoon that echoed the lead op-ed.
Sports Page	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Sports Sections	The sports pages are photo heavy, often with posed group shots or unimaginative action shots. Two of the three page designs were chaotic. Stories tend to start with "when" leads.
Sports Page	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Phil Stuart, Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Sports Section	The sports pages are text heavy and photos are mostly posed or taken from too far away. Headlines are all the same size and there is little evidence of trying to make them fit. More creativity would help.
Sports Page	Weekly 2	1st Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	The Lincoln County News	Outstanding coverage! Loved the many photographs. Each child, and each team covered. I'm changing mine to look like yours! Wonderful!
Sports Page	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ryan McLaughlin and Zach Lanning	Ellsworth American	EA Sports	Nice stories.
Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press	Sports pages	Great graphics, great white space, excellent job!

Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Sun Journal Staff	Sun Journal	SJ sports page	Super nice! Loved the sports from years ago! I'm going to start doing that in my paper. Good white space.
Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Jim Emple, Linda Kamp-Davis	Bangor Daily News	2/24/24; 3/2/24; 2/22/24	Easy to read, good white space, good graphics
Sports	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Game Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Poland hunter finds bucks	What a wonderful tale, full of detail, action and conversational story-telling.
Game Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	County's first 'DustBowl'	This very detailed story also could have run on the business pages. The reporter writes with great knowledge of the
Game Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Meduxnekeag canoe race	The opening of this story was very engaging. I loved the quote: "Is this the last bend...." While the results are important, I might have suggested using them as a breakout box and then end the story with a quote from one of the participants.
Game Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Zach Lanning	Mount Desert	Trojans stun Eagles	This is a great come back story--pics go well with it
Game Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Gridiron greets: Mariners	Great story--well written
Game Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mark Haskell	Republican Journal	Hurd's milestone night	Great story with such a great accomplishment!
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Mike Mandell	Morning Sentinel	Field hockey: Skowhegan tops Brewer	Great lead that drew me in and kept me there. Love the writer's style and ability to form a story that draws in even readers who not sports fans. Great job!
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Drew Bonifant	Portland Press Herald	Flagg brothers provide plenty	This story included some really unique and colorful reporting for a sports story, especially the comments from the spectators. Made me go to YouTube to look the players up. I would suggest watching use of some terms like "dish" and "smooth," but otherwise great job and a fantastic read!
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Mike Mandell	Kennebec Journal	Mental fortitude key	This writer is a great storyteller. The reader is captivated from the opening line until the end of the story. Very well done!
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls Advertiser	Auction of sports banners	An attempt to raise money for sports teams turns controversial. Not what you see every day in sports pages. Compelling.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Penquis girls basketball	A pretty good story that outlines why a local girls basketball team will not field a varsity team this season.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	After more than 30 years	A good entry focused on the return of wrestling championships to an area school. Gives some good history.

Sports News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mic LeBel	Lincoln County News	Pickleball the Fountain	Great read, informative while interesting. Jovial read.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Republican Journal	Waldo teams tackle	Too many run-on sentences. It took until paragraph 6 before the entire paragraph wasn't one long sentence. Very interesting but work on those run-ons!
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Ultimate Frisbee	Fun and informative
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Glenn Jordan	Portland Press Herald	A promising tennis star	The type of story and writing- that, when combined, bring home the unscripted drama of sports on and off the field. A painful story that had to be shared, given the times. An extensive, well-written story on what appears to be the eternal struggle between old and new, young and old, and maybe, just maybe, the problem of helicopter parents. I think this could have been strengthened by revealing earlier in the story the coach's age and background - Marine Corps - that probably contributed to the tension. But again, sports and personal drama - again off the playing field - combined make for a compelling story more so when superb writing is thrown in.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Craig	Portland Press Herald	Falmouth High football coach resigns	A well-done story on the discontent - and unfairness, for whatever reason - of rule differences in sports that again is as timely as it is relevant.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dave Dyer	Morning Sentinel	'I wish we could hit'	
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook	Coach honored for 41	This tells a story and doesn't just list facts about the coach. Nicely
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Island Ad-Vantages	Deer Isle part-time	
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Phil Stuart	Machias Valley News Observer	Norton Enters Maine Baseball HOF	
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kevin G. Burnham	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Boothbay Region Youth Basketball	Fun story to read. A modern day "If you build it, they will come."
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Faith DeAmbrose	Mount Desert Islander	Getting the run-around	Very interesting story. Liked incorporating your athlete of the week feature also.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Zach Lanning	Ellsworth American	End of an era	Cool feature on someone the community has known for many
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Noah Carpenter	LOVE layout! Classy!
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Dave Dyer	Kennebec Journal	Cony High senior chasing	Good story, great photos, international goodwill.
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Sam Canfield	Bangor Daily News	Ruth White's running	Inspiring and joyful to read.

Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Sports Columnist	LOVED the way so many player's names were mentioned. This is where hometown papers shine! GREAT.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Bill Graves	St. John Valley Times	Mainly Outdoors	Easy read, interesting.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Bill Graves	Aroostook	Mainly Outdoors	Lots of information.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Courier-Gazette Sports Columnist	
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Travis Lazarczyk	Portland Press Herald	Plenty of lessons	A well-laid out opinion article. I appreciate how you were able to keep an even tone while still coming across as passionate about
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mike Mandell	Morning Sentinel	Sidelines columns by Mike Mandell	
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Travis Lazarczyk	Portland Press	A tour through Red Sox	
Sports Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Greenville and PCHS to field cooperative softball	Nice play on words
Sports Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Machias Teams Strike Gold Making 2023 A Banner Year for	Use of "Strike Gold" drew me into the story.
Sports Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Haidyn Jumps to Victory	Way to paint a picture with your headline. It would have been easy to put that with a photo of the girl jumping, but you told the reader more by using a photo of her standing on the ground.
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Bill Pearson	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Harkins capping senior year with strong 'Finn-ish'	Love the way you used his name to make the headline.
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Bill Pearson	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp.	Wolverines 'Landin' Class D semis on Shirey's 5 3-	Great way to use the name in the headline.
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Believe it: For second straight year, Ripley twins prove among Class B's	Great way to refer to Ripley's Believe it or not.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Bros foes	Good alliteration that still gives your the gist of the story.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Lee Horton	Sun Journal	Nor rain	Works well with the lead and the theme of the story, though it is a bit awkward to read.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Joe Grant	Portland Press Herald	Rustic luxury	A clever take on the Gilligan's Island theme song about a rustic lodge. I could really used the lead and story to help judge this effectiveness of entry, but it wasn't included.

Sports Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith, Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Calais JH Basketball Earns County Championship	A well-designed page that gives focus to each of the team members on a high school girls basketball team. A clean and balanced design.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Dylan Lingley, Phil Stuart, Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Sports Page Design 1/24/24	A text-heavy design where all headlines are the same size. Little imagination.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	The Lincoln County News	Loved that so many kids' name were in the articles! Keep supporting EVERY child! Great job.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ashley Carter	Ellsworth American	Celebrating Youth Sports	Great graphics, good layout, informative for that age. Well done!
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ashley Carter	Ellsworth American	Tourney Time	Nice grapgics and good stories.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Will Tooher, Wil Kramlich	Sun Journal	Sports June 20	Clearly laid out articles with good pictures. I really liked the State Championship side bar - a lot of information at a glance.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Bangor Daily News	Feb. 21, 2024	I'm impressed by how many stories you can fit onto the page, but in a way that is still organized and easy for the eye to follow and still able to have good, eye-catching pictures.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Scott Martin	Portland Press	Scott Martin sports page	
Writing	RKDivision	Place	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Without child care	Solid multiple source story about how a lack of child care services can upend a local economy.
News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	David Avery	Castine Patriot	Volunteers turn out	Lots of sources and lots of news about a community disaster.
News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Tainted broccoli could hurt	Local voices talking about how a farmer's bad decision could have devastating effects on an area's agriculture.
News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpswell Anchor	Lack of affordable housing	The clear winner in my opinion. This story tackles a tough, intractable subject with multiple perspectives. They include the direct impact on people, the regional and statewide data, impacts on the young and the old, and steps under consideration to help out. Especially rewarding was a section devoted to possible solutions, instead of just raising the issue and walking away. However, the final section gives a clue as to what to expect: "Rocky road ahead." Very impressive news coverage; a real service to the readers.

News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Steve Fuller	Ellsworth American	Lamoine hits pause	A great lead was the first clue that this was going to be a great story. The lead made it clear that a lot of people were concerned about a proposed development, and were largely unanimous in their opinion of it. The story expertly walks us through the situation, the process, the proponents and opponents, and the conclusion. Well reported and written. Excellent reporting and deft writing. The story starts with a personal example of the problem and expands from there to look at the local data. It draws from numerous people, some of them from social media posts and others from interviews. Gets the perspective of the offending institution (USM) and of a concerned local politician. Covers the waterfront of this issue.
News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Robert Lowell	American Journal	USM parking system changes	
News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Eric Russell	Portland Press Herald	Tale of a tragedy: How Lewiston	The longest of all entries in this class, this story did not read like a massive article. The reporter (and editors) did a great job of utilizing short, one or two sentence paragraphs which allowed reader to not get bogged down. The article was also superbly sourced, with a range of people, officials and voices expressing their opinions, recollections about the mass shooting. The timeline was nicely handled, and the break-ups into short segments also done nicely. This covered everything about this tragic event, and did so in a very readable manner and style, giving readers all the info needed on this horrible night and following days of lock-down. Congrats to all on this, and I hope the staff is able to recover from covering such trauma. Kudos for keeping a high level of professional reporting during a time of such difficult emotions and feelings. Thank you; 1st for this judge.

News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Emma Davis, AnnMarie Hilton	Maine Morning Star	Many unhoused Lewiston residents	This was a brilliant article in topic, but also reporting and writing. I had you as clear second place in a super competitive class of entries in which the winner was about the mass shooting as a whole incident over days. This article offered insight into a topic most never consider about homeless peoples: where to go in a mass shooting incident? We think of winter storms, hurricanes and those situations - but not a lockdown due to manhunt for violent suspect. I appreciated this unique angle to the mass shooting, and covering people many reporters do not think of covering. There was great sourcing, use of quotes, information on unsheltered resources and showing the fear, worry and concern of homeless people in the region. Nicely done and a clear 2nd place winner in this judge's opinion. Thank you!! This article, while long, was chock full of great information and analysis from historical archives, law enforcement and my guess is the reporter/editing teams immense knowledge of their own community. This reporting illustrated a key issue with this mass shooting, and how difficult the search can be in a state like Maine. Good flow for a long piece, and I felt the structure, use of quotes mixed with factual details were well done. Nice work on a unique angle to this incident that may not be as pertinent in a highly populated urban area where most mass shootings occur. Good job; 3rd place for me.
News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Bader, Samantha Hogan, Emmett Gartner	The Maine Monitor	Vast rural expanse complicates	
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Chris Bouchard, Mike Dowd	St. John Valley Times	Pickup truck, tractor removed	A real life story, and the writer was there "on the spot" to give excellent coverage of the issue. The story also incorporated community service into the piece with the link about ice safety. Excellent coverage of this situation, covering all of the angles.
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen	Houlton Pioneer	3 Houlton businesses	
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	David Avery	Castine Patriot	Castine responds to devastating storms	Thorough coverage of the storms! Great work!
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Search for overdue fisherman	The reporter was on scene for the arrival of the injured man, and used great art and strong storytelling to capture the emotion of a difficult rescue. Sentences like this one should be celebrated in journalism in Maine and beyond: "Battered, cold, barely able to ambulate, and not the size of a teenage gymnast, the man waited in a drizzle that would intensify as the hours passed." A strong retelling worthy of the gold medal in this category.

Spot News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Fritz Freudenberger and Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Structure fire on Squirrel Island	A short but very strong retelling of an island fire fought "Mainely" by way of community grit and effort. Visuals obtained through intrepid journalism pushed this to a well-deserved silver medal.
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Faith DeAmbrose	Mount Desert Islander	Black ice causes dump truck	Ingenuity in using a drone to capture photos posted immediately online added to the depth of a piece well told from the perspective of the victim himself. Well done.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Mass shooting in Lewiston	It takes a lot to say that one submission in this category is the best — scores of 10 are not handed out generously here — but this could not have been done any better given the combination of very little time, a story that was changing by the second and so much speculation.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jessica Lowell	Kennebec Journal	Flooding Kennebec River	Stellar work in the field and on the desk. Haunting photos — and probably the decision by those out on site that night to press on while forgetting that a killer still was unaccounted for. Great work from reporting to posting. Excellent interviews, great photos, official and technical information presented with the essential clarity. Excellent editing of input from all hands out in the field.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Bangor Daily News	Wind storm leaves 2 dead	This story is a "how to" for handling the initial coverage of natural disaster when the reporting staff and editors were facing the same limitations — no electricity, closed roads and, of course unforgiving deadlines. They made it work.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Rowe SRO absent two months	A clear winner in a category that otherwise was straight reporting from readily available documents or court testimony. Excellent example of reporter initiative in following up a tip. Solid reporting. Extra points for using FOI even if it hasn't [yet, one would hope] yielded results. One flaw, however, is that attribution is needed in the 4th graf
Courts Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Brackett/Dana Murder Trial	Straight reporting of trial testimony but extensive coverage. I do question the use of "grueling" in the lede; this is an opinion and not supported by anything. Also not fond of trite expressions like "wasted no time cutting to the chase."

Courts Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Judge denies bail	Straight reporting from readily available documents but good explanation of the circumstances surrounding the decision to not grant bail
Courts Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpswell Anchor	Lawsuit seeks to force sale	A well-told tale with shades of both past and present waterfront life in Maine. The reporter shows that even if the key people won't talk, it doesn't stop journalists from telling good stories. Good job making a complicated story about East Coast property ownership and use easy to digest for a Midwesterner. This story unfortunately buries the lead and is overly soft up top. And yet, it pays dividends for readers willing to stick with it by providing a valuable, well-told discussion of judicial philosophy by letting a prosecutor explain herself to the community. A stronger hand by an editor could have pushed this to the top spot. Good job tackling a touchy topic.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Stephen Betts	Courier-Gazette	District attorney defends handling	A nice explanatory piece brings (hopefully) a close to what seems to be a fairly ridiculous local dispute. Nice work on this piece.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Erica Thoms	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Plaintiffs' motion to dismiss Belfast	This article brings to attention a significant gap in police work, but from both sides of the issue.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emily Bader, Emmett Gartner	The Maine Monitor	Police often lack direction	
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	She wasn't an Irish	
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Gillian Graham	Portland Press	They built houses	
Political Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	State panel calls on VA	A heavy and important story. This was heavy on process. I hope there are other stories that approached these issues from a human angle using exemplars. Another example of the local newspaper covering what I call a "Wait. What?" story. It offers the public service of telling people to be very careful about what they sign. Officials made a big deal about the color of the card they signed. I'm sure the color of the card they signed was meaningless to the voter.
Political Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Some local residents say	This seems like a simple story, but it's a prime example of the local paper holding local government accountable for acting like grownups. If you didn't tell the community about this, how would they know?
Political Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Woodland board member	
Political Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpswell Anchor	Collins vows to help rebuild Harpswell	Really well written and the accompanying photos accentuated the story instead of just coinciding with it.

Political Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Thomaston citizens create park	Written with a play-by-play vibe without feeling boring or monochromatic. It relayed the sense of tension and importance very well and was all-around an engaging article.
Political Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Stephen Betts	Courier-Gazette	Gun raffle is fundraiser	Informative and well written, but the headline felt a bit bait-and-switch. I wanted to read more about a gun raffle to raise money for a politician, and it barely even touched on that aspect.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Randy Billings	Portland Press Herald	Maine Legislature's use	Holding government accountable is the high duty and priority of our profession. This was top-flight reporting and good storytelling. That includes shining light on practices that some of the more calculating or cowardly in elected office probably did not want discussed openly and in daylight.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Michael Shepherd	Bangor Daily News	9 absent Maine lawmakers	A well-crafted story that is as important to readers as it is informative. You don't have to be a political junkie to have deep appreciation for this article.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emma Davis	Maine Morning Star	Behind 14th Amendment	A well-researched and reported story. An informative and delightful read. This story answered a ton of questions that often were not examined by national or wire service stories that one might read out of state. Also a heavyweight political story refreshingly free — mostly — of party politics.
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Neo-Nazi wants to train	This is some important work done by the Houlton Pioneer Times. Nazis don't show up in your backyard everyday, so this work was important to the community.
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook	Limestone wants Loring	
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Maine's cannabis boom	
Investigative Report	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Harpwell Anchor	Unaffordable: Can Harpswell	Affordable housing seems to be a problem in every municipality in every county in every state; this series offers a thorough, clear explanation of the localized problem, causes, possible solutions and just how difficult it will be to proceed. Terrific reporting and writing, clearly informing readers without burying them under bureaucrat-ese.

Investigative Report	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	From a Tent to an Apartment	Every story or series we write is about people; this one encapsulates the national housing and homeless crisis in the stories of two or three people who could be anyone we pass on the street. The reporter handled the interviews deftly, with just the right touches.
Investigative Report	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Maine's plan to site wind power	The story combines a lot of complex moving pieces and presents them clearly and concisely on an issue of growing importance that will absolutely need to be done right if it is to work. Would have liked a bit more on the overall complexity and the environmental and economic risks of wind farms; still, a nice job.
Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Kay Neufeld	Portland Press Herald	Freight railroads police themselves	Extensive and well-written, not to mention frightening.
Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Rose Lundy	The Maine Monitor	Maine's long-term challenges	A chilling and frank expose of how an agency in which people place their trust to care for their vulnerable tragically fails them. Well done!
Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Duggan, Christopher Williams	Sun Journal	Free speech or uncivil discourse?	Well-researched and thought out, not to mention - again - focus on a chilling topic - free speech muzzling. This is the beauty of the local press - keep them honest whether they like it or not.
Analysis	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Domestic violence homicides	A good mix of statistics and details of assaults to give an overview of this common but terrible crime.
Analysis	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Lake homes overtaking camps	Never having been there, I got a sense of the changes happening in this community thanks to the reporter's use of numbers and personal stories.
Analysis	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Maine state law allows colleges	An informative and dispassionate analysis of what the law actually says about concealed and open carry.

Analysis	Weekly 2	1st Place	John Gormley	Harpowell Anchor	In a town of bedrock	Well done on a crucial and important piece. Answered the important questions like 'why?' 'how?' 'and 'so what now'. It gave information to people unfamiliar with the terminology and explained how the situation got to this point. Very well done.
Analysis	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpowell Anchor	Lack of affordable housing	Very sobering and informative piece. I like that it used number-based facts without being boring or overwhelming. It held the human interest aspect at the forefront without coming across as being the primary focus, instead highlighting the issues that brought about the situation.
Analysis	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	'Perfect public safety	Well written and to the point.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Eric Russell, John Terhune	Portland Press Herald	Hate groups are on the march	This was some deep reporting about an important issue. It's well written and lets readers know why it's important.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Judith Meyer, Carl Natale	Sun Journal	All calls answered	This was an interesting idea to pursue after a horrible mass shooting. Each call was considered a potential lead to catch the mass shooter. It was also well written.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Valerie Royzman	Bangor Daily News	Maine's small towns	This was a highly competitive category, but this story found an important problem that is little known and affects areas not often in the spotlight.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom, Valerie Royzman	Piscataquis Observer	Mayo Mill dam removal	Not only did they report the many complex details of the issue all along the way, but also made the effort to give readers the perspective of those people who would be most affected.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Resignations rock the town	Did a very good job following the issue, but also of not taking no for an answer when it came to the reasons behind the resignations - filing Freedom of Access Act requests to get the resignation letters.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Wolfden mining seeks	Not just your standard meeting stories. Each article was filled with not only the current news, but with detailed background information of the case, including recaps of of previous hearings/actions, in order to keep readers who haven't followed it informed.

Continuing Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Drew Johnson	Forecaster	Town vs. Lumberj	I couldn't wait to read the last story and see how this ended. Such emotion and the stories captured this with great quotes from a variety of sources.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Drew Johnson	Forecaster	Proposal for new school	Nice series of stories on the process of trying to get this new school built. Good background in every story. Great quotes to give emotion to the process.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mikayla Patel	Lakes Region Weekly	Gender Queer' controversy	Very good job of covering a sensitive subject. Feel it was very fair to all sides. Great quotes.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	Maine's troubled court	Significant community issue. Unique and undercover. Great
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Rachel Ohm, Grace Benninghoff	Portland Press Herald	Homelessness in Portland	Community significance. Good use of quotes. Good storytelling.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Portland Press	Lewiston mass shooting	Great storytelling. Great story topics.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Aroostook County basket maker	A revealing and interesting look into a process that's probably not well understood by many readers, and an important documentation of a cultural practice. Some nice writing flourishes help bring the story to life.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Restless artists on display	A fascinating look into the lives and art of two very different yet similar people. This story leaves me interested in the artists, appreciative of the group hosting the exhibit, and wanting to see more of the art.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Rose Lincoln	Bethel Citizen	Bethel 'trail angels'	A fun and engaging glimpse into life on the Appalachian Trail, and into the role of trail angels. I never got bored reading this.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	1st Place	Freyja Grey	Camden Herald	Candid about Tony Curtis	The article begins effectively with a compelling quote that draws readers in. It provides a vivid and emotional account of young Ben's experience. The use of Ben's direct quotes enriches the story, allowing his personal voice to come through strongly. Great job!

Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Free Press	Epitaphs Form Songs	The article begins with a powerful quote that immediately captures the reader's attention. It presents a unique and engaging perspective that maintains interest throughout. The writing is excellent, particularly the way the reporter questions what the subject’s epitaph on her own grave will be. Excellent article!
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	After-School Adventures	This article is excellently written, providing a detailed and engaging overview of the Dungeons & Dragons club. The reporter does a fantastic job of explaining the game, and the opening sentence is particularly attention-grabbing, drawing readers in from the very beginning.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Megan Gray	Portland Press Herald	To join #cluboyster	This article topped a very, very impressive and strong field of entries. The writing was great. The story flowed very well and it was fun to learn why and how the subject got into tattoo art. I really enjoy reading this. Outstanding work!
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	50 years ago	In one of the strongest group of entries I've seen in a while, this stood for very solid organization, great materials and strong writing. it is quite a story. Great work!
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	If there's a rock 'n' roll heaven	This was such a fun story to read. Lewiston, Maine - who knew? The use of past articles and present material was nicely done. Strong organization was another plus.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Milling Around	Simply a well-told, engaging account of a father and son, family and community.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	A stranger’s concern	This is a terrific story. But what struck me most was how connected the reporter is to her community. Your newspaper and readers are well served.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Maggie White	Weekly Packet	It’s prime pruning time	The reporter did a great job describing the depth and breath of her subject. I also learned a great deal about pruning trees. Thank you.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	A Pet Duck?	This was great. I couldn't help but laugh. I've never heard of a pet
Feature Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Christine Simmonds	Courier-Gazette	Former Broadway, Radio City drummer	Great job. It's fun when you find those subjects that tell an interesting story. I felt like I was in the room talking with him.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Christine Simmonds	Camden Herald	Rocket Man visits West Bay Rotary	Interesting feature on a person that most people will never get a chance to talk to.

Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Jake Freudberg	Morning Sentinel	Former central Maine district attorney	Great research. Great storytelling. Good community significance.
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Evan Popp, AnnMarie Hilton	Maine Morning Star	Homelessness solutions	Good community significance. Good storytelling. Good use of quotes.
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	His town was called Maine's ugliest	Unique. Good storytelling.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	1st Place	Rose Lincoln	Bethel Citizen	A friend to farmers	Great story that illuminates who grows our food, how it gets to consumers, and what it really takes to make "farm to table" a reality.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	2 Maine chefs	Excellent writing with some wonderful details that provide readers and restaurant-goers with a rich story about an unusual local eatery.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Aroostook restaurant	Nice feature explaining the person, history and story behind a food item that some readers probably know little to nothing about.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	1st Place	Chris Wolf	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Handing over the	Good detail. Good story telling.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Connie Sage	Harpwell Anchor	Sundrenched owners	Good detail. Good story telling.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	Five Courses at the Black	Good storytelling. Good writing on senses.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Christopher Wheelock	Sun Journal	Bugs. It's what's for dinner	Not going to lie. Gross. But it was interesting and I could not get enough of this.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	Street eats	Great way to highlight these local businesses.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Jake Freudberg	Morning Sentinel	New owners of Brick House Kitchen	Nice feature on these new owners.
Critic's Award	Weekly 1	1st Place	Rick Heller	Machias Valley News Observer	A Portrait to Paint Review	This is a wonderfully written, thoughtful review that does what I am sure is the goal of the author, to get you interested in reading the piece.
Critic's Award	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jon Reisman	Calais Advertiser	Freedom Studies	There were only two entries but it was a tough category to judge because this also was a well-written piece that went above and beyond in terms of research and fact presentation. Also some good pop culture references and just overall relatable.

Critic's Award	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lisa Kristoff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	'Working Maine'	This article deserves first place not only because it one of only two entries that offer the author's opinion of the art that is the subject of the story (as a review is supposed to do), but also because it is an excellent example of an art review. It combines a description of the exhibit and its history, interviews with sources and the author's comments about and reaction to the work. Reading this makes me want to see the exhibit. Wonderful description of several pieces.
Critic's Award	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Free Press	At ClIFF: Stone Documentary	The author offers excellent comments about the documentary. The conclusion is ambiguous, however; what is obvious about the thought, and what is it the beginning of?
Critic's Award	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Karolyne Sloma	Daily Bulldog	TPAC's The Nutcracker at Bjorn Theater	Nice explanation of the changes made to a classic, so that audiences will understand how it differs from what they must be accustomed to. Nice use of quotes; however, almost entirely lacking in the author's voice, which should be present in a review
Critic's Award	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Andrew Ross	Portland Press Herald	Dine Out Maine: Lacking flavor and love	Writing a bad review is a delicate act, but this critique balances the reasons the reader ought best to avoid this restaurant with both the sincere disappointment and hope that the restaurant improves. I've felt this way about eateries before, and the writer brings me into the thought process behind trying to find redemption in a place that, as observation in the piece notes, where care has been abandoned.
Critic's Award	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jorge S. Arango	Portland Press Herald	Portland Museum of Art makes case	I would like to take a tour of this exhibition with the writer, who is both more informed than the museum appears to be at times and is expert enough to see the value in the collection. I particularly appreciate seeing it pointed out repeatedly that the museum ought to provide more context itself.
Critic's Award	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Stinging and stunning 'Rabbit Hole'	Theater reviews can fall into a bit of a pattern, but this one breaks out of the mold to take the reader by the hand and guide them to the show they should go see but were likely planning to skip. The point about providing support to young people putting on such a strong, emotional show is well taken.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Mi'kmaq Nation will install naloxone	This is a pretty good story about a local community putting in a free vending machine to distribute naloxone to fight local drug overdose deaths.

Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Springfield neo-Nazi compound	This is an interesting story about a neo-Nazi compound in the area being sold, but that minority groups are still concerned about a strong White Supremist element in the community.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Weekly Packet	Blue Hill Pride draws all-ages	This is a pretty coverage of a local pride event. Well organized.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mikayla Patel	Lakes Region Weekly	Campfire Institute's outdoor programs	Well written. Excellent use of a variety of sources that bring different experiences about the camp. Thorough.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Kelli Park	Harpswell Anchor	Exhibit of Inuit photography	So interesting! Well written.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mikayla Patel	Forecaster	Connection program for senior	Cool program! What's missing: an interview with the participants.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Grace Benninghoff	Portland Press Herald	Moved along: What it's like	A multi-sourced story with plenty of color that certainly educated readers about an important issue affecting the community and communities nationwide.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	'Help will come'	Nothing like a first-hand account of a tragedy. I'd like to have found out more about why the gunman did what he did. (I did read about it in an adjacent story on the same page but that doesn't count. At least one paragraph of who he is, why he did what he did and what happened to him should have been included in this story, perhaps with an editor's note to read the other story). Look, I understand. Every writer thinks everyone reads their stories or every story in every issue, but I know that's not true. Many readers may only read one or two stories per issue, and in this case, may not have read the story about the shooter. Still, really good reporting.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ella Beiser	Sun Journal	Well grounded	Well-written story easy to grasp and likely to interest most readers. This story doesn't have great depth but it is storytelling at its best.

Community Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	From Away and Back	For me, this was the easy winner in this category. The writer shared his perspective in a fun and engrossing way, telling two unique stories in an interesting way. The piece about the fisherman who die at sea was very unique and not something someone such as myself from South Dakota thinks much about. The imminent domain piece is a subject we are all familiar with, but he ties it into how it affects all in the community very well. I enjoyed these.
Community Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Caroline Spear	Weekly Packet	Green Thumbs	These are just fun! That's the best ways I can describe these. The Christmas tree one was enjoyable, relatable and had me searching out the "The Shortest Day." Gardening isn't my thing, but the other column held my interest and was chalk full of good material delivered in an easy to read way, without being too heavy handed. Good reads.
Community Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Mike Thalhauser	Island Ad-Vantages	The View from Atlantic Avenue	These were short but really grabbed me because of how informative they are. Not really a column in the traditional sense, but so full of interesting information I was hooked, pardon the pun. Well done.
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Characters of the County	Not your typical column, but a great feature to get to know people in the area. Good quotes. Could use a little editing. Well written, reasoned commentary. Good work here
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ed Robinson	Harpowell Anchor	Harpowell Naturalist	Agree with the description of the thoughtful manner of tackling difficult subjects.
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lynette L. Walther	Camden Herald	Good Seasons	Good info with good sources, which I like to see in columns. Nice voice and tone that would resonate with avid gardeners and people like me, who struggle!
Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Dana Wilde	Kennebec Journal	Community columns by Dana Wilde	In a very strong field of columns, these rose to the top for crisp and clear writing. These both were very engaging columns. Outstanding work.
Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Christine Burns Rudalevige	Portland Press Herald	Christine Burns Rudalevige columns	I really enjoyed these, especially in this era of "anyone can be a food writer." (Not true!) I really, really enjoyed these, not just as an editor but as a 50-year food judge for 4-H. the details are important! Great work!

Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Burnham	Bangor Daily News	Hard Telling Not Knowing	This writer has a distinctive style that really appealed to me as a reader. I really like the use of a regional phrase for the reader question columns. The story about the college cottages and music festival was also a fun read. Good work!
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jonathan Reisman	Machias Valley News Observer	Freedom Studies	One of these columns clearly stands out as the only entry in the category that takes on issues in the news and expresses an opinion about them. Both entries are highly readable and thought-provoking.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Sophie Landrum	Weekly Packet	Teen Topics	Two very readable columns that wrestle with and, crucially, come to conclusions about philosophical topics.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Joanne Steenberg	Castine Patriot	The Power of Love	Enjoyable columns that present the reader with useful information, context and analysis.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Jake Newcomb	Courier-Gazette	Rationally Right	Honest, thought-provoking writing. Gutsy personal perspective.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Kathleen Norton	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Yours are mine, too	Well-written articles; writer does not mind taking stands on local issues. Great job.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Jill Goldthwait	Mount Desert Islander	Mainers get a sobering reality check	Good writing on current topics. Well-written and convincing.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Victoria Hugo-Vidal	Portland Press Herald	The Maine Millennial	Two great columns that speak from the heart, are straight to the point and easy to understand. Both have some very eye-catching, powerful lines, such as "get shot while bowling and bankrupt for surviving" and Banger Charter and association church being against bisexuality but wanting "to go both ways" are very striking. Great work!
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Hilary Koch	Morning Sentinel	Opinion columns by Hilary Koch	These columns weren't as "serious" as the other columns, but that's OK. They were a fun read and very well written. What's more, they are very relatable. I found myself very engrossed in them and laughing, and that can most certainly be hallmarks of a great column.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Matthew Gagnon	Bangor Daily News	Matthew Gagnon, opinion columnist	These are two wonderful columns on two very important subjects. These watchdog-type columns are just as important as humor, and these are well written, informative and give the readers insight into subjects that affect them they might not otherwise know about, particularly in the legislative draft bill

Editorial	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pierre Little	Calais Advertiser	Editorial	Unless I'm mistaken, this was the only entry in the category. Nevertheless, instructing, clean well-written editorials. I cannot imagine the amount of work it would take to recall an entire newspaper. Way to spell it out for your readers why that had to be done. Solid entry regardless of number of entries!
Editorial	Weekly 2	1st Place	Cyndi Wood	Ellsworth American	Mountain of good intentions	Good analysis of an issue of national importance that is addressed at the state level. Excellent use of data and examples, and the kicker clinches the argument.
Editorial	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J.W. Oliver	Harpswell Anchor	Editor's Corner: Independence	Nice way to address both the statewide issue and the local one, and to explain what the paper does and why. Solid writing. Nice to see an editor do something we journalists rarely do: thank a legislator. That in and of itself doesn't make this worthy of an award, but the piece also gives solid data, allows the legislator to explain his position and also makes a cogent
Editorial	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Make it harder	
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Judith Meyer	Sun Journal	Every one. Every minute.	Powerful. Enlightening. Good job of telling readers who these victims were and why their lives were important. Editorials like these remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	BDN Editorial Board	Bangor Daily News	Neo-Nazis and their hateful ideology	Strong stand on an important issue. Nazis have no place in our communities, ever, and this editorial reminds your readers of that. Keep it up.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	BDN Editorial Board	Bangor Daily News	Jared Golden is right	Golden changed his mind about gun control. This editorial reminds your readers they can always change their minds, too, when faced with new facts. Good job!
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Bob Bryson	Machias Valley News Observer	Bob Bryson Editorial Cartoons	Actually 7.5. The artist uses simple lines, but takes time to add texture. Most subjects involved weather or climate and were semi-timely. Clear messages.
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Bob Bryson	Calais Advertiser	Editorial Cartoonist	The artist uses simple lines. Subject matter is not deep and semi-evergreen, but the message is clear.
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Dan Kirchoff	Camden Herald	Dan Kirchoff Political Cartoons	In a category with some solidly done entries, this trio of cartoons rose to the top for their ability to deliver powerful messages. The artistic style is distinct and eye-catching. Great work!

Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Dan Kirchoff	Courier-Gazette	Political cartoons	These cartoons have a unique style that I like. They communicate the issues quite clearly. Good work!
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Eric Zelz	Harpswell Anchor	Eric Zelz	I appreciated the context and brief explanation of these. Otherwise, I would not have been clear about what they were about. That said, I think they likely fit your special report quite
Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	George Danby	Bangor Daily News	Discarded fishing lines	Great balance of humor with serious issues in commentary. The PFAS toon in particular strikes me as a clever take on what can be a difficult topic to visualize.
Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ernie Anderson	Sun Journal	Anvil Falls	This is a really fun anchor for the front page, and I have to image most readers check this out first before moving onto the news. The characters are great. Their use in the "hopeful" strip was excellent.
Editorial Cartoonist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Steve Meyers	Portland Press Herald	Steve Meyers editorial cartoons	These strike me as very traditional editorial cartoons that do a good job of illustrating more complex civic/government stories in the news. The little comment in each reflects the sort of questions the viewer would have of the scene.
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	These bikes with a boost are conquering County roads	Alliteration works on two levels in this catchy title to a fun story.
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Fish into water, SeDoMoCha fourth-graders release their trout	Unusual word play works effectively to catch readers' eyes and interest.
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	In Hebron, quilting class is a cut above	Accurate and clear yet with a little pun thrown in to entice readers to spend time with this article and newspaper.
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lisa Kristoff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	‘Mainely Nude’ : A compelling body of work	This caught my attention right away. What a great name for an event! Like how you weave "body" into the sub-headline. Clever!
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Steve Fuller	Ellsworth American	Total Eclipse of the Arts	I like this (and wish I would've thought about it!) Good job.
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Lisa Kristoff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	The Writer’s Hotel: Check in with your imagination	Classic! Well written.

Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Mark Mogensen	Sun Journal	Gratuities. Have we reached a tipping point?	LOL! Well, this took some thought and the writer wound up with one that tipped the judge's interest in their direction. Well done!
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Sally Tyrrell	Portland Press Herald	You go grill	So deceptively simple but nicely clever, if not the earworm I'll hear at 3 a.m. Nice!
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Zack Aldrich	Portland Press Herald	Do you schmear what I schmear?	Nice! This is one of those headlines that makes you think, all these years...and I NEVER thought of it? :)
News Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Washington County Dispatcher Takes Call Reporting Fire at His Home	A true reader-grabber.
News Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	David Avery	Castine Patriot	Select board chews on food truck issue	Cute headline. I think the same-theme subhead gave it a nice 1-2 punch.
News Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Electric school bus discussion has social media firing on all cylinders	Good headline to support a good follow-up story idea.
News Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell fishing advocate battles winds of change	Headline captures the story well -- serious topic and headline is clever, but still fits the tone.
News Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Cyndi Wood	Ellsworth American	Couple who met in desert land end marriage drought at City Hall	Good headline. I would love for the second line to be filled out, but ... I still like the headline very much.
News Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Let there be (not so much) light	Good play on words. Helps to have photo on jump; Could be bigger
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Christopher Wheelock, Andrew	Sun Journal	Facing turbulent times	Word play is nice. The font use set the entry apart from the rest.
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brian Robitaille	Portland Press Herald	The priest broke his vows	Nice symmetry in turn of phrase.
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Morning Sentinel	Shadow of concern approaches as Somerset County public safety officials prepare for eclipse	Headline draws the reader in.

Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Melissa Lizotte	Aroostook Republican & News	Aroostook business owners	The many points of view don't get confusing in this story about struggling business that depend on snowmobilers. No all good outdoor stories need to be about hunting or fishing.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	John Epstein	Castine Patriot	Butterfly haven in the works	This story is a good way to warn people that the place where they like to picnic and walk will be changing. All the changes are explained thoroughly.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Chance encounter	An interesting story about the way luna moths live. Stories like this are sure to spark interest in the outdoors.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	Jefferson Couple Offers	Catchy lead to a really cute story about an important service provided by caring individuals. Nice color in the writing and photography.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Connie Sage Conner	Harpwell Anchor	The crew is 200 now'	Strong use of details help capture the personality of the sailors and the essence of their journey. Well done.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Piper Curtin	Mount Desert Islander	Reaching new heights	Strong photography "elevated" this story into the winner's column. Writer should feel free to be even more expressive and colorful in their writing, but overall a fine piece.
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Derrick Z. Jackson	The Maine Monitor	Puffins are rebounding	I really enjoyed reading this story. I'm a nature lover, like most people, and I am very concerned with the environment and humans' impact on nature and wildlife. So I read these sorts of stories whenever I get the opportunity. I counted 31 links/sources, which gave the story lots of depth. It was written in first-person, which many editors might find puzzling, but which I found added yet another insight into the puffins rebound. The story was well-written and easy to grasp. I'm certain your readers felt educated on the issue after reading the story. I loved, loved, loved the artwork! What photos! It goes without saying that stories such as these remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important part of their daily lives. Keep up the good work!
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Nate Hathaway	The Maine Monitor	Trekking through tribal lands a	22sources/links. Well-written, thoroughly-sourced report. Great job. I, too, could smell moose just by reading your story — and I live in Texas! This story was very educational. I consider myself well-informed on Penobscot Nation and its plans for the additional 30,000 acres.

Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Pete Warner	Bangor Daily News	Invasive fish that took over	I enjoyed this feature. A wide variety of comments and sources. Well-written and easy to follow. I'm certain your readers found themselves well-educated after reading it. Great job!
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Weekly Packet	Horseshoe crab love	Not the story I was expecting to read. You painted a nice picture.
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place		Houlton Pioneer Times	Aroostook power line	Good job showing the full scope of what was happening. Good use of sources to show the complete picture.
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place		Bethel Citizen	Albany man has lived	Very interesting story. Not something you come across every day.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	John Gormley	Harpwell Anchor	10-year green crab study	Complete story that sets an interesting scene of scientist and student doing the study as well as the so what behind the study -- and the bad news. Only critique -- does professor estimate number of crabs Correlate to clam numbers? 10 years of data seem like a lot.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	John Gormley	Harpwell Anchor	In a town of bedrock	Excellent enterprise story. Well reported, multiple sources. Good quotes and examples. Well written. Both stories work well together.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Residents prioritize climate change	Important story. Well written, though would lead be better with some action from the meeting even though the suggestions were more advisory?
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	Why doesn't Maine get more	Very informative and well-written. Perfect length where it was detailed without being "too much", and losing the reader's interest.
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Penelope Overton	Portland Press Herald	Maine towns confront climate choice	Great job! Written in such a way that draws an outsider in and feel involved and concerned about a local issue. The accompanying photos drove home the information.
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Lori Valigra	Bangor Daily News	Forestry experts work to	Well written and an informative, preemptive look at an
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Franklin County livestock producers	A well-written, well-sourced story about an all-too-familiar issue that farmers of all generations have faced. Story really conveyed the impact.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Maggie White	Weekly Packet	Building at the dream factory	Well-written business story that captures the history and charm of the business and the owners.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	How a County entrepreneur	Nice feature that also might serve as a roadmap for entrepreneurs to follow.

Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kay Stephens	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Young couple makes it their mission	
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	The Green Store Turns 30	
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Freyja Grey	Courier-Gazette	Cafe Miranda finds new	
Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Dylan Tusinski	Kennebec Journal	Maine maple syrup	Well written and on a quintessentially Maine business.
Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Christopher	Sun Journal	CMCC welding student	
Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ray Routhier	Portland Press	From hot tubs to	
Education Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Otisfield students learn more	This reporter must have a nose for news because at the school she covers even the janitor makes news. Interesting twist that even the janitor who was teaching blacksmithing learned something in the process.
Education Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Houlton's Carleton Project	Interesting that the reporter got the students to talk about the problems that landed them in the Carleton Project. Good use of quotes.
Education Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Washington County Community College	Good use of quotes to tell an interesting story about law enforcement recruitment at the college level.
Education Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpwell Anchor	Educators seek to curb	Such an important topic! Kuddos to those administrators for starting the conversation. Very well-written deep dive article.
Education Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mikayla Patel	Forecaster	Back-to-school season	This is not even something most of us, especially those of us in rural areas, even think about! It's sad. However, the writer does a great job of raising awareness and positivity with different perspectives. Nice job.
Education Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Meet Smudge	What a great story! Well written, multiple voices, easy to read and understand. Good job!
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Lana Cohen	Portland Press	Maine schools say path	
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jules Walkup	Bangor Daily News	'It never should have	
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Duggan	Kennebec Journal	Many at Chelsea Elementary School	
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Diversity, connections separate	Really nice feature story that incorporates faith and life lessons. Well written - very enjoyable read.

Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Catholic church in Madawaska reopens	Great job of shining the positive light on a negative situation! The photos are very nice and compliment the story well. Nice job.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	A Korean cooking class	Nice story, but it left me wanting to know a little more about her ministry and the tie between that and the cooking classes...maybe I missed it.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpwell Anchor	On Bailey Island	Excellent effort. The story had a message, the writer went to a lot of effort to tell this story. Great job!
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Aidan Lucas	Daily Bulldog	Local nurses volunteering	Very interesting and insightful read, with great photos and impact about making a difference.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Interim Pastor of Rutherford	This feature did portray religion and spirituality and the reporter got the subject to open up on the topic.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emily Allen	Portland Press Herald	The priest broke his vows	Powerful and multi-sourced. Putting this story took a lot of resources and a lot of guts, for the victim to speak and for the reporter and staff to chase down.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Marla Hoffman	Sun Journal	Healing in hope	A good documentary approach to what went through the minds of the region's caring professionals as they processed an unthinkable tragedy. Lots of voices but one goal: helping their parishioners and the community heal.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Steve Collins	Sun Journal	'This feels like home'	An uplifting story about how a church can help newcomers adjust to their new home. I liked the number of sources the reporter found to tell this story. A great balance to the many stories about coping with the mass shooting.
Health Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Delayed clinic leaves Aroostook veterans	Well-written article. Good lede that sets up the premise. Then, bam! Readers get hit with a problem. I'm invested now! Solid reporting. (I hope the clinic is open!)
Health Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Suicide prevention non-profit	This is a sad, but hopeful, story. It's sad that non-profit is that does important work is closing, but I get a sense that the work will continue on a smaller level. Well written and thorough.
Health Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Maggie White	Island Ad-Vantages	INH public meeting explores	A good overview of the nursing home and how it could potentially be "repurposed" into different venues to assist the elder population. Well written.

Health Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sarah Halberstadt	Ellsworth American	Another door closes	Excellent story that gives the various sides of the issue and, in contrast to other entries in this category, offers interviews with those most affected by the closure. The author also does a good job unbiased reporting on what could have been an emotional story; while the sources express their feelings the tone of the story is balanced. Another strength is the data putting this closure in the statewide perspective.
Health Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpswell Anchor	Educators seek to curb 'troubling' effects	Nice coverage of a topical issue. Good to see that the author went beyond simply reporting what was said at the school board meeting and did an interview with another expert.
Health Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Jane Carpenter	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	End of SNAP COVID supplement	This article does a good job of localizing an issue of national reach, and it's interesting to note the effect on the business community and food banks, but the article is lacking the voice of those who are most impacted: those who receive SNAP benefits
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Steve Collins, Keith Edwards, Mark LaFlamme	Sun Journal	Quality of life'	A complete examination of every aspect of the homeless problem, with solid reporting from the streets. All cities and states need this kind of exhaustive, eye-opening reporting.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	The last maternity unit	Complete story from top to bottom on an important issue
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Eric Russell	Portland Press Herald	A Cumberland couple's hospice care	From the first word, I was drawn in to this heartbreaking yet uplifting story, and angered by the problems they've been facing.

Special Categories						
Freedom of Information	Weekly 1	X		[Judge disqualified both entries for not		
Freedom of Information	Weekly 2	1st Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpswell Anchor	Maine courts shut off online records access	A strong press as watchdog story about public records made unavailable online due to a software glitch. The story explains the problem well and what is being done to address it and public needs.
Freedom of Information	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Rose Lundy, Samantha Hogan	The Maine Monitor	Freedom of Information	Maine should be proud of how strong all the entries were in this contest. The Monitor's reporting shows the value of public records through compiling narratives that point to larger issues and making that accessible to the public.

Freedom of Information	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Freedom of Information letter	Reporter Randy Billings dug deep into a complex issue to establish a baseline of facts that created the impetus for legislative change. The other investigations highlighted similarly had real consequences in boosting transparency in the state. Sometimes stories come together because records paint a clear picture. But sometimes you don't get access to the records. Finding a way to tell the story requires clear explanation of not only what is sought by why, and this story — and matching editorial — make a strong case for disclosure while also pointing out that failing to make information public erodes trust.
Freedom of Information	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Duggan and Ben Bragdon	Kennebec Journal	Free consultancy work	
General Excellence--Digital	Weekly 1			No entries		
General Excellence--Digital	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	Boothbay Register website	Really appreciate the ease of navigation on the site. It allows a reader unfamiliar with news in the Maine to get the top information quickly. Having “Police, Fire and Courts” on the left gives those who are interested in the siren they heard a quick reference point. Ads are incorporated in a way that isn’t too overbearing and cluttered with the news hole. The newsletter popup does take away from the overall design as it runs across the page leaving the viewer with a block of gray.
General Excellence--Digital	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Sam Allen	Harpowell Anchor	harpowellanchor.org	Page is put together well — really appreciate the ability to switch to dark mode to allow for readability. This is a big step in what all publications need to be thinking about as we look to retain readers who might use screen readers or assistive tech to consume news of their areas. Ad space was not overwhelming and at the time of judging was just a placeholder house ad soliciting sponsored ads.
General Excellence--Digital	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Ellsworthamerican.com	Clean top landing for most current/featured news. Appreciate as a reader the ad below the most important content allowing for eyes to get connected to news. Flow of news, special section, sports, lifestyles works well on the scroll. At the time of judging there were a couple of featured articles which did not have art and looked out of place on the page as there was nothing to connect readers.

General Excellence--Digital	Weekly 3	4th Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Ellsworthamerican.com	Clean top landing for most current/featured news. Appreciate as a reader the ad below the most important content allowing for eyes to get connected to news. Flow of news, special section, sports, lifestyles works well on the scroll. At the time of judging there were a couple of featured articles which did not have art and looked out of place on the page as there was nothing to connect readers.
General Excellence--Digital	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	The Maine Monitor	The Maine Monitor	The Monitor was the entry in this judge's opinion that most met the criteria listed in contest rules for "winning" entry. The website had a mix of written stories with usual photos, but the supplemental web-only perks such as podcasts, newsletters, video and even a radio-collaboration were above and beyond what other publication's websites offered/had. The drop-down menu was easy to use and clear. I also REALLY appreciated the almost complete focus on Maine, with no canned wire stories weaved prominently atop page like other publication's sites. Thank you!
General Excellence--Digital	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Bangor Daily News	Bangor Daily News	The BDN had an easy to use website which allows a user to have a good experience and ease of finding the news they're seeking. The site also was reader-interactive, with many polls, a democracy survey and outreach efforts. There was also a nice segment of videos, which were mixed with longer former stories like the profiles of 5 elected officials. The drop down menu has a ton of specific subsites to find the news one is seeking; and y'all even had a store to purchase BDN products. Good job with the design. Thank you.

General Excellence--Digital	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Staff	The Press Herald is the flagship of a group of papers - including two others entered into this category. The problem that this creates is simple: the parent company uses a web template for all their papers with essentially little to no differentiation between each site. In a contest, that's a problem. The PH site had almost identical news content and story placement as the Sun Journal website entered. The Central Maine was slightly different. I rated the PH higher than the other two sibling papers because in a search for videos, the PH had more than the other papers did. No podcasts I could find, no reader interactive polls or surveys to place into top two. Thank you.
General Excellence--Advertising	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	The Calais Advertiser		Well designed ads, which fit in nicely on the pages and catch the eye. Classified pages are especially easy to read and navigate. Nicely done!
General Excellence--Advertising	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Machias Valley News Observer		Well laid out ads, nicely designed.
General Excellence--Advertising	Weekly 1	3rd Place	X	X		X
General Excellence--Advertising	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	The Lincoln County News		Although the paper size is somewhat cumbersome, the pages are filled with local information including numerous local business ads. Excellent color registration and use of color on ads. Classifieds are robust, with wider & easier to read columns on easily identified pages. Obits look clean and distinct from other sections with a nice legible font and spacing, as well as good sized photos. The Public Notices pages are clean and easy to navigate. The Arts & Eats section is fun and the ads correlate very well with the content. Monthly calendar is helpful. Overall, very nice work on behalf of your advertisers. This is a strong, solid entry of which to be proud.

General Excellence-- Advertising	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	The Ellsworth American	Lots of good local ads in this newspaper. Pages are laid out and readily identified by category for Classifieds, Obits and Public Notices. The Obit page layout is clean and easy to locate. Classified Ad header artwork makes them stand out from other pages and helps the reader find what they are looking for in the section. Public Notices have a good description as to why the content is important, and they are clearly marked with good headers. We also appreciated the large number of house ads for self-promotion, something many newspapers forget to do. The variety of house ads help prompt the reader to interact with their local newspaper.
General Excellence-- Advertising	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Harpwell Anchor	Beautiful COLOR everywhere! Printing this newspaper on a heavier stock of newsprint, helps extend the month-long shelf life as well as adding to the crisp color reproduction on content – especially the advertisements. All ads are very clean, easy to read, and art focused to grab attention. Excellent use of artwork, photography, and typography in the ads gives a magazine-quality design feel to the overall product. There’s a continuity to the overall design that makes it easy to find sections. The Business Directory ads have good spacing in between and plenty of room for text. They only reason this newspaper didn’t score higher is because there’s a lack of content for Obits, Classifieds and Public Notices which were all three defined as areas we needed to judge.
General Excellence-- Advertising	Daily/Weekend	1st Place		Morning Sentinel	Nice, large inviting ads. Good placement. Kept my eye on the paper.
General Excellence-- Advertising	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place		Maine Sunday Telegram	Inviting with different sizes and color to attract the eye.
General Excellence-- Advertising	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place		Central Maine Sunday	

General Excellence--Print	Weekly 1	1st Place	The Star-Herald	Overall layout is clean, easy to navigate throughout the publication. Excellent emphasis on utilizing news that has the biggest impact on the community in prominent positions in the layout. Paper takes reader on a logical journey each issue with combination of news and opinion. Well crafted all around. Downside: the masthead font is a bit antiquated and looks a bit cartoonish with serious news below it.
General Excellence--Print	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Houtlon Pioneer Times	Great use of dominant photo in layout on pages, building rest of news emphasis around that concept. Strong use of hard news and features to give something for everyone. Downside: Color is off and photos could 'pop' more.
General Excellence--Print	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Machias Valley News Observer	Solid reporting throughout. A bit jumbled/cluttered at times in layout. Masthead very antiquated, hard to read with fade behind
General Excellence--Print	Weekly 2	1st Place	The Ellsworth American	The front page is visually appealing, with engaging photos that immediately draw the reader in. The spacing and sectioning of the stories are well thought out, making navigation intuitive and enjoyable. The writers demonstrate a flair for storytelling, with headlines that are both captivating and well-formatted. The Arts and Leisure section is particularly inviting, encouraging further exploration. Formatting throughout the paper is consistent and professional, enhancing the overall readability. The ads are well-designed, utilizing space effectively while delivering information clearly. Photographs are strong and constructively pull the reader into the stories, though some images tend to blur slightly in print. Overall, this is an exceptional publication. Our team unanimously agrees that it deserves honors for its high-quality presentation and content.

General Excellence--Print	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mount Desert Islander	The front page is thoughtfully designed, with consistent headlines and a sidebar that effectively guides readers to key highlights. The addition of clipart adds a charming touch, and the almanac on the front page is a delightful feature. While the advertisement is noticeable, it might benefit from a slightly more integrated placement. The photos are well-cropped, and the consistent formatting throughout the paper is appreciated. The front page sets a strong tone, and while a dominant lead story could further enhance the layout, the current arrangement works well. Inside the paper, the photos maintain a good quality, though they might appear a bit saturated or blurry at times. The overall layout is cohesive and easy to follow, with a good balance between content and advertisements. The ads are effectively placed and contribute positively to the design. The crossword/sudoku section is a charming addition. While there's room to experiment with photo placement for clearer visual hierarchy, the images are appealing and add value to the stories. Our team unanimously selected this entry for honors, recognizing its strong presentation and engaging design.
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General Excellence--Print	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newsp	This entry effectively guides the reader to interior stories with engaging photos and concise descriptions. The front page does a good job of showcasing a dominant story, which grabs attention right away. While the layout works well, introducing more variation in the front page formatting could enhance visual interest. The photos, though slightly saturated, remain engaging and add to the overall appeal. We particularly enjoyed the activity page, which provides an interactive element for readers. Improving the alignment between stories and their accompanying photos could further strengthen the presentation. Inside the paper, while there are some striking photos, the high contrast and occasional color issues could be refined. We appreciate the strong focus on community concerns, which is a key strength of this publication. The layout might benefit from a bit more breathing room to avoid feeling overwhelming. Enhancing the dominance of key stories and advertisements would help draw the reader's attention more effectively. Overall, our team unanimously decided that this paper should place, as it is engaging and successfully encourages further exploration.
General Excellence--Print	Weekly 2	Honorable Mention	Harpswell Anchor	Our entire team was highly impressed by this publication. The free distribution is presented with a clean and consistent style, featuring engaging photos well-formatted headlines and with non-intrusive advertising. The overall page design is both clean and cohesive, making it easy to navigate and enjoyable to read. Advertisements are thoughtfully placed, adding value without detracting from the content. The photos are a strong addition to the pages, enhancing the visual appeal and supporting the stories effectively. While this publication stands out as a class of its own in its category, we believe it's important to highlight its excellence. We suggest creating a bit more dominance in key areas to further elevate the delivery of its important information. We appreciate the clear intent and effort of the publishers, which shines through in every aspect of this work.

General Excellence--Print	Daily	1st Place	Bangor Daily News	Maine readers are lucky to have such high-quality journalism at their disposal. The Daily News uses catchy headlines, compelling ledes, well-designed and well-written stories that tell the story from the perspective of those most affected, excellent photos that help tell the story, helpful graphics and a simple yet effective layout. First-rate coverage of the mass shooting with compelling follows. Two full pages of Opinion with lots of local copy and in-depth editorials complete this highly effective and informative newspaper.
General Excellence--Print	Daily	2nd Place	Portland Press Herald	Well-written, in-depth articles complemented by riveting photos and helpful graphics. Layout acts as a roadmap that makes the paper easy to consume. Headlines are simple yet effective in telling the story. Coverage of the mass shooting was amazing. Solid editorials and locally generated columns give a reader plenty to contemplate in addition to the solid overall news and sports coverage. An excellent newspaper all the way through. Straightforward articles with clear, concise headlines and a clean, crisp layout that complements the content. The Journal even makes meeting stories compelling, with very effective art that shows the emotion of the participants. A reader's delight.
General Excellence--Print	Daily	3rd Place	Kennebec Journal	
General Excellence--Print	Weekend	1st Place	Sun Journal	What a great newspaper! In a category with multiple top-notch entries, the Sun-Journal stood out for its clean design, focus on local news, and the unique topics it covered. The “B” section tipped the scales: Colorful stories that even caught an outsider’s attention.
General Excellence--Print	Weekend	2nd Place	Central Maine Sunday	This newspaper clearly took a deep dive into a local tragedy, and it did a good job of covering the event from every angle, with the faith-centered take being unique. A dedicated Classifieds section is a rarity in newspapers nowadays and this publication had it. Also, while it wasn’t all local, the pep coverage seemed to be all-encompassing.

General Excellence--Print	Weekend	3rd Place		Maine Sunday Telegram		Clearly the largest newspaper in the category, the Telegram offered a variety of sections dedicated to topics that clearly showcased the newspaper's work in covering its community. The "Outdoors" page was also fun and interesting. Sometimes, the design got in the way of telling the story, which was unfortunate, as the writing was of a high caliber.
Best In Show	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	The Calais Advertiser	Happy Faces and Festive Cheer	This shot definitely captures the moment. Great timing, excellent composition. Loved the expressions, which is what winning photos capture.
Best In Show	Weekly 2	1st Place	Freyja Grey	Free Press	Housing Crisis Portland	It's tough judging news photos against feature photos, sports photos, etc., but photos need to tell a story, and this one definitely does. There's a lot provided to the reader in this one. Excellent work.
Best In Show	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Daryn Slover	Sun Journal	Spring Break	So many excellent photos in this class, but this one kept jumping out at me each time I went thru the entries. There is a lot going on without being 'busy.' The shovel, his face, and the sign bring it all together. Just a great feature shot that on this day is the winner. (I told myself it wasn't staged, and hope that's the case!)

Individual Awards		
Award	Winner	Newspaper
Journalist of the Year	Sawyer Loftus	Bangor Daily News
Advertising Person of the Year	Janis Bunting	Penobscot Bay Pilot
Bob Drake Young Writer	Will Robinson	Penobscot Bay Press
Unsung Hero	Mary Delamater	Sun Journal