

**2025 MPA Better Newspaper Contest**

Advertising-Circulation	Division	Winner	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Local Ad	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Riverview Restaurant & Lounge	Beautiful listing of events and use of photography.
Local Ad	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Brette Miller	Island Ad-Vantages	Healthy Island Project Fuel Up!	Creative. Great color usage and verbage
Local Ad	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Brette Miller	Weekly Packet	Grace Carr Fitness	The only thing stopping this from being a ten is a better photo. Tagline and other info are great.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Allen	Harpwell Anchor	Berrie's	Functional, aesthetically pleasing, and explanatory. Likely to move people and like any good ad, speaks to a need.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Amber Clark	Lincoln County News	Louis Doe Home Center	Original concept. Eye catching. Functional.
Local Ad	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Spectacles	A nice showcase in minimalism. Not a single wasted word.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Alicia Tuttle, Lisa Hood	Kennebec Journal	Stop by for yummy treats during the Great Race!	This ad screams quaint candy shop. Thouroughly enjoyed that the candy shelf display takes up most of the page.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Times Record	Plates of Plenty	Delicate font and subtle color choices help to elevate the feeling of the topic.
Local Ad	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Josh Farris	Morning Sentinel	Incense and Peppermints is Expanding!	Red captures the essence of peppermint! Love the symmetrical look and use of many images to show the customer the shop's products!
Campaign or Series	Weekly	1st Place	Sam Allen	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell Neck Fire and Rescue	In the event of an emergency, following these tips really can be a lifesaver for not only the reader, but the responders as well.
Campaign or Series	Weekly	2nd Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Shop Local	YES!!! Shop Local! With excellent tips to remember for the holidays!
Campaign or Series	Weekly	3rd Place	Ashley Carter	Ellsworth American	Stanley Subaru Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Colorful! And proactive to helping with breast cancer awareness!
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Put us to the test Ad Campaign	I love this idea! Very simple ads and great colors.
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Callie Picard	Bangor Daily News	Rooster Brothers	Thought out campaign. You could tell that this advertiser is very important.
Campaign or Series	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Kennebec Journal	Adopt-A-Pet	So many cute animals to adopt! I love the idea to get advertisers to sponsor the space.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	1st Place	Staff	Rangeley Highlander	RH Sky Guide	Most unique special section concept I've ever seen. The advertising blends so well into editorial.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jenna Lookner, editor, and staff	Weekly Packet	Blue Hill Fair Handbook	Well paced and a good balance between editorial and advertising.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Bethel Citizen	Summer in Bethel	Functional and resourceful.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Back to Lincoln County	The use of vintage inspired typography and imagery is perfect.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Summertime supplement 2024	Love the font choice for the cover! I like the use of inset photos in some of the features.
Supplement/Special Section	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Lincoln County News	Farm and Table	The use of typography and overlap of the cover image is great. Interesting design nuances used throughout the publication.
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Amy Allen	Bangor Daily News	Bangor Metro - Spring 2025	Beautiful cover and colors to go with the theme.
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Amy Allen	Bangor Daily News	Celebrate Pride	Consistent theme with branding and colors throughout.
Supplement/Special Section	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dawn Tantum	Kennebec Journal	Spring Home & Garden	Nice choice of fonts in the headers to emphasize certain words.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 1	1st Place	Brette Miller	Island Ad-Vantages	Holiday Entertainment	The bow ties it all together!
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Machias Valley News	Basketbal Supplement Cover	Nice cover
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith & Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Downeast Basketball Review	Wow, 1000 points!
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	1st Place	Amber Clark	Lincoln County News	Back to Lincoln County	Great use of old imagery, fonts and color.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Amber Clark	Lincoln County News	Made In Lincoln County	Appealing cover image, great use of space and color.
Best Supplement Cover	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Dining Guide 2024	Great cover photo. Clear to readers that it is a local dining guide.
Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Callie Picard	Bangor Daily News	Guide to Summer Camps	What a wonderful cute and appropriate illustration to put on the cover!
Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Hannah Clark, MacKenzie Gregory	Portland Press Herald	Holiday Gift Guide	Simple illustration focusing on the type.

Best Supplement Cover	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Alicia Tuttle	Morning Sentinel	Summer in Maine	Beautiful illustration from a local artist, what a great way to showcase the local area's talent.
Self-Promotion	Weekly 1	1st Place	Brette Miller	Castine Patriot	Your local newspapers are 2023 award winners!	Congrats on your 32 awards!
Self-Promotion	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Calais Advertiser	Awards	Well done!
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Forecaster	NOW Newsletters Marketing Promotions	Standards in terms of their objectives, but not particularly moving. First place only by default of the other two being identical
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Newspaper metrics	Identical to the other entry showcasing by the numbers.
Self-Promotion	Weekly 2	3rd Place	David Fickett	Ellsworth American	Newspaper by the Numbers	Conceptually, makes sense, but certain elements of this such as obituaries and pages served feel out of place and distracting.
Self-Promotion	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Bangor Daily News	Impact report and campaign	Great use of layout and design. Clear and concise use of color, images, graphics and typography.
Self-Promotion	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	The Maine Monitor	15 Years of Investigative Reporting	Great use of color, typography and images to reflect the last 15 years of public interest reporting.
Self-Promotion	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Callie Picard	Bangor Daily News	The County Promo	Nice use of color, typography and graphics to promote the consolidation of various newspapers to one publication.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 1	1st Place	Heidi St Jean, Emily Patrick	Moosehead Lakeshore Journal	Plaid & Proud: Moosehead's Local Shopping Movement	Great way to get tons of interaction!
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Alicia Tuttle, Matthew Guerette	Franklin Journal	Greater Franklin County Readers' Choice	Reader's Choice Awards are always fun, great job!
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Letters to Santa	Cute. Maybe next year have the students write their letters without the teachers, then publish those letters and include the misspelled words. It always works for us and gives everyone a good laugh!
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	The Tiger Times	Give the kids a voice!!! Brie did an excellent job writing about civics and how it should be included in schools' curriculum. This was a great way for the students to have their voices heard.
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Youth Art Month	The arts are an important way for youth to learn, and having their art shared is even better!
Community Engagement Idea	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Happy Holidays	A fun section for families to enjoy during the Christmas season.
Community Engagement Idea	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Alicia Tuttle	Kennebec Journal	Ugly Sweater Contest	Love the choice of knit sweater background. Great header the typography works wonderfully.
Community Engagement Idea	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Times Record	Times Record Spirit of the Holidays	An all around fun children's section. Great use of eye-catching color in the images and typography.
Community Engagement Idea	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Holiday Hoops	This is a great presentation. As a slide creator myself I enjoyed the image design choices and placement.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly	1st Place	Steve Edwards, Sarah Morley, Kathy Frizzell	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Early Bird Sale sponsored content	So. Much. Fun! Lots of color, and support from businesses hoping to see folks in jammies!
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly	2nd Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Business Neighbors 2024	A comprehensive way for people to get to know their neighbors, what they offer, and who they are! Great idea.
Best Sponsored Content	Weekly	3rd Place	Staff	Calais Advertiser	Sponsored Contest - Award-Winning Newspaper	Congratulations on your impressive wins!
Best Sponsored Content	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Times Record	Times Record Family-Owned	Hits home with the family owned.
Best Sponsored Content	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Staff	Sun Journal	Careers with Purpose - Sponsored Content	Love that you showed the results.
Best Sponsored Content	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ben Cyr	Bangor Daily News	Real Maine	Great ag piece.
Best Customized Advertising Solution	Weekly/Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	DOE: Maine's Whole Student Pandemic Response	Nice results and taking the take for branding paid off.
Best Customized Advertising Solution	Weekly/Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Molly Adams, Mackenzie Gregory, David Mutshail	Sun Journal	Explore & Discover LA Metro Region	Telling stories, looks great.
Best Customized Advertising Solution	Weekly/Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Ashley Carter & Emily Butler	Ellsworth American	Downeast Scenic Railroad Anniversary Campaign	Great engagement.

Best Multi-Media Campaign	Weekly/Daily/Weekend 1st Place	Staff	Portland Press Herald	Missy on the Move	Clever approach to those sweet, fuzzy, lil critters!
Best Multi-Media Campaign	Weekly/Daily/Weekend 2nd Place	Marcie Coombs	Bangor Daily News	William Wood (book launch)	Colorful.
Best Multi-Media Campaign	Weekly/Daily/Weekend 3rd Place	Janice Thompson, Eric Zelz, Sam Allen	Harpswell Anchor	NewsMatch 2024	Great that you have broken your previous campaign record!

Photography/Design	RKDivision	Winner	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stephen Greenberg	Weekly Packet	The Moorings of Mackerel Sky	Motion, color, faces in concentration and even a nice crop. Well done!
News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stephen Greenberg	Weekly Packet	Paddle-propelled magic	This photo makes me want to know more. The subject is intriguing. I feel the motion with the blowing, flowing cape. Nice job.
News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Will Robinson	Weekly Packet	Town meeting	This photo tells the story of the town meeting beautifully -- a slice of American democracy at its finest.
News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	Santa's Arrival	Stunning! The photo was well composed and shows all the joy of the season. Top notch work! A+
News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpswell Anchor	Veterans Day	The photo captures the moment in a wonderful way. It is well framed and shows wonderful emotion. Good work!
News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Chris Bouchard	The County	Dogs pull sled in international race	Shows good action! Great job all the way around.
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Derek Davis	Portland Press Herald	Joseph Brennan	A well thought out photo of an important event in the state's history! Love the "walk" out of the light into the shadows! It adds so much larger emotion to the event for the former governor!
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Dedication ceremony	The emotion on Pat's face says it all, especially with that HUGE crowd in the background! The pride and love that shows in that look is what words can never capture!
News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Domestic violence victims memorial	Beautiful shot of an important event in the town's history and the memory of the townspeople! The darkness enveloping the crowd behind Jai just seem to go on forever in the darkness to add even more power to the simplicity and power of the image.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Will Robinson	Island Ad-Vantages	Gallop Poll	Great expressions on these riders made better by knowing they were just at the polls. Even better? The little "I voted" stickers on the horses' noses that provide a little element of surprise.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Amy Brubaker	Island Ad-Vantages	Painted sky	Beautiful photo. Lighting up that boat really sets off the northern lights and elevates this image. Great feature photo. Good find and composition by the photographer.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Lumber mill fire	Captures the firefighter in action with the arcing water over the ruined mill building.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Deborah Bertin	Ellsworth American	A catastrophic commute	Powerful image and good perspective--the idea that the mechanical issue caused this instead of an accident lends itself to the "spot" coverage. The men standing nearby add a human element of things beyond our control. The open curtains of the house window also add to the overall composition of a terrible moment in one day.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Midcoast Villager	Oops	What a moment to capture--there are also real senses of urgency & expectancy as well to the picture, wondering if the truck will continue to arc & tumble or somehow create a fire. The cab's open door is perfection.
Spot News Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Movie Pizza Shoppe	The capture here borders on artistic. The colors, the composition of the flag, the forward motion almost of the smoke plumes juxtaposing the hoses. The clarity is staggering in this moment of tragedy and loss.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	River rescue	An amazing but disturbing moment is captured in this image. The positioning of the subjects at this moment create an additional tension but it's clear what is happening.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Linda Coan O'Kresik	Bangor Daily News	EPEC Fire Orrington	The light and color captured in this image created a beautiful but haunting moment of time. It's perfectly composed.
Spot News Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Arson arrest	An amazing moment is captured in this photo. Great faces help describe what's going on all while smoke actively billows from the house behind. It's a complete story.

Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jenna Lookner	Island Ad-Vantages	Who cooks for you?	It's not often that you find an owl out during the day, with nice detail.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Blue Heron	Good capture!
Scenic Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Soaring overhead	Colorful perspective.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kip Wing	Mount Desert Islander	Magical night - Northern lights	This photo has it all — awesome color, excellent framing, outstanding clarity amid the natural beauty of the event. From top to bottom, left to right, this capture screams "GORGEOUS!" Fine art and photojournalism mixed together very well. Stunning work!
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Sea smoke over the harbor	Serene! Nice composition — this photo could have become really busy, but it has a workable balance because of the angle. Excellent use of the side lighting to illuminate the reflections as well as the "smoke" rising above the water.
Scenic Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	Daylily	Simply beautiful. This photo is framed well, particularly with the backlight giving some pop to the background foliage. Love the focal detail with the bee — that's often hard to capture with flower shots. Nice work!
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Rich Abrahamson	Morning Sentinel	Rich Abrahamson	This image was so striking at first glance. It's nicely framed and captures a unique moment in time with a beautiful atmosphere.
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Troy R. Bennett	Bangor Daily News	South Portland Maine Weather Clouds Dusk	Such a beautiful moment between two people is captured in this photo. Beautifully framed image helps create a peaceful atmosphere.
Scenic Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Foliage walk	A great moment is captured in this beautiful atmospheric autumn photo. The color variations are stunning and the composition is spot on.
People Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Anna Roberts	Nice moment. These birthday photos can be deadly but this one works
People Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Nurses picket	Good Moment
People Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News	Getting Bubbly at the Blueberry	Nice photo
People Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Welcome back to school	The photographer did a good job at capturing the moment. The expression and energy of the teacher shines through.
People Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Early Bird sale kiss	Good composition and use of color in this image. The photographer got down to the level of the subject which adds to the composition.
People Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpwell Anchor	Huzzah!	Nicely lit image depicting great energy from the subjects.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	Pandora LaCasse	Beautiful shot.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Derek Davis	Portland Press Herald	Chartreuse Money	Beautiful colors and lighting.
People Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Heated weeder	The photo caught my attention with the worker in the sun amongst the delicate flowers.
Picture Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Reporting Staff	Weekly Packet	Exercising the right to vote	This series really tells a story and sets a stage. I completely understand what the article was about without reading it. You got all different angles/perspectives of voting day and that was well done. For future improvement, I would consider using a lower ISO and doing post edits on the photos to reduce image noise.
Picture Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	D-Day Squadron Visits Presque Isle	I really liked the picture of the three pilots with their plane. You did a good job capturing size of these machines.
Picture Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain. Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News Observer	Margaretta Days 2024	Vivid colors, in focus, has a variety of subjects. It seemed like a fun event. I might suggest choosing less photos to feature and making them bigger - lots of small images makes less of an impact on viewers.
Picture Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpwell Anchor	We want some more: 'Oliver!' showcases talents of local youth	Exceptional photo display of performers and support staff on stage and behind. Audience reaction captured the essence of this performances for readers/viewers, as did the photographer! Captions embraced context!
Picture Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Coast Guard families mix with cadets, crew aboard treasured training ship Eagle	A nice story, the text, enhanced by static photos. Additional streamed element added context. The best overall photos came after the posted story. Were these presented in a print version? Captions helped with story's photos.
Picture Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Graduation	Nice collection of graduation moment photos! Cropping would help focus on key figures and elements-/like the puppy-guest and the grad heading for his diploma with the smiling seated grad following the "drama." Also captions and story are absent. How were these presented to readers/viewers?

Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Roger and Jeanie Cannell	Wonderful storytelling imagery. The photos are both beautiful and emotional and always well composed.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Linda Coan O'Kresik	Bangor Daily News	Photos: Bangor State Fair returns for its 175th year	Great selection of photos for a state fair. Nice storytelling with the variety of shots.
Picture Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Daryn Slover	Sun Journal	Hundreds gather in Lewiston for Eid	Very well done with beautiful and wonderfully composed images. The flow of images also works well to tell the story.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	Solar eclipse in northern Maine	Quite the eerie photo. The angle of the silhouetted landscape adds to the oddness and allure.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Fort Fairfield's Main Street is seen at twilight on a November evening.	Would have opted to crop a little of the street at bottom, but it only slightly distracts from the scene, taking an otherwise mundane street, but giving it the beauty of this time of evening.
Feature Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Crown of Maine Balloon Fest Opening	Dramatic photo. It would have been good to see the expressions on those watching; the balloonist's face matches the intensity of the fire.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpswell Anchor	Huzzah!	A masterful capture of youthful expression and storytelling. The raw emotion, body language, and era-appropriate costumes instantly immerse the viewer. Composition and timing are spot-on, and the energy leaps off the frame. This is a reminder that history is never dead when children bring it to life.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Kid and Dad at Halloween parade	Whimsical and layered, this photo tells multiple stories at once. The visual juxtaposition of the father floating mid-air with a stick and the child's costume against the backdrop of a giant smiling woman creates a surreal, almost cinematic tableau. The timing, setting, and creative spontaneity make it unforgettable.
Feature Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bill Combs Jr.	Ellsworth American	Catch of the day	A quintessential Maine moment. The photo balances humor and documentary value, with a wild moose and working boat coexisting in one surprising frame. It's well-timed and well-framed, the kind of photo that makes viewers do a double-take — and smile.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Children chase bubbles	This is a joyful and creative photo, with great color and movement, that reflects summertime in Maine and the state's growing diversity.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Michael G. Seamans	Maine Morning Star	Voting booth	As someone who grew up in a small town, this is a telling story of local democracy and the voters give it a real sense of place. I can almost feel this gym.
Feature Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Brianna Soukup	Portland Press Herald	Bus wait	This photo centers viewers in Portland during a snowstorm and Emma, bundled up like any sensible Mainer, brings it to life.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	1st Place	Erik Atwell	Weekly Packet	GSA boys basketball opens season with gritty win	This looks like it was a gritty game! good expressions.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	First Flight	Very graceful layup.
Sports Photo	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News	Oh, the Agony	I just want to go home!!!!
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mic LeBel	Lincoln County News	Outnumbered	Perfect timing and focus. The runner's expression put this above the rest.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Rockland solstice event celebrates youth, family fun	Not your average sports picture and that is what made it stand out, I really wanted to learn more about what was going on.
Sports Photo	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Paula Roberts	Lincoln County News	Air	The timing and sharp focus made this photo beat out the others.
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Mt. Abram at St. Dom's baseball	Great image of the playmat home plate with excellent timing and good expressions. Also like the extreme cropping to focus the viewers'eyes on the action!!
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ben McCanna	Portland Press Herald	Outdoor track	Good, rarely used perspective for a track meet, and all the runners were able to follow your directions almost perfectly! ;-)
Sports Photo	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Derek Davis	Portland Press Herald	Hockey overtime win	Great emotional shot thsat captures the player's moon perfectly!
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	How Washington Count Voted	The use of photos and text give viewers a clear and comprehensive understanding of election results. Well organized and designed.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Island Ad-Vantages	School Enrollment by Year	Good use of text and fever lines to help viewers understand changes over time. Well organized, good use of color and easy to understand.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jeremiah Savage	Castine Patriot	2024 General Election Results	This nicely designed table gives viewers a clear and concise understanding of the election results. Packed with information but easy to navigate.

Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	1st Place	Eric Zelz	Harpswell Anchor	Quahog infographic	Exemplary use of graphic to quickly convey a LOT of information. A model of efficiency. Greatly enhances a fascinating, explanatory story.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Steve Edwards	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Solar eclipse	Prime placement under the mast, side to side, conveys the importance of the event yet leaves plenty of real estate for other stories. Particularly appreciate the explanation of the photographer's technique.
Illustration/Graphic	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Eric Zelz	Harpswell Anchor	Trail Volunteers	Charmingly simple illustration still manages to convey multiple elements. Artist has a beguiling, appealing style that wins over the viewer and only grows with scrutiny.
Illustration/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Marina Schaufler	Maine Morning Star	A firehose of forever chemicals	Great photos and layout. Well done.
Illustration/Graphic	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Leela Stockley	Bangor Daily News	Janet Mills Pardon	Clever layout.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain, Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News Observer	Sounds Without Borders	A bold, immersive layout that perfectly mirrors the spirit of the event it covers: experimental, eclectic, and full of energy. The use of vibrant photography, dynamic headlines, and generous white space keeps the design engaging without overwhelming the content. Visually rich and editorially cohesive, this page is a standout for marrying visual storytelling with alternative culture coverage.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Veterans Honored, Remembered During Calais Memorial Day Events	A respectful and well-composed tribute page that balances emotional tone with clean design. Strong vertical photo hierarchy, dignified typography, and thoughtful captioning elevate what could have been a routine memorial spread into something heartfelt and compelling. The consistent use of grayscale tones also adds quiet visual unity fitting the subject matter.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Aroostook Republican & News	Business page, July 31, 2024	This page demonstrates solid community journalism design: clean structure, strong use of cutlines, and good story-photo synergy. It avoids clutter while still covering multiple community business highlights. Although not flashy, its consistent alignment, typographic restraint, and practical layout make it easy to navigate and reader-friendly.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Welcome new teachers	This entry demonstrates excellent design sensibility, with a great use of color that immediately draws the eye. The planets extending beyond the header is a bold and creative choice that adds depth and visual interest. The font selection is strong and well-matched to the overall tone of the piece, and there's a clear sense of balance throughout the layout that makes it both dynamic and cohesive.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Class of 2024 honored	Excellent use of the double truck layout. The variety in photo sizes adds visual interest, and the overall flow and balance are very strong.
Specialty Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Design and Editorial Staff	Midcoast Villager	SpecialPgDesign_Cattle_12052024	The large photo draws the reader in immediately. Great use of white space, a strong drop cap, and an effective pull quote.
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Becky Bowden	Bangor Daily News	BDN Journalism Impact	Nice job explaining an important and nuanced topic. The map always helps ground readers and makes clear your reporters bring perspective from many areas of the state. I love the choice of photos and the stories you chose to highlight.
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Sally Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Food & Dining cover May 19, 2024	Love the color and close up of sorrel itself. Feels very spring in Maine.
Specialty Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Zach Aldrich	Portland Press Herald	Food & Dining cover June 9, 2024	While 'Pinkies' had a more interesting photo subject, the layout in this entry was strong and the text and story easy to navigate. A photo or more colorful illustration would have made it even better, in my view.
Front Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Yvonne Tardie	Star-Herald	Aug. 28 2024	The front page demonstrates strong visual balance, particularly through thoughtful photo placement. The use of the hot air balloon image above the fold adds an effective pop of color that immediately draws the reader's eye and adds energy to the layout.
Front Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Josh Kaufmann	St. John Valley Times	Front page, April 24, 2024	The use of varying column widths creates visual interest and helps break up the front page in a way that guides the reader naturally through the content. Photo placement is thoughtfully executed, contributing to overall balance, while positioning images above the fold effectively supports reader engagement.

Front Page Design	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Staff	Aroostook Republican & News	Oct. 2, 2024, front page	Photo placement is well executed, creating a strong sense of balance across the front page. The use of photo size at the top effectively conveys story importance and draws the reader in. Additionally, the font choices for the headline, byline, and photo credit are clean and cohesive, enhancing overall readability and visual appeal.
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Allen	Harpwell Anchor	March 2025	Clean and uncluttered. The top "story" is a big teaser to what should be the most important issue of the day -- the town meeting. Well played photo, classic typography. I wish I had designed this page.
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Design and Editorial Staff	Midcoast Villager	FrontPgDesign_Owls_12262024	The best of the Villager's quartet of entries, thanks in part to the subtle tweaking of its format for new year's. A lot of information is packed onto this page without it becoming overwhelming.
Front Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Whale Tail	Ahh, that whale of a whale's tail breaks out of the boxes to make this page interesting. If the two teasers on the left side said a bit more and Downplayed the "Section A, Page x" it would be even better.
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Zack Aldrich	Portland Press Herald	Front page April 7, 2024	Nice layout and the photo of the children is charming.
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Becky Bowden	Bangor Daily News	April 9, 2024	Nice layout and good selection/placement of stories.
Front Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Becky Bowden	Bangor Daily News	Nov. 11, 2024	Very striking photo that caught my attention.

Sports	RKDivision	Winner	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Game Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Low water made canoe race a challenge	Excellent details!
Game Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Foxcroft defeats Winslow	Well organized!
Game Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls Advertiser	AYS youth football team beats Dirigo	
Game Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ryan McLaughlin	Ellsworth American	Kenny's overtime goal sends Ellsworth past John Bapst	Solid lede. Nice flow. Excellent action description. Good use of background to give context on the importance of the game. Fine use of quotes and transitions throughout. Well done!
Game Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	Bennett's Two Goals Buoy Windjammer Win	The lede worked well. Solid flow with good action narratives and good use of quotes to bolster those narratives. Succinct and to the point, without fluff. Good job!
Game Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mic LeBel	Lincoln County News	Gritty Wiscasset Girls Basketball Team	Good lede and use of context to explain the feat of not just the win but getting to and from the game. Solid use of quotes and narrative.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Drew Bonifant	Portland Press Herald	Caribou girls basketball shocks Biddeford	Concise captures the tension of the game, nicely weaving the details of the astonishing last second in with comments from players and coaches.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Mike Mandell	Morning Sentinel	Brewer snaps Skowhegan's streak of 22 regional titles	A bit of a conversational tone, which works nicely here. The whole story serves the historic moment well. There just aren't a lot of 22-year win streaks.
Game Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Larry Mahoney	Bangor Daily News	UMaine brings home Hockey East championship	Captures the exhilaration of an upset win. Good move to include a description of the goals.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Simulated military combat game	A fairly decent story about an airsoft combat field, sort of a cross between BB guns and paint guns. Some good explanatory work in the story.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Erik Atwell	Castine Patriot	MMA football falls just 10 yards short	This is a decent story about a resurrected football program that finally had a close game. Not bad, but maybe a bit overbroad on home-town rah-rah.
Sports News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Chesterville ballfield only field ready for 50/70 play	An adequate, but not particularly strong story about the opening of a baseball field. It stands out from its explanatory reporting.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	65 Years of Throwing Stones: Belfast Curling Club	This is a story that perfectly threads the needle between providing important information that's needed for a news story and good storytelling elements. It made me interested in curling. Well done.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	With Exhibition Meets Growing, Girls Wrestling in Maine	Interesting topic that has been broached nationwide, but the visual elements of the story are captivating. Well done.
Sports News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Chris Bouchard	The County	1,000-plus spectators watch as Can-Am returns	Outstanding news story with great historical elements and storytelling. The pictures definitely help the overall package.

Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Haley Jones	Sun Journal	Lisbon High suspends football team activities	Hazing stories are extremely difficult to report, so getting all these voices was extraordinary. It is a clear sign of community trust. The writing is concise and tight.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Steve Craig	Portland Press Herald	Fights. Ejections. Irate fans.	Extremely well reported with a concise, catchy lede. Captures a national problem and makes it local.
Sports News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dave Dyer	Kennebec Journal	Two-time defending Oxford 250 champ	Both sides are well represented with explosive quotes in this news story. I bet the action here was better than the race itself!
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	1st Place	Erik Atwell	Weekly Packet	Ready, set, spike	Neat story. Well written with great use of quotes. This reader felt he was in on the start of something big.
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Phil Stuart	Machias Valley News Observer	A Look at Washington County's Four Major League Baseball Players	Mining the archives pays off here. Anecdotal writing style made this bit of history readable and enjoyable.
Sports Profile	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Remembering Holli Tapley, from Blue Devils Success	A well written and researched tribute piece.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	Coach Townsend Cements 300th Victory	Very interesting story. The quotes used in this story make this profile more inviting and easy to read.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Holly Vanorse Spicer	Midcoast Villager	Father, Son Flex Together, Go Pro	The lede makes this story. Great imagery to start the profile and it just kept getting more interesting. Well done.
Sports Profile	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Troy R. Bennett	Harpswell Anchor	Stump Merrill knows what's wrong with baseball	Fun story. I bet this was an interesting interview.
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Drew Bonifant	Portland Press Herald	Love of field hockey, and her teammates	Wow. A sign of a good profile is not only when it is a compelling read but when every question is answered — and that is the case here. The reporting carries the story, but the narrative is excellent as well. As an aside, the entire Press Herald staff should be proud of its impressive body of work.
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Travis Lazarczyk	Portland Press Herald	Tennis coach with cancer sits courtside	A heartbreaking story handled delicately. Gaining access to the hospital room no doubt required a tremendous amount of trust, and it is clear that the writer did not take that lightly. I was left cheering for this father and son.
Sports Profile	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Haley Jones	Sun Journal	Sports serve a greater purpose for Lewiston and Auburn	A difficult topic handled with sensitivity. It is clear from the number of community members quoted that the reporter handled this assignment with great care, and it comes across in the writing.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Wendell "Doss" Dennison	Machias Valley News Observer	Sports columns on hockey and transgenders	I really appreciated your decision to tackle such a controversial topic. You handled it with a thoughtful and balanced approach, successfully presenting multiple perspectives without leaning too heavily toward one side. Your ability to represent diverse viewpoints added depth and nuance to your work. Well done!
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Bill Graves	St. John Valley Times	Mainly Outdoors	This piece will resonate deeply with readers who hunt, evoking a strong sense of nostalgia, making it easy for others to connect emotionally with the story.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Bill Graves	Houlton Pioneer Times	Mainly Outdoors	This column beautifully captures the heart of outdoor tradition while showcasing the passion and dedication of a new generation of sportsmen
Sports Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ryan McLaughlin	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth American sports columns	Ryan McLaughlin is a prolific, knowledgeable and inciteful writer.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	Haskell's HotStove	Mr. Haskell has a deep bench of knowledge.
Sports Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Bill Graves	The County	Mainly Outdoors	A knowledgeable writer with an eye for detail and narrative skills.
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Travis Lazarczyk	Portland Press Herald	Sports columnist Travis Lazarczyk	A good columnist knows when to throw a fastball, and clearly, Lazarczyk knew he couldn't hold back when he read this hazing report — "a gang of bullies masquerading as football players" gets that message across clearly.
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Larry Mahoney	Bangor Daily News	Larry Mahoney, BDN Sports	
Sports Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	x			
Sports Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Dragons Blaze Through Week with Three Wins	Team mascots encourage animated headlines. Can't go wrong with dragons.
Sports Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Sensational Shimabukuro, Schwinn Toss Shutout as WA Advances to Class C North Championship	Always act when opportunity for alliteration arises.

Sports Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News	High Flying Hawks Move to 6-0	Tried and true
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Mark Haskell	Courier-Gazette	Bell tolls for Mariners as Windjammers sail to season's fourth win	Okay, so there is a lot in this headline: A pitcher named Bell, Mariners and Windjammers sail. It works.  Actually 7.5
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	Twinning: Pease Brothers Nab Firsts at Gardiner Tiger Invitational	A pair of twins win their matches in a wrestling tournament. The key in the headline is "twins winning." (The story is so-so and does not build very heavily on the headline.)  Actually 7.5
Sports Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newspaper	Runners gobble up miles at Boothbay Region Turkey Trot	A play on the words "turkey" and "gobble" for a local Thanksgiving race. Not especially original, but it sort of works.
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	NO ENTRIES x				
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	NO ENTRIES x				
Sports Headline	Daily/Weekend	NO ENTRIES x				
Sports Page Design	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Sports Design	This is the kind of section that will make a lot of parents happy and will sell many copies. Good job.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Dylan Lingley	Machias Valley News Observer	AOS 96 Cross Country Comes to a Thrilling Close	It's always good to get a lot of faces in the paper.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	x			
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Dunkle and Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	SportsDesign1_Cheer_01232025	Effective use of art in a confined space. Love the smart use of horizontal and verticals shots.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Christine Dunkle and Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	SportsDesign3_Swim_03202025	Evocative, sensitive mix of photos; a package abounding in personality.
Sports Page Design	Weekly 2	3rd Place	David Fickett	Ellsworth American	Tourney Time	Could have used a dominant piece of art, but still a dynamic package with an impactful masthead. Nice touch to continue mast's b-ball theme throughout the page.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Linda Kamp-Davis	Bangor Daily News	March 1, 2025	The centerpiece picture is what separates this entry from the other. Well done.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Linda Kamp-Davis	Bangor Daily News	Feb. 22, 2025	This is a visually appealing section.
Sports Page Design	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	x			

SECTIONS	RKDivision	Winner	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	1st Place	Cheryl Stabinski & Pierre Little	Calais Advertiser	Editorial	Climate Contrarian- good explanatory piece by Reisman. Hooks reader quickly . I really enjoyed the post election analysis on polarization.
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Staff	Star-Herald	Viewpoints (Opinion)	Moving piece about how crimes are now solved with the use of tools by law enforcement and journalists. I like the writing. It propels me through the story.
Editorial Page	Weekly 1	3rd Place	STAFF	Machias Valley News Observer	EDITORIAL SECTIONS	March 12th entry on climate policies shows the urgency of policy and regulation. October 16 good explanation of the billion dollar deficit and why this is a dangerous path for the state.
Editorial Page	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Mount Desert Islander commentary pages	The layout and design, use of multiple elements - letters, columns, editorials - make this an excellent read. Writing is good and so are the overall elements.
Editorial Page	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Midcoast Villager Staff	Midcoast Villager	Midcoast Villager editorial sections	Excellent work in combining columns of all types with letters and even polling. The overall impact is very good.
Editorial Page	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth American Opinion	Quality work. Excellent offerings for readers.
Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Opinion page staff	Portland Press Herald	Opinion pages	The Telegram respects and celebrates the diversity of Maine citizens' opinions. Reasoned editorials, a well designed package and the amount of precious newsprint space given to the section say so,
Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	BDN Editorial Board	Bangor Daily News	BDN Opinion Section	Well written editorials, opinions stated with strength and significant space devoted to reader opinions. Overall, a compact and forceful effort.

Editorial Page	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	x			
Sports Page	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Piscataquis Observer Sports	Easy to navigate and laid out well.
Sports Page	Weekly 1	2nd Place	STAFF	Machias Valley News	SPORTS SECTION	Comprehensive coverage — and a nice "back when" column.
Sports Page	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith & Cheryl Stabinski	Calais Advertiser	Sports Sections	
Sports Page	Weekly 2	1st Place	Staff	Mount Desert Islander	Sports Pages	A great package - intelligent writing, good graphics and photography, covering a wide variety of sports.
Sports Page	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ryan McLaughlin	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth American Sports	This paper gets out in the community and crams a good amount of coverage. Well written.
Sports Page	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Mark Haskell and Holly Vanorse Spicer	Midcoast Villager	SportsPgsSection_091924_110724_021325	Love the end of year wrap up. Coverage is diverse with some terrific photos.
Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Central Maine Sports staff	Morning Sentinel	Sports sections for 9/1/24; 11/24/24; and 2/23/24	Where to begin? The depth of coverage, quality of writing and design is second to none. The pages balance local coverage, national and even outdoors with excellence. One of the best sports sections I've seen in any newspaper.
Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Press Herald Sports staff	Portland Press Herald	Sports sections for 6/23/24; 9/15/24; and 2/2/25	A quality sports section in every way. Writing is quality, layout is top quality.
Sports Page	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Linda Kamp-Davis	Bangor Daily News	BDN Sports Pages	An excellent section in every way. Quality sports section with very good writing.
<b>WRITING</b>	<b>RKDivision</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Name of Entry</b>	<b>Judge Notes</b>
News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	NMMC nurses say they had little notice of unit's closure	While a critical story in all communities, it is especially important in smaller towns. Well done.
News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	City Grapples with Juvenile Delinquency Issues	The frustration of the Dollar General manager jumps off the page. Great job telling a story that is unfolding around the country.
News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	PI nursing home closes its doors	What a loss for the community, a necessary story to be told.
News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Rockland man grieves	Great mix of news and human interest. Heartbreaking quotes from the brother.
News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Ten EMS agencies refuse service	Wow, just wow. Well done.
News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell fire and rescue departments gaze	Important issue to shed light on, very familiar with it in my own area of coverage. Would have loved to see some quotes closer to the nut graph.
News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Alexa Foust, Kate Hapgood	The Maine Monitor	Child care providers cited for safety violations	Transparency matters and this is good journalism.
News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jacqueline Weaver	The Maine Monitor	Maritime officials fear 'catastrophic' outcome	
News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Kendra Caruso	Sun Journal	What does Prime Healthcare have in store	Important issues for people to know about.
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Christmas Eve Fire Destroys Major Section	A touching story that was well-written and fast to the point. A true spot story complete with action photos.
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Fire destroys Katahdin Forest Products building	Great packaged report with photos and story. Lots of details. Great presentation.
Spot News Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Fire Destroys Home on River Road	Solid story. Just the facts.
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Paula Brewer	The County	Police surround an area in Portage Lake	Great job with instinct and covering distance to quickly arrive at scene, provide solid description and details. This breaking news story clearly shows a larger story would be coming after initial deadline.
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Zach Lanning and Kip Wing	Mount Desert Islander	One dead in carport collapse	Good use of resources -- both in terms of sending two reporters and also the drone -- to capture images, details from the scene of a fatal collapse.
Spot News Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Wednesday Mohawk Road shooting investigated	Excellent job gathering details and using public records on an extremely tight deadline. Unclear if anyone was injured, however.

Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Daniel Kool and Morgan Womack	Portland Press Herald	Maine Mall shooting: Police search for suspect	Reporters and photographer teamed up to respond quickly and well as this story unfolded. What made this entry stand out were the quotes from witnesses and descriptive writing from the scene that conveyed the drama.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Joe Charpentier, Andrew Rice	Sun Journal	Sabattus shooter likely suffered mental health crisis	Strong reporting and follow-up on a tragic incident that claimed three lives, including that of the shooter.
Spot News Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Bill Trotter	Bangor Daily News	2 people die in fiery plane crash at Hancock County airport	Good, solid job here piecing together the available details for readers. Obtaining a photo that conveyed the foggy conditions at the time of the crash was plus.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Crossing the Line: Remembering a Double Murder	Excellent retrospective feature, although a 35th anniversary is a somewhat unusual news peg. Compelling writing. Reporter provides first-person recollections and analysis without engaging in unwarranted speculation.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	County man convicted of murder seeks chance to appeal	Very good story, detailed and clear. Explains the convicted man's grievances without seeming to take his side. Shows the reporter's enterprise in long hours spent at the courthouse and/or examining legal filings.
Courts Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	Terrorizing charge dropped against Paris mom	Very good story. Clear, compelling details, good quotes. It is a little one-sided though. I understand that the school district and DA declined to comment, but still could have found some way to convey their perspective. Also there's a quote in the headline but that quote never appears in the story itself, and we're never told who said.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Stephen Betts	Midcoast Villager	Cops Suspect Human Trafficking at Asian Massage	A well written and articulate narrative for a story with many moving pieces.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpwell Anchor	Settlement deal ends lawsuit over Orr's Island property	A good description for a complex case.
Courts Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	The County	Defendant says he can't recall details after killing girlfriend	Story made me want to look up more information on the outcome.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Eric Russell	Portland Press Herald	Survivor's story: Reliving a trauma-filled childhood	Eric Russell did a great job of using narrative storytelling to delve into the legal weeds of sex abuse. This issue is hard to write about, especially when it involves specific victims, but Eric treated this story with the respect it deserved. The story is a page-turner.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Emma Davis	Maine Morning Star	Maine sued over new campaign finance law	This was interesting look into this effort to reform campaign finance laws. Emma Davis made this complicated issue digestible and did a good job explaining why it is important.
Courts Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Allen	Portland Press Herald	How a Maine court ruling on child sex abuse claims	Emily Allen explained the complications of these court proceedings in a way that is easy to understand.
Political Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Dover-Foxcroft looking at the future of the Mayo Mill Dam	GREAT detail in your piece. On the surface, it sounds like a great dilemma, but unless the community has deep pockets, it reads like a no-brainer. Would have loved a better photo, but that's the fault of the snow and because I'm just curious. Good read.
Political Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Another town may lose its police force	Tough issue for small towns. You didn't mention the tax base for funding the agency, but since it's not even \$200,000 for seven months, I'm guessing there's not much base. Great detail and use of quotes. You kept me reading until the end.
Political Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	PI residents oppose ordinances	Citizen Jeff Ashby is correct ... the ordinance makes PI seem uncaring and heartless!
Political Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Piper Pavelich	Lincoln County News	Candidates Tackle Rising Costs, Affordable Housing	Good story and detail ... surprised a story with this content was buried on P2
Political Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Piper Pavelich	Lincoln County News	Candidates Tackle Rising Costs, Affordable Housing	Nice, detailed coverage with excellent accompanying art.

Political Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Alna selectmen rebuke resident's remarks	Good use of the back-and-forth between the board members ... and if Stone didn't understand that two of three make a quorum and an official meeting, then she does seem to have a deficiency.
Political Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Piper Pavelich	Lincoln County News	Conversation Centers on Risings Costs, Education	Well written, kept my attention. Your papdr does a good job of reporting on forums and informing uyour community. Great detail.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Grace Benninghoff	Portland Press Herald	Life After Artie: Lewiston shooting victim's father finds purpose	The story careens a bit, and maybe a brief sample of his checkered background would have been a good brief tease up toward the top. But it's a compelling read and does a really nice job of tracing the subject's unlikely path to an advocacy role while acknowledging the impossibility of putting your life back together after this kind of unspeakable tragedy.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Michael Shepherd	Bangor Daily News	'Silenced' Republican in Donald Trump's war	An insightful look at how an elected official can acquire power and support even in the legislative (and perhaps popular) minority.
Political Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	John Terhune and Dylan Tusinski	Portland Press Herald	A Maine border town finds itself on the front line	A brief synopsis on the general pros and cons of tariffs might have been valuable, but in general this is exactly the kind of story newspapers need to be doing (and why we need newspapers). It takes a theoretical policy debate and distills it into the effect on actual people in an actual town.
Analysis	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	How Presque Isle became Aroostook's cannabis capital	Amazing story! This was so helpful for the city so I Loved seeing that.
Analysis	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Rumors of Asylum Seekers Being Sent to Calais	Interesting story. Very informative. Understandable stance.
Analysis	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Birthright Citizenship Overdue for SCOTUS Review	Very big topic. Well written.
Analysis	Weekly 2	1st Place	Zach Lanning	Mount Desert Islander	Parking fund in the spotlight	This story is well researched, but the writing is not burdened with the research. It is extremely well done all the way around. Excellent information, writing and research. Quality in every way.
Analysis	Weekly 2	2nd Place	J. Craig Anderson	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell fire and rescue departments gaze	The quality of writing is second to none. The information is good and the quotes provide solid information. Good job.
Analysis	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Stephen Betts	Midcoast Villager	Indigent Lawyer Crisis Leaves Scores	This story is an attention grabber. The story is very well done and the subject matter is great.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emma Davis	Maine Morning Star	Who were the biggest spenders on lobbying	Thoughtful, well-written piece exposing what amounts of corporate dollars are steering policy & the ultimate price constituents wind up paying for those who influence votes beyond ones already democratically cast.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Tim Cebula	Portland Press Herald	Why so many Greater Portland restaurants are closing	Insightful piece on the difficulties of maintaining businesses which have become seasonal along with the broader economic concerns facing cities as well as restaurateurs.
Analysis	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dylan Tusinski	Morning Sentinel	Why are so few Mainers running for local office?	Chilling piece that explores the impact both national vitriol & social media are having upon a seeming disintegration of the sense of civic duty among a population who are also always having to do more with less. Thought-provoking.
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jenna Lookner and Will Robinson	Castine Patriot	'Sign shenanigans' as election draws near	Enjoyed this piece! Shed much light on a local epidemic that many may not have taken seriously. Left nothing unanswered with quotes from all relevant primary sources. Well done!
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Trump's immigration strategy	Loved the panoply of sources tying local to national policy. Great information from the farmer-owners. Well-written.
Investigative Report	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	A local town took painful steps to claw its way back	Interesting read. Would have liked more information on the TM's ambulance-service decision, did that account for the entire \$1 million?
Investigative Report	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Ten EMS agencies refuse service to Macwahoc	Congrats for digging deep on this tragedy. This story is a true public service.
Investigative Report	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Attempted land fraud	important topic explained clearly. An important public service story.
Investigative Report	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Staff	Harpwell Anchor	Involuntary Response: Harpswell Fire & Rescue	Thoroughly investigated stories which provide a roadmap for solutions. Solid use of graphics.

Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	John Terhune	Portland Press Herald	Breakdown: Investigating Maine's deadliest shooting	This was an impressive, comprehensive look at the tragic shooting. The deep dives into forced psychiatric treatment and military blast effects were excellent. The interviews with the family really portrayed the heartbreaking struggle loved ones go through when someone needs help but no one knows where to turn or how to get it. A job well done.
Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Marina Schaufler	Maine Morning Star	A firehose of forever chemicals	Excellent public service journalism. A really deep dive into the history and problems of firefighting foam and what to do with it. The focus on the real-life impact to firefighters was also important. Great job.
Investigative Report	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Callie Ferguson	Bangor Daily News	Afraid for her family's safety, she abandoned	A great example of the kind of impactful stories that can come from digging through government documents. It offered new insight on a part of the system that is often opaque because treatment of minors is not generally made public.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Erik Foote series	Outstanding and important work.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Mayo Mill Dam	Important local journalism.
Continuing Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Weekly Packet	Toddy Pond dam owner seeks to relinquish ownership	Keeps public informed.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	The County	Fallout from a Maine town's use of surveillance cameras	The writers did a good job of explaining the abuses of power and why this was impacting every resident of Houlton.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Continuing story on EMS failure to respond	Ben Meiklejohn shined a light on an failure of an important public service that residents depend on for their well-being.
Continuing Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	DREW HIMMELSTEIN	Midcoast Villager	Housing Crisis Series	The writers did a great job explaining solutions - some of which readers may not be familiar with - to an issue which is relatable for many people around the country. They added an important personal touch with pictures and narratives.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Eric Russell and Hannah LeClaire	Portland Press Herald	Locked out: Maine's housing crisis	The housing crisis isn't exclusive to Maine, but this rigorously reported series effectively lays out the many obstacles faced by potential homeowners in the state, with good narrative flow and an impressive number of sources.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Josh Keefe	The Maine Monitor	Court System Troubles	A tightly connected series of articles that thoroughly explain a complicated and frustrating issue.
Continuing Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Dylan Tusinski	Morning Sentinel	Illegal cannabis grow houses coverage	Comprehensive, enlightening coverage that approaches the issue from multiple angles, keeping the stories fresh and interesting while remaining closely aligned to the topic.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	1st Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	County 'Rosie the Riveter' gets congressional medal	Great story about an incredible woman. The organization of the article made sense. I love the various details included, the random facts are often what readers hold onto and you provided a good amount of them. It made me smile.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	5 County places from another time	This article made me feel nostalgic even though I've never been to any of these places. I really appreciated the visual language. It sparked emotions without being sappy.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Aroostook woman celebrates 107th birthday	I like that the news caught wind of an event that wasn't an organized award or recognition, but the community clearly cared about this woman and made something happen on their own volition. What a fun and spunky story. A feel good.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	1st Place	Bisi Cameron Yee	Harpwell Anchor	To honor the lobstermen,' Bailey Island artist	This is an interesting story that not only features an artist, but such an important element of the community's heritage. There are nice testimonials of the lobstermen, and I love how passionate the artist is - he is not trying to profit, just share his appreciation. Your writing is clear, descriptive, emotive. It has the right amount of emotion without making it too political. Also the art is great.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Doug Warren	Harpwell Anchor	Something magical': Chance encounter connects two harpists	This story is out of a movie! I have to give major kudos for discovering this story - only a writer who is truly tuned in to the community would happen upon something like this. I love the imagery; you made me wish I could experience the island life listening to a magical harp. Your writing is clear. You made something that could be two paragraphs into an interesting story.

Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Jess Cummings	Mount Desert Islander	SWH space suit designer is shooting for the moon	We love a good story about a regular person who accomplishes things even NASA can't! It's a unique topic that is not usually written about so I think it grabs attention. This has good flow and is logical. I know I am judging your writing but I have to mention that the page layout really does increase intrigue - it is very well done.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emma Davis	Maine Morning Star	Maine LGBTQ+ leaders reflect on legacy of progress	A great article packed with so much information about Maine's LGBTQ history. Well done.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Hannah Kaufman	Morning Sentinel	'It's our therapy': Knitting group	Lots of voices contribute to spinning this yarn of a down home hobby.
Arts - Lifestyle Feature	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Grace Benninghoff	Portland Press Herald	Bubba's Sulky Lounge endures	Simply a lovely personality profile
Feature Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Will Robinson	Island Ad-Vantages	The diver who plugged in Isle au Haut	Excellent story! Of potential interest to everyone who lives in the area, well-written, clear explanations of complicated technical stuff. Great photos too.
Feature Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Bucks Harbor Shopping Mall	Great story about the kind of local institution that everyone seems to know. The many different voices, fun anecdotes, and vintage photos make it engrossing and surely very enjoyable for people who remember the store. Also answers the question many probably had about why it was called Shopping Mall. Would've been helpful to say when the store actually closed for good (ideally near the beginning, but I don't think it's in there at all).
Feature Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Castine Patriot	An ode to Uncle Henry's Swap or Sell It Guide	Great feature story. Impressive variety of anecdotes from numerous sources. Just the right length. A couple of sloppy word repetitions but otherwise very well-written.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	FREYJA GREY	Midcoast Villager	Bristol's Celtic Cattleman	Written with love and care, this is a lovely profile of an interesting character and his passion for both his farm and his animals.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Mark Haskell	Midcoast Villager	In Hair-Raising Community Event, Midcoast Residents Rally	The sense of community togetherness and pure fun (love the photos of the haircuts) is palpable.
Feature Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sam Lemonick	Harpswell Anchor	At an under-the-radar studio in Cundy's Harbor	I thought the idea to insert himself into the story was a neat twist that added some depth and a unique perspective.
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	John Terhune and Dylan Tusinski	Portland Press Herald	In Madawaska, fortunes are closely tied	An exemplary and engaging localization of a topic with international implications, painting a picture of two intertwined communities with memorable details.
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Hannah Kaufman, Ethan Horton	Kennebec Journal	Freedom is being sued over a road. In Maine,	A clear and thorough explanation of a longstanding, complicated issue, which leaves the reader sharing in the frustration of the landowners.
Feature Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Marie Weidmayer	Bangor Daily News	Lewiston hero shot saving kids	A well-written narrative that effectively demonstrates the physical and mental toll of surviving an incomprehensible tragedy.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Thanksgiving may be challenging for some local families	Well-written piece that highlights an unfortunate circumstance for many each year. The piece speaks to the resilience of the workers at the food pantry to continue their mission.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard, Melissa Lizotte	St. John Valley Times	Food trucks are on the rise in Aroostook County	Well-written & informative piece that highlights both changing tastes for producers as well as consumers. The small business & personal aspects are interesting & engaging.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	5 places to eat that show off local scenery	Nice slice-of-life piece that highlights distinctive places to enjoy more than one aspect of the area.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Simmonds	Midcoast Villager	Kraut Kingdom	This column has a pitch-perfect folksy tone and well-chosen quotes from the co-owner that add a nice texture.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Bill Morrison	Mount Desert Islander	Holiday heroes	If the measure of a good food column is how hungry it makes you, then this one by Chef Bill Morrison is better than good -- it's great.
Food Story/Feature	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Jacqueline Welsh	Ellsworth American	Fork (next to) the road	In a time when corporations are taking every space in the food industry that it possibly can, it's so refreshing to read about a little independent gem like Lincoln's Farmstand.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Chris Wheelock	Sun Journal	Viral Dubai fruit cup craze slams Marvelous Macarons	Well-written piece, on a surprising craze. Lots of voices and images. Good photos and video.
Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ray Routhier	Portland Press Herald	A Maine Italian isn't just beloved - it's a rite of passage	Lots of good history here about what would seem to be an odd choice for a fav sandwich. Lots of photos and the illustration add nice touches.

Food Story/Feature	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	John O'Meara	The Maine Monitor	UMaine potato breed edges out longtime favorites	Interesting story on the potato and its impact on the state's ranking in the nation. Graphics are a nice touch.
Critic's Award	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Life in Maine is a Laughing Matter for Comedian	This is a nicely crafted review of a comedy show -- the author's first! -- with a variety of thoughtful observations.
Critic's Award	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lisa Kristoff	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	The banjo, Alison Brown, and one fine band	The folksy fangirl tone works here, because the writer is so well prepared. It feels like the reader is there for the conversation.
Critic's Award	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Nan Lincoln	Mount Desert Islander	ACT Christmas play shows great promise	Captures the spirit of the production, which makes it a very good preview.
Critic's Award	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Candi Joneth	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Maine Poet Laureate honors Malaga Islanders	Comprehensive, with a lot of good quotes from the poet. Could use a lede that notes her particular interest in and formulation of the project.
Critic's Award	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Megan Gray	Portland Press Herald	Shedding light on the dark side of Jamie Wyeth	A well-flowing discussion of the dark art of a local painter who lives in a lighthouse on an island. The descriptions of the artist's work left you wanting a photo gallery of more of his art.
Critic's Award	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Judy Harrison	Bangor Daily News	Judy Harrison, BDN Critic	A fairly decent review of a local play that is performed in an unusual venue. The writing is a bit stilted at times, as if the reporter is trying to impress. But overall, it is a good summary of the play and some of the obstacles in staging.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	A Presque Isle hospital is helping transgender Mainers	What an incredible story, I didn't even know this was possible. This is incredible piece. Well done!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Living the American Dream	A great story about the American dream and giving back and helping others. Very heart warming. Would have liked more photos of his work.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls Advertiser	Amish farm market in Livermore Falls opened a year ago	I haven't been in Amish country in years. The story made me hungry.
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	1st Place	Freyja Grey	Midcoast Villager	Trans Under Trump	Excellent reporting that examines the impact of recent policies on Midcoast's queer community with a balanced, empathetic lens. Well done!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Chef Adam Libby special guest at comic convention	The writer captures the journey and success of Chef Adam in detail conveying the passion and perseverance of the subject alongwith his struggles with optimism. The story is inspiring and the writing is nuanced. Well done!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Isabelle Curtis	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	A look inside Maine's Indigenous Domestic Violence Centers	The story puts a deserving spotlight on the indegenous violence center and handles the issue sensitively. The writer states the facts backed by data with clarity and brevity. Well done!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emily Bader	The Maine Monitor	'Historically left out,' a Wabanaki organization forges	The reporting is top-notch. Visceral writing right at the beginning brings it alive on page and then throws some hard facts and numbers supported by relevant quotes. The photographs are brilliant, too!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Jules Walkup	Bangor Daily News	Why most Maine transgender kids don't bother	The writer does a prolific job in weaving a balanced, nuanced story about a complex and relevant issue while quietly spotlighting the need for agency within transgender sports. Sensitively handled and backed by pertinent quotes. This is an important story, told really well!
Coverage of Minority Community Issues	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Kelley Bouchard	Portland Press Herald	After difficult quest for stable housing, Angolan family	This story rips open the calm and chaos of a refugee family's quest for basic things in the most gentle tone. Affording grace to the people still struggling yet so grateful and shining a light on the magnitude of the problem. Really held gratitude while reading this beautifully told story.
Community Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	From Away & Back	Loved both columns. Don't know if it's because we're about the same age — was born in '50 — but I can relate to both.
Community Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Will Tuell	Machias Valley News Observer	Downeast Dispatches	Both are well-written and both capture, and hold, the reader's attention.
						Mr. Silvain, you are a good storyteller! Mother sounds interesting and every community seems to have a Nancy Oden.
						Good telling of your stories. I don't knit, but I read both to the end.

						Everybody lives where the common complaint is, "Nothing ever happens here!"
Community Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smih	Calais Advertiser	What's Up, Calais?	Well, you're proving otherwise and giving them options.  The first entry was sparse, but the second was loaded. My only suggestion would be to perhaps add a bullet at each new item to break it up a little and to highlight a new activity.
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Jeffrey Good	Harpwell Anchor	First Person	Allowing firefighter Meriel Longley to tell her story in her own voice made for compelling, memorable read.
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ed O'Brien	Penobscot Bay Pilot	This Week in Lincolnville	This thoughtful appeal for civility is much-needed in our communities these days. Nicely written.
Community Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Characters of the County	Nice touch focusing on people who really are "characters" in the best sense of the word.
Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Leslie Bridgers	Portland Press Herald	Community columns by Leslie	
Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Amy Calder	Morning Sentinel	Reporting Aside columns by Amy Calder	
Community Columnist	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Aislinn Sarnacki	Bangor Daily News	Aislinn Sarnacki, BDN Columnist	
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	1st Place	Mark Brown	Machias Valley News	WE THE PEOPLE Column	
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Jon Reisman	Calais Advertiser	Freedom Studies	
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jon Reisman	Machias Valley News	Freedom Studies	
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ed Robinson	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell Naturalist	Beautifully written and well-researched columns. A little longer on factual discourse than articulating specific opinions, but better than the opposite extreme, even in this category!
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Alison McKellar	Penobscot Bay Pilot	God's time, war time, and daylight saving time	A refreshing slice-of-life approach to issues affecting ordinary people in the community.
Opinion Columnist	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Marvin Ott	Ellsworth American	Offshore	Clearly written and knowledgeable columns that presented coherent opinions. A bit on the pedantic side and not much state or local connection.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Susan Young	Bangor Daily News	Susan Young, BDN Opinion Columnist	Susan Young writes a very readable column that flows easily and logically. Her opinions are obvious and well formed.
Opinion Columnist	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Victoria Hugo-Vidal	Portland Press Herald	The Maine Millennial	Victoria Hugo-Vidal gives fresh perspective (at least to this boomer) on issues that should resonate with Mainers.
Editorial	Weekly	1st Place	Faith DeAmbrose	Mount Desert Islander	A display of community tenacity	A community's finest hour, reported and interpreted in exemplary fashion, with a healthy dose of local flavor. Builds to a moving conclusion. Bravo!
Editorial	Weekly	2nd Place	Cyndi Wood	Ellsworth American	Of tensions and trade-offs	Thoughtful, artfully composed look at a pressing problem here and across the country. Writer wisely brings a temperate tone to an oft-heated issue, subtly leading to a strong conclusion.
Editorial	Weekly	3rd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Midcoast Villager	Proud of Our Governor	While the language can get overheated at times, the placement of the governor's stand in Maine history underscores an important perspective. The use of Maine's motto is inspired.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	BDN Editorial Board	Bangor Daily News	Janet Mills shows how to stand up to Donald Trump	Incisive commentary that speaks out strongly in defense of the rule of law and the rights of a beleaguered group of girls who are being bullied and marginalized by Trump and his supporters. Shame on them and kudos to the Daily News for calling them them out.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	The Editorial Board	Morning Sentinel	Fearlessness of exactly the wrong kind	Hypocrisy on the part of those who hold high office deserves to be called out. The Morning Sentinel rightly chides Sen. Collins, who has been harshly critical of Donald Trump in the past but changed her tune to spout pro-Trump party rhetoric in 2024.
Editorial	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	The Editorial Board	Portland Press Herald	No option in Trump dispute but to stick to the script	A well-written defense of the rule of law over bullying from Washington.
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly/Daily/Weekend	1st Place	George Danby	Bangor Daily News	George Danby, BDN Editorial Cartoonist	Where to start? Clean. Easy to understand. The artist's style with humor is just spot on. I would love these on a desk calendar so I could snicker a bit each morning.

Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly/Daily/Week	2nd Place	Glenn Chadbourne	Lincoln County News	Glenn Chadbourne	Solid illustrations that are compelling and invite the viewer to pause a minute.
Editorial Cartoonist	Weekly/Daily/Week	3rd Place	Steve Meyers	Portland Press Herald	Opinion page cartoons by Steve Meyers	Nice use of color and solid messages.
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	SeDoMoCha students stick it to the principal	
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	A Presque Isle hospital is helping transgender Mainers find their voice	
Feature Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News Observer	Bees, Bats, and Moths — Oh, My! Porter Library Summer Program 'Pollinating' Young Minds	
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Christine Simmonds	Midcoast Villager	Periwinkles: Let's Escargot!	Headline is both witty and delicious!
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	Halloween parade puts the 'boo' in Boothbay Harbor	Headline captures the mood and fun of Halloween!
Feature Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Johnathan Riley	Lincoln County News	Churning Back Time: Round Top Ice Cream Celebrates 100 Years	Very timely story at the peak of summer and a very apt title to match its historic significance!
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Sally Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Dashing to the Shows	Nice holiday play on words
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Dylan Tusinski	Morning Sentinel	For Oakland-area Girl Scouts, Thanksgiving tradition is baked in	Baked in is nice play. Add to scouts that leads one to think of cookies--another bake connection.
Feature Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Sally Ericson	Portland Press Herald	Tricks are for kids	Had me looking for the rabbit.
News Headline	Weekly 1	1st Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Oh, Nuts! Squirrel Sparks Power Outage in Greater-Calais Area	Finding the light side of a blackout. But what happened to the squirrel?
News Headline	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	SeDoMoCha students stick it to the principal	This headline nailed it, so to speak.
News Headline	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	A local town took painful steps to claw its way back from \$1M debt	Not fond of calling it "a local town" but the headline does its job here.
News Headline	Weekly 2	1st Place	Jim Leonard	Midcoast Villager	When 911 Needs 911	This headline was catchy but also on point. It made me think and drew me to the article.
News Headline	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jim Leonard	Midcoast Villager	Size Matters	This headline was short sweet and to the point. Along with typography of making the subhead soooo small, it just fit. Good job.
News Headline	Weekly 2	3rd Place	x			
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Kate Cough	The Maine Monitor	Gulf of Maine lobsters are experiencing a housing crisis	Anthropomorphizing headlines capture readers' attentions and imaginations. This is the rare play on words that distilled the essence of the story better than a wordy and boring straightforward headline would have. Excellent!
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Zach Aldrich	Portland Press Herald	Red, white and blurred	A nice way to describe the polarized purple world of a divided state. Accurate and attention getting. Your smaller headlines on the paired stories were nice as well.
News Headline	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Times Record Staff	Times Record	Wiscasset pot shop opens pizza joint	Headline writer rolls the dice with a pot pun, and, you know what, it works. A little bit of a groaner, but that's not always a bad thing. And you should have seen some of the other entries.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Aroostook-born hiker sets time on Appalachian Trail	Solid lede brought me right into unique look at hiker's journey. Excellent use of background info, and nice work on explaining the hike. Transitions are smooth and the quotes do a great job of accenting the narratives. Well done!
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Cyclist starts 4,500 mile trek in Houlton	Smoothly written story with good use of quotes and solid details of the trek. Nice work.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer	Campaign begins to purchase Big Moose Mountain	Good lede and use of background information to build the story. Well-used quotes help give insight to more of the details regarding the effort.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	With continuity, and change, new owners ready to keep	Nice combination of history of the orchard with current and past owners' passions. Well done.
Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Jacqueline Welch	Mount Desert Islander	Climb with Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School	Nice photos and art combined with thorough details presented in a story. Well written.

Outdoors Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	Waldoboro Sno-Crawlers Celebrate Snowy Winter	Nice story on volunteers who have a passion for the snow. Detailed descriptions and explanations make it easily understood by someone not from a snowy region.
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Ethan Horton	Kennebec Journal	Central Maine snowmobilers face new, snowless normal	Great reporting and voices, especially Mr. Rice. Story was comprehensive and detailed, with focus on personal and business impacts of the lack of snow and did a nice job connecting climate change to something many readers care about. Well done.
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Derrick Z. Jackson	The Maine Monitor	Seal Island sees record number of breeding puffins	Another great way to tell the story of climate change with a story full of interesting new details. Also beautifully written in ways that bring the birds and the color of the landscape alive. Amazing photos too, which truly set this one apart. Beautiful work.
Outdoors Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Jake Freudberg	Morning Sentinel	On opening day of deer season, central Maine hunters	Great voices in this story. Nicely reported. Makes me feel like I was with you at the tagging station that morning! Also, good maps, which always helps. Nice job.
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Paul Sylvain	Machias Valley News	Toxic Groundwater a Lasting Study: Farming in Aroostook leads Maine in food waste	It is stories like this that keep local journalism relevant.
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church working	Inspired me to make the time to take a look at our coverage area.
Environmental Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Stuart Hedstrom	Piscataquis Observer		Great look at how community members today can impact the future.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Sam Lemonick	Harpwell Anchor	Harpwell has 44 of Maine's 600 remaining overboard	Beautifully written exploration of an important local problem in the interaction between humans and their environment, with a clear explanation of why the local problem in this small community has great significance.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	The County	Redemption center gets a boost from state program	Great article that focuses on a local business with an environment-related model. Well-written with strong local interest that also resonates with outside readers. Nice job quantifying the business owners' strong start, to show it wasn't just a local hype story.
Environmental Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Fritz Freudenberger	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	A fisherman's trash, a scientist's treasure	Fascinating look at how environmental scientists are taking advantage of sporting event leftovers to gather valuable data.
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Emmett Gartner	The Maine Monitor	How one Maine town is prepping for its next disaster	Terrific narrative storytelling to make this a compelling read. Comprehensive reporting to address future storms and funding challenges to build back the community.
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Murray Carpenter	The Maine Monitor	Community solar is booming, but who owns the projects?	Great investigative work and sourcing on this piece to find out about how lawmaker support.
Environmental Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Laura Sitterly	Times Record	Groundbreaking eelgrass pilot restoration takes root	States the challenge and the reason we should care clearly and quickly. Good dig.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Nicole Carter	Advertiser Democrat	The secret to Norway's economic success?	Excellent reporting. Well done.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Pam Harnden	Livermore Falls Advertiser	Closure of Turner egg farm will affect local farms	Everyone's talking about the price of eggs these days, and this story makes it local.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Calais Stores Offer Stability Amid Egg Price Hikes	National discussion with a local bent.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Chris Bouchard	The County	'Like Christmas for us': A fishing derby	Pretty good story about how a local hotel/motel is impacted by a local event.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Sarah Thompson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	'Custom-built right here in Spruce Head, America'	Actually 7.5 Pretty interesting story about a man who built his own tow truck.
Business/Economics Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	John Gormley	Harpwell Anchor	Once a form of currency, quahogs remain a steady source	Actually 7.5 An informative feature about a local natural resource (softshell crabs) and what they are good for.

Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Jake Freudberg	Morning Sentinel	Bingham plywood mill moves closer to opening	In a very crowded field, this piece stood out. The writer skillfully wove details so even business-naive readers could understand the difficulty of this undertaking. Readers are also lured into rooting for Charlie Martin and his sheer grit in the face of many obstacles. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this piece and hope next year to read about the mill's grand opening!
Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Hannah LeClaire	Portland Press Herald	Maine needs more housing, fast.	A tremendous amount of reporting went into this story. Well-written account of why modular homes could be a part of the affordable-housing solution. I admire how the writer didn't get too bogged down in the details of the housing crisis and instead focused on how and why these companies' products can work, with appropriate comment from the affected Town Managers. Well done!
Business/Economics Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Chris Wheelock	Sun Journal	Maine is a proving ground for commercial chaga farming	A continuation of a story begun three years ago, great update that also served as a fantastic introduction to what chaga farming is and why it will work so well in Maine. The writer has a wonderful eye for detail, I felt like I was on the tour with the group. A fascinating account of a burgeoning industry unique to Maine because of its birch trees. I look forward to reading about the harvest in a few years!
Education Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Will Robinson	Island Ad-Vantages	How do local schools use AI?	This was incredible and very informative. Well done and a very important topic.
Education Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Here's why homeschooling is on the rise	Good reasons for this article. Love to see a follow up to see how students are performing.
Education Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Tressa Versteeg	Island Ad-Vantages	High schools put cell phone restrictions in place	Good subject. Interested to see more students reacting to the new policy.
Education Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Molly Rains	Lincoln County News	Six Years In, RSU 12's Anti-Bullying Committee	Good job explaining a program and its impact with details
Education Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Daniel Dunkle	Midcoast Villager	'We Have a Broken System in Child Care'	Strong story on child care system problems
Education Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sarah Halberstadt	Ellsworth American	Parent objects to school's use of restraint	Pointing out a significant issue through parents' eyes
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Alexa Foust, Kate Hapgood	The Maine Monitor	Child care providers cited for safety violations	Great public service journalism that holds the state accountable and reveals the troubling patterns at some providers. It is clear a lot of effort went into the analysis and reporting. Well done.
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Eesha Pendharkar	Maine Morning Star	Maine students haven't recovered academically	I'm sure newspapers around the country wrote similarly titled articles about students performing worse than in the past, but this article does a great job looking at the possible causes and solutions, while also remaining balanced and fact driven.
Education Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emmett Gartner	The Maine Monitor	Schools confront unique challenges	A well-written article about a problem without an easy solution. It was both comprehensive and well focused. Well done.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Wendell "Doss" Dennison	Machias Valley News Observer	Desperado Syndrome	Motivational call for action through the story of Judah. Well written.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Paula Brewer	Aroostook Republican & News	Descendants celebrate pioneering family	Nice community focused piece giving historical perspective as well as focus on individuals. Nicely done.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli	Houlton Pioneer Times	Hundreds come out to honor Houlton Catholic deacon	Nice story of celebration that also includes some historical content with focus on community.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Freyja Grey	Midcoast Villager	The Graveyard in the Woods	What an incredible story that juxtaposes religion with humanity. When faith and facts collide what do you choose? This story encourages an open dialogue on religious scripts. The writer has taken efforts in reaching out to officials for answers and weaving an intriguing story with a balanced hold on a sensitive subject.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	With sadness, the Midcoast says goodbye forever to Rosie	The writer handles the story with incredible empathy. Great job writing this seemingly simple story.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	The County	The County's newest coffeehouse is just for youth	Writer does a great job spotlighting a unique initiative that deserves to be known. Well written and balanced story.
Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Eric Russell	Portland Press Herald	How Maine brothers found	Great piece, in-depth, lots of details

Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Billy Kobin	Bangor Daily News	The Bangor synagogue that grew and grieved	Good balance of the tough issues, lots of tough competition in this category
Religion/Spirituality Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Hannah Kaufman	Morning Sentinel	Ice harvest at pond fills Jewish ritual bath in Waterville	Really interesting story. This was a tough category
Health Story	Weekly 1	1st Place	Pam Harnden	Franklin Journal	Maine grant program to help reduce firefighters' exposure	Wonderful interview with creator of grant program, tied in nicely with need for both local firefighting and state-wide departments. Great tracing of how law gets made out of scratch, born of one person's idea, energy and initiative. Excellent work.
Health Story	Weekly 1	2nd Place	Chris Bouchard	St. John Valley Times	NMMC will drop child psych unit to reduce costs	Nice job recapping a CEO's remarks at a town council meeting, adding pertinent local and state detail. Liked how the writer took care to highlight the positive set against the loss of the children's inpatient unit.
Health Story	Weekly 1	3rd Place	Paula Brewer	Star-Herald	Dentist opens much-needed Aroostook children's clinic	What could have been just a rote new-business piece was made more lively by the writer's careful inclusion of fun detail. Also, with just a few well-chosen words and stats, clearly demonstrated how the new business will meet demand. I enjoyed reading this!
Health Story	Weekly 2	1st Place	Ben Meiklejohn	Lincoln News	Ten EMS agencies refuse service to Macwahoc	This is an important public service story, thoroughly reported. What was uncovered an outrage.
Health Story	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Carolyn Zachary	Midcoast Villager	The Longest Wait	Interesting, heartfelt and informative. Nice writing touches throughout.
Health Story	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Sophie Burchell	Forecaster	Children on MaineCare brace the challenges	I felt like I understood the community and professionals helping children in need of care. The reporting was thorough and informative.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Joe Lawlor	Portland Press Herald	A 13-year-old Bingham girl has been stuck in the ER	This is what local news is about.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Callie Ferguson	Bangor Daily News	Afraid for her family's safety, she abandoned	Excellent coverage.
Health Story	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Emily Bader	The Maine Monitor	Independent pharmacies are closing.	Well written and important matter for people to know about.

ONLINE	RKDivision	Winner	Name	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
News Video	Weekly	1st Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register - Wiscasset Newspaper	Connecting over the climate	This video shows a good variety of elements with the use of b-roll, reporter voiceover and interview to weave a complete story.
News Video	Weekly	2nd Place	Todd Anderson	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Ice water technician training at Shirrtail Point	Great use of video to give viewers a closer look at what it's like to do ice water training. It's this sort of effort that helps viewers understand a story more clearly.
News Video	Weekly	3rd Place	Susan Johns	Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper	"Wheels to the water," January 22, 2025	Good use of voice over and interviews help support this video to give viewers an intimate glimpse into the value of water wheel chairs.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	The eclipse chasers	Great content and enjoyable to watch.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Ranked choice voting tabulation in Maine, Day 1	Made a confusing issue more understandable.
News Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Fire Destroys Auburn Apartment Complex	Strong local news content.
Sports Video	Weekly 2	1st Place	Kip Wing	Mount Desert Islander	MDI Marathon	Beautiful and creative drone shots give viewers a unique view of this marathon event. Well composed shots and good variation keep the viewer engaged. The music felt just right for the mood of this video.
Sports Video	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Ryan McLaughlin	Ellsworth American	Ellsworth Cheering Three Peat	A fun and joyous moment is captured of this moment of celebration. The audio helps the viewer understand what has just happened..
Sports Video	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Ryan McLaughlin	Ellsworth American	Home Run	
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Joe Phelan	Kennebec Journal	Winthrop Middle School students get professional	Good selection of images to demonstrate the disc golf lesson
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Gregory Rec	Portland Press Herald	U.S. National Toboggan Championships	Nice selection of clips but I think more still good have been done with it. Good job though
Sports Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Rolling around in Auburn	While the images take advantage of the lighting available, a little more could have been done with the subject. A short piece of audio of the people, why they do it etc. would have helped round out the video
Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly	1st Place	Lynda Clancy	Penobscot Bay Pilot	Coast Guard families mix with cadets	Nice collection of footage creates a montage that gives the viewer sights and sounds aboard this vessel.

Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly	2nd Place	Jayna Smith	Calais Advertiser	Halloween Parade	Fun use of music and playful graphics support good video shots of this Halloween event. The spooky music adds to the atmosphere.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Weekly	3rd Place	Faith DeAmbrose	Mount Desert Islander	Bed Race	So good to have a great video to help viewers experience the sounds and energy of this fun bed race.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Roger McCord	The Maine Monitor	A backstage look at a thriving Biddeford	Phenomenal. The interspersing of the interviews with the scenes of the rehearsals and the close-ups made the visuals impressive. Coupled with the interviews, which were fun and informational, an excellent package.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ben McCanna	Portland Press Herald	One of Us, Stanwood Newell	Strong still images that keep your attention as you listen to this arborist's story. Interesting slice of life.
Features/Lifestyle Video	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Russ Dillingham	Sun Journal	Marvelous Macaron's Dubai Fruit Cup Craze	The video was news-oriented, rather than aiming at aesthetics, but it nicely illustrated the feature about a small business. The visuals did make the viewer want to get in that line to buy that treat.
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Weekly 2	1st Place	Heather Eriole	Ellsworth American	Eye Candy Ellsworth	Well designed ad uses a beautiful graphic of a woman that's eye catching. Nice use of typography and color helps you navigate the information presented.
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Weekly 2	2nd Place	Hannah Clark	Forecaster	Maine Made Crafts 2024 ARTS & CRAFT SHOWS Digital	Great color palletete and use of graphics in this very inviting ad. Typography is well placed and easy to follow.
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Weekly 2	3rd Place	Heather Eriole	Mount Desert Islander	Milbridge Theatre	This clean ad design is easy to read and understand. Good use of limited color.
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	1st Place	Marcie Coombs	Bangor Daily News	The Club Marina and Bar	Easy first place. Incredible use of color, fun to look at ,bespeaks fun for the consumer
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	2nd Place	Ted Duguay, Kevin Benasich, Melissa Pritchard	Portland Press Herald	Pierce Furniture: Where Maine Families Gather	Great example of seeking the dream with advertising. Product in use. Good use of space and call to action. Also fits summer theme well
Best Digital Ad Campaign	Daily/Weekend	3rd Place	Alicia Tuttle, Lisa Hood	Kennebec Journal	Maine - Real ID	Good use of call to action and multiple panels.