News Photo  
Weekly 1  
1. Joseph Cyr  
Houlton Pioneer Times  
Graduation explosion  
Nice atmospheric shot that captures the moment. Good job.

2. Daniel Dunkle  
The Camden Herald  
Lead photo:  
C Camden cheers  
Nice long view of this graduation march. Captures the overall atmosphere well.

3. Mark Robinson  
Island Ad-Vantages  
Dozens ‘march’ in  
moment. Good job.

Daily/Weekend  
Jefferson Voter  
2.  
The Maine Monitor  
2.  

Spot News Photo  
Weekly 1  
1. Jessica Potlta  
St. John Valley Times  
Frenchville fire  
The image does a great job of capturing the action. The cutline could use some work.

2. Leslie Landrigan  
Island Ad-Vantages  
High water  
The image made good use of framing to make a photo without people more interesting. Tightening the frame to bring the water and plants to the bottom left corner would have made it stronger with a good leading line.

3. Carolyn Zachary  
The Republican Journal  
Pickup truck skids off Route 137  
A strong image, but repositioning to the left could have improved it by making the skid mark a leading line without losing the people or vehicle.

Weekly 2  
1. Bisi Cameron Yee  
The Lincoln County News  
Jefferson Vet  
Good use of reflection to convey the moment.

2. Troy R. Bennett  
Bangor Daily News  
Face-off  
You can feel the intensity between these two and there’s almost a third intensity from the proximity of the photographer as well utilizing clearly a wider-lens then telephoto to bring us into this frame.

3. Troy R. Bennett  
Bangor Daily News  
BLM protest  
You can feel the passion from Tanisha’s expression. Photo might have moved up if the subject wasn’t looking out of the frame, but rather was on the left side of the frame and a stop sign wasn’t coming out of her head.

Scenic Photo  
Weekly 1  
1. Morgan Mitchell  
St. John Valley Times  
Farmer’s sunset  
Nice light and composition with lovely colors.

2. Eli Forman  
The Weekly Packet  
A comet for the centuries  
Not an easy photo to make. Well done.

3. Camille Fine  
York Weekly  
Nubble Lighthouse  
Very scenic photograph, if the people in the foreground were positioned better it would’ve elevated this photo to a higher placement.

Weekly 2  
1. Lynda Clancy  
Penobscot Bay Pilot  
Rainbows arc over Midcoast  
A great rainbow shot. Beautiful colors.

2. Christine Simmonds  
The Courier-Gazette  
Sunset in St. George  
A pleasing sunset show that draws you in.

3. Cyndi Wood  
The Ellsworth American  
Pop of red – 2/18/21  
Nice job of arriving on scene while the action was still going on.

Daily/Weekend  
1. Richard Abrahamson  
Morning Sentinel  
Deer dash  
Excellent composition. Not only is the background very pleasing to the eye, the photographer was ready and in the right place at the right time to get a technically perfect shot. The deer looks like she is just out for her morning jog. Good work.

People Photo  
Weekly 1  
1. Camille Fine  
York Weekly  
Esports player  
This was the best portrait demonstrating composition, use of light and illustrates the kid as an e-sports player.

2. Paula Brewer  
The Star-Herald  
Splash  
Can tell there’s a fun side to this kid who’s trying to cool off in the summer heat.

3. Alexander MacDougall  
Houlton Pioneer Times  
Sherman Vet  
A nice portrait utilizing the soft light on King’s face.

Weekly 2  
1. Yoon S. Byun  
The Maine Monitor  
The Last Responders  
While the light in the back created some challenges for the photographer, this image immediately drew me in with its starkness. The photo illustrated the grief of those who can’t be there to pay their last respects for their loved ones because of COVID. Great job!

2. Bisi Cameron Yee  
The Lincoln County News  
Millard Hassan  
Portrait photos can prove challenging, but the photographer did an excellent job capturing not only the intricate features of the man’s face but also the background that added to the image. Great work!

3. Sarah Hinskey  
Mount Desert Islander  
Splish splash  
Action shots, including features, can be difficult. As this photo proves, it’s all in the timing. I really liked the enjoyment shown in the photo and the way the water action was captured at the right moment. Great work!

Daily/Weekend  
1. Troy R. Bennett  
Bangor Daily News  
June tenth dancers
Captures joy of dancer and crowd and illustrates well a big story from the past year.

2. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Birthday ride
Beautiful and heart-warming. I love the expressions on their faces.

3. Ben McCanna
Portland Press Herald
Madden Porter & Morgan Lockett
A beautiful, power photo for a story about a sad subject - homelessness.

Picture Story
Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Heroes Honored and Memorialized
I like the shot of the musician in front of the men saluting on the bridge. It tells the story all by itself.

2. Fran Gonzalez
The Republican Journal
Lion Club on Unity Pond
This is a very strong package that chronicles a shared experience among all readers. Very good work.

3. Troy R. Bennett
Bangor Daily News
Summer protests
Very good work here in capturing harrowing moments. It really tells the emotional story.

Feature Photo
Weekly 1

1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Clowning Around
A serious moment for a humorous character. Very touching picture.

2. Shawn Sullivan
York County Coast Star
Pink ribbon
Great way to capture a sad moment in the community.

3. Daniel Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Rockport residents throw parade
The dog in the back seat just makes this photo - great job.

Weekly 2

1. Fred J. Field
The Maine Monitor
The rise of angels
Wonderful collection of portraits and personalities.

2. PenBayPilot.com
Penobscot Bay Pilot
PenBayPilot Pandemic Galleries
I love this idea and engagement, and clearly so did your readers. Well done.

3. Mike Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
NC Hunt
Excellent harvest.

Daily/Weekend

1. Rich Abrahamson
Morning Sentinel
Ice fishing friends
A great shot in a tough, competitive category. The look in the dog's eyes is priceless.

2. Daryn Slover
Sun Journal
Helpful Kid at Outdoor Market
A very unique photo. Great human touch here.

3. Andre Kehn
Sun Journal
Farmers Market During a Pandemic
Really nice shot at an interesting angle that captures a lot about an everyday moment during the pandemic.

Spots Photo
Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
You're Out!
Great action shot with everything remaining sharp. Good call on not going to tight and losing the background reactions.

2. Ken Waltz
The Republican Journal
Sports photo
Good positioning with the ball centered and the golfer on the right side of the frame. Proper camera settings made for a sharp image with the sand creating a great effect.

3. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Journals
Sports photo
The image shows a good eye for an interesting image. The camera settings could use some adjustment to sharpen the image better.

Weekly 2

1. Ken Waltz
The Courier-Gazette
Sports photo
Players not being in pads because of COVID-19 created a great opportunity for the photographer to capture what is much more difficult on a normal football night: facial expressions. They are expertly shown in this photo and the action fills the entire frame without being busy. In addition, the legs form a mirror of one another. Great composition!

2. Paula Roberts
The Lincoln County News
In the paint
Even though we used to see people wear masks, it's still jarring to see it represented in athletic events. This photo definitely has a sense of time and place, plus the competing action of both players forms a compelling shape of the photo.

3. Ken Waltz
The Courier-Gazette
Sports photo
Nice sense of action and framing. You can tell the fielder is kind of surprised to catch it.

Daily/Weekend

1. Linda Coan O'Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Empty seats
Great use of leading lines to make an empty gym interesting and capture the lack of fans during the pandemic.

2. Brianna Soukup
Portland Press Herald
Swimmers
The center focal point is a unique take that increased the value of an otherwise actionless point in an event.

3. Michael G. Seamans
Morning Sentinel
Swimmers
Night ball
Interesting use of silhouetting to make the image more interesting. It was a better call than shooting from the other side and using the lights to see the players.

Illustration
Weekly 1

1. Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Teacher Appreciation
By default, you are getting a first place on this. According to the rules, though, it is supposed to be "accenting a story or page" but it doesn't refer to any story or anything else your paper is doing for Teacher Appreciation Week. I guess, it provides an "accent" for your front page, but it would have been nice if you did something about one or more teachers on the front page.

Weekly 2

1. Chloe Cushman
The Maine Monitor
A low bar for criminal defense
Artwork illustrates the chaos of this feature well. While nearly hidden in the art - the dramatic image of the inmate really captures your attention. Beautiful work. Well used in this feature story.

2. Nadean Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
Pink ribbon
Great image. Well done.

3. Rebecca Reinhart
Portland Phoenix
Love in the time of Covid

Daily/Weekend

1. Coralie Cross
Bangor Daily News
Police discipline
This was a tough category to judge! This piece is impressive because of the concept and news value... also using the faces either blacked out or with the documents as shown absolves the editor of running a photo of an actual trooper (who may or may not be part of the story).

2. Michael Fisher
Portland Press Herald
Getting to the truth
Good concept that helps the reader connect with a piece that would be hard to represent visually without the piece. This is why we want graphics/illustrations sometimes instead of just photography.

3. Michael Fisher
Portland Press Herald
Democrats can learn to win Very well done illustration. As good as anything in the “big leagues.”

Graphics
Weekly 1

1. Nadean Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
Subdivision chart
Clean - goes well with the story.

2. Anne Berleant, David Fickett
The Ellsworth American
Cost for re-building one mile of road
The graphics drew you in and the ease of reading the numbers kept you engaged.

3. Meg Robbins
The Maine Monitor
Metal mines and deposits Simple but effective. Nice to see important locations mapped out.

Daily/Weekend

1. Karen Schneider, Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
2020 weather: The warmest on record Nicely done graphic and overall layout of pages. There’s a lot of information here but it’s visually appealing and easy to read.

2. Michael Fisher
Portland Press Herald
American National election results
This is a good graphic. Wish I could see how it was used on the full page.

3. Michael Fisher
Portland Press Herald
HVC and COVID-19
Nice graphic. Hard to judge its effectiveness without seeing it on the full page with the story.

Specialty Page Design
Weekly 1

1. Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
Class of 2020
Nice balance of ads, content and photos. Layout made for a nice display of both the seniors and advertisers.

2. Jean Lantamantor
Casting Art
Community Concierge
Nice repetition in the shape of the boxes and variety in brick background.

Weekly 2

1. Nadean Gilliland
Mount Desert Islander
2020–An island in review

2. Ashley Carter
The Ellsworth American
Grad pages 6/18/20

Daily/Weekend

1. Jason Rathbun
Sun Journal
Passenger Pigeons: The last wild one
Local ad
Weekly 1
1. Jean Lamontanaro
Casting Director
Do you love our local area?
Eye catching, easy to read, beautiful photos, and nice use of negative space.

2. Jayna Smith,
Cheryl Stabiniski
The Calais Advertiser
Shop Calais this Holiday Season
Cute and simple - Love the pattern created with the presents and ornaments. Still easy to read but not overwhelming.

3. Jean Lamontanaro
The Weekly Packet
Grand opening: Lawrence Family Fitness
Nice variety in shapes/photos and good use of color.

Weekly 2
1. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth Jewelers
Both of the ads have great movement. My eye was able to flow naturally throughout both pieces. Good graphics in "Every Memory" as well as promoting their products.

2. Amber Clark
The Lincoln County News
Coastal Car Wash, Midcoast Blooms
Nice balance of text and graphics as well as picking typography to marry the content with the product.

3. Staff
Mount Desert Islander
Best Wishes Subaru

Daily/Weekend
1. Roberto Lemus
Portland Press Herald
Calling all Subscribers
Nicely done! Using comics graphics to convey message about change to comics. Great tie-in.

2. Callie Picard
Bangor Daily News
Sallis’s
Love the use of this artwork. Had lots of details to convey and the artwork helps to get it across without it being cluttered.

3. Mark Shippee, Jake Laws
The Times Record
Brunswick Veterans Plaza
Nice looking ad. Great job of conveying lots of details without the ad appearing cluttered.

Campaign or Series
Weekly 1
1. Jean Lamontanaro
Casting Director
Corona Island
Consistent artwork helps connect these ads to make a nice series. Well done.

2. Jean Lamontanaro
The Weekly Packet
Maine Craft: The Way Beer Should Be
This is a good series of ads showcasing area brewing companies.

3. Jean Lamontanaro
Island Ad-Vantages
NEWS! Lobstering connect Nice ads, could use some help with layout. There’s a lot of information and my eye doesn’t know where to look first. Good effort.

Weekly 2
1. Staff
The Lincoln County News
Sponsored Recipe
The layout and consistency between all the ads are great. The pictures and color chosen are good.

2. Heidi Anderson-Belcher
The Courier-Gazette
One Community
Many Voices
It is very well put together. It flows very nicely.

3. Natalie Ladd,
Susanne Pleuch
Portland Phoenix
Portland Symphony
The layout is ok. The ads could have been a little more eye-catching.

Daily/Weekend
1. Dawn Tantum
Morning Sentinel
Safety Series
Great idea and the ads are laid out nicely. Some of them maybe a little too crowded.

2. Carolina Rave
Bangor Daily News
Super Slow Zone
Very nice use of color and the pictures are great. I am not a fan of text over photos. It is hard to read.

3. Coralie Cross
Bangor Daily News
Dunnell
Good consistency from ad to ad. The ads are nicely put together.

Supplement/ Special Section
Weekly 1
1. Staff
The Weekly Packet
Lawrence Family Fitness Center
The layout is great. The photos along with the information draw my eye in and make me want to know more about the Lawrence Family! Great job!

2. Staff
Casting Director
Spring Fever
It is a very great idea. The colors and flow are very nice. I love the chart, bird haven and all of the informative information.

3. Editorial & Design Staff
The Camden Herald
Knox Election 2020
It has a great layout and flow and is very informative.

Daily/Weekend
1. Nancy Fickett,
Tylor Rosa, Kelly Wade
Sun Journal
Clarity on cannabis
Good, timely context. Informative and great layout/look.

2. Amy Allen
Bangor Daily News
Welcome Home
Great looking magazine full of good content and photos.

Best Supplement Cover
Weekly 1
1. John Cross
The Camden Herald
Knox Graduation Keepsake
Clean, memorable and a true keepsake cover.

2. Staff
Boothbay Register
2020 Dining Guide
Wonderful photos and grid layout draws you in.

3. Jeremiah Savage
Island Ad-Vantages
Spring Fever!
Weekly 2
1. Amber Clark
The Lincoln County News
Outdoors
The arrangement is nice and the colors are great. It is very eye-catching.
The Courier-Gazette
Wellness 2020
The layout is ok, however I would have liked to see the words laid out better. The pictures are great, but would have preferred some space between them.
3. David Fickett
The Ellsworth American
Out and About July 2020
The colors are great. Would have preferred a different angle of the photo.

Daily/Weekly
1. Alicia Tuttle
Kennebec Journal
Fall Home and Garden
Love the fall color and the layout is beautiful.
2. Callie Picard
Bangor Daily News
On the Move
This pops out at me. It has a nice layout.
3. Melissa Pritchard
Portland Press Herald
Holiday Gift Guide
Nice design. Very simple and sleek.

Best Young Reader Engagement Idea Weekly
1. Bailey Beltramo
The Maine Monitor
2020: A class dismissed
Compelling and profound. This gave a voice and a listening ear to a significantly impacted group, making the most of detrimental circumstances in a positive and insightful manner. These stories are both interesting and important. Well done.
2. Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News
GSB Students Investigate
Exposing youth directly to journalism through practice and publication is a great way to get young readers not only engaged but involved, interested, and educated. Nice job.
3. Staff
Mount Desert Islander
What is Love?
A heartfelt approach to including young readers in community publications. Certainly an idea that was appreciated by both young and their parents/community.

Daily/Weekend
1. Amy Allen, Coralie Cross
Bangor Daily News
Dine around
Great looking ad, good offer. Like that the offer wasn’t based on a holiday promo, was just something for March.
2. Staff
Portland Press Herald
Morning Sentinel
Thank a nurse
Great way to show unity among other businesses during hardship.
3. Alicia Tuttle
Bangor Daily News
Give the Gift of Maine
Great artwork to fit the idea

Self-Promotion Weekly 1
1. Jayna Smith,
Cheryl Stabinski
The Calais Advertiser
We Believe
The idea is good. I don’t like the layout or the cropping of the photos. Could have used more colors.
Weekly 2
1. Amber Clark,
Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News
100 Years
Great series! From concept to design, this series is a well deserving first place! Great idea reaching out to advertisers — loved the quotes from each. Well done and congrats on 100 years!
2. Staff
Mount Desert Islander
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Good idea to pay it forward. Hopefully all businesses will remember this gesture when they get back on their feet. Nicely done.
3. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Real people
Good idea to introduce your staff to the community. Hopefully these ads ran in the paper too.

Best New Revenue Idea Weekly 1
1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Shop Local Tips
I like this campaign. Something that could be done anytime of the year and could be ongoing. Can never do enough to support local!
Weekly 2
1. Staff
The Ellsworth American
Hancock County Yearbook
A terrific section saluting the graduates. Well done! A keepsake!
2. Staff
Mount Desert Islander
Halloween Sale October 28, 2021
Visually appealing and packaged. Good work.
3. Advertising & Design Staff
The Courier-Gazette
Midcoast Strong!

Daily/Weekend
1. Kelly Wade,
Melissa Logan, Jennifer GendronCarlton
Sun Journal
Thank a nurse Nurses always deserve more recognition and this year was no different. Loved the community involvement as well as gaining revenue.
2. Events Staff
Portland Press Herald
Like a Boss NOW
It was a very smart approach to a program you already had. Building off of it given the circumstances of the year and providing resources for fellow business owners to help each other in this time was wonderful.
3. Creative Team
Bangor Daily News
Graduation 2020
Great keepsake for the class

November, 2021
Maine Press Association
Page 5
Game Story

Weekly 1
1. Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
Southern Aroostook girls win title
Engaging lead and four different sources with good quotes. Nice job!

2. Ken Waltz,
Mark Haskell
The Camden Herald
Back-to-back: Anderson dominates
Lots of good detail in this tournament report.

3. Chris Bouchard
Aroostook Republican
Vikings victorious in Aroostook League
Solid coverage of game that capped an undefeated season.

Weekly 2
1. Mike Mandell
The Ellsworth American
Brown scores 1,000th point
This is a great piece. A wonderful lede, prose, and storytelling abilities are presented here. The story was very thorough and it highlighted the game perfectly.

2. Mark Haskell
The Courier-Gazette
Perfection. Mariners cap unbeaten run
The writer made so many great choices with this piece. After reading this article, I felt like I could’ve watched this game. Probably the most important game of the year and it was covered just about perfectly. Very nicely done.

3. Mike Mandell
Mount Desert Islander
MDI girls win over Ellsworth
A very thorough and detailed effort. Captured the game well.

Daily/Weekend
1. Mike Lowe
Portland Press Herald
Field hockey: Biddeford and Thornton Inviting start to the story which had nice mix of good quotes.

2. Mike Lowe
Portland Press Herald
Black Bears put on an offensive show
Well written game story.

3. Randy Whitehouse
Sun Journal
Falcons beat Cougars
Liked the lead. Good story noting effects of Covid on high school sports season.

Sports News Story

Weekly 1
1. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
Fort Kent community mourns beloved
Well written ... clearly the subject was much more than an AD and your story does a great job of telling your readers as much. Well done.

2. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Behind the Scenes of First Regional
Sure, face masks can be used but a bit more color, but this is a top-notch sports section.

Weekly 2
1. Staff
The Courier-Gazette
3/4/21, 6/11/20
Tough call between first and second as two-thirds of these entries were the same. Very nice job overall of local sports coverage.

2. Mike Mandell
The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth American Sports
Overall, great range of coverage by Mike Mandell. Nice work.

3. Mike Mandell
Mount Desert Islander
Sports sections – all 3
Creative use of photos and graphics draw readers into the text. Well written and well-edited copy.

Daily/Weekend
1. Joe Grant
Portland Press Herald
Alone again, naturally
Clever use of the old Gilbert O’Sullivan tune in this header.

2. Scott Martin
Portland Press Herald
Familiar ring
This headline has a nice ring to it.

3. Joe Grant
Portland Press Herald
Border closed, Canadian golfers can’t get there from here

Sports Profile

Weekly 1
1. Mark Haskell
The Ellsworth American
Iowa farmer Battani ready to plant, nurture success for Lion athletes
Great job of doing your research and bringing what was a forgotten story into the light. Great work.

Weekly 2
1. Hal Madsen
The Maine Monitor
From his seat in a wheelchair, nobody ever stood taller
Nice juxtaposition. The story even better.

2. Ken Waltz
The Camden Herald
Looking in mirror
Can be reflective experience

3. Bill Pearson
Brewster Register
Glorious night for Blethen family as daughter scores 1,000th point
Nice layout with use of big, bold heads.

Daily/Weekend
1. Steve Craig, Mike Lowe
Portland Press Herald
State tells youth hockey story
The writer’s voice is compelling and captivating; the quotes are well chosen, and the information is relayed nicely. A heartfelt and impactful piece.

2. Jessica Potila
St. John Valley Times
Musher makes...
News Story
Weekly 1
1. Leslie Landrigan
Island Ad-Vantages COVID-19 spread by partying
2. Alexander MacDougall
Houlton Pioneer Times Canada’s worst mass shooting.
3. Hannah Catlin
St. John Valley Times Ambulance coverage

Weekly 2
1. Sean Murphy
The Forecaster Black Lives Matter March
2. Jennifer Osborn
The Ellsworth American Riot gear ruckus
3. Sarah Hinckley
Mount Desert Islander Drive like a local

Daily/Weekend
1. Randy Billings
Portland Press Herald Family of deceased resident These early pandemic stories are so harrowing to read. With all we’ve seen over the last year and a half, this story still had me viscerally mad and heartbroken at the same time. In a very strong category, this piece left me thinking the longest.
2. Mark Laflamme
Sun Journal A tour of the 165-year-old This story was awesome. I was hanging on each transition, and I appreciated the author’s first-person voice. The design, with FIFTY-SIX words worth of hed and sub-hed felt intended to make me not read the story. Far too much text.
3. David Marino Jr.
Bangor Daily News More than 700 Mainers died from COVID-19 spread by partying. To try and tell the tale of a year of pandemic like that is daunting. I appreciated the subhead breaking up the topics, infographics giving me strong visuals and the narrative set up.

Spot News Story
Weekly 1
1. David Marino Jr.
The Star-Herald PI standoff began after man First off – the photo; WOW! It makes the reader aware how serious the situation was. Second – wonderful attention to detail to tell the story. Third – the dedication it took for a reporter, let alone two, to cover a nine-hour standoff to get all the facts. Wonderful job!
2. Alexander MacDougall
Houlton Pioneer Times FBI searches home of Houlton man I was really interested to read this article, the headline attracted me right away. Since you weren’t able to get the information desired from FBI, I enjoyed that you wrote of his background to give the reader’s more of a detailed history of the individual.
3. Sarah Craighead
Bangor Daily News Machias Valley News Observer Two die in trailer fire, three saved This article is the definition of spot news, especially the photos. Spot news doesn’t mean you know all the details yet; you come across it and report on what you know at the time. This article was well-balanced with the tragedy and saving of individuals. The reporter did a great job of explaining the situation, but not diminishing the impact of the two lives lost while explaining the three that were able to be saved. Keep up the great work!

Weekly 2
1. Evan Houlk
The Lincoln County News Sea Gull Shop Destroyed
2. Stephen Betts
The Courier-Gazette Police release identity of...
Political Story

Weekly 1

1. Fran Gonzalez

The Republican Journal

Hundreds vote itself sanctuary

This was an extremely sad. As many spot news stories go, it left me with many questions. The reporting was nicely covered giving the reader information available at the time. The only thing that would’ve been nice to find out was why Maher was living with the Vanneys. Keep up the great work!

2. Kathleen Phalen Tomasselli

The Camden Herald

Fort Fairfield declares itself sanctuary

Great explanation of this sanctuary city movement. Those in favor will like the idea that certain elected officials support it, but most readers should recognize that the movement doesn’t accomplish anything. The story makes this clear, but it is not “preachy.”

3. Susan Johns

Wiscasset Newspaper

Private email goes public in Alna

I always like a good local political scandal! Good work reporting it.

Weekly 2

1. Susan Cover, Darren Fishell, Meg Robbins

The Maine Monitor

How record sums of money

Great research and reporting. The writing made a tough subject clear and the graphics helped tell the complete story well.

2. Barbara Walsh

The Maine Monitor

Maine’s governor born for hard times

A lot of history in this political story. Great depth and breadth in a profile piece.

3. Colin Ellis

Portland Phoenix

City councilor slams Portland

Great piece tying together a news event and a trend.

Daily/Weekend

1. Greg Levinsky

Morning Sentinel

Which Nadeau is running for office

A crazy story that was well-told. It was clear and I’m not sure how great reporting and writing

2. Scott Thistle

Portland Press Herald

Ascension to legislative leadership

This is a great story about another glass ceiling breaking. It was anything but formulaic. The reporting led the writing. Well done.

3. Caitlin Andrews

Bangor Daily News

A Black doctor will be first Democrat

A good topic and the reporter provided enough numbers for a more detailed picture. Also a good call on the reporter finding and centering the story around a parent and child facing challenges from bullying rather than relying on experts discussing the problem.

2. Jayna Smith, Natalie Boomer

The Calais Advertiser

Maine CDC Opens Formal Investigation

Insanity. Had no idea this public defender issue existed, and this series is of the highest impact. Clear winner.

2. Barbara Walsh

The Maine Monitor

The preacher and the outcast

Excellent use of individual cases to make the point.

2. Doug Rooks

Portland Phoenix

Peninsula tests Maine judiciary

Very in-depth story on all aspects of the judiciary system and how they are coping with COVID.

3. Sarah Hinckley

Mount Desert Islander

Emergency calls to police increased

In-depth look at what caused the emergency calls to be what they are, rather than just reporting the numbers.

Daily/Weekend

1. Megan Gray

Portland Press Herald

‘What would Patrick want?’

Uncharted Waters’ was a thoroughly investigated project that raises a lot of interesting questions about how students, particularly those in poor households, learn, and the disparities between schools. I’m sure this is the plan, but please do this once again when data from the COVID-19 school year is available. The results will surely be even more fascinating.

2. Randy Billings

Portland Press Herald

For thousands of unemployed Mainers

Randy Billings investigated the unemployment claims problems that were an issue across the country, but he put several facets to it to show how it was affecting people who weren’t receiving the money they were owed. Well done.

Analysis

Weekly 1

1. Chris Bouchard

Aroostook Republican

Sue against city councilors

Very complete, detailed information on the whole process. Not an easy subject to write about when individuals are involved but well done to present both sides.

2. Stephen Betts

The Camden Herald

Charge upgraded to attempted murder

Very easy to understand how the events unfolded.

3. Joseph Cyr

Houlton Pioneer Times

Ormsby wants murder convictions

Weekly 2

1. Samantha Hogan

The Maine Monitor

Lawyers who were negligent

Revealing story on what seems to be a disturbing problem. Excellent use of individual cases to make the point.

2. Doug Rooks

Portland Phoenix

Pandemic tests Maine judiciary

Daily/Weekend

1. Erin Rhoda, Callie Ferguson, Josh Keefe

Bangor Daily News

Lawmen off limits

The Bangor Daily News investigation into lack of accountability for county law enforcement was incredibly reported and written. The package rightfully resulted in legislation at the state level. Beyond the thorough reporting, the stories were presented in an accessible and engaging way online. Excellent work.

2. Lindsay Tice

Sun Journal

Education under siege

‘Uncharted Waters’ was a thoroughly investigated project that raises a lot of interesting questions about how students, particularly those in poor households, learn, and the disparities between schools. I’m sure this is the plan, but please do this once again when data from the COVID-19 school year is available. The results will surely be even more fascinating.

3. Randy Billings

Portland Press Herald

For thousands of unemployed Mainers

Randy Billings investigated the unemployment claims problems that were an issue across the country, but he put several facets to it to show how it was affecting people who weren’t receiving the money they were owed. Well done.

Analysis

Weekly 1

1. Chris Bouchard

Aroostook Republican

Sue against city councilors

Very complete, detailed information on the whole process. Not an easy subject to write about when individuals are involved but well done to present both sides.

2. Daniel Dunkle

Impasse on funding leaves

The results will surely be even more fascinating.

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2. Daniel Dunkle

The Camden Herald

Futurist continues for the traditional

3. Alexander MacDougall

Proposed mine is first real test

The Maine Monitor

Green bank could help Maine turn tide

You present a lot of information in an easy to understand format. Love the subheads that give a natural pause before forging ahead. However, the story got a bit overwhelming with its detail. It might have benefitted from two parts - the first detailing the need and the second explaining how a green bank concept would help.

Daily/Weekend

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2. Kevin Miller

Portland Press Herald

Maine has nation’s worst COVID-19

Kevin Miller took an incredibly important issue, one that was not reported nearly enough nationwide, and simplified it using clear data to explain the COVID-19 racial disparities in the state. Well done. This is a story every newspaper across the country should have written.

3. Jessica Piper

Bangor Daily News

What it means to be from away

As someone who has
never been to Maine or is that familiar with the state’s politics, I was fascinated by this analysis. The writer did a great job of explaining the difficulties those not born in Maine face when trying to get into politics

Continuing Story Weekly 1
1. Chris Bouchard Aroostook Republican Blushift Aerospace
The writer handled a rare and fascinating topic very well, with professional finesse. Each and every article was thorough and detailed. Great work.
2. Joseph Charpentier Boothbay Register Navigating through CO VID-19
Great storytelling. A very interesting and impactful series that highlights the people and businesses of the community.
3. Fran Gonzalez, Kendra Caruso The Republican Journal State of the art waste facility
Solid writing that covers the story quite well.

Weekly 2
1. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor The Last Responders
This was an outstanding series that drew my attention immediately. It put a face on the COVID-19 victims who often die alone and their families and others whose lives are also affected. Awesome job!
2. Samantha Hogan The Maine Monitor Breach of attorney-client privilege
This was a well-done series that brings to light the question of attorney-client privileges in jails and the practice of those facilities. This series resonated with me as I cover two state prisons on my beat along with county jails. Great work!
3. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor The Preacher and the Outbreak
This was a really well done look at the super-spreader events that touch and even claim the lives of unconnected victims. The issue also illustrates the battle that rages over individual freedoms and making choices for the common good. Great work!

Daily/Weekend
1. Greg Levinsky, Taylor Abbott Morning Sentinel Unity College laying off
15% of staff
Great job of advancing the story one topic after the other.
2. Staff Sun Journal Explosion at Jay paper mill
Nice progression of the story with different angles.
3. Emily Duggan Kennebec Journal Mental Health in Our Schools
Great stories and timely topic even today.

Arts/Lifestyle Feature
Weekly 1
1. Eli Forman Cawtine Patriot ‘All you need is love.’
Local resident Great reporting about a story for our time. Well crafted. Flows nicely.
2. Jessica Potlita St. John Valley Times Married 62 years
A great love story well chronicled. Good work.
3. Christine Dunkle The Camden Herald Into the Light: Window exhibit
Good reporting about an important topic. Your story helps bring awareness to domestic abuse in a nicely written story.

Weekly 2
1. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor Together, to the Community
To the companion end A powerful story well told. Excellent reporting.
2. Steve Solloway The Maine Monitor The Wonderful Life
of Bob and Barbara
A nice collection of sources helps tell this story about a wonderful man. Good reporting.
3. Steve Solloway The Maine Monitor From his seat in a wheelchair
This is well written. A nice tribute piece of reporting and writing.

Daily/Weekly
1. Victoria DeCoster Sun Journal Walking the beat with Officer Ryan
2. Gillian Graham Portland Press Herald Jack Weeks’ mobility was taken away
3. Andree Kehn Sun Journal Serving their country in hiding

Food Story/Feature
Weekly 1
1. Alexander MacDougall Houlton Pioneer Times How historic drought affects potato
2. Jessica Potlita St. John Valley Times Haskap berry farmers
3. Cece King The Camden Herald Food establishments get creative

Weekly 2
1. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor The Last Responders: Consoling
Powerful reporting about “last responders.” Important story about an overlooked subject. Excellent!
2. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor The preacher and the outbreak
Thorough and detailed reporting here. Well written.
3. Barbara Walsh The Maine Monitor Playing God with public health

Daily/Weekend
1. Kelley Bouchard Portland Press Herald Mainers grapple with faith
Excellent reporting on an important topic and subject matter of our time. This is a very good story. Nicely done.
2. Staff Sun Journal Power of Faith
A terrific package of reporting about the importance and power of faith and prayer.

Local Columnist Weekly 1
1. Sarah E. Reynolds Republican Journal Long Journey Home
Nicely written. You write about important topics with grace and style. Well done.
2. Barbara Dyer The Camden Herald Making History
040920
Great story-telling about fascinating local history.
3. Phil Di Vece Wiscasset Newspaper Salt ‘N Spar local columns I love the spoons column! Good job.

Weekly 2
1. Natalie Ladd Portland Phoenix Leftovers: Survivors rise above, Romance
Top of the class in this category. Well done. I love your writing. Can we have coffee sometime?
2. Dan Dunkle The Courier-Gazette What Were We Talking About?
Great topics and well written. I like your writing style.
3. Kris Ferrarza
   The Courier-Gazette
   The Beat Goes On
   I hope the cat and daugh-
   ter are doing well!

Daily/Weekend

1. Bob Duschesne
   Bangor Daily News
   Good Birding
   Duschesne provides
   well written columns
   that combine solid infor-
   mation with personal
   anecdotes. The light-at-
   hearted style keeps the
   reader entertained.

2. Amy Calder
   Morning Sentinel
   Local columnist Amy
   Calder presented solid
   columns that left the
   reader informed and en-
   tertained with interesting
   topics or people.

3. Sandy Oliver
   Bangor Daily News
   Taste Buds
   Oliver offered a personal
   touch to her recipes with
   a little background on her
   experiences. Oliver’s clear
   writing also made it easy
   for the reader to follow along
   and replicate the dishes.

Critic’s Award

Weekly 1

1. RJ Heller
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   Review: Beneficence
   Clear writing, easy to
   follow

2. Lisa Kristoff
   Boothbay Register
   At one with nature
   Clearly written and easy
to follow topic.

3. Jon Reisman
   The Calais Advertiser
   Freedom Studies
   Well written, but also
dense with information.

Weekly 2

1. Megan Grumbling
   Portland Phoenix
   Documentary helps
   change
   A compelling, well-written
   look at this documentary.
   Gives due to an important
   issue. Well done.

2. Bisi Cameron Yee
   The Lincoln County News
   Review: Wiscasset
   Restaurant Looks
   An excellent restaurant
   review. Thorough and
easy to read.

3. Nan Lincoln
   Mount Desert Islander
   Actors get personal in
   Flying Solo

Daily/Weekend

1. Jorge Arango
   Portland Press Herald
   Portland Museum of Art
   exhibit
   A nice balance of critique
   and historical and cultural
   perspective. Excellent
   piece!

2. Andrew Ross
   Portland Press Herald
   Dine Out Maine: Best of
   2020
   I love the “best” blurbs.
   Easy read, covers a lot of
   ground.

3. Judy Harrison
   Bangor Daily News
   Joy of live performance
   returns
   An excellent local review
   with good perspectives and
   knowledge.

Feature Headline

Weekly 1

1. Daniel Dunkle
   The Camden Herald
   Video made the library
   star
   I absolutely love the play
   on a song title! The pho-
   tos of the upstairs librarian
   also helped to attract
   the attention to the headline
   and article. This headline
   attracted my eye right
   away and piqued my inter-
   est.

2. Susan Johns
   Wiscasset Newspaper
   Mask maker, mask
   maker
   I really like the play on
   words from a well-known
   song; it definitely attracts
   my eye right at first glance
   and attracted my eye right
   away and piqued my inter-
   est.

3. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   Cemetery preservation
   project lifts spirits, un-
   earths stories
   The headline was eye
   catching and leads well
   into the article on the
   restoration efforts for the
   cemetery.

Weekly 2

1. Hal Madsen
   The Maine Monitor
   From his seat in a
   wheelchair
   This headline sends a feel-
   ing of a charitable person
   to the reader – a feel good
   story. The fact that the
   article is his life’s story
   after his passing made
   the reader really feel the
   words in the headline and
   those in the article.

2. Dick Broom
   Mount Desert Islander
   Deposit, withdrawal or
   wedding?
   This headline really con-
   fused me at first. Howev-
   er, it drew me in. I needed
   to know the meaning be-
   hind it. This was definitely
   an interesting article and,
   more importantly, unique
   to the communities the
   newspaper serves.

3. Hal Madsen
   The Maine Monitor
   The rise of angels during a
   hellish year
   In a time when upbeat,
   feel good articles were
   definitely needed, this
   one was spot on. The
   headline suggests this
   article is going to be about
   someone struggling and
   someone helping; it didn’t
   disappoint. It also showed
   readers that there is still
   good in the world, even
   amongst a pandemic.

Daily/Weekend

1. Sally Tyrell
   Portland Press Herald
   Fattening the curve
   Humorous play on words.

2. Sally Tyrell
   Portland Press Herald
   Wearing their art on your
   sleeve
   Nice turn of the phrase.

3. Leslie Bridgers
   Portland Press Herald
   Scare ye! Scare ye Scallop
   season is here
   Clever.

News Headline

Weekly 1

1. Sarah Craighead Dedmon
   Machias Valley News
   Observer
   Union files grievance after
   dispatcher fired for spit
   milk
   As soon as I saw the entry
   title, I was intrigued. It
   instantly piqued my interest
   and I knew I had to read
   the article. (Thank you for
   connecting the jump, I
   really had to finish it!) The
   best part about this head-
   line is it wrote itself. How
   could someone not write
   about the weird actions
   still taken by the dispatcher.
   Awesome job! Keep up the
   wonderful work!

2. Bill Pearson
   Boothbay Register
   Sew what
   I love this headline! I
   knew it was going to be
   about sewing and that
   it would be an upbeat,
   feel-good story. Anytime
   people are willing to vol-
   unteer to a cause to better
   the community around
   them, they deserve recog-
   nition. Congratulations!

3. Kendra Caruso
   The Republican Journal
   Sun Journal
   Fundraising Scouts take a
   bough
   Great play on words and
   the headline matches the
   article perfectly. Keep up
   the great work!

Weekly 2

1. Christine Simmonds
   The Courier-Gazette
   Marijuana business
   hopes for joint operation
   I laughed! The headline
   had me right away. Amaz-
   ing! Keep it up!

2. Maia Zewert
   The Lincoln County News
   Secret Snoopy Spreads
   Stimulus to Small
   Shops
   I love this headline! The
   play on Secret Santa and
   the use of all s’s was very
   clever!

3. Christine Simmonds
   The Courier-Gazette
   Station 118 ‘meats’ Main
   Street
   I love the played on words
   here and it worked per-
   fectly with the article.
   Keep up the great work!

Daily/Weekend

1. Ben Pinetti
   Morning Sentinel
   Anxiety on the rise
   This is a great headline
   that brings attention to
   a complicated issue
   that was made more
   prominent due to the
   pandemic. It works in
   play with the actual feel-
   ing on anxiety (that it
   rises) so creates a double
   meaning. It also pulls the
   reader in to see what the
   article is about. Wonder-
   ful job! Keep up the great
   work!

2. Becky Bowden
   Bangor Daily News
   Going over their lines
   Clever twist on words for
   an article relating to
   ropes. An all-around
   great article. The headline
   matches perfectly and
   grabs the reader’s atten-
   tion and intrigue. Awe-
   some job!

3. Patrick Cochran
   The Ellsworth American
   When is the
   Election?
   Well written. On target
   with topics and your
   commentary as well as
   calls for action/ correc-
   tion. Excellent.

2. Cyndi Wood
   The Ellsworth American
   When is the
   City Council

3. Faith DeAmbrose
   Mount Desert Islander
   Rental resolve

Daily/Weekend

1. Greg Kesich
   Portland Press Herald
   Editorial
   Taking on important top-
   ics. Including calls to take
   action. Everything a good
   editorial should be.

2. Editorial Board
   Bangor Daily News
   Susan Collins should make
   Well written. A clear
   message to the
   Senator.

3. Ben Bragdon
   Morning Sentinel
   Our View: Anti-mask
   resolution
   Calling out those who mis-
   understand and skew what
   is right and true.
   Well done.

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Maine Press Association
November, 2021
Opinion Columnist
Weekly 1
1. Paula Brewer
The Star-Herald
Walkabout: Aroostook
A pleasure to read on so many levels. This column is the obvious work of a seasoned veteran, who conveys her messages quite well and with a lot of heart.

2. Sam Patten
The Camden Herald
Grace Notes
Very sound writing that is gutsy, open, and thought-provoking. This powerful column draws the reader’s interest from start to finish.

3. Shawn Sullivan
York County Coast Star
Looking at life
Well written. A great writer’s voice is showcased here in a refreshing, professional style. Great stuff.

Weekly 2
1. Jill Goldthwait
Mount Desert Islander
State of Maine
I really enjoyed your column. I absolutely loved the analogy to bring the column together; all while trying to relate an opinion on a sensitive subject for the lobstermen. Nicely done. Keep up the great work!

2. David Grima
The Courier-Gazette
Rockland Gothic
I was interested in the two different columns. The first was almost like the way some people’s thought processes work, jumping from one thought to another connected by one word or a phrase. The second column was on one topic and I thought it was concise and well-written. Keep it up!

3. Shlomit Ausciel
The Courier-Gazette
Letter from Away
I really liked your writing style. It was easy to follow and I felt like you got your point across in a clear and concise manner. Keep it up! Awesome job!

Daily/Weekend
1. George Smith
Kennebec Journal
Opinion columns by George Smith.

2. Maria Hoffman
Sun Journal
Irish traditions, fairy tales

3. Victoria Hugo-Vidal
Portland Press Herald
The Maine Millennial

Editorial Cartoonist
Weekly 1
1. Bob Bryson
Machias Valley News Observer
Editorial Cartoonist
Localizing bigger issues ... in cartoon form. What’s better than that?

2. Bob Bryson
The Calais Advertiser
Editorial Cartoonist
Really liked the kids in church/school piece, I’m sure plenty of readers connected with that.

Weekly 2
1. Glenn Chadbourne
The Lincoln County News
Editorial Cartoonist
Wonderful, powerful, concise commentary in these cartoons. Well done.

2. Joe Marshall
Mount Desert Islander
Aids to social distancing & 2 more

Daily/Weekend
1. Steve Meyers
Portland Press Herald
Steve Meyers

2. George Danby
Bangor Daily News
Editorial cartoons

Outdoors Story
Weekly 1
1. Zack Miller
The Camden Herald
Pulling in same direction

2. Jessica Potlita
St. John Valley Times
Ice carousel machine

3. Holly Vanorse Spicer
The Republican Journal
Through exploration, education

Weekly 2
1. Shannon Bryan
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Into the Wide ocean
A wonderful lede, beautiful descriptions, a lovely story concept that cleverly ties itself to the coronavirus pandemic – this expertly written piece features all of the hallmarks of great writing and a great writer. It is a pleasure to read. Very well done.

2. Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
A strong storyteller was at work here, and it is clear that the work was extensive. This piece offered a thorough exploration into an interesting project and was riddled with many nice touches.

3. Bisi Cameron Yee
The Lincoln County News
From Forest to Table
Very nicely written. The details of this piece are so beautifully presented by a wonderful writer. I wish this story were a little longer and did some more exploring.

Daily/Weekend
1. Deirdre Fleming
Portland Press Herald
Spending the winter
Wendi Weiger is a fascinating character. Enjoyed reading about her Thoreau-style winter in the Maine woods

2. Kathryn Skelton
Sun Journal
Seven special Maine roads
Writing flows smoothly. Article is interesting, informative and well organized. Feature is nicely illustrated, too.

3. Steve Craig
Portland Press Herald
Catch of a lifetime: Fisherman reels in whopper to smash state record. Great quotes fleshed out this fishing adventure.

Environmental Story
Weekly 1
1. Alexander MacDougall
Houlton Pioneer Times
Maine tribes worry mining project
Very thorough research. Good use of quotes from both sides. Stories like this helps to keep our readers informed.

2. Fran Gonzalez
The Republican Journal
Cargoship dumps plastic
I enjoyed this piece. It is very seem detailed, but I am just a little confused. How is plastic used to produce energy? What you write makes sense if plastic would burn, but I have only ever known plastic to melt when it gets hot. You could have explained this more.

3. Pam Harnden
Livermore Falls Advertiser
Fisherman reels in black bass
Great work!

Daily/Weekend
1. Shawn Sullivan
York County Coast Star
Silver screen solitude
Best lede I’ve read for a long time! You did a superb job melding local and national information

2. Chris Bouchard
Aroostook Republican
New Limestone restaurant pays homage to owners’ kookiness and how they translate it into food. Long, long sentences sometimes were exhausting. The first half of the story does little to indicate the degree of commitment to the project. Some of your praise, like “a history of giving back,” isn’t really backed up. You seem a bit too impressed by the family and their plans.

Weekly 2
1. Samantha Hogan, Meg Robbins
The Maine Monitor
Maine enters recession
How you wove three interviews, a wealth of statistics and human interest into what was an understandably lengthy story is incredible. The flow is magnificent. I could not stop reading. This is the best of all the stories I considered in my judging, and the only 10 I’ve awarded.

2. Jordan Bailey
The Maine Monitor
Online directory aims to help
This story tells not only how Black Owned Maine was founded, but why it is so needed. The four business stories helped demonstrate that need, (although they were a bit more detailed than necessary.) Kudos for using the right statistics to support the story.

3. Colin Ellis
Portland Phoenix
Portland, business owner in battle
You did a good job of describing a confusing situation. Your story would have been stronger if the outline of the house photo had been included earlier in the story. It really sums up the situation: "Portland officials have said Curran might have already received his business licenses if he had followed city guidance."

Business Story
Weekly 1
1. Shawn Sullivan
York County Coast Star
Screen silver solitude
Aids to social distancing & 2 more

2. Kevin Miller
Portland Press Herald
State investigating ‘very startling’ levels OMG. Seriously important reporting.

3. Julia Bayly
Bangor Daily News
Maine farmer discovers source

Daily/Weekend
1. Penelope Overton
Portland Press Herald
Farmers lose hope – and money
Black’s story, the lead and the zoom out on this mess of an industry really drove the human interest behind a failed market. Read about John Carreyou but with local flavor.

Great story.

2. Peter McGuire
Portland Press Herald
Employment barriers for highly skilled
Appreciated the positive section and mention of the legislature and the community/business push to help immigration processes. A ‘zoom-out’ graph or breakdown on where most immigrants are from, or even more emotion on the violence they faced up, higher in the graf would’ve pushed this to the top for me.

3. Kathryn Skelton
Sun Journal
They opened a business in 2020!
Really enjoyed the format and service journalism element of what other business owners can learn from their opening.

Education Story
Weekly 1
1. Kendra Caruso
The Republican Journal
Students return to RSU 71 schools

2. Nicole Carter
Advertiser Democrat
A glimpse into the future: Tiana James

3. Sarah E. Reynolds
The Republican Journal
Schools, families forge new partnership
Weekly 2

1. Rose Lundy
The Maine Monitor
As students resume classes
Excellent story - a big
lengthy but so much good
information and loved
hearing how children in
the same families would
handle remote learning
differently. It really told
the story from the beginning
to the end, from remote
learning back
to school.
2. Sean Murphy
The Forecaster
South Portland grapples

Stephens
Penobscot Bay Pilot
The Forecaster

1. Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal
Education under siege
Appreciate the data-focu-
sed reporting here.
2. Rachel Ohm
Portland Press Herald
Portland second-grade
teacher
Good example of finding
a specific class/teacher
to give window to broader/
widder topic.

Health Story
Weekly 1

1. Fran Gonzalez
The Republican Journal
The forgotten floor
This article really makes
the reader stop and think.
Especially, in a time
during the pandemic
when health care work-
ers are being hailed as
heroes. To learn how this
women was treated is
appalling. This article
shares her struggles and
a good portion of what
she’s gone through to ad-
vocate for herself. Nicely
written. You told her
story nicely.
2. Nicole Carter
Advertiser Democrat
Fryeburg family learns
how invisible
This was a nicely-written
article explaining one fam-
ily’s experience and strug-
gles with COVID-19, even
through all of their precau-
tions. Well done. Keep up
the great work.
3. Melissa Lizotte
The Star-Herald
For recipients, clinics mark
first steps
This was a different per-
pective on the pandemic.
The article started off
telling a story of a older
woman’s loneliness during
the pandemic to her social-
zizing by getting her shot
and continued into where
the vaccinations sites were,
how to receive a shot and
what the current require-
ments were. Nicely done.

Weekly 2

1. Sarah Hinckley
Mount Desert Islander
Women cold-water swim-
ing to raise
A good cause, strong per-
sonalities and an absolutely
crazy sport make this a
great story. You added
statistics where necessary,
but made it really about the
people who care enough to
freeze for themselves
and others.
2. Doug Rooks
Portland Phoenix
Gloves come off in
union fight
Great headline.
It really drew me into the
story. You have a lot of
good information, espe-
cially the history and
background for prior
elections. The story
would have benefited
by some response from
Maine Medical,
if possible.

News Video
Weekly 1

1. Susan Johns
Wiscasset Newspaper
For those who didn’t come
home
Nice b-roll, good short
feature. Interviews with
iphone are tough. Gotta
get closer to subject or use
a mic so we can hear the
interview better.

Weekly 2

1. Yoon S. Byun,
Barbara Walsh
The Maine Monitor
Maine’s governor born for
hard times
The video of the Maine
governor is well composed
and the audio is crystal
clear. The governor also
seems very comfortable in
the setting.

Daily/Weekend

1. Linda Coan O’Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Newport mail carrier
This was the most com-
plete video package. Had
an interview, b-roll and
narrative that took you
from point a to point b,
even if the video was
shorter than some others
it was the most complete.
2. Russ Dillingham
Sun Journal
Cover or Uncover
in LA?
This had some strong
views about masks,
these people either
working/moving about
with/out masks on would
have really helped this.
3. Gregory Rec
Portland Press Herald
Racial justice
This is a solid b-roll pack-
age, but lacks some sort of
audio narrative. Without
that narrative parts of it
just begin to drag on. It’s
weird to say, but the most
important part of a video
is the audio and here
we don’t have any audio inter-
view to guide us through.

Sports Video
Weekly 1

1. Zack Miller
The Republican Journal
Sports video
That was several minutes
of my life I’d like to have
back... but it’s something I
guess. Would have expect-
ed a few more details - like
rules and strategy maybe?
Otherwise, is this really
reporting anything other
than the place is open.
Here’s the deal. I’m giving
you first place because the
only other entry in this cat-
calogy is a link to a sports
page with no video at-
tached. No bull. When you
receive it, lock this award
away and never mention it
to anyone ever again.
2. Roger McCord
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The Mes-
senger
Lovely photography, but
several sections where
dancer was speaking while
seated on a bench were
inaudible, so I can only
award this a second place.

Daily/Weekend

1. Russ Dillingham
Sun Journal
2021 KVAC Nordic
Championship
Nicer done. Well pro-
duced. Good mix of vid
and stills. Captures the
competition of the boys
and the strenuous work
involved. Tells the story
well.
2. Linda Coan O’Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Pandemic practice
A good package of com-
ments from boys and the
coad about the
we times we live.

Features/Lifestyle Video
Weekly

1. Roger McCord
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The
Boneyard Hunter
Lots of great images and
explanation. Love it.
2. Roger McCord
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: The
Harvesters
3. Staff
The Maine Monitor
Chasing Maine: A Banner
Day
The captions asking the
question were almost un-
necessary.

Daily/Weekend

1. Troy R. Bennett
Bangor Daily News
Werewolf serenade
Great visuals and explana-
tion tying it together.
2. Linda Coan O’Kresik
Bangor Daily News
Time capsule camp
Great story and nice quick
presentation.
3. Joe Phelan
Kennebec Journal
Online school
birding class
Good presentation of
what’s happening. It could
have used one clip of the
teacher explaining what
she was doing to tie it all
together.

Best Digital Ad
Campaign
Weekly

No entries

Daily/Weekend

1. David Tripp
Portland Press Herald
Colonel Great artwork.
2. Jake Lows,
David Pierce
Morning Sentinel
Knn. Eye Care, care credit,
liquidation
Nice variety, good job of
lots of details in small
package without looking
cluttered
Freedom of Information
Weekly 1

1-Tie. Daniel Dunkle
The Camden Herald
Hope will not release $13K
This was great work and persistent to make sure readers were informed. The efforts to get to the records resulted in well-told stories that changed a community. Great work!

1-Tie. Sarah Craighead
Dedmon
Maine Valley News Observer
Freedom of Information
There has never been a time in America’s history when good information was needed. The efforts to get the official, detailed records told the story of the pandemic more accurately and could have saved lives. Good decisions come from good information.

Weekly 2

1. J.W. Oliver
The Lincoln County News
WHAT POLITICS IS ABOUT? A little slow to get started, but very interesting.

Daily/Weekend

1. Callie Ferguson, Josh Keefe, Erin Rhoda
Bangor Daily News
Records request
This entry, by far, displayed how important it is for the public to not only have the right to know how government officials and agencies are operating, but left room for a community to improve as well by shining a light on what gaps existed when it came to holding law enforcement accountable. Can’t wait to see how this issue continues to shape and change the conversation to better the community through informative, document-driven reporting that no one would’ve known about otherwise.

2. Staff
Portland Press Herald
Portland Press Herald/FOI Award
Amid an ongoing public health crisis, the way the Portland Press Herald helped the public navigate the pandemic when so much was unknown and public officials were deciding how much info to release is commendable. I’m sure this reporting helped residents make informed decisions as the pandemic evolved.

Photography Best in Show
Weekly 1

1. Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser
Asher Enjoying the Fun: You captured this toddler at the perfect time, and the composition makes this a very special photo.

Weekly 2

1. Katie Brown
The Maine Monitor
BLM protest escape
The chaos, expressions and look in people’s eyes while having the proper depth-of-field within the photo worked well together. You can feel the chaos going on all the while everyone’s face tells the story. Good action shot.

Daily/Weekend

1. Michael G. Seamsan
Morning Sentinel
Silva protest
There were three real close images that all deserved recognition from a devastating apartment fire to a kid’s virtual learning. But this photo’s emotional impact and composition with a focus right on Samantha with the framing of the individual to the right makes this image stand above those others. All around, some great photos were made in 2020.

Advertising General Excellence
Weekly 1

1. The Republican Journal
Overall advertising looks good; page layout is done well. I would suggest stronger headings in classifieds and maybe create a separate layout for community events.

2. Boothbay Register
3. Wiscasset Newspaper

Weekly 2

1-Tie. The Ellsworth American
Great on ads, creative layout with “down the garden path”, lots of classified advertising – well organized, shop local section is well done. Overall, well done here.

1-Tie. Mount Desert Islander
Great color on ads, creative layout with “down the garden path”, lots of classified advertising – well organized, shop local section is well done. Overall, well done here.

2. The Courier-Gazette
All advertising looks good and is well placed/organized. The classified section would benefit from stronger organization and headings.

3. The Lincoln County News
I don’t see this page width very often anymore; the advertiser is getting their money’s worth here. Good color ads throughout. Ads in the main section are well done. Display classified (help wanted) ads could use some creative effort. I would also like to see the public notices with a different layout that doesn’t run them into editorial content…it’s a little odd.

Daily/Weekend

1. Bangor Daily News
Lots of ads throughout all issues submitted. Page layout well done, organized. I appreciate the “How to reach us” box with contact info being easily viewable – encourages readers to reach out. Nurses tab is very well done with the layout, wish it had more advertising though.

2. Portland Press Herald
Plenty of inserts in the Sunday issues and print ads throughout all issues submitted. Classifieds are sparse. Nurses Week section well done, lots of ads, nice layout. The only thing slightly odd to me is the section fronts seem out of order. “Sports” and “Classifieds” main headers run at the end of each section.

3. Sun Journal
Sun Journal: Not a lot of advertising to judge, some ads seem too dark (design issue, not print) and not as creative as they possibly could be. Nurses Week section is well done, lots of ads. Not a fan of centered text for the classified section, makes it difficult to read.

General Excellence Digital
Weekly 1

1. Boothbay Register
Easy to navigate, not many updates. Appreciated the top left treatment for the COVID news. Multiple stories had poor online headlines "Southport Yacht Club" or "Devyn" that give reader nearly zero information as to what that story is about. Stronger social media presence here. Good interaction and engagement on Facebook, and active Twitter.

2. The Republican Journal
Clean, clear layout. Easy to read. Good headlines and art display. Liked the timestamp of publication AND update time. Poor social media presence that I could find. Twitter not updated since 2017, FB a mix of three papers in one site.

Weekly 2

1. The Maine Monitor
The Maine Monitor’s design stands out, even when compared to some bigger newspaper websites. The navigation is clean, the color scheme unique and engaging and frequent use of photos and other visuals help guide readers through in-depth stories. It’s easy to tell that a lot of thought goes into digital presentation.

2. The Courier-Gazette
The website has a clean design, and the dominant story at the top gives clear prominence to topics and trending stories. I also like how the front is divided into sections – it’s easy to scroll down the homepage and get a good feel for the top news of the day. Article design does not get bogged down with frequent ads. Watch the crops on some of the homepage photos, however, as two preview photos have cut-off heads on day I viewed website.

3. Mount Desert Islander
Website appears to be frequently updated with the latest news and sports. Navigation is clean.

Daily/Weekend

1. Portland Press Herald
Strongest content of the bunch. Appreciated Q/A, Covid tracker, data hub, etc.

2. Bangor Daily News
Fairly text-heavy, but easy to navigate and discern importance. Nice mix of topics, breaking, sports... looks like a great timely report! Strong and varied social media presence.

3. Sun Journal

General Excellence Print
Weekly 1

1. The Camden Herald
This is a newsworthy, well-written newspaper. The front pages are attractive, even if the stories there all seem to jump to different pages. It has lively opinion pages and a first-rate sports section.

2. York Weekly
This newspaper takes second on the strength of its fine writing. Feature stories, in particular, are notable. Overall, there may be some question if readers of a weekly newspaper are really looking for so much material from The Associated Press and USA Today.

3. Boothbay Register
This newspaper has a consistent, attractive design that easily handles the challenge of dealing with such a large web. The Register has a spirited editorial page and, from the looks of these editions, a bustling advertising staff.

Weekly 2

1. Portland Phoenix
Unlike many tab-sized newspapers, this one does...
not overload its front page, opting to take an attractive magazine approach. The writing here is superb. Page layouts were always attractive as the contest editions didn’t seem to be hampered by too much advertising.

2. Mount Desert Islander
The Islander’s big web doesn’t keep it from having a clean, consistent, attractive design on its front page and throughout. It has a strong editorial page and perhaps the most thorough police report in the state.

3. The Courier-Gazette
Front pages have decent writing and an attractive design. Inside readers are treated to two editorial pages and a muscular sports section.

Daily
1. Portland Press Herald
Clearly the class of this division. Front page designs are attractive and leave no doubt about the day’s top story. It features a robust editorial page with local editorials and an attractive sports page, always conveniently located for readers on the back of the B Section. The writing ranges from professional to first-rate.

2. Bangor Daily News
This newspaper has an attractive front page and a wealth of staff-produced stories. Photos are crisp and clear and used well. The editorial page is filled with good ideas.

3. Sun Journal
Some thought went into designing these attractive front page layouts. There are plentiful and well-written local stories. A good use of photos throughout.

Weekend
1. Maine Sunday Telegram
There’s not much getting done on Sundays in Portland for the readers of this newspaper. It’s stuffed with ads and sections that feature stories from staff writers in each one. The sports news pops off the page. Headlines are solid and photos are crisp.

2. Bangor Daily News
This weekend newspaper has a newsy, staff-written front page and a decent sports section. Its two opinion pages boast good, local editorials.

3. Central Maine Sunday
Well-designed front pages and section fronts. Good use of photos. Sports and Editorial pages are interesting.

Thank you
to the Maine Press Association’s 2021 contest partner, the South Dakota Newspaper Association
At a time in our nation’s history when disinformation is peddled as “news” and journalists are under attack, we at Broadreach Public Relations recognize the importance of truth, of objective facts, and above all, a free and robust press.

Broadreach has been a proud sponsor of the Maine Press Association and its annual awards, recognizing excellence in journalism, for years. This year especially, we want to thank the journalists, including the editors, staff, photographers, fact-checkers, owners, creatives, press technicians, and countless others, who uphold, live, and demonstrate the ideal and the importance of a free and vigorous press.

Thank you for weathering the storm. We recognize the value of your profession at a time when it is most in need.

#factsmatter
2021 Maine Press Association Hall of Fame Inductees

Dorothy “Dot” Roderick, Dieter Bradbury and Judy Meyer have been selected by the MPA’s Hall of Fame Committee as the 2021 inductees. Due to continuing COVID concerns and the decision to forego this year’s in-person conference, the formal induction ceremony will be held at next year’s MPA Conference, Oct. 22 in Bar Harbor.

Dot Roderick was one of the first women advertising executives in the newspaper industry.

Roderick worked 43 years for Gannett, starting in 1937 with the Central Maine Morning Sentinel and then transferring to Portland in 1940 to work for The Portland Press Herald, Evening Express and Sunday Telegram.

She became national ad manager in 1956, working with advertisers and advertising agencies throughout the United States and with the newspapers’ national advertising representative, Landon Associates.

Roderick frequently spoke fondly about her days in a heavily male-dominated industry, jet-setting across the country to meet with execs and clients as well as entertaining the same, along with her husband Arthur, when clients came to Maine. Dot retired in 1980 from Gannett’s Portland newspapers and died on March 1, 2020, at the age of 101.

Dieter Bradbury has been a force in Maine journalism for more than four decades.

Upon graduating from the University of Southern Maine in 1980, Bradbury was hired part-time for the Portland Press Herald's afternoon paper, the Evening Express. Two years later, he became a full-time reporter for the Press Herald, covering the night cops beat and later was the environment reporter.

Bradbury then went to the assignment desk, later served a short time as the Press Herald's business editor, overseeing the news desks, directing specialty beats and political reporting, and managing some of the paper’s most important work.

For the past 10 years, Bradbury has directed the State House, political and election coverage and he has shepherded some of the Herald’s top projects during his time as deputy managing editor. Among them: the 2012 series “Deadly Force,” which investigated police shootings; the 2014 series “The Challenge of Our Age,” which examined the issues facing our aging population; and the 2017 series “Lost,” which chronicled the tolls that the opioid epidemic was taking on our state and our people.

Bradbury retired from the Portland Press Herald in September.

Judy Meyer began working for the Sun Journal as a freelancer out of the Norway (Maine) bureau, where she covered local selectmen’s meetings and breaking news in nearby towns.

In 1996, she was hired full-time to run that bureau, and from there she rose swiftly through the ranks of one of the largest daily newspapers in Maine. In 1998, she was made editorial page editor at the newspaper’s headquarters in Lewiston. Five years later, she was named day-time managing editor. In April 2016, she was named the Sun Journal’s executive editor, replacing Rex Rhoades upon his retirement.

Today, Meyer is responsible for overseeing the Sun Journal, the third-largest daily newspaper in Maine, as well as at a half-dozen weekly newspapers spread throughout Sun Media’s western Maine coverage area. She also serves as executive editor of the central Maine dailies: Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal.

A fierce advocate for First Amendment rights, Meyer was instrumental in the formation of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition (MFOIC), a group that’s been the leading advocacy organization for improving open meeting and public record laws in Maine.

The MPA Hall of Fame, established in 1998, honors newspaper people with Maine connections who have made outstanding contributions to the profession. Its members are on the MPA website, at http://mainepressassociation.org/hall-of-fame/
2021 Individual Awards

Bob Drake Young Writer Award
Emily Bader
Lakes Region Weekly (now at Sun Journal)

Emily joined the Lakes Region Weekly as its sole reporter a few short weeks before The Forecaster/American Journal/Lakes Region Weekly newsroom was vacated in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her first newspaper job out of college, Emily found herself working remotely without the benefit of experienced colleagues’ support and camaraderie. On top of that, she was responsible for covering nine towns, a challenge for any reporter, and she started during the towns’ and schools’ budget season. Emily quickly learned to read and analyze a municipal budget and more, moving beyond meeting stories to enterprise work. She did an especially good job in her coverage of a hot story in New Gloucester involving a selectman who made a comment deemed racist during a public (Zoom) meeting. Emily reported on how, first, the town editoried the comment out of the video it posted to the public proceeding. She filed a FOA request over that and also, to confirm the authenticity of emails she had been provided by a source, requested copies of questionable emails written by the same selectman during the Obama presidency. She dealt with town councilors and a town manager who weren’t forthcoming. She pursued the story through a citizen’s petition to recall the selectman and attended a weekend petition drive at the town transfer station to get residents’ reaction. She was watching the Zoom selectmen’s meeting when the selectman quit in a huff. She provided full coverage on this story from start to finish to New Gloucester residents and other readers. Emily has proven she has the intelligence and news judgment and drive to truly excel as a reporter.

Unsung Hero Award
Keith Taylor
MaineToday Media

In April 1976, Keith Taylor joined Guy Gannett Communications (now Maine Today Media) in the distribution facility, then located on Congress Street. He became nightside distribution manager when the current Press Herald Printing/Distribution Facility opened at 295 Gannett Drive in South Portland in the early 1990s. After business side employees turn in for the night, the newsroom meets (but often misses) their deadlines, and the pressroom is halfway through their run, it’s only then that Keith springs into action. He oversees the team that inserts all the papers, bundles the papers, and send them out the door to our delivery depots throughout the state. Keith exemplifies unsung hero because few people in our organization cross paths with him, yet without him, we’d be lost. He and his team make certain all our insert customers get their flyers in front of our home delivery customers. His role is critical in the retention of our ad and circulation revenue.

Keith is a logistics master. He oversees a complex operation and runs the shop with urgency and accuracy. He has worked every Christmas Eve for 44 years until we decided to not publish the Press Herald on Christmas Day in 2020. And assembling the Thanksgiving packages, well that’s like Prom night for Keith and his team. He’s made sacrifices in family time, vacation time, and personal time all in the name of getting our papers out the door jam-packed with inserts and special sections. Whether it’s staffing shortages or mechanical failures, Keith finds a way to overcome the obstacles. Keith’s energy level and dedication to the task has not waivered for these past 45 years.

Advertising Person of the Year
Jane Patriquin
Portland Press Herald

National newspaper advertising sales requires persistence, curiosity, product knowledge and passion, acute listening skills, and relationship building ability along with hard work and a strong orientation to goal achievement. Jane Patriquin exhibits all of these traits. The result not only shows in her consistent revenue results but her cross-selling tenacity.

The most successful salespeople are driven by their commitment to meet their monthly revenue targets. 2020 was a desperate year for many sales departments as our clients closed their doors, changed their strategies, and worried about the coming months. The National book of business was a little more resilient but where Jane really shined in 2020 was her ability to take an inquiry for the Portland Press Herald and turn it into revenue across many other publications. When Jane would reach out to other papers and ask if they could accommodate these large ad placements the answer was always a resounding YES as everyone was looking to offset losses in local advertising.

Many people believe that National and particularly Advocacy revenue just comes in over the transom and there is very little influence to be exerted. Jane blew that theory out of the water with her ability to add on papers beyond the requests she received from her clients. In addition to her sales skills, managing all these ad placements was a second full time job. Jane has been a newspaper sales consultant since 1978 when she started at the Boston Globe. She has been a top contributor since she started with us in 2004, and this past year proves why.

Journalist of the Year
Samantha Hogan
The Maine Monitor

For the past two years, Samantha has been reporting and writing about the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services — the state agency responsible for providing legal services to residents who can’t afford their own attorney. Maine is the only state in the nation without a true public defense system. All of the defense attorneys assigned to represent poor citizens are contracted through the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS). Not a single one of them is a state employee.

What started with a single tip about concerns over billing practices by state-contracted attorneys has turned into a series of over 35 stories on one of the state’s most important — yet highly dysfunctional — agencies. In two years of investigating MCILS, Samantha’s reporting has shined a light on a state agency that has continuously failed defendants and taxpayers. Her reporting has had significant impact. Samantha’s work epitomizes accountability journalism.

In the past two years, Samantha has filed over 150 FOIA requests with the state and county jails. The Maine Monitor sued the state in 2020 for the MCILS database and Samantha has spent countless hours sifting through data while doggedly pursuing Maine voices that have helped amplify her reporting.

She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize this year for her reporting on MCILS and was a finalist for the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award and for a Livingston Award. In terms of impact, the fact that the entire legislature voted unanimously to approve the creation of the state’s first public defender office speaks to the power of local journalism and the determination of a single reporter.

Don’t Miss next year’s conference: October 22, Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Event Center, Bar Harbor