



AP Robert Gallimore Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service in the Public Interest

- **Mark Spain, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, *in memoriam***

West Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Randy Yohe, West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Huntington**

Scholarship Awards

- **Morgan Norris, Hampton University**
- **Claudia Di Lima, West Virginia University**

Combined Divisions (TV/Radio):

<b>Best Podcast-Audio</b>
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*First Place*  
**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**  
Trey Kay and Amy Eddings  
"Us & Them: The Geography of Abortion"

This entry takes an important issue and personalizes it to help the listener understand the people impacted. It is well written and produced - using nat sound, interviews and music.

*Second Place*  
**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**  
Julia White and Harper Emch  
"Crime in the Coalfields"

This is very well produced. It personalizes a tragic story with great sound from those impacted.

TV I/Large Market:

<b>Best Spot News</b>
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*First Place*  
**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**  
"April Flooding"

Great example of covering spot news. Everything was caught in the moment!

*Second Place*  
**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**  
"Virginia Tornadoes"

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

"The Tragic Case of Kyneddi Miller"

Great job bringing this tragic story to life. The investigative process to uncover the details of the story were impressive. Nice job!

*Second Place*

**WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA**

Isabella Ledonne

"Clay Corner Inn"

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

*Second Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

Eric Johnson and Brooke Leonard

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Janet Roach and Adrian Guerra

"Roots Recovered — Reclaiming Our Names"

This was an amazing in-depth reporting/documentary. I learned something. And the individual stories were so well told. Lastly, this was by far the best shot and edited piece of work I've seen from any market. Well done!

*Second Place*

**WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA**

Melissa Gaona

"Silent No More"

How did you find this victim? Very innovative in telling this tough story. I've never seen anything like it. You should be very proud of your work!

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Greg McQuade and Curtis Akers

"Nostalgia at Your Fingertips"

Great work. The sound and visuals give you the feeling of being there. Very well done.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Greg McQuade and Joe Valdez

"A Need for Speed"

**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Pat Simon

"Son of D-Day Hero Honors WWII

Veterans"

Wonderful storytelling and visuals.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Mike Bergazzi, Curtis Akers and Jon

Burkett

"A Miracle at Taco Bell"

Story told with care and just the right amount of humor.

**Best Sports Feature**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Lane Casadonte and Curtis Akers

"Prince George Football: Changing  
the Culture"

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

Madison Moore and Brad Vassar

"Olympian Returns to Her Roots"

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Anna Saunders

Great job telling story... great use of video... and on-air presence is excellent. Covered wide range of topics. Great reporter and photographer. Job well done!

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

AJ Nwoko

Great use of video to tell stories.

**Best Reporter**

*First Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

Alexia Stanbridge

This entrant showed strong, original reporting on several topics. They're not afraid to ask tough questions and demand answers.

*Second Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

Kelsey Childress

A solid reporter who gets results. These were original stories that required research and effort to get to a result and/or the truth.

**Best Daily News Report (Single Shift)**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Elizabeth Holmes and Curtis Akers

"Anything Is Possible: HARP Program

Helping People Get Sober"

Beautifully shot, beautifully written. This story contains a new surprise every fifteen seconds and makes the viewer reconsider their views in several ways.

*Second Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Pat Simon

"Congressional Deadline: Veterans'

Benefits at Risk"

An impressive amount of information packed into a daily report, on a topic that resonates for anyone with a connection to the military.

### Best Specialty Reporting

*First Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Pat Simon

"West Virginians Remember

Dangerous Chemical Spill 10 Years  
Later"

Great reporter very comfortable in front of camera. Could have taken any story in category and made them better.

*Second Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Andy Fox

"Eyesores on Our Rivers"

Very comfortable in front of camera. Went out to get a story most would not report. Was very clear on why this was a problem and what was happening to clear it up. Good job.

### Best Spot News Photography

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Will Hicks

"It's a Total Loss"

Solid videography. Different angles and composition of shots. Worked to make it look different and not your typical fire scene.

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"VCU Protests"

### Best Feature Photography

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Greg McQuade and Enza Marcy

"Sophie's Linocut: Finding Old School  
Relief in Linoleum"

Great work. Creative visuals and use of natural sound to drive the piece. A perfect example of how to introduce a character and keep the viewer engaged and connected. Well done.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Enza Marcy and Greg McQuade

"Jamestown in Jeopardy: Drowning  
America's Birthplace"

Interesting story and great use of multiple cameras. Really gives the viewer the feel for the Jamestown area. Nicely done.

**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**  
"Tragedy at the Fishing Pier"

This station had strong multimedia coverage of the fishing pier tragedy, but also the conversation around mental health and an uplifting community moment.

*Second Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**  
Leslie Rubin  
"The Wolf of West Virginia"

This is a very unique and interesting story that this station demonstrated ownership of on multiple platforms and with multimedia.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**  
Rachel DePompa, Dan Heffner and Daniela Molina  
"On Your Side Investigators Data Driven"

Solid reporting on a problem that affects nearly everyone. Exposing a major problem and taking it to leaders to get action to correct it.

*Second Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**  
Leslie Rubin  
"Who Failed Kyneddi Miller?"

Strong reporting. Committed to getting answers.

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

This station clearly demonstrates its mission to listen to viewers and address topics important to them. The site displays continuing coverage of local issues, and uses engaging headlines and multimedia to accomplish it.

*Second Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**  
Patriceia Beckford, Christopher Collette and Kathleen Lundy

The Hurricane Center and eclipse updates stand out as differentiators. This station clearly makes an effort to own weather and has an approachable UX.

**Best News Promo**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Heather Riekers, Francesca Starr and

Malcolm Key

"Baking Memories for Kids"

*Second Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Patrick Tonkinson, Bob

Boegershausen and David Stotts

"Virginia Beach Tornado: One Year  
Later"

**Best Station Promo**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

David Stotts and Rob Byrne

"Giving You a Voice"

*Second Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Patrick Tonkinson, Brooke Lyonnais  
and Kemi Dele-Michael

"Back to School"

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"VCU Protest Aftermath"

This entry combined specific video with urgent writing to deliver a complete picture of the protests on the VCU campus.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Sarah Mickle, Mike Bergazzi and  
Curtis Akers

"Election Day"

This team broke news on deadline on one of the biggest days on the editorial calendar. The team coverage provided depth in a concise fashion.

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Spencer Adkins, Bryan Hughes and  
Chris Knoll

"April 2nd Tornadoes"

Clear winner! Tower cameras; great interaction between  
anchors.

*Second Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Doug Harlow, Brandon Lawson and  
Brandon Stover

"April 2nd Tornadoes"

**Best Weathercaster**

*First Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Steve Fundaro

Excellent on-set presentation and engaging in-the-field  
reports that are outside the box.

*Second Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

George Flickinger

**Best TV News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

Mark Spain

Mark stood out with his variety of stories, engaging reporting  
and empathy that came across the screen.

*Second Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Aesia Toliver

Aesia has a great energy while still maintaining  
professionalism. She's someone to watch!



**Best TV Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

Nolan Knight

*Second Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Mark Martin

**Best Producer**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Mike Bergazzi

"Gaston at 20: The Unforgettable  
Flood"

A good newscast is fast moving and informative. It keeps the viewers' attention and has all the latest information.

*Second Place*

**WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA**

Alexander Powell

"Major Shakeup in Roanoke  
Leadership"

**Best Team News Coverage**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

"April Tornadoes"

Great work by the team of meteorologists and crews in the field. Impressive work keeping calm and relaying helpful information during a crisis at the studio.

*Second Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Kyle Johnson and Dan Kennedy

"Cory Bigsby Verdict"

Very impressive how deeply knowledgeable the entire team was regarding this case.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Greg McQuade and Cole Pearson

"The Lady's Slipper: Breaking Barriers  
and Making Waves"

Nice nat sound and very clean editing.

*Second Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Tom Schaad and Chris Wynn

"POWs on the Homefront"

**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Brad Rice

"Traveling West Virginia"

Great storytelling! You really take the viewer with you on  
your journey to meet these unique characters.

*Second Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Pat Simon

"Booker T. Washington: Creating the  
Black Middle Class"

**Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Eugene Daniel

"Izzie's Field"

A good story always starts with an interesting character.  
Both these stories had engaging people which made the  
stories stand out.

*Second Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones, Jasmine Turner and JW  
Barnes

"Black History Month"

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Kurt Williams, Mackenzie Moody and  
Nicole Hare-Hill

"Don't Fear the Finger! A Journey  
Through Prostate Cancer"

Incredibly well-done coverage of a tough and sometimes  
taboo topic. This entry told a personal story, but made sure  
to include many voices about the issue.

*Second Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Kiahnna Patterson

"Domestic Violence: Break the Cycle"

This entry is a strong example of what a station can do when  
it makes a commitment to covering an issue -- one that spans  
several years. These were powerful stories told by people  
who were affected by domestic violence.

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

The comprehensive team coverage exhibited shows the best  
of journalism and a true commitment to storytelling in a local  
community. Their work exhibits the culture of their  
newsroom as being laser focused on getting the facts and  
informing viewers of not only breaking news and weather,  
but shining a light on the positive things happening as well.

*Second Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones

A solid news team you can count on to deliver every  
day. They are committed to sharing the voices of the people  
they serve.

**TV II/Small Market:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

"Helene Hits"

Important life-saving information.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Maggie Glass

"Wildfire Evacuations"

Clear and concise information.

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV**

Tanner Gilmartin, John Blashke and  
Chris Yost

"Monongah Police Chief Pulls Gun on  
Woman in Traffic Stop Gone Wrong"

WOW! This story and submission is one you just can't take your eyes off of. The nat sound from the officer even drew other coworkers into our office to see what story we were watching. Great example of continuing coverage of a big story that impacted this community. Great work WDTV!!

*Second Place*

**WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV**

"April Flooding in the Mid-Ohio  
Valley"

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV**

*Second Place*

**WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV**

Rob Metzger, Jack Hillgrove and Bill  
Phillips

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Ryan Renfro and Jon Chrisawn

"Strikes and Solidarity in Southwest Virginia"

This was a really well-produced entry. We learned a lot about the coal industry in West Virginia.

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Yannia Nordelo, Troy Prater and Jason Hutchinson

"Impact Plastics Deaths"

Great coverage of a very sad event. The reporter did a great job of getting the human reaction to this tragedy.

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV**

Alan Dye

"The Mystery of the Talking Dollar Bill"

Amazing story telling! I had to know who John was and I'm so glad this story ended with answers.

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Andrew McClung

"Boone Back on the Job"

What a reveal! Did not see three legs coming. Great use of video and nats.

**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV**

Sam Gorski

"Lewis County Animal Cruelty"

What a hard-hitting story with thorough interviews, intriguing footage and a strong local connection. WBOY has crafted everything this category stands for. With a great blend of graphics, footage and interviews, this report meets all criteria of the highest standard.

*Second Place*

**WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV**

Tanner Gilmartin

"Meet the Man Pretending to be a Young Girl Online to Put Sex Predators in Jail"

This piece reflects what it truly means to feature serious news, even when it's uncomfortable to face. While the worst in a community may try to hide in the shadows, WDTV approaches this serious topic with dignity, resourcefulness and thoroughness.

### Best Sports Feature

*First Place*

**WVU News, Morgantown, WV**  
Mark Altman and Sean Petraitis  
"Bridge Day — Mountaineer  
Playbook"

This was a fun sports feature to watch and judge. Excellent visuals of the base jumpers, especially the one who was 'sling shot' up in the air. Great use of nats as well. Good stuff WVU!

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**  
Jarvis Haren  
"Local Cornhole Player Aims Big"

### Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

*First Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Sarah Allen

Great energy on and off camera. Solid reporting abilities. Interesting live shots.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**  
Matt Cassada

Packages were very appealing both audio and video-wise. Kept things interesting. All around great storyteller.

### Best Reporter

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**  
Caleb Perhne

I commend Caleb's approach to stories. You can tell he puts a lot of thought into his reporting and he moves beyond press releases. I also appreciate that he appears to regularly infuse traits of investigative and process journalism into his reporting.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**  
Matt Cassada

**Best Daily News Report (Single Shift)**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro  
"Swept Away"

You really made the viewer connect with the mother of the missing man. Your voiceover matched perfectly as she walked us through what happened.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Maggie Glass  
"Supply Airlift for Hurricane Helene"

Great use of nats and creative shooting!

**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Andrew McClung  
"The Good Stuff"

It's hard to beat a "Good News" story, but we really enjoyed Andrew's storytelling. Each story was put together with warmth, compassion and subtle twists that kept us cheering for more.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Grant Coleman  
"Agriculture and Weather"

We truly appreciated Grant's creativity and the depth of information in his stories. We need more stories like this about the people doing the work in our communities - keep it up!

**Best Spot News Photography**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

"Helene's Wrath"

A great assortment of entries for the category, demonstrating comprehensive team coverage and compelling visuals/ spot news photography to tell the stories.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jessica Nuzzo  
"Mercer Street Fire"

Great use of NATs to add to the emotional appeal on an interesting and compelling story.

**Best Feature Photography**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**

David Mott

"Hotdogs and Hooplah"

Really great creative package. The camera work and the editing were perfect.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jessica Nuzzo

"Wurlitzer Breathes New Life"

Wonderful fun package. This journalist tells a great story.

**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV**

"2024 Backyard Brawl"

Great job showcasing this rivalry from all different platforms. It's obvious that a great amount of effort was put into each part.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Michael Russo

"Fishersville Kidnapping"

Great job updating the story from start to finish on all platforms.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**

Jessica Farrish

"Quantez Burks Murder  
Investigation"

Great chronology that shows how the story unfolded. A great diversity in sources. Use of documents and body camera helped add authority to story.

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Caleb Perhne

"Carter County Election Officials Give  
Dozens Wrong Ballot"

Compelling story with great sourcing evident. Attempts to interview election administrator shows journalistic ethics. Interesting content.



**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**  
Brandon Eanes

Great pages for community use.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**  
Michael Russo

Organized and easy to navigate.

**Best News Promo**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**  
David Mott  
"Show You Where"

We liked the script and the way this Toy Drive was presented to the viewer. Very creative and compelling.

**Best Station Promo**

*First Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Alex De Montbel and Joey Kinsley  
"20th Anniversary"

An effective spot. Good pacing, good use of sound bites, well shot and well executed.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**  
Aaron Sudderth

My team loved the creativity and application of the first spot for news. Also thought Snow Patrol was a great idea - we may use it ourselves!

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV**

Tygra de Mello, Kayvon Ezami and  
Chad Merrill

"Oak Hill High School Holds First  
Home Playoff Game in Two Decades"

Excellent live broadcast and audio. The copy throughout the broadcast is strong. I really enjoyed the narration of the sports intro. It got me pumped for football coverage!

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Hailey Wilt and Hailey Joyce

"Decision 2024"

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV**

Jeff Oechslein, Nathan Shutt and  
Amanda Verrier

"April Flooding"

Great energy and use of field reporting along with in-studio to showcase weather.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jeffrey Hoole and Tim Cha

"Pre-Helene Tornado Coverage"

Very knowledgeable and authoritative weather coverage.

**Best Weathercaster**

*First Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jeffrey Hoole

Great live coverage.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Katherine Thompson

Creative live shots.

**Best TV News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Preston Ayres

Preston Ayres was the obvious winner here, with performance and versatility that far exceeds any of the other entries.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Joshua Bolden

**Best TV Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Jarvis Haren

Jarvis Haren stands out with his creative and strong storytelling abilities. He moves beyond highlights and scores, making his sports reporting more engaging and impactful.

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Heather Williams

**Best Producer**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Caleb Perhne

Excellent coverage of a major story with multiple elements. It had a large market feel!

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Ethan Estrem

Good content and use of visuals. Nice job!

**Best Team News Coverage**

*First Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Ric Young, Alexia Williams and Travis Koshko

"Spring Fires"

Excellent coverage in the face of devastation. I enjoyed the dynamic feeling of the on-air news talent being featured. Each element had a different feel and shows how much the station is dedicated to providing accurate and on the scene coverage.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-**

**Lewisburg, WV**

"April Tornadoes"

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Kayla Tinsley

"The Journey"

**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**

Bradley Wells

"Fly Fishing"

Good use of nat sound and music elements. Good demonstrative elements. Great job allowing James to be the center of the story while the reporter still has a prominent role in the footage.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Joshua Bolden and Jessica Nuzzo

"Coal for Christmas"

Good use of the "spirit" pun. Good use combining the current with the historical.

**Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

*First Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Noah Harrison

"Breaking Ceilings at City Hall and in  
the White House"

This was a really great interview.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Gabby Womack

"Anniversary of Legalization of Same  
Sex Marriages"

Great sound picked for this package.

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**

"Severe Weather Awareness Week"

Good use of graphics and charts to explain science behind weather. While many of those conditions are things viewers are used to experiencing, hearing and seeing the explanation of how they occur and how meteorologists forecast them can serve to re-emphasize their importance.

*Second Place*

**WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV**

Rodney Lamp (WBOY) and Amanda  
Barren (WOWK)

"The Faces of Fentanyl: Attacking the  
Fentanyl Crisis"

Good comprehensive coverage of a singular topic.

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Solid breaking news coverage and showcasing throughout  
WHSV newscasts.

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

**Radio I/Metro:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Briana Heaney, Jack Walker and  
Caelan Bailey  
"De Soto Arrested"

Great reporting on troubling allegations against an elected official. The reporter did an excellent job not only explaining the story but also bringing the listener a firsthand account from someone who faced one of the alleged threats.

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Nick Gilmore, Roxy Todd and Craig  
Wright  
"Hurricane Helene"

This is a true example of the power and importance of local radio. The host and meteorologist did a great job keeping listeners informed about the storm's path and providing relevant, life-saving information—all with a calm and reassuring delivery.

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Sandy Hausman  
"Red Onion"

Good story outlining the ongoing problems in our prison system. Good interview as well.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Emily Rice  
"Early Data Shows Dramatic Fall in  
Overdose Death Rates; Advocates  
Advise Caution"

Good solid story and good use of sound.

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Randy Leftwich, Greg Roberts and  
Leonard Wheeler

*Second Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Sean Kelly and Ben Cower

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Todd Melby and Trey Kay

"Us & Them: Another Small Town  
Paper Down"

This entry goes beyond simply telling the story of the Welch Daily News—it masterfully takes us on an audio journey to Welch, where we discover what the paper meant to the community. We also get to know the people behind the publication and their deep passion for keeping their community informed, which truly enhances the piece. Great work!

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Megan Pauly, Jahd Khalil and  
Whittney Evans

"Protest Policies at Virginia's  
Colleges"

This was a really impressive deep dive into the policies around campus protests. It's clear a great deal of investigation went into this piece, and the reporters did a great job presenting their findings in a way that's easy for listeners to understand.

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Briana Heaney

"Bigfoot Festival Draws Thousands to  
Sutton"

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Roxy Todd

"Afghan Refugees"

Smart, informative and nice use of sound. Brings out the emotion of the women.

**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA**

Katherine Hafner

"Researchers Look to Virginia's  
Barrier Islands for Answers to Climate  
Change"

The report quickly detailed local significance of the barrier islands, background of the barrier and the need to continue to study.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Briana Heaney

"Residents Along Contaminated  
Creek Just Want Clean Water"

Provided great background as to how the water problem  
developed and how it is progressing through the legal system.

<b>Best Sports Feature</b>
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*First Place*

**WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA**

Connor Worley

"The Legacy of the 1974-75 Old  
Dominion Monarchs"

*Second Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Greg Roberts, Randy Leftwich and  
Bryan Stinespring

"Roanoke College Football Looking to  
Build a Gridiron Tradition"

<b>Best Use of Sound</b>
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*First Place*

**WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA**

Cianna Morales

"Restoring Voting Rights in Virginia  
With Fish as the Bait"

Well done and great presentation on a very important story.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Emily Rice

"West Virginia's Vaccine Divide"

Very well done.



### Best Sports Play-by-Play

#### *First Place*

#### **WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Ray Rynearson, Johnathan Edwards  
and Ben Cower

"Marshall Baseball vs Manhattan"

#### *Second Place*

#### **WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Ben Anderson, Ben Westfall and  
Anthony Doria

"Marshall WBB vs Jacksonville"

### Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

#### *First Place*

#### **VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Patrick Larsen

Good reporting and use of sound.

#### *Second Place*

#### **WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Jack Walker

Good reporting and writing made these nice to listen to.

### Best Reporter

#### *First Place*

#### **VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Jahd Khalil

Great writing and editing. The Don Scott piece was very well done. Good use of soundbites and storytelling.

#### *Second Place*

#### **WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Sandy Hausman

Good reporting, good use of audio and bringing everything into focus.

### Best Talk Show

#### *First Place*

#### **WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA**

Mari White, Brian Weigand and  
Anthony "Biscuit" McAvoy  
"The Morningline"

Good use of the talk show format, with a lot of variety. Conversational and easy to get people to call. A nice balanced reflection of your audience.

**Best QA (One-on-One) Interview**

*First Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Gene Marrano  
"The Mysterious Mrs. Nixon – A  
Closer Look at a Misunderstood First  
Lady"

I found this to be a very interesting subject with the  
conversation between the two natural and informative. Fun  
and ear catching.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Dave Cantor and Whittney Evans  
"How Virginia Plays Into the History  
of Campaign Finance Laws"

I learned a lot from this interview and the well-prepared  
guests. The subject matter was excellent.

**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Sandy Hausman  
"Criminal Justice Reporting"

Interesting and unique story that's been covered well.

*Second Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Ian Price  
"Cannabis Policy and Public Impact in  
Virginia"

Good perspective and use of sound.

**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Chris Schulz  
"Elkins Cultural Series Brings Native  
Voices Home"

Good background on the original Appalachia inhabitants and  
the struggles that exist today to preserve the culture.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Briana Heaney  
"Childcare Centers Want Change;  
Officials Unsure What That Looks  
Like"

Provided great background pertaining to the lack of childcare  
in the state and what lawmakers are doing to provide  
assistance.

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Emma Gallus, Shane Darling and John Boggess

Great use of space and very easy to navigate and find what one might be looking for.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Easy to navigate. Clean.

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Craig Wright

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Maria Young and Teresa Wills  
"Addressing Risky Behavior and the Logistics of Search and Rescue"

**Best Radio News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Craig Wright

Craig's presentation is spot-on, well-spoken throughout the entire newscast.

*Second Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Emma Johnson

Emma delivers a great newscast, clear and concise communication, inviting presentation.

**Best Radio Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA**

Dennis Carter

Great reporting and anchoring with a lot of different assignments and challenges.

*Second Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Ben Cower

Good basic reporting.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Roxy Todd

"Virginia's Wild Caves"

Excellent use of sound taking us through the cave. I like that the reporter put us inside and explained the attraction.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Megan Pauly and Shaban Athuman

"Prince Edward Schools That Helped

Usher in Brown vs Board Still in

Disrepair"

Important story with great info. Would have loved to have student or teacher voices about current conditions of the schools.

**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Clara Haizlett

"Chair Caning Provides Employment  
and Community for Folks With Visual  
Impairments in Wheeling, W.Va."

What a wonderful piece! Clara took us into the workshop and did an amazing job capturing the emotions of those whose lives have been changed by Seeing Hand. I had to grab a Kleenex when hearing from the former bus driver. Bravo!

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Zack Harold

"Retirement of Longtime Captain  
Begins New Chapter in Sistersville  
Ferry's Long History"

The reporter did a great job taking us out on the water between Sistersville, West Virginia, and Fly, Ohio, and introducing us to the retiring captain. I also enjoyed the great use of sound and how the reporter injected personality into the piece, especially at the ending. Well done!

**Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

*First Place*

Interesting topic and brought to life well.

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Samantha Gattsek and Trey Kay

"Us & Them — Is the Playing Field

Fair?"

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Brad Kutner

"Transgender Day of Visibility"

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Gene Marrano

"The Culture Calendar"

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Dave Cantor and Shaban Athuman

"Richmond City's Meals Tax"

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

Very polished and professional!

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Emma Johnson and Luke Hamilton

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

**Radio II/Non-Metro:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jay Hart, Jaclyn Piermarini and Jay  
James

"Jackson-Via Morning Drop-off Fire"

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie, Jay Hart and Dori  
Zook

"Habitat Purchases Carlton Mobile  
Home Park Toward Affordable  
Housing"

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer, Adam Hawes and  
Marshall LeMert

Great compilation including the handling of breaking news as well as collegiate sports coverage of many different teams, ranging from high-profile football and basketball to baseball and lacrosse.

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"Deep Dive Habitat Purchase of  
Carlton Mobile Home Park"

**Best Sports Play-by-Play**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer

"UVA Lacrosse Wins"

Proof that great play-by-play can happen for any and all sports. This would make even a lacrosse novice excited to listen.

**Best Talk Show**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Rob Schilling

"The Schilling Show"

Appreciate the dedication to serious local issues and the way the host gives the guests the space to share their knowledge with the audience.

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jaclyn Piermarini and Olivia Davis

"One-Stop Shop for Everything Local"

This site is very clean, clear and user friendly. Lots of content that is regional and engaging for their audience. Excellent work.

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Marshall LeMert

"Local From All Around the State"

Solid delivery, good pacing, and good example of the kind of local reporting every community should (but doesn't necessarily) have access to.

**Best Radio News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Dori Zook

"Wherever You're At!"

**Best Radio Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer

Great voice. Authoritative delivery with confidence. Lots of information packed in the time.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Rob Schilling and Lunelle Siegel

"Defend Arlington"

Definitely a story that was well localized. This has been a story nationwide for the past few years. To find local examples and sources was critical to this piece and it was well done.

**Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Rob Schilling and Matan Goldstein

"Antisemitism on UVA Grounds"

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie and Yolunda Harrell

"New Hill Development Means  
Business"

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Rob Schilling, Sean Reeves and Kaki  
Dimock

"HART Crisis Team in Albemarle  
County"

Wonderful job of taking the time to spotlight such important issues that impact vulnerable members of your local community.

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jay Hart, Dori Zook and Marshall  
LeMert

***Congratulations!***

***Please visit our website for a downloadable list of winners***

**<https://vapb.org>**