

Winners in the 2024 Virginias AP Broadcasters Contest:

COMBINED DIVISION (TV/RADIO):

Best Podcast-Audio: First, Trey Kay and Amy Eddings, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Us & Them: The Geography of Abortion"; **Second**, Julia White and Harper Emch, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Crime in the Coalfields."

TVI/LARGE MARKET:

Best Spot News: First, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "April Flooding"; **Second**, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA, "Virginia Tornadoes."

Best Continuing News: First, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "The Tragic Case of Kyneddi Miller"; **Second**, Isabella Ledonne, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Clay Corner Inn."

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Eric Johnson and Brooke Leonard, WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA.

Best Documentary or In-Depth: First, Janet Roach and Adrian Guerra, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Roots Recovered — Reclaiming Our Names"; **Second**, Melissa Gaona, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Silent No More."

Best Light Feature: First, Greg McQuade and Curtis Akers, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Nostalgia at Your Fingertips"; **Second**, Greg McQuade and Joe Valdez, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "A Need for Speed."

Best Serious Feature: First, Pat Simon, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "Son of D-Day Hero Honors WWII Veterans"; **Second**, Mike Bergazzi, Curtis Akers and Jon Burkett, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "A Miracle at Taco Bell."

Best Sports Feature: First, Lane Casadonte and Curtis Akers, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Prince George Football: Changing the Culture"; **Second**, Madison Moore and Brad Vassar, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "Olympian Returns to Her Roots."

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter: First, Anna Saunders, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV; **Second**, AJ Nwoko, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA.

Best Reporter: First, Alexia Stanbridge, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA; **Second**, Kelsey Childress, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA.

Best Daily News Report (Single Shift): First, Elizabeth Holmes and Curtis Akers, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Anything Is Possible: HARP Program Helping People Get Sober"; **Second**, Pat Simon, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "Congressional Deadline: Veterans' Benefits at Risk."

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Best Specialty Reporting: First, Pat Simon, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "West Virginians Remember Dangerous Chemical Spill 10 Years Later"; **Second**, Andy Fox, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Eyesores on Our Rivers."

Best Spot News Photography: First, Will Hicks, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "It's a Total Loss"; **Second**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "VCU Protests."

Best Feature Photography: First, Greg McQuade and Enza Marcy, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Sophie's Linocut: Finding Old School Relief in Linoleum"; **Second**, Enza Marcy and Greg McQuade, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Jamestown in Jeopardy: Drowning America's Birthplace."

Best Multi-Platform Story: First, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Tragedy at the Fishing Pier"; **Second**, Leslie Rubin, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "The Wolf of West Virginia."

Best Investigative Reporting: First, Rachel DePompa, Dan Heffner and Daniela Molina, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA, "On Your Side Investigators Data Driven"; **Second**, Leslie Rubin, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "Who Failed Kyneddi Miller?"

Best Website: First, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Patriceia Beckford, Christopher Collette and Kathleen Lundy, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA.

Best News Promo: First, Heather Riekers, Francesca Starr and Malcolm Key, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA, "Baking Memories for Kids"; **Second**, Patrick Tonkinson, Bob Boegershausen and David Stotts, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Virginia Beach Tornado: One Year Later."

Best Station Promo: First, David Stotts and Rob Byrne, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Giving You a Voice"; **Second**, Patrick Tonkinson, Brooke Lyonnais and Kemi Dele-Michael, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Back to School."

Best Newscast: First, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "VCU Protest Aftermath"; **Second**, Sarah Mickle, Mike Bergazzi and Curtis Akers, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Election Day."

Best Weathercast: First, Spencer Adkins, Bryan Hughes and Chris Knoll, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "April 2nd Tornadoes"; **Second**, Doug Harlow, Brandon Lawson and Brandon Stover, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "April 2nd Tornadoes."

Best Weathercaster: First, Steve Fundaro, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA; **Second**, George Flickinger, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA.

Best TV News Anchor: First, Mark Spain, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA; **Second**, Aesia Toliver, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA.

Best TV Sports Anchor: First, Nolan Knight, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Mark Martin, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV.

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Best Producer: First, Mike Bergazzi, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Gaston at 20: The Unforgettable Flood"; **Second**, Alexander Powell, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Major Shakeup in Roanoke Leadership."

Best Team News Coverage: First, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "April Tornadoes"; **Second**, Kyle Johnson and Dan Kennedy, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Cory Bigsby Verdict."

Best Old Dominion Heritage: First, Greg McQuade and Cole Pearson, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "The Lady's Slipper: Breaking Barriers and Making Waves"; **Second**, Tom Schaad and Chris Wynn, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "POWs on the Homefront."

Best Mountain State Heritage: First, Brad Rice, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "Traveling West Virginia"; **Second**, Pat Simon, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "Booker T. Washington: Creating the Black Middle Class."

Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: First, Eugene Daniel, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Izzie's Field"; **Second**, Frank Jones, Jasmine Turner and JW Barnes, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA, "Black History Month."

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First, Kurt Williams, Mackenzie Moody and Nicole Hare-Hill, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Don't Fear the Finger! A Journey Through Prostate Cancer"; **Second**, Kiahnna Patterson, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Domestic Violence: Break the Cycle."

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA; **Second**, Frank Jones, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA.

TVII/SMALL MARKET:

Best Spot News: First, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Helene Hits"; **Second**, Maggie Glass, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Wildfire Evacuations."

Best Continuing News: First, Tanner Gilmartin, John Blashke and Chris Yost, WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV, "Monongah Police Chief Pulls Gun on Woman in Traffic Stop Gone Wrong"; **Second**, WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV, "April Flooding in the Mid-Ohio Valley."

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV; **Second**, Rob Metzger, Jack Hillgrove and Bill Phillips, WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV.

Best Documentary or In-Depth: First, Ryan Renfro and Jon Chrisawn, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Strikes and Solidarity in Southwest Virginia"; **Second**, Yannia Nordelo, Troy Prater and Jason Hutchinson, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Impact Plastics Deaths."

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Best Light Feature: First, Alan Dye, WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV, "The Mystery of the Talking Dollar Bill"; **Second**, Andrew McClung, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Boone Back on the Job."

Best Serious Feature: First, Sam Gorski, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV, "Lewis County Animal Cruelty"; **Second**, Tanner Gilmartin, WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV, "Meet the Man Pretending to be a Young Girl Online to Put Sex Predators in Jail."

Best Sports Feature: First, Mark Altman and Sean Petraitis, WVU News, Morgantown, WV, "Bridge Day — Mountaineer Playbook"; **Second**, Jarvis Haren, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Local Cornhole Player Aims Big."

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter: First, Sarah Allen, WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA; **Second**, Matt Cassada, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV.

Best Reporter: First, Caleb Perhne, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA; **Second**, Matt Cassada, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV.

Best Daily News Report (Single Shift): First, Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Swept Away"; **Second**, Maggie Glass, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Supply Airlift for Hurricane Helene."

Best Specialty Reporting: First, Andrew McClung, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "The Good Stuff"; **Second**, Grant Coleman, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Agriculture and Weather."

Best Spot News Photography: First, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Helene's Wrath"; **Second**, Jessica Nuzzo, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Mercer Street Fire."

Best Feature Photography: First, David Mott, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Hotdogs and Hooplah"; **Second**, Jessica Nuzzo, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Wurlitzer Breathes New Life."

Best Multi-Platform Story: First, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV, "2024 Backyard Brawl"; **Second**, Michael Russo, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Fishersville Kidnapping."

Best Investigative Reporting: First, Jessica Farrish, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Quantez Burks Murder Investigation"; **Second**, Caleb Perhne, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Carter County Election Officials Give Dozens Wrong Ballot."

Best Website: First, Brandon Eanes, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV; **Second**, Michael Russo, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA.

Best News Promo: First, David Mott, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Show You Where."

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Best Station Promo: First, Alex De Montbel and Joey Kinsley, WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "20th Anniversary"; **Second**, Aaron Sudderth, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV.

Best Newscast: First, Tygra de Mello, Kayvon Ezami and Chad Merrill, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Oak Hill High School Holds First Home Playoff Game in Two Decades"; **Second**, Hailey Wilt and Hailey Joyce, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Decision 2024."

Best Weathercast: First, Jeff Oechslein, Nathan Shutt and Amanda Verrier, WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV, "April Flooding"; **Second**, Jeffrey Hoole and Tim Cha, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Pre-Helene Tornado Coverage."

Best Weathercaster: First, Jeffrey Hoole, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV; **Second**, Katherine Thompson, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV.

Best TV News Anchor: First, Preston Ayres, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA; **Second**, Joshua Bolden, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV.

Best TV Sports Anchor: First, Jarvis Haren, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA; **Second**, Heather Williams, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA.

Best Producer: First, Caleb Perhne, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA; **Second**, Ethan Estrem, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA.

Best Team News Coverage: First, Ric Young, Alexia Williams and Travis Koshko, WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Spring Fires"; **Second**, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "April Tornadoes."

Best Old Dominion Heritage: First, Kayla Tinsley, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "The Journey."

Best Mountain State Heritage: First, Bradley Wells, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Fly Fishing"; **Second**, Joshua Bolden and Jessica Nuzzo, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Coal for Christmas."

Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: First, Noah Harrison, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Breaking Ceilings at City Hall and in the White House"; **Second**, Gabby Womack, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Anniversary of Legalization of Same Sex Marriages."

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Severe Weather Awareness Week"; **Second**, Rodney Lamp (WBOY) and Amanda Barren (WOWK), WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV, "The Faces of Fentanyl: Attacking the Fentanyl Crisis."

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA; **Second**, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA.

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

RADIO I/METRO:

Best Spot News: First, Briana Heaney, Jack Walker and Caelan Bailey, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "De Soto Arrested"; **Second**, Nick Gilmore, Roxy Todd and Craig Wright, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Hurricane Helene."

Best Continuing News: First, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Red Onion"; **Second**, Emily Rice, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Early Data Shows Dramatic Fall in Overdose Death Rates; Advocates Advise Caution."

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First, Randy Leftwich, Greg Roberts and Leonard Wheeler, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Sean Kelly and Ben Cower, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV.

Best Documentary or In-Depth: First, Todd Melby and Trey Kay, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Us & Them: Another Small Town Paper Down"; **Second**, Megan Pauly, Jahd Khalil and Whittney Evans, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Protest Policies at Virginia's Colleges."

Best Light Feature: First, Briana Heaney, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Bigfoot Festival Draws Thousands to Sutton"; **Second**, Roxy Todd, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Afghan Refugees."

Best Serious Feature: First, Katherine Hafner, WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA, "Researchers Look to Virginia's Barrier Islands for Answers to Climate Change"; **Second**, Briana Heaney, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Residents Along Contaminated Creek Just Want Clean Water."

Best Sports Feature: First, Connor Worley, WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA, "The Legacy of the 1974-75 Old Dominion Monarchs"; **Second**, Greg Roberts, Randy Leftwich and Bryan Stinespring, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA, "Roanoke College Football Looking to Build a Gridiron Tradition."

Best Use of Sound: First, Cianna Morales, WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA, "Restoring Voting Rights in Virginia With Fish as the Bait"; **Second**, Emily Rice, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "West Virginia's Vaccine Divide."

Best Sports Play-by-Play: First, Ray Rynearson, Johnathan Edwards and Ben Cower, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "Marshall Baseball vs Manhattan"; **Second**, Ben Anderson, Ben Westfall and Anthony Doria, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "Marshall WBB vs Jacksonville."

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter: First, Patrick Larsen, VPM News, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Jack Walker, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV.

Best Reporter: First, Jahd Khalil, VPM News, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA.

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Best Talk Show: First, Mari White, Brian Weigand and Anthony "Biscuit" McAvoy, WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA, "The Morningline."

Best QA (One-on-One) Interview: First, Gene Marrano, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA, "The Mysterious Mrs. Nixon – A Closer Look at a Misunderstood First Lady"; **Second**, Dave Cantor and Whitney Evans, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "How Virginia Plays Into the History of Campaign Finance Laws."

Best Specialty Reporting: First, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Criminal Justice Reporting"; **Second**, Ian Price, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA, "Cannabis Policy and Public Impact in Virginia."

Best Multi-Platform Story: First, Chris Schulz, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Elkins Cultural Series Brings Native Voices Home"; **Second**, Briana Heaney, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Childcare Centers Want Change; Officials Unsure What That Looks Like."

Best Website: First, Emma Gallus, Shane Darling and John Boggess, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV; **Second**, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV.

Best Newscast: First, Craig Wright, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Maria Young and Teresa Wills, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Addressing Risky Behavior and the Logistics of Search and Rescue."

Best Radio News Anchor: First, Craig Wright, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Emma Johnson, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV.

Best Radio Sports Anchor: First, Dennis Carter, WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA; **Second**, Ben Cower, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV.

Best Old Dominion Heritage: First, Roxy Todd, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Virginia's Wild Caves"; **Second**, Megan Pauly and Shaban Athuman, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Prince Edward Schools That Helped Usher in Brown vs Board Still in Disrepair."

Best Mountain State Heritage: First, Clara Haizlett, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Chair Caning Provides Employment and Community for Folks With Visual Impairments in Wheeling, W.Va."; **Second**, Zack Harold, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Retirement of Longtime Captain Begins New Chapter in Sistersville Ferry's Long History."

Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: First, Samantha Gattsek and Trey Kay, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Us & Them — Is the Playing Field Fair?"; **Second**, Brad Kutner, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Transgender Day of Visibility."

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First, Gene Marrano, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA, "The Culture Calendar"; **Second**, Dave Cantor and Shaban Athuman, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Richmond City's Meals Tax."

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First, Emma Johnson and Luke Hamilton, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV; **Second**, WVTf-FM, Roanoke, VA.

RADIO II/NON-METRO:

Best Spot News: First, Jay Hart, Jaclyn Piermarini and Jay James, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Jackson-Via Morning Drop-off Fire."

Best Continuing News: First, Michael Guthrie, Jay Hart and Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Habitat Purchases Carlton Mobile Home Park Toward Affordable Housing."

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First, Luke Neer, Adam Hawes and Marshall LeMert, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA.

Best Documentary or In-Depth: First, Michael Guthrie, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Deep Dive Habitat Purchase of Carlton Mobile Home Park."

Best Sports Play-by-Play: First, Luke Neer, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "UVA Lacrosse Wins."

Best Talk Show: First, Rob Schilling, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "The Schilling Show."

Best Website: First, Jaclyn Piermarini and Olivia Davis, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "One-Stop Shop for Everything Local."

Best Newscast: First, Marshall LeMert, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Local From All Around the State."

Best Radio News Anchor: First, Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Wherever You're At!"

Best Radio Sports Anchor: First, Luke Neer, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA.

Best Old Dominion Heritage: First, Rob Schilling and Lunelle Siegel, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Defend Arlington."

Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: First, Rob Schilling and Matan Goldstein, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Antisemitism on UVA Grounds"; **Second**, Michael Guthrie and Yolunda Harrell, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "New Hill Development Means Business."

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First, Rob Schilling, Sean Reeves and Kaki Dimock, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "HART Crisis Team in Albemarle County."

VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First, Jay Hart, Dori Zook and Marshall LeMert, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA.