

**Winners in the 2025 Virginias AP Broadcasters Contest:**

**COMBINED DIVISION (TV/RADIO):**

**Best Podcast-Audio: First**, Trey Kay and Samantha Gattsek, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Us & Them: Housing Options Are Few and Far Between in Appalachia"; **Second**, Brandi Blake and Julia White, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Crime in the Coalfields - Rosa White."

**TVI/LARGE MARKET:**

**Best Spot News: First**, Frank Jones, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA, "Aviation Disaster"; **Second**, Frank Jones, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA, "Richmond Water Crisis."

**Best Continuing News: First**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "Waverly Two Finally Free"; **Second**, Tyler Layne and Melissa Hipolit, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "The Richmond Water Crisis."

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First**, Lane Casadonte and Sean Robertson, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Mark Martin and Zach Brown, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV.

**Best Documentary or In-Depth: First**, Brandy Brown, David Stotts and Jon Burkett, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Reopen the Case: The Obvious Suspect"; **Second**, Alex Littlehales, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Rural Healthcare Uncertainties."

**Best Light Feature: First**, Aesia Toliver and Kevin Romm, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Building a Legacy"; **Second**, Kate Capodanno and Ben Riquelmy, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Sailor for a Day: Life on an Aircraft Carrier."

**Best Serious Feature: First**, Kate Capodanno, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "25 Years Later: Backstreet Cafe Shooting"; **Second**, Mike Bergazzi, Curtis Akers and Jon Burkett, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Lindsey's Sign."

**Best Sports Feature: First**, Curtis Akers and Lane Casadonte, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "The Season: Clover Hill Cavaliers"; **Second**, Eric Johnson and Greg Moore, WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Beyond the Scoreboard: The Inspirational Story Powering Craig County's Rockets."

**Best Daily Stream: First**, Jeff Edmondson and Brian Michigan, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Beyond the Forecast: Tracking Hurricane Erin"; **Second**, MaryCatherine Neal, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "The Rundown."

**Best Special Stream: First**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "Riverfront Rhythms"; **Second**, Bob Bennett, Chris Wynn and Jeff Edmondson, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Tracking the Tropics."

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter: First**, Desiree Montilla, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Anthony Sabella, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA.

**Best Reporter: First**, Hayden Robertson, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA; **Second**, Madison McNamee, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA.

**Best Daily News Report (Single Shift): First**, Joi Fultz and Joe Valdez, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Jammin George"; **Second**, Erin Holly and James Gary Jr., WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Angels for My Angel."

**Best Specialty Reporting: First**, Adrienne Hoar McGibbon, Shawn Freude and Shaban Athuman, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Virginians on Medicaid"; **Second**, Rob Cardwell, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Building Better Minds."

**Best Spot News Photography: First**, Alex Littlehales and Michael Woodward, WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA, "North Carolina Homes Collapse."

**Best Feature Photography: First**, Curtis Akers and Greg McQuade, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Hubert's Homecoming: We Never Knew Where He Was"; **Second**, Enza Marcy and Greg McQuade, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Paolo Garbanzo: The American Jester Juggling Across Europe."

**Best Multi-Platform Story: First**, Leslie Rubin, Brad Rice and Shannon Stowers, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "Letters to Death: West Virginia's Bluebeard"; **Second**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "Homeowner Horrors."

**Best Investigative Reporting: First**, Margaret Kavanagh and Wayne Pellenberg, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Woman Gets New Trial After WTKR Uncovers 'Missing' 911 Calls"; **Second**, Melissa Hipolit, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "A Nightmare in the NICU."

**Best Website: First**, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Chloe Lightner, Jazmine Otey and Travis Beauchamp, WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA.

**Best News Promo: First**, David Stotts and Brandy Brown, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Reopen the Case: The Obvious Suspect"; **Second**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "Richmond Tax Delinquency."

**Best Station Promo: First**, David Stotts and Matt Sloan, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Giving You a Voice: Listening"; **Second**, David Stotts, Patrick Tonkinson and Matt Sloan, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Love Being in Your Neighborhood."

**Best Newscast: First**, Frank Jones, WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, Bob Bennett, Aesia Toliver and Tom Schaad, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA.

**Best Weathercast: First**, StormTracker 13, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV, "Tornado Coverage"; **Second**, George Flickinger and Thomas Battle, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA.

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

**Best Weathercaster: First**, Spencer Adkins, WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV; **Second**, George Flickinger, WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA.

**Best TV News Anchor: First**, Mitch Carr, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Tom Schaad, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA.

**Best TV Sports Anchor: First**, James Kattato, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA; **Second**, Nolan Knight, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA.

**Best Producer: First**, Alexander Powell, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Julia Locklear, WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA, "Government Shutdown."

**Best Team News Coverage: First**, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Water Crisis"; **Second**, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA, "Winter Storm 2025."

**Best Old Dominion Heritage: First**, Joe Valdez and Greg McQuade, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "Bacon's Castle"; **Second**, Kevin Romm, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA, "Bring the Boys Back Home."

**Best Mountain State Heritage: First**, Brad Rice, WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV, "Traveling West Virginia."

**Excellence in Diversity- Equity & Inclusion: First**, WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA, "What Is Black?"; **Second**, Keyris Manzanares and Adrienne Hoar McGibbon, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Richmond's Dual-Language Immersion Program Is Growing on Southside."

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First**, Lindsey Kennett, Sarah Tabor and Chloe Lightner, WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA, "30 Days of Hope"; **Second**, Jordan Rastberger, GeNienne Samuels and Curtis Akers, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA, "100k Meals."

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First**, Sheryl Barnhouse and Stephen Hayes, WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA; **Second**, WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA.

### TVII/SMALL MARKET:

**Best Spot News: First**, Rivers Upchurch, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "February Flooding in Southern West Virginia"; **Second**, Avery Davis, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Lightning Strike May Have Caused Deadly Glenmore House Explosion."

**Best Continuing News: First**, WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV, "The Wheeling Flood"; **Second**, Kate Nuechterlein and Avery Davis, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "UVA Presidential Search."

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First**, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV; **Second**, Jarvis Haren and Connor Burgan, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA.

**Best Documentary or In-Depth: First**, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Rekindling"; **Second**, Keri Brown, Dan Mayeres and Alex Taylor, WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV, "It Happened in a Flash: Ohio County WV Deadly Flood."

**Best Light Feature: First**, Shyla Florence, WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV, "One Tank Trip"; **Second**, Jeffery Boggess, Drew Solt and Ashton Marra, WVU News, Morgantown, WV, "A Wrap on Gauley Season."

**Best Serious Feature: First**, Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "The Disappearance of Rodney Kiser"; **Second**, Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "The Lives We Lost: Boone McCrary."

**Best Sports Feature: First**, Izzie Begley, WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "Bayram's Corner"; **Second**, Connor Burgan, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "A Year of Firsts."

**Best Daily Stream: First**, A.P. Harreld and Madalyn Stubblefield, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Pigskin Prophet."

**Best Special Stream: First**, John Lowe, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV, "Rich Rodriguez: Season by Season."

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter: First**, Avery Davis, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA; **Second**, Mark Gad, WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA.

**Best Reporter: First**, Kate Nuechterlein, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA; **Second**, Caleb Perhne, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA.

**Best Daily News Report (Single Shift): First**, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Severe Flooding Slams Southern West Virginia"; **Second**, Phelicity Robinson, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Katherine Johnson."

**Best Specialty Reporting: First**, Heather Williams, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Motorsports"; **Second**, Grant Coleman, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Agriculture."

**Best Spot News Photography: First**, Danny Delanty and Micah Leith, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "February Flooding."

**Best Feature Photography: First**, Jason Hutchinson, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA, "Santa Train"; **Second**, Matt Cassada, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Bridge Day 2025."

**Best Multi-Platform Story: First**, Danny Delanty, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Water Crisis in Wyoming County"; **Second**, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Virginia's First Buc-ee's."

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

**Best Investigative Reporting: First**, Danny Delanty, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Water Crisis in Wyoming County"; **Second**, Julia White, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Fatal Ride: The Case of Robin Massey."

**Best Website: First**, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV; **Second**, Jim Elliott and Rick Thorp, WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV.

**Best News Promo: First**, Caleb Swortzel and Alfio Vasta, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Winter Weather"; **Second**, Aaron Sudderth, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Reanna Welcome/Snow Patrol."

**Best Station Promo: First**, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Sports Zone 2025"; **Second**, Pat King, Keri Brown and Mary Flavin, WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV, "Living Local: No One Walks Alone."

**Best Newscast: First**, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA; **Second**, Hailey Wilt and Austin Lam, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA, "UVA Marks Three-Year Anniversary of Football Shooting Tragedy."

**Best Weathercast: First**, Aubrey Urbanowicz, Cody Barnhart and Grant Coleman, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA; **Second**, Jeff Oechslein and Nathan Shutt, WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV, "Ohio Valley Derecho."

**Best Weathercaster: First**, Katherine Thompson, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV; **Second**, Christian Boteler, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV.

**Best TV News Anchor: First**, Steve Rappaport, WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA; **Second**, Atticus Pead, WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV.

**Best TV Sports Anchor: First**, Sydney Cariel, WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV; **Second**, Jarvis Haren, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA.

**Best Producer: First**, Ethan Estrem, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA; **Second**, Valerie Sullivan, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Veterans Voices."

**Best Team News Coverage: First**, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Severe Flooding Slams Southern West Virginia"; **Second**, WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV, "November Fourth Elections."

**Best Old Dominion Heritage: First**, Larry Marrs, WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV, "Tazewell Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddlers Convention"; **Second**, Mair Famet and Kayla Brown, WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA, "Valley of Valor."

**Best Mountain State Heritage: First**, Megan Bailey, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Greenbrier Bunker"; **Second**, Harley Cochran, Ashton Marra and Jesse Wright, WVU News, Morgantown, WV, "West Virginia Culture and Tourism."

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First**, Joshua Bolden, WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV, "Two Virginias, One Mission Flood Relief Telethon"; **Second**, WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV, "Southern West Virginia Flood Relief."

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

### RADIO:

**Best Spot News: First**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Ryan Resigns"; **Second**, Jack Walker, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Middleway Bottling Plant Rejected Unanimously by Planning Commission."

**Best Continuing News: First**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "UVA vs. the Trump Administration"; **Second**, Jay Hart and Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "UVA President Oddysey."

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias: First**, Greg Roberts, Randy Leftwich and Leonard Wheeler, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Ryan Stone and Brandon Burnett, WBTM-AM, Danville, VA.

**Best Documentary or In-Depth: First**, Roxy Todd, Nick Gilmore and David Seidel, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Mountain Hurricane"; **Second**, Curtis Tate, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "These Coal Plants Lose Money."

**Best Light Feature: First**, Patrick Larsen, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Undoing Ruin's Jessy Woodke Is on a Mission to Spread Native Plants"; **Second**, Jack Walker, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Berkeley County Resident's Gadget Geocaches Put Local Tourism on the Map."

**Best Serious Feature: First**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Saving Sinkhole Ponds"; **Second**, Maria Young, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Multimillion Dollar Aid Program Brings Hope to Mercer County."

**Best Sports Feature: First**, Dean Mirshahi, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Entering the Ring and Building Bonds at Richmond Pro Wrestling"; **Second**, Shane Darling, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "Marshall Volleyball Needs One More Win."

**Best Use of Sound: First**, Sarah Smith, WQLU-FM, Lynchburg, VA, "Why I Pause"; **Second**, Eric Douglas, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Biplane Provides Different Perspective on New River Gorge."

**Best Sports Play-by-Play: First**, Ryan Stone, WBTM-AM, Danville, VA, "GW vs Sherando Regional Semifinal"; **Second**, Jason Prill and Connor Young, WQLU-FM,

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

Lynchburg, VA, "2025 Carolina League Championship between Lynchburg Hillcats and Columbia Fireflies."

**Best Reporter: First**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA; **Second**, Mason Adams, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA.

**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**, Eric Douglas, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Terry Gross Talks Public Radio With WVPB"; **Second**, Bill Lynch, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "The Modern Mountain Cookbook."

**Best Specialty Reporting: First**, Katherine Hafner, WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA, "Environment and Climate Change Reporting"; **Second**, Nick Gilmore, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Climate and Weather Reporting."

**Best Multi-Platform Story: First**, Keyris Manzanares, Adrienne Hoar McGibbon and Shawn Freude, VPM News, Richmond, VA, "Idleness and Boredom' - Bon Air Series"; **Second**, Jack Walker, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Expiring Spay, Neuter Fund Troubles Shelters, but Lawmakers Move to Make State Aid Permanent."

**Best Website: First**, Mike Barber, Jackson Hephner and Jay Hart, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Cville Right Now"; **Second**, Liz McCormick, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "West Virginia Public Broadcasting."

**Best Newscast: First**, Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Crime and Education"; **Second**, Joey Self, Ian Price and Leonard Wheeler, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA, "Election Coverage + On the Record: The Roanoke Valley's Morning News."

**Best Radio News Anchor: First**, Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA; **Second**, Craig Wright, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA.

**Best Radio Sports Anchor: First**, Owen James, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV; **Second**, Shane Darling, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage: First**, Mari White, Brian Weigand and Anthony "Biscuit" McAvoy, WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA, "James River Batteau Festival"; **Second**, Sandy Hausman, WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA, "Batteau Cruise."

**Best Mountain State Heritage: First**, Bill Lynch, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "The Homewrecker Returns to Hillbilly Hotdogs"; **Second**, Trey Kay and Amy Eddings, WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV, "Us & Them: Daniel Johnston — The Troubled Life and Artistic Genius of West Virginia Music Hall of Fame Inductee."

**Excellence in Diversity- Equity & Inclusion: First**, Alyson Messinger, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "DEI Protest"; **Second**, Megan Pauly, VPM News, Richmond, VA,

## VIRGINIAS ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS

"VCU Changed Scholarship for Descendants of the Enslaved to Align With Anti-DEI Policies."

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism: First**, John Boggess, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "Healing Appalachia 2025"; **Second**, Emma Johnson, Abby Ayes and Alyson Messinger, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV, "55th Annual Fountain Ceremony Coverage."

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias: First**, Jay Hart and Dori Zook, WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA, "Charlottesville Punching Above Its Weight Class"; **Second**, Emma Johnson and Alyson Messinger, WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV.