



CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Bob Shilling Memorial Scholarship Award

**Charlotte Pfabe
Elon University
Elon, N.C.**

ALL DIVISIONS:

Best in Show -- Television

**Bill Mich
WBOC-TV, Salisbury
Documentary/In-Depth
"Unbridled Tradition: The 100th
Chincoteague Pony Penning"**

They had every camera angle, and editorial perspective. It was a masterpiece of storytelling, and one that took lots of hard work, both on site and clearly behind the scenes with a plan to capture this famous event from every colorful aspect. The writing was crisp and the team knew when it was best just to let the video tell the story. Very impressive.

Best in Show -- Radio

**Jackson Sinnenberg and Justin
O'Neill
WAMU-FM, Washington
Light Feature
"Adams Morgan's Smash Records
Celebrates 40 Years of Being a
Communal Hub for the D.C. Punk
Scene."**

Smash Records is a well-told story with an amusing accumulation of punks described near the beginning, a bit of research needed and done well, with ambient sound, store interviews, and music all woven in marvelously.

Best Podcast-Audio

First Place
WBAL-AM, Baltimore
Scott Wykoff
"Navy Insider Podcast"

This half hour was packed with content. You can feel Scott's enthusiasm for the topics. I liked the mix of play-by-play content and natural sound of the squash players. It kept the piece moving and I enjoyed the interviews with the student athletes and the squash coach.





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2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Jason Michael Perry, Sam Bermas-Dawes and Shanya Mapson
"Thoughts on Tech and Things: How Are Public Schools Preparing for AI?"

This was a great conversation about the pervasiveness of AI and the work to help students use this technology safely and accurately. I really liked how the podcast started with a look at recent news headlines before jumping into the conversations with Baltimore City Schools. It was very conversational and very interesting to listen to. The segment kept me curious and helped me walk away feeling informed.

Best Digital-First Storytelling: Social Video

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Matt Kaufax
"Matt About Town"

Great mix of traditional news reporting done in a digital-first format. Great writing is great writing, and it translates on any platform.

Second Place

MyRadar

Matthew Cappucci
"Spotted Lantern Flies Invade D.C."

Best Multi-Platform Storytelling

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Torie Seagraves and Zoe Stayman
"Deadly Dagsboro House Explosion"

Story was tackled in all ways on social media, broadcast and digitally. This is the type of story viewers can't get enough of, and it looks like the station did a great job keeping up with the developing stories and reaching people across different platforms.

Second Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Jimmy Alexander
"Wellington the Pig!"

Charming story and so well written. From the radio edit to the social post to the web article each gave me a little extra nugget about this pig and his new family.





TV I/Large Market:

Outstanding Spot News Reporting

First Place

WJZ-TV, Baltimore

Tara Lynch

"West Baltimore Warehouse
Devastated by Seven-Alarm Blaze"

Second Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Christian Flores, Noel Chavez and
Raul Candia
"National Guard Shooting Near the
White House"

Outstanding Coverage of a Continuing Story

First Place

WRC-TV, Washington

"Midair Crash"

Great coverage. Several different locations, asking the important questions, covering a very difficult story in a very humane way.

Second Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Kane Farabaugh
"The Life and Legacy of Jimmy Carter"

Well told story of one of our longest living presidents. You touched every facet of Jimmy Carter's life and taught me things I never knew about the man.

Outstanding News Series

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

"How to Survive a Flash Flood When
Swept Off Your Feet"

Well shot and written. In lieu of putting all the ways on how to survive, each segment focused on one in particular. These stories resonated with me having covered floods and hurricanes.

Second Place

WJZ-TV, Baltimore

Mike Hellgren and Judy Ryan
"Immigration in Maryland: Melissa's
Story"

Brought attention to a growing problem in today's society.





Best Television Photography

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Tom Kopania

Amazing visual story telling. The blind hockey story, you kept up with the action and didn't drown the piece in nats. The fallen firefighter, I felt as though I was there.

Second Place

WMAR-TV, Baltimore

Kristi Harper

"Hungry for Rain"

Strong story telling; loved how you kept up with the machinery and action. Very well done.

Best Producer

First Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Kane Farabaugh

"The Life and Legacy of Jimmy Carter"

Compelling program that was well paced, interesting and informative. I really enjoyed how the program flowed and how it featured Kane's unique connection with the former president.

Outstanding Public Affairs

First Place

WRC-TV, Washington

"4 More Context"

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

"The First: Supreme Court Justice

Ketanji Brown Jackson"





Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Lorenzo Hall, Ruth Morton and
Nicholas Rhule
"The Other Washington"

Excellent reporting, story selection and presentation. With some minor tweaks these stories could absolutely be on a network.

Second Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Yao Yu, Yuyang Ren, Monica Xu and
Elizabeth Lee
"Chinese Migration Through the U.S.
Backdoor"

Excellent access and element. A story I haven't seen anywhere else, bringing the viewers a unique angle of a larger national story. Very well done.

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Scott Taylor, Kimi Fleming and Jacob
Fisher
"DC Mayor's Secret \$105K Middle
East Trip"

Terrific accountability. Important watchdog reporting. Way to keep digging for answers.

Second Place

WRC-TV, Washington

"Battling for Benefits"

An important story. The reporter's persistence and in-depth reporting will help firefighters in the future.

Outstanding Documentary/In-Depth Reporting

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Simone De Alba, Stephanie Wilson
and Ruth Morton
"DMV: The Bradford Bishop Murders"

Great story. Good use of experts from 50 years ago familiar with the case. Good use of archival photos and video.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WRC-TV, Washington

Teneille Gibson and Dominique

Moody

"Lakeland"

Great storytelling and characters. Took us to a time and place most viewers know nothing about. Very informative.

Best Enterprise Reporting

First Place

WJZ-TV, Baltimore

Cory Sellgren and Tara Lynch

"The Economic Engine Beneath the Bay"

Excellent opening shot, writing and structure.

Second Place

WMAR-TV, Baltimore

Mallory Sofastaii and Chris Verri

"When Disaster Dollars Miss the Mark"

Important story told efficiently, packed with information, under six minutes.

Outstanding Sports Feature

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Sean Martinelli and Tom Kopania

"The Heart of It: Washington Hockey Club"





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Outstanding Serious Feature

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Sean Martinelli, Tom Kopania and
Ruth Morton

"The Heart of It: The Legacy of Calvin
Steve"

Pulled into the story through use of nats, sots, and compelling
shots.

Second Place

WBFF-TV, Baltimore

Project Baltimore

"The Legacy"

Great use of nats/pacing.

Best Meteorologist or Weathercaster

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

"Boom or Bust? How Much Snow to
Expect in the DMV"

Best Multimedia Journalist

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Jay Korff

"Old-Man, One-Man Band Back in the
Saddle"

Second Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Kane Farabaugh





Outstanding Light Feature

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Jay Korff and Kimi Fleming

"Not All Poets Can Speak"

Compelling nats, shots, editing.

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Sean Martinelli and Ruth Morton

"The Heart of It: Forgetful Friends"

Best Reporter

First Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Sean Martinelli

Second Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Kane Farabaugh

Outstanding Website

First Place

WRC-TV, Washington

Very informative content. Good subsections and live updates.

Second Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Website filled with up-to-the-minute information. A good community resource.





Outstanding Morning Newscast

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Very strong newscast. Modern look and feel. Moves at a nice pace without shortchanging any stories. Nice presentation from all reporters and anchors.

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Nice newscast, filled with coverage relevant to local community.

Outstanding Late Newscast

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Great overall coverage, pacing.

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Outstanding Weekend Newscast

First Place

WRC-TV, Washington

Good anchoring, good reporting. Great follow-through on the story of the week. A very professional team.

Second Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

"Alex Ovechkin Breaks NHL Scoring Record"

Good integration between the sports and news team. Excellent planning went into this comprehensive coverage.

Outstanding Election Night Coverage

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Princess Harrell

"Beyond the Podium: Election 2025"

The showcasing is what made this entry stand out. The pacing was solid as the station covered each race and tossed to reporters in the field. But it was particularly interesting to watch how graphics and movement in the studio kept the updates interesting and not look so repetitive.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WRC-TV, Washington

"Election Night"

Really strong coverage starting with the special open. I particularly liked how the third in-studio anchor covered more than just a quick look at different races and gave context to the exit polling questions and the context of Spanberger's win in Spotsylvania County.

Outstanding Political Coverage

First Place

WRC-TV, Washington

"Who's Behind Those Ads?"

Good explainer about unusual ads. Great job Looking for answers and, instead, coming away with even more questions.

Second Place

Voice of America-TV, Washington

Carolyn Presutti

"The Trump White House"

Nice deep dive into the incoming administration.

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Scott Thuman

The field anchoring and studio presence helped make Scott's entry standout. He has confidence that makes you lean in closer as you learn about the news unfolding.

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

Lorenzo Hall

Lorenzo has great versatility in his presentation. He brings energy while out in the field with the fans or interacting with his colleagues as he solo'd in front of the old RFK Stadium. He also provides a clear, confident presence on the desk, adding context to the events unfolding and interacting with reporters in the field by asking the camera to adjust to give an extra look at the destruction.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

WJZ-TV, Baltimore

Alex Glaze

Second Place

WUSA 9, Washington

John Doran

Outstanding News Operation

First Place

WJLA-TV, Washington

Jon Brady

Good pacing, elements.

Second Place

WBAL-TV, Baltimore

TV II/Small Market:

Outstanding Spot News Reporting

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Maegan Summers

"Search for Missing Princess Anne

Waterman Continues"

Nice use of quiet nats, more nats throughout, nicely shot interviews, strong voice work, good writing.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Kristina DeRobertis, Olivia Armstrong

and Madeleine Overturf

"Perdue Hazmat"





Outstanding Coverage of a Continuing Story

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Ron Krisulevicz, Hunter Landon and
Kyle Orens
"Offshore Wind"

Comprehensive, nicely produced, slick editing, thorough examination of controversy.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Emma Aken and Matthew Hipsman
"Lewes Fire Department Scandal"

Outstanding News Series

First Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Tierra Williams and Jordie Clark
"Black History Month 2025"

The series worked well showcasing an important and relevant part of the community. The individual stories were cohesive and kept the viewer engaged.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Jake Grant and Kolby Redden
"Discover Delmarva"

Best Television Photography

First Place

Delmarva Sports Network, Salisbury, Md.

Jack Kyritsis , Ben Membrino and Tre Beckett

This entry showcases a wide range of cinematography techniques. Each shot has an emotional energy that draws the viewer into the story.

Second Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Maegan Summers
"Duck Decoy Carving"





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Best Producer

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Olivia Armstrong

Slick headlines, nice use of letter by anchor, useful graphics, very strong comprehensive coverage of state lawmaker resignation, great recap of context, great journalism, interesting choice to speak directly to lawmaker; strong attention to detail into the b block.

Second Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Colby Moore

Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Hunter Landon

"Political Reporting"

The reporter demonstrated his skills in the political space, and he was sharp and prepared for tough questions with officials.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Ana Sofia Roman

"Immigration"

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Leila Weah and Mike Lawrence

"Trail to the Truth Series"

A very interesting series that clearly took time to dive into, including earning the families' trust to share their stories.





Outstanding Documentary/In-Depth Reporting

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Bill Mich

"Unbridled Tradition: The 100th
Chincoteague Pony Penning"

Engaging and beautifully shot. The editing and use of natural sound make this documentary a compelling watch.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Tierra Williams

"2020 Recap: Black Lives Matter vs.
Blue Lives Matter"

Interesting subject matter and interviews. It kept my attention.

Best Enterprise Reporting

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Ana Sofia Roman and Ted Corriero

"Perdue Hazmat Worker Speaks Out"

This story had a bigger impact in the community than the other entries. The reporter did a great job trying to find answers for the community.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Brian Roche

"Cambridge Mother Speaks Out on
Assault by Students"

Outstanding Sports Feature

First Place

**Delmarva Sports Network, Salisbury,
Md.**

Jack Kyritsis and Tim Nolan

"The Right Glove: Bobbie Smith's
Game-Changing Adjustment"

A great story showing determination and adaptability of a player who isn't letting her disability damper her talent.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Chris Brunk

"After the Whistle: Del Tech's Philip LoMedico"

Outstanding Serious Feature

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Matt Pencek and Ted Corriero

"50 Years Since Vietnam"

A tapestry of voices that can recount the Vietnam War, its horrors, and legacy. Emotional soundbites and strong storytelling.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Han Cechini and Mike Lawrence

"103-Year-Old WWII Veteran Recounts, Reflects on 80th Anniversary of Atomic Bombs"

Great first-person account of World War II. Strong editing with supplemental footage to tell this story.

Best Meteorologist or Weathercaster

First Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Rich Wirdzek

Great explanation of the Hurricane Erin forecast. Clear, concise, and you also focused on impacts.

Second Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Mike Lichniak

Clear forecast on a winter weather scenario unfolding across your market. You explained why some locations will receive more snow than others and timed it out.

Best Multimedia Journalist

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Emma Aken

Great nat pops, stand-ups and interviews.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Brandon Ferguson

This was a close second. Great use of nats and different interviews through the pkgs!





Outstanding Light Feature

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Madeleine Overturf, Ted Corriero and
Brandon Ferguson
"Chincoteague Pony Swim"

This story shows the rich tradition of the pony swim while highlighting stories within the story. Well shot, great writing.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Kristina DeRobertis and Ted Corriero
"Senator Tom Carper Bids Farewell"

Great tribute to a politician. Memorable soundbites, strong editing and storytelling.

Best Reporter

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Brandon Ferguson

Brandon's videography and storytelling are strong and creative, keeping the viewer engaged and utilizing new tools to break away from traditional news.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Emma Aken

Outstanding Year-Round Local Sports

First Place

Delmarva Sports Network, Salisbury, Md.

Kayla Santiago and Bill Vernon

The opening shot for the high school basketball tournament was very creative. I enjoyed the different variety of sports coverage too.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Chris Brunk

"After the Whistle"

This series is great for local sports. Any sports anchor/reporter can call a game, but to be a great one you have to be able to tell stories of the athletes!





Outstanding Website

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Torie Seagraves and Zoe Stayman

Second Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Sean Curtis

Outstanding Morning Newscast

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Alyssa Baker, Matt Pencek and Grace Eckerle

Great energy from the news team and meteorologist. The pacing of the show kept things engaging for the viewer. The show included a nice mix of hard and light stories.

Second Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Bees Beesley

Nice conversational delivery by the news team. Newscast stories were well written.

Outstanding Late Newscast

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Jana Ruark and Ron Krisulevicz

Great job showcasing team coverage for the weather event. The newscast was informative, and the pacing was excellent throughout the show.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Madeleine Overturf, Charlie Sokaitis and Paul Williams





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Outstanding Weekend Newscast

First Place

WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Stella Guzik

The stacking of the A block is great with comprehensive coverage of the weather event.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Madeleine Overturf, Owen Lipka and
Brandon Ferguson

This is very good with informative live coverage at the top of the show with a very engaging forecast.

Outstanding Political Coverage

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Madeleine Overturf, Ted Corriero and
Torie Seagraves
"Where Is Stell Parker Selby?"

The coverage is comprehensive and very informative.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Andrea Duran
"Soybean Farmers Hold Hope China
Will Buy"

Great reporter stand up and information for the viewers.

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

Madeleine Overturf

Madeleine has a conversational delivery that draws the viewer in. Her versatility and ability to connect using multiple platforms is impressive.

Second Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

John Trout





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

Delmarva Sports Network, Salisbury, Md.

Kayla Santiago

A great presentation, nice energy without trying too hard.

Second Place

Delmarva Sports Network, Salisbury, Md.

Darron Wallace

Nice presence -- approachable and knowledgeable.

Outstanding News Operation

First Place

WMDT-TV, Salisbury, Md.

Joe Carmean and Stephanie Willey

The effort this station has undergone to reinvent and reinvigorate itself is evident. Congratulations to all the hard work by the news team, from top to bottom.

Second Place

WRDE-TV, Milton, Del.

John Dearing, Madeleine Overturf
and Torie Seagraves





Radio I/Metro:

Outstanding Spot News Reporting

First Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

Robert Lang, Phil Yacuboski and Mary Anne Perry
"5-Alarm Fire in Remington"

Appreciate hearing from a resident (the business owner) instead of an official to help describe the scene. Hearing from her within the first 30 seconds of the story really helped to hook me in. Also, hearing the helicopters and other nat sound in the background, along with the descriptions of the smells and colors, helped me visualize the scene. I felt like I was standing right there having that conversation with them. In addition, appreciated how the story crossed topics from news to traffic.

Second Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

"Potomac Plane Crash"

Outstanding Coverage of a Continuing Story

First Place

WAMU-FM, Washington

"The Aftermath of the Midair Plane and Helicopter Collision in D.C."

Informational but calm and empathetic delivery.

Second Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Scott Maucione
"Mass Overdoses in Baltimore as the City Strives for Change"

Outstanding News Series

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

JJ Green
"National Insecurity"

Loved the use of nat sound in the series! Arrangement of script and sound bites, along with delivery, kept me hooked until the end of each report.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

Bloomberg 99.1, Washington

Justin Milliner

"Today in Black History"

Outstanding Use of Sound

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Scott Maucione

"Maryland School's Haunted
Collection Contains Spooky Sounds
and Interviews"

This was a neat way to experience the parapsychology collection without having to visit the library. The use of music as a transition and use of archival interviews was a great use of sound and really put the listener in the room. I also enjoyed the history element to this piece.

Second Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Wambui Kamau

"Kenyan Cookout in Baltimore County
Draws Crowd Amid U.S. Immigration
Fears"

I enjoyed the wide range of interviews woven between the facts.

Outstanding Talk Show

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Tom Hall, Sam Bermas-Dawes and
Rob Sivak

"Maryland Is Seeing a Spike in Scams
Online and Over the Phone. What
Can You Do About It?"

Loved how you told me what I was going to learn and then actually delivered.

Second Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

Clarence Mitchell IV, Bryan Nehman
and Zach Tinney





Outstanding Editorial or Commentary

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Del Walters

"Here We Go... Again"

Nice observations and ponderings of a news reporter; this is how news commentary should be done.

Second Place

WEAA-FM, Baltimore

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Justina

Pollard and Andre Melton

"Democracy Is Fragile: Understanding

How 'We the People' Is Becoming

'They the People'"

Thought provoking, strong explainer of the country's fragile democracy.

Outstanding Public Affairs

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Ashley Sterner and Melissa Gerr

"Amtrak's Frederick Douglass Tunnel

Impacts in West Baltimore"

Interesting dive into a project that has broad impact on residents. Nice hearing from a property owner (strong sense of place); glad to hear from an Amtrak rep.

Second Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Tom Hall, Sam Bermas-Dawes and

Teria Rogers

"What's the Future for Local

Journalism?"

Lots of strong voices on a pivotal topic.





Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Scott Maucione

"Baltimore Has a Huge Opportunity With Opioid Care in 2026, the Test Has Begun"

You can tell that Scott Maucione is the health reporter. He is able to bring in the facts and must-know tidbits into his feature with ease. The writing style carried this story forward in a way that was authentic and sparked curiosity about what is being done to address opioid overdose deaths.

Second Place

WEAA-FM, Baltimore

Blair Dyer

"Breaking the Cycle: Race, Stroke and the Power of Healing"

Outstanding Documentary/In-Depth Reporting

First Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

"State of Addiction"

Best Enterprise Reporting

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

Wambui Kamau

"A School Trains Women in Baltimore to Rebuild the Blocks — and the System"

Strong enterprise story about a local opportunity to help women and solve a housing problem; great example of how we are surrounded by story ideas that can benefit from a deep dive.





Outstanding Sports Feature

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Ben Raby

"The Great 8!"

This feature was engaging and a great way to look back at the Great 8. I enjoyed the use of archival sound and reports to bring the listener up to speed.

Second Place

WEAA-FM, Baltimore

Jai Shields

"Sleepy John"

Outstanding Serious Feature

First Place

WAMU-FM, Washington

Justin O'Neill and Ingalisa

Schrobsdorff

"How D.C.'s History Leaves Home

Rule Vulnerable to Federal

Interference"

The past will always inform the present. This was a great deep-dive into D.C.'s history. What set this story apart was the deep research and curiosity which really shined in the storytelling.

Second Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

John Lee

"Anne Arundel's Historic Belvoir

Manor, Rooted in Enslaved Lives, at

Risk of Being Lost"





Outstanding Light Feature

First Place

WAMU-FM, Washington

Jackson Sinnenberg and Justin O'Neill
"Adams Morgan's Smash Records
Celebrates 40 Years of Being a
Communal Hub for D.C. Punk Scene"

This is how it's done: descriptive writing, good history, strong sense of place, excellent use of sound, strong web story. This audio story is perfect for any news team listening session.

Second Place

WAMU-FM, Washington

Esther Ciammachilli, Tyrone Turner
and Ingalisa Schrobsdorff
"How a Neon-Clad Exercise Group
Became a Community of Support and
Empowerment"

Excellent enterprise story, good nats and sense of place, descriptive writing; a humorous and touching listen.

Best Reporter

First Place

WYPR-FM, Baltimore

John Lee

John Lee's reporting informs Baltimore County listeners on what is happening where they live. To be the best reporter means to tell stories that often aren't the most exciting but that leave listeners and readers with what they need to know to make informed decisions. I enjoyed the wide range of stories and explanations. Lee did a great job breaking down what is going on in a way that was digestible.

Second Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Matt Kaufax

Matt Kaufax's stories are energetic with fast-paced and engaging writing. I enjoyed being able to feel like I was on the scene with Kaufax and enjoyed listening to him ask questions. I could picture the story in my head and his voice wasn't taking away from what the story is about.





Outstanding Website

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

I love the variety the homepage gives, from the mix of media to the mix of topics featured. Layout is very user friendly! The use of the color boxes to highlight videos and podcasts help pop them out to the user. Fantastic!

Second Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

John Laur, Will Carter and Robert Sobus

Loved the use of mixed media in the web stories.

Outstanding Newscast

First Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Sound quality was superb between anchors, sound bites, and reporters. Great mix of story types between cuts, wraps, and copy. And loved the variety of topics covered, kept me interested.

Second Place

Bloomberg 99.1, Washington

Nathan Hager, Lisa Mateo and Michael Barr

Loved the transitions in between stories.

Outstanding Political Coverage

First Place

WAMU-FM, Washington

Alex Koma and Ingalisa Schrobsdorff
"D.C. Grapples With Trump Administration Takeover"

Alex Koma's series really took a serious look at how D.C. was dealing with the Trump takeover. What set this entry apart was that this was a topic that was followed for a couple of months and it did a phenomenal job explaining what was going on and featured experts and residents who really contextualized what was happening and what real people were dealing with.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WEAA-FM, Baltimore

Justina Pollard, Karsonya Wise
Whitehead and Andre Melton
"A Moment of Political Cognitive
Dissonance with Anti-Race Author
and Activist Tim Wise"

Best Radio News Anchor

First Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

Robert Lang

Strong delivery; solid on live interviews and breaking news.

Second Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

John Domen

Strong conversational delivery; relatable.

Outstanding News Operation

First Place

WBAL-AM, Baltimore

Strong delivery of information on air and online, and excellent breaking news coverage. Local resident voices have an impact, and WBAL takes us there. Nice job following up on the overdose story with deep layers of coverage.

Second Place

WTOP-FM, Washington

Strong coverage of breaking news.





Radio II/Non-Metro:

Outstanding Spot News Reporting

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.
"State Trooper Gunned Down"

Great live coverage from the scene. Continued live coverage of the press conference and statements by governor. Really good work by Mike Phillips!

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.
Kevin Diaz
"Reconnecting Communities' Grants
Fall to Trump Budget Cuts"

Very strong coverage of the situation affecting the safety of residents in the community. Great job!

Outstanding Coverage of a Continuing Story

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.
"State Trooper Gunned Down"

Rock-solid coverage of a breaking news situation and its aftermath. The reporting team didn't get ahead of the story but reported as facts became known and followed along as the story evolved.

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.
Kevin Diaz
"Deportation on Delmarva"

Great very human coverage of the impacts of the immigration crackdown. The interview with girl whose parents were deported was heartbreaking and must-listen work.

Outstanding News Series

First Place

Radio Chesapeake, Cambridge, Md.
Jim Brady
"Cambridge Harbor Controversy"

This reporting kept the community informed about a project that will shape its future for years to come. Through clear, steady coverage of complicated decisions and public money, this reporter made sure the community understood what was happening and why it mattered.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Don Rush

"Trump Immigration Raids Spark Fear in the Undocumented Community"

These stories gave voice to families facing uncertainty and difficult decisions, showing the real human impact of national policy on a local community. Thoughtful, compassionate reporting that helped listeners understand their neighbors' experiences.

Outstanding Use of Sound

First Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Martin Matheny

"Wilmington Children's Chorus Joins German Youth Orchestra for Saturday Concert"

This reporter brought NATS of instruments, a choir, and a conductor seamlessly together for an immersive experience. The sound was strategically placed to help tell the story. Well done!

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Kevin Diaz

"Mixing Food and Politics: Behind the Scenes at the Annual Tawes Crab and Clam Bake"

The reporter brought NATS from several different types of music and voices.

Outstanding Talk Show

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Rick Jensen

Great pieces—each with its own strengths and unique qualities. One felt very personal, like it was speaking directly to a single listener. The other included several engaging segments. Well done!





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Tom Byrne, Paige Murray-Bessler and

Shirley Min

"Ask Gov. Meyer"

Outstanding Editorial or Commentary

First Place

Radio Chesapeake, Cambridge, Md.

Dr. Kerry Forrestal

"ASD - What Is True, What Is Bunk,
About Autism"

A very thorough "truth-squadding" of federal policy and comments based in sound science, with some humor thrown in. A critical contribution to public dialogue.

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Rick Jensen

"Fraud Scandal"

The commentator makes a clear, forceful argument using language we can all understand.

Outstanding Public Affairs

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

"Feed a Friend"

"Anytime there's a spotlight and a microphone put on food insecurity, we see people come to us who might not have known about us before." That quote captures the true impact of this project. This station took initiative, the project needed extensive planning, and clearly promoted the public welfare.

Second Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Sarah Petrowich

"Delaware's High Hopes - Marijuana
Legalization in the First State"

Series carried comprehensive coverage of the process of a sometimes contentious topic. The information, no doubt, helped to ensure the public was well informed.





Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Stephen Philip Harvey
"Off the Record"

The host is very knowledgeable and shows a passion for his subject. The four-minute feature is a great format for this. I'd like to tune in regularly!

Second Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Martin Matheny
"The Arts"

The host uses solid writing and presence to take us inside the art exhibits he profiles. I like the way he expands the scope of the exhibit with his guest.

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

Radio Chesapeake, Cambridge, Md.

Jim Brady
"Cambridge Harbor Planning Raises Doubts"

Very thorough investigation of a public entity, with documents to back it up and good tape from officials.

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Kevin Diaz and Don Rush
"Former Salisbury Council President on Why He Quit"

Solid reporting looking deeper into the actions of a local official.





Outstanding Documentary/In-Depth Reporting

First Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Sarah Petrowich

"Federal SNAP Changes Are Imminent. Here's What That Means for Food Access and Delaware's Budget Crunch"

The reporter did a good job delivering lots of information. This story has a good mix of factual reporting along with the impacts of these actions. The reporter went from federal, state, to community in a productive way.

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Bryan Russo

"Hospitality Bites: Exploring the Dramatic Rise in Mental Health Issues in the Hospitality Industry"

The segment provides solution-based reporting about an ongoing challenge for these workers. I appreciate hearing from a person who not only lived it, but is now channeling this energy in a healthy way.

Best Enterprise Reporting

First Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Kevin Diaz

"ICE Sparks Fear and Uncertainty in Delmarva's Immigrant Community"

Important first-person stories that illustrate the local impacts of controversial federal policy. The interview with the Mexican girl was especially heartbreaking.

Second Place

Radio Chesapeake, Cambridge, Md.

Jim Brady

"CWDI Falsified Frank Narr Appointment Status"

This story effectively combines a first-person story with important public service information about a critical community problem.





Outstanding Sports Feature

First Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Jenny O'Connor

"Salisbury University Brings Back the Marching Band to Amp up Fan's Experience"

Really good coverage of the story focusing on the return of the band. Great sound bytes added to the excitement of the band's return after 40 years. Well done reporting!

Outstanding Serious Feature

First Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Kevin Diaz

"Delmarva's Food Pantries Overwhelmed as Thanksgiving Approaches"

Great coverage and sound bites concerning the distribution of food items for the Thanksgiving holiday. Good job!

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Mark Fowser

"New Beginnings"

Really good story and coverage on the opportunity to work for those who are incarcerated.

Outstanding Light Feature

First Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Brian Shane and Bryan Russo

"Snow Hill Celebrates 25 Years of 'Blessings'"

Great description and use of sound take me there. Strong verbs to convey the action keep the pacing up. Nice ending, with character and emotion.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Sean Greene

"Rock On - A Different High School Band"

Loved the many voices of the young people and their mentors talking about their passion.

Best Reporter

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Mark Fowser

Fowser does a good job sharing voices from the community and using sound to tell a variety of stories. The reporter's work provides deep coverage with emotional sound bites, with good writing. Fowser keeps listeners informed and connected to their community, bringing important moments to the audience with sound that really helps to bring the stories alive.

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Mike Phillips

Phillips shares important information with flawless live radio reporting, a skill that requires quick thinking, clear writing, and confident delivery.

Outstanding Year-Round Local Sports

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Sean Greene

Great sports coverage with special features and play-by-play. Really good job!

Outstanding Website

First Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Tom Byrne

Easy to navigate and engaging, thanks to its use of color and quick access to stories.

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.





Outstanding Newscast

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

This newscast really made me feel like I was caught up on the day's news so far. There was a good variety of information that seems helpful for listeners as they start their day.

Second Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Joe Irizarry

Thank you for covering the latest on PFAS. It's such an important topic.

Outstanding Weekend Newscast

First Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Tom Byrne

Good, strong news story. The edits are clear, and the pacing works well.

Outstanding Political Coverage

First Place

Delaware Public Media, Dover, Del.

Sarah Petrowich

"Port of Wilmington Board

Controversy"

Really good delivery of information during the continuing coverage of the port nomination issue. Great job!

Best Radio News Anchor

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Chris Carl

Good delivery and timing with energy. Nice transition from sports scores to a serious officer shooting. Good job making sure listeners could hear the correct information, even if it's on the fly.

Second Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Peter MacArthur

I appreciate the writing, clarity, and appropriate energy for a morning show. Thank you for easing us into the day.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Outstanding News Operation

First Place

WDEL-FM/AM, Wilmington, Del.

Great coverage of the news team on both live and featured stories. Well done and very informative to the listener.

Second Place

Delmarva Public Media, Salisbury, Md.

Don Rush and Bryan Russo

College TV:

Outstanding General News

First Place

Capital News Service, College Park, Md.

Eddy Calkins

"Key Bridge Findings"

Great Job. Good use of file footage and area maps. I loved the interactive standup with the terminal block.

Second Place

Capital News Service, College Park, Md.

Eddy Calkins

"FBI HQ Lawsuit"

Good job getting the info and telling the story.

Outstanding Feature

First Place

Capital News Service, College Park, Md.

Ben Wolf

"Thermopact Mouthguard"

A really good interactive standup with the mouthguard. Good use of video and graphics. Interview lighting looked great.





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Second Place

**Capital News Service, College Park,
Md.**

Eddy Calkins

"Local Jeopardy! Winner"

The interview looked good, and I liked using the blue screen at the beginning.

Outstanding Sports Reporting

First Place

**Capital News Service, College Park,
Md.**

Zion Williams

"Open Goal Project"

Good use of nats. B-Roll video looked good as well.

Second Place

**Capital News Service, College Park,
Md.**

Andrew McBride

"Backfield Brothers"

Good use of pictures to show their friendship.

Outstanding College Newscast

First Place

**Capital News Service, College Park,
Md.**

Good solid newscast. It looked like a big-time news organization with look-lives and live in the studio.





College Radio:

Outstanding General News

First Place

DPM's Student Productions on WSDL

Sydney Rutledge-Smith and Bryan Russo

"Maryland Governor Says HBCUs 'More Important Than Ever Before'"

Good, strong newscast with engaging soundbites and energy. Excellent work.

Second Place

DPM's Student Productions on WSDL

Sydney Rutledge-Smith and Bryan Russo

"UMES Could Feel the Shock of Trump's DEI Orders"

Great job on this newscast. The segments are strong. Great work!

Outstanding Feature

First Place

DPM's Student Productions on WSDL

Colin Bright and Bryan Russo
"Worcester County Family Gets the Home of Their Dreams"

Both winners were highly engaging. One stood out for its stronger emotional appeal, while the other effectively highlighted an everyday flower with surprising health benefits. They were excellent stories from start to finish.

Second Place

DPM's Student Productions on WSDL

Lauren Imhof and Bryan Russo
"Conservation Conversations: Do Dandelions Have Healing Powers?"





CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Winners and Judges' Comments

Outstanding College Newscast

First Place

**DPM's Student Productions on
WSDL**

Tyler Hale, Jada Skye Brown and
Keema Jones

"The Five Minute Fly-By"

Part 1: A very solid newscast. The introduction is clear, and the narration and segments are strong, with consistent audio levels throughout.

Part 2: A solid piece overall, with excellent pronunciation of the Latin terms.

Part 3: Great job on this newscast. A solid and engaging news segment.

