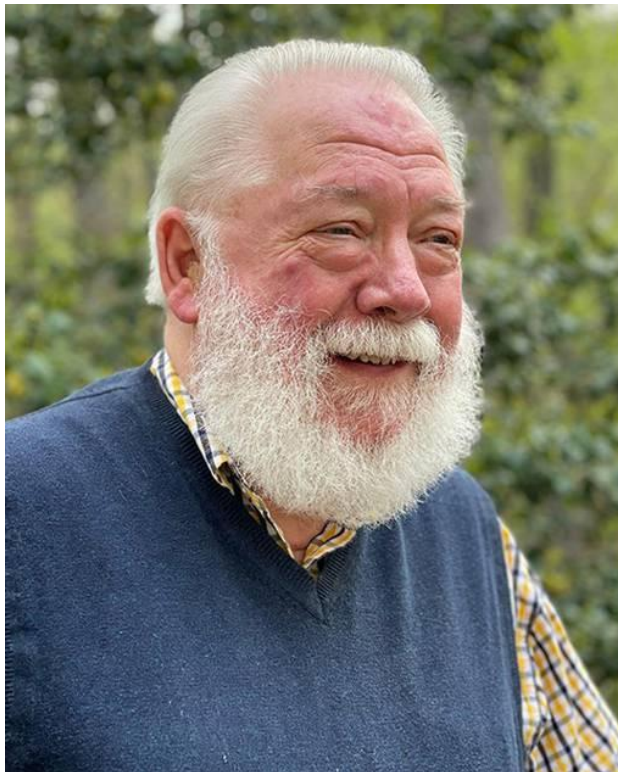


THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE

# Gazette writers receive first-place awards in state contest

By Staff reports  
Virginia Gazette  
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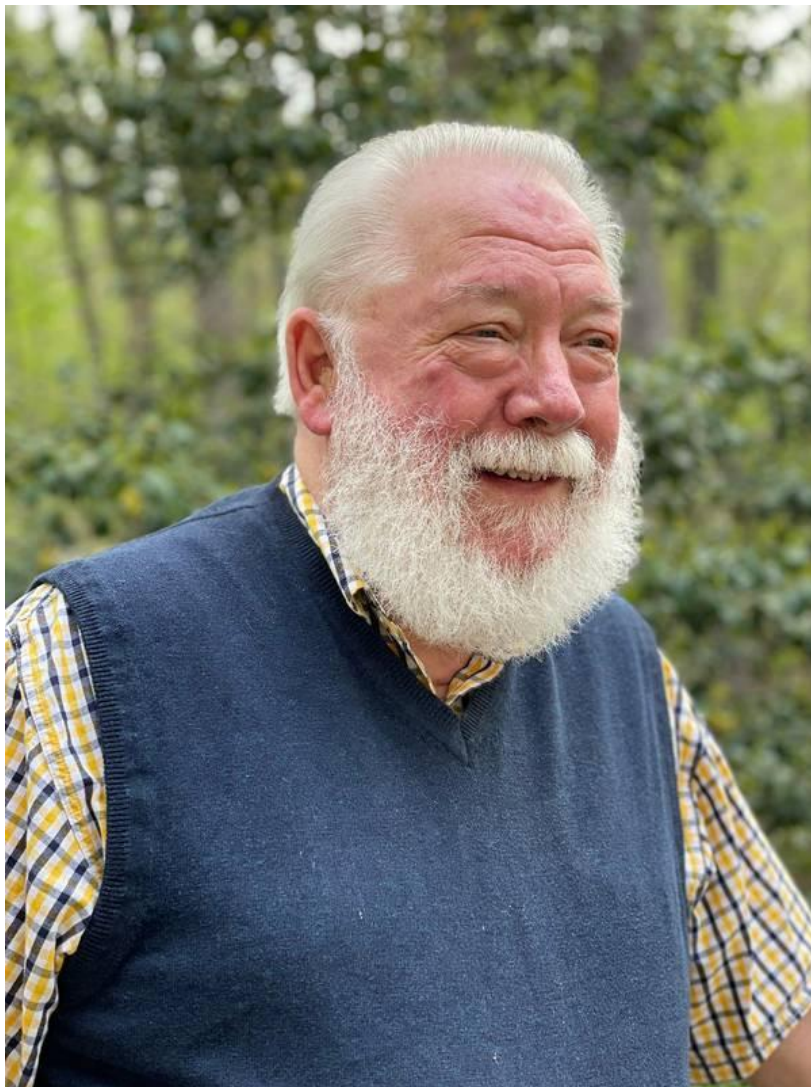


Virginia Gazette writers Wilford Kale and Laura Hill won first-place awards Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the annual Virginia Press Association news and advertising contest.

Virginia Gazette writers Wilford Kale and Laura D. Hill won first-place awards Saturday at the annual Virginia Press Association news and advertising contest.

Kale, who has been a correspondent for The Virginia Gazette since 2020, won for critical writing for his monthly book column, Kale on Books, which

primarily focuses on Virginia writers and stories. His column also runs in the Rappahannock Record in Kilmarnock and occasionally in the Smithfield Times, Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal and the Tidewater Review.





Laura D. Hill

Hill won a first-place award for her column, *Building a Bigger Table*, which she began writing in April 2022. She is the founder and director of *Coming to the Table-Historic Triangle*, a program of the Virginia Racial Healing Institute.

It offers programs that invite people to “come to the table” and work together to help heal wounds caused by stoking fears and racial divisions.

Hill said she started her column “to create space for more voices and issues impacting the Historic Triangle region today.”

In the VPA contest, *The Virginia Gazette* competes against other nondaily newspapers of similar circulation sizes across the state. The twice-weekly paper is part of Virginia Media, which includes *The Virginian-Pilot*, *Daily*

Press, Inside Business and the Tidewater Review. In total, Virginia Media papers won 27 awards on Saturday.

“Wilford and Laura are both so deserving of this recognition,” said Kim O’Brien Root, editor of The Virginia Gazette and Tidewater Review. “Both enrich the newspaper with their writing, and I’m proud of the stories they share with the community.”