31st Annual NorCal RTNDA NEWS AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the winners in the 31st Annual Northern California RTNDA (Radio-Television News Directors Association) News Awards. Plaques are awarded to television and radio newsrooms in Northern California and Reno. Program and website categories were separated into divisions, Larger Markets (1 to 30) and Smaller Markets (31 and higher). All other categories are grouped by Television and Radio. The entry period was from July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012. The entries were judged by news managers from around the country. 118 entries were received from 18 stations.

Radio News Broadcast over 15 minutes went to KGO 810 News/Information for “The KGO 5pm News” and Under 15 minutes to KQED Public Radio’s “California Report.” There were no entries in 60 minute or 30 minute Television News Broadcasts this year.

All Winners were from larger market stations. KQED Public Radio received six awards including Website. KNTV NBC Bay Area and KPIX CBS 5 each received four awards. KCBS All News and KTVU Channel 2 each received three. Double winners went to KFBK NewsTalk, KGO 810 News/Information and KCRA 3. Individual winners included: KOVR CBS 13, KQED 9, and KUVS Univision 19. KQED Public Radio also received the News Website award.

Due to the late judging we are unable to schedule an awards dinner this year. Plaques will be mailed to the winners.

The complete list of winners follows:

TELEVISION DIVISION AWARDS (Larger Markets)

Breaking News

KTVU Channel 2, “Occupy Oakland,” KTVU Channel 2 News Staff

Judges Comments: Compelling TV. I felt like I was there and I wanted to keep watching. Excellent visuals, great use of the chopper, and a nice combination of breaking info with background footage. Well done!

Special News Program

KCRA 3, “Taste of Tragedy,” Carolyn Becker, Producer; Edie Lambert, Anchor; Richard Sharp, Anchor/Reporter; Mike Carroll, Photographer; Mike Rhinehart, Photographer/Editor

Judges Comments: A clear winner. This special report grabbed my interest right away and held it. It tells a compelling story and is very well produced. Well done!
Public Affairs Program
KUVS Univision 19, “Voz Y Voto (Prison Realignment),” Antonio Martínez, Producer; Santiago Lucero, Reporter; Christian Anguiano, Miguel Cano, Photographer/Editors

Judges Comments: The entry gives the viewer an incredible experience behind prison walls. The entry is informative, well-produced and very compelling. It is an example of what television does best: use emotional stories to educate and inform.

Sports Program/Special
KCRA 3, “Road to the Championship,” James Stimson, Executive Producer; Joshua Hubbard, Producer; Kellie MacMullan, Chris Riva, Del Rodgers, Anchor/Reporters; Randy Forsman, Director

Judges Comments: Nice job of covering a national story for a local audience. “Road to the Championship” gives a good overview of Superbowl week leading up to the big game.

TELEVISION AWARDS (All Markets)

Investigative Reporting
KPIX CBS 5, “THE CANDY KIDS,” Abby Sterling, Producer; Linda Yee, Grace Lee, Reporters; Brian Yuen, Photographer; Arthur Pines, Editor

Judges Comments: "The Candy Kids" by KPIX 5 is a tremendous example of excellent investigative journalism. The report was thorough and fair and pointed to a pattern of potential abuse, fraud and wasted tax dollars. The team documented the lack of controls by government and a frustrating sense that nothing could be done. The journalists used personal examples to keep the report compelling. Great work!"

Multi-Part Series
KPIX CBS 5, “Hunger Challenge...Living on Food Stamps Budget for a Week,” Juliette Goodrich, Reporter

Judges Comments: An eye opening series of reports detailing the problems faced by thousands of Bay Area residents trying to feed themselves and their families on not a lot of money.

News Reporting
KTVU Channel 2, “Neglected Horses,” Rita Williams, Reporter; Rich Flores, Jacy Lockhart, Jacob Unger, Photographers; Libby Francom, Anne Fruit, John Klossner, Editors; Daniel Radovich, Assignment Researcher

Judges Comments: An excellent example of a veteran reporter's refusal to take "No" for an answer and pursuing all avenues to get the story.

Feature Reporting-Serious
KPIX CBS 5, “Shattered Assets,” Abby Sterling, Producer; Elizabeth Cook, Reporter; Brian Yuen, Photographer; Mary Janczura, Editor


Feature Reporting-Light
KQED-TV, “International Orange,” Lori Halloran, Producer; Scott Shafer, Reporter; Blake McHugh, Rick Santangelo, Photographers; Gail Huddleson, Editor


Specialty Reporting
KOVR CBS 13, “Call Kurtis Investigates,” Brei Baar, Matt Schrader, Producers; Kurtis Ming, Reporter; Kenny Holmes, Chris Paxton, Photographers

Judges Comments: A well produced series of reports on a variety of cases where one element of society does its best to victimize another.
Sports-Segment/Feature
KTVU Channel 2, “Conte is Back,” Rita Williams, Reporter; Cristina Gastelu, Producer; Tony Hodrick, Photographer; Dina Munsch, Editor
Judges Comments: Good retrospective on Victor Conte’s steroid background and what he is up to today.

Weather-Segment/Story
Judges Comments: Easy to watch and understand. Good use of maps and support for the weather forecast and other elements. Nice explanation of the fire and smoke plumes, as well as the Tsunami Watch that was posted.

Traffic-Segment
KNTV NBC BAY AREA, “Mike Inouye-Trafficky Stuff,” Mike Inouye, Traffic Anchor
Judges Comments: A series of well done and informative traffic reports. Clear and easy to understand for the viewer.

Video Journalist/Multi-Media Journalist
KNTV NBC BAY AREA, “Mike Anderson MMJ Composite,” Mike Anderson, Multi-Media Journalist
Judges Comments: Excellent visual storytelling!

Use of Sound
KNTV NBC BAY AREA, “Mike Anderson Sound Composite,” Mike Anderson, Audio Engineer
Judges Comments: Sound was used as an accent and to reinforce story. Well done!

Video Editing
KNTV NBC BAY AREA, “Mike Anderson Editing Composite,” Mike Anderson, Editor
Judges Comments: What do Cemeteries, Ship loading Cranes and a Lighthouse have in common? Good editing! Three interesting stories with some nice editing.

RADIO DIVISION AWARDS (Larger Markets)

News Broadcast-Over 15 minutes
Judges Comments: Grabs you right out of the box. Compelling live coverage greatly enhanced with Brett Burkhart anchoring live in the field. Round robin on the ground tossed to the air was a nice touch. Passionate and engaged reporting. Painted a good word picture of what was going on. Lots of energy and urgency.

News Broadcast-Under 15 minutes
KQED Public Radio, “The California Report,” Rachael Myrow, Host; Ingrid Becker, Senior Producer; Nina Thorsen, Producer; Danny Bringer, Technical Producer; The California Report Staff
Judges Comments: “The California Report” is an excellent in-depth newscast covering major topics of the day.

Breaking News
KCBS All News 740/106.9, “Occupy Riot,” Chris Filippi, KCBS News Team
Judges Comments: Compelling second report where tear gas and rubber bullets were fired. Good sense of urgency from Chris Filippi. Compelling report with Filippi getting a face full of tear gas. Solid reporting. Good narrative. Cuts from protesters would have elevated the reporting to the next level.
**Special News Program**

**KCBS All News 740/106.9, “BART Fire,” KCBS News Team**

*Judges Comments:* Smooth, competent, complete, coverage of a major breaking story by one of the top news teams in the country.

**RADIO AWARDS (All Markets)**

**Investigative Reporting**

**KQED Public Radio, “Republic of Cannabis,” Michael Montgomery, KQED Public Radio Staff, Center for Investigative Reporting Staff**

*Judges Comments:* Michael Montgomery's strongly researched and well reported series covers all the bases in California's legal and illegal marijuana industry. Judges especially enjoyed his interview with a Mexican grower far from home - hidden in the Mendocino Nat'l Forest!

**Multi-Part Series**

**KFBK-AM, “31 Survivors in 31 Days,” Amy Lewis**

*Judges Comments:* Congratulations to Amy Lewis for her series "31 Survivors in 31 Days". An excellent tribute to Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

**News Reporting**


*Judges Comments:* Strong enterprise reporting about an important community issue. Well done.

**Feature Reporting-Serious**

**KQED Public Radio, “Diversity in Silicon Valley,” Amy Standen, Andrea Kissack, Paul Rogers**

*Judges Comments:* Excellent on-line treatment with breakout from eight story subjects for additional depth. A great example of comprehensive reporting in an informative and educational way on a subject with many nuances.

**Feature Reporting-Light**

**KGO 810 News/Information, “Shakespeare in San Quentin,” Scott Lettieri**

*Judges Comments:* Great mix of dramatic Shakespeare readings, music, inmate reflections on what they're gaining personally by taking part. Interesting and meaningful. Thanks, Scott Lettieri!

**Specialty Reporting**


*Judges Comments:* Excellent reporting not just on arts but on life, and the many shades of light (and dark) that swirl around us every day. Classic "driveway moment" listening.

**Sports-Segment/Feature**

**KQED Public Radio, “Oakland and San Jose vie for the A's,” Nina Thorsen**

*Judges Comments:* A thoughtful and well documented look at who wins and who loses, if the Oakland A's move to San Jose. We hear the romance of baseball in the Oakland bleachers, and the reminder that the FANS are - or should be - what sports is all about...

**Traffic-Segment**

**KFBK NewsTalk 1530/92.5, “West Sacramento Shootout,” Amy Lewis, Anchor; Tim Lantz, Reporter; Bob Williams, Bryan Nobles, Traffic Reporters**

*Judges Comments:* Great mix of breaking news and traffic coverage, when the hunt for an armed carjacker snarls freeway traffic. KFBK traffic team gave clear, concise instructions. Live call-ins from listeners caught in the backup were effective.
Use of Sound

KCBS All News 740/106.9, “Golden Gate Bridge Music,” Doug Sovern

Judges Comments: Fascinating! For thousands who drive or walk the bridge every day - an EAR-opening experience!

NEWS WEBSITE


Judges Comments: KQED Radio’s website offers a terrific blend of immediate headlines and deeper more explanatory content. The website staff has done an exemplary job of balancing text, photos, audio, social media content and video into a coherent whole. This fine balance sets the website apart from the other entrants and earns it first place for News Website.

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