

2015 Best Of Our Valley Winners: Media

Written by Suzanne Koch

Tuesday, 12 May 2015 14:18 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 May 2015 14:42

Media

From checking traffic delays before your afternoon commute to tuning into the weather report during your morning cup of coffee, Valley dwellers in the know trust these local media pros for their news.

BY DAVID M. BROWN



FAVORITE TV PERSONALITY AFTERNOON OR EVENING NEWS: MALE

>>BRANDON LEE, 3TV COVER MODEL

Emmy Award-winning Brandon Lee anchors “Good Evening! Arizona,” “3TV News at 9” and “3TV News at 10.” A New York University graduate, he anchored the morning show for the CBS affiliate in Atlanta, and he has also anchored and reported for KTLA 5 News in Los Angeles and NBC in Boston. In May 2007, Lee won an Emmy for an exclusive story about a fire chief who was also a convicted child sex offender, and he’s been nominated for nine other Emmys. azfamily.com.

BEST LOCAL RADIO TALK SHOW OR DJ: EVENING

>>KIMMIE CARUBA,

107.9 KMLE

At the NEW KMLE 107.9, Kimmie Caruba showcases her natural ability to connect with her listeners because she cares about them and what they want to hear. She’s committed to bringing pop culture and fun to her listeners every day and is passionate about the music she plays. At KMLE, begun in 1988, Caruba’s listeners are first, as the station celebrates the biggest country music stars. KMLE1079.com.

FAVORITE LOCAL MORNING SHOW

>>“GOOD MORNING! ARIZONA,” 3TV

3TV’s “Good Morning! Arizona” welcomes the Valley to each day, Mondays through Fridays, 4:30 to 10 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 6 to 10 a.m. Nothing makes mornings better than a great cup of coffee and “Good Morning! Arizona.” Scott, April, Javier, Gina and the other members of the team work hard to provide the news you need to get out the door, with a few smiles and laughs along the way. azfamily.com/good-morning-arizona.

FAVORITE SPORTSCASTER

>>BRAD STEINKE, FOX SPORTS ARIZONA

A part of the Arizona sports landscape ever since 1985, Brad Steinke has been with Fox Sports since 2001— joining right before the Diamondbacks went on their World Series-winning run. He does in-game reporting and also has pre- and post-game show responsibilities. He’s also participated in Phoenix Suns post-game shows, their magazine show, “Planet Orange Primetime,” and Arizona State athletics. Winner of 11 Emmy Awards, the Salt Lake City native tries to get to know the players and coaches as people to better tell their stories. foxsports.com/Arizona.

FAVORITE TV PERSONALITY MORNING OR DAYTIME: FEMALE AND MOST FASHIONABLE NEWS ANCHOR

>>KALEY O’KELLEY, 3TV

Four-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, Kaley O’Kelley joined KTVK in September of 2009 as co-anchor, reporter and host of Arizona’s most popular morning news program “Good Morning! Arizona,” airing weekdays. She graduated from Pepperdine University, then moved on to KYMA, Yuma, KEYT (ABC), Santa Barbara, XETV (FOX), San Diego, and KNXV (ABC 15) in Phoenix where she was a morning news and weather anchor. O’Kelley and her family recently moved to Dallas, where she co-anchors the CBS 11 evening news. azfamily.com.

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FAVORITE TV PERSONALITY MORNING OR DAYTIME: MALE

>>JAVIER SOTO, 3TV

Southern California native Javier Soto hosts "Good Morning! Arizona," Mondays through Fridays, 4:30 to 10 a.m. A graduate of California State University, Long Beach, he interned with Los Angeles' No. 1-rated KTLA-TV Morning News as a senior. After producing at the station for two years, Soto worked in Pocatello, Ida., at KPVI, where he was cameraman, live-truck operator, editor, producer, reporter and anchor of the No. 1-rated morning newscast in the southeastern part of the state for more than a year. azfamily.com.

FAVORITE METEOROLOGIST OR WEATHER PERSONALITY

>>APRIL WARNECKE, 3TV

With 3TV since 2005, meteorologist April Warnecke delivers forecasts weekday mornings, 4:30 to 10 a.m. on "Good Morning! Arizona." After graduating from Gilbert High School, Warnecke moved to Tucson to study at the University of Arizona, where she received a degree in journalism and a meteorology certification. She started broadcasting in Medford, Ore., then continued her career in Spokane, Wash. She loves forecasting monsoon storms and says the unpredictability of the season is what makes it exciting: from graupel, hail and dust storms to flash flooding and lightning. azfamily.com



COVER MODEL

BEST LOCAL RADIO TALK SHOW OR DJ: MORNING DRIVE

>>LADY LA, LIVE 101.5

Morning radio host, Lady La appears Mondays through Fridays, 6 to 10 a.m. on 101.5 in Phoenix. "It's a mess you can't stop listening to!" she says. "I've been on the Valley airwaves for 10 years, and there's a lot of good stories to share." live1015phoenix.com.

BEST LOCAL RADIO TALK SHOW OR DJ

>> MIDDAYS WITH THAT GIRL FEL, POWER 98.3

Since August 2012, every Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., That Girl Fel has connected with her listeners by offering the finest Top 40/Rhythmic hits. A talented Phoenix native who's been with the station for 10 years, she is respected for not just her professionalism but her kindness to everyone. power983fm.com.



2014 WINNER

FAVORITE NIGHTLY NEWSCAST, FAVORITE AFTERNOON OR EVENING SHOW, FAVORITE TV PERSONALITY AFTERNOON OR EVENING NEWS: FEMALE AND FAVORITE ANCHOR TEAM

>>SEAN MCLAUGHLIN AND CATHERINE ANAYA, CBS 5

Catherine Anaya and Sean McLaughlin anchor Best of Our Valley-winning programs, CBS 5 News at 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. A three- time Emmy Award-winning journalist, Anaya joined CBS 5 News in January 2003. The Arizona Associated Press Broadcasters Association named her "Anchor of the Year" for 2003. McLaughlin joined the CBS 5 News team in September 2006. A seven-time Emmy Award winner, he formerly served as MSNBC's weekday chief meteorologist and Sunday meteorologist on NBC's "Weekend Today." CBS5AZ.com.

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BEST LOCAL RADIO TALK SHOW OR DJ: AFTERNOON D R I V E

>>ROBIN NASH, 97.5 AND 103.9 KMVA

First appearing on radio in 1996, Robin Nash uniquely interacts with the audience, sharing her passion for the music through her authentic delivery. On Hot 97.5/103.9 Trending Radio, Nash plays the hottest artists of today like Maroon 5, Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, P!nk and Imagine Dragons. trendingradio.com.

BEST ANCHOR: WEEKENDS

>>TESS RAFOLS, 3TV

Weekend anchor and reporter Tess Rafols wakes you up with top-rated "Good Morning! Arizona". The Southern California native joined 3TV in January 2005 after stops in Toledo, Santa Barbara and Orange County. She's covered an F-5 tornado, presidential visits and elections and filed investigative reports on serial killings, but her favorite story is one that touches people's hearts and helps those in need. Involved with community events, she works with animal organizations and children's charities. Mother of triplets, she enjoys watching over kindergarteners Cooper, Jaxon and Zoey. azfamily.com.

2014 WINNER

BEST COUNTRY RADIO STATION

>>NEW KMLE AT 107.9

First on air in 1988, KMLE 107.9 focuses on New Country with a talented local on-air team that also has fun every day. Listeners are always first, and the station brings the biggest artists in country music?from newbies like Sam Hunt to the old-school faves like Clint Black?to them in Phoenix and throughout the Valley. kmle1079.com.



BEST TRAFFIC PERSONALITY

>>GINA MARAVILLA, 3TV

Arizona-born Gina Maravilla helps appreciative viewers navigate the morning rush hour. She attended Deer Valley High School in Glendale, studied at Arizona State University and worked at "Meet the Press" in Washington D.C. while attending Georgetown University. After interning at 3TV, she became a reporter and weekend anchor, then anchored and reported at BayNews 9 in Tampa. Returning to Phoenix, she anchored the morning and midday newscasts at KPHO. Following the birth of her son in 2006, she stayed at home and returned to 3TV in October 2009. azfamily.com.

2014 WINNER

BEST TALK NEWS RADIO STATION

>>92.3 KTAR

KTAR News 92.3 FM is proud that it has Arizona's largest award-winning radio news team and produces more local content than any other media group in the state. Founded in 1922, KTAR News is the "Voice of Arizona." The stellar team includes Ned Foster and Connie Weber, hosts of "Arizona's Morning News," weekdays 5 to 9 a.m., and Mac Watson and Larry Gaydos, "Mac and Gaydos," weekdays 2 to 6 p.m. ktar.com

BEST ROCK RADIO STATION

>>100.7 KSLX

Since 1986, KSLX has picked from the best rock, now from a legacy of a half century of classic rock. Not a static position in music, good rock matures?the music and its listeners. As the arc of music extends, the station now plays classics such as The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin as well as 80's and 90's artists Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots. kslx.com.

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BEST VARIETY STATION

>>99.9 KEZ AND 96.9 KMPX

KEZ/Adult Contemporary, "Beth and Friends in the Morning," is an upbeat selection of music from today and yesterday from artists like Rob Thomas, Bon Jovi, Madonna, Billy Joel, Katy Perry and more. In addition, listeners enjoy outstanding on-air talent such as Beth McDonald, Melissa Sharpe, Dave Kent and Mario Lopez. KMPX Hot Adult Contemporary, "Today's Best Music Mix," focuses on having the best on-air talent, station promotions and music presentation in the Valley. MIX 96.9 plays the top hits and the latest hit music from artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Green Day, fun., Train, One Republic, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga. kez999.com; mix969.com.

BEST NEWS STATION

>>3TV

3TV stands for hard-working middle- class families fighting for a more secure future for themselves. The station advocates, empowers and uplifts Arizona families so they can make decisions about what matters in their lives: money, education, healthcare, jobs and housing. With more than 57-plus hours of local news per week, independent 3TV produces more local news than most broadcast television stations nationwide, and its Valley audience credits 3TV as a community- minded station that best reflects the spirit of Arizona and its people. azfamily.com.

BEST LOCAL NEWS WEB SITE

>>AZFAMILY.COM

Providing a focus on local news and information since 1995, azfamily.com, powered by 3TV, was designed with the user in mind. Providing the most accurate, timely and hyper local news in Arizona is the mission of azfamily.com. Utilizing the powers of 3TV's resources, the site has grown its online footprint to include the 3TV Phoenix Facebook page and the 3TV News app. No matter when or where news happens, users have come to know that azfamily.com, powered by 3TV, is the first place to turn for breaking news, live video and local news.



2014 WINNER

FAVORITE LOCAL BLOG OR WEB SITE

>>ALICIA'S DEALS

Alicia Markham finds the best deals to help people "live life better for less." Since 2011, she has shared those on dealsinaz.com, daily at 6:40 p.m. on News Talk KTAR 92.3 where she is the "wallet watcher"; weekly on 3TV's "Your Life A to Z"; and for "Good Morning! Arizona," also 3TV, as the "deals diva." She only shares deals she loves, and she usually takes advantage of them herself: "For me, saving money isn't about extreme couponing; it's about teaching people how to get in the money-saving mindset." dealsinaz.com.

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BEST RADIO STATION AND BEST TODAY'S HITS RADIO STATION

>>97.5 KMVA

Launched Jan.1, 2014, Hot 97.5/103.9 Trending Radio is the Valley's largest Hot Adult Contemporary musical destination on radio. Trending Radio stays true to local roots and goes where its listeners go — simulcast Valleywide on 97.5 and 103.9 FM and worldwide with the Trending Radio app. Listeners enjoy the hottest Adult Contemporary artists today: from Justin Timberlake to Sam Smith. trendingradio.com.

NEWS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

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>>SCOTT PASMORE

After graduating from Kansas State University, Pasmore worked in the nation's smallest TV market in Kirksville, Miss., then moved on to Palm Springs and Albuquerque before joining 3TV in 1989. Pasmore started anchoring "Good Morning! Arizona" about six months after the show started and has been the anchor since. He won an Emmy Award for coverage of the L.A. riots and has also covered top stories like the O.J. Simpson trial and the Oklahoma City bombing. He loves his airplane, riding motorcycles—and anything that goes fast! azfamily.com.