KYUK is dedicated to serving the rural Alaska and Alaska Native communities of our region and responding to issues that affect the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Our mission is to educate, stimulate and inform as well as provide cultural enrichment, entertainment, and opportunity for public access and language maintenance for cultural survival.

KYUK is a valuable part of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

For 50 years KYUK has proudly delivered news, information, and culturally relevant programming and coverage in English and Yup’ik, while connecting residents across the vast Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. We continue to build partnerships to better serve our local audience and provide a voice for the unique and vibrant region located in Western rural Alaska.

In 2021, KYUK provided these vital local services:

We provide free over the air public television and radio service while sharing the stories of our region with the world through our website and social media platforms.

We continually look for new ways to amplify local voices and better serve our audience. In 2021, by building Low Power FM repeater sites and making local shows available by podcast, KYUK was able to expand its coverage area and audience.

KYUK helps to build well-informed, stronger, healthier, and safer communities.

We continue to look ahead by investing in educating and mentoring local youth. While we continue to work with talented youth interns through the LKSD Media Ready program, we also work on building our newly launched endowment fund to ensure longevity and prosperity of public broadcasting in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

I am thankful that we have a radio station in the YK Delta that provides high quality news reports, talk-shows, and entertainment. KYUK is a vital communication resource that helps us make informed decisions on a daily basis.

- Melanie Fredericks, KYUK supporter
In 2021, KYUK earned three Edward R. Murrow Awards for reporting done in 2020. The Murrow Awards are awarded by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) and described by the Association as “the embodiment of the values, principles, and standards set forth by Edward R. Murrow, a journalism pioneer who set the standards for the highest quality of broadcast journalism.”

We received Excellence in Continuing Coverage for the radio story “A Tale of Miraculous Rescue, Young Heroes, And A Mother’s Belief In Her Boys”. The story covers four children from the Western Alaska Village of Nunam Iqua who went missing in February 2020 for over 24 hours. Temperatures plunged below freezing, and winds rose to 40 miles per hour while local search and rescue teams and the U.S. Coast Guard looked for the boys. This is the story of a miraculous rescue, the power and heroism of young boys, and a mother who says she’d let the boys do it all over again. We also received the award for Excellence in News Series for the story “Starting Over: The Trials And Triumphs of Building A New Village”. The series covers the Western Alaska residents of Newtok, who are referred to as the first U.S. “climate refugees”. Due to melting permafrost and flooding, the village of Newtok, home to 350 Yup’ik Alaska Natives, has been forced to build a new village 9 miles away. The series looks at life after leaving one’s home, the advantages and struggles of living in a new village, and jealousies that creep in amongst those left behind, and how the things that bring joy to a child stay the same no matter where they live. KYUK was also awarded in Sports Reporting for the radio story “Chefornak Boys And Girls Win LKSD District Basketball Championship To Go To State”. The district basketball tournament concluded in nail-biting fashion to lead to both the Chefornak Shamans and the Lady Shamans to the state tournament.
EXPANDING COVERAGE IN THE YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

In December 2020, KYUK expanded its estimated audience by 4,000 residents and into two new sub-regions: Goodnews Bay and the mouth of the Lower Yukon. Installation sites included Tribal offices, LYSD schools, and one native corporation office. Funds came from CARES Act funds via the Alaska Community Foundation.

We created the following Low Power FM stations, all fully licensed to KYUK.

- 92.3 MHz, Alakanuk, Alaska - KWTB
- 93.3 MHz, Chefornak, Alaska - KCEF
- 93.3 MHz, Emmonak, Alaska - KHSK
- 93.3 MHz, Goodnews Bay, Alaska - KUIT
- 93.3 MHz, Kongiganak, Alaska - KKMG
  (also serving Kwigillingok)
- 93.3 MHz, Nunam Iqua, Alaska - KUZY
- 93.3 MHz, Quinhagak, Alaska - KWNQ
- 93.3 MHz, Russian Mission, Alaska – KRMR

VIRTUAL EVENTS: BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER WHILE STAYING SOCIALLY DISTANT

In a year where social distancing continued to be the new normal, KYUK produced four Facebook Live events featuring different Kuskokwim 300 Race clips from our video archive. The virtual events were quite popular and hosted by long-time mushing reporter Will Peterson. Our staff produced several slide shows and two mushing related videos during the race season including an overview of the Bogus Creek 150 and a drone highlight reel of the Kuskokwim 300 mass start.
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

In celebration of KYUK’s 50th anniversary in 2021, we dedicated a range of programming to highlight the people and moments that formed and defined our organization. We launched the podcast In Your Ears for 50 Years, a 13-episode deep dive into the history of KYUK. Episodes highlight some of the quintessential elements of KYUK over the years, including our founding, the launch of television in the Y-K Delta, the KYUK newsroom, and bilingual broadcasting. We also dedicated a week of our morning show, Coffee at KYUK, to highlight staff, volunteers, and interns, as well as community members looking back at KYUK’s first 50 years. We used the program to inform our audience of our future plans as well, including the KYUK Endowment Fund. After decades of planning, KYUK launched an endowment fund through our local partners at the Bethel Community Services Foundation to ensure the legacy of public broadcasting in the Y-K Delta for another 50 years and beyond.

BUILDING STRONG, LOCAL MEDIA MAKERS

KYUK interns Kaylee King of Mekoryuk, Jamin Crow of Bethel, and Ethan Lincoln of Toksook Bay were selected as finalists in the 2021 NPR Student Podcast Challenge. The students’ podcast documents life during the pandemic, and how remote schooling offered more time for subsistence. The students share stories about hunting moose and interview family members, emphasizing the bright side of life amid a pandemic.
Holding Local Leaders Accountable

In a continued reporting partnership with Anchorage Daily News (ADN), KYUK reporter Greg Kim collaborated with ADN reporter Kyle Hopkins on the Pulitzer Prize winning series, Lawless. In the story KYUK revealed a pattern of male political leaders in the region accused of violence against women.

Voting Access For All

In September 2020, KYUK broke the story that Metarvik and Newtok did not receive primary ballots from the Alaska Division of Elections. The article prompted the region’s state congressional delegation to call on the Division of Elections to produce a plan to ensure every eligible Alaskan had access to a ballot.

Fish Talk

KYUK partnered with Alaska Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to broadcast Fish Talk, live call-in shows to address the concerns and issues of residents in the Y-K Delta of declining fish populations. Residents in the region rely on the river’s fish populations for subsistence. The programs were delivered in English and Yup’ik.

We also featured ‘fish talks’ on our morning radio program, Coffee at KYUK to discuss topics ranging from salmon harvest numbers to subsistence king salmon permits.
Tuluksak Water Crisis

On January 16, 2021, the Tuluksak water treatment plant and washeteria burned, destroying the community’s only source of potable water. KYUK reported on the initial events and applied sustained continuing coverage of the resulting water crisis and the state government’s response. Three and a half weeks after the fire, the state declared a disaster. We reported on how Governor Dunleavy had been slower than his predecessors to declare disasters and has historically declared them less frequently. The Alaska National Guard and Department of Emergency Management scheduled a trip to Tuluksak to create a better process for emergency response. The State invited KYUK to cover the meeting.

KYUK’s coverage also led to overwhelming support for the community’s residents galvanized by social media efforts, companies, and citizen advocates, including Black Eyed Peas member Taboo Nawasha. Citizens raised donations and coordinated supplies to be flown to Tuluksak to help support the residents in need.
In 2021, KYUK remains committed in sustaining the culture, traditions, and values of the region while providing critical news, information, and culturally relevant programming. We continue to support the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and strive to help build and maintain well-informed, connected, and healthy communities for the future.

As we celebrate 50 years of serving the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta we look toward the future to ensure public broadcasting in our region remains strong for another 50 years and beyond.

KYUK SERVICES & VALUE
- Promoting the use and familiarity of Alaska Native languages
- Providing educational and developmental opportunities
- Disseminating critical health & safety messaging in English & Yup’ik
- Coordinating with community, statewide, and national partners to address issues and interests impacting the region
- Providing a platform for residents to connect and engage in valuable community events and conversations.