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

Since 1971 KYUK has proudly broadcast in English and Yup’ik to provide culturally relevant and trusted local news, information, and programming to the residents of the Y-K Delta to support and promote a stronger community that is engaged and informed of the pertinent issues as well as inspired and connected to the values and traditions of the region.

KYUK provided these key 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 invest in educating and mentoring local youth; the future leaders of our region.

We build and maintain partnerships to best serve and engage our audience.

An informed public:

KYUK provides free, universal access to media and information in a region of the country where no other broadcasters exist for hundreds of miles.

Our commitment to serving the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta helps to keep residents more informed engaged, and connected, building stronger, healthier, and safer communities.

The entire KYUK team has been amazing during the Coronavirus epidemic, keeping the public aware and institutions/organizations accountable. Please keep up the amazing work. You all are a credit to and provide an invaluable service for our community.

- Dr. Elizabeth Bates, Infection Control Director, Yukon Kuskokwim Healthcare Corporation
- KYUK member
Continuing to Serve The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world and created the need for new means and modes of operations. KYUK responded by ensuring the safety of our staff and then moving with partners to inform the public about the latest news and information about the pandemic. Long established programming through NPR, Alaska Public Media and Native Voice One provided accurate and fact checked information from around the state and globe. During this time KYUK continued to provide timely information about the coronavirus, and other important stories. We produced critical content like news stories, talk shows, animations, and even graduation ceremonies to ensure our audience remained informed of the public health crisis, and mitigate the spread of the disease within the region. KYUK built and strengthened partnerships to provide comprehensive coverage on all platforms in 2020. The Alaska Public Television shared service partnership, between Alaska Public Media in Anchorage; KYUK-TV in Bethel and KTOO-TV in Juneau successfully completed its fifth year of operation. Through this collaboration KYUK provides the only free access to TV in Bethel, Alaska, the largest city in all of Western Alaska.

Award Winning Journalism, Sharing Alaskan Stories with the World

In 2020 KYUK earned two Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. We received the award for Excellence in Sound for the radio feature “Bethel Gives Hero’s Welcome To Iditarod Champion Pete Kaiser”, the story of Pete Kaiser’s return home after winning the 2019 Iditarod. Kaiser is the first musher of Yup’ik Alaska Native descent to win the 1,000-mile long sled dog race. Also, in collaboration with Alaska Public Media, we were awarded Excellence in Video for the short film “The Legacy Of MaryAnn Sundown And Agnes Aguchak”, which chronicles the history of the Scammon Bay dancers MaryAnn Sundown & Agnes Aguchak as told by their family members. The two cousins paired traditional Yup’ik dancing with slap stick-like comedy that earned Sundown the nickname Dancing Diva.
Health & Safety

About one third of the residents in the Y-K Delta don’t have piped water or sewer to their homes. With an increased need for hand washing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, limited access to running water created a heightened threat to public health in the region. Based on CDC recommendations, KYUK created animations in English and Yup’ik directing people how to wash their hands by using a water basin.

Yup’ik Video, Facebook Views: 2,000
English Video, Facebook Views: 431

Community Screenings

In July, KYUK partnered with Alaska Public Media and the Lower Kuskokwim Consortium Library to host a live pre-screening of Molly of Denali, the first nationally distributed children’s series to feature an Alaskan Native lead character by PBS. KYUK’s Multimedia department created a pre-screening video including segments from KYUK’s Yup’ik Word of the Week series and KAKM’s In My Family series. The pre-screener content was also presented at 13 other screening events across the state.

In November, KYUK partnered with the Lower Kuskokwim Consortium Library and the Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee to host a pre-screening of ATTLA, a PBS documentary that premiering on television in December. The documentary highlights the legendary dog sled racer George Attla. Film maker Catharine Axley flew to Bethel for the event and hosted a Q&A segment following the screening and a film workshop for the KYUK Multimedia interns.
On the Frontlines of Climate Change

After a 20-year wait, Newtok residents moved away from their eroding village to cross the river and climb a hill to pioneer the new village of Metarvik. More are now waiting to join their neighbors in the new village site.

In December KYUK completed production on the short film "To Keep As One" which follows one family’s relocation from Newton to Metervik. The film premiered at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival where it was selected as a top-ten mini doc finalist. Many of our scheduled screenings were postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Partnering to Raise Awareness on Alaskan Public Safety Issues

In May, KYUK Reporter Greg Kim partnered with Anchorage Daily News (ADN) Reporter Kyle Hopkins and ProPublica to investigate a pattern of allegations of sexual abuse and advances by a local principal against students. The story is part of ADN’s Lawless series, which received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, the highest annual award in American journalism. The reporting effort prompted a personal visit by US Attorney General William Barr, promptly followed by a declaration of federal public safety emergency by the Justice Department and $10.5 million for training and mobile holding cells, pledging $52 million to the crisis.
Coronavirus Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic KYUK launched a dedicated Coronavirus Updates page. From lunch and homework delivery to tribal community (village) travel bans, and daily case counts KYUK maintains a page of local coronavirus information to help citizens stay safe and informed.

Graduation Ceremonies Hit the Airwaves

Due to COVID-19 in-person graduation ceremonies were cancelled in the region. In collaboration with the University of Alaska (Kuskokwim Campus), Lower Kuskokwim School District, and Kuspuk School Districts, KYUK broadcast 9 commencement ceremonies over the air, including a live broadcast of Bethel Regional High School’s graduation, providing audio for their socially distant “drive-in”

Tarvarnauramken: Blessing Song Goes Viral

When the annual Cama-i Yup’ik Dance Festival was cancelled due to COVID-19 KYUK partnered with Alaskan music group Pamyua and put out a call for video submissions of people dancing to the traditional song "Tarvarnauramken". KYUK Producer Gabby Salgado then edited the submitted clips into a community dance encouraging people to keep their connection through dance despite social distancing mandates. The video received international attention and currently has over 1M views on Facebook.
Coffee at KYUK, A Place Where KYUK Connects

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic we repurposed our daily morning show, Coffee at KYUK, to provide daily coronavirus updates from various organizations including the regional hospital, airlines, tribal organizations, and legislators. Throughout the pandemic, health organizations, governments, non-profits and businesses are routinely using KYUK airwaves to deliver information to mitigate the impact of the disease. Providing a platform to distribute reliable information allows community leaders and families to make more informed decisions during the pandemic. In addition to accessing news, information, and conversations with local health officials and community leaders, residents gain a closer connection to fellow Alaskans through radio, while remaining physically distant due to COVID-19.

**March 31.** KYUK spoke with the city manager of St. Mary’s Alaska, a village of about 500 people within the region. City manager Walton Smith explains the challenges of enforcing travel restrictions for residents and practicing social distancing in order to protect rural communities.

**April 8.** A state task force was called together to look at what to do after Ravn Air Group declared bankruptcy and stopped flying in April due to the loss of ticket sales as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Smaller airlines scrambled to make up for the loss to ensure food, mail, and medications were still being delivered throughout the region.

**April 22.** U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski spoke with KYUK as Congress worked on an additional funding package to help deal with the pandemic’s effects on the country.

**May 6.** The Yukon Kuskokwim Healthcare Corporation resumed select elective procedures while trying to keep some facilities available in case of a surge of COVID-19 cases in the region.
Thanks to KYUK for all its year-round hard work, always, but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. You all have done a great job making sure YK Delta residents receive critical news information during this public health emergency. Keep up the great work!

- Michelle Dewitt, Bethel Mayor & KYUK member

KYUK remains committed in sustaining the culture, traditions, and values of Western Alaska. Our dedication to serving the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta helps residents stay informed, engaged, and connected to each other and the world; leading to stronger, healthier, and safer communities.

Our services reach far beyond local news and entertainment to include:
- Promoting the use and familiarity of Alaska Native languages
- Providing educational and developmental opportunities
- Disseminating critical health and safety messaging to our audience in English and Yup’ik
- Collaborating with community and statewide partners to address critical issues impacting the region
- Acting a community Conner to enable residents to engage in valuable community events and conversations