



2019 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



"Prairie Public provides a Living Legacy of wonderful programming and news for our North Dakota community."

Michael Miller, North Dakota State University Bibliographer

Prairie Public Broadcasting provides quality radio, television, and public media services that educate, involve, and inspire the people of the prairie region.



Prairie Public Broadcasting is committed to respect for the individual and our audience, to lifelong learning, civil discourse, and our regional identity. Those who work at Prairie Public Broadcasting take pride in our programming and our service, expressing it through honesty and accuracy, a strong work ethic, teamwork, workplace diversity, effective stewardship of gifts and talents, and good humor.

Prairie Public Broadcasting provides its valued service by offering a window on the world through national programming, creating a forum for the most important issues facing our region, partnering with others to foster education, being financially responsible and publicly responsive, and utilizing digital technology.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is a non-profit member station of PBS and NPR that provides public television services throughout North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, southern Manitoba; public radio service to North Dakota; and educational and technological services to communities and individuals across its coverage area.



2019 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

Public media is adventurous, responsive, and independent. It respects the audience, encourages lifelong learning, and invites civil discourse. Through Prairie Public's long history in the prairie region, we have held tight to these media values and the partnerships that we've fostered with our audience.

Every day throughout the year, Prairie Public brings inquisitive individuals together—to help understand our world and to celebrate our shared humanity. Our viewers and listeners provide the stories that strengthen and transform our worldview—to help us all understand who we are, have been, and can be.

The public trusts public media, proven by study after study. Our viewers and listeners become members because they expect the highest professional standards from media, and they know that Prairie Public has that integrity.

We are accountable and responsive to our audience—especially our youngest viewers. In 2019, Prairie Public debuted Weekly Web Chats to offer free professional development and networking to the teachers who guide those youngsters.

We value the culture and history of our broadcast region. In 2019, “Basketball, Water and the Lost City of Elbowoods”; “Prairie Musicians”; “Women Behind the Plow”; and “Prairie Mosaic” were just a few Prairie Public original television productions that honor our region's story.

We seek to present a broad range of ideas, information, and perspectives, and nowhere is that more evident than Dakota Datebook—radio's daily dose of North Dakota history. In 2019, we collected 365 favorite Dakota Datebook essays into a book that sold out within weeks.

Public media is an essential part of the media landscape—serving the public interest and preserving the public's trust while presenting programs that address a broad range of beliefs, philosophies, and viewpoints. Prairie Public fulfills that duty every day and is proud to serve the people of the prairie region with programming that educated, involved, and inspires.



Telling North Dakota's Story

Radio premiered a special series to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Teddy Roosevelt's death—"Dakota Datebook: Remembering Theodore Roosevelt" with re-enactor Steve Stark. The radio shorts aired all year, and have been transformed into interstitials that will air on television and on digital platforms.



Creating a Space for Everyone

One Prairie Public special radio project turned into a popular podcast! "Breaking Barriers: Harvesting LGBTQ Stories on the Northern Plains" collected excerpts from the Red River Rainbow Seniors' oral history project that features stories from folks who grew up back when being "out" was socially unacceptable.



Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

"Women Behind the Plow," a 60-minute television documentary based in part on the book of the same name, honors the contributions of women who worked in the fields and raised families in a time before electricity—and the women who still work in agriculture.





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STORIES OF IMPACT

Basketball, Water and the Lost City of Elbowoods

The 1942 Elbowoods High School basketball team made it to the North Dakota State Class B championship game, but they lost in a bizarre twist that resulted in a 60-year effort to right a wrong. “Basketball, Water and the Lost City of Elbowoods” relives the excitement of that basketball team and the title game controversy, and it examines the fate of the team’s hometown—which was sacrificed after the Garrison Dam was constructed in 1953 and is now covered by Lake Sakakawea.

Reach in the Community:

Prairie Public premiered the documentary at the 4 Bears Casino in New Town, where it was enthusiastically welcomed with a packed audience and preceded with a drum circle and prayer.

Partnerships:

This documentary relied heavily on resources provided by the Three Affiliated Tribes and the memories of those people who are members of the tribes. It solidified Prairie Public’s relationship with the tribes and with the community that lives in New Town, where most of the population of Elbowoods moved to when Lake Sakakawea devastated their homes.



Telling North Dakota’s Story

“Thank you, Prairie Public, for the heartwarming historical show “Basketball, Water and the Lost City of Elbowoods. This piece of history should be known by everyone, whether from the Three Affiliated Tribes or anyone else in the state. Knowing this history helps everyone understand ‘soul.’”



2019 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT SUMMARY



"If a story is reported on public radio or corresponding web outlets, I am left with very little doubt that I'm being given factual and indisputable truth. That level of journalistic integrity is in short supply during a time when that is more critical than at any point in American history."

Dane Marcusen
Dickinson, ND. Member

"Our family is so grateful for public broadcasting. Our two daughters enjoy watching the children's programming, and they learn a lot from it. I am happy that we are now offered four digital options for PBS programming. I watch them all. We rarely, if ever, watch commercial television anymore. There really is no need to do so!"

Zeb and Melissa Lamp
Moorhead, MN, Members



**Prairie Public Broadcasting is a trusted public service
dedicated to building an exciting and productive future for
the prairie and its people.**
