

Community Radio Happenings

KZMU's Fall 2022 Radiothon: October 7th - 15th

by Serah Mead

As the cooler weather brings relief from the hot summer, the staff and crew at KZMU are gearing up for another Radiothon! This Fall's membership drive starts October 7th and continues through the 15th. In addition to all your favorite DJs bringing you themed shows and positive energy, we're thrilled to bring several brand new DJs and their musical tastes to your ears. You can find the full program schedule at kzmu.org click on Programs. Or, better yet - clip the program out of this issue and tape it to your fridge!

April 2nd marked the 30th anniversary of broadcasting in Southeastern Utah. 30 years ago, KZMU was born in a single wide National Parks Service cast-off trailer that was too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. You can catch some wonderful archival stories of our 30 year journey over the air and on the website - look for our 30th Ever Radio Revue episodes, produced by Christy Williams.

Over the last 3 decades, KZMU has built a community of DJs and listeners alike. We've become a sonic anchor to this place in time, providing critical news coverage and music as medicine during tough times, not to mention the most fun and absurd community events that we could come up with, from the Ladies Arm Wrestling Tournaments to our annual radio plays - running 7 years strong.

In April, we had a record breaking Radiothon, raising more than \$40K in 9 days, and about \$54K in total with the donations that came in after the 9-day fundraiser. YOU DID THAT! And there are some many wonderful things to celebrate about KZMU. Here are just a few:

KZMU News

KZMU News, our daily in-house newscast, continues to partner with regional sister stations through stand-alone media partnerships and through the Rocky Mountain Community Radio coalition. These partnerships enable mutual sharing of stories and content to deepen the impact of these small newsrooms in the 4 corners region. As of this September, we now have a sturdy News Department with two full time journalists, Molly Marcello, our News and Public Affairs Director, and Justin Higginbottom, our Reporter. This is some significant growth in a department that, 4 years ago, didn't exist.

KZMU News has won two journalism awards this year! We won the prestigious regional Edward R. Murrow award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with our Lift Up: LGBTQ+ Visibility series. We also won first place at the Public Media Journalist Association Awards in our division for Long Form Documentary with our feature Welcome to Moab: A Service Story. Out of 1,500 entries, 221 awards were presented to 101 organizations at the PMJA Awards. The awards recognize the best work in public media journalism from across the country.

KZMU's Commitment to Science Broadcasting

Now in our 5th year of partnership, KZMU and Science Moab continue to collaborate both on and off the air. We still air the weekly podcast on Fridays and we also support their community engagement efforts by providing sound equipment and assistance. This Winter, in honor of our 30th year, we will be kicking off their Science Moab on Tap series with a radio-specific talk about the science of sound. Stay tuned for details.

Grand Birds continues to air on Fridays after Science Moab and recently celebrated its 1-year on-air anniversary. The show has grown to become its own podcast and has a significant following.

KZMU Radio Play Festival:

In our 7th presenting year of the annual KZMU Radio Play, we decided to change the format to be more inclusive and increase access for those interested in the art of radio theater. Our first step was to host a free Radio Theater Workshop sponsored by the MARC and Moonflower Coop. Nearly 30 people were in attendance. We then adopted the tried and true model of amateur film festivals and put a call out for community members to create their own 5 minute radio plays. We received 9 submissions and presented all of them at our Radio Play Festival held on April 9th in front of a live, small, but enthusiastic, audience at Star Hall. This year we were able to provide each team with a small honorarium for their creativity, time, and energy and were also able to pay workshop instructors, stage manager, and an assistant producer. This shows significant growth in the project and we're thrilled that we can not only be more inclusive, but also be more equitable with participants and support teams.

Partnership with Green River Epicenter:

This year we were proud to partner with the Epicenter in Green River by airing two special broadcasts. The first featured the acclaimed author and podcast host Ken Layne with a live airing of Desert Oracle Radio. And the second broadcast featured renowned guitarist William Tyler for his Frontier Fellowship special entitled Twilight Zephyr.

Career Technical Education Internship Program:

Since Fall 2021, KZMU has hosted three high school interns through the Grand County School District's CTE program. The interns engaged in a variety of tasks at the station, from assisting with Radiothon fundraiser, supporting the Music Director, producing sound beds for public service announcements, and DJing on the air.

In late May, KZMU was awarded the CTE Partnership Award for showing "exemplary support as our community mentors in our CTE internship program." The CTE directors said that KZMU "held [our] programs and interns to high standards, warmly welcomed students into [our] workplace, and communicated clearly with interns, colleagues, and the school to make a memorable impact on our next generation."

AmeriCorps State:

KZMU has received an AmeriCorps grant and will be recruiting and hiring an AmeriCorps State Member this Fall! This person would be a full time member of our team, with their income subsidized by the AmeriCorps program. This State member will lead our Youth Programs which will include, but are not limited to youth led music shows, public affairs, after school programs, spring break camps and summer camps. This signifies major growth for us! Keep a lookout for the official request for applications.

Music Department Growth:

KZMU airs weekly interviews with musicians and bands from all genres that are both well known and very obscure. These interviews are all conducted by our hard working Music Director and contribute to our intention to elevate non-mainstream artists and keep the airwaves unique. In the last year, The Artist Speaks series has brought more than 40 conversations to the airwaves.

KZMU faces some interesting challenges in the digital age. As immediate access to online streaming has, "obliterated Dj's interest in internal digital libraries," (as Community Radio Pioneer Ken Freedman recently stated), we are tasked with the noble project of keeping our airwaves accessible to DJs and hosts of all ages and abilities, while also continuing the necessary task of new-music review and curation. Thanks to sister stations in the National Federation of Community Broadcasting and the Rocky Mountain Community Radio Coalition, we're embarking on reimagining what a radically inclusive, sustainable, and efficient Music Department looks like.

Transmission Equipment on Bald Mesa:

Our listeners endured serious setbacks with our 90.1 FM signal this year. We're relieved and grateful to report that thanks to the hard work of Engineer Bob Owen, KZMU Trustee Doni Kiffmeyer, our staff, and others, the signal is revived and steady! Thank you for your patience and support.

Looking Ahead:

As we look forward into the next three decades of broadcasting we are at the beginning stages of strategizing a capital campaign which will reflect the fact that KZMU is so much more than a radio station. Led by trustees the campaign is focused on bringing KZMU more to the forefront of our downtown community, in a way that also provides for multi-media needs, fosters creative connections, and is a hub for collaboration with other community organizations.

There is rarely a dull moment in community radio and KZMU is no exception. This past year has brought local, regional, and national recognition and awards while we've served our community members in new and meaningful ways. We have plenty of room to grow and improve; from meeting DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) goals to literally making room for more people to work inside the station. Your continued support remains fundamental in our efforts to be the best we can be.



Christy Williams interviews Los Mochochetes as part of the Moab Free Concert Series



A pair of brothers who broke the radio mold. They helped listeners buy, sell, trade, hawk, pawn, and giveaway all kinds of items in a live call-in radio classifieds show. The Trading Post was hilarious while being remarkably efficient. Hear more at the 30th Ever Radio Review Episode on kzmu.org.



Ways to Give to KZMU

- Donate securely online at kzmu.org/give
- Reserve your KZMU merch at kzmu.org/shop
- Call the DJ! (435) 259-5968 (259-KZMU) or 259-8824 (259-UTAH)
- Visit the KZMU tent at the Red Rock Street Fest, Saturday the 8th from noon to 7 PM on 100 North.
- Visit the KZMU store at 1734 Rocky Road every day of 'Thon between 10 AM and 6 PM.
- Give securely via KZMU's Facebook Radiothon Campaign
- Text "givekzmu" to 44321
- Send donations to KZMU at P.O. Box 1076 in Moab.



Conductor and pianist Timothy Long and Cellist Dawn Avery made appearances in KZMU's studios as part of the Moab Music Festival.



Ken Layne of the regionally adored Desert Oracle (book and podcast), performed a live taping of a Desert Oracle's podcast episode from the KZMU Studios in April.



Snapped just moments after meeting our \$40,000 goal during Spring Radiothon, this moment captures the excitement, relief, and amazement. Pictured here: a mix of KZMU staff, volunteers, DJs, and donors.



KZMU's 2022 radio play offering took the form of a community driven Radio Play Festival, featuring 9 short radio plays and one live mini-play, complete with live singing jingles between.



Musician William Tyler joins KZMU in studios for the debut of Twilight Zephyr, an audio piece he created as an Epicenter Frontier Fellow in Green River.



KZMU DJs James T. Kirk and Chris P. of the Rock Wasteland grill out of the back of a truck right before their show starts, Thursdays at 7 PM after Democracy Now! and the KZMU News.