

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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Gordie Little  
1937 - 2016



Legendary Plattsburgh radio personality Gordie Little died unexpectedly June 22 outside of his home in Morrisonville. He was 79.

A native of Rockland County, NY, Little worked briefly at WICY in Malone and WEAV in Plattsburgh before joining WIRY in 1961. He served as both News and Program Director before departing WIRY in 1997.

He was a devoted advocate for the North Country and its citizens. He helped lead a valiant effort to keep the Plattsburgh Air Force Base open, and then helped efforts to redevelop the base.

Gordie stayed busy after his radio career, writing weekly columns for both the Press-Republican and for Denton Publications. He produced hundreds of shows for local access TV and authored many books.

He is survived by his wife and many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Funeral services were held in Morrisonville on June 28.

A scholarship fund has been established in his memory at: <https://www.youcaring.com/gordie-little-591272>.

STATIONS MUST SIGN UP FOR NEW EAS REPORTING SYSTEM

All radio and TV stations that participate in the EAS system must complete "Form One" on the FCC's new EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS) by August 26. They'll then have until Sept. 26 to correct any errors, in advance of the next nationwide EAS test on Sept. 28. "Form Two" must be filed within 24 hours of the test, and "Form Three," asking for more detailed reporting, including any test complications, must be completed within 45 days following the test.



The FCC ETRS site can be [accessed here](#). The FCC's Public Notice, released June 27, is [available here](#). The FCC's instructions on how to use the ETRS, including screenshots of the new system, was issued in April and is [available here](#). These links will also be available on our website at [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org).

WPTZ Welcomes New General Manager



Justin Antoniotti

Justin Antoniotti, News Director at Hearst Television's WTAE-TV, the ABC affiliate in Pittsburgh, has been named President and General Manager of WPTZ-TV/WNNE-TV.

Antoniotti, who begins his new role July 1, succeeds Kyle Grimes, who has been appointed President and General Manager of WGAL-TV, Hearst Television's NBC affiliate in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"Justin has done outstanding, award winning journalism in every Hearst television newsroom we have asked him to lead," said Jordan Wertlieb, Hearst Television's President.

Antoniotti's appointment marks the continuation of a family legacy. The Detroit native's father, Steve, also had an extensive career as both a news director and later general manager in Los Angeles, Detroit, St. Louis and Oklahoma City.

Earlier this year, WTAE earned a Peabody Award for its investigation of systemic problems within Pennsylvania's volunteer fire departments leading to wide gaps in fire response times - a series which helped spur remedial action in the Pennsylvania Legislature. WTAE also has been awarded a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) for three consecutive years.

Antoniotti has also worked for Hearst at stations in Greenville, South Carolina and in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Welcome to the Champlain Valley and good luck, Justin!

## JULY REGULATORY DATES

By David Oxenford, [Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP](#)



While TV broadcasters can enjoy an incentive auction respite in July as attention shifts to the “forward auction” where we will see whether wireless carriers come up with enough money to fund the \$86,422,558,704 (plus \$1.75 billion for repacking costs, plus

auction-related administrative costs) needed for the buyout of TV stations who agreed to surrender their spectrum, radio broadcasters will get some of their own attention. At the end of the month, the second window for the filing of 250-mile waiver applications opens for Class A and B AM stations.

These waivers allow an AM licensee to acquire an FM translator and file an application to move it up to 250 miles and operate it on any commercial frequency that does not create interference in their market. That window for Class A and B AM stations opens July 29 and runs through October 31 (and remains open for any other AM that has not already filed one of these waivers in the first window which opened back in January).

In addition to the AM window, there are routine filing deadlines for all TV stations - required to file their FCC Form 398 Children’s Television Reports by July 11 (because the 10th of July is a Sunday) demonstrating the educational and informational programming they broadcast directed to children. By the 10th television stations need to upload information into their online public files to demonstrate compliance with the limits on commercial time in children’s programs.

All broadcast stations, radio and TV, commercial and noncommercial, need to place into their public files by the 10th of the month, their Quarterly Issues Programs lists. The failure to prepare and timely place these documents into the public file was the biggest source of fines in the last license renewal cycle - so make sure that these are completed on time.

**DON'T FORGET**

Quarterly Issues/Programs lists must be placed in station public files by Sunday, July 10.

## KEILLOR TO BID FAREWELL

Almost 42 years after the first “A Prairie Home Companion” was recorded at the Janet Wallace Auditorium at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, its avuncular host is saying goodbye.

Garrison Keillor will host the program for the last time this weekend at the Hollywood Bowl.

He has hosted the program from Vermont on occasion and VPR is inviting fans to a picnic and listening party at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester on July 2.



The 73-year-old native of Anoka, Minnesota plans to devote more time to writing, which he says he wanted to do in the first place before broadcasting got in the way.

“A Prairie Home Companion” has had some interruptions before. In 1987, Keillor ended the show and moved to Denmark. But Keillor and the show, now titled “American Radio Company of the Air,” returned in 1989, produced in New York.

In 1992, the show returned to Minnesota and shortly thereafter re-adopted its old name.

The program, distributed by American Public Media, is aired on 700 public radio stations nationwide and has a loyal following of four million listeners. Chris Thile, a regular musical performer on the show, and an occasional guest host, will take over the program for a new season beginning this October.

Producers say the show will continue to be broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul and will continue to feature musical numbers, sketch comedy and monologue humor.

What is unknown is if the audience will stay with the show now that they won’t be treated to “News from Lake Wobegon,” the mythical Minnesota town “... where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average.”