

http://www.dothaneagle.com/news/local/laura-pate-s-voice-resonated-in-more-ways-than-one/article_d5302cda-89bc-11e7-81da-affa6247abc3.html

Laura Pate's voice resonated, in more ways than one

Lance Griffin Aug 25, 2017 Updated Aug 25, 2017

For the past several years, my day has begun at 5:10 a.m. outside football season and 4:10 a.m. during football season.

After an hour or so of show preparation, I head to the studios of WOOF FM-100.1 and AM-560 to host a sports talk show which will expand to 6-9 a.m. beginning Monday. After that, I drive to the office here at the Dothan Eagle for the rest of the day.

Not long after my first day at WOOF, I ran into this lady with a beautiful, beautiful voice.

"That has to be one of the DeeJays," I wondered to myself.

I later learned I had run into Laura Pate, whose soothing voice got many Wiregrass folks through the second half of their workday on 99.7 WOOF FM's afternoon shift.

I've learned interesting tidbits about the radio business I never thought about before. Certain voices fit certain times of the day. You need a certain voice for the early morning, yet another kind for mid-morning and so forth for afternoons and evenings.

Laura had the perfect afternoon voice. There was something about hearing her voice between the latest from Taylor Swift and Coldplay that just made you feel better about the day.

You didn't have to listen to her long to pick up her passion for animals. Laura championed those that were least capable of protecting themselves. Countless pets have been rescued and provided nurturing homes thanks to the urging of Laura afternoon after afternoon.

I later learned about her work ethic. Laura worked the "board" for numerous WOOF high school football and basketball broadcasts, taking the broadcast out to commercial and bringing it back in seamlessly. She did the same for WOOF's Troy football broadcasts.

A coworker of Laura's described her as genuine.

"She didn't put on," the coworker said. "What you saw is what you got. You don't meet a lot of people like that anymore."

Laura took ill recently and died Thursday. It left a void for so many people that worked away in the afternoons and counted the hours down to 5 p.m. with her. Many, many people heard Laura's voice more than any other each day.

When I thought about her yesterday in the wake of her passing, it struck me that I remembered all of the things she was for, not against. We live in an era where ranting and raving are in. Whoever screams the loudest wins.

We need more Laura Pate voices in more ways than one.

What I'm reading:

How a Shadowy Imam Evaded Scrutiny and Forged the Barcelona Cell: NYTimes.com

Who Owns the Internet? newyorker.com

We are Nowhere Close to the Limits of Athletic Performance: nautil.us

- Lance Griffin's column appears Saturdays in the Dothan Eagle.