WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | July 2024



Thank you, yet again! We closed the books on fiscal year 2024 after four days of fundraising. Wyomingites are incredibly generous and patient, staying the course through the many fundraising events public radio engages in these days to keep our operations going. A special thanks goes to all who participated, and to our Leadership Circle members who put up matching challenges throughout the drive. As usual, Pet Wednesday was a high point. In our Dogs vs Cats hour, another historic moment was reached when 13 cats overtook 3 dogs – an unusual turnout for Wyoming. There was some head scratching among the pledge room judges when a donor from Rawlins donated in honor of 20 Buzzards.

In June public radio General Managers descended on Washington D.C. to attend NPR sessions and to call on their congressional delegations. This was one of the first in-person meetings since the pandemic, so there was much catching up. GMs took the opportunity to visit their elected officials to share the local public radio story and reiterate its value to their constituents. A special thanks to our Wyoming delegation who met with me to hear about WPM's contribution to the state.

Tired of too much news on too many platforms? There is a single source right at your fingertips that brings you local, regional, state, national and global news, all in one place, and only when you want it. It's our Homepage at wyomingpublicmedia.org. Check it out!

Alpine and Jackson, here we come! On Wednesday, July 3rd, *Wyoming Sounds* host and producer Grady Kirkpatrick will be in Alpine at Melvin Brewing from 6 to 7pm with live music, celebrating the new signal serving northern Star Valley (91.9 FM). On July 4th he will be in Jackson for *The Grand Teton Music Festival Patriotic Pops* event. Later in the fall we will celebrate the new Teton Valley signal heard in Alta at 89.9 FM. Stay tuned…

Rodeo is a Wyoming tradition, and WPM's *Wyoming Sounds* will originate from Cheyenne Frontier Days on July 24th and 25th from 9am-noon. Please drop in and say Hello. While in Cheyenne, drop by the *Botanic Gardens* to view our travelling photo display. You can see the works of our winning photographers and appreciate Wyoming, from her incredible scenery to her people. This display highlights the talents of area photographers who participated in WPM's annual photo contest. See details below.

June brought us two Wyoming legacies. Al and Anne Simpson, long-time friends and members of WPM, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in Cody. At the other end of the state, UW College of Arts and Sciences honored Oliver Walter's legacy as former dean of the college with establishment of the Dean's Excellence Fund. Ollie and Sid Walters are a Wyoming staple, and Ollie serves on the WPM Public Advisory Council. Congratulations to all for their lasting contributions to Wyoming!

Speaking of legacies, the *Metropolitan Opera* is losing Chorus Master Donald Palumbo to a well-deserved retirement. Long revered as the finest in the business, Palumbo molded the *Metropolitan Opera* sound that is

so well known to opera lovers. “Never push your voice past the point of beauty,” was one of his best known phrases. Opera fans will miss him, and his legacy will continue in our Saturday afternoon performances on *Classical Wyoming* and on the screen in Wyoming theatres.

And another retirement is looming. After more than 40 years of Celtic programming, Fiona Ritche, host of *Thistle and Shamrock,* is retiring. “The history of NPR is defined by shows like *The Thistle & Shamrock*,” said Keith Jenkins, NPR’s VP of Visuals and Strategy. “The sense of wonder, joy and discovery that Fiona’s show brought to listeners for over 40 years is irreplaceable, but we are eternally grateful we’ve all been able to take this musical journey with her.”

The Retro Cocktail Hour will be in Jackson and Cody this summer!!! Darrell Brogdon was a sellout in Laramie. Jackson and Cody will have a chance at this event. Get your tickets through the WPM website - wyomingpublicmedia.org.

WyoGives is scheduled for July 10th and can be found at WyoGives.org. WPM always supports *WyoGives* with online messaging and underwriting that encourages listeners to support organizations participating in this new and exciting Wyoming tradition, and we will again this year. WPM refrained from soliciting donations because it came so close to our fiscal year-end drive. We also viewed it as an opportunity for other organizations to shine. But dips in overall philanthropic giving are compelling us to participate this year and pick up potential donors who miss traditional fund drives and online messages. You can find us at wyogives.org/organizations/wyoming-public-media. As always, please look at the rich assortment of non-profits asking for your help, and be as generous as you can to these organizations. Wyoming’s thriving non-profit community and the incredible work these organizations do for our state deserve our generosity.

There’s the sound of NPR that is recognizable to its many fans. Now there’s a scent of NPR. WPM’s Cindy Elrod, long-time member, pointed this unusual story out and got us thinking. Is there something like a WPM scent, and does it have marketing possibilities? Well… maybe…but then, maybe not. Read the story and decide for yourself. *Morning Edition as a perfume scent : NPR*

Enjoy our Wyoming summer now that it’s here! Again, thank you for supporting WPM throughout the year, and for jumping in during the last two weeks to “close the books.” Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu. And thanks for your enthusiasm and for your support!

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



WPM Photo Contest Travels to Cheyenne
The Wyoming Public Media photo contest display, featuring 14 framed pieces from Wyoming photographers, will be in Cheyenne for the month of July. *The Botanic Gardens* in Cheyenne, Wyoming is hosting the traveling display. See photos and schedule. *July 1, 2024.*



Wyoming Public Media Celebrates Students
Congratulations to our T-shirt raffle winner and thank you to everyone who stopped by our tables to support public radio. Wyoming Public Media is thrilled to be engaging more with our campus communities. Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives! Pictured here: Faith Burdette, financial assistant, and Erik Zafft, Broadcast Office Aide & Student Marketing Coordinator.

Kamila Kudelska Accepted into Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative
The Poynter Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative invited Kamila to participate in



the program. Kamila started out as WPM's Northwest Journalist, based in Cody, WY in a position that bridges radio reporting with American West/Yellowstone history based at the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West.* Kamila is now the WPM News and Cultural Affairs Director, overseeing a department of 10 journalists.



Caitlin Tan, WPM Energy and Natural Resources Reporter, in the Field
Caitlin Tan was reporting on the Audubon Society's celebration of sagebrush conservation event on the sixth generation Miller Ranch in Big Piney, Wyoming. Pictured while interviewing Gov. Mark Gordon. Photo Credit: Jaden Bales // Wyoming Wildlife Federation. *June 21, 2024.*

BEYOND WYOMING

An outpatient treatment center in Riverton and on the Wind River Reservation is launching
Hannah Habermann's story about a Wyoming treatment center aired on *National Native News*: *Listen to the story. June 4, 2024.*

With new management plan, Yellowstone bison herd could increase to 6,000 animals
Olivia Weitz's Yellowstone bison story aired on *National Native News* and a spot version aired on NPR. *Listen to the story. June 6, 2024.*

White Buffalo Recovery Center helps Native community members who are recovering from addiction
Hannah Habermann's story about a the White Buffalo Recovery Center aired on *National Native News*: *Listen to the story. June 6, 2024.*

Bill Gates' nuclear project breaks ground, marking a new chapter for a struggling Wyoming coal town
Caitlin Tan's story on the nuclear power plant groundbreaking in Kemmerer aired on *Marketplace.*
Listen to the story. *June 20, 2024.*

Teepee art near Yellowstone entrances shows people Indigenous peoples' connections to the park
A story by Olivia Weitz about Indigenous art aired on National Native News. *Listen to the story. June 27, 2024*

For Native Americans, the birth of a rare white bison is a blessing and a warning
Hanna Merzbach's story about the birth of a rare white bison aired on *All Things Considered. Listen to the story. June 27, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



***The Modern West Podcast - High Altitude Tales* - Listen to the Entire Season**

On this season of *The Modern West*, we went behind the scenes at Wyoming Public Radio. We have a cadre of incredible reporters out in the field collecting stories across the region and this season, they shared some of their storytelling with you. Hear about the crazy workarounds people are finding for the housing crisis in the West. Then visit Melodie Edwards' hometown to meet ranchers adapting to the arrival of wolves on their doorsteps. Ride a bike into a tiny forgotten historic mining town, and meet two incarcerated men finding healing by taming wild horses. *Listen to the Podcast.*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

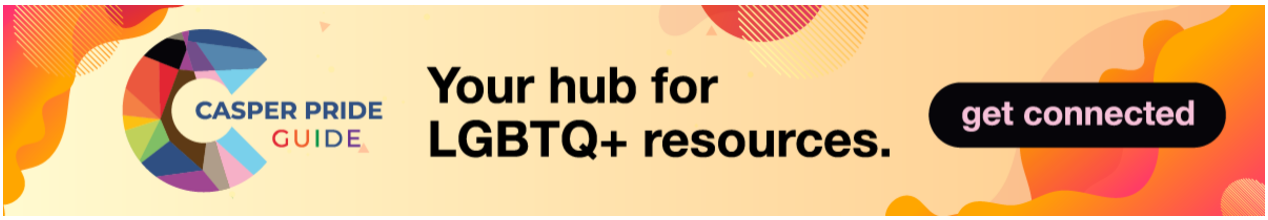
Cheryl Elliott - Welcoming July, Big Horn Style

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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