WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | June 2024



A page from Wyoming's history comes alive. It's about the life and legacy of Wyoming Senator Lester Hunt, who died by suicide after an apparent blackmail attempt by his fellow Congressmen. Ahead of his 70th death anniversary, WPM is holding a panel discussion featuring experts on Hunt's life and legacy and the parallels between American culture and politics then and now. Panelists will consider Hunt's life and the effect of harsh politics on mental health and cultural responses to crises. Then and now, civility matters -- especially when individuals disagree. Join for this Facebook live discussion June 13 at noon. *WPM Facebook link.*

Quick Hits is the name, and brevity is the aim. Check out these short news items that don't make it into our regular reporting. They're a quick way to catch up on Wyoming headlines. You can now find them on our webpage, under the news tab. See the *Quick Hits* link.

Our travelling photo display makes its way to Powell. You can view 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. Drop by the *First Bank of Wyoming* in Powell through the month of June.

Thanks to all who are responding to our "Closing the Books" fund drive. This is a quickie drive that helps reach our overall annual goal before the end of the fiscal year June 30. It's just a couple of days and will be kicked off by our beloved pets on Pet Wednesday, June 26. Closing the Books is one of four WPM on-air drives. Read about the WPM fund drive schedule here. It details our goals for each of the four drives.

WPM leaves national and international reporting to NPR and BBC, and focuses on Wyoming. But there are topics that place Wyoming squarely in the middle of national/global issues and activities. WPM News Director Kamila Kudelska attended a national conference for local reporters hosted by The Council on Foreign Relations on how to report on global/international affairs at a local level. The day and half conference covered topics like climate change at local levels, as well as AI impact, presidential race impacts, and other topics of national concern that involve and impact Wyoming.

Welcome to Hanna Merzbach, WPM's Wyoming Mountain West Bureau Reporter. The Bureau is a regional collaboration of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and New Mexico, and covers issues that are common to the West. You have heard Hanna on WPM reporting from Jackson Hole Community Radio. She replaces Will Walkey, who moved to Boston but still provides reports for WPM.

And speaking of Will Walkey, his story on Hanna, Wyoming (link) caught national attention and aired on *Science Friday.* It also caught the attention of member Jim Thorpen from Casper, who wrote to tell us about it: *"I just listened to Will Walkey on Ira Flatow's Science Friday, and what a fantastic job he did. He represented Wyoming Public Radio and the state of Wyoming very well. Please tell him great job and what an interesting and well-presented story. Also very well spoken and obviously well researched. I've been a WPR listener and*

supporter for many, many years and you all do a wonderful job. I can't imagine a day without WPR – keep up the good work."

"Objectivity" in media is a concept hotly debated since ancient Rome. It's still being debated, but what is it, exactly? This article provides viewpoints applicable to today's contentious journalism environment. See what you think. *What's with the rise of "fact-based journalism"? | Nieman Journalism Lab (niemanlab.org)*

Keep our summer events in mind. *The Grand Teton Music Festival Patriotic Pops* on the 4th of July is right around the corner. *The Retro Cocktail Hour* live events are in the planning for Jackson (August 15) and Cody (August 17). Stay tuned for more information. We are on the hunt for sponsors for both Retro Cocktail Hour events. If you or your business is interested in having your name promoted alongside these exciting occasions, please contact Ry Woody at rywoody@uwyo.edu.

Summers are rich in military connections starting with Memorial Day. A couple of summers ago, *StoryCorps* and WPM hosted an oral history project in which veterans and their families recorded honest and personal stories about their military experience. WPM continues to share these stories. Here's Dianne Burner and her mother, Demi, as they recount fond memories of Dianne's grandmother who joined the Navy in World War I. This story is compiled by Tor Evenstad, a sophomore Neuroscience and Film major at Colorado College. (*Mother and daughter remember the grandmother who joined the Navy at only 16*)

Enjoy our Wyoming summer now that it's here! 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 Powell

The Wyoming Public Media photo contest display will be in Powell Wyoming for the month of June. *First Bank of Wyoming* in Powell, Wyoming is hosting the traveling display, and patrons and anyone traveling to Powell are welcome to stop in and view the photos. Thanks to Mary Vale and Sam Gullickson at *First Bank of Wyoming* for contacting WPM to host this event. See photos and schedule. *May 31, 2024.*

Food Bank of Wyoming is hosting a media training workshop

The event for 150+ Hunger Relief Partners across Wyoming will be virtual on Tuesday, June 18, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. During this training, FBW press relations manager, Joanna Wise, will facilitate a roundtable discussion with media experts about how to effectively pitch stories to news outlets, and ultimately, what reporters and producers are looking for in story ideas.



Wyoming Public Media Sponsors Trivia Night

WPM's news department participated in and sponsored Trivia Night at Bond's Brewery in Laramie. During the event, they met listeners and public media newbies. They got to share the mission and goals of WPM over a glass of locally brewed beer and brain-twister questions. They also gathered information on how people interact with the news and with WPM. If you'd like to contribute to our research, you can take the survey, too! *May 28, 2024.*

Kelli Trujillo is a reporting DJ for the Bluegrass Today Bluegrass and Grassicana

This chart is compiled weekly from actual airplay data logged and reported by the contributing Bluegrass DJ's. The reporters come from both commercial and non-commercial stations, but do not include streaming internet broadcasts. This program



offers charts for songs that were released in the last 18 months. There are only 73 other reporting DJs nationwide.

BEYOND WYOMING

University of Wyoming to shutter Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion after legislative cuts
Chris Clements' story about DEI policies at the University of Wyoming aired on *NPR* during *ATC* on Friday, and *Weekend Edition* on Saturday. *Listen to the story. May 10 & 11, 2024.*

Painting Wind Turbine Blades To Prevent Bird Collisions
Will Walkey's story on painting wind turbine blades black to try to lower bird collisions aired on *Science Friday: Listen to the story. May 24, 2024.*

A Wyoming man is under investigation after bringing an injured wild wolf inside a bar
Caitlin Tan's story on the wolf incident in Daniel and the resulting backlash aired on *NPR's ATC, and* NPR aired a spot on *Morning Edition* about weekend protests. *Listen to the story. May 27 and May 28, 2024.*

Forest Service hosts an outdoor field camp for students from schools on the Wind River Reservation.
Hannah Habermann's story about elementary school *students* on the Wind River Reservation attending Forest Service outdoor field camp aired on *National Native News*: *Listen to the story. May 30, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



The HumaNature Podcast Celebrates a New Season!
Eric Keeler is from Nottingham, England and he hates running. So when he decided to run across America, his friends and family were a bit shocked to say the least. But Eric was determined, and after three years of planning he flew to Boston to begin his journey. This story takes place over nine months, sixteen states, and 3,700 miles. Eric faces bad drivers, injuries, and dangerous weather but also meets some incredibly kind

people and makes some lifelong friends.
Listen to the Podcast.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Don Getty - Great Gray Owl Flight

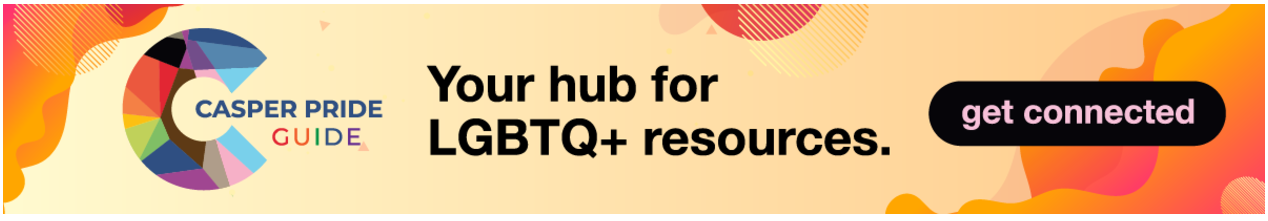
2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry

On Exhibit in Powell, Wyoming



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