WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | November 2024



Grizzly 399 is gone, and for a few days the cacophonous news cycle receded as Wyoming mourned the 28-year-old iconic ambassador for her species. Her death resonated globally, and all Wyoming media covered the story. WPM contributed to the coverage with stories and features found on our website at wyomingpublicmedia.org and fed nationally to NPR. WPM staff commemorated her death with a Day of Dedication in her honor on Monday, October 28th.

WPM will carry live coverage of the 2024 election. Tune in to WPM for state and national results and analysis from 5 – 10 pm on Nov. 5th. Or follow along online with our live blog at wyomingpublicmedia.org. If you have any questions on voting and election security - check out our election FAQ on the homepage. National media sources predict that presidential results may not be known conclusively for a number of days.

WPM's association with the *Mountain West News Bureau* entered a new phase with the hiring of its 3rd Managing Editor. Michael de Yoanna joined the multi-state collaboration bringing with him a distinguished career as a radio and print journalist, serving most recently as editor-in-chief of two dozen community newspapers in the Denver area. He is a former news director at KUNC and in that role, he shared in the vision to help form a regional collaboration along the Rockies – which became the *Mountain West News Bureau* funded by CPB. WPM was one of the founding members and draws much of its regional news from this source found at wyomingpublicmedia.org/mountain-west-news-bureau. Western issues often transcend borders, making this reporting valuable for Wyomingites.

Public Radio Music Day was celebrated on October 23rd, with live performances during *Wyoming Sounds*. Nationally, music lovers, artists, and public radio stations came together to celebrate the vital role noncommercial music plays across the nation. The event had the highest recorded participation yet, with 106 stations across 48 states participating with live and recorded performances throughout the day. Congress recognized *Public Radio Music Day* with bipartisan resolutions, receiving support from key representatives and senators. WPM has a strong commitment to music, with three dedicated services – *Classical Wyoming, Jazz Wyoming*, and *Wyoming Sounds*.

A name well-known to Wyomingites made public broadcasting news. The Board of Directors of CPB unanimously elected Ruby Calvert as CPB Board Chair. "I am deeply honored to be elected as the CPB Board Chair," said Calvert, who has served as Vice Chair for the past two years, "and look forward to working with my fellow Board members, CPB's leadership and staff, to support and strengthen public television and public radio stations across our great nation. Our mission has always been to provide trusted, engaging informational and educational content to all Americans, initiatives which will continue in my term as Chair." Well done, Ruby!

Happy 90th birthday to Bill Siemering, the "father" of public radio. Bill was a visionary who shaped the sound of public radio. As a founding member of NPR, he crafted its original mission statement and helped establish

All Things Considered – NPR's flagship news magazine. Bill's contributions to the development of public radio in the United States are monumental.

Thanksgiving and tradition are synonymous. There's a cherished NPR tradition – Mama Stamberg's Cranberry Relish Recipe – courtesy of Susan Stamberg. Generations of public radio listeners grew up with Susan's recipe passed to her from her mother-in-law. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we offer it here again, complete with background. Enjoy! *Susan Stamberg's Cranberry Relish Thanksgiving*.

A WPM tradition is right around the corner! *Giving Tuesday* falls on December 3rd this year and ushers in a month of giving. Unlike most organizations, we do not fundraise for ourselves on *Giving Tuesday*. Rather, we use the occasion to build awareness for the many non-profits and charities in Wyoming. You tell us your favorite organizations, and we read their name and short mission statement over the air and recognize them online. Then, when it comes time to donate, you'll be reminded of all the organizations that serve Wyoming. They all need our support! Public radio has the airwaves and online presence to bring these worthy organizations to the attention of all listeners. That's the core of our public service mission. If you know a worthy organization, look for the link for online submissions and add it to the list. It will be activated on wyomingpublicmedia.org the week of Thanksgiving. You can also call in on *Giving Tuesday* December 3rd with your information. This year again *Giving Tuesday* activity is underwritten by our friends at the *Wyoming Community Foundation*.

WPM's Fall Fund Drive was a success, with hundreds of members renewing pledges and maintaining their sustainer plans. Thank you! Over 50% of WPM's funding comes from individual donors. Without your support, WPM would be greatly diminished in its service to all Wyoming. We know you have many choices when it comes to supporting media, and all the more we cherish your loyalty to public radio.

And now—the long awaited results of the Cats vs. Dogs battle on Pet Wednesday. During this contest hour, we heard from 20 dogs and 11 cats. The dogs clearly won. But as often happens, there was a spoiler entrant when 16 chickens pledged. Adjudicators debated whether chickens were fair competitors, but in the spirit of inclusiveness, they were admitted and edged out the cats for second place. All became moot when the adorable, internet sensation Moo Deng – a pygmy hippo, from a zoo in Thailand entered the contest complete with a photo and write up and stole the show. Minnie in Fort Collins wrote: "Moo Deng has taken over my kids' lives they insist I donate for her. Also, for our three barn cats - just call them the chaos crew."

An exciting addition to this Fall's Fund Drive and Pet Wednesday included a new emphasis on social media. We encouraged followers to visit Wyoming Public Media's Facebook and Instagram pages to see spotlights of various animal shelters across Wyoming, including pictures of adoptable animals at the shelters modeling the Wyoming Public Media Pet Bandana. A special thanks goes out to these organizations for the work they do in our communities and for participating in this fun collaboration with WPM - Laramie Peak Humane Society in Douglas, Park County Animal Shelter in Cody, Red Desert Humane Society in Rock Springs and St. Francis Animal Shelter in Buffalo.

We enter this month with the knowledge that you are committed to public radio and recognize its value to local, regional, and national civic and cultural life. Thank you for staying the course. It's so heartening to know that we're in this together! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES





Kamila Kudelska Wins Women of Influence Award - Media, Journalism Category
The Wyoming Business Report presented the award to Kamila, WPM Director of News & Cultural Affairs. She has worked for public radio stations in California, New York, France, and Poland. Originally from New New York City, Kamila received her master's in Journalism from Columbia University. Kamila Kudelska (right) is pictured with WPM GM Christina Kuzmych (left). *October 8, 2024.*



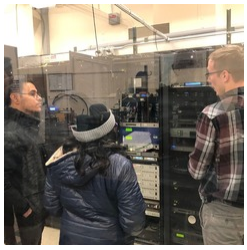
Wyoming Public Media Reporter, Chris Clements, Panelist for Debate
Wyoming PBS hosted debates for the state's U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on Oct. 17, at Central Wyoming College in Riverton. WY PBS Senior Producer for Public Affairs, Steve Peck, moderated the debates. Peck also served on the panel, alongside Wyoming Public Media state government reporter, Chris Clements, and Cowboy State Daily reporter, Clair McFarland. *Watch the debate. October 17, 2024.*



Fall Drive Finale - Thank you for your support!
WPM's Rexanna Kelly cooks up breakfast for volunteers during the Fall Membership Drive. Rexanna, WPM's Corporate Development Manager, also shared her creative videos on social media during the fundrasing event including her salute to WPM pet listeners. *See WPM Pet Wednesday video. October 11, 2024.*



Third Grade Class Tours the WPM Radio Station
The Laramie Montessori School's "Practical Life" class visited Wyoming Public Media. They learned about the variety of careers available in broadcasting, journalism, media, and public relations. The students had a chance to shout out "*Wyoming Sounds"* on the morning music program. Pictured with Norman Frost, WPM Business Manager, and Grady Kirkpatrick, WPM Program Director. *October 30, 2024.*



UW Humanities Class Learns What Goes on Behind the Scenes at WPM
Professor Arielle Zibrak's Intro to Public Humanities class visited WPM to learn about the station and opportunities for collaboration. They chatted with the news department, engineers, and the program director, Grady Kirkpatrick. After the tour, Zibrak reached out to WPM: "We all learned so much and had an amazing time in the studio. I'm so grateful for the work you all do and the service you provide our community." *October 30, 2024.*

BEYOND WYOMING

E. Shoshone Housing Authority received nearly $8 million in federal funds to invest in clean electricity.
A story by Hannah Habermann about the Eastern Shoshone Housing Authority receiving funding to invest in clean electricity aired on *National Native News*. *Listen to the story. October 1, 2024.*

Wyoming summer camp tackles "brain drain" with nature
A feature by Caitlin Tan about the 'Inspire a Kid' summer camp in Bondurant aired on *Marketplace*. *Listen to the story. October 4, 2024.*

The Episcopal Church in Wyoming returned over 200 cultural and sacred items to the N. Arapaho Tribe
A feature by Hannah Habermann about the Wyoming Episcopal Church returning artifacts aired on *National Native News*. *Listen to the story. October 18, 2024.*

Why landlocked foodies are buying wild Alaskan salmon in bulk
A story by Hanna Merzbach about regional fish markets aired on *Marketplace*. *Listen to the story. October 21, 2024.*

The Northern Arapaho Tribe recently held its primary election.

A story by Chris Clements about primary elections for the Northern Arapaho tribe aired on *National Native News*. *Listen to the story. October 22, 2024.*

Animal lovers mourn the death of grizzly bear 399, killed by car

A feature by Hanna Merzbach about Grizzly 399 aired on NPR's *All Things Considered. Listen to the story. October 30, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



Wyoming Fingerstyle Guitarists on *Wyoming Sounds.*

John Poland, Thomas Saffell and Rob Weimann played a studio session ahead of their Fingerstyle Guitar Concert in Laramie. Listen to their interview with Grady Kirkpatrick on *Wyoming Sounds*. *October 15, 2024.*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Anna Kirkpatrick - Table Mountain Alta

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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