WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | August 2024



Chaos, thy name is Congress! Funding for public broadcasting, along with other non-profits, is again targeted and tied to ideologies. Though reason usually prevails in the end, this year may be different because of unprecedented political volatility. Nowadays, it's important to concentrate on local media and remind our legislators of public broadcasting's value to Wyomingites. Our Public Advisory Council did just that, with a letter to our congressional delegation penned by Chair, Maggi Murdock. It focuses specifically on what WPM, as a state network, contributes to Wyoming. It's thoughtful and inspiring. You can find it here. Traditionally, legislators come home to visit with constituents in August. It's the perfect opportunity to reiterate the value of public radio, arts, humanities, and other entities that enrich us economically and intellectually.

Rampant misinformation, among other factors, has eroded public trust for media. Still, a recent nationwide survey conducted in June by the Katz Radio Group, shows that radio leads other media in trustworthiness at 79%, followed closely by newspapers, television, magazines, and social media at 28%. Given today's media volatility, we'll take our wins where we can get them! (See *Adults' Most Trusted Media? Yes, It's Radio.* | *Story* | *insideradio.com*).

The 5th annual *WyoGives* day was a resounding success, with 376 organizations benefiting from Wyoming's generosity. WPM was among them, with new donors as well as our loyal annual supporters. WPM was happy to help with on-air messaging that aired into the night and met the magic 12 a.m. deadline. Yes, there are people listening at midnight, and giving, for that matter!

Wyoming has had some unusually hot days and this takes a very heavy toll on broadcast equipment located on sites all over Wyoming. We also had delays getting cooling equipment through the pipeline and installed. Manufacturers and distributors often move slowly. In addition, required institutional process and paperwork further delay delivery. Yes, it's frustrating, as several listeners contacted us asking about their signal. Meanwhile, our engineering team keeps us abreast with postings on the "*Transmission and Streaming Disruptions*" link near the top of the homepage on wyomingpublicmedia.org. You can also find a link for online reporting of signal disruptions in your area. And a reminder for home listeners – when radio is down, you can catch your program online via streaming on your computer. Your smartphone and smart speaker are also options. Visit our *How to Listen* page. Again, our apologies for the heat, the slow distribution lines, and institutional procedures. We join in your frustration.

During Frontier Days, *Wyoming Sounds* originated from Cheyenne, while WPM's travelling photo display featuring Wyoming photographers was at the *Cheyenne Botanic Gardens*. Now the display leaves Cheyenne and moves to Driggs, Idaho, where a number of loyal Wydaho listeners reside. You can catch us at *Seniors West of the Tetons* from Tuesday, August 6th through Friday, August 30th. There's one more stop in Laramie as part of UW's Homecoming activities. And then, it's time to unroll the 2025 WPM Photography Contest "*Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes*." Dust off those cameras!

Do you know someone who loves to move to the sounds of Mancini, Bacharach, and the Rat Pack? Does this bring back memories of incredible soundtracks of the 50's and 60's? Drop in to Jackson on August 15th at the *Elks Lodge* and to Cody on August 17th at the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*, and revel in the music of past generations which are now becoming all the more popular. Darrell Brogdon of the *Retro Cocktail Hour* will serve up space-age bachelor pad music, tiki tunes, and private eye jazz. Both evenings are a benefit for WPM. We hope you can make it! Also, we'd appreciate a bit of help from you by sharing the event via word of mouth, social media, etc. Tickets and details available here.

With two State Government reporters, WPM is heading into a strong election reporting year. The *Wyoming 2024 Election Guide* is our newest addition. It combines stories, analysis, candidate updates, and voting FAQ's. This project is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (yes, that's the one Congress is wanting to cut!). WPM and our partner station *Jackson Hole Community Radio* will produce stories and online material throughout the election season, and we'll bring you the latest content as it is added.

And speaking of elections, we have an exciting and contentious election year again! We receive many diverse comments from listeners, mostly thoughtful and courteous. Occasionally we run into less than courteous comments, particularly on social media. In the interest of civility, we remove content that does not adhere to posted guidelines. Nothing personal, just keeping things clean and respectful at a time of impassioned rhetoric. View the *WPM discussion guidelines*.

On a sad note, NPR's journalist Ina Jaffe passed away. For over 36 years she reported on issues critical to underserved Americans and was a distinguished NPR voice in all newsmagazines. She had been living with breast cancer for years. Ina Jaffe was 75 years old. (*Ina Jaffe, longtime NPR correspondent, dies after a battle with cancer. She was 75*)

We end on a note of thankfulness and commendation to two gentlemen who shaped the history of WPM for many years. Mike Stone, from Cheyenne, became chair of *WPM's Public Advisory Council* soon after the retirement of Mike Chadey, from Rock Springs. Dennis Cook, from Laramie, joined him as vice-chair. Now the torch is passed to chair, Maggi Murdock, who championed WPM for decades going back to her position as Dean of the UW Outreach School. The vice-chair position went to Oliver Walter, also a multi-decade champion of WPM and retired Dean of UW's College of Arts And Sciences. The WPM PAC is an advisory body made up of members from Wyoming. More information about the PAC can be found on the *Wyoming Public Media Public Advisory Council* site. Both Mike and Dennis remain on our Council and serve on committees that support WPM activity.

On behalf of all associated with the operation of WPM, thank you! It's times like these that make us realize just how long our organization has existed, and the incredible people who contributed to its success for close to 60 years. Those incredible people include you, who have been with us over much of this time as listeners and supporters. We are deeply grateful! It's quite a legacy.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu. Enjoy what's left of the summer.

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES

Live Broadcast from Alpine, Wyoming's Melvin Brewing

Wyoming Public Radio was at Melvin Brewing in Alpine to celebrate the addition of FM signals on 91.9 in Alpine and 89.9 in Alta. With help from Michael Batdorf and Brother Wolf, we started Independence Day festivities early the evening of *July 3rd.*



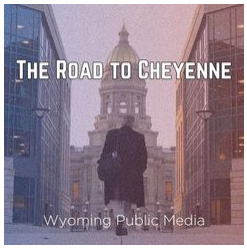
Listen to the broadcast.



Wyoming Public Radio Celebrated Independence Day with a Live Broadcast
of Patriotic Pops from the Grand Teton Music festival at Center for the Arts park below Snow King Mountain in Jackson. GTMF launched its 63rd season with eight weeks of performances under the leadership of Music Director Sir Donald Runnicles. *View concert calendar. July 4, 2024.*



WPM Photo Contest Celebrates "Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes"
Beginning Thu, Aug 15, Wyoming Public Radio listeners from across the state will post their favorite photos in the WPM Annual Photo Contest. Submit your masterpiece in one of the following categories:
* Wyoming's Nature * Wyoming's People * Wyoming's History * Wyoming's Seasons
Entry information here. 2023 Photo Contest Traveling Display



New Special Series on *Open Spaces* to Run Until Primary Elections August 20
"The Road to Cheyenne" – will be your go-to listen if you're lost amid the run-up of the primaries. Each episode features one of our state government reporters, a regional WPM reporter, and occasionally a political analyst to help us wade through how primaries are – and aren't – different this year, which races could tip the balance of power in the legislature, and how the campaign field is influenced by national politics.

BEYOND WYOMING

An inside look at the Navajo weaving tradition, passed down through generations
Chris Clements' story about tapestries woven from Churro sheep wool, carrying on Navajo traditions aired on *NPR's Weekend Edition. Listen to the story. July 7, 2024.*

An Eastern Shoshone tribal member has received a Wayfinder Award from National Geographic
National Native News aired a story by Hannah Habermann about Jason Baldes winning the *National Geographic Wayfinder Award Listen to the story. July 23, 2024.*

Wyoming offers to sell land to national park - or could turn to developers
Chris Clements' feature about northwest Wyoming's Kelly Parcel's uncertain future aired on *NPR's Weekend Edition. Listen to the story. July 27, 2024.*

Fledgling Northern Arapaho reentry agency assists previously incarcerated tribal members
A story by Chris Clements about a Northern Arapaho reentry program aired on *National Native News* and the *Mountain West News Bureau. Listen to the story. July 31, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



EDWARD R. MURROW
AWARDS
2024 WINNER

WPM Wins Regional *Edward R. Murrow* and *Public Media Journalist Association* Awards

Wyoming Public Media is pleased to announce the statewide network won several awards for reporting during 2023. Wyoming Public Media won four regional *Edward R. Murrow* awards in the “Feature Reporting” and “Hard News” categories as well as the “News Documentary” and “Sports Reporting” categories. These stories are advancing to the National Murrow Award competition.

Kudos to the Wyoming Public Media News team! *View the awards and listen to the stories here.*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

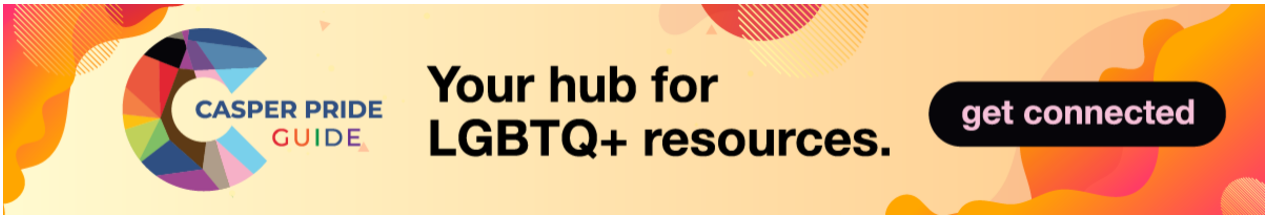
Kristy Behnke - Wild and Free

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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