# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

## General Manager's Newsletter | October 2026



Happy October-
It's the season of pumpkins, goblins, spooky surprises, and more candy than any reasonable person should eat. It's also a season of civic engagement, with elections just around the corner and Wyomingites preparing to participate in one of our most cherished democratic traditions.

It has been another whirlwind month in the world of media and politics. Disputes over press access, court rulings, and rapidly changing developments have created a fast-moving story that can be difficult to follow. Through it all, this episode serves as a useful reminder of why a free press and the First Amendment remain an essential part of public life.

*Wyoming Public Media, Wyoming PBS*, and *Cowboy State Daily* are partnering on a series of candidate debates before the November 3rd election. Catch them live on Wyoming Public Radio or online at WyomingPublicMedia.org. All invited candidates have accepted except Republican House candidate Chuck Gray and Republican Senate candidate Harriet Hageman. Check out voting information at WyomingPublicMedia.org.

With so many climate-related events making headlines, what role should the media play? Should coverage focus primarily on the event itself, or also examine the larger environmental, economic, and social questions that follow? It's a conversation taking place in newsrooms across the country. (See *NPR Public Editor*.)

And yet another renaming! President Trump has renamed several geographic features during his administration, and Lake Ontario appears to be the latest addition to the list. *The Associated Press* recently announced it will continue using "Lake Ontario." For news organizations, naming conventions are more than semantics. They reflect longstanding editorial standards, geographic usage, and the need for consistency in reporting. *Associated Press Will Retain "Lake Ontario" Despite Trump Name Change*

*National Public Radio Music Day* takes place on October 28th and brings together noncommercial public radio stations, artists, and music fans across the country to celebrate public radio's unique role in connecting communities through music. Public radio has long served as a champion of emerging artists, local musicians, and musical traditions that might otherwise go unheard. Wyoming Public Media is proud to participate in this national celebration. Throughout the day, we will recognize our Wyoming artists.

It wasn't a question of if, but when. Thirty-four year WPM veteran is returning to the airwaves, and you'll be hearing from him soon. Yes, upstate New York was beautiful, but Wyoming has Yellowstone, the Tetons, endless plains, the Pokes, and incredible people. Go Bob! And speaking of moving – Grady Kirkpatrick will produce *Wyoming Sounds* remotely, but will drop into Wyoming to check things out and keep music from the western edge coming.

Mary Louise Kelly, host of *NPR's All Things Considered*, is stepping down from that role the week of November 2nd. But she's not going far. In her new role at *NPR*, she will continue lending her sharp instincts, deep expertise, and trusted voice to special projects for the *NPR Network*, including two live events next year building on the success of her September 11th Anniversary Special. Pulitzer Prize-winning *NPR* investigative correspondent Sacha Pfeiffer will step into the role of Acting Host of *All Things Considered*.

Wyoming Public Media was honored to be part of several celebrations of Wyoming and Western culture this fall. *Old Bill's Fun Run* once again demonstrated the generosity of Teton County and its supporters, while the *Bighorn Rendezvous Quickdraw at The Brinton Museum*, *Patron's Ball* at the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*, and *Ucross's* celebration of Naoma Tate highlighted the people and organizations that preserve Wyoming's cultural heritage. Together, these events showcased the remarkable commitment of Wyomingites to supporting nonprofits, arts, culture, and community life.

Fall Fund Drive begins tomorrow – October 3rd! We've already seen a strong response from listeners, and we hope to hear from many more during the week ahead. If you haven't made your annual gift to Wyoming Public Media, now is a great time to do so. And, yes, there will be a *Pet Wednesday*, complete with pre-pledging options for your furry family members, wildlife friends, and the people who care for them. Wyomingites love their animals – all of them! Donate.

Again this year, Wyoming Public Media is participating in UW's 11th Annual *Giving Day*, taking place October 21-22 (noon to noon). This university-wide fundraising event brings together UW alumni, students, employees, and supporters to invest in programs that make a difference across campus and beyond. WPM's *Giving Day* focus is our internship program, an initiative that has launched generations of students into careers in broadcasting, journalism, communications, public service, education, and many other professions. Since our founding in 1966, hundreds of UW students have gained hands-on experience at WPM, and many alumni trace their professional beginnings to time spent behind a microphone, in a newsroom, or working behind the scenes at the station. This year's *Giving Day c*ampaign also recognizes the creation of the *Joan Anderson Wyoming Public Media Student Scholarship*, an endowment to provide scholarships to UW students who intern at WPM. If you'd like to help create opportunities for future UW students, we invite you to support WPM's internship program through *UW Giving Day*. Giving Day 2026 · GiveCampus

*Community Minute* is Wyoming Public Media's way of highlighting the people and organizations making a difference in communities across Wyoming. This month, we're shining a light on *Little Lambs Child Care Center* in Dubois, a nonprofit providing nurturing care and early learning for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. By supporting children and families, Little Lambs is helping meet an important community need and strengthen the Dubois area. Learn more about *Little Lambs* at littlelambsdubois.org.

There's so much more that Wyoming Public Media does as a public service media organization, but space limits us here. Before we close, we want to once again thank you, our members and listeners. WPM is still able to serve Wyoming today because of the extraordinary way you responded to our funding challenges and because of your continued civic engagement across the state. Your support of WPM and of Wyoming makes a real difference. Thank you, and thanks once again for standing with public media.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

Happy Halloween!

*Christina Kuzmych,*
*WPM General Manager*



BEHIND THE SCENES

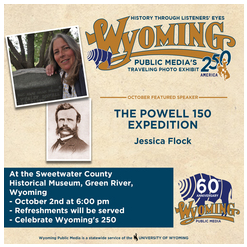




**Wyoming Public Media's Rexanna Kelly Completes the Old Bill's 10 K Fundraiser**

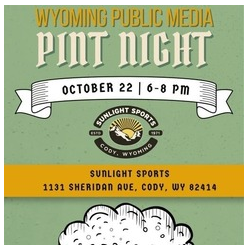
*Old Bill's* giving season was a blast! Thank you to the nonprofits who helped make this video a success! 🏃 And all of WPM's partners for your support!

*Watch Rexanna's NonProfit Running Video. Saturday, September 12, 2026.*




**WPM Photo Exhibit Reception in Green River with Presentation by Jessica Flock**

Stop by the Expedition Island Pavilian to view Wyoming Public Media's Wyoming 250 Photo Contest Exhibit on October 2nd and a presentation by Jessica Flock, who will discuss the 1869 Expediction led by John Wesley Powell. *More information here. October 2, 2026.*




**Wyoming Public Media's Pint Night in Cody**

You're invited to visit with Wyoming Public Media's reporters at Cody's Sunlight Sports for a Pint Night. Stop by to grab some swag, chat with us, and support your favorite public radio station. Let's raise a glass to public radio in Wyoming!

*More information here. October 22, 2026.*

## SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

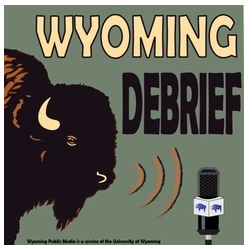



**Wyoming Public Radio Celebrated 60 Years by Posting a Bit of History**

In celebration of 60 years of KUWR on September 14th, our Throwback Thursday visited the first time KUWR had a girl announcer on October 1st, 1971.

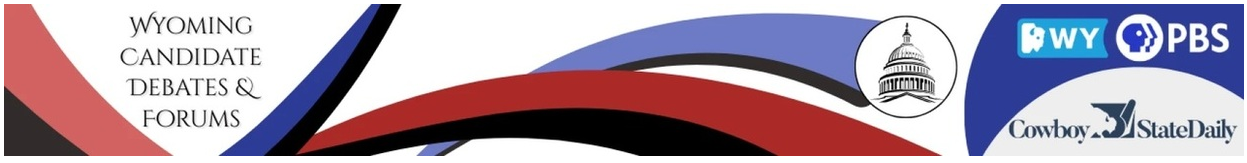
Pictured: Lane Reynolds, Janis Lewis, Lynda Jo Dees 📻

*Check out more milestones on Wyoming Public Radio's Timeline. September 10, 2026.*




**Have you Mastered Wyoming Trivia?**

Test your knowledge of Wyoming history and other cool facts on the *Wyoming Debrief* site. Listen to WPM's daily *Wyoming Debrief* to learn news from around the state, the latest updates, and Wyoming trivia. *Listen to the Wyoming Debrief.*




## BEYOND WYOMING

**High diesel prices hit hard in Wyoming.**

A story by Jordan Uplinger about the price of diesel's impact on Wyoming aired on *NPR's All Things Considered*. *Listen to the story. September 30, 2026.*

## MUST LISTEN




***HumaNature* Podcast - Season 18**

Listen to the fall 2026 season of *HumaNature* as host Megan Feighery chats with defenders of ocean wildlife, arctic explorer, and public lands advocate. In Episode 1, Martina Wing thought she knew how her life was going to go, but a series of events led her down a path she never expected. She went from living in Germany, working 9-5, to devoting her life advocating for manta rays in Hawaii. Photo: Manta Ray Advocates.
*Listen to the new season of HumanNature.*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

### *Mary Whalen - Enjoying the Wyoming Traffic*

*One of the Winners of the 2025 WPM Photo Contest*

**Biography:** Mary Whalen has lived all her life in Wyoming, including Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Laramie as a student at the University of Wyoming. She considers every day in Wyoming a photo worthy moment. Mary is the vice president of WyoPoets, and encourages others to write and think creatively. In her winning photograph, she remembers the poem, The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost. “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.”

**About the Photo:** “Enjoying Wyoming Traffic” was taken near Savery, Wyoming- near Battle Mountain and the Continental Divide. This southern region of Wyoming is especially photogenic in autumn.



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