WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | November 2026



Happy November!

It's here! Tune in for *WPM's Election Night Coverage* on Tuesday, November 3, from 6 to 11 p.m. We'll bring you local election results, alongside updates from *NPR* and the *Associated Press*. Our team will be reporting from around the state, including polling locations, campaign headquarters, our radio studios, online platforms, and communities across Wyoming. They'll be joined by Dr. Ryan Williamson, Associate Professor in the *School of Politics, Public Affairs, & International Studies*, to help provide context and analysis throughout the evening. *NPR* will keep listeners informed on the national picture as results come in. And as a reminder of Wyoming's role on the national stage, Wyoming elections were featured on *NPR* just last week. *(Why run against the party that's been in power for years? | Wyoming Public Media)*

Congratulations to our news team for taking on the herculean task of Wyoming's 2026 Elections coverage. From daily reporting on issues and candidates to primary forums, feature stories, reels, and debates, WPM collaborated with the *League of Women Voters, Wyoming PBS, WyoFile, Cowboy State Daily*, and other non-profit news sources to provide Wyomingites with a broad and thoughtful range of journalism designed to inform voters about the issues and the people seeking to represent them. This work reflects countless hours of reporting, interviewing, producing, fact-checking, and community engagement, all in service of helping Wyoming residents make informed decisions. Now, the stories have been told, the questions have been asked, and the information is in the hands of the public. The rest is up to the voters. Thank you, WPM supporters, for making this journalism possible!

What a way to celebrate 60 years of Wyoming Public Media! Our Fall Fund Drive was another record-setting success, with 795 donor responses and more than $380,000 raised, exceeding our fundraising goal. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed, called in, or encouraged a friend to support us. The drive also brought a familiar voice back to the airwaves! Retired News Director Bob Beck joined us during the week, pitching alongside the team and reconnecting with listeners. Bob is now back at the station in a part-time capacity, and it was wonderful to have him back on the air. Listeners also showed plenty of enthusiasm for our special drive thank you gifts, including the popular "I Helped Save Wyoming Public Radio" T-shirt and a collection featuring original Wyoming artwork by Sarah Konrad on mugs, totes, and limited-edition prints. And, of course, no fall drive would be complete without a little friendly competition! Our Pet Wednesday Cats vs. Dogs vs. Bison challenge brought out some spirited supporters, with Team Dogs taking the crown with 24 votes, followed by Cats with 22 and the Bison with 20. The dogs can enjoy bragging rights until next time! Thank you for making this another remarkable fund drive and for being part of the Wyoming Public Media community.

National *Giving Tuesday* is around the corner and reminds us that strong communities are built by people who care and organizations that serve. This year, we again invite you to help us recognize the nonprofits and

charities that strengthen Wyoming every day. Share your favorite organization, and we'll highlight its work on the air and online so listeners across the state can learn more about its mission and impact. Supporting and celebrating these organizations is an important part of WPM's commitment to public service, and this year their work deserves our attention more than ever. Look for the online submission form at wyomingpublicmedia.org during Thanksgiving week, or call us on *Giving Tuesday*, December 1, to share an organization you'd like us to recognize. *Giving Tuesday* activities are generously underwritten by our friends at the *Wyoming Community Foundation*.

Senior journalist and podcast producer Melodie Edwards was recognized as one of the *2026 Wyoming Women of Influence*, a well-deserved honor celebrating her outstanding contributions to journalism and storytelling in Wyoming. She received her award from Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon, who served as emcee for the event. The recognition highlighted Melodie's remarkable body of work, including her journalism, *The Modern West* podcast, her involvement with *I Respectfully Disagree*, and her commitment to mentoring the next generation through her work with interns. Making the event even more special, Melodie's two daughters were there to watch their mother receive this honor. One of them, Kai Edwards, is herself a recent WPM intern, making the moment especially meaningful for the entire family. We're incredibly proud to have Melodie as part of WPM. Her talent, generosity, and dedication enrich our organization every day, and it was wonderful to see her work recognized and celebrated by the wider Wyoming community. Congratulations, Melodie, on this outstanding and well-earned honor!

Public radio lost one of its most beloved voices this year with the passing of Noah Adams, longtime host of *All Things Considered*. While he guided listeners through historic moments like the fall of the Berlin Wall and September 11, Noah was most at home telling the stories of everyday people in small towns across America. He believed great journalism begins with listening, and then listening again. He will be deeply missed by public radio listeners, journalists, and storytellers everywhere. *(Noah Adams, longtime host of NPR's All Things Considered, has died | NPR)*

The relationship between a university licensee and a public broadcaster is governed by longstanding principles designed to protect editorial independence and serve the public interest. At its best, this arrangement fosters a strong partnership grounded in mutual respect, institutional support, and a shared commitment to public service. At its worst, however, tensions between institutional interests and media independence can erode trust, create conflict, and undermine the very values the relationship is intended to uphold. Recent events offer a cautionary reminder of those risks. The departure of leadership at *WBHM* amid reported conflicts with its university licensee illustrates this point. *(WBHM leader leaves due to conflicts with university licensee - Current)* Likewise, a recent article in the Columbia Journalism Review highlights the broader political and financial pressures confronting public media across the country, raising concerns about how institutions respond during periods of heightened scrutiny and uncertainty. *('All They're Going to Hear Is Capitulation' - Columbia Journalism Review)* Maintaining clear boundaries, shared expectations, and a steadfast commitment to media independence is in the public interest.

Frank Luntz, the well-known political consultant, communications strategist, and pollster, visited Laramie in early October at the invitation of UW President Scott Reeves. During a lively public conversation, he described *NPR News* as one of the most balanced news sources in the country today. We don't often stop to celebrate ourselves, but we'll gladly take that as a moment of pride for public radio. It is a tribute to the reporters, producers, editors, and on-air hosts who show up every day committed to fair, thoughtful, fact-based journalism. We're honored to be part of that tradition. A podcast with President Scott Reeves and Frank Luntz is in production and will be posted here.

This month, Wyoming Public Media's *Community Minute* shines a spotlight on *Rooted in Wyoming*, an organization helping communities grow stronger through local food. Through school and community agriculture projects, *Rooted in Wyoming* works to increase access to fresh, locally grown food for Wyoming families while providing hands-on opportunities to learn about agriculture, nutrition, and growing food. By connecting schools, families, and communities with local food systems, *Rooted in Wyoming* is helping cultivate healthier, more self-reliant, and resilient communities across our state. Wyoming Public Media's *Community Minute* is a public

service program highlighting the important work of nonprofit and service organizations throughout Wyoming. Each month, we feature organizations making a difference in our communities and helping make Wyoming a better place to live.

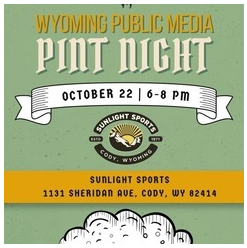
We enjoy sharing the names of our *Leadership Circle* donors on air throughout the year as a small way to say thank you for your incredible support. If you give $1,200 or more annually, you're invited to be included in these brief acknowledgments that air weekly. If you're already being recognized—thank you! If not, or if you'd like to update how your name is read, just let us know (email Ry Woody at rywoody@uwyo.edu). And of course, if you'd rather remain anonymous, we're always happy to honor that.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and with it comes a chance to pause and reflect on what matters most. As we count our blessings, we want you to know how deeply grateful we are for your support of Wyoming Public Media. What you give us is more than loyalty. It is trust. It is the belief that thoughtful journalism, meaningful stories, and lifelong learning are worth sustaining. By choosing to support this work, you become part of something larger than any one program or broadcast. You help keep Wyoming connected, informed, and engaged. This Thanksgiving, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We are honored to have you with us on this journey and grateful to count you among our friends and supporters.

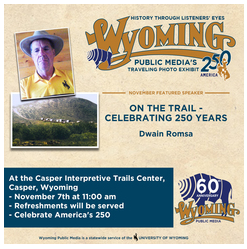
Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



Wyoming Public Media Hosted a Meet & Greet / Pint Night in Cody
Wyoming Public Media's Managing Editor Nicky Oullet traveled to Sunlight Sports in Cody to host a Pint Night. Listeners stopped by to grab some swag, chat, and support the public radio station. *October 22, 2026.*



***Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes* Reception in Casper w/ Dwain Romsa**
Stop by the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper to view Wyoming Public Media's Wyoming 250 Photo Contest Exhibit and opening reception on November 7th at 11 am. *More information here. November 7, 2026.*



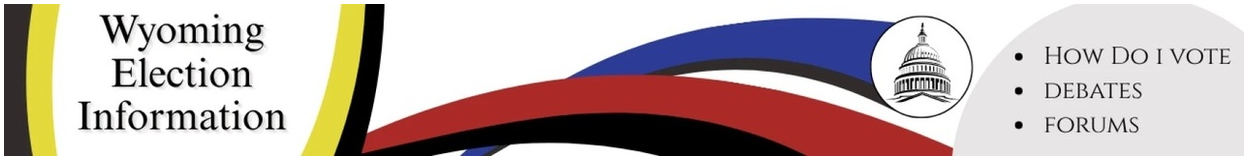
Check out the 2026 Winners of Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes Photo Contest
In September, Wyoming Public Media invited Wyomingites to get out and take photos of Wyoming's beautiful scenery, people, and history. The top winners are posted along with their backstories on the 2026 Photo Contest Winners' page.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Wyoming Public Media conducted multiple interviews with political candidates
...running for various offices in Wyoming and Washington. Jordan Uplinger introduced each set of candidates



before handing it off to another reporter. One of several: The US Senate Race, Jame Byrd Vs Harriet Hageman. *Watch the reel. October 12, 2026.*



BEYOND WYOMING

After a year of uncertainty, Job Corps is making a comeback

A story by Hanna Merzbach about the Job Corps program aired on *NPR's All Things Considered*. *Listen to the story. October 27, 2026.*

MUST LISTEN



***HumaNature* Podcast - Season 18 - Episode 3**

On this episode of *HumaNature*, host Megan Feighery speaks with Ashley Korenblat and Walt Dabney of *Public Land Solutions* about the threat these spaces are facing. *Listen to HumanNature.*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Rose Fry - Reenactment of the Battle of Hundred in the Hand at Ft Fetterman

One of the Winners of the 2025 WPM Photo Contest

Photographer's Biography: Rose Fry is a state retiree who now has the time to wander and take photos. She enjoys rising early in the morning, getting in her car, and traveling in whatever direction she feels at that moment. She always finds something, whichever way she goes. Rose also enjoys Wyoming history. There are endless possibilities to find historical spots around Wyoming.

About the Photo: This photo was taken at the reenactment of the Battle of the Hundred in the Hand, which was also known as the Fetterman Fight. The actual battle took place in December of 1866. The reenactment was held in April and put on by the Wyoming State Parks and the Fort Phil Kearny Bozeman Trail Association at the Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site. - Rose Fry



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