WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | December 2024



Public service makes us different! One purpose that differentiates public broadcasting from other media is our required commitment to public service. We are mandated to serve the community as part of our license and funding, and this service is one of the most gratifying missions we pursue. This year's Giving Tuesday was a joy! It highlighted Wyoming non-profits, particularly ones that are too small to advertise. This year we recognized 158 unique organizations, and we read and re-read them all on Tuesday, December 3rd. They remain on our website for additional exposure here. A special thanks goes to the Wyoming Community Foundation for their ongoing support of this annual event. And, of course, we encourage all Wyomingites to make a gift to a non-profit in the spirit of the Holiday Season!

Our Living Lands is joining WPM's roster of short features. It's a weekly, five-minute segment that will be heard on-air and available online. It covers climate's impact on tribal communities, from agriculture to health to the environment. It is led by a team of Indigenous journalists, including Antonia Gonzales, host of *National Native News*. The program is a collaboration of the *Mountain West News Bureau, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation*, and *Native Public Media*. The initiative receives funding from the *Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, the Indigenous Journalists Association,* and the *Solutions Journalism Network*.

Wyoming Sounds welcomes Marlee Holdeman to play a live set for Wyoming Public Media's *Holiday Virtual Concert.* Marlee is from Gillette and won the 2024 Wyoming Singer Songwriter Competition during the finals in Ten Sleep. The *Holiday Virtual Concert* will be broadcast live on Wyoming Public Radio and Wyoming Sounds at 11am on December 13th and the video will be on Facebook live.

Seasonal programming is available on all our channels, including *Classical Wyoming, Jazz Wyoming,* and *Wyoming Sounds*. Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick's list is available on the *Wyoming Public Media Holiday Specials* page. *Wyoming Public Radio*, our main channel, is heard throughout Wyoming. If you don't have radio access to all channels, you can stream them on wyomingpublicmedia.org or on your smart device. If you crave the sounds of joyful holiday music, check out *Classical Wyoming* for a peaceful listening experience. News headlines occur only at the top of the hour and only for 5 minutes!

Reporting on President-elect Trump can be dicey, as his first four-year term in office indicated. There is much global commentary on the 2024 election and its implications, and how the press should cover the new administration. One article provided a novel approach. See what you think. *A New Way to Cover Trump's Second Term - Columbia Journalism Review*.

Is there one place where you can find local, regional, national, global news, and have it at your fingertips? Actually, there is. Check out our homepage at wyomingpublicmedia.org and read all the way to the bottom. It's fast and convenient, and you can access it on your own time. Try it out over the holidays.

Snuggling up with a good book is never out of style. NPR curates a list of 100 books of the year that are either best-sellers or interesting reads. There's something for everyone! *NPR : Books We Love.*

Do you have a favorite holiday recipe that you make every year around this time? Where did the recipe come from? Who do you make it for? Is there a secret ingredient? Our news department wants to hear from you and share your favorite holiday recipe and the story behind it with our listeners. Leave us a voicemail at 307-766-6626 by Wednesday, December 11, at noon answering those questions and we might air it as part of our special holiday-themed *Open Spaces.*

Wyoming at the *Met*? Hang on to your Stetsons! The Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts begin December 7th and will be available on our *Classical Wyoming* channel each Saturday until June. 7th. See metopera.org/season/radio/saturday-matinee-broadcasts/. This season there's a Wyoming connection in Jeanine Tesori's "Grounded," which airs December 14. It's the story of a pilot who transitions from flying planes to flying drones while trying to raise a family in Wyoming. Commissioned by the *Met*, it's the first opera by two-time Tony Award-winning composer Jeanine Tesori..

The giving season is upon us. You'll hear messages on air encouraging a year-end gift to WPM, be it for altruistic or tax reasons or both. We humbly ask for your support for WPM and its decades of service Wyoming be it in the car, at home, or elsewhere. This is a difficult year for all media, particularly public broadcasting and non-profit news organizations. But when all is said and done, elections come and go – but people remain, and it's people who preserve the public radio that connects communities and builds a nation. This season, while in the giving spirit, consider how a planned gift to Wyoming Public Media might reflect your beliefs and values. Planned giving is another way to expand options and philanthropic capacity. You may be surprised to learn how easy it can be to make a planned gift.

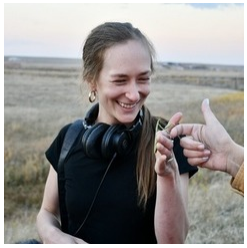
And now -- a more reflective moment. Amidst post-election perplexities, it's good to take a moment to stop and reflect on our public radio mission that serves millions of Americans and speaks to why we're here to begin with. *NPR* CEO Katherine Maher wrote to *NPR* staff last month, offering one perspective on our collective mission: "As public media, we have a tough mandate — it is our work to illuminate the many different people and perspectives that shape the nation, and perhaps in doing so, help Americans better understand one another. We don't do democracy, citizens do. But it is our obligation and honor to serve its cause and enable its resilience."

2024 was an incredible year and we got through it. WPM's staff, students, interns, and volunteers extend best wishes to you and yours, with plenty of happy listening, reading, and viewing experiences on radio, online, and and anywhere your listening takes you!

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

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



WPM Rural & Tribal Reporter, Hannah Habermann, Joined a Class Field Trip
Folks in the group were from Wyoming Indian High School, St. Stephens Indian School, the University of Wyoming College of Law, and nearby ranches. They were on a day-long field trip focused on hydrology and acknowledging Indigenous connection to the land. Pictured here is Hannah Habermann with a praying mantis during the tour of Horse and Lodgepole Creeks. *Listen to the story.* Aired *November 1, 2024.*

WPM General Manager Christina Kuzmych attended 2024 Conference Hosted by Regional, NPR, and CPB Leadership.

The purpose of the conference was "to provide an opportunity for public radio leaders across mid-America to address issues impacting stations in today's media environment." *November 10-12, 2024.*



Former Wyoming Public Media News Director, Bob Beck, Stopped by the Station
Bob Beck was in town to moderate a panel at this year's *Governor's Business Forum* about local news in Wyoming, "Wyoming's Shifting Media Landscape." Pictured here with (left to right): Ivy Engel, Kamila Kudelska, and Chris Clements. *November 12-13, 2024.*

***Current* Magazine Featured WPM WY State Government Reporters Grant**
Wyoming Public Media's new Government Reporting project was featured in *Current*, the public broadcasting industry publication. WPM was one of 7 stations/networks to receive a grant to cover state government in the first round. This was a follow up of their work. Read the rest of the Story. *November 4, 2024.*



Reporters Hannah Habermann, Olivia Weitz, and Hanna Merzbach visited CWC
Wyoming Public Media's northern Wyoming reporters hosted an event for a group of students at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, offering donuts and discussion. This was an open conversation on the role of journalism, sponsored in part by the *America Amplified* program. *Listen to the story. November 18, 2024.*

Rural newspapers are fighting to survive. So what happens when major news hits?
A feature by Melodie Edwards about the Pinedale Roundup and rural news deserts aired on the *Marketplace Morning Report*. *Listen to the story. November 4, 2024.*

When the U.S. Forest Service's budget shrinks, who pumps campground toilets?
Caitlin Tan's story about the forest service's shrinking budget aired on *Marketplace's* evening show. *Listen to the story. November 11, 2024.*

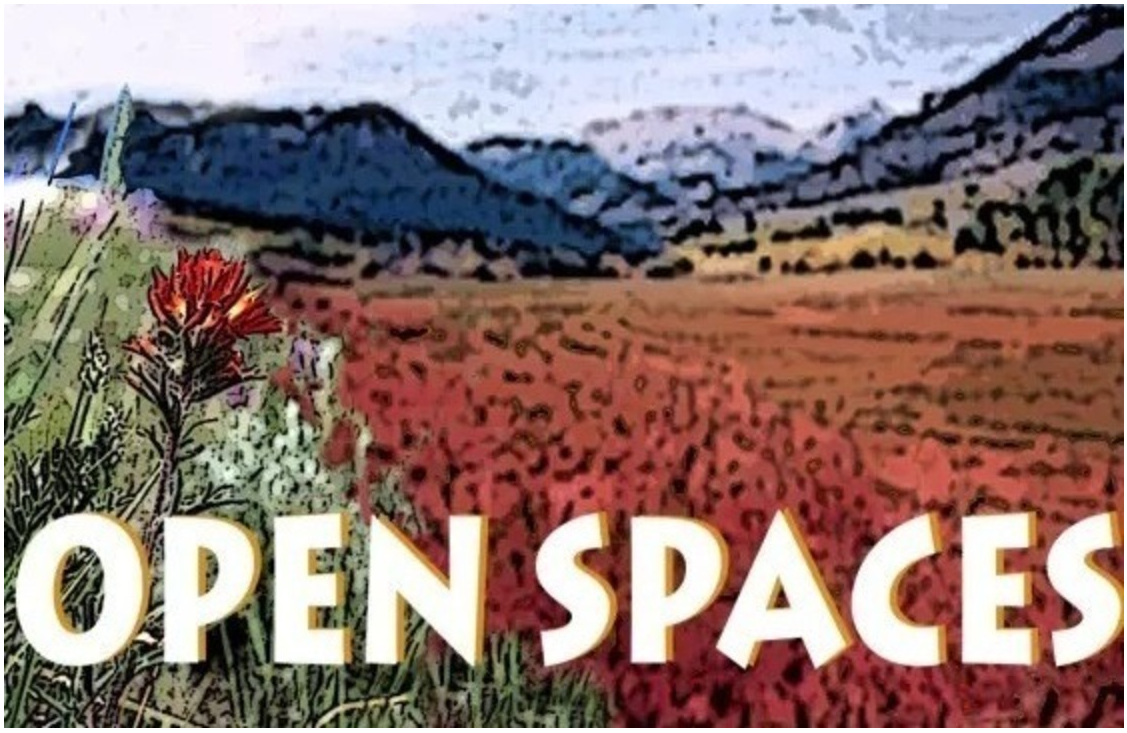
On the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, a Northern Arapaho Tribal member is leading the charge against recidivism, which is 33% higher for Native Americans than other groups.
A story by Chris Clements about recidivism on the Wind River Reservation aired on *National Native News*: *Listen to the story. November 11, 2024.*

People on the Wind River Reservation say President Joe Biden's recent apology for the federal Indian boarding school system needs follow-up
A story by Hannah Habermann about reactions on the Wind River Reservation to President Biden's apology for federal Indian boarding school history aired on *National Native News*. *Listen to the story. November 13, 2024.*

In Wyoming, an already-conservative legislature shifts further to the right
A feature by Chris Clements about Wyoming's election ran on NPR's Weekend Edition and WBUR's *Here & Now*. *Listen to the story. November 23, 2024.*

Abortion rights advocates are celebrating a victory in Wyoming
A feature by Hanna Merzbach about abortion legislation in Wyoming aired on NPR: *Listen to the story. November 28, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



A news and public affairs program about Wyoming and the Mountain West.

The November 22nd *Open Spaces* podcast episode featured how the abortion ban was overturned, the future of energy and news, and more... *Subscribe to the Open Spaces podcast.*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Ewa Chilson - Wyoming Pronghorn

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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