WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | May 2024



Recent coverage of the Sublette Wolf story left our listeners with a heavy heart, while the West Bank Dog rescue by Wyoming's Kindness Ranch brought glimmers of hope. The outpouring of support from our listeners for both stories was remarkable, with online readership skyrocketing and memorial messages pouring in during our fund drive Pet Wednesday and beyond. Our own Jordan Uplinger ventured out to Hartville, Wyoming, to meet the rescued dogs and shared a first-hand account of their heartwarming journey *(Dogs evacuated from the West Bank come to Wyoming)*. Meanwhile, the Sublette Wolf story continued to grip the hearts of Wyomingites, leaving them enraged. It's a tale of two Wyomings - one difficult, the other uplifting – stories that radio can tell best.

In April we learned of reporting areas that NPR needs to improve. NPR Senior Editor Uri Berliner's article highlighted a trend found in much of today's media – an inclination to lean left of center in covering political and social topics. This article generated intense debate from all sides, including some lawmakers threatening to defund NPR. While strong opinions are common in today's political climate, it's essential to exercise caution due to the unintended consequences defunding can have on the infrastructure of local community-focused media like WPM. WPM operates 46 rural sites serving a diverse public with varying ideologies and varying access to any media. This argument is articulated in an opinion piece by Paul Haaga, former NPR Board Chair and CEO, who is a lifelong Republican. (*Defund NPR? As a listener, a supporter and a Republican, I say no*.) It was also reiterated in Wednesday morning's House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on NPR bias, where there was strong bi-partisan support for the work local public radio does in America and a desire for NPR to address issues of bias in reporting. NPR's initial response to the bias charge is available here.

Covering Gaza is a complex and sensitive issue that has generated a lot of attention, causing divisions among people. The conflict between Israel and Hamas is multi-dimensional, making it challenging to cover without showing any bias. Recently, NPR faced accusations of bias in reporting on Hamas and has published an article in response to these allegations. (*The relentless focus on Gaza*)

It's a quiz, and it's fun! Many Americans lack knowledge about their state government and civics-related issues due to the lack of education. Our *State Government Collaboration* project offers an enjoyable way to learn about Wyoming and civics. Explore this opportunity to become a more informed citizen: *America Amplified Quiz*. More quizzes are on the way. The *Wyoming State Government Reporting Collaboration* is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Wyoming's spring isn't complete without Wyoming stories. Be sure to catch these podcasts on your digital device or our website at TheModernWest.org. They're an example of what local public radio can do when it steps into the wonderful world of storytelling.

Are you planning a trek through Wyoming? Be sure to keep a copy of our frequency brochure close by (link),

so that you can stay tuned in throughout your journey. You can also find other ways to listen to WPM while traveling. Some of you connect your smartphone to your car speakers and get seamless listening to *Wyoming Public Radio*, or *Classical Wyoming*, *Jazz Wyoming* and *Wyoming Sounds*.

Summer events are in the planning, including *The Grand Teton Music Festival Patriotic Pops* on the 4th of July. For those of you who love the *Retro Cocktail Hour*, live events are in the planning for Jackson and Cody in August. Cocktails on the way!

And a drink may be just the thing needed as we head into the election season. Tighten those seat belts – it promises to be contentious. On the state level WPM will continue to provide coverage through the W*yoming State Government Collaboration* project. You'll find daily stories on air and online.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu. If you would like to weigh in on the national discussion on NPR or WPM, you can share your views with the Wyoming congressional delegation here. You can also contact NPR directly here or learn more about NPR here.

All best, from the WPM team! We love being your public radio network!

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



Ivy Engel attended the *Fly-In for America Amplified Conference*
During the *America Amplified* conference, reporters from across the country came together to discuss election coverage and community engagement strategies. Ivy is "excited to put the ideas she gained to practice." *April 2-5, 2024.*



Hannah Habermann attended an International Conference on Sexual Assault
The *Domestic Violence and the Cycle of Justice Conference* in San Diego was put on by the organization *End Violence Against Women International* and provides victim-centered, trauma-informed trainings for those working to address gender-based violence. She received a scholarship to attend the conference from critically-acclaimed journalist Jon Krakauer. *April 1-5, 2024.*



News Team Gathered in Laramie for Reporter Training During Spring Drive
Wyoming Public Radio's (WPR) news team connects people through news and cultural programming that informs, inspires and educates. WPR does that by covering stories on the ground as well as posting reporters in towns across the state. WPR works to bring local voices to statewide and national conversations. *April 17, 2024.*



WPM Photo Contest Reception Featured Music from the *Box of Rocks*
Wyoming Public Media's "*Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes*" Photo Contest invited photographers from around the state to submit masterpieces and offer a glimpse of their neck of the woods. This year, WPM celebrated winning photos with a standing-room-only launch of the traveling display at Laramie's Coal Creek Coffee.
See photos and schedule. *April 27, 2024.*

BEYOND WYOMING

U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman favors bill that would bar transgender athletes from competing in Olympics
Chris Clements' story that aired on *National Native News* addressed potential impacts of the legislation on trans people, including those living on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation. *Listen to the story. April 1, 2024.*

Former chairman of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe announces a bid for the Wyoming House
Chris Clements' story about Ivan Posey, a tribal education coordinator at Central Wyoming College who is running for the Wyoming House, aired on National Native News. *Listen to the story. April 12, 2024.*

Beyond farmers markets: New stores in Wyoming expand the reach of local foods
Hannah Habermann's story about a Wyoming cottage food law that is supporting local producers aired on *Marketplace. Listen to the story. April 24, 2024.*

A federal agency wants to give up management of lands on the Wind River Reservation
A story by Chris Clements aired on *National Native News* about land on Muddy Ridge, WY that could transfer to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or to local interests like the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes aired on *National Native News. Listen to the story. April 30, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



Eli Lev stops by Wyoming Sounds!
Hailing from Maryland, Eli Lev is a singer, songwriter, and musician. He's been everywhere – from Andorra to Australia, California to Maine, and places between and beyond! Before his show in downtown Laramie, he stopped by Wyoming Public Radio to delight listeners with great conversation and bright, soulful songs. His

music projects include Four Directions, Walk.Talk.Dance.Sing., and a new EP titled Present Journey. You can follow Eli Lev on his musical journey as a LEVITATOR, and don't miss singing along live!
Listen to the interview and broadcast.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Bill Sincavage - Fly Fishing at Dawn

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry

On Exhibit at Coal Creek Coffee (uptown) in Laramie, WY.



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