WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | October 2024



Wyoming Public Media News and Cultural Affairs Director, Kamila Kudelska, was invited to join the *2024 Poynter Institute Public Media Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative*. According to *Poynter*, "This nine-month fellowship is designed to prepare public media leaders for the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing media landscape." Fellows will participate in trainings focusing on ethics, community-focused news, and leadership.

The national *Public Radio Music Day* takes place October 23rd. This event brings together noncommercial public radio stations, artists, and fans to recognize public radio's essential community service and unique role in the music industry locally and nationally. WPM will honor the occasion online and on-air by featuring a number of Wyoming artists throughout the day and highlighting live music venues across the state. Inda Eaton will be in a live studio session beginning at 11:15 am. "It's a great opportunity to promote what we do on a daily basis and that's connecting our listeners with great music on the western edge including many talented artists from Wyoming," said Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick.

Fall fund drive goes live this Saturday, October 5th! We had a strong response in the days leading up to the drive, as people responded to the pre-drive messaging both on-air and online. The story about how WPM engineers keep 46 locations on the air resonated with our readers. (See "*The first responders to broken signals*"). If you haven't made a pledge to WPM, do it now. Donate here. Thanks to all our annual renewing and sustaining members who keep WPM alive in Wyoming.

This year WPM is participating in *UW's 10th Annual Giving Day*. It takes place October 23/24 and targets UW Alumni and supporters. WPM's ask is specifically targeted to our Internship program – an initiative that touches many University alums who worked at WPM since its inception in 1966, and even going back to the station's early years. WPM Interns contribute substantially to our operation, and many have gone on to full-time positions in broadcasting and other professions. If you are interested in furthering Intern opportunities at WPM, our campaign link will go live at noon on October 23, 2024 at uwyo.edu/givingday.

WPM's newsroom is planning open conversations about media with university and community college students. Supported by our *America Amplified* partnership, reporters will travel to different Wyoming locations to answer questions people may have and to hear from students on the role of media and journalism and how they consume news. The first event takes place in partnership with BridgeUWYO – a nonpartisan student organization that aims to bring people together from all political spectrums. The event will take place at the Skylight Lounge in the UW Student Union on October 3rd from 5 - 6 p.m. Events are in the works in Riverton, Rock Springs, and Casper.

A recent *Pew Knight Initiative* reveals that most Americans follow local political news, but not all are satisfied with the coverage they receive from media sources. The good news is that consumers with strong community interests and ties are more likely to turn to local news for information. And what is the most common source

of local news? Friends and family! See *Most Americans follow local political news — but few are satisfied with the coverage they get, a Pew report finds* | Nieman Journalism Lab (niemanlab.org)

An era came to an end! For 41 years, The *Thistle and Shamrock's* Fiona Ritchie brought Celtic music and culture to Wyoming. "I am blessed to work in a way that doesn't feel job-like, so I'm certainly not retiring, but it is time for a change," said Fiona Ritchie. "Although I want to bid farewell to weekly deadlines, it's not goodbye to listeners. I hope to connect in a different way, including curating archives and producing special programs for NPR. Watch this space!" WPM along with 236 stations that aired her program wish Fiona all the best in her new endeavors. Our last broadcast aired on Sunday, September 29th.

You may have noticed a glitch in our broadcasts on the *Wyoming Public Radio* and *Jazz Wyoming* channels. At the end of the NPR hourly newscasts our computer (automation) is cutting away early and creating 5 – 10 seconds of silence before resuming programming. There are many variables and several different clocks at play, and we are working through a process of elimination to identify the culprit. Thanks for your patience!

We end on a high note. Engineer Ben Slater completed *Safety One's Fall Protection Safety* and *Rescue Advanced Techniques* classes and is now qualified to teach and certify our WPM engineers in tower climbing and safety methods. Engineers have all the fun – something other members of our staff are beginning to notice and covet.

Enjoy the beauty of fall colors! Halloween is right around the corner, followed by the elections on November 5th which WPM will cover. It's hard to tell which is scarier!

Thank you for your support and encouragement. We look forward to the fund drive, and particularly Pet Wednesday, which has become a Wyoming tradition. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



Ivy Engel attended the *Online News Association's (ONA)* conference
The days were chock full of training, conversations, and thought-provoking questions as people from newsrooms across the country worked to better serve audiences' needs. *ONA's* 25th anniversary brought a celebratory mood to the conference, including a local drumline that kicked them off in Atlanta, GA. *September 18-21, 2024.*



Hannah Habermann and Hanna Merzbach met with journalists from across Africa
The group was visiting Jackson as part of the "*Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists: 21st Century Approaches to Print & Radio Journalism*." They were nominated by U.S. Embassies in their region and also visited Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Madison and Milwaukee. *September 16, 2024.*



WPM Winners of 2024 Photo Contest - Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes!
Congratulations to this year's Wyoming Public Media Photo Contest winners! We were lucky to receive over 100 beautiful entries from all over Wyoming, and it was difficult to choose the best. The winners were chosen by listeners who voted for their favorite in each category, *Wyoming's Nature, Wyoming's People, Wyoming's History, and Wyoming Seasons*. *See the top 3 photos in each category.*

WPM Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick attended the 25th Annual American Fest



The Nashville festival featured many Wyoming connections including the Western AF Review that included Jalan Crossland from Ten Sleep. While attending *Americana Fest* in Nashville, Grady enjoyed an interview with Aofie O'Donovan. Photo: Jalan Crossland, Grady Kirkpatrick, Rich Russell. See additional photos. *September 17-21, 2024.*



Wyoming Public Radio Alumni and *BuffaloGrass* Fans Celebrated Homecoming
Saturday's get-together featured the *Big Hollow Bluegrass Band* live on *BuffaloGrass* with Kelli Trujillo as parade goers stopped by to listen to some tunes! Listen to *BuffaloGrass* each Saturday @ 11 am on wyomingpublicmedia.org.
Pictured: Mary O'Neil. *Watch a clip. September 28, 2024.*

BEYOND WYOMING

Yellowstone National Park wants to grow its bison herd. Montana is threatening to sue
A story about Yellowstone bison controversies by Olivia Weitz aired on *NPR's Weekend Edition. Listen to the story. September 1, 2024.*

Wyoming State Parks partnering with Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game in all-women's program
A story by Hannah Habermann about on all-women's outdoor program aired on *National Native News*: *Listen to the story. September 12, 2024.*

Eastern Shoshone tribal members voicing concerns about the integrity of the tribe's primary election
A story by Chris Clements about the Eastern Shoshone Tribe's primary election issues aired on *National Native News. Listen to the story. September 27, 2024.*

MUST LISTEN



The Modern West* Episode 4 of *The Great Individualist: Cows=Civilization

The history of how we brought the pastoral cow to live on the arid lands of the west is a violent one. Jim Elliot grew up in the shadow of that history and his stories are quintessential cowboy, full of guns, death, and hard winters. But even Jim recognized the tragedy of the attempted annihilation of Indigenous culture and bison to make way for cows. But now, there's growing hope among tribes as bison make a comeback.

Stream or Download the *Modern West* podcast.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Lance Faulkner - A great blue heron, one half of a nesting pair at John and Annie Woodhouse Public Access Area

2023 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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