



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | September 2025



WPM welcomes *Wyoming Food Coalition* and *Wyoming Stargazing* to our *Community Minute* program, which highlights the mission, scope, and impact of local nonprofit and service organizations. Stay tuned to catch *Community Minute*, or listen online at: wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute. Non-profits are at the heart of Wyoming's strong economy and vibrant cultural life, and WPM is honored to feature them.

Susan Stamberg, one of NPR's "founding mothers," is retiring after an iconic career at the network. Heard on *All Things Considered*, *Weekend Edition Sunday*, and in her coverage of the arts, Susan was no stranger to Wyoming. Over the years, she was a guest at events in Jackson and Laramie. We will miss her distinct voice and delivery that thrilled thousands of listeners over the years. [Susan Stamberg, iconic NPR voice and broadcast journalism legend, is retiring](#)

Ari Shapiro is leaving NPR after a decade of hosting *All Things Considered*. Ari was a real "NPR kid." He started as an Intern working for Nina Totenberg. [Ari Shapiro says farewell to NPR](#)

Scott Detrow, veteran *Weekend ATC* host, is taking over hosting *All Things Considered* in late September. You may remember Scott for his anchoring from St. Peter's Square during the papal conclave that elected Pope Leo, the first American to lead the Catholic Church. [Scott Detrow Named Host of All Things Considered](#)

You may have heard the Schmidt Family Foundation sponsorship on NPR. Recently, philanthropists Eric and Wendy Schmidt expanded their support to include the *Mountain West News Bureau*, of which WPM is a founding member. This generous contribution allows the *Bureau* to continue its important work in covering regional news across five western states. This support comes at a crucial time, as funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which launched the *Mountain West News Bureau* in 2018, was cut by Congress. You can view the *Mountain West News Bureau's* stories that WPM selects to air [here](#).

WPM is pleased to welcome Kemmerer to our family of transmitters and translators. Kemmerer is now home to two Non-Commercial Educational frequencies that WPM was awarded by the FCC nearly four years ago. This was the final signal we built out after the Trump administration announced cuts to public broadcasting. In partnership with *Wyoming PBS*, Kemmerer now boasts a stronger *Wyoming Public Radio* signal on 91.1, along with a brand-new *Wyoming Sounds* signal on 89.3. We warmly welcome Kemmerer! Unfortunately, Gillette will not receive a new *Wyoming Sounds* signal due to the funding cuts; however, there is a possibility for this to change with private or foundation support before the FCC window expires.

How does a reporter deal with a story they don't like? It's an intricate business! *NPR Public Editor* takes you through the behind-the-scenes planning and thinking. ([View article](#))

Ukraine remains a prominent topic in the news, with Trump and Putin drawing significant attention. However, there are individuals dedicated to preserving the truth about what actually occurred. [The Memory Keepers - Columbia Journalism Review](#)

Speaking of the power of the power of small newspapers, kudos to Robb Hicks, Jen Sieve-Hicks, and Rob Mortimore for saving 8 papers in Wyoming that were abruptly closed after their parent company pulled its financial support. [The couple rescuing 8 Wyoming newspapers say it's time to return to hyper-local news](#)

With summer waning, our staff is very busy bringing WPM to the public while the driving is good. Chris Clements and Hanna Merzbach will be in Jackson on September 6th for *Old Bill's Fun Run* booth activity. Drop by and say a few words into the microphone! Grady Kirkpatrick will be in Casper September 13th for the *Bloomery Presents: Pleasure People with Shawn Hess* and our news staff will be in Rock Springs September 12th for a *Coffee and Conversation* at Pin Up Coffee.

Our state government reporter, Chris Clements, will be traveling to the northeast corner of the state for three days in mid-September. He will meet with Wyoming representatives and also with the general population at post offices, grocery stores, and more local spots. Chris will be asking the following questions: Property tax cuts: what impacts are you seeing in your communities? What do you think about the direction Wyoming's government is heading in, or what can legislators and stakeholders do differently? Get your answers ready! WPM plans to compile them and share with our audiences.

Congratulations to Ivy Engel, WPM's Digital Producer and Engagement Coordinator, who has been nominated as a candidate for the *2025 Wyoming Women of Influence* awards. These awards are presented annually by the *Wyoming Business Report* to recognize women leaders in Wyoming who are making a difference in our state. Criteria for the awards include leadership, creativity, innovative thinking, and exemplary character. Past recipients from WPM include our News Director and General Manager.

The public broadcasting system recently received some positive news. Six major foundations have come together to support stations that are on the brink of collapse. A total of \$36.5 million will be allocated to assist the most vulnerable stations, where the loss of federal funding could lead to closure. Tribal and small rural stations, which serve as the sole news and emergency providers in their areas, will be the primary beneficiaries. The initiative is being administered by *Public Media Company*, an entity that provides strategic consulting for public broadcasters.

In similar news, *Wyoming PBS* announced a \$500K challenge grant from the Hughes Charitable Foundation in Jackson. The Hughes family is no stranger to media. Wayne Hughes Jr. owns the *Cowboy State Daily* publication, which was previously funded by another generous Jackson philanthropist and 2018 gubernatorial candidate, Foster Friess.

WPM also received good news about our *NPR* fees, which have been reduced by 20%. This is a systemwide reduction for stations that are rural with smaller populations from which to draw funding. For an updated report on how WPM addressed federal funding losses, check the GM Update tab and particularly this [link](#).

"What can we do to help?" This is a question we hear frequently. If you are able, consider supporting us financially. Many of you already contribute through annual gifts, monthly sustaining memberships, and planned giving. You can find various ways to give [here](#). Additionally, you can advocate for our mission by spreading the word to others and contacting our state and federal legislators. Helping us grow our donor base is essential. Not everyone recognizes the value of public broadcasting for individuals and communities, and to make up for the federal funding gap, we need to increase our membership. Just think, if 100 listeners each gave \$5 a month for 12 months, WPM would earn \$6,000 annually. This amount could cover one year of "*Science Friday*," two years of the "*TED Radio Hour*," or half a year of "*Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me*." Every contribution adds up!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu. As noted, late-breaking developments related to public broadcasting and defundings will be posted on [Wyoming Public Media General Manager Blog](#). Questions listeners have posed are posted on wyomingpublicmedia.org/federal-funding-responses-to-questions.

Thank you for hanging in with us through this wild ride in our national political history! It's good to know that we're not alone.

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES



Kamila Kudelska, Caitlin Tan, Chris Clements, and Ira Glass at Jackson Event

During Ira Glass's event at the *Jackson Center for the Arts*, Ira discussed "Seven Things I've Learned." Ira Glass is the creator, producer & host of *This American Life*, the iconic weekly public radio program with millions of listeners around the world. *August 2, 2025.*



Beyond the Range - S 2, Ep 17 "The Cultural Matrix Our Economy is Built On"

"In Wyoming, culture and economy are deeply intertwined, and few understand that connection better than Grady Kirkpatrick, Programming Director at Wyoming Public Media." [*Listen to Beyond the Range interview.*](#)



Live Broadcast from the Wyoming-Singer Songwriter Competition

Wyoming Sounds broadcast live from the finals of the *Wyoming-Singer Songwriter Competition* in Ten Sleep. Music fans and singer songwriters from across the state gathered at the Ten Sleep Brewery over Labor Day Weekend. Congrats to all the winners! *August 31, 2025. Photo: Kenny Raymond-Bairail.*

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes

Enter the Wyoming Public Media 2025 Photo Contest now through September 30th! Wyoming Public Media invites Wyomingites to get out and take photos they think reflect Wyoming's history or their favorite scenes. *Photo: Dorina Kemper. [Learn more.](#)*

BEYOND WYOMING



New scholarship at the University of Wyoming for Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapaho students

A story by Hannah Habermann about UW starting a new scholarship for Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho students aired on *National Native News*. [*Listen to the story.*](#) *August 18, 2025.*

Fed Chair Powell eyes September rate cut

A story by Hanna Merzbach about the Federal Reserve Symposium in Jackson, Wyoming aired on *BBC*. [*Listen to the story.*](#) *August 22, 2025.*

MUST LISTEN





WPM is pleased to announce Season 2 of its newest podcast, *Going to Extremes with Mark Jenkins*.

Join Mark Jenkins in this second season of *Going to Extremes* on a handful of expeditions. Follow adventures throughout Wyoming and across the world, scaling mountains, riding rivers, and meeting villagers in each community along the way. [Listen to the podcast.](#)



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Elizabeth Donaldson - Leigh Lake Wyoming Nature

2024 WPM [Photo Contest Entry](#)



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