



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | August 2025



This is a historic moment for public broadcasting, and WPM recognizes it as a public loss. After 60 years, public broadcasting has been defunded by Congress at the urging of President Trump. Past presidents have urged defunding for political reasons as well, but Congress, representing the people, always stepped in to divert or lessen the blow. Unfortunately, these are different times. Two years of forward funding will be cut in October, making it impossible for CPB to fund local stations and networks. It has announced the wind-down of its activities. Though CPB continues to work on transitional options, the mood and makeup of Congress is difficult to overcome. The irony is that in its zeal to destroy NPR, Congress managed to handicap a national network of stations whose main purpose is to serve constituents with local programming largely unassociated with NPR. Thanks to early planning and strong listener response, we are keeping operations going to ensure listeners don't lose programming and community service. For its part, NPR is working to maintain service and programs continue to air. For more information on planning and updates on defunding, go to the [GM Update](#).

Some large market stations with *Fortune 500* companies in their signal areas generated over \$1 million of "revenge" support and were able to cover two years of loss. Mid-size stations and networks, like ours, that had a strong development system in place and motivated listeners, like you, were able to get a head start on the projected loss. Small, rural, and tribal stations are having a more difficult time and may need to merge with larger stations or networks. The main objective now is to stay operational and in service to the public during turbulent and unpredictable times. [Public media stations see an outpouring of donations](#).

Even during the throes of the rescission, news continued to happen. The Texas flood over the July 4th holiday revealed the critical role public radio plays in emergency alerting situations where information can save lives. *Texas Public Radio*, based in San Antonio, took the lead, issuing local warnings to evacuate. At the same time, it fed stories to NPR to populate hourly newscasts and newsmagazines for an anxious national audience. Here's how it worked in an [NPR Public Editor write-up](#).

July 4th ushered in a year-long celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. WPM honors the anniversary with our historic productions that highlight Wyoming history through the centuries. *Archives on the Air* and *Museum Minute* are just two such productions, and they depict Wyoming's part in American history. A full display of WPM's 250th Anniversary programming can be found [here](#).

The 6th annual *WyoGives* day was a resounding success, with 429 organizations benefiting from the generosity of Wyomingites deeply aware of the service non-profits bring to the state. WPM was among the recipients, with many new donors participating as well as a number of our most loyal annual supporters stepping up in response to the defunding of public broadcasting. WPM was happy to help with on-air messaging that continued into the night. Yes, people are listening at midnight, and donating, for that matter! This year was all the more poignant, since many of Wyoming's public service organizations are in a perilous funding situation. Thanks, Wyoming! Thanks to Maggi and Nick Murdock, dedicated long-time supporters of WPM, for issuing the generous \$10K challenge to WPM donors. We're grateful, humbled, and motivated!

For 30 years, Ira Glass has entertained public radio audiences with his globally acclaimed storytelling. His intimate approach of reaching into the heart and soul of his subject has given rise to thousands of storytellers who adopted his intimate, no-nonsense style. Ira Glass will be in Jackson Saturday, August 2nd, and WPM will be at the *Center for the Arts* with our listeners to meet him and honor his program. *This American Life* has been a staple of WPM broadcasts from its inception, thrilling thousands of Wyomingites over the years. It can be heard on Wyoming Public Radio Saturdays at 4 pm. We're looking forward to seeing our Jackson listeners!

Nonprofits are essential to Wyoming's strong economy and vibrant cultural life. *Community Minute* is a public service program from Wyoming Public Media that highlights the mission, scope, and impact of local nonprofit and service organizations. In July, [Anam Cara Caregiving in Lander](#) was featured. Stay tuned to catch *Community Minutes*, or listen online at: [wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute](#).

Amid apprehension for public broadcasting journalism and news coverage, we're reminded that the pendulum swings both ways. This short article makes that point. [Journalism Needs Government Funding to Survive - Columbia Journalism Review](#)

Here's a reminder of how you can take advantage of a one-stop news update experience. It's the humble [WPM Homepage](#). Local, state, regional, national, global – it's all in one place on our homepage at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](#). Each story is highlighted, with a link leading to more information. It's a streamlined opportunity to catch up with the world around you, and it's perfect for readers who like to consume news on their own time.

Check out the [GM Update](#) page for more topics, including who's to blame for the defunding, how listeners perceive the current situation, and answers to questions posed by listeners in Wyoming and throughout the public radio system.

Sixty years of community service broadcasting have been disrupted, and the effects will be felt. But WPM is here to serve Wyoming, regardless of what political winds may bring. You are fantastic in your support. Your letters, calls, e-mails, and messages to our legislators are a testament to the fact that many people appreciate the journalism, cultural experiences, and community outreach public radio offers to Wyomingites.

Please continue to communicate with our legislators. They represent us all and need to hear from all of us. If you have the opportunity to chat with someone who's a WPM listener/user but not a member, encourage them to donate. As we move into an uncertain future, new members will become all the more important. Remember, in public radio no donation is too small or too large!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwy.edu. As noted, late-breaking developments related to public broadcasting and defundings will be posted on [Wyoming Public Media General Manager Blog](#) in addition to this monthly newsletter.

*Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager*



[Kamila Kudelska Offered Student from Kazakhstan a Tour of WPM Studios](#)

UW's Communication and Journalism Department has a cooperative agreement with the Journalism Department at Kazakh National University. Several KazNU graduate students have come to Laramie to work with COJO faculty.

Aibala Kylyshbay, interning in Wyoming this summer, stopped by WPM for a tour.

Pictured: Student Aibala Kylyshbay and Kamila Kudelska. July 12, 2025.

[Grady Kirkpatrick Hosted Wyoming Sounds from Frontier Days and What Fest](#)



Grady, with engineers Ben Slater and Jacob Hoffman, broadcast music live from **Cheyenne Frontier Days** and aired a recent interview with Wyoming native Chancey Williams, performing that night. *July 23, 2025.*

Dr. Robert, Ben, Alec Shaffer, and Grady headed to Saratoga for a broadcast of **What Fest**, which aired live on [Wyoming Sounds](#) *July 26, 2025.* Photo: Marko Ruble, Grady.



BuffaloGrass Host Kelli Trujillo Attended RockyGrass Festival in Lyons, CO

Performers included *Molly Tuttle and Golden Highway* and the *Shelby Means Band*. Kelli interviewed fiddlers Darol Anger, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes, and *The Faux Paws*, and chatted with public radio bluegrass hosts from Boulder's *KGNU*. Listen to Kelli's [BuffaloGrass](#) Sat. 11am-1pm. Photo: *Shelby Means Band*. *July 26, 2025.*



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Modern West Host Melodie Edwards Led a Virtual Discussion with WPM Reporters

The Lander event featured *The Modern West*'s latest season, which included stories about the wolf incident in Pinedale, the Episcopal Church returning artifacts to the Northern Arapaho, and a program to reduce recidivism on the Wind River Reservation. [View the Lander Panel Discussion.](#) (*Volume up @ min 3*). *July 17, 2025.*



Wyoming Public Media News Reel Videos... From the Newsroom

View news updates via reels on WPM Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube channels.

"Wyoming Highway Patrol has signed an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement...." [View News Update Video.](#) *July 29, 2025.*



BEYOND WYOMING



Some states want to take over federal land. They may not have the resources

A story by Hanna Merzbach about challenges associate with states managing land trusts aired on *Marketplace*. [Listen to the story.](#) *July 4, 2025.*

The documentary "Who She Is" humanizes the MMIP Crisis on the Wind River Reservation.

A story by Hannah Habermann about the MMIP film "Who She Is" winning a Heartland Emmy award aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story.](#) *July 30, 2025.*



MUST LISTEN





Western Tales & Poetry Podcast... On Air, Online, and on Social Media

Wyoming Public Media Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick interviews Wyoming authors airing on Wyoming Public Radio Mon at 6:42 am, Wed at 7:42 am, Fri at 10:05 am, and Sat at 12:05 pm. You're also welcome to stream online or listen from WPM's Facebook channel.



Kathy Milks - Summer nights with bottle calf

2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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***but we got right
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