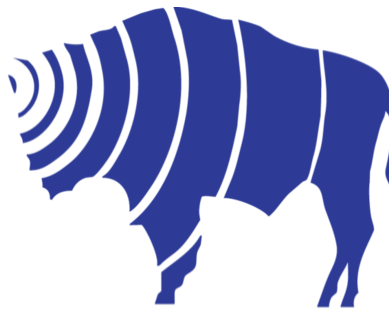




WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | September 2026



Happy September!

Just think: a year ago, we were confronting congressional funding cuts and preparing for the Wyoming Legislature's budget hearings. Today, as we celebrate 60 years of Wyoming Public Media, we're looking ahead with renewed confidence and optimism. So much has happened in the past year, and the signs for the future are encouraging.

Wyoming's primaries generated strong turnout and lively discussion. WPM was proud to partner with the *League of Women Voters*, *WyoFile*, *Wyoming PBS*, and other non-profits to help inform voters and provide a platform for candidate discussion and debate. WPM doesn't endorse candidates or positions. Wyoming voters do that at the ballot box. Next stop: November.

There's nothing quite like a road trip to inspire and rejuvenate. Development Director Ry Woody and I traveled to Dubois, Alta/Driggs, and Jackson to meet with our listeners. We got an earful of insights, enthusiasm, ideas, and constructive criticism. This was a fun and rewarding outreach opportunity that we're hoping to make a regular part of our community engagement again after putting it on hold during the COVID years. There's more to come, both from management and from our news staff. In the meantime, the *250th Photo Exhibit* will continue its tour with stops in several communities throughout the remainder of the year. (*September 3rd in Powell, October 2nd in Green River, November 7th in Casper, and December 4th in Laramie*)

It's great to be noticed! *The Alliance of Rural Public Media* recently highlighted Wyoming Sounds in a national social media series, featuring musician Suzanna Morrison's comment: "*If you're going to listen to Wyoming Public Radio, you're going to hear from a friend.*" The post celebrates how *Wyoming Sounds* has spent more than a decade connecting Wyoming artists and listeners while building a statewide musical community. Your commitment has helped built this statewide cultural service.

In an age of screens and scrolling, there's still something special about gathering around a good book. WPM's quarterly book club celebrates Wyoming authors and stories rooted in the Equality State. With three months to read each selection, participants can move at their own pace while joining a statewide conversation about books, ideas, and the places we call home. Find out how to participate [here](#).

What are Wyoming listeners thinking about? For nearly 14 years, WPM's Topic of the Week has invited audiences to weigh in on issues shaping Wyoming, the region, and the nation. Topics are drawn from news stories that generate the strongest interest online, covering everything from wildlife management and data centers to national politics and public policy. It's a fascinating snapshot of what's on the minds of your fellow Wyomingites. ([View Topics](#))

StoryCorps is one of public radio's most beloved storytelling projects, and it has visited Wyoming several times

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

fun at the last minute. Keep listening to find out!

Despite the loss of federal funding, public radio is seeing signs of growth nationwide. Heightened public interest sparked by national attention, along with listeners' desire for trusted local programming, is attracting new audiences and supporters. ([*Funding Fight, Local Focus Fuels Public Radio Audience Rebound* | InsideRadio](#))

First Amendment disputes remain a persistent challenge for the media. Although *NPR* is not currently in the crosshairs, two notable cases bear watching. *Disney/ABC* is pursuing a case involving the FCC, while three journalists from *Stars and Stripes* are challenging their firings by the Pentagon, arguing that their free speech rights were violated. Together, these cases serve as a reminder that issues of press freedom and government interaction with the media remain active concerns. Public broadcasters continue to monitor these developments closely. ([*Stars and Stripes publisher, editor and reporter sue Pentagon to challenge their firings* | AP](#))

Old Bill's Fun Run in September and our October on-air fund drive are reminders that fundraising has become a year-round activity. Like many nonprofits, we now rely on a variety of campaigns to reach different audiences and supporters. We're deeply grateful to listeners like you who understand the value of public media and step up to support the mission. Your generosity keeps Wyoming connected, informed, and inspired. [*Donate*](#)

Through WPM's [*Community Minute*](#), we highlight the many nonprofit organizations working to make Wyoming communities stronger. Each month, we feature a different organization. This month, we're highlighting [*Teton County Foundation for Public Health*](#), a grant making entity focused on public health initiatives in Teton County.

We Need Your Help! Corporate support is an important part of keeping Wyoming Public Media strong, and we're looking for new businesses and organizations to partner with us. Do you know a business or organization that could benefit from reaching WPM's engaged statewide audience? You could be the "door opener" who connects us with a potential corporate partner. If you know someone we should talk to, we'd love an introduction! Contact Rexanna Kelly, WPM's Corporate Development Manager, at rkelly16@uwyo.edu.

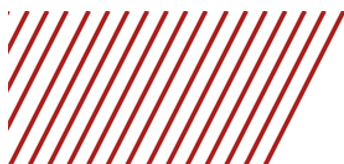
Happy Birthday, Wyoming Public Media! On September 14, Wyoming Public Media officially turns 60 years old. It was on that day in 1966 that a group of University of Wyoming students and administrators launched the station from the Student Union. ([*View photo of the station signing in.*](#)) We're celebrating six decades of informing, inspiring, and connecting communities across Wyoming. For 60 years, you've invited us into your homes, cars, workplaces, and daily lives. Your support has made this journey possible. ([*Listen to the first broadcast*](#))

And on that happy note, I'll close with a promise. Just as generations before us built Wyoming Public Media and sustained it over the last 60 years, we are committed to securing its future for the decades ahead. In today's fast-changing world, trusted national and local journalism and hallmarks of our Wyoming culture are more important than ever, helping us all stay informed, connected, and engaged.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to the next 60 years!

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

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



[Wyoming Public Media joined the Launch Party & Rubber Ducky Regatta](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA (WPM) IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE BEST QUALITY PROGRAMMING TO OUR LISTENERS AND VIEWERS. WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING NEW SPONSORS AND PARTNERS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT US OR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

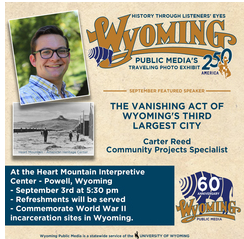


in Old Bill's, and it was great to be there, connect with the community, and cheer on the ducks! *Friday, August 14, 2026.*



WPM's Environment Reporter Teal Davis Attended *Report for America* Conference

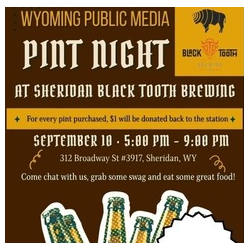
Teal Davis met with nearly 200 corps members from newsrooms across the country, worked with *Report for America* staff. Teal met with her editor and the three other journalists involved in *High Country News' Western Environmental Collaborative* and enjoyed presentations by Dean Baquet (*New York Times*), Terry Baquet (*Verite News*), and Tonya Mosley (*NPR's Fresh Air*). *August 19-22, 2026.*



WPM Photo Exhibit Reception at Heart Mountain with Presentation by Carter Reed

Stop by Heart Mountain to view Wyoming Public Media's Wyoming 250 Photo Contest Exhibit. The opening reception on September 3rd features a presentation by Carter Reed, who will discuss the history of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center site from after World War II ended in 1945 until the Interpretive Center opened in 2011.

More information here. *September 3, 2026.*



Wyoming Public Media's Sheridan Pint Night

If you're in the Sheridan area, join Wyoming Public Media reporters for a Pint Night at Black Tooth Brewing Co.! From 3 p.m. - 10 p.m., \$1 from each pint purchased will go back to WPM. And Nicky Ouellet and Ivy Engel will be there from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. to chat and hand out swag. The Culture Kitchen food truck will be serving up eats.

More information here. *September 10, 2026.*

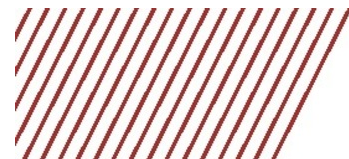


SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Wyoming Public Media Provided Primary Election Updates on August 18th

The *WPM News Team* was on the radio at the start of each hour with a live blog online to hear from voters and candidates. They also had live result updates from the Associated Press. *View Primary Election Results.* *August 18, 2026.*



BEYOND WYOMING



Immigrant families sever lifelong ties to flee red state ICE crackdowns

A story by Melodie Edwards about immigrants choosing to self-deport aired on *NPR's Weekend Edition*. *Listen to the story.* *August 2, 2026.*

The view from proving grounds for next-generation nuclear reactors: Atomic City, Idaho

A story by Hanna Merzbach about nuclear energy and public opinions aired on *NPR's Morning Edition*. *Listen to the story.* *August 10, 2026.*

The BLM may stop notifying landowners about drilling under private land. Ranchers are alarmed

Western cattlemen are poised to lose almost all opportunity to comment on oil and gas development underneath their property. A story by Teal Davis was posted by *High Country News*. | ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
View the story. *August 21, 2026.*

Many Wyoming 'Freedom Caucus' representatives lose to more moderate Republicans in primaries

A story by Jordan Uplinger about primary election results aired on *NPR's Weekend Edition*.

[Listen to the story](#), August 23, 2026.



MUST LISTEN



Joe's Truck Stop on Wyoming Sounds

Joe from *Joe's Truck Stop* was on the road and rolled in for a *Studio Session* to play some ol' timey originals on *Wyoming Sounds*. Kelli Trujillo hosted the session and got some good stories, including Joe's inspiration for songs he played and how he got the name. [Listen to the interview](#).



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Hongjin Li - At dawn, a herd of bison moves through the misted river

One of the Winners of the [2025 WPM Photo Contest](#)

Biography: Hongjin Li is a musician and film composer based in New York City. Outside of music, she is an avid outdoor person and wildlife lover. She leads a small expedition caravan called H&F (Hongjin & Friends), dedicated to exploring the U.S. in depth and fostering cultural exchange through travel, sound, and images! This photo was taken during their 12-day Wyoming Cultural Trip, which was both their sixth expedition and the one-year anniversary of H&F!

About the Photo: The photo was taken in August, before the sunrise in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley, a herd of American bison crossed the river through morning steam. The rising mist caught the first light, turning the valley

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

image is about the everyday life of Yellowstone—animals and landscapes that have been here long before us—reminding us that we are guests in their habitat and that conservation is an ongoing responsibility.



[DONATE](#)

Now Open **BACKWARDS** In Laramie
...• DISTILLING COMPANY •... 2325 E Grand Ave.



Wyoming Public Media | 1000 E University Ave, Dept. 3984 | Laramie, WY 82071
Wyoming Public Media is a service of the University of Wyoming.

Share this email:



emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

View this email [online](#).

1000 E University Ave Dept 3984
Laramie, WY | 82071-2000 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.