



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | March 2026



We did it! Governor Gordon signed the budget into law, and *WPM* is in it! Were you about to contact your legislator(s) to tell them not to cut *WPM*? Hold that thought and repurpose it. Write a note of thanks instead. The House and Senate came together and, in a show of “Wyoming First” unity, passed the budget. Good work deserves acknowledgment. Contact information for legislators is still up on wyomingpublicmedia.org/general-manager-blog.

What a windy day it was! Highlighting our 60th anniversary, a gathering of passionate supporters met in front of the Capitol on February 17th. Despite ferocious winds, over 60 dedicated attendees enjoyed live performances and heard insightful words from legislators, musicians, and officials. Richard Garrett served as our master of ceremonies, and the event was supported by the *American Coalition for Public Radio*. Justin Mistikawy and Jay Shogren and his group performed, and Jay even composed a [song for this event](#). [Wyoming Public Media birthday party turns into funding rally - Current](#)

And what exactly is the *American Coalition for Public Radio (ACPR)*? It's a 501(c)(4) that works alongside *Protect My Public Media*, focusing on issues related to Congressional funding for public broadcasting. On a state level, *ACPR* played a crucial role in reaching the broader public in Wyoming. Their involvement became particularly significant when the *Joint Appropriations Committee* voted to cut UW's \$40 million block grant and singled *WPM* out partly for airing *NPR* content. This raised First Amendment concerns. In response to their work, over a thousand individuals engaged with the issue, resulting in 2,700 legislative contacts.

Watching over the watchdog has become something of an obsession. *Poynter's Public Editor* has taken a close look at *NPR's* handling of an interview related to the Nancy Guthrie disappearance and doesn't hesitate to call them out. It's an interesting critique and worth a read if you want to see how they dissect the editorial choices involved. See what you think. ([Reliable Sources with Ryan Stelter](#))

Remember the Pentagon's reporting guidelines that sent legacy media packing? How is that faring with today's reporting on Iran? Not well, as per these two articles: [The New York Times Takes the Pentagon to Court - Columbia Journalism Review](#) and [Reliable Sources with Brian Stelter - CNN](#).

In 1977, the *United Nations* officially designated March 8th as *International Women's Day*, a moment we proudly celebrate at *WPM*. This day is an opportunity to honor the incredible women who have been essential to our success. You hear their voices on-air and engage with them through our membership and administrative teams. They are the storytellers behind our podcasts and the hosts of our enriching news and cultural programs. This year, we're thrilled to announce a generous \$15,000 match from the *Betty B. Baril Fund at the Jackson Hole Community Foundation*! We invite you to make a meaningful contribution that will double your impact and support the vital work our talented staff does every day. Make your pledge [here](#)!

March 29th marks *Vietnam Veterans Day*, a time to honor and celebrate the bravery of our national heroes. Join *NPR's Weekend Edition* as we pay tribute with powerful stories and insightful interviews that highlight

their experiences. Don't miss the chance to tune in to our *Wyoming Sounds* station, both on-air and online, for a rich selection of music from that era, bringing the past to life. Wyomingsounds.org.

Ooops! We screwed up. We were excited to announce *Sports in America*, a new program hosted by a familiar voice—David Greene, former host of *All Things Considered*. We even scheduled it on Saturdays at 9 a.m., in the old *Car Talk* spot, thinking that cars and sports certainly must have something in common! But the reaction was organic and swift. Listeners did not like losing the 4th hour of *Weekend Edition*, and we got an earful, and then some. *Sports in America* now airs on Friday evenings, at 7 pm, with in-depth conversations with people from across the world of sports.

Winners, take a bow! *Wyoming Sounds* will broadcast live from the *307 WPR Listeners Showcase* on Sunday, March 22 from 2 to 5 pm at *Citiwerks* in Casper. The broadcast, hosted by Grady Kirkpatrick and Dr. Robert, will feature the top 3 bands from listener picks for the Best Wyoming releases of 2025. They include *A Band Named Sue*, *The Tinderwoods*, and *The Cory McDaniel Duo*. Chad Lore will emcee the concert. The music showcase is also part of *Wyoming Public Media's 60th Anniversary Celebration*.

This month's *Community Minute* anticipates the coming of spring and the beauty of wide open spaces. We're proud to welcome [*Pilot Hill Recreation & Wildlife Habitat Management Area*](#) - Open space protection and outdoor recreation. This is a huge project that brings value to so many people in Albany County and beyond. *Community Minute* is a series that highlights the mission, reach, and impact of nonprofit and service organizations across Wyoming. Each episode gives listeners a brief, but meaningful, look at the people and programs helping our communities thrive. You can explore all of our *Community Minute* features at wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute. Nonprofits are essential to Wyoming!

And now—a huge thank-you and sigh of relief. We have an endless roster of individuals and organizations to thank. We started 2025 off with feverish fundraising to make up for our \$800K federal funding loss. Just when we thought we were ahead, the *Joint Appropriation Committee* made a decision to cut an additional \$1.69 million from our University of Wyoming funding. In response, we swiftly pivoted our campaign strategy from asking for dollars to asking for letters of support to legislators to save our state funding. And oh, how the letters poured in! With the added momentum from letters generated through the *ACPR*, we generated a robust grassroots campaign. There were some frightening moments, but we never lost faith. Wyoming is often described as the most reliably Republican state in the nation, yet support for *Wyoming Public Media* has always crossed political and geographic lines. The voices of our listeners here in Wyoming—along with our online audience from across the country and around the world—ultimately helped shift the momentum in our favor. The impact did not go unnoticed; our collective effort was recognized nationally as a landmark victory for public radio.

Our gratitude extends far and wide. We received invaluable support from our devoted listeners, various organizations, and our dedicated members of the *Public Advisory Council*. Special thanks go to the University of Wyoming, which houses us in its block grant and manages legislative activity, and to the *Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)*, and the *UW Trustees* who own the license. We are also deeply appreciative of the local artists and musicians, our esteemed colleagues in the Wyoming press, and fellow professionals from numerous organizations who chimed in with their support. A heartfelt nod goes to *The American Coalition for Public Radio* and to Richard Garrett, a steadfast friend of *WPM* and a tireless advocate for our cause. A special acknowledgment is due to the legislators in both the House and Senate who stood by us, as well as to Governor Gordon for his unwavering support for public broadcasting in Wyoming. We're especially grateful to those legislators who ultimately rallied around the budget that passed.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the staff of *WPM*, who, through all the uncertainty of their jobs, donned their visors and dedicated themselves to producing the finest public radio and community service in Wyoming. Their unwavering determination and steadfast hope have been truly inspiring.

And now, back to work!

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

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager

BEHIND THE SCENES

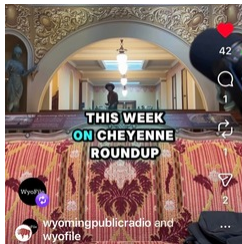


Wyoming Public Media Reporter Caitlin Tan Interviewed Governor Mark Gordon
The Governor was in Lander to tout his budget proposal, which recommended raising state employee salaries, more funding for healthcare, and support for business growth. [View the story.](#) February 3, 2026.

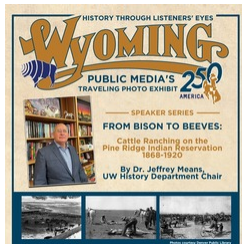


Wyoming Public Radio Celebrated its 60th Anniversary in Cheyenne
Close to 60 people joined the celebration commemorating 60 years of cultural programming, news, and music coming across the airwaves in Wyoming. Read and listen to testimonials from over the years [here.](#) February 17, 2026.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Jordan Uplinger's Reels Have Offered Weekly Snapshots of the Budget Session
"Lawmakers are at a critically important part of the budget session: amendments. And for most of them, this week was the first chance they had to weigh in on what the state should fund for the next two years. On this week's *Cheyenne Roundup*, *WyoFile's* Maggie Mullen and *Wyoming Public Radio's* Chris Clements recap what's in and what's out." View the [Instagram Reel.](#) February 20, 2026.



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes Photo Exhibit & Presentation
Wyoming Public Media announces the premiere viewing of its Wyoming 250 Photo Contest Exhibit and a [presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Means](#), University of Wyoming's History Department Chair. *Enjoy refreshments and a free tour of Iverson Mansion in Laramie. Or watch online from WPM's Facebook page.* March 11, 2026, 2-3 pm.

MUST LISTEN





Wyoming Sounds welcomed Laramie bluegrass meets country Box of Rocks

The band stopped by the radio station for a studio session. Pictured here are Carol Martinson, Justin Mistikawy, Will Flagg, and Jack Hobart. [Listen to their music and interview.](#) January 30, 2026.

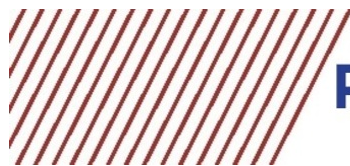


PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Shane Epping - Where Storms Break and Rainbows Rise

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

About the Photo: Shane has driven Highway 287 between Fort Collins and Laramie countless times over the past five years. What began as a commute has become a sustained photographic project. It's a scene that could only happen in Wyoming, where the land is vast, and the sky is dramatic.



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Wyoming Public Media Sponsorship Opportunities Available

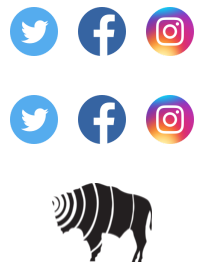
LEARN HOW NOW.



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

Congress cut our funding for the first time in history... learn what you can do to support our state network

These Frequencies Run on You—Let's Keep Them Going.



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