

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | June 2022



Oh, so close, but not quite there! We have just a smidgeon to go to make our individual fundraising goal before we close the books at June's end. There are a number of on-air and online messages, and a culminating live fundraising Pet Wednesday planned for June 22. We hope to pick up folks who missed the fund drives as well as those who haven't given to Wyoming Public Media before. If you have already given, our heartfelt thanks. If not, you know the drill. ([Donate here.](#))

Speaking of revenue for public media, Denmark has placed a levy on streaming giants like Netflix, Amazon, and Disney to help support local TV production. This bill came at a time when public service programming, particularly aimed at civil discourse and education, is being overtaken by commercial streaming services. Denmark feels the need to preserve the media public square. Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain are in agreement. Some cry foul, while others applaud the move.

CPB convened a general managers' Advisory Group to assess our emergency warning systems in anticipation of a FEMA Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant. If successful, this initiative will transmit alerts and warnings and integrate new technologies into the security systems nationwide. CPB hopes to receive \$40 million from the Department of Homeland Security set aside for public radio. Stay tuned.

Alas, we lost *Munk Debates*. The program is no longer offered for radio broadcast, however, we have replaced the *Munk Debates* with another program that brings civil discourse to the radio schedule. [Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates](#) convenes world thinkers, policymakers and journalists, two on two, arguing the pros and cons of cultural, domestic and foreign policy issues. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. On a programming note, civil discourse programs are hard to find these days!

NPR's Sarah Gilbert, VP for News Programming, will end her tenure mid-July. Sarah led the NPR news operation through the pandemic and ensured that NPR kept the nation informed and connected. Her parting words reflected her appreciation for the NPR staff. *"I'm not one for long goodbyes – so let me just say thank you for a treasury of memories made while working with the most talented and graceful humans I know, across the full spectrum of our remarkable public media network."* At the same time, Juana Summers will be the new host for *All Things Considered* and *Consider This*. She joins Ailsa Chang, Mary Louise Kelly, Ari Shapiro, and Michel Martin in rotating through host duties across the show and podcast.

In industry news, there's an interesting conundrum for the Pulitzer Prize folks as well as for some news

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debunked as inaccurate and possibly injurious? Reporting by the *New York Times* on Hitler's Holocaust and Stalin's Holodomor in Ukraine have been debated and disqualified for decades, yet Pulitzers were awarded and not rescinded. *Second Rough Draft's* [Richard J. Tofoel](#) writes on this issue, plus other issues surrounding fairness/equity practices in Pulitzer awards. ([View here.](#))

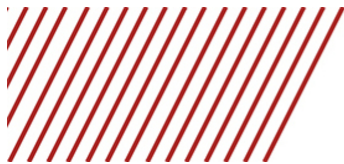
It's summer, and we're hitting the road! If you're in the Cheyenne area July 18 through the 29th, drop by the Botanic Gardens and take a selfie with the legendary StoryCorps Airstream trailer. It will be parked at the gardens during the StoryCorps Military Voices recordings in Cheyenne. If you would like to sign up for a recording, go [here](#). WPM and Wyoming Sounds will also broadcast live from the Oyster Ridge Festival in Kemmerer on July 22 & 23rd and at Frontier Days in Cheyenne on July 28 & 29th.

And to conclude this month, Wyoming Public Radio's News Director Bob Beck will moderate a U.S. Congressional Debate on June 30th at 7 pm, broadcast on Wyoming Public Radio.

As always, thank you for being the best public radio/media listeners and supporters in the country. All stations make this claim, but I believe Wyoming is uniquely justified based on the enthusiasm and commitment of all of you!

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

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



WPM celebrated a new season of storytelling at *The Modern West* Launch Party

Listeners mingled with the producers (pictured), WPM staff, and behind-the-scenes folks, discovering the complexity of Western identity grounded in people and places. Ranch photos from the *Great Individualist* series were also on display. *May 6, 2022.*



WPR Reporter Ivy Engel Attends Wildfire on the Range Workshop

During the immersive workshop at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID Ivy learned about the science behind wildfires, risks, and wildland firefighting. Wildland firefighting crews are trained, coordinated, and deployed for 8 national agencies from this site. *May 11-13, 2022.*



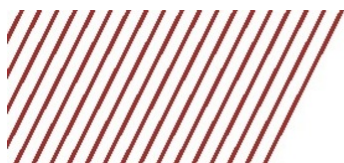
Kellen Smith and Nate Champion Band on Wyoming Sounds

Kellen Smith from Gillette and the Nate Champion Band from Sheridan played together for a Wyoming Sounds Studio Session ahead of their show in Laramie. Listen to their music and conversation with Grady Kirkpatrick [here](#). *May 13, 2022.*



The Modern West Wins Best of the West Media Award for Blog-Podcast

The Western Region of the American Advertising Federation stated, "We would like to thank all of you for the many contributions you, and the nominees you submitted, are making in service to your local communities." *May 25, 2022.*



BEYOND WYOMING



Electric cars have been slow to catch on in Wyoming. Some hope that will change

NPR's *All Things Considered* aired a story by Taylor Stagner about electric vehicles. "The charging station network needed for electric cars will reach states like Wyoming last. It's sparsely populated and fighting to keep fossil fuels in America's energy mix." [Listen to the story.](#) May 10, 2022.

By Land Podcast EP 144: The Modern West with Melodie Edwards

WPM reporter and podcast host Melodie Edwards was featured on the *By Land podcast!* Melodie talks to the host Emory about how our past has impacted our present with regard to land use. May 16, 2022.



MUST LISTEN



Wyoming Public Radio wins three regional Edward R. Murrow awards

Wyoming Public Radio won three regional Edward R. Murrow awards in the categories of Hard News, Excellence in Sound, and News Documentary. The Radio Television Digital News Association has been honoring outstanding achievements in electronic journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards since 1971. Award recipients demonstrate the spirit of excellence that Murrow set as a standard for the profession of broadcast and digital journalism. They are considered among the most prestigious awards in broadcast and digital news. [Listen to winning stories.](#)



EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS

— 2022 —

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