

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | February 2025



We live in interesting times, and this describes the last week in public media. The new administration left us breathless. Affecting radio, we experienced the following changes, briefly bulletized for space considerations:

Jan 28 – Freeze on federal programs

Jan 29 – Rescission of freeze on federal programs. Next steps TBD

Jan 30 – Underwriting messages under scrutiny by new FCC Chair; recommendation to Congress to cut funding to pub broadcasting. FCC chair requests investigation into NPR, PBS underwriting

Feb 1 – Pentagon to move NBC, Politico, NPR, and NYT out of dedicated media offices to make room for NY Post, Breitbart, etc. DOD dismisses NPR, other outlets from Pentagon office spaces

Feb 3 - Letter to NPR/PBS from Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene notifying of DOGE hearing on federally funded radio/television, including systematically biased content.

By the time you read this newsletter, there may be additions to this list. Fasten your seat belt!

Listeners have asked how they can express their thoughts and opinions. As public broadcasting falls under congressional purview, our Senators and Representative are open to your thoughts. The "Protect my Public Radio" link is a fast and easy way to send a short message. Direct letters can be sent to Congressional offices at link. Regardless of political persuasion, listeners realize that public radio is a necessity in Wyoming, particularly in remote locations of the state with weak broadband. It also carries Emergency Alerting responsibilities. Its statewide reach keeps Wyoming from becoming a news desert, as some other states have experienced. This all thanks to the financial support WPM receives from individuals, UW, businesses, grants, and the federal government. Thanks for your role in this public service.

Speaker Mike Johnson extended an invitation for President Donald Trump to address a joint session of Congress on March 4th and the President accepted. WPM will carry the *NPR*-anchored coverage when it is scheduled. Regarding event coverage, we owe a debt of gratitude to our WPM programming/ production/ promotions/ development units. In the past two months they adjusted programming schedules, satellite feeds, web video feeds, on-air hosting, and underwriting schedules for several President Biden events, the death and funeral activities of President Carter, and the Inauguration of President Trump. That's a lot of balls in the air!

The nation elected a very active president! How to keep up with the coverage? All media is pondering this conundrum. A recent article in *NPR's Public Editor* provides a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes strategy *NPR* has put in place. See if you agree. Of course, this may all change pending Presidential actions! Poynter's Kelly McBride Public Editor

NPR's Renee Montagne will be leaving NPR. Since 1981, she has hosted both *All Things Considered* in the late 80s and *Morning Edition* from 2004 to 2016. Renee's storytelling and interviews have touched millions of public radio listeners. Since leaving NPR, she focused on investigative stories, including a yearlong collaboration with ProPublica reporter Nina Martin, investigating the alarming rate of maternal mortality in the United States. "*Lost Mothers*" was recognized with more than a dozen awards in American journalism and was named a finalist for a *Pulitzer Prize*.

The *Grand Teton Music Festival* is back! Every summer, the nation's top musicians gather at the base of the majestic Teton Range in Jackson Hole to create the all-star *Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra* under the leadership of Maestro Donald Runnicles. *The Wall Street Journal* has called the *Grand Teton Music Festival*, "One of the best places to hear classical music in the summer." You can listen Wednesday nights at 8 p.m., beginning February 5th, on both the *Wyoming Public Radio* and *Classical Wyoming* channels.

February is *Black History Month*, and to celebrate this annual historic month, Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick selected an array of programs. There's something for everyone!

Do you love public radio but just haven't found the time to say it? The "*I Love Wyoming Public Radio*" campaign is taking place in February and celebrating the value of public media. You're invited to add your voice to our archive of recorded and written listener testimonials. It's easy to do. Just go to our web page and follow the directions: *I Love Wyoming Public Radio*. Testimonials are heard throughout the year. It's a wonderful way to get to know your fellow listeners, and to let them hear from you. You can either self-record your message or write it down. It's fun, and easy. You can even remain anonymous, though we'd love to hear where in Wyoming you listen to radio or stream us on your digital device. This applies to all our services – *Wyoming Public Radio*, *Classical Wyoming*, *Jazz Wyoming*, and *Wyoming Sounds*. We'd love to hear from YOU!

Here's a heads-up to listeners in the Dubois area. Within the next month, you will have a frequency swap on your radios. The main *Wyoming Public Radio* signal will be heard on both 90.5 and 91.3 for two weeks. Beginning February 24th, *Wyoming Sounds* 24-hour signal will be on 91.3. We will run messages on-air prior to the change, as well as notify members via e-mail. This change will bring Wyoming Sounds into your area. Please spread the word, and happy listening!

Are you in the Laramie area on February 15th and 16th and interested in the *Laramie Winter Festival*? It's an art, culture, and outdoor recreation festival to support downtown Laramie and promote all of the amazing recreation opportunities the community has to offer. The festival will feature live music, ice sculpting, bonfires, large-scale art installations, art vendors, and recreation opportunities galore i.e. x-country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, curling, fat bike races, etc. Our Wyoming Sounds channel will broadcast portions of the live music set for Saturday evening February 15th. You can also catch it via streaming on wyomingpublicmedia.org.

In appreciation of the *42nd Annual Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony* on February 28th, here's a look into the vaults of a special museum that houses Wyoming history. WPM's *Archives on the Air* takes listeners deep into the archives of the University of Wyoming's *American Heritage Center*. The AHC collects and preserves primary sources and rare books from Wyoming, and the Rocky Mountain Region. It's an eerie experience – you never know who or what you'll meet. *Archives on the Air* airs regularly on WPR, but reading through these stories is a special experience.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the staff and volunteers of WPM send you many happy thoughts and expressions of appreciation for being such loyal and generous supporters. Even though we live in interesting times, we are still delighted to share them with enthusiastic public radio devotees.

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

*Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager*

BEHIND THE SCENES



[WPM's Ry Woody Participates as Volunteer at Jackson Winter Festivities](#)

Wyoming Public Media took part in Jackson Hole Nordic Alliance's Annual Ski, Fat Bike, and Snowshoe Day at Turpin Meadow Ranch Sunday, January 12th. The community event included trail passes, nordic ski demos and lessons, ski and snowshoe tours and more. Ry was a volunteer / WPM was also considered a sponsor or partner of the event.

[See additional photos of the event. January 12, 2025.](#)



[Wyoming Public Media Legislative Coverage: Cheyenne Roundup](#)

With its newfound power, the Wyoming Freedom Caucus set out to pass its top five priorities within the first 10 days of the legislative session. The group says it hit the mark within eight days. *WyoFile* and *Wyoming Public Radio* break down what the caucus pushed through the House and how a couple of those bills veered away from the Freedom Caucus' original aims. [See the Instagram Reel. January 29, 2025.](#)



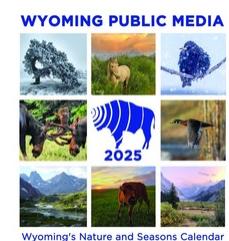
[Wyoming Public Media Reporter Jordan Uplinger Discussed Health Care Bill](#)

A bill for your consideration: HB 121 would require hospitals to post their standard charges. WPR's digital statehouse reporter Jordan Uplinger reports on the pros and cons people voiced at the Capitol. [View the Reel or view on YouTube. January 30, 2025.](#)



[NPR's Tiny Desk Contest 2025](#)

Unsigned bands and musicians are invited to enter the *NPR Tiny Desk Contest*. To enter, submit a music video by Feb. 10th. The winner will be chosen to perform as part of *NPR Music's* signature music discovery series and perform at *NPR's* Washington, D.C. headquarters. The winner will also embark on a national tour in partnership with member stations. For more information and entry rules go to the [NPR Tiny Desk page.](#)



[Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest Calendar and Traveling Display](#)

Twelve photographs from the 2024 Wyoming Public Media Photo Contest are now available on a free calendar! Framed photos from the collection will be on exhibit this summer at various locations around the state. (More to come.)

[Download the 8.5x11 Calendar to print!](#)



BEYOND WYOMING



[Students explore creeks in Laramie County, connecting to treaty history and water management](#)

A story about Laramie County students exploring history and water management by Hannah Habermann was included in the *Boise State Public Radio* podcast *Our Living Lands*. [Listen to the story. January 6, 2025.](#)

[In pricey Western towns, employers truck in workers' homes from factories](#)

A story about factory homes in Western towns by Hanna Merzbach aired on *Marketplace*. [Listen to the story. January 13, 2025.](#)



MUST LISTEN



[Going to Extremes - Listen to Stories of Adventure with Mark Jenkins](#)

As a foreign correspondent for the past 30 years, Mark Jenkins has explored the most remote, difficult, and dangerous places on the planet. He will do whatever it takes to get the story. On assignment in Afghanistan, he was arrested by the Tajik KGB and interrogated for a week. On assignment in Burma, he was arrested by the military junta multiple times. On assignment in eastern Congo, he was captured by the murderous Hutu guerillas. Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, says "Mark Jenkins purposefully goes out and taunts the gods. How he gets away with it is probably why he's had 30 to 40 arrests---and no convictions."

If you have missed any episode, you can find it on the [Going to Extremes](#) site.



Susan Nelson - Snowy bird not liking the cold

2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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