



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | July 2025



Happy July!

The issue of rescission and defunding of public broadcasting remains with us. It took a backseat to the frenzy surrounding the Big Beautiful Bill, but it will soon re-emerge in the Senate. In the meantime, listeners are sharing their thoughts on defunding with our Senators. WPM's Public Advisory Council Chair, Maggi Murdock, penned a [letter urging the Senators to reconsider their positions](#).

The Senate Appropriation Committee hearing (June 25) on President Trump's rescission request can be found [here](#). This topic is updated regularly on wyomingpublicmedia.org/general-manager-blog.

Our Summer Membership Drive wrapped up in just three days—and thanks to you, we soared past our \$100,000 goal! We racked up 370 pledges on-air, including 42 brand-new members who leapt into action with us. And yes, Pet Wednesday returned in full fury force. In the age-old showdown of Cats vs. Dogs, the felines clawed their way to victory during the four o'clock hour of *All Things Considered*: Cats 13, Dogs 8. (Sorry, pups—better luck next time.) But it didn't stop there. We also heard from 2 Goats, 1 Rabbit, and a shocking 20,000 Bees—who clearly believe in the buzz of public radio. The excellent news is that the two shelter pups featured in our video got adopted. Only at Wyoming Public Media!

If you're in the Lander area, drop by the Lander Public Library, Carnegie Room on July 17, at 6:30 p.m. You'll hear a lively discussion with our news reporters about their podcasts on purely Wyoming topics like solving affordable housing problems, the aftermath of the Sublette County injured wolf incident, the saga of the Pinedale Roundup, and an interview with Wyoming economist Samuel Western. It's an example of the compelling stories our WPM reporters tell about Wyoming, her issues, and culture. (For more information, visit TheModernWest.org.)

Wyoming Public Media was awarded four *Public Media Journalists Association (PMJA)* awards, in the "Health/Medical" and "Interview" categories as well as the "Sports" and "Use of Sound" categories. ([Listen to the winning stories](#).) Congratulations to our news department!

Looking to get away from electronic media news cycles and savor the feel of a solid book in your hand? Check out the [NPR Favorite Book list](#). This is an annual *NPR* offering that reflects the reading material *NPR* journalists cite as compelling. See if you agree.

We celebrate the life of journalist Bill Moyers, who recently passed at the age of 91. His [Frontline documentaries](#) were the staples of television viewing for millions of viewers worldwide. ([Remembering Bill Moyers](#))

How does *NPR* decide what stories to investigate? With so many worthy (and not-so-worthy) topics to choose from, how does one select? This is explained in the *Public Editor*. See if you agree with the process and

thinking. (NPR has a small investigative reporting unit. Here's how they decide when to dig in)

WyoGives is coming up on July 16th, and it's a powerful opportunity to rally around the nonprofits that keep Wyoming strong. Wyoming Public Media is proud to participate. We're excited to connect with new supporters through this statewide giving platform and reach people who may be discovering us for the first time. At the same time, we want to acknowledge and thank our loyal donors who continue to support us through our traditional membership drives. Your ongoing commitment makes our work possible every day.

This year, we're also excited to feature a couple of special giving challenges during WyoGives—opportunities that will make donations go even farther. WyoGives is a day to come together and lift up the many organizations that make our communities vibrant, informed, and resilient. We hope you'll explore, support, and give generously where it matters most to you.

Celebrate Independence Day with programs selected by Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick. You'll find everything from stirring music to thoughtful discussions for your enjoyment. You can also revisit the Grand Teton Music Festival's Patriotic Pops concert, recorded on July 4, 2024.

Check out our web page that lists non-profits impacted by federal cuts. We post organizations as we become aware of their funding situation. You can also post information about your non-profit situation on this page. Far too many organizations are in this unexpected funding predicament.

And last but not least – a Wyoming institution - *Cheyenne Frontier Days!* Grady Kirkpatrick will be hosting *Wyoming Sounds* live from Cheyenne on July 23rd. You can join him in person or listen from the comforts of your radio or digital device.

Thank you for all you do to keep WPM a strong resource for our communities and state. Our state and nation are experiencing unprecedented encounters with our political system, and it's heartening to know that we're in this together!

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



BEHIND THE SCENES



Chris Clements Attended State Government Reporting Conference in Washington

Wyoming State Government Reporter, Chris Clements, attended a "fly-in" conference at NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C. (June 17) and the *Investigative Reporters and Editors* conference in New Orleans. (June 18-22) Chris received a Gary Marx fellowship to the latter. He learned about improving his voicing, editing, web writing, and FOIA requests. *June 17, 2025.*



WPM's Hannah Habermann and Nicky Ouellet Attended Kansas City Conference

The Public Media Journalists Association celebrated its 40th birthday while hosting its annual conference in Kansas City, MO. Hannah Habermann (WPM Reporter) and Nicky Ouellet (WPM Managing Editor) learned from industry experts about writing for the radio, audience engagement, and innovative approaches for elevating news coverage. *June 25-27, 2025.*

WPM Mascott, Stella, Volunteers During Summer Drive Pet Wednesday

Hats off to all the listeners and pets who chimed in during Pet Wednesday finishing off



the fiscal year-end summer drive. Pictured here, WPM Digital Assistant Mike Gray's Pug Stella. It's never too late to [donate in honor of your pet!](#) June 26, 2025.



Grady Kirkpatrick MC'ed for Jackson Center for the Arts Benefit Concert

Beautiful night in Jackson and outstanding Center for the Arts Benefit concert with headliners Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. Grady got to show them a picture of their show at Land Between the Lakes Home Place in Tennessee circa 1996 when he emceed for WKMS Murray, KY. "Will the Circle be Unbroken...." June 28, 2025



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Natural Resources Reporter Caitlin Tan Shared Video of Her Trona Mine Tour

It's a mini world down in the dark mine, where workers use big machines that chew through the rock wall, spitting out chunks of trona mineral that slide onto a conveyor belt...which will eventually bring them to the surface. Be sure to check it out on [OpenSpaces at Wyomingpublicmedia.org!](#) [Instagram Reel](#) June 16, 2025.



WPM Celebrated 2024 Photo Contest Winners with Exhibit and Reception

Take a virtual tour of the Photo Contest Winner Exhibit and reception at the Territorial Prison State Historic Site, featuring music by *Fidil agus consairtin*. Photographer, Kathy Milks, attended as well as owners of the baby bison she photographed. Refreshments were provided by *Robin's Treats*. [Watch the reel!](#) June 18, 2024.



BEYOND WYOMING



Lawsuit aims to stop closure of almost 100 Job Corps sites

A feature by Hanna Merzbach about Job Corps site closures aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*. [Listen here](#). June 16, 2025.

Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapaho tribes received Federal Grants

A story by Hannah Habermann about Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes receiving US Dept of Housing & Urban Development grants aired on *National Native News*. [Listen here](#). June 17, 2025.

1,600 feet underground in a Wyoming trona mine

A story by Caitlin Tan about underground trona mining (part of Wyoming's biggest export) aired on *Marketplace*. [Listen here](#). June 26, 2025.



MUST LISTEN





Wyoming Sounds Interview with Gillian Welch about their Concert in Jackson

Award-winning acoustic duo and Americana favorites Gillian Welch and David Rawlings played at the Center for the Arts Park in Jackson on June 28th. Their latest album *Woodland*, won a Grammy for Best Folk album. Grady Kirkpatrick spoke to Gillian Welch about some of the new songs, their beginnings, *O Brother*, and performing live at some of the best concert halls in the world. Photo: Grady Kirkpatrick. [Listen to the interview.](#)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Louise Morris - After The Rain

[2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry](#)



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