

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | March 2025



Federal reorganization continues in Washington. Here are the most immediate concerns related to public broadcasting:

- March 26th hearing in Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene's DOGE committee. NPR and PBS will answer questions of bias in news reporting.
- Responding to FCC Chair's scrutiny of underwriting messages aired by NPR, PBS, and stations. This is still ongoing.
- Changes in the makeup of the press pool traveling with the President. Control will be in the hands of the White House instead of the White House Correspondents' Association.
- The banning of AP stemming from the Gulf of Mexico vs Gulf of American dustup is making its way through the legal system.

Keith Woods, *NPR*'s Chief Diversity Officer, is retiring after 46 years of award-winning journalism and leadership. Keith trained journalists in ethics, reporting and writing. He edited the Institute's anthology, *"Best Newspaper Writing,"* and is co-author of *The Authentic Voice: The Best Reporting on Race and Ethnicity*. A transformative leader, Keith has been a trusted mentor to hundreds of colleagues at *NPR* and around the public radio system. He will be missed by colleagues across public media.

Can't have the radio on all day, but want to keep up to date with Wyoming news? Check out our new daily podcast - the *Wyoming Debrief*. Get WPM daily news, the *Around Wyoming* minute of news stories, and test out your knowledge of the cowboy state with some trivia. All in under 10 minutes. Find *Wyoming Debrief* wherever you get your podcasts. *Wyoming Debrief* is the latest addition to our digital news delivery offerings. We know that not everyone listens to radio! Find us on our homepage at wyomingpublicmedia.org.

How is global journalism affected by cuts to USAID? Food delivery to underserved global areas was affected by the Administration's decision to freeze U.S. foreign aid. But the freeze also affected global journalistic organizations, depending on US foreign aid, and serving in areas where news is unavailable or suppressed. Decisions have consequences. Two recent articles shed light on this situation. ([USA: Trump's foreign aid freeze throws journalism around the world into chaos](#) and ['We have nothing now': Myanmar's exiled media face existential crisis after Trump severs aid](#)). In addition, there was a crackdown on news subscriptions to U.S. embassies and consulates around the world. ([State Dept. orders cancellation of news subscriptions around the world](#)).

The new administration keeps us on our toes! Two immediate issues under scrutiny that affect all stations and networks are federal funding to public broadcasting and underwriting messages that are monitored by the FCC. "Defund NPR," is often heard from politicians, often conflated with "cut federal appropriations to CPB." A recent issue of *NPR Public Editor* tries to unravel the differences. [See link](#)

a one-day virtual event to unite public media supporters to articulate the value of public radio and media to individuals and communities. You can participate online at protectmypublicmedia.org or on our website at wyomingpublicmedia.org, on the side.

Congratulations to *NPR*'s Steve Inskeep for being recognized by the *RTNDA Foundation's First Amendment Award*. Steve was among several honorees named in this award. The *RTNDA Foundation* is the educational arm of the *Radio Television Digital News Association*, and it presents the awards to journalists, organizations and individuals for their dedication to upholding the First Amendment and their commitment to a free press. A *Citation of Courage* will honor the *Associated Press*, for its decision to serve the public resulting from the executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. ([*RTDNA To Honor AP For 'Gulf of America' Standoff With Trump*](#)).

Love was in the air in February, and many testimonials poured in, expressing appreciation for public radio. Thanks to everyone who participated. You can check some of them out on the [2025 I Love WPR](#) page. We will be sharing these inspiring messages over the year. These days a little love goes a long way!

The role of journalists is to tell the human story. Here are two timely features that warmed the hearts of our listeners. The first, by Caitlin Tan, Hanna Merzbach, and Olivia Weitz, tells the story of three individuals coping with federal cuts in Wyoming. ([Yellowstone, Forest Service and DOE workers share their stories about federal firings](#)). The second is a Jeff Victor interview with Dr. Kent Kleppinger, a pediatrician from Laramie who travelled to Ukraine to lend his services. Listen, and see what you think. ([In war-torn Ukraine, a Laramie pediatrician joins the cause](#)). One listener reached out to WPM about the story:

"Hey, Wyoming Public Media, I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the interview that aired today with Dr. Kent Kleppinger. It was relevant and fascinating and I truly enjoyed hearing about a good person's attempt to make things better in Ukraine, and to learn of his experiences working in a war zone. Thanks for brightening my day. Jill Ottman"

In 1977, the United Nations officially recognized March 8th as *International Women's Day*. At WPM we recognize this day by celebrating all the women who made WPM possible. You hear them on-air every day, and you interact with them in our membership and administrative departments. They create the stories in our podcasts and host our news and cultural programs. Thanks to the Betty B. Barril Fund, every donation made this *International Women's Day* will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$15,000—doubling your impact. We invite you to make a contribution to support the activities generated by our talented staff. You can [make your pledge here](#).

WPM wants to know what you think! If you have moment, please take this survey. It's short and will give us information about how listeners use our services. Thank you in advance! [WPM Listener Survey 2025](#).

A heartfelt thanks to all our listeners and supporters. Yes, the world around us is uncertain and sometimes scary, but the public media community has a way of easing the angst. Be it through financial support or everyday messages and comments, the positivity reaches us loudly and clearly.

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 Kamila Kudelska Interviewed US Ambassador to Tunisia, Joey Hood**](#)

Hood said when the military partnership started, education efforts did as well. But recent partnerships between the University of Wyoming and Tunisian universities hope to strengthen the relationship in the coming years and share information in areas like water



management. [Listen to the interview](#). February 11, 2025. Photo Credit: Gregory Ronco from the University of Wyoming Global Engagement Office



Wyoming Sounds broadcast live from the inaugural Laramie Winter Fest

Grady Kirkpatrick emceed the event inside a tent in downtown Laramie. Western AF presented talented singer songwriters. The evening's headliner was the New Orleans based band *The Deslondes* accompanied by Wyoming's Jack Clarendon on fiddle. Pictured: WPM engineers Ben Slater. Jacob Hoffmann, and hosts Grady Kirkpatrick & Bob Moore. [Listen to Wyoming Sounds](#). February 15, 2025.



WPM Melodie Edwards Offered Podcast-Producing Workshop at UW

Sharing samples from the award-winning podcast, *The Modern West*, Melodie taught students about the power of narrative audio storytelling. Melodie offered tips and tricks about the best programs and equipment and how to market and distribute podcasts. Listen to the [Modern West](#) podcast. February 24, 2025.



Wyoming Public Media Legislative Coverage by Jordan Uplinger

With the end of the 2025 legislative session in sight, Wyoming lawmakers were hit with a surprise. In an unprecedented move, Senate leadership announced there would be no supplemental budget, upsetting the governor and sending lawmakers scrambling to figure out alternative ways to fund their priorities. [Listen](#). February 28, 2025.



Listen to Women's History Month Programming on WPR and Classical stations

* Monumental- *The Suffragist in the Basement* * When it comes to women and monuments in the U.S., we seem to prefer mythical or allegorical women – think a lady in robes holding the scales of justice in front of a courthouse. It's rare to see real women being honored for their actual accomplishments. But for decades, there was one statue in Wyoming that was an exception. [Listen to Women's History programs](#). March 2025.



BEYOND WYOMING



Yellowstone bison transfer between tribal nations in Montana and Canada is a first

A story by Olivia Weitz about a historic transfer of Yellowstone bison from the United States to Canada aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story](#). February 5, 2025.

U.S. Forest Service to cull 3,400 workers – Wyoming forests brace for impact

Caitlin Tan's spot aired on *NPR's Newscast* about the U.S. Forest service layoffs featuring a short sound bite from a national union representative for USFS workers. [Listen to the story](#). February 14, 15, 2025.

Chronic wasting disease, the fatal illness impacting deer and elk, explained

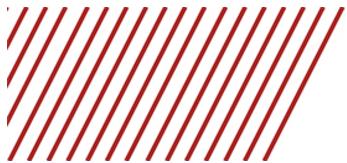
Caitlin Tan was a guest with *Here & Now*'s Scott Tong discussing elk and chronic wasting disease. [Listen to the story](#). February 25, 2025.

The future of procedural abortion in Wyoming is in doubt after Gordon signs bill

A spot by Chris Clements about abortion legislation aired on *NPR's Newscast*: [Listen to the story](#). February 28, 2025.

Gun-free zones repeal becomes law without Gordon's pen | Wyoming Public Media

A spot by Chris Clements about Wyoming's gun free zone repeal aired on NPR's *Newscast*: [Listen to the story](#). February 28, 2025.



MUST LISTEN



HumaNature podcast launches new season with “A Most Unlikely Friendship.”

Host Megan Feighery discovered Catherine Raven's book *Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship* a few years ago and always had it in the back of her mind that it would make an incredible *HumaNature* episode. So imagine her delight when Megan reached out and she enthusiastically agreed to an interview. [Listen](#).



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Erika Edmiston - Cookie posing in front of a Teton sunrise

2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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