



# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

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## General Manager's Newsletter | December 2025

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Wyoming may not boast a large population, but it is teeming with a vibrant network of non-profit organizations and a deep-rooted culture of generosity. [Giving Tuesday](#) serves as a heartfelt tribute to the dedicated non-profits that tirelessly work to uplift communities throughout Wyoming. Hundreds of enthusiastic listeners took the time to share their favorite organizations, shining a spotlight on the impactful work being done both on-air and online. This year we received 181 submissions for on-air and online recognition! Once again, the inspiring activities of *Giving Tuesday* were graciously supported by our friends at the [Wyoming Community Foundation](#), who play a crucial role in fostering this spirit of giving.

WPM is proud of its intern and volunteer program – an opportunity for students to learn broadcasting while providing content for our programming and operations. You hear their work daily in news reports and cultural stories. Meet [Cam Cousino](#), our latest volunteer. Cam is pursuing an M.S. in Atmospheric Science at UW and has worked as a forecaster at *WOUB NewsWatch*: Athens, OH. His expanded weather forecasts air Mon, Wed, Fri at 5:42 am /7:42 am /10 am /12:30 pm. They're a bit snappier than our standard weather reports.

Kudos to our News department for their month-long coverage of the passing of Vice President Dick Cheney. And special thanks to our Digital staff for providing a live feed of the funeral from Washington Cathedral. If you missed the funeral, you can watch the [AP YouTube version](#).

*The Mountain West News Bureau* received two-year funding from remaining *CPB* funds that are not under congressional jurisdiction. This support will allow the *MWNB* to continue operating for the next two years. The *MWNB* is a critical source of coverage for issues specific to the mountain west states. ([CPB extends support for Mountain West News Bureau - Current](#))

Christmas is almost here, and our team is excited to pick out some wonderful holiday specials that truly capture the joy of the season! National distributors are busy sharing their best programs with stations, and we can't wait to have our complete list ready for you by mid-December. Be sure to check our homepage at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org) to see all the fun options we'll have just for you!

*Wyoming Sounds* celebrates the holiday season in style with a live statewide performance by *De Gringos Y Gremmies*. It will be streamed live on Wyoming Public Media's Facebook channel Friday, December 5th at 11:15 am. On Friday, December 12th, *Wyoming Sounds* will broadcast live from the [UW Holiday Market](#) at the Conference Center on the Laramie campus from 10 am to noon.

A settlement was reached in the *NPR/CPB* national interconnection negotiations, and we're breathing a sigh of relief. WPM can't feed national programs like *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* to our now 50 Wyoming signals without satellite and IT connections! In other legal news, the *NPR vs Donald J Trump* lawsuit over First Amendment rights is slated to be heard December 4th.

Recent publications explore how audiences listen to the news, identify who the listeners are, and what are their perceptions. One key finding from the *Nieman Journalism Lab* indicates that the major divide in American news consumption is less about "left vs. right" and more about "active vs. passive" engagement. ([The big divide in American news consumption is less about "left vs. right" than "active vs. passive" | Nieman Journalism Lab](#)) Additionally, a report from the *Pew Research Center* notes that many Americans struggle to find accurate news and find it challenging to determine what is true. See if this data resonates with your own listening experience: ([Many Americans find inaccurate news, say it's hard to tell what's true | Pew Research Center](#)).

Journalism has been a hot topic of the Trump administration, and the *FCC* plays a big part. The Trump administration's position on journalism has been challenged by former *FCC* commissioners. ([A bipartisan group of former FCC commissioners wants to take away Brendan Carr's biggest weapon against journalism | Nieman Journalism Lab](#))

Keep checking [The GM Update](#) on our website. We add relevant articles and information about First Amendment activity that impacts media and WPM. You can find answers to listener questions on federal funding and general WPM topics. You can also follow our progress as donors help us bridge the funding gap. This report is updated as new developments arise.

We're excited to welcome the [Medicine Bow Nordic Association](#) to our *Community Minute* program—a series dedicated to shining a light on the mission, scope, and impact of local nonprofit and service organizations across Wyoming. Each *Community Minute* offers listeners a quick, meaningful look at the people and programs helping our communities thrive. You can find all our *Community Minute* features online at [wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute). Nonprofits play a vital role in supporting Wyoming's economy, cultural life, and overall quality of place, and WPM is proud to celebrate and elevate their work.

What's on Wyomingites' minds? We track the metrics on our top stories as well as *Topic of the Week*. Here they are. See if you agree.

Top 3 Stories:

- [Widespread power outage affects tens of thousands of Wyomingites](#)
- [The government services one Wyoming lawmaker thinks churches can take a lead on](#)
- [Little Soda Lake turns red, again](#)

Top Topic of the Week:

- [Wyoming has a history of disputes between the protection of wildlife and agricultural growth. What resolutions would you recommend?](#)

The warmth of the holiday season surrounds us, and Christmas is just around the corner. It's a time to celebrate joy and reflection, to look back on the year and recognize our many blessings. Despite the tumultuous challenges of 2025 and the uncertainties that lie ahead, WPM stands strong, dedicated to delivering the benefits of public radio to our lives. The unwavering loyalty of our listeners and donors fuels our courage to continue our mission, assured that we have a steadfast support system behind us. This is a true gift, and we thank you for it.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu).

*Christina Kuzmych,  
WPM General Manager*

# BEHIND THE SCENES



## Wyoming Public Radio reporters joined Casper folks for Coffee and Conversation

They shared feedback, news tips, and got to meet a few reporters.

Here are some examples of questions they asked:

- How do reporters find stories?
- How can we trust that WPR's stories are accurate?
- What's your favorite thing about the Cowboy State? *November 17, 2025.*



## View the Winners of Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes Photo Contest

Congratulations to this year's Wyoming Public Media Photo Contest winners!

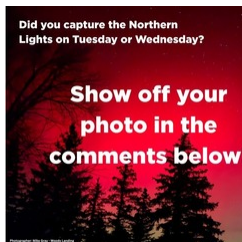
The winning photos portray Wyoming's rich history, natural beauty, national parks, and monuments. The winners are based on the top votes from Wyoming Public Media's listeners and viewers. The top winners are posted on the [Virtual Gallery](#).

# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



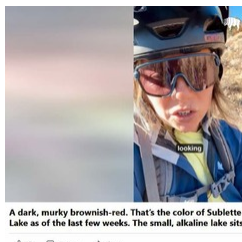
## Across the West, AI data centers are popping up in cities, foothills

...and even on cattle ranches in Wyoming. With all that competition, being sustainable can give you an extra edge. Data centers suck up energy and water, and some companies say they want to use less. That includes Prometheus Hyperscale, which is building its flagship data center near Evanston. But is it really possible to build a sustainable data center? We try to find out. [View Instagram Reel](#). *November 6, 2025.*



## WPM listeners and staff shared Northern Lights photos on Facebook

Wyoming and most of the United States was fortunate enough to see the Northern Lights Tuesday and Wednesday night. Did you capture the moment? Share your photo in the comments! [Facebook post](#). Photo by Hannah Habermann. *November 13, 2025*



## Wyoming Public Radio Reporter, Caitlin Tan, Reports from Her Bicycle

A dark, murky brownish-red. That's the color of Sublette County's Little Soda Lake. The small, alkaline lake sits about 10 miles northeast of Pinedale. A year of research led by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Bridger-Teton National Forest has led to some answers. Image/video credit: Caitlin Tan.

[Watch Reel](#). *November 20, 2025.*

# BEYOND WYOMING



## Can an AI data center be 'green'?

A story by Hanna Merzbach about AI data centers' environmental impacts aired on *Marketplace*.

[Listen to the Story](#). *November 6, 2025*





# THE MODERN WEST



**The Modern West host Melodie Edwards hits the road to visit people where they're living...**

...from an elderly homesteading couple snowshoeing out for her cancer appointments, to a ski town worker living in his RAV4, to the house builder living in an RV, or the Taos therapist living in a yurt. They're all in search of cheap dirt where they can live comfortably without debt. "Cheap Dirt" is the culmination of years of Melodie Edwards' reporting on rural despair and resilience in the West.

Eight of the ten states with the least affordable housing are in the American West, and that's causing lots of tough westerners to adopt oddball housing solutions. They're moving into sheds, yurts, vans, campers, you name it. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



***Shane Epping - Scottish Highland Cattle***

2024 WPM [Photo Contest Entry](#)



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