

# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

## General Manager's Newsletter | August 2022



Kudos to our veterans, service members, and military families who shared their stories during the StoryCorps Military Voices visit to Cheyenne. A number of people signed up for interviews after watching the StoryCorps presentation at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. Those who interviewed will have their stories memorialized at the Library of Congress. We are indebted to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens for providing a glorious setting for our reception, and to CPB for sponsoring the Military Voices program. We were honored to meet Wyomingites who served our country. There's still a chance to provide your story, see the Behind the Scenes link below.

WPM broadcast live from Kemmerer's Oyster Ridge Music Festival and Frontier Days in Cheyenne. We hopped over to Saratoga for the WHAT Festival, and still have a few events left for the summer. After almost two years of pandemic captivity, it's wonderful to meet listeners in-person and to support our lively Wyoming band scene. ([Wyoming Sounds Concert Calendar](#)) Thank you to all who dropped by these events. WPM is thrilled to partner once again with Guesthouse in Wilson for a WPM benefit concert on Saturday, September 17th. This promises to be a delightful evening of music, art, food and fun under the stars. We greatly appreciate the support for this event featuring soulful, blues rocker Eric Lindell along with special guest Benyaro and the art exhibition of Julia Bland. For more information, [visit here](#).

NPR's Anya Kamenetz announced that she left her position as an education correspondent for NPR due to the launch of her new book, *The Stolen Year: How COVID Changed Children's Lives, and Where We Go Now*. Kamenetz joined NPR in 2014. Megan Pratz will sign on as political editor Aug. 22. Pratz most recently worked as political director and EP for Cheddar News in Washington, D.C. She previously produced for CGTN, Al Jazeera America and *To The Contrary*, a women-led weekly public affairs program for PBS. Susan Davis, a congressional correspondent and co-host of the *NPR Politics Podcast*, will become a political correspondent. She will continue to work with the Capitol Hill team while focusing on "big-picture political stories." Davis joined NPR in 2015.

In industry news, "local news deserts" grow, particularly in print media, while public perception of journalism wavers amidst a polarized national mood. *Washington Post's* Margaret Sullivan reports that "one-third of American newspapers that existed roughly two decades ago will be out of business by 2025 ... Already, some 2,500 dailies and weeklies have shuttered since 2005; there are fewer than 6,500 left." In the court of perception, the *Reuters Institute* revealed last month that 42% of Americans actively avoid the news at least some of the time because it grinds them down or they just don't believe it. Fifteen percent said they disconnected from news coverage altogether. In other countries, such as the UK and Brazil, the numbers selectively avoiding it were even higher. "In the United States, those who self-identify on the right are far more likely to avoid news because they think it is untrustworthy or biased, but those on the left are more likely to feel overwhelmed, carry feelings of powerlessness, or worry that the news might create arguments," the institute said. AT WPM we weather these changes as best as possible, and seek out programming that highlights discussion, debate, and balanced reporting.

News Director Bob Beck, long-time champion of balanced journalism, is leaving WPM in October after 32 years of award-winning service and mentorship to countless young journalists. But unlike some in the industry, Bob is leaving with a smile, as he is following his bride to New York to start a new life in the wilds of the American Northeast. Much more on this later. Watch out, New York!

Award-winning reporter Will Walkey moved from Jackson Hole Community Radio to WPM to serve as the WPM Mountain West Bureau reporter covering Wyoming. You will hear him here, there, and everywhere, as he reports for WPM and the Mountain West Bureau, and also contributes to Jackson Hole Community Radio to help our colleagues fill his reporting space. Will is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Our award-winning podcast *HumaNature* is ramping up for production, and you may have heard messages inviting listeners to send us their stories. The promo says it all:

*Wyoming Public Media is thrilled to announce that it's bringing back the award-winning podcast HumaNature, real stories where humans and our habitat meet. We are currently looking for stories to feature in our upcoming season and we want to hear from you! Have you had an incredible wildlife encounter? Gotten lost while out hiking? Encountered something creepy in the woods? Climbed a mountain with your pet ferret? Have a special bond and done something incredible with your beloved furry friend? Then we want to hear about it. If you have a story to share, please send an email to [humanature@gmail.com](mailto:humanature@gmail.com) with the subject line "HumaNature Submission." Please include your name, a brief description of your story, and the state or country you currently reside in."*

One listener, though, noted a bit of irony. "I find it ironic that immediately following your pet story request was (a story) about chicken strips! My pets are chickens! Not to be confused with food, except of course for their eggs but definitely not chicken strips. ☺" We are duly humbled and welcome many chicken stories.

Thank you for supporting WPM and continuing to enjoy public radio. Your generosity and enthusiasm are key to our success.

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



### Grand Teton Music Festival Live Wyoming Public Radio 4th of July Broadcast

Wyoming Public Radio was on the road this summer for live broadcasts including the July 4th concert from the Grand Teton Music Festival. WPM Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick hosted. *July 4, 2022.*



### StoryCorps' MobileBooth at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

StoryCorps captured the voices of Wyomingites this summer! Thanks to all participants and to the beautiful Cheyenne Botanic Gardens for hosting members of StoryCorps and WPM for this special event! Photo: StoryCorps Airstream, and WPM staff and friends. [Register to tell your story here.](#) *July 22, 2022.*



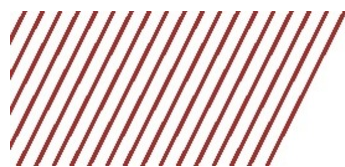
### Wyoming Sounds Broadcast from Oyster Ridge Music Festival in Kemmerer

Paul Montoya and Grady Kirkpatrick hosted the festival broadcast that included Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Town Mountain, Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers, Band of Heathens, Will Hoge and more. Grady shown here with Phil Barker from band, *Town Mountain.* *July 22 and 23, 2022.*



### Wyoming Sounds Live Broadcast from Cheyenne Frontier Days

Grady Kirkpatrick, *Wyoming Sounds* Host with Wyoming Public Media, stands between Americana-country singer songwriters, Diane Lynn and Steve Frame of "Buffalo Scout," are based in Casper. The duo can be heard around central Wyoming and Cody this summer. *July 29, 2022.*



## BEYOND WYOMING



### Environmentalists sue after the White House resumed sales of oil and gas leases

NPR's *Morning Edition* aired a story by Wyoming Public Radio reporter Caitlin Tan about disputed oil and gas leases. [Listen to the story here.](#) *July 1, 2022.*

### The Price Liz Cheney Will Pay

Oppose Trump vocally? Pay for it locally. *Slate Podcasts* featured Bob Beck, Wyoming Public Radio's News Director. [Listen to the podcast here.](#) *July 25, 2022.*

### WHYY's The Pulse Features Modern West Podcast Producer Melodie Edwards in Troubled Waters

A short version of an upcoming episode of The Great Individualist aired last Friday on WHYY's The Pulse. It's the second story on the show, if you want to take a listen. [Hear the podcast here.](#) *July 26, 2022.*

### Outdated water infrastructure amplifies drought problems for a small Wyoming city

Marketplace aired a story about water shortages by Wyoming Public Radio reporter Caitlin Tan. [Listen to the story here.](#) *July 26, 2022.*

### How Liz Cheney's attempt to get reelected as Wyoming's member of the House is going

NPR's *All Things Considered* aired a story about US Representative Liz Cheney and the upcoming election following her role in the January 6 hearings. [Listen to the story.](#) *August 2, 2022.*

### Wyoming's new ban on abortions has been temporarily blocked

NPR's *Morning Edition* aired a story by Wyoming Public Radio reporter Will Walkey about the State judge's temporary hold on Wyoming's law banning most abortions. [Listen to the story.](#) *August 4, 2022.*



## MUST LISTEN



### Only One Bite: The Great Individualist Part 6 of The Modern West Podcast

Listen to the latest season of *The Modern West*. *Exploring the evolving identity of the American West.* Kudos from around the region: "I've been listening to your podcast to help me learn about the region. I think your reporting is really balanced. Thanks for alerting us to the Red Desert. We had no idea of its existence. We plan to visit in September on our next road trip through the region." *July 2022*



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