



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | August 2023



Here we go again, as often prophesied in this newsletter. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies has recommended zeroing out public media funding in its fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill. The bill would provide no funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting effective in FY 2026, and no funding for system interconnection and infrastructure for FY 2024, a cut of \$60 million from current levels. On July 27th the Senate Appropriations Committee reinstated the original funding, initiating the traditional back-and-forth on the way to agreement. This may affect all stations and networks, depending on the outcome. What can you do to help? Mention the value of public radio and television to our representatives. Local news, culture, and public affairs are the most important programming gifts public broadcasting can give to Wyoming. National and global news is many things to many people, but local reporting and public service are the heart and soul of public radio.

Wildfires affect us all, as this summer's Canadian fires remind us. In July, General Managers from New Mexico, Alaska, and Wyoming provided information about their public awareness programs to the bilateral Wildfire Caucus in Washington D.C. Closer to home, Bridger-Teton National Forest launched a new AM radio station at 1710 with recorded messages about outdoor safety including wildfire prevention. Local resident Harrison Ford provided the voice.

Welcome Cody Hume to our engineering/technology ranks. Raised in Cody, WY, Cody has recently graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Computer Engineering and a minor in Computer Science. He combines a passion for media and technology -- a winning combination for Wyoming Public Media where we work with both old and new technologies.

Did you know that Kemmerer, Wyoming, was in Montana? A recent story on CBS caught our attention. Reporting on the new TerraPower nuclear project, the anchor initially located it in Kemmerer, Montana, which was later corrected. This elicited a broad chuckle and reminded us of how easy it is to err, and how fact-checking and editing is not foolproof. Surely this report wasn't generated by AI!

And speaking of AI, news organizations are treading very gingerly to form guidelines for this perplexing new tool. NPR is consulting with experts in editorial, legal, security, and data governance to evaluate how AI might be used. UW is planning to assemble a task force to provide recommendations on "how we can best provide ongoing training for faculty, students, and staff to help them make creative use of the many powerful AI technologies that are emerging while also protecting the integrity of our teaching and scholarly missions." Brave new world, indeed!

NPR has a new VP of News and Editor in Chief. Edith Chapin came to NPR in 2012 to lead the International Desk, where she managed a team of correspondents based outside the United States. She was also the Vice President and Executive Editor of News, responsible for the NPR newsroom, setting daily news priorities, and directing all of NPR's news-gathering teams. From 2017-2019, she led NPR's efforts to build a collaborative

journalism network with NPR Member stations.

Back in Wyoming, WPM journalists outdid themselves giving us stories that highlight areas of Wyoming often left behind. Check out News Intern Jordan Uplinger's story, "[The Cadoma Foundation in Casper invited President Abraham Lincoln to speak](#)," or News Intern Suraj Singareddy's story, "[Kindness Ranch rescues four Beagles from illegal meat trade in China](#)." Then there's Hannah Habermann's feature, "[Blind professional climber teaches skills of visualization at Wyoming climbing festival](#)." There are dozens of stories produced by WPM reporters, interns, and news partners that would make any news department proud. You can find them all on our website at wyomingpublicmedia.org, or by subscribing to our [daily/weekly newsletters](#).

Thank you to Wyomingites for a tremendous outpouring of generosity during this year's WyoGives Day. It was an unprecedented success raising money and awareness for Wyoming's nonprofits. WPM is proud to promote this program on our airwaves.

If you're in the Riverton or Jackson areas, you just might run into us. On August 9th, at 5:30 p.m., we're in the Central Wyoming College Intertribal Center in Riverton. On August 10th at 1 p.m., we'll be at the Jackson Library for a meet-and-greet with our listeners and donors. [Both events will feature the *Mending the Hoop* podcast series](#) about the Plains Indians.

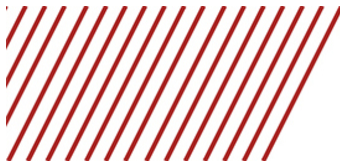
And while in Riverton, we congratulate Joanna Kail on her new position as CEO of Wyoming PBS. Joanna carries a strong tradition established by departing CEO Terry Dugas, and Ruby Calvert before him. Welcome, Joanna!

I leave you with stories of the lobster and the peanut, both subjects of *HumaNature* podcast episodes and wonderful antidotes to daily news. Leon the Lobster was a beloved pet who journeyed from grocery store tank to social media sensation. The peanut was Bob Salem's achievement, who in 2022 broke a very unusual record. He now holds the fastest time for pushing a peanut up Pikes Peak Mountain with his nose. Worthy endeavor, you may say! Enjoy these stories and more unusual tales produced by Megan Feighery for the [HumaNature podcast here](#).

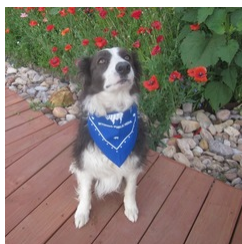
Again, thank you for your loyalty and support for WPM. These are tough times for many listeners, sometimes confusing and often exasperating. It's good to know that we're all in this together, and that public radio can connect us with both humor and reality. Thank you! Your support makes it happen.

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

Christina Kuzmych, WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



Fiscal Year-end Mini- Drive Featured Pet Wednesday

Listener Peggy Lindbloom sent Wyoming Public Media a delightful photo of her dog SusieQ, proudly modeling her new WPM Pet Bandana, which was sent her way after contributing to WPM on Pet Wednesday. Find out how to receive a bandana for your furry friend [here](#).



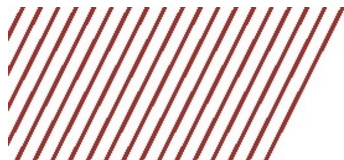
Grady Kirkpatrick moderated Laramie County Library Summer Soiree

The event featured a panel discussion with local writers and community icons: former Governor Dave Freudenthal, Bob Budd, and Rod Miller, pictured with LCL Foundation Director Kristi Wallin. The panel members discussed their books in detail, all of which explore different facets of our great state. *June 25, 2023.*



WPM Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick MC'd Soundcheck Music Concert

The summer concert in Pinedale featured Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs and Jason Tyler Burton. This part of the Soundcheck Summer Music series took place in American Legion Park. Wyoming Public Media's Natural Resources/Energy Reporter and Pinedale resident Caitlin Tan was also in attendance. *July 14, 2023.*



BEYOND WYOMING



New energy projects are coming to small towns. Where will workers live?

Wyoming Public Radio's Energy Reporter Caitlin Tan's story about the Kemmerer nuclear project aired on American Public Media's *Marketplace*. *July 11, 2023.*

Woman pleads guilty to charges of arson at a Casper clinic that provides abortions

Wyoming Public Radio Mountain West News Bureau Reporter Will Walkey's story about arson in an abortion clinic aired on NPR. *July 20, 2023.*

Wyoming, long known as a top coal producing state, makes a big move into wind energy.

Wyoming Public Radio reporter Caitlin Tan's story regarding the new powerline going in near Rawlins aired on *Marketplace*. The purpose is to transfer Wyoming's wind energy to the southwest. *July 31, 2023.*



MUST LISTEN



Wyoming Public Media Wins Regional Edward R. Murrow and PMJA Awards

Wyoming Public Media received acclaim for reporting during 2022. WPM won two regional *Edward R. Murrow* awards in the "Podcast" and "Breaking News" categories as well as a *Public Media Journalist Association (PMJA)* award for best "Long Documentary." [Listen to the winning stories and podcasts.](#)



EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS

2023

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