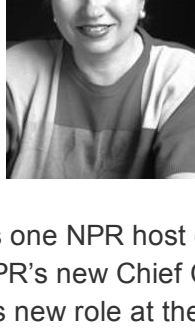




WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | October 2021



One NPR loss and one gain! Lulu Garcia Navarro, host of *Weekend Edition Sunday*, leaves NPR in October after 17 years as a reporter, correspondent, and host. As host of *Weekend Edition* since 2017, Lulu has left an indelible mark on the program -- from her award-winning coverage of immigration and the humanitarian crisis at the US-Mexico border, to her weekly insistence that *WESUN* feature the voice of someone affected by the news. Lulu's last day hosting *Weekend Edition Sunday* will be Sunday, October 17. She will join *Opinion Audio* at *The New York Times* to anchor a new podcast that explores the personal side of opinion.

As one NPR host departs, another professional enters the radio space. Welcome to Nick Charles, NPR's new Chief Culture Editor. Charles brings experience across various aspects of journalism to his new role at the public broadcaster, including serving as a foreign correspondent covering Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, working as a beat writer at the *Daily News* and a staff writer for *People*. Most recently, Charles served as Managing Director at *Word in Black*.

The Metropolitan Opera Saturday Matinee Radio Broadcasts has announced a new host. Debra Lew Harder comes from WRTI in Philadelphia and will start the season on December 4 with the premiere of *Eurydice* by Matthew Aucoin. *The Met* broadcasts air on Classical Wyoming on Saturday mornings through the afternoons.

It's my pleasure to introduce a new Intern and a new Work Study employee. Intern [Friday Otuya](#) joined us from the UW International Studies program. He was immediately thrown into a challenging task of interviewing vaccine recipients for our Neighbor-to-Neighbor CPB funded COVID program. Here he ran into Governor Mark Gordon attending the UW football game against Montana State. (See photo below.) Not bad for a newbie! [Eric Vigil](#) joined the Membership department where he works with the financial end of WPM operations. He also has a keen interest in the rest of our operation, and may find himself working in production and content areas as well. Both Eric and Friday are getting a taste of the broadcast world, and who knows, may even develop a love for it. One thing they will definitely develop is an incredible skill set they can transfer to other jobs as they pursue their careers.

Please note our activity with the CPB/COVID related funded project on our [Neighbor to Neighbor: COVID-19 in Wyoming](#) page. COVID has a direct impact on Wyoming's economy and the well-being of her citizens. Our project focuses specifically on human loss, business repercussions, and most critically, the impact on the average person trying to secure medical attention and a bed for a routine procedure at our overcrowded and understaffed hospitals. We hope to improve Wyoming's vaccination rate--something endorsed by our Governor and the medical community. Right now, Wyoming is near the bottom, with all but two states surpassing us in vaccination rates. Not good. Cowboy pride demands a higher ranking!

Public radio loves the car, but not necessarily for its sleek lines or purring motor. We love it for its ability to contain listeners, sometimes for hours at a time. For decades, radio and the car were married, and the morning and evening drive times to and from work captured listeners in one place. In large urban areas, this was a highly rewarding time, as it sometimes takes a few hours to get to work or home. Public radio fundraisers loved these drive times when captive audiences heard a plethora of pledge pitches and responded with a donation. But then, the pandemic disrupted our work schedules and behavior patterns. So what happened to the Drive Time model? It poofed out, as many people worked from home, and many more grew to like it. A new study by Hubble, a U.K. company revealed that the top reason for liking to work from home was no commuting by 79%, this was followed by financial savings, time with loved ones, increased productivity, and other impacts. With huge audience programs like *ME* and *ATC*, public radio has much at stake and will be looking at this very closely. And what about Wyoming? Well, we probably have one of the shortest drive times in America, and are not as severely affected. But we certainly travel far and wide to visit family and do business. So there may be some implications. Interesting times, indeed. We'll keep monitoring.

And speaking of Cars -- remember *Car Talk*? It soon will be a podcast with two new episodes distributed each week beginning October 1. It's a new lap for *Car Talk*, which ended its distribution in 2017. Many Wyomingites mourned this moment, and WPM commemorated it with flourish in that year's fund drive. As a podcast, the *Car Talk* team will take listeners back to the early years of the series, and distribute edited versions of every show, in sequential order. *Car Talk* had been NPR's third-most-listened-to show, with a weekly audience of 2.6 million, airing on 654 stations. *CT* fans, you can now listen and re-listen to every riveting moment of engine noises.

In closing, I remind you of the fall fund drive. It's happening right now, in a quiet way with soft messages gently reminding listeners of the need to support public radio for the greater good of our communities. Saturday, October 2, fund drive will "go live," with studio hosts and hourly goals. Many of you have pledged already or are sustainers, and we applaud your enthusiasm and generosity. You help fund drives stay quiet and short. To those who have not renewed or have never pledged, I appeal to YOU. Please renew your pledge, or pledge for the first time. Wyoming is a sparsely populated state with few links connecting us. Public radio is one of our most reliable means of connecting to each other and to the world. [Make your pledge!](#)

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

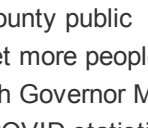
Thank you -- and Happy Halloween!

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



Fans Got Vaccinated At Wyoming Cowboys Football Game

COVID-19 vaccination rates in Albany County are picking up slowly. County public health officials took advantage of the last Wyoming football game to get more people to take the shot. Wyoming Public Radio Reporter Friday Otuya visited with Governor Mark Gordon at the UW football game against Montana State. For updated COVID statistics and virtual events visit the WPM [Neighbor to Neighbor: COVID 19 in Wyoming](#) page. *September 4 2021.*



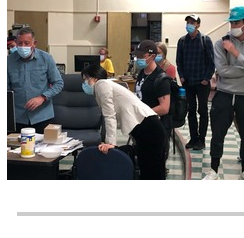
Snow King Moose Joined WPM Engineer Near a Tower Outside Jackson

WPM Engineer Paul Montoya updated equipment at the Jackson site to improve coverage. Other engineering ventures included Ben Slater and Alec Schaffer scaling Windy Peak above Dubois to replace battery packs, For updates on signal issues in your area, check the [WPM reception update page](#).



Country Music Singer-Songwriter Suzy Bogguss On Wyoming Sounds

Grammy award-winning and platinum-selling artist Suzy Bogguss talked with Grady Kirkpatrick ahead of her show at the Lincoln Theatre in Cheyenne. [Listen to the Wyoming Sounds interview.](#) *September 23, 2021.*

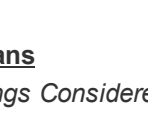


Sharing the Knowledge - Podcast Class Tours Station, Learns of Internships

University of Wyoming Professor Runchao Liu's Podcasting & Audio Storytelling class toured WPM and learned about different departments and internship opportunities. Throughout the semester, WPM Digital Manager Anna Rader and Reporter Melodie Edwards will offer additional class sessions. *September 28, 2021.*



NATIONAL STORIES



Media Fascination With The Petito Mystery Looks Like Racism To Some Native Americans

Kamila Kudelska's feature about Native American victims of homicide aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Indigenous people have made up 21% of homicide victims in Wyoming since 2000, while they represent 3% of the population, according to a WYSAC report. Kudelska's story aired September 21, 2021.

Harriet Hageman Is Trump's Pick To Face Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney

NPR's *Newsweek* aired a spot by Bob Beck about former President Donald Trump endorsing attorney Harriet Hageman for Wyoming's US House of Representatives seat. The story aired on September 9, 2021.



MUST LISTEN

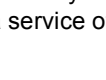


Listen to Season Three of The Modern West - Shall Furnish Medicine

The new season of *The Modern West* podcast, *Shall Furnish Medicine*, is out now and releases new episodes every two weeks. *The Modern West* is available for download on all major podcasts apps and can be streamed at themodernwest.org. Find *The Modern West* on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ModernWestPod.

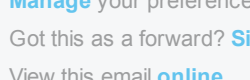


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