



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | October 2023



It's the end of an era! Join us live on air Saturday, October 7th at 11 a.m. for a last hurrah for *Ranch Breakfast* host, Tom Wilhelm. After 42 years of broadcasting, Tom is retiring. It's an opportunity to honor him and wish him well. Grady Kirkpatrick and Kelli Trujillo will join Tom. The phones will be open for donations and messages. Kelli Trujillo will move into the slot, and keep a cherished tradition continued. If you would like to donate early in honor of Tom's legacy, you can pledge [here](#).

As one era ends, another begins. Please welcome Kamila Kudelska as the new Director of News and Public/Cultural Affairs. WPM listeners know Kamila as the Northwest Wyoming reporter based at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, and as Interim News Director this last year. As News Director, she oversees news and public/cultural affairs over multiple platforms including radio and new digital delivery systems. This position advances WPM's strategic public service missions to inform the public and uphold WPM's strong journalistic principles of fairness and balance in reporting. Kamila is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Broadcasting.

NPR chief executive John Lansing will retire at the end of 2023. He led NPR through the pandemic, a racial reckoning, and headwinds in the podcasting industry that led to severe layoffs. During his tenure, journalists reported on the pandemic, economic turbulences, mass protests, and the war in Ukraine. NPR won [its first Pulitzer Prize](#) in 2021 among other leading journalism recognitions.

WPM was one of seven public radio stations/networks selected for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting State Government Grant. This grant supports two full-time journalists for two years, to study the state legislature and agencies and their impact on the citizens they serve. WPM is the Lead Network in this grant; Jackson Hole Community Radio is our Partner Station. In addition. Other Wyoming news entities will be collaborators over the two years of the project. In a similar area, WPM was selected for participation in America Amplified, a project that focuses on community engagement and partnerships.

Enter *The Middle* with Jeremy Hobson, a new, live public radio call-in show that elevates the voices of everyday Americans in the geographic and political middle and bringing them into the national conversation. *The Middle* will be a weekly program heard Thursdays at 7pm (MTN) on Wyoming Public Radio beginning October 19th.

Football fans—opera beat you to the end zone! ESPN wants to air 75 college football games in select movie theaters across the country. But opera got there first, with the 2006 *Metropolitan Opera's* live productions in movie theatres across the nation as a means of reaching audiences and increasing revenues. You can see these opera productions in Wyoming in Laramie, Lander, Jackson, and Sheridan [movie theaters](#). You can hear opera on radio on our [Classical Wyoming](#) channel and anywhere via streaming at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](#). In addition, *The Met: Live at Home* is a streaming platform that allows audiences to watch the *Met's* simulcasts from any device from their home. The program was created for audiences who do not have access to a

participating movie theater for live cinema transmissions. Go Tom Brady and Brunhilde!

Do you fondly remember the days of Mancini, Manilow, and the Rat Pack? It's the music you hear Saturday nights on [The Retro Cocktail Hour](#), and its coming to Laramie. If you're in the area, drop in October 28th, from 7 to 9 p.m. and join host Darrell Brogdon as he brings the Underground Martini Bunker to [Laramie's Historic Railroad Depot](#). There are still tickets remaining [here](#).

When we learned that Ken Burns' [The American Buffalo](#) was airing on Wyoming PBS October 16, we pulled out our own buffalo stories produced over the years. You can find our Bison Stories collection on the [TheModernWest.org](#). It's a collection of bison stories from WPM podcasts and archival news stories and features. There are three podcasts and an interview with Ken Burns. An additional Open Spaces hour of archival and new content will air on October 13th and 15th, and includes the Ken Burns interview.

Fund Drive is in progress and you're hearing testimonials and soft reminders on air. Beginning October 7th, we'll go "live" for a week to reach the goal. As always, we're excited, worried, and optimistic all at the same time. Fund drives have lives of their own, and you never know where they take you! This year WPM needs \$980,000 in membership revenue to meet operating costs. This fund drive alone should yield close to \$325,000 to contribute to the annual total. You can [pledge here](#).

In closing, here's some positive news. Just when you were about to give up on politics, a group of young people emerge who are investing in the nation's future. A recent NPR story provided some bi-partisan examples.

Anderson Clayton of North Carolina is the youngest state party chair in the country. Clayton thinks Democrats have neglected rural communities like hers and taken voters her age for granted. Clayton has set out to convince small-town residents that President Biden has their back.

In Alabama, Republican Party Chair John Wahl is the youngest state GOP chair. Wahl wants to win Black votes by connecting on issues like faith and the economy, and he's pushing party recruiters to bring on viable GOP candidates in split-party districts. He also plans to visit college campuses to engage students in debate.

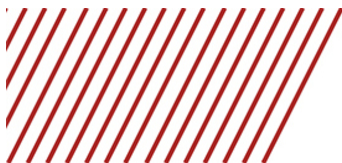
Gun-control activist David Hogg, 23, has launched a political action committee to back young candidates, targeting open, Democratic-held seats in the 2024 primary season.

Thank you for listening – particularly these days. In a contentious political environment, it's challenging for broadcasters to get it "just right," or get it at all for that matter!

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

Happy Halloween!

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



Host Tom Wilhelm of the Ranch Breakfast Show is officially retiring after 40 years

The bluegrass radio show aired on Wyoming Public Radio started in the early 1980s and has continued to be a great local music program. Wyoming Public Media wishes Tom Wilhelm a Happy Retirement! Tom Wilhelm's Retirement party and jam-o-rama was well attended on September 22nd at the Laramie Plains Civic Center. [Listen to Tom's last show](#) on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

WPM's Kamila Kudelska Served as Panelist in Media Panel Discussion



The WYO Film Festival hosted a media panel and community discussion to follow the screening of award-winning documentary, “Storm Lake.” The panel included Art Cullen, Beth Levison, Bryce Jacobson, Floyd Whiting, and Kamila Kudelska. The group offered an opportunity to engage with members of the community on the importance of local journalism. *September 29, 2023.*



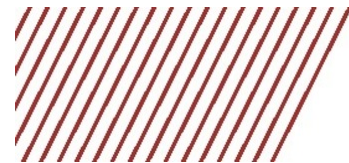
Welcome back, Students! WPM is pleased to welcome 2 new Fall Semester Interns

Wyoming Public Media loves this time of year, as students come back to campus and back on the air. We welcome new student interns, [McKenna Lipson](#) and [Taylor Saunders](#) along with our exceptional student staff members, [Eric Vigil](#) and [Erik Zafft](#). [Learn about WPM student opportunities and internships.](#)



Wyoming Public Media Reporter Joined a Group of Climbers to Report on Ascent

An all-women’s climb of the Grand Teton celebrated the first female ascent of the peak 100 years ago. WPM Reporter, Hannah Habermann, joined in to document a group of twenty-six women of all ages walking up and down steep rock slabs. [View photos and listen to the story.](#) *September 1, 2023.*



BEYOND WYOMING



A Native youth group visited Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks to reconnect with their roots

A story by Hannah Habermann story about 13 Native youth from the Wind River Reservation and the Pine Ridge Reservation exploring Wyoming's National Parks aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story.](#) *September 4, 2023.*

Northern Arapaho artist Robert Martinez combines historic imagery and modern themes to create art

Hannah Habermann's feature story about Robert Martinez' art work that speaks to contemporary Indigenous issues aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story.](#) *September 5, 2023.*

A nonprofit is shedding more light on the history of Indian boarding schools in the U.S. and Canada

A story by Will Walkey aired on *National Native News* about a new map showing the legacy of Native American boarding schools. [Listen to the story.](#) *September 12, 2023.*

Modern West: Mending the Hoop weaves together historical atrocities and current indigenous issues

The *Yellow Scene*, a Denver magazine, published an interview with WPM Podcast Producer Melodie Edwards about *Mending the Hoop*. [Read the story.](#) *September 19, 2023.*



MUST LISTEN



2023 Wyoming Singer Songwriter competition winner Kira Dawn from Lyman on Wyoming Sounds

Kira Dawn from Lyman, Wyoming won the 2023 Wyoming Singer Songwriter competition. The 20-year-old is an English literature major and music minor at the University of Wyoming. Kira stopped in for a *Studio Session* to play a few songs live and talked with Grady Kirkpatrick. The live broadcast was part of the *Wyoming Sounds' Studio Session* series. [Listen here.](#) *September 15, 2023*



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