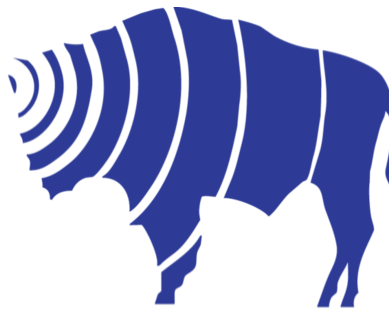




WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | August 2026



August is here, and it's hot! We celebrated the Fourth of July and *Cheyenne Frontier Days* in temperatures warmer than many of us can remember. As summer rolls on, we're feeling the heat across Wyoming.

WyoGives was a blast, with donors coming together to contribute more than \$6 million to nonprofits across the state. WPM thanks everyone who supported public radio and all who made gifts to the organizations they care about. Every donation helps strengthen the services, programs, and causes that make Wyoming such a special place to live. Together, Wyoming showed the power of community.

Wyoming Public Media, the *League of Women Voters*, *WyoFile*, *Wyoming PBS*, and other partners bring you election coverage for statewide offices. Candidate forums held in the past two weeks are available now online at wyomingpublicmedia.org. Statewide office debates are coming up on August 4th, 11th, and 13th. An informed electorate is a stronger electorate—so tune in, get informed, and remember to vote in the August primary on or before August 18, and in the November general election.

Granted, elections can get overwhelming. Our state government journalist Jordan Uplinger makes it a little easier to follow critical Wyoming voting issues in the Secretary of State office. [Watch YouTube video.](#)

It's been a year since Congress eliminated federal funding for public media and the *Corporation for Public Broadcasting* closed its doors after 60 years of building America's public broadcasting system. How have stations and networks fared in the aftermath? This article offers an overview of where public media stands today—and Wyoming Public Media is part of the story. As the article notes, "*The Wyoming legislature recently came close to cutting the \$800,000 it contributes every year to public media, but restored the money to its budget after a public outcry.*" That's a powerful reminder that community support matters! [*It's been a year since Congress cut off federal funding for public media. How are things going?* | Nieman Journalism Lab](#)

As a public service organization, WPM is committed to transparency in all that we do. After all, you deserve to know how your donations are being used to support our mission. One of the many tools we use to provide that transparency is our annual *Impact Report*. This report grew out of our longstanding requirement from the *CPB* to document how we serve the public and steward the resources entrusted to us. Although *CPB* no longer exists, we continue this reporting because we believe accountability and openness remain essential to our relationship with listeners, members, and supporters. You can view our [2025 Impact Report here](#). A separate report highlighting our educational services and initiatives across Wyoming can be found [here](#).

Kudos to everyone who participated in the 250th anniversary celebrations held across Wyoming this summer.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

our *Wyoming Sounds* live broadcast from *Cheyenne Frontier Days*, featuring special guest Jalan Crossland. Wyoming Public Media's own Grady Kirkpatrick, Ry Woody, Rexanna Kelly, and engineer Ben Slater were front and center, helping make the event a memorable success.

Speaking of heat, what's happening to climate reporting these days? Many organizations are reducing staff at a time when climatic changes are extreme. [*What Is Happening to Climate Journalism? - Nieman Reports*](#)

Wyoming Sounds will broadcast live from Sheridan on August 27th. It's *Music on the Mall* from Sheridan College featuring acclaimed Nashville singer-songwriter Lilly Hiatt, *Bob LeFevre and the Already Gone* from Laramie and bluegrass from Sheridan band *Trout Goggles*. Grady Kirkpatrick will host this live event beginning at 4pm on August 27th. Streaming at wyomingpublicmedia.org; [*Music on the Mall at Sheridan College*](#)

We're hitting the road! Join us August 12–14 as Wyoming Public Media travels to Dubois, Driggs, and Jackson to meet with listeners, members, and friends. Development Director Ry Woody and General Manager Christina Kuzmych will be on hand to answer questions, share updates from the station, and hear what's on your mind. Stop by *The Canteen* at the *National Museum of Military Vehicles* in Dubois on August 12 from 2:00–4:00 p.m., Wydaho Roasters in Driggs on August 13 from 2:00–4:00 p.m., or the *Teton County Library* in Jackson on August 14 from 1:00–3:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!! Information [here](#) as it becomes available.

There are some changes in our neighborhood. *KUNC*, long based in Greeley, Colorado, is now a part of *Rocky Mountain Public Media* – home of *Rocky Mountain PBS*. *Colorado Public Radio* is the recipient of a \$1.5 million tax credit for its new headquarters in Denver. *KUNC*'s decision can be traced to the upheaval caused by historic losses of federal funding to public broadcasters, while *CPB*'s credit can be traced to the favorable climate for the arts and media in neighboring Colorado.

[*Rocky Mountain Public Media to acquire Colorado stations - Current*](#)

[*State gives Colorado Public Radio \\$1.5 million tax credit for its new headquarters in Denver - CPR News*](#)

This month on *Community Minute*, we're featuring [*Relative Theatrics*](#), a Laramie-based nonprofit dedicated to engaging the community through thoughtful, contemporary theatre. Since 2013, *Relative Theatrics* has brought audiences together with bold productions that spark conversation, expand perspectives, and celebrate our shared humanity. Their work supports local artists while enriching Wyoming's cultural landscape through the power of live performance. Be sure to tune in to learn more about their inspiring work and visit wyomingpublicmedia.org/community-minute to hear this and other *Community Minute* features. Nonprofits are essential to Wyoming!

It's hard to believe it's been a year since we were first grappling with the impact of federal budget cuts. As I looked back through our newsletter archives, I came across this bit of advice. A year later, it feels just as relevant, and perhaps even more so, today. Here's how you can help bridge the gap in *CPB* funding: *Donate if you haven't. Convince others to support public broadcasting if they haven't yet. This rescission experience reinforced something we knew but didn't always follow – public broadcasting needs many more individual supporters at all levels of giving. Help WPM grow our donor base!*

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu. Your letters, calls, emails, and messages are always heartwarming and are eagerly shared with the Wyoming Public Media staff.

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



[Albany County's America 250 Group Celebrated Statehood Day](#)

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out flyers and fans on a hot Wyoming day.
July 10, 2026.



Wyoming Sounds aired a live concert from *Cheyenne Frontier Days*

WPM Staff Grady Kirkpatrick, Ry Woody, and Rexanna Kelly, with Jalan Crosland and Jared Rogerson at the *Cheyenne Frontier Days* live broadcast.

[Listen to Wyoming Sounds.](#) July 22, 2026.



Wyoming Public Media's Dr. Robert MC'ed at this year's *What Fest*

Dr Robert and Ruby Jenko, *Wyoming Sounds* hosts, at *WhatFest* 2026.

[Listen to Wyoming Sounds at WyomingSounds.org.](#) July 26, 2026.



WPM Photo Exhibit Reception in Encampment with Presentation by Tim Nicklas

Director Tim Nicklas' presentation will explore Thomas Edison's visit to Wyoming in 1878 to view the solar eclipse. [More information here.](#) August 7, 2026.



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Wyoming Public Media Hosted Candidate Forum Series

Wyoming's primary election is on August 18th! To help get to know who's running, WPM is teaming up with *WyoFile* and the *League of Women Voters* to bring the candidates to you. WPR's Jordan Uplinger has this recap of the first of several candidate forums.

[View the reel.](#) July 10, 2026.

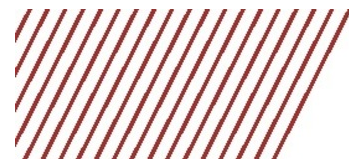
Wyoming
Candidate
Forum



THE PRIMARY IS COMING ON AUG. 18! DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR? IF YOU WANT TO GET TO KNOW THE FEDERAL AND STATEWIDE CANDIDATES ON YOUR BALLOT BETTER, YOU'RE IN LUCK.

Click here for details on candidate forums in July!

LWV **WyoFile** 



BEYOND WYOMING



'Good, clean community fun': Dance halls are making a comeback across Wyoming

A feature by Hanna Merzbach about dance halls aired on *NPR*. [Listen to the story.](#)

July 12, 2026.

Could a business court help Wyoming be the next Delaware?

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

July 15, 2026.

Trump administration's proposal to shift management of grizzly bears causes confusion.

A story by Hannah Habermann about grizzly bears aired on *NPR's Morning Edition*. [Listen to the story.](#)
July 15, 2026.



MUST LISTEN



WYOMING 250 PHOTO EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATIONS

A traveling exhibit featuring these photos is touring the state, featuring a presentation at each opening reception.

[Start Exploring](#)

Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes

Wyoming Public Media invited Wyomingites to get out and take photos of Wyoming's beautiful scenery, people, and history. The winning photos portray Wyoming's rich history. A traveling exhibit displaying these photos is touring the state, featuring a unique presentation at each opening reception. [View presentations.](#)

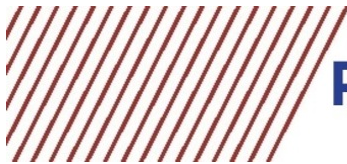


PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Denise Hawkins - Bottles and tins from years gone by - Shoshoni Wy

One of the Winners of the [2025 WPM Photo Contest](#)

About the Photo: "Storefront Window" was taken in Shoshoni, Wyoming. Unlike the now-demolished buildings on the east side of Main Street, which were taken down in 2018 after fire and neglect left them vacant for over 30 years, the buildings on the west side of the street, including this store, are still standing. - Denise Hawkins



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