



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | November 2023



November is a month of traditions. In public radio, there is a cherished tradition – Mama Stamberg's Cranberry Relish Recipe – courtesy of NPR's Susan Stamberg. Generations of public radio listeners grew up with Susan's recipe passed to her from her mother-in-law. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we offer it here complete with some history. Enjoy, and pass the relish. (See [Susan Stamberg Cranberry Relish Thanksgiving](#).)

Giving Tuesday is around the corner and we're downright excited! It falls on November 28th and ushers in a month of giving at WPM. Unlike most organizations, WPM does not fundraise for ourselves on Giving Tuesday. Rather, we "awareness-raise" for other non-profits and charities. The idea is to share with us your favorite organizations for on-air and online acknowledgment and listen to ones that others offered on air all day on Tuesday. Then, when it comes time to donate, you'll be reminded of all the organizations that make Wyoming unique. They all need our support! At public radio, we have the benefit of airwaves and online services to get our non-profit colleagues' names and short mission statements heard and seen. That's the core of our public service mission. If you know a worthy organization, look for the link for online submissions and add it to the list. It will be activated on wyomingpublicmedia.org the week of Thanksgiving. You can also call in on Giving Tuesday November 28th with your information. This year again Giving Tuesday activity is underwritten by our friends at the [Wyoming Community Foundation](#).

Public radio uncovers some truly unusual voices. But few voices are as unique as that of NPR correspondent and Weekend Edition Sunday host, Ayesha Rascoe. "My voice is who I am," Ayesha says. "It's not something that I've really cultivated, although I do work hard on my broadcast voice — not voice but my delivery. I work hard on my delivery and trying to make sure that I'm clear and that I am bringing energy, the proper energy and emotion." Read more about [Ayesha here](#). Working on vocal delivery to achieve a good sound is something every WPM host will tell you is hard work!

The gift that keeps giving came our way 20 years ago. In 2003, McDonald's heiress Joan B. Kroc bequeathed more than \$200 million to NPR, forever changing the quality of everyday news. The interest from this gift has been supporting NPR daily news ever since, and you hear the Kroc message on air every day honoring her generosity into perpetuity. The gift came to NPR in a roundabout way, as you can read in [this article](#). Thank you Sidney Walter, for sharing this memory and article with us. WPM has a modest endowment of its own that we're building to support future Wyoming public broadcasting. Thank you to all who contributed to this fund. Maybe Wyoming has its own Joan B. Kroc with a passion for public radio. One can always dream...

The College Podcast Challenge is back! It's fun, creative, and a \$5,000 grand-prize scholarship is at stake. NPR will provide training materials and support, and the opportunity to have your voice, your story, reach NPR audience and beyond. The [College Podcast Challenge](#) is open for entries through January 5, 2024. In Wyoming, Erik Zafft, our Office Assistant and student Public Advisory Council member is spearheading the fun. With all of WPM's exciting award-winning podcasts to emulate, [The Modern West](#) and [HumaNature](#), there must be students just itching to try out their craft!

Fall Fund Drive is over and we made goal! Thank you! The goal was slightly lower to reflect inflation and economic fluctuations, but a win is a win. We will be back in December for a year-end opportunity, as well as in April and June to meet the overall annual goal of \$2,292,000. We're a bit behind the 500 new member goal, but there is still time to catch up! These days fundraising can be tricky. We again fundraised during conflict—this time in Israel and Gaza. Public broadcasters are encountering global crises more often and have to decide to continue to fund raise for much needed resources, or bring a complex, multi-layered fund drive operation to a halt. It's never an easy choice, and sometimes we have to share the air space with news that is not encouraging.

With the holidays around the corner, there just might be a bit of time to listen to some unusual programs. Our [Thanksgiving programming](#) (see [schedule here](#)) comes courtesy of Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick. Be sure to catch *Open Spaces* November 10th and 12th for the start of a Veteran's Story Corps Series that will continue monthly. There's a much-anticipated opera *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. It's unusual fare for the Metropolitan Opera and historic. You'll find it on [Classical Wyoming](#) November 18th. Don't get *Classical Wyoming* on radio? Just turn on your computer, plug in some better speakers and stream it at wyomingpublicmedia.org.

There's so much more happening in a 24/7/365 multi-channel operation like WPM—too much to condense into a Newsletter! But I hope these highlights inspire and give you an idea of the incredible work that your support makes possible.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



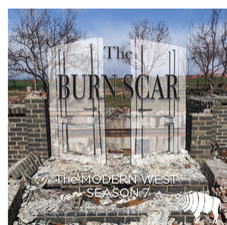
Wyoming's Women of Influence Celebration

WPM staff attended the *Wyoming Business Report* luncheon, honoring influential women across Wyoming. WPM GM, Christina Kuzmych, last year's women in media pick, presented the award for this year's winner, Katie Klingsporn. Photo: With Tennessee Watson accepting the award for Katie from *WyoFile*. *October 10, 2023*.



WPM Hosted *The Retro Cocktail Hour* for a live event at the Laramie Depot

Host and producer Darrell Brogdon charmed the crowd on a chilly night. Thanks to all who attended including people from Jackson, Gillette, and Casper, among other locations. There were some intriguing Halloween costumes along with some in fabulous retro attire. Listen to the weekly show: [Retro Cocktail Hour](#). *October 28, 2023*.



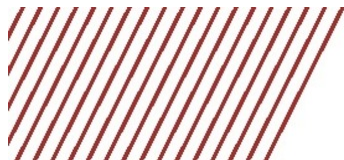
The Modern West Podcast Launches New Season - The Burn Scar

A Colorado family considers multigenerational living two years after the Marshall Fire destroys their home. In a five-part series from *The Modern West*, Podcast Producer Ariel Lavery brings her family's story of the Marshall Fire to life using recordings tracing events as they unfold. [Listen to the podcast](#).

WPM reporter Hannah Habermann visited a 6th grade media class in Ethete



Hannah talked with the students at the Wyoming Indian Middle School on the Wind River Reservation about the building blocks of writing a good story, the importance of consent in journalism, and opportunities for careers in the world of media.
October 25, 2023.



BEYOND WYOMING



In Wyoming's Mountain Lakes, Stocked Trout Are Evolving Quick

Wyoming Public Media Reporter Will Walkey's story about trout evolution aired on *Science Friday*: [Listen to the story](#). *October 19, 2023.*

Recreational hunters now have easier access to use private land, thanks to an app

Will Walkey's story about a hunting app aired on WBUR's *Here and Now*: [Listen to the story](#). *October 23, 2023.*



MUST LISTEN



With the help of Indigenous historians, a film tells of the demise and partial recovery of bison

The name Ken Burns has become synonymous with American history documentaries. You probably know some of them like "The Civil War," "Country Music," and "The Roosevelts." Now Burns has done something he's never done before: released a new PBS series that traces the history of an animal. It's called "The American Buffalo." Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards talked to Burns about why he chose this subject and why now. Photo: Jared Ames. [Listen here](#). *October 13, 2023*



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