

# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

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## General Manager's Newsletter | June 2025

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Keeping up with the changes affecting NPR, PBS, CPB, and WPM is a full-time commitment! As we send this newsletter out, President Trump just asked Congress to take back \$1.1 billion it previously set aside for all public broadcasting for the next two years. For the latest information, we encourage you to visit [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org) and check the GM Update tab. If you have a question, please send it to [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu) with "Defunding" in the subject line. We'll address your inquiry as soon as possible and publish it if applicable. No name is needed.

The White House Press Room cadre of reporters looks and sounds a little different these days. To mix things up a bit, the administration expanded the invitation list to include new faces and voices. Meet the new reporters and influencers: [\*Maga media mob: meet the new rightwing faces in the White House briefing room\*](#)

Due to funding uncertainties in public broadcasting, stations and networks are developing strategies. This article provides insights into how various stations are tackling these challenges: [\*How vulnerable pubcasters are handling federal funding threats\*](#)

A picture is worth a thousand words. At WPM, we enjoy stepping out of the world of sound by holding an annual photography contest. But what's a contest without an exhibit? This year's top photographs will travel to a new location each month. Check us out at these locations: Laramie, *Wyoming Territorial Prison*, Monday, June 2 – Friday June 27; Casper, *National Historic Trails Interpretive Center*, Tuesday, July 1 – Friday, July 25; Driggs, *Seniors West of the Tetons*, Friday, August 1 – Friday, August 29; Cheyenne, *Cheyenne Botanic Gardens*, Monday, September 1 – Friday, September 26; Powell, *First Bank of Wyoming*, Wednesday, October 1 – Friday, October 31; Cody, *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*, Monday, November 3 – Friday, November 28, December – TBA.

We're adding events to our summer schedule. America's great storyteller, Ira Glass, will be in Jackson in August and WPM will be there. We'll be at *Cheyenne's Frontier Days* with portions of [\*Wyoming Sounds\*](#) broadcast live. We'll also have a presence at Wyoming music festivals that are coming up including the 20th Anniversary of *What Fest* in Saratoga July 26th & 27th. And a sneak peek at the July 17th Lander Public Library Carnegie Room presentation at 6:30 p.m., where our news reporters will feature their podcast season "The Gray In Between." More to come as the schedule fills up.

What's a summer without the smooth sounds of jazz? Many regard it as America's true art form, and it has become an essential part of our national culture. While not widely known, WPM features an incredible *Jazz Channel* that deserves your attention. Its relative obscurity may stem from the fact that it's only broadcast in Laramie at 90.1 FM, a limitation due to funding constraints. However, you can easily tune in online, enjoying the vibrant world of jazz from anywhere! In addition to the captivating music, *Jazz Wyoming* keeps you

informed with NPR News Headlines at the top of every hour—brief but essential. Don't miss out; stream it at [JazzWyoming.org](http://JazzWyoming.org)! Supporting channels like *Jazz Wyoming* and *Classical Wyoming* is vital for nurturing cultural programming, which lies at the heart of public broadcasting's mission.

Speaking of culture -- Wyoming Public Media presents *Western Tales & Poetry*, a two-minute weekly series featuring readings by authors and poets from Wyoming and the West. Authors will include Craig Johnson, Katherine Standefer, CJ Box, Jamie Lisa Forbes and Bob Budd along with poets including Rod Miller, Bryce Angell and many more. *Western tales and Poetry*, hosted by Grady Kirkpatrick, can be heard Mondays at 6:42 am, Wednesdays at 7:42 am, Fridays at 10:05 am and Saturdays at 12:05 pm beginning the week of June 9th.

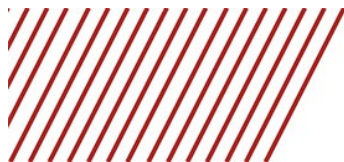
If you reached out to members of our Wyoming delegation in support of WPM, thank you so much! Congress is responsible for funding the *Corporation for Public Broadcasting* (CPB), which in turn supports WPM. Any changes to the CPB are managed by Congress, making it essential for state delegations to receive feedback from their constituents. You can find contact information here: [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org).

We understand these are challenging times for everyone, and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support. Normally, we wrap up our financial year with a brief fund drive, but this year is different. Thanks to your enthusiastic contributions during our spring drive, we've secured funding for now. However, with the impending congressional rescission that will impact 13% of our operating budget, we know we need to be proactive. Attracting new members is essential for our future, and we were truly uplifted by the increase in new supporters during the spring drive—listeners who typically didn't pledge stepped forward, showing how much our community cares. You'll soon hear messages encouraging more people to join us, highlighting the importance of coming together to support public broadcasting during this uncertain period. If you enjoy our programming but haven't donated yet, we hope you'll consider this a chance to become a member and lend your support. And if you were unable to participate during the spring drive, now would be a wonderful time to make your pledge. Together, we can navigate these challenges and continue to provide the content you love. Thank you for being part of our community!

It's important to have friends during this surreal political time. Across the state, Wyoming residents are stepping up to preserve their public service organizations. Perhaps it's in our Western nature!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu). As noted, late-breaking developments related to public broadcasting and defundings will be posted on [Wyoming Public Media General Manager Blog](#) in addition to this monthly newsletter.

Christina Kuzmych,  
WPM General Manager



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### **WPM has been awarded three prestigious Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards**

**Excellence in Sound** - *Beavers do it best. Humans recreate the animal's engineering to restore a waterway in Sweetwater County*

**Hard News** - *Anthrax. Cattle. Ranchers. Government mistrust. The fallout of Elk Mountain's rare disease outbreak*

**News Documentary** - *Wolves #2101 and #2301: Part Three of High Altitude Tales.*

*Congratulations to Caitlin Tan and Melodie Edwards!*

[Check out the winning stories.](#)



### **WPM Operations Manager Pat Gabriel Hosted UW Commencement Event**

Pat was honored to be the emcee at three ceremonies of the University of Wyoming Spring Graduation, during which over 1,300 students received diplomas. Pat Gabriel is pictured here between sessions at UW's Graduation on *Saturday, May 17, 2025*.

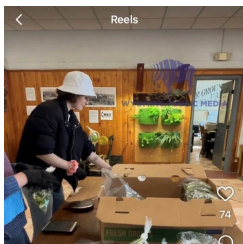


### **WPM Natural Resources Reporter Caitlin Tan Attended Arizona Conference**

The Society of Environmental Journalists hosted its annual conference in Tempe, AZ where Caitlin learned about environmental reporting in a changing climate — like tracking water availability and impacts to users, federal funding for climate projects, wildlife migrations, etc. They took a field trip down to the border to learn about impacts to wildlife migration. *April 2025*.



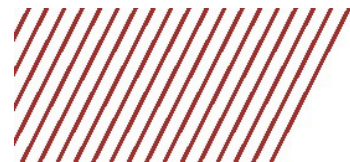
## **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



### **Nonprofits are navigating a new world as federal funding dries up and AmeriCorps**

volunteer positions are slashed. WPR's Jordan Uplinger checked in with Feeding Laramie Valley to get a sense of how one nonprofit is handling the fast-pace changes. Be sure to check it out on [OpenSpaces](#) at [Wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://Wyomingpublicmedia.org) !

[Instagram Reel May 30, 2025.](#)



## **BEYOND WYOMING**



### **Colorado joins the Eastern Shoshone Tribe in managing bison like wildlife**

A story by Olivia Wietz about the Eastern Shoshone co-managing bison aired on *National Native News*.

[Listen to the story.](#) *May 27, 2025.*

### **Remembering teacher and elder Marian Scott, one of the remaining Arapaho speakers.**

A story by Hannah Habermann paying tribute to elder Marian Scott aired on NPR's *Morning Edition*.

[Listen to the story.](#) *May 28, 2025.*



## **MUST LISTEN**







**Wyoming Sounds Studio Session with Cheyenne based band Jason Buchanan and the Short Timers.**

Jason Buchanan and the Short Timers played a studio session complete with a string section. They performed all the songs in order from their EP *Under a Thumbnail Moon* set for release on May 31st. Jason Lenyer Buchanan is a singer-songwriter from Cheyenne, Wyoming via Southeast Texas. The band is currently in residency at *The Paramount Ballroom* in Cheyenne where you can catch their live performance on the last Saturday of the month. [Listen to the live broadcast and interview.](#)



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



***Susan Nelson - Nature, Wood Duck flying down the North Platte***

*2024 WPM [Photo Contest Entry](#)*



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