



## WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

### General Manager's Newsletter | April 2022



A recent note from Lexington Kentucky reminds us of the power of streaming on computer or smart device. “We absolutely love Jazz Wyoming,” Karen Kasacavage writes. “My partner found you all a couple of years ago and we’ve been listening ever since. Beyond the music... our favorite part is the daily weather report...always so different from ours.” WPM has a robust global audience for *Jazz Wyoming* generated by listening online at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org). And speaking of weather...

Are you feeling snubbed by weather reports? You’re not alone. When reporters anxiously warned of heavy snow coming to the Northeast recently, one listener wrote, “potentially any day is winter in northern Minnesota. Why the angst?” When was the last time national media touted our heavy Wyoming snows? Yet two inches in Georgia merits national mention. Why is that? According to NPR’s team of editors and reporters, it depends on the day, on how many stories are competing for the newsroom’s resources at any given time, and on the impact of the weather. How much of the country is affected? How many people? How rare is an event? Snow in a place that always gets snow versus snow in an unexpected place is part of the strategic calculus. Nothing personal, here.

Please welcome Tina McGee and Melaina Nielson, both filling vacancies in our fundraising department. In the news area, Caitlyn Tan moved to the position of Natural Resources/Energy reporter. Ivy Engle is handling both our *Daily* and *Weekly Roundups*, as well as the daily *Around Wyoming* airing daily on WPR. *WPM-Buffalo Bill Center of the West* Northwest Wyoming reporter Kamila Kudelska has been promoted into the position of Managing Editor. We will be advertising the Northwest reporter position in tandem with the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*. This position is funded by the Hal R. and Naoma J. Tate Foundation, and is an example of how donor enthusiasm and passion can help make coverage possible in Wyoming!

Looking ahead, *StoryCorps* will visit Cheyenne during Frontier Days in July. Though still in the planning, this visit will be part of the *Military Voices Initiative*, which provides a platform for veterans, service members, and military families to share their stories. The project honors their voices and experiences and brings their stories to national attention. More information forthcoming. Stay tuned and start looking around for that military voice in your family or circle of acquaintances who may have a story to tell. *StoryCorps* now offers virtual interviews, making travel to Cheyenne optional.

Fund drive is in progress, and a huge thanks to all who are pledging early and online at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org), as well as to those who are sustainers. Every fund drive we try not to step on the unusually heavy news cycles, but this drive threw us an additional curve with war coverage. So we’re doubly grateful to everyone who gets pledging out of the way quickly.

Thank you Corporation for Public Broadcasting! CPB provided \$500,000 in emergency funding to NPR to help with on-site coverage in Ukraine. “As Russia accelerates its use of misinformation and disinformation in its invasion of democratic Ukraine, CPB is proud to support NPR reporters in their difficult and potentially dangerous work in bringing fact-based news and information to audiences in the United States and around the world,” said Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of CPB. NPR, which has had reporters on the ground in Ukraine since January, will use the funds to pay for increased staff to rotate into Ukraine, and for security, protective war gear and travel to the region.

Looking ahead, Season 5 of WPM’s *The Modern West* explores the evolving identity of the American West. Titled *The Great Individualist*, it focuses on how the ranching lifestyle is changing and what it means to the inhabitants and the region. You’ll be able to find Series 5 [here](#) beginning May 11. In the meantime, you can also listen to WPM’s award-winning podcasts on the *Mountain Time Podcast Hour* on Wyoming Public Radio at 6 pm on Fridays. This hour was specially produced for those who haven’t yet fully embraced the podcast media, but still love the stories.

In closing, we remember fellow war correspondents who died covering the war in Ukraine since 2022, and remember just how difficult and dangerous war coverage can be. According to various reports, an unconfirmed number of journalists have been killed. Here are five who have been confirmed to date: Yevhenii Sakun, Brent Renaud, Oleksandra Kuvshynova, Pierre Zakrzewski, Oksana Baulina, and Maksym Levin. It’s a sobering commitment, but they are our eyes and ears and often our only source of information.

Thank you for your loyalty and support!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu).

Christina Kuzmych,  
WPM General Manager



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### Yellowstone National Park Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary

The world’s 1st national park celebrated its 150th on March 1st as WPR reporters covered the festivities. Listen to their findings on the [WPM Yellowstone page](#). *Tweet from Greater Yellowstone Coalition: “Thanks for the Coverage!”*

*Photo Credit: National Park Service.*



### Governor Mark Gordon Tweets Praise of WPM Reporter Bob Beck

“Always enjoy sitting down for a conversation with @butterbob His long tenure at @WYPublicRadio gives him deep knowledge of our state government.” *Twitter Photo Wyoming @GovernorGordon*

*Photo Credit: Wyoming Governor's Office. March 3, 2022.*



### Here & Now Senior Editor Peter O'Dowd Visits Wyoming Public Radio

Peter O'Dowd, "... edits and produces segments, travels the country to report stories and plan the show's remote broadcasts, and regularly fills in as host. He got his start in broadcasting at Wyoming Public Radio. He's a graduate of Georgetown and Columbia universities." *WBUR.org Twitter Photo: Peter O'Dowd. March 14, 2022.*



### UW Wyo Gold Students Record Podcast: Cowboy's Corner in WPM Studio

*Cowboy's Corner* is a new podcast produced by students, "telling the stories of alumni, students, and faculty through multimedia." Pictured in the photo, are from left to right: Tucker Norman, Kent Noble, Gareth Flowers, and Sadie Wenzel. *March 25, 2022.*



## MUST LISTEN



### Santana Blessings & Miracles Tour interview

Santana talked with Wyoming Public Media Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick about his beginnings in music, his move from Mexico to San Francisco with his family and his current Blessings and Miracles Tour and album. [Listen to the interview here.](#)



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