

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | October 2022



We mourn the passing of Anne Garrels, longtime foreign correspondent for NPR, and ABC before that. Globally recognized for her war reporting that took her anywhere there was a war, her experiences covering the Iraq war resulted in the book, *Naked in Baghdad*. Anne Garrels was 71 years old, and died of lung cancer.

As Nancy Barnes, NPR's Senior Vice President of news since 2018, departs, NPR is creating a new Chief Content Officer position to cover today's fast-changing media landscape. The new position serves as liaison between NPR and local member station producers and content managers across platforms. In other NPR developments, a new Climate Desk was launched to address issues dealing with heat, droughts, floods and other weather events that touch on many areas of coverage from business to politics, to health. This new desk is supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Check out a new program we're trying out. It's called *The Middle with Jeremy Hobson* and originates from the heart of the country. Jeremy says, "At this critical moment in history, together we'll help elevate the dialogue—and reignite the conversation to include a huge geographic swath of the population that's not heard often enough on the national stage." At this point over 450 stations will be airing the program—a very large number for a first offering. You may recall Jeremy from his work on *Here & Now*. *The Middle with Jeremy Hobson* is scheduled to air October 19th at 7 p.m.

Along with our *I Respectfully Disagree* initiative, take a listen to our facebook event about agriculture and ranching found [on this site](#). Here you can also find our earlier debate about wildhorses in the west ([Listen to the discussion](#).)

In the spirit of debates, check out the Gubernatorial and U.S. House debates on Thursday, October 13th at 7 and 8 p.m. respectfully and presented by Wyoming PBS. WPM's Kamila Kudelska will be one of the panelists.

Many thanks to all who attended the WPM fundraiser in Wilson presented by Guesthouse and Wayne Teetsel. A good time was had by all, including the band. A special thanks go to our hosts Camille Obering and Ben Musser.

News reporter Will Walkey will head out on a "listening tour" later this month equipped with curiosity and his recorder. He'll ask folks what they're worried about and what WPM could be covering better. If you're in the Casper, Sheridan or Gillette area and spot a friendly guy with a microphone, stop by and give him your thoughts on the future of the Cowboy State. The listening tour is a part of WPM's *Mountain West News Bureau* community outreach activity, sponsored in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Projected dates are late October, with more details to come.

Fall fund drive is here, and it's a bittersweet time for us. It marks the last drive with Bob Beck as host in our studios. Bob was not only a consummate journalist, he was also one of the strongest public radio voices who could persuade donors to support Wyoming Public Media and its journalistic mission. We're lucky to have a number of excellent fund drive hosts, still, we will miss the leading role Bob played in this critical event. So as you listen, send a nod to Bob. You can also share your wishes and stories about [Bob here](#). WPM will collect these thoughts and expressions and send them to Bob later in the fall as mementos of his time in Wyoming.

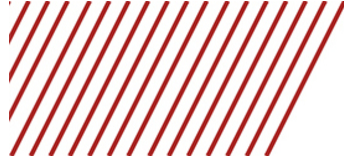
Yellowstone has been in the news, both as a television series and as a National Park. On October 14th, WPM's Open Spaces will look at Yellowstone National Park's past, present and future. In honor of the 150th anniversary of the first national park, WPM reporters are taking deep dives into one of the main economic drivers for the state. They look at the history of transportation into and in the park, how communities have depended on tourism to the park, the conservation impact of the park, and much more. The show airs Friday afternoon at 3:00 with a repeat at noon on Sunday. It will also be online at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](#).

Giving Tuesday and our annual shoutout to nonprofits is around the corner. So this is the perfect time to spotlight *Community Minute*—literally a minute that focuses on a non-profit or public service organization that benefits individuals and communities. Our WPM version of Giving Tuesday, which asks listeners to promote their favorite service organization, and *Community Minute* are intertwined. They're both part of WPM's initiative to use our airwaves to promote those whose work binds the fabric of Wyoming and enriches our lives. *Community Minute* airs randomly throughout the week, but you can find the [audio here](#). If your organization meets the *Community Minute* guidelines, [sign up here](#).

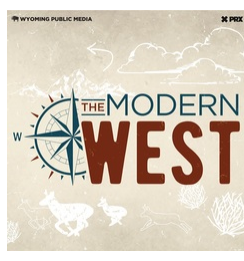
There's a lot going on! Thank you for being a fan of public media. It's great to know that there are many people in Wyoming and beyond who share in this common experience that enriches our lives.

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

Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



The Modern West - Great Individualist - Live Panel

Ranchers across the West have been busy adapting to a changing world. Host Melodie Edwards visited with animal welfare expert Temple Grandin, Wyoming regenerative rancher Bridger Rardin, Leo Barthelmess with the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, and Judith Schwartz, author of *Cows Can Save The Planet*. [Listen to the virtual discussion](#). September 15, 2022.



Wyoming Public Radio News Director Bob Beck Moderates Panel Discussion

Bob Beck hosted a panel discussion during the [Wyoming Articulation Summit](#), an annual gathering of Wyoming higher education administrators and others. They discussed challenges facing higher education and transfer issues. September 23, 2022.



Grady Kirkpatrick Interviews Winners of WY Singer-Songwriters' Competition

2022 Competition winner Steve Davis from Rock Springs broadcast a live [Studio Session](#) on *Wyoming Sounds*. September 30, 2022.

Northern Arapaho singer-songwriter Christian Wallowing Bull joined Grady Kirkpatrick for a [Wyoming Sounds Studio Session](#) in Laramie. (2021 Winner) September 21, 2022.



Wyoming Public Media Staff Honors Bob Beck

Bob Beck has been News Director of Wyoming Public Radio since 1988. During his time as News Director WPR has won over 100 national, regional and state news awards. In addition to duties as News Director, Bob is the co-creator, host and producer of the news magazine *Open Spaces*, which has won 11 national Public Media Journalist Association awards. September 30, 2022.



BEYOND WYOMING



Wyoming Secretary of State Chuck Gray Trump Endorsement

NPR's *All Things Considered* aired a story by Bob Beck about the effort to remove elections from the Secretary of State office. [Listen here](#). September 8, 2022.

Wyoming Hopes Recreational Trail Improvements Will Spur Tourism

NPR's *Marketplace* aired a story by Caitlin Tan about trail development and outdoor tourism in Wyoming. [Listen here](#). September 20, 2022.



MUST LISTEN



Open Spaces : The Bob Beck Special

WPM News Director Bob Beck will be wrapping up his career in a couple of weeks, and folks asked him to bring you a few stories from his time here at the station. "We'll remember a crash that killed 8 cross-country runners. Also, a look back at the Matthew Shepard murder. But I'll also bring you stories about a Choir Director turned weightlifter, bullfighters, and the kindness ranch. Join me as I bring you some stories from my past." [Listen here](#).



OPEN SPACES

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