



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | November 2025



It's all about planning and enthusiasm! WPM's October fund drive was the most successful in network history. In fact, the entire fundraising year has been phenomenal. We began with the Fall 2024 on-air drive, which surpassed our goals, as did the Spring drive. *WyoGives* exceeded expectations, and our first attempt at *The Old Bill's Fun Run* in Jackson delivered very strong results. *UW Giving Day* doubled our target in the number of contributors. WPM was able to cover the \$400K loss of *CPB* funding for 2026 and start working on building future support. Several thousand members pledged, many increased their monthly sustainer plans, and a record number joined for the first time. Yes, they were motivated by Congressional cuts to public broadcasting and outraged by ongoing assault on First Amendment rights, which still dominate news cycles. But they were also fueled by the realization that, without federal funding, the responsibility falls on every listener to support the media they respect and still trust.

WPM adjusted to the "new reality." *The GM Update* shows our progress in bridging the gap created by federal funding losses. This report is updated as new developments arise. For example, our public radio music rights have been secured through the end of 2027, and we have funding to complete our state government reporting. *The GM Update* also includes articles on the latest national developments, like the new Pentagon rules for journalists that many networks walked away from, and the complicated negotiations with *CPB* and *NPR* over the management of the satellite distribution system that delivers daily programming to stations and networks.

We love our music at WPM, as shown by our three dedicated 24/7 music channels: *Classical Wyoming*, *Jazz Wyoming*, and *Wyoming Sounds*, which you can stream online. We celebrated *Public Radio Music Day* on October 29th, with a special performance by *Paige and the Overtones*. Across the nation, music lovers, artists, and public radio stations united to recognize the vital role that non-commercial music plays in our communities. This year, the event had the highest participation ever, with 130 stations from 45 states joining in through live and recorded performances throughout the day.

Many issues have deep historical roots. Does a journalist need to understand the context of an issue in order to report effectively? The answer is a resounding "yes!" A recent issue of *The Public Editor* shares insights from various reporters on this topic. (*The Public Editor News Literacy Edition*)

Responding to the Pentagon's new restrictions on journalism, reporters from major networks such as *CBS*, *NBC*, *ABC*, *FOX*, *PBS*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *CNN* turned in their press credentials and walked off the job. (*Opinion: Why I'm handing in my Pentagon press pass*)

Who replaced these journalists? *The San Antonio Observer* answers this question. (*Conservative Outlets Replace Departed Pentagon Journalists*) What became of the Gulf of Mexico vs the Gulf of America Executive Order argument? Read and see: *Nine months later, that body of water down south is still the "Gulf of Mexico" to news outlets* | *Nieman Journalism Lab*.

WPM had its own time-honored skirmish – the fund drive Pet Wednesday Cats vs Dogs contest. It was a claw-biter. Early in the hour, cats scratched out an unprecedented, gigantic lead on the unsuspecting dogs. It

seemed hopeless; dogs were ambushed and doomed. But enter local shelters to the rescue! They contributed the sum of their dogs and cats to the fight. By the end of the hour, it was a precarious tie. In the interest of sanity, the producers called it a draw and avoided overtime. Oh, we almost forgot, one brave goose also decided to pledge.

NPR icon and Founding Mother Susan Stamberg passed away in October, leaving behind a legacy that has inspired countless journalists and paved the way for female reporters in all aspects of media. Her visits to Wyoming for WPM, once in Jackson and once in Laramie, are fondly remembered. The numerous memories she created with listeners over the decades are deeply treasured. One of her enduring contributions is *Mama Stamberg's Cranberry Relish Recipe*, a cherished *NPR* tradition. Generations of public radio listeners have tried this recipe, passed down from her mother-in-law. In honor of Susan and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we proudly share it here again, complete with background. Enjoy! ([When turkey met cranberries — a dinner date from the 1700s](#))

A beloved tradition at WPM is fast approaching! This year, *Giving Tuesday* falls on December 2nd and marks the start of a month dedicated to giving. It's also a favorite among our staff. On *Giving Tuesday*, we don't fundraise for ourselves; instead, we use this day to raise awareness for various non-profits and charities in Wyoming. We invite you to share your favorite organizations with us, and we will read their names and mission statements on the air, as well as recognize them online. This year, all non-profits need our support, and we're proud to promote them through our broadcasts—it's at the heart of our public service mission. If you know of a worthy organization, please look for the link for online submissions, which will be available on [WyomingPublicMedia.org](#) during the week of Thanksgiving. Additionally, you can call in on *Giving Tuesday*, December 2nd, to share their information. Once again, the activities for *Giving Tuesday* are underwritten by our friends at the [Wyoming Community Foundation](#).

WPM is proud to feature [Make-A-Wish® Wyoming](#) in our *Community Minute* series, which highlights the mission, scope, and impact of Wyoming's nonprofit and service organizations. Each short segment introduces listeners to the people and programs that help our communities grow stronger and more connected. Tune in to *Community Minute* on Wyoming Public Media or listen anytime on our [Community Minute](#) site. Nonprofits are at the heart of Wyoming's economy, culture, and compassion—and WPM is honored to share their stories.

What's on Wyomingites' minds? We track the metrics on our top stories as well as *Topic of the Week*. Here they are. See if you agree.

Top 3 Stories:

- [Wyoming county settles lawsuit with librarian for \\$700,000](#)
- [U.S. Supreme Court denies taking on corner crossing case](#)
- [As Wyoming moves to protect the world's largest pronghorn herd, fed's energy goals may supersede](#)

Top Topic of the Week:

- [Campbell County recently settled a lawsuit brought by a librarian claiming she was fired for refusing to remove LGBTQ+ books. How should libraries handle materials that cause controversy in the community?](#)

We all look forward to Thanksgiving – a time for reflection and gratitude. WPM has much to be thankful for – especially your dedication to public radio and recognition of its importance to local, regional, and national civic and cultural life. In these challenging times, this dedication is a true gift, and we are honored to have it.

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

Happy Thanksgiving! Be sure to check out our Thanksgiving programming, which will be posted on our website at [WyomingPublicMedia.org](#).

*Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager*



BEHIND THE SCENES



[WPM's Newsroom Enjoyed a Tour of the American Heritage Center Archives](#)



They learned about what is stored in the archives and how to access information for reporting. *October 10, 2025.*



WPM's Natural Resources & Energy Reporter, Caitlin Tan, Served as a Panelist

The panel discussion in Pinedale covered public land issues. Caitlin addressed reporting on the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan, big game migrations, and permitting for oil, gas, and coal projects. Photo: Kelly Ravner. *October 21, 2025.*

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



It's Never Too Late to Honor Your Pets!

Pet Wednesday was the highlight of the Fall Drive. You're still welcome to donate in honor of your cat, dog, or porch goose! [Post photos here.](#) *October 8, 2025.*



Share your questions, concerns or hopes for A.I. and the state of Wyoming.

The world of technology can be hard to follow. WPM's Jordan Uplinger is working on a series about A.I. and the Cowboy State. But first, we want to hear from listeners!

[View & post questions.](#) *October 24, 2025.*



BEYOND WYOMING

Rooftop solar is a niche market in Wyoming. What happens when tax credits go away?

Caitlin Tan's rooftop solar feature about the boom the industry is in right now aired on *Marketplace*.

[Listen to the story.](#) *October 3, 2025.*

A new federal rule would protect miners from black lung. Enforcement lags

A story by Chris Clements about a federal ruling protecting miners from black lung enforcement lags aired on NPR's *Newscast*. [View story.](#) *October 13, 2025.*

Community members learned and built community at the Wind River Tribal Conservation Summit

A story by Hannah Habermann about making chokecherry patties on the Wind River Reservation on Indigenous Peoples Day aired on *National Native News*. [Listen.](#) *October 17, 2025.*

For one volunteer firefighter in Pine Haven, Wyoming, helping is the biggest reward

A feature story by Chris Clements about volunteer firefighters aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*. [Listen.](#) *October 29, 2025.*

Families say cost of housing means they'll have fewer or no children

A feature by Hanna Merzbach about families considering costs when considering having children aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*. [Listen.](#) *October 31, 2025.*

MUST LISTEN



Paige & the Overtones performed live on Public Radio Music Day

Paige & the Overtones played a *Wyoming Sounds Studio Session* hosted by Grady Kirkpatrick. The 4-piece band paired down as a duo with Paige Overton & Jake Shepard. [Listen.](#) October 29, 2025.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Dana Gage - Vedauwoo Autumn

2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry



[DONATE](#)

Congress cut our funding for the first time in history... learn what you can do to support our state network

These Frequencies Run on You—Let's Keep Them Going.



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