



# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

## General Manager's Newsletter | July 2022



Wild Horses were the focus in WPM's "I Respectfully Disagree" series. WPM reporter Caitlin Tan was joined by panelists representing different sides of the issue. They included Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, Erik Molvar, executive director of the Western Watershed Project, Christi Chapman, director and co-founder of Wyoming Wild Horse Improvement Partnership, and Senator Brian Boner, Wyoming District 2 State Senator. This Facebook Live event is part of WPM's initiative to encourage civil discourse at a time of national and global discord. Partial support comes from the George B. Storer Foundation's "Wyoming Now and Beyond" project. ([View Facebook Live: Wyoming's wild horses as part of 'I Respectfully Disagree' series.](#))

And speaking of civil debate, last month's newsletter included a tease about Intelligence Squared, replacing the Munk Debates. July's debate topics include "Humans Can Adapt to Climate Change," "Should We Isolate Russia?" "Should We Expand the Supreme Court?" "Should We Forgive Student Loans?" among others. Wednesdays at 7 pm.

Dipping into industry news, a head-scratcher that broadcasters face is what to do with rude or inappropriate comments made by the public on websites. Monitoring the comments sections of stories is becoming a disproportionately time-consuming function. Recently, national editors discussed this issue. Here is a sample observation:

"It's something we're all grappling with," said Boston Globe editor [Brian McGrory](#), but "there is an expectation that people should have a say." The Globe is in the process of hiring a community engagement editor to strategically approach comment sections; for now, the paper employs a moderating company that goes through comments, deleting some and blocking users when necessary. "We have a lot of smart commenters, people who really know what they're talking about, and we take what they say very seriously," McGrory said. "That is mixed in with a lot of people who are there to vent in ways that are not reflective of larger life."

WPM is also evaluating its public comment to maintain the option for comments yet manage them more efficiently.

There's still a lot of summer left, and plenty of events to enjoy. If you're in the Cheyenne area July 18 through the 29th, drop by the Botanic Gardens and take a selfie with the legendary StoryCorps Airstream trailer. It will be parked at the gardens during the StoryCorps Military Voices recordings in Cheyenne. If you would like to sign up for a recording, [go here](#). WPM and Wyoming Sounds will also broadcast live from the Oyster Ridge Festival in Kemmerer on July 22 & 23rd and at Frontier Days in Cheyenne on July 28 & 29th.

Coming up late in July, WPM's News Director Bob Beck will be a panelist on the Wyoming PBS-sponsored Gubernatorial Debate. Sponsored by Wyoming PBS, it will be broadcast on Wyoming Public Radio. Stay tuned.

And speaking of journalists, a heartwarming story that may have gotten buried in the flurry of news involves Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief of the Russian Novaya Gazeta newspaper, who was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for his "efforts to safeguard freedom of expression." Muratov auctioned off his Nobel Peace Prize medal at \$103.5 million, which he promptly contributed to Unicef to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

A huge thanks goes to our listeners for helping us get to the fiscal year-end goal. It's been a tough year, but we're almost there. There is no doubt that the pets during Pet Wednesday's live pledging played the biggest role in fundraising. In our Dogs vs. Cats battle, the cats won by a dozen. This marked the second time in WPM fund drive history that cats prevailed. During last year's fall drive, cats squeaked out a win by just one cat. Could this be a demographic shift in Wyoming? Just asking...

As always, thank you for supporting WPM. These are tough times for many listeners, and your support at this time is all the more precious to us.

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



### **StoryCorps' MobileBooth will be at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens**

StoryCorps will offer both in-person and virtual recording opportunities. Share Your Wyoming Memory or MILITARY VOICES Story - You are invited to reserve a recording session with a military member in your life this summer, or invite a service member to share theirs July 18th-29th... [Sign Up Here to tell your story!](#)



### **Grand Teton Music Festival Live Wyoming Public Radio Broadcast on 4th of July**

Celebrate the 4th of July with a live broadcast on WPR featuring the Grand Teton Music Festival's Patriotic Pops concert beginning at 7pm from [Center of the Arts Park in Jackson](#). You can listen on our FM channels around the state and [streaming worldwide](#).



### **WPM Wins 4 National Awards from Public Media Journalists Association (PMJA)**

*Open Spaces* received 1st place for best News/Public Affairs program. *The Modern West* won 1st place for long documentary for the episode [The Great Dying: Shall Furnish Medicine part one](#). *The Modern West* won 1st place for Best Narrative/Produced Podcast for the episode [The Fine Art of Coexisting: Ghost town\(ing\), part 12](#). Best photojournalism 1st place for the story ["The boundaries moved": How the Spanish vaquero became the American cowboy](#).



### **Mountain West News Bureau Airs Stories by Caitlin Tan and Hugh Cook**

Wyoming Public Media is among the founding partners of the Mountain West News Bureau, a collaboration of public media stations that serve the Western states of Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Our mission is to tell stories about the people, places and issues across the Mountain West. [Listen to regional news.](#)



## BEYOND WYOMING



### **National Park Service renaming Yellowstone National Park's mountain to honor Native Americans.**

National Native News aired a story by Taylar Stagner about the Yellowstone Mt. Doane name change to First People's Mountain. [Listen to the story.](#) *June 13, 2022.*

### **The northern half of Yellowstone National Park may remain closed the rest of the year**

*NPR's Weekend Edition* aired an interview with Caitlin Tan about Yellowstone flooding, "Catastrophic damage by flooding earlier this week in Yellowstone National Park likely means that the northern half of the park will remain closed the rest of the year." [Listen to the story.](#) *June 18, 2022.*

### **Trump Lawbreaking Claims, Fighting In Ukraine's Southeast, Yellowstone Flooding**

*NPR's Upfirst Podcast* included a story by Caitlin Tan about Yellowstone flooding, "Over the course of its hearings this month, the House select committee on January 6th has expanded their argument that former President Trump not only broke norms, but broke the law. And, fighting in Ukraine continues in the eastern part of the country, but also in the southeast. Also Yellowstone National Park remains closed after unprecedented flooding, with peak visitor season just getting started." [Listen to the podcast](#) *June 18, 2022.*



## MUST LISTEN



### **Wyoming Public Radio wins three regional Edward R. Murrow awards**

Wyoming Public Radio won three regional Edward R. Murrow awards in the categories of Hard News, Excellence in Sound, and News Documentary. The Radio Television Digital News Association has been honoring outstanding achievements in electronic journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards since 1971. Award recipients demonstrate the spirit of excellence that Murrow set as a standard for the profession of broadcast and digital journalism. They are considered among the most prestigious awards in broadcast and digital news. [Listen to winning stories.](#)



## EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS

2022

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