

## WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

### General Manager's Newsletter | December 2022



At NPR, it's déjà vu! Last week NPR announced anticipated losses, particularly in the sponsorship area. Management reacted quickly and imposed a hiring freeze and reductions in select ancillary activities. It's not the first time NPR faced losses in projected revenues. Unfortunately, it comes at a time of heavy news cycles, a war in Ukraine, uprisings in Iran and China, and numerous other hot-button national and global issues that are expensive to cover. (See NPR story: [NPR to impose near-freeze on hiring but avoids layoffs as budget cuts loom](#)).

Tis the Holiday season, and a time when we're deeply grateful to the Mountain West News Bureau. This CPB-funded initiative includes founding networks in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and now Nevada. It recognizes that issues in the West are unique, and reach beyond state boundaries. Coverage of water and energy are perfect examples. In addition to shared coverage, the Bureau provides rich general content that supplements local state reporting. Each founding member contributes a journalist to the Bureau, and you often hear WPM's Will Walkey reporting as well as other familiar voices. The Bureau is an invaluable source of content during the Holidays when staffing is low at most stations and networks.

Giving Tuesday was a warm recognition of all the charities and non-profits Wyomingites honor. Thank you for naming your favorite organizations and for listening. Many charities and non-profits were given the spotlight. They are the backbone of our daily lives in Wyoming, and we take the spirit of their work with us into the Holidays.

Mid-term elections are over, but not the conjecture over uneven polling results. What does the future hold, and what is the responsibility of media in reporting on polling data? A recent article brings up some interesting thoughts and trends. (View [Niemann article by W. Joseph Campbell](#).)

Much of our news from NPR, BBC, and other sources focuses on stories originating in countries that suppress media. China comes to mind, as does Iran with the ongoing riots. Journalists have to cover news from locations based in countries far from the source of activity. Building a network of reliable contacts on the ground, though, is a challenge. (See story about [Iran \(Washington Post\)](#))

The Holidays bring seasonal programming to all our channels. You can tune into *Classical Wyoming*, *Jazz Wyoming*, and *Wyoming Sounds* to enjoy the music of many genres and generations. Our main *Wyoming Public Radio* channel will carry an array of programs curated by our Program Director, Grady Kirkpatrick. It's an exciting and eclectic schedule, and he continues to add to it as new programs come our way. You can find the schedule here: [Wyoming Public Media 2022 Holiday specials](#).

Wyoming Public Media invites you to our *virtual* Holiday Open House Friday, December 9th starting at 11 a.m. Fire up your virtual connection and take a tour of the station, meet the staff and join us for a Facebook live session with music from Ten Cent Stranger. Ten Cent Stranger is a seven-piece collective of musicians based in Laramie. The band features the storytelling-songwriting of singer/guitarist Bob Lefevre, the powerhouse vocals of Laniece Schleicher and the sweet harmonies of Elianna Paninos. J Shogren on resonator guitar and Jack Clarendon on fiddle round out the melodic element of the Ten Cent sound, while the rhythm section of Shawn Hess on bass and Mike Krupp on drums keep the whole gang in time. (Learn more about [Ten Cent Stranger](#).)

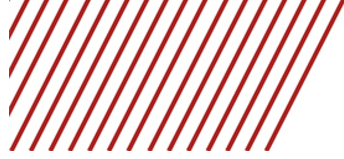
Over the Holidays, be sure to check out the podcast highlighted below in the "must listen" link. It's a glimpse into 19th century Yellowstone produced by our production assistant, Noa Greenspan. And, for a glimpse at what Wyomingites are thinking, check out Will Walkey's summary of his Casper visit.

Last but not least, Rigoletto, Norma, Tosca, and Don Giovanni will be back! And that's just a few operatic characters. *The Metropolitan Opera* Radio Broadcasts begin December 10th, and will be available on our *Classical Wyoming* channel each Saturday until June 10th.

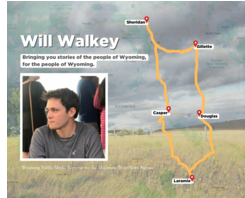
As the year slowly wanes, WPM's staff, students, interns, and volunteers extend best wishes to you and yours, and plenty of happy radio listening.

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



### **How voters in the Mountain West's most conservative state are grappling with change**

Reporter Will Walkey set out to interview people around Wyoming. He was in Casper, Sheridan, Gillette, and Douglas. Listen to [Will's story on Casper here](#). November 15, 2022.



### **WPR Reporter Taylor Stagner Mentors for Next Generation Radio**

"Next Generation Radio is such a wonderful program, supporting young audio storytellers early in their careers. It was great to help my mentee Arielle Deer (Chickasaw) create her own non-narrated audio piece about revitalizing the Chickasaw language." November 13-19, 2022.



### **Alec Shaffer Certified as Broadcast Technologist**

Wyoming Public Media engineer passed the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) Certified Broadcast Technologist (CBT) level of certification. He took the exam in Denver a couple of weeks ago after weeks of study. November 23, 2022.



### **Wyoming Public Media invites you to a virtual Holiday Open House**

Take a virtual tour of the station, meet the staff and join us for a Facebook live session with music from Ten Cent Stranger, a seven-piece collective of musicians based in Laramie. [tencentstranger.com](https://www.tencentstranger.com). Friday, December 9th



### **Wyoming Public Media 2022 Holiday specials**

Tune in this year for holiday cheer on Wyoming Public Radio, Wyoming Sounds, Jazz Wyoming, and Classical Wyoming programs featuring celebrations of holidays around the world. [View schedule and listen here](#).



## BEYOND WYOMING



### **Yellowstone National Park reopens major roadway months after devastating floods**

A story by *Mountain West News Bureau* reporter Will Walkey about Yellowstone National Park's opening after flooding aired on NPR's *Here and Now*. [Listen to the story here](#). November 9, 2022.

### **Inflation drives up hay prices, forcing some horse owners to sell**

Caitlin Tan's story on hay prices and inflation aired on *Marketplace*. [Listen to the story here](#). November 9, 2022.

### **"Goldback" bills are accepted in 4 states, but are they a good idea for consumers?**

*Mountain West News Bureau* reporter Will Walkey had a story about a new local currency, featuring real gold, air on the *Marketplace Morning Report*: [Listen to the story here](#). November 25, 2022.



## MUST LISTEN



### **The Modern West Podcast - Revising the Wilderness Tale**

This time on *The Modern West*, we join an 1898 hunting expedition to America's first national park. The journey reveals cracks in our concepts of Yellowstone, a place entangled with violence toward the Indigenous people who long took care of the region. [Listen to the podcast here](#).



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