



# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

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## General Manager's Newsletter | December 2023

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WPM's Giving Tuesday was a hit! We highlighted the incomparable work of several hundred non-profits and charities that make a difference to life in Wyoming. Thanks to all who shared their favorite non-profit organizations with our listeners and helped raise public awareness for their activities. We continue to remind listeners to support all public service and charity activity during this holiday season when a sluggish economy impacts charitable giving. [A list of non-profits mentioned during our Giving Tuesday broadcast can be found here.](#) We humbly ask for your support in our year-end effort to raise funds for WPM. This is a good time to check those tax advantages

before the year ends. You might also include your car in the equation. Like so many non-profits, WPM accepts car donations through [Charitable Adult Rides & Services \(CARS\)](#). Many people find this a worthy way to part with an old travel companion, benefit an organization, and reap tax relief.

War zone reporting has expanded from the Ukraine-Russia war to the Israel and Hamas war. These catastrophic events have much in common, particularly in the role journalists play reporting on the ground and bringing this information to our ears. NPR plays a deep role in coverage as told in [this article](#).

Reactions to harsh events are very personal, as noted in this article, "[The audience has a lot to say about coverage of the Israel-Hamas war. We're listening : NPR Public Editor : NPR.](#)" Even back in the 1980's the Middle East was a hot topic, generating both praise and condemnation from listeners and leading broadcasters to think that an equally split reaction to a fractious issue is not a bad thing. It points to some semblance of balance when no one is totally happy. Understandably, immediate human reaction is to favor the side one agrees with. In many respects, propensity for mixed responses remains the same in 2023, though the intensity of the argumentation is so much harsher in today's political environment.

Keeping up with international news is daunting. WPM offers many hours of BBC reporting to bring in international viewpoints. There is also a State of the World link on our [homepage](#). This link started out as a 24-7-365 information portal about the war in Ukraine and has expanded to reflect new international hot spots.

There's nothing like a juicy fracas to make us smile. Remember the Twitter skirmish between Elon Musk and NPR over a mischaracterization of NPR as a state-controlled entity? NPR dropped Twitter (now X) as a result. Looking at the data, it seems that it made little difference to the overall numbers (see [Niman Reports article](#)). WPM chose not to react in this round, other than to point out the underlying inaccuracies of the Musk position. With all the churn in digital delivery systems and social media portals, there's hardly time to take umbrage!

Seasonal programs are on the way courtesy of Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick, whose curated eclectic schedule is constantly growing as national producers weave in their own favorites updated on the [Wyoming Public Media 2023 Holiday Specials page](#). This is also a perfect time to explore holiday programming on our *Classical Wyoming* and *Jazz Wyoming* channels, as well as on the Wyoming Sounds channel. You can also stream these channels on [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org). For many listeners, these music channels bring welcome

relief from sharp news cycles. For those who love Wyoming bands, Wyoming Sounds will feature many of the top songs, EP's and albums from Wyoming artists released in 2023. Listen December 27th through the 29th from 9am – 12pm.

The holidays provide an opportunity to sit back with a book—a delight that has slipped away amidst the cacophony of new technology choices. Every year NPR issues a list of books that NPR staff and book critics recommended. It's an eclectic list, with both staples and surprises. Enjoy! [NPR : Books We Love](#)

If not a book, then perhaps an opera can provide refreshing distraction. Live Saturday matinee radio broadcasts from the *Metropolitan Opera* return to the air on December 9th on Classical Wyoming. The season opens with the premiere of *Florencia en el Amazonas* by Mexican composer Daniel Catán and starring soprano Ailyn Pérez. This performance marks the first Spanish-language opera staged by the Met in almost a century, and it will also be available at [participating movie theatres](#).

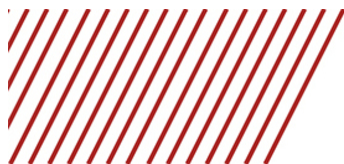
Do you know a student attending a Wyoming college who loves public radio and would enjoy serving on our Public Advisory Council? WPM wants to add a second student to our team. The Council serves as advisor and advocate for WPM in our statewide communities. Qualifications include an appreciation of public radio, willingness to learn its operation, and an embrace of its mission to serve the public. More about the [PAC here](#). Contact Eric Zafft at [ezafft1@uwyo.edu](mailto:ezafft1@uwyo.edu). Review will begin in January.

As the year slowly wanes, WPM's staff, students, interns, and volunteers take a moment to extend best wishes to you and yours, and to wish you many hours of happy radio listening. I leave you with a bit of holiday nostalgia courtesy of Broadcast Assistant Cindy Elrod: "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" goes to No. 1 — after 65 years! Move over, Mariah Carey: Brenda Lee's reliable holiday hit, first released during the Eisenhower administration, is the [No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100](#) — for the first time ever.

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

Happy Holidays!

Christina Kuzmych,  
WPM General Manager



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### **Mending the Hoop, Season 6 of the Modern West Podcast is an Anthem Finalist**

The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences recognized Mending the Hoop as a finalist. The nonprofit and for profit projects in each category that received the greatest amount of support will win the Anthem Community Voice Awards. The Anthem Community Voice platform is open until 12/21/23. FANS CAN SUPPORT THIS WORK AT: [celebrate.anthemawards.com](https://celebrate.anthemawards.com).



### **Hanna Habermann visited Warm Valley Lodge, an assisted living facility in Dubois**

She spent the day talking with residents and joined them for a scenic drive up to the Three Lakes area at the base of the Wind River Mountains. The story explored the ways in which the facility aims to support the state's growing aging population by prioritizing opportunities for independence and autonomy. *November 3, 2023. [Listen to the story.](#)*

### **Share Your Holiday Traditions on Wyoming Public Radio!**

Do you, your family, friends or loved ones have a weird or unusual tradition around the holidays? We want to share those stories on WPR! Just send an email with a voice memo telling us about the tradition, or you can fill out a Google Form, so we can

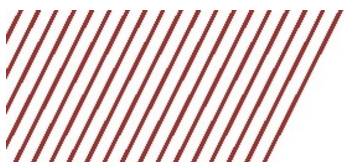


contact to help you record your story. Your story may end up on our special holiday *Open Spaces* on December 22. [Find out more!](#)



### **WPR's Studio Sessions Offers Live Interviews with Wyoming Musicians**

Tune in to WPR and Wyoming Sounds Wednesday, December 13th in the 11:00 hour to hear new songs from Laramie based band *Wolves in Cheap Clothing*. Dan Tinker and Mark Zieres will visit with Grady Kirkpatrick and talk about the recording experience at the famed Hyde Street Studios in San Francisco. Listen Wednesday morning! *December 13, 2023.*



## **BEYOND WYOMING**



### **Wyoming hunters skip this season to let deer bounce back from last winter**

Caitlin Tan's feature on Wyoming's big game death tolls and how some hunters are opting out of hunting this year aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*. [Listen to the story.](#) *November 10, 2023.*

### **A panel discussed solutions to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis**

Hannah Habermann's story about a panel discussing solutions to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis at the recent Western Governors Association meeting in Jackson, Wyo. Aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story.](#) *November 22, 2023.*

### **A group of Native youth advocates recently attended a Tribal Youth Forum in Washington, D.C.**

A story by WPR Reporter Hannah Habermann aired on *National Native News* about A group of Native youth advocates recently attended a Tribal Youth Forum in Washington, D.C. [Listen to the story.](#) *November 24, 2023.*

### **A U.S. House committee held a hearing last week on cultural and historic preservation**

A spot by WPR Reporter Will Walkey about cultural and historic preservation aired on *National Native News*. *December 4, 2023.*



## **MUST LISTEN**



### **Wyoming Public Media announces a new season of HumaNature**

A brand new season of HumaNature is coming your way next week! Our very first episode will drop into your podcast feed on Thursday, December 7th. You can download on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts and find all our episodes on [humanaturepodcast.org](https://humanaturepodcast.org), if you want to binge listen to some old episodes before this new season starts.

This season has some really unique stories and there's something for everyone in there; a cross country roadtrip, a porcupine raid, a mother and son who followed the gray whale migration, a man who spent his summer guarding sheep in the Swiss Alps, and a good old fashioned grizzly bear encounter.

Listen to the [podcast](#).

Photo of Sheep Wagon by Josh King.



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