

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | August 2020

Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych



Indecision, thy name is Congress! Two federal financial relief initiatives are still in limbo: the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program to stations and networks licensed by universities and colleges, and a series of financial relief and assistance initiatives that include a recommendation to provide an additional \$175 million in fiscal stabilization grants to the public media system, through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. At the time of this writing, all parties were "still talking." At the time you read this bullet, all may have changed. Stay tuned. Considering the instability in our state coffers, any relief is a godsend.

What questions do you have about school policies and precautions for COVID-19? Join us for a LIVE Q&A session August 6 at 1 p.m. with Dr. Alan Brown, pediatrician at Evanston Regional Hospital, Jillian Balow, Wyoming Superintendent of Schools, and Wyoming Public Media's Catherine Wheeler. They'll answer your questions about schools, COVID-19, and the challenge of continuing public education in the midst of this pandemic. RSVP to attend the event on our [Facebook page](#). You can also post your question early in the discussion [here](#). Hosted by Maggie Mullen, Wyoming's reporter with the Mountain West News Bureau, a public radio collaboration across the West. Brought to you by [America Amplified](#).

Part-time news reporter and cultural affairs producer, Megan Feighery, is leaving for South Dakota, where she will serve as Morning Edition host for South Dakota Public Broadcasting. Coming from Southern California, Megan came to WPM specifically to volunteer for the *HumaNature* podcast and to report. We're sad, but always glad to see a budding talent grow professionally. There is a silver lining, though. If you're traveling through Wyoming from Utah to South Dakota, you are likely to hear past and present WPM voices, including Caroline Ballard in Salt Lake City, WPM's Naina Rao in Wyoming, and now Megan in South Dakota. It will bring a touch of home to your travels!

Canadian Broadcasting is collaborating with our Mountain West News Bureau to produce a five part Canada/US border series. The focus will be small towns that are reeling from the loss of tourism this summer. Reporters will include Nate Hegyi and Maggie Mullen. Keep an ear out for it.

Wyoming came together for a special event. Our deep thanks to all Wyomingites who participated in the reading of the Declaration of Independence during our 4th of July statewide online celebration. This moving tribute to our nation's history can be found [here](#) along with full broadcast.

Again, thank you for making it possible for WPM to keep broadcasting in these unusual times. We always marvel at the power of public media to reach people at times when communication is challenged and spirits shaken. Having you at our side is both critical and comforting. We can't say this enough.

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

As always, stay well, and thank you!

Christina Kuzmych
WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



[Wyoming 2020 Congressional Debates and Election Coverage](#)

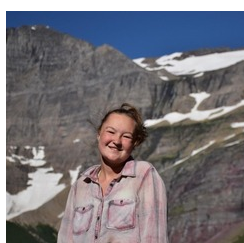


Wyoming Public Media, Wyoming PBS, and Sheridan College joined forces for two US Senate candidate debates broadcast live on Wyoming PBS and Wyoming Public Radio from Sheridan and Riverton. Visit the [WY Vote page](#) to watch these debates and for more election coverage.



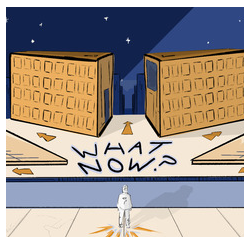
[Wildlife Enjoying Wyoming Public Radio Airwaves & View From the Tower](#)

Wyoming Public Media's engineers consider summer time to be tower season. Paul, Ben, Wade and Alec scale mountains to upgrade and repair over 25 sites around the state to keep the Wyoming Public Radio, Classical Wyoming, Jazz Wyoming and Wyoming Sounds signals coming your way. See how to listen from your neck of the woods on the WPM [How To Listen](#) page. Photo: Wade Eyre.



[Wyoming Public Media News Intern Ashley Piccone](#)

Ashley is a PhD student in Astronomy and Physics at UW. She loves to communicate science and does so with WPM, on the Astrobites blog, and through outreach events. She was born in Colorado and got her BS in Engineering Physics at Colorado School of Mines. Ashley loves hiking and backpacking during Wyoming days and the clear stary skies at night! Ashley's reporting is funded by an [EPSCoR National Science Foundation \(NSF\) grant](#) for microbial ecology research and outreach.



[Tennessee Watson's Justice in Wyoming Story](#)

Tennessee Watson, 2020 Abrams Nieman Fellow for Local Investigative Journalism and Wyoming Public Media reporter, in collaboration with Shane Sanderson from the Casper Star-Tribune wrote a piece about challenges in Wyoming's legal system, featuring illustrations by Wyoming Public Media intern Eda Uzunlar: [For people who feel wronged by law enforcement, there are many options but few ways forward.](#)



NATIONAL STORIES

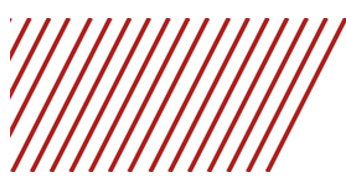


[New Agreement Hopes To Boost Uranium Production, Worrying Environmentalists](#)

Cooper McKim's spot aired on *National Public Radio's Weekend Edition* on July 26, 2020.

[Natural Resource Dependent, Wyoming's Budget Suffers During COVID-19](#)

Bob Becks' story was part of the *National Public Radio's "Explore Revenue And Budget Situations Across The Country"* nation-wide analysis posted on Aug.3, 2020.



MUST LISTEN



Listen to the new Summer season of *The Modern West* podcasts. Winner of a 2020 Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Documentary, *The Modern West* story takes listeners on a sound-rich journey into some of America's most iconic landscapes to discover the people and places shaping the American West's present and future.



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