

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | July 2020



Updates from the General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

Yes, there will be a 4th of July Celebration! This year we celebrate together but from afar. Originating from our studios in Laramie, WPM joined up with the [City of Laramie Parks and Recreation](#), [Wyoming Community Foundation](#) and [Wyoming Humanities](#) to bring you a virtual celebration that truly connects Wyoming. It airs Saturday July 4 starting at 6 p.m., with video streaming [on the WPM Live from Wyoming site](#). Live music from acoustic band Ten Cent Stranger, along with music videos from a number of Wyoming musicians around the state including the Nate Champion Band from Sheridan, Aaron Davis from Jackson, Lacy Nelson from Ten Sleep, and Two Tracks from Sheridan, plus a reading of the Declaration of Independence at Approx. 6:50pm.

Mountain West News Bureau Managing Editor, Kate Concannon was named the Public Media Journalists Association's [2020 Editor of the Year](#). PMJA is a leading industry group for public media journalism. WPM is a founding member of this Bureau, and Maggie Mullen is WPM's lead reporter. Every day you hear stories from the MWNB by Madelyn Beck, Nate Hegyi, and Amanda Preacher, among other regional reporters. The bureau was launched with funding from the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) (CPB). Our association with the MWNB yields rich stories heard daily, incorporates a regional perspective, and increases our reportorial capacity.

WPM reporter, Savannah Maher, was also a recipient of a PMJA Award. The [prize for Best Feature](#) was awarded to Savannah Maher for her story: [After Decades-Long Struggle, Buffalo Return To Northern Arapaho Land](#). The feature was broadcast on *Open Spaces* and Wyoming Public Radio in October.

Elections are around the corner. Wyoming Public Media, Wyoming PBS, and The Sheridan Press will host a candidate's debates for the office of U.S. Senate. The Republican U.S. Senate Debates will be on the evening of Tuesday, July 21, at Sheridan College, and the Democratic U.S. Senate Debate will be on Thursday, July 23, on the campus of Central Wyoming College. Due to COVID-19, these debates will not be open to the general public, but will be available via broadcast and social media platforms. More information will follow.

Rawlins spoke and we listened. A meet-and-greet in Rawlins back in January revealed that our plan to improve signals in both Rawlins and Saratoga created new signal issues for listeners. As a solution, WPR was reinstated in Rawlins, and we received FCC approval to improve service in Saratoga via a booster off the Rawlins transmitter. After completion, both Rawlins and Saratoga should have improved service, and Classical Wyoming should be available via our signal atop Elk Mountain. We are currently fundraising for these signal enhancements.

The pandemic continues to affect public broadcasting. A number of distributors, including American Public Media, WBEZ-Chicago, and WBUR-Boston, dropped programs and cut staffs. WPM will be losing *Live from Here* with Chris Thiele, the successor to *A Prairie Home Companion*.

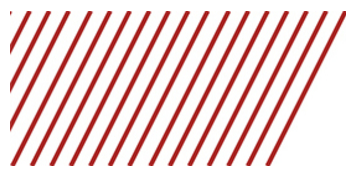
NPR's new Chief Marketing Officer Michael Smith tells us that NPR podcast consumption increased dramatically during stay-at-home periods; "NPR connects with over 100 million people but a few years ago that was mostly through radio. Now the on-demand audio podcast side is our fastest growing reach vehicle... Our future audience is going to be very different demographically and very different in how they engage and consume the content." WPM has an investment in podcasting through [HumaNature](#) and [The Modern West](#).

In a related platform, the percentage of AM/FM radio listening taking place online hit double digits in May 2020, again a disruption in Covid-related activity. Edison Research tells us that 10% of radio listening among Americans ages 13+ comes from streams. In Wyoming, we encourage listening online. Not all our FM channels are available in some parts of the state.

Again, thank you for making it possible for WPM to meet the membership goal for this year. Our apprehensions were quickly diminished by your overwhelming response. There is no doubt that Wyomingites appreciate their public radio.

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



Special Preview: Kids Ask Questions, And Now They've Got A Podcast

Preview a new podcast that WPM and the [Buffalo Bill Center of the West](#) are in the process of creating. The *KidsAskWhy* podcast amplifies the voices of kids who want to ask questions. According to Kamila, the first season's topic was "Why do you love Wyoming?" Answers included outdoors references such as Yellowstone's Old Faithful, nature, and wildlife, as well as Wyoming being the equality state.



Celebrating Wyoming Suffrage And Beyond

Wyoming Public Media honors the 150th anniversary of women's right to vote. In 1869, legislation granting women the right to vote and hold office was passed. In 2020, we commemorate the first vote cast by a Wyoming woman. She cast her vote in the small town of Laramie, 50 years before women could vote in the rest of the nation. [View the many stories and events throughout the state commemorating Wyoming Suffrage.](#)



Inequality in the Equality State: Race, Racism, and Identity Page

The nationwide wave of protests that has followed the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black Americans by police officers has reached all 50 states, and every corner of Wyoming.. including many small towns that have never seen protests before. Wyoming Public Media is here to provide context and common ground as we examine these issues together. WPM will continue to add resources to [this page](#), stay tuned.



NATIONAL STORIES



On The Wind River Reservation, Tribes Lead The Fight Against COVID-19

Savannah Maher's story aired on WBUR's *Here & Now* on June 2, 2020.

Why The Small Protests In Small Towns Across America Matter

Savannah Maher's story and photo were featured on *BuzzFeed* on June 3, 2020.

Mining Unions Look To Compel Emergency COVID-19 Guidelines

Cooper McKim's story aired on *National Public Radio's Newscast* on June 17 & 18, 2020.



MUST LISTEN



Wyoming Public Media, the City of Laramie Parks & Recreation, Wyoming Community Foundation, & Wyoming Humanities are collaborating on a statewide event for this 4th of July and will bring you live music and videos from around the state. Tune in for our live 4th of July celebration, from 6-8 p.m., either on-air or watch it online. Click on the image below for more information.



[DONATE](#)



Wyoming Public Media | 1000 E University Ave, Dept. 3984 | Laramie, WY 82071
Wyoming Public Media is a service of the University of Wyoming.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1000 E University Ave Dept 3984
Laramie, WY | 82071-2000 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.