

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | September 2020



Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

Yes, there will be a fall fund drive, and it will be discrete. If you appreciated the low-key approach to fundraising we tried out in April, you'll like our fall drive. It will start off with several weeks of short unobtrusive messaging and community testimonial voices, and culminate in 3 or 4 full on-air fund drive days to reach the goal. Pet Wednesday will be included, of course, as the pets are often the best motivators for giving! Pandemic uncertainties necessitate this more flexible approach, and we hope we can reach goals quickly. Please be sure to pledge, if you haven't already. During these weeks, you'll also hear increased appeals for new members. We picked up listeners during the pandemic, as many people had an opportunity to try out public radio, some for the first time. We hope to earn their financial support.

Please listen to the *Community Minute* when it airs. It's more than just a minute of radio time. This little module features Wyoming non-profits that provide services to Wyomingites, and it features voices from the organizations themselves. It's quite a popular module, judging from the large number of organizations featured and how quickly we went through the entire collection. We're looking to add more organizations. You can find information about this program [here](#).

The first Presidential Debate will take place on September 29th. If available to public radio, WPM plans to carry this live debate on Wyoming Public Radio and streamed online at wyoingpublicmedia.org. Stay tuned...

Live from Here, the program that followed in the spirit of *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, was affected by the pandemic and is ending production. As always, the end of a program is a sad moment in public radio. As listeners, we bond with a program and create profound moments and memorable experience that become a part of our lives. But time goes on, and new experiences are right around the corner. Grady Kirkpatrick, our program director, chose an unusual program to schedule in the Saturday 6 p.m. spot beginning September 19. **The Retro Cocktail Hour** features vintage recordings from the dawn of the Hi-Fi Era. You'll hear lounge legends like Frank Sinatra and Juan Esquivel; tiki gods Martin Denny and Les Baxter; swinging combos featuring The Three Suns and Jack "Mr. Bongo" Costanzo; and mambo king Perez Prado. The series also spotlights up and coming lounge/exotica artists, including Waitiki, the Tikiyaki Orchestra, Big Kahuna and the Copa Cat Pack, the Voodoo Organist and many more. Producing from Kansas Public Radio in Lawrence, Kansas, host Darrell Brogdon takes you back to the old times, and then swings back to explore the sounds of space age pop.

Be sure to catch two new series that will come our way in September. Peabody award-winning series **The Refuge** is a four-part special that takes a deep dive into the controversy over oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It airs September 7th through 10th, at 6 p.m. **One Small Step: Courageous Conversations Across A Growing Divide** is a program about the importance of conversations between people who have political differences. Host Elise Hu explores whether the simple but courageous acts of talking and listening can act as a potent countervailing force to the national discord. It features *StoryCorps* founder Dave Isay and prominent conservative and liberal guests. Coming from a live stage from Birmingham, Alabama, you'll hear surprising and poignant conversations among people like Joseph Weidnecht and Amina Amdeen, who came to *StoryCorps* to remember a life-changing moment when they were on opposite sides of a political protest but found themselves suddenly in alliance.

I leave you with some fun programming. Check out **Across the Great Divide**. Nate Hegyi, our rural reporter for the *Mountain West News Bureau*, is on a [900-mile cycling trip](#) crisscrossing the continental divide in August and September, interviewing and listening to Americans ahead of the 2020 election. You can follow Nate in his reports, on [social media](#), an [online blog](#) and this ["Where Is He Now?"](#) map. It's a great way to travel while staying at home!

Thank you for supporting WPM! You're great partners. Knowing that you're out there all over Wyoming and beyond, connecting with us through the day, is a very comforting feeling!

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

As always, stay safe and be well.

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



COVID & Schools WPM Facebook Event Live Q and A: Schools and Covid-10 session with Dr. Alan Brown, pediatrician at Evanston Regional Hospital, Kari Eakins Wyoming Department of Education, Dr. Jessica Cataldi, infectious disease specialist at the Children's Hospital Colorado, and Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler. Hosted by Maggie Mullen, Wyoming's reporter with the Mountain West News.



HumaNature Podcast *Raising Kids in Nature* Aired Nationally on WAMC 51%
HumaNature was again featured on WAMC's show **51%**, which airs on more than 100 public and community radio stations, as well as some ABC Radio Network and Armed Forces Radio stations. Host Erin Jones [introduces listeners to a woman who wanted to keep pursuing her passion after she had kids](#)...even though nobody had blazed such a path before.



2ND PLACE CONSERVATION & MEDIA AWARD FOR "DEER 139"
Tennessee Watson, Wyoming Public Radio reporter, and a team of adventurers follow deer 139's migration trail for 85 miles from her winter range in the sagebrush steppe, up into and over the Wyoming Range, across the Greys River, to an alpine cirque in the Salt River Range, to see first-hand this long, complex journey. ([Watch here](#))

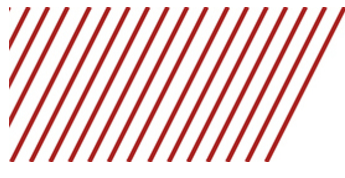


Meet Wyoming Public Media News Intern Noa Greenspan
Noa was born in Virginia Beach, VA, and grew up with a love of storytelling. From hosting local open mic nights to participating in creative writing workshops at college, Noa believes in the power of stories to unsettle our perspectives and spark empathy. With strong interests in environmental studies and the history of the American West, she could not be more excited and grateful to work with Wyoming Public Media this summer.

Wyoming 2020 Election Coverage



Follow Wyoming Public Radio as we cover Wyoming's Primary Elections online and on-air. Find out [how to listen to our coverage here](#). Visit the [WY Vote page](#) for election coverage. Keep up with our reporters during the election on Twitter and Facebook. Just use the hashtag #myvote and join in on the coverage. Wyoming Public Media will partner with Wyoming PBS to broadcast US Congressional Debates on October 8.



NATIONAL STORIES



Savannah Maher's feature story on largest ever Intermittent Tribal Buffalo Transfer

Savannah Maher's feature story about two Montana tribes helping restore buffalo populations and transfers to other Native groups aired on **National Native News** August 14 and on **National Public Radio's All Things Considered** August 25, 2020.



MUST LISTEN



The Modern West podcast returns with a new season starting September 16. Ghost Town(ing) explores rural decline and resilience through the lens of host Melodie Edward's shrinking hometown of Walden, Colorado. Along the way, the series will take listeners on a journey from historical ghost towns to present-day Western towns that are reinventing themselves. [Subscribe](#) to *The Modern West* wherever you get your podcasts, or listen at TheModernWestPodcast.org.

Together with five other podcasts from public media stations across the country, *The Modern West* recently completed an intensive podcast accelerator program through PRX, supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The program culminated in a virtual showcase on August 25 that drew hundreds of attendees from coast to coast. [The whole show](#)—and [The Modern West's presentation](#)—can be viewed anytime on YouTube. (Click image below)

Life Raft (WWNO & WRKT)
Team Members: Travis Lux*, Lauren Malara*, Tegan Wendland, Ashley Dean

Middle of Everywhere (WKMS)
Team Members: Austin Carter*, Ariel Lively*, Dixie Ljnn

Through the Cracks (WAMU)
Team Members: Jonquilyn Hill*, Ponce Rutsch*

The Modern West (WYOMING PUBLIC RADIO)
Team Members: Melodie Edwards*, Micah Schweitzer, Erin Jones, Anna Rader

Black in Appalachia (EAST TENNESSEE PBS)
Team Members: Enkeshi El-Amin*, Angela Dennis*, William Isom II*, Christopher Smith, Terence Harris, Kate Spears

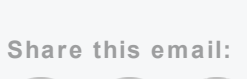
Port of Entry (KPBS)
Team Members: Alan Lierth*, Kinzee Morlan, Emily Jankowski

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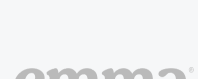
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