

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | February 2021

Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych



Happy February!

In keeping with the love theme, WPM presents our *I Love WPR* opportunity. This is an annual roundup of testimonials from people who love public radio and want to go on the record with their message. Testimonials are collected, played on-air, shared with legislators, and added to a rich throve of Wyoming's testaments to the value of its public radio. If you would like to contribute, check out our [I Love Wyoming Public](#)

[Radio page](#).

Legislative reporting is an art in itself, and no one practices it better than our news director, Bob Beck. His reporting has not gone unnoticed. Bob has been invited by the *Public Media Journalists Association* to consult on a training effort on covering legislative sessions. For a number of stations this is a daunting effort, and while some states share a bureau, not all stations localize information effectively. As a statewide network, WPM has solid practices to bring to the discussion.

Black History Month always brings an opportunity to expand programming about the Black experience. You'll find a ton of content in our NPR programs. Locally you find programs from Haitian music through Jazz in the Civil War. Be sure to check out details [here](#).

Several virtual events are planned this month as part of the University of Wyoming's Black History Month celebration. Join us for a LIVE panel discussion examining Black towns in the West, particularly in Wyoming and Colorado. Panelists are Erin Jones, Wyoming Public Radio's cultural affairs producer and Karla Slocum, a professor at the University of North Carolina. Fredrick Douglass Dixon, the Black Studies Center's director and an assistant professor in the UW School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice, will moderate. More information below.

Senate impeachment hearings are taking place as we speak. WPM will provide full online coverage on our website at www.wyomingpublicmedia.org. All our national news services will provide coverage as well.

Two new modules are coming to WPM. They are part of our effort to diversify news sources and broaden perspectives.

BBC Topline Wyoming Public Radio will add BBC *Topline* beginning February 8th at 5:43 & 8:43 am during *Morning Edition*. Hosted by Rob Hugh-Jones, *Topline* provides a 90-second snapshot of the world's most important unfolding stories.

National Native News Wyoming Public Radio currently brings you *National Native News* from Native Voice One each weeknight at 6:30 during *All Things Considered*. Beginning February 8th, you can also hear it at 11:01am.

A five-minute, weekday newscast dedicated to Native issues, that compiles spot news reports from around the country, anchored by Antonia Gonzales (Navajo).

Enough of politics, distancing, and all our upheavals! Here's an uplifting story from our award-winning podcast *HumaNature Episode 70: Through Oliver's Eyes*. It's about overcoming difficulties. Enjoy!

Stay warm and stay safe!

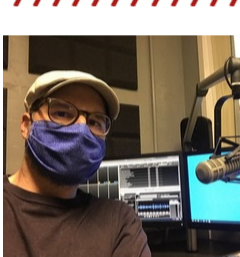
Thank you for supporting WPM – we can't be radio without you.

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

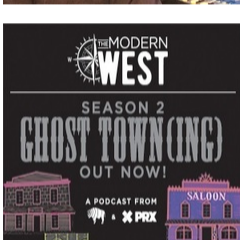
Christina Kuzmych
WPM General Manager



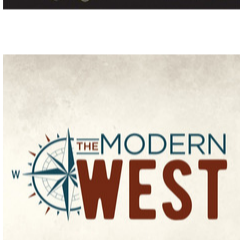
BEHIND THE SCENES



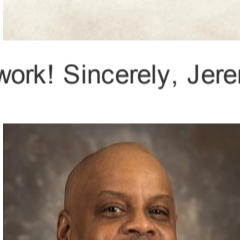
Greener Pastures for WPM Cultural Affairs & Production Director Micah Schweizer
After nearly eight years as Wyoming Public Media's cultural affairs & production director, Micah Schweizer is exchanging Wyoming's mountain scenery for the alpine views of Switzerland. His new position at ETH Zurich, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, will be as head of communications for [Crowther Lab](#), a scientific lab working on climate change solutions. Feel free to read Micah's farewell letter [HERE](#).



Channel 9 News Kyle Clark Mentions of Modern West Food Insecurity Episode
"The *Modern West* podcast" is where Kyle says he learned about the struggle to find and afford fresh, healthy food in Jackson County, Colorado. Rural areas of North Park, Colo., like Walden are food deserts, and a lot of people are hurting financially. We know neighbors are helping, but we also know we can make an even bigger impact. That's why the Word of Thanks that comes to mind when we think of the Mountain Family Center is "connection." Posted January 6, 2021.



"Memories of the wide-open desert & majestic mountains will forever draw me back, at least in my mind. So, I listen to your podcast & learn so much about the history of where I grew up. You have a way of filling in the gaps that my brain overlooked in my youth. I also really appreciate your interest in preserving the land & communities. I have a conservative political mindset & live in a state where it seems that every square inch is private property but seeing things from a different perspective is enlightening. I may not agree with it all, but I can still listen and learn something. Please keep up the great work! Sincerely, Jeremy Crow", San Antonio, Texas 1/27/21



WPM partnering with University of Wyoming's Black History Month celebration
Join WPM for a LIVE panel discussion examining Black towns in the West, particularly in Wyoming and Colorado. Panelists are Erin Jones, Wyoming Public Radio's cultural affairs producer, and Karla Slocum, a professor at the University of North Carolina, moderated by Fredrick Douglass Dixon, UW's Black Studies Center's director and assistant professor in the [UW School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice](#), will moderate. February 23, at 5:30 p.m. MST. (<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98694911975>)



NATIONAL STORIES



Since The Pandemic, Wyoming Veteran Uses Telemedicine To Treat PTSD

Telehealth, where people interact with health care professionals over the video, has long been just over the horizon in rural America. Now, the pandemic has accelerated its adoption and use. Kamila's story about telemedicine in Wyoming was featured on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* on January 12, 2021.

Wyoming's mining sector faced a decline over the past year - NPR's *Newscast* aired Cooper McKim's story about the decline in revenue Wyoming's mining industries faced during 2020. His report aired on January 16, 2021.

President Biden's Temporary Suspension To Issuing Federal Oil And Gas Leases Will Impact Wyoming

The Biden Administration has handed down a sweeping order that temporarily suspends several agency actions including the issuing of federal fossil fuel leases for the next 60 days, unless otherwise reviewed and approved by leadership. Cooper McKim's story about the delay aired on NPR's *Newscast* January 21, 2021.

Wyoming Voters Are Reacting To Liz Cheney's Vote To Impeach Trump

Representative Liz Cheney voted to impeach former President Donald Trump for his role in the insurrection and is facing pushback at home. Wyoming Republican Liz Cheney says her vote was not a partisan issue and that Trump crossed the line. Bob Beck's story was featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* January 27, 2021.

Wyoming responds to President Biden's Pause On Oil And Gas leasing

In an effort to address climate change, the Biden Administration handed down a series of executive actions including one that will pause onshore and offshore leasing of federal oil and gas. The majority of both oil and gas production in Wyoming occurs on federal land. Cooper McKim reported on Wyoming's reaction during NPR's *Newscast* on January 29, 2021.

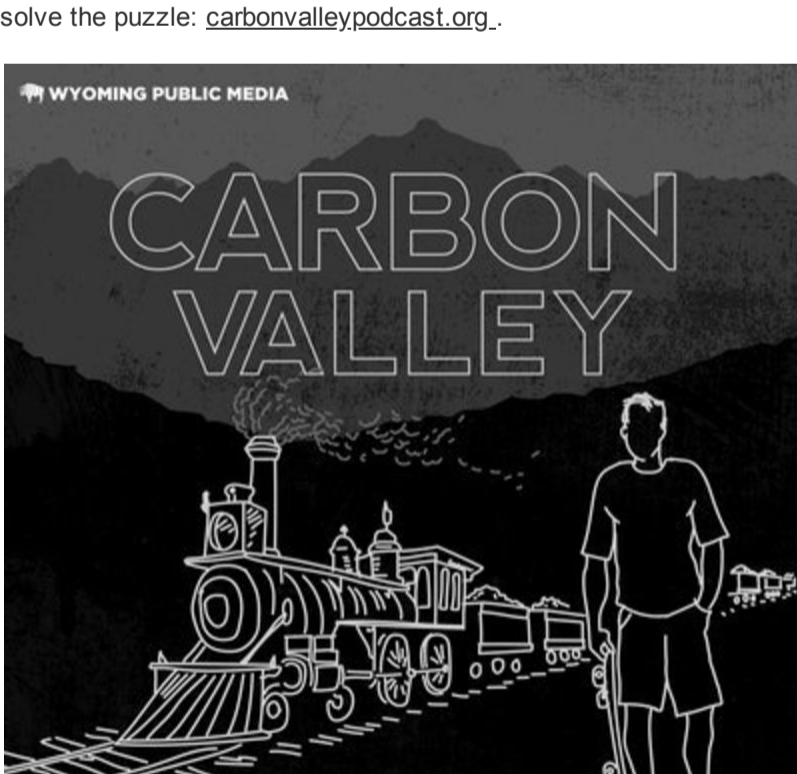


MUST LISTEN



Coming March 16th, #CarbonValleyPod: Following The Race To Develop An Unlikely Climate Solution.

Hosted by reporter Cooper McKim, this eight-part weekly series follows Wyoming's efforts to become a hub for the technology: the Carbon *XPRIZE* competition. Subscribe now to discover how the state is reckoning with its future, why carbon capture is more controversial than you might think, and whether an underdog startup has what it takes to solve the puzzle: carbonvalleypodcast.org.



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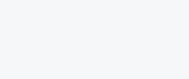
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