

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | January 2021



Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

Right under the wire! Thanks to everyone who made a year-end gift and helped maintain the bottom line. Our year end fundraising begins with *Giving Tuesday*, and we also encourage listeners to support all Wyoming non-profits and those outside our borders who make a difference in our lives. Seeing the generous response is always heartening and encourages us to work all the harder.

Please welcome Taylor Stagner to our Wind River Reservation reporting team. Taylor will be our on-site reporter covering the Reservation and surrounding areas, and you have undoubtedly heard some of her work already on WPM. Taylor joins Savannah Maher, who now covers Tribal issues in the West for our Mountain West Bureau and is based in New Mexico. The Wind River Reservation-based reporter is WPM's commitment to on-going Indigenous reporting in Wyoming and beyond. This is a donor and foundation funded position many years in the making. It builds on WPM's connections to the Reservation. Taylor is Arapaho and Shoshone and was born and raised in Riverton, Wyoming. She has degrees from Central Wyoming College and the University of Wyoming and is currently completing her masters at Bowling Green State University. Taylor studies racial justice and Indigenous rights. Wind River Reservation reporting is supported by: Report for America -- reporting on under-covered topics and communities, the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole Edelweiss Endowment, the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, a program of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Wyoming Humanities, Sara Jane Johnson, and James and Roberta Mathieu. If you would like to know more about supporting this initiative that is so critical to our Wyoming reporting, just let us know.

WPM is partnering with *Wyoming2030* in a statewide discussion to answer the question "What children and families need today so that Wyoming communities can flourish tomorrow?" Sessions are coming up January 12, 19, and 26 and are hosted by WPM reporters. You can join the discussion at wyoming2030.org. (View [description and register here](#).)

Civil discourse (or lack thereof!) is a hot topic these days. Check out a program tentatively scheduled for January 27th at 7pm. Since 2008, *The Munk Debates* has been focusing on the big issues of the day and bringing together thinkers of all persuasions. Past topics include Capitalism, the Rise of Populism, China's role in the International order, among others. Give it a listen and see what you think.

Our annual *I Love WPR* campaign will be coming up in February. This it is an opportunity for you to record a testimonial for WPR or any one of our four services that you may enjoy. More information to come in the February newsletter. But it's never too early to start thinking and to check out the testimonials we have collected to date on our [I Love Wyoming Public Radio page](#)

Nothing puts a smile on our faces more than knowing that we connected with someone in our audience in a meaningful way. Kamila Kudelska's podcast about the use of video telehealth to provide care to patients during the pandemic connected with listener Ron LoPorto. Here is what he wrote:

"I was invited by the Public Affairs Officer at the Sheridan VA Health Care System, Kristina Miller, to volunteer to participate in a podcast being made by Kamila Kudelska focusing on the use of technology, specifically video telehealth, to provide medical care to patients during this pandemic when face-to-face care is no longer possible.

I cannot express how proud I am with the final product, The Modern West Podcast Episode #6, The Doctor in the Screen. Kamila and the production team captured the essence of my story and blended it with excellent interviews with my VA clinical psychologist, Dr. Robin Lipke and Kamila's personal story. I believe the podcast is worthy of wider distribution."

(View [complete letter here](#).)

Kamila is our northwest reporter based in Cody at the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*. Staff assure me that there is indeed wide distribution for this story. It has been posted on social media through various channels. You can help share the story as well. Here it is: [The Modern West Podcast Episode #6, The Doctor in the Screen](#).

Wishing you a happy and safe beginning of the New Year.

Thank you for supporting WPM!

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

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager

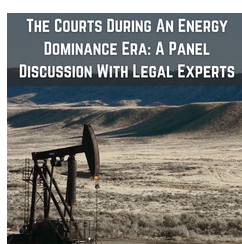


BEHIND THE SCENES



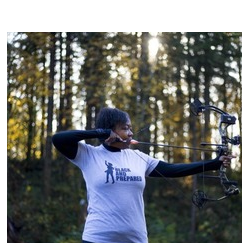
COVID-19 Vaccines: Truth Vs. Fiction Webinar With Maggie Mullen

A live discussion was hosted by Maggie Mullen, Wyoming's reporter for the Mountain West News Bureau, and Rupali Limaye with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. They discussed COVID-19 vaccines and answered questions about how the vaccines work and the protocols in place to make sure they are safe. Watch the [December 16, 2020 Virtual Discussion here](#).



The Courts During An Energy Dominance Era Panel Discussion

Energy & natural resources reporter Cooper McKim talked with legal experts about the impacts of the courts during an energy dominance era. As the Trump Administration comes to a close, panelists discussed why the courts stood front and center against a number of deregulatory efforts in the realm of energy and environment, and what that means for future administrations. Watch the [December 17, 2020 Virtual Discussion here](#).



HumaNature Episode Featured By Two Public Radio Stations

Focusing on stories from women's perspectives, WAMC's [51%](#) is carried by more than 100 stations nationally and showcased [an episode of HumaNature](#) about a woman who calls herself "the afroivalist" and is in the process of building a fully off-grid community in rural Washington State on December 19 and 23. This episode also ran on December 29 on WWNO/WRKF New Orleans' climate change podcast, [Life Raff](#).



Grand Teton Music Festival on Wyoming Public Radio and Classical Wyoming

The all new 2021 radio series, co-hosted by Donald Runnicles and Jeff Counts, will be broadcast Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. starting January 13th, 2021 on *Wyoming Public Radio* and *Classical Wyoming*, repeating Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. on *Classical Wyoming*. With delightful tales and musical anecdotes from his storied career, Runnicles serves as host the of the program. Co-host, Jeff Counts, also serves as General Manager of the Grand Teton Music Festival. (Find out how you can [listen here](#).)



NATIONAL STORIES



Federal Restrictions on Traditional Fuels and Lease Moratorium Impact Wyoming's Economy

Cooper McKim's story about Wyoming's last oil and gas lease sale ahead of the Biden administration aired on National Public Radio's *Newscast* on December 15, 2020 and McKim's story on increasing greenhouse gases from the oil and gas industry aired on National Public Radio's *Newscast* on December 17, 2020

Western States Brace Themselves For Potential Oil And Gas Drilling Restrictions

As Inauguration Day approaches, some states are getting ready for potential policies that a Biden administration could hand down, like his campaign promise of a ban on new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters. Wyoming has become increasingly reliant on the resource, with over half of its production on federal land. Cooper McKim reports how some are preparing in the state of Wyoming. The story aired WBUR's *Here & Now* on December 21, 2020..



MUST LISTEN



Virtual Conversation Series Focuses On Wyoming Education

This month, a series of virtual events aims to talk about Wyoming's future through the lens of children and family in the state. The Wyoming Afterschool Alliance and Wyoming Community Foundation are partnering up for the initiative called *Wyoming 2030*. It aims to broaden the public education discussion by hosting a series of virtual events every Tuesday of January.



Wyoming 2030

What do children & families need today so that Wyoming communities flourish tomorrow?

Jan. 5, 2021 - 12 to 1:30 PM
From Neurons to Neighborhoods: Building the foundation for life-long health & self-sufficiency.

Jan. 12, 2021 - 12 to 1:30 PM
Learning Happens Everywhere: Cultivating connection across community to put learning at the center.

Jan. 19, 2021 - 12 to 1:30 PM
The Future Starts Now: The opportunity of adolescence & attainment.

Jan. 26, 2021 - 3:30 to 5:30 PM
Wyoming Youth Voices: Perspectives from Wyoming's most important natural resource

SAVE THE DATE
Join the discussion
visit wyoming2030.org

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