

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | December 2020



Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmich

Giving Tuesday was a joy, as usual! We were thrilled to hear from so many listeners throughout the area calling in to recognize nonprofits which we acknowledged on air followed by brief mission statements. At a time of community need, it was all the more important to remind ourselves of the strong service activity Wyoming generates on behalf of her citizens.

Thanks to all who shared their favorite non-profit organizations with our listeners, and helped raise public awareness for their activities. Though regulations preclude WPM from directly fundraising for other organizations, we are still delighted to remind our listeners to support all public service and charity activity during this holiday season. A list of [non-profits mentioned during our Giving Tuesday broadcast can be found here](#).

[Mark December 17 at 6 pm MT](#) on your calendar for a live virtual event titled "The Courts During An Energy Dominance Era: A Panel Discussion With Legal Experts." Hosted by reporter Cooper McKim, the event focuses on the past four years and the courts' unique role during a period of extensive deregulation on energy and environmental policies... and how that will affect our energy future. We anticipate four similar events in 2021. WPM's natural resources/energy reporting is funded in part by the George B. Storer Foundation. (storerfoundation.org)

[Join us for a LIVE discussion](#) with Maggie Mullen, Wyoming's reporter for the Mountain West News Bureau and Rupali Limaye with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. They'll be discussing COVID-19 vaccines and will answer your questions about how the vaccines work and the protocols in place to make sure they are safe. Please join us for this lively virtual discussion on December 16th at Noon Mountain Time followed by a Q&A session.

Each year WPM hosts an Open House for our listeners who are in the Laramie area and within easy commute to our headquarters on the UW campus. Complete with hot cider and cookies, the Open House provides a wonderful opportunity to meet listeners and offer a tour of our facilities. This year the pandemic is limiting our in-person activities, but all is not lost. In lieu of the personal touch, Wyoming Sounds will offer a music performance and conversation with Sally (Shelby Means from Laramie) and George (Joel Timmons from Charleston, SC.). The **High Country Low Country Holiday** will include holiday tunes and songs from their new album *Take You on a Ride*.

Tis the Holiday Season, and time for seasonal programs that bring a bit of warmth to December. Our Program Director Grady Kirkpatrick has chosen a variety of programs, from December 10th to December 25. The entire schedule to date, can be found on wyomingpublicmedia.org. In addition, holiday programming will be woven into just about all broadcasts originating from our program distributors. Enjoy!

Many of you have asked how WPM is faring through these socially distanced times. We're following broadcast, state, and UW guidelines for contacting and production. Our offices are open, but non-essential traffic is not encouraged, and masks and distancing are required of everyone who enters the facility. Staff work from home when possible. On several occasions we had to originate on-air broadcasts from staff homes, so you may have heard Maggie Mullen hosting *All Things Considered* from Sheridan. But with the support of our excellent engineers, you should not have heard much of a difference. There's much ZOOMING, e-mailing, texting, and calling, but somehow the work gets done. Having worked with three remote reporters for several years now, we had a bit of a head start in the distancing game. Regardless of the communication method, our priority is to deliver radio and digital services to close to 100,000 consumers as flawlessly as possible. Thanks for your notes of appreciation! Staff appreciate the moral support.

I leave you with the warmth of a sweatshirt, a cardigan, and some inspirational words. Long, long, ago it seems, at the beginning of our COVID-19 experience, WPM Laramie member Sid Walter sent me a touching note about sweatshirts, old memories, and comfort. She wrote—

"One day long ago, when the Overland Deli was in business in the location now occupied by Born in a Barn, I was having breakfast with friends and, looking up, noticed a person at the next table was wearing a sweatshirt that said, "Wyoming Public Radio celebrating 20 years" while a person sitting at the next table sported a sweatshirt saying "Wyoming Public Radio celebrating 10 years". And I had on this sweatshirt, the most recent one of the bunch, celebrating 30 years of WPR. Obviously that was in a time before the handy cell phone camera, always at the ready, so I have no photo documentation. You'll have to take my word for it.

This design remains my favorite: it's pretty, celebrates spring wild flowers (pasque flower in this case) and I like having a white warm shirt I'm proud to wear. And this morning it's a bit chilly in our house because the heat optimistically was turned off earlier in the week, so the sweatshirt came back out.

I hope you're doing okay during these wacky times. Thanks for being a steady companion each day."

Reading Sid's note, I couldn't help think of a special cardigan that brought comfort and companionship to generations of children watching public television icon, Mr. Rogers. He left us with a rich throng of memories and inspiration, including this comment that perhaps best suits the season and the times we're living through--

"Our society is much more interested in information than wonder, in noise rather than silence...And I feel that we need a lot more wonder and a lot more silence in our lives"

Wishing you a happy, peaceful, and safe Holiday Season from all of us at Wyoming Public Media.

Thank you for supporting WPM!

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

Christina Kuzmich

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



Meet News Intern Emily Kluver

Though a Nebraska native, Em spent a number of years studying and working out east. There, she discovered a love of storytelling and journalism. Now that she is back out west, she is studying creative writing at the University of Wyoming. Her time is spent drawing up nonfiction examinations of environment and place, and she is thrilled to be bringing this passion to her work at Wyoming Public Media.



Meet Cultural Affairs Intern Greg Ronco

Greg Ronco is a Boston native and current MFA nonfiction candidate at the University of Wyoming. Greg has worked in psychiatric rehabilitation and telehealth, and recently taught high school English in Japan. He now teaches at the university and interns as an associate producer for the *HumaNature* podcast. Greg also enjoys hiking, tea, photography, and doting on his cat.



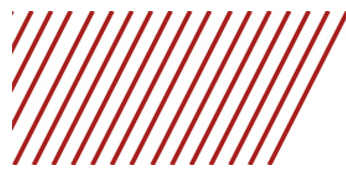
Keeping Wyoming Public Radio on the Air

Wyoming Public Media's Director of Engineering, Paul Montoya, encountered a bit of snow while making repairs to a WPR radio tower in the Tetons in late November. The trek included a trip up a chair lift, with equipment in tow, and a snowshoe hike to this mountain destination.



Wyoming Public Radio Sweatshirts of Holidays Past

Wyoming Public Radio listener Sid Walters dons her favorite Wyoming Public Radio sweatshirt from two decades ago. Do you have a favorite thank you gift from Wyoming Public Radio? [Send us a photo of you with your favorite gift](#).



NATIONAL STORIES



Hindus In Wyoming Find New Ways To Celebrate Diwali Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Naina Rao's story about Hindus who have had to get creative to celebrate Diwali this year as COVID-19 derailed the holiday which is all about families coming together, aired on *National Public Radio's Weekend Edition* on Saturday, November 14, 2020.

Governor Gordon Tested Positive for the Corona Virus

Cooper McKim's story about Wyoming's Governor contracting COVID aired on *National Public Radio's Newscast*. The Governor's office said he has only minor symptoms at this point, including a dry cough, and "plans to continue working on behalf of Wyoming remotely." The story aired on November 27, 2020.



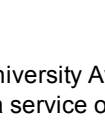
MUST LISTEN



[Colorado Public Radio](#) interviewed [The Modern West](#) podcast host Melodie Edwards on *Colorado Matters* about the *Ghost Town* series airing this season, "It felt great to speak directly to Coloradans about my hometown of Walden, Colorado. When people think of a Colorado town it's mostly of quaint, little, bustling ski villages. But it's a big, diverse state and a lot of the ranching and farming communities and towns traditionally reliant on a natural resource economy, those towns are dying fast and the reasons are complicated and the effects are devastating. Ryan Warner asked lots of smart questions about what towns like mine are doing about this problem." Listen to the Wednesday, December 2nd [CPR broadcast here](#).



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.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.