



# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

## General Manager's Newsletter | April 2021



### Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

Is it really fund drive? Some listeners hear short message bursts asking for support that don't really sound like a fund drive. The answer to the question is – yes, we're in fund drive right now. We're using our "new" approach to fund drive – many short messages that don't cut regular programming. The plan is to continue along these lines, then make up the remainder of the support in several short days of full fundraising. This should effectively cut a good 5 days from our "normal" drive. If you were planning to pledge, please do it soon, and if possible, online at [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org). And yes, our traditional Pet Wednesday will not be affected!

Engineers were the heroes! Our March record snowstorm caused few interruptions in WPM's signal. Ever wonder why? The answer lies in our four WPM engineers (Paul Montoya, Ben Slater, Wade Eyre, and Alec Schaffer) who prepared for the storm, kept the dishes swept, and monitored most sites remotely. But this rosy picture has a hidden underside that keeps many General Managers awake at night -- site broadcast engineers are a vanishing breed. They just don't make them anymore at our educational institutions. So, while most American radio still operates from physical towers, the people who can fix them are retiring with no replacements. You can read more about this issue in this article [here](#).

This month again, WPM podcasting has had a number of triumphs from our podcast team. According to Nevada KUNR Public Radio's Noah Glick, *The Modern West Ghost Town(ing)* series "gives life to dying towns [and] stories across American West". Additional accolades for the series were posted from listener Rob in Rhode Island and Rob Godby in Laramie. ([Read here](#).)

Recently a happy story was heard on *Morning Edition*. It's about Patches, the calico cat, who was presumed killed in a 2018 mudslide in Santa Barbara County, only to return three years later. ([Listen here](#).) Daily, *Morning Edition* airs a number of complex stories, but this one stood out as a pleasant change and earned a spot on national radio.

But then, not all stories have a happy ending. I leave you with a story by Nate Hegyi, one of our Mountain West Bureau reporters. *Montana Governor Given Written Warning After Trapping, Killing of Yellowstone Wolf* elicited a response from a number of our listeners. Aside from the Governor's action, it's a good example of reporting from the Bureau, which is a consortium of Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada, and provides a rich source of stories that go beyond Wyoming to reflect our region.

Thank you for supporting WPM – we're delighted to have you as listeners, and as always, deeply appreciative of your support which makes WPM possible. Don't forget to pledge during the fund drive, if you haven't already.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu).

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### Nevada Station Interviews *Modern West-Ghost Town(ing)* Host Melodie Edwards

According to Noah Glick from Nevada Public Radio, *The Modern West* "podcast gives life to dying towns, stories across American West. Ghost towns are a common sight across Nevada and the American West. Now, a podcast from the region is exploring what those towns mean to our identity and culture." Melodie Edwards, the producer and host of the *Modern West*, spoke with Noah Glick about the project. [The interview](#) aired March 10, 2021.



### Wyoming Public Radio Story about Laramie teacher, Mr. Tyndall, to air at Reunion

"We are so grateful to Wyoming Public Radio for this piece as it's brought back so many good memories of an amazing biology teacher who went above and beyond to bring his students the best education possible. He was tough and expected much from his students, which, in turn, we adored and respected him greatly. Warmest Regards," Robyn Marlow Edwards, Buffalo, Wyoming (LHS Class of 1976) March 26, 2021



### Cooper McKim, Pennsylvania High School Alumn, to Visit His Alma Matter

Reporter Cooper McKim will give a short presentation at his high school in Pennsylvania about reporting on the environment. The Solebury School discussion is intended to give advice to young people interested in journalism, alongside those interested in energy and natural resource-related issues.



### Wyoming Public Media Engineers Upgrade Satellite Software, Recording Studio

Our engineers spent the month making sure all our pieces of equipment are connected to the satellite and talking to each other. A new backup system for the satellite server and recording studio computers was also installed.



## NATIONAL STORIES



### Northern Arapaho Tribe Supports Deb Haaland for Secretary of Interior

During Deb Haaland's hearings for Secretary of Interior, Wyoming's U.S. Sen. John Barrasso was critical of Haaland's record on fossil fuel, quoting a letter written by the Northern Arapaho Business Council about how the Wyoming tribe is just as reliant on fossil fuels as the rest of the state. Barrasso failed to mention that in that same letter, the Northern Arapaho Business Council said they support Haaland's appointment. [Taylor Stagner's feature](#) aired on *National Native News* on March 4, 2021.

### American Indian Science And Engineering Chapter Starting At University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming Native American Program is starting a chapter of a STEM program that focuses on providing support to native students. The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), was founded in 1977 to support Native students and their involvement in STEM programs. [Taylor Stagner's story](#), aired on *National Native News* on March 8, 2021.

### The Guardian Published a Collaborative Story with Cooper McKim About United States Energy Policies

According to the Guardian story, "Republicans' new favorite study trashes Biden's climate plans – but who's behind it? Wyoming representative Liz Cheney says the study proves Biden's policies would destroy state economies. But it has the oil and gas industry's fingerprints all over it." The story was published March 9, 2021.



## MUST LISTEN



### The Rural America Chamber of Commerce to Join *The Modern West* for a Virtual Event

The discussion will explore why towns are declining in the West and strategies for reviving them. Panelists will also focus on rural revitalization efforts on a national scale and related economic development initiatives. Panelists include Western economics historian and author Samuel Western, Charles Durrett, author of *Revitalizing Our Small Towns: Recent Examples from Southern France*, Jane Lafleur with the *Community Heart & Soul Project*, and *Rebuilding Together's* Caroline Blakely. The discussion will be followed by a Q&A session, so bring your questions and ideas!

Registration link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XJHtCuFIR5WDvNmvUILLRNA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XJHtCuFIR5WDvNmvUILLRNA)



RURAL AMERICA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REVERSING  
GHOST TOWNING:  
HOW TO REVITALIZE  
RURAL WESTERN TOWNS

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL  
DISCUSSION!

APRIL 8TH  
1:00 PM MST  
3:00 PM EST

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.