

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | April 2021



<u>Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych</u>

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. 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 <u>here</u>.) 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. <u>Montana Governor Given Written Warning After Trapping, Killing of</u> <u>Yellowstone Wolf</u> 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. Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES





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

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



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.



aired on National Native News on March 8, 2021.



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. Taylar

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. Taylar Stagner's story

Haaland's record on fossil fuel, quoting a letter written by the Northern Arapaho Business Council about how

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 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



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.



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 XJHtCuFIR5WDvNmvUILRNA REVERSING **GHOST TOWNING:**

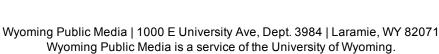






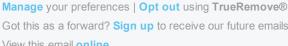
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