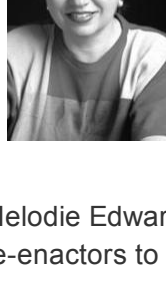




WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | May 2021



Happy Trails, indeed! The Mountain West News Bureau's series/podcast "[Across the Great Divide](#)" received the Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize. Reporter Nate Hegyi was the traveler/reporter who biked into towns all over the west to report on how they were faring during the pandemic.

WPM was the recipient of the Pulitzer Grant for Reporting Initiatives for its *Modern West* podcast, "Pandemics in Indian Country: From European Contact To COVID-19." This three-part series will follow the history of pandemics and how they impacted Indigenous communities as European colonizers pushed inland. Producer Melodie Edwards will take on the role of producer and editor, working with Indigenous reporters and re-enactors to tell the story.

Another successful Fund Drive ended, with incredible support from our members. Thank you for staying the course with us. Early response and sustaining members started us off on the right footing and brought us to the brink of success by April 10. Then 4 days of on-air pledging capped it off to meet our goal. As always, Pet Wednesday was phenomenal, and you were indeed awesome!

In today's politically polarized environment, WPM seeks out opportunities of balance, moderation, and discussion. *The Munk Debates*, airing Wednesday at 7 pm. is one example. WPM's *I Respectfully Disagree* series is another. This month *I Respectfully Disagree* addresses the pros and cons of wind projects, focusing on the Rail Tie Wind Project in Albany County. Residents have been wrangling with a hard decision about whether to approve the project a few miles south of Laramie. Proponents say, as the poorest county in the state, it's in dire need of the tax revenue. But nearby residents are against it, saying the landscape is too special and wildlife would be impacted. *The Modern West* host Melodie Edwards will moderate a conversation with Kelly Schroeder from *Better Wyoming* and Anne Brand from *WY Wind Here*. You will be able to hear it on *Open Spaces* June 4 or watch it in full on our [Facebook page](#) and the [WPM Events page](#).

NPR has not fully recovered from the financial hit it experienced due to the pandemic. "We have not completely bounced back. We are still emerging," said NPR Acting CEO Deborah Cowan April 9. Cowan, whose permanent role at NPR is CFO, now is serving as acting CEO while John Lansing is on medical leave. NPR cut spending to offset a decline in revenue spurred by the pandemic, particularly in corporate sponsorship. The network's revenue is "slightly above" its 2019 income but hasn't reached 2020 levels, Cowan said. Most public radio networks also report revenue drops in the corporate sponsorship sector. At WPM, we expect multi-year improvement as businesses increase activity and the economic landscape settles.

Mothers are the backbone of society, and NPR is no different! As NPR celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first on-air broadcast, it turns to the "Mothers of NPR" to frame the celebrations. Linda Wertheimer, Susan Stamberg, Nina Totenberg, and Cokie Roberts were the backbone of NPR news and mentors to thousands of journalists over several generations. As a 37-year veteran of public broadcasting, I can corroborate that these four ladies had a profound impact on me as well as the dozens of journalists who worked with me. With the 50th Anniversary of the launch of "*All Things Considered*," we revisit this era. [Richard Harris offered his memories in a Next Avenue article](#).

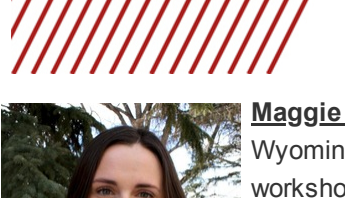
In closing, I'd like to turn to something that is so obvious that it often escapes detection. WPM's *Classical Wyoming* and *Jazz Wyoming* web pages are a wealth of interesting information and tidbits. For example, I'll bet that not many of you visited our [ClassicalWyoming.org](#) page to read up on the latest in the classical music world. Check it out. Here you'll find this posting about [Laurie Anderson](#). On [JazzWyoming.org](#), you can hear a retrospective that celebrates the legendary [Henry Threadgill](#). If you're looking to keep up with the Classical or Jazz music scene, these pages may be your answer, particularly if you missed some of these stories on radio. Both *Classical Wyoming* and *Jazz Wyoming* are heard 24/7 on radio in various locations in Wyoming, and everywhere online.

Thank you for supporting WPM – we can't manage this operation without you. You're an ingrained part of what we like to call the Greater Wyoming Public Media Diaspora which covers Wyoming and beyond and connects us in a common media experience.

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

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES



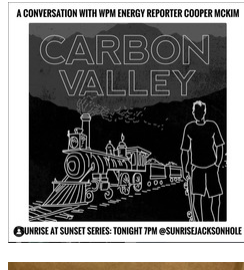
[Maggie Mullen participated in this IJNR wildfire workshop](#)

Wyoming Public Radio's Mountain West Bureau Reporter participated in a virtual workshop: Wildfire in the West, hosted by the Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources. APRIL 22 + 23, 2021



[Tennessee Watson Selected for Hechinger Report Fellowship](#)

The Hechinger Report has selected Tennessee Watson as one of four local news fellows for its inaugural Local News Partnership Project. Watson's reporting on suicide prevention education in Wyoming schools will be co-published by *The Hechinger Report* in the coming months.



[Sunrise Movement Interviews Cooper McKim About Carbon Valley Podcast Series](#)

An organizer for a local chapter of the *Sunrise Movement* in Jackson interviewed Wyoming Public Radio Natural Resources and Energy Reporter, Cooper McKim, about Carbon Valley. He explained why carbon capture is an important issue to discuss.

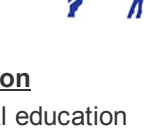


[Wyoming Public Radio Cookies Save the Day](#)

As the spring membership drive drew to a close, a batch of blue and white cookies arrived, a gift from Emily Reed, an Associate Research Scientist for the Wyoming Migration Initiative, "Thanks for all your work to provide Wyo w/ important stories and lively music :) ." April 12, 2021.



NATIONAL STORIES

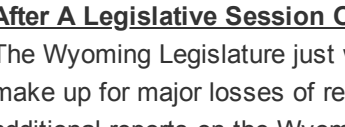


[A Small Wyoming Town Has Attracted Families Looking For In-Person Special Education](#)

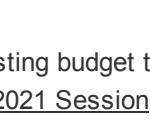
National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* aired a story by Kamila Kudelska about special education students moving to Wyoming from out of state for in person school. Kamila's story aired on April 12, 2021.

[Carbon XPRIZE, An Early Catalyst Of CCUS In Wyoming, Comes To A Close](#)

National Public Radio's *NewsCast* aired a spot by Cooper McKim about the Carbon XPRIZE announcement finally coming. The story was broadcast on April 20, 2021.



MUST LISTEN

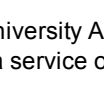


[After A Legislative Session Of Budget Cuts, What Happens Next?](#)

The Wyoming Legislature just wrapped up a session where \$430 million was cut from the existing budget to make up for major losses of revenue connected with COVID-19. Listen to a [summary of the 2021 Session](#) and additional reports on the [Wyoming Legislative Coverage site](#).

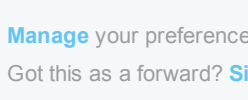


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