

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | March 2021



Updates from Wyoming Public Media General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

"All you need is love," the Beatles sang. This was the theme during the I Love WPR month starting in February and continuing into March. Many individuals shared their feelings for public radio through testimonials. You can still add your voice to the chorus [here](#). It's hard to choose from among so many heart-felt expressions, so we picked randomly.

"Wyoming Public Radio shrinks the distance between our town and villages. It knits the places where we live together. One never feels it's all just about Cheyenne, Casper or Laramie. WPR engenders a "we are in this together" something that the pandemic has recently made apparent across the country but we, as Wyomingites have long known." J D Angst, Dubois

"I love Wyoming Public Radio and I have for decades. My mom, Sharon, up in Worland, has it going pretty loudly, in many rooms of the house! In a geographically vast state like Wyoming, it's crucial for me and for all us to feel connected to something bigger than just our lives. WPR does that for us. I love our state and our "open spaces," and I love to hear stories from all over 307-land. I also think it's our civic duty, as citizens of the world, to keep informed about what goes on in our world. So, All Things Considered, Morning Edition, and the BBC are part of my daily news diet. Isn't information power? We the public need access to information and to power---power to have a well-formed opinion, to weigh existing evidence, to feel strongly enough about issues to contact our leaders; to effect changes in our communities. I thank you all at WPR for keeping our rural places "cosmo." You are doing such important work." Allison Gernant, Laramie but grew up in Worland

Our virtual events page is growing, and we begin to see its benefits as yet another way to reach Wyoming's population and beyond. On March 24, at 5:30 pm, join WPM and *Wyoming2030* for "New Directions for Youth Justice," a panel examining strategies to help Wyoming keep kids out of the justice system and thriving in their communities. The panel corresponds with the release of a *Reveal* episode about juvenile justice produced by Wyoming Public Media's Tennessee Watson. Events like this are plentiful, and often scheduled a few days in advance. Keep checking the [virtual events page](#) often. You can also catch up with past events including the [UW Seidel/Dixon VirtualTown Hall](#) on racial incidents on the UW campus.

WPM's podcasts continue to thrive. Just look below at *Behind the Scenes*. Globally, podcast use is increasing, and in the last year (2020), there were 625,270 total downloads of Wyoming Public Media's most popular podcasts, *HumaNature* (237,607) and *The Modern West* (387,663).

We are grateful to our colleagues at Wyoming PBS for providing a link to audio and video of Governor Gordon's State of the State. We cover official speeches on both radio and online, where you can also access the video. The State of the Union will be carried on both radio and online, but as of this writing, is has not yet been scheduled.

We live in fiercely divided political times, and unfortunately, our national news organizations reflect this schism. We can certainly feel it in Wyoming judging from the letters, comments, and calls we receive. You might find this [article about political divisions and media](#) interesting.

Spring is around the corner and with it comes a zest for our great outdoors. You might [check out Kamila Kudelska's](#) story about Wyomingites' views on their state's natural resources.

Entrepreneurship and its place in schools is getting the attention of Wyoming educators and those invested in improving Wyoming's economy. [Check out Catherine Wheeler's story](#) about the program at Buffalo High School.

Thank you for supporting WPM – we're honored to have your loyalty. The last year would have been very empty without you. Just knowing that there were people at the other end of our signal brought a sense of warmth and community.

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

Christina Kuzmych

WPM General Manager



BEHIND THE SCENES

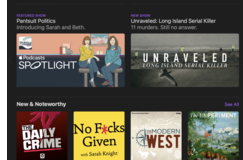


HumaNature - Wyoming Public Media Podcast - Acclaim

"My Favorite Podcast. I always look forward to listening to HumaNature while I'm working. Every story has been so beautifully told. I feel like I'm out in nature with them as I'm stuck inside working." annahgram January 29, 2021

"BIG thanks! I love your podcast; helps me remember what is important in these turbulent times. Cheers, from one Human-Nature lover to another!"

Robin February 22, 2021



Apple Podcasts New & Noteworthy Features The Modern West Podcast

Wyoming Public Media's podcast, *The Modern West*, was featured in Apple Podcasts' *New & Noteworthy* section, listed as number 32 on the *Top Shows in the Society and Culture* category, and appeared on the Apple Podcasts carousel. "The carousel placement shines a spotlight on your podcast with a dedicated feature image that appears at the very top of the Browse page on Apple Podcasts." February 16-22, 2021.



New Yorker Magazine Features Modern West-Ghost Town(ing) Podcast Series

"You can't eat the view, but you can't live without it," a resident of Walden, Colorado, says in "Ghost Town(ing)," the new season of "The Modern West," from Wyoming Public Media and PRX. The speaker is the father of the series' host and senior producer, Melodie Edwards; he has worked locally in timber, oil, and fly-fishing supplies, but these days work is scarce...." — Sarah Larson February 8, 2021.



NATIONAL STORIES



Wyoming GOP Censures Liz Cheney For Voting To Impeach Trump

The Wyoming Republican Party voted Saturday to censure Rep. Liz Cheney and also asked her to resign for her vote last month to impeach then-President Donald Trump after the insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Bob Beck's spot was aired on NPR's *NewsCast*, contributing to NPR's *Politics* Report February 6, 2021.

Wyoming's coal industry experiencing decline - NPR's *NewsCast* aired Cooper McKim's story about the coal mine closure in the area. His report aired on February 9, 2021.

A Look Into How The Pandemic Will Change Lunar New Year Celebrations

Lunar New Year begins February 12. The two-week festival is expected to be much more subdued this year due to the pandemic, but Chinese international students are still trying to make the most of it. Naina Rao's story was featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* on February 10, 2021.

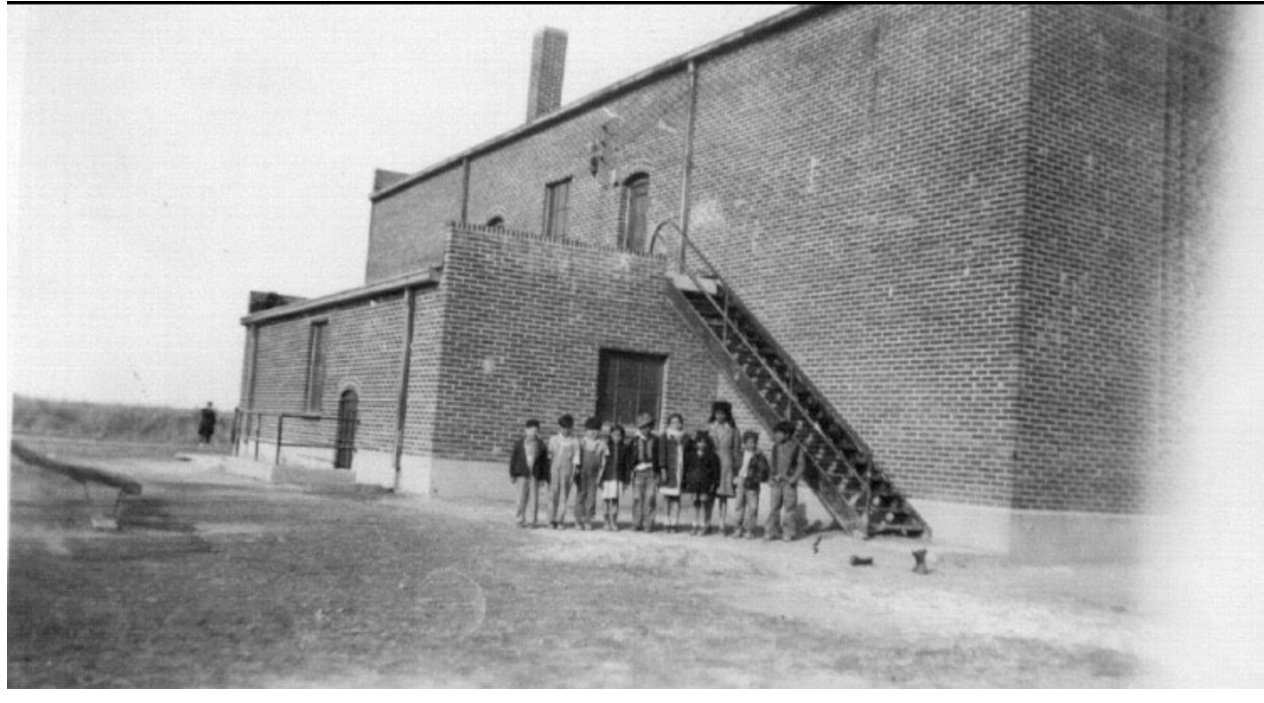


MUST LISTEN



"The Spanish School:" Mexican Segregation In Northwest Wyoming

Usually segregation in school is something you heard about in the south. But it turns out Wyoming had segregated schools as well. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska goes back in history and takes a look at one such school in Worland. Listen to the [story here](#). (Featured on [Open Spaces](#)) (Photo: Gonzalo Guzman)



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