WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | May 2020

A Letter from the General Manager, Christina Kuzmych

Covid-19 minimized our spring drive, as we devoted all air time to news. Frankly, we were not sure just how successful this would be, but I'm happy to report that our loyal listeners responded to the short on-air messages, mailings, and e-mail asks. At this time, we're approximately $200,000 short of the $1,466,000 annual goal. This is encouraging news considering global circumstances. **Continue reading.**

BEHIND THE SCENES

California Parks Point to *HumaNature* We're lucky to have wide open spaces here in Wyoming, which makes it pretty easy to practice physical distancing while getting outside. But in many places, that's not the case, so the California State Parks Foundation has created a list of recommended podcasts, including Wyoming Public Media's *HumaNature*, to help people experience the outdoors from the safety of their homes.

Wyoming Public Media Staff Learn and Teach the Art of Podcasting

□ WPM is one of six public radio stations from across the country participating in PRX's Project Catapult to further develop The Modern West podcast. The show's second season, planned for later this year, will continue to explore the evolving identity of the American West through the lens of ghost towns, past and present.

□ This semester, Digital Manager Anna Rader and Cultural Affairs & Production Director Micah Schweizer joined two University of Wyoming classes (online, of course) to offer tricks of the trade to students in UW's Communication & Journalism department.

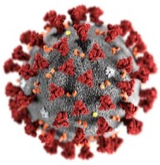
Virtual Panel Discussions WPM staff participated in several virtual forums in April:

□ On April 10, Savannah Maher joined three other reporters in a virtual discussion on COVID-19 coverage, hosted by *Indian Country Today*.

□ On April 22, WPM & The *Mountain West News Bureau* hosted a facebook live Q& A about COVID-19 with University of Wyoming professor, Dr. Christine Porter.

View & post your virtual forums, concerts & plays on the WPM Virtual Events Calendar.

Coronavirus In Wyoming: Resources & News Wyoming Public Media is here to keep you current on the news surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. Do you have *a silver lining story* about the virus in Wyoming, your family's adaptation, new roles at



your job, and your town's new business ventures? Leave a message at (307) 439-5350, and WPM might use it in a story.

***This American Life* Wins First Pulitzer Prize Given to Audio Journalism**
According to Producer Ira Glass, who visited Wyoming in 2016, "It's an honor to be recognized this way by the Pulitzers. And exciting to win their very first prize for audio journalism. Fun fact: the Peabody Awards were established in 1940 partly because the Pulitzers wouldn't give out awards to this newfangled medium called radio." The Award was for *The Out Crowd* Episode.

NATIONAL STORIES

Overcrowding Makes It Hard For Native Americans To Socially Distance
A story by Savannah Maher aired on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* on April 7 about a lack of affordable housing on the Wind River Indian Reservation, making social distancing difficult. The two tribes that share the Wind River Reservation have rapidly growing populations. But the housing supply has been dwindling for decades.

300 Layoffs In Powder River Basin With Production Down ~20% From 2019
National Public Radio's *Newscast* aired a spot by Cooper McKim on April 23 about two coal companies with mines in the Powder River Basin (PRB) that announced lay-offs in Peabody Energy and the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC). According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), coal production that week was down 41.5 percent compared to the same week last year.

Tribes Say Alaska Native Corporations Shouldn't Be Included In CARES Funding
A story by Savannah Maher aired on WBUR's *Here & Now* on April 24 about Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders opposing CARES Act funding for Alaska Native Corporations. The federal relief package includes an $8 billion tribal stabilization fund, meant to keep tribal governments afloat amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The fine print of the law entitles Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) to a slice of that fund as well.

School Closures Come In Handy For Ranchers In Wyoming Cooper McKim's story aired on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* on April 24 featuring Wyoming ranchers welcoming the extra hands with students back home. Those in the agricultural industry forecast a tough year for producers with lower returns for their products. For now, though, families are able to continue on at home with a little extra help.

MUST LISTEN

Click the image below to learn more about this month's *must listen* story.

Thanks to our new and renewing underwriters!

AAA, Alliance for Renewable Energy of Laramie, Davis and Cannon, LLP, Heritage Foods, Ivinson Memorial Hospital, Laramie Reproductive Health, Laramie Cares Foundation, LIV Health, Rocky Mountain Power, Rooted in Cheyenne, Sweet Melissa's Cafe, UW College of Education, UW Office of Engagement & Outreach, UW Saturday U, Wyoming Behavioral Institute

For information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dianne Burner at dburner@uwyo.edu**.**

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