

2020 4th Quarter Issues Report for Wyoming Public Media

Submitted by Bob Beck, News Director

Issue: Race Issues

Topic: ["An Atmosphere Of Doubt:" Continued Calls For An Inquest Into Andy Antelope's Death](#)

It's been a year since a Riverton Police Officer shot and killed 58-year-old Anderson Antelope, a citizen of the Northern Arapaho Tribe. The Fremont County Attorney's office ruled the shooting necessary and justified. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Savannah Maher reports, some community members are still asking for greater transparency.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 10/4/20 at noon

Topic: [New University Of Wyoming Law Podcast Dives Into Criminal Justice System](#)

The Defender Aid Clinic at the University of Wyoming's College of Law is behind [a new podcast](#) that dives into the racial disparities in the United States criminal justice system.

Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen spoke with Law professor Lauren McLane and student Nathan Yanchek who says the podcast grew out of the outrage he and students in the clinic felt over police killings of African American men.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 10/4/20 at noon

Topic: [Wyoming's Black Pioneer Community That Disappeared](#)

When you think of pioneers, you might imagine *Little House on the Prairie*. Or the *Oregon Trail* game we all played in the nineties. One thing these popular depictions of pioneers have in common is they're White. But pioneers weren't all White, and historians argue it's important to set the record straight.

Time: 6 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [Reconstruction Of Chinese History In Wyoming: A Work-In-Progress](#)

There were once multiple Chinatowns in the state, and a significant local population contributing to the transcontinental railroad, ranching, and entrepreneurship. But that history has been largely erased. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 6 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [Does Race Matter In Wyoming?](#)

Wyoming is majority White, but the state is more diverse than people think. The Wyoming Community Foundation says that misconception allows for racism and racial disparities to go unchecked. It's a problem the foundation explored in a report titled: "[Does Race Matter In Wyoming?](#)" Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson sat down with the foundation's chief operating officer Samin Dadelahi to learn more.

Time: 7 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [COVID-19 Highlights Gap In Access To Services To Immigrant Populations In Teton County](#)

When the pandemic hit early spring, nonprofits in Teton County realized that important information could be lost in translation. That's because there's a large Latino, Eastern European and some to some extent Vietnamese population in the valley. So they got together and figured out how to get their resources to immigrant communities. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 5 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [Wyoming Remains The Only State To Not Participate In Refugee Resettlement](#)

Since 1980, more than three million refugees from around the world have resettled in the United States. Wyoming is the only state in the country to not participate in a refugee resettlement program, meaning those seeking a new home cannot be directly settled in the state's borders. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with University of Wyoming Assistant Law Professor Jerry Fowler, who is also the supervisor of the UW Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, about the impact this can have on our state.

Time: 5 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [Race, Public Lands And The Debate Over Geotagging](#)

Public land popularity has been increasing for years with geotagging playing a significant role -- that's posting a photo on social media with the geographical information included. That trend and the subsequent crowds created a geotagging backlash. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports the conversation around geotagging is changing.

Time: 5 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [An Audio Postcard: The Journey To Get Basic Cultural Amenities](#)

For people of color and immigrants living in Wyoming, getting a haircut, shopping for groceries, or celebrating holidays can be difficult. Wyoming Public Radio's Naina Rao has been making trips between Laramie, Wyoming, and Denver, Colorado to get the basic cultural amenities she needs for her lifestyle. She takes us on her journey in this audio postcard.

Time: 4 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [University Of Wyoming Says It Values Diversity But What Is It Doing?](#)

Part of the University of Wyoming's mission is to value and nurture diversity. But that's hard to do when the university struggles to attract and retain faculty and administrators of color. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson has more.

Time: 6 min

11/6/20 at 3pm and 11/8/20 at noon

Topic: [Tribal Councils Make Slow Progress Toward Gender Equality](#)

When it comes to gender parity, tribal councils in our region have made more progress than statehouses or U.S. Congress. Still, women remain underrepresented. The Mountain West News Bureau's Savannah Maher reports.

Time: 5 min

12/4/20 at 3pm and 12/6/20 noon

Topic: [Award-Winning Documentary Explores Native Food Sovereignty On The Crow Reservation](#)

In some Native communities getting to a grocery store can take up to an hour and requires access to a vehicle. And there is no guarantee that the food there is fresh, often being trucked in from days away. Tsanavi Spoonhunter is the director of Crow Country: Our Right to Food Sovereignty. The documentary explores food insecurity on the Crow Reservation in Montana. Wyoming Public Radio's Tylar Stagner spoke with her about the award-winning film and the inspiration that brought her to Montana.

Time: 5 min

12/11/20 at 3pm and 12/13/20 noon

Issue: Energy

Topic: [Wyoming's 'Dark Money' Coal Campaign](#)

At a Sep. 3 press conference, Gov. Mark Gordon introduced a nonprofit that's been advocating for Wyoming's coal industry for years: the Energy Policy Network. He announced a new contract with the group in which taxpayers would "contribute" \$250,000 this year. The governor believes there's still a place for Wyoming's coal in the electric utility market despite the long and accelerating shift toward renewable sources and natural gas.

Time: 8 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 10/4/20 at noon

Topic: [What A Biden Versus Trump Presidency Could Mean For Coal](#)

Joe Biden's stance on fracking has been all over the news... that the Democratic presidential candidate would prohibit the practice on federal land, while allowing current permits to continue. Well, the presidential election is also expected to impact U.S. coal markets - either way it breaks. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with Caitlin McCoy about what that might look like. McCoy is a staff attorney at Harvard Law School's environmental and energy law program.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/30/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Wyoming Ratchets Up Carbon Capture Efforts As Some Look Back Decades](#)

Wyoming leadership is doubling down on carbon capture as a tool to help preserve coal. That effort is building urgency as the pandemic devastates the struggling industry. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports that some think it's too late.

Date: 11/27/20 at 3pm and 11/29/20 noon

Topic: [Inauguration Day, A Deadline As Some Prepare For Possible Energy Restrictions](#)

Oil and gas has become an increasingly important part of Wyoming's economy, as coal production continues to fall. And as a state with over half of its drilling on federal land, many are anxious to hear what the Biden administration will do. During his campaign, he pledged to

ban new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports how some are preparing.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/11/20 at 3pm and 12/13/20 noon

Issue: Environment

Topic: [How Rocky Mountain Locusts And Mountain Glaciers Tell A Story](#)

Over a hundred years ago every decade - trillions of Rocky Mountain Locusts - a type of grasshopper- would swarm through the Rocky Mountain West. Now extinct, these locusts have been found frozen in mountain glaciers. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska follows two researchers who are trekking the Beartooth Mountain glaciers to document them and the long lost insect.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 10/4/20 at noon

Topic: [Studying Yellowstone Tells Scientists About Geysers, Life](#)

Scientists know there is a reservoir of water deep beneath Yellowstone National Park. Somehow, that water rises through the earth, creating the hydrothermal features that make Yellowstone unique. Researchers at the University of Wyoming and Montana State University are trying to figure out what's going on beneath the surface and what that means for life in the park and beyond. Wyoming Public Radio's Science Intern Ashley Piccone has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [As Wilderness Areas Attract More People, Volunteer Rangers Hit The Trail](#)

The U.S. Forest Service has faced budget cuts, and underfunding for years. So, with the agency's blessing, around 200 conservation groups around the country have created volunteer

wilderness ranger programs to help patrol the backcountry. But are volunteers a good substitute for funding full-time staff? The Mountain West News Bureau's Amanda Peacher reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon

Topic: [In Yellowstone, America's "First Water Park," Decades-Old Blaze Marked Start Of Megafire Era](#)

In the summer of 1988 Yellowstone National Park was engulfed in flames. TV coverage of the fires captivated the nation for months. After the fire was extinguished, plenty of thorny questions remained: What did those fires mean for the park's near-pristine rivers and lakes? And what is their legacy? Today we start a series taking a closer look at where water and fire intersect across the West. From KHOL, Robyn Vincent reports from Jackson, Wyoming.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon

Topic: [Homeowners Who Avoid Wildfire Damage Can Find Themselves In New Flood Zone](#)

Major wildfires have burned through the Western U.S. this year. Fires can have immediate effects on air quality and nearby homes. But now, people are coming to grips with the lingering danger of wildfires, long after the flames are gone. Today, we continue our in depth look at where water and fire intersect in the West. As Aspen Public Radio's Alex Hager reports, people who live near burn scars can find themselves in a brand new flood zone.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon

Topic: [For The West's Drinking Water, Wildfire Concerns Linger Long After Smoke Clears](#)

For many western communities, their water supplies originate from melting snow, high up in the mountains. But this summer's record-breaking wildfires have reduced some headwater forests to burnt trees and heaps of ash. Today, we continue our in-depth look at where water and fire intersect in the West. As Luke Runyon from KUNC reports, wildfires can cause problems for municipal drinking water systems for years to come.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon

Topic: [In Grasslands Plagued By Invasives And Drought, Wildfires Fuel Calls For New Solutions](#)

Wildfires and drought are hitting the Mountain West especially hard this year. And fires don't just burn in forests. Grasslands starved of moisture and chock full of invasive plants can burn just as big. Our in depth look at where water and fire intersect in the region continues today in Wyoming. Catherine Wheeler of Wyoming Public Radio reports on how researchers are looking at solutions to keep grassland fires in check.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon

Topic: [Potential Future Drought Could Cause Old Faithful To Go Dormant... Again](#)

Old Faithful geyser is one of the most popular areas in Yellowstone National Park. But a major climate event nearly 800 years ago made the geyser a little less faithful. Wyoming Public Radio's Ivy Engel had a conversation with U.S. Geological Survey research geologist Shaul Hurwitz, who studied this strange period.

5 min

12/4/20 3pm and 12/6/20 noon

Issue: Politics

Topic: [Pendley Looks To Set Record Straight Over Court Decision](#)

Just recently, William Perry-Pendley held the power of director within the Bureau of Land Management. But a federal court in Montana found he had been holding that power illegally, given he wasn't Senate-confirmed. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with Wyoming-native Pendley about what happened, his efforts to return to his role, and what he's doing now.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [Western Fires Have Become Part Of The Political Landscape](#)

Every four years there's a near universal complaint that western issues get passed over in presidential elections. Not this year, which is mostly because large swaths of the West have been burning. Washington Correspondent Matt Laslo has this story on how Wyoming Senator John Barrasso's proposal to combat fires is gaining more currency...at least with the Trump administration.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [Judges Are On The November Ballot. What Are You Voting For?](#)

One thing I've seen a lot on social media is how should you decide whether or not to support the retention of a judge? This year there are 28 judges up for retention. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with Executive Director of the Wyoming State Bar Sharon Wilkinson about how this process works.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [Wyoming U.S. House Candidates Discuss In Advance Of The Election](#)

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, Wyoming will vote to send two women to congress. Former Republican Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis is running against University of Wyoming Professor Merav Ben-David for retiring Sen. Mike Enzi's U.S. Senate seat. The two differ on almost everything, especially when it comes to health care, climate change and the future of Wyoming's economy. On the House side, two-term U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney is facing off against Democrat Lynette Greybull who is the first known Native American to seek a Wyoming congressional seat. Bob Beck reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Shannon Appointed Director Of State's DOC](#)

Governor Mark Gordon has announced the new director of the Wyoming Department of Corrections. Dan Shannon has been with the department since 2007 and previously served as the deputy director. Shannon, who's been in the corrections field for more than 20 years, says reorganization of the department due to budget cuts is his main focus. He spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler about how the department will be adapting to working with less.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/29/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Enzi Prepares For Retirement](#)

After more than two decades of representing Wyoming in the United States Senate, Mike Enzi is retiring. Washington Correspondent Matt Laslo talked with some of his colleagues about what his departure means, and they all agree - it's going to leave a huge deficit in the upper chamber.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/18/20 at 3pm and 12/20/20 at noon

Issue: Education

Topic: [What's The Priority?" Wyoming Teacher Of The Year Talks Teaching During A Pandemic](#)

Alexis Barney teaches fourth and fifth grade at Evansville Elementary School in Casper. And this year, the Wyoming Department of Education has announced Barney is the state's 2021 teacher of the year. Barney says she's humbled to receive the award and views it as a privilege to represent the state's teachers. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with Barney about how she has been focusing on her students' mental health, especially since the pandemic.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 10/4/20 at noon

Topic: [University Of Wyoming Draft Plan For Budget Reductions Show Cuts Across The Board](#)

Officials at the University of Wyoming have announced their draft proposal in response to a \$42 million budget cut. It includes potential impacts to seven different colleges on campus, athletics, and positions, most of which are currently unfilled. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with UW interim Provost Anne Alexander. First, Alexander laid out what's included in the draft plan.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/30/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Northwest College President Reflects On Her Time As She Gets Ready For A New Position](#)

Northwest College President Stefani Hicswa will be leaving to become the new chancellor of Montana State University Billings. Hicswa was president of the community college in Powell for seven years. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with her about her biggest accomplishments as president.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/2/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Let's Play Outside: Teton Science Schools Adapt To The Pandemic](#)

Every year 5th grade elementary school students from Teton County spend an entire weekend at Teton Science School's Kelly Campus in Grand Teton National Park. They bond with their classmates and learn about wildlife. But, due to the pandemic, these overnight programs were canceled. In fact, an estimated 30 percent of outdoor education organizations nationwide will be forced to shut their doors by the end of the year. That's according to a survey funded by the National Science Foundation. Fortunately, Teton Science Schools is staying open, but it's required some big changes. Olivia Weitz has more.

Time: 5 min

12/11/20 at 3pm and 12/13/noon

Topic: [Pandemic Side Effect: Wyoming Schools Face A Substitute Teaching Shortage](#)

COVID-19 has greatly impacted our K-12 education system. From virtual learning, safety precautions and effects on extracurricular, nothing has been spared. But now with positive coronavirus cases and quarantines becoming a regular occurrence in schools for kids and staff, Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports that it's having an effect on finding substitutes.

Time: 5 min

12/11/20 at 3pm and 12/13/20 noon

Issue: COVID 19

Topic: [How Wyoming Hospitals Are Dealing With A Record Spike In COVID-19 Patients](#)

This past week saw a record 56 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in Wyoming. This fact is making some health care professionals in the state nervous. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska looks at how one town's hospital is impacted by the spike of hospitalizations.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [University Of Wyoming COVID-19 Testing Efforts May Be Missing People](#)

Universities across the country have had to grapple with how to start the fall semester in the midst of a pandemic. One thing is clear, a successful in-person start relies on a strong COVID-19 testing program. Wyoming Public Radio's Ivy Engel tells us about the University of Wyoming's approach to testing and the fall semester.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Topic: [When Employees Catch COVID, Business Owners Have To Make Tough Decisions](#)

Wyoming, like many states, has tried to strike a balance between letting businesses operate and slowing the spread of COVID-19. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor reports businesses are struggling to keep their doors open amid a rapid rise in coronavirus cases.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/30/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [Wind River Faces COVID-19 Surge, Other Voting Obstacles Ahead Of Election Day](#)

The Wind River Reservation has long faced unique barriers to voting. This year, the coronavirus pandemic is adding more. Wyoming Public Radio's Savannah Maher reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/30/20 at 3pm and 11/1/20 at noon

Topic: [How Campbell County Is Handling An Extreme Spike In COVID-19 Cases](#)

Positive COVID-19 cases are skyrocketing in communities across Wyoming. As of Thursday, there are more than 11,000 active cases with over 1,300 in Campbell County alone. But addressing the problem has been a challenge. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler explains.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Nursing Home Staff And Residents Face Stress During The Pandemic](#)

Since the start of the pandemic Nursing Homes and long term care facilities have been on pins and needles. With some huge outbreaks in facilities across the state, leading to a number of deaths, that anxiety has skyrocketed. Jonni Belden oversees The Legacy Living and Rehabilitation Center in Campbell County. She joins Bob Beck to describe the challenges they've faced keeping their older residents safe and the impacts this is having on their staff.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Goshen County School District Takes On COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#)

Wyoming's COVID-19 surge is having an overwhelming effect on state and local contact tracers. Public health officials might not be able to reach everyone that may have been exposed. That could have a major effect on K-12 schools around the state, since it's up to the county and district how they handle it. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with Goshen County School District Superintendent Ryan Kramer about how the district has begun contact tracing all of its cases.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Why You Should Follow Health Guidelines No Matter Your COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Wyoming is the least populated state per capita but is consistently in the top five states with the most new COVID-19 cases per day. Public health officials are asking people who have the virus or may have been exposed to follow social distance guidelines no matter whether they feel sick or not. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska explains that's because any level of COVID is a serious one that may infect others.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Wyoming Hospitals Face Rising Demand, Staff Shortages As Pandemic Rages](#)

Hospital capacity is one metric that has stayed relatively stable throughout the pandemic. But in the past month, that's changed as hospitals run out of space and staffing is stretched thinner. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor reports the state is recruiting outside help, but healthcare workers are still feeling the pinch.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Pandemic Puts Teletherapy To The Test - Reviews Are Mixed](#)

With lockdowns across the country, telehealth boomed a few months ago and that unprecedented growth is expected to continue. But when it comes to mental health treatment over a screen, it's getting mixed reviews. The Mountain West News Bureau's Madelyn Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: [Worsening Healthcare Crisis Forces Hospitals To Look Across State Borders](#)

Our region is facing a hospitalization crisis. COVID-19 patients are flooding ICU's, adding to an already busy time of year. To tackle it effectively, hospitals and states need to work as a team. But as the Mountain West News Bureau's Madelyn Beck explains, it's not that simple.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/20/20 at 3pm 11/22/20 noon

Topic: **A DIY Map Helps Laramie Shoppers Find COVID-Conscious Businesses**

Black Friday typically marks the official start of the holiday shopping season, but this year has been anything but typical. Store closures and fears of catching COVID-19 have driven many shoppers online. That's not good for local businesses but as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, necessity can be the mother of invention.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/27/20 at 3pm 11/29/20 noon

Topic: [State Health Officer Says COVID-19 Numbers And Deaths Are Concerning](#)

After a summer with relatively few serious cases of COVID-19...Wyoming's hospitals are full and the death toll is rising. Even the governor and first lady have contracted the coronavirus and it shows no signs of letting up. State Health Officer Doctor Alexia Harrist joins me now to discuss the virus, face coverings and the vaccine.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/4/20 noon and 12/6/20 3pm

Topic: [COVID-19 Puts Rural Telehealth On The Fast Track](#)

For years, it's been very difficult to get mental health services to rural places like Wyoming. A big part of the issue is the lack of mental health providers and the fact that people frequently would have to drive over an hour for such services. But then the pandemic hit and everyone in the country suddenly needed telehealth. And this had led to a possible solution to the mental

health access problem. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska follows a national guard veteran on his telehealth journey to address his PTSD.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/4/20 noon and 12/6/20 3pm

Topic: [Funeral Homes Experience Increase In Services During Pandemic](#)

We've seen a lot of numbers this year -- numbers of cases and deaths all related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the rising number of deaths due to COVID-19 funeral homes have been busy. Wyoming Public Radio's Naina Rao says it's required some changes in how they operate.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/18/20 at 3pm and 12/20/20 at noon

Topic: [A Discussion With A Vaccine Expert](#)

This week, Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen hosted a [Facebook Live event](#) with Dr. Rupali Limaye of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine. In case you missed it, we've put together some highlights for you to hear, starting with what it means that a recent survey found that most - but not all - Wyomingites say they would be willing to get vaccinated against the virus.

Time: 7 min

Date: 12/18/20 at 3pm and 12/20/20 at noon

Topic: [Hanukkah Takes On Special Meaning As COVID-19 Vaccines Begin To Distribute](#)

The holiday season is upon us and with it comes the Festival of Lights, better known as Hanukkah. Folks around the country are lighting their menorahs, including here in Wyoming. Cooper McKim spoke with Seth Ward, University of Wyoming professor of religious studies, about the holiday's special meaning this year.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/18/20 at 3pm and 12/20/20 at noon

Issue: Businesses

Topic: [New Northern Arapaho Business Councilor Has A Vision For Tribe...Go Green](#)

On the heels of the national election, the Northern Arapaho Tribe just wrapped up the election of their business council. Jordan Dresser was a new name on the ballot and won a seat with a lot of support, especially from the tribe's youth. He's known as a mover and shaker. Over the last few years Dresser worked to find and repatriate numerous artifacts from around the country. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards talked with him about his vision going forward.

Time: 6 min

11/27/20 at 3pm and 11/29/20 at noon.

Topic: [University Of Wyoming Opens New Center For Blockchain And Digital Innovation](#)

The University of Wyoming has recently opened its Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation. Only a handful of universities in the country have this kind of center, and UW hopes this will help to diversify the state's economy. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with the new center's director Steven Lupien to discuss what unique resources the center will offer. First, Lupien explained what a blockchain is.

Time: 6 min

11/27/20 at 3pm and 11/29/20 at noon.

Topic: [New Book Envisions Solutions For Rural Economies](#)

Even before the pandemic struck, rural American communities were suffering, and the blow from this new downturn could hurt even more. But a new book is optimistic that small towns can thrive, if they learn to embrace the innovations of the future. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards spoke with Don Albrecht, author of Building a Resilient Twenty First Century

Economy for Rural America. Albrecht is the director of the Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University.

Albrecht says the first step to attracting global workers to small towns will be making sure high speed internet is readily available.

Time: 8 min

12/11//20 at 3pm and 12/13/20 at noon.

Topic: [Sheridan's Main Street Handling A Hard Year](#)

With COVID-19's effects on business throughout the state, there have been concerns how all of Wyoming's small businesses are faring especially during this holiday season. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler spoke with Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce CEO Dixie Johnson about how Sheridan businesses have adapted this year. Johnson began by describing how a local holiday tradition was affected.

Time: 5 min

12/18//20 at 3pm and 12/20/20 at noon.

Issue: Wildlife

Topic: [New Book Seeks To Dispel Misconceptions About Mountains Lions](#)

Mountain lions are one of the great conservation stories. Hunting once whittled their numbers down to a few thousand. But when they were re-classified as a game instead of vermin, they made a big comeback. But it's also led to more conflicts with humans. A new book called the *Cougar Conundrum* offers ideas for how to live with these big predators...and how to better manage them. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards chatted with author Mark Elbroch, the Director of Panthera's Puma project.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/9/20 at 3pm and 10/11/20 at noon

Issue: Social Issues

Topic: [Alleged Harassment In Wapiti Raises Questions About LGBTQ Protections](#)

Last weekend, a gay couple living about 20 miles west of Cody towards Yellowstone National Park were told by neighbors that they are not welcome in the community and should leave. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska takes a look to see if there's anything the couple can do about it.

Time: 6 min

10/16/20 at 3pm and 10/18/20 at noon.