

Issues List 1st Quarter 2015 – Wyoming Public Media

Issue: Politics

Topic: For the next two months the State's 90 legislators will gather in Cheyenne to consider a wide range of bills. Some ideas will be dead on arrival while others should generate considerable debate.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Senator Chris Rothfuss who is the Minority Leader in the Wyoming Senate and House Minority Leader Mary Throne say that legislative savings and Medicaid expansion will be among the top discussion items during the upcoming legislative session.

Time: 7 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Republicans now are the majority in both chambers in the U.S. Congress, which means they control all the gavels on Capitol Hill. Wyoming's senior senator, Mike Enzi, gets to wield one of those gavels in the all-important Budget Committee.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Wyoming legislative session is underway and it features 3 new Senators in Cheyenne and 14 newly elected Representatives. It's a big stage for the newly minted lawmakers and 31-year-old Tyler Lindholm is excited. He is a tall, thin, and confident 1st year Representative from Sundance. Lindholm served in the Navy, chaired the Crook County Republican Party and is

ready to jump into the legislature with both feet. But legislative protocols and the abundance of legislation can be a challenge for newcomers.

Time: 4 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Republicans now control the gavels on Capitol Hill, but last week they were given a stark reminder of how limited their power is here in the nation's capital when President Obama delivered his State of the Union address where he touted recent economic gains.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For the last few years Wyoming has considered taking advantage of part of the Federal Affordable Care Act which pays states to expand Medicaid services to the so called working poor. While states have some up-front costs, the federal government pays for 100 initially and 90 percent after that. In Wyoming it would pay for close to 18,000 additional low income people to get health care coverage. Despite the federal money, lawmakers have consistently refused to adopt expansion. Why? The answer is varied.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Republicans in the U.S. House have created a new position charged with overseeing the Interior of the United States, which includes the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. Wyoming Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis is being tapped to head up the new investigative subcommittee. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is famous for dragging in Major League Baseball players during the steroid scandal.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Wyoming legislative session is coming up on its last week. It's a session that's seen the defeat of Medicaid Expansion and some other key issues. Because of that, critics say they really haven't accomplished much, and some legislators agree.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A few weeks ago the Wyoming legislative session came to a close and Governor Matt Mead admitted that he had a number of concerns. The biggest was the failure of the legislature to pass Medicaid Expansion. The governor tells us that he knew it would be a tough sell, but it was tougher than he thought.

Time: 8 min

Issue: Energy

Topic: When it comes to U.S. energy consumption, transportation and power plants leap to mind as top power users. Buildings, though, are not far behind. Commercial buildings account for one-fifth of our energy use. Much of that is pure waste, leaking from poorly-insulated walls or lights left on when no one is around. Energy efficiency is one of the few issues with support from both Republicans and Democrats, as well as private industry.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The American landscape is dotted with over 100,000 deep injection wells. They're a key part of our energy infrastructure. Without them, you probably wouldn't be able to fill up your

tank. Because for every barrel of oil that comes out of the ground, salty and sometimes chemically-laced fluid comes up with it. This so-called produced water has to go somewhere - and much of it injected back into the earth. In the first of a 2 part series, Inside Energy's Leigh Paterson reports on one company's bid to get in the game.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A Colorado based oil company has applied for a permit to operate a wastewater injection well in Western Nebraska. In today's story, Bill Kelly of NET News in Nebraska reports that a deeper look into the finances of the company behind the application is causing concern.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With its big blue skies and high altitude, Wyoming's solar potential is among the best in the nation, but even as residential rooftop solar has boomed recently in places like California, Colorado and New Jersey, it's barely made any inroads in the state. Economics and politics both play a role, but with the price of photovoltaics continuing to drop, some people are starting to ask whether momentum is building for solar in nation's largest coal-producing state.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: People packed into a public hearing Monday about proposed changes to the rules governing how far oil and gas drilling has to be from homes and schools. The Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is proposing to increase the "setback" distance from 350 feet to 500 feet.

Time: 7 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With oil prices now at a six year low, oil companies have been idling hundreds of drilling rigs. For the wells that remain active, the key is getting more out of less...which is tricky because when you drill for oil, only around 5 percent of what's underground is actually recovered. That's according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Inside Energy's Leigh Paterson reports on how these days - with prices so low - producers are using technology to chase oil thousands of feet below the earth's surface.

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When it comes to oil and gas drilling in urban and suburban areas, the question is often 'how close is too close?' That's been the major point of contention in Wyoming, where the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is currently considering a rule to increase the setback distance between oil and gas wells and houses from 350 to 500 feet. Many homeowners would like it to be even further. Distance is only one part of the issue though, as Brad Brooks would attest.

Time: 4 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Education

Topic: There was a big surprise in the annual state rankings released by Education Week recently. Wyoming made the top 10 list for best places to get your child an education, the only state in the Western U.S. The reason is Wyoming spends more on education than any other state. But even paying \$18,000 per student--50 percent higher than the national average-- Wyoming's standardized test scores are very mediocre when compared nationally.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This school year, we're following the academic progress of students at Fort Washakie High School—a struggling school on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Academic achievement—like most things at the high school—is on the rise. Thanks to its recent switch from charter to public, there's a brand new school building in the works here. And students here have just taken a step that seems small, but is key to earning Fort Washakie its stripes as a traditional high school on the reservation. They've put together a basketball team.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Nearly a year after Wyoming lawmakers blocked the State Board of Education from considering a set of science standards that include climate change, a bill to put the standards back on the table is up for debate. When the dust settles, it could mean a change in classroom conversations about climate.

Time: 6 min.

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A year ago, a petroleum engineering degree seemed like the ticket to a bright and well-paid future. With six-figure starting salaries for a bachelor's degree and endless optimism about the shale revolution, enrollment climbed rapidly in petroleum engineering programs across the country. But now that the oil price slide has turned to an oil price slump, the luster is wearing off.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Over the past year, The Next Generation Science Standards have stirred debate in Wyoming—which continues today. Lawmakers have taken issue with what the standards say about climate change. Laramie Democrat Pete Gosar has something of a front row seat for this discussion. He's recently been named chairman of the State Board of Education—after serving for four years on that body, which is responsible for reviewing and adopting education standards. I spoke with Pete Gosar to get his take on the standards—and the controversy around them.

Time: 7 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: There's a nationwide push to get more students involved in STEM education. That's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. But, despite enthusiasm—and Wyoming's above average school funding— few K-12 schools in the state have been able to build the STEM programs they'd like. Many of those that have—have done so not with funding and support from the state—but from the energy industry. Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Five years ago the Wyoming legislature embarked on its latest attempt at reforming education in the state. Lawmakers said Wyoming was spending a lot of money on education and students were underperforming. After rejecting drastic changes such as getting rid of teacher tenure, the legislature settled on coming up with a way to score school districts, schools, teacher leaders, and teachers themselves.

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Fort Washakie High School is on track to graduate more students than ever this year. It still won't be a big number, but getting a high school degree is a big deal for students at this small school on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Some are making college plans. Others are just crossing their fingers hoping to get through the rest of the school year.

Time: 4 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Economy

Topic: If you flew to visit friends or relatives out of state over the recent holidays you probably drove across the state line to a major airport--if you flew out of one of Wyoming's regional airports you were in the minority. Traffic at most of the state's airports declined in 2014. That's the result of a nationwide pilot shortage, but it means Wyoming's airports will lose a big chunk of their federal funding.

Time: 4 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Income and wealth disparities in the U.S. are the most pronounced they've been in decades. Perhaps nowhere is the gap between luxury and poverty more apparent than in Jackson. The small ski town sits in the county with the highest average income in the country. But it's also home to a growing number of Mexican immigrants who come to work in Jackson's tourism economy. Teton County residents boast a median household income of \$72,000, but for immigrant households, it's just \$26,000.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: We've been hearing a lot about crashing oil prices lately. Crude oil is selling for \$46 barrel today compared to over \$90 a year ago. The price drop is great news for consumers and terrible for oil companies. But not all oil companies -- or oil fields -- are created equal. When oil prices drop, size and location matters.

Time: 4 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Companies have been borrowing more and more to drill in America's oil fields, with some estimates having oil and gas industry debt jumping more than 50 percent over the last five years.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The budgets of oil states are going to be hard hit by the recent slide in oil prices. Measured in dollars, Texas is the clear loser, but in terms of actual on-the-ground impacts, it isn't quite so simple. In the country's number two oil-producing state, North Dakota, falling prices have barely caused a ripple, while in Alaska (ranked fourth), lawmakers are calling it a "fiscal apocalypse." In Wyoming (ranked eighth), reaction has been subdued, but that may not last.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last November, President Obama announced a major executive action on immigration—a plan that would offer temporary legal status and deportation relief to millions of immigrants who live in the country without documents. That’s big news for residents of Jackson. In the past few decades, the town’s Latino immigrant population has skyrocketed from basically zero—to about 30 percent of the community. As Wyoming Public Radio’s Aaron Schrank reports, these changes to immigration law could bring new opportunities to Jackson’s working class immigrants—and the employers who hire them.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In recent years there’s been plenty of discussion and a lot of worry in Wyoming about the future of coal. Politicians have blamed the federal government for the coal industry's struggles and pushed for coal export terminals to save it. But until now, there’s been very little data to back up the talk. This week, economists at the University of Wyoming previewed a study looking at coal’s role in the state economy as well as its prospects for the future. Rob Godby is the Director of the Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy and lead author of the report.

Time: 8 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: “Man camps,” or temporary worker housing, are a defining characteristic of an oil boom. Development happens so fast, there’s never enough time to build adequate permanent housing. When oil prices come crashing down, the man camps empty out.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Our highways, interstates and bridges are crumbling and there's an estimated \$90 billion dollar annual shortfall in funding to make the fixes. So, now would be a good time to raise gas taxes, right? That's the main funding source for road infrastructure, has been for decades. Wyoming, and Iowa have raised theirs in recent years, other states are considering it. But, as Dan Boyce with our Inside Energy team tells us, gas taxes are not a long-term solution.

Time: 5 min

Issue: Wildlife and Outdoors

Topic: The pipeline that burst earlier this month and spewed oil into the Yellowstone River in Montana made headlines. But just across the border in North Dakota another pipeline was quietly leaking a potentially more disastrous substance: wastewater from oil wells.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When people think of ravens, they often think Edgar Allen Poe. But talk to a sage grouse ecologist and it's a different story. In the last 50 years, as energy development has moved in, raven numbers have skyrocketed, by some estimates 20 percent. Several new studies across the West show that these "ominous birds of yore" are feasting on sage grouse eggs and chicks, a species that's already on the brink of extinction. And so, to protect them, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering upping the number of ravens they're controlling lethally.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wolves were brought back to Yellowstone 20 years ago this week. They had been missing from the Park's landscape for almost 70 years. Their reintroduction caught the world's attention. And, wolves are still controversial, and still federally protected in Wyoming.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The senior wildlife biologist at Grand Teton National Park is retiring after 26 years on the job. During his tenure, Steve Cain worked with state and other wildlife managers to improve conditions for wildlife, not just in the park, but across the 22-million-acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Rebecca Huntington has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Southeastern Wyoming may be seeing heavy snow this weekend, but if you have tried skiing there over the past month or so, you may have run into a problem: dirt. With temperatures consistently in the 40s and 50s and little precipitation, snowpack in this part of the state is well below average.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Latino influence is growing in America across the board, including in conservation issues and outdoor recreation. One of the people leading this charge is Jose Gonzalez, the founder of Latino Outdoors, an organization that aims to increase the Hispanic community's contact with

the outdoors. He was in Laramie this week to speak at the University of Wyoming, and he joined Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard in the studio.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When it comes to the spread of disease from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep, it's not that different from the arrival of Europeans in the Americas when small pox and other diseases killed millions of indigenous people. Without a built-in immunity, pneumonia can wipe out an entire bighorn sheep herd in no time. And that's why, last week, the Wyoming legislature passed a pair of historic bills that will effectively keep the two species apart.

Time: 6 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Arts and Culture

Topic: The Wyoming Technology Business Center at the University of Wyoming has recently started a program to assist artists in the region to develop business skills so they can become more self-sufficient. Wyoming Public Radio's Pat Gabriel talked with the center's CEO Jon Benson and its Marketing Coordinator Fred Schmechel about why they think the program could be so helpful for Wyoming artists. And they'll be joined by the program's very first artist, Ron McIntosh.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: From deep powder in winter to a snowpack that lasts into summer, the Tetons offer an ideal proving ground for athletes. But in the mountains, the stakes are high. Skier and climber Jesse Stover sits down with two of his rescuers to talk about the day that one slip turned a perfect adventure into a death-defying fall.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Ghost towns may conjure images of old shoot-outs, tumble weed rolling down dusty streets. But there are also more modern ghost towns with less romantic stories. Laramie photographer Doc Thiessen is documenting some of the towns along the Lincoln Highway bypassed by Interstate 80.

Time: 3 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Lynne Cheney and her husband, former Vice President Dick Cheney, will be in Laramie on February 17th discussing her new book called James Madison: A Life Reconsidered. The Cheney's will discuss the book at the Marian Rochelle Gateway Center at the University of Wyoming. The discussion begins at 4 p.m.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A Laramie-based band has been nominated for a Grammy Award. The album 'Decisions' features the band Blinddog Smokin' and legendary Louisiana blues singer Bobby Rush; it's up for Best Blues Album. As the band's founder Carl Gustafson tells Wyoming Public Radio's Micah

Schweizer, the Grammy nomination has also led to award nominations in the roots music capitols of Memphis and New Orleans.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A new book chronicles changes in Wyoming over the past century. Historian and photographer Michael Amundson has retaken hundreds of photos from the early 20th century. His photos, shot in 1987-88 (while he was a student at the University of Wyoming) and again in 2007-08 are studies of pictures taken by Joseph E Stimson, a commercial photographer for the state and various railroads. The book is called "Wyoming Revisited: Rephotographing the Scenes of Joseph E. Stimson." Amundson spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Micah Schweizer.

Time: 8 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With Valentine's Day approaching, we'll end today's show with Ed and Carmela Conning from Cody. They got together in Long Island, New York back in the mid 70's. Here's the story of how they first met and their first date.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Devastating pine beetle and wild fire epidemics have ravaged our national forests for years. But for the most part, everyone—environmentalists, the timber industry, government agencies—have been in agreement about how to manage such problems...as wild places, not as tree farms in which forests are a crop that's been wiped out.

Time: 7 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A new film follows the journey of a snowboarder Brolin Maweje on his quest to become the first African Olympic snowboarder. Born in Uganda, he saw snow for the first time when he came to the U.S. at age 12. Snowboarding helped Maweje escape a difficult home life and bond with a family who brought him to Jackson Hole.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Every two years, student musicians at the University of Wyoming compete in the Jacoby Competition. Six students will perform as soloists with the UW Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, February 26. The winner will be named the university's finest student musician and will win a cash award. Wyoming Public Radio's Micah Schweizer asked UW Symphony directory Michael Griffith to explain the judging process.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Four Shakespeare plays open next week in Laramie as part of the University of Wyoming's Shakespeare Project. Then, they'll all fan out across the state on tour. (See below for locations.) The plays are staged in the signature style of Actors From The London Stage—just five actors and minimal props. One of the plays coming to Wyoming is a professional production. The other three are University of Wyoming student productions, directed by Actors From The London Stage.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Adventurer Mark Jenkins of Laramie gets assignments all over the world for National Geographic, the magazine he writes for. He's climbed Mount Everest, bicycled across Siberia, and even skied in Central Asia with the world's oldest ski culture. Now, he's one-upped himself.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Here's something that will be of particular interest to anyone who's ever played the piano. Chi-Chen Wu teaches piano at the University of Wyoming and has a new CD out this month.

Time: 7 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: On Tuesday, March 10, Wyoming author C.J. Box released the fifteenth installment of his Joe Pickett series. In *Endangered*, Pickett is investigating the slaughter of a flock of sage grouse when he receives the call that his daughter has been beaten almost to death. Pickett sets out to find who did it and bring him to justice.

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Local Government

Topic: The state of Montana sued Wyoming in 2007, claiming that it violated the Yellowstone River Compact of 1950 by withholding too much water for irrigation and coal bed methane production. But at the end of December, the eight-year-long U.S. Supreme court case concerning the water flows of the Tongue River was finally settled.

Time: 7 min

Date: 1-9-15 at 3pm and 1-11-15 at noon on WPR. 1-11-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last week, Republican Jillian Balow was sworn in as Wyoming's new Superintendent of Public Instruction. Balow is now working to rebuild the state's Department of Education, formerly led by Cindy Hill. There are quite a few vacancies to fill and the current legislative session could shake things up for the state's K-12 schools. Superintendent Balow spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank about the road ahead.

Time: 6 min

Date: 1-16-15 at 3pm and 1-18-15 at noon on WPR. 1-18-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: From time to time there are political issues that lead to questions about how much of impact religion has on the Wyoming legislature. The state is heavily dominated by Republicans and many outsiders figure that makes Wyoming's politicians religiously conservative too. But while many lawmakers say their value systems were influenced by their religious beliefs. How they vote tends to depend on the issue.

Time: 6 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When you hear "law enforcement" what do you picture? A police officer, a sheriff's deputy, maybe a highway patrol trooper--but probably not a prison guard. That is a problem for Wyoming's Department of Corrections recruiting division. Right now they're 20 percent short of guards system wide. A lot of that shortage is due to recent growth in high paying energy jobs, but Corrections has struggled for many years with recruitment and retention, in Wyoming and across the country.

Time: 4 min

Date: 2-20-15 at 3pm and 2-22-15 at noon on WPR. 2-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Wyoming legislature is putting finishing touches on a proposed constitutional amendment that will allow the State Treasurer to invest money in equities or common stock. The idea is to enhance non-permanent state savings accounts. State Treasurer Mark Gordon joins Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to explain why this is a good idea.

Time: 7 min

Date: 2-27-15 at 3pm and 3-1-15 at noon on WPR. 3-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: At the start of the Wyoming legislative session three freshman lawmakers from three corners of the state explained their goals and what they hoped to achieve. Now that the session is over, the three share their experiences. Cheyenne Republican Senator Stephan Pappas said he was impressed with the ideas the Senate was asked to consider.

Time: 4 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming officials have released the state's first comprehensive plan to combat homelessness. Titled "A Home for Everyone," it lays out the state's strategy for the next decade. It has been in the works for the last year and half. Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan sat down with Wyoming homeless services coordinator Brenda Lyttle to talk about the plan.

Time: 6 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Science

Topic: The experimental Microsoft Data Plant in Cheyenne, Wyoming is the first data center in the country to be powered solely by the wastewater treatment plant next door. Or more specifically, off of the methane that is emitted when what goes down our toilets and sinks is processed.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Healthcare

Topic: Wyoming has long had issues with substance abuse. Alcoholism has always been a problem here, and in the 1990s and early 2000s methamphetamine took hold across the state. But one drug you didn't hear much about was heroin. That is changing. Easy access to prescription pain pills in recent years has helped make heroin a small but growing problem in Wyoming.

Time: 5 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: If you receive hospice end of life care in the United States it probably comes to you. Nationally about 60% of hospice care is administered at the patient's home, or in a nursing home. Only about 7% receive care in a facility designed specifically for hospice patients. But in Wyoming, that number is closer to 30%--and its growing.

Time: 5 min

Date: 2-6-15 at 3pm and 2-8-15 at noon on WPR. 2-8-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: One of the biggest Supreme Court cases of this term could wipe away the insurance subsidies that tens of thousands of Wyoming residents now rely on under so-called Obamacare. Matt Laslo has the story from Washington on how Wyoming Senator John Barrasso is now scrambling to find a Plan B for a law he's staked his name as a doctor opposing.

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: If you want to get the full picture of how the Title 25 process works in Wyoming you need to talk to Chel Bleckler. That's because she spent over a decade working in an E.R. in Cody, where a big part of her job was working with Title 25 patients.

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Cloud Peak Counseling Center in Worland looks more like a nursing home than a psychiatric hospital. It's a small building with murals on the walls and a game room with leather couches. In fact it isn't a hospital at all. It's a "Crisis Stabilization Center:" a place where Title 25 patients in the area can be taken for psychiatric treatment for the first three days that they are held. It only has a few beds, but here in in the Bighorn Basin, where the nearest psychiatric hospital is hours away, it has had a huge impact.

Time: 4 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In the first two parts of our Title 25 series we told you about how people detained and treated against their will in a mental health crisis were often unable to get quick access to a

psychiatric facility. For those who go through the process once that's deeply frustrating; for those patients who cycle through again and again it's devastating. And there are a lot of those patients: at the Wyoming State Hospital about one in four will be back more than once this year. Many mental health advocates in the state say there is one major reason for that: a lack of followup care.

Time: 6 min

Date: 3-20-15 at 3pm and 3-22-15 at noon on WPR. 3-22-15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Native American and Wind River Reservation

Topic: 1 in 4 Native Americans lives under the poverty level--it's the worst poverty rates in the U.S. of any racial group. But one group is improving its economic outlook on the reservation: Native women. They're taking managerial jobs and pursuing higher education more than ever before and are often the primary family breadwinners. In fact, at the Wind River Casino--the largest employer in Fremont County--the female workforce is now almost 60 percent.

Time: 4 min

Date: 1-30-15 at 3pm and 2-1-15 at noon on WPR. 2-1-15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In most schools, campaigns to keep students from smoking use simple slogans like "Be Smart, Don't Start," but those targeting Native American kids are a bit different. On Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation, you're likely to hear more nuanced catchphrases like "Keep It Sacred," and "Traditional Use, Not Commercial Abuse."

Time: 5 min

Date: 3-13-15 at 3pm and 3-15-15 at noon on WPR. 3-15-15 at 9am on WPM.