

## 2024 1st Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

### Issue: Environment

**Topic:** Big Wind Carpenter is a two-spirit member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and is from the Wind River Reservation. They currently work as the Tribal engagement coordinator at the Wyoming Outdoor Council and recently attended the United Nations Climate Conference in Dubai in December, also known as COP28.

Time: 8 min

Date : Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 12 p.m.

**Topic:** ESG has created somewhat of a “culture war” between conservatives and liberals, where republican states, like Wyoming, see it as a part of “woke” culture and even a threat to the fossil fuel industry. Wyoming Public Radio’s Caitlin Tan spoke with University of Colorado’s Matt Burgess about it.

Time: 12 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at noon

### Issue: Outdoor Recreation

**Topic:** Shed hunting in Wyoming will look different this year. The legislature passed regulations that will give residents a one week head start on some public lands, including popular antler gathering areas near Jackson Hole and Pinedale. Also, non-residents will now be required to purchase a conservation stamp to go shed hunting on designated lands. Wyoming Public Radio’s Olivia Weitz spoke with UC Berkeley PHD Candidate Sam Maher who is the lead researcher on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Antler study. Preliminary results suggest that the rule changes may lead Wyoming residents to look for antlers in places they haven’t looked in years, and that out-of-state shed hunters may not be as profit driven as some may think.

Time: 10 min

Date: Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 4 at noon.

### Issue: Women’s Issues

**Topic:** Wellspring Health Access in Casper has faced arson, a local backlash, and near-constant protest since it opened nearly a year ago. Now, a bill that passed the Legislature aims to place regulations on the only remaining clinic that provides procedural abortions in the state.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

**Issue: Agriculture**

**Topic:** Local foods stores throughout the state are giving producers another option to get food onto Wyoming plates – an option that’s a little more consistent than your typical farmers market.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

**Issue: Water Issues**

**Topic:** There's a one million gallon water tank in Wheatland, an hour's drive north of Cheyenne. It's been leaking for years, and it's getting worse. Town officials have raised over \$6 million for repairs through various channels. But they're still short by \$2 million. Rep. Jeremy Haroldson (R-Wheatland) took the opportunity during this year’s legislative budget session to try to get that money for his community. But it didn’t come easily.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at noon.

**Issue: Energy**

**Topic:** A new federal forecast shows that 2024 could be a landmark year for the energy transition. For the first time ever, the U.S. will generate more electricity from wind and solar than from coal. There are big implications for Wyoming, which is known as the energy state. Wyoming Public Radio’s Caitlin Tan spoke with Rob Godby, who’s an associate professor with the University of Wyoming’s Department of Economics. He researches energy and public policy.

Time: 15 min

Date: Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 12 p.m.

**Issue: Wildlife**

**Topic:** A recent decision to reintroduce wolves has created division between rural and urban Coloradoans. But wolves have actually been there a while. A few years ago, a couple migrated down

from Wyoming to settle in the mountain valley of North Park southwest of Laramie. It's given the ranchers there a head start on adjusting to a new reality.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at noon.

**Topic:** After more than two years of work, officials in Park County on March 19 will decide whether or not to adopt a document that will guide future land use decisions.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

### **Issue: Science**

**Topic:** The CO2 Coalition was given an almost two-hour platform to speak during the legislative session, creating division within the state Republican party and spreading misinformation. The lead-up to it was contentious – with Committee Chair Cheri Steinmetz (R-Lingle) saying it was an official legislative event, but leadership in the Senate and House saying it wasn't. Ultimately, it was labeled as an official legislative event, but President of the Senate Ogden Driskill (R-Devils Tower) still denounced it.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

### **Issue: Politics**

**Topic:** Ahead of Iowa's first in the nation GOP caucuses on Monday, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie dropped out of the contest – but not before taking a jab at Wyoming senior Senator John Barrasso and other Republicans who he calls "cowards."

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 12 p.m.

**Topic:** Have you noticed local issues taking a back seat to much bigger national debates? There's a name for that - it's called nationalized politics. A trend seen in voters and politicians alike, where the focus starts in Washington and trickles back to your town hall. That's the topic of a new book, "Nationalized Politics: Evaluating Electoral Politics Across Time", co-authored by University of Wyoming professor Ryan Williamson. Wyoming Public Radio's Jordan Uplinger sat down with Williamson to discuss what exactly nationalized politics looks like in Wyoming and across America.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 4 at noon.

**Topic:** It's that time of year again time for lawmakers to assemble in Cheyenne for the legislative session. Wyoming Public Radio has partnered with WyoFile to bring you the Cheyenne Roundup, a weekly roundtable of our political reporters. Today, they're going to preview the upcoming budget session.

Time: 15 min

Date: Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 11 at noon.

**Topic:** The potential sale of a parcel of land bordering Grand Teton National Park is shaping up to be one of the most important and controversial land management issues facing the Wyoming Legislature this session. A measure added to the budget bill that would authorize the sale of the so-called Kelly Parcel survived House and Senate readings this week.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon

**Topic:** Every other year, the Wyoming Legislature goes into a budget session. That means lawmakers spend four weeks working to pass a state balanced budget. The budget session is unique because bills require a two thirds majority to make it to the next step. But this year, an unprecedented number of committee bills were killed through that two thirds majority.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at noon.

### **Issue: Housing**

**Topic:** Lawmakers worked on a range of bills meant to help Wyomingites meet property tax bills inflated by pandemic era home values. Rep. Liz Storer (D-Jackson) said that she and her constituents have felt the impact acutely. So, she began working toward property tax reform for citizens across the state.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

**Topic:** With low inventory and high prices in gateway communities, housing for Yellowstone National Park employees has been an issue for awhile. Wyoming Public Radio's Olivia Weitz spoke to Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly about how the park will use a recently announced \$40 million gift to continue investing in employee housing.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

**Issue: Civil Rights**

**Topic:** Wyoming author Shelley Moore grew up in Memphis in the 1960's. Her memoir, "Through a Blue-Eyed Lens," describes the experience of a middle school White girl, the Black student who sent her a love note, and a city going through one of the most pivotal moments in American history. Wyoming Public Radio's Jordan Uplinger sat down with Moore.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

**Issue: Solutions**

**Topic:** Have you noticed your electric bill going up? Well, there are a lot of reasons why – everything from a volatile fossil fuel market to extreme weather to efforts to save Wyoming's coal industry. So state lawmakers are proposing several bills for the upcoming budget session. They aim to keep rates affordable and electricity reliable. But, some say these efforts are making it more confusing

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 11 at noon.

**Issue: Elections**

**Topic:** Wyoming Public Radio wants to hear from you, our listeners, about the upcoming election. We've partnered with the team at America Amplified to ensure that you have the information you need to participate in the general election in November. As part of that partnership, we will be launching a tool on our website to answer your questions. Wyoming Public Radio's Ivy Engel spoke with Alisa Barba, America Amplified's managing director, about the project and the new tool.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 4 at noon.

## **Issue: Community Issues**

**Topic:** On a Wednesday night in a church basement, nine members of the improv comedy troupe Laff Staff danced in a circle as they practiced a parody song. For the members of the comedy group in Jackson, improv is more than just something to do after work. It's a family – and together, they're getting ready for their 15th anniversary show on February 16 at the Center for the Arts in Jackson.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 4 at noon.

**Topic:** Betsy Gaines Quammen is the author of a new book titled "True West: Myth and Mending on the Far Side of America." The book explores polarization, extremism, and the impact of the pandemic on the landscapes and communities of the West. Wyoming Public Radio's Hannah Habermann spoke with Quammen about what she learned in the process of writing the book.

Time: 9 min

Date: Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 11 at noon.

**Topic:** A bill designed to provide services for severely Deaf people, including children, is making its way through the Senate. It will establish a Committee for the Deaf, a first in Wyoming, which is the only state that doesn't have one. If it passes, it will go to the Wyoming House of Representatives.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

**Topic:** On a Wednesday evening, University of Wyoming (UW) students, faculty and community poured into the Arena-Auditorium on the UW Campus. Even though a couple hundred people were in this basketball arena it was eerily quiet and felt empty. They were there to attend the celebration of life memorial in honor of the three UW swimmers who passed away in a single vehicle crash on US Highway 287.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 15 at 3 p.m. and March 17 at noon.

**Topic:** White supremacist trolls have been targeting the Laramie City Council for nearly half a year. What seemed at first like isolated hateful comments quickly revealed itself as a concerted attack on the council's ability to host public comments. Observers view attacks like these as fascist assaults on the very ability of communities to be self-governing.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at noon.

**Issue: LGBTQ+ issues**

**Topic:** Critics say this latest gender-affirming care ban to move through the Legislature represents an unprecedented intrusion by the government on the rights of kids, parents and physicians in Wyoming.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at noon.

**Issue: Native American Issues**

**Topic:** A short film called *dêtetsi vo'i oninjakan Winding Path* was nominated for this year's Sundance Film Festival – the largest independent film festival in the U.S. The film follows Eastern Shoshone descendant Jenna Murray, who's currently an MD-PhD student at the University of Utah School of Medicine & Department of Population Health Sciences. Wyoming Public Radio's Hannah Habermann talked with Murray about identity, access to medical care, and the importance of culturally-informed mental health support.

Time: 9 min

Date: Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 21 at noon.

**Topic:** On a Thursday morning at the Frank B. Wise Center in Fort Washakie, John Washakie stands at a podium, wearing an orange button-up shirt and beaded rose bolo tie. The podium is draped with a blue cloth that reads "Department of Justice: Federal Bureau of Investigation." The Eastern Shoshone Business Councilman was speaking at a press conference on February 8 about a new FBI initiative addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis, also known as MMIP.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

**Topic:** Earlier this winter, Shoshone elders and younger tribal members gathered at a remote ranch in the Gros Ventre mountains of Western Wyoming. They were there to hunt for elk and learn about the cultural significance of the animal. Throughout the gathering, participants practiced the Shoshone language.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at noon.

**Topic:** Over the past year, the media organization Grist located and mapped more than 8 million acres of land taken from 123 Indigenous nations in the form of state-trust lands. Their *Misplaced Trust* series explores how these lands have produced billions of dollars for fourteen land-grant universities, including

the University of Wyoming. Wyoming Public Radio's Hannah Habermann spoke with Grist editor-at-large Tristan Ahtone and Grist spatial data analyst Maria Parazo Rose about the project.

Time: 9 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at noon.

### **Issue: Business and industry**

**Topic:** A group of state investors and business leaders known as Impact 307 are trying to spur innovation in Wyoming, and a brand new competition that took place in Gillette is doing just that. The first Annual Energy Capital Start-Up Challenge chose three unique ideas made by Wyomingites.

Time: 6 min

Date: Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 12 p.m.

**Topic:** Starting your own business has become a much more realistic goal in the past few years, due to increased internet access and economic change. Wyoming has the highest rate of entrepreneurs in the country but Sheridan County has the most in our state. Some 50% of residents own their own business.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 18 at 3 p.m. and March 20 at noon.

**Topic:** For the past two years, Wyoming tourism advocates have tried to pass a film rebate incentive program through the state legislature. Filming in the state has its challenges, mainly because it does not offer financial incentives for filmmakers like other surrounding states including Montana, Utah, and Colorado. Although this year a film rebate incentive program wasn't introduced during the legislative session, advocates in Cody are taking another route to try to attract films to the region.

Time: 6 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

**Topic:** The year was 1949. Some skiers and cowboys were at a bar in Leadville, Colorado. Naturally, the conversation went to 'who's fastest?' So they decided to see about it – but as a team. The cowboys pulled the skiers on their horses down Main Street, and that's how what we know today as 'skijoring' began – at least according to the "legend". Over the years, the sport has gained traction, bringing in lots of money and visitors to small Rocky Mountain communities during winter. But, this all depends on snow, and this year's unseasonably warm weather has made it tricky.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at noon.

## **Issue: Veterans**

**Topic:** Last summer, the nonprofit StoryCorps hosted an oral history project here in Wyoming, in which veterans and their families recorded honest and personal stories about their military experience. We're grateful and excited to share those conversations with our listeners as a monthly series on Open Spaces. In today's story, we meet a husband and wife who reflect on their different journeys serving in the Air Force and how they've supported one another along the way.

Time: 6 min

Date: Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 12 p.m.

**Topic:** Last summer, the nonprofit StoryCorps hosted an oral history project here in Wyoming in which veterans and their families recorded honest and personal stories about their military experience. We're grateful to share those conversations now with our listeners. Today, we hear from 19-year-old Gisele Girones as she talks about growing her confidence through ROTC, her experience as one of the only female cadets in Wyoming, and the importance of advocating for other women in the military.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at noon.

## **Issue: Sports**

**Topic:** Remy Coste and Aurelie Delattre are from France but now live in Sweden. Coste and his dogs are here to compete in the upcoming 29th Pedigree Stage Stop sled dog race. It's one of the hardest races of this type in the world – between the length, elevation and weather conditions.

Time: 6 min

Date: Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 12 p.m.

**Topic:** This past season, the Wyoming volleyball team ended with a record of 22-10, which was a significant change from the 2022 season when they only won ten games. This is thanks to the changes implemented by new head coach Kaylee Prigge, who came into this season looking to re-establish the cowgirl toughness.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 11 at noon.

**Issue: Art**

**Topic:** Ghanaian-Canadian artist Ekow Nimako sculpts visions of the far future and the distant past, imagining what could be, and what might have been, in Black and African history. He crafts these visions out of Legos, inviting his audience to imagine along with him. Nimako's 15-foot diptych sculpture Asamando is now on display in the University of Wyoming's Visual Arts Building. The artist spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor about found objects, speculative history and the role imagination plays in the struggle for liberation.

Time: 10 min

Date: Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 4 at noon.

**Issue: Literature**

**Topic:** Craig Johnson is the New York Times bestselling author of the "Walt Longmire Mysteries", the basis for the hit Netflix original series, "Longmire." He is the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for fiction, and his novella "Spirit of Steamboat" was the first One Book Wyoming selection - where the same book is read and discussed throughout the state. He lives in Ucross, Wyoming. Wyoming Public Radio's Grady Kirkpatrick recently spoke with Johnson.

Time: 14 min

Date: March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at noon.

**Issue: Music**

**Topic:** Two young musicians competed in and won the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition recently. The winners applied in very different ways and will now get to play with the professional orchestra.

Time: 4 min

Date: Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 11 at noon

**Topic:** On March 10, with a mix of nerves and excitement, sixty members of the University of Wyoming Symphony Orchestra settled down for a long 10 hour flight to Germany and an extra connecting flight to France. They spent almost a week there, performing and exploring.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 22 at 3 p.m. and March 24 at 5 p.m.

**Issue: Wyoming History**

**Topic:** We all know about the Civil War, but during that same time period, another historical event happened in Wyoming that very few of us know about. Until now. The Platte River Raids happened over the course of three days in July of 1864. It's a piece of history that previously hasn't been well documented for the present day. Historian Janelle Molony wanted to change that. She compiled all of her work into the new book 'Emigrant Tales of the Platte River Raids.'

Time: 7 min

Date: January 12 at 3 p.m. and January 14 at 12 p.m.