

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Stations: KGAB AM, KLEN-FM AND KIGN FM

July 1-Sept. 30. 2021

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

A. **Taxes/Government Funding**—Wyoming faces a budget shortfall that some economists have estimated in the \$ 1 billion range for the 2021-2022 biennium. Education alone facing an estimated shortfall of \$400 million or more.

B. **Weather**—In a state where weather can literally be a matter of life or death, weather is always a topic of interest

C. **COVID-19**—An on-going issue that relates both directly to public health, but which also has widespread political and economic implications.

D. **Drug/Alcohol abuse**--Wyoming continues to suffer from one of the highest drunk driving rates in the country, as well as a continuing methamphetamine epidemic and a growing opioid problem. These issues have a ripple effect on everything from crime to local and state budget issues.

E. **Economy**---An obvious concern both in terms of the economic well-being of state and local residents as well as paying for state and local government programs. Because of the critical importance of the energy industry to Wyoming's economy, energy prices are one key component of this issue, although certainly not the only one

F. **Politics/Government**—Issues relating to local and state government as well as the relationship between those two entities. In a state capitol, where decisions made at both levels can have a widespread impact, this is important.

G. **Wyoming Legislature** —Even though the legislature did not meet in session during the quarter. Committee meetings were held. Governor Gordon also held out the possibility of a general session, possibly in October, to deal with President Biden's COVID-vaccine mandates.

H. **Crime**—includes everything from street crimes to the gun control debate.

I. **Public Safety**—Wide ranging area that includes topics such as emergency response, fire danger, traffic/travel issues and anything else that impacts the safety of the general public.

Section II. Responsive Programs

The below programming runs every Sunday at 6 a.m. on KIGN and KLEN FM and at 7 am on KGAB AM

Date(s) Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration
July 4	Report To Wyoming	Wyoming Department of Health Spokeswoman Kim Deti on COVID-19 vaccine. Is it safe, who should get vaccinated, what are the possible Side effects? Deti also addressed widespread	12 mins

		social media/internet misinformation about the vaccine. COVID-19, Vaccines.	
July 4	Report to Wyoming	Sen. John Barrasso [R-Wyoming] on Biden Administration land, economic and energy policies and their impact on Wyoming. Focused on Biden energy policies, including moratorium on oil and gas leases on federal land. The energy industry is the dominant sector of Wyoming's economy. Economy, Taxes/Government funding, Energy.	17 mins.
July 11	Report To Wyoming	We interviewed Former Mayor of Cheyenne, Marian Orr, now CEO of American CryptoFed, the first Decentralized Autonomous Organization [DAO] in the United States. The Wyoming Legislature passed a law allowing the creation of DAOs earlier this year. American CryptoFed filed shortly after midnight on July 1, when the law took effect. Orr also discussed cryptocurrency, what it is and how it could be used by local governments. Economy, Taxes/government funding	25 mins
August 1	Report To Wyoming	Cheyenne Regional Medical Center CEO Tim Thornell on the impact on Wyoming Healthcare from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thornell said ICU beds both at CRMC and other hospitals across Wyoming are being stretched thin, in part because Wyoming has among the lowest vaccination rates in the country. Also discussed the financial and staffing issues posed by the pandemic. COVID-19, Employment, Economy, Healthcare	23 mins
August 15	Report to Wyoming	University of Wyoming Professor Thomas Peter Martin on the potential public safety issues posed by a proposed nuclear power plant in Wyoming. Martin said that while he believes nuclear power plants can be safe, he has concerns about the plans for a plant which will be built in one of four Wyoming communities. Economy, taxes/government funding, Public Safety	29 mins
August 22	Report To Wyoming	Laramie County Emergency Management Director Jeanine West on responding to Wyoming emergencies. Detailed both the local and statewide emergency response systems, how people should prepare for an emergency, also what to do when an emergency happens. Spoke about what can be learned from a massive March	15 mins

		2021 blizzard that largely shut down the state for almost a week, Public Safety, taxes/government funding, Extreme Weather, Infrastructure	
August 29	Report to Wyoming	Laramie County Coroner Rebecca Reid on suicide prevention program. Reid recalled her own experience with a relative's suicide, discussed why Wyoming has such a high suicide rate [typically first or second in the country]. She said factors include long winters, social isolation, high alcohol consumption and the "Cowboy Up" attitude that men don't discuss their problems. Outlined the signs that someone may be a potential suicide victim and what to do about it. Suicide, Pandemic Isolation	25 mins.
Sept. 5	Report to Wyoming	Amber Young, Laramie County Combined Communications Center. Statewide efforts to improve emergency communications, challenges to emergency responders posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Why calls for non-emergency situations pose a problem for Wyoming 9-1-1 centers (because the non-emergency calls clog the lines). When should you call 9-1-1? Should you call 9-1-1 if you think you have COVID? The answer is generally no unless life threatening. Public Safety, COVID-19, Taxes/Government funding	22 minutes
Sept 12	Report to Wyoming	Cheyenne resident Jimmy Orr recalling working in the Bush White House on 9-11-2001. Poignant, moving interview for anyone who lived through that day. Also touched on issues of national security and terrorism. Public safety, History	17 mins.
Sept. 12	Report to Wyoming	Catherine Wissner, University of Wyoming Extension Service, on Wyoming Hemp Industry. Challenges of growing hemp, potential profitability, state regulation. What does it mean for the state economy? Economy, State taxes/Government funding, Economy, Cannabis	12 mins.
Sept. 19	Report to Wyoming	Gov. Mark Gordon on state response to federal grizzly bear policy. Implications for Wyoming cattle/sheep industry, tourism. The governor is not happy with the federal policy and wants the state to determine how to manage the bears. Issue is a microcosm of ongoing state-federal disputes on a wide range of issues. Economy, Wildlife.	29 mins

Sept. 26.	Report to Wyoming	Dr. Jeffrey Chapman. Chief Medical Officer at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center on COVID-19 shots. Are they safe? Do they protect against the Delta 19 variant? His answer to both questions was yes. Chapman is extremely concerned about Wyoming's low vaccination rate and the state's ability to deal with the rising number of patients, saying it threatens to overwhelm our healthcare system. COVID-19, Vaccines.	29 mins
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