

## 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Issues Report for Wyoming Public Media

### Energy:

[High Prices And Low Supply: Douglas, Commissioners And Companies Struggle With Housing](#)  
Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/5/19 at 3pm and 4-17 at noon on WPR. 4-7 at 9am on WPM.

[In Search Of Safety: Energy Boom Leaves Domestic Violence Survivors Without Escape Routes](#)  
Melodie Edwards reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/5/19 at 3pm and 4-7 at noon on WPR. 4-7 at 9am on WPM.

### [A Boost For Powder River Basin Coal Comes From An Unexpected Source](#)

A few years ago, huge investments into a type of coal used to make steel put [three](#) Powder River Basin companies into bankruptcy. Now, the same resource is helping *support* two of those companies through tough times. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-12 at 3pm and 4-14-noon on WPR. 4-14-9am on WPM.

### [At The Edge - How Cloud Peak's Problems Really Started At The Beginning](#)

One of the largest U.S. coal companies could file for bankruptcy as soon as May 1. Cloud Peak Energy announced its financial distress last November, but its problems began long before that. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim explains how the story unfolds.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### [The Coal Moratorium Is Under Review - What Now?](#)

In 2016, the Obama administration halted new coal leasing on federal lands with a goal to re-examine the environmental impacts of the program. Just a year later, the Trump administration lifted that moratorium. Now - a federal judge in Montana is saying there should have been environmental analysis before re-opening the program. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with University of Wyoming law professor Sam Kalen to learn what all this means.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-3 at 3pm and 5-5 at noon on WPR. 5-5 at 9am on WPM.

### [All The Takeaways From Cloud Peak's First Week Of Bankruptcy](#)

A week has passed since one of the largest coal companies in the U.S. went bankrupt. Newly public documents help answer long-held questions about why it took Cloud Peak Energy so long to file bankruptcy and what its plans are for the future. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### [Wind Energy Capacity To More Than Double In Wyoming After Years Of Stagnancy](#)

Seven states have wind energy projects underway that will double their capacities - the total amount of electricity that could be generated by wind. Wyoming - the largest coal-producing state - is among them. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports the surge comes after a decade of almost no growth in the state.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-24 at 3pm and 5-26 at noon on WPR. 5-26 at 9am on WPM.

### [Coal Community Prepares For Future With Potential Plant Closure](#)

A town in southwestern Wyoming is being forced to imagine life without coal at the center. Its power plant could close years earlier than expected, threatening hundreds of jobs. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports city leaders are racing to avoid becoming another ghost town.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [Making Sense Of The Massive Arch-Peabody Deal](#)

Two of the largest coal producers are combining forces to better compete with natural gas and renewable energy. Peabody and Arch Coal are consolidating seven of their mines - five in Wyoming and two in Colorado. They hope to save over \$800 million over the next decade, but await regulatory hurdles before sealing the deal. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim talks to S & P Global Market Intelligence coal reporter Taylor Kuykendall. He explains what the collaboration means for the companies, the coal industry, and Wyoming going forward.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

### **Health Care:**

### [Wyoming Lawmakers Are Ready To Battle Over Health Care](#)

President Trump is now backing a lawsuit that would invalidate the entire Affordable Care Act, and that's promising to make health care a major election issue next year. Wyoming Republicans are fine with that, even though they have failed to repeal and replace when they controlled both chambers of Congress.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/5/19 at 3pm and 4-7 at noon on WPR. 4-7 at 9am on WPM.

### [A Closer Look At Access To Mental Health Care: Transportation](#)

The closing of an inpatient psychiatric unit in Lander has highlighted another issue in the state's mental healthcare system. That's the difficulty of transporting a mentally ill patient to and from a hospital. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska explains.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-12 at 3pm and 4-14-noon on WPR. 4-14-9am on WPM.

### [Wyoming Plans New Skilled Nursing Home For Veterans](#)

Buffalo is home to the state's assisted living facility for veterans. And during the past legislative session, lawmakers decided to provide some funding to build a new facility for veterans with a higher level of care. But the funding process is far from over. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports on how both facilities will serve a population in need.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [AARP Is Hoping For Long Term Care Solutions](#)

Next week the Wyoming legislature will begin to address a growing and expensive problem in Wyoming...long term care. As you've likely heard...Medicaid costs in Wyoming are a growing concern...at a lot of that is because it's the way many use to pay for nursing home care. Sam Shumway is the Director of AARP Wyoming says the lack of available long term care is another problem. He tells me that they want to present some solutions to lawmakers.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9 at noon on WPR. 6-7 at 9am on WPM.

### [Why Are So Many Kids Without Health Insurance?](#)

Wyoming is a pretty good place to be a kid, and the 2019 Kids Count Data Book agrees. Their report released this week gave the Equality State high marks for education and economic well-being. But when it comes to health, we're second to last in the nation. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson takes a look at why.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23 at noon on WPR. 6-23 at 9am on WPM.

### [When There's No Doctor Nearby, Volunteers Help Rural Patients Manage Chronic Illness](#)

If you live in a rural place, basic services aren't just down the street, and that includes a doctor's office or emergency room. For people living with a chronic condition, that can make life complicated. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports on one program attempting to help rural patients.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23 at noon on WPR. 6-23 at 9am on WPM.

### [Report Raises Concerns About Why Hospitals Charge Private Insurance Such High Premiums](#)

A recent report found that Wyoming hospitals are charging private insurance way more than Medicare. The report raised some eyebrows about why that may be the case, and if hospitals are overcharging. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23 at noon on WPR. 6-23 at 9am on WPM.

### [Wyoming Senators Are Mixed On Trump Health Costs Proposal](#)

This week President Trump signed another executive order that his administration says could help lower medical costs, but it's being met with skepticism by some – including one in the Wyoming congressional delegation. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the details from Washington.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-28 at 9am on WPM.

## EDUCATION

### [Protecting Beaded High School Graduation Caps In Wyoming](#)

High School Native American students and their families have long-standing traditions of beading elements of their dress or wearing feathers on their tassels at graduation. This is to publicly honor the graduate in front of family and friends. But school districts in Wyoming don't have policies protecting their right to do that. Wyoming Public Radio's Taylar Stagner reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [Laramie High School Graduation Commencement Speaker Rocks The House](#)

It's high school graduation season. At Laramie High School, each year students select a teacher to give a keynote address. They're expected to share wisdom and advice for the future. This year's speaker really made a lasting impression. Wyoming Public Radio's David Graf has more.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [Helping Kids Connect: A Simple Idea With Big Impact](#)

According to the Centers for Disease Control, students who feel connected to their teachers and peers are more likely to succeed in school and stay out of trouble. To give students a sense of power and stability a school in Casper is using *circles*. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson was invited to participate in one. She brings us this audio postcard.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT:**

### **[Advocates Say Sexual Violence Survivors Face Gaps In Law Enforcement Training](#)**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. While the issue has received more and more attention, sexual assault is a crime that's still chronically under-reported across the nation. Concern about how the criminal justice system will respond is one of the top reasons victims say they don't report.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/5/19 at 3pm and 4-7 at noon on WPR. 4-7 at 9am on WPM

### **[Guernsey Kindergarten Incidents Raise Questions About How Schools Handle Sexual Assault](#)**

Recently, some kindergarteners in a classroom in Guernsey complained about sexual abuse...from another kindergartener. It left the community at a loss for how to handle the situation. Reports of student-on-student abuse is an issue many Wyoming schools are facing more frequently. Today we'll hear two stories on the issue. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards starts us off. A warning...this story contains details that may be disturbing to some audiences.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### **[Vermont Requires Child Sexual Abuse Prevention. Could Wyoming, Too?](#)**

Last year Wyoming enacted legislation authorizing school districts to teach child sexual abuse prevention. Schools have a unique power to stop sexual abuse because kids spend so much time there. But the bill is not a mandate. It merely says school districts may do prevention. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson visits a state where prevention is required.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

### **[Wyoming's Prison Population Grows While National Numbers Shrink](#)**

According to new statistics from the Department of Justice, the country's incarceration rate is continuing to decline. From 2007 to 2017, the U.S. prison and jail population decreased by more than 10 percent. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler explores how that's not the case in Wyoming.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### **[Groups Start Public Campaign To Build Support For Abolishing The Death Penalty](#)**

A much more concerted effort is underway to abolish the death penalty in Wyoming. The League of Women Voters, religious groups, the Wyoming ACLU and Wyoming's chapter of the NAACP have organized a campaign after an effort to abolish capital punishment failed in the State Senate this year after passing the House. Sabrina King of Wyoming's ACLU is leading the nine month campaign to gain support for the effort and she discusses the effort with Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

6 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### **[Have An Outstanding Warrant? You Might Want To Double Check](#)**

Police officers are expected to uphold the law, but what the law requires isn't always clear-cut. For example, how law enforcement agencies interpret legal documents like warrants varies across the state. And what officers decide to do can have serious consequences. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson witnessed one of those situations.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

## **WILDLIFE:**

### **[Bent Out Of Shape: Could A Mysterious Animal Epidemic Become The Next Mad Cow?](#)**

Deer, elk and moose across the country are coming down with a harrowing fatal disease... It starts with weight loss and ends with stumbling and drooling, as the animal's brain tissue deteriorates. It's bad for them, bad for hunting, and it could even be bad for us. Over the next few days/weeks, Rae Ellen Bichell will be taking a look at the disease, starting today with this question: What exactly is it?

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-12 at 3pm and 4-14-noon on WPR. 4-14-9am on WPM.

### **[Bent Out Of Shape: Could A Mysterious Animal Epidemic Become The Next Mad Cow?](#)**

**PART 2** We've been talking about chronic wasting disease. A crippling, deadly infection that affects deer, elk and moose across the country and was first seen here in the Mountain West. But last time, we learned that maybe it isn't from our region after all and maybe everything we thought we knew about disease is all wrong. Today Rae Ellen Bichell visits a couple of scientists at Colorado State University who are delving further into that mystery and discovering something even more perplexing.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### **[A Record Population 'Boom' Of Wild Horses Raises Hackles Among Ranchers, Advocates](#)**

Mention two words – wild horses – and you'll get two very different and passionate responses. For some, these animals represent a kind of living history of the American West. To others... they're a nuisance that's eating away at a precious resource. As wild horse numbers hit record levels... that disagreement is getting louder and more heated. Our Mountain West News Bureau's Nate Hegyi reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-12 at 3pm and 4-14-noon on WPR. 4-14-9am on WPM.

## [A Discussion With Opposite Camps On Bill That Would Place Grizzly Bears Under Federal Protection](#)

Last week, a bill was introduced in Congress that would require Native American tribes to be included in the management of grizzly bears. The legislation, [called the Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act](#), would permanently place grizzly bears under federal protection much like the bald eagle.

5 min

Date: 5-24 at 3pm and 5-26 at noon on WPR. 5-26 at 9am on WPM.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### [Sheridan Trims Down Its Invasive Tree Population](#)

Governor Mark Gordon has stated he wants Wyoming to be a leader in fighting against invasive species. The city of Sheridan is taking that seriously by ridding the community a troublesome tree. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler has more.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### [Forest Service Prairie Dog Plan Generates Debate](#)

There are few Western issues as controversial as prairie dogs. Some people hate them because they cut down grass livestock need to eat. Others love them because they're a keystone species...creating an ecosystem that attracts dozens of other species. Now the U.S. Forest Service has released a proposed plan for how to manage prairie dogs on the Thunder Basin National Grasslands in eastern Wyoming. That's a place where the species has experienced huge swings in population in recent years. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards spoke with Dave Pallatz with the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association about their decades of experience participating in stakeholder collaborations.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-3 at 3pm and 5-5 at noon on WPR. 5-5 at 9am on WPM.

### [Lawsuit Raises Questions About Effectiveness Of Coyote Control Measures](#)

In Looney Tunes, the coyote chases the road runner around with a fork and knife but his efforts always end badly. He runs off a cliff...gets pounded by a tree...takes a bomb to the face... But all the jokes have a side of truth. The federal government kills thousands of coyotes every year in an attempt to keep them from catching their prey. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards found out, not all wildlife biologists agree that killing is effective.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### [Wyoming Congressional Republicans Defend Positions On Climate And Endangered Species](#)

A new United Nation's report compiled from scientific data across the globe predicts that if unchecked, manmade climate change could cost around one million species their very existences. That caught the attention of Democrats and Republicans, but, as Correspondent Matt Laslo, reports from Washington, that doesn't mean Wyoming lawmakers are changing their tunes.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### [Hero Habitat Garden Is Hoping To Inspire Water Conservation](#)

The Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities is featuring a new way to conserve water and promote pollinators. Dena Egenhoff is the board's water conservation specialist and she tells us that they have created a Habitat Hero Garden featuring flowers, drought resistant plants and grasses to teach people how they can create beautiful yards while saving water. She tells me about their effort.

Time: 6 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [On Stressed Colorado River, States Test How Many More Diversions Watershed Can Bear](#)

The Colorado River provides water for 40 million people in the southwest. But the river is running short on water. And this is pushing some states to tap into every available drop before things get worse. In the first of a series we're calling 'The Final Straw' - KUNC's Luke Runyon reports on a controversial effort to make one Colorado reservoir bigger.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9-noon on WPR. 6-9-9am on WPM.

### **Dams Could Protect Ranchers From Climate Change's Drought...But Could They Also Contribute To It?**

The state of Wyoming is moving forward to build or expand several reservoirs on the Green River, a main branch of the Colorado River. This would help ranchers prepare for worsening droughts as climate change escalates. In the second part of our series The Final Straw, Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports more dams could actually contribute to global warming.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9-noon on WPR. 6-9-9am on WPM.

### **Utah Presses Forward With Pipeline Plans Despite Colorado River Basin Constraints**

Four states -- Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico -- have watched shares of their water from the Colorado River flowing downstream for nearly a century. But now they want to claim that promised water. In the last part of our series "The Final Straw," KUER reporter Judy Fahys explores the drive behind a massive water pipeline in southwestern Utah.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9-noon on WPR. 6-9-9am on WPM.

### **New Technology Could Help Rebuild A Fragmented Western Landscape**

Wildfires and energy development have changed the Western landscape, clearing hundreds of thousands of acres of native vegetation. It's fragmented the once-massive sage brush ecosystem relied upon by hundreds of species. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports scientists are developing a way to rebuild that landscape.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23-noon on WPR. 6-23-9am on WPM.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION**

### **[Before Yellowstone Opens For Summer, Bicycles Rule The Road](#)**

It's no secret that in peak season Yellowstone National Park is getting really, really crowded these days. Standstill traffic, limited parking, and long bathroom lines are becoming the norm. But there's one little-known way to experience the park that offers a rare, private glimpse. It's by bicycle... before the roads open to motorized vehicles and just as the snowpack is starting to melt. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen gave it a go.

**4 min**

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### **[Yellowstone Superintendent On Parks Strategic Priorities](#)**

With over 6 months under his belt, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly has released the parks top 5 strategic priorities. Those include investing in infrastructure, focusing on the people who work at the park and how to deal with increased visitation. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with Sholly about two priorities that impact our region starting with the need to strengthen the ecosystem?

**8 min**

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### **[The 'Instagram Effect' Is Shaking Up Public Lands And National Parks](#)**

If you visit Old Faithful, the Grand Tetons, or the Grand Canyon these days, you're bound to find dozens of people taking selfies on their smartphones. From our Mountain West News Bureau, Nate Hegyi tells us how this phenomenon is changing our connection with the outdoors.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [The Cody Stampede Celebrates 100 Years](#)

For the few days on and around July 4th, Cody hosts a parade and rodeo - known as the Cody Stampede. This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the rodeo. In its history, the event has attracted the local community, professional rodeo riders and ropers, tourists and even Hollywood stars. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska takes us back to the stampede's founding and why it still holds a special place in the hearts of Cody residents.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-31 at 3pm and 6-2 at noon on WPR. 6-2 at 9am on WPM.

### [More Poop On Public Lands Prompts Federal Agencies To Clamp Down On Dispersed Camping](#)

It's one of the traditions of living in the American West. Getting out in the boonies and camping ... for free... on public lands. But the recent boom in outdoor recreation means more people are heading out and putting down stakes in the region's forests, mountains and deserts. That means the federal government may start cracking down.

4 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9 at noon on WPR. 6-9 at 9am on WPM.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES**

### [Outdoor Day Camp Focuses On Exposing Wind River Reservation Fifth Graders To Their Own Culture](#)

Three schools on the Wind River Reservation participated in a cultural field camp just south of Yellowstone. The day camp organized by the national forest service hopes to give Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho children a chance to learn their culture while outdoors. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska joined the 5th graders and has the story.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### [Eastern Shoshone Oral Histories And Ethnogenesis Together At Last](#)

The oral histories of the Eastern Shoshone tribe say their ancestors have lived in the Wind River Basin for time immemorial. Now there is a history to help explore the tribe's relationship with the ecosystem of the area. Adam Hodge is an associate professor of history at Lourdes University in Ohio and author of the new book *Ecology and Ethnogenesis: An Environmental History of the Wind River Shoshones, 1000-1868*. Wyoming Public Radio's Taylor Stagner spoke with Hodge.

5 min

Date: 5-17 at 3pm and 5-19 at noon on WPR. 5-19 at 9am on WPM.

### ["That's The Only Way We're Going To Get Closure": State Seeks New Ways To Reduce Crimes Against Native Women](#)

Governor Mark Gordon announced a decision to create a taskforce to study the problem of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Wyoming. As Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, a gap in data makes it unclear just how systemic the issue is here, but nationally it's believed that Native American women experience violence at rates ten times the national average.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23-noon on WPR. 6-23-9am on WPM.

### [Audio Postcard: Singers And Dancers Share Tips On Powwow Etiquette](#)

Powwow season kicks off on the Wind River Reservation this weekend with the 60th annual [Eastern Shoshone Indian Days](#). Visitors will have the chance to see singing and dance competitions, try Indigenous foods and shop Native-made art and jewelry. There is also etiquette to keep in mind. Wyoming Public Radio's Tribal Affairs Correspondent Savannah Maher visited powwow singers and dancers during an exhibition at the Wind River Casino and asked for their advice on being a respectful visitor.

Time: 3 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23-noon on WPR. 6-23-9am on WPM.

## **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **[State Capitol Restoration Focuses On The Past](#)**

For the last four years the Wyoming legislature has been meeting at a remodeled K-Mart as the state capitol complex has undergone extensive renovations. While new state office space is being constructed, the big news surrounds the restoration that has taken place inside the capitol building. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck explains.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### **[State Public Defenders Ask Legislators For Help With Overwhelming Caseload](#)**

This week, officials from Wyoming's Office of the State Public Defender spoke to the legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee about how its workload is hurting its ability to provide representation. The officials say they need more staff to be able to effectively help Wyoming residents in need of legal assistance. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports on how the issue has led to some legal action.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9-noon on WPR. 6-9-9am on WPM.

### **[After Years Of Hurdles, Gillete's Water Project Is Nearly Done](#)**

Thanks to long term growth, Gillette has been in dire need of an expansion to their existing water supply. Soon, a more than 10-year effort to expand the existing water supply will come online, providing water to those residents and possibly others. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports on what officials say is the largest water project in the state history.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-21 at 3pm and 6-23 at noon on WPR. 6-23-9am on WPM.

### **[City Administrator Debate Continues In Sheridan](#)**

In 2015, Sheridan's city council decided to create a city administrator position to handle some of the day-to-day responsibilities of running the city. It was just the latest move in a longstanding debate in town. Sheridan's city council is considering an ordinance to affirm the city administrator's duties.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 AT 9am on WPM.

## **BUSINESS**

### **[Microbrews Slowing Down While Craft Spirits Grow](#)**

This might surprise you, but Americans seem to be losing their taste for beer. Even the dizzy growth we've seen in the microbrew industry is slowing down. Craft beer producers are trying to buck this trend. And as Maggie Mullen reports that involves figuring out how to be competitive with each other and the newer kid on the block - craft spirits.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-26 at 3pm and 4-28-noon on WPR. 4-28-9am on WPM.

### **[Shopko Bankruptcy Means Some Rural Towns Lose Their Only Pharmacy](#)**

In small, rural towns across the Mountain West... big box stores are a vital part of the community. It's where you get everything. From your groceries to your big screen TV or even your winter puffy coat. It's also where you can get your prescription medications. So, the small community of Bridger Valley was alarmed, when Shopko announced it was closing. But that's when one guy in the community sprang into action. Nate Hegyi spent the day with him.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-3 at 3pm and 5-5 at noon on WPR. 5-5 at 9am on WPM.

### **[Bighorn Basin Proactive As Shopkos Close](#)**

If you've never been to a Shopko, it's basically like a small Walmart. You can get groceries, apparel and lawn products all in one place. And they're usually found in small towns. Back in March - Shopko announced it will be closing all its locations. This is a big deal. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska looked at how towns throughout the Big Horn Basin are being proactive about the news.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-7 at 3pm and 6-9 at noon on WPR. 6-9 at 9am on WPM.

### [As Foreign Markets Grow, American Ranchers Beef About How To Stay Competitive](#)

When it comes to beef - made in America doesn't necessarily mean it was made here. That's because if the cow was raised in another country it can be labeled with a USDA sticker as long as it was processed here. As Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports that has ranchers in a beef with each other over what to do about it.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

### [Super Speedy Internet Coming Soon To the Wind River Reservation](#)

For the last few years, both the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Tribes have been working to bring fiber optics to the Wind River Reservation. A lack of broadband connectivity is a problem across rural America, and it can be even harder in Indian Country. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

## **ARTS AND CULTURE**

### [Sheridan Immigrant's Historic Story Told Through Music](#)

The story of 20th century Sheridan immigrant and entrepreneur Zarif Khan resurfaced in the last several years. After a 2016 New Yorker story that detailed Khan's life, University of Iowa jazz studies professor and musician John Rapson was inspired to tell Khan's uniquely American story along with composer Danyel Gaglione. The performance details Khan's immigration to America, his life in Wyoming and his shocking death, while also tackling America's history with immigration laws. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler met with Rapson during the tour through Wyoming to talk about how he was inspired to create the show.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4-12 at 3pm and 4-14-noon on WPR. 4-14-9am on WPM.

### [Former UW Grad Student Has Received Rave Reviews On His First Novel "TreeBorne"](#)

The book *TreeBorne* is about a woman name Janie Treeborne who lives in Elberta, Alabama. She's being interviewed after learning that she may need to abandon her community after an old dam is about to break. The book takes us back through flash backs from her life and family that goes back many years and involves an odd cast of characters. The book was mostly written in Laramie by former University of Wyoming Master of Fine Arts student Caleb Johnson who grew up in small town Alabama. The book has been getting rave reviews. Johnson explains how he stumbled on a story like this.

Time: 6 min

Date: 5-3 at 3pm and 5-5 at noon on WPR. 5-5 at 9am on WPM.

### [Artist Residency Uses Rich Landscapes To Help Inspire Artists](#)

Wyoming is known across the country for outdoor recreation and oil and coal production. But its place in cultivating artists isn't as well-known. One ranch in northeastern Wyoming uses its location to inspire artists and writers to create some award-winning work. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler has more.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-3 at 3pm and 5-5 at noon on WPR. 5-5 at 9am on WPM.

### [Renovated Firearm Museum Wants To Add Context To Gun History](#)

On Saturday July 6th the newly renovated Cody Firearms Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West will reopen its doors to the public. It's long been home to one of the largest firearm collections in the world. As Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska reports, the museum is trying to move away from just a display of guns to telling a story of the role of firearms in American culture.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

### [Nationally Recognized Wyoming Leather Carver Says State Inspires His Work](#)

A Wyoming artist, James Jackson has received a National Heritage Fellowship. It's the nation's highest honor that celebrates traditional and folk art. Jackson is most well-known for his intricate leather carving and spent most of his career at King's Saddlery in Sheridan. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler sat down with Jackson in his leather shop at the Brinton Museum to talk about how his career has been infused with Wyoming's culture.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

### [A Journalist Wanted To Understand Western Water Rights. So She Paddled The Green River.](#)

In 2016 author and journalist Heather Hansman set out to paddle the Green River from its start in the Wind River Mountains 700 miles to its confluence with the Colorado River in Utah. Her goal was to understand this tributary - who got to use its water and why. Now she is out with a new book called *Downriver*. She told Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard why she chose the Green River.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.

## **SOCIAL ISSUES**

### ["Wyoming Is Dying For Activists Right Now And I'm Not There"](#)

June is Pride Month. So this first installation of the ["Belonging" series](#) is a conversation between Connor Sears and Jesse Archambeau. They're both 2018 Cheyenne East High School grads who left for college in Peoria, Illinois where a more prominent LGBTQ community has helped them to foster their own identities. Now, they struggle with the reality that their absences perpetuate a trend that leaves Wyoming's queer youth without the mentorship they themselves yearned for.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-28 at 3pm and 6-30 at noon on WPR. 6-30 at 9am on WPM.