

## 2022 2nd Quarter Issues Report for Wyoming Public Media

Submitted by Bob Beck

### **Issue: Politics**

Topic: One bill that fell under the radar this year will make it illegal to use electronic devices such as phones, iPads, computers and GPS tracking devices to harass and stalk individuals. The Wyoming legislature overwhelmingly supported the measure that makes that activity a violation of the state's stalking laws. It took an incident in tiny Upton to get the bill passed. Bob Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: Following the 2016 election, many started to express concern about election security. That conversation was ramped up in 2020, even in Wyoming, where problems with voting irregularities haven't been documented. Lately, people in some areas of the state have pushed for hand counting of ballots, which is not currently allowed, but Wyoming Secretary of State Ed Buchanan said it's also not necessary. He joined Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to discuss how safe Wyoming's elections are.

Time: 11 min

Date: 4/29/22 at 3pm and 5/1/22 at noon

Topic: Unless you are heavily involved in Wyoming Party Politics, you've probably never heard of Republican Party Chairman Frank Eathorne. But within the party system, Eathorne is a polarizing figure. Under Eathorne the party has become more conservative and more combative and those fights involve members of their own party. While there were a minority of Republicans who always behaved that way, they have thrived and have gained power under Eathorne. WyoFile's Rone Tempest and Tennessee Watson joined the Casper Star Tribune's Victoria Eavis to develop a profile of Eathorne. Eavis speaks with Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 8 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

Topic: Former President Donald Trump's Save America rally on May 28 drew thousands of attendees to the Ford Wyoming Center in Casper, many of whom were eager to see the 45th president go after incumbent U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney. Hugh Cook reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

Topic: Political newcomer James Scott Quick of Douglas is a Republican candidate for governor. Mr. Quick came to Wyoming in 1969 and graduated from Douglas High School. After serving in the Marines, he's worked in the energy industry and currently operates an oilfield service company. He told Bob Beck that he's concerned about losing freedoms in the country and the state and that's what got him into the race. Quick said he has some priorities he'd like to work on.

Time: 10 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

Topic: Republican candidate for governor Rex Rammell has been in a number of political campaigns as he continues to push his top priority of getting federal lands into state hands. Rammell is a veterinarian and grew up near Yellowstone National Park. He told Bob Beck that if Wyoming could get control of federal lands, a lot of problems would be solved.

Time: 10 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

Topic: Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon is seeking re-election, saying that he has a number of things he still wants to accomplish. It's been a tough four years with the pandemic and the ups and downs of Wyoming's economy. One issue that's concerned people is his apparent opposition to Medicaid expansion. His concern is about spending state money on the program. Gordon tells Bob Beck he's working on making insurance and healthcare more affordable for others.

Time: 11 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

**Issue: Economy**

Topic: Gas prices have been on the rise nationwide, the result of several factors, including the effects of the pandemic, supply chain issues and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Hugh Cook has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/29/22 at 3pm and 5/1/22 at noon

Topic: The Jackson Hole Airport is closing for 78 days to replace its runway, but tourism and supply chain impacts are expected to be minimal. Will Walkey has the story.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/29/22 at 3pm and 5/1/22 at noon

Topic: Yellowstone National Park was closed for a little over a week due to historic flooding but the southern loop reopened this week. As Wyoming's most well known attraction, gateway communities are nervous about how this will impact the state's second biggest industry. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska asked the Wyoming Office of Tourism's executive director Diane Shober how the closing mid-season impacted the industry.

Time: 7 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

**Issue: Health Care**

Topic: The entirety of COVID-related healthcare – from testing to treatment to vaccines – has been offered free of charge to most Americans since the beginning of the pandemic. But now, the way we handle COVID could start to look more like the way we handle the flu – with less government support for testing and treatment, and a focus on “personal responsibility.” Jeff Victor reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

Topic: In the past couple of weeks, the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County in Rawlins announced they will no longer be providing labor and child delivery services in June. That was the second hospital to make the decision within a month. South Lincoln Hospital District in Kemmerer also cut those services. Kamila Kudelska reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

Topic: Early Wednesday morning, Julie Burkhart got a call she never really thought she was going to get. The building where Wellspring Health Access is located was set on fire. Police had arrived on the scene and extinguished it but there was substantial smoke damage. Kamila Kudelska reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/27/22 at 3pm and 5/29/22 at noon

Topic: When Julie Burkhart learned about the Supreme Court draft opinion that would end abortion protections, she let out an involuntary shriek from her airplane seat. "Because it felt like such a gut punch," Burkhart said. "And then after that, getting into the opinion and reading that — it was chilling." Robyn Vincent reports

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

Topic: Following the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade, those in Wyoming are wondering what happens next. During the last legislative session, Wyoming lawmakers passed a so called "trigger bill" that bans abortions in the state except in the case of rape, incest, or the possibility of death or serious bodily injury for the mother, which likely would have to be certified by doctors. Bob Beck reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

## **Issue: Mental Health**

Topic: Thanks to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and increased revenue, the Wyoming legislature took a crack at addressing a longtime problem in the state: the lack of mental health

care services. Lawmakers voted to put millions of the federal dollars into the effort. Bob Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/1/22 at 3pm and 4/3/22 at noon

Topic: It's Mental Health Awareness Month and to discuss that we are joined by Dr. David Martorano who is the Director of Adult Psychiatric Services at the Wyoming Behavioral Institute in Casper. He's a specialist in addictions and he joins Bob Beck to discuss some of the challenges facing mental health care in Wyoming.

Time: 10 min

Date: 5/27/22 at 3pm and 5/29/22 at noon

**Issue: Education**

Topic: Alex Martin is a young education professional who moved here from Washington state. She's been in Wyoming for about two years and she's not sure whether she'll stay. Although Martin isn't a teacher, her situation is similar to many young rural professionals who move to the state. Hugh Cook reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4/1/22 at 3pm and 4/3/22 at noon

Topic: Recently the governor's K-12 education advisory group called Reimaging and Innovating the Delivery of Education (RIDE), provided some responses that some 7-thousand Wyomingites provided about the strengths of Wyoming's education system. John Masters is the chairman of the group and he joined Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to discuss what they heard.

Time: 8 min

Date: 5/27/22 at 3pm and 5/29/22 at noon

Topic: It's campaign season and for the next couple of months we will meet some candidates from some key races and while we'll spend a lot of time talking with Republicans, let's start things off with a Democrat. Sergio Maldonado Sr. has been an educator for 30 years and is finishing up doctoral work at the University of Wyoming. Maldonado tells Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck that he's been in a classroom his whole life.

Time: 12min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

**Issue: Climate**

Topic: A new study from the Nature Conservancy in Wyoming found that many wildflowers and other plants in the Grand Teton-Yellowstone area are blooming and bearing fruit earlier than they did 50 years ago. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska asked ecologist and co-author Trevor Bloom how the study came about.

Time: 7 min

Date: 4/1/22 at 3pm and 4/3/22 at noon

Topic: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report this month, detailing the actions humanity must take to stave off the worst effects of climate change. University of Wyoming Environmental Justice scholar Matt Henry was pleased to see that the report raised and highlighted issues of justice. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor asked Henry about the connection between climate change and issues of justice or inequality.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: On a Wyoming highway, a sound close to what you might hear on the Jetsons is coming from a small car. Patrick Lawson, a Northern Arapaho tribal member, changed the sound with a couple clicks on a screen to an ice cream truck. He smiled and explained that these cars are silent but you can make them sound like almost anything. Taylor Stagnar has more.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: As a drought-stricken region looks ahead to the summer, climate scientists are keeping an eye on high-mountain snowpack and its path to streams and rivers. Snow at high altitudes makes up the majority of the water in the Colorado River – where this past winter has left low totals. Caitlin Tan has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

Topic: A University of Wyoming graduate student has created a docuseries that focuses on Wyoming and surrounding regions, telling the story of those who have been affected first-hand by environmental and climate change. The series' creator Taryn Bradley spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook.

Time: 6 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

Topic: Climate change is forcing Wyoming residents to learn how to live with an altered, erratic environment. Researchers at the University of Wyoming will help with that, thanks to a new grant for research and outreach. Jeff Victor has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

Topic: Lander will play host to a statewide summit on climate change next week. The organizers, the Lander Climate Action Network, hope to elevate Indigenous voices, explore renewable energy and green transportation, and inspire more sustainable living in a rapidly changing Mountain West. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor spoke with organizer Ariel Greene about the upcoming summit.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

Topic: A new film that will air on Wyoming PBS in August, focuses on golden eagle research in the Big Horn Basin. Lead researcher Dr. Charles Preston began looking at the raptor's populations way back in 2010. "Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a Changing West" shows how the results of his research can tell us a lot about the rest of the environment in the West. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska asked Preston why he got interested in the golden eagles.

Time: 8 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

Topic: The Wyoming State Forester says he is expecting a bigger than average fire season. Bill Crapser joins Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to discuss that and the fact that the number of available firefighters is diminishing.

Time: 8 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

**Issue: Wildlife and natural resources**

Topic: This week the Wyoming Game and Fish Department released a report on the status of gray wolves in the state. While conservation groups have expressed concern about how aggressive hunting practices may be threatening wolf populations in Idaho and Montana, Wyoming's numbers are well above required population numbers. Game and Fish said that the state has a minimum population of 314 wolves, well above the 100 wolves and ten breeding pairs required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ken Mills is the lead wolf biologist for Game and Fish and he joined Bob Beck to discuss the numbers and their accuracy.

Time: 7 min

Date: 4/29/22 at 3pm and 5/1/22 at noon

Topic: Elk and deer antler hunting season opened last Sunday, May 1, in parts of Wyoming, and it looked different this year, as the past two winters have been mild. Caitlin Tan reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

Topic: Back in 2021, four Missouri hunters were charged for criminal trespassing while hunting on Bureau of Land Management land between Rawlins and Laramie. The owner of the Elk Mountain Ranch believed that the hunters violated his property rights along a four corner crossing. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with Wyofile reporter Angus Thuermer on how this trial is moving forward the issue of whether four corner crossing is illegal or not.

Time: 8 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

Topic: Agencies like the Forest Service often use contract airplanes to drop fire retardant on wildfires. If resources fall short, though, a specialized team of military personnel can help. This year is shaping up to be another extreme fire season, so having this backup may be especially helpful. Madelyn Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon



Topic: On March 3, many Rawlins and Sinclair residents turned on their faucets only to find no water. School was canceled. Water use at the hospital was limited - workers had to haul buckets of water up several flights to flush toilets for patients. People did not know where to get drinking water. The water shortage lasted for seven days. Caitlin Tan has part one of a series.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/27/22 at 3pm and 5/29/22 at noon

Topic: Rawlins and Sinclair have recently been facing water shortages as the result of aging and neglected infrastructure, but also drought. Experts suggest that many towns across the West could face similar problems in the future. Caitlin Tan brings us part two of her series.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

Topic: This week in Bozeman, librarians, historians, scientists and the public gathered to share ideas for how to preserve the history of Yellowstone National Park. This year is the park's 150th anniversary. Dayton Duncan, an award winning author and a collaborator on Ken Burns documentaries for over 30 years, gave the keynote address at the Conversations on Collecting Yellowstone Conference. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with Duncan and asked him about the title of his talk, "Happenstance and History."

Time: 10 min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

### **Issue: Housing**

Topic: A housing crunch in the West has some looking to public lands as a solution...and a place to live. Madelyn Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: The Jackson Hole Housing conversation is exposing a longstanding debate: Who counts as a local in Teton County? Will Walkey reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

**Issue: Social issues**

Topic: A Cheyenne English college professor was amazed by how the Gabby Petito case struck a chord with the nation while there are so many other missing persons in the state of Wyoming. So Renee Michelle Nelson decided to create a podcast focusing on cases from marginalized communities called Unsolved Wyoming (release date June 3). Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: Spring break drew a diverse group of young people to Grand Teton National Park for the annual NPS Academy orientation. Now in its 12th year, NPS Academy is a paid program available to 18-30-year-olds from backgrounds that have been historically underrepresented in the park service. Kyle Mackie reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Issue: Campbell County Library Board and Commission meetings have been venues for some members of the Campbell County community to voice their opposition to books in the library that discuss topics on LGBTQ and sex education aimed at children and teens. Hugh Cook reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: More than 100 Jackson Hole High School students walked out of class during the last week of school to protest gun violence following the Uvalde shooting. Kyle Mackie has more.

Time: 6 min

Date: 6/10/22 at 3pm and 6/12/22 at noon

Topic: This weekend is Wind River Pride in Lander. Events include a picnic, costume contests, a youth panel, and a drag show. Ariella Kamil is an organizer with Wind River Pride and they talk to Wyoming Public Radio's Taylor Stagner about the importance of pride celebrations in Wyoming.

Time: 7 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

**Issue: Native American issues**

Topic: During the third annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person (MMIP) march on Wind River Reservation everyone wore red. Many hung their heads in remembrance of loved ones lost as a prayer was said as drums played. Taylar Stagner has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

Topic: Feral dogs have been a problem on the Wind River Reservation for some time. A woman's recent death has brought the need for action back to the forefront. Taylar Stagnar has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/27/22 at 3pm and 5/29/22 at noon

Topic: A mobile food pick up spot for kids from 6 months to 18 years old who might be without food during the summer months is trying to help. This is one of five stations that serves the Northern Arapaho community. It is supported by the tribe with additional assistance from the state. But Taylar Stagner reports the program is becoming harder to fund.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

Topic: The stories of Native American communities have often been underreported and underrepresented when it comes to their experiences accessing healthcare and the impacts that are still felt today. Centuries of abuse, government mismanagement, distrust, and racism have been a regular part of that story. But a temporary exhibit that is part of the collection at the Western Heritage Center in Billings, Montana is telling that story about the experiences on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations. Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook spoke with the Museum at the Bighorn's Jessica Salzman.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/24/22 at 3pm and 6/26/22 at noon

**Issue: Agriculture**

Topic: Ranchers often consider themselves caretakers of their land and it's that kind of thinking that's motivating them to sign up for an innovative new approach called rangeland carbon offsetting. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with Birch Malotky who recently reported on the issue for the University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute's magazine.

Time: 8 min

Date: 4/15/22 at 3pm and 4/17/22 at noon

Topic: A federal bill is proposing to change how cattle are sold to meatpackers, and although some Wyoming ranchers say the system is currently broken, they are skeptical that the bill could change the process. Caitlin Tan has the story.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/20/22 at 3pm and 5/22/22 at noon

**Issue: Energy**

Topic: Standing out on the Jonah Field in Sublette County one sees a sea of sagebrush - it's 24,000 acres. Back in the 90s, it was regarded as one of the largest onshore natural gas discoveries in the world. Things have leveled out now. There is now just one active drilling rig in the area. But, there are plans to steadily expand in the future. And expansion like that is what a lot of environmental groups take issue with. Caitlin Tan reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6/17/22 at 3pm and 6/19/22 at noon

**Issue: Juvenile issues**

Topic: Wyoming has some of the highest juvenile incarceration rates in the country and some of the highest teen suicide rates as well. Such data has a lot of Wyomingites looking for outside-the-box solutions for helping kids before they face these hurdles. Jonathan Updike grew up in Wyoming and ended up at Stanford, working on an innovative program called Allcove, which gets kids designing their own intervention strategies. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards asked Updike about his own story of growing up in the state.

Time: 9 min

Date: 4/1/22 at 3pm and 4/3/22 at noon

**Issue: Arts and Culture**

Topic: The National Museum of Military Vehicles will have its long awaited Grad Opening on May 28, just outside of Dubois. Dan Starks is the museum's founder and chairman. He joined Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to describe the museum and why it's worth your time.

Time: 9 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

Topic: The Sheridan Chess Association's first annual tournament was held on April 30 and May 1 at Sheridan College, which attracted participants from across the country in addition to four international players and two coaches from Kyrgyzstan. Hugh Cook reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5/6/22 at 3pm and 5/8/22 at noon

Topic: The George Igawa Orchestra might be the best band that you've never heard of. They formed during World War II at the Heart Mountain Concentration Camp for Americans of Japanese ancestry. During the time, they were likely the only swing band in the state. About 70 years later, a photograph of this band inspired Julian Saporiti, a historian and musician, to begin the No-No Boy Project. Saporiti uses music to share how the history of Japanese internment and his own history intersect in Wyoming. Charles Fournier brings us this special.

Time: 50 min

Date: 5/18/22 at 3pm and 5/20/22 at noon.