

## 2018 4<sup>th</sup> quarter issues report for Wyoming Public Media

Submitted by Bob Beck

### Issue: Energy

**Topic:** Westmoreland Coal Company has filed for bankruptcy. It's one of the largest and oldest coal producers in North America. The company's fall is one of the latest signs coal markets are not bouncing back, despite the Trump Administration's intentions. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/19/18 at 3pm and 10/21/18 at noon on WPR. 10/21/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Coal-fired power plants are closing down in [unprecedented numbers](#), many of which are Wyoming coal customers. In June, President Trump took a step to change that. Taylor Kuykendall, a coal reporter with S&P Global Market Intelligence, gives context to the coal and nuclear plant subsidy [introduced last](#) June.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Wyoming is on the verge of a boom in oil and gas. Better technology, higher oil prices, and Trump administration policies have helped make the western state a contender for the next big play in the U.S. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Cloud Peak Energy has announced it will review "[strategic alternatives](#)" that means it's open to major changes including a potential sale of the company in order to improve its financial situation. Controversially, the move was announced alongside bonuses to executives encouraging them to stay on. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm and 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The North American benchmark price of oil dropped this week to its lowest since 2017. It pulled down share prices of major producing companies with it - many that operate here in Wyoming. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with Refinitiv market specialist Carl Larry on what the drop means and how it happened.

Time: 5 min

11/30/18 at 3pm and 12/2/18 at noon on WPR. 12/2/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's Joint Revenue Committee will *not* change how ad valorem taxes are collected just yet. The one-time mineral property tax has left counties over \$50 million in the hole, as of July, due to systematic issues... like an 18 month wait for tax collection and prioritizing banks. An agreeable solution is still out of reach, with legislature cycling through the same options year after year. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports that cycle continues into 2019.

Time: 5 min

12/7/18 at 3pm and 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: 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

12/21/18 at 3pm and 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Environment and outdoors**

Topic: We love our outdoors and wildlife in the mountain west, but that connection makes us vulnerable to a growing mental health problem known as Climate Anxiety. Ali Budner explains.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/19/18 at 3pm and 10/21/18 at noon on WPR. 10/21/18 at 10am on WPM.

Topic: Two stories making waves in energy and environmental circles this week take place within federal agencies. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with experts to give context. Up first, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a staff directive making it more difficult for the public to obtain important documents from them. McKim speaks with Noah Greenwald... the Endangered Species Director of the Center for Biological Diversity. Greenwald says the Fish and Wildlife Service controversy all started with a leaked memo.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Democrats preparing to take over control of the U.S. House of Representatives in January are gunning for major battles on climate change and energy issues, which could hurt the economic gains witnessed in Wyoming this Trump-energy-era. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The federal government released a sweeping report on climate change last week that predicts more wildfires and catastrophe weather across the nation unless lawmakers act, but like most Republicans Wyoming's lawmakers don't take the document too seriously. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 5 min

11/30/18 at 3pm and 12/2/18 at noon on WPR. 12/2/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Sportsmen and women have to be really careful to make sure they are not trespassing on public land. [A new report finds that Wyoming has the most landlocked public land in the West at 3.05 million acres](#). A recent decision by Park County Commissioners could have added another 160. WPR's Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/7/18 at 3pm and 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

## **Issue: Wildlife**

Topic: After a controversial year the Yellowstone grizzlies are back on the threatened species list. The issue is frustrating to state officials because the state has to fund the majority of grizzly management. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska explains.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This time of year, is hunting season in Wyoming - and the state is known for its prime elk hunting. But after a series of conflicts with Grizzly bears, outfitters and guides say there needs to be better grizzly management in the state. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The conflict whether Yellowstone grizzly bears should be off or on Endangered Species Act protections has been an ongoing controversy for years. Even after a judge put grizzlies back under federal protections this fall, the debate continues. As Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska finds out, those in favor of the judge's decision and those against are suspicious of each other's motives.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/30/18 at 3pm and 12/1/18 at noon on WPR. 12/1/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For years, Wyoming and other Western states have successfully solved controversial problems related to wildlife and forests by getting people on all sides of an issue to come together to hash out solutions. Now a new stakeholder group is tackling the age-old controversy over prairie dogs. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports for our series, "I Respectfully Disagree," with the national political scene in gridlock, these local groups are struggling.

Time: 8 min

Date: 11/30/18 at 3pm and 12/1/18 at noon on WPR. 12/1/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The last few years have brought revelation after revelation about just how long and complex the migration routes are for Wyoming's elk, pronghorn and mule deer. Everyone involved in wildlife agrees these routes need special protections. But there

hasn't been a comprehensive set of maps showing this maze of routes zigzagging all over the state. Until now.

Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with Matt Kauffman and Emilene Ostlind, two of the editors of *Wild Migrations: Atlas Of Wyoming's Ungulates*.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/7/18 at 3pm and 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Chronic Wasting Disease is a contagious brain disease affecting deer, elk and moose that usually leads to death. In November, it was in Teton County for the first time. It's been present in other parts of Wyoming for a while. Some biologists and wildlife managers are afraid the infectious disease will transmit to elk - especially feed ground elk - with dire consequences. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska reports from one of the most famous feed grounds, The National Elk Refuge.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/21/18 at 3pm and 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Politics**

Topic: State Treasurer [Mark Gordon](#) is the Republican candidate for governor. Gordon is a former businessman and owns a ranch in Johnson County. He joins Bob Beck to discuss issues from anti-discrimination issues to health care.

Time: 10 min

Date: 10/19/18 at 3pm and 10/21/18 at noon on WPR. 10/21/18 at 10am on WPM.

Topic: Lawrence Struempf is Wyoming's Libertarian Candidate for governor. Dr. Struempf is a native of Fremont County who has a doctorate in Instructional Technology from the University of Wyoming. He's an educator, an avid gun owner and outdoorsman and very active in the Laramie community. Struempf tells Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck that working with a variety of organizations opens his eyes up to the needs in Wyoming.

Time: 10 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 10am on WPM.

Topic: It's election season and on November 6 Wyomingites will have the chance to participate in what's arguably the most local election of all: for the local school board. Caroline Ballard sat down with education reporter Tennessee Watson to discuss some of the hot topics in school board races across the state.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 10am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming U.S. Representative Liz Cheney admits that Tuesday was a bittersweet night for her. While she says she's delighted to represent Wyoming for two more years, she's disappointed it will be as a member of the minority party. Cheney predicts rough sledding for Republicans as Democrats likely try to put themselves in position to win back the Presidency in two years. In an effort to keep Wyoming issues on the forefront, Representative Cheney is seeking the number three leadership position among House Republicans. One thing that Cheney says needs to change is discourse that is leading to violent acts. She spoke about that and other topics with Bob Beck.

Time: 8 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming is known for having one of the largest gender wage gaps in the country. But a comprehensive look at what men and women actually earn in the state hadn't been done in years. So in 2017, state representatives Marti Halverson and Cathy Connolly teamed up to propose a study to better understand what was really going on. Now, the study is finished and legislators will have to decide what to do with the information. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm and 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming Governor Matt Mead is wrapping up his time in office. Bob Beck caught up with him at an event in Cheyenne this week. They discuss the difficulties Mead had in cutting the budget and why Wyoming's economic future looks so positive. Mead also talks about his biggest disappointment, which is not making a difference when it comes to providing affordable and accessible health care.

Time: 8 min

Date: 12/7/18 at 3pm and 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's next Governor Mark Gordon has been holed up trying to hire a staff, while also trying to get prepared for the legislative session. He took a few minutes to tell Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck what he's been up to since the election.

Time: 8 min

Date: 12/21/18 at 3pm and 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Social issues**

Topic: From the time they learned about the Matthew Shepard attack 20 years ago, it was a busy time for Laramie law enforcement and the legal community as they dealt with the two people accused of murdering Matthew Shepard. The case had intense media scrutiny and international interest that overwhelmed residents of Laramie. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck caught up with three people who were very closely involved in the case. A police investigator, a judge and a defense attorney who discuss their memories and what they think happened.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Matthew Shepard's murder was a shock to everyone in the city of Laramie...but especially to gay and lesbian couples living there. One couple was especially close to the crime. Julie Heggie was the county coroner and attended Matthew Shepard's autopsy. Her partner at the time was Gayle Woodsum, a victim's advocate. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with them to remember when Heggie got a strange phone call at three in the morning. She says it was the only time in her long career that she ever got a call concerning someone who hadn't died yet.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In order to convince tech companies to set up shop in Wyoming, some believe there needs to be a statewide anti-discrimination law on the books. That would change state law to provide protections to LGBTQ people that others already have. Supporters

say such a law will resolve a perception problem the state has had since the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: While a statewide anti-discrimination statute is getting more attention as a way to boost Wyoming's economy, it's not a new idea. Over the last 10 years a bill has been proposed in the state legislature at least six times. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson talked with LGBTQ Wyomingites about how the lack of protection contributes to an overall climate of instability and fear.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Matthew Shepard's murder occurred far from Cody, but the Wyoming town still felt the effect of the tragedy. While many know about it, the event hasn't markedly changed the culture in that part of the state. A lack of a support system for the LGBTQ community is energizing some to move forward to create a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The University of Wyoming has a new recruitment campaign featuring the slogan "The World Needs More Cowboys." It rolled out with a video and new advertising materials, but some on campus are not happy about it. Christine Porter is a professor of community and public health, and says the slogan excludes women and people of color. Helen Raleigh is a Chinese-American UW alum. She also writes for the conservative publication The Federalist, and recently published [an article](#) supporting the new slogan. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards brought the two women together over a video conference call for our series, "I Respectfully Disagree." Helen Raleigh says she was impressed with her UW classmates' diversity.

Time: 8 min

Date: 10/19/18 at 3pm and 10/21/18 at noon on WPR. 10/21/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: After Matthew Shepard's murder, his autopsy was filed away and never released to the public. Julie Heggie was the coroner at the time and said, she decided, along with law enforcement and the county attorney's office, that was the best thing to protect the report from mass distribution. She discusses it and why she thinks the Shepard murder was a hate crime with WPR's Melodie Edwards.

Time: 7 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Education**

Topic: Earlier this month the Wyoming Department of Education released its most recent set of school performance reports. Just over half of Wyoming's schools are meeting and exceeding expectations. But close to a quarter are only partially meeting expectations and the other quarter are not at all. The WDE says determining who's on target and who's behind is a tool to help schools. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson takes a deeper look into one district to see how.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The United States has a grim history when it comes to our indigenous people. From the multiple massacres of native men, women and children to Indian boarding schools where native children were taken from their families and in many cases physically and sexually abused. For the most part, this history isn't taught in our public schools. Neither is indigenous culture. But that's changing. And the Mountain West is on board. Ali Budner reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm and 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Health Care**

Topic: There are mixed reviews about obesity in the Cowboy state. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that Wyoming's adult obesity rate ranks 34th in the nation, but its childhood obesity rate seems to be improving. Albert Lang who worked on The State of Obesity report tells Bob Beck that while there are clearly some improvements, it's a concern.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Wyoming legislature has a long history of exploring ways to get quality and affordable insurance to more citizens...but for a variety of reasons nothing has really ever worked. This year a legislative committee started kicking the tires on a proposal by the insurance commissioner where the state could use what's called a 1332 waiver and create a program that could reduce the premium for citizens who are in the federal marketplace or exchange. The state has hired consultants to develop the plan, but it has a ways to go. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A Wyoming legislative committee has quietly put together a series of bills that is looking at the high cost of health care in the state as well as making health care more accessible. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/30/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 12/1/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Ranchers and farmers living in the Mountain West are vulnerable to all kinds of things—drought, fluctuating crop prices, trade wars—and in part because of those things - depression and suicide. But there's some help out there, from an unlikely source. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/7/18 at 3pm and 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Kids from rural communities still have a hard time getting to see the dentist. But that's especially on the Wind River Reservation. Lack of reliable transportation and long distances into town can make it hard to get to town for a checkup.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/21/18 at 3pm and 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Issue: Native American Issues**

Topic: The Northern Arapaho elders have long searched for ways to teach the Arapaho language. Now they've collaborated with doctoral candidate Phineas Kelly to create a game for the iPhone. This new way to teach Indigenous language was his Master's thesis. Wyoming Public Radio's Tylar Stagner gave the game a try.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/26/18 at 3pm and 10/28/18 at noon on WPR. 10/28/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When Matthew Shepard was murdered for being gay 20 years ago, it sent a wave of fear throughout Wyoming's LGBTQ community... including the one on the Wind River Reservation. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards found out, it also led to more gay, lesbian and transgender tribal members stepping up to make change.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Across the country, Native American students are severely underrepresented in higher education. Only 16 percent of Native Americans have a bachelor's degree. That's compared to 42 percent of White students. But tribal leaders in Wyoming say a collective effort to increase support for Native American students is having an impact. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A new museum installation called "Arapaho Roots" is opening tomorrow in Colorado at the Museum of Boulder. The pieces will be animated Arapaho stories put up on screens throughout the museum. Jordan Dresser was asked to be the show's curator a year ago and has spent time working with the museum to tie in Native history and Native art. He works for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for the Arapaho Tribe or THPO. At a coffee shop close to the Wind River Reservation, Dresser explained to Wyoming Public Radio's Tylar Stagner that he wants the exhibit to feel alive.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/16/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Earlier this month, the Jesuit order of the Catholic Church released a list of priests who have credible accusations of sexual abuse against them. Two of the priests—Paul Pilgram and Anthony Short—served at Saint Stephens Mission on the Wind River Reservation in the 1970s and 80s. Melodie Edwards reports on the aftermath.

**Time:** 5 min

**Date:** 12/21/18 at 3pm and 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Issue: Crime**

**Topic:** Albany County Attorney Peggy Trent made the unusual decision this week to allow a piece of evidence be made available to the media. She allowed the release of a police video including a body cam that showed an encounter between an Albany County Sheriff's Deputy and a Laramie resident that resulted in the resident being shot and killed. Normally such evidence would be held until a trial, but she explains why she wanted it released.

**Time:** 7 min

**Date:** 11/16/18 at 3pm & 11/18/18 at noon on WPR. 11/18/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** This week Wyoming Public Media engaged in a bit of an experiment. Reporters Tennessee Watson and Melodie Edwards set up a pop-up newsroom at the third annual Wyoming Conference for Violence Prevention and Response hosted in Riverton. They joined Caroline Ballard for a conversation about the newsroom and its goals.

**Time:** 8 min

**Date:** 11/30/18 at 3pm & 12/1/18 at noon on WPR. 12/1/18 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Wyomingites working to reduce violence gathered this week for the 3rd Annual Conference for Violence Prevention and Response. A major portion of the conference was devoted to spreading awareness about the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, or aces for short. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson sat down with Jennifer Davis from the Wyoming Children's Trust Fund and Todd Garrison from the Montana-based not-for-profit Child Wise to understand why the aces study could make a difference in Wyoming.

**Time:** 6 min

**Date:** 11/30/18 at 3pm & 12/1/18 at noon on WPR. 12/1/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's prisons are overcrowded and the problem is predicted to get much worse. The Wyoming Department of Corrections was forced to place 88 prisoners out of state this year and so the state brought in the Council of State Government's Justice Reinvestment program to try and find some solutions. The reason for the growth is that too many people are being returned to prison for probation and parole violations.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/7/18 at 3pm & 12/9/18 at noon on WPR. 12/9/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Sixteen years ago, the Cheyenne Police Department received a report that a former Catholic Bishop had sexually abused a teenage boy in the 1970s. The lead detective told the prosecutor there was no evidence and the case was closed. Earlier this year that case was reopened and multiple victims have since come forward. This second chance at justice reflects how law enforcement attitudes toward sexual abuse are starting to change.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/21/18 at 3pm & 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Can you imagine paying a tow bill of six figures? In an effort to stop this type of gouging, the Wyoming Highway Patrol has appointed a "Tow Coordinator" based in Cody. He's working to make a change statewide. Penny Preston reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/21/18 at 3pm & 12/23/18 at noon on WPR. 12/23/18 at 9am on WPM.

### **Issue: Arts and Culture**

Topic: The three-part oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard* moves through the life and death of Shepard and the resulting trial alternating in genre and perspective throughout. The large-scale composition written for an orchestra and chorus was written by Craig Hella Johnson. The piece touches on western themes, religious ones, as well as focusing on Shepard's humanity.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/5/18 at 3pm and 10/7/2018 at noon. 10/7/18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: [Tim Lawson](#) is a nationally recognized painter. He grew up in Sheridan and has recently moved back, after living all over the U.S. Now, his hometown is celebrating his work with a show at [SAGE Community Arts](#). The exhibition runs through January 2. On Thursday, November 15, Lawson will give an artist talk at the WYO Theatre, followed by a reception at SAGE. Wyoming Public Radio's Erin Jones spoke with Lawson.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/9/18 at 3pm and 11/11/18 at noon on WPR. 11/11/18 at 9am on WPM.