

Issues Programs List
Quarterly Issues-Programs List
Stations: KCGY-FM AND KOWB-AM
July 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2023
Townsquare Media Laramie, Wyoming

Section I: Issues

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

- A. **Taxes/Government/Education Funding:** The state for once has a budget surplus at the same time as a court fight is pending over education funding. How to spend that extra money, and how much should go to fund existing programs as opposed to how much should be set aside for savings for “a rainy day” is a major topic of discussion. It was one of the main items considered by lawmakers during the Legislative Session.
- B. **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.
- C. **Economy:** An obvious concern both in terms of the economic well-being of local and state 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
- D. **Housing:** Wyoming, and in particular, Laramie County, faces an ongoing shortage of affordable housing.
- E. **Suicide:** Wyoming has the highest suicide rate in the nation. This is an issue with implications for
- F. **Health Issues:** Can include anything from the availability of healthcare to access to exercise and healthy foods. It is important to note that this category can include mental health wellness in addition to what people traditionally think of in terms of physical health.
- G. **Crime:** Includes everything from street crimes to the gun control debate. During this quarter we also focused on scams, especially those targeting senior citizens.
- H. **Education;** While this is certainly related to the Taxes/Government/Education Funding category listed above, it merits its own category as not everything pertaining to education strictly pertains to how much the state government spends on schools. Local districts in Wyoming have a lot of discretion on HOW to spend the money. Topics covered in this quarter related to such things as classical education charter and the Wyoming Wild program to get kids outdoors go beyond dollars and cents to issues of how education is structured and delivered in Wyoming.

Section II: Programming

The below programming runs every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. on KCGY-FM
and 8:30 a.m. on KOWB-AM.

Date Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration
July 9, 2023	Report to Wyoming	Grace Templeton with the Wyoming Pathways program. The program is a non-profit organization that works to build outdoor recreational trails, especially hiking and biking trails. Templeton discussed recent projects, including the Pole Mountain Trail in the Medicine Bow National Forest in southeast Wyoming. The trail eventually is planned to connect with the Happy Jack parking lot near Cheyenne, but more funding is needed. Health Issues, Economy, Parks and Recreation, Community Projects, Funding	23 mins
July 16, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Debra Bianchi, Alzheimer's Association of Wyoming. The interview focused on a new Alzheimer's drug (Leqembi) just approved by the FDA. Bianchi said that while the drug will not prevent or cure dementia, it seems to delay many negative effects. Bianchi said that Alzheimer's is especially a concern in Wyoming, with its rapidly aging population, and in many areas, limited access to health care. She also encouraged caregivers to contact the association to learn about programs available to help with the daily challenges they may face. She said that dementia is a disease that often impacts caregivers as much or more than the actual victims of the disease. Health, Healthcare, Caregivers, Public Assistance	23 mins
July 30, 2023	Report to Wyoming	Nathan Winters of the Wyoming Family Alliance advocating for more classical education programs in the state. Classical education in general as Winters describes it emphasizes a more traditional education curriculum, including things such as liberal arts, the history of Western civilization, and Latin. It is somewhat controversial in that it tends to de-emphasize more technical courses such as, say, computer science. A classical education charter school planned for Cheyenne has been delayed for a year, something proponents of the concept are not happy about. Education	26 mins
Aug. 6, 2023	Report to Wyoming	Brittany Wardell, CRMC Institute for Population Health, updated on an earlier segment on the issue of suicide in Wyoming. The latest results found relatively progress being made in terms of dealing with Wyoming's suicide rate, despite steps says as a toll-free mental health line and widespread education efforts targeting the issue. Wyoming continues to have the second-highest suicide rate in the country, trailing only North	22 mins

		Dakota according to one 2023 study. While suicides among young people are certainly a concern, Wyoming suicides are especially high among adult males. The “Cowboy Up” mindset that says men do not ask for help and a high alcohol consumption rate are thought to be factors. The state’s rural nature leading to social isolation, lack of access to health care and perhaps even the long winters are also thought to be contributing factors. <i>Suicide, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse</i>	
Aug. 13, 2023	Report to Wyoming	Natalie Villalobos, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, on the CRMC “ride along” program with the Cheyenne Police Department. The program sends mental health professionals out on police calls for issues in which mental health may be an issue, such as people threatening suicide or homeless people who appear to possibly be suffering from schizophrenia or other mental health issues. Villalobos said the program gives police another tool to deal with potentially dangerous situations and makes mental health accessible to people who may not normally seek out mental health care. Although the Cheyenne program is the first of its kind in Wyoming, Villalobos, who is a social worker, thinks it would help any community deal with people who have mental issues. <i>Crime, Health Issues, Suicide, Mental Health</i>	15mins
Aug. 13, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Cheyenne City Councilman Richard Johnson advocating for a plastic bag ban. Johnson’s proposal, which sparked widespread opposition and was eventually defeated, would have banned most plastic bags in retail stores and imposed a 10-cent tax on paper bags. Johnson argued that the bags damage the environment and are a hazard because they get scattered around by the wind and never break down naturally. He also cited figures from the Public Works Department that plastic bags contribute 25 million tons a day to the Cheyenne landfill. The Laramie City Council in 2020 passed a resolution calling for decreased usage of plastic bags. <i>Economy, Health Issues, Environment</i>	15 mins
Aug. 20, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Amy Reyes of the Wyoming Department of Education on the Get Wild Wyoming program. The pilot program, aimed at kindergarten classes for now, encourages classroom time in Wyoming’s numerous outdoor settings. Reyes says in an age when kids tend to park in front of computers and television screens for much of the day, it is important to get students outdoors and get them moving. She says the goals of the program are to encourage physical activity and develop healthy habits as well as build an appreciation for the	24 mins

		state's natural beauty. Health Issues, Education, Screentime	
Aug. 27, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Wyoming State Superintendent Megan Degenfelder. Coinciding with the start of the school year, Degenfelder spoke about several issues. She was elected in 2022 in large part on a platform of improving school choice and retaining Wyoming teachers. She spoke at length about the progress she sees being made in those areas, saying they are going "really well" overall. She also addressed school safety considering numerous school shootings across the country in recent years (as this is written Wyoming has thankfully been spared). She said a number of steps are being taken, including the "Safe To Tell" program which encourages students and others to anonymously report concerns about possible violent acts in schools. She also pointed to grant money being made available to Wyoming school districts to develop threat assessments and programs to meet those specific threats. Education, Crime, Student Safety	24 mins
Sept. 3, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Dr. Mark Djiemianowicz, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Oncologist, updates on cancer treatments and services available for local cancer patients. Among other topics, he said that while chemotherapy remains unpleasant for the patient, advances have been made to reduce the ravages of that course of treatment compared to past years. He also said that great progress is being made in such cutting-edge treatments as the genetic targeting of tumors. In general, he said most (albeit not all) cancers are treatable if the disease is found early. Survival rates have greatly increased in recent years. Also discussed is the importance of not smoking or using tobacco, as 90 percent of lung cancer cases are smoking-related. Health Issues, Cancer, Smoking	26 mins
Sept. 10, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Cheyenne resident Jimmy Orr recalls working in the White House for then-President George H.W. Bush on Sept. 11, 2001. Orr provides a first-hand account of the workings of the top levels of government on one of the most tragic and impactful days in American history. Orr, in the interview, laments the loss of the feeling of unity that was prevalent in the country right after 9/11 as well as commenting on the potential for similar events in the future. Government, History	27 mins
Sept. 17, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Gardening expert Mike Heath on the challenges and benefits of growing your own vegetables in Wyoming. Heath says that while the state's short growing season and harsh climate present challenges, some crops—especially some root crops—can do well. He says benefits include the exercise involved in gardening, what he sees as the higher nutritional value of home-grown	25 mins

		vegetables as well as the savings from preserving such vegetables at a time when grocery prices are skyrocketing. Health Issues, Economy, Agriculture, Nutrition	
Sept. 24, 2023	Report To Wyoming	Tom Lacock, Associate Director, AARP Wyoming on a recent survey of Wyoming Seniors. Among other things, the survey revealed seniors have huge concerns over the accessibility of health care in Wyoming and want to see action taken to address that even if it means higher taxes. Conversely, seniors were also concerned about high property taxes. As with many other state residents, inflation was also a big concern. It is worth noting that Wyoming's population is rapidly aging and the demands on health care services in the state in coming years will very likely increase. Health Issues, Economy, Property Taxes, Inflation, Healthcare	27 mins