

2026 2nd Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

Economy

Topic: Some lawmakers in our region are arguing that abortion bans help keep a population young and growing. Others say they lead to more people leaving the state.

Time: 5 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming economy check in: construction, uranium jobs up, the number of people opting into workforce down. Non-residential construction jobs are up, partly due to new data centers. But the number of people opting to enter the workforce is decreasing.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: Could a business court help Wyoming be the new Delaware? Companies have long registered in Delaware because of its favorable business environment. But Wyoming's low tax rates, cryptocurrency industry and chancery court could be making them change course.

Time: 4 min

Date: June 12 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming ranks 6th in the nation for new businesses formed in May. Wyoming sits behind Florida, Texas, California, Delaware and New York. Business-friendly policies and limited taxes contribute to businesses registering in the state.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

Aging

Topic: Over a decade ago, Luhr got hit by a truck while riding her bike across Grand Avenue in Laramie. Now, the 68-year-old is a powerlifting champion and was just named one of AARP's Senior Planet Sponsored Athletes of the year.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 1 at 3 p.m. and May 3 at noon.

Sports

Topic: The delicate, symbiotic relationship between Teton Pass plow drivers and backcountry skiers. Thirty-two-ton machines at 10% grade, careful parking and probing questions join in the fight against slides.

Time: 5 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Topic: Inside the 'forgotten coup' that almost prevented ski resort monopolies. A Vail journalist discusses 'the long-forgotten story of how we broke skiing — by very nearly saving it.'

Time: 8 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: We hear from two of the students, who biked over a thousand miles along the Continental Divide. That adventure is the subject of the film "Gravel and Grit: Bridging the Great Divide," which premieres in Riverton on Tuesday.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

Rural Issues

Topic: In Wyoming, cattle outnumber people two to one, and plenty of other furry pets roam around. But there are fewer and fewer veterinarians to care for them. We visit one lifelong vet in Big Piney who's feeling the pinch.

Time: 5 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Topic: 'There's nowhere to go but up': How a Wyoming paper is revamping its business model. A national program selected the Pinedale Roundup as part of a cohort to help rural newspapers reimagine their business models.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: To stay or not to stay: That is the question for Wyoming's young adults. Some young people can picture a life here. Others say they may not be able to find a job and want to get out of the Wyoming 'bubble.'

Time: 4 min

Date: May 1 at 3 p.m. and May 3 at noon.

Wyoming Legislature

Topic: A look at what lawmakers will be studying over the interim session. From the water concerns around the Colorado River to Artificial Intelligence in the classroom, elected officials will spend months studying a long list of state issues.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

History

Topic: The Cody Enterprise dives into the life and legacy of Liz Byrd, Wyoming's first Black legislator, who would have turned 100 on April 20.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 1 at 3 p.m. and May 3 at noon.

Topic: Cheyenne celebrates America's 250th with education and events. Wyoming's capital city wants to connect America's founding period with Wyoming's history.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

National issues at a local level

Topic: Laramie-based writer Christine Peterson shared how collaborative projects, long-term wildlife monitoring and interagency relationships suffered from cuts in the last year with Wyoming Public Radio's Hannah Habermann.

Time: 9 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: The Trump admin asked the public to root out ‘negative’ history signs at national parks. They had other things to say. Most of the 500 comments submitted from Grand Teton and Yellowstone call for increased federal support and ask for more Indigenous history. None reported signs with ‘disparaging’ history.

Time: 7 min

Date: June 12 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at noon.

Energy

Topic: Why a proposed pipeline ending in Wyoming draws comparisons to Keystone XL. If built, the Bridger Pipeline will transfer crude oil from Canada into Phillips County, Montana to Guernsey, Wyoming.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

Topic: TerraPower begins nuclear power plant construction in Kemmerer. The plant is expected to be running by 2031. The sodium-cooled fast reactor still faces hurdles like where it will get its uranium. For now, it will be from South Africa.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 1 at 3 p.m. and May 3 at noon.

Wildlife

Topic: A local newspaper editor reflects on the impacts on Wyoming’s wolf cruelty case. “I think that the one sentiment that everybody maybe can share today is that they're glad that it's over,” said Cali O’Hare.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: Birding is having a moment right now. Roughly three in 10 people in the U.S. get out their binoculars and participate in the pastime in some way, and a new Jackson-based birding festival is tapping into that momentum.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Topic: New study suggests Jackson's bikers, hikers and wildlife can coexist. Millions of photos of the Cache-Game Creek system reveal hidden harmonies and that some wildlife are more sensitive than others.

Time: 6 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Topic: Without sweeping policy, volunteers still spearhead Wyoming's fence removal effort. Unlike the state, Teton County requires wildlife-friendly fences. Jackson may consider more this fall.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

Healthcare

Topic: The federal Rural Health Transformation Program funds come after months of negotiations, which led Wyoming to drop a planned investment fund. Instead, the state will focus on basic care.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

Music

Topic: Cody celebrates semiquincentennial with 'Annie Get Your Gun'. The student performers say collaboration and community are themes from the show that rang true to their time putting it together.

Time: 6 min

Date: April 10 at 3 p.m. and April 12 at noon.

Topic: Pavillion farmer Conor Jacobson brings baroque music to life through the violin. The musician will be getting back together with harpsichordist friend Ronan Khali for a special reunion concert in Cody on June 6. The two were in an early-music band called No-body's Jigg while at conservatory in the Netherlands.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

Environment

Topic: More intense rain storms present a new hazard after a wildfire. A year after the Elk Fire raged through the east side of the Bighorns in 2024, a rainstorm kicked off debris flows that closed a highway.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 1 at 3 p.m. and May 3 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming water managers: 'It's shaping up to be the driest year on record'. The state engineer's office says it's one of the earliest years it's had to restrict water use. They're anticipating some areas will be restricted for the first time ever.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at noon.

Wildfire

Topic: A new program aims to help protect homes from wildfires and keep insurance. Home hardening and creating defensible space can reduce the risk of houses burning in a wildfire.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at noon.

Topic: Flammable snacks, virtual fences make for one happy Poppy. New technology intersects with traditional grazing in a double-win for wildfire mitigation and conservation.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Topic: How cheatgrass makes more frequent fires more likely. The purplish weed sucks up nutrients before native plants have a chance, fills in needed gaps between sagebrush and leaves crispy dry fuel on the landscape all summer long.

Time: 8 min

Date June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Elections

Topic: How one county is prepping to hand count ballots. Lawmakers passed a bill requiring 5% of ballots cast in 2026 to be hand counted. Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee talks about how her office is prepping for the effort.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at noon.

Topics: Watch WPR's state government reporter's highlights of the races that could tip the balance of power in the Legislature.

Time: 7 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Topic: Weston County has a new election clerk after two years of investigations into the former. The previous clerk was accused of counting error-riddled ballots and refusing to acknowledge the mistake.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Justice System

Topic: How one Kinnear man is helping justice-involved individuals 'Stay Free Forever'. Clifford Fewel provides cognitive behavioral health courses for adults and young people around Wyoming and Colorado, especially those involved in the justice system.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 12 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at noon.

Native American issues

Topic: 150 years later, the Brinton Museum examines the Battle of the Little Bighorn through Indigenous eyes. On June 25th, 1876, Northern Arapaho, Cheyenne and Lakota warriors defeated the U.S. 7th Cavalry in southeast Montana. The exhibit brings together artwork from survivors of the battle as well as contemporary depictions of the event.

Time: 7 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

Housing

Topic: Second home sales are booming; those that manage them can't afford to live in Jackson.

Time: 6 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Business and industry

Topic: UK consul general tours Idaho, Montana, Wyoming to foster ties, share tech and energy solutions. Topics included how to transition off of coal and how to respond to the AI data center boom.

Time: 9 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Topic: UW's new ranch-to-table program helps connect Wyoming's lamb industry. The university is partnering with local ranchers and restaurants to bring consumers a meaningful dining experience.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

Community

Topic: 'Good, clean fun': Inside the resurgence of community dance halls. In some parts of the Mountain West, residents are reviving these gathering places, which have long been a staple for westerners living in isolated places.

Time: 5 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

Topic: A year after budget uncertainty, Shoshoni Senior Center serves even more of the town. Last year, the community hub was facing a lot of uncertainty around potentially catastrophic state and federal funding cuts. We hear how all that's shaken out and what else it's been cooking up.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at noon.

Topic: The Modern West podcast's 12th season debuts in June. "Mountain Migrations" is filled with episodes about a defining trait of Westerners: They're always on the move.

Time: 6 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

Topic: A swan song for John Simms: the Jackson inventor who shaped avalanche, fishing gear. From creating neoprene waders to the ski-pole probe, few changed the outdoor industry as much.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

Immigration

Topic: Laramie County says it made the most immigration arrests in the US for a week in April. The Laramie County Sheriff's Office launched a campaign called "Truck Around, Find Out."

Time: 8 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

Topic: Analysis: Majority of Teton County's ICE holds arrested for driving-related charges. Forty arrested with 'no license' as their top charge were repeat offenders and pose a public safety threat, the sheriff says.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

Topic: As immigrants self-deport from Wyoming, small towns could get ‘hollowed out’. After Wyoming began cooperating with ICE, a woman who grew up in small town Wyoming chose to move to Mexico – a place she left when she was 7.

Time: 6 min

Date: June 5 at 3 p.m. and June 7 at noon.

Western Culture

Topic: The story of Eleanor Prince: A horsemanship educator in Jelm. Pamela Galbreath has published a new book titled “In the Scent of Horses, Hay and Old Barns: The Story of Eleanor Prince-Intrepid American Horsemanship Educator.” The biography is set in southeast Wyoming.

Time: 9 min

Date: June 12 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at noon.

Topic: A new book traces the histories of forgotten and misunderstood Westerners. Among the seven stories highlighted in “The Westerners: Mythmaking and Belonging on the American Frontier” are several Wyoming characters including Sacajawea and the Northern Cheyenne leader Little Wolf.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 26 at 3 p.m. and June 28 at noon.

Education

Topic: Homeschooling goes commercial in Wyoming as court mulls public support. One program in Jackson costs up to \$2,600 a month. The state’s Education Savings Account could help.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 22 at 3 p.m. and May 24 at noon.

University of Wyoming

Topic: President Ed Seidel said UW did not agree to ax any courses in closed-door meetings with Freedom Caucus lawmakers looking to cut UW's budget. Those legislators had attacked ecofeminism and other classes.

Time: 11 min

Date: April 3 at 3 p.m. and April 5 at noon.

Topic: UW research growing despite facing challenges at the local and federal levels. It's in the name of the University of Wyoming's research and economic development division: economic development. The Vice President of that division says, despite challenges at the state and federal level, they are still creating jobs for the youth in the state.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 24 at 3 p.m. and April 26 at noon.

Topic: WPM's Bob Beck receives honorary doctoral degree from UW. Beck helmed WPR's news team for more than three decades, overseeing coverage of the state's triumphs and tragedies.

Time: 10 min

Date: May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at noon.

Social Welfare

Topic: Wyoming kids are doing better than last year, thanks to drops in poverty and suicide. In an annual report on child wellbeing by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Wyoming is twelfth in the country, up from 23rd last year.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 12 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at noon.