



Adam Bowen



Holly Sandefer



Davidson Family



Phil Hilson



Mary Whalen



Rose Fry



Florence W. Roginson



McKenzy Ellisen



Dave Otto



Chad Coppess



Denise Hawkins



Hongjin Li



Shane Epping



Michael Evans



Davidson Family - Strawberry Hill Dance - 1918

About the Photo - “Strawberry Hill Dance - 1918” captures a milestone in the Davidson family’s Wyoming story, rooted in the journey of Even and Astri Lee, who immigrated from Norway in 1877 and 1887, respectively. After marrying in Willow, ND in 1888 and raising three children, the couple moved to Crook County in 1917, where their two sons homesteaded side by side.

History - The dance shown here celebrated the completion of eldest son Ole Lee’s cabin in 1918 – a classic moment of community cheer. Ole later married Allegra Nemetz in 1923, and their daughter Ruth, born in this very cabin in 1924, carried the family legacy forward when she married fellow Crook County native Stanley Davidson. Their son, Keith, continued the lineage, raising four children and later welcoming five grandchildren – Even and Astri’s 3x great-grandchildren. More than a century after this dance, much of the original cabin still stands on the homestead and remains in the hands of the Davidson family, who were honored with the Wyoming SHPO Centennial Farm & Ranch designation in 2017. The photograph represents not only a celebration in 1918, but the enduring connection of six generations to the land that became their home. - Davidson Family

January 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Emily Galvin-Almanza - Sheridan Train.



Elizabeth Donaldson - Rich History - The Bar BC Dude Ranch built in 1912 frequented by "Millionaires and Poets"



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Holly Sandefer - Desert Exhale

Biography – Holly Sandefer was born and raised in Casper, and has lived in several places across the great state of Wyoming. She is happiest outdoors—hiking, biking, camping, stargazing, snowshoeing, capturing nature’s beauty, collecting rocks, or simply breathing in the fresh, crisp Wyoming air. To Holly, Wyoming is a true wonderland.

About the Photo – Holly’s photograph, “Desert Exhale,” was taken in Pinedale, WY, on a peaceful fall evening. She had ventured out to soak in the colors and breathe in the fresh autumn air. As the sun was slowly setting, Holly noticed a striking reflection in the window of a small building nestled in the prairie, with the Wind River Range standing in the background. The contrast in colors caught her eye and made her stop and stare in awe. - *Holly Sandefer*

History – Pinedale has a vast history of exploration, fur trapping and trading, ranching, and outdoor recreation. In the early 1800s, the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade brought trappers and traders to the Green River Valley in search of pelts while the eastern explorers were drawn west to the uncharted mountains. These mountain men endured the isolation and hazardous conditions of the mountains and made their way down to the valley in the summer.

February 2026

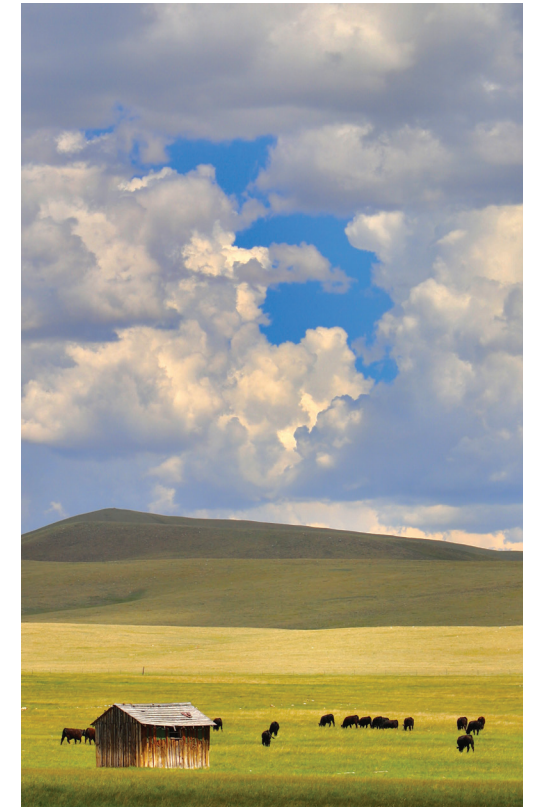


LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Thomas David Kehoe - Gannett Peak (13,804'), from the Glacier Trail (Wind River Range).



Diana Kopulos - Sunday drive



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA



Shane Epping - Where storms break, and rainbows rise

Biography – Shane Epping teaches at the University of Wyoming where he occupies the Bobby Model Photojournalism Professorship. Before earning a PhD and entering academia, he worked for a decade as a photojournalist, with his name appearing in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. His photographs have been exhibited in galleries across America, totaling 10 states in the past four years.

About The Photo – Shane has driven Highway 287 between Fort Collins and Laramie countless times over the past five years. What began as a commute has become a sustained photographic project. This image, made near the state line in September 2024, captures a rainbow emerging from a passing storm as late afternoon sun illuminates the high plains. - *Shane Epping*

History – Pioneers, Wagons, and a 575 Mile Journey. The Overland Trail and Stagecoach Line was an alternate wagon route off the famous Oregon Trail. Pioneers crossed this area as they headed westward in the late 1800's. The Overland Trail (also known as the Overland Stage Line) was a stagecoach and wagon trail in the American West during the 19th century. While portions of the route had been used by explorers and trappers since the 1820's.

March 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Kathy Johnson - The Morning We Left



Matthew Shovelski - Fire In The Sky



Wendy Lowe - Stormy Rainbow



Wyoming’s History Through Listeners’ Eyes
Wyoming Public Media’s Photo Contest





Adam Bowen - A quick embrace from some wild horses in the McCullough Peaks range at last light

Biography – Adam Bowen is a wildlife photographer who has been living in Cody, Wyoming for the last 2 years, spending his days guiding in Yellowstone. Photography has always been a passion of his, and Wyoming has some of the greatest wildlife he’s ever seen.

About the Photo – This photo was taken at the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Management Area just outside of Cody. He had spent countless hours trying to photograph these wild horses from the “Red Point Band”, and on this particular evening, all the stars had aligned for a great shot! - *Adam Bowen*

History – Horses have a deep history in Wyoming, initially introduced by Spanish explorers in the 1500s and spreading rapidly through Indigenous trade networks, which drastically changed Plains cultures. Today, Wyoming is also known for its wild horse populations, which are descendants of these early Spanish horses and those released or escaped from ranches and trails over the centuries. The state is home to several BLM herd management areas and cultural symbols, like the legendary bucking horse Steamboat, have become icons of Wyoming’s identity.

April 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Emily Galvin-Almanza - A cross made by a Basque shepherd on a southern Wyoming pasture has remained intact.



Dylan Stielow - A Crisp Wyoming Evening



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





David Otto - A Wyoming Memory

Biography – David Otto is a fourth generation rancher and works for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. His ranch, where David, his wife Ellen, and his mother Nancy reside, is located southwest of Yoder, Wyoming, and is nearly 120 years old!

About the Photo – The photo is of his wife’s 1929 Model A Ford that belonged to her great uncle. When her mother passed away she saw it in a photo and was able to track it down. She was able to return it to her family along with their 1924 Model TT truck, which she has worked to restore. This photo was taken with their ranch in the background. - *David Otto*

History – Wyoming’s automobile history began in Laramie with Elmer Lovejoy, a bicycle shop owner who built and drove the state’s first car in May 1898, introducing personal motorized transport to a state still reliant on horses. Wyoming’s Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental auto route, established in 1913, following the Union Pacific rail corridor across the state, serving as a precursor to I-80 and US-30, and offering historic sites like Cheyenne’s “Lincolnway,” the Henry Joy Monument, and Laramie’s Lincoln Monument at Sherman Summit, with segments still drivable today.

May 2026

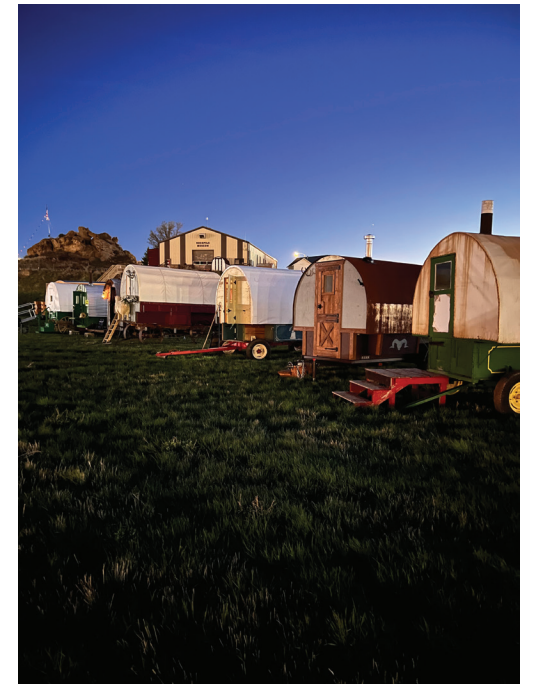


LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Mary Gordon - Derailed in Wind River Canyon.



Heather Rodriguez - Night Night, Sleep Tight” - Wyoming sheep wagons originated in the 1880s with James Candlish in Rawlins, evolving from pioneer wagons into compact, mobile homes for sheepherders.



Wyoming’s History Through Listeners’ Eyes
Wyoming Public Media’s Photo Contest





Phil Hilson - Echoes of Earth and History. Heart Mountain has a dual history of Ancient landslide and WWII Internment camp

Biography – Phil Hilson is a retired professional violinist and orchestra teacher who has transformed his lifelong dedication to the arts into a celebrated photographic journey. Now based in Cody, Wyoming, he turns his lens toward the wild and the timeless — the soaring grace of hawks, the glow of distant nebulae, and the rugged drama of the American West.

About the Photo – Golden wildflowers ripple across the Wyoming plains like sunlight poured onto the land. Above them rises Heart Mountain — steadfast, commanding, unforgettable. It’s very summit is a monument to Earth’s power: a colossal block of ancient limestone that slid miles from the Absaroka volcanic plateau in what scientists consider the largest known landslide on land. An event so immense that it reshaped the very story of this mountain.

But Heart Mountain holds human history, too. In its imposing shadow once stood the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, where thousands of Japanese American citizens and immigrants — families, children, veterans — were forced to live behind barbed wire during World War II. Their lives uprooted, their freedom temporarily stolen, even as the mountain remained unchanged.

- *Phil Hilson*

June 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth National Independence Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Dorina Kemper - Wyoming beauty, Grand Teton.



Anna Kirkpatrick - Teton Canyon in Alta, Wyoming. The other side of the Tetons.



Wyoming’s History Through Listeners’ Eyes
Wyoming Public Media’s Photo Contest



Chad Coppess - Sacred eagle wings surround the sacred tower of stone



Biography – Chad Coppess spent 28 years as the official photographer for the South Dakota Department of Tourism, but sneaks over the border and spends as much time in Wyoming as he can. His interest in Old West and Native American history pulls him west quite often, and even more so now that's he retired from a second career with South Dakota Magazine. A new aspect of his photography is placing western action figures into actual historic locations, which of course means pretty much all of Wyoming.

About the Photo – Ojibwe dancer/artist Michelle Reed jumped at the chance to do a photo shoot at the sacred Mato Tipila, or Devils Tower. The gracefulness of her eagle wings and movement instantly made Chad think of the many birds he's seen circling the tower each time he visits there. - *Chad Coppess*

History – To understand the place called Devils Tower also requires many perspectives. Ancient peoples have lived around the Tower for thousands of years; their modern descendants still maintain a connection with this place on a physical and a spiritual level. Oral histories passed down by various American Indian tribes, as well as their present-day ceremonies, offer us important perspectives of the Tower.

July 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Independence Day (Observed)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Laima Swanson - Conical-Shaped Charcoal Kilns Built from Local Sandstone and Limestone in the Historic Town of Piedmont, Wyoming.



Mark Harvey - Dornan's Tepee, Moose WY; Spring of '87



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Denise Hawkins - Bottles and tins from years gone by line the storefront window of an abandoned building in Shoshoni, Wyoming

Biography – Denise Hawkins is a Cheyenne-based photographer and artist. Her work is focused on landscapes, nature, and abandoned places. Her interest in documenting abandoned places has led to volunteer work for the Alliance for Historic Wyoming.

About the Photo – “Storefront Window” was taken in Shoshoni, Wyoming. Unlike the now-demolished buildings on the east side of Main Street, which were taken down in 2018 after fire and neglect left them vacant for over 30 years, the buildings on the west side of the street, including this store, are still standing. - *Denise Hawkins*

History – Ghost towns tell tales of booms and busts from the railroad, mining (gold, coal, copper), and frontier life, leaving behind eerie ruins and remnants of once-thriving communities abandoned when resources dwindled or routes shifted. Shoshoni, Wyoming, began as a 1905 railroad town, named for the indigenous Shoshone people who long inhabited the region, but faced early setbacks like a major fire and the original Boysen Dam’s failure before becoming a gateway to the Wind River Canyon, evolving from a frontier settlement to a community deeply connected to its Shoshone heritage and rugged land.

August 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Janel Seeley - Ghost Town Potter



Kristina Borchert - Ghosts



Lance Faulkner - The history of Wyoming is directly tied to the nation's history of westward expansion. A unique monument to that expansion is Ames Monument which marked the highest point along the Union Pacific Railroad.



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Biography – Hongjin Li is a musician and film composer based in New York City. Outside of music, she is an avid outdoor person and wildlife lover. She leads a small expedition caravan called H&F (Hongjin & Friends), dedicated to exploring the U.S. in depth and fostering cultural exchange through travel, sound, and images! This photo was taken during their 12-day Wyoming Cultural Trip.

About the Photo – The photo was taken in August, before the sunrise in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley, a herd of American bison crossed the river through morning steam. The rising mist caught the first light, turning the valley into a moving tapestry of gold and breath—a quiet moment of wilderness awakening. - *Hongjin Li*

History – Yellowstone's buffalo history is a story of near extinction and remarkable recovery: once millions strong, massive 19th-century slaughter reduced them to a tiny remnant herd (around 23) in Pelican Valley by 1900, making Yellowstone the last place they survived wild, prompting conservation efforts, including captive breeding at Lamar Buffalo Ranch, which allowed the herd to rebound and become the genetically pure, free-ranging backbone of today's population.

Hongjin Li - At dawn, a herd of bison moves through the misted river, their shapes dissolving into light and steam. In their quiet passage lies the continuity of the wild — an unbroken rhythm that has pulsed across Wyoming for centuries. Each step recalls the echoes of the frontier, when survival and freedom were one and the same. Here, the land does not merely remember its past; it speaks it. In this moment, nature is history — alive, breathing, and eternal.

September 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Leo Beach - The Antelope are a steadfast reminder of the grit, perseverance, and determination it takes to survive on the plains of this beautiful state.



Margaret Hemp - Fall family bonding in the Tetons



Susan Nelson - Red-Headed Woodpecker



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Mary Whalen - Enjoying the Wyoming Traffic

Biography – Mary Whalen has lived all her life in Wyoming, including Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Laramie as a student at the University of Wyoming. She considers every day in Wyoming a photo worthy moment. Mary is the vice president of WyoPoets, and encourages others to write and think creatively. In her winning photograph, she remembers the poem, The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost. “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.”

About the Photo – “Enjoying Wyoming Traffic” was taken near Savery, Wyoming- near Battle Mountain and the Continental Divide. This southern region of Wyoming is especially photogenic in autumn.
- Mary Whalen

History – Wyoming’s cattle drive history began in the 1850s with accidental discoveries of winter grazing, leading to a boom in the 1870s as ranchers moved Texas Longhorns north via trails like the Goodnight-Loving Trail, establishing the open range, but the Green River Drift in Sublette County remains America’s longest-running, a spring ritual moving thousands of cattle to mountain pastures, preserving a unique cowboy heritage.

October 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day - Indigenous People's Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Felicia Canfield - Prairie view of Beartooth drama



Florence W. Roginson - worked at a one-room school teacher job near Meeteetse, Wyoming, in 1920.



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Rose Fry - Reenactment of the Battle of Hundred in the Hand at Ft Fetterman

Biography – Rose Fry is a state retiree who now has the time to wander and take photos. She enjoys rising early in the morning, getting in her car and traveling in whatever direction she feels at that moment. She always finds something whichever way she goes. Rose also enjoys Wyoming history. There are endless possibilities to find historical spots around Wyoming.

About the Photo – The reenactment of the Battle of the Hundred in the Hand, which was also known as the Fetterman Fight. The actual battle took place in December of 1866. The reenactment was held in April and put on by the Wyoming State Parks and the Fort Phil Kearny Bozeman Trail Association at the Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site. “The “Fetterman fight” took place in Crow Indian treaty guaranteed land, where the Lakotas and their Indian allies were without consent from the Crows. All 81 men under the direction of Captain William Fetterman died.”
- Rose Fry

History – Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, Fort Phil Kearny, and Fort Fetterman, were crucial to westward expansion, serving as trading posts, military outposts during the Indian Wars (especially along the Bozeman Trail), and resupply points for emigrant trails (Oregon, Mormon, California, Pony Express)

November 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27
28	29	30				



Michael Evans - Old Bedlam at Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Built in 1849, is Wyoming's oldest standing building.



Mindi Crabb - Honoring the Mountain Men who opened the West to trade and commerce.



Austin Handley - Cloudy Mount Moran. An early foggy morning at Mount Moran in the Tetons.



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





McKenzy Ellisen - Under the Lights in Meeteetse, Wyoming

Biography – McKenzie grew up in Seattle, where she first learned photography in a darkroom before moving into digital work. At 19 she relocated to Wyoming and began photographing local brandings and gathers. She’s driven by a passion for preserving the western lifestyle, from the energy of rodeos to quiet moments beneath the northern lights.

About the Photo – Under the Lights was taken on a whim. The subject, Quannah, and McKenzie, rode to the top of a hill on Hoggs Black Diamond Ranch in Meeteetse. After taking in the lights for a few minutes they got to work. McKenzie laid on the ground, and Q tried to keep the horses as still as possible while McKenzie took photos. Out of 104 photos that she took that evening, this was one of three that turned out. Even cowboys get to enjoy the Northern Lights every once in a while. - *McKenzy Ellisen*

History – Wyoming’s northern lights history shows they’re a rare but spectacular sight, with major recent displays in November 2025 and May 2024 caused by powerful geomagnetic storms from solar flares, delighting residents with vibrant colors from Cheyenne to Jackson Hole, even surprising experienced observers with their intensity and early appearance.

December 2026



LEARN MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Ahmad Ansari - Tipi at Night, 2022 WPM Photo Contest



Lane Tomme - Libby Flats, 2016 WPM Photo Contest



Christopher Martin - Solar Eclipse, One of the 2017 WPM Photo Contest



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes
Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest





Jessica Flock - John Wesley Powell Monument in moonlight. John Wesley Powell is remembered for numerous expeditions of the American West in the 1860's and 1870's, most notably his Colorado River Exploring Expeditions of 1869 and 1871.

Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes - Thank you!

We were lucky to receive so many beautiful entries from all over Wyoming, and it was difficult for viewers to choose the best. The winning photos portray Wyoming's rich history, natural beauty, national parks, and monuments. The winners are based on the top votes from Wyoming Public Media's listeners and viewers.

Wyoming Public Media invited Wyomingites to get out and take photos of Wyoming's beautiful scenery, people, and history. The top choices are featured on this site and will be showcased on 2026 calendars, as well as greeting cards and a traveling exhibit.

<https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/photo-contest/2025-11-21/wyoming-history-through-listeners-eyes-wyoming-public-medias-photo-contest-and-the-winners-are>

This project is funded in part by a Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources Semiquincentennial grant.

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Kenneth McClane - Ram Pasture, Index and Pilot Peaks. Landmarks outside the NE corner of Y.N.P.



Curtis Johnson - Paddling on the Green River



Katrina Roberts - Upper Jack Creek



Yuki Goto - A New Beginning statue in front of the Cheyenne Depot Museum - In 1869, Wyoming's territorial legislature passed a bill approving women's suffrage, making the women in Wyoming the first in the United States to have the right to vote.



Wyoming's History Through Listeners' Eyes Wyoming Public Media's Photo Contest

Click on the QR Code or go to our website and listen to the photographer's story and Wyoming history.



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