

2026 1st Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

Economy

Topic: Wyoming's recalibration of its public school funding model would boost teacher pay but cut their number while increasing target class sizes.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon.

AI data centers

Topic: New research highlights ways to make data center developers pay for adding demand to the power grid, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and be accountable to the public.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 18 at noon.

Climate

Topic: This winter has been one of the warmest in Wyoming history. Milder winters means fair-weather critters, like ticks, are out and ready to bite earlier than usual. And with that comes disease concerns.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Topic: It's been so dry this winter that the Glen Canyon Dam at the outlet of Lake Powell could stop producing hydropower. Wyoming's Flaming Gorge Reservoir might end up shipping water downstream to help.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Sports

Topic: Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center's director discusses this year's snowpack and general things to think about when recreating in the winter backcountry.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 18 at noon.

Topic: Jaelin Kauf, Breezy Johnson and Anna Gibson will represent Team USA at the Winter Games in Italy. The competition kicks off on Feb. 6.

Time: 7 min

Date: Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 1 at noon

Topic: From novice to Olympian in 6 months. Anna Gibson's road to Italy shocked even herself.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon

Topic: The Grand Targhee-raised mogul champion is now the most decorated American in the sport's Olympic history — despite her home mountain's lack of bump runs.

Time: 6 min

Date: Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon.

Wyoming Legislature

Topic: Wyoming lawmakers on the Joint Appropriations Committee took their first crack at the state budget this past week. They're making cuts and limiting growth.

Time: 13 min

Date: Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 18 at noon.

Topic: Legislators across the political spectrum have been hosting town halls and listening sessions on the upcoming session and this year's elections.

Time: 11 min

Date: Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 1 at noon.

Topic: The 68th Wyoming Legislature begins its budget session on Monday, Feb. 9. Lawmakers' main duty: Passing a balanced budget for the next two years. But that's a task easier said than done. WyoFile's Maggie Mullen and Wyoming Public Radio's Chris Clements review how this fast-paced lawmaking process works.

Time: 11 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon.

Topic: Week two of the budget session is when all lawmakers get their first chance to weigh in on how much, and on what, the state will spend over the next two years. Until this point, only a small group has shaped the budget. WyoFile's Maggie Mullen and Wyoming Public Radio's Chris Clements break down the process, from the Senate's Big Beautiful Amendment to the House's late nights and tense debates. They've got the latest on Checkgate, too.

Time: 12 min

Date: Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming lawmakers are working to agree on the state's budget for the next two years. And they're still plowing through a lot of other bills – and the continuing reverberations of “Checkgate.” WyoFile's Maggie Mullen and Wyoming Public Radio's Chris Clements break down week three of the budget session.

Time: 13 min

Date: Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at noon.

Topic: The Legislature adjourned with a budget and over 90 new laws on the books. On this season's last episode, WyoFile's Maggie Mullen and Wyoming Public Radio's Jordan Uplinger recap what passed, back-and-forth between the governor and lawmakers, and what happens next.

Time: 13 min

Date: March 13 at 3 p.m. and March 15 at noon.

History

Topic: The Life Between The Rails oral history project tells the stories of Union Pacific employees from their perspective. These stories are gathered and displayed for the public to experience at the American Heritage Center.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon.

National issues at a local level

Topic: The state program distributed \$2.4 million to food pantries around the state and ended when the government reopened in mid-November. The Wyoming Department of Family Services recently put out a report detailing the program's impacts, challenges and takeaways.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 18 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming, like the majority of states, is required to pass a balanced budget. Volatile revenues, the lack of an income tax and working on a two-year cycle all present challenges, according to a researcher with the Urban Institute.

Time: 6 min

Date: Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at noon.

Energy

Topic: "The fact that they've had to cancel lease sales when this is such a pro-coal administration tells you that even the White House can't offset markets. Markets are really the final determinant of whether coal is going to be around in the power generation market," UW economist Rob Godby told WPR.

Time: 7 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Topic: A slew of energy- and climate-related bills are before Wyoming lawmakers this year. Many aim to support fossil fuels.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at noon.

Music

Topic: This spring is the 35th anniversary of the Cheyenne Chamber Singers. For the celebration, artistic director and conductor Sean Ambrose chose a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem."

Time: 7 min

Date: March 13 at 3 p.m. and March 15 at noon.

Topic: Mark Engel reflects on his professional downhill ski racing and music making careers.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Art

Topic: “Where the Heck is Yucca Fountain?” is now on display at the University of Wyoming Art Museum. It explores the intersection of art and archive.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at noon.

Topic: A new book tells the stories of 25 women, from the state’s first female chief justice to a pilot.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 13 at 3 p.m. and March 15 at noon.

Health Care

Topic: The majority of justices upheld abortion access in Wyoming. How did we get here, and what’s next?

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Topic: With Driggs clinic saved from closure, many still seek care in Idaho Falls or Jackson as options for vital treatments dwindle.

Time: 6 min

Date: Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming Public Radio’s Kamila Kudelska went to Cheyenne a day before the House and Senate reconciled their versions of the budget bill to check in with the Wyoming Hospital

Association President Eric Boley. He shared how the budget and some bills going through the legislative session may help or hurt Wyoming's healthcare situation.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at noon.

Topic: As court battle brews, Wyoming women are again sent out-of-state for care for abortion access. The time window for in-state care has shrunk to what providers say is "essentially a ban."

Time: 5 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Property taxes

Topic: Wyoming lawmakers are considering doing away with all taxation on land used for housing. Similarly sweeping proposals are becoming more common in states like Florida and Texas.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Mental Health

Topic: Wyoming Public Radio's Hannah Habermann sat down with Kevin Jameson, the CEO of the Dementia Society of America, and Ross Schriftman, a Casper resident and dementia awareness advocate.

Time: 9 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon.

Native American issues

Topic: Sarah Ortegon is a visual artist, an actor and a dancer, who was born in Denver and now lives on the Wind River Reservation.

Time: 10 min

Date: Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon.

Topic: Harm reduction is an approach that focuses on giving people the knowledge and tools to minimize harm in their own lives – think bike helmets, seat belts or even sunscreen. It’s also a big part of overdose prevention.

Time: 6 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Business and industry

Topic: It’s been about a year since Wyoming sold a square mile of land to Grand Teton National Park for \$100 million. Now, one outfitter who helped persuade state lawmakers to choose conservation is feeling pushed out.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Topic: During December and January, Tough Guys Lighting and Landscaping puts on its Winter Lights Festival in Laramie’s Washington Park. The Whoville Cocoa Hut allows charities and non-profits to sell hot chocolate at the park.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Topic: Jackson’s news comes as some patrollers at other ski areas are striking over similar calls for higher wages, better healthcare and more focus on retaining institutional knowledge on the hill.

Time: 7 min

Date: Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 at noon.

Topic: “It doesn’t mean we don’t report on arrests,” criminal justice reporter Ivy Secrest told WPR. “But it does mean that we have to be really cognizant about what crimes we cover in depth and what crimes do a lot more harm reporting on than good.”

Time: 8 min

Date: March 13 at 3 p.m. and March 15 at noon.

Community

Topic: Patrons at ŠMC kavinė in Lithuania's capital city of Vilnius watch Jackson's livestream for hours.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon

Topic: Porsche Lane, the pygmy goat, became the focus of a lawsuit over constitutional rights when her owner was told she couldn't keep the goat at home.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon.

Immigration

Topic: As memorials for Minnesotans unfold, Wyoming advocates wrestle with where power lies.

Time: 7 min

Date: Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon.

Topic: A dedicated immigrant advocate and three-time Trump voter. Some feel it's a contradiction. But Lori McCune is part of a network of conservative Christians.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.

Education

Topic: Wyoming's recalibration of its public school funding model would boost teacher pay but cut their number while increasing target class sizes.

Time: 9 min

Date: Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 1 at noon.

Topic: The 2026 legislative session ushered in a new school funding model, a statewide literacy program, and more. It's now up to school districts to put those new laws into action.

Time: 7 min

Date: March 20 at 3 p.m. and March 22 at noon.