

2016 4th Quarter issues report for Wyoming Public Media

Issue: Politics

Topic: As the presidential contest rolls on, some Wyoming lawmakers are worried that issues important to the state, such as energy, is being left out of the debate. While there was some recent discussion, it's not being discussed as much as some would prefer. Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Liz Cheney is the Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a former Fox News commentator, an author, the co-founder of the Alliance for a Strong America, a former U.S. State Department official and attorney. She's also the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney. Cheney says she continues to support Donald Trump for President and worries about working with a Hillary Clinton administration. She's also concerned about Republicans losing ground in the House and Senate. I asked her if she will drop her hard-line stance and work across the aisle to get things accomplished.

Time: 13 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: U.S. Senator Mike Enzi will soon be entering his 20th year in the Senate. Enzi has had a long political career that began as Mayor of Gillette and included time in the Wyoming House and Senate. Enzi currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and is the former chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee among others. We conducted the interview just before the news of Donald Trump's taped comments on women was released, but despite those comments his staff says he still supports Trump. We begin our conversation talking about changes he wants from a new President, such as rolling back EPA regulations.

Time: 13 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With President Obama heading out of office soon Wyoming lawmakers fear he's preparing a slew of executive orders that could hurt the economy out west. Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Larry Struempf is hoping to shock the world. The Laramie Libertarian is hoping to win the nod to become Wyoming's next congressman. Struempf is a Wyoming native who has worked in the field of computer information systems for many years. He is running on a platform of less government and more civil liberties. He joins us to discuss some of the issues.

Time: 9 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The campaign season is heading into its last few weeks, and one of the bigger races in this state is the battle for Wyoming's lone U.S. House Seat. Wyoming Public Radio News Director Bob Beck has been keeping tabs on that race and was a panelist for Thursday night's debate.

Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard asked him five questions about that race.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For nearly 150 years, men have been Cheyenne's mayors. All that is about to change after the upcoming election. Two women may be running to become Cheyenne's first female mayor, but as Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard reports their differences are driving the election.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: As we approach Election Day, candidates are filing their campaign contributions. And this year, campaign finances are looking a little different in Wyoming. An unprecedented amount of money is being spent, often times in smaller, local races, and sometimes that

money is being contributed anonymously. Andrew Graham, a journalist for the site Wyofile, has written a series on the changing reality of money in Wyoming politics. He told Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen about what has changed since the supreme court's 2010 Citizens United decision.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: University of Wyoming Political Scientist Jim King joins us now to talk more about the Trump Presidency. There's a lot of speculation about how Trump will operate now that he's President elect and King joins me to discuss that and what some Wyoming residents said before the election.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Over the last several years a number of right leaning activist groups have gotten themselves heavily involved in Republican politics in the state. WyWatch was a group that pushed anti-abortion and family value legislation and Wyoming Gun Owners pushed for expanded gun rights. But the group with perhaps the biggest impact is the Wyoming Liberty Group. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck says the group has recently taken some heat and vows to go back to its roots.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With Republicans preparing to control the House, Senate and White House for the first time in a decade, Wyoming Republicans are moving up the ranks and will wield significant power in the coming Congress. Washington correspondent Matt Laslo has the story.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Energy

Topic: There are few places in the country with more wind energy potential than Wyoming. But the state has seen almost no new wind turbines built in six years, even while wind has

boomed in the rest of the country. Depending on who you ask, the challenges have been political, technical or both, but now, the outlook is improving on all fronts. Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: From the presidential debate stage to local town halls, what to do about lost mining jobs keeps coming up. On Colorado's western slope, two candidates running for Congress are divided on the issue and are nearly matched in campaign contributions as election day approaches. Inside Energy's Leigh Paterson reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: High levels of ozone in western Wyoming have long been linked to oil and gas development. Now researchers nationwide are starting to look closer at the magnitude of those emissions and how they impact public health. Children with asthma are especially vulnerable. For Inside Energy, Anna Boiko-Weyrauch reports on what is known -- and what isn't -- about the link between ozone, energy production and asthma.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For weeks this spring, students and teachers at the school in tiny Midwest, Wyoming reported strange smells and headaches. Then, in May, the school shut down after health officials detected dangerous levels of potentially toxic gases. But for months, no one could answer the questions: What were the gases? And how did they get into the school? Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce reports on what happened.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Fossil fuel companies have a history of backing Republican candidates. But this year's unusual presidential campaign appears to be having a strange ripple effect on political giving -- at least from the oil and gas industry. Judy Fahys of KUER reports for Inside Energy.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Coal country is celebrating Donald Trump's victory. Support for Trump was strong from Appalachia to Wyoming, and now that he has been elected, people have high hopes he can reverse coal's recent downturn. But can he? For Inside Energy, Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce reports.

Time: 3 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Donald Trump promised sweeping reforms to the energy industry during the campaign. He vowed to bring back coal jobs, boost domestic oil and gas production, back out of international climate change agreements and gut the Environmental Protection Agency. Essentially, he vowed to undo most of what the Obama administration has done in the last eight years, and take the country the opposite direction on energy and climate. Now that Trump is the president-elect, how much of that will he actually be able to do? Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter Stephanie Joyce joins us now...Stephanie one of Trump's biggest promises was to bring back coal jobs. Can He do that?

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming, like other energy producing states, is shedding jobs in coal, oil, and gas. But the renewables industry is growing nationwide, including jobs to make parts like wind turbine blades and towers. Wyoming wants to attract wind manufacturing jobs as part of an effort to diversify its fossil fuel-based economy, but right now the state has none of these jobs. Neighboring Colorado has thousands. Inside Energy's Leigh Paterson went to find out what's standing in the way, starting off in Cheyenne.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: President-elect Donald Trump indicated for the first time on Thursday that he supports completion of the Dakota Access pipeline. Protesters have been camped out at the construction site in North Dakota for months, and now winter has arrived, dumping almost

two feet of snow on the encampment this past week. The two-day deluge drove out some of the fairer-weather protesters, but most are gearing up to stay. All are waiting to see what happens on Monday, the deadline set by the Army Corps of Engineers for protesters to leave federal land. For Inside Energy, Nicky Ouellet reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In this week's issue of the online magazine WyoFile, reporter Angus Theurmer interviewed activists from Wyoming's tribes at the Dakota Access Pipeline protest. Melodie Edwards talked to him about what it was like to arrive at the camp in extremely harsh winter conditions.

Time: 7 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Social Issues

Topic: At the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk, there's an average of four births per year. That's because some inmates are showing up to prison pregnant. Four years ago, plans were put into motion to address the situation by providing a mother-child unit where inmates could raise their children. However, as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, the nursery has remained vacant since renovations were completed in 2014.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: According to demographers, small town America is in trouble. Populations are aging and shrinking, as young people leave for the big city. But that's not the whole picture. In her new book, Julianne Couch draws on her own experience to paint a portrait of nine small towns in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Wyoming—specifically Centennial. The book is called *The Small Town Midwest: Resilience and Hope in the Twenty-First Century*. Julianne Couch spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Micah Schweizer.

Time: 7 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In the upcoming session, the Wyoming legislature will consider a Joint Judiciary Committee bill that aims to bring about criminal justice reform. House Judiciary Committee Chair David Miller, a Republican, and Representative Charles Pelkey, a Democrat, joined Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard to talk about the bill. Representative Miller says right now the bill is still under fiscal review.

Time: 9 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Arts and Science

Topic: The Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu, was recently in Laramie. The visit was one of hundreds of trips Chu has made to communities around the country to see first-hand the role the arts are playing. Chairman Chu stopped by our studios to talk with Wyoming Public Radio's Micah Schweizer.

Time: 7 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: As America contemplates its future with a new president, one man has been looking to the past for cues about our future. Robert Kelly is an archeologist at the University of Wyoming. In his new book "The Fifth Beginning" he argues humanity has encountered four transition points - or "beginnings" - in its history: the invention of technology, like stone tools, culture, agriculture, and the state. He sat down with Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard to discuss the transition he says is happening right now.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The celebrated Wyoming artist Neltje has led a storied life. She's recently released her memoir, *North of Crazy*, chronicling her journey from high society to the high plains. As the daughter of famed publisher Nelson Doubleday, Neltje had a privileged life...growing up in her family's homes in New York, Long Island, and South Carolina. But as an adult, she left society life and moved to her adopted home near Sheridan, where she still lives. Neltje spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Micah Schweizer.

Time: 24 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: UW creative writing professor Brad Watson is out with a new novel called Miss Jane. The book was long-listed for this year's National Book Award. As he tells Wyoming Public Radio's Erin Jones, Miss Jane is about a woman living in rural Mississippi in the early 1900s with a rare congenital disorder that renders her incontinent and unable to reproduce.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last year, the Arizona Final Salute Foundation asked University of Wyoming student Cassidy Newkirk to paint the sinking of the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Prints of the painting would help raise money to fly the six remaining survivors of the Arizona to Hawaii to be honored at the 75th anniversary ceremony. But as soon as she began the work, Newkirk says strange things started happening. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Agriculture

Topic: Wyoming passed the Food Freedom Act, giving the state's farmers and ranchers the most flexible food rules in the nation...making it possible for them sell things direct to consumers that are illegal elsewhere, like unpasteurized milk, poultry, jams, and other foods. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards talked with the author of the new book *Biting the Hands That Feed Us: How Fewer, Smarter Laws Would Make Our Food System More Sustainable* about Wyoming's Food Freedom Act and just how common this level of deregulation is in other states.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/14/16 at 3 pm and 10/16/16 at noon on WPR. 10/16/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Economy

Topic: Wyoming voters will be asked to support a constitutional amendment this November that will change the way the state treasurer can manage Wyoming's rainy day accounts and

endowments. Called Constitutional Amendment A, it will allow the state treasurer to invest that money in the equities market and the expectation is that it will help grow those funds. Some are concerned that this could put funds at risk, but State Treasurer Mark Gordon says the amendment would allow the Treasurer to manage these funds like the state currently manages to Permanent Mineral Trust fund. He joins us to discuss the proposal.

Time: 8 min

Date: 10/21/16 at 3 pm and 10/23/16 at noon on WPR. 10/23/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: With the economic downturn, sales tax income has plummeted and local government finds itself in a world of financial hurt. Hiring freezes, layoffs, decisions not to move forward with road repairs, and the reduction of other services have either been approved or contemplated across the state.

Recently the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, or WAM, urged the legislature's revenue committee to consider ways to allow communities to generate more revenue. Bob Beck asked WAM Executive Director Shelley Simonton how dire the situation is.

Time: 10 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Native American Issues

Topic: Wyoming's Native American community is more affected by government decisions than perhaps any other group in the state. Yet, low voter engagement among those affiliated with the Wind River Indian Reservation continues to frustrate tribal leaders.

The Wind River Native Advocacy Center — a nonprofit that works to empower Native Americans in Wyoming — has launched an ambitious new program aimed at getting out the native vote in Fremont County.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Staying on the Wind River Reservation, for years now, there's been an effort to pass a bill called Indian Education For All that would make sure all Wyoming students know about the history and culture of the state's two tribes, the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho.

But the bill has never gained steam. As Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, there's now renewed hope, thanks to a collaborative project between tribal leaders and Wyoming PBS.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: It's been a long time since a large market book has tackled the history of the Indian Wars in the American West. But just last month, a new one hit bookstores, titled *The Earth Is Weeping*. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards chatted with author Peter Cozzens about why he felt it was time to get people thinking about this tragic era in American history.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For as long as 75 year old Dick Baldes can remember, his tribe has been trying to bring wild bison back to the Wind River Indian Reservation. In November, the tribe saw that dream realized. They set ten wild bison loose on 300 acres on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Dick Baldes spent his entire career working to bring back wildlife to the reservation. And it was his son, Jason Baldes, that helped make the bison release a reality. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards attended the release ceremony. It started with a prayer.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last week, the Northern Arapaho tribe issued a statement expressing frustration about being left out of a meeting on removing the grizzly bear from the Endangered Species List. The disagreement has left some people wondering if grizzly delisting could be the Dakota Access Pipeline of Wyoming in which local tribes assert themselves as sovereign nations. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Business

Topic: Around 500 people will come together at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne November 10th and 11th for the 2016 Governor's Business Forum. The theme this year is Innovation and Resilience for the Future. Wyoming Business Alliance president Bill Schilling joined Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard for a preview of the event.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Wildlife

Topic: The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission recently acquired a key area in the upper Green River Valley. It will remove a bottleneck that could have harmed mule deer migration, and was donated by the Conservation Fund who worked with others to purchase the property. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck spoke with Mark Elsbree, the senior vice president for the western region with the conservation fund, about why this is so important.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/4/16 at 3 pm and 11/6/16 at noon on WPR. 11/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming Republicans were dealt a setback in their efforts to keep sage grouse off the federal endangered species list. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Winter in Yellowstone National Park has become a time for people to get a better look at Yellowstone's wolf population. It's also a great time to hear the wolves howl. Jennifer Jerrett produced this piece from Yellowstone.

Time: 2 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Public Lands

Topic: In recent years, lawmakers have proposed several bills allowing the *state* to take over management of Wyoming's abundant *federal* lands...it's National Forests, Parks and Bureau of Land Management areas. As Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, this week,

legislators looked at yet another bill, this time proposing to amend the state constitution to allow public land takeovers.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/11/16 at 3 pm and 11/13/16 at noon on WPR. 11/13/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In recent years, more and more bills have been introduced in Wyoming's legislature that would transfer the management of federal public lands into the state control. It's not the first time the idea has been attempted though. Back in the 1950's, a national monument was handed over to the city of Cody. Melodie Edwards chatted with Buffalo Bill Museum curator Jeremy Johnston about why the Shoshone Caverns monument ultimately ended up back in federal hands. Johnston starts the story with how the caves were discovered.

Time: 7 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In the Checkerboard area of southwest Wyoming, ranchers and wild horse advocates have been battling in court since 2011, leaving the Bureau of Land Management stuck in the middle. The most recent court ruling halted the agency's October round-up and now, as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, the agency must try to find a new management style for wild horses.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/2/16 at 3 pm and 12/4/16 at noon on WPR. 12/4/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Education

Topic: It's been a rough year for state officials. A greater than expected revenue decline last spring forced lawmakers to cut \$67 million out of existing budgets, and the governor was forced to follow-up with an additional \$250 million. While revenues are starting to show some moderate improvement, Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck says lawmakers will be debating the wisdom of even more cuts, especially as a revenue shortfall for education looms.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Sports

Topic: The Wyoming Cowboys football is team preparing for its first bowl appearance in five years when it faces an old foe in Brigham Young. The two teams have not played each other since 2010 when BYU decided to leave the Mountain West Conference. Over the years BYU has dominated the rivalry and if the Cowboys win it will be the first victory over the Cougars since 2003. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports that according to the players and coaches, BYU has another outstanding team.

Time: 4 min

Date: Date: 12/16/16 at 3 pm and 12/18/16 at noon on WPR. 12/18/16 at 9am on WPM.