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2025 WAM Winter Conference

Welcome to Cheyenne!

Thank you for taking the time to join us in Cheyenne for the 2025 WAM Winter Conference! Since I joined WAM in September as your new Executive Director, it has been a whirlwind of activity serving you, our members. I want to start by thanking the WAM Board of Directors for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead this great association and for being so supportive of the transition of the organization. The WAM staff and I are working hard to reinvigorate the organization and are dedicated to executing our mission by supporting all of our 99 municipalities with resources, training, and legislative representation.

We hope that you've noticed these efforts, and they have helped you feel more connected to your association. We want you to be well informed through communications like the monthly *Word from WAM* newsletter and weekly *This Week at the Capitol*. Additionally, we hope you were able to catch the three-part legislative webinar series we just wrapped up and plan to bring you more relevant and timely webinars throughout the year through a robust communication strategy.

One of the most exciting parts of that plan just launched last week with the roll out of our updated WAM website (www.wyomuni.org). Having a modern, intuitive, and informative web presence is something we believe is critical for communicating as a one-stop shop for our membership. Finally, we wanted a fresh, front-facing platform we could provide information to our stakeholders, corporate partners, legislative and executive branches. WAM Deputy Director Justin Schilling worked closely with the talented team at LUM Studio in Casper to deliver this functional space. He is excited to talk about some of the new features of the website during our Membership Meeting on Thursday afternoon.

For those that are newly elected or first-time attendees, we are happy you decided to take the time to engage with your association. We truly believe in the benefit of programs like our Newly Elected Bootcamp and the other ongoing education provided over the next few days. With that said, for all our members, this association is what you make it! We hope you take advantage of the numerous ways we have provided to participate in learning and networking. We are here to help make you the best local leader you can be!

Under my watch, we will continually strive to improve and provide meaningful opportunities. We are actively engaging with leadership from the Wyoming Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers and the Wyoming City Managers Association to draw on the expertise of all three organizations to continually improve educational opportunities at future events. Please make sure to fill out the electronic survey following this conference, as your feedback will help to provide future programming.

Finally, I hope we are able to personally connect this week. I would also encourage you to take the time to meet the other members, statewide leaders, agency directors, legislators, vendors and corporate partners that will be in attendance.

We are all stronger together,

Ashley Harpstreith, WAM Executive Director



Our Presenters

Newly Elected Bootcamp

Joe Coyne, Community Builders Incorporated, Principal Consultant



Joe is an effective trainer and consultant with decades of community and economic development experience in Wyoming. Since 2009, CBI has worked in nearly every Wyoming community. Joe is known for his common-sense approach to solving problems, often adapting best practice principles to address each community's unique needs. He frequently trains local government employees, leaders, and elected officials.

Joe is a SBDC-Certified Business Councilor, certified by National Main Street Program, and has partially completed Economic Developer Certification through the International Economic Development Council.

Joe has a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in Government) from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Need Grants? We're Here to Help!

Diana Cabriaes, Wyoming State Grants Office, Deputy Administrator

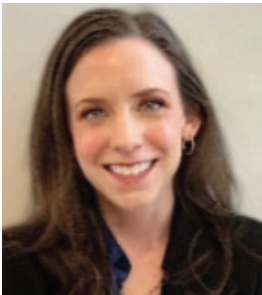


Besides her work in the State Grants Office, Diana also serves as a Senior Budget Analyst for the State Budget Department. Prior to coming to the Budget Department Diana served as a Grant Manager for the Department of Workforce Services, Unemployment Division and Employment & Training Division.

Prior to entering public service she gained experience in financial and operations management, strategic communications and compliance strategies.

Her primary areas of expertise include Regulatory & Reporting Compliance, Budgeting & Fund Management specializing in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Capital Projects Fund (CPF).

Christine Emminger, Wyoming State Grants Office. Administrator



Christine serves as the Reporting and Program Lead for the State of Wyoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Capital Project Funds (CPF), as well as being a Senior Budget Analyst for the State Budget Department.

Prior to joining the Budget Department Christine had experience with the Homeland Security Grant Program (Audit Compliance), Grants Solution Reporting Portal, and Emergency Operations.

She had over a decade of public service across Non-profits and State Government thusfar in her career.

Dru Palmer, Office of the Governor, Grants Integration Manager



Dru served as the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for former Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo), as well as being the Mountain States Field Director and National Director of Development for People for the USA (formerly People for the West).

Dru is also a past Vice President of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming, and former Manager for Regulatory Affairs, Permitting, and Compliance with Devon Energy overseeing Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

Currently Dru's time is split serving as President of DRU Consulting, LLC, and as the Grants Integration Manager for Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon.

Our Presenters

Facilitating Mental Wellness in the Workplace: A Toolkit for Leadership

Claudine McDonald, Workpartners, Community Advocate



Claudine McDonald is a collaborator, connector, creator and steadfast advocate for community. She has trained on the topic Equity, Diversity and Inclusion around the country and beyond. She has worked to integrate inclusion perspectives into organizational structures for over 25 years.

Claudine has received two Governor of Colorado appointments. One for the Governor's Asian Pacific American Advisory Council where she promoted diversity and competency to increase quality of services for the AAPI community. The second to the Senate Bill 211 Advisory Commission to Cover All Colorado Kids and promote healthcare coverage. Claudine worked for a non-profit health plan, for 22 years as the Director of Member Engagement & Inclusion. In her role she served as an internal ombudsman and ADA Coordinator on member concerns helping families to navigate the system and find solutions to complex needs.

Homeland Security Coordination Update

Lynn Budd, Wyoming Department of Homeland Security, State Director



Lynn Budd was appointed by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon as the Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) and the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor in January 2019.

Lynn has worked at the Office of Homeland Security since April of 2011, serving the state and agency in multiple positions. As a member of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), she has served on the Homeland Security Committee (past Vice Chair), and as a member of the Resilience, Legislative and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Committees. She has served on the NEMA Board of Directors as the FEMA Region 8 Vice President representing the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Utah, South Dakota and North Dakota, Board Secretary and Vice President. She currently serves as the President of the Board.

She is a member of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to FEMA Region 8 and served as the Chair from April 2022 to November 2023. As the Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor, Lynn is active in the Governor's Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) through the National Governor's Association.

DEQ Issues

Todd Parfitt, Department of Environmental Quality, State Director



Todd Parfitt was appointed Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) by Governor Matt Mead in October 2012 and subsequently reappointed in January 2019 by newly elected Governor Mark Gordon.

Parfitt served as DEQ's deputy director and head of the Industrial Siting Division prior to his appointment. Earlier in his career, he was director of operations for BHE Environmental, a private environmental consulting company.

Changing the Prevention Narrative: Suicide as a Social Issue and a Municipal Responsibility

Lesley Manson Psy.D, Prosper, Master Trainer



Dr. Lesley Manson, Psy.D. has spent over a decade providing direct service. Her dedication to behavioral health and integrated care models led her to directing behavioral health programs, providing continuing education to healthcare providers, and developing workshops and trainings for behavioral health and primary care providers to be successful and integral members of healthcare teams. Her specialty is within the area of building fiscally sustainable integrated health care with identifiable return on investment and cost savings. She has advanced experience in continuous quality improvement, behavior change, and standardization and outcome measurement for behavioral health programs integrated into primary care.

Dr. Manson has spearheaded multidisciplinary teams for primary care process improvement and population specific quality improvement and standardization, which has led to improved healthcare outcomes, enhanced quality assurance, increased compliance and patient engagement, and reduced healthcare costs.

Event Agenda

Wednesday, January 22nd

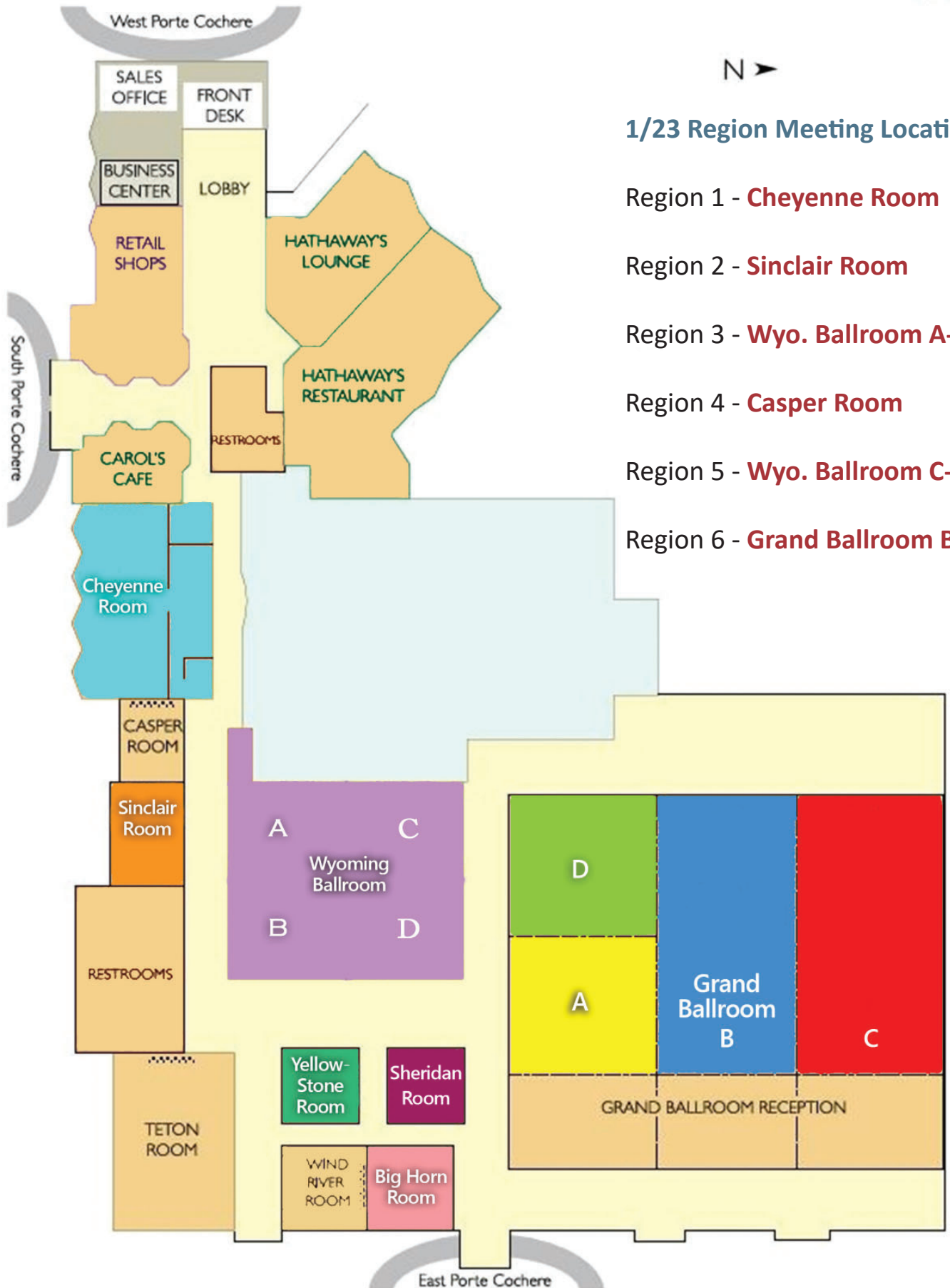
- 11:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Open - **Grand Ballroom Reception**
 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Newly Electeds' Bootcamp - **Wyoming Ballroom A-B**
 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. WAM Board of Directors Meeting - **Sinclair Room**
 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. WAM Membership Dinner at Little America - **Grand Ballroom A-D**
 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. WAM After Dark - **Paramount Ballroom, 1609 Capitol Avenue**, Shuttle Available

Thursday, January 23rd

- 7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet - **Grand Ballroom B-C**
 7:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Region Meetings - **See Facing Page for Room Assignments**
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Vendor Village - **Grand Ballroom A-D**
 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions
1. **Need Grants? We're here to help!**, Christine Emminger, Director, State Grants Office; Diana Cabriaes, Deputy Director, State Grants Office; Dru Palmer, Grants Intergration Manager, Office of the Governor
Wyoming Ballroom C-D
 2. **Facilitating Mental Wellness in the Workplace: A Toolkit for Leadership**, Claudine McDonald, Workpartners
Cheyenne Room
 3. **Homeland Security Coordination Update**, Lynn Budd, Director, Wyoming Department of Homeland Security
Wyoming Ballroom A-B
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Keynote: Total Town Makeover**, Andrew McCrea, award-winning broadcaster and host of American Countryside - **Grand Ballroom B-C**
 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - **Grand Ballroom B-C**
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wyoming City Managers Association Winter Meeting - **Casper Room**
 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
1. **DEQ Issues**, Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Sinclair Room
 2. **Changing the Prevention Narrative: Suicide as a Social Issue and a Municipal Responsibility**, Lesley Manson Psy.D, Master Trainer, Prosper
Cheyenne Room
 3. **State of Gaming Panel Discussion**, Moderator Dr. Mark Rinne, Council Member, Cheyenne; Ashley Harpstreith, Executive Director, WAM; Nicholas Larramendy, Executive Director, Wyoming Gaming Commission; Katharine Wilkinson, Government Affairs, Cowboy Skill; Kyle Ridgeway, President, 307 Horse Racing; Dave Picard, Government Affairs, Sports Betting Alliance
Wyoming Ballroom A-B-C-D
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Break and Refreshments in the Vendor Village - **Grand Ballroom A-D**
 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. WAM Legislative Update - **Wyoming Ballroom A-B-C-D**
 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. WAM Legislative Reception at Little America - **Grand Ballroom B-C**
- Friday, January 24th - All Events at the Wyoming State Capitol**
 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast, **Capitol Extension Room W053/W054**
 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Capitol Exploration, Committee Meetings
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **SLIB Panel Discussion**, Moderator Carter Napier, Interim President, WAM; Governor Mark Gordon, Secretary of State Chuck Gray, Treasurer Curt Meier, Auditor Kristi Racines, Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder - **Capitol Extension Auditorium**
 12:00 p.m. Adjourn - Safe Travels!

Please Visit
Our Vendor
Village!

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. | Holophane | 14. | LGLP |
| 2. | Metron | 15. | SLIB |
| 3. | Wy Smart Capital Network | 16. | WY 211 |
| 4. | Social News Desk | 17. | USDA Rural Development |
| 5. | HDR | 18. | Hooton Tech |
| 6. | Visionary Broadband | 19. | Mountain Health Co-op |
| 7. | WY Rural Water Systems | 20. | Inberg-Miller |
| 8. | WCDA | 21. | Depart of Audit |
| 9. | Old Glory | 22. | State Budget |
| 10. | WY CLASS | 23. | WAM-JPIC/BCBS |
| 11. | WGIF/PFM | 24. | Ketel Thorstenson, LLP |
| 12. | RMP | 25. | Prosper (Suicide Prevention) |
| 13. | COWBOY Skills | | |



1/23 Region Meeting Locations

Region 1 - **Cheyenne Room**

Region 2 - **Sinclair Room**

Region 3 - **Wyo. Ballroom A-B**

Region 4 - **Casper Room**

Region 5 - **Wyo. Ballroom C-D**

Region 6 - **Grand Ballroom B**

Our Presenters

State of Gaming Panel Discussion

Nicholas Larramendy, Wyoming Gaming Commission, Executive Director



Nicholas is a lifelong resident of Wyoming and graduated from High School in Casper. He began his career in Law Enforcement in 2002 and has over 23 years of professional Law Enforcement experience. He started at the Wyoming Gaming Commission in 2019 as the first Sworn Special Agent for the Wyoming Gaming Commission.

During his tenure at the commission he began as a Special Agent, and was promoted to Special Agent Supervisor then Deputy Director. In November 2024 he was selected as the new Executive Director of the commission upon the retirement of the longtime Director Charles Moore.

Dave Picard, Sports Betting Alliance, Government Affairs



Dave Picard is a veteran political strategist and lobbyist, honing issues for candidates and clients. The product of a 4th generation pioneer ranching family in Wyoming, Dave easily grasps the complete picture of politics and specific issue areas, providing his clients the best advocacy and advice available.

In 1997, Dave formed The Wyoming Group, LLC, a government and public affairs firm serving the Rocky Mountain region with special emphasis in Wyoming. The firm specializes in the areas of lobbying, strategic planning, coalition building and mobilization, issue management and public relations in the government policy-making arena.

Dave attended the University of Wyoming and is an Honors Graduate from Western CUNA Management School at Claremont College in Pomona, California.

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WYOMING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIABILITY POOL

Our Presenters

State of Gaming Panel Discussion - continued

Kyle Ridgeway, 307 Horse Racing, President



Kyle Ridgeway is the President and CFO of 307 Horse Racing which runs live horse racing events throughout the state, as well as simulcasting, and operating locations with electronic horse-based entertainment.

Prior to joining 307 Horse Racing, Kyle was the Chief Operating Officer at the Wyoming Financial Group (WERCS) and worked to help keep Wyoming businesses under Wyoming ownership.

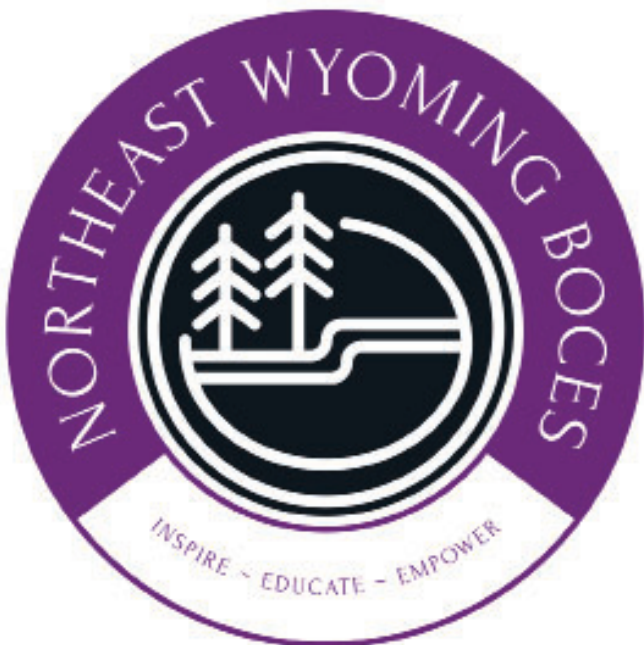
Katharine Wilkinson, Esq., Cowboy Skill, Government Affairs



Katharine K. Wilkinson is a licensed Attorney in the State of Wyoming. Her focus is Government Relations and Lobbying.

She currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Wyoming Taxpayers Association, serves on the Wyoming State Bar Legislative Developments Committee and was a member of the 2013 Class of Leadership Wyoming.

She has a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.



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Please join us for...



**LUNCH
WITH
LOCALS**

Three opportunities this session!

Wednesday February 5th

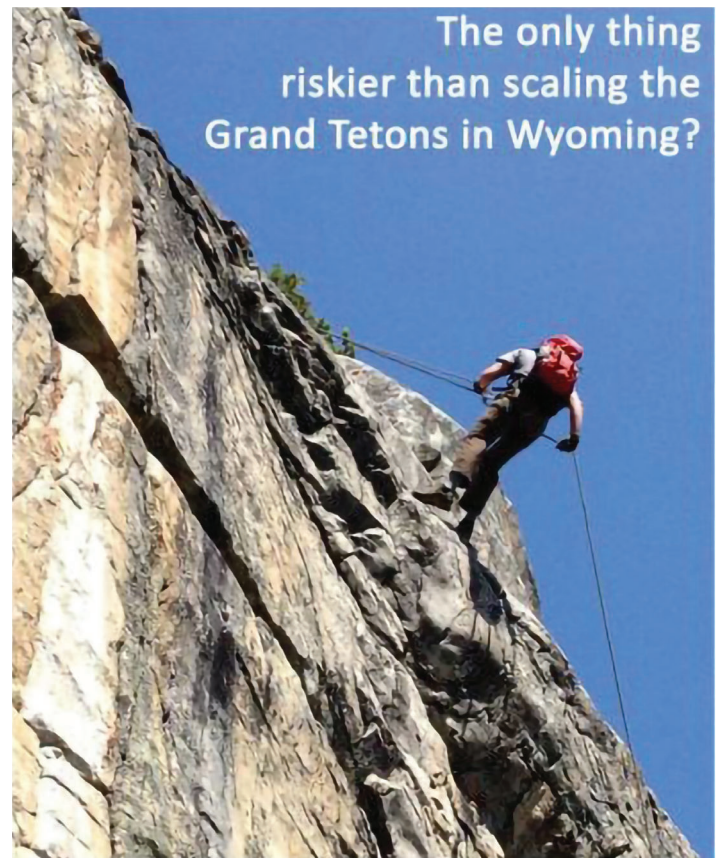
Wednesday February 19th

Thursday February 27th

Capitol Extension Conference Center Room

W053/W054 from Noon to 2 p.m.

*Please RSVP with WAM Deputy Director Justin Schilling
at jschilling@wyomuni.org*



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For information contact Earla Checchi
307.632.0398 - checchi@wyomuni.org

For Nearly 30 Years Keynote Speaker Andrew McCrea Has Been Criss-Crossing the Nation to Tell Rural America's Story

Farmer and rancher...nationally syndicated radio broadcaster...popular speaker...it's a unique combination that captivates and challenges audiences to action. Since 1996 Andrew McCrea has traveled the nation, producing the "American Countryside" features that are heard each day on over 100 radio stations and XM satellite radio.

He's conducted interviews in all 50 states and on six continents talking to people from all walks of life - Emmy and Grammy winners, All-star athletes and even the world's rooster crowing champion! He's been body slammed by professional wrestlers, traveled to the launch pads at Cape Canaveral, and chronicled the struggle of impoverished farmers in Africa. But often, it's an interview with someone you've never heard of with a story you won't forget.

What makes Andrew unique is the broad background his life encompasses. He continues to actively manage and work on his family's farm and ranch in

northwest Missouri. He checks cattle on horseback and still runs the feed truck, planter and combine. His blend of humor and real-life strategies for living life with purpose inspire groups to action. He has provided leadership programs for groups from coast-to-coasts, addressing audiences of up to 10,000 people.

He believes in building strong communities. He is the vice-chairman of the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri, a three-term elected member of the school board and past chairman of the Missouri Beef Industry Council. Andrew is also a certified lay speaker, a role that brings him to speak at many churches on topics of faith.

He is the author of six books including his latest title, *The Total Town Makeover*. All of his publications are insightful books about life and leadership based on the interesting stories featured on the radio program. His wife and two children are the love of his life and he cherishes his time with them.



Andrew McCrea on his family's Missouri ranch

From coast-to-coast and around the world, Andrew brings his insights to audiences... inspiring and motivating them to make real world differences in life.





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