

KTVM
Butte, Montana

COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT
1st Quarter 2009

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	Montana Today Community Issues Report First Quarter 2009	
Issue	News Story	Day/TMT
Child/Teen	<p>Missoula Children's Museum is offering yoga for you and your little one (6wks-2yrs) on Tuesday, January 6th at 11am. Call 541-PLAY to register.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/05/09</p>
	<p>The Hockaday Museum of Art offers a Preschool Art Time for kids ages 2-5 on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:00pm through the school year. The cost is free to family level members, and a \$3 donation is suggested for non-members.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/06/09</p>
	<p>Afterschool Adventures will be on Thursday, January 8th at 3pm at Missoula Children's Museum. The arts and culture program gives children a chance to learn, play, and imagine with local artists. Call 541-PLAY for more information.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/08/09</p>
	<p>Animal Arts Collective will be on Friday, January 16th at 3:30pm at Missoula Children's Museum. This new program is designed for kids' ages 5-8 that adore the animal kingdom. There will be fun art projects big and small that focus on a new and different creature each week. Call 541-PLAY for more information.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/12/09</p>
	<p>A Montana company, Axiom International, is voluntarily recalling 5300 children's sunglasses that were imported from China after finding their paint may contain excessive levels of lead. Consumers are advised to return them to the place of purchase, even though there have been no reported incidents. The sunglasses are blue or red and feature a likeness of a spider web.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/19/09</p>
	<p>The Junior Mountaineering Team and Montana Mountaineering Association is offering an avalanche course for teens for \$20. The course consists of an evening classroom session on Thursday, January 22nd at Bozeman High School, and a field session on Saturday, January 24th utilizing the backcountry immediately outside of Bridger Bowl ski area. Participants must be 13-19 of age.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/22/09</p>
	<p>There will be a dinner theater fundraiser called "Redefined Chaos" at the Kalispell Christian Center on Friday, January 30th starting at 6:30pm. All proceeds benefit Montana Teen</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/28/09</p>

	<p>Challenge, a program that treats teens who have fallen into the drug epidemic. Tickets are \$15, or \$120 per table.</p> <p>The state health department will continue its free autism screenings for young children until March 31st. The screenings that began in July have helped the department create a list of children who are eligible for services offered through a federal and state program. Of the 160 children screen, 110 have been found as eligible for the program, which only has funds to help 45 children for now. The 45 will be drawn from the 110 eligible.</p> <p>The Children's Museum of Bozeman is offering a program called "PAW Smorgasbord" on Tuesday, February 2nd at 1:30pm. The program is a mix of science and art mixed together to inspire your child's mad scientist spirit and creative mind. Call 522-9087 for more information.</p> <p>The Big Sky Youth Empowerment Project is hosting nationally recognized skiers, snowboarders and photographers at Big Sky Ski Resort on February 7th and 8th. The athletes will spend time with at risk teens from BYEP, and the theme of the weekend is passionately following ones dreams. Call 539-0399 for more information.</p> <p>On February 12th from 4-6pm, all local teens' ages 12-18 are invited to Flathead County Library's 2nd annual Anti-Valentine's Day Party. Teens can stomp out their frustration on Dance Dance Revolution, drown their sorrows in chocolate, compete to win a massive jar of candy and more. The event will take place in the basement meeting room.</p> <p>The Watson's Children Shelter in Missoula has received a \$200,000 grant which will help pay for a new shelter. The shelter takes in at risk kids from abusive and neglectful homes. The shelter has to turn kids away right now due to space restrictions, and this grant will let the shelter help even more at risk children.</p> <p>There will be a Friday night hang out for teens ages 13-18 at the all new City Life Community Center in Missoula. Admission is free to get it and there will be activities like dodgeball, video games, ping pong, foosball, and paintball will be available for fifty cents per game. The café will be open for purchasing food as well. Call 532-1556 for more information.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/30/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/30/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/04/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/10/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/18/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/24/09</p>
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	<p>The Bozeman school board has voted unanimously to add cyber-bullying to the list of harassment and hazing that can get a student expelled. The board voted to add electronic communications, including computer, cell phone, PDA's or internet, to its rules barring any intimidation that can create a hostile environment that could disrupt a child's education.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 02/26/09</p>
	<p>A preschool screening clinic for children ages 0-5 in the Lolo and Woodman school districts will be held at the Lolo Elementary School beginning at 9am on Thursday, February 26th. The free screening will include gross motor, fine motor, language concepts, communication concepts, communication skills, hearing, and vision screenings. Call Donna at 273-0451 to schedule an appointment.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 02/26/09</p>
	<p>Registration for the third session of YMCA swimming lessons will be on March 10th for Members and March 11th for community participants. Financial assistance is always available. Call 721-9622 for more information.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 03/09/09</p>
	<p>Missoula County conducted its first ever dropout prevention survey last year, and found that failing grades or a lack of credits were the top reasons area kids dropped out. County officials have now given the school district the survey results so they can start working on programs that are aimed at keeping kids in school, and hope they will tailor some programs around these specific dropout reasons.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 03/12/09</p>

Crime/Safety	<p>The Forest Service says conditions are so deadly that people should stay off the mountains for now. But for outdoor enthusiasts who can't stay away, there are three pieces of equipment that can save their life and should have at all times. This includes an avalanche beacon that can locate you, a probe that can help you figure out how far to dig, and a shovel to dig you out of the avalanche. Experts say you need to make sure you know how to use the equipment, and that taking an avalanche safety course is a must.</p>	5:30-7a 01/05/09
	<p>An AARP Driver Safety class will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 8th and 9th, from 9:00am to 1:00pm at St. Patrick's Hospital Broadway Building. Call 543-7184 for more information.</p>	5:30-7a 01/06/09
	<p>The Avalanche Center rates the risk as high in West Central Montana, including Lost Trail, Lookout Pass, the Rattlesnake, and the Southern Swan near Seeley Lake. Because of the current rain on snow, it isn't a good time to be in the backcountry because it puts heavy weight on an already weak snow base.</p>	5:30-7a 01/08/09
	<p>The Missoula Snowmobile Club is sponsoring a free hands-on Avalanche Beacon Training Class at the new Lolo Pass training site on Sunday, January 11th from 10am-2pm. All interested are encouraged to join the training.</p>	5:30-7a 01/09/09
	<p>The Whitefish Police Department is warning residents of a text message scam targeting Alltel customers regarding their Bear Paw Credit Union account. The text states the account is locked, and gives a number to call to restore the account, which asks for the account number, pin, and security code. They are urging you to contact law enforcement if you receive this text message, or one similar to it.</p>	5:30-7a 02/13/09
	<p>Today, teens from all over the state are heading to the steps of the capitol building in Helena, asking lawmakers to continue their support of the Montana Meth Project. This protest comes after a PHD student from Australia formed a report stating the project really didn't help the fight against Meth in Montana, and even advised governor Schweitzer to stop state funding for it.</p>	5:30-7a 02/16/09
	<p>A company called "School Boosters" is soliciting donations from Missoula businesses on behalf of Hellgate High School, but the school is warning that they haven't seen a dime from</p>	5:30-7a 02/24/09

	this company and it is a scam. The group is asking the local businesses to advertise in a calendar, but they have no actual affiliation with the school.	
Digital Transition	KECI will have a booth set up at the 12 th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, January 10 th at Southgate Mall from 7am-2pm. We will be there to answer your digital television transition questions.	5:30-7a 01/07/09
	KECI-TV will be running a digital transition test on January 14 th from 9:55-10am and 6:55-7pm. If you see the message "stand by digital test in progress", then you are prepared for the digital transition. If you see static you will be urged to stay tuned for an upcoming report because you are not ready for the digital conversion.	5:30-7a 01/14/09
	Missoula Aging Services and Ravalli County Council on Aging are offering one-on-one assistance to older adults who need help with the transition to digital television. For more information or to receive assistance call 728-7682 in Missoula and 363-5690 in Ravalli County.	5:30-7a 01/16/09
	The House and the Senate have both passed a measure today to delay the digital transition to June 12 in order to give some breathing room to the 6.5 million Americans who are not quite ready for it. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it.	5:30-7a 02/05/09
	Now that the government has pushed the digital transition date forward to June, television stations have the choice to make the transition now or to wait. KECI-TV has made the choice to wait until June 12 th to do the full conversion.	5:30-7a 02/06/09
Disadvantaged Persons Issues	Food banks in Montana are getting hit hard right now to, with a 40% increase in people using the service. They are reminding all Montanans that they welcome non-perishable food items, meat, or monetary donations.	5:30-7a 01/15/09
	Tools 4 Schools Montana is gathering new blankets and pillows to help low income families this winter. They will be distributed on Saturday, January 24 th from 11am-5pm at the Hamilton fire station. Drop-off locations in Hamilton include By Owner Realty, Don's Home Center, First Security Bank, Perkins Restaurant, and Ravalli County Bank. Call 961-8800 for more information.	5:30-7a 01/23/09
	"Project Homeless Connect" in Missoula offered up free food for people and pets, clothing and mending, and some	5:30-7a 01/30/09

	<p>live music today, in order to help out the area homeless. Other services that were provided included free haircuts, dental check-ups, pet vaccination, and legal assistance.</p> <p>The annual Valentine's Day luncheon to benefit Neighbors In Need will be on Friday, February 13th from 11am-2pm at Northridge Lutheran Church in Kalispell. The cost is \$8 per person, or \$9 per person for delivered meals. Please call 752-7266 for more information.</p> <p>There will be a low-income spay/neuter clinic for cats on Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22nd. It is sponsored by Missoula Animal Control in conjunction with the Humane Society and Ani-meals. Call 240-4693 to make an appointment.</p> <p>There will be an all you can eat pancake supper at the Mission Valley United Methodist Church on February 24th from 5:30-8pm. The cost is \$5 per adult, \$2.50 per child, or \$20 for a family, and all proceeds go to outreach programs in the valley, including Doves, Safe Harbor, and Big Brother/Big Sisters.</p> <p>The "Meals At the Mall Celebration" fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 14th from 10am-9pm at Southgate Mall in Missoula. A portion of proceeds from each meal served at a number of food vendors will benefit Meals On Wheels. Participating vendors include Bob's Pizza, Caffè Dolce, Greek Gyros Café, Hoagieville, Jus Chill'n, Mustard Seed, Noodle Express, Pretzel Place, Red Robin, and Subway.</p> <p>The Human Resource Development Council has set up a fund on behalf of the Downtown Bozeman partnership to help out with the needs that have come about after the explosion downtown. The fund will provide financial assistance for affected employees and residents, and for property owners during the rebuilding process. To make a tax-deductible contribution, you can go to any First Security Bank location.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 02/09/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/18/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/24/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/12/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/13/09</p>
Domestic Violence		
Economy	<p>Yesterday the minimum wage in Montana went from \$6.55 per hour to \$6.90. This increase stems from Initiative 151 that was voted through in 2006. Many are waiting to see if the increase will actually be successful, or if it will just keep</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/02/09</p>

	<p>small businesses from hiring more employees. The minimum wage will jump again in July to \$7.25.</p> <p>Montana's two senators are trying to keep the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant open after they told its nearly 200 employees that they would be shutting down in sixty days due to an increase in electricity rates after a court ruled the discounts from BPA were too deep. The senators are asking BPA to quickly renegotiate rates with C-FAC in order to save jobs.</p> <p>The IRS has rolled out some initiatives that are designed to help people who are behind on their taxes. One program helps those with homes that have declined in value negotiate a reduction of their tax debt if they can prove they have exhausted their financial resources. The IRS will also work with taxpayers that miss an installment if they have a good record of paying, and could postpone collection actions against those in financial hardship. The IRS does stress that this isn't a free ride, but a working partnership for those in financial distress.</p> <p>The IRS is reminding those that have lost their jobs to make sure they file their taxes, even if they owe. The agency wants to work with taxpayers in this difficult time by working out installment plans, or making other arrangements. They are reminding that you may not owe as much as you might think, or your refund might be larger due to your changed situation.</p> <p>Some Montana cities have a special loan program called revolving loans and the programs want Montana businesses to take advantage of them. One of the main requirements for the low interest loans is to create one job for every \$20,000 loaned. So far the loan program has created 185 jobs in the state.</p> <p>The 2009 Employment Exploration Expo will be on Thursday, March 26th from 11am-4:30pm at the Kalispell Center Mall. The event is free and open to the public, and is ideal for individuals seeking full-time, part-time, or summer employment, temporary positions, education and retraining opportunities, new careers, or employment services.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/07/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/08/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/14/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/27/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/25/09</p>
Education	<p>Missoula Children's Museum's "Ready, Set, Read" will be on Wednesday, January 7th at 11:00am. This early literacy program is for ages 3-7, and includes interactive story time,</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/06/08</p>

	<p>art projects, and educational games. Call 541-PLAY for more information.</p> <p>There will be a financial aid seminar at the Montana Tech Library in Butte on Thursday, January 15th at 6:30pm. Experts in financial aid will discuss all forms of money for college including federal grants, loans, and scholarships.</p> <p>Bozeman Public Schools will start registration for winter Adult Ed Community classes the week of January 12th, with classes beginning on January 19th. Brochures will be distributed to the Adult Education Office, Bozeman Public Library, MSU Ask-Us-Desk, Career Transitions, and other locations. Call 522-6012 for more information.</p> <p>The Bozeman School Board has voted to add new high school classes next fall including Chinese, and biomedical science courses. The cost of adding mandarin Chinese will be covered by the University of Montana's Mansfield Center, which will teach the course over the internet. School officials say adding the biomedical sciences courses is dependent on receiving a federal grant, while MSU and local companies have offered to donate equipment.</p> <p>Flathead Country Library system in Kalispell will be presenting a special program for children and their families about winter bird feeding on Saturday, January 24th from 11:30am-1pm. Come learn how birds find food in the winter and make a bird feeder.</p> <p>The LVA Butte Literacy Program is in need of volunteer tutors to work with adult learners. An informational orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 28th from 6:30-8pm at the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library. For more information call Vickie at 723-7905.</p> <p>The Montana Board of Regents will be asked to approve a plan allowing Miles Community College to charge in-state tuition for certain students from outside Montana, including the states of Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Saskatchewan. Enrollment at the community college has been declining for five years, and the goal is to boost it.</p> <p>Small schools across the state are switching to 4-day school weeks, or considering the switch. Many schools say the original idea was to cut costs, but are finding the change to</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/12/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/13/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/14/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/19/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 01/26/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/03/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/04/09</p>
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	<p>be academically beneficial, with better attendance and morale in the schools. Alberton and Victor schools have already adopted the shortened school week, and now Lincoln schools are considering it.</p> <p>The University of Montana Western in Dillon has implemented a program called "Experience One" where students only take one course at a time before moving onto another subject, which professors say keep the students more focused. Students go to class three hours a day, five days a week for 18 days, and then move on to their next course. The student ends up taking 4 classes per semester.</p> <p>Students in public schools across the state will start taking their CRT's, Criterion Reference Tests, from March 2nd-25th. The purpose of the test is to gauge how proficient Montana students are in reading and math, and the results will come in this fall. The results from last year's tests showed a high aptitude in reading, but a boost needed in math.</p> <p>There will be a live/silent auction on Friday, March 20th at 7pm at the McQueen Club in Butte to help benefit East Middle School students going to Earth Shuttle. The cost is \$5 per ticket, and includes hors d'oeuvres and a chance for a door prize. Earth Shuttle is a program in Orlando, Florida designed to show 13-14 year old students how science is applied in every day life, with the main focus of the trip being NASA.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 02/11/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/02/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/17/09</p>
Government/ Politics	<p>A federal program called OJT is a great option for the many Montanans affected by the Semitool and Plum Creek latest layoffs. The program allows people to get a job in a field where they have little or no training. They get paid a full wage, but the employer only provides 50% of it, while the government picks up the rest of the tab. It is an enticement for employers to hire someone who may have no experience but does have basic skills that can be built on.</p> <p>State senators have rejected a plan that would have exempted tipped employees from the minimum wage increase promised in 2006. The restaurant industry said the automatic inflation increase is too expensive, and that tipped employee wages should freeze at the current \$6.90 wage. The measure failed 29 to 21.</p> <p>A press release from Senator's Baucus and Tester says the state is looking at about \$626 million from the stimulus</p>	<p>5:30-7a 01/09/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/04/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 02/16/09</p>

	package once completely passed. About a third of it will go to Montana highways, while the rest would go to education, public needs, safety, energy & weather programs, food & shelter programs, and many other needed areas.	
Growth/ Infrastructure	The federal government is allocating \$2.3 million to improve and expand airports in 16 Montana communities. The money will be used to buy snowplows and weather equipment, and to upgrade the runways.	5:30-7a 01/19/08
	Seven Montana communities will receive a combined \$1.6 million to improve and expand their airports. Missoula International will get almost a third of the money in order to upgrade a runway and build a new taxiway.	5:30-7a 02/12/09
	The Missoula Housing Authority plans to break ground Friday on an affordable housing project with 37 units. The housing will be built on part of a 12-acre parcel owned by the authority with an expected finish date in November.	5:30-7a 03/03/09
	Plum Creek Timber is giving Flathead Valley Community College \$60,000 and loaning heavy equipment to the school which will be used to expand classes in equipment operating, electrical technology, welding and other trades. This comes after FVCC reported a 20% increase in enrollment.	5:30-7a 03/26/09
Health	The Missoula Chamber of Commerce 12 th Annual Health Fair will be held on Saturday, January 10 th at the Southgate Mall from 7am-2pm. Free and low cost screenings will be available, along with a wide variety of information on health topics such as diabetes management, sleep disorders, senior living, home care services and more.	5:30-7a 01/07/09
	United Blood Services will have their Bloodmobile at Bridger Bowl between the hours of 11am-2pm on Friday, January 9 th . To reserve a time call Bridger reservations at 586-1518.	5:30-7a 01/09/09
	The grand opening of Missoula Cancer Resource Center will be on Thursday, January 15 th from 5-7pm at the Community Medical Center complex, where tours, food and beverages will be provided. The Resource Center will help to make the cancer journey as easy as possible by providing one place to search for resources that patients and caregivers might need.	5:30-7a 01/14/09
	The Food and Drug Administration is warning people not to eat anything made with peanut butter because of a salmonella outbreak. At least 6 people have died, and 400	5:30-7a 01/19/09

	people nationwide have gotten sick from the poisoning.	
	There will be a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, January 28 th on the third floor of the University Center in Missoula. To schedule an appointment, call the Red Cross at 543-6695. They are reminding donors to eat a complete meal and drink plenty of water before your appointment.	5:30-7a 01/27/09
	Meadow Gold Dairy is recalling select ice cream products sold in Montana because they could be contaminated with salmonella. The recall includes Meadow Gold Herd of Laughter Tin Can Alley ice cream with a best by date of January 1, 2008 or later.	5:30-7a 02/05/09
	The annual Red Shoe Ball to benefit Ronald McDonald House of Missoula will be on Friday, February 13 th at the Hilton Garden Inn starting at 6pm. Cost is \$75 a plate to help those families in crisis with a pediatric patient receiving medical care in Missoula. There will also be a silent and live auction, followed by dancing.	5:30-7a 02/09/09
	It's "Through With Chew" week in Montana. Public health officials say Montana has one of the nation's highest spit tobacco use rates in the country, and it hasn't declined among youth they way cigarette smoking has. If you are ready to quit, you can call the Montana tobacco quit line at 1-800-QUIT NOW.	5:30-7a 02/18/09
	IHOP's National Pancake Day will be on Tuesday, February 24 th from 7am-10pm at participating restaurants in Butte and Bozeman. For every short stack served, IHOP guests are invited to make a donation to the Children's Miracle Network program at the Shodair Children's Specialty Hospital.	5:30-7a 02/23/09
	Montana State University nursing students in conjunction with the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women will conduct two blood pressure screenings. The events will be held at the University of Montana University Center on February 27 th from 10am-2pm and at the Wal-Mart Supercenter on February 28 th from 10am-4pm. There will be educational information as well as referral information for those who are at risk for heart disease.	5:30-7a 02/25/09
	Flathead Valley Community College will host a blood drive on February 26 th from 9am-2pm in the Arts & Technology	5:30-7a 02/25/09

	<p>building. To schedule an appointment, call Sharon Randolph at 756-3981.</p> <p>The Montana National Guard is now spending about \$500,000 a year to make deployment easier on soldiers and families, and to reduce depression and suicide among the troops. The Yellow Ribbon Program has received a federal funding boost that will pay for 5 new positions.</p> <p>A bacterial meningitis outbreak at MSU Bozeman has state health officials on high alert. They are urging anyone who has symptoms of sever headaches, stiff neck, high fever, confusion, sensitivity to bright light, nausea, numbness, tingling or body rash to get immediate treatment.</p> <p>Every Saturday the "Puzzle Club" meets at a local casino. This support group is comprised of individuals who have suffered some kind of tragic brain injury and are trying to put the pieces of their life back together. The support club is free to join, and they meet every Saturday at Jokers Wild in Missoula.</p> <p>Marcus Daly Hospice is looking for volunteers. Volunteer training is scheduled for March 26th and 27th from 6-9pm and March 28th from 9am-5pm which includes a very informative curriculum on end of life care and support. Call Margaret Beattie at 375-4713 for more information.</p> <p>A California company, Setton Farms, is voluntarily recalling more than 1-million pounds of pistachios because of possible salmonella contamination. No illnesses have been reported in regards to this recall yet.</p>	<p>5:30-7a 03/02/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/13/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/16/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/26/09</p> <p>5:30-7a 03/31/09</p>

	<p align="center">News at 5pm Community Issues Report First Quarter 2009</p>	
Issue	News Story	Day/TMT
Child/Teen	<p>Three middle school girls from Bridger, Montana, part of a program called "Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America", have raised money to buy defibrillators for the Bridger school district after learning of the Bigfork tragedy. Between what they have raised and a grant, the girls have purchased two machines, one for the elementary school and one for the high school, both of which didn't previously have one. Any leftover money will go toward helping the police department and senior center also buy machines.</p>	02/02/09
	<p>After students in two Montana high schools have brought guns on campus, schools are reviewing their procedures in accordance with the Gun Free Schools Act. The moment there's a chance that a gun is on campus, the school is locked down, searched, and police are called to the school and stay until they either find the weapon or the school is deemed safe. Under the act, the student offender will have a hearing, but will most likely suffer a one-year suspension or expulsion.</p>	02/06/09
	<p>The Watson's Children Shelter in Missoula has received a \$200,000 grant which will help pay for a new shelter. The shelter takes in at risk kids from abusive and neglectful homes. The shelter has to turn kids away right now due to space restrictions, and this grant will let the shelter help even more at risk children.</p>	02/17/09

Crime/Safety	<p>City officials in Bozeman are reviewing a second draft of the red light camera ordinance at their commission meeting tonight. If the ordinance is adopted, the cameras would go up in March or April, and the program would start on May 1st. Council members wanted video captured from the cameras to be used in investigations of serious crimes like kidnapping or bank robberies. These provisions are now in the second draft of the ordinance.</p>	01/12/09
	<p>A Montana State University student wants to help decrease the number of drunk drivers by taking a class project to the real world. He installs and maintains alcohol engine interlock systems, a device that won't let intoxicated drivers start their cars. He is one of only four vendors of this type of product in the state.</p>	02/12/09
	<p>A group of frustrated Missoula residents have formed a group called "Armed Guard", who will be using cell phones, pens, paper, and camera's to try and catch the criminals who have been vandalizing and burglarizing Missoula recently. The group is working on coordinating with the police department and with the established Neighborhood Watch program to bring these criminals to justice.</p>	02/23/09
	<p>The Department of Corrections wants to build a pre-release center in Kalispell in order to give inmates that will be paroled soon job training, and alcohol counseling. Right now they have to send these inmates to six different parts of the state for this. You can give your opinion at a public meeting on February 26th at 7pm at the old Montana Department of Health building on Highway 93.</p>	02/25/09
	<p>Internet scammers went phishing for personal banking information from Mountain West Bank customers through a fictitious email that cloned the bank's website, asking the customers to sign in. The email had absolutely no connection to the bank, and if you think you were a victim, it is important that you contact your bank immediately.</p>	03/02/09
	<p>Thanks to some extra funding from a state grant and the Missoula DUI Task Force, police departments all over the state are beefing up and saturating their cities this St. Patrick's day with extra cars and officers on the streets. The ramp up is meant to deter and catch those driving drunk on this holiday known for beer drinking. Officials are asking that all celebrating designate a driver.</p>	03/17/09

Digital Transition	<p>The federal government mailed out \$40 coupons to help people purchase their converter boxes, but because so many people requested the coupons, the government has run out of funding to cover the vouchers. Anyone who applied after January 4th will be put on a waiting list until more funds become available.</p>	01/06/09
	<p>Viewers have found that after hooking up their converter box, getting the stations has been unreliable. With analog, a weak antenna reception will give a fuzzy picture. But with digital, a weak antenna reception causes the picture to either freeze or not show up at all. The solution is to change your rabbit ears antenna with a rooftop antenna that is more sensitive and less affected by obstructions.</p>	01/07/09
	<p>KECI-TV will be running a digital transition test on January 14th from 9:55-10am and 6:55-7pm. If you see the message "stand by digital test in progress", then you are prepared for the digital transition. If you see static you will be urged to stay tuned for an upcoming report because you are not ready for the digital conversion.</p>	01/13/09
	<p>The House and the Senate have both passed a measure today to delay the digital transition to June 12 in order to give some breathing room to the 6.5 million Americans who are not quite ready for it. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it.</p>	02/04/09
	<p>Now that the government has pushed the digital transition date forward to June, television stations have the choice to make the transition now or to wait. KECI-TV has made the choice to wait until June 12th to do the full conversion.</p>	02/05/09
	<p>Neilson surveys tell us that more than 15% of Montana viewers aren't ready for the digital transition, which made the decision for KECI-TV to wait until June 12 to finish the conversion. For those who aren't ready, the decision needs to be made between buying a new digital TV, a low cost converter box, or signing up for cable or satellite. For viewers who are ready, we already offer a low-power digital signal.</p>	02/06/09
	<p>AARP operators are manning a call center in Montana for retirees that have questions about the digital transition. The center is open from 6am-8pm through March 31st, and the toll free number is 1-800-698-8068.</p>	02/19/09

Disadvantaged Persons Issues	Montana churches are taking a large financial hit during this economic crisis, and are getting record numbers of requests for help. The upside is that churches of different denominations are starting to work together to help fill the needs of the local community.	01/14/09
	Food banks in Montana are getting hit hard right now to, with a 40% increase in people using the service. They are reminding all Montanans that they welcome non-perishable food items, meat, or monetary donations.	01/14/09
	A food bank campaign run by the Town Pump Charitable Foundation has raised almost \$1.5 million for Montana Food Banks. Food Bank staffers are especially grateful in this hard economic time, as the money helps pay for rent, storage, utilities, refrigeration, and freezer space.	01/29/09
	Seven Montana Food Service Organizations will now be able to get more food out to their patrons when they received refrigerated trucks from a combined effort between Senator Tester, Congressman Rehberg, the Missoula Food Bank, and Washington Corporation. The organizations will now be able to pickup dairy, deli, meat, produce, and bread.	01/30/09
	"Experience Works" is a national program that helps thousands of low-income people, 55 and older, enter the workforce by giving them either a government or non-profit job for 90 days while receiving job training. After 90 days, they can continue on training or be given help to find another job. They are paid minimum wage for the 90-day training program, and work around 20 hours a week. In Flathead County there are more positions available than there are people to fill them.	02/02/09
	Western States Equipment Company just finished a food drive that spanned across Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and collected over 100,000 pounds of food. Organizers ended up filling 1 ½ dump trucks full of food, and the company kicked in \$15,000 for area food banks. The food and money will be divided between 11 regional food banks.	02/19/09
	The Human Resource Development Council has set up a fund on behalf of the Downtown Bozeman partnership to help out with the needs that have come about after the explosion downtown. The fund will provide financial	03/12/09

	<p>assistance for affected employees and residents, and for property owners during the rebuilding process. To make a tax-deductible contribution, you can go to any First Security Bank location.</p> <p>Nearly \$500,000 from the Recovery Act is coming to Montana senior nutrition programs. The funding will provide meals to low-income seniors across the state of Montana.</p>	03/18/09
Domestic Violence		
Economy	<p>Montana's two senators are trying to keep the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant open after they told its nearly 200 employees that they would be shutting down in sixty days due to an increase in electricity rates after a court ruled the discounts from BPA were too deep. The senators are asking BPA to quickly renegotiate rates with C-FAC in order to save jobs.</p> <p>A federal program called OJT is a great option for the many Montanans affected by the Semitool and Plum Creek latest layoffs. The program allows people to get a job in a field where they have little or no training. They get paid a full wage, but the employer only provides 50% of it, while the government picks up the rest of the tab. It is an enticement for employers to hire someone who may have no experience but does have basic skills that can be built on.</p> <p>Some Montana cities have a special loan program called revolving loans and the programs want Montana businesses to take advantage of them. One of the main requirements for the low interest loans is to create one job for every \$20,000 loaned. So far the loan program has created 185 jobs in the state.</p> <p>Buy Local Flathead is a grassroots movement encouraging people to think about what they are purchasing, and to buy it at an independently owned local business if available. There is no cost to join Buy Local Flathead, members are just asked to put the group's logo on advertising and on the store's website, and to spread the word about the movement.</p>	<p>01/06/09</p> <p>01/08/09</p> <p>01/26/09</p> <p>02/23/09</p>
Education	<p>Montana Tech, Montana State and University of Montana are receiving a \$1.4 million federal grant from the department of energy. The money will be used to study carbon dioxide sequestered in the ground. If the study shows that underground rock formations can hold carbon gas, then</p>	01/23/09

	<p>emissions from coal power plants could be stored underground instead of going into the atmosphere.</p> <p>Small schools across the state are switching to 4-day school weeks, or considering the switch. Many schools say the original idea was to cut costs, but are finding the change to be academically beneficial, with better attendance and morale in the schools. Alberton and Victor schools have already adopted the shortened school week, and now Lincoln schools are considering it.</p> <p>The University of Montana Western in Dillon has implemented a program called "Experience One" where students only take one course at a time before moving onto another subject, which professors say keep the students more focused. Students go to class three hours a day, five days a week for 18 days, and then move on to their next course. The student ends up taking 4 classes per semester.</p> <p>This weekend the University of Montana Dillon will host "College Goal Sunday", a program to help walk students through filling out all the financial aid forms. "College Goal Sunday" goes from 1-5pm in the computer labs on the Montana Western campus.</p> <p>Montana schools have an opportunity to get some extra funding through the Green Schools Montana Campaign, where students sell environmentally friendly soy candles through Candle Heart. The school gets 35-40% of the proceeds from each individual sale. Montana businesses are also participating through a matching fundraising program.</p>	<p>02/03/09</p> <p>02/10/09</p> <p>02/20/09</p> <p>03/06/09</p>
Government/ Politics	<p>People are driving and buying less gas, which has put a crimp in the amount of federal tax collected. A federal committee plans to ask congress to raise the gas tax by 10-cents a gallon, and the diesel tax by 12 to 15-cents per gallon. Right now we're paying almost 18.5-cents per gallon for gas, and a little over 24-cents per gallon on diesel.</p> <p>State lawmakers are considering House Bill 49, which would limit cell phone usage on a public highway and near schools. If it passes, those that break the law would receive a \$75 ticket. Exceptions to the law would be emergency workers, and anyone traveling via interstate.</p> <p>Congressional negotiators cut a compromise deal on the now \$789 billion economic stimulus bill. The measure is</p>	<p>01/02/09</p> <p>01/14/09</p> <p>02/11/09</p>

	<p>designed to create millions of jobs to help pull the country from recession. The bill includes money for people who have lost their jobs, money for cash strapped states, and tax cuts for individuals and businesses. President Obama could sign the bill within days.</p> <p>A bill is on its way to the governor's desk that will require all homes sold and rented to have a carbon monoxide detector in them. The governor is expected to sign the bill by the end of the month.</p>	03/17/09
Growth/ Infrastructure	The Kalispell Planning Board recommended that more than 200 acres owned by the Siderius Family limited partnership be annexed into the city. The project calls for 535 homes and a neighborhood and business district. Affordable housing is a primary component of this project, and they have set aside a potential school site.	01/15/09
	If approved, much of President Obama's economic stimulus package would go towards infrastructure projects. A nationwide study by civil engineers finds that the country's infrastructure does not get a passing grade, and Montana is not an exception to that. The state's roads, bridges, drinking water systems, and other public works are in dire need of improvements.	01/28/09
	Construction began today on the \$32 million county jail in Bozeman. Between the construction company, suppliers, and other services, the project will create nearly 250 jobs for the area. The project is expected to be complete by December 2010.	02/12/09
	After an explosion destroyed seven businesses and wreaked havoc on many more in downtown Bozeman, donations and offers to volunteer from area community members have been flooding in. The businesses are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support, and the Bozeman city manager has said they will need all the help they can get. If you would like to donate or volunteer, you can call the city at 582-2300.	03/06/09
Health	New research shows that vitamins in pill form aren't very effective, and you are better off getting the nutrients from fruits and vegetables. Doctors say there are only a few vitamins in pill form that work, and that includes vitamin D, B12, and calcium.	01/01/09
	The flu has hit Montana, with confirmed cases in Kalispell, Bozeman, and quite a few in Missoula. It appears that this	01/28/09

	<p>year's vaccine is working well against the influenza "A" strand, so officials are encouraging people to get vaccinated, wash hands frequently, and avoid contact with infected people.</p> <p>Boosters are raising money to create a family room at Kalispell Regional Medical Center that would serve the same purpose as a Ronald McDonald House, providing a comfortable place for parents of children staying in the hospital, but overnight stays would not be possible. If fundraising and approval go as planned, organizers hope to start the remodel in spring 2010.</p> <p>A bacterial meningitis outbreak at MSU Bozeman has state health officials on high alert. They are urging anyone who has symptoms of severe headaches, stiff neck, high fever, confusion, sensitivity to bright light, nausea, numbness, tingling or body rash to get immediate treatment.</p> <p>A California company, Setton Farms, is voluntarily recalling more than 1-million pounds of pistachios because of possible salmonella contamination. No illnesses have been reported in regards to this recall yet.</p>	<p>03/06/09</p> <p>03/12/09</p> <p>03/31/09</p>

	Community Issues Report KTVM 6 & 42 First Quarter 2009	
Issues	Program	Day/TMT/FMT
Child/Teen	More than 1000 teenagers converged on the state capitol in support of the Montana meth project. They told Governor Schweitzer and state lawmakers Montana should keep funding the anti-drug effort.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 VO :14
	Bozeman school board has voted to add "Cyberbullings" to the list of offenses that can get students expelled.	News at 6/10 2/25/09 VO :14
	Butte Silver Bow sheriff's deputies stuck to their zero tolerance policy for underage drinking on Saint Patrick's Day.	News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14
Crime/Safety	Officials say the number of suicides in National Parks since last year is on the rise.	News at 6/10 1/2/09 VO :12
	Tyler Schreckendgust spent months recovering in a Seattle hospital. This Missoula toddler was critically injured after suffering a 3-story fall.	News at 6/10 1/2/09 VO :12
	It's been a day of anger and defiance in Gaza after a week of Israeli airstrikes. The bombs and rockets have continued to fall.	News at 6/10 1/2/09 PKG 1:55
	Gallatin county sheriff's deputies arrested over the weekend 4 men who say stole 6 snowmobiles from a Bozeman home.	News at 6/10 1/5/09 FULL :14
	A missing Nashville man turns up in Montana before disappearing again.	News at 6/10 1/7/09 VO :14
	A Federal appeals court has ordered the writings of Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski to be sold online. Proceeds from the sale will be given to the victims and their survivors.	News at 6/10 1/9/09 VO :14
	A Montana trucker is recovering from a knife attack while investigators try to figure out what triggered the stabbing. Police say a 32 year old man from Canada was still attacking 51 year old Dale Morigeau of Montana.	News at 6/10 1/12/09 VO :14
	Five teenagers go on a crime spree. Police say the teenagers were under the influence of alcohol and marijuana.	News at 6/10 1/16/09 HALF :14
	A Federal judge sentenced a Butte man to more than 16 years in prison for receiving and possessing child pornography.	News at 6/10 1/16/09 HALF :14
	A nurse and her husband who were wounded trying to help 37 year old Melissa Greenhagen who was shot and killed as she was walking to her car.	News at 6/10 1/19/09 SULL :14
	How safe are hospitals in southwest Montana? Procedures are in place incase of an emergency including panic buttons to alert police of a crisis, plus hospital security personal on staff.	News at 6/10 1/19/09 PKG 1:03
	A 10 year old Marion boy charged with shooting a 7 year old girl in the stomach last summer will remain under youth court	News at 6/10 1/19/09 VO :14

	supervision until he is 18.	
	Three separate avalanches have claimed the lives of 3 men. Travis Engstrom died in Cooke City, Kirk Hewitt died in Ennis and Joshua Jenkins from Idaho Falls.	News at 6/10 1/19/09 FULL :14
	Police issued 17 citations to drivers in the course of a 4 hour enforcement action at 3 downtown intersections for failing to yield at a crosswalk.	News at 6/10 1/19/09 VO :14
	Montana authorities are on the hunt for an accused killer and a man accused of sexually molesting a minor. Both escaped from a state mental hospital barely 3 hours ago.	News at 6/10 1/21/09 HALF :14
	Dozens of people packed a Butte courtroom to hear the fate of a 21 year old man who hit 3 teens with his truck killing 1 of them.	News at 6/10 1/21/09 VO :14
	Two Montana businessmen face 38 felony charges for running what Federal prosecutors say was an investment scam.	News at 6/10 1/23/09 VO :14
	US Marshals arrested two fugitives who broke out of the Mineral County jail. 26 year old William Newhoff was caught driving the get away rig. 40 year old Daniel Schwindt was caught near Troy.	News at 6/10 1/26/09 VO :14
	Clay county social services have filed a petition to commit 32 year old Harmit Bhangu, saying he's mentally ill and a danger to himself. Bhangu is charged with 2degree attempted murder and 2 degree assault with a dangerous weapon for attacking Dale Morigeau.	News at 6/10 1/28/09 VO :14
	Jury convicted two Georgia men of starving 4 horses during a camping trip. Animal rights activists say animal abuse cases are on the rise.	News at 6/10 2/2/09 PKG 1:01
	The Bozeman police department has started hiring more officers this move comes 1 year after voters approved a mill levy to expand the city's public safety services.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 VO :14
	Butte police are searching for 17 year old Brendon Heim who was last seen on January 29 getting a school bus.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 FULL :14
	Anderson pleaded not guilty to charges of killing her daughter Vanyel Anderson-Colbeth in January 2008.	News at 6/10 2/6/09 VO :14
	The meth project is coming under question and criticism. David Erceghurnfrom Australia says the meth project is exaggerating its success rate	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14
	Michael Leahy lost everything because of a psychological addiction. Now an author and lecturer Leahy spoke in Bozeman about the porn industry and the role of sex.	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14
	MSU engineering students, Penny Atkins and Gordon Nelson will conduct the first research project using the traffic simulator	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14

Steve Bullock, Montana's attorney general, released a report that estimates the economic cost Meth is taking on our society. 200 million or 206 dollars for every man, woman and child.	News at 6/10 2/13/09 VO :14
Fires in Australia have killed 181 people and consumed over 1 million acres.	News at 6/10 2/13/09 VO :14
Bozeman police are searching for a woman who tried to rob American Bank Corporate office on February 6 th .	News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12
The Gallatin county sheriff's department and the Three Forks police are investigating a missing person's case. Karen Evenson was last seen on Feb 14 th in Three Forks.	News at 6/10 2/18/09 FULL :12
34 year old Merlin Ladue of Butte was found dead in his cell. Ladue was arrested and jailed on aggravated assault charges.	News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12
A semi truck caught on fire on highway 287 at the Norris hill, temporarily blocking traffic.	News at 6/10 2/18/09 FULL :12
Police officers posed as pedestrians didn't follow the law. Montana law says drivers must stop for pedestrians crossing the street at an intersection, but pedestrian can't leave the curb and walk.	News at 6/10 2/20/09 PKG 1:58
The WR Grace trial is set. Federal Judge Donald Molloy came across dozens of obstacles. Potential jurors argued they have other obligations.	News at 6/10 2/20/09 VO :14
Montana lawmakers are closer to shutting down Bozeman's red light traffic cameras before those cameras are installed.	News at 6/10 2/23/09 VO :14
The largest criminal environmental trials in the nation, is taking place in a federal courthouse in Missoula. WR Grace and 5 executives knowingly exposed 1000 of people in Libby to dangerous levels of asbestos.	News at 6/10 2/23/09 VO :14
Army National Guard was in Billings to honor the return of 44 year old Lieutenant Colonel Gary Derby, who was killed in Iraq.	News at 6/10 2/25/09 VO :14
WR Grace criminal trial is on its way. Judge Molloy decision to keep 34 Libby residents out of the courtroom until they testified was over turn by the US 9 th Circuit Court.	News at 6/10 3/2/09 PKG 1:13
Kevin McNurlin is behind bars after leading police on a car chase for robbing Dotty's Casino at gun point in Belgrade.	News at 6/10 3/2/09 VO :14
Scott Albright faces 3 counts of criminal endangerment for shutting through an apartment wall to quiet down his neighbors.	News at 6/10 3/2/09 FULL :14
Internet scammers. A few Mountain West Bank customers may have become victims of this on line scam.	News at 6/10 3/2/09 VO :14
The legal battle over the bankrupted Yellowstone Club plays out in a Federal court in Butte.	News at 6/10 3/4/09 VO :14

A Canadian judge is pushing to win clemency for the only Canadian on death row in America and he's on death row her in Montana.	News at 6/10 3/4/09 FULL :14
Robbers hit three Montana pharmacies and we could start to see even more of these crimes as prescription medication becomes a problem.	News at 6/10 3/4/09 PKG 1:04
An urgent to board up broken windows after the blast. Authorities have separated the area into 5 quadrants. The areas are being opened one by one as inspectors deem it safe.	News at 6/10 3/6/09 PKG 1:12
Montana National Guardsman arrived to help clean up and recovery crews. They are on site to help the Bozeman Police secure the perimeter of the blast zone.	News at 6/10 3/6/09 VO :14
A massive blaze in Whitehall just east of Butte has destroyed 4 businesses after a fire ripped through the city.	News at 6/10 3/6/09 VO :14
In the aftermath of the explosion and fire in Bozeman the recovery teams found the body of 36 year old Tara Bowman.	News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14
Investigators are now trying to determine what specifically caused the worst disaster to hit downtown Bozeman in 87 years. It may take weeks.	News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14
State fire marshal Pat Clinch wrapped up his investigation of the fire in Whitehall that claimed several businesses.	News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14
Federal bankruptcy Judge Ralph Kirscher has approved a plan to auction off the exclusive Yellowstone Club.	News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14
A team of investigators with the Bozeman fire department said there was a 2" break in the gas line that caused the blast in down town Bozeman.	News at 6/10 3/13/09 PKG 1:33
Montana Investors getting burned on their investments. According to a class action lawsuit at least 80 Montana investors lost a combined total of roughly 32 million.	News at 6/10 3/13/09 VO :14
The State auditor's office says Cornerstone Financial in Polson loaned 3 million of investor money to D and D Property management in Belgrade. Companies misrepresented the value of property to investors.	News at 6/10 3/13/09 VO :14
Bozeman police tell us they're seeing a lot of young drivers driving under the influence. Analysts estimate a first time DUI offender has driven drunk about 90 times before being caught.	News at 6/10 3/16/09 VO :14
The Environmental Protection Agency that had ordered the Milltown Dam to be taken down because of mine contamination is almost complete.	News at 6/10 3/16/09 PKG 1:10
Aviation legend Sparky Imeson may be missing. A small plane registered to Imeson left Bozeman on its way to Helena and dropped off the radar.	News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14

	<p>Montana's US Forest service hydrologist Ed Snook was gone over a month in Australia to work with the burned area emergency rehabilitation team.</p> <p>WR Grace trail gets delayed again. Federal Judge Donald Molloy sent the jury home for the afternoon after several jurors complained they felt like they were coming down with the flu.</p> <p>Ice built up on the wings of a plane that crashed in Butte may have been the cause.</p> <p>An asbestos loading site from nearly half a century ago has left modern day Bozeman with an expensive mess to clean up.</p> <p>The Montana Meth Project says its hard hitting ad campaign is working. These commercials are so graphic they're making news here and abroad.</p> <p>WR Grace defense attorneys accuse a key prosecution witness of taking the stand to get even with his former bosses.</p> <p>Legal drama over the Yellowstone Club bankruptcy former club owner and founder Tim Blixseth is suing the club and its creditors.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/23/09 PKG 1:32</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/25/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/25/09 PKG 1:27</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/25/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/25/09 VO :14</p>
Digital Transition	<p>The proposed bill that would delay the digital television transition was defeated by the house. The Senate unanimously approved the bill which delays the switch until June 12th.</p> <p>Retailers say the sales are up for TV's due to the digital conversion coming up.</p> <p>The switch to digital TV has been delayed to June 12. The president is expected to sign the bill into law.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/28/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/2/09 PKG 1:21</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/6/09 PKG 1:25</p>
Disadvantaged Persons	<p>Hunting is part of Montana's culture, but the number of hunters is dwindling. One State lawmaker is hoping to change that with a proposed law called the "Hunter Mentoring Program"</p> <p>The 8th annual President's Plunge is under way. Dozens of people braved the cold and freezing water to raise money for Montana Special Olympics.</p> <p>Three Montana agencies will hold meetings to discuss unemployment insurance, job search assistance, job training and available resources and services.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/30/09 PKG 1:27</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/16/09 PKG 1:08</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14</p>

Domestic Violence		
Economy	<p>Officials tell us if trends continue more than half the workers laid off within the past 2 years should see incomes similar to or better than their previous pay.</p> <p>Trading at the US stock exchange began for the first time in the New Year, Despite negative outlooks in recent economic report.</p> <p>The Bozeman Co-op is laying off more than two dozen workers. Most of the people being cut are part time employees from the kitchen.</p> <p>Butte couple Mike and Carole McGiern claimed the 1 million prizes from the Montana Millionaire 2008 game.</p> <p>The Gallatin Association of Realtors expects between a 12 and 14 % decline in the number of realtors for the year.</p> <p>Bozeman is hoping to get at least 11 million from Washington and 30 million in loans from the state to upgrade its wastewater plant.</p> <p>Americans are cutting back on their travel because of the economy but Gallatin field airport reports a record number of passengers went through their gates in 2008</p> <p>If you're into electronics and technology, this is the best time of year. The consumer electronics show in Las Vegas is underway. The question is can people afford the merchandise.</p> <p>The department of agriculture estimates food prices rose by about 6% last year the most since 1980.</p> <p>Industry experts predict the price of wheat will double from its historic average this year.</p> <p>National park officials reported the number visitors to Yellowstone National Park is down and now the same for Glacier National Park.</p> <p>Several child care facilities in Bozeman have closed down just since December and those closures are sending parents on a scramble to find quality daycare providers at an affordable price.</p> <p>Montana state pension system is facing its biggest loss in history 1.7 billion. State employees that retire under the defined benefit plan are guaranteed those benefits under the constitution.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/2/09 PKG 1:35</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/2/09 PKG 1:39</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 PKG 1:07</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 FULL :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/7/09 PKG :41</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/9/09 PKG 1:29</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/9/09 PKG :50</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/9/09 PKG 1:59</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/14/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/14/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/14/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/16/09 PKG 1:50</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/21/09 PKG 1:18</p>

	Bozeman Chamber of Commerce says a Hotel/Motel tax of \$1 per night, per room would generate 600 thousand a year.	News at 6/10 1/23/09 PKG 1:26
	Smurfit Stone the nation's largest manufacturer of cardboard products has filed for bankruptcy.	News at 6/10 1/26/09 VO :14
	From lumber plants, to clothing shops, to museums, Montana companies are struggling to stay alive.	News at 6/10 1/26/09 PKG 1:30
	Business is finding it harder to get loans because of the credit freeze. Cities and Counties in Montana say they want business owners to take advantage of the Revolving Loan Funds.	News at 6/10 1/26/09 PKG 1:17
	The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded America's infrastructure. Roads, bridges, drinking water systems and other public works are heavily scrutinized for lack of money to fix many of the problems.	News at 6/10 1/28/09 PKG 1:26
	A version of President Obama's stimulus plan that's moving through the US House of Representatives would give about 600 million to Montana.	News at 6/10 1/28/09 VO :14
	Unemployment up, new housing starts down and companies cutting back, they're painting a different picture of Montana's economy.	News at 6/10 1/30/09 VO :14
	A Bozeman seed company made aviation history with Japan air lines for successfully completing the first test flight of a commercial airliner using the oilseed crop camelina.	News at 6/10 1/30/09 VO :14
	The government has made money off of taxing tobacco while funding programs to get people to quit. Now the government stands to take in billions more by raising tobacco taxes.	News at 6/10 2/2/09 PKG 1:22
	Tough times for retirees who have been out of the workforce for years are finding a job means new skills. Experience works is a national program that helps low income people 55 and older enter the workforce.	News at 6/10 2/2/09 VO :14
	President Obama urged the senate to act on his recovery plan and he insisted both political parties are coming closer on the details.	News at 6/10 2/2/09 PKG 1:54
	Bozeman city employees are settled into their new office, but the city needs to sell the old city hall building to cover the renovation costs of the new one.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 PKG 1:25
	Economists thought Big Sky Country was somewhat insulated from the economic, but closures and hardships in Montana's biggest industries included wood products, construction slowdowns and the fall of wheat prices.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 VO :14
	The White house turned up the political heat in an effort to get congress to approve a stimulus package. The administration released a state by state laundry list of projects and benefits.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 HALF :14

Peter Reynolds of Corvallis says the oneness Project lost 3.75 million it invested with Madoff.	News at 6/10 2/6/09 VO :14
President Obama said congress must deliver on the economy fast. Send me a bill that creates or saves 4 million jobs.	News at 6/10 2/9/09 PKG 1:41
As part of the stimulus package being debated, Montana stands to get 250 million for highways and roads and another 170 million for infrastructure projects.	News at 6/10 2/9/09 VO :14
The National Retail Federation says on average consumers are expected to spend about \$20 less this year on gifts for their sweetheart.	News at 6/10 2/13/09 PKG 1:31
The new tax credit under President Obama's administration is called the "Making work pay" tax credit and people will get between \$400 to \$800.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 PKG 1:22
Under a new plan people who exhaust their unemployment before April 5th and are not eligible to file a new claim may get up to 13 weeks additional benefits.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 VO :14
626 million is slated to come to Montana. The money is expected to create 11,000 jobs, modernize 32 schools and various projects in the state.	News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12
University of Montana researcher Todd Morgan says for the 3 rd straight year lumber production, mill employment and wages have declined in Montana's forest products industry.	News at 6/10 2/20/09 VO :14
The "workforce housing program" has no one has using the program for low income residents to own their own homes.	News at 6/10 2/23/09 VO :14
Montana governor says president Obama's message about use of federal stimulus dollars is being heard.	News at 6/10 2/23/09 VO :14
Going green, but is our government and financial institutions backing that up? The Hardyman's spent 1 year thousands of dollars building their dream house. Now they can't get their house refinanced.	News at 10 2/25/09 PKG 1:50
The Montana senate is narrowly supporting a bill that denies full benefits for people who retire early. The aim is to offset the declining value of state pension funds.	News at 6/10 2/25/09 VO :14
The average price of gas jumped more than .02. According to the department of energy which blames higher crude oil costs.	News at 6/10 3/2/09 VO :14
The Montana department of transportation commissioners are deciding which state projects will get stimulus money.	News at 6/10 3/4/09 VO :14
Bozeman's downtown explosion cost businesses a little of bit of time and money. Local business owners say residents have been flocking back.	News at 6/10 3/16/09 PKG 1:56
Scattered reports of gun and ammo sales across the country go	News at 6/10

	<p>up. Gun owners are concerned Obama's administration will start imposing restrictions on firearms.</p> <p>The next Federal tobacco tax increase goes into effect in a matter of weeks. Officials say it'll raise 32 million for the Children's Health Insurance Program.</p> <p>Wren Kilian Bade has collected 15,000 signatures for an environmental cause. Bade wants the government to set a deposit standard on bottles and bags to help fund environmental programs.</p> <p>County commissioners decide 300 thousand stimulus money would go to repairs at the fairgrounds for restrooms.</p> <p>Missoula may see more air tanker planes. The base in Kalispell will close this spring and fire fighters say some of the displaced tankers will fly out of Missoula.</p>	<p>3/16/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/18/09 PKG 1:20</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/20/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/20/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/20/09 VO :14</p>
Education	<p>The Montana Historical Society is recognizing a Butte archaeologist for her work in Historic preservation.</p> <p>According to a new magazine ranking Virginia City is among the top True Western towns in the Nation.</p> <p>Eyes are on fighting between Israel and Hamas and 2 MSU students both of who are from Gaza are trying to bring another perspective on the conflict to their peers.</p> <p>Schools in southwest Montana part of the day learning about the life of Doctor Martin Luther King Junior.</p> <p>Montana students had the chance to learn more about engineering and they put their brains to work building robots.</p> <p>Facing a budget shortfall for the second consecutive year. The Bozeman school district is cutting 1.5 million from the 2009—2010 school year.</p> <p>Nick Scott a Butte High senior has proposed adding a surcharge onto fines for DUI and minor in possession citations. Money's would fund scholarships to students from Montana schools going to public colleges.</p> <p>MSU hosted a panel aimed at teaching students and the community more about Islam.</p> <p>Superintendent of public instruction Denise Juneau urged lawmakers to spend more money on public schools.</p> <p>High school teachers from all over Montana got a lesson on the wealth and poverty of Nations. Montana teachers especially in rural areas to access the resources they need to keep up with State requirements.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/9/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/14/09 PKG 1:58</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/19/09 PKG 2:02</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/23/09 PKG 1:25</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/28/09 PKG 1:32</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/16/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/20/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/27/09 PKG 1:23</p>

	<p>The Bozeman High speech and debate team is making a winning argument. The speech and debate team held its first ever public presentation and they did so to an almost full house.</p> <p>Butte Central Catholic school is getting ready to celebrate its 100 year anniversary. The school opened its doors in the fall of 1908.</p> <p>Bozeman High School has a new principal... By a unanimous vote Robert Watson became the new principal.</p> <p>Jasdeep Chawla, Julia Schenkel, Manar Abdelahamid and Kirill are young ambassadors that come from India, Germany, Egypt and Russia. These young people are foreign exchange students.</p> <p>The University system board of regents, along with Governor Schweitzer and lawmakers, agreed 2 years ago to cap tuition for all Montana college students. That freeze is up in July.</p> <p>MSU President Geoffrey Gamble put in writing that after 10 years he is retiring. Gamble has a doctorate in linguistics and plane to teach a few classes at the University.</p> <p>Bozeman public schools make some hard choices. The district has to cut 1.5 million from its budget.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 3/2/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/2/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/11/09 PKG `:46</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/20/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/23/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/23/09 VO :14</p>
Government & Politics	<p>Senate President Bob Story told incoming lawmakers that the GOP agenda is alive and well and he urged Republicans to put their own imprint on the State budget.</p> <p>Governor Brian Schweitzer cut his proposed budget because of the economic downturn.</p> <p>President Bush is thinking about pardoning an Idaho soldier convicted of killing an unarmed Iraqi civilian.</p> <p>State Senator Mike Cooney is pushing a bill that would make it a misdemeanor for legislative leaders to break the chamber's rules.</p> <p>Montana Congressman Denny Rehberg has nominated Greg Mortensen for the Nobel Peace Prize.</p> <p>In a news release statement Senator Max Baucus is asking for 381 million to fund agricultural research.</p> <p>Secretary of state Linda McCulloch says she'll put a stop to 58 thousand worth of performance bonuses going to former state employees that former secretary of state Brad Johnson was responsible for giving out.</p> <p>Convicted juvenile sex offenders could face the same living restrictions as adult offenders if house bill 55 passes.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 FULL :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/5/09 FULL :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/7/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/7/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/12/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/16/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/16/09 VO :14</p>

Montana's secretary of state, college students and voter rights organizations criticized a bill that would not allow college ID cards to register to vote.	News at 6/10 1/19/09 VO :14
The Obama administration is taking a look at the Bush administration's decision to take gray wolves off the endangered species list in Montana.	News at 6/10 1/21/09 VO :14
Lawmakers are considering a bill that would ask voters to let lawmakers stay in office longer. If approved the bill would go on the November ballot.	News at 6/10 1/21/09 VO :14
If house bill 49 passes it will be illegal for motorists to use cell phones while driving in cities.	News at 6/10 1/23/09 VO :14
State of the State speeches from Schweitzer called for republicans and democrats to not divide amongst themselves as they did during the last session. He wants unified government.	News at 6/10 1/28/09 HALF :14
A Bozeman lawmaker is pushing a plan to have runoff elections in cases where no candidate gets at least half of the votes.	News at 6/10 1/28/09 VO :14
The Montana Senate business, labor and economic affairs committee voted down a bill that would decrease minimum wage.	News at 6/10 1/30/09 VO :14
State senators endorsed bill 237 that would give police the power to pull over and ticket drivers for not wearing seat belts.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 VO :14
An epidemic of political support. Activists are focusing their attention on the Montana legislature and Washington for more public dollars.	News at 6/10 2/9/09 VO :14
A New York congresswoman introduced a wide reaching wilderness protection bill that would ban logging, oil exploration and other development on 23 million acres across 5 northwestern states.	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14
A Montana Senate panel is considering a proposal that would let local elections officials run any election by mail ballots.	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14
787 billion dollars. The senate joined the house and passed the president's economic recovery package.	News at 6/10 2/13/09 PKG 1:36
Representative Tom McGillvray a republican who represents Billings wants to repeal Montana's 30 year old "No Fault" divorce law.	News at 6/10 2/13/09 VO :14
Montana senators will debate a bill requiring insurance companies to cover autism treatments.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 VO :14
The Montana senate voted 27 to 23 in favor of a bill that would end the death penalty in the state.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 HALF :14
Carl Graham is on a mission. He heads up the Montana policy institute. He wants government to make it easier for taxpayers	News at 6/10 2/23/09 PKG 1:30

	<p>to see exactly how their money is spent.</p> <p>Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens praised Montana Governor Schweitzer for his work in pursuing and promoting alternative energy.</p> <p>Governor Schweitzer's office unveiled a new web site intended to allow the public to follow government spending.</p> <p>Congressman Denny Rehberg voted against the stimulus plan and against the original bank bailout. Rehberg says he's concerned about government spending.</p> <p>State senators passed senate bill 236 by a 27 to 23 vote to end the death penalty in favor of life in prison with no parole.</p> <p>The Montana senate rejected senate bill 278 that would have outlawed talking or testing on a handheld cell phone while driving.</p> <p>Republicans and Democrats broke a house budget deal that calls for full funding of the Children's Health Insurance initiative.</p> <p>Proponents argue that executing a prisoner is more costly than imposing a life sentence. A risk that the state could kill an innocent person.</p> <p>Republicans are accusing President Obama of hypocrisy for signing a \$410 billion spending bill. This bill contains billions of pet project earmarks.</p> <p>Congressman Rehberg said he's voted against every bailout bill because he says his fellow congressmen are unwilling to take the time to talk about what's in those bailout bills.</p> <p>The battle lines are being drawn. Senators Baucus and Tester wrote a letter to Attorney General Holder saying the justice department should enforce existing laws before considering new gun ownership restrictions.</p> <p>Snowmobiling on public lands could result in a \$500 penalty and jail time if lawmakers sign a bill. House bill 614 would create a new offense for using off road vehicles on public lands closed.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 2/27/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/27/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/27/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/2/09 FULL :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/4/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/9/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/11/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/13/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 3/18/09 VO :14</p>
Growth/ Infrastructure	<p>Despite the steady stream of bad news about the economy, 4 Bozeman Entrepreneurs' went ahead with their plans to open for businesses.</p> <p>Northwestern Energy says the Montana department of environmental quality has issued an air quality permit for its proposed Mill Creek generating station.</p> <p>The Montana Natural Resources and Conservation Service says its finished rebuilding a 1.3 million siphon that it says will bring major improvement in the delivery of water to southwestern</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/7/09 PKG 1:36</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/23/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/26/09 FULL :14</p>

	<p>Montana.</p> <p>Streamline bus service from Bozeman to Livingston may not be able to add another route at planned. As the two cities hammer out their new budgets.</p> <p>Governor Schweitzer stopped by Nova Bio Source a bio diesel company to discuss the possibility of opening new plants in Montana.</p> <p>Ravalli County like much of Big Sky Country is becoming a blend of rural and residential neighborhoods.</p> <p>More people choosing to move to Big Sky Country mean more traffic. Officials are keeping up by developing a road map to follow a 20 year traffic model.</p> <p>Belgrade has plans to build a new freeway interchange and what it will mean to the community.</p> <p>Senator Baucus told the joint session of the legislature that he believes the economic downturn is at its worst but he expects it to start recovering.</p> <p>The Montana Public Service Commission is hearing testimony from Northwestern Energy about their plans to build a 206 million natural gas fired generator.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/26/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/4/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/6/09 PKG 2:00</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/9/09 PKG 1:24</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/13/09 PKG 1:26</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12</p> <p>News at 6/10 2/25/09 VO :14</p>
Health	<p>Montana's first judicial court said the state constitution protects a patient's right to get assistance in dying.</p> <p>A panel of health care experts spoke to state lawmakers about improving health care for Montanans at a time when a slumping economy is increasing the pool of uninsured people.</p> <p>Canadian health experts are discovering that this year's flu vaccine doesn't match up against a specific kind of flu strain.</p> <p>Montana public health officials tell us there have been no reported cases of salmonella in Big Sky country. Idaho Public Health investigators say 10 people became sick over tainted peanut butter from a company in Virginia.</p> <p>General mills and Safeway have joined a list of grocery stores pulling anything made with peanut butter off shelves. The recall is part of a recent outbreak of salmonella.</p> <p>The Federal government is giving Montana Universities 1.4 million to study how carbon dioxide reacts to underground rocks.</p> <p>Influenza has hit several areas in Montana. The vaccine appears to be doing its job protecting against the "A" strain.</p> <p>17 year old Zack McLeod suffered a traumatic brain injury during a football game. Family and Friends of Zack are now planning a fundraiser to help with the medical bills.</p>	<p>News at 6/10 1/7/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/12/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/12/09 PKG 1:53</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/14/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/21/09 PKG 1:22</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/23/09 PKG 1:01</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/28/09 VO :14</p> <p>News at 6/10 1/30/09 FULL :14</p>

	Expanding children's health insurance in Montana. The latest plan isn't popular with some republican lawmakers. They say it's too expensive.	News at 6/10 2/2/09 VO :14
	Meadow Gold Dairy is recalling select ice cream products sold in Montana because they could be contaminated with salmonella.	News at 6/10 2/4/09 FULL :14
	A new surgery room stocked with the state of the art technology will be used for highly technical trauma and critical care cases.	News at 6/10 2/11/09 VO :14
	The Montana National Guard is gearing up for a different kind of battle. We're talking about saving soldiers who are prone to commit suicide.	News at 6/10 2/16/09 PKG 1:38
	State lawmakers in Helena are at odds on whether to fund an initiative that would spend 35 million to make sure uninsured children have health coverage.	News at 6/10 2/18/09 VO :12
	According to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services survey the results will be used to plan prevention programs and help lawmakers decide on how the state should spend tax money.	News at 6/10 3/4/09 VO :14
	A MSU student is ill with a life threatening bacterial infection, meningitis. Meningitis causes inflammation in the brain and can be fatal.	News at 6/10 3/11/09 VO :14
	25 year old Rick Baker a medical marijuana caregiver and patient hoes the orange lights can help grow marijuana for Co-op he wants to open.	News at 6/10 3/16/09 VO :14
	The drug enforcement agency told congress Americans use of addictive pain relievers and mood enhancers was increasing at an alarming rate.	News at 6/10 3/20/09 VO :14