

## ISSUE & PROGRAM LIST

### QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST FOR STATION KSEN AM & KZIN FM

OCTOBER 1-DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### SECTION I. Issues

KSEN/KZIN have identified the following issues and significant issues facing our community in this quarter

- A. **City Updates:** From city ordinances to council meetings these topics are always of concern to our local community.
- B. **Legislative Update:** Our local representatives update what is going on with the state.
- C. **Toole County Update:** From county taxes increases to building issues, our community has received many local updates.
- D. **Community Needs:** This is a topic that can be broken down into two groups. Local residents who are in need of assistance from medical needs to emotional support and local residents who find it important to assist those in needs and events to make the communities stronger.
- E. **Agricultural Concerns:** Drought and shortage of hay and the issues with lack of food and support needed for cattle.

#### SECTION II: Responsive Programs

“This, That, and the Other” (T.T.O.) is a locally produced program that features 15-minute segments on the above issues as detailed below.

##### **10/2/2023 9:05 AM MAYOR**

**City of Shelby Update, Infrastructure, Housing.** Our guest was Shelby Mayor Gary McDermott to discuss some current city affairs in Shelby. An open public hearing on the Council agenda involves extending the TIF dollars for Shelby. Update public on storm drain project as they wait on subcontractor for paving on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N. Also discussed the new low income housing that is now available. Hoping that water tank construction at airport will be constructed by end of year.

##### **10/2/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Public Health.** Marias Healthcare Services will have a kick off fall health fair Oct 5 9am to 7pm. Get you flu and Covid shots, enjoy free vision screenings, community vendors, and visit with the local pharmacist and behavioral health staff. \$40 birthday labs and at home fit tests for free.

### **10/3/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, First Responders.** Bob Winney came in to discuss the Toole County Ambulance Crew. It was formed in 1970 and currently has 15 volunteers. On average, the Ambulance Crew make 30 to 360 runs per year to assist the residents of Toole County. Toole County Ambulance, as a member of Region 2A, coordinates with Glacier, Liberty, Hill counties for local trainings and disaster strategy planning. To join the ambulance crew, you must possess an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license. Volunteers are needed.

### **10/4/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Healthcare Services, Mental Health.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & the Other was Jamie Brownell with the local Marias Healthcare Clinic. Jamie was here to tell us about the new Shelby school based health center. The mobile health facility is set up at the school and provides primary care and psychiatric care to kids in need every Monday. Wednesday's are primary care day and providers can take care of bumps, bruises, vaccinations, colds and coughs etc. There is a free vision screening and a full time nurse on hand. The center began operating on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>

### **10/5/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & the Other were Gus & Bob Hjelm from Conrad here to tell us about the free showing of the PBS documentary "Higgins fire," which will be shown at the Orpheum Theatre in Conrad, free of charge on Tues. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The story is about 12 firefighters who were trapped by fire on a mountain side in 1961. Attending will be Conrad resident Mary Wolfrum DeStaffany, whose father, Fritz Wolfrum was one of the principal smokejumpers featured in the documentary. The free screening is one in an ongoing series which the Pondera Arts Council brings Montana based documentaries to Conrad and the surrounding communities.

### **10/9/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Economy, Local Business.** International speaker, author & business strategist, Barbara Wold, joined us to promote the Conrad Area Chamber of Commerce, & Pondera Regional Port Authority's, "2 Day Seminar Business Building Boot Camp." Scheduled for the Conrad Moose Lodge, October 17<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>. Essentially, she inspires, motivates & educates our rural northcentral Montana businesses on being both relevant & vibrant.

### **10/11/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Community Events.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & the Other was Shannon McAllister who is in the process of building his annual Haunted House. The house is no simple matter but rather an extreme project that utilizes 3 barns on the Marias Fairgrounds. The Haunted House was voted Haunted House of the Year in Mt. in 2022. McAllister explained

that he has lots of volunteers helping and the Shelby Chamber of Commerce sponsors the house. He also needs 45 volunteers to work as scare characters during the 6 nights that the house is open.

#### **10/15/2023 9:05 AM TOOLE COUNTY UPDATE**

**Toole County Update, Property Taxes, Housing.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & the Other was Toole County Treasurer Boyd Jackson. Jackson told us that 1<sup>st</sup> half property tax bills would be coming out within the next week and that the tax bill is going to have a fairly steep increase based partly on inflated replacement costs and increased sale prices on homes that have sold recently. He also noted that counties had been served with a writ of mandamus from the Mt. Quality Education Coalition, ordering County Governments to levy the full 95 mills for school Districts. Some Counties were choosing to levy a smaller amount (78) due to the rising cost. Jackson said Toole County had voted to levy the full 95 mills and that the County was in the minority, maybe one of only 4 counties to make that decision.

#### **10/24/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs.** Conrad's Wendy Paulsen, was in our studio, along with the director of the Pondera Players latest production, to promote their upcoming play, M\*A\*S\*H, set for Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, through the 27<sup>th</sup> at Norley Hall in Conrad.

#### **10/26/2023 9:05 AM TOOLE COUNTY UPDATE**

**Toole County Update, Charities.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & the Other was Community Development Director Lorette Carter & Toole County Combined Fund Drive Chairman Chrissy Bouman. They were here to promote the 2024 Toole County Combined Fund Drive. The annual fund drive includes 15 organizations that depend on donations and are qualified 5013c non-profit corporations. Individuals can donate to any of the organizations they choose or write one check and the money will be split evenly among all 15. As Chrissy said, "we do this so that we all go begging at one time instead of having all the organizations banging on doors throughout the year. Brochures were mailed to local businesses and to recent donors and anyone who doesn't get a flyer can find one at businesses or government offices around town.

#### **10/31/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Veteran Support.** Robyn Lardy, from our local bowling alley, Coyote Lanes, stopped by our studios to spread the word & an invitation to Coyote Lanes, on Veterans Day. Saturday evening, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Coyote Lanes, will be honoring out local veterans who have served along, with their significant others.

#### **11/03/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & The Other was Marla Hasquet and Mary Ann Harwood. Our guests were here to explain the "Trip of the Month Fundraiser to support community healthcare. Marla explained that two winners will be drawn each month for 12

months to win a trip to various destinations across the country and overseas. Price of the tickets are 250-dollars and all dollars are used to support the Toole County Health Foundation.

#### **11/06/2023 9:05 AM MAYOR**

**City of Shelby Update.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & The Other was Shelby Mayor Gary McDermott. Gary discussed numerous items that were on the City Council agenda that evening, including an initial proposal to use old Shelby Middle School for government offices, city hall, county, and sheriff's department. The reason for the proposal is that the building needs costly repairs and if it can't be used for something it may have to be torn down. The mayor explained that the city has tried to entice private business to utilize the building to no availability. He said the city would be holding a public hearing at their meeting tonight to discuss a Montana Historic preservation grant for 500-thousand dollars that could be used for the Old Middle School.

#### **11/17/2023 9:05 AM TOOLE COUNTY UPDATE**

**Toole County Update.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & The Other was Toole County Commissioner Mary Ann Harwood. Mary Ann discussed, among other things, the commissioner's reasons for deciding to levy 95 mills for schools while a majority of schools had decided to levy 78, saying that they should be allowed under law, due to the heavy increase in home valuations. Harwood said they believed that 95 was what was required under the law. Numerous lawsuits have been filed in regards to that issue. Harwood also updated us on commission activities such as completing a new building at the Shelby cemetery to store equipment and upcoming plans for road equipment. She also said a lot of research would need to be done before the county could move offices to the old Middle School, as the city has proposed.

#### **11/20/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & The Other was Judy Richman and Marlene Howerly with the Toole County Medical Auxiliary. Judy reported that they had an upcoming bake sale and Christmas decoration rummage sale. Proceeds would be used to fund the auxiliary which provides support for patients and staff of local medical facilities. A couple of examples include providing student scholarships for those entering the medical field. They handed out 12-thousand dollars this year. They also help fund the gift shop at the hospital and the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand store downtown. The Auxiliary was also promoting the Tree of Lights where citizens can have an ornament placed on the tree with the name of a deceased, loved ones and Veterans. The event would be held Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, with musicians, reading of names and treats.

#### **11/22/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs.** Our guest on This, That & The Other at KSEN was Pam McLean with the Glacier Co. Glaciereens, an organization that benefits Cut Bank Students. Each year, the

Glaciareens organize a children's Christmas store which allows children to the store and buy inexpensive Christmas gifts for their family and friends

#### **11/30/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs.** Our guest on KSEN's This, That & The Other was Rachel Haberman of "Energy Share Montana. Rachel explained just how individuals could apply to Energy Share with assistance. Haberman explained that individuals must apply for assistance and then explain their circumstances which brought them to an emergency situation where they are unable to pay their heating bills. Loss of job, she said would be one example. She explained that income is considered but it's not the only factor considered. There are 10 Mt. energy share offices where people can apply. The closest in our area is Opportunities Inc. in Great Falls.

#### **12/4/2023 9:05 AM MONTANA LIVESTOCK ASSOC**

**Agricultural Concerns.** Local MT Livestock representative Dean Lerum was our guest to talk about the continued drought and the cattle nutrition suggestions for the winter. New training will happen in 2024. Cattle nutrition had become a huge topic due to drought and a resulting shortage of hay and grass to feed cattle.

#### **12/8/2023 2022 9:05 AM TOOLE COUNTY UPDATE**

**Toole County Update, Economy.** Our guest for KSEN's This, That & The Other was Toole County Commissioner Mary Ann Harwood who gave us an update on general county business. She specifically talked about the County levying 95 mills on Property Taxes. Toole County was one of only 7 counties, out of 56 who levied the 95 mills as was directed by the State of Mt. The Supreme Court ruled that in fact, the State has the authority to set the levy and the 49 counties who levied only 78 mills will now have to scramble to make up the difference somewhere in the future.

#### **12/15/2023 9:05 AM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Community Needs, Transportation.** Our guest for This, That & The Other was David Irvin the director of the Northern Transit Interlocal. Irvin gave an update on what's available to residents, noting it's a free service. The transit provides rides for people needing to go to doctor appointments in Great Falls and Kalispell. He said they can also get rides within the community on Wednesday's in Shelby. Irvin said the transit service was still looking for a driver but the service is operating smoothly with no major problems.

#### **12/21/2023 9:05 AM TOOLE COUNTY UPDATE**

**Toole County Update, Law Enforcement, Reform, Crime, Homesless.** Our guest on This, That & the Other on Friday morning. 1<sup>st</sup> was Toole county sheriff Tyler Padilla. The sheriff expressed disappointment in losing 23-year deputy and chief deputy Ryan Larson. Losing that kind of experience he said, "Is never what you like to see. He noted that their jail is seeing some relief now but had gone thru a 14 to 15 month period at capacity with mostly felons and violent

offenders in the jail for a long term. We asked him about the potential of using the old middle school to relieve space issues. He said it could be feasible if there was a total re-framing of the building but having the Sheriff's department in 2 locations would be difficult. Asked about the main issues the Law Enforcement agency was handling he said it would be domestic issues, thefts and disturbances or disorderly conduct. Padilla also noted that there seems to be a spike in homeless individuals coming to Shelby. Some create problems by getting intoxicated and becoming disorderly. Others he said are assisted by the Ministerial Assn. providing shelter for a night or buying a ticket to have them transported to Kalispell or the Sheriff's department taking them to Great Falls.

## **12/23/2023 9:05 AM STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Legislative Update, Property Tax.** State Representative Lew Jones also stopped by our studios and gave an update mainly on the property tax issue. He stated that the Supreme Court had ruled 7-0 affirming that the state mandated 95 mills for school equity can't be lowered as a majority of counties had done. Representative Jones said legislators are "building models to try and find property tax solutions that fit a vastly different state economy depending on where you're at. In Kalispell for example, 78-percent of their tax base comes from residential property in comparison to Toole County where it's more like 25%. The other factors have property tax coming from the railroad, wind farms and other businesses. Jones says it is a complex matter and a solution most likely wouldn't be found until the 2025 Legislative session.