



Great Falls Public Radio Association board members: (VP) Joe Moll, (Secretary) Diane Stinger, Dan Manella, Lonnie Hill, Matthias Schalper, (Pres.) Richard Liebert; Gabe Vasichek, program director  
www.kgpr.org

## **KGPR FCC FOURTH QUARTER 2024 REPORT – ISSUES/CONCERNS**

From 1 October to 31 December 2023, KGPR broadcasted 18-19 hours of local programming opposite its partner station's (KUFR Missoula, MT) local programming, as well as airing KUFR programming all other hours, 24 hours per day. KGPR continued to have every mid-day show spot filled to provide great music, local community events, PSAs and engaging hosts for the listening public, and Doug Wendt – in addition to his Monday mid-day show of world music – volunteered to carry on our Tuesday mid-day show featuring 'The Deep Sixties.' The KGPR team has worked diligently to share as much as possible for all listeners and posted Podcasts for the public's benefit. We also introduced a new show on Friday nights called 'Biscuits and Groovy' but discontinued that since our host had to move out of state.

KGPR has created a brand new public service feature on our website called 'The Electron' which is a community events calendar created by KGPR underwriter David Saslav and currently in final version at Kgpr.org/electron and also from a tab on the homepage. This is a critical 'branding' opportunity as no other media Platform has tried this to the extent we're doing this so we have more to report on this vital public service and we hope to get more donors and especially underwriters. KGPR conducted a formal launch with the Chamber of Commerce on 25 Oct and the local KRTV TV station did a story about our unique offering. The 'Electron' is also now officially sponsored by the local businesses the Celtic Cowboy and Arvon Hotel.

The Great Falls Public Radio Association continues to work with the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce and we've worked to collaborate and in particular feature many of the Chamber's non-profit members in coordination with the Chambers' communication team. Eric Peterson has also expanded his new feature highlighting 'Crimestoppers' which is a local civic group of volunteers dedicated to that task and is broadcasted on Tuesdays each month and the second show went on the air for our 'Talk Tuesday' and also podcasted.

KGPR continues to host mid-day music shows Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:55am – 12:30pm, a jazz show on Thursday afternoon from 2-4 p.m., a classical music show on Sat. 2-5pm, with special local showcase at 4 p.m. of classical music talent, the Great Falls symphony and other local artists. On each Friday from 8-10 p.m. we have an eclectic mix of music and added two new Friday evening radio hosts in June. Thanks to host Liz Jennings (Thursday mid-day show), she found a volunteer with broadcast experience. Jeff Jaraczski is doing very well with 'Gravel Roads' and features 'Americana', alternative and tradition country sounds, Bluegrass and more. Our Friday mid-day show host is Eric Peterson, who alternates featuring 'Horns O' Plenty' dedicated to musicians and groups that play horns, and the next Friday features music of 'The Seventies' along with 'Land of Grass' from Lisa Schmidt' who is KGPR's 'Prairie Poet' and a local rancher.

A new public engagement offering is Electric City Currents, created by program director and host Gabe Vasichek which airs on alternating weeks from Voices and Views and is a shorter format show highlighting interviews with local citizens, businesses, officials, artists and much more. Matt Donnelly has also hosted 'Currents' recently. Eric Peterson also created another KGPR broadcast featuring the city's ten Neighborhood Councils, for broadcast and on podcast.

On Point: Veterans' Talk Radio airs every other Tuesday at 3pm and is a show dedicated to discussion of vital veterans' and local military issues, aired proudly as a public service, hosted by Joe Parsetich. KGPR aired special 'encore' broadcasts of 'On Point' founder Rodger McConnell and has started new in-studio broadcasts with guest host Rich Liebert. On Point also broadcasts very useful and informative Podcasts from the DAV and American Legion websites that impact local veterans. KGPR also conducted a live broadcast of the Veterans Day ceremony at the Montana

Veterans Memorial on Sunday, 11 Nov 2023 with the help of radio hosts Eric Petersons who recorded the event on site and with Matt Donnelly in the studio. The ceremony was also put on the KGPR podcast platform.

KGPR has vigorously broadcasted community events, news releases and public services announcements, including outreaches to the Charlie Russell and History Museums and many other non-profit organizations that can benefit from KGPR's broadcasting help. KGPR continues with MTPR to identify a qualified candidate to be an MTPR funded reporter focused on the Great Falls area thank to a grant to KUFM/MTPR. Station engineer Greg Muir also enhanced our broadcasting capabilities and reliability at our transmitter site and is has acquired a new dome cover for our transmitter.

Matt Donnelly – who hosts Saturday's 'Classical Journey' – has been regularly featuring local classical music talent and interviews at the 4pm hour, after his 2-4pm Classical Journey show. Matt's interviewed the Great Falls Symphony conductor Grant Harville and other musicians to highlight the talent and contributions of the Great Falls Symphony, and local ensembles the 'Chinook Winds' and 'Cascade quartet'. KGPR is very supportive and proud to promote the wonderful local talent of all our musicians no matter the genre. KGPR continues to promote local musicians and the Great Falls Symphony and their guest performers. The Great Falls Symphony also promotes KGPR in its printed performance programs.

KGPR has continued in-studio production of new recordings of Front Range Outdoors. Hosts Amy Grisak and Marty Bannon feature interviews with local wilderness groups, trails organizations, bicylists, Glacier National Park staff, and multiple outdoor enthusiasts about all things outdoors in the area, state, and region. The station also broadcasts encore shows of vital interest, particularly about safety around bears and other survival topics for the listening public. Amy also conducted some very timely interviews with outdoor experts and staffs at our local national and state parks.

KGPR continues to expand its signature civic and social events show Voices and Views to an in-depth, one hour discussion with local civic, educational, social interest group leaders and community activists hosted by Thomas Risberg, aired every other Tuesday afternoon at 2p.m. Thomas has interviewed local healthcare leaders, non-profit groups and many others who contribute to our community, including local native-american representatives. Thomas has interviewed many local leaders, particularly in the field of mental health and just broadcasted a very information interview with the local Great Falls Public School Superintendant Tom Moore, our library director and Library Foundation members and more.

Gabe Vasichek has been promoting local musical talent as often as possible and at local venues and also done some interviews with local musicians when possible.

KGPR continues to air Land of Grass, during COVID and currently, a four minute piece written and recorded by an local area rancher in which Lisa Schmidt explores events great and small in her life as a dry land rancher raising sheep and cattle north of Great Falls. Production of Land of Grass moved seamlessly from the former staff to current volunteers and is anticipated each week by many faithful listeners. Land of Grass is also podcasted on the KGPR website. MTPR's KUFM station in Missoula has suspended playing 'LOG' for now.

KGPR has been diligently posting all locally produced shows as podcasts to our website, kgpr.org, immediately after airing. In addition to the Celtic Cowboy, Montana State Parks and Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, KGPR has picked up several new sponsors. Briant's Triangle Piano Service, The Decorating House, Kellergeist, Wild Montana Island Range Chapter, Montana Farmers Union and Renditions Music underwrite KGPR directly. The station also picked up another sponsor, Advanced Litho, who helped print the new KGPR tri-fold brochure which is being used for promotion and public outreach.

KGPR, in conjunction with KUFM (operated by Montana Public Radio), broadcasted the recent news and interviews and all live national news events such as the ongoing House 6 Jan committee hearings and breaking news from the SCOTUS. KGPR has continued to upgrade studio and broadcast operations in coordination with MTPR and completed negotiating a broadcast agreement with KUFM for the 2022 broadcast year which allows KGPR to share Missoula's

KUFM and MTPR programming with the North Central MT community. The KGPR team also wishes the best for Ray Ekness, who retiring in December as the general manager of MTPR at KUFM in Missoula.

Gabe Vasichcek and Lonnie Hill (board member) work diligently to post Podcasts in a timely manner and share vital information via the KGPR Facebook page. The board has also started meeting in public with hybrid 'Zoom' options for the public and volunteers. 'Dow' (Josh Dowdy) has returned from a deployment and back on 'First Friday' and glad to have him back and we're proud to have John Taillee as a Friday evening host with 'Soundwave'.

KGPR has also started a new Friday night show hosted by Shannon Wilson called 'CELTIC FALLS' in the 8-10pm time slot and features Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Celtic music artists and sponsored by the local Ancient Order of Hiberian chapters. That show airs twice a month, alternating Fridays between 'First Friday' and 'Soundwaves'. We are also considering another possible radio host with a new program idea for Tuesday nights.

Submitted by Richard D. Liebert, 31 Dec 2023, President, Great Falls Public Radio Association (which operates KGPR, kgpr.org)