

Montana Public Radio Issues/Programming List First Quarter 2024

For the period January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024, Montana Public Radio stations (KUFM, KGPR, KUHM, KUFN, KUFL, KAPC, KPJH, KDWG, KUMW, KTFZ, KEUK, KUMS, KUMD, and KUKL) addressed the following issues of importance to our communities during local news inserts into Morning Edition and All Things Considered.

This is only a representational sample. Date, link, reporter, and length of each report is included.

Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration
MONTANA GOVERNMENT: Making sense of Montana's Property Tax Blame Game	ME/ATC/Montana News	3-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5- 8:52
THE BIG WHY: What a Century Old Restaurant Can Tell us About the Chinese-American Experience in The West	ME/ATC/Montana News	4-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5- 8:55
MONTANA POLITICS: Candidates are Busy as 2024 Rolls In, Ans So Is the Campaign Beat Crew	ME/ATC/Montana News	5-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5- 13:45
MONTANA EDUCATION: Heart Butte School District Terminates 31 Staff Members	ME/ATC/Montana News	11-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5- 1:00

MONTANA WEATHER: Heavy Snow and Brutal Cold Are On Their Way to Western Montana	ME/ATC/Montana News	11-Jan-24	7-9am 5-7pm	5-	2:01
MONTANA ECONOMY: Montana's Medicare Expansion Improved Health and Supported New Jobs	ME/ATC/Montana News	11-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5-	1:15
MONTANA ENVIRONMENT: How Did The Ninepipes Wetlands Form - and How Will Climate Change Affect Them?	ME/ATC/Montana News	17-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5-	7:48
MONTANA ENVIRONMENT: Troy Man Charged With Killing A Grizzly Bear And Tampering With Evidence	ME/ATC/Montana News	24-Jan-24	7-9am 7pm	5-	0:55
MONTANA HEALTHCARE: Health Workers Say Powerful New Synthetic Opioid Calls For Improved State Testing	ME/ATC/Montana News	1-Feb-24	7-9am 7pm	5-	1:18
MONTANA EDUCATION: Havre's Electric Shool Buses Ace Their Test in Subzero Temperatures	ME/ATC/Montana News	2-Feb-24	7-9am 7pm	5-	4:12

MONTANA WEATHER: Snowpack Hits Record Lows Across Western Montana	ME/ATC/Montana News	13-Feb-24	7-9am 5-7pm	1:51
MONTANA POLITICS: State Health Department Restricts Transgender Birth Certificate Changes	ME/ATC/Montana News	21-Feb-24	7-9am 5-7pm	0:52
MONTANA HEALTHCARE: Procedural Barriers Complicate Medicaid Enrollment for The Unhoused	ME/ATC/Montana News	28-Feb-24	7-9am 5-7pm	4:05
MONTANA GOVERNMENT: Report: Feds Say Montana Is Taking Too Long to Review SNAP Applications	ME/ATC/Montana News	4-Mar-24	7-9am 5-7pm	3:38
MONTANA POLITICS: Poll Shows Housing, Economy are Top Issues for Montana Voters	ME/ATC/Montana News	8-Mar-24	7-9am 5-7pm	1:54
MONTANA GOVERNMENT: USPS Pushes Back on Claims About Missoula Post Office Changes	ME/ATC/Montana News	13-Mar-24	7-9am 5-7pm	1:24

Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment

Property tax sticker shock swept through Montana this fall, with many homeowners opening bills to find a spike of 20% or more. Since then, a blame game has erupted between lawmakers, counties and the governor over who — or what — is responsible for the surge. Montana Public Radio's Austin Amestoy and Edward O'Brien and Austin Amestoy took a look at the state's tax policy rules and who is responsible for the

Reporter

Austin Amestoy/Edward

~~tax hikes~~
A listener wanted to know what is the story behind the Pekin Noodle Parlor in Butte? It's a Chinese restaurant on the top floor of this old building in uptown, filled with these closed-curtain private dining booths. But what's really significant about it is that it is the oldest, continually operating family owned Chinese restaurant in the country, kept running by members of the Tam family for over a century.

John Hooks/Austin Amestoy

The incumbent John Tester is seeking his 4th term faces a political newcomer — and maybe a previous foe — in Montana's U.S. Senate race. And lots of Republicans — and a couple of Democrats — are interested in Montana's eastern district congressional seat.

Sally Mauk, Rob Saldin and Holly Michels

The Heart Butte school district terminated 31 staff members and accepted five resignations Tuesday. The school board voted in favor of the layoffs because the district has \$1.5 million worth of debt.

Aaron Bolton

A powerful Arctic winter storm is expected to dump significant snow across parts of northwest and west central Montana through Friday. Extreme cold then swoops in this weekend. Experts urge Montanans to take this storm seriously.

Edward O'Brien

Medicaid expansion will be on the table for Montana lawmakers to consider during the next legislative session. Officials are studying the policy's impact ahead of that debate. The subsidized health insurance for low-income and disabled adults has improved health outcomes, brought in federal match dollars and hundreds of millions in new health care spending and supports around 7,500 jobs.

Shaylee Rager

The Ninepipe wetlands cover thousands of acres across the Mission Valley. There are nearly 15,000 acres that are protected by federal, state and tribal agencies, but many more wetlands are on private lands. So it's really this sprawling complex of wetlands and grasslands tucked at the base of the Mission mountains.

Aaron Bolton/Austin Amestoy

A Troy man has been charged with killing a grizzly bear and tampering with evidence in a federal investigation. Othel Lee Pearson allegedly shot and killed the grizzly bear in November 2020 and then tampered with evidence to hinder the investigation.

Ellis Juhlin

A new type of synthetic opioid more potent than fentanyl is cropping up across the country. State health officials and law enforcement are on the lookout. Benzimidazoles, which are more commonly called nitazenes, are a versatile class of drugs. But nitazenes can also be formed into powerful synthetic opioids that are about 20 times more potent than fentanyl.

Aaron Bolton

There have been a lot of questions about whether electric vehicles can hold up in Montana's cold winters. This comes as the federal government expands incentives for schools to electrify their bus fleets. One district in Montana is now running a couple of electric buses for the second winter in a row.

Ellis Juhlin

January's weather did little to improve Montana's record low snowpack. It's going to take a major change in the weather to improve conditions. Experts hoping for above normal precipitation last month to make up for an abnormally dry November and December were left disappointed.

Edward O'Brien

New analysis of state data by Montana Free Press confirms what many homeowners in the state may have already noticed. Residential property taxes are up substantially this year. At the same time, some large industrial businesses are paying millions of dollars less.

Shaylee Rager

On a cold February morning at the Flathead Warming Center in Kalispell, shelter guests got ready for the day, eating breakfast, or figuring out if the bus was running on time. Tashya Evans was in the parking lot smoking a cigarette while she waited for help with her Medicaid application. Evans is one of about 120,000 Montanans who lost Medicaid as the state re-evaluated everyone's eligibility. That number is still growing as the state releases more data.

Aaron Bolton

Montana's health department has been plagued by delays in accepting applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP — and that's drawn criticism from the federal government. Montana Free Press first reported the U.S. Department of Agriculture placed the state health department under a "corrective plan" to speed up that process.

Austin Amestoy

A new poll from Emerson College gives insights into Montana voters' views of candidates and issues heading into election season. Notably it shows a tight race for the U.S. Senate seat.

Shaylee Rager

The United States Postal Service penned a letter last week criticizing what it called "mistruths and false narratives" about its proposed plan for changes at its Missoula facility. The U.S. Postal Service flagged Missoula's processing facility for some potential changes earlier this year to "modernize" its network plagued by aging infrastructure and billions of dollars in losses.

Austin Amestoy

Link

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-03/making-sense-of-montanas-property-tax-blame-game>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2023-05-11/pekin-noodle-parlor-butte>

<https://www.mtpr.org/podcast/campaign-beat/2024-01-05/candidates-are-busy-as-2024-rolls-in-and-so-is-the-campaign-beat-crew>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-11/heart-butte-school-district-terminates-31-staff-members>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-11/heavy-snow-and-brutal-cold-are-on-their-way-to-western-montana>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-11/economist-montanas-medicaid-expansion-improved-health-and-supported-new-jobs>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-17/how-did-the-ninepipe-wetlands-form-and-how-will-climate-change-affect-them>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-01-24/troy-man-charged-with-killing-a-grizzly-bear-and-tampering-with-evidence>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-02-01/health-workers-say-powerful-new-synthetic-opioid-calls-for-improved-state-testing>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-02-02/havres-electric-school-buses-ace-their-test-in-subzero-temperatures>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-02-13/snowpack-hits-record-lows-across-western-montana>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-02-21/state-health-department-restricts-transgender-birth-certificate-changes>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-02-28/technical-reasons-account-for-two-thirds-of-montanas-medicaid-disenrollment-numbers>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-03-04/report-feds-say-montana-is-taking-too-long-to-review-snap-applications>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-03-08/poll-shows-housing-economy-are-top-issues-for-montana-voters>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2024-03-13/usps-pushes-back-on-claims-about-missoula-post-office-changes>