

ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

Quarterly Issues and Programs List

KAAR/KMBR/KMTZ/KXTL

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

SECTION 1 – Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

- A. **Homelessness/Poverty.** There have been an increasing number of homeless individuals and families in Butte and Southwest Montana and many facing the winter months without basic necessities. Our stations had several discussions on ways people can find shelter, assistance and counseling.
- B. **Drug Abuse/Crime.** Drug abuse and distribution is leading to more and more crime in our area. We had discussions with several high-ranking officials on where the drugs come from, what to do if you see something and what needs to be done to control the problem.
- C. **Addiction.** Along with increased drug abuse comes more and more people facing addiction problems. This quarter we discussed ways to find help and ways to help others who are struggling.
- D. **Tourism/Local Economy.** Butte is seeing a greater percentage of our economy coming from festivals, events and tourism. We discussed the ways that local officials are promoting our community, how citizens can help and what we can expect over the upcoming season.
- E. **Environmental/Pollution Issues.** Butte, our local government, the EPA and the Atlantic Richfield Corporation are discussing ways of dealing with mine waste. We had discussions about the debate on where to deposit mine waste and ways the public can stay informed and get involved.

SECTION 2 – Responsive Programs

Community Forum is a locally produced program that broadcasts on all four Townsquare Media-Butte stations. The details of each segment are detailed below.

New Businesses Opening and Eric Saldo Project

Date aired: 1/5/2024; Time aired: 10:25am (KMBR), 10:35am (KAAR), 11:05am (KMTZ), 1:05pm (KXTL); Duration: 14 minutes

We were joined by Stephanie Sorini of the Butte Chamber of Commerce and discussed the opening of a new tavern in Uptown Butte along with the new businesses it is joining in a revitalized corridor. We discussed Uptown restaurants and the number of people they employ along with what preparations they are taking for the three major basketball tournaments that are coming to town. We discussed the Eric Saldo Project where this nationally-renowned artist is creating a jigsaw puzzle that is Butte-based, promotes Butte and Southwest Montana and is available worldwide. **Marketing, Community, Small Business, Athletics**

Senator Steve Daines – January 2024

*Date aired: 1/9/24; Time aired: 8:48am (KAAR), 8:53am (KMBR), 9:07am (KMTZ), 9:45am (KXTL);
Duration: 15 minutes*

We talked with United States Senator Steve Daines who stated that drugs and violent crime are the biggest issues facing Montanans. Crime is directly related to drug addiction which is related to drug trafficking which is related to current border policies. We talked about how lax security at the southern US border has huge potential for possible terrorist attacks. We discussed how a terrorist could travel from Istanbul to Bogota, Columbia and easily get to American soil. **Crime, Drug Addiction, Terrorism, Drug Abuse, Drug Policy, Violence, Democracy, Criminals**

Low Income Energy Assistance

*Date Aired: 1/22/24; Time Aired: 6:30am (KAAR), 9:05am (KMBR), 9:55am (KMTZ), 10:55am (KXTL).
Duration: 15 minutes.*

With winter comes higher utility bills and many families in Southwest Montana are having difficulty paying them. We discussed ways that assistance is available through the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program including weatherization, conservation and financial help. We discussed financial criteria, participating agencies and how to get help if you don't know where to look. **Personal Finance, Public Assistance, Family Issues**

Butte Cares – Recovering from Addiction

*Date Aired: 1/28/24; Time aired: 6:20am (KAAR), 6:35am (KMBR) 6:15am (KMTZ), 7:05am (KXTL);
Duration: 15 minutes*

There are hundreds of people in Southwest Montana that are struggling with drug addiction. We discussed where to find help, how to identify drug use in teens and looked at the many different types of drugs that have invaded our community and how to help stop their use. **Drug Use, Drug Abuse, Life Skills, Youth Issues, Addiction**

Outdoor Safety in the Winter

*Date aired: 2/2/24; Time aired: 7:15am (KAAR), 7:20am (KMBR), 6:05am (KMTZ), 6:30am (KXTL);
Duration: 15 minutes.*

We are in the time of year where you are most likely to experience and avalanche if hiking, skiing or snowmobiling. We were joined by Jocelyn Dodge, a local forester, and discussed avalanche safety, what to do if you're caught in one and what to do when you come across wildlife. We talked about safe routes and how to check for avalanche-prone snow on hillsides. **Extreme Weather, Fitness, Wildlife Species**

Cleanup on the Hill

*Date Aired: 2/11/24; Time aired: 8:10am (KAAR), 8:20am (KMBR), 10:30am (KMTZ), 7:55am (KXTL);
Duration: 14 minutes.*

We looked at the ongoing cleanup on the Butte Hill of mine tailings and a proposal to relocate waste near residential areas in Uptown Butte. We talked about potential hazards on nearby residences and ways citizens can learn more and voice their concerns at upcoming public meetings. We discussed where meetings are being held and ways to view them online, if available. **Public Waste, Public Health, Pollution,**

Butte's Homeless Problem

Date aired: 2/21/24; Time aired: 6:25am (KAAR), 7:10am (KMBR), 6:45am (KMTZ), 8:10am (KXTL); Duration: 14 minutes

We discussed the number of homeless in Butte and where they can find shelter in the winter months. We discussed the underlying issues of being homeless, such as addiction, unemployment or mental illness. We discussed local programs that are available and how the public can get help through volunteer work and donations. **Drug Abuse, Mental Health, Economy, Public Health**

Sheriff Ed Lester – St. Patrick's Day Safety

Date aired: 2/28/24; Time aired: 10:15am (KAAR), 10:30am (KMBR), 11:15am (KMTZ), 11:30am (KXTL); Duration: 14 minutes

The St. Patrick's Day celebration in Butte is generally very large and involves alcohol use. We discussed the increased patrols that will be out looking for impaired drivers, the importance of planning a sober ride home ahead of time, how to keep alcohol out of underage hands and we looked at the potential penalties of MIPs and DUIs. **Public Health, Drug Use, Public Safety, Community**

St. Patrick's Day in Butte – Alternatives to Alcohol

Date aired: 3/12/24; Time aired: 6:20am (KAAR), 6:25am (KMBR), 6:30am (KMTZ), 7:10am (KXTL); Duration: 14 minutes

In Butte there are several St. Patrick's Day activities that are family-friendly and do not involve imbibing. We discussed the Color Run taking place at Stodden Park. We looked at kids activities at the Carousel. We talked about different alcohol-free parties that are taking place on St. Patrick's Day. **Healthy Lifestyles, Prevention, Community**

Butte Businesses – Why Shopping Locally is Important

Date aired: 3/18/24; Time aired: 9:10am (KAAR), 9:15am (KMBR), 9:20am (KMTZ), 8:45 (KXTL); Duration: 14 minutes

Topics we discussed were how keeping your shopping dollars local helps us all. Local businesses support local charities, organizations and fundraisers. We discussed why when travelling, how using Butte's Bert Mooney Airport supports the local economy. Using local restaurants also supports local suppliers and workers. **Economics, Small Business, Community**

Senator Steve Daines – March 2024

Date aired: 3/22/24; Time aired: 10:20am (KAAR), 10:20am (KMBR), 10:25am (KMTZ), 10:45 (KXTL); Duration: 15 minutes

We were joined by Senator Steve Daines and the topic was the southern border crisis and how it is affecting Montanans. Daines said that Montana is seeing increased crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking due to current border policies and how a Hamas fighter was detained. We discussed the implication of this on Montana. **Public Policy, Violence, Drug Abuse, Addiction, Crime**

Has our Tourist Season Started Already?

*Date aired: 3/29/24; Time aired: 11:15am (KAAR), 11:20am (KMBR), 11:30am (KMTZ), 11:45am (KXTL);
Duration: 15 minutes*

We were joined by Stephanie Sorini of the Butte Chamber of Commerce and discussed the vibrant St. Patrick's Day and its effect on Uptown businesses. We looked at the upcoming festival season and discussed local restaurants, hotels and stores that will looking for workers. We talked about the effect of tourism on the local economy and ways to promote Butte. **Marketing, Community, Small Business, Entertainment**