

KPRK AM – 1340 AM, 2022 Q2 Quarterly Issues Program List, April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022

Section 1 – Issues:

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in this quarter.

1. **Economy** – Concern about the impact of inflation on local communities and their residents. Specific concern about increased costs of goods for farming and agriculture as well as fuel costs. Also concerns about the impact of a full recession on the local communities.
2. **Environment** – Concerns about changing weather patterns including late spring snow storms and specifically record-setting flooding. Also concerns about the impact of climate change on local communities and businesses, especially those whose economy is dependent on tourism.
3. **Labor Shortages** – Concern regarding the lack of available workers for business, critical community services, government agencies and agriculture. Direction and communication for local businesses on how to grow and keep the workforce for the benefit of local residents, especially for smaller more rural areas.
4. **Drug Abuse** – Concerns about increased abuse and drug-related deaths. Need for services and education to prevent drug abuse. Also concerns about the impact of recently-legalized recreational marijuana use.
5. **Education** – Concern about the quality of education for children in our local communities due to changing curriculum and politically influenced school administrators and school boards. Also concern regarding post-pandemic plans for education and the mental health of area students due to previous pandemic restrictions for education. Issues with the shortage of teachers, counselors, bus drivers and other critical school employees.
6. **Gun Control** – Concern regarding gun ownership among local residents as the federal government addresses increased crime and mass shootings. Information needed regarding state and local government response to protect gun owner rights.

Section 2 – Responsive Programs:

The station has broadcast programming dealing with each of the above referenced issues. Programming dealing with each issue is set out below.

1. Economy

Montana Talks, April 4, 2022, 7:08AM, duration 15 minutes. Interview with Evelyn Pyburn of the Big Sky Business Journal.

Discussed the impact of inflation and increasing gas prices in the area and state. Talked about the potential impact on tourist traffic to the Yellowstone Park area and other attractions, especially for those visitors those that travelled in RV's or were pulling campers/trailers and the significant expense that represents. Concerned about less tourist traffic due to high fuel costs impacting local business who depend on the tourist season.

Montana Talks, April 14, 2022, 8:08AM, duration 20 minutes. Interview with Representative Matt Rosendale.

Discussed how inflation was a "self-inflicted" problem due to federal government leadership and decisions made that impact the local energy producers. Specifically discussed legislative changes affecting the local and state oil and energy industry and how the federal government was restricting activity that was increasing the cost of fuel to local residents.

Montana Talks, April 15, 2022, 7:07AM, duration 14 minutes. Interview with Montana candidate for U.S. Congress Ryan Zinke.

Discussed the of decisions that were impacting local oil industries and how that was leading to more reliance on foreign/imported oil which leads to increased fuel prices. With his background in the state and as a former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Zinke feels that with less restrictions, it would benefit local oil producers, lessen reliance on foreign oil and decrease fuel costs.

Montana Talks, June 10, 2022, 7:43AM, duration 7 minutes. Interview with Kent Kaiser.

Discussed the impact of inflation on the local and state agricultural community. Specifically talked about the increase cost of materials for fertilizer along with fuel prices for farm equipment. These two categories caused significant increase to the cost of farming and is severely impacting farmers and their families along with the consumers who purchase their now more expensive goods.

2. Environment

Montana Talks, April 12, 2022, 6:27AM, duration 7 minutes. Interview with Dan Borsum of the National Weather Service.

Discussed the recent late spring snowstorms and discussed the impact on the area. Discussed how wet springs lead to more undergrowth in our forests making for a dangerous fire season later in the year. Also talked about the need for the additional snowpack provided by the storms and the positive impact on water levels for the region and the state. Discussed climate change and if it was having an impact on recent weather patterns.

3. Labor Shortages

Montana Talks, May 2, 2022, 7:07AM, duration 18 minutes. Interview with Evelyn Pyburn of the Big Sky Business Journal.

Discussed the impact of labor shortages on all aspects of the local and state economy as well as the disruption of services, some critical, to consumers and local residents. Talked about how businesses can best keep current employees and how to best attract and hire new employees. Talked about the increase in wages due to lack of workers in a competitive job market for employers.

4. Drug Abuse

Montana Talks, May 6, 2022, 8:52AM, duration 5 minutes. Interview with Steve Zabawa with Safe Montana.

Discussed the impact of recently legalized recreational marijuana on the community. Talked about abuse issues associated with legalized marijuana in other states and expectations regarding the issue locally. Discussed how counties have the ability to “opt out” of allowing legalized recreational marijuana in their jurisdictions.

Montana Talks, June 7, 2022, 7:30AM, duration 9 minutes. Interview with Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen.

Discussed the significant increase in opioid deaths in the state with 8 deaths the past two weeks. Also talked about the tremendous increase in fentanyl deaths and cases in the area and throughout the state. Discussed state government plans to address the issue, including agencies and services to help those addicted and legislation and enforcement to prevent increased access to these drugs.

5. Education

Montana Talks, May 6, 2022, 9:41AM, duration 11 minutes. Interview with Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Discussed the struggles for schools coming out of the pandemic restrictions and the use of still available COVID funds to help. Talked about appreciating teachers and announced the winners of Teacher of the Year for the state. Also discussed the potential of a teach shortage for the next school year, along with shortages in other school-related jobs like custodial, food service and bus drivers.

Montana Talks, May 20, 2022, 8:15AM, duration 28 minutes. Interview with Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Discussed the impact of pandemic restrictions in area schools over the past two years on local students. Talked about a study showing 41% of students were clinically depressed. Also discussed efforts by local educators and state government to improve these issues and the plans for a return to normal for local students and education staffs alike.

Montana Talks, June 10, 2022, 9:24AM, duration 7 minutes. Interview with Jenna McKinney of Montana Family Rights Alliance.

Discussed changes to traditional curriculum and the politicizing of education-related issues. Talked about the recent ZooMontana Drag Queen reading event and the potential negative impact on local students.

6. Gun Control

Montana Talks, May 17, 2022, 8:06AM, duration 14 minutes. Interview with John Jackson.

Discussed Montana gun ownership and how the state has the highest gun ownership per capita in the country. Talked about proposed government regulations on gun ownership, gun buying and gun registration and what impact that would have on local gun owners. Discussed the local tradition and lifestyle of residents and how it related to high gun ownership in the area.

Montana Talks, May 20, 2022, 7:13AM, duration 12 minutes. Interview with George Blackard, former Vice Commander of the Montana American Legion.

Discussed gun licensing and registration. Talked about gun use in the area and the state for hunting and self-protection. Discussed the issues of increasing mass shootings versus primarily non-violent gun use in the area and the state. Talked about the impact of federal legislation current and proposed on area gun owners.

This list is not in any particular order of importance or priority.