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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: William Marcus, station manager, 406-243-4931, william.marcus@umontana.edu;
Linda Talbott, associate director, 406-243-4931, linda.talbott@umontana.edu; Michael
Marsolek, program director, 406-243-4931, michael.marsolek@umontana.edu.

**MONTANA PUBLIC RADIO DROPS ‘CAR TALK,’
ADDS ‘WAIT WAIT ... DON’T TELL ME!’ AND MORE**

MISSOULA –

Fueled by the need to economize and to direct resources to local initiatives, Montana Public Radio is dropping “Car Talk” from its schedule.

At \$21,500 per year for a weekly one-hour show, “Car Talk” costs eight times the average of other national shows the station buys. By comparison, the evening news program “All Things Considered” provides 12 hours of news each week and costs only \$35,000 per year.

“It’s really a matter of being good stewards of the money listeners give us to run the station,” said Michael Marsolek, program director. “Car Talk’ is so expensive, I can’t justify keeping it in the budget.”

“Car Talk” fans can still get their weekly fix by listening on-demand at the show’s Web site, <http://www.cartalk.com>. A podcast also is available.

Humor and wit still have a home on Montana Public Radio with the addition of “Wait Wait ... Don’t Tell Me!” which will air at 11:30 a.m. Sundays. “Wait Wait” is an NPR news quiz show hosted by award-winning playwright Peter Sagal, with NPR’s Carl Kasell as official judge and scorekeeper. Sagal quizzes panelists and listeners to see just how closely they paid attention to the week’s news. A favorite segment features Kasell reciting quotes from the week’s

newsmakers as contestants try to guess whom he is impersonating. It's the only show where listeners get to hear NPR's most senior newscaster impersonating celebrities.

"Wait Wait" is not the only new show added to Montana Public Radio's schedule. The station has added five new programs in all, while deleting five others and moving some to different broadcast times.

Shows added are:

- "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" – humorous news quiz, 11:30 a.m. Sunday.
(Replaces "Car Talk.")
- "Talk of the Nation – Science Friday" – science news and discussion, 1 p.m. Friday.
- "Marketplace Morning Report" – live financial news, 5:51 and 7:51 a.m. weekdays.
- "Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival" – 8 a.m. Sunday. (Replaces "Saint Paul Sunday.")
- "Echoes" – a modern soundscape of music from many traditions, 11 p.m. Sunday.

Along with "Car Talk" and "Saint Paul Sunday," deleted shows include "Bookworm," "Listener's Bookstall" and "StarDate."

For the complete schedule, visit <http://www.mtpr.org>.

Montana Public Radio is a public service of The University of Montana, airing across western and central Montana. Its studios are located on the UM campus in Missoula, with a news bureau at the state Capitol in Helena. Montana Public Radio receives funding from its listeners, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and UM.

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