

**KNKX:
Issues & Programs List
2021: Fourth Quarter (October-December)**

**Local newscasts on Morning Edition air every half hour from 6:30 to 8:30 AM
Local newscasts on All Things Considered air every half hour from 3 to 6 PM
All stories listed aired both morning and afternoon on the day noted -- sometimes
the stories aired as many as 4x in one day.**

POLICE/POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY/LAW

[Attorney general files charges against Pierce County Sheriff Ed Troyer in run-in with newspaper carrier](#)

October 19, 2021

The state attorney general is charging Pierce County Sheriff Ed Troyer with two misdemeanors following a months-long investigation into Troyer's conduct. The charges stem from an encounter the sheriff had with a Black newspaper carrier in his Tacoma neighborhood earlier this year, just months after he was elected as the county's top law enforcement officer.

[Person of interest sought in Islamic Center of Tacoma arson](#)

October 20, 2021

Fire broke out at the Islamic Center of Tacoma on Oct. 11, just before evening prayers were about to start. The incident, which is being investigated as arson, has taken the community by surprise.

[Pandemic stressors correspond with spike in domestic violence reports in King County](#)

October 29, 2021

A surge in domestic violence in 2020 is on pace to continue this year in King County, led by an increase in violent deaths. Officials and social workers say stay-home orders meant to protect human health amid the coronavirus pandemic can make victims more vulnerable. And the abuse overwhelmingly hits women of color.

Black residents experience 5 times more force from sheriff's department, says new Pierce County report

November 9, 2021

It's the first such report. The study looked at use of force incidents between 2016-2020 in unincorporated Pierce County, University Place and Edgewood.

Public pressure builds around embattled Pierce County Sheriff Ed Troyer. What happens now?

November 12, 2021

Over the past month, Pierce County Sheriff Ed Troyer has amassed misdemeanor criminal charges, increased calls for him to resign, and a scathing report from a former U.S. attorney that found he endangered a civilian's life. And the fallout has landed him on the county's so-called Brady list. With Troyer resisting calls for his resignation, it's unclear what could happen next.

Seattle will pay Charleena Lyles' family \$3.5 million to settle wrongful death lawsuit

November 30, 2021

The family of Charleena Lyles, a 30-year-old Black mother of four killed by Seattle police four years ago, has reached a \$3.5 million settlement with the city.

Tacoma City Council to vote on appointment of next police chief

December 6, 2021

The Tacoma City Council will vote Tuesday night on the confirmation of Avery Moore as the next chief of the Tacoma Police Department.

Two Tacoma police officers exonerated in death of Manuel Ellis

December 21, 2021

Masyih Ford and Armando Farinas, two Tacoma police officers involved in the killing of **Manuel Ellis** in March 2020, have been exonerated of any wrongdoing following a months-long internal affairs investigation by the Tacoma Police Department.

SOCIAL JUSTICE/EQUITY/IMMIGRATION

Tacoma flies trans flag, officially marking Transgender Day of Remembrance for first time

November 19, 2021

The top of Tacoma's city hall building featured a new fixture Friday: a pink, blue and white flag representing transgender communities.

Aberdeen councilwoman believed to be first transgender elected official in Washington

October 20, 2021

Aberdeen City Councilwoman Tiesa Meskis is easygoing. You wouldn't know it, but she had a wild summer that peaked with an international news story that turned ugly. But that's not why we're talking.

Two Seattle candidates reflect rise of abolitionism in U.S. politics

October 21, 2021

There's a growing crop of politicians who identify as abolitionists. That includes two candidates for Seattle office on the Nov. 2 ballot. Nikkita Oliver and Nicole Thomas-Kennedy discuss abolitionism and how it will affect their leadership if elected.

Detainees at Tacoma ICE facility are owed minimum wage, federal jury says

October 27, 2021

Detainees who clean dishes, floors and do other work at Tacoma's ICE detention center must be paid Washington state's minimum wage. That's according to ruling handed down Wednesday in federal court. GEO Group, the private prison company that runs the facility, had paid working detainees as little as \$1 per day.

A developer forced them out of their building. Three years later, nearly half are dead.

December 8, 2021

The fates of the Tacoma building's tenants paint a picture of how homelessness happens.

Extra time, money weren't enough in a city that left Merkle tenants behind

December 9, 2021

The surviving tenants of the former Merkle Hotel and their advocates say that what happened after the building's closure points to a gaping mismatch between the help that was available to people facing homelessness and the realities of Tacoma's modern housing market.

In the loss of the Merkle Hotel, echoes of the history of residential hotels — and the rise of homelessness

December 10, 2021

Throughout the history of residential hotels like the Merkle, there's been a push and pull between concerns about the buildings' safety and living conditions and the critical role they played in housing markets.

Listen: Will James on telling the story of Tacoma's Merkle Hotel, its final residents

December 13, 2021

KNKX reporter Will James tracked down some of former residents of Tacoma's Merkle Hotel to see where they are now, and it created a picture of the forces driving homelessness in the region and their effect on people's lives. His three-part series aired last week. He sat down with Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick to talk about it.

After three years of sanctuary in Seattle church, Mexican man finally free to leave
December 21, 2021

A Mexican immigrant who had taken sanctuary in a Seattle church for almost three years out of fear of deportation announced he is finally able to leave and reunite with family.

Immigrants speak out about conditions after suspension of worker program at Tacoma ICE facility

December 30, 2021

Ever since GEO Group, the private prison company that runs the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Tacoma, suspended its detainee worker program last month, some immigrants have been speaking out about conditions deteriorating.

ENVIRONMENT

Tacoma City Council considering amendments to proposed ban on expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure

October 5, 2021

Tacoma famously declared a climate emergency two years ago. It came the same day the Puyallup Tribe made an emergency declaration of its own – all aiming to restrict fossil fuel developments in the tideflats and the port at the heart of the city. But the Tacoma City Council is stuck in a holding pattern.

Lone beluga whale spotted around Puget Sound, first documented sighting here since 1940

October 8, 2021

Surprise and wonder and sometimes shock. That's how local whale expert Susan Berta says she feels about seeing a beluga exploring Puget Sound. She is part of a team helping federal authorities understand why this unusual visitor is here.

Rare clash between two distinct kinds of orcas in the Salish Sea — and the endangered fish-eaters won

October 12, 2021

Whale watching in the Salish Sea is almost always a thrill. But a recent clash between two species of orcas presented a rare spectacle.

DNA left behind by solo beluga whale helps unravel mystery of its origins, but questions remain

November 1, 2021

Federal scientists have a few more clues about the lone beluga whale that was seen at various points around Puget Sound and the Salish Sea last month.

Makah whale hunt decision now in the hands of single NOAA official

November 17, 2021

It's been nearly two months since a federal administrative law judge issued his recommendation on the Makah Tribe's request to revive its whale hunt, and comments on his recommendation closed over the weekend. Now the decision is in the hands of a single official at NOAA headquarters in Maryland.

Inslee will seek federal aid for flooded region, cites 'attack' by climate change

November 18, 2021

Gov. Jay Inslee says he was stunned to see how much water hit communities in Whatcom County and how fast it came in. He said that he will seek federal aid to help

affected communities, and he warned of “a permanent state of attack by the forces of climate change.”

[Surviving the flood: Violinist recounts harrowing scene as Nooksack rose to record levels](#)

November 19, 2021

The floodwaters on the Nooksack River reached record heights this week. Hundreds of homes in communities north of Bellingham were swamped. Violinist Swil Kanim’s RV was one of them. He’s a member of the Lummi Tribe and he spoke with KNKX, as the floodwaters receded around his neighborhood in Ferndale.

['I told him not to let go, and he did not let go': Family mourns devoted father killed in Whatcom flood](#)

November 23, 2021

Jose Garcia, 50, was one of the few fatalities from the flood. Garcia was married with four children: three daughters and a son. His children describe him as a loving and hardworking man who did whatever he could to put a smile on their faces. “I just got to stick by my mom’s side,” said Garcia’s son, Luis Garcia, 24. “She’s really hurting. She lost her other half.”

[Ship It Zero campaign pushing carriers, retailers to speed up transition to cleaner fuels](#)

November 30, 2021

The international shipping industry remains exempt from climate accords such as the Paris Agreement. A new campaign is pushing retailers and shippers to do what it takes to achieve zero-emissions shipping by 2030.

[Summer heat, economics putting a strain on Christmas tree supply](#)

December 9, 2021

You may have heard there's a shortage of live Christmas trees in the region this year. KNKX environment reporter Bellamy Pailthorp talked with some local growers to find out why.

Snow geese and winter waterfowl flock to Skagit fields and skies

December 29, 2021

One of the Northwest's great natural treasures is the abundant flocks of winter waterfowl that come here in the colder months — and they are easy to spot on open fields. Hit the road for Skagit County, and odds are good that you'll find some.

Arts and Culture

Northwest artists bring local stories into focus at Tacoma Film Festival

October 11, 2021

The Tacoma Film Festival kicked off in downtown Tacoma Thursday. The festival will show 17 feature films and more than 150 short films by filmmakers from all over the world, including dozens from across the Pacific Northwest.

Liminal Earth: Washington duo shares stories of ghosts, cryptids, spooky sounds

October 30, 2021

This time of year, we want to be scared. That's why we watch scary movies and read thrillers. But what if there were frights right in our backyard?

More than 5th Avenue abuzz about return of live theater to downtown Seattle

November 10, 2021

The 5th Avenue is set to welcome patrons back into its theater in January with a production of "Beauty and the Beast." The theater held a press conference on Tuesday celebrating its reopening and launch of its PR campaign "Fall In Love with the 5th."

No-No Boy teaches Asian American history through folk songs

November 12, 2021

Julian Saporiti turned his Ph.D. dissertation into the musical project No-No Boy. He's released a number of songs that explore the untold histories of Asian Americans and immigrants.

How a conflict over 'Frankenstein' in Seattle is part of a long history with Mary Shelley's 1818 novel

November 18, 2021

A Seattle high school student said discussion over Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" strayed into territory that was racist. The school district said the teacher and principal created a hostile environment. We talk to a Mary Shelley scholar about how the novel has been read, and misread, over two centuries.

The Crocodile is back open and bigger than ever

December 2, 2021

After the historic Seattle venue announced it was moving just a couple of blocks down the street to the former location of El Gaucho at First Avenue and Wall Street, The Crocodile is reopen to the public. The new space includes two dedicated music stages, a comedy club, cafe and hotel.

New character takes racist imagery out of Pacific Northwest Ballet's 'The Nutcracker'

Dec 23, 2021

This year marks the debut of a new character in Pacific Northwest Ballet's "The Nutcracker." After a discussion about the racist imagery in a particular scene of the ballet, the company decided to address it by creating the Green Tea Cricket.

'Something cool to have pride about': eTc Tacoma stitches together clothing, creativity and the city's culture

December 28, 2021

Steady growth through social media, word of mouth, events and brand collaborations has turned eTc Tacoma's clothes into a magnet for the city's younger population, and the brand has grown to represent more than clothes.

COVID 19

Rain City Relief hopes to shower artists with funds after COVID setbacks

October 1, 2021

Live music has started to return to Seattle, but many artists are still struggling financially after a year and a half of missed opportunities. To answer the growing need, a group of local musicians partnered with The Reef dispensary to create a fund to help artists get back on their feet.

Listen: Vaccine deadline has passed. What's the impact on state government?

October 19, 2021

The state's COVID-19 vaccine mandate deadline has passed, and the fallout has begun. Olympia correspondent Austin Jenkins joined Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick to explain what's happening.

King County's new COVID vaccine verification system relies on honor system

October 19, 2021

A vaccine verification mandate goes into effect next Monday in King County. You'll have to show proof of COVID vaccinations to gather in most public places.

COVID vaccine almost ready for ages 5-11. Will there be a K-12 mandate in WA?

November 2, 2021

Approval to allow children ages 5 to 11 to get their COVID-19 vaccine is expected any day now. Is a K-12 vaccine mandate coming to Washington state? Olympia correspondent Austin Jenkins joined Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick to talk about that and more.

Navy's crucial Bremerton shipyard squeezed as vaccine deadline looms

November 10, 2021

At last check, 58 percent of workers at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard had been vaccinated.

What's next for redistricting efforts, state COVID reporting, Inslee's emergency powers?

November 23, 2021

The task of redrawing Washington's congressional and legislative districts is now in the hands of the state Supreme Court. But how did that happen? The chair of the commission that missed the deadline — sending the map duty to the court — and had to send an explanation to the justices.

Listen: How Washington health officials are preparing for the omicron COVID variant

November 30, 2021

State health officials are bracing for yet another COVID-19 variant: omicron. The variant has been detected in South Africa, Europe and elsewhere. Experts say it's only a matter of time before we find it in the U.S., and that it is likely already here.

Omicron variant, flooding among top issues on state's plate right now

December 7, 2021

State health officials are investigating the three omicron variant COVID-19 cases confirmed in Washington so far. Olympia correspondent Austin Jenkins and KNKX

Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick look at that response and other issues facing state government right now.

POLITICS

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Housing, homelessness and police reform: Where do Tacoma mayor candidates stand on top issues?

October 21, 2021

The race for Tacoma mayor pits incumbent Victoria Woodards against political newcomer Steve Haverly. Woodards is a former city council member and an Army veteran. Haverly is in construction management. Recently, they appeared in a debate to discuss the top issues on the minds of Tacoma voters.

What does the future hold for Washington prisons?

October 26, 2021

The state operates 12 prisons, and not so long ago they were packed. But since COVID hit, there's been a dramatic drop in the prison census. Might the state close yet another prison? KNKX Olympia Correspondent Austin Jenkins joined Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick live to talk about the state of the state's prisons.

African American women could make history in King and Snohomish counties

October 27, 2021

Voters in King and Snohomish counties have a chance to make history when they choose their candidates for county council seats. That's because African American

women are on the ballot – and officials in both of those jurisdictions confirm that if even one is elected, it would be a first.

[League of Women Voters looks at local news landscape in Washington, possible impact on democracy](#)

October 27, 2021

We know local news outlets nationwide are less robust than they once were. And we know that has far-reaching effects in communities. What does it mean for Washington state?

[As Sequim votes, conspiracy theories and far-right politics swirl in the background](#)

October 28, 2021

Elections in Sequim are unfolding against a backdrop of political extremism, online and in real life. It's fueled, in part, by an organized effort by Republican activists to elect and appoint conservative, populist candidates to local offices on the northern Olympic Peninsula.

[COVID vaccine almost ready for ages 5-11. Will there be a K-12 mandate in WA?](#)

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[Analysis: What to expect from a new Seattle mayor, change afoot in the suburbs and other election takeaways](#)

November 3, 2021

KNKX reporter Lilly Ana Fowler joins All Things Considered host Ed Ronco for election analysis. They look at who won, why and what's next for our region. Political consultant Crystal Fincher weighs in with her thoughts.

Kitsap County voters approving switch to medical examiner, ending coroner's tenure — as promised

November 4, 2021

Kitsap County voters are overwhelmingly approving Proposition 1, a measure that will task an appointed medical examiner with leading death investigations countywide. Coroner Jeff Wallis campaigned in 2018 on a platform to end the county's coroner system.

21-year-old Joshua Binda would make history if elected to Lynnwood City Council

November 9, 2021

Another big first in local politics is shaping up. 21-year-old college student Joshua Binda has widened his lead over longtime politician and nonprofit leader Lisa Utter in their race for Lynnwood City Council, Position 3.

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Conservatives line up to challenge GOP Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler

December 2, 2021

Jaime Herrera Beutler's vote to impeach former President Trump brought conservative challengers into the 2022 midterm race.

What should we expect from Inslee's climate action plans, budget proposal?

December 14, 2021

Gov. Jay Inslee is traveling around western Washington this week, rolling out budget and policy proposals ahead of next year's legislative session. Today, he's in Skagit County, outlining another part of his environmental agenda. Olympia correspondent Austin Jenkins joined Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick to talk about it.

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Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson launches nonpartisan bid for secretary of state

December 15, 2021

Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson announced her campaign for secretary of state on Wednesday – and she's running as a nonpartisan candidate, a value she feels strongly about.

Lawsuit against Inslee, senator's death, omicron loom large as legislative session nears

December 21, 2021

Three weeks before the start of the legislative session, the state Legislature has once again filed a lawsuit against Gov. Jay Inslee that claims he abused his veto power.

Meanwhile, omicron has quickly become the dominant variant circulating in Washington state, and Republican state Sen. Doug Ericksen has died.