

## KPBX 4th Quarter 2023 Issues

<p>Spokane Public Radio KPBX determined the following to be community needs and addressed them through news and other programming during the quarter ending December 31st, 2023.</p>	<p>Coronavirus (COVID -19)          Regional, state, local, county politics &amp; govt.          Economy          Environmental/natural issues          Healthcare          K-12 and higher education          Health care          Arts /culture          Business, industry, agriculture          Police/Crime          Legal issues          Native Issues</p>
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### Network Specialty Audience Programs

<b><u>Public Forums</u></b>	It's Your World, Alternative Radio, Commonwealth Club – conversations on different topics ranging from left-wing politics to international and national events. Programs air Tuesdays at noon. (1 hour)
<b><u>Climate One</u></b>	Weekly program devoted to climate-related topics, airing Mondays at noon. (1 hour)
<b><u>Zorba Paster On Your Health</u></b>	Medical call-in program, Wednesdays at noon. (1 hour)
<b><u>Concert of the Week</u></b>	Highlights of performances from the Inland Northwest and around the world, Mondays at 7 p.m. (2 hours)

### KPBX Produced Programs

<b><u>Guitar Hour</u></b>	Weekly musical program featuring the guitar	Thursdays 11 am	1 hour
<b><u>Radio Play Co-Lab</u></b>	Local regional talent performs locally written material	Quarterly	30 min
<b><u>Movies 101</u></b>	Local people review recent motion pictures	Fridays 6:30 pm	30 min
<b><u>TA(P)</u></b>	A weekly look at the arts in the Inland Northwest	Thursdays 12 pm	1/2 hour

## KPBX 4th Quarter 2023 News Coverage report

*SPR-produced newscast at 5:31, 6:04, 6:31, 6:45, 7:04, 7:31, 7:45, 8:31, 8:45 am.; 4:45, 5:00, 5:45, 6:00 pm., Mon.-Fri., and at 7:35 and 9:35 am Sat.-Sun. (News stories average 1:30-6 min. in length and include stories produced by Spokane Public Radio staff and by Northwest News Network, to which Spokane Public Radio belongs.) Topics are listed by subject category. Spokane Public Radio also airs All Things Considered and Morning Edition from NPR News. A sample of topics covered during this quarter are presented below:*

<b>Coronavirus</b>	
<b>Election Coverage</b>	<p>Newman Lake voters to decide fire levy in November. Valley councilman challenged by veteran politician for his seat. States that send a mail ballot to every voter really do increase turnout, scholars find. Mayoral candidates Brown, Woodward imagine different Spokanes. Spokane County Commissioners hear from community on new jail ballot measure. Control of West Bonner board in question as election nears. Candidates vying to represent Northeast Spokane for more investment, differ on public safety. How you can help prevent your ballot from getting rejected. 20-year CV board member challenged by political newcomer. CV board member Keith Clark seeks fourth term against Anniece Barker. Bond issue, school levy to go before Spokane Public Schools voters in February. Jail tax measure trailing, homeless encampment ban ahead after first Spokane election count. Initial results: Brown narrowly leads Spokane mayoral race, Wilkerson ahead for council president. Ballot measures: Criminal justice funding measure headed to defeat, Spokane moves to ban camping. Progressives appear poised to hold Spokane City Council majority. Kootenai County elections: CDA council incumbents hang on, land bond doubtful. Voters choose school board members. How housing and homelessness ballot initiatives are faring so far in this year's election. Franz halts bid for WA governor, sets sights on Congress. Brown's lead in Spokane mayoral race increases in Friday count. Former WA GOP chairman muses on 2024 presidential race. Spokane voters to decide redistricting changes in February.</p>
<b>Culture Issues</b>	<p>World badminton championships enter second week in Spokane. Improvisation isn't just for comedians anymore. How the Spokane area is marking Veterans' (Armistice) Day. Club '74 created to fund 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Expo. Salish immersion program seeks to build language skills and culture. Spokane holiday tradition shared at the Campbell House.</p>

## Politics & State Govt.

Washington's governor requests federal assistance for Gray, Oregon Road fire victims. How a Washington agency is trying to get housing built on public land. Washington's long road to replacing the gas tax. Idaho will have a presidential caucus in 2024- not a primary. Spokane school board chair faces challenge from real estate leader. Idaho legislators gear up for 2024 session with meetings on budget, revenue reports. Kootenai Co. District Court judge named to Idaho Supreme Court. Idaho lawmakers evaluate how to financially respond after audit into state health department. Idaho voter registration lawsuits in limbo: Unraveling the latest in voting legal battles. WA hauls in nearly \$900M from first year of capital gains tax. Idaho voter registration lawsuits in limbo: Unraveling the latest in voting legal battles. Inslee appointees opposes merging Washington's carbon market with California, Quebec. Republicans ask SCOTUS to intervene in central WA redistricting fight. Idaho secretary of state says he can't enforce new GOP voter affiliation deadline. WA could collect \$770M more than expected in taxes over four years. Only you (almost) can put Smokey Bear on Washington license plates. Crime, taxes and artificial intelligence on tap as WA lawmakers prep for session. Ferguson campaign finance saga not quite over. NW House Republicans criticize secret talks about dam breaching. Inslee pitches budget plan with \$2.5B in new spending. Washington Supreme Court decision gives Pac-12 governing authority to WSU, OSU. WA legislators may have citizen initiatives added to their agenda. Inslee takes early step to hand off power to a new governor. Watchdog dismisses complaints against Ferguson in handling of campaign donations. Women are close to holding half the seats in WA's Legislature. Here's why it matters. Foes of Washington capital gains tax file initiative to repeal it. Women are close to holding half the seats in WA's Legislature. Here's why it matters.

<p><b>Local &amp; County Govt.</b></p>	<p>National realtors group drops \$659K in Seattle, Spokane elections. Spokane City Council approves more funding for Trent shelter. Spokane city, county snowplows, crews ready for action. CV school board member gets challenge from physical therapist. Spokane Legislators propose relief for wildfire victims looking to rebuild homes. Spokane Valley senator wants to move Washington to full-time Standard Time. Spokane City Council adjourns meeting after sparring with pro-Palestinian speakers. Spokane City Council to consider sending parks, library levies to the ballot. Woodward concedes, Brown to become Spokane's 46<sup>th</sup> mayor. West Bonner's new leadership team faces myriad issues. Moving forward: West Bonner board welcomes new trustees. Spokane's mayor-elect on homelessness, public safety and a changing city. Spokane City Council approves budget for 2024, honors Kinnear. Spokane City Council puts off shelter vote, sends measures to 2024 ballots. Spokane mayor-elect Brown outlines transition plan, asks for community input. Spokane receives federal money for safety improvements for walkers and bicyclists. Idaho Freedom Foundation quietly hired an alt-right propagandist to help shape its messaging. Brown, Klitzke sworn in as Spokane's next mayor, councilwoman.</p>
<p><b>Environment/Energy</b></p>	<p>ISDA to deploy chemical treatment in Snake River to kill invasive mussels. Here's what to know. More Washington residents eligible for energy assistance. Cross-laminated timber could reduce forest waste, DNR chief says. Pacific NW wins \$1 billion from feds for 'Clean Hydrogen Hub.' Now what? Federal regulators approve natural gas pipeline expansion through Washington, N. Idaho and Oregon. WA lands chief: State just had one of its 'most challenging' fire seasons ever. WSDOT continues environmental cleanup of former Camp Hope site. Inslee appointees oppose merging Washington's carbon market with California, Quebec. Stagnant weather pattern causes smoggy air this week. Washington's northernmost cross-state travel route closes for the winter. Washington's northmost cross-state travel route closes for the winter. Feds consider removing Snake River dams in leaked agreement with plaintiffs in lawsuit. Inland Northwest ski resorts adapt to lack of snow, rain. Federal-state-tribal agreement aims to help salmon, leaves future of Snake River dams open. Crews work to reduce wildfire risk on Spokane city land. New report says clean energy projects cause tax shifts in some rural communities. Wildlife agency reviewing status of sensitive species.</p>

**Business/Labor/Economy**

Recovery under way in Spokane County communities devastated by wildfire. Interview: EWU researchers study rhetoric around homelessness in Spokane, Portland. Idaho releases first state revenue report following transition to Luma system. Inland Northwest project named tech hub by federal government. Application numbers down for Spokane Valley fire openings. Idaho growth not viewed favorably by many people who live there. Federal grants could improve utility safety and add jobs. Cyberattack crashes Washington transportation websites. Is a rent-to-own housing program working? WA auditor looks for answers. WA hauls in nearly \$900M from first year of capital gains tax. What's grown in Washington may be part of your Thanksgiving feast. Idaho Local Gems program aims to steer holiday spending to local businesses. Spokane County opens new Euclid Road Bridge near Airway Heights. Federal judge issues preliminary injunction blocking effective date of Montana's TikTok ban. Initiative poses extra hurdle for merging of Washington, California carbon markets. New study finds guides, outfitter industry contributed nearly \$600M to Idaho's economy in 2022. Iconic Mt. Spokane building has a new owner. Washington state wants a say in how you roll... when you go tire shopping. Foes of Washington capital gains tax file initiative to repeal it. WA rental increases cooling, but an affordability crisis remains.

## Health Care/Social Issues

Rape, beatings and racial slurs: None of it was enough to shut down this Idaho youth facility. Interview: Idaho youth facility faced allegations of abuse, rape and racial slurs. Washington may avoid child care cliff, but many providers are still struggling. Thousands of WA Kaiser Permanente workers move toward strike despite national deal. Lawmakers, advocates call for increased oversight of Idaho youth homes. WA hospitals sue state Department of Health over expanded charity care requirements. WSU study hints at link between sports media and attitudes toward rape myths. Health officials cut ribbon on new Spokane opioid treatment center. Washington's new youth homelessness 'lifeline' service lags. How an Idaho children's facility got away with firing whistleblowers of child abuse. Spokane Regional Health District names new administrative officer. Thousands of Idahoans removed from Medicaid through disenrollment process are getting back on. Spokane Regional Health District names new administrative officer. Thousands of Idahoans removed from Medicaid through disenrollment process are getting back on. WSU research hints at sleep benefits from cannabis. Heavy Thanksgiving travel expected at Spokane Int'l Airport. Idaho's infant, mother death rate is rising, new report finds. Spokane para athletes medal at international event in Chile. Fall/winter vaccinations lag in WA, infant RSV doses in short supply. Senate committee explores fentanyl crisis in Indian Country. Inslee warns that state effort to move people out of encampments is getting short on cash. They were doctors. Then they moved to America. This Idaho clinic helps them practice in the U.S. Experts working to understand canine respiratory illness. Patients stuck in Washington hospitals pose quandary for state lawmakers. Washington Three Percenters want to escape the 'extremist' label – but experts remain wary. Which company will run mental health care for Idaho Medicaid? Legal fights look for answer. Three Idaho Republican women launch organization to preserve access to contraceptives. Almost 57,000 Idaho kids have lost Medicaid. Federal regulators are worried. Idaho doctors brace for impact on impending gender-affirming medication ban. Washington Department of Health cuts hundreds of jobs as federal COVID funds run out. Conservatives file measure to make opting out of WA long-term care easier.

<p><b>Police/Crime</b></p>	<p>Can bias training change police behavior? WSU researcher says yes. Sheriff's office investigates complaint against West Bonner trustee's absences. Washington clears backlog of over 10,000 sexual assault testing kits. Spokane police chief Meidl will step down at end of year. Spokane police chief Meidl will step down at end of year. 'Unexpected' deaths are up in Washington's prisons. The house where four University of Idaho students killed last fall has been demolished.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Spokane County Libraries to offer free high school diploma program. Idaho ready to give money to students who train for high-demand jobs. University of Idaho refuses to release reports on financial risks from Phoenix purchase. WA Board of Education sets its priorities for next legislative session. Shari McMahan formally installed as EWU president. Three West Bonner trustees select a temporary superintendent. Gonzaga to train attorneys to represent children and parents in dependency cases. West Bonner's three-member board selects two new trustees. West Bonner's new leadership team faces myriad issues. North Idaho technical school inspires entrepreneurial careers. NIC accreditor report: trust issues linger, board shows little progress. Online schooling for Washington's youngest students is on the rise. Northeast Spokane schools get money for learning centers. School officials urge Washington to extend emergency graduation waiver. Two days in May: Inside the frenzied rush to approve- and oppose- the Phoenix purchase. School districts dominate Spokane County's February election. Spokane School District patrons to vote on two measures in February.</p>
<p><b>Agriculture</b></p>	<p>Washington pear harvest looking more productive this year. Spokane woman elected leader of the National Grange. Northwest states produce more hops in '23 but value decreases.</p>
<p><b>Native issues</b></p>	<p>As Biden negotiates future of Lower Snake River dams, Northwest tribes push for removal. Washington granted to solve MMIP cold cases. Native and state leaders push for K-12 schools to fully implement tribal history curriculum. 'It jeopardizes everything': Canada coal mines a concern for Kootenai Tribe, Idaho conservation.</p>

<b>Legal Issues</b>	Woodward joins national push to overturn <i>Martin v. Boise</i> ruling. U.S. Court of Appeals temporarily blocks enforcement of Idaho student bathroom ban. Federal judge orders temporary restraining order on Idaho's 'abortion trafficking' law. Republicans ask SCOTUS to intervene in central WA redistricting fight. After lawsuits, reports found Idaho's public defense system was failing, a new office offers hope. Supreme Court declines to hear challenge to WA ban on 'conversion therapy' for minors. Judge temporarily blocks enforcement of Idaho law on gender-affirming care for transgender youth.
<b>Military</b>	Spokane County, Fairchild cut ribbon on new training center.