

Issues & Programs List

High Plains Public Radio

October – December 2023

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| Issues; Programs | Title / Programming Type | Date/Time/ Duration | Narrative |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Kansas; Environment | A new Kansas tool helps you understand wildfire risk at your address – and how to lessen it. | 10/05/2023 | Wildfires have become more common in Great Plains states. City outskirts and rural areas where cedars spread aggressively face some of the highest risks. |
| Kansas: Education | Test scores continue to improve | 10/11/2023 | Kansas schools have seen an improvement in test scores and attendance as compared to the start of the pandemic. |
| Kansas: Education | Schools preparing for January 2024 changes | 10/27/2023 | Kansas schools are preparing for changes in rules that allow students to choose which school to attend. This could mean an influx of students at some schools. |
| Kansas: Environment | A report from the Environment Defense Fund says crops that are grown in Kansas needs to change by 2050 | 10/30/2023 | A report says that Corn, Soybeans and Wheat will be unsustainable by 2050 due to water scarcity and higher temperatures. Oat, millet, sorghum and rye would reduce water usage by 12%. |
| Colorado: Environment | Winter snow could help recharge the Colorado River. But what if it doesn't? | 11/8/2023 | Winter snow in the Rockies provides the majority of the Colorado River's water supply. As negotiators work on long-term rules for sharing the river, a dry winter could add some urgency. |
| Texas: Environment | Why Texas is seeing historic growth in electricity demand | 11/15/2023 | It definitely does lead to residential consumers – but also like business and other kinds of consumers –participating more in demand response programs |
| Kansas: Environment | Water Institute new priority | 11/20/2023 | Increased collaboration with state agencies will help determine needs and issues. |
| Kansas: Education | Black and Hispanic students underrepresented in advanced High School courses. | 11/24/2023 | 7% of Kansas students are black but less than 4% are enrolled in advanced placement classes. Hispanic represent 23% but only 12 percent are in higher level math and science classes. |
| Kansas: Education | Kansas High School Student new requirements | 11/29/2023 | Kansas High School Students will have additional requirements for graduation. Starting with the class of 2028 students will need to have at least a ½ credit in Health and Financial literacy. Other requirements include outside classroom requirements and a communication credits. |

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| Kansas: Healthcare | Conversions to Emergency hospitals. | 12/7/2023 | The governor has approved the process for some hospitals to convert to emergency status. This gives hospitals that have closed the opportunity to reopen to provide services to their rural communities. |
| Kansas: Agriculture | Hardiness zone changes for Kansas | 12/7/2023 | The USDA has changed much of Kansas hardiness zones. Hays, for instance, has switched from zone 6A to 6B. |
| Kansas: Economic Development | How do you attract people and businesses to rural Kansas? Communities are trying AI | 12/14/2023 | Communities in western Kansas are trying a new AI tool to help them target economic growth and hopefully fight long-term trends of population loss. |
| Texas: Agriculture | Bills would permit ranchers to shoot two scavenger birds, but only one threatens livestock | 12/21/2023 | Black vultures are one of the few birds whose population is increasing. They play a valuable part in their ecosystem because of their diet. But some ranchers are frustrated by the regulatory hoops required to shoot them if they threaten livestock. |
| Kansas: Agriculture | Rural Kansas Farm & Health Advocates target a new farm bill | 12/27/2023 | Advocates want to make major changes to agriculture. Farmers can be paid to conserve water and grow less water intensive crops are examples. |
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