

Fourth Quarter 2023 KHGG-FM Issues Report

KHGG-FM simulcasts a three hour morning news program, "Arklahoma Today-Morning in the Fort from 6a-9am featuring local news, weather, sports, traffic, and public service interviews with non-profits and newsmakers. The program originates on KFPW-AM. Many of the interviews are focused on new developments regarding the new Foreign Mission Sales at Ebbing Airfield. The following is a list of guests appearing on the program Monday through Friday.

Monday, October 1 - Executive Director of the Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club, Beth Presley, outlines fall events at the various clubs, including a fundraising golf tournament, free music programs, and after school tutoring. The New Executive director of the Fort Smith Convention and Visitor Bureau , Ashleigh Bachert talks about her new role as leader promoting tourism in Fort Smith. Jesica Burris with the Third Street merchants invited people to attend their children's arts and crafts booth , live music and cornhole tournament on Saturday the 7th.

Tuesday, October 2 – Jay Spradley with the Oktoberfest car show sponsored by the Downtown Fort Smith Business Association invites listeners to the free car show scheduled for October 7th in Downtown Fort Smith. He explains how to register and where to display vehicles. Kathy Mazeek with the Farmers Market talks about the many activities they will have going on for children during Oktoberfest, from face painting on kids to supervised pumpkin painting by kids, to a harvest photo op as well as a costume contest for dogs and trick or treating for the children.

Wednesday, October 3 – Chad Lowe, Education Specialist with the Huckabee Nature Center outlines October events at the center. Steph Nugent, Director of the Fort Smith Downtown Business Association reviews various activities scheduled by various merchants to celebrate Oktoberfest. Rham Cunningham invites listeners to the Third Street Block Party Baggo Tournament scheduled for noon as part of Oktoberfest.

Thursday, October 4 – Debbie Bogner with St. Boniface Church in Fort Smith invites listeners to attend the 95th annual Lawn Social at the Church Saturday, October 7th. A variety of food, games, and live entertainment plus a live and silent auction will help raise funds for the church. Dr. LaVona Traywick announces a free art reception at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education

Wellness Center. She also teased various fitness and cooking classes coming up later in October.

Friday, October 5 – Dave Kennedy, Curator of the US Marshal’s Museum talks about future plans to have “temporary” exhibits at the museum. The first will be on US Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves; fundraising must take place to acquire and properly display items . Kennedy gave some insight to Friday afternoon’s “Facebook live Friday” program on frequently asked questions of museum personnel.

Monday, October 9 - Chuck Nardi, Commander of Ellig Stouffer American Legion post 31 discusses the upcoming November 11th Veteran’s Day Parade. Leslie Higgins, Chief Programs Officer at the US Marshal’s Museum discusses the upcoming “Night at the Museum” with the author of “The Last Ballad of William Bonny”

Tuesday, October 10 – Trending: Fort Smith Public Schools-Safety: Police Chief Bill Hollenbeck. Chief Hollenbeck reviews his time with the Governor’s school safety commission and how state funds were spent within the district. He reviewed safety measures at schools ranging from the hire of school resource officers at each elementary school to over one hundred cameras on the school campuses. Arneisha Airhart, author of “Alfonso Trent and his Orchestra: Louder and Funnier” promoted her book signing at the Fort Smith Museum of History October 14th during children’s day.

Wednesday, October 11 – Mundy Ross, marketing director at Chaffee crossing invited listeners to sign up and participate in the tenth annual Veteran’s Day Parade November 11th. Fort Smith Public School Police Chief concluded his two part series interview explaining how the district’s new counselor identifies children with potential behavior problems are identified and given guidance along with family members. Caroline Spier with the Fort Smith Museum of History talks about Children’s Day Saturday: Darneisha Airhart will read her children’s book on Alfonso Trent, and children will have the opportunity to participate in a skit of the “Trial of Goldilocks and the Three Bears” in the replica “Judge Parker” courtroom in the museum.

Thursday, October 12 – Third District Congressman Steve Womack explains his support of Representative Steve Scalise as Speaker of the House and the mess in

Washington. Steve Maddox with the Haunted Trail and Prison in Van Buren talks about the upcoming third week of Halloween activities. Mundi Ross with Chaffee Crossing invites listeners to the last Farmers and Artisan Market of the season.

Monday, October 16 - Ashleigh Bachert, Executive Director of the Fort Smith Convention and Visitor Bureau reviews upcoming activities in the region. Erin Thomas with the Ronald McDonald House talks about the November 4th Red Shoe Shindig fundraiser. Mundi Ross, Marketing director at Chaffee Crossing, reviews entry protocol for the upcoming Veteran's Day Parade Nov 11.

Tuesday, October 17 – Community Engagement Director for the United Way of the Greater Fort Smith Area, Regan Heppner promotes the upcoming “Power of the Purse” fundraiser for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Dr. Lavonna Traywick with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education Wellness Center talks about upcoming cooking classes with nutritionist Jessica Irgens.

Wednesday, October 18 – Chuck King with the Skokos Alma Performing Arts Center talks about the upcoming performance of magician Mike Super and special ticket prices for families. Dave Kennedy discusses his trip to Massachusetts to speak on a forum on antique firearms.

Thursday, October 19 – Congressman Steve Womack reports from Washington. Dylan Blackwood with the Community School of the Arts promotes the upcoming production of “Annie”. Steve Maddox with the Haunted Prison and Trail of Terror in Van Buren talks about new features to the Halloween scare.

Friday, October 20 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about Halloween activities in downtown Fort Smith sponsored by the merchant's association.

Monday, October 23 - Magician and illusionist Mike Super talks about his upcoming show at the Alma Performing Arts Center. Erin Thomas with the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Smith invites listeners to participate in the “Nothing Bundt Cakes” fundraiser at the Family House the 27th.

Tuesday, October 24 – Shae Foldvary with the United Way of the Greater Fort Smith area discusses the annual campaign. Melissa Schoenfeld with Western Arkansas Ballet invites those with a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis to give

“Dancing with Parkinsons” a try. The classes are free and held at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education Health and Wellness Center.

Wednesday, October 25 – Congressman Steve Womack from the Third Congressional District calls in from Washington talking about the antics of Congress and what constituents need to know. Officer Robyn Shoptaw with the Fort Smith Police Department talks about the “Adventures of Pawfficer Fuzz”.

Thursday, October 26 - Chuck King with the Skokos Alma Performing Arts Center talks about the weekend’s Magic show with Mike Super and special family rates. Brian Murphy, VP of “Nothing Bundt Cakes” talks about the one year anniversary of the innovative cake company and their involvement with non-profits in the river valley.

Friday, October 27 – Erin Thomas with the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Smith encourages listeners to purchase “Nothing Bundt Cakes” in their fundraiser. Fort Smith Mayor George McGill visits talking about progress at Ebbing Air Field and the Foreign Mission Sales.

Monday, October 30 – Phillip Merry gives a reminder that Christmas honors is arriving soon and outlines important dates for listeners to remember. Ashleigh Bachert with the Fort Smith Convention and Visitor’s Bureau discusses upcoming events in the River .

Tuesday, October 31 - Beth Presley with the Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club talks about the upcoming haunted house fundraiser and events in November at area clubs. Tina Dale is co-director of the upcoming Fort Smith Little Theater production of “A Christmas Carol”. She talks about the task, production challenges, and a canned food drive taking place during every performance.

Wednesday, November 1 – Chad Lowe, Education Specialist with the Huckabee Nature Center reviews special November events at the Nature Center. Chuck Nardi with American Legion Post 31 reminds listeners of the upcoming Veteran’s Day parade at Chaffee Crossing. Chuck King with the Skokos Alma Performing Arts Center invites listeners to the Vienna Boys Choir performance on Saturday.

Thursday, November 2 – Cody Faber with the National Historic Site invites listeners to attend a special presentation on Veteran’s over history at the

Historic Site. Phil Sklar with the Bobblehead Museum and Hall of Fame talked about the creation of an Eric Musselman bobblehead.

Friday, November 3 - Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about end-of-year topics the city board is addressing. Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal's Museum talks about Facebook Live at 2:00pm Friday.

Monday, November 6 – Tami Kuhns, Executive Director of the Community Services Clearinghouse talks about “Hope for the Holidays” campaign and how to help families this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dr. LaVona Traywick discusses upcoming community programs at the Colleges of Health Education Wellness Institute.

Tuesday, November 7 – Fort Smith school superintendent Dr. Terry Morowski talks about challenges facing the school district and ways they are complying with the state’s newly adopted “learns act.”

Wednesday, November 8 – Dr. Alexis Kendrick with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education talks about the new “Masters of Public Health” degree that will begin in 2024 at the school. Harold Trisler, local historian and author discusses his new book: “Search for the Lost Dalton” and his ties to Fort Smith.

Thursday, November 9 – Governor Sarah Sanders discusses the influx of residents to the state from California. Dylan Blackwood with the Community School of the Arts talks about holiday plays performed by CSA theater groups.

Friday, November 10 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill discusses progress in establishing a slackwater harbor in Van Buren. Antioch for Youth and Family will have their annual turkey dinner giveaway Friday. Meetings going on of interest.

Monday, November 13 – President and CEO of the United Way of Greater Fort Smith area, Shae Foldvary talks about the ongoing capitol campaign. Ashleigh Backert, Executive Director of the Convention and Visitor Bureau outlines area events for the next two weeks.

Tuesday, November 14 – Josh Buchfink, City of Fort Smith Public Relations Manager talks about the “Adventures of Pawfficer Fuzz” and current surveys for local residents for input on streets needing improvements.

Wednesday, November 15 – Congressman Steve Womack talks about end of year budgeting and items of interest to residents in the third congressional district.

Thursday, November 16 – Governor Sarah Sanders visits about the Exxon Mobil Lithium investments in southern Arkansas and the impact on the state’s economy.

Friday, November 17 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill announces there will be “baseball” in Fort Smith come the Spring of 2024. Cross between farm league and collegiate. Location for play is unannounced, but the Mayor predicts if locals support such athletic games for two years,,,then a stadium will be built on Riverfront Drive to house the teams. Mayor mentions need for volunteers for upcoming Christmas Honors.

Monday, November 20 – Phillip Merry, Chair of Christmas Honors talks about the upcoming December first and second workshop and distribution of wreaths on the 16000+ headstones at the National Cemetery. Heather Sanders, Executive Director of the community rescue mission talks about the synthetic ice rink coming to downtown Fort Smith to benefit the shelter for homeless families.

Tuesday, November 21 – Tonya Sarlls, Vice President of Operations for the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce announces the holiday “Shop Local “ Campaign and the importance of shopping local stores. Leslie Higgings, Chief Programs Officer for the U.S. Marshal’s Museum promotes the upcoming “Evening in the Past” with Benjamin Franklin.

Wednesday, November 22 – Shae Foldvary, President and CEO of the United Way of the Greater Fort Smith area reminds listeners about the campaign which funds 31 UW agency partners, and how the non-profit agencies apply for funding. Officer Robyn with the Fort Smith police department talks about extra patrols watching for those driving while impaired this coming holiday season.

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24 - Fort Smith Mayor George McGill offers Thanksgiving message of many things for which the city can be thankful.

Monday, November 27 - Phillip Merry with Christmas Honors puts out the word for volunteers, truck and trailers to help either at the convention center December first, or Saturday morning to distribute wreaths on the grave sites at the National Cemetery. Ashleigh Bachert, Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director talks about the many events taking place for the holidays.

Tuesday, November 28 – Dolores Chitwood with the Lincoln Day Care invites listeners to attend the Pancake Breakfast December 9th. Funds raised from the event, which will feature Santa, will be used to supplement federal government funding. Mila Maseur with the Clayton House says those interested have two more weeks to sign up to be in the annual Fort Smith Christmas Parade.

Wednesday, November 29 – Heather Sanders, Executive Director of the Community Rescue Mission explains what life is like at the center that helps homeless families get back on their feet. She also outlines the days and times the synthetic ice rink will be open during Christmas as a fundraiser for the mission.

Thursday, November 30 – Congressman Steve Womack reports from Antarctica! He is joined by a professor and researcher to discuss how and what happens in Antarctica affects the rest of the world.

Friday, December 1 – Fort Smith Mayor calls-in from Christmas Honors where he is working with a group of elementary school students to fluff wreaths. First Friday activities are being held at UAFS, featuring the head of the the state Chamber of Commerce. McGill touches on the economic outlook for the city in 2024. Phillip Merry also calls-in from the Convention Center, reminding those who can stop by and fluff a wreath or put on a bow to come and help today or tomorrow at the National Cemetery.

Monday, December 4 – Executive Director of the Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club, Beth Presley talks about the club's annual campaign going on, renovation of the Jeffrey-Glidewell club, and the need for mentor volunteers. Ashleigh Bachert with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau talks about holiday events taking place over the next two weeks.

Tuesday, December 5 – Dylan Blackwood is director of Theater at the community school of the arts in Fort Smith. He invites listeners to attend the Dec 15 or 16

performance of "A Christmas Story" celebrating its 40th anniversary. CSA is trying something new: a "pay what you can" admission to the Thursday 12/14 dress rehearsal; giving those who cannot afford the full ticket price to still be able to attend the show at a reduced price. Dr. LaVona Traywick with the Colleges of Health Education talks about an upcoming art class for those who have emotional difficulties during the holidays or are suffering from grief as the result of the loss of a loved one.

Wednesday, December 6 – Congressman Steve Womack continued his conversation about his experience in Antarctica. There were several Arkansans who were serving at the study/research station there he had the opportunity to meet.

Thursday, December 7 – Chad Lowe with the Huckabee Nature Center talks about special holiday events for children at the center during the holidays. Reagan Newell, Community Engagement Director for the United Way of the Greater Fort Smith area talks about the release of the 2023 Gift Guide, which includes 31 partner agencies, plus additional non profit groups that need help this holiday season.

Friday, December 8 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill answers questions from listeners regarding huge military transport planes in the sky over Fort Smith. The Mayor reminded listeners Ebbing Air Field is between Little Rock and Tulsa area air bases that they work with and the increased traffic is from combined exercises. The Mayor will be the Grand Marshal in tomorrow's Christmas Parade and invited city residents and those from neighboring cities to attend.

Monday, December 11 - Leslie Higgins, Chief Programs Director at the U.S. Marshal's Museum talked about the upcoming holiday Day Camp for children December 21. Dave Kennedy invited listeners to attend the "History vs. Hollywood" panel discussion on the 13th. Experts from the Fort Smith Museum of History, US Marshal's Museum, and National Historic Site will discuss the portrayal of Bass Reeves in the Paramount + series on Bass Reeves Lawman Legend, including fire arms accuracy, casting of individuals portraying real-life people, and liberties taken to make an interesting TV Show.

Tuesday, December 12 – Jason Maherg, principal of Darby Middle School in Fort Smith talks about the Health Sciences Academy, which is designed to reward

students who excel academically, with exposure to opportunities in the health field.

Wednesday, December 13 – Congressman Steve Womack talks about the need of Congress to put differences aside and take action which benefits the country, and extended his wishes for a happy holiday season to his constituents in the third district.

Thursday, December 14 – Wesley Fox, co-director of “A Christmas Story” reminded listeners of the upcoming dress rehearsal tonight that patrons can pay to attend, as well as the Friday/Saturday performance at the King Opera House.

Friday, December 15 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about a possible water rate increase city residents may be facing to pay the cost of a transmission line from Lake Fort Smith to the east side of the city and the Chaffee Crossing development. The Mayor also touched on the Partners in Education program with the Fort Smith Public schools. He mentors a group of elementary children he had attend the Christmas Honors workshop.

Monday, December 18 - Fort Smith Police Department Community Relations Officer Robyn Shoptaw talked about the collaboration between the FSPD and Sebastian County Sheriff’s Department in “Operation Nab a grinch” aimed at preventing and/or apprehending “porch pirates” this holiday.

Tuesday, December 19 - Leslie Higgins, Chief Programs Director at the U.S. Marshal’s Museum talks about the “To Catch a Christmas Thief” Day and Evening camp for kids and families at the USMM on Thursday the 21st. Steph Nugent, Director of the Downtown Fort Smith Business Association promotes the New Year’s Eve Ball Drop and fireworks display downtown Sunday the 31st.

Wednesday, December 20 - Josh Buchfink, Public Relations Manager with the City of Fort Smith talks about a new series of videos called “Fort Smith Focus.” Each month they cover a new topic with city leaders. The mayor is hosting a free skating event at the downtown ice rink December 28th. A new “Safe Streets Initiative” is going on. City is looking for community feedback on street safety.

Thursday, December 21 – Reverend Alexis Baldwin with Saints George and Alexandra Orthodox Christian Church will hold a special service to bless the

waters on the Arkansas River Sunday, January 7 at Harry Kelly Park. He invited listeners to attend and learn more about the celebration of the epiphany.

Friday, December 22 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill responds to the city's winning First Place designation of being a Trendsetter City in Education/Workforce Development by "Arkansas Business." McGill credited the Peak Innovation Center operated by the Fort Smith Public School District for the top spot. Mayor also invited listeners to attend the free skate day Thursday the 28th at the synthetic ice rink at the Glass Pavilion.

Monday December 25 – Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 27 – Danny Cervantes with Our Blood Institute asks listeners to participate in the "Before I Hibernate I'm Donating Blood" blood drive today. The last blood drive of the year will include a hot cider and cocoa bar and cookies will be baked on site! Cervantes wants to boost the blood supply since January is traditionally a slow time for blood donations.

Thursday, December 28 - Fort Smith Mayor George McGill encourages listeners to attend the Free Skate event at the ice rink in downtown Fort Smith. Director of the Downtown Business Association, Steph Nugent outlines plans for Sunday's New Years Eve celebration on Garrison Ave.

Friday, December 29 - Fort Smith Mayor George McGill recaps 2023.

KHGG-FM also ran psa campaigns for the following in 4th quarter 2023:

Ronald McDonald House Charities "Red Shoe Shindig"

United Way of the Greater Fort Smith Area General Campaign

U.S. Marshal's Museum Membership Drive

Christmas Honors 2023 call for volunteers/trucks/trailers