

## **FCC Public Issues & Programs List: Third Quarter 2023**

### Contents:

- (A) Legend/map key for abbreviations
- (B) Summary of major news stories, features, interviews, forums and debates regarding state, area and local issues\* for

**JULY 2023**  
**AUGUST 2023**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**

\*Enclosed is a listing of some of the significant issues to which Kansas Public Radio (KANU-Lawrence 91.5 FM, KANH-Emporia 89.7 FM, KANV-Olsburg/Junction City 91.3 FM, and KANQ-Chanute 90.3 FM) responded, along with some of the most significant programming treatments of those issues for the period of time specified. This listing is by no means exhaustive, and a more complete, detailed listing can be found in the official KANU news archives. The order in which the issues appear has no significance, and does not reflect any particular priority for these stories.

**TOPIC CODE**

**AG** – Agriculture

**AR** – Arts & Entertainment

**CR** – Crime

**ECO** – Economy & Business

**ED** – Education

**ENV** – Environment

**HE** – Health

**HI** -- History

**HS** – Human Sexuality

**KU** – University of Kansas-related story

**MI** – Military-related story

**POL** – Kansas Government & Politics

**RE** – Religion

**RR** – Race Relations

**SP** – Sports

**WX** – Weather-related story

**FORMAT CODE**

**R** – Report

**C** – Commentary

**PROGRAM CODE**

**ME** – Morning Edition

**ATC** – All Things Considered

**WE** -- Weekend Edition

## **KPR NEWS SUMMARY FOR JULY 2023**

1. Eva Tesfaye reported for Harvest Public Media on the future of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. For many years, funding the program has been a largely partisan battle. But the food benefits program was targeted earlier in 2023 as part of an agreement on the debt ceiling. Republicans pushed to expand work requirements for those who receive SNAP benefits. A similar requirement already existed in Kansas, and can shed light on how the new rules might affect other recipients around the nation.

(HPM-FARMFIGHT.wav) – aired 07-05-23 – ATC/R – length: 4:02 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**POL/ECO/AG/RR**

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2. Blaise Mesa and Celia Llopis-Jepsen discussed the harsh conditions in the lone facility in Kansas designed for handling runaway foster children. Lawyers for the kids say they are forced to wear prison-style jumpsuits, sleep in cells that are locked at night, and get little time outside.

(KNS-SECURECARE.wav) -- aired 07-11-23 – ME/R – length: 4:03 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**HE/CR/ED**

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3. The month of June was among the driest on record throughout much of the Midwest, deepening a years-long drought in parts of Kansas and Nebraska. July brought some much-needed rain to parts of the region, but it's unclear if that will be enough for the states' agriculture industries. Elizabeth Rembert of Harvest Public Media spoke with farmers worried about their crops.

(HPM-DROUGHTUPDATE.wav) – aired 07-17-23 – ATC/R – length: 4:18 – airtimes: 4:44pm, 5:44pm

**ENV/ECO/AG**

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4. A Kansas woman is suing her city in order to gain the right to produce and sell honey produced on her property. Regulatory problems surrounding food production have become increasingly litigated as more people have turned to backyard beekeeping and raising poultry within city limits. Celia Llopis-Jepsen and Suzanne Perez discussed what they've learned while reporting on some of these regulatory lawsuits.

(KNS-BEESUIT.wav) -- aired 07-19-23 – ME/R – length: 3:44 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**ECO/AG/PO**

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5. Suzanne Perez and Dylan Lysen discussed school board elections in Kansas. Such races used to be nonpartisan. However, political groups increasingly see school boards as important battlegrounds in the “culture wars,” and that has turned school board election races into partisan slugfests that are less about serving students and more about parental rights and political agendas.

(KNS-SCHLBOARD.wav) – aired 07-25-23 – ME/R – length: 3:55 – airtimes: 6:45am. 7:45am

**POL/ED**

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6. KPR Presents aired a conversation with children’s book author and Kansas City educator Kristy Nerstheimer about the life, legacy, and career of baseball player Buck O’Neil. Nerstheimer is the author of *The Greatest Thing: A Story about Buck O’Neil*. *The Greatest Thing* was a winner of a Kansas Notable Book Award in 2022.

(KPRPRESENTS-ONEIL.wav) – aired 07-09-23 – KPR Presents – length: 59:00 – airtimes: 6pm

**RR/SP**

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7. KPR Presents aired a discussion of the Ogallala Aquifer, water depletion, and individual roles in the changing environment. Kaye McIntyre interviewed Lucas Bessire, the author of *Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains*, a finalist for the National Book Award and the winner of a Kansas Notable Book in 2022.

(KPRPRESENTS-OGALALLA.wav) – aired 07-15-23 – KPR Presents – length: 59:00 – airtimes: 6am

**ENV/POL/ECO**

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8. KPR Presents aired an overview of the Dole Institute of Politics and its “Landmark Celebration” designed to commemorate the centennial of Bob Dole’s birth. Many special events were planned to honor Bob Dole’s lifetime of public and military service.

(KPRPRESENTS-LCELEB.wav) – aired 07-16-23 – KPR Presents – length: 11:15 – airtimes: 6 pm

**KU/ED/POL/MI**

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9. KPR Presents aired the annual Dole Lecture delivered at the University of Kansas Dole Institute of Politics. This year’s presenters were former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi and former House Representative Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

(KPRPRESENTS-LOTTDASH.wav) – aired 07-16-23 – KPR Presents – length: 1:18:00 – airtimes: 6pm

**POL**

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## **KPR NEWS SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2023**

1. Dylan Lysen reported on sports betting in Kansas. Sports betting was approved in Kansas last year, but while the industry is generating millions in profits, it is generating little revenue for the state. There are also concerns that the industry is not doing enough to warn about or help treat gambling addiction.  
(DL-SPORTSBET.wav) – aired 08-01-23 – ATC/R – length: 4:04 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm, 6:44pm

**POL/ECO/AR/SP**

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2. Commentator Rex Buchanan discussed a new book about the life and times of Paul Ehrlich, author of the 1965 best-seller titled Population Bomb. The book made Ehrlich world-famous for his view of population growth. Now, the Stanford professor emeritus has written a memoir and history of how the book affected his life and career.  
(RB-EHRLICH.wav) – aired 08-03-23 – ME/C – length: 3:38 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**ED/HI**

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3. Andrew Lopez reported for Harvest Public Media on the challenges faced by residents of rural towns who find themselves in need of public transit. Unreliable transportation options mean that senior citizens in particular have trouble shopping for groceries, visiting family, or getting to medical care. Lopez visited southwest Kansas, an area with few options for public transportation and many elderly residents.  
(KNS-SRTRANSPO.wav) – aired 08-10-23 – ATC/R – length: 6:51 – airtimes: 3:50pm, 5:50pm

**ECO/AG/HE**

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4. Commentator Scott Carlberg discussed the national need for changes to the power transmission grid. Kansas is producing more renewable energy than ever before, but it's difficult to route that energy to places that need it at peak times.  
(JDS-SCTRANS2.wav) – aired 08-15-23 – ATC/C – length: 4:34 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**ECO/ENV/POL**

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5. Rose Conlon reported on hoarding behaviors. Studies indicate that the problem of hoarding is on the rise in Kansas because of an aging population and a lack of mental health providers.  
(KNS-HOARDING.wav) – aired 08-16-23 – ATC/R – length: 3:56 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**HE**

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6. Greg Echlin profiled Derrick Mein, a world champion and Olympic shotgun trapshooter. The sport is demanding and requires timing, precision, quick reflexes and shooting skills. Mein was set to defend his world title in Baku, Azerbaijan, in August.

(GE-TRAPCHAMP.wav) -- aired 08-22-23 – ATC/R – length: 3:45 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

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**SP**

7. Celia Llopis-Jepsen reported on Kansas wildlife commissioners' consideration of a ban on baiting deer. Currently in Kansas, it is legal for hunters to bait deer with corn and other foods. However, most other states no longer allow that practice. But a fatal illness with similarities to mad cow disease is spreading through the state's deer population, and the best way to control it may be to stop deer baiting.

(KNS-DEERBAIT.wav) – aired 08-23-23 – ME/R – length: 3:46 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am)

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**HE/ECO/SP/POL**

8. Blaise Mesa reported on the struggles faced by child care providers in Kansas, despite high demand for their services. Pay is notoriously low, despite parental complaints about the high overall cost of child care, regulations are strict, and insurance rates are high. Mesa interviewed several providers to learn about why the work is not profitable, and what the state of Kansas is doing to assist both providers and the people using their services.

(KNS-CCARE.wav) – aired 08-29-23 – ME/R – length: 3:56 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**ED/HE**

9. Commentator Katie Keckeisen of the Kansas Historical Society told the story of Junius Groves of Edwardsville, who earned millions growing potatoes and came to be known as the Potato King of the World. Keckeisen periodically produces stories for KPR about less-remembered Kansans who made an impact on American and world history.

(JDS-KKPOTATO.wav) – aired 08-30-23 – ATC/C – length: 4:30 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

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**HI/AG/RR**

## **KPR NEWS SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. J. Schafer spoke with University of Kansas Professor Ron Barrett-Gonzalez about students in the KU Aerospace Engineering Department winning some of the top honors at an international aerospace design competition. Two of the awards were for new aircraft designs, and another is for a new missile. The missile design has already captured the attention of the U.S. defense industry. KU's aerospace engineering program has won more top awards in this international competition than any other school in the nation.

(RBG-MISSILE.wav) – aired 09-01-23 – ATC/R – length: 6:02 – airtimes: 3:20pm, 5:20pm

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**ED/MI/KU**

2. Kaye McIntyre discussed the history of the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, with author Seth Bate. Bate's book, Winfield's Walnut Valley Festival, is a 2023 Kansas Notable Book award winner. They discussed the 50-year history of the festival and provided a preview of this year's gathering.

(WeSun SethBate.wav) – aired 09-04-23 – ATC/R – length: 3:25 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

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**AR/HI**

3. Suzanne Perez examined the problem of chronic school absenteeism in Kansas. Following the pandemic, the number of Kansas students chronically missing school has nearly doubled. Perez talked with educators, parents, and school officials to learn more about why students aren't showing up, and how schools are trying to bring them back.

(KNS-ABSENT.wav) – aired 09-05-23 – ME/R – length: 3:56 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**ED/HE/ECO**

4. Dana Cronin reported on the economics and politics of the U.S. corn trade with Mexico. The trade relationship has been strained in recent years, as Mexico's president has tried to ban the importation of genetically modified corn. The reason for this threat to a multi-billion dollar a year trade agreement is rooted in cultural traditions and sociological differences.

(HPM-GMOCORN.wav) – aired 09-07-23 – ATC/R – length: 4:09 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

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**AG/POL/ECO**

5. Kaye McIntyre spoke with Tim Bascom, the executive director of the annual Kansas Book Festival. Bascom explained when and where the festival would take place, and some of the events that are planned and are open to the public.

(KMD-BookFest.wav) – aired 09-10-23 – ME/R – length: 2:43 – airtimes: 7:34am, 9:34am

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**AR/ED**



6. Dylan Lysen reported on the challenges facing retirees who draw from the KPERS public employee pension system. The retirees have not received a cost-of-living adjustment to their pension payments in decades. That means higher inflation in recent years is eating away at the value of their monthly retirement pay. An effort is now underway to add a cost-of-living adjustment, but that will be a tough sell to much of the Kansas Legislature.  
(KNS-KPERSCOLA.wav) – aired 09-12-23 – ME/R – length: 4:02 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**ECO/POL**

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7. Rose Conlon reported that homicide is a leading cause of maternal mortality in Kansas and all across the nation. Meanwhile, the state’s domestic violence shelters are filling up, even as extra pandemic aid is ending. She spoke with advocates and experts about why domestic abuse can get worse during pregnancy, and why Kansas shelters say these violent incidents are on the rise.  
(RC-PREGMURDER.wav) – aired 09-19-23 – ATC/R – length: 4:06 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**CR/HE/HS**

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8. Commentator Rex Buchanan discussed the details of a project being run by the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the Kansas Biological Survey using technology to track migratory birds. It’s part of a worldwide effort to study and protect migratory birds.  
(RB-MOTUS2.wav) – aired 09-21-23 – ATC/C – length: 3:34 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**ENV/AG/ED/KU**

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9. Kaye McIntyre spoke with Candice Millard, the author of River of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile. Millard hails from Kansas City, and her book was a best-seller detailing the history of the search for the source of the Nile River. The story spans continents and decades with startling details about the ruthlessness of explorers and the brutal realities of colonialism and trade.  
(KPRPresents-MILLARD.wav) – aired 09-24-23 – KPR Presents – length: 59:00 – airtimes: 6 pm

**HI/ECO/POL/CR**

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10. Eva Tesfaye reported on the difficulties some communities are having as they embrace composting as an alternative to exclusively using landfills for area food waste. Neighbors often complain about odors and pests. Tesfaye examined how some cities in the Midwest have been handling composting operations and keeping the peace among residents who don’t like them.  
(HPM-COMPOST.wav) – aired 09-26-23—ATC/R – length: 3:37 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**ENV/AG/ECO/POL**

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