

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FROM THIS PAST 3rd QUARTER 2023

MAJOR THEMES FROM THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2023 INCLUDE AN EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION ISSUES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION. ON THE PUBLIC EDUCATION FRONT, THE LEARNS ACT WAS ONCE AGAIN FRONT AND CENTER IN THIS QUARTER, WITH THOSE FOR AND AGAINST IT HAVING THEIR TIME TO MAKE THEIR CASES.

THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT STRUCK DOWN AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS IN COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESSES IN THE STATE.

AND BIG NEWS HERE AT UCA. IN SEPTEMBER THE UNIVERISTY ANNOUNCED A BRAND NEW GROUND BRREAKING PROGRAM TO BEING WITH THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR THAT WOULD ALLOW INCOMING FRESHMAN FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO BE AWARDED FREE TUITION AND LEAVE SCHOOL DEBY FREE IF THEY QUALIFY ACADEMICALLY AND FINANCIALLY, AND ALSO MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR ACADEMIC CAREER.

Arkansas Week
3rd QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Date	Time	Show #	Topic
7/01/2023	26:25	Season: 41 Episode: 23	Arkansas has cut about 140,000 people from Medicaid recently. Host Dawn Scott talks with Secretary Kristi Putnam of the Arkansas Dept. of Human Services and Deputy Secretary Janet Mann, the State Medicaid Director. Then, we take a look at how apprenticeships help build careers, businesses, and the workforce with Cody Waits, Director of the Office of Skills Development.
7/08/2023	24:04	S: 41 E: 24	Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions. We get reactions to that from Professor Robert Steinbuch from UA Little Rock's Bowen School of Law and Dr. Bailey Fairbanks, professor of political science and constitutional law at the University of Central Arkansas. Then, a look back at the career of Steve Barnes as he is recognized for over 50 years in television.
7/15/2023	24:55	S: 41 E: 25	The Arkansas Supreme Court has agreed to expedite the appeal of a ruling that would keep the LEARNS Act from being implemented immediately. Giving an update is Antoinette Grajeda, Senior Reporter for the Arkansas Advocate. Then, a campaign is underway offering people 10K if they move to AR and are hired for certain jobs. Jay Chesshir, Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, provides the details.
7/22/2023	26:51	S: 41 E: 26	The fight over a proposed casino in Pope County has escalated to the point that Arkansas legislators are asking law enforcement to investigate. Host Christina Munoz discusses it with Rep. Aaron Pilkington and Rep. Carlton Wing. And, Arkansas is to receive \$1 billion next year to expand broadband service. Glen Howie, Director of the State Broadband Office gives the details.
7/29/2023	27:09	S: 41 E: 27	A group backing a referendum to repeal the LEARNS Act faces a deadline Monday to submit about 54-thousand signatures to place it on the ballot. Guests are State Sen. Breanne Davis, John Rocha from Ozark Catholic Academy, and Laurie Lee, Chair of the Reform Alliance. Then, regulating cryptocurrency mines and their noise with Sen. Bryan King and Faulkner County Judge Allen Dodson.
8/5/2023	27:09	S: 41 E: 27	No new episode aired. Re-aired 7/29/2023 episode.
8/12/2023	26:37	S: 41 E: 28	Helena-West Helena is a town without a reliable water system. From where and when will the millions to fix it come? Helena-West Helena COS James Valley, Dept. of Agriculture's Chris Colclasure, and Helena World's Andrew Bagley join us. And, an old enemy, a microscopic menace that's killed 14,000 Arkansans and sickened more than a million others. Dr. Robert Hopkins of UAMS updates us on COVID-19.
8/19/2023	25:59	S: 41 E: 29	Magnolia and adjoining towns could become the epicenter producer of lithium, which is needed for electric car batteries. Old oil wells from a century ago are being envisioned as places to extract the metal. U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman speaks on this new industry for the state. Then, two new laws went into effect earlier this month, one allowing 14 and 15-year-olds to work without a permit.
8/26/2023	24:20	S: 41 E: 30	There was a Republican primary debate two days before the show. In this episode, Asa Hutchinson gives his interpretation of the debate and predictions for the future. Then, a roundtable discussion about the debate with Democratic consultant Michael Cook, Republican consultant Bill Vickery, and Heather Yates of UCA's political science faculty.
9/02/2023	26:52	S: 41 E: 31	In Arkansas, this school year, there have been several school security incidents. None serious, but they have been very alarming for parents. Guests: LRSD Dir. of Safety Ron Self, NLR Safety Services Dir. Hayward Finks, and AR Education Assoc. Pres. April Reisma. Then, the state of rural health care with a Pocahontas hospital Administrator Randy Barymon and, from UAMS, Dr. Shashank Kraleti.
9/09/2023	27:09	S: 41 E: 32	A special legislative session seems assured as does a bill cutting taxes for some Arkansans. But this also: a program at the University of Central Arkansas that could allow some Arkansas students to leave college with a degree and without student debt. Guests include: Sen. Greg Leding, Rep. Aaron Pilkington, and President Houston Davis of the University of Central Arkansas.
9/16/2023	25:45	S: 41 E: 33	A panel of journalists recap bills that have passed during the legislative session and discuss what major legislation is on the agenda when lawmakers return to the Capitol next week. Guests: Josie Lenora, KUAR; Steve Brawner, independent journalist; Andrew DeMillo, Associated Press. "Good Roots" features the Phelps family, from Paragould, about livestock opportunities for youth.
9/23/2023	25:50	S: 41 E: 34	A discussion about the potential government shutdown with Rep. Steve Womack of Arkansas, chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Then, economist Dr. Mervin Jeberaj tells us what resuming student loan payments could mean for the economy. Finally, we talk to the deans of the new veterinarian and dental colleges: Dr. Eleanor M. Green and Dr. Burke Soffe.
9/30/2023	26:06	S: 41 E: 35	Saturday, Sept. 30 is the deadline for Congress to pass a government spending bill to prevent a government shutdown, as well as approve a new multi-year Farm Bill. We discuss the importance of each bill and its potential impact on the state. Guests: U.S. Rep. Rick Crawford, Dr. Michael Pakko of the AR Economic Development Institute, and Mark Isbell of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services.

WAMC National Productions
3rd QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT
July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023
Contact: Tina Renick trenick@wamc.org
The Media Project

DATE	TIME	SHOW #	TOPIC
7/2/2023	30:00	1674	With Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at RPI and UAlbany, Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Barbara and Ian talk about the trolling of Wall Street reporter after she dared to ask the Indian Prime Minister a question about human rights, whether or not the cable news networks dropped the ball on the Russian insurrection, and the media's use of freelancers for staff.
7/9/2023	30:00	1675	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at RPI and UAlbany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Rosemary, Rex and Ian talk about how to cover the Supreme Court better, the potential impact of the new media platform Threads, the death of a 300 year old newspaper, and more.
7/16/2023	30:00	1676	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at RPI and UAlbany, Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, and Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project Judy, Rosemary, Rex and Barbara talk about the New York Times getting rid of its sports news, the impact of media layoffs on the future of journalism, and more.
7/23/2023	30:00	1677	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at RPI and UAlbany, Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, and Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Barbara and Rex talk about whether journalists should pay their sources, minimizing harm in reporting, and much more.
7/30/2023	30:00	1678	With Judy Patrick, former Editor of The Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at UAlbany, Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Barbara and Ian talk about Twitter changing its name to X, when newspapers put ads on the front page, how the Barbie movie portrays journalism, and much more.
8/6/2023	30:00	1679	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at UAlbany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Rex and Ian talk about why so many people are now choosing to avoid the news, coverage of the latest indictment of former President Donald Trump, and more.
8/13/2023	30:00	1680	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at UAlbany, and Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Barbara and Rex talk about an announcer for the Baltimore Orioles suspended for the telling the truth, whether people are becoming numb to the scandals surrounding former President Donald Trump, and more.
8/20/2023	30:00	1681	With former Times Union Editor and current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Judy Patrick, former Editor of The Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at University at Albany, and Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of The Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project, Judy, Rosemary, Barbara and Rex talk about coverage of the tragic fire on Maui, a local newspaper in Kansas that was raided by police, Fox news coverage or non-coverage of the Trump indictments, and more.
8/27/2023	30:00	1682	With former Times Union Associate Editor Mike Spain, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Mike, Rosemary, and Ian talk about covering people who are vulnerable, whether former President Donald Trump's trials should be televised, and more.
9/3/2023	30:00	1683	With former Times Union Associate Editor Mike Spain, Judy Patrick, former Editor of the Daily Gazette and Vice President for Editorial Development for the New York Press Association, and Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project, Mike, Judy and Rosemary talk about Chat GPT and whether media organizations should use it, the misinformation surrounding the Maui wildfires and COVID, and much more.
9/10/2023	30:00	1684	With Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, Daily Freeman Publisher Emeritus Ira Fusfeld, former Times Union Editor, current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, and Barbara Lombardo, former Editor of the Saratogian and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany. On this week's Media Project, Rosemary, Ira, Rex, and Barbara talk about why people don't pay attention and believe good news anymore, whether media criticism is too harsh, and more.
9/17/2023	30:00	1685	With former Times Union Editor, current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, Daily Freeman Publisher Emeritus Ira Fusfeld, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Rex, Rosemary, Ira, and Ian talk about being truthful not neutral, Gannett looking for a Taylor Swift reporter, whether high school student reports can do for sports what AI can't, and more.
9/24/2023	30:00	1686	With former Times Union Editor, current Upstate American, Substack columnist Rex Smith, Rosemary Armao, Investigative Journalist and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany, and WAMC News Director Ian Pickus. On this week's Media Project, Rex, Rosemary, and Ian talk about Rupert Murdoch stepping down from Fox, Donald Trump on Meet The Press, sports writing and how major college programs have their way with the media, and much more.

WAMC National Productions
3rd QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT
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Contact: Tina Renick trenick@wamc.org
The Book Show

DATE	TIME	SHOW #	TOPIC
7/4/2023	30:00	1812	Otessa Moshfegh's new novel "Lapvona" brings us to a village in a medieval fiefdom buffeted by natural disasters where a motherless shepherd boy finds himself the unlikely pivot of a power struggle that puts all manner of faith to a savage test.
7/11/2023	30:00	1813	Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, novelist Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II. With its portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, "Good Night, Irene," explores the "Donut Dollies," an all-women volunteer group launched by the Red Cross during WWII.
7/18/2023	30:00	1814	Novelist Danielle Trussoni is the author of the bestsellers "Angelology" and "Angelopolis." She gives readers a thrilling ride with her latest, "The Puzzle Master." Reality and the supernatural collide when an expert puzzle maker is thrust into an ancient mystery - one with explosive consequences for the fate of humanity.
7/25/2023	30:00	1815	Sadeqa Johnson is the award-winning author of four novels, including "Yellow Wife." Her latest, "The House of Eve," is a Reese's Book Club Pick and an instant New York Times Bestseller. With their stories colliding in the most unexpected of ways, we meet Ruby and Eleanor who both make decisions that shape the trajectory of their lives.
8/1/2023	30:00	1816	Award winning writer Simon Winchester's latest book is "Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge From Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic." It explores how humans acquire, retain, and pass on information and data, and how technology continues to change our lives and our minds.
8/8/2023	30:00	1817	Ann Patchett is the author of nine novels, including "Bel Canto," "State of Wonder," "Commonwealth" and "The Dutch House," a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her latest, "Tom Lake," is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born.
8/15/2023	30:00	1818	Pulitzer-Prize winning author Richard Russo's new novel, "Somebody's Fool," returns to North Bath in upstate New York and to the characters that captured the hearts and imaginations of millions of readers in his beloved best sellers "Nobody's Fool" and "Everybody's Fool."
8/22/2023	30:00	1819	Lorrie Moore is one of the most celebrated living writers in the United States. Her new novel, "I Am Homeless If This Is Not My Home," is her first in 14 years and is an exploration of love and death, passion and grief where a man takes a road trip with the corpse of his dead ex-lover.
8/29/2023	30:00	1820	Best-selling author and naturalist Peter Heller's new novel, "The Last Ranger," tells of an enforcement ranger in Yellowstone National Park who likes wolves better than most people. When a clandestine range war threatens his closest friend, he must shake off his own losses and act swiftly to discover the truth and stay alive.
9/5/2023	30:00	1821	"The House in the Pines" is a new psychological thriller from Ana Reyes. We follow Maya, a young woman who only has hazy memories about the most traumatic moment in her life – witnessing the mysterious death of her best friend – and feels the desperation to hide from and eventually fight for long-buried answers. This episode was recorded live at The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on May 13, 2023.
9/12/2023	30:00	1822	Lauren Groff is a three-time National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestselling author. Her new novel, "The Vaster Wilds," is at once an adventure story and a penetrating fable about trying to find a new way of living in a world succumbing to the churn of colonialism. It tells the story of America in miniature, through one girl at a hinge point in history.
9/19/2023	30:00	1823	National Book Award Winner James McBride's new novel, "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store," is rooted in small-town secrets as the residents of rundown Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania live with compassion on the margins of society.
9/26/2023	30:00	1824	Esmeralda Santiago is the award-winning, best-selling author of "When I Was Puerto Rican." Her latest, "Las Madres," is a powerful novel of family, race, faith, sex, and disaster that moves between Puerto Rico and the Bronx, revealing the lives and loves of five women and the secret that binds them together.