

December 31, 2023

WPEL-FM
Quarterly Issues / Programs List
Fourth Quarter 2023
October 1 through December 31, 2023

On page 2 is a list of some of the community issues covered during the fourth quarter of 2023, October 1 through December 31, 2023.

Pages, 3-15, describe the specific programs, including their source, type, time, duration and a brief description, broadcast in response to the issues listed on page 2.

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Issue No. 1: Healthcare Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 60 seconds
Date: 11/29/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Members of the Shapiro Administration visited a long term care facility in Mechanicsburg to highlight continued efforts to enhance care for residents in long-term care communities. Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen says the quality investment pilot is providing 14.2 million dollars to long term care facilities across Pennsylvania to implement innovative strategies, including access to funding for infrastructure interventions to improve infection prevention control and emergency preparedness.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 30 seconds
Date: 12/15/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Members of the Shapiro Administration were in Luzerne County recently to highlight efforts to support and enhance Pennsylvania's long-term care facilities. Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen says that long term care facilities are only as strong as their staffs. The Quality Investment Pilot program is providing 14.2 million dollars to long term care facilities across the state to expand clinical skills of the current staffs.

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Issue No. 2: Energy Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 40 seconds
Date: 11/28/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

The Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee today approved legislation to establish an Independent Energy Office (IEO) within the Commonwealth, according to Chairman Gene Yaw (R-23), sponsor of the measure.

Over half of Pennsylvania households use natural gas as their primary home heating fuel, and the state's 48 underground gas storage sites-the most for any state-help meet regional heating demand in winter.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 45 seconds
Date: 11/28/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Those in Pennsylvania who heat with natural gas provided by UGI will be seeing their utility bills go down this winter. UGI has announced its purchased gas cost rates will decrease on December 1, and as a result the average residential heating customer receiving gas supply from UGI will see a bill decrease of 20.2%, lowering the average monthly bill from \$116.76 per month to \$93.17 per month. UGI Utilities serves more than 740,000 natural gas and electric customers in 45 counties in Pennsylvania.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 25 seconds
Date: 11/30/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) reminds consumers that many utilities, including all PUC regulated electric utilities, are adjusting their energy supply prices on December 1st. During cold weather months, the cost of energy used - either electricity or

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natural gas - can account for more than half of a typical customer's bill, so the price of that energy is very important.

Program Title:	WPEL News
Source/Type:	Local/News
Duration:	50 seconds
Date:	12/20/2023
Time(s):	5 & 6 pm newscasts

A year after pleading no contest to criminal charges, one of Pennsylvania's leading natural gas companies is poised to drill and frack in the rural community where it was banned for a dozen years for polluting the water supply.

Coterra Energy Inc. has won permission from state environmental regulators to drill 11 gas wells underneath Dimock Township - the sweet spot of the largest natural gas field in the United States, according to well permit records reviewed by The Associated Press. Billions of dollars worth of natural gas, now locked in shale rock deep underground, await Coterra's drilling rigs.

Some landowners, long shut out of royalties because of the state's lengthy moratorium, can't wait for the Houston-based drilling giant to resume production in Dimock. Other residents dread the industry's return.

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Issue No. 3: Election Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 35 seconds
Date: 11/29/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Pennsylvania's Department of State is working to reduce voter errors and confusion by instituting more uniformity across Pennsylvania's 67 counties with a redesigned mail ballot for the 2024 primary election. The redesigned envelopes and instruction sheets have revised language to better inform voters how to properly fill out and return their mail-in ballots, with the goal of decreasing voter confusion that can lead to completed ballots being rejected and assisting county election workers in efficiently processing mail-in ballots.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 35 seconds
Date: 12/12/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

New York's highest court on Tuesday ordered the state to draw new congressional districts ahead of the 2024 elections, giving Democrats a potential advantage in what is expected to be a battleground for control of the U.S. House.

The 4-3 decision from the New York Court of Appeals could have major ramifications as Democrats angle for more favorable district lines in the state next year. Republicans, who won control of the House after flipping seats in New York, sought to keep the map in place. The state's bipartisan Independent Redistricting Commission will now be tasked with coming up with new districts, which will then go before the Democrat-controlled Legislature for approval. The court ordered the commission to file a map no later than Feb. 28, 2024.

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Issue No. 4: Infrastructure Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 25 seconds
Date: 12/20/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Two Communities in Bradford and Wyoming Counties will be receiving funding through the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program for much needed improvements.

Lake Winola Municipal Authority was approved to receive funds to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant in Overfield Township and the Towanda Municipal Authority is receiving funding for sewer improvements along North Main Street Sewer.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 25 seconds
Date: 12/20/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Water utilities in New York will now be required to publicly share where and how many lead service lines are in their system. Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation today, known as the Lead Pipe Right to Know Act, to protect New Yorkers from the extraordinary public health risk posed by lead pipes. The legislation requires making information easily accessible to the public about the number and location of lead pipes so that state and federal resources can be secured and efficiently targeted to support local efforts to remove all lead pipes impacting New York's drinking water.

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Issue No. 5: Justice/Legal Issues

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 5 Minutes 26 Seconds
Date: 11/11/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Representative Jonathan Fritz

Topics: Abortion in Pennsylvania

In the wake of the overturning of Roe v Wade last year, states around the country are changing their abortion laws. Will Pennsylvania be one of them? I'm Larry Souder

Pennsylvania State Representative Jonathan Fritz of Susquehanna and Wayne Counties believes the U-S Supreme Court made the right decision in June of 2022 when it overturned Roe v Wade. [FRITZ11] :23

The current abortion law in Pennsylvania was passed before Roe v. Wade was overturned. It allows for abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. [FRITZ19] 34

Fritz says even among lawmakers, abortion is an emotional issues.

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 4 Minutes 55 Seconds
Date: 12/16/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Susquehanna County President Judge Jason Legg

Topics: Treatment Court for repeat offenders

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The Susquehanna County court system offers repeat offenders with addiction issues an alternative to a long time in prison. I'm Larry Souder. Susquehanna County president judge Jason Legg says it's called "Treatment Court." [LEGG01] :15

The program is much more intense than traditional probation. [LEGG02] :37

Judge Legg describes those weekly meetings he has with the offenders, their attorneys, the public defender and the probation officers. [LEGG03] :33

Treatment Court started in Susquehanna County about two years ago. Currently there are about 20 individuals in the program. [LEGG04] :18

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Issue No. 6: Mental Health Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 25 seconds
Date: 12/01/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

New York Governor Kathy Hochul yesterday launched a program to bolster mental-health services in Empire State schools. Governor Hochul says that the initiative to support 137 satellite clinics at schools statewide is part of her administration's one billion dollar plan to overhaul the Empire State's entire continuum of mental-health care.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 25 seconds
Date: 12/21/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Resources are available to support Pennsylvanians during the holiday season and beyond. Jennifer Smith, Deputy Secretary, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services says the holidays can be a joyous time as celebrate the season, but can stir up difficult memories...feelings and emotions and depression is not uncommon. Smith says crisis response counselors at are available nationwide by calling 988, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to the caller.

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Issue No. 7: Education Issues

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 40 seconds
Date: 12/11/2023
Time(s): 5 & 6 pm newscasts

Public school advocates in Pennsylvania are criticizing publicly funded programs that pay tuition at private and religious schools. They say many such schools discriminate by cherry-picking which students are able to attend. School funding is an unresolved area of contention as the House and Senate return to session on Monday. Democrats are pushing for billions more for public schools, while Republicans press to expand taxpayer funding for private schools. The two sides are clashing over a program that provides tax credits to defray the cost of private-school tuition.

Program Title: WPEL News
Source/Type: Local/News
Duration: 30 seconds
Date: 12/13/2023
Time(s): 5 pm newscast

A bill that would give Pennsylvania school districts greater flexibility to have shorter school weeks or longer days is headed to the governor's desk for his approval. The legislation passed both chambers unanimously. This would allow schools to complete the school year in either a minimum of 180 days or 900 hours at the elementary level. And 180 days or 990 at the secondary level. The schools currently must do both.

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Issue No. 8: Transportation Issues

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 5 Minutes 00 Seconds
Date: 12/23/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Ashley Evans, Meteorologist-in-charge of the NWS

Topics: Snow Squalls

Snow Squalls are often associated with strong cold fronts that bring arctic air rapidly through an area during winter. They are marked by sudden whiteouts, gusty winds and temperature drops causing a flash freeze that turns water to ice on road surfaces in a matter of minutes and creates rapidly deteriorating driving conditions...often with chain-reaction accidents and treacherous travel. I'm Clint Gregory.

Ashley Evans, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service, says that few winter weather phenomena pose a greater threat to highway motorists in the Commonwealth than snow squalls.....[travel9]:17

Evans says a snow squall can be devastating to unsuspecting drivers.....CUT [travel10]:10

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Issue No. 9: Community Events

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 5 Minutes 10 Seconds
Date: 10/07/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Dan Tompkins

Topics: Artists Open House

This weekend is the 27th annual Artists Open House Weekend in Susquehanna County. I'm Clint Gregory.

Dan Tompkins is the director of this year's Artist Open House Weekend. [DAN01] :12

The tour is today, tomorrow and Monday from 10 to 5 each day. [DAN02] :25

Seeing where art is created makes the tour special. [DAN03] :23

A few of the artist will be displaying the work at other locations...among them...

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 5 Minutes 26 Seconds
Date: 11/11/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Debbie Crisman

Topics: Hometown Heroes

Binghamton is joining communities across the country honoring its hometown heroes. I'm Larry Souder.

While the first roadside banners honoring military veterans were hung in the Binghamton area this week, Montrose has had the program for several years. In Montrose,

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the banners are sponsored by the Montrose Kiwanis Club. Debbie Crisman is in charge of the project. [DEB21] :09

She had to find out how to go about it. [DEB22] :22

The project has been more successful than she originally imagined. [DEB23] :15

The banners honor first responders as well as veterans. Most of the banners are sponsored by families of the veteran's families. [DEB24] :13

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 5 Minutes 10 Seconds
Date: 10/21/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Pennsylvania Director of the Senior Protection Unit Dave Shallcross

Topics: Scam Awareness

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's office doesn't want you to be the victim of a scam. I'm Larry Souder.

Dave Shallcross is the Director of the Senior Protection Unit in the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office. His job is to educate those sixty and older about ways crook are trying to separate you from your money. If you're a victim, they may be able to do something about it. [SCAM02] :23

Program Title: Special Assignment
Source/Type: Local/Public Affairs
Duration: 4 Minutes 58 Seconds
Date: 12/02/2023
Time(s): 7:04 AM 12:06 PM

Guest(s): Cindy Reynolds

Topics: Christmas in Montrose

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THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A HOMETOWN HOLIDAY. This is the banner that across the Christmas in Montrose website, if past experience is a glimpse of this year's expectations, this statement remains true. For WPEL, I'm Clint Gregory.

The Christmas in Montrose event kicked off yesterday. This is an annual festival for the whole family. The festival continues today and tomorrow with family friendly events for even those who may not be feeling the Christmas spirit just yet.

Cindy Reynolds, the publicity coordinator for the event, says this event brings to mind the type of festival you might see on tv...Cut [Cindy01] :17

One event that has grown from year to year is the festival of trees, which is a charity auction with trees and decorations funded by local organizations...CUT [Reynolds04] :38

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This report has been prepared by Aaron Nichols