

**KNFO Quarterly Issues Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the Calendar Year 2023**  
**Filed on Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The following are the issues that KNFO, licensed to Basalt, Colorado, has identified as serving the public trust, within our service area. A brief Synopsis of issues and programs addressing them has been filed in the stations next license renewal.

**Pitkin County:**

- 1.)The Aspen High School Dance Team dominates the high school national championships.
- 2.)The Phillips Mobile Home Park affordable housing project on Lower River Road will cost at least \$35 million dollars to build.
- 3.)Aspen City Manager Sara Ott announced Kim Ferber as the new Aspen Police Chief.
- 4.)Elementary school teachers in Aspen keep bear spray around when walking home from work. Unbelievably, a student found a can and sprayed it.
- 5.)A well-known Roaring Fork Chiropractor has had all charges against him dropped.
- 6.)A Glenwood Springs man skiing in the Marble backcountry died in an avalanche.
- 7.)A long time Roaring Fork Valley local puts the majority of his 2,000 acre ranch under the protection of a conservation easement.
- 8.)Aspen Highlands Ski Patrol had to rescue a 36 year old snowboarder cliffed out 1,200 feet above the maroon Creek Valley floor.
- 9.)Snowmass Ski Patrol is hosting a one day event for young girls to learn how to be ski patrollers.
- 10.) Aspen Skiing Company hired a new CEO plucking him from Vail Resorts Whistler Blacomb. Geoff Bucheister will take over at the end of the season.
- 11.) A 70 year old Basalt man died at Aspen Highlands after skiing off of a catwalk in the Olympic Bowl area.

### *Eagle Valley:*

- 1.) A medium sized residential project in the Roaring Fork Valley was not a popular plan with Eagle County Commissioners.
- 2.) A domestic violence disturbance Tuesday results in a death in Edwards.
- 3.) The Epic Pass for unlimited skiing at Vail Resorts ski areas is going up in price getting closer to the \$1,000 mark.
- 4.) Vail Village stinks and something needs to be done. A storm sewer is leaking gas from underground and has been doing so for decades.
- 5.) I-70 had to be closed twice Tuesday from blowing snow and virtually no visibility. While closed, a lone head of cattle decided to take a stroll down the highway.
- 6.) Eagle Valley High School dominates the overall speech and debate competition in the state finals. Battle Mountain did well taking third place in the debate team competition
- 7.) Edwards skier Mikaella Shiffrin is the greatest skier in American history after winning her 83<sup>rd</sup> World Cup race....
- 8.) Avon Town Council unanimously agreed that \$10.4 million dollars is too much to spend on Nottingham Park bathrooms.
- 9.) Pitkin County wants to enter into an agreement with the Eagle County Jail to temporarily house their jail inmates while Pitkin remodels their jail.
- 10.) A skier died in the Eat Vail side country. The skier accessed the backcountry through a gate in the China bowl.
- 11.) Vail Resorts has settled a lawsuit with the family of a man who got tangled in a chairlift and was strangled by his jacket.

### Garfield County:

- 1.) Bed Bath and Beyond is on the verge of bankruptcy nationally and is closing the local store in Glenwood Springs.
- 2.) The plan to build the 27<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass tunnel to safely access the South Glenwood bus station keeps getting more expensive. 11 months after a \$15.2 million dollar bid, the price has increased at least \$3 million dollars.
- 3.) Officials in Washington DC say ½ million jobs were created last month, but in Garfield County, a bus driver shortage continues.
- 4.) Adam Frisch of Aspen says he is going to run against 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District again after narrowly losing to her last year by 546 votes.
- 5.) The oldest operating ski lift in Colorado is finally going to be retired. The Sugundo lift at Sunlight Mountain resort will be replaced after 69 years of service.
- 6.) Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be in Rifle Tuesday to discuss plans for wolf reintroduction in Colorado and how ranchers will be compensated for lost livestock.
- 7.) The Colorado Department of Transportation says it is speeding and driving too fast for conditions that is causing all the Glenwood Canyon closures.
- 8.) An elections complaint against Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario was quietly dismissed last week over alleged campaign violation tied to representative Lauren Boebert.
- 9.) The Glenwood Springs Hot Springs are getting a major upgrade this pool that will feature five new pools and several waterfalls.
- 10.) The Glenwood Springs hockey team is in the 4A state finals and will be taking on the number four seed Colorado Academy.
- 11.) The United States Forest Service has released their plan to improve the Hanging Lake trail again after fire and mud slides destroyed the existing infrastructure.

The Aspen High School Dance Team is officially the best in the nation.... The team traveled to Orlando Florida for the high school national championships at the ESPN Wide World of sports Complex.... The team won the intermediate varsity pom division Sunday beating a field of 21 teams and securing the top spot by a point over a school in Marana Arizona... The team arrived at the Aspen airport on Monday and headed to the Aspen Middle School parking lot by police escort.... A crowd had gathered to celebrate the win...



PITCIN

A large affordable housing project in Pitkin County will cost millions of dollars, \$35 million dollars or more according to the Aspen Daily News.... The design alone could cost more than 5 million dollars to build out the Phillips Mobile Home Park on Lower River Road.... G.R. Fielding, county engineering and construction director told Pitkin County Commissioners that he doesn't think the project will cost the high end of his estimates, but construction prices can be volatile... The county hopes to add 35 new units for a total of 73 units of affordable housing on Lower River Road....

Aspen City Manager Sara Ott announced that she has selected a new Aspen Police Chief.... Kim Ferber has accepted a conditional offer from the city of Aspen to take over as chief of police... Ferber leaves the Sterling Police Department as operations commander leading a municipal law enforcement agency serving 14,000 residents in rural Colorado.... Her annual salary will be \$178,880. Her conditional offer for employment also includes a city housing unit and a \$3,000 relocation bonus.... .... Two of the finalists for the job had served the Aspen Police Department for decades.... Current Aspen Police Department Assistant Chief of Administration Linda Consuegra and Interim Police Chief Bill were both passed over for Ferber.... Linn has served the city of Aspen for 29 years... Consuegra for 23 years.... City Council will review the hire April 4<sup>th</sup>.....

Elementary school teachers in Aspen keep bear spray around for those nights when they need to work into the evening.... Bears are common in the area and staff like to have it close when they go to their cars in the dark... The bear deterrent was kept in a filing cabinet and of course, an elementary student found it and sprayed it.... Most of the spray hit the offending student, but four Aspen Elementary School Classes had to be evacuated Tuesday morning....

All charges against a well-known Roaring Fork Chiropractor have been dropped.... Prosecutors in a sexual misconduct case charged Dr. Dave Jensen for being complicit in a case against one of his employees..... According to reports in the Aspen Times and Aspen Daily news, the charges against Jensen were based largely on grand jury testimony from a former Basalt police officer, Thomas Wright whom prosecutors claim lied under oath... Authorities arrested Gordon in November 2021 over accusations that he inappropriately touched and sexually assaulted female clients who had used Win Health Institute's services. He is awaiting trial.... All charges against Jensen were dropped without prejudice...



On Friday, a Glenwood Springs man was killed in an avalanche near Marble.... According to a Colorado Avalanche Information Center report, two skiers and one splitboarder were caught in an avalanche along upper Rapid Creek southwest of Marble in Gunnison County on Friday.... All three were caught in the slide, the splitboarder was able to free himself and call for help.... The remaining skier was rescued via helicopter, the victim was not located until Saturday in about four feet of debris..... The Gunnison County Sheriff's office identified the man as 36 year old Joel Shute.... 19 people have died this winter in the US from avalanche....

The owner of a nearly 2,000-acre ranch in Old Snowmass has placed the entirety of the ranch under the protection of a conservation easement.... John McBride and his wife Laurie bought the ranch basin in 1979 and all his friends told him he had lost his mind moving from Aspen to super rural Old Snowmass... The McBrides named the ranch the Lost Marbles ranch and raised their family there.... McBride put much of the ranch under protection in 2019, but yesterday announced that the Remainder of the ranch was put under protection... The ranch is part of a 5,300-acre wildlife corridor that features “exceptional wildlife in the Capitol Creek Valley that co-exist with the agricultural operations.”

Late Wednesday, Aspen Highland Ski Patrol and Mountain Rescue Aspen were alerted to a snowboarder cliffed out during a major snow squall... The 36 year old was more than 1,200 feet above the Maroon Creek Valley floor pm the western edge of the Olympic Bowl.. The snowboarder was riding the run named Deception and missed the traverse and just kept riding downhill.... Soon the rider found himself in a cliff band known as the Staircase... At 5:41PM, Mountain Rescue Aspen was mobilized with 16 rescuers and an unmanned aerial vehicle that was equipped with infrared technology... Rescuers needed to use small explosive devices to help with avalanche mitigation.... It took about 7 hours from the initial call to get the snowboarder to safety.....

Later this month, the Snowmass Ski Patrol, and the group Shejumps will be hosting the first ever Wild Skills Junior Ski Patrol camp for girls.... SheJumps is a national nonprofit dedicated to serving girls and women sharing their passion for the outdoor community.... This will be the first time a SheJumps Junior Ski Patrol Camp will take place at an Aspen-Snowmass Mountain, the non-profit has been held camps in Sun Valley, Idaho, and Big Sky, Montana..... On the day of the event, the girls will be divided into teams of eight based on skier/rider ability. Each team also will have two adult volunteers and be led by a ski patroller. The teams will rotate through stations spread out across the mountain to learn a variety of skills used by ski patrollers like basic first aid, avalanche control, snow science, weather stations, toboggans, avalanche rescue techniques, radio communication, and avalanche dogs. The event is Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at Snowmass... Go to [SheJumps.org](http://SheJumps.org) for more information...

Aspen Skiing Company announced today the hiring of a new Chief Executive Officer and they are stealing him from a bitter rival.... Geoff Bucheister had been with Vail Resorts for eight years working at Keystone and Whistler Blackcomb where he has been the COO since 2019... Bucheister's last day with Vail Resort's Whistler Blackcomb is March 3<sup>rd</sup> when he will transition by working with retiring CEO Mike Kaplan for the remainder of the season... In a press release from Aspen Skiing Company, officials conceded that Skico has a very strong team at the company and considered internal candidates who expressed interest in the role. Ultimately, the company decided that Bucheister had the best skill set and experience to lead the business.

A 70-year-old Basalt man died at Aspen Highlands last Tuesday after skiing off the catwalk in the Olympic Bowl Area.... David Turner, a ski instructor with Buttermilk, was skiing with his friends on the Why Not run when he overshot the Catwalk at the bottom of the run.... When patrollers arrived, Turner was unresponsive.... First responders initiated advanced life-saving tactics — and were able to successfully re-established vitals... Turner was transported to an ambulance at the bottom of the ski area and brought to the hospital.... Turner died of Blunt force trauma, he was not wearing a helmet.... Turner his survived by his wife of forty years and two daughters...

A new residential development proposal in the Roaring Fork Valley was not very popular among locals appearing before the Eagle County commissioners.... The Fields proposal features up to 135 new residences across the street from the popular Blue Lake subdivision..... The development group promises 33 units that will be under price controls, and another 20 with a requirement for Roaring Fork Valley residency.... A total of 102 of 135 of the units will be free market... The project will require a zoning change in Eagle County to allow for seven dwelling units per acre.... Opponents were the vast majority who spoke yesterday citing too much density and a lack of appropriate infrastructure to support the development... The development team cited the tremendous need for affordable housing and the silent majority supporting the development... Eagle County commissioners tabled the discussion until March 21<sup>st</sup>....

EAGLE

A domestic violence disturbance Tuesday night, results in a death in Edwards.... Eagle County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence in Edwards around 9PM Tuesday to a domestic disturbance between a man and a woman... Deputies tried to de-escalate the situation from the front porch as the man had a gun.... The male subject went outside with the gun and shots were fired.... The man was killed in the altercation.... The name of the man has not been released...



The epic pass for unlimited skiing at Vail Resorts ski areas is going up in price and is approaching the \$1,000 mark.... Vail resorts announced that the 2023-2024 price will come in at \$909, up \$68.... Prices for the epic pass started at \$579 in the 2008-2009 season.... Prices went as high as \$979 in the 2020-2021 season... Before being slashed in the 2021-2022 season... A single day “Epic Day Pass” to the company’s premium resorts is currently being offered for \$101... a two day pass will cost about \$172.....

Something in Vail Village stinks and it has been this way for two decades.... Tom Kassmel, Vail's town engineer tells the Vail Daily that a storm sewer and quality vaults exist underground in the plaza and when the vault air is warmer than the air outside, the warm stagnant air flows up and out thorough the storm sewer and creates a foul odor in the vicinity of the covered bridge.... Kassmel says a powered aerator could be placed in the vaults, like what you may see in stagnant ponds, to keep water moving... That could alleviate the smell in Vail.....

I-70 had to be closed twice Tuesday due to blowing snow... A 3-hour delay during beginning just after 7AM, and a two hour delay in the afternoon.... During the afternoon closure, a lone head of cattle decided to use the roadway for a stroll.... There is a picture of the animal with a tag in today's Vail Daily... The animal was captured and returned to its owner....

When it comes to Speech and debate, Eagle Valley High School is number one in 3A.... Eagle Valley High School took home the first-ever overall award in the event... The school also took first place in the debate competition and third in the speech competition.....

Battle Mountain taking third place in Debate team and fourth place in overall team in 3A..... Students from both schools also received numerous individual awards.... A complete list can be found in today's Vail Daily....

Edwards' own Mikaela Shiffrin is the greatest American skier ever.... Shiffrin won her record breaking 83<sup>rd</sup> World Cup race today in the Norther Italian Dolomites, the most by any female ski racer..... Shiffrin bested Swiss skier Lara Gut-Behrami by nearly ½ a second for her 18<sup>th</sup> career Giant slalom victory, two shy of the record 20 held Vreni Schneider.... Shiffrin was presented with a queen's crown to commemorate the win.... After the race talking to reporters she said, "We all know the saying that it takes a village, but actually it takes a city," .... Next record? Besting Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark who holds the overall world cup racing record of 86 wins....

The Avon Town Council unanimously agreed that \$10.4 million dollars is too much to spend on bathrooms at Nottingham Park.... The Vail Daily reports that the price was more than four times the estimated budget price for the project.... Only one contractor submitted a bid, A.D Miller Services Inc of Centennial.... Council member balked at the fact that the 47 stalls would cost twice as much as the stage itself... Avon council will reconsider the need for that many restrooms at Nottingham Park...

Now that the relationship between the Pitkin County Sheriff's office and the Garfield County Sheriff's office has eroded, Pitkin County is hoping that Eagle County will take their inmates.... Ever since it was determined that the Pitkin County jail had serious safety issues, inmates were transported down to Garfield County and would stay there at the cost of \$60 per day.... The idea, Pitkin County would build a new jail and have a better facility for their inmates... New Pitkin County Sheriff just won an election declaring that he would make the Pitkin County jail work by updating the current facility... Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario said enough and told Pitkin County they gave 48 hours to retrieve their inmates... Pitkin County is now looking to Eagle County to house their inmates, but Sheriff James van Beek told the Vail Daily that Eagle County is not a long-term solution and will only facilitate Pitkin county on a short term basis... The Pitkin County jail building was built in the 1970s and was expanded in 1984 to feature 24 beds..... Eagle County Detention Center has 116 beds, but it can operate at capacity with about 80 inmates....

A skier died in East Vail side country... The East Vail Backcountry is accessed through a gate in the China Bowl... The name of the skier hasn't been released.... The East Vail area has been deadly as 11 people have died there since `1986... It is the third death in the Vail area in the last week... Two skiers died Thursday inbounds in two separate incidents.... A 23 year old died Thursday in the Northwoods area and a 63 year old died in a separate incident...



A settlement was reached between Vail Resorts and the family of a man who died riding a chairlift in February 2020.... Jason Varnish entered the boarding area of the Blue-Sky chairlift and his chairlift seat was still in the up position.... His skiing partner was knocked away, but Varnish's jacket got caught in the chair as it left the boarding area.... The chair wasn't stopped until Varnish was hanging from the chair about 10 feet off the ground.... This jacket wrapped around his torso can the coroner determined he died of positional asphyxiation.... Varnish's three children sued the ski area arguing Vail Resorts was negligent.... The family's attorneys argued the fatality was preventable due to a "failure in training and procedures" to evacuate someone hanging from a chairlift and was not an inherent risk of skiing... The details of the case were not disclosed....

Bed Bath and Beyond is on the verge of bankruptcy and the Glenwood Springs store is closing for go....

Everything is on ale and the store will close sometime in the next month.... Bed Bath and Beyond in Glenwood meadows will not take coupons, but memberships are still being honored.... Currently discounts are 10-20% and will progressively rise in coming months...

GARFIELD

It is a good idea that keeps getting more and more expensive.... The 27<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass project would build a tunnel for people to safely access the South Glenwood bus station... In February of 2022, the initial bid for the project was approximately \$15.2 million..... The Post Independent reports that 11 months later, the price has increased by \$3 million dollars, or 20%..... Dan Blankenship, Executive Director of the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority says the main reason the project is underfunded is due to the unpredictability of construction labor.... The initial project was approved by voters as part of RFTA's Destination 2040 plan... Blankenship and the Mayor of Glenwood Springs Jonathan Godes (Go-dess) say that vote should be honored despite the dramatic price increase.... Only one company, Myers and Sons Construction from California, Bid on the project....

Officials in Washington DC say ½ million jobs were created last month, but in Garfield County, a bus driver shortage continues.... Most school districts have struggled to find bus drivers in Colorado since the pandemic started.... The district, which serves schools in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Basalt, had a full team of 31 bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year according to the Post Independent... This year the district has only 15 drivers and only one hire so far this year... .The district is offering signing bonuses and paid licensure training to attract CML bus driver applicants....

Aspen's Adam Frisch will be in Pueblo tomorrow to formally announce, he is going to give it another go.... Frisch shocked the political world when he nearly beat Congresswoman Lauren Boebert to represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district seat in Colorado... Boebert is a conservative firebrand who takes to social media to tweak her opponents.... She considered to be one of the most controversial members of Congress.... Frisch, who ran as a Democrat, fell just 546 votes short of unseating the incumbent Republican... Boebert's margin of victory was less than ½ of 1 percent in a district that is considered solidly Republican....

It is the oldest operating ski lift in Colorado, and in a few weeks, it will be retired.... The Sugundo lift at Sunlight Mountain Resort has been in operation for 69 years..... The lift began as chair 3 on Aspen Mountain from 1954 to 1969 before moving on to serve skiers and snowboarders riding Sunlight Mountain... The lift will be retired for a more modern lift that came from Arapahoe Basin.... Most of the steel will be scrapped but it is expected that the 140m chairs will be auctioned off to the public....

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be in Rifle Tuesday to detail their plans for wolf reintroduction in Colorado and how they plan to compensate ranchers for lost livestock.... The public is invited to come and share their opinion on a first come first served basis.... The early indications are that ranchers will be offered up to \$8,000 per head should a wolf kill their livestock... The meeting will be led by Reid DeWalt and Eric Odell, two CPW officials tasked with creating the Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan and will discuss compensation and non-lethal conflict mitigation... The meeting is Tuesday in Rifle at Colorado mountain College beginning at 8:30AM....

The Colorado Department of Transportation says speeding is to blame for all the canyon closures this winter.... Elise Thatcher, CDOT's region three communications manager tells the Post Independent that all the crashes were due to speeding, all of them.... 22% were due to collisions with commercial motor vehicles.... In their final findings for canyon closures between Jan. 30, 2021-Jan. 30, 2023, from Dotsero to West Glenwood there were 179 collisions that caused a partial or full closure in the canyon, and of those, 39 were commercial motor vehicles. Glenwood Springs City Council is pushing for solutions to speeding with bigger penalties.... Councilor Tony Hershey suggested more meaningful penalties for speeders, even recommending that mandatory jail time for CMV drivers driving too fast...



An elections complaint against Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario was quietly dismissed last week... David Wheeler, president of American Murakers PAC Inc filed the complaint back in September lasty year alleging that Vallarino illegally used his position and email account to encourage voters to vote for Representative Lauren Boebert over Republican challenger Don Coram in the primaries... Wheeler's PAC, registered in North Carolina, was formed to unseat the controversial congresswoman in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.... Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold made the decision on Feb. 22. It constitutes final agency action on part of the Secretary of State's Office.....

The historic Glenwood Springs hot springs are getting a major upgrade this summer.... The Glenwood Hot Springs Resort announced that there will be a new swimming area with five pools and several waterfalls.... The East End Expansion will include a hot plunge pool, a cold plunge pool, one pool with an infinity edge and two with waterfalls, including one that will be “grotto-like in nature..... The resort is in the midst of a major redevelopment and have already redesigned what’s known as the therapy pool with new jet chairs, lighting, and added a new ADA-approved ramp and showers. The locker rooms in the historic bathhouse have also remodeled.

It is a pretty big deal in Colorado 4A hockey.... The Glenwood Springs team and the Steamboat Spring's teams are in the state semifinals and if they both win this weekend, will meet in the finals next week....

Tomorrow, the No. 1-seeded Glenwood Demons will face No. 4 seed Colorado Academy (16-4) at the Colorado Springs Broadmoor World Arena on Saturday....

Glenwood beat Colorado Academy 3-2 earlier this year....

The United States Forest Service finally released a plan to make Hanging Lake great again.... The popular hike just west of Glenwood Springs was nearly destroyed by wildfire and mud slides.... Fallen trees, destroyed bridges and numerous destabilized pathways closed the trail in 2021.... The forest service is asking for input on its plan to build six new bridges to better accommodate high water and possible debris flow... Other improvements would include a new accessible plaza with seating, a shelter for shade and weather protection, as well as more bicycle racks and picnic tables.....Other proposed improvements include replanting native vegetation, preventing trail erosion and defining path restrictions more clearly..... More information on the restoration project can be found on the Forest Service's website. Officials are accepting public comment through Feb. 25. If approved, work on the renovation is expected to begin this September and last through 2024.....