

**KNFO Quarterly Issues Report**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the Calendar Year 2023**  
**Filed on July 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.) An unidentified person fell into the Roaring Fork River and drowned near Lazy Glen.
- 2.) Luxury homeowners in Pitkin County that own a snowmelt system or outdoor pool, must pay an extra fee.
- 3.) Pitkin County commissioners balk at the idea of raising property taxes for affordable housing.
- 4.) Aspen School District files a federal lawsuit against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube for operating a business at the expense of Children.
- 5.) Billionaire philanthropist and managing partner of Aspen Skiing Company James Crown dies at the Aspen Motorsports Park.
- 6.) Internet outage in Roaring Fork Valley, brings today's workday to a halt in the Roaring Fork Valley.
- 7.) Spring runoff along Kebler Pass between Paonia and Gunnison forces the road to be closed.
- 8.) The vote on the controversial Lumberyard affordable housing project in Aspen is tabled again.
- 9.) Aspen City Council discusses the Lumberyard affordable housing project in Aspen.
- 10.) A volunteering workshop will be held in Marble at a campout to restore area landmarks.
- 11.) A left-wing political action committee is accusing US Rep. Lauren Boebert of improperly reporting nearly \$60,000 of campaign calls and texts.
- 12.) Two juveniles arrested for vandalizing Carbondale Community School.

### **Eagle County:**

- 1.) More than 7,000 Eagle County property owners are protesting their recent property valuations.
- 2.) The Fourth of July holiday is coming, and the Vail planning is kicking into high gear. The city is taking applications for a limited number of entrants.
- 3.) Road safety pollutants contaminate Gore Creek every year. A company wants to install gutter bins to protect the water.
- 4.) US Representative Lauren Boebert will be in Eagle County Monday for the Lincoln Day Dinner.
- 5.) A water shutdown in Minturn was due to a leak back in January.
- 6.) Nottingham Lake to reopen today after E. Coli testing clears the way for swimming.
- 7.) A peeping Tom in Vail Arrested after a complaint of a man performing sexual acts while looking through windows.
- 8.) June is pride month for the 2SLGBTQ+ community to celebrate and raise awareness of a group that feels threatened.
- 9.) Colorado's raging rivers claim the life of a minor.
- 10.) Colorado's rivers are running at about the same level as they were last year at this time.
- 11.) Eagle County School District Board of Education is criticized over gender, sexual orientation and equity issues.

**Garfield County:**

- 1.) Blake Avenue is full of potholes and Glenwood Springs leaders are ready to fix it.
- 2.) Holy Cross announces new rate structure that delays the payback period for solar operators looking to get to free energy.
- 3.) The 125<sup>th</sup> annual Glenwood Springs Strawberry days is this weekend.
- 4.) Garfield Re-2 considers the American Birthright Standards social studies curriculum.
- 5.) The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pride celebration in Glenwood Springs is this weekend beginning at 5PM Saturday.
- 6.) The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police have announced their new President, Fire Police Chief Deb Funston.
- 7.) The Grand Valley high School senior who was told she couldn't wear a sash at Graduation, files a lawsuit.
- 8.) Huge plumes of smoke moved across the sky as the Spring Creek fire blows up.
- 9.) Sweetwater Lake residents object to their home being turned into Colorado's 43<sup>rd</sup> state park.
- 10.) Hanging Lake Trail is closed due to spring runoff flowing directly onto the popular trail.
- 11.) A 65-year-old man is missing after flipping his raft in the Colorado River.
- 12.) Grand Valley High School senior Naomi Pena Villasano wore her special graduation sash covering it with the official yellow sash.

An unidentified person appears to have fallen in the river yesterday and drowned.... The identity of the person has not been made available but rescuers who tried to resuscitate the victim say the victim was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt.... Rescuers were called to the scene at about noon when a witness noticed a body floating in the water.... Authorities recovered the person from the river in the area where it passes under the Highway 82 overpass near Lazy Glen..... It is believed the currents carried the body about 2 miles....

PITKIN

Luxury homeowners in Pitkin County that own a snowmelt system or outdoor pool, must either pay an extra fee to support green energy projects, or install on site renewable energy generation.... According to Aspen Journalism, snowmelt uses double the energy per square foot of the average home.... An average American home consumes about 40 to 44 thousand British thermal units per square foot per year, while the energy mitigation program calculator estimates a square foot of snowmelt to be using 83 kBtu in energy per year..... Experts say warming frozen concrete in freezing temperatures is extremely energy intensive....

Pitkin County Commissioners yesterday showed a reluctance to ask Pitkin County residents to pay for affordable housing.... The Aspen Daily News reports that only Commissioner Kelly McNicholas Kury favored putting a tax question before Pitkin County residents on this November's ballot.... According to a recent survey of Pitkin County residents, the majority believe affordable housing is the most important issue facing residents, but a separate question showed a property tax ballot question favored by only a 47% to 42% margin. The survey had a margin of error of 5.5% one way or another, suggesting a toss-up. Among voters most certain to go to the polls, the measure would fail 31% to 19%..... It appears a property tax question in Pitkin County is at least one year away....

The Aspen School District filed a federal lawsuit last week against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube essentially accusing them of operating a business at the expense of children and teenagers.... The suit claims that the school district has suffered damages due to the use of the companies' algorithms that drive compulsive and addictive usage of the social media sites and apps by children and teens.... The suit claims victims suffer from depression, anxiety, and other difficulties.... It also claims a rise in Bullying, sexual exploitation and suicide due to social media use..... Nationally, dozens of school districts have filed similar lawsuits....

Billionaire philanthropist and managing partner of Aspen Skiing Company James, known as Jim, Crown died Sunday at the Aspen Motorsports Park in Woody Creek.... The official cause of death is under investigation although multiple force trauma is evident according to coroner's office news release.... Aspen Motorsports Park is a private 50-acre park that features a motocross track, go-kart track, an oval dirt rallycross track, and a 1.1-mile, eight-turn road course..... Crown was the grandson of industrialist Henry Crown and served as director of General Dynamic Corp. and JPMorgan Chase..... Crown, from Chicago, was very close to former President Barack Obama and was reported to be a close advisor.... Former first lady Michelle Obama stayed at the Crown home in 2014 for a ski vacation.... Crown, was celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, is survived by his wife Paula, and four children ....



It was difficult to get work done this morning in the Roaring Fork Valley after an hour's long internet outage.... An excavator working for the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority severed fiber optic cables at 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue... Internet was out from Aspen to Glenwood Springs by 8:30AM.... Cell phone service was also affected due to sharing agreements with Comcast.... Some cell towers are connected to the broader broadband network backbone by fiber or copper wiring that the cell phone carriers either own or lease from local providers and require internet to function.... Internet and cell service was restored around 12:45PM....

Spring runoff along Kebler Pass between Paonia and Gunnison is closed after causing major damage to the dirt road.... The county posted on Facebook that it will remain closed until repairs are completed.... The road is not passable by vehicle.... Kebler pass rises to 10,000 feet running along Gunnison County Road 13 for 30 miles....

After five hours of presentations and no public comment, the Lumberyard decision was continued to next Tuesday as the presentation dragged into the night.... Questions over funding were considered not really an issue because once the city approves entitlements for the project that will feature nearly 250 units of affordable housing in the next decade, the money will come..... Officials say with entitlements secured, future proposals to construct the Lumberyard would attract more interest from experts in affordable housing projects.... That would open up more financing options... The discussion will be continued to June 13<sup>th</sup>....

Aspen City Council could be home to some fireworks tonight as it will host what is to be the last public hearing and full discussion regarding the Lumberyard affordable housing project.... The 277-unit complex would be built just outside of town on a 10 acre site that is currently a lumberyard.... The \$400 million project would be completed in phases, with completion expected sometime in 2031..... The city of more that 8,000 hasn't determined where they will get the funding for the project.... The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5PM....

Many of us are interested in volunteering our time... It's good for the soul! But where to start? One place to start is at a campout in marble June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.... The town of Marble has rented out the whole campground for volunteers to work on trail and restoration projects at the in-town marble Mill site, the Raspberry Creek Grail and the Marble Wetlands.... Participating volunteers are also invited to a waterfall hike and a history tour of the Marble Mill Site... Registration links are available on the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers website.....

A left-wing political action committee is accusing U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert of improperly reporting nearly \$60,000 on campaign calls and texts... The group End Citizens United alleges that the congresswoman that represents the western slope illegally used her political action committee's money to benefit her reelection campaign and exceeded her federal spending limits at least ten times over.... Boebert's campaign representatives have responded to the complaint claiming the accusations have no accompanying evidence of any violation "claiming instead that the certain expenditures could be a 'potential' violation.....

Two juveniles have been arrested for vandalization of Carbondale Community School.... The two admitted to criminal mischief that occurred may 30<sup>th</sup>..... Due to damage done to the school, classes had to be canceled on May 31 but resumed for the last day of school on June 1.

More than 7,000 property owners in Eagle County are protesting their recent property valuation..... Eagle County Assessor mark Chapin tells the Vail Daily that 7,000 appeals is a big number, but short of the 2009 appeal period where 8,200 property owners questioned their valuation.... He says about 25% of the appeals will move to the next level.... Property values in Eagle County nearly doubled due to government's covid response and the repeal of the Gallagher amendment that tied residential property value increases to commercial property value increases essentially slowing increases in value for homeowners... Colorado voters chose to do away with Gallagher by nearly a 2-1 margin repealing it in 2020.....

*EAGLE*



The Fourth of July holiday is coming an in Vail, the planning is kicking into high gear.... This year's theme for the parade is This Land is your Land.... The city is taking applications for a limited number of entrants.... There will be a concert put on by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, and making a brilliant return to the evening skies, a fireworks display.... Tinder dry conditions and wildfire fears have cancelled fireworks displays around Colorado's high mountain desert..... this year, in Vail, there will be fireworks in Vail... Up to 20,000 spectators are expected to be in attendance.... Go do discover vail dot com to register a float...

Each year in Eagle County, wintertime road safety pollutants run off the roadways right into local waterways.... Brake dust and oil combines with the snowmelt and flows into the water..... Couple that with people dumping things into the stormwater drains or indirectly, tons of pollutants are deposited into the rivers and streams.... The Vail Daily reports that the town hired Frog creek Ventures to install gutter bins which will stop approximately 6,000 tons of pollution from getting to Gore Creek.... These gutter bins work like a coffee filter for storm drains trapping cigarette butts, tire threads, microplastics, and sediment from roads.... Anything that is the size of a grain of sand or larger won't make it to the water.... An average bin captures 200 pounds of pollution a year.... The town is installing 278 gutter bins to keep the local waterways clean....

Rep. Lauren Boebert will be in Eagle County speaking at the Lincoln day Dinner.... The event, at Gypsum Creek Golf Club is Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> and will also feature former Colorado governor nominee Heide Ganahl and Greg Lopez, former district director for the US Small Business Administration's Colorado office.... General dinner tickets are \$125 apiece, but a speeches-only ticket can be purchased for \$25... Go to Eagle GOP dot com for more information....

The water shutdown in Minturn Tuesday was due to the same leak back in January where 70,000 gallons of water was lost.... That leak, which was very difficult to find, was the size of a dime underground near the intersection of Main Street and Cemetery Road... The water line was no longer being used and was located on private property... The water shutoff was necessary to properly disconnect the old waterline...

Nottingham Lake is expected to open today but check first to see if it really happens.... The lake has been closed since last Thursday after a routine test revealed elevated levels of E. coli in the water.... The test did not show that E. Colie was allowable limit of 235 organisms per one hundred milliliters of water, only that levels were higher than usual.... Another test was taken Monday and those results will become available later today... If those results are acceptable, the Town of Avon will open Nottingham Lake later today...

A peeping Tom in Vail was arrested June 12, after a complaint came in of a man performing sexual acts while looking through windows.... 31-year-old Joshua Stewart Cosgrove is accused of the acts June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>.... The incidents were both reported at Timber Ridge Apartments at 1280 N. Frontage Road in West Vail....

June is pride month for the LGBTQ+ community to celebrate and raise awareness of a group that feels threatened by 100's of restrictive transgender bills.... Mountain Pride will be hosting its fourth annual Pride in the Park June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nottingham Park.... There will be a dog show, a drag show, a parade and more.... It is the first of many pride celebrations put on by mountain pride.... You can go to [mountainpride.org](http://mountainpride.org) for more information... Other Pride events will be held in in Breckenridge (on June 9 and 10), Glenwood Springs (on June 10), Silverthorne (on June 10) and Leadville (on June 17)...

Colorado's rivers have claimed another life.... A minor died Saturday on the Colorado between Burns and McCoy after he became separated from his boat.... The boat capsized in the cold water around 11AM, multiple agencies responded to recover the youth, who was not responsive to CPR efforts.... The Eagle County Coroner's Office is investigating, the minor was wearing a personal flotation device....



There have already been four river related deaths in Colorado and the rivers appear to be frighteningly raging.... So, are the rivers flowing at abnormally high levels? Karl Borski, co-owner of Lakota Guides in Edwards tells the Vail Daily that actually rivers are running right where they typically run in early June... He says monthly-average streamflow is normal for the month of May 2023, and the Eagle River has not yet reached higher levels this year than in previous years, according to the United States Geological Survey..... Lakota Guides in Edwards runs the Upper Colorado, Eagle, and Arkansas rivers....

The Eagle County School District Board of Education continues to take criticism over gender, sexual orientation and equity issues with meetings getting heated for and against..... A recent field trip to the Vilar Performing Arts Center by students who saw a show that featured gender-bending roles in a circus-style performance.... Some parents felt that the performances contained “provocative, sexually mature content.” For the student body... The school district is questioning its role in discussing choosing gender identity and the sexual topics that go along with gender identity...

If you have driven Blake Avenue in Glenwood Springs you know it is very bumpy and needs help.... City leaders have decided the busy street through Glenwood Springs needs to be fully redesigned, but the fix is going to be painful.... The city is asking the public to review four ideas for redesign along Blake Avenue from Seventh and 13th streets.... Each plan offers up different priorities from traffic calming to pedestrian and bike facilities, on street parking and more.... Whatever is decided from seventh to 13<sup>th</sup> will be implemented in reworking 13<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> streets.... To learn more and add your input, head for the Colorado Mountain College Glenwood Center Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30PM to 8:00PM....

GARTNER

The whole key to residential solar installations is if and when the solar electricity will pay for itself and become entirely free.... Earlier this year, Holy Cross Energy announced a new rate schedule that would dramatically increased the payback period for solar operators.... Holy Cross Wednesday announced a delay in any new rate schedule because solar owners were very unhappy... Holy Cross officials hope to come up with a compromise that owners of solar installations can accept before any new rate schedule in implemented, at the earliest, December....

Glenwood Springs has been celebrating Strawberry Days for more than 125 years.... This weekend, the 126<sup>th</sup> celebration.... The fun gets underway at 4PM today and gates open at 10AM on Saturday and Sunday.... The parade rolls down Grand Avenue Saturday at 10AM and strawberries and crème at 11AM in Two Rivers Park put on by Kiwanis.... A pancake breakfast put on by the Rotary club is Sunday on 7<sup>th</sup> street east of the bridge beginning at 8am.... There will be live music, food, artisans and fun all weekend long in Glenwood Springs...

It's called the American Birthright Standards social studies curriculum and Garfield Re-2 may consider making a change.... School board president Tony May proposed the change at last week's school board meeting.... According to the website Civics Alliance dot org, American Birthright teaches students to identify the ideals, institutions, and individual examples of human liberty, individualism, religious freedom, and republican self-government; assess the extent to which civilizations have fulfilled these ideals; and describe how the evolution of these ideals in different times and places has contributed to the formation of modern American ideals..... Students will learn of heroes of liberty such as Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ronald Reagan..... Media outlets like Colorado Public Radio and the Glenwood Springs Post Independent call it "Christian Pro Life American, and a conservative Christian based curriculum.... The school board may consider the Social Studies curriculum at next Monday's meeting....

Glenwood Springs will be showing its pride this weekend for the second annual Pride Celebration..... Organizers say pride will be family-friendly and accessible to all. It begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday at Bethel Plaza under the Grand Avenue bridge and is slated to run until 8 p.m..... Gov. Jared Polis will be making a special address along with other leaders in the area.... Music will start after Polis speaks at about 6:30 p.m. The featured live performance is a Spanish-speaking band called Party Party. At 7:30 p.m., there will be a drag show with performances in both Spanish and English, along with family-friendly music and dance moves.....

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police have announced their new president.... Rifle Police Chief Deb Funston becomes the first female president of the Colorado Association that provides education and training for law enforcement and promotes the highest ethical standards. CACP is committed to preserving basic family values, which are essential for achieving a high quality of life....



The Grand Valley High School senior who was told she couldn't wear a sash at graduation that had a Mexican flag and a US flag, has filed a lawsuit against the Garfield County School District..... 16-year-old Naomi Peña Villasano says she just wants to celebrate her cultural heritage by wearing the sash that is one half US flag and one half the flag of Mexico.... Superintendent Jennifer Baugh contends that allowing Villasano to wear the sash would go against many school traditions.... She warns that allowing the freedom to alter the graduation sash could lead to other students possibly wearing flags that some deem offensive, like Confederate flags..... The advocacy group Voces Unidas is working with Baugh with her battle in the courts...

Huge plumes of smoke moved eastwardly across the sky yesterday afternoon as the Spring Creek fire near Parachute saw significant growth..... The fire, which started last weekend was reportedly 20 percent contained Monday morning and 212 acres.... By early Monday evening the fire had grown to an estimated 3,000 acres turning the sky a smoky orange.... Fire officials say hot dry conditions are drying out the abundant grasses which provide easy fuel for the fire to grow.... There are no evacuations and there are no structures threatened by the fire burning in steep and rugged terrain.... Additional crews and an incident management team is expected to arrive today.... Residents are urged to sign up for alerts at [Garco911.com](http://Garco911.com).....

Residents that live near Sweetwater Lake have forwarded a five page position statement that objects to turning the area into Colorado's 43<sup>rd</sup> state park..... The rural lake and surrounding land were purchased for public use but the approximately 80 families that live in the area feel that high volumes of the public will be damaging to the area.... Their concerns may be getting some attention... The Vail Daily reports that Gypsum resident Tom Edwards, an emeritus member of the Eagle Valley Land Trust board, says the Trust was looking only to save the property... He adds that then board didn't know the (state park) designation was coming down..... He recommends establishing a state wildlife area at the site instead.... The White River National Forest is now controlling the lake and will ultimately guide the future of Sweetwater Lake....

The Hanging Lake Trail is closed again and will remain closed through the Memorial Day weekend.... A large amount of spring runoff is flowing directly down the trail in many areas forcing the closure.... The trail and associated bridges suffered significant damage following the 2021 debris flows in Glenwood Canyon from the 2020 Grizzly Creek Fire burn scar. While a temporary trail was opened in 2022, more extensive repairs are needed for long-term sustainability, according to a Tuesday news release.... Reservations are being canceled and refunded through June 2.

A 65-year-old man is missing after his raft flipped over in the Colorado.... The man and his son entered the Colorado at Grizzly Creek but soon capsized the raft.... The son was able to swim to the shore, but his father continued down the river holding on to the capsized raft.... Search and rescue was dispatched around 2 PM after the man was reported missing... The search was suspended Sunday night sometime after 8PM.... The man was last seen wearing a gray shirt or hoodie with white and yellow gloves. It is unclear if he was wearing a personal flotation device or not.....

Grand Valley High School senior Naomi Peña Villasano wore her graduation sash while walking across the stage Saturday in picking up her diploma.... She did cover it however, with the yellow sash that everyone else was wearing.... Villasano requested to wear her special sash, but superintendent Jennifer Baugh told her no - fearing if she allowed an individual sash for one student, she would have to honor all requests for individual sashes, and some could be deemed offensive.... She took her dispute to a US District Court Judge who denied her request....