

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station- KCWU Ellensburg

July 1 – September 30, 2020

Placed in the public file-

Section I. Issues

The station has identified the following issues facing our community in this quarter

- A. National Coronavirus Response: How the federal government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic
- B. Statewide Coronavirus Response: How the state of Washington responded to the COVID-19 pandemic
- C. Local Coronavirus Response:
- D. Local Weather Alerts: information regarding extreme weather conditions and any regulations
- E. Local Events News: News and information relating to sports and other activities
- F. Local Crime and Fire: Alerts about crime in the area, as well as alerts about non environmentally caused fires
- G. University News: All news relating to Central Washington University, not including updates about COVID-19
- H. National and Worldwide News: Relevant news covering national and international events not related to COVID-19
- I. PSAs: Public Service Announcements regarding a safe return to Central Washington's Campus.

Section II. Responsive Programs

The station has broadcast programming with each of the above-referenced issues. Programming dealing with each issue is set out below. In most cases, exact scripts are included. Unless otherwise noted, programming played at the top of every hour from 10:00:08 to 15:00:08.

A. National Coronavirus Response:

1. The rule that would require international students to leave the country if their school is entirely online has been rescinded, according to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The rule was introduced by the Trump administration early last week, and students would have been faced with deportation if they did not leave voluntarily. A lawsuit created by MIT and Harvard argued that the policy was unlawful, and contradicted previous guidance from immigration officials. As the hearing was getting underway, the rule change was announced. (Aired 7/14)
2. This year's spring break central is about to be famous for a different reason. With a high of 15,000 new cases on Sunday, Florida is set to become the new epicenter of

- the Coronavirus pandemic. According to Dr. Lilian Abbo from the University of Miami, the same effects that were seen in Wuhan during the early days of the pandemic are now being seen in the state of Florida. In response, Miami-Dade County has now imposed a curfew and ordered all restaurants to cease indoor dining. (Aired 7/14)
3. Moderna's coronavirus vaccine is ready for the final testing phase, according to CBS news. The final phase is set to begin on July 27th- with a 30,000-person study to prove if the shots will be enough to combat the virus. Testing began back in March, with 45 volunteers. Results were good for these test subjects, and the shots provided an immune system boost that researchers were hoping for. Neutralizing Antibodies, which are the molecules important to blocking infections, were found at levels in the test subjects similar to COVID-19 survivors. Per Dr. Anthony Fauci, "No matter how you slice it, this is good news." (Aired 7/15)
 4. While masking requirements still vary from state to state, one of the largest retailers in the world has made masks mandatory for all patrons and employees. Per CNN, Walmart has announced that masks will be required in all of their US stores beginning next week. This is in response to the recent spike in Coronavirus cases in the country, with total positive tests at over 3.3 million. In response, other national chains such as Kroger and Kohls have announced similar requirements to shop in their stores. "This is to help bring consistency across stores and clubs", says Walmart chief operating officer Dacona Smith. The changes will go into effect on Monday, July 20th. (Aired 7/16)
 5. The pandemic is far from over, but for many Americans, things are about to get even harder. According to CNN, the Coronavirus relief program expires on July 31st, meaning the extra \$600 weekly for unemployment is going to go away. Part of the 2 trillion-dollar aid package passed in March, this change will affect over 25 million Americans. The last payment will be this coming week, as the aid only applies to weeks ending in a Saturday or Sunday. Congress is expected to work this coming week on the next stimulus package, but it doesn't seem likely that anything substantial will be passed. (Aired 7/20)
 6. As the coronavirus relief bill expires this week, lawmakers in Washington DC are opening up relief talks once again. First reported by CBS news, President Trump and Republican leaders met to outline what's most important in another federal relief package-believed to carry a value of at least one trillion dollars. The plan involves tax credits for PPE, and credits that incentivize businesses to bring workers back. The proposal also includes money for states specifically for education, to begin bringing students back on campuses. Democrat leaders will likely be reached out to for negotiations within the next week. (Aired 7/21)
 7. Senate Republicans have shifted their earlier stimulus check views, reports Forbes. Formerly against a second stimulus check, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell endorsed the idea on Tuesday "We want another round of direct payments-direct payments to help American families keep driving out national comeback." said McConnell. While there is now more support for a second stimulus, other details are still being considered. A major point is reducing some eligibility for the payment,

- presumably to keep the cost down. Negotiations with democratic leaders are expected to begin late this week, and likely continue into next week. (Aired 7/22)
8. The Senate Republicans released their one trillion-dollar coronavirus relief proposal on Monday, reports politico. Announced by Majority leader Mitch McConnell, a main pillar of the proposal includes another round of 1200 dollar stimulus checks, but also reduces unemployment benefits from 600 per week to 200 per week. The proposal was quickly shot down by democrats due to the cut in federal unemployment. Democrats are pushing for a 3 trillion-dollar deal, which is nearly 2 trillion dollars more than republicans want to accept. The two sides will continue to negotiate a new deal this week, as the current one expires this Friday. (Aired 7/28)
 9. As negotiations regarding a new stimulus deal are carried out, more details have been revealed. The HEALS act, which stands for the Health Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools, will include an extra 200 dollars per week for unemployment, which is down from the 600 from the CARES act. The biggest news, however, is another round of stimulus checks, which will follow the same eligibility formula as the first round. The difference is that there is no longer an age cap to the extra 500 dollars that is received per dependent, as the CARES act capped the age for dependents at 17. This will allow both college students, who are likely stuck at home due to the virus, and other adult dependents to be accounted for. Democrats look to continue negotiating with the republicans late into the week. (Aired 7/29)
 10. Even with the original CARES act having expired last week, Congressional Democrats and the White House are still at odds on a new one. US News Reports that multiple talks between the two sides had little progress over the weekend. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said “We’re really getting an understanding of each side's position and we’re making some progress on certain issues, moving closer together.” Schumer also mentioned that both sides have a desire to get something done as soon as possible. The two sides will likely continue to search for common ground through the week, but reaching a resolution by then seems unlikely. (Aired 8/4)
 11. The number of new unemployment claims fell to the lowest since the beginning of the pandemic, says US News. The United States department of labor reported that there was a decrease of 249,000 new jobless claims last week, and is down to 1.19 million claims, below economists’ predictions of 1.423 million. Claims had been slowly declining until the week of July 25t, when many states saw a spike in cases, and formed new restrictions based on the spikes. As the virus continues to affect all aspects of life in the United States, more than 30 million citizens are claiming unemployment benefits. A decrease in new claims, however small, is a step in the right direction. (Aired 8/10)
 12. Congressmen Jimmy Panetta and Billy Long have introduced the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act to the US House of Representatives. According to the daily record, this is a way to attempt to offset the financial losses agricultural fairs across the country caused by COVID-19. This legislation would provide 500 million dollars in funding, distributed based on estimated loss of attendance at each fair. As a whole, fairs across the United States have lost nearly 4 billion dollars of gross revenue due to the pandemic. Legislation such as this, while it may not fix every problem, will definitely help soften the financial blows fairs experienced. (Aired 8/11)

13. For the first time since March, the number of people filing new unemployment claims on a weekly basis has dropped below one million. Per US News, the past two weeks have seen a significant drop in new claims, with last week seeing only 963 thousand, a 228 thousand drop from the prior week. The total number of people receiving unemployment has also fallen to 15.5 million, still a significant number, but definitely a step in the right direction. (Aired 8/13)
14. The House of Representatives is being called back into session, according to Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The summer recess is being cut short with a vote on legislation that would prohibit changes at the United States Postal Service. President Trump's new postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, has introduced delays, new prices, and cutbacks to the USPS. These changes come at a crucial time for the agency, as millions of Americans attempt to utilize mail-in-voting to avoid polling places in the pandemic. "In a time of Pandemic, the postal service is election central", " said Pelosi in a Sunday letter. In a Fox Business interview, Trump acknowledged that he opposed additional funding for the USPS to handle mail in voting, so it is more difficult to deliver mail in ballots. The president later seemed to walk back his stance, saying that he would accept aid for the agency quote "If they give us what we want." (Aired 8/17)
15. Federal agents have seized over 2000 fake pills being sold as COVID-19 Treatments, says KIMA TV. The pills have been confiscated in eight separate shipments since July, and contain unauthorized and untested ingredients. Given that they pills are not FDA tested, the pills were seized for false claims of claiming to treat or prevent diseases. "The concern with these products is false claims by the manufacturer, leading for the potential for individuals to not seek medical treatment when needed or, even more worrisome, that the non-authorized and non-tested medicine could contain ingredients that make the product harmful to the user," U.S. Customs officials said in a prepared statement. (Aired 8/18)
16. While congress is in recess after failing to compromise on a new stimulus package, Republicans are still working on a proposal for when lawmakers return in September. The draft includes a reduced unemployment benefit of 300 dollars per week, down from six hundred, and no direct stimulus payments. It also does not include any student loan relief. While President Trump signed an executive memorandum to extend a suspension of student loan payment, interests, and collections, it is still unknown whether borrowers currently in default are covered, or if those on track for loan forgiveness can continue to make progress during the suspension. Democratic lawmakers have agreed to compromise on a new stimulus package, reducing their price tag to 2 trillion instead of three. Republican lawmakers seem to be locked at a 1 trillion dollar price point, with neither side looking to budge. (Aired 8/20)

B. Statewide Coronavirus Response:

1. Mask use is up in Yakima, according to the city's Health Department. The most recent observations show 95% of residents wearing masks in public, up from 65% in late June. Yakima, which is still in a modified phase one, had one of the highest

infection rates in the state. Mask use being at an all time high has now led to a decrease in cases and hospitalizations in July, hopefully an indicator of things to come. (Aired 7/14)

2. Governor Jay Inslee has announced that the pause on counties advancing to the next stage in his reopening plan has been extended. Per the Yakima Herald, the governor has paused any advancement until at least July 28th, citing a spike in confirmed cases and the hospitalization rate. “We’re not in as bad of shape as other states. But we have to look where we’re going to be, not just where we are, said Inslee. The hope is that by pausing advancement, the state will avoid having to move backwards in reopening. (Aired 7/15)
3. The state of Washington, like many others, had a massive unemployment spike due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, things are looking up. KXLY in Spokane reports that the unemployment rate in the state of Washington dropped from 15.1 to 9.8% in a single month; the largest month to month drop in 30 years. This amounts to about 71,000 new jobs added. While we’re not out of the woods yet, this proves to be a positive development as people safely return to work. (Aired 7/16)
4. Thanks to masks and social distancing, Yakima county is beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Per KIMA TV, the Yakima health district reported 114 new Covid cases on Sunday. Once a hotspot of coronavirus activity, this number is far lower than the past few months. Only 30 people are currently hospitalized due to Covid in the district, with two intubations. There were no new deaths over the weekend, hopefully a good signal of things to come. (Aired 7/20)
5. Rollbacks in gathering sizes for counties in phase three were announced this past weekend, according to KIRO 7. Governor Inslee announced that all counties in phase three are once again restricted to gathering sizes of no more than ten people, down from the 50 originally outlined in the reopening plan. All live entertainment, both indoor and outdoor, is now prohibited as well. Governor Inslee did say that spiritual services, weddings, and funerals are not affected, however. The announcement comes as Washington state experienced the highest seven day rolling average since the beginning of the pandemic, at 629 cases per day. (Aired 7/20)
6. Whether or not school campuses reopen this fall, Yakima school district has a plan in place. Per the Yakima Herald, the district will offer full remote learning as an option, regardless of whether campuses are open or not. There is the fully online option, but the option for part or full time will come back based on virus trends. The district has also rolled out their one to one laptop initiative, which gives each student in the district a laptop configured for them to keep for the entire school year. No matter how long the virus affects learning, our educators seem to keep finding ways to innovate. (Aired 7/21)
7. As Yakima continues to fight the coronavirus, their economy begins to show signs of life. As with many counties, unemployment was at a historic high during the beginning of the shutdown of the state. The county still remained in double digits during the month of June, but the unemployment rate is steadily beginning to decline. Per the Yakima herald, Yakima had a 10.1 percent unemployment rate during June, down from 14.3 percent and 13.9 Percent in April and May, respectively. June marked the beginning of the peak agricultural season, especially the start of the cherry

- harvest. There is hope that as Yakima continues its strong push to mask up and to social distance, the economy can begin recovering as well. (Aired 7/22)
8. With Yakima still in a modified phase one of reopening, breweries and wineries are preparing to be able to open soon. As part of the modified phase 1 and phase two, restaurants are allowed to be open at a limited capacity. This does not include wineries and breweries, however. The local health district clarified this week that unless they offer full meals from an onsite kitchen, and are comparable to restaurants, wineries and breweries will not be allowed to offer outdoor seating. Bale Breaker co-owner Meghann Quin believes that the rules incorrectly assume that people only go to breweries and wineries to get drinks. "It's pretty discouraging" says Quin. Governor Jay Inslee stated last week that the freeze on advancement to a new phase will be reevaluated on July 28th, a date that owners of these establishments await eagerly. (Aired 7/23)
 9. The WIAA, Washington High school sports governing body, has announced drastic changes to the sports schedule for this upcoming year. Due to the pandemic, there will now be four seasons for sports, instead of the typical three. The first season, which is in the fall, will include non-contact sports, such as golf and cross country, which allow for social distancing. The second season will be more similar to a winter sports season, with basketball being played. Football is now moved to beginning in March, giving a much bigger meaning to spring football. The WIAA hopes that this will allow all athletes to fairly compete in their sports, while mitigating the risks that COVID-19 poses. More information can be found on the WIAAs website. (Aired 7/23)
 10. Governor Jay Inslee announced a tightening of restrictions in reopening the state this past Thursday. In a press conference, Inslee said that he will impose new limitations on bars, restaurants, and large gatherings. All bars and taverns must now close indoor dining, regardless of whether food is served. Outdoor dining will still be allowed, however. All alcohol service in bars and restaurants is now required to end at ten PM, and table size and restaurant capacity is once again limited. Wedding ceremonies and funerals are still allowed, but receptions are prohibited. The maximum indoor occupancy is 20% of the maximum, or thirty people, whichever comes first. These new restrictions go into effect on July 30th, and hope to play a role in preventing the spread of coronavirus. (Aired 7/28)
 11. While the overall numbers look grim, Yakima is slowly, but surely beginning to see a ray of hope. Yakima county passed the 10,000 case mark this past weekend, but Sunday only reported 43 new cases, per KIMA TV. When compared to just a month ago, which had an average of 250 new cases daily, this is outstanding news. It is due to the fact that mask usage has shot up to 95% in the county. More testing sites, specifically non appointment ones, have been opened in the county, as they take a step in the right direction to combat the Coronavirus. (Aired 7/29)
 12. For the second time this month, the state of Washington is putting a pause on reopening. Per KIRO 7, Governor Jay Inslee announced that he is extending the pause to the states Safe Start Plan- this time indefinitely. Last week, Inslee also announced new limits on counties in phases two and three, including a once again reduced restaurant capacity, and a prohibition on wedding and funeral receptions. "We do not take these steps lightly," Inslee said. "We know every prohibition is a challenge for

- individuals and business owners. But we know that if we fail to act, we will expose thousands of people.” (Aired 7/29)
13. The Washington department of health reported 632 new cases and 4 new deaths from COVID-19 Sunday, reports the Olympian. While the DOH had some technical issues with its reporting software, the problems have been fixed, and the information on the website is now accurate. The average positive test rate across the state stands at 5.6% as of July 25th, which is the most recent complete data available. Yakima and King County currently lead the state in cases, with 10 and 15 thousand cases respectively. Both counties are beginning to see a decrease in cases per day, as masking up and socially distancing prove to be effective. (aired 8/3, from 11:00:08 to 16:00:08)
 14. Washington residents struggling to get their unemployment payments may be one step closer to getting the help they need. On Friday, Washington’s employment security department announced that they had cleared its backlog of over 80,000 unemployment claims filed between the months of march and June. Dealing with a high volume of legitimate claims, as well as thousands of cases of fraud, the ESD tripled its staff in May, as well as enlisting the help of the national guard to process outstanding claims. In a Monday press conference, ESD commissioner Suzi LeVine said she is “not declaring mission accomplished”, but declaring “milestone met.” (Aired 8/4)
 15. Eight Yakima area gyms have been fined for remaining open, says KIMA TV. As Yakima county is still in a modified phase one of reopening, gyms are not allowed to be open. That didn’t stop several Anytime Fitness Gyms, as well as several crossfit gyms, from staying open. “These employers are putting their employees at unnecessary health risk by staying open” says Anne Soiza, part of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. Before the fines, which are just under 10,000 dollars per violation, were assessed, the department warned all of the open gyms. Said Soiza, “The Safe Start order is in place to minimize the unnecessary spread of this deadly disease in our communities. (Aired 8/6)
 16. While no closures are mandated, the State’s top education and health officials have said that it is unsafe for the majority of school districts to return to classrooms this fall. The Seattle Times reports that the state has recommended distance learning in most counties, especially ones with high rates of positive tests-such as King, Pierce, and Snohomish. Schools in low risk areas were told that face to face instruction should be prioritized for those who might struggle with remote learning, such as those with disabilities, and younger children. Unlike the spring, school closures will not be mandated, as to allow the school boards in the state to make the decision themselves. (Aired 8/6)
 17. The state of Washington reported 549 new Coronavirus Cases on Sunday, and no new deaths, says The News Tribune. This brings the total number of cases in the state since the beginning of the pandemic to just over sixty three thousand. King and Yakima Counties still lead the state in total cases, with 16 and a half thousand and 10 thousand respectively. Kittitas county has only 373total cases of COVID, and only 19 deaths. (Aired 8/10)
 18. The rules for gyms in Washington state begin this week, shrinking an already reduced allowed capacity. Under the new regulations, patrons must be able to have 300 square feet of space, which ups the social distancing guideline to seventeen feet. This of

course only affects counties in phase two or three, as gyms may not be open in any phase one counties. All patrons are required to wear facemasks, unless strenuous exercise is occurring. The Washington fitness alliance is working with the governor to allow for a smaller amount of space per patron, as some smaller gyms would not be financially viable with the new requirements. WFA CEO Blair McHaney says that they are not fighting just for large gyms, but small gyms as well. “The WFA is here to advocate for fitness and indoor recreation, and we can't leave those guys out. We can't leave them out.” (Aired 8/11)

C. Local Coronavirus Response:

1. According to a story in the daily record, there are now additional cases of COVID-19 coming from long term care facilities in Kittitas county. Prestige Post-Acute and Rehab of Kittitas Valley has five staff members who have tested positive for the virus, in addition to four residents in the facility. Everyone who tested positive is stable, according to Prestige. Mass testing will be implemented at the facility going forward. (Aired 7/14)
2. While the Kittitas school district hopes to bring students back to the classroom this fall, it is far from a sure thing. The Daily Record reports that Kittitas school district superintendent Mike Nollan is working with a team of parents and educators to develop the best back to school plan. Class sizes would need to be limited, and students would need to be kept six feet apart. Ellensburg and Kittitas school districts make it easy to transfer between the two, but if class sizes need to be limited, the amount of transfers may be as well. According to Nollan, the district hopes to reach a decision by early August. (Aired 7/15)
3. Even with reduced hours, some businesses are finding a way to keep their patrons engaged. On July 25th, Gallery One Visual Arts Center will be holding a virtual day of art, with full 360 degree views of their over thirty studios, and holding live interviews with some of their artists over Facebook. The Daily record Reports that the event hopes to continue the mission of the gallery, educating the public on the importance of the arts, and to support art and artists in the area. It's a great chance for anyone stuck at home to learn something from the community of artists in Kittitas. (Aired 7/15)
4. Outdoor activities have been seen as a safe way to socially distance and have fun, but when areas get too crowded, changes need to be made. According to the daily record, Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park and People's Pond have been closed off. “We are seeing an increase in cases associated with social gatherings,” Says Kittitas county public health officer Dr. Mark Larson. “I've made the decision to close the park until our numbers are back to 25 cases per 100,000 residents”. Dr. Larson also said that the parks closure will be reevaluated once Kittitas County's case numbers drop top meet phase three goals again. (Aired 7/16)
5. With the Coronavirus pandemic wreaking havoc on the economy, higher education is being affected as well. CWU has reduced hours for around 90 percent of staff,

- according to a report from the daily record. We've looked at summer as an opportunity to dial things down a bit and get some budget relief", says Vice President of Business and financial affairs Joel Klucking. In addition, Central rolled out a hiring freeze, which defunded the continue through 2021. Said Klucking: "We did a good job of controlling our spending in spring after the impact of the pandemic." The university came 2 million dollars under budget and hopes to be able to bring most of its workers back for the 2020-2021 school year. (Aired 7/23)
6. CWU will be limiting the amount of students allowed on campus this fall, according to university President James Gaudino. In an email to the CWU community, Gaudino addressed that due to the rise in COVID19 cases nationwide, Central has decided to lower the amount of students living on campus from around 4000 to 1800. Each student on campus will now have their own room, and there will be no sharing of restroom facilities. "I think we all share the disappointment of benign unable to participate in the traditional activities" said Gaudino, but he also expressed his excitement in the school's commitment to providing a high-quality education and experience, regardless of circumstance. (Aired 7/28)
 7. Some of the largest hotspots for the coronavirus recently have been senior living centers, but thanks to a diligent effort, this is becoming less of a problem in Kittitas county. According to the daily record, all test results from Prestige Senior Living were negative, and Meadows Place, once considered an outbreak, has seen its staff fully recovered with negative tests. There is still a ways to go, as centers such as Pacifica and Prestige Post-Acute have over 60 positive tests combined. Kittitas valley healthcare officials are working with the centers to address the current outbreaks, and hopefully prevent future ones. (Aired 7/29)
 8. In these uncertain times, every part of society is scrambling to make things work. This is especially true of public schools, like the Ellensburg School district. Brian Aiken, the executive Director of Business services for the district, says that he, along with many others, have no idea what school will look like come September. "We are just doing the best we can to try and have flexibility", he said to the daily record. "Things can change day by day." The district is expecting to operate at around a 2.3-million-dollar deficit for the year, as they plan for drastic changes due to Covid19. To compensate, the district is exploring not hiring replacement staff when someone retires, instead asking qualified educators already on staff to take on more duties. The goal is to save money, while affecting the students as little as possible. (Aired 7/30)
 9. While no final decisions have been made yet on how school will be handled this coming fall, the Ellensburg School district is making progress towards catering to all situations. The of complained about online tools used during the initial lockdown have been replaced by two more well-known systems- Schoology and Edgenuity. According to the executive director of Special Services and Operations, Kelly Kronbauer the sheer number of different programs used by teachers became overwhelming. With the change to two consolidated systems, the hope is that online learning will become less of a burden to both parents and students. (Aired 8/3, from 11:00:08 to 16:00:08)

10. While many counties in the United States struggled financially due to the ongoing pandemic, Kittitas County remains stable. In an interview with the daily record, County Commissioner Brett Wachsmith said that the two largest revenue sources—property tax and sales tax, have not seen a decline. In fact, the sales tax revenue for the county is expected to exceed expectations this fiscal year. As the county advanced phases, Public works and community development were able to start new construction projects, which helped bring in revenue. Said Wachsmith “At the time, I don't see a huge cut to any services the county provides. I'm very optimistic about where Kittitas county is.” (Aired 8/3, from 11:00:08 to 16:00:08)
11. A local brewery is under fire for controversial photoshopped images posted on their front door, says KOMO. Ellensburg's Whipsaw Brewery say that they have been both threatened and praised for putting pictures of governor Jay Inslee's face onto a Nazi uniform, seemingly comparing his Safe Start order to something the Nazi Party would have enforced. The owners say that they are now on full alert when they go to work, due to threats of vandalism to the business. While the owners disagree with the safe start order, they are in full compliance with the safety guidelines put in place by the Kittitas Public Health Department. (Aired 8/6)
12. The Kittitas County Public health department says a person who attended a large wedding tested positive for Covid-19, says KHQ. The wedding, which was held August second at the Cattle Ranch Barn, was so large that containing every guest to alert them may be impossible, per the department. Because of this, the Health Department is asking anyone who attended the wedding to get tested as soon as possible. (Aired 8/10)
13. The Ellensburg School district has announced sweeping changes to how instruction will be handled this fall, says the daily record. The district, which had originally announced a hybrid of online and in person learning for the fall, changed to online only instruction, per a recommendation from the Kittitas county incident management team. The School board voted unanimously to follow the IMT's recommendation. “It's not fair to our teachers and to our staff and to our students and families if there is uncertainty going into the fall.” Says School board president Tosha Woods.” “It is not fair to them to work diligently for two weeks just to be shut down, which is what we're seeing in Georgia, which is what we're seeing in the South and across the nation right now.” If the county is able to get back to the benchmark of 25 COVID cases per 100,000 residents, a hybrid model may be able to be adopted. (Aired 8/11)
14. Sixty four kittitas county businesses have received CARES act funding, with 17 being from Ellensburg, per a news release from the County Chamber of Commerce. In a town with many small businesses making up the backbone of the economy, funding from the CARES act is absolutely vital, as many businesses were required to be closed for a time. 47% of the businesses that received funding were service businesses, such as Ellensburg Solar and Third Eye Tattoo. Retail stores, construction, and restaurants made up most of the remaining businesses receiving CARES act funding. (Aired 8/11)
15. Central Washington University has elected to reduce student fees for the fall quarter, says KIMA TV. A meeting tuesday saw the board of directors unanimously vote to eliminate the 40 dollar per course fee, which normally applies to all online classes, and to reduce the technology fee to ten dollars. A new fee, called a Multimodal fee,

- will be 25 dollars per quarter, and will support the increased demand for online classes, as well as the online instruction software news. According to Board Chair Ron Erickson, “We must focus on fees that are necessary to support the mission of the university and to reduce, as far as possible for each student, the cost of attendance.” (Aired 8/13)
16. Kittitas county has been awarded a 750 thousand dollar federal grant to assist those in crisis. Reported by KIMA TV, the county health network received funding from the Department of Health Resources and services Administration to assist in the reduction of unnecessary usage of emergency services. Being a rural Medically Underserved population, and health professional shortage area, the county more than qualified for the grant. Kittitas county health network aims to use the funding to assist those in the community who are in crisis, or with the most complex cases, seeing that they receive the treatment they need. (Aired 8/13)
 17. The Kittitas school board voted to pursue starting school in person this fall, says the daily record. In a stark contrast to the Ellensburg and Cle-Elum/Roslyn school districts, Kittitas has decided that they will petition the county department of health to reopen in person. The decision was based on a survey sent to parents in the district, with almost 70% of responses supporting some form of in person instruction. Should the department of health not approve the reopening plan, the district will be forced to follow the lead of surrounding districts, and open remotely. (Aired 8/17)
 18. As the Ellensburg school district prepares for a fall term of online learning, daycare centers are following suit. Childcare centers such as chestnut preschool and daycare met with ESD superintendent Jinger Baberer recently, to discuss options relating to pre elementary learning. Before the district's decision regarding online instruction, childcare centers in Ellensburg asked parents to sign up for the district's virtual learning academy in order for some sort of learning to occur. The staff at daycares are currently receiving training in the software to ensure a smoother transition. (Aired 8/18)

D. Local Weather Alerts:

1. There is a burn ban in effect in Kittitas county. Due to the heat and the heavy wind coming up, the burn ban encompasses every part of the county. This means that there are to be no outdoor burning, and no campfires. Gas fires are still allowed by the burn ban. Through the rest of the week, residents should expect winds of up to 30 miles per hour, and high temperatures of up to 97 degrees. (Aired 7/16)
2. A heat advisory has been sent by the national weather service later this week. Temperatures of up to 110 degrees in Kittitas valley are expected beginning on Wednesday, July 29th and lasting until Thursday evening. Residents are advised to stay hydrated by drinking lots of fluids, and keeping cool in shade or air conditioned rooms. It is also advised to keep small children and pets out of the sun as much as possible. If someone is showing signs of heatstroke, such as dizziness, headache, nausea, or hot red skin, do not hesitate to call 911. (Aired 7/28)

3. The risk of wildfires is increasing rapidly across the state, says Komo News. While fire season started late due to an uncharacteristically wet June, the risk shot up this past week, with many counties on the east side seeing triple digit temperatures, and the west side having days in the mid 90s. According to meteorologist Josh Clark with the department of natural resources, "It's all the stars aligning for critical fire weather this week." A large portion of the state is seeing burn bans to hopefully prevent any out of control blazes. The Ellensburg area can expect to see temperatures up to 105 degrees today, peaking at 5 PM. (Aired 7/30)
4. A fire weather watch is active in Kittitas County. Wind speeds across eastern Washington
5. The Kittitas County Public health department says a person who attended a large wedding tested positive for Covid-19, says KHQ. The wedding, which was held August second at the Cattle Ranch Barn, was so large that containing every guest to alert them may be impossible, per the department. Because of this, the Health Department is asking anyone who attended the wedding to get tested as soon as possible. are expected to increase rapidly through Wednesday, with gusts reaching up to 35 miles per hour. This, combined with dry vegetation and low humidity levels may possibly lead to extreme fire conditions. A burn ban across the county is still active. (Aired 8/10)
6. An excessive heat warning was issued in Kittitas county yesterday by the National Weather service. Dangerously hot conditions of up to 106 degrees are expected, which can be the cause of heat related illnesses, especially when working or participating in outdoor activities. Overnight and early morning temperatures are unlikely to be a relief from the heat of midday. The warning is set to expire on Tuesday evening. (Aired 8/17)
7. The Ahtanum Ridge fire was contained yesterday, per the Yakima herald. The brush fire, which started about ten miles east of Union Gap on Sunday, took two homes and five other buildings. Over 175 households were told to evacuate the area, as the fire spread over an estimated 5969 acres by noon on Monday. The blaze has since been contained, and the evacuation order was lifted. Mop up operations will continue through the week as small flare ups occur. (Aired 8/18)
8. Washington governor Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency due to the rapid spread of wildfires in Central and Eastern Washington. Per KREM 2, firefighting resources have been spread thin due to projected fire activity. "Wildfires are threatening the safety and livelihoods of Washingtonians all across the state", said Inslee. "And the pandemic has put additional strain on our resources." The proclamation activates the Washington State National Guard to assist the Department of natural resources in protecting homes, public facilities, businesses, and natural resources. Over 25,000 acres of land have been burned in the fires thus far. The state of emergency, effective immediately, will end on September 30th. (Aired 8/20)

E. Local Events News:

1. For the first time ever, the Kittitas County Fair will let you enjoy the animals from the comfort of your home. While the community was saddened by the cancellation of the Ellensburg Rodeo, the fair component will still Exist. According to the Daily Record, the county fair board is working on plans for virtual components of the fair, so the spirit can live on despite Covid. Board chairmen Becky Shirley says that there are plans for a virtual show for the animals, as well as using a virtual auction in place on an in person one. While other fairs have been entirely cancelled, this is a fantastic opportunity for the Kittitas county fair to make itself even better. (Aired 7/21)
2. Fall and football are synonymous in the town of Ellensburg, but this year, the season will be a little less exciting. In a press release, Great Northwest Athletic Conference Commissioner Dave Haglund announced that the CEO Board voted unanimously to suspend all fall athletics in the conference. “The board believes this is in the best interest of our student athletes” said Haglund. The conference will re-evaluate on October 15th, and there is still a chance of fall sports being played in the spring. Because of this, spring football could hold a lot more meaning this year. (Aired 7/20)
3. While the Washington state interscholastic activities association adjusted its sports schedule to allow for minimal fall sports, Kittitas county may not see any sports until the new year. The daily record reports that the majority of the new fall season’s championships won’t take place until the spring, and the only two sports active in the county, cross country and swim and dive, were moved to early spring. Golf, which is typically played in the spring, was moved to the modified fall season, and the athletic directors are in discussions to move the season, though the championships wouldn’t be held until early summer. (Aired 7/30)
4. Eastern Washington is known for its farming, and a group of current and former farm workers are fighting to see changes made to how they are treated. This group of advocates has traveled around to spread the word about alleged exploitation of agricultural workers in Ephrata, Mattawa, and Ellensburg, among other towns. “We are advocating for farmworkers rights... to bring awareness to the death of workers from COVID-19 Across the US and in Washington State” says Eduardo Diaz, who is running for office as a 13th legislative district state representative. Organizers of the marches say they will continue in larger areas, such as Wenatchee and Seattle through the month of August. (Aired 8/5)

F. Local Crime and Fires:

1. Kittitas County deputies are warning of car prowlers in the area. According to a Facebook post by the department, a pattern of a thief robbing cars has emerged in Ellensburg and the surrounding area, especially in recreation areas such as the Yakima River Canyon. They are looking for vehicles with purses, wallets, and bags that are noticeable right away and easy to grab. The thief reportedly goes to Fred Meyer to use the stolen cards to purchase visa or Mastercard gift cards, as to not have

- purchases traced. This is often done before the victim even knows their car has been broken into. If you have any information regarding these thefts, please contact the Kittitas county Sheriff's department. (Aired 7/21)
2. As temperatures in the Kittitas valley stay high, residents are warned to pay attention to their barbecues. A structure fire that was started by an unattended barbecue raged for almost an hour over the weekend, reports the daily record. Taking place on the corner of North Alder and East Dean Nicholson Boulevard, there were no reported injuries due to the blaze. Per Kittitas Valley Fire and rescue chief John Sinclair, a tenant changed their mind about barbecuing that night, and decided to let the coals burn out themselves, which allowed the dry grass and pine needles on the ground to catch fire. A car caught fire, described as a complete and total loss, and over 100,000 dollars in damage was done to the building. Sinclair hopes that this incident serves as a message to residents to always keep an eye on any fires, and to keep their yard clear. (Aired 8/4)
 3. Campgrounds in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National forest were evacuated on Monday, due to a wildfire burning near the Jungle Creek Area. At least 40 acres of the forest have been burned, with smoke being visible as far south as Yakima. In a news release, the forest service said "Due to the fires proximity to dispersed camping areas and developed campgrounds... these recreation sites are being evacuated for public safety." The release also mentions that campers in the area weren't in immediate danger, but were told to evacuate due to the potential for the fire to grow. The cause of the fire is currently unknown. (Aired 8/19)

G. University News:

1. CWU has announced that they have received one of six grants from TD Ameritrade. The grant program is aimed at expanding the pipeline of future financial planners. In the eight years of the program, TD Ameritrade has selected historically black colleges and universities, and Hispanic/Minority serving institutions. Central's selection not only shows commitment to diversity, but also their commitment to excellence. (Aired 7/22)
2. The Ellensburg city council has asked the city attorney to explore options relating to the Black Lives Matter Mural in downtown, reports the daily record. The council has received numerous emails in response to their decision to approve painting the words "Black Lives Matter" on the street next to city hall earlier this month. As of now, approval for the project is at 75%, with 25% disapproval. The city attorney will be examining all issues and options with the project and will complete an analysis of any potential liabilities associated with the project. As of now, the project has raised over \$5000 dollars from a GoFundMe, with the ASCWU donating \$500. Per Ellensburg Mayor Bruce Tab, the legal examination has a deadline of August 17th. (Aired 7/22)
3. Central Washington University has been awarded a NASA grant for earthquake and tsunami warnings, says KREM 2. NASA awarded the second of 3 225,000-dollar payments for the university to create more earthquake and tsunami warnings through the Pacific Northwest Geodetic Array, or PANGA. Using its array through the

northwest, the service can predict when tsunamis are likely, and give warnings as early as possible. With the grant, CWU will be able to help develop more of the technology necessary. (Aired 8/5)

H. National and Worldwide News

1. After the surprise closure of the Houston Consulate, China is preparing to take action. “China will definitely take necessary legitimate actions” said a spokesperson for the foreign ministry. First reported by US News, China’s condemnation sparked from President Trump’s order to close the Houston Consulate in 72 hours. The consulate is one of five in the US. Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus of the State Department said that “The United States will not tolerate the Peoples Republic of China’s violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people. This move comes after US sanctions against Chinese officials in retaliation for the situation in Hong Kong. US officials fear that the next move for China is to turn to Taiwan, to attempt to get greater control over the region. (Aired 7/23)
2. President Donald Trump has suggested a delay in the 2020 presidential election, reports the BBC. Mr. Trump, who is vehemently against mail in voting, calling it inaccurate and fraudulent, has called for a delay as to have accurate election results. Numerous states, including Washington, already use a mail in voting system. Per the constitution, the president does not have the power to move or postpone the election. That decision lies in the two houses of congress, who the president does not have direct power over. Regardless of what happens, this years election cycle will be a sight to behold. (Aired 7/30)
3. A massive explosion has taken place in the Lebanese capital of Beirut. The explosion, which started in a warehouse near the port, struck with a force of a 3.5 magnitude earthquake, and was heard over 150 miles away. As of today, the death toll is 135 people, and there are over 5000 wounded i the blast. Lebanese officials have ruled out foul play, and no terrorist organizations have come forward to take credit. The blast seems to have started following a fire, which ignited improperly stored ammonium nitrate. The United nations, along with France and Israel, are offering humanitarian aid to the city following the tragic event. (Aired 8/5)
4. Potentially life-threatening storm conditions are expected to hit the northeast this week, says US News. Tropical Storm Isaias, which was downgraded after making landfall as a category one Hurricane, has a maximum sustained wind speed of 70 miles per hour, and has already caused tree damages and power outages along the mid atlantic coast. Urban flooding is a dangerous possibility in areas such as Baltimore and Washington DC, with both areas under flood warning. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has declared a state of emergency, and the conditions are expected to spread across New England through Thursday evening. (Aired 8/6)
5. The Washington state attorney general's office filed a lawsuit against the USPS on Tuesday, according to Spokane Public Radio. The lawsuit springs from recent changes in

delivery, as well as the elimination of processing of outgoing mail in Wenatchee, Yakima, and Tacoma. AG Bob Ferguson says that the lawsuit is broader than those in other states, challenging the decision to make the changes without first going through a review process, something that would typically include stakeholders. “The case we are bringing is on behalf of all the service changes and the impacts, the negative impacts, those changes have on Americans in many, many different ways”, said Ferguson. (Aired 8/19)

6. Apple has hit yet another first for publicly traded US companies: the company is now worth 2 trillion dollars in market value. Per NPR, Apple’s market value steadily climbed during the Coronavirus pandemic, even as they were forced to close stores temporarily. This is due in part to the increased demand for iPhones and other devices, as well as an increase in subscribers to their streaming services. Apple’s increasing market value contributed to new record high for the S&P 500-just six months after a massive crash thanks to the pandemic. (Aired 8/19)

I. PSAs:

1. Brief news update saying that CWU enrollment was down only 5% due to the pandemic. (Aired from 9/24 to 9/28, from 7:01:00 to 22:01:00)
2. Goes into detail on how CWU kept enrollment so high. Features an interview with Josh Hibbard, the VP for Strategic Enrollment Management. (Aired from 9/24 to 9/28, from 7:02:00 to 22:02:00)