

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

**AIRED BY KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO
DURING THE 3rd QUARTER OF 2023**

LICENSEE KWUZ FM, THREE EAGLES COMMUNICATIONS

PREPARED BY



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Under the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the licensee of KWUZ FM, Three Eagles Communications is required to place in its public inspection file a list of the licensee considered to have been some of the significant problems, needs and issues of the service area during the last quarter, and some of the programs the station aired to help meet those needs. The process included interviews with leaders and citizens in the service area.

Quarterly Issues and Programming list

News Issues

Quarter: 3RD 2023

7/3/23

Area communities are gearing up for July 4th celebrations tomorrow. Buena Vista is presenting the Fourth of July Festival in McPhelemy Park. Salida's July 4th will be in Riverside Park and is being sponsored by the Salida Rotary Club and the Salida Community Center. The free festivities run from Noon to 10pm.

7/5/23

With the July 4th holiday over, the Colorado Department of Transportation is resuming construction projects. Intersection improvement is underway at the US 285/Colorado 9 intersection on the southside of Fairplay. The project involves road widening to accommodate additional traffic lanes, new signals and sidewalks.

7/6/23

The Chaffee County Community Foundation is inviting all qualified nonprofits organizations within the region to apply for nearly \$49,000 in funds available through its Fall Grant Cycle which runs from July 1st through July 31st.

7/7/23

According to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor report, the entire state of Colorado is drought-free for only the second time in 23 years. Yesterday's announcement comes in the wake of several weeks of heavy, widespread precipitation. The state has seen so much rain this year that Denver broke several precipitation records.

7/10/23

Traffic stops of 30 minutes should be anticipated on U.S. 24 just east of Florissant today for rock removal and cleanup operations. This is part of a project to remove 1,500 feet of rock slope along the north side of the highway and widen the shoulders, improving the sight distance for drivers.

7/11/23

The Park County Coroner's Office has issued a press release identifying a deceased person found on Guanella Pass on July 7th. The person has been identified as 20-year-old Isabelle Walker of Brighton. Walker was reported missing on June 26th. The Park County Sheriff's Office is continuing the investigation into her death.

7/12/23

Five badly decomposed bodies have been found near a remote campsite in Gunnison County.

A hiker found three of the bodies Sunday evening in the woods near the Gold Creek Campground, located in Gunnison County about 7 miles from Ohio City. Gunnison County Sheriff's Office deputies went to the site and found two more bodies. All five were in an advanced state of decomposition.

7/13/23

Colorado Parks and Wildlife says the first bear attack of the year was recorded this week.

On Tuesday, a shepherd in a wilderness area northeast of Durango was woken at 1am in the morning by a bear that was messing with his sheep. The shepherd fired his rifle before being attacked by the bear. CPW said the man had bite wounds on his head, arms and hands. The man was able to crawl to his tent following the attack and phone for help.

7/14/23

The new Scout Wave on the Arkansas River running through Salida created an ideal setting for surfers to take part in their sport however, with the spring runoff, increased flows have caused a dangerous hydraulic effect for unaware boaters.

7/15/23

Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity's 9th annual Mac and Cheese Bake-off fundraiser will take place July 24th at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort. Bakers must register their dish for the bake-off by July 18th, and those who wish to donate a silent auction item must deliver the item by the 18th.

7/17/23

The Salida City Council will hold a work session tonight beginning at 5pm. The work session will start with a site visit to the Pasquale Springs Water Treatment Plant off County Road 175. After the site visit, council will meet back in council chambers for a presentation from the Creative District.

7/18/23

A Heat Advisory is in effect for today. Heat index values are expected to exceed 95 degrees. Hot temperatures and high humidity may cause heat illness to occur.

7/19/23

30,000 people will lose health insurance next month as Colorado shuts down Friday Health Plans.

Friday Health Plans started in Colorado in 2015 with hopes of revolutionizing the health insurance market. Nearly a decade later, the company has imploded, leading tens of thousands of people scrambling to find new health insurance.

7/20/23

A three-judge panel with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled against Alison Brown of Salida in her appeal of a June 2022 judgement against her in U.S. District Court.

Brown's attorney filed the original complaint against Chaffee County in 2019, alleging the county had violated Brown's property rights as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

7/21/23

The Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation is sponsoring an event focused on the growth and change occurring in Chaffee County next Tuesday at the Salida Scout Hut.

Elizabeth Garner, Colorado State Demographer with the Department of Local Affairs, will lead the discussion on understanding change in Chaffee County.

7/24/23

James Barry Vrasic, a Custer County man facing criminal charges including soliciting child prostitution, was released Friday on a \$1,000 bond.

Vrasic's release came after the Custer County Sheriff's Office arrested him Thursday evening on a charge of procurement of a child for sexual exploitation, criminal attempt and soliciting for child prostitution.

7/25/23

The Buena Vista Board of Trustees will conduct a regular meeting tonight beginning at 7pm.

Trustees will hold public hearings on water dedication and allocation policy and on the Crossing Major Subdivision preliminary plat and rezoning.

7/26/23

The identities of three bodies found in Gunnison County earlier this month have been released.

The bodies were discovered in a remote campsite near the Gold Creek Campground on July 9th.

The bodies were said to have been heavily decomposed and no cause of death has been provided by the Gunnison County Coroner.

The dead have been identified as 42-year-old Rebecca Vance, 41-year old Christine Vance and a 14-year-old male, all from Colorado Springs.

7/27/23

Evacuation orders have been issued for the Low Line Fire burning in Gunnison County 14 miles northeast of Gunnison and 11 miles southwest of Crested Butte.

The fire, which was caused by lightning, has burned 720 acres in the Ohio Creek area with no containment.

7/28/23

Chaffee County Public Health is looking for volunteers for the Embracing Aging Expo September 8th at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds.

Volunteers are needed to help before, during and after the event.

7/31/23

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in identifying human remains found in the foothills west of Saguache Peak off County Road 46AA.

The remains are believed to be that of a male, approximately 5'9" tall, with a pants size of 36x30.

The sheriff's office released the pictures of two items found with the remains in hopes someone might recognize them: a metal cross pendant and a brown Florsheim dress shoe.

8/1/23

A fire in Salida is being investigated as arson.

This past Saturday night, both Salida Fire and Salida PD were dispatched to 610 Walnut Street where a fire was reported along a wooden fence. The fire spread to the neighboring property and began burning a trailer next door. The fire department was able to extinguish the fire in short order.

8/2/23

The Buena Vista Police Department has moved into their new building on County Road 317.

All phone numbers are the same-the main number is still 719-395-8654.

The Buena Vista Police Department will no longer be conducting business at 713 East Main.

8/3/23

The Low Line Fire in Gunnison County has grown to almost 1,700 acres and is now 38% contained.

The lightning caused fire broke out on July 26th about 14 miles northwest of Gunnison.

Mandatory evacuations remain in place for the Squirrel Creek and Mill Creek drainages.

8/4/23

A new law in Colorado will allow people to purchase medical and recreational marijuana online, but they would still need to go to the store to pick it up. The law will go into effect on Monday.

8/7/23

The Salida City Council has appointed Christy Doon as Interim City Administrator replacing Drew Nelson who resigned the first of August. Council also named Doon as an alternate member of the Chaffee County Housing Authority Board of Directors.

8/8/23

A Fremont County resident has tested positive for the West Nile virus. According to the Fremont County Health department, a horse in the county has also tested positive for the virus.

8/9/23

The Chaffee County Sheriff's Office is reporting a burglary at Monarch Ski Area.

The sheriff's office received a call reporting the break-in yesterday. Deputies were informed that during the evening hours of August 7th a male, later identified as 35-year-old Johnathan Edward Lee, forced entry into the lodge and damaged several doors by forcing entry.

8/10/23

Ark Valley Humane Society has named Nikki Ritter as their new Executive Director.

Ritter has been a part of the Ark Valley staff for more than four years in multiple roles, most recently as Medical and Transfer Coordinator.

8/11/23

Chaffee County Public Health officials have confirmed the county's first case of West Nile virus. A second suspected case has also been reported.

8/14/23

Kids are returning to the classroom and the Colorado State Patrol reminds drivers to stay alert and watch for pedestrians on foot and bicycles.

According to statewide statistics, last year was a record setting year for pedestrian fatalities with 22% of all traffic fatalities being pedestrians.

8/15/23

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is investigating an accident that occurred yesterday morning on a boat ramp at Eleven Mile State Park.

According to CPW, two men were launching a boat when the driver got out of his truck and was run over. He was transported by helicopter to a local hospital. His condition is unknown.

8/16/23

Work is underway to replace an 85-year-old bridge on Colorado Highway 9, at the base of Hoosier Pass, north of Alma.

Located between County Road 6 and 4, the current bridge is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete.

Shoulder closures are currently in place.

Beginning on Monday, August 21st, expect one lane alternating traffic.

Colorado 9 will be closed entirely beginning on September 7th and continuing through September 14th. Motorists will be required to use Highway 24, Colorado 91 and I-70.

8/17/23

The petition process is underway for those wanting to run for Salida Mayor, one of three City Council seats or City Treasurer. Petitions must be returned by August 28th.

8/18/23

Sangre de Cristo Electric has planned a service outage in the areas of Howard, Coaldale, Cotopaxi, Swissvale, and Salida for maintenance purposes early tomorrow morning from 12:30- 2 a.m.

8/21/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation is paving a segment of Highway 50 between Sargents and Monarch Pass. Motorists will experience full stops and up to 20 minute delays today through Wednesday.

8/22/23

Buena Vista Trustees will conduct a regular meeting tonight beginning at 7pm.

Trustees will hold a public hearing on designating the Pearl Theater building at 316 Main Street as an Historic Local Landmark.

In other business, Trustees will direct staff to file the Town's commitment to become eligible for affordable housing funding through Proposition 123, will hear a final update on the status of the new police station capital project, and will consider a resolution approving an amendment to temporary interim town administrator Phillip Puckett's employment agreement.

8/23/23

The Lowline Fire burning in Gunnison County has grown to nearly 2,000 acres.

The fire, which started July 16th 14 miles northwest of Gunnison is 55% contained.

8/24/23

Coloradans who have accumulated medical debt should check their credit reports as a first-in-the-nation law has gone into effect that essentially removes medical debt from being reported in credit reports.

It is important to note that medical debt isn't forgiven.

An estimated 700,000 Coloradans have medical debt owing more than \$1.3 billion.

8/25/23

The Chaffee Housing Authority is looking for two new directors to join its board: an at-large director and a director from Buena Vista.

The authority is looking for diverse applicants including renters experiencing the housing crisis firsthand.

Applications can be found at ChaffeeHousingAuthority.org. The deadline to apply is September 5th.

8/28/23

The City of Salida will reopen F Street to vehicular traffic this Wednesday.

In a press release, the City thanked businesses for their participation in making the F Street Plaza a welcoming space for citizens and visitors. The

remind businesses to have any property out of the streets and sidewalks prior to Wednesday.

8/29/23

The Chaffee County Sheriff's Office is reporting that over the last month, the office has been investigating a complaint of sexual assault on a child. On August 23rd, the sheriff's office arrested 67-year-old Ernest Dale Himebaugh of Poncha Springs in relation to the investigation. Himebaugh was charged with sexual assault on a child, indecent exposure and false imprisonment.

8/30/23

The 10th annual BV Strong Community Dinner has been scheduled for Monday, September 18th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The simple mission of the BV Strong Community Dinner is "Just Dinner!" Organizers strive to create a locally funded and locally organized activity where the residents of Buena Vista come together in a nonpolitical, noncommercial, nonpromotional event to share food and friendship and nurture a sense of community.

8/31/23

The Internal Revenue Service yesterday published new guidelines that would tax TABOR refunds. Under the new rules, TABOR refunds would be seen as taxable income beginning in the 2023 tax year. The TABOR Amendment requires tax revenues in excess of the revenue cap be refunded to taxpayers. Those refunds have never been taxed by the IRS.

9/1/23

Petitions for the November 7th Salida Municipal Election have been returned and verified.

Salida Mayor Dan Shore will be running unopposed.

In City Council races:

In Ward 1 Suzanne Fontana will not be opposed.

In Ward 2 Adriane Kuhn will face Aaron Stephens.

In Ward 3 incumbent Alisa Pappenfort is being challenged by Jackie Berndt. Adam Martinez submitted a petition but did not have enough valid signatures.

Running for city treasurer are Ben Gilling and Wayles Martin.

9/5/23

Chaffee Chips is gearing up for several upcoming wildfire mitigation events. Partners with the county's Chaffee Chips slash haul away and chipping service encourage homeowners to get ready for events in Trail West September 19th through the 21st, October 3-5th in Mount Harvard Estates, Pinon Hills October 11th and Mesa Antero October 17-19th.

9/6/23

The Chaffee County Community Foundation is offering the 2023 Community Summit, giving Chaffee County nonprofits training in skills building, professional development, leadership growth, and collaboration opportunities through the day-long program.

The day will conclude with the Community Awards where the Foundation will recognize the nonprofit of the year, philanthropist of the year and volunteer of the year.

The community summit is September 19th at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds.

9/7/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation is closing a portion of Colorado Highway 9 beginning today to replace a bridge north of Alma at the base of Hoosier Pass. The bridge is located between County Roads 4 and 6. The full closure will stay in place for one week, until September 14th.

9/8/23

A suspect has been arrested in a 55-year-old cold case in Fremont County. 86-year-old Keith Emmanuel Smith has been arrested and faces a second-degree murder charge.

The Florence Police Department said Smith's arrest is in connection to the killing a 14-month-old baby back in 1967, identified as Roxanne Archuletta. Smith has been living in Florence for decades and was arrested at his home next to Pioneer Park. He was recently indicted by a grand jury for the murder.

He is being held in the Fremont County Jail on a \$10,000 cash bond.

9/11/23

The Buena Vista School District has announced that there are eight candidates for the five open seats on its board.

For District 1, incumbent Brett Mitchell is challenged by John Casey Martin, in District 3-Norman Nyberg, District 4-George Richardson, At Large four years-Mallory Brooks and Montana Brown and At Large two years Paula Dylan and Trinda Windle.

Election Day in November 7th.

9/12/23

A body discovered over the weekend at Florence River Park has been identified as the Salida man who went missing after wrecking his motorcycle and being ejected into the river June 22nd in Parkdale.

He has been identified as 59-year-old Derik Pulos.

9/13/23

Charges have been dropped against Poncha Springs childcare worker Roberta Rodreguez.

A second Chaffee County day care worker charged with child abuse after a pants-down incident in a room of preschoolers and toddlers will not go to trial.

The Colorado Sun reports that Chaffee County prosecutors yesterday filed a motion to drop the charge against Roberta Rodriguez, former director of The Schoolhouse in Poncha Springs. Rodriguez had been charged with failure to report child abuse after a 5-year-old boy at the center was accused of pulling down a classmate's pants while the teacher stepped out of the room to start a load of laundry.

9/14/23

The District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District told county commissioners of the district this week that she will not seek re-election in 2024. Linda Stanley said she made the decision more than a year ago. Stanley made the announcement Monday during a budget meeting with commissioners from all four counties in the 11th judicial district.

9/15/23

Motorists can expect up to 20-minute delays next Monday through Thursday while the Colorado Department of Transportation paves Highway 24 near Clear Creek Reservoir. Operations will take place 1 mile south of Granite. Travelers will encounter full stops and one-lane alternating traffic.

9/18/23

The Salida City Council will hold a joint work session with the Planning Commission tonight at 6pm. There are four items on the agenda: Salida Campground concept review, 2024 budget presentation, certificate of participation for the fire station and a fire station contract discussion. A regular meeting of the Salida City Council will take place tomorrow night.

9/19/23

The U.S. Forest Service will conduct a prescribed burn this Friday through Sunday in the Mount Shavano area. The project involves burning up to 915 acres near Droney Gulch, six miles northwest of Poncha Springs. Smoke will be visible for several days.

9/20/23

The Salida School District was placed under added layers of security this past Monday at the request of the Salida Police Department. Police responded to Salida High School and asked that it be moved to a Lockdown status. Salida Middle School, Horizons Exploratory Academy, and Colorado Mountain College were also put into Lockdown while Longfellow Elementary, Salida Early Childhood Center and the Crest Academy all moved to a Secure status.

9/21/23

Central Colorado Conservancy announced that Nancy Roberts is the recipient of their 2023 Conservation Award. The award will be presented at the Conservancy's Stewardship Gala tonight at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort.

9/22/23

A Red Flag Fire Warning is in effect for today. This has prompted the U.S. Forest Service to postpone the prescribed burn scheduled for this weekend in the Mount Shavano area.

The Forest Service will conduct the burn Monday if weather conditions improve.

9/25/23

Chaffee County Public Health is sponsoring an influenza vaccination clinic Wednesday at the Buena Vista Community Center and October 3rd in Salida at the Touber Building.

Insurance will be billed. You must bring your insurance card with you. At this time, Public Health does not have influenza vaccine for uninsured adults.

9/26/23

Poncha Springs Trustees last night appointed Leslie Klusmire to the position of Interim Town Administrator.

Poncha Trustees also discussed amendments to the lease of the old schoolhouse to Chaffee County Childcare, secured the town attorney's services in drafting an agreement with Chaffee County Amateur Hockey, and held a discussion on how passage of Proposition HH this November would affect municipal budgets.

9/27/23

The Chaffee Housing Authority has provided an update on the construction of Jane's Place.

The Authority received an award letter from the Division of Housing in July for the Transformational Affordable Housing Grant to close the construction funding gap for Jane's Place.

Since that time, the Authority has been working with its lender and the general contractor in anticipation of beginning vertical construction for the project.

Unfortunately, the hold up is that the Division of Housing has yet to issue the contracting documents and funds for the grant.

9/28/23

The remains of Suzanne Morpew have been found.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation located human remains during the course of a search for Edna Quintana who has been missing from the Saguache area since May 3rd. The remains were positively identified as 49-year-old Suzanne Morpew.

Morpew was reported missing from her home in Maysville on May 10, 2020, Mothers Day.

9/29/23

Human remains discovered by a hiker on the Ute Trail near County Road 182 have been identified as a missing 22-year-old hiker from Eaton.

In March of 2021, the Salida Police Department received a missing person's report for Nathan Schwartz. Investigators learned that Mr. Schwartz was last seen at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ

Quarterly issues addressed in News Programming
Quarter: 3rd 2023

Firmly committed to serving all elements of this community, KWUZ continues to cover issues of significance in newscasts aired on a daily basis, Monday through Friday at 6am, 7am, 8am, 12n, 3pm, 4pm and 5 pm.

Breaking news of immediate nature is also incorporated into programming as the need occurs.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAM LIST

QUARTER: 3RD 2023

Salida Chamber of Commerce	Every Day	Chamber Executive Director talks about events going on around town. We run 30 second announcements called Chamber Buzz.
Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce	Every Day	Designed to highlight the events in and around Buena Vista. It's called Chamber Chat. They are 30 announcements that run daily.
Salida SteamPlant	Every Day	At The SteamPlant announcements are recorded updates that highlight the programs and meetings held at the city owned facility.
Salida Chamber	2nd Wednesday	Broadcast live from Business After Hours to talk to the community about the benefits of joining the Chamber.
Buena Vista Chamber	3rd Wednesday	Broadcast live from Business After Hours to talk to the community about the benefits of joining the Chamber.
Community Service Announcements	Daily	Community Service announcements run twice per hour promoting everything from blood drives, fundraisers, school and church events, etc.
Lost Pets	As Needed	We are known for our Pet Patrol. If you lose a dog or cat, you call Heart of the Rockies Radio.
Road Reports	As Needed	These are important for locals and tourists alike. Snow in the winter and flooding in the spring and summer. Accidents on mountain roads are common.
Superintendents Show	Weekly	Superintendents from Salida and Buena Vista Schools join us to talk about what's happening at their schools, updating students and parents in each district.