

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

AIRED BY KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO

DURING THE 2nd QUARTER OF 2023

LICENSEE KWUZ FM, THREE EAGLES COMMUNICATIONS

PREPARED BY



Danny Ridenour

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: 2nd 2023

4/3/23

Pre-evacuation status remains in effect for parts of Park and Teller counties in the area of County Road 403 and Alpine Meadow Lane for the 403 Fire.

In an update yesterday, Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell told the good news to the community that they can return home.

4/4/23

Strong, gusty winds continue in the area today producing critical fire weather conditions. A Red Flag Fire Warning remains in effect. No open burning is allowed.

4/5/23

Chaffee County declared Blue Triton Brands to be “in compliance” with the terms of the company’s 1041 permit during yesterday’s County Commissioners meeting, based on a review of the 2022 Blue Triton Annual Report.

The annual report is a requirement of the 1041 permit, which allows the bottled-water company to use local groundwater for its Arrowhead brand bottled spring water.

4/6/23

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is hosting a listening session to provide an opportunity for cooperative members to ask questions and share feedback regarding a proposed rate restructure. The meeting is scheduled to take place tonight from 6pm to 7:30pm at Buena Vista High School.

4/7/23

This week’s drought monitor shows that most of Colorado is still drought free, and snowpack is playing a big role in helping out.

Colorado’s snowpack is 140 percent of normal with the highest snowfall west of the Divide.

4/10/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation is set to resume improvements today to Highway 50 through Little blue Creek Canyon near Gunnison.

Safety improvements include widening a 4-mile stretch of the highway and adding paved shoulders.

Lengthy closures and one-lane alternating traffic will be required to complete the project.

4/11/23

Details are emerging about the brutal murder of an elderly couple in Howard. Arrest records reveal that weeks before the killings, the couple complained about the man who is now charged with their murders.

The Fremont County Coroner believes 83-year-old Carl Cooper and his 75-year-old wife Susan Cooper were beaten to death with a stoker and other fireplace tools.

4/12/23

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Foundation is now accepting applications for the Charles J. Forster scholarships. There are two \$2,500 scholarships available for current college students planning to pursue a career in healthcare.

4/13/23

Chaffee County Public Health is offering community Narcan training for overdose prevention tonight.

Narcan is a drug that is used to reverse opioid overdose, and it is typically administered as a nasal spray.

4/14/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin a 21-day full closure of Highway 24 from Antero Junction to Hartsell next Monday.

The closure will be in place so the Department can replace 2 outdated bridges.

4/17/23

The Salida City Council will hold a work session tonight beginning at 6pm.

The lone agenda item is a discussion on a new pool.

The Salida City Council will conduct a regular meeting tomorrow night.

4/18/23

The Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce is hosting the regional competition of the National Civics Bee tonight.

Middle school students from the area will compete in a live quiz event and answer questions from judges to test their civics knowledge.

4/19/23

A portion of the Colorado Gator Farm in Mosca burned to the ground yesterday.

According to the Mosca-Hopper Fire Department, crews responded to the alligator farm at 4:30 yesterday morning. At the scene, crews found a section of the structure had burned and some animals inside did die.

4/20/23

The Bureau of Land Management has entered Stage I fire restrictions due to dry conditions and high fire danger. The restrictions apply to all BLM administered public lands in the Royal Gorge District including those in Custer, Fremont and Teller counties.

4/26/23

The 365 Health Fair, formerly the 9Health Fair, returns to Leadville this Saturday.

The 365 Health Fair will offer free and affordable preventive health screenings from 8am to 1pm at Lake County Elementary School in Leadville.

4/27/23

Colorado home values shot up across the state during the housing boom. Now county assessors are trying to brace homeowners for new valuations that could lead to higher property taxes.

Property owners in Chaffee, Lake and Park counties will see residential median increases of 40 to 60%.

4/28/23

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has taken steps to simplify Covid-19 vaccine recommendations and allow more flexibility for people at higher risk who want the option of added protection from additional Covid vaccine doses.

These changes include: Allowing an additional updated vaccine dose for adults aged 65 and older and additional doses for people who are immunocompromised. Original Covid-19 vaccines are no longer available.

5/1/23

A backcountry skier was killed in an avalanche near Breckenridge over the weekend. The Colorado Avalanche Information Center say the solo skier was buried in an avalanche on Bald Mountain in Summit County. The identity of the skier has not been released. Saturday's incident brings the number of avalanche fatalities in Colorado this season to 11.

5/2/23

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and the Colorado Department of Transportation is urging motorcyclists and all drivers to practice safe habits on the road. The reminder comes as Colorado motorcycle fatalities have reached their highest level on record.

5/3/23

The Salida Police Department is seeking assistance from the public in locating a white 4-Runner that was involved in a hit and run this past weekend. Sunday morning at 3am, the Salida Police Department was dispatched to a hit and run accident that occurred at the F Street turnaround. It was reported that a white SUV has run over a woman. Officers arrived and found a female subject lying on the ground with injuries to her legs and lower back. Officers and EMS provided aid to the female then transported her to Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center and was then flown to a hospital in Colorado Springs.

5/4/23

A 2½ year process ended yesterday when the state's Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously voted to finalize a voter approved plan to return endangered gray wolves to the state for the first time since the 1940's.

5/5/23

Chaffee County Public Health, in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, is presenting the educational program "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body" today from 3pm to 4:30pm at A Church at 419 D Street in Salida. You will learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

5/8/23

Highway 24 from Antero Junction to Hartsell is back open today. The section of Highway 24 has been closed for the last 21 days to allow for replacement of two outdated bridges.

5/9/23

The Teller County Coroner's Office yesterday released the identities of four Florence residents who died in a small plane crash over the weekend off Phantom Canon Road near the Fremont County Line. The bodies of Bruce Claremont, Laurie Aves and Roger and Katherine Duncan were located Sunday after a search of the area.

5/10/23

The Chaffee County Road and Bridge Department will be applying DuraBlend on multiple county roads for dust mitigation today.

DuraBlend is a liquid mix of water, magnesium chloride, and a plant based polymer that is sprayed on roads to control dust on unpaved services, it also helps protect the road base and reduces potholes and washboarding.

The DuraBlend application is scheduled for County Roads 107a, 110, 152, 175, 176, 320, 361, 365, and Palohne.

5/11/23

A new construction project has begun on Highway 24 between Florissant and Divide. Expect delays with one-lane alternating traffic.

Construction delays can also be expected through Woodland Park.

Road work continues on Highway 50 just east of Maysville.

5/12/23

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is saying that a mountain lion was euthanized in Buena Vista yesterday after it swatted at a young girl causing a puncture wound to her face.

According to CPW, they responded to a house in a rural area southeast of Buena Vista, where they found the young mountain lion in a chicken coop. The 11-year-old girl said she was attacked when she entered the chicken coop. The girl said she went to check on her chickens after she found one dead on the ground. When she opened the door, the mountain lion was inside and swatted at her face.

The girl was taken to Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center for treatment.

5/15/23

The Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement are teaming up for the May Mobilization seat belt enforcement period beginning today. This is the largest seat belt enforcement period of the year spanning 21 days.

Also, heightened DUI enforcement begins today as part of the Heat Is On campaign leading up to Memorial Day.

5/16/23

The Salida City Council will conduct a regular meeting tonight beginning at 6pm.

Council will hear citizen comment regarding food trucks in closed public rights-of-ways in downtown Salida.

Under new business, council members will hold a public hearing for an amplified noise permit for High Side Bar and Grill, consider a resolution adopting the policy statement for the Colorado Communities for Climate Action and will vote on an ordinance concerning vehicles and traffic, to limit excessive vehicle idling within the city.

5/17/23

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center will offer a free men's health course beginning on Tuesday, June 20th. This five-week course will take place weekly (with the exception of July 4th) from noon to 2pm.

Classes will be held in the group exercise room at the HRRMC Outpatient Pavilion.

5/18/23

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office has requested the help of The Colorado Bureau of Investigation in locating a missing Saguache woman.

According to the CBI, Edna Quintana was last seen May 3rd in the Saguache area. She has brown hair and brown eyes. She stands 5'5" and weighs 120 pounds. She was reported missing by her family on May 6th.

Quintana's picture can be seen on our website, heartoftherockiesradio.com.

5/19/23

Ark Valley Humane Society is hosting the 6th annual Tails on the Trail 5k Race tomorrow. Registration and check-in begins at 10am at the F Street parking lot. The Race begins at 11am. This dog-friendly walk/run will benefit both Ark Valley Humane and the Salida Dog Club.

5/22/23

The City of Salida public parking lots located on West First Street and at the north end of F Street are closed today for maintenance and dust control applications.

The Department of Public Works is asking motorists not to enter the parking lots during the closure. The parking lots are expected to be back open within 24-hours.

5/23/23

Air quality alerts remained in effect as Colorado saw another day of hazy skies and poor visibility. It is all because of wildfire smoke from Canada drifting south into Colorado. The air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups. Symptoms of eye irritation, runny nose or cough could be worse for people with lung or respiratory issues, or asthma or allergies.

5/24/23

A Salida man is in the Chaffee County Detention Center today after eluding police and barricading himself in a van.

Yesterday afternoon, the Salida Police Department issued a statement asking the public to be on the lookout for 40-year-old Charles "Brandon" White who was wanted on a "no bond" warrant for violating a protection order, domestic violence, and obstructing the police.

White first eluded police officers by crossing the Arkansas River near Elm Drive and running towards Sweetwater Gulch. He was seen by mountain bikers at the intersection of Sweet Dreams and Chicken Dinner trails.

White was eventually located by police and he barricaded himself in a van. After a TASER deployment, White was arrested and taken to the Chaffee County Detention Center.

5/25/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to expect additional traffic for the Memorial Day weekend as the summer travel season gets underway.

Heavy traffic is anticipated along the Front Range and mountain highways.

To help improve traffic flows, CDOT is suspending all construction and maintenance projects from Friday through Tuesday of next week.

5/30/23

The City of Salida announced the pending departure of City Administrator Drew Nelson over the Memorial Day weekend.

The press release says the Salida City Council was provided a letter by City Administrator Drew Nelson stating his intention to leave the position no later than August 1st. Nelson has been the City Administrator since October of 2018.

5/31/23

Boating season is here and Colorado Parks and Wildlife wants to make sure people are being as safe as possible as they get back on the water. According to CPW, 2022 was the deadliest year on the water on record in Colorado with 40 water related fatalities statewide. CPW reports that most of those fatalities were related to not having life jackets available. When it comes to drinking and boating, boating under the influence is something rangers monitor and will issue tickets for, just like driving under the influence.

6/1/23

The Colorado State Forest Service is awarding \$9.5 million to local governments across 16 Colorado counties to help reduce the risks of wildfires. The Incentives for Local Government grant program will fund 28 forest management and wildfire projects around the state. Chaffee County was awarded just over \$575,000 for the Chaffee Landscape and Community Fire Mitigation Project.

6/2/23

The Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Community Picnic in the Park tomorrow starting at 10am in McPhelemy Park. The Community Picnic will feature live music, concessions, the library summer reading kick-off and the dedication of the new Legacy Stage. Bring your own chairs, blankets and picnic baskets.

6/5/23

Motorists can expect delays today and tomorrow on Highway 50 between Salida and Howard due to paving operations. Travelers will encounter full stops and one-lane alternating traffic guided by portable traffic signals. Motorists traveling between Salida and Howard should anticipate up to 30-minute delays.

6/6/23

The Chaffee Housing Authority invites you to meet new Executive Director Ashley Kappel tonight from 5 to 6pm at the Boathouse taproom in downtown Salida. A meet and greet with Kappel will take place in Buena Vista next Monday night at Deerhammer Distillery.

6/7/23

Property owners who want to protest their 2023 Notice of Valuation have until tomorrow to appeal. The valuation reflects the actual value of properties based on local market sales over the past two years and differ from the Assessed Value that is used to calculate property taxes. This year's valuation will include a tax estimate, but final tax liabilities will not be determined until taxes such as mill levies are set by each taxing authority at the end of 2023. Property owners have seen increases of 40 to 60 percent and more.

6/8/23

The Chaffee County Landfill must suspend the acceptance of refrigerator, freezers, air conditioners, and other items containing freon gas. The local professional agency that had previously removed freon per EPA requirements is no longer offering this service and so they cannot be accepted for disposal.

6/9/23

The staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center were alerted yesterday to a phone scam that offered 50% off of HRRMC bills if they returned the call by June 16th.

This offer is fraudulent; please do not return the call.

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center says the safety and security of their patient's is of utmost priority. Call HRRMC Financial Counseling at 530-2475 if you have any questions.

6/12/23

Buena Vista Trustees are accepting letters of interest from Town residents seeking to serve as a Trustee to fill the vacancy created by Mark Jenkins resignation.

Trustees must be a registered voter, at least 18 years of age, a primary resident for at least 12 consecutive months and must maintain residency throughout the term of office.

Letters of interest and the required questionnaire must be submitted to the Town Clerk by 5pm next Monday, June 19th.

6/13/23

A father of 13 is dead following a rafting incident over the weekend.

According to a new release, Dr. Dustin Harker, a doctor from Hutchinson, Kansas, was on a whitewater rafting trip with friends from church and four of his thirteen kids when his raft capsized.

The accident happened on the Arkansas River in the area of Sunshine Falls.

6/14/23

Chaffee County Public Health has expanded its clinical services to include sexually transmitted infection testing.

Chaffee County Public Health has launched a new program and website, GetTestedChaffee.com, in an attempt to provide a central resource of options for STI testing in the county.

Testing is available by appointment at the Touber Building in Salida on Wednesday afternoons. To make an appointment, call 719-539-4510. The testing is free to everyone.

6/15/23

Upon recommendations from the Fremont County Sheriff, Fremont County Commissioners suspended fire restrictions in the county effective immediately.

Commission Chair Kevin Grantham reminded the public to remain vigilant with fire whether a ban is in place or not.

6/16/23

FIBArk continues today.

President of the FIBArk Board of Directors Lindsay Sutton-Stephens told Heart of the Rockies Radio News that after the loss of the carnival, they are trying to "pivot to the positive."

She said that in keeping with the spirit of FIBArk, they are creating a "Hooligan Carnival" with an American Ninja Warrior course, a zipline down Sackett Avenue from Captain Zipline and Ramps and Alleys is setting up a full skateboard course. They are also challenging the community to come together and build the Hooligan Carnival on Sackett.

6/19/23

A man has died after a commercial boating accident on the Arkansas River just past the Royal Gorge Bridge.

According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, several passengers fell out of the boat just past Boat Eater Rapid Monday afternoon. A 60-year-old man was pulled out of the water but was unresponsive. Guides immediately pulled the boat to the side of the river and one began CPR while the other grabbed a heart defibrillator that are stationed along the river.

Despite best efforts and continuing CPR, the man was pronounced dead at the scene by responding emergency personnel.

At this time the identity of the man is not being released.

This marks the 12th confirmed water-related death in Colorado this year.

6/20/23

The Cotter Uranium Mill in Fremont County closed in 2011, yet more than five million tons of toxic waste at the Superfund site hasn't been cleaned up. No U.S. legislator is getting involved. Representative Brittany Pettersen wrote a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency with concerns about the slow cleanup process of the shuttered uranium mill. In the letter, she included multiple requests to improve the health and safety of the community.

6/21/23

The Bureau of Land Management's Rocky Mountain Advisory Council will meet at the BLM's San Luis Valley Field Office tomorrow with an optional field tour on Friday. The meeting and tour are open to the public.

Agenda items include the Browns Canyon National Monument administrative jurisdiction, Penrose Commons off-highway vehicle issues, dark skies reserves, and chronic livestock trespass and other grazing factors in the San Luis Valley.

6/22/23

An 18-year-old Cotopaxi teen died Tuesday in an accident involving two vehicles on Highway 50 near Howard.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, the accident involved a Chevy Silverado and Ford F 150. Fremont County Coroner Randy Keller identified the driver of the Chevy as Shane Semer of Howard, who was ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the Ford was transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

6/23/23

The governor has declared a disaster emergency for several Colorado counties after yesterday's severe storms.

Governor Jared Polis issued the declaration for Lincoln, Elbert, El Paso and Washington counties. Severe thunderstorms and flash flood warnings were in effect last night as weather systems moved across the state.

At least one tornado touched down, causing damage in the Highlands Ranch area.

The governor's declaration frees up funds for the recovery and allows for the use of state resources.

6/26/23

The Town of Poncha Springs is asking for your input on Highway 50 Corridor Planning and Design.

The Town says the project has been established as a priority on the Colorado Department of Transportation regional 10-year plan. The aim is to finalize a design concept with the help of public input and collaboration with the Town of Poncha Springs.

The draft designs being offered permanently reduce the old five-lane section of Highway 50 through Poncha Springs to three lanes.

Concept 1 would place a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 50 and County Road 127/Tailwind Street. Concept 2 would place stop signs on Tailwind and County Road 127 and no stop signs for drivers on Highway 50.

Take the survey by going to ponchaspringscolorado.us.

6/27/23

The 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office said yesterday that authorities are still looking for the body of Suzanne Morphew so that her homicide case can be prosecutable either against her husband, Barry Morphew, or someone else.

Morphew previously was charged with his wife's death after her disappearance from their home in May 2020, but his case was dismissed by the DA's office without prejudice in April 2022, just days before it was set to go to trial.

6/28/23

Residents and visitors are heading outdoors to recreate, increasing their chance of interacting with local wildlife and insects. Animal related diseases are diseases that can be carried from animals or insects to humans. An estimated 60% of known infectious diseases and up to 75% of new or emerging diseases are animal related in origin.

Chaffee County Public Health wants to ensure that all residents and visitors are able to safely enjoy the outdoors and are aware of some simple steps they can take to stay safe around animals and insects.

Chaffee County Public Health is posting signs at popular trailheads and open spaces informing the public about animal related diseases they may encounter in the area.

6/29/23

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

Under business items, Trustees will consider an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. After appointment, the new Trustee will take the Oath of Office and take their seat on the board.

In other business, Trustees will vote to accept or reject the 2022 financial statement and audit reports, receive an update in the new police station project, and consider an agreement for an easement encroachment into the Town right-of-way adjacent to 116 North Court Street.

6/30/23

Evacuations have been put into place for a 10-mile radius around a fire burning west of Trinidad. The Titan Fire is just under 1,000 acres. A total of 23 residences have been evacuated. Officials say no structures have been lost.

The state took over response efforts yesterday, and an additional 70 firefighters from across the state are headed to assist Las Animas County.

KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ

Quarterly issues addressed in News Programming
Quarter: 2nd 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: 2nd 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.