

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

**AIRED BY KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO**

**DURING THE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER OF 2024**

**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: 1st 2024**

1/2/24

The Town of Buena Vista's next municipal election will take place on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to elect three Trustees to serve a four-year term of office. Also, one additional Trustee position with a term expiring in 2026 is open.

If you are interested in being a Town Trustee and would like additional information, stop by Town Hall to pick up a Candidate Information Packet and Board of Trustees Handbook, or you may access the documents on the Town website at [buonavistaco.gov](http://buonavistaco.gov).

1/3/24

Chaffee County Commissioners yesterday approved a motion for the county to participate in the Colorado Executives Investing in Children program as a collaborating employer for children needs assessment and analyses.

Katy Welter of Watershed, Inc. and Buena Vista School Superintendent Lisa Yates, made a presentation to the commissioners regarding the Buena Vista Childcare Needs Assessment and the potential relocation and expansion of early childhood care in Buena Vista.

1/4/24

The Salida City Council this week voted unanimously to approve the impact review for the new Flour Mill development.

Residents who live on County Road 105 spoke at the public hearing voicing their concerns with traffic and parking.

The current plan for the Flour Mill development, owned by Rob and Sarah Gartzman who also own Sweeties Sandwich Shop and The Biker and the Baker, includes 69 units on 2 acres of the former Vandaveer Ranch. The units would be a combination of single-family homes, duplexes and apartments. There will be 48 studio apartments and 21 two-bedroom units.

The Gartzman's said they are attempting to build the Flour Mill development to provide affordable workforce housing.

1/5/24

The League of Women Voters of Chaffee County will hold a town hall session with Chaffee County Commissioners on Monday.

The Town Hall will be held at the Poncha Springs Town Hall from noon to 1pm.

Commission Chair Keith Baker will begin the meeting with an overview and update followed by Commissioners Greg Felt and P.T. Wood talking about their specific areas of responsibility. Questions and answers will follow.

1/8/24

The Colorado Department of Transportation is warning drivers of hazardous driving conditions. A significant winter storm has brought heavy snow to the southern mountains, blizzard conditions to the southeast plains, and high winds and blowing snow along the I-25 corridor from Trinidad to Denver.

1/9/24

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

1/17/24

A group of Fremont County homeowners has filed an appeal with the State of Colorado in hopes of overturning an Australian company's permit to drill for uranium.

The project is located on the Hansen Deposit, which is part of Tallahassee Creek in Fremont County. The homeowners say they want to know the environmental and health impacts that come with drilling for uranium before the company begins.

The homeowners say their biggest concern is uranium seeping into the groundwater, as many in the area get their drinking water from wells. Others are also concerned about the impact on wildlife in the area.

The state appeal hearing is taking place today in Denver.

1/18/24

The Custer County Sheriff's Office is reporting on their Facebook page that they received notification that a lawsuit had been filed against three former deputies and one current detention deputy. The lawsuit alleges that a deputy used excessive force while arresting a 16-year-old and that two other deputies, along with one current detention deputy, failed to intervene. The incident occurred on January 18, 2022. The allegation is that deputies responded to a call about a runaway teenager and ignored signs of sexual assault and human trafficking and instead repeatedly tased the 16-year-old girl.

The press release states that the current sheriff, Rich Smith, has not yet been served with the lawsuit but is very concerned about the allegations.

1/19/24

A week after heavy snow, Colorado has seen a notable improvement in snowpack.

Last week at this time, our state's snowpack was at 70%. This week, that number has improved to 90%.

The Arkansas River Basin is currently at 83% of normal. The Gunnison basin at 93% and the Colorado basin is at 97% of average.

1/22/24

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center medical providers that were located in the Antero Pavilion will be seeing their patients at their new location at the Salida Health Center on Highway 50 beginning today.

Patients can continue to make appointments with Dr. Grant-Nierman, Sarah Laing and Dr. Lombardo through the Salida Health Center.

1/23/24

Chaffee and Fremont County Commissioners say they're concerned over a recent change in the office of 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Linda Stanley.

They say her office is now operating on a four-day, 32-hour week, and they believe the decision will hinder the office's ability to prosecute criminal cases.

Chaffee County Commissioner Greg Felt said, "It's not a game. We're seeing cases dismissed, we're seeing sanctions that lead to lighter sentences for truly serious crimes."

The commissioners argued the schedule change will have a ripple effect and possibly jeopardize the prosecution of criminal cases.

1/24/24

Monday was the deadline to circulate and turn in trustee candidate petitions for the Town of Buena Vista April election. Six candidates returned petitions. They are Michal Rosenoer, Andrew Rice, Thomas Brown, Margaret Huyck, Devin Rowe, and Andy Matkovich.

On the following evening two electronic speed signs located on Rodeo Road and West Main Street were damaged. The damage to these signs appeared to be caused by a baseball bat and totals \$7,400. Around the same time, another electric meter near the Post Office was vandalized resulting in \$200 in damage.

2/2/24

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect for the mountains through Sunday. Up to 2 feet of heavy wet snow will be possible along the Divide.

An Avalanche Watch is also in effect.

Travel will become hazardous across the state.

Before heading out this weekend, motorists should take advantage of the Colorado Department of Transportation's cotrip.org to get real time information regarding road closures and conditions.

2/5/24

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

Discussion items include use of affordable housing funds, Interstate Parking program, council handbook overview and an update from Chaffee Housing Authority.

A regular meeting of the Salida City Council will take place tomorrow night.

Chaffee County Commissioners will conduct a regular meeting tomorrow beginning at 9am.

During a work session today, commissioners are having a discussion with an AT&T representative about their extended service outage.

2/6/24

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host a public meeting to address concerns about recurring toxic algae blooms each summer at DeWeese Reservoir and the agency's response.

The meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Westcliffe Public Library.

Toxic algae blooms have become a seasonal problem at DeWeese. Algae are an important part of the aquatic food chain, but some blue-green algae can produce toxins that may cause negative health impacts for humans and pets at elevated concentrations.

2/7/24

The proposed geothermal plant in northern Chaffee County will be the topic of discussion at the Chaffee County Patriots town hall meeting this Friday night at 6:30pm.

Fred Henderson, Blaine Clark, Brian O'Connell, Terry Scanga and Hank Held will make up the panel.

The Chaffee County Patriots town hall meeting takes place at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Buena Vista.

2/8/24

Salida schools are saying that they responded to a Salida Police Department request yesterday for added layers of Security.

The Salida High School campus was placed under an added layer of security on Wednesday. The building was placed under a "Hold" while Salida Police Department investigated a concern.

Police determined there was no immediate threat and released the building to normal operations.

The school appreciates everyone's support as we all work together to investigate all concerns to student safety.

2/9/24

The search is underway to replace Salida City Councilman Harald Kasper. Kasper resigned this week following public scrutiny after he moved out of his district and into the county.

Presidents Day is one of the busiest mountain traffic weekends of the year as people make their way to the ski resorts.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is reminding drivers headed to the mountains this holiday weekend to ensure their vehicles are prepared for winter roads.

With busier roadways forecast this weekend, the Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement are teaming up for the Presidents Day Weekend DUI enforcement period.

Drivers will see sobriety checkpoints and additional law enforcement on duty dedicated to arresting impaired drivers.

2/19/24

The City of Salida has announced that F Street will remain open to vehicular traffic this summer. In a press release, the City said, “a number of concerns have been identified by community members and City staff with keeping the street closed. Downtown is the highest risk for the fire department and during the closure, access to downtown buildings by fire or other safety officers was severely limited. Barricading the streets makes our downtown corridor less universally accessible and creates challenges for people to find parking and frequent their favorite shops and restaurants.”

The City said they are currently working to improve the signage throughout town, including downtown. Investments in beautification and lighting will take place this summer.

2/20/24

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is hosting an Ice Fishing 101 clinic this Sunday at Eleven Mile State Park.

The clinic will be held from 9am to 1pm and is designed for novice anglers interested in learning the basics of ice fishing.

Equipment will be provided. The ice fishing clinic is open to all ages however, all participants 16 and older must have a valid Colorado Fishing license.

2/21/24

The Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Foundation is now accepting applications for the Dr. William Mehos scholarship. The scholarship awards \$1,250 to a 2024 graduating high school senior who resides in the Salida Hospital District, which includes Chaffee, Saguache and western Fremont County.

Applicants must be accepted to a college or university this fall, and plan to major in a healthcare field.

Guidelines and application forms are available through local high school counselors or through the HRRMC website.

The deadline for applications is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

2/22/24

The Chaffee Housing Authority invites you to take their survey regarding affordable housing issues and a potential ballot measure this November.

Visit the website [chaffeehousingauthority.org](http://chaffeehousingauthority.org) and click on the Housing Ballot Measure Survey button to take the survey.

The Authority says your answers are completely anonymous and confidential. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

2/23/24

Chaffee County Public Health has announced that CU Anschutz is offering Emergency Go-Kits and Battery Backup Power Systems for eligible Medicaid recipients. There are also virtual trainings available to anyone about “Surviving in Place.”

The Chaffee County League of Women Voters is holding a Buena Vista Candidate forum tonight beginning at 5pm at the Congregational United Church of Christ.

The program will begin with introduction of candidates, a lightning round of questions, followed by questions from media outlets then Candidating, where each candidate will go from table to table where citizens can get to know the candidates and ask their own questions.

Finally, each candidate will answer one last question from the League.

A 30-minute meet and greet with the public will wrap up the evening.

The six candidates running for the four open Buena Vista Trustee seats are: Thomas Brown, Maggie Huyck, Andy Matkovich, Andrew Rice, Micha Rosenoer, and Devin Rowe.

3/6/24

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released updated respiratory virus guidance. The guidance removes the recommendation for a 5 day isolation period with Covid-19 infection and urges that people stay home when they are sick with any respiratory illness and practice additional precautions for 5 days after returning to normal activities. This guidance does not apply to healthcare settings.

The CDC's updated guidance streamlines recommendations for dealing with a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, such as Covid-19, flu and RSV.

The first recommendation for people who get sick with a respiratory virus is simple: Stay home and away from others.

3/7/24

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a funding package yesterday which includes over \$12 million for 14 community projects secured by Representative Brittany Pettersen that span Colorado's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Two of those projects are in Chaffee County and would improve an affordable housing project in Salida, as well as \$1.3 million for a new affordable housing and childcare facility in Buena Vista.

3/8/24

Chaffee County Democrats will hold their Democratic Caucus, Assembly and Convention tomorrow at 1pm at the Salida Middle School. Check-in and registration are at 12 noon.

Preregistration can be completed by going to the website [chaffeecountydemocrats.org](http://chaffeecountydemocrats.org).

3/11/24

The intersection of West Main and Rodeo Road in Buena Vista will be closed today as contractors work to remove a hazardous cottonwood tree between Rodeo Road Trail and private property to the south.

The detour will route drivers north of Rodeo Road, south on Raymond Lee Drive, east on Connie Drive and south on Rodeo Road. The Parks Department is supervising the tree removal and will be on site to direct traffic.

3/12/24

An AARP Safe Drivers course is being offered this Friday from 12noon to 4pm at the Salida Community Center.

The course promotes safe driving for seniors. Participants receive a discount on auto insurance after completion.

To register, call 539-3351. Cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for nonmembers.

3/13/24

The Salida Fire Department and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District have joined together to offer the Ranch Hand Controlled Burn Program.



3/21/24

The Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Business After Hours tonight at High Country Bank on Highway 24.

The newly elected Chamber Board will be introduced.

The networking event is from 5pm to 7pm, free, and open to all chamber members, their staff and to anyone considering joining the chamber.

3/22/24

Registered voters in Buena Vista and Poncha Springs should have received their ballots for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> municipal elections.

Six candidates are running for four open trustee seats in Buena Vista: Thomas Brown, Maggie Huyck, Andy Matkovich, Andrew Rice, Micha Rosenoer, and Devin Rowe.

The 8 candidates running for the 3 open seats on the Poncha Springs board of trustees are: Hunter Sydnor, Nancy Compton, Tina Perri-Mundy, Leann Olson, Michael Coleman, James Baker, Paul Brackmann, and Thane Good.

Poncha Springs Mayor Ben Scanga is running for re-election unopposed.

3/25/24

The Chaffee Housing Authority has announced its intention to place two measures on the November 2024 ballot to address the housing crisis in Chaffee County. The Chaffee Housing Authority is advocating for the elimination of current Taxpayer Bill of Rights spending limits and the implantation of a sales tax increase.

The De-Brucing measure would allow the Housing Authority to keep state, local and grant funding above the TABOR caps.

Chaffee Housing Authority is also proposing a half-cent sales tax increase county wide with a 10-year sunset provision. The sales tax increase is expected to generate \$3.5 million annually through 2035. This tax would fund CHA programs and projects aimed at affordable housing.

3/26/24

The Town of Buena Vista, along with Fading West and Collegiate Peaks Bank, will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for Midland Apartments this coming Monday.

The Midland Apartments project is a public-private development that will feature 60 apartments with affordable rental rates that is designed to help address the housing crisis that exists for the local workforce. The project will also feature an almost 5,000 square foot childcare center.

3/27/24

Canon City Police are investigating the cause of a partial building collapse yesterday afternoon at 612 Main Street in Canon City.

Crews responded to the site just before 6pm to discover the east wall of the building had collapsed. No injuries were reported.

The bottom part of the building is a business, Atomic Vapor, and the top half is a residence. Two people live in the apartment, but neither was inside when the wall collapsed.

The cause of the collapse is unknown at this time.

3/28/24

In the coming weeks, Park County leaders plan to address what they describe as growing challenges to short-term rentals.

Commissioners this week briefly considered a resolution that called for a moratorium on short-term rental applications but quickly backed off, acknowledging they need more public input.

KWUZ FM 97.5 MHZ

Quarterly issues addressed in News Programming

Quarter: 1st 2024

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: 1st 2024

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.