


**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

**AIRED BY KGKG AM 1340/102.9 FM SALIDA, COLORADO**

**DURING THE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER OF 2023**

**LICENSEE KGKG AM, HEADWATERS MEDIA**

**PREPARED BY**

  
**Danny Ridenour**

Under the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the licensee of KGKG AM, Headwaters Media 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 PROGRAM LIST

### QUARTER: 4th 2022

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.
1/31/2023	6:17	Newly elected Chaffee County Commission Chair Keith Baker was in the studio to talk about the commission's goals for 2023 and the investigation into The Schoolhouse daycare center.
2/7/2023	3:34	Students from Darren Patterson school in Buena Vista were interviewed about a book they wrote called "Some Kids We Know." The book is supposed to

help first responders help kids in emergency and crisis situations.

- 2/16/2023 5:11 Chaffee County Veterans Service Officer Liesl Hammond told us about the upcoming Veterans Fair and Town Hall meeting. The fair and town hall are meant to inform veterans of the benefits available to them and to provide feedback to the VA on how they can do better.
- 2/21/2023 3:49 Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Heather Rupska says that they are now accepting applications for kids to take part in the first Civics Bee to be held April 18th.
- 3/1/2023 4:27 Colorado Mountain College Interns Jaden Tidwell and Makiyah Paris talked about their experience with the CMC Internship Program and urged area business owners to take advantage of internship opportunities.
- 3/13/2023 4:49 Attorney Nathan Lawrence told our audience about an upcoming Salida Chamber of Commerce legal seminar designed to inform local business owners on how legal work can serve to increase profits. The seminar is free and everyone is welcome.

KGKG AM 1340

Quarterly issues addressed in News Programming

Quarter: 1st 2023

Firmly committed to serving all elements of this community, KGKG 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 Programming list**

### **News Issues**

#### **Quarter: 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

1/2/23

Chaffee County's historic Granite Bridge is due to get a facelift.

The 112-year-old bridge is getting some substantial rehabilitation to maintain its service into the next century.

The bridge, located along Highway 24 at Chaffee County Road 397, has numerous structural and design issues including substandard guardrails, single lane construction, corrosion on several truss and deck steel members, and deteriorated abutments.

Chaffee County has been planning the \$3.1 million project for several years. Grant funding of \$1.3 million from the Special Highway Committee and \$1.2 million from the Federal Highway Administration will cover the majority of the cost. The county will cover the balance of the expense from its capitol improvement funds.

The project is expected to begin in the spring and conclude by the end of 2023.

1/3/23

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

In unfinished business, council will hold two public hearings; the first is amending the municipal code regarding zoning variances, the other would rezone certain lots in the River Ridge and Dutch Run subdivisions from a mix of high density residential and manufactured housing to entirely high density residential.

In new business, council will consider approving the 505 Oak Street planned development major impact review. Council will also consider the annexing the Stringer Annexation and rezoning the property as commercial.

The Salida City Council will also read a proclamation for Veteran's Day and proclaim November Native American Heritage Month.

1/4/23

The Chaffee Housing Authority is seeking interest from the public to fill one vacant seat on its board of directors, the county-wide At-Large seat.

Chaffee county residents who are interested in applying can find more information, including a job description and application, at [chaffeehousingauthority.org](http://chaffeehousingauthority.org).

Qualifications for this position includes being at least 18 years old, a full time resident of Chaffee County, and having interest in and support for creating safe, stable, and accessible housing for Chaffee County residents.

Applications will be accepted through January 16th.

1/5/23

The Chaffee County 'We Are Chaffee' storytelling initiative has announced a partnership with the Buena Vista library to display the 'We Are Chaffee' storyboards. This will allow community members access to these short stories told by local people in each of the county's libraries.

The storyboards will be displayed at the Buena Vista Library during the month of January.

The stories are part of an effort to create awareness and compassion for the diverse populations in Chaffee County.

In addition, Colorado Mountain College has opened registration for the 'We Are Chaffe' video storytelling workshop. Classes will be held on 4 Sundays from 3-6pm beginning February 26th.

Contact [LMartin@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:LMartin@chaffeecounty.org) for more information.

1/6/23

An investigation is underway into a suspected murder-suicide involving a child in Teller County. Teller County Sheriff's Office investigators say the murder-suicide involved a father and son. At this time, it's unclear who is considered the victim and who is considered the suspect in the case. Additionally, the sheriff's office isn't clarifying where the murder-suicide took place, despite a Facebook post indicating a possible location in Florissant. The Teller County Sheriff's Office said yesterday that more information will be released after the Colorado Bureau of Investigation completes its investigation.

1/9/23

The Fremont County Sheriff's Office is alerting the public about a police impersonator who recently stopped a driver on Colorado 115. The suspect is described as a young, white man between 20 and 30 years old with reddish hair styled in a mullet. He has a thin mustache and was wearing a backward ball cap, sunglasses, a ballistic vest over a long-sleeved gray shirt and dark pants. The suspect's vehicle is a gray Dodge Charger with red and blue lights on the visor. If you have any information that could help investigators, you are asked to contact the Fremont County Sheriff's Office.

1/10/23

Chaffee County Commissioners will conduct a regular meeting today beginning at 8:30am. The meeting will begin with Judge Patrick Murphy swearing in elected officials of Chaffee County government. Following the swearing in ceremony, commissioners will elect a commission chair and vice-chair.

1/11/23

A special meeting of the Salida Hospital District board of directors has been called for today. The special meeting begins at 5pm. The lone agenda item is a discussion concerning local government participation with the paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Program.

1/12/23

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center is urging residents and tourists alike to heed dangerous avalanche conditions in the backcountry this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend as the number of avalanche deaths in the state continue to increase. Four Coloradans have died in avalanches over the last three weekends with more snow in the forecast for Colorado this weekend, officials are urging those looking to recreate in the backcountry to be mindful of conditions before heading out the door. The Avalanche Information Center says over 870 avalanches have been recorded in Colorado since December 26, over 50 avalanches were triggered this past weekend alone. The avalanche danger in most of the state is being rated "considerable."

1/13/23

The City of Salida has launched a community survey asking residents questions about affordable housing and changing Salida's form of government from a Statutory Rule system to a Home Rule system. The City says that council members and staff want to know your opinion, and your responses will help shape future city decisions. Take the survey by following this link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Salida\\_PE22\\_LIVE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Salida_PE22_LIVE). The survey closes on Monday, January 23rd.

1/16/23

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is warning anglers of life-threatening ice conditions at Eleven Mile State Park.

CPW said in a press release, "The reservoir is experiencing unprecedented, dangerous pressure ridges. Park rangers estimate the most unstable ice conditions by Witcher's Cove and Coyote Ridge."

While there have been no injuries after several people have fallen through the ice, anglers are at particular risk.

Officials recommend those ice fishing to fish in huts, with at least two anglers in a hut.

Anglers are advised to call the Eleven Mile State Park Office to get the latest updates on current ice conditions.

1/17/23

A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect through tomorrow afternoon.

Motorists should brace for another round of winter storm activity that will create hazardous travel conditions.

The storm will intensify as it moves across the Divide today and tonight. Plan on snow packed and icy conditions through the weekend.

Motorists should Know Before You Go and visit COtrip.org to see what the road conditions look like or if there are closures before heading out.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center has issued an Avalanche Warning for the southern part of the state. The avalanche condition in our immediate area is being rated Considerable.

1/18/23

Governor Jared Polis' office issued a release last night announcing that State of Colorado government offices will be closed across the state today due to extreme weather conditions.

The release said state facilities essential to public health and safety will maintain regular operating schedules and "essential personnel" must report to work at their normal time.

1/19/23

The Chaffee County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will be offering a free Family-to-Family class on Saturdays beginning February 4th. The 8-week class will be offered both in-person and virtually. It will offer the opportunity to share experiences, gain insight, hope, acceptance, compassion and understanding in caring for a family member with a mental illness. These classes are targeted to family caregivers, close friends, and other relatives of someone who lives with a serious mental illness, and are taught by trained facilitators.

To register, send an email to [scrump1999@gmail.com](mailto:scrump1999@gmail.com).

1/20/23

Multiple snow storms over the last couple of months have erased all drought across the mountains with dramatic improvement across the plains.

The mountains have seen the biggest and clearest reduction in drought over the last 30 days.

Moderate drought remains extensive over the plains, but notable improvement has been made.

Estimates from Open Snow show ski areas across Colorado seeing anywhere from 90 to almost 200 inches of snow since December 1st.

As of yesterday, Colorado is doing quite well with 7 out of 8 river basins showing above normal snowpack.

Snow pack totals across the state range from 150% of normal in the Yampa and White River Basin to 85% of average in the Arkansas Basin.

1/23/23

The City of Salida is kicking off a community planning process for the South Ark Neighborhood on January 31st.

The South Ark Neighborhood—an approximately 100-acre portion of the former Vandaveer Ranch property that is currently owned by the city. The planning process intends to identify the best uses for the site to serve the community. Uses that could include recreational fields and facilities, housing (including affordable housing), natural open space, and educational facilities. The process will culminate with an actionable master plan for the site.

The planning process for the South Ark Neighborhood is expected to run through the Summer and will include a variety of public input opportunities.

The first of these will take place on January 31st at the Salida SteamPlant from 5:30 to 7:30pm. To stay informed and engaged in the process find the link on the City of Salida's Community Development Department webpage for updates.

1/24/23

The City of Salida has issued a reminder to property owners of their responsibility to remove snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. Ignoring snow removal poses safety hazards, especially when conditions lead to a layer of ice. The City also asks that you place the snow in your parkway or yard and not in the roadway.

Citizens are also encouraged to utilize off-street parking during snow storms. Cars parked on the roadway during snow plowing operations limit the ability to effectively plow the street which can lead to prolonged ice build-up.

During larger snow events, city staff will be working to remove snow from the downtown early the following morning. This work is generally located between E and G Streets and between Sackett Avenue and 4th Street. Access will be intermittent during work activities and on-street parking will be prohibited.

1/25/23

All Coloradans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits will see a reduction in their monthly benefit amount after February. The temporary additional emergency allotments are ending as a result of Congressional action. This change enacted by Congress is not appealable.

Emergency allotments gave SNAP participants additional money for food during the Covid-19 pandemic. This reduction in benefits may have a significant impact on many households. SNAP serves more than 290,000 households and 554,000 individuals in Colorado each month.

SNAP participants can call 719-530-2500 extension 1 for questions about their benefits. If your household does not participate in SNAP and you are interested in helping, consider donating funds or food items to your local food pantry or food bank.

1/26/23

The Chaffee County Community Foundation has opened the Spring Grant Cycle for the City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista.

The Foundation has partnered with Salida and Buena Vista to administer over \$131,000 in competitive grant funding, which is available to nonprofit organizations serving these two communities.

More information and applications are available by going to [chaffeecommunity.org](http://chaffeecommunity.org).

1/27/23

The state's vaccine bus will be in Salida tomorrow at Alpine Park from 10am to 4pm. .

The Covid-19 vaccine and flu shots will be available. Vaccines are free and no appointment is necessary.



1/30/23

Chaffee County Commissioners have called a special meeting for tomorrow beginning at 12noon.

Several items are on the agenda including filling vacancies on the Planning Commission and Visitor's Bureau, ratifying two letters of support for the Chaffee Housing trust and will consider a request to dedicate the lodging tax to the Chaffee Housing Authority.

The major item on the agenda is an executive session prompted by the recent actions at The Schoolhouse day care center. Commissioners are requesting details on the investigation by the sheriff and Department of Human Services. Listed participants of the executive session include County Attorneys Daniel Tom and Lynda Knowles, County Administrator Bob Christiansen, DHS Director Monica Haskell and Sheriff John Spezze.

1/31/23

A bipartisan group of Colorado lawmakers unveiled a bill yesterday to crack down on car thefts in the state. The bill changes the classification of charges a thief will face, no longer tying the charge to the value of a car but to the seriousness of the crime and prior offenses.

It is estimated that more than 40,000 cars were stolen statewide in 2022, a 12% jump from the previous year.

2/1/23

Buena Vista Mayor Libby Fay has declared this week to be Youth Appreciation Week in BV. As part of Youth Appreciation Week, the Buena Vista Optimist Club, as it has for the past 44 years, joins the Town and Buena Vista School District in expressing appreciation and support of the positive contributions that our young people have made to their school and community. 38 kids will be recognized from all grades tomorrow when the Optimist Club serves breakfast to the kids and their families, followed with award presentations by the mayor and Superintendent Lisa Yates.

2/2/23

Chief Judge Patrick Murphy yesterday appointed a new judge for the case involving Roberta Rodriquez and Amy Lovato of The Schoolhouse Day Care Center in Poncha Springs.

Rodriquez and Lovato each face misdemeanor charges of failure to report child abuse and knowingly placing a child in a situation that poses a threat of injury.

Park County Judge Brian Green will now preside over the case. A motions hearing in front of Judge Green will take place February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lovato's attorney Jason Flores-Williams indicated yesterday the he would be entering a not guilty plea and will request a jury trial.

Judge Dianna Bull disqualified herself from the case on Tuesday because she has a child that attends The Schoolhouse Day Care.

2/3/23

A high-speed chase yesterday in Buena Vista results in one arrest.

The Buena Vista Police Department intercepted a vehicle that was fleeing from law enforcement that was coming into the Buena Vista town limits. The incident began at 1:30pm yesterday afternoon when officers were alerted to a reported apparent hit and run west of BV in the area of County Road 306. A Chaffee County Sheriff's deputy located the vehicle and tracked it at high speeds traveling east toward Buena Vista. The suspect nearly went into a ditch, and numerous people were seen in the area on foot. The situation was considered to be dangerous and the pursuit was called off.

Shortly after, officers with the Buena Vista Police Department observed the vehicle coming into town at a high rate of speed, and it was weaving over the center line. As the vehicle slowed for traffic at the W. Main and U.S. 24 stoplight, officers were able to approach the driver and remove him from the vehicle. A police presence was in the area during this time, traffic was briefly stopped.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as 44-year-old Daniel James Archuleta of Littleton. Archuleta was booked into the Chaffee County Detention Center on two counts of felony vehicular eluding, speeding, reckless driving, and felony driving under the influence of alcohol. Archuleta has had four previous DUI convictions.

No officers were injured during the encounter.

2/6/23

The Colorado Department of Revenue says that processing for the majority of state income tax filers will begin no later than February 10 and that people can still file their income tax returns right now through all methods with the exception of the state's Revenue Online platform. Coloradans will be able to use Revenue Online to file their state income taxes no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Last November Coloradans voted to lower the income tax rate to 4.4%, when coupled with multiple legislative changes created a much larger end-of-year programming workload for the Department, resulting in the slight delay.

Up to date information on the delay can be found by going to [tax.colorado.gov](http://tax.colorado.gov) and clicking on the banner.

2/7/23

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

The consent agenda calls for approving a Monarch Madams special event, the FIBArk Boathouse lease agreement with the city, awarding the 2023 Street Reconstruction project, agreement for transfer of entitlements at Harriet Alexander Field and the partial release of the line of credit for the Salida RV Resort.

In new business, council will vote on a resolution amending the 2023 fee schedule, make citizen appointments to the Public Art Commission, and amending the municipal code regarding stormwater management standards.

2/8/23

A special meeting of the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners has been called for today.

The lone agenda item is an Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a concluded criminal investigation regarding The Schoolhouse Day Care Center.

Commissioners, along with staff, will be joined by Chaffee County DHS Director Monica Haskell and Sheriff John Spezze.

At yesterday's regular meeting, Chaffee Commissioners approved the EMS North-End Public Safety Facility project.

The new building would be located on Gregg Drive in Buena Vista and house EMS, the county Sheriff and would have a meeting room for commissioner and community meetings.

Cost of the project is estimated to be almost \$11 million. Funding for the project will come from the county general fund with help from the federal government and DOLA grants.

2/9/23

Chaffee County Democrats and Republicans are reorganizing.

The Chaffee County Republican Central Committee will hold the Republic Party organizational meeting Saturday at the Poncha Springs Town Hall. Check-in begins at 9:30am.

The Chaffee County Democratic Party has set its reorganization meeting for Monday at the Salida Scout Hut in Riverside Park. Sign-in begins at 5:30pm. Organizers ask that Democrats register as soon as possible by emailing [info@chaffeecountydemocrats.org](mailto:info@chaffeecountydemocrats.org).

2/10/23

Alamosa Police credit citizens and workers at the Alamosa Walmart store for saving a young child from being kidnapped.

According to police, officers were dispatched to the Walmart yesterday afternoon on reports of an attempted kidnapping in progress. Police arrived and learned a woman grabbed a young child from a shopping cart and tried to flee.

However, police said that citizens and store staff were able to restrain the woman until police arrived, the child was reunited with their parents.

50-year-old Kimberli Jones of Blanca was taken into custody and was books into the Alamosa County Detention Center on charges of Kidnapping, felony menacing, child abuse and disorderly conduct.

2/13/23

The Chaffee County Youth Alliance, a community based prevention program promoting youth development, is offering its 6<sup>th</sup> annual mini-grant application process for organizations working with youth across Chaffee County. CCYA plans to distribute a total of \$7,500, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per grant to support projects and programs focused on positive youth development.

Applications may be requested by emailing [dolson@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:dolson@chaffeecounty.org).

2/14/23

A Winter Storm Watch is in effect through tomorrow.

Heavy snow is expected. Winds will be gusting to 45 mph.

Travel will be difficult. Areas of blowing snow could significantly reduce visibilities.

2/15/23

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center is rating the avalanche danger in much of the state as high.

Very dangerous avalanche conditions exist. Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended.

2/16/23

Last night, members of the Buena Vista Police Department, along with the Chaffee County Tactical Team, executed a search and arrest warrant at a residence on S. Colorado Avenue in Buena Vista. 29-year-old Jack George Jacobs IV was arrested on charges of criminal mischief, retaliation against a witness and intimidation of a witness. The charges stem from an incident on the night of February 14<sup>th</sup> where Jacobs is suspected of smashing out the window of a Buena Vista police car.

Officers of the Buena Vista Police Department previously arrested Jacobs on the morning of February 4<sup>th</sup>. In this incident officers responded to the area of S. Colorado Avenue on the report of a domestic violence incident. A female told police her boyfriend had forcefully abducted her, stolen her car, and assaulted her. In that case, Jacobs was charged with domestic violence, third degree assault, aggravated motor theft, second degree kidnapping and obstructing police.

2/17/23

Coloradans across the state are gearing up for Presidents Day weekend, a three-day stretch that historically draws some of the highest mountain traffic totals of the year. With more cars

traveling mountain corridors, winter driving safety is especially crucial. Motorists unprepared for winter conditions can cause closures, lengthen travel times and heighten their risk for slide-outs and crashes. Amidst peak travel this long weekend, the Colorado Department of Transportation is reminding drivers headed to the high country to ensure their vehicles are prepared.

2/20/23

The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District has started a project to replace the Cottonwood Lake dam and overcome operational limitations that restrict the reservoir's usefulness for water storage.

The main goal of the dam upgrade is to "regain lost storage volume."

The 1950's era dam is located in the San Isabel National Forest between Buena Vista and Cottonwood Pass. Before the Forest Service built the dam, the natural lake had a 35-acre surface area. The dam raised the water level by 3 feet, adding 125 acre-feet of storage capacity.

The new design will need approval from the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and the Water District will need to negotiate a new special use permit with the Forest Service.

2/21/23

The Salida School Board is inviting members of the community to join them for public listening sessions tomorrow at 8:30am at Robins Restaurant on west Highway 50 and again at 5:30pm at Soulcraft Brewing.

The sessions will be casual, and board members will be available to listen to ideas and thoughts from the community. The board says they made significant progress on the strategic goals they identified as priorities in August and continue to look to the future of Salida Schools and the anticipated growth in the District.

2/22/23

A 22-year-old man has been arrested on armed robbery charges.

This past Saturday night, the Salida Police Department was dispatched to an armed robbery that had occurred at the Shell gas station on east Highway 50 in Salida. An employee of the gas station told dispatch that he had just been robbed at gun point. Members of the Salida Police Department and Chaffee County Sheriff's Office immediately responded.

In speaking to the victim, it was learned that a male subject came into the store with a gun and demanded items from him. The clerk gave the subject the items and then fled the store on foot. Due to a threat the subject made, the store clerk didn't call the police for 30 minutes. A short while later, Salida PD was able to obtain the video footage from the store. While watching the video, an officer recognized a stain on a hat that was worn by the male subject. The subject also had the same hat on during a prior incident involving law enforcement. That information was relayed to officers in the area.

Later that evening, 22-year-old Cody Lambert was found and placed into custody. Lambert was taken to the Chaffee County Detention Center and charged with aggravated robbery and menacing. He is being held on a \$10,000 cash bond.

2/23/23

Sixteen different schools across Colorado went on lockdown yesterday for either a fake mass shooting or bomb threat. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security are now looking into the wave of disruptive school threats across the state.

From Estes Park to Denver to Durango to Canon City, parents were on high alert as schools were the target of hoax calls, or swatting.

Schools were put on lockdown as authorities say that threats like these are not taken lightly, especially after the number of tragic mass shootings in Colorado.

Colorado's Department of Emergency Management said the monitored the threats and none have been determined to be credible.

2/24/23

Funeral services, with full military honors, will take place Sunday at 1pm at Buena Vista High School for Marine Christopher Hutchings. Hutchings was assigned to the Marine Aircraft Support Squadron and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. He was found dead in his barracks on February 5<sup>th</sup>. His death is still under investigation.

Local law enforcement and first responders will lead a procession to honor Hutchings on Sunday. The procession will leave the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office in Salida at 12:30pm traveling west on Highway 291 then north on 285/24 into the Town of Buena Vista. The procession will turn right on East Main and proceed to South Court Street then to Marquette Avenue to Buena Vista High School. A map of the route can be seen on our website, [heartoftherockiesradio.com](http://heartoftherockiesradio.com).

Citizens are asked to line the route waving either the American Flag or U.S. Marine Corps Flag to honor Christopher.

2/27/23

Two backcountry skiers died on Saturday when they became buried in an avalanche near Vallecito Reservoir in La Plata County near Durango.

About 80 miles east, a second slide was triggered over the weekend, carrying a snowmobiler with it. The snowmobiler was hurt but survived. The avalanche was reported in the Hourglass Path near Wolf Creek Pass.

Last week's heavy snow and continued high winds are combining to make dangerous avalanche conditions.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center is rating the avalanche danger across the state as Moderate. Heightened avalanche conditions exist. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully.

2/28/23

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center will assume management of the Fairplay-based clinic beginning tomorrow.

The clinic will operate under the name HRRMC South Park Health Care. Dr. Katherine Fitting and family nurse practitioner Heike Peterson will continue providing care to the Park County community at the clinic. There will be no pause in services, as all clinic staff and providers will remain at the clinic.

The HRRMC South Park Health Care clinic will provide family medicine care for patients of all ages.

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center CEO Bob Morasko said in a press release, "We are working diligently to transition smoothly, with the goal of adding more services later in 2023 and in the future."

The clinic is located at 525 Hathaway Street in Fairplay, and will be open Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

To make an appointment, call 719-836-0334.

3/1/23

Several rural western Colorado communities are exploring possible legal action against the U.S. Postal Service in an attempt to fix longstanding problems that have crippled mail and package delivery to their residents and businesses.

With the backing of six other municipalities—Avon, Buena Vista, Parachute, Silverthorne, Snowmass Village and Steamboat Springs—the town of Crested Butte has retained the services of Denver law firm Kaplan Kirsh and Rockwell. The towns aim to force both near-term action

and long-term policy changes to fix, what the towns are calling, the most broken region in the nation when it comes to mail and package delivery.

Karl Hanlon who serves as the attorney for some of the towns involved in the case, says no decision has been made yet about whether to proceed with a lawsuit. He points out that mayor and managers from all of the communities have been in contact with Postal Service officials and their Congressional representatives, but while there have been improvements in some jurisdictions, several of these municipalities have only seen the problem get worse.

3/2/23

Family and Youth Initiatives is hosting a mentor recruitment open house tomorrow from 4pm to 6pm at Bunny and Clyde's at 1<sup>st</sup> and G Street in downtown Salida.

FYI is looking for adults (must be at least 21 years old) to be mentors to area youth. Coffee, drinks and snacks will be provided.

3/3/23

A suspicious death investigation is underway after a body was found along Highway 67 in Teller County.

The Teller County Sheriff's Office closed Highway 67 between Divide and Cripple Creek for 5 hours yesterday.

The Colorado State Patrol said they're assisting the sheriff's office in a deceased body investigation. They can't say whether or not it's criminal at this time.

The Teller County Sheriff's Office said this is a "suspicious death investigation." A spokesperson for the department said, "The Sheriff will not be releasing any statements at this time. We are investigating a suspicious death and we will update the public as we receive more information."

3/8/23

Don Reimer has been named the sole finalist in the search for the new Chaffee County Administrator.

Reimer previously served with Chaffee County Government as County Engineer and Planning Director from 2002-2014. He is currently the Community Development Director for the Town of Frisco.

Chaffee County opened the national search in early January to find a successor to Bob Christiansen, who announced his retirement in December after 16 years in the County Administrator role.

County Commissioners announced Reimer as the sole finalist at yesterday's regular meeting. The final hiring decision is planned for the commissioner's meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

3/9/23

A wildfire in Custer County was contained yesterday before it was able to damage any structures.

The fire was reported at 5pm and was located on the north side of Highway 96 along County Road 285.

The Custer County Sheriff's Office issued evacuation orders for a few homes in the area.

As of 5:40pm yesterday, crews with the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District and Deer Mountain Fire said that the fire was almost completely contained and all structures in the area were protected.

There is no word at this time as to the cause of the fire.

3/10/23

The Colorado State Patrol is asking for the public's help in locating a vehicle that was involved in a deadly hit-and-run crash 13 miles north of Alamosa.

The crash happened Wednesday night on Colorado 17 in Mosca.

The State Patrol said a pedestrian was killed, and the driver did not stop after the crash.

The patrol believes the involved vehicle may be a black semi-truck with a tanker trailer. It may have damage to the front left portion of the truck.

3/13/23

A car accident over the weekend claimed the life of a Salida man and his son.

The accident happened Saturday near Saguache on Highway 17. Jeffery "Mo" Shacklett and his son Jeff "Buck" Shacklett were pronounced dead at the scene. Buck was a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Salida High School.

The school has released a statement saying, "Students, staff and community members will react in different ways to the death of one of our school members. The most important thing we can do is to be supportive and encourage an open expression of feelings."

"At school, we will implement a plan for responding to this tragic event focused on helping our students and families. Counseling will be available today for students and staff members. If our child or family needs counseling support, please visit room 107 at Salida High School. Counselors will be staffing the location throughout the day."

3/14/23

The Florence City Council has voted to hire its first female city manager.

In a special meeting, the council voted offer a contract to Amy Nasta. Nasta's job offer comes after the city spent more than 18 months without permanent leadership.

Former Florence City Manager Mike Patterson was fired and arrested for his harassing behavior toward women he supervised at city hall.

Nasta was among 30 other candidates vying for the city manager job and was offered a contract worth \$138,000.

Nasta currently serves as the Deputy City Administrator in Gardner, Kansas. She will begin her duties with Florence on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

3/15/23

The San Luis Valley Region and its six participating counties are in the final stages of updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. A Hazard Mitigation Plan analyzes vulnerabilities to natural hazards and identifies mitigation actions that can be taken to minimize property damage and public safety risks.

The planning process began in February 2022. It has resulted in an update to each county's existing Hazard Mitigation Plan into on cohesive, regional plan.

The Saguache Board of County Commissioners will adopt the updated plan at their March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The updated Hazard Mitigation Plan can be read in its entirety by following the link found within this story on [heartoftherockiesradio.com](http://heartoftherockiesradio.com).

3/16/23

The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin a 21-day closure of Highway 24 from Antero Junction to Hartsell on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

The detour will be a lengthy one, using Highway 285 to Fairplay then Highway 9 back to Hartsell. A map of the closed section of highway and the detour can be seen on our website, [heartoftherockiesradio.com](http://heartoftherockiesradio.com).

3/17/23

The Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board is updating a Corridor Management Plan for the Collegiate Peaks Scenic & Historic Byway. They are requesting input for the updated plan from now to April 15<sup>th</sup>. Overview of the byway itself is available at [collegiatepeaksbyway.org](http://collegiatepeaksbyway.org). Designated in 2005, the 57-mile long Byway travels through the middle of the Upper Arkansas Valley and offers unique “Heart of the Rockies” experiences and access to an abundance of natural, cultural, and scenic opportunities. The Byway runs along Highway 24 from north of Granite to Poncha Springs.

The updated management plan will outline how Chaffee County will continue to enhance, protect, promote, and benefit from the unique character of the Byway.

Input can be provided in-person at City Market in Buena Vista on March 29<sup>th</sup> and at Safeway in Salida on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

3/20/23

Colorado is cracking down on drivers with expired registration or tags, and new Colorado residents who don't register their car within three months of moving to Colorado.

State lawmakers passed the Colorado Registration Fairness Act last year and the new law went into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Part of the law requires a person to register their vehicle in Colorado within 90 days of moving to the state. Anyone who fails to register their vehicle within the 90-day grace period will be required to pay the vehicle's registration taxes and fees that are pro-rated from the date the person became a Colorado resident.

Another part of the law requires that Colorado residents register their cars within 60 days of buying them, and not let their temporary tag expire. Drivers who fail to do this will be fined \$25 a month for every month they're late, and up to \$100.

3/21/23

The Chaffee County Landfill will be closed to the public tomorrow from noon to 3:30pm to allow for staff training on a new point-of-service software program being implemented this month.

The county says the new “SMS Turbo” system will streamline scale operations and automate recordkeeping and accounting. In addition to improving the transaction process for both county staff and landfill customers, the system will allow for more efficient and accurate data capture and reporting to regulatory oversight agencies such as the Colorado Department of Health and Environment.

The landfill will reopen for regular hours on Thursday.

3/22/23

The Bureau of Land Management is preparing to conduct a prescribed burn in the Deer Haven area, about 15 miles northwest of Canon City.

Approximately 107 acres of BLM land will be treated to reduce accumulated hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat. The prescribed burn will begin as soon as weather conditions permit. Smoke will be visible for several days after ignition. Firefighters will be on site for several days to patrol the burn.

3/23/23

The Buena Vista Police Department moved Buena Vista Schools into “Secure” status on Wednesday.

A press release issued overnight by Buena Vista Police Chief Dean Morgan said, On the morning of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we learned of yet another school shooting in Colorado, this time at East High School in Denver. It was reported that two administrators had been shot and that the suspect was headed southbound on Highway 285 and into the mountain areas. This information prompted the



BV Police Department to ask the BV Schools to go into a "Secure" status. Secure means that all exterior doors of a school are locked, and all staff and students outside the school are brought inside. An increased law enforcement presence was maintained at the schools. Due to the suspect's direction of travel, the Secure level was requested as a precautionary measure. It was learned later in the night that the suspect's vehicle had been located in Park County, and a body had been found near the vehicle belonging to 17-year-old Austin Lyle. The search for the suspect was called off.

Buena Vista Schools will continue as usual today.

Park County Sheriff Tom McGraw has confirmed that the suspect's vehicle and a body were found on County Road 68 in Bailey. The Park County Coroner is conducting his investigation and will issue an update on the person's identity and manner of death as available.

3/24/23

The Park County Coroner says that the Denver East High School shooting suspect died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The determination was part of the coroner's preliminary autopsy report, which was released yesterday afternoon.

The shooting suspect, 17-year-old Austin Lyle, is accused of bringing a gun to school and shooting two administrators Wednesday morning. One administrator was released from the hospital Wednesday afternoon, the other remains in serious condition.

After the shooting, Lyle left the school in a red Volvo which was found outside Bailey late Wednesday afternoon. His body was found in the woods near the car several hours later.

Reports that Lyle was traveling south on Highway 285 after the shooting prompted the Buena Vista School system to move to "Secure" status on Wednesday.

3/27/23

Fire season is here.

Local fire departments and first responders were called to a grass fire in the vicinity of Chaffee County Road 253 yesterday.

Chaffee County Sheriff John Spezze reports that the fire burned in a field between County Roads 140 and 253 just east of County Road 250. The fire was being pushed by high winds towards several homes. An Everbridge alert was sent out to residents in the area and those homes that were threatened were evacuated. Firefighters immediately began addressing the fire at the houses it was approaching. Fire crews were able to stop the fire within feet of the residences and outbuildings.

Sheriff Spezze says that this is a good reminder that we are entering into that time of year of heightened awareness of fire safety. Proper address signs at your home, being prepared in case of evacuation and making sure you are registered with the Everbridge Alert System utilized by the Chaffee County Sheriff's to notify residents in times of emergency. Land lines are automatically registered with Everbridge, cell phones are not. Register today by going to our website, [heartoftherockiesradio.com](http://heartoftherockiesradio.com).

It is also imperative that you clean all debris and flammable materials away from your home. Keep your grass and weeds cut as short as possible and do proper mitigation to trees on your property.

It is always a good idea to have a go bag packed in the event an evacuation is ordered. There are many online resources that can assist you as to what steps need to be taken in the event of an evacuation.

3/28/23

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

Under Business Items, Trustees will consider a resolution which would authorize staff to apply for Department of Local Affairs grant funding for the comprehensive plan, will vote on an ordinance which will amend the property conveyance agreement with Fading West for the property associated with the Carbonate Street Phase I development, and Trustees will consider changing the time all board of trustees meetings begin from 7pm to 6:30pm. Developer Augmentation Certificates will be discussed at a work session beginning at 6pm.

3/29/23

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 April 6<sup>th</sup> at Buena Vista High School. Sangre de Cristo representatives will moderate the listening session, which is open to all cooperative members. Members are encouraged to come prepared with questions about the rate restructure. At their regular meeting today, the coops Board plans to table any action on the proposed restructuring until after the listening session. The Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving 14,000 members in Chaffee, Fremont, Custer, Lake and Saguache counties.

3/30/23

Chaffee County Public Health is set to begin community Narcan training for overdose prevention.

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

According to Chaffee County Emergency Medical Services, in 2021-22 Narcan was administered as a response to an overdose 18 times. During that same time period, there were 6 overdose deaths in Chaffee County.

Chaffee County Public Health will be offering training to the community on recognizing and responding to an opioid overdose, the importance of promptly notifying emergency medical services, and then administering Narcan to reverse the overdose. Public Health says the training is appropriate for all community members.

The training will take place on April 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at A Church at 419 D Street in Salida. The training is free and does not require an RSVP.

3/31/23

The Salida Rotary Club Friday Fish Fry continues tonight.

Fish dinners will be served from 4:30pm to 6:30pm and are available by curbside pickup only at the Salida Community Center at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> and F Street in downtown Salida.

Cost is by donation with proceeds benefiting the Salida Rotary Scholarship fund.