



**KKCO-TV
2531 Blichmann Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81505**

**QUARTERLY LIST OF PROGRAMMING PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

**KKCO/ Channel 11
Gray Television Licensee, LLC.**

4th Quarter 2021

PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

DAYBREAK	Monday thru Friday	5:00-7:00a
MIDDAY LIVE - LIVE AT NOON	Monday thru Friday	12:00 – 1:00p
KKCO 11 NEWS AT 5– LIVE AT 5 P.M.	Monday thru Sunday	5:00-5:30p
KKCO 11 NEWS AT 6:00 - LIVE AT SIX	Monday thru Friday	6:00-6:30p
KKCO 11 NEWS AT 10:00 – LIVE AT TEN	Monday thru Sunday	10:00-10:30p

All of the above programs are locally produced News programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports and issue-related Feature stories. Issue-responsive program segments are usually one to two minutes in duration unless otherwise indicated.

Webchannel Feature: Grand Junction and the Western Slope of Colorado have a place on the Internet to go for local news and information. As more people turn to the Internet on a daily basis, people can count on KKCO to be the local news and information leader on the web. KKCO's website is an important source of local news stories of all kinds, community information and other Internet Resources, often listed on Quick Click Feature. KKCO's home page offers links to topics, which include news, weather, sports, health, family, education, government and community. It also includes up-to-the minute video streaming of news stories, weather forecasts and includes special features such as Six Online Live Chat or watching live press conferences through web streaming. While stories are continually posted and eventually drop off of the top 30 or so visually displayed, they never actually leave the Web Channel Feature server making these accessible for viewers to conduct a search to retrieve each of these in the future. Video segments stay within the server approximately 1-2 weeks, as space is available.

Regular Network News Programs Carried by KKCO:

EARLY TODAY	Monday thru Thursday	4:30-5am
EARLY TODAY	Sundays	2:30-3:30am
THE TODAY SHOW	Monday thru Friday	7-11am
NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	Monday thru Friday	5:30-6pm
SATURDAY TODAY	Saturdays	6-7:30am
SUNDAY TODAY	Sundays	7-8 am
MEET THE PRESS	Sundays	8-9 am
DATeline NBC	Varied Days	Varied Times

All of the above programs are network news programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports and issue-related Feature stories. **Dateline NBC** airs throughout the week in prime time and often for expanded hours during times of breaking news events ... news magazine format with in-depth Features on current issues and news headlines.

Meet the Press, a public affair program, airs every Sunday morning featuring exclusive interviews with politicians, etc. as well as roundtable discussions on topics affecting the American people. Guests this quarter include: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Sec. of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Joshua Johnson, Brandy Zadrozny, Yamiche Alcindor, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

All KKCO Newscasts are closed captioned for the hearing impaired. Closed captioning began on KKCO Newscasts in January 1991. Station conducts all weekly random EAS tests as well as monthly scheduled tests in preparation of needed emergency announcements.

US Farm Report - Sun 6-7a is America's #1 Agri-business and rural lifestyle program. The host John Phipps and meteorologist Mike Hoffman provide America's farmers, ranchers, investors and brokers with the latest global and national Agri-Business information, weather and commodity reports. Topics this quarter include: Tar spots, drought conditions, crop yields, the increasing soybean demand, supply chain issues, and fluctuating farm values and subsidies.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****October 27th, 2021****Reporter: Erin Crooks****Duration: 2:01**

The Denver Zoo says nearly a dozen of its lions have contracted COVID-19. Zoo workers do not know how the animals caught the virus, but it quickly spread through its 2 lions' prides. Pattrik Perez Reports "Even in slumber the African lions at the Denver Zoo are a huge attraction. These four brothers are catching up on some sleep as they and seven others battle COVID-19." It was pretty, pretty crazy. Because they're actually in two groups. We have a pride of four males, and then we've got a pride of seven males and females." The lions began experiencing symptoms nearly two weeks ago. "Little bit of lethargy, not as active, a little bit of an appetite. Some of them had what seemed to be like a little cold with some nasal symptoms and such like that." The zoo's two tigers tested positive on October 14th. They were the first official cases. It was shortly after when the lions started getting sick. "Our vet team and our animal care team was focused on just watching them and making sure things aren't getting worse. They're getting better and doing well." Anyone who comes in close contact with them is wearing PPE. "It could be somebody that was asymptomatic, and we just never knew and so, but yeah, it's, it's a bit of a mystery how they contracted it." Dr. Josh Daniels/Colorado State University: "These big cat samples have been the most just to represent species." The zoo plans to vaccinate them as soon as more supply of the animal-specific COVID-19 vaccine is available in the next few months. Until then...these lions will be getting some much-needed TLC.

KKCO The News at 10 PM 1st Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****October 5th, 2021****Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds****Duration: 1:27**

Denver Public Schools is urging children to come to school with a water bottle... The district is experiencing a milk shortage... Because of a reduced workforce. Kishore Kulkarni/Professor of Economics, MSU Denver: "Economy has come back as a shock, outside of this dairy in Englewood there are many help wanted signs. And on the Dairy Farms of America Website.... There are dozens of positions in Colorado... Including this one for a school route driver in the Denver area. Thousands of job openings, many businesses have no option but to raise wages. "All companies are looking for workers to work at that wage and do these jobs, which cannot be done from home, and therefore they have to be at the site and labor is reluctant to do this." These are the workers who are not really in great supply right now. And there is a huge demand for them and that's why the wages are going up." With higher wages, some low earners might be leaving second jobs behind, meaning more openings. But even jobs higher up the pay scale are facing issues with to hire. "They allow you to work from home and therefore they really need to scrutinize which workers are good for them." Pandemic caused issues that may not be solved for months to come. Increased wages could also mean an increase in prices. So once the milk delivery issue is solved... The carton could be more expensive.

KKCO News at 5P 1st Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****November 14th, 2021****Reporter: Tom Ferguson****Duration: 1:58**

It's the time of the year when you may see livestock moving through the roads more frequently than usual, which some drivers don't know how to respond to. KKCO News 11 Reporter Cristian Sida spoke to an owner of a horse carriage who brings us answers. Joseph Burtard who tells me it's crucial people educate themselves on how to appropriately respond when encountering livestock on the road. Here's what you should know. Animals walking across traffic is a fairly common thing in the Western Slope... Yet I'm told by Joseph Burtard... The owner of JR's Carriage... That people don't know how to react. "The common thing that we see is those motorists don't know how to interact when they come across a horse and carriage or even sheep going down the road or cattle being brought down the mountain and they're mountain biking on the trails." According to Burtard people tend to react in numerous ways that can be dangerous... Which include... Speeding, honking, passing on the right lane and rolling down their windows for their dogs to see the animals, which results in aggressive barking. This disrupts the process. Instead Burtard says we should stop the car and allow the livestock to navigate around you but if you need to pass them. "Just slowly match the speed of the livestock get in the left-hand lane and maybe go one or two miles faster. There's no need to honk at us to let us know you're there. We know you're there." Burton goes on to tell me that we live in a very unique area and to embrace your estern heritage. "If you come across a herd of sheep or a horse and carriage on the road just really slow down, take a picture share it with your friends in the front range and make them jealous of where you live. Burtard says

the safety of the driver and their livestock is their priority. So, it's important for drivers to respect the traffic laws. Burtard tells us it's also important to watch out for working dogs that are navigating the livestock.

KKCO The News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 29th, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds
Duration: 2:14

A former Delta police officer who worked with a K-9 officer when he was on the force...is now trying to get ownership of the dog. Reporter Taylor Burke spoke with him and the delta police department about the situation. William Hammon, says he has an intense bond with his former K-9 partner Raico. He says they not only worked together but lived together too, spending every moment together for four years. Raico is more than just a partner or property to me. He came into my life when I was struggling with my parents' death. He gave me purpose, comfort, he's everything to me. William Hammon, who was previously a K-9 handler for the US Army, started the K-9 program at the Delta Police Department back in 2016. Two years later he was placed with Raico. Since then, they have been together around the clock. As I tell everyone whose thinking about becoming a K-9 handler it's not just a job it's a lifestyle. You have to do 16 hours of training a month to maintain certification on top of all your other duties. Recently, Hammon decided to resign from the delta police department. He says he was devastated when he found out the dog would be taken away and remain with the police department. Since Raicos been gone I've been shattered, devastated, angry, anxious. When they took him, they wouldn't even tell me where he was going or how he was doing and to me it was unnecessary and heartless. I reached out to the Delta Police Department about the situation. They say the reason the K-9 officer was taken away was because he was paid for with tax payer money. The department cannot speak about Hammon specifically because they say it's a personnel matter...but they released a statement. It says, "K-9 Raico is happy, healthy, and actively training with a new handler. Raico is not currently on active duty while he trains with a new handler. The city continues to evaluate Raico's future, and we hope to see him return to active duty to serve with his fellow police officers in protecting the City of Delta." The delta police department says typically when an officer resigns and a k9 is assigned to them, they handle it case by case. Some factors they consider in their decision include age and temperament of the dog. Hammon has hired a lawyer and says he hopes to have Raico home by Christmas.

KKCO News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 8th, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange
Duration: 2:09

Elementary school students are forming a special bond with a school therapy dog -- while learning to read and write. Rex means so much to them - the kids are writing him letters and dropping them off in his own mailbox. Kelly Reinke has the story out of Littleton, Colorado. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "usually kids don't like books with no pictures, huh?" learning at school is more than reading books. Lessons can even come from someone other than a teacher. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "I would let rex read but we might be here for a while." without words, rex is helping kids at ford elementary in Littleton. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "no matter what." he's their favorite guest during reading time and favorite subject in writing. Student: "I am holding a note that I made to rex." student: "you are very cute, you are the best police dog." student: "we love you, you help us so much." dozens of students are writing letters to the school's therapy dog. Student: "yeah we put it in rex's mailbox." student: "there is a slot in the mailbox, and you put your card in there." over 50 cards have been dropped off for rex. Sweet messages that teach us he's more than just a dog. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "we may have a kid that is upset or in crisis and rex does a really good job of calming them down." deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "when I see a kid interact with rex you know they might say something like this is the best part of my day." john gray is rex's handler. He started bringing the dog to schools in Littleton this year. Student: "Rexy, Rexy." the 9-month-old puppy is so popular, everyone wants to be with him at lunch. Student: "it's getting really crowded." but extra time with rex comes with learning more life lessons. Teresa burden/ principal: "we really work hard to not only teach what expected and positive behaviors are but also reward those and rex has been a huge part of that." Teresa Burden is the principal at ford elementary. She says one of the most popular rewards for good behavior is lunch with rex. Teresa burden/ principal: "they know he's there for them when it doesn't feel like anyone else understands." on a tough day - this friendship means so much. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "he might get a lot bigger what do you think?" a young pup comforting students who are growing up too. Deputy john gray/ school resource officer: "what do you guys got going the rest of the day?" the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department hopes to expand the program, with more dogs.

KKCO News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 2nd, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange
Duration: 2:58

Homeward Bound and the Roice-Hurst Humane Society have partnered to work on a new project to provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness with their pets. Reporter Natasha Lynn has the story on this new kind of shelter here in Grand Junction - which has never been done anywhere before throughout the country. "We need to find a way to serve the population that we're not serving. We know there's lots of people to whom their pets are very critical. We entered into conversations with Roice Hurst & we have created here the first installation of its kind in the entire United States." The 2 organizations partnered up after seeing an unfulfilled need not only in the community, but throughout the country. "When they end up in situations where they're losing their home or they're evicted or for whatever reason they're experiencing homelessness, a lot of people are faced with that incredibly difficult decision of letting go of a beloved pet in order to find shelter or having to stay out in the elements with their pet which is very unsafe for them. So, what we wanted to do is figure out a way to remove that decision." Pallet shelters are used for homeless shelters around the country, but this is the first time there's been a design specifically to serve people with pets. The new shelter will be called Homeward Hounds. "When we talk about the role that a pet plays in our life, it's not just companionship. For many people it is that stability, it's a grounding force. So, when you lose everything & you are in a situation of homelessness, that animal might be the only thing connecting you to a feeling of stability, a feeling of hope, & a feeling of companionship. So, pets are critical to our mental health, our emotional health. So there's no reason that when you're already experiencing something traumatic that you should have to lose your pet." Each one of these 10 8 by 8 pallet shelters is private, climate-controlled and located within this fenced and badge-controlled area at Homeward Bound on North Avenue. There will also be a gravel yard for the dogs alongside the units. These shelters are reserved specifically for people with pets so they can stay together under 1 roof. The first of its kind anywhere in the country. "There are arguments some would make that if you can't take care of yourself, you shouldn't have a pet, & that's not the way we see that at all. Most people will feed their pets before they feed themselves. So we think that regardless of if you have a roof over your head or not, that does not impact if you are a good & loving pet owner." We spoke to one homeless resident about what she thinks of this new project "I have a lot of friends who are older who have pets who can't stay at the shelters so I'm very glad to hear this. I worry about them a lot." We also asked her if she thinks this is going to benefit a lot of people. "One of the reasons that I don't stay there is because of him. Because he's my whole life & I'm not going to be anywhere without him." Homeward Bound and Roice Hurst hope project is just the beginning of a much larger campus to serve more than just 10.

CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

KKCO Midday Live 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
October 21st, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks
Duration: 1:48

A Colorado Federal Corrections Officer is now the second person charged in the killing of Jason Schaefer- the postal worker who was shot in Longmont. Last week, Prosecutors charged Schaefer's ex-girlfriend with first degree murder. Matt Jablow has the latest developments in this case. It was right around 12:30 last Wednesday afternoon. Broad daylight. 33-year-old Jason Schaefer was gunned down while delivering mail in a residential neighborhood in Longmont. A few hours later, police arrested his ex-girlfriend, Devan Schreiner. According to police, Schaefer and Schreiner were involved in an increasingly contentious custody dispute over their five-year old son. Police now say Schreiner did not act alone when she shot Schaefer to death. 34-year-old Andrew "AJ" Ritchie, a corrections officer at the Federal Prison in Englewood, has now been charged with complicity to commit first degree murder. According to police, recent voicemails found on Devan Schreiner's phone appeared to indicate that Ritchie and Schreiner were involved romantically. Police say they also found pictures on Ritchie's phone of Schreiner wearing the same clothes she was wearing when she killed Schaefer. The morning of murder, Schreiner allegedly told Ritchie that 'Today is the day' and 'I have everything I need'. According to the arrest warrant, Ritchie then drove to the Longmont Post Office and started following Schaefer around the neighborhood for most of the morning. A few hours after Schaefer was killed, police say Ritchie picked up Schreiner at work. Before his arrest, Ritchie told detectives he was aware that Schreiner had previously talked about killing Schaefer and he was following Schaefer around that day to see if Schreiner showed up so he could confront her. When asked by detectives why he did not contact the police rather than 'stalk a mailman all morning', detectives say Ritchie responded that 'He can see why it looks like he was stalking Schaefer'. If he's tried and convicted of complicity to commit first degree murder, Andrew Ritchie could race life in prison without the possibility of parole. Devan Schreiner is charged with first degree murder.

KKCO Midday Live 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
October 13th, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson
Duration: 1:49

The man accused of killing 10 people at a King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado in March has been ruled incompetent to stand trial. Liz Gelardi has reaction from a family member of one of the people who died in the mass shooting. Robert Olds/ Uncle: "We know there's a process and we know it could be years, but it doesn't make it any easier." It has been more than six months since we first sat down with the family of Rikki Olds just days after she was killed while working at the Boulder King Soopers. Robert Olds/ Uncle: "That beautiful young woman right there won't get a chance at life because of what he did." According to doctors who evaluated him – the suspect – Ahmad Aliwi Alissa is not mentally competent to stand trial. Her uncle Robert Olds says after the shooting he was shocked. But the latest update in this case makes him angry he wants to see the suspect in court. "He was pretty competent when he went and bought a gun, pretty competent when he drove to King Soopers, pretty competent when he surrendered to the police so how does that change? I don't know." Prosecutors have asked for a second evaluation. And the judge has yet to rule on whether the case against the suspect can move forward. Right now it's on hold. Legal expert David Beller says it's rare when a defendant is found incompetent. "Ultimately they found he is so mentally ill that he doesn't understand what's happening in court." We've seen this play out in Colorado before. The suspect in the Planned Parenthood shooting was found incompetent and that case has yet to go to trial. David Beller/ Legal Expert: "This undoubtedly is going to delay things." And that delay is incredibly hard on these families. Robert Olds/ Uncle: "You don't get to start the grieving process, I haven't. It's been like I said from shock to anger and with all these other steps the anger increases you know, you can't get to that grieving stage." Prosecutors have been granted a second hearing to evaluate the suspect.

KKCO Midday Live 1st Story
November 29th, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks
Duration: 2:07

Another shooting in Aurora. This one taking place just a day after concerned citizens gathered to work together to end gun violence that has occurred one too many times in this Colorado town. Patrick Perez has more on the story. Another piece of crime scene tape strewn across the ground... after yet another shooting in aurora with multiple victims. Police say a total of five people were shot just after midnight Sunday ... near the area of Dayton and Colfax. Multiple bullet holes have now become a permanent part of this mural in the back of the Dayton Street day Labor Center. The victims were between the ages of 16 and 20. All were males ... and all are expected to survive. Investigators are working to find out whether the shooting had any connection to a party in this hair salon just down the block. Jason McBride/Secondary Violence Prevention Specialist, struggle of love foundation: "to see what has gone on in the community, since I went to high school, there is just ... it's astounding," Jason McBride is a secondary violence prevention specialist at the struggle of love foundation. He attended a meeting just down the street from this shooting last week ... where city and state leaders talked about shootings like these. Jason McBride: "these kids now are ... they're in a kill or be killed mentality." Sunday's shooting follows the one at Nome Park nearly two weeks ago and the one at the Hinkley High School parking lot days later. All three involve teens. Aurora police chief Vanessa Wilson spoke about the problem Saturday at a prayer gathering at Nome Park. Chief Vanessa Wilson/Aurora Police Dept.: "I know we want to be those cool parents, but we can't be anymore. We need to be in their backpacks, we need to be in their bedrooms. And we need to really be engaged and involved. Police haven't identified any suspects in this most recent shooting. But Jason hopes we can start working to find a solution ... And not just focus on the problem. Jason McBride: "we talk on the news, we get interviewed, and then everybody goes back to their lives and it all quiets down. And then we're like, okay, we solved those problems ... and didn't actually do anything. We just ... it just stopped for whatever reason. We're not gonna stop this time." once again that was Patrick Perez reporting. Investigators are asking anyone who has information about this case to contact Metro Denver Crime Stoppers.

KKCO Midday Live 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 15th, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks
Duration: 2:42

Aurora Police say one person is behind a string of crimes that left a man dead this week. It all happened within *one hour - in the middle of the day. Police arrested 32-year old Andrew Jacobs. Police counted a total of 8 carjackings, two home invasions and a homicide all within an hour on Wednesday. Darius Johnson spoke to a neighbor in the middle of it all. There's an era of caution lingering through this aurora neighborhood. "It is scary you know." Wednesday was even scarier for some neighbors as a string of crimes took place within an hour. Police say it started around 3:20 in the

afternoon when a woman was robbed outside her home on Idaho Drive. Minutes later a man was carjacked and killed on Iowa Drive. "I did see the police and everything. And they were all around checking on the guy that they found in the car dead." Minerva Milanes lives across the street and is not surprised by the crimes happening in her neighborhood. "I've been living here since 2007 never ever had a problem. Never" shortly after the man was killed there were two home invasions around 3:30. One on Lewiston Street and another on Memphis Street where both victims were pistol whipped. One was carjacked. "it's been pretty bad for a while. For a few years now. And then especially across the street from here I live there's always shootings and everything." the crimes spree continued for another hour. During that time there were another 6 carjackings, and a burglary before the suspect crashed into several vehicles on 470 before being arrested. Milanes was not hurt in any crimes but she's a victim of gun violence on Iowa Drive. "My house got shot up and month or two months ago and everything for no reason." the damage to her home is noticeable as well as her new security system. But she hopes police can do more to keep herself and other neighbors safe. "I wish they monitor us a little bit more. Keep us safe. Like myself, I got 13 grandkids." no matter how bad it gets in her neighborhood she wants to make one thing clear. "I'm staying they're not going to run me out. And that's clear. Nobody's running me out." Jacobs' criminal history goes back to 2007 and includes arrests for trespassing, drugs, robbery, and vehicle theft. The name of the person who was shot during the carjacking has not been released.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 9th, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds
Duration: 2:14

A student in Olathe has been removed from the Olathe Middle School after authorities determined there was a credible threat of violence at the school. According to the Montrose daily press there was an alleged threat of a shooting at the school. Our reporter Taylor Burke sat down with the school district to find out more. I'm told that yesterday morning; the Montrose County School District was alerted of a credible threat of violence to Olathe Middle School. A student's tip that another student had plans to shoot people at school led to the removal. We understand that this is a national phenomenon and we're going to do everything we can to keep children safe. The school and school district immediately activated School Threat Assessment Team protocols which included interviews with parents and the family, as well as a report to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. The school district established this system three years ago as a team of district employees and community partners work together to keep the community safe. They say through the partnership of schools, law enforcement, and mental health professionals, they are able to identify and process threats of violence to students and schools. You know communities that are wondering how to effectively combat this problem... We would encourage them to adopt collaborative programs such as the Salem Kaiser program we've used for the last three years. It creates a culture where if you see something you say something. The school district says an incident like this can be scary, but law enforcement was able to handle the issue before anything serious happened. School operations will continue as normal. School staff and law enforcement remain vigilant toward the safety of all students and staff. The school resource officer from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office will be available at the Olathe schools and community members can expect an increased law enforcement presence on and around campus this week. Montrose county Sherriff's office is collaborating with us in this process. All our law enforcement agencies are working collaboratively to make sure we are all speaking the same language. The student in question has since been removed from the school. Since the investigation is still ongoing the school district was unable to comment on what exactly the threat made by the student was or how long they will be out of school for. we'll continue to update you as more information becomes available. The safe to tell number is 1- 877- 542- 7233.

KKCO 11 News at 10P 1st Story
Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature
December 13th, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange, Tom Ferguson
Duration: 2:05

The Grand Junction Police Department is saying they see an increase in certain types of crimes around Christmas time. We have some tips for you to keep yourself, your house, and those presents safe this season. The 10's Tom Ferguson joins us live with more. Earlier today I spoke with the grand junction police department to learn more about ways to avoid falling victim to porch pirating and other types of crimes that can pop up around Christmas. Here's what you should know. Heidi Davidson with the grand junction police department outlined a few measures you can take to deter theft whether you're shopping online or in-person. "if you're going to shop online and have things delivered to your home, make a network with your neighbors so if you're not there to accept your package when it's delivered, maybe you have a trusted family member or neighbor that can come by when you get the alert that it's been delivered and grab it for you." getting packages delivered to your place of work can also help prevent them from getting stolen, according to Davidson. "when you're out shopping at the mall or at any of our retailers downtown during the holiday

season, make sure that you're keeping close track of your wallet and your purse, make sure that you're not leaving valuables unattended in your car when you're shopping, and when you bring home all your packages at night, bring them inside along with any other valuable that you have in your car including firearms." traveling around Christmas? Don't post about those plans in advance. Doing so can put a big target on your house as being empty, drawing break-ins and other issues. "The grand junction police department offers a vacation watch program. You can go online to our website, gjcjcity.org/police, and you can sign up for this free service, where our volunteers will drive by your home, they'll look for any cars that shouldn't be there, they'll look for anything that's been disturbed in your home." we'll have links online to sign up for that home monitoring program the police department offers on our website. Another thing to watch out for: scam charities. A red flag for those: a sense of urgency for a donation. The police department is encouraging the public to call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line if they see anything suspicious or out-of-place in their neighborhood.

ENVIRONMENT/WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER

KKCO News at 10 PM 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

October 14th, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange, Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:51

There is a freeze warning in effect for the Grand Valley from 8pm tonight until 10am tomorrow morning. The Sub-freezing temperatures in the mid and upper 20s are the first of the season... Are homeless shelters prepared? The ten's Natasha Lynn joins us live with some answers. This frost and freezing conditions will kill sensitive vegetation and possibly damage unprotected outdoor plumbing. But what about the homeless population living on the streets? Well, I spoke with Homeward Bound, which typically functions as a temporary emergency shelter, that provides services for this vulnerable population. "Every year during the winter we typically will find ourselves needing what we call overflow shelter. Typically, anywhere from 14-20 beds of additional capacity that we either lease another facility for. Or in our case right now we have a big canopy that if we find we need it we'll put it up in the parking lot & put some heat in it. To accommodate those who we might not have sufficient existing bed space for but we want to get under cover & protection & be sure they're out of the elements." They say the need goes up 25-30% every year around this time during these colder months. As the vulnerable homeless population who has been successful outside cannot continue under the same conditions as temperatures drop. So they look to Homeward Bound and other indoor places to seek warm shelter. "Our main function is to provide a place for people to come. Our objective is to help them get undercover & stay engaged with us long enough that we can begin to get them connected with other services, housing opportunities, employment opportunities, those kinds of things so that they don't have to stay with us for an extended period of time & can find other ways to become more self-sustaining." One local man, Robert Pharris, is very grateful for Homeward Bound's help providing him with food & shelter while he worked on getting his credentials back after losing all access to his finances & identification in a terrible car accident. "When I went into Homeward Bound it was February 11. I would've just been out in the weather without any sort of shelter or anything. Homeward Bound gave me a good bed, a warm environment, good meals, & was the only way to actually survive that time of year. I would've basically been outdoors under a bridge or something." Homeward Bound will help provide, the vulnerable population of people living on the streets with a warm shelter and food, especially during these freezing temperatures. Homeward Bound is also in high need for donations of warm clothes and blankets from now until April. Also a reminder to bring pets indoors during these freeze warnings under 20 degrees. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia when in freezing temperatures for an extended period of time.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

October 12th, 2021

Reporter: Natasha Lynn

Duration: 1:54

The Book Cliffs and Mesa were covered in snow for a while today. The first winter weather of the season. Travel in the valleys may not be too bad but when you get a little higher in elevation it's a different story. KKCO 11 news reporter Natasha Lynn joins us live tonight with the latest on what we can expect here in the grand valley. This is the first big winter storm of the season we've experienced here in Western Colorado, at least in higher elevations. Where road conditions are not the best. I spoke with CDOT this morning & I was told the system moved in last night and should be cleared out by tomorrow morning. In all high elevations throughout the western part of the state above 8000 feet, road conditions are expected to have several inches of snow, ice, and accompanied by strong gusts of winds. In lower elevations, motorists are expected to experience high winds, rain, ice, and wet slick surfaces. "We're seeing rain in the valleys but if you head up into the mountains, we're talking snow." So, we're talking about Ouray, telluride, Silverton, as well as those mountain passes that get you to those communities because those elevations over the mountain

passes typically get to about 10,000 feet." "Right now we're keeping most of it up above 8000 feet earlier this morning but snow level's starting to drop & come down as low as 6,000 feet by this evening tonight." with this, all commercial vehicles traveling on interstate 70 between the Dotsero and Morrison exits must now carry chains to be in compliance with the Colorado traction law. "Make sure you have the proper equipment, enough chains, a heavy coat, boots, gloves, extra food, extra blankets, extra water. You've just gotta be prepared. I grew up in Colorado, so I'm prepared for Vail & Eisenhower. I'm headed to Denver." just last week, CDOT launched a new co-trip free mobile app and website designed to help travelers check road conditions on the go. The app is equipped with information on road conditions as well as cameras of roadways which update every couple minutes. "At the click of a finger, finding out what construction is like. What road conditions are like. Taking a look at cameras all across the state. To see if you're comfortable with what the conditions look like." CDOT also told me although this system will be cleared out by the morning, we should be prepared for another system to move in on Thursday. But experts tell me that second one will only linger around for 24 hours or so - clearing out by the weekend. CDOT still encourages travelers to know before you go, and check conditions either on the website or on the new app to know how to prepare for their trip.

KKCO The News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 5th, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson
Duration: 1:22

The recent precipitation is good news for Ute water users. They no longer need to pump from the Colorado river... So, they have removed the drought pumping rate for customers. KKCO 11 news reporter Taylor Burke is getting answers about this tonight. As of November 1st, Ute water district will no longer charge the two-percent drought pumping rate to district customers. We were very appreciative of our customers doing their part in helping us maintain the reservoir levels that we do have and that we had going into the summer. We never wanted to get below a critical level because of our drought conditions. Andrea Lopez, with Ute water, says the drought pumping rate was originally implemented on July 1st of this year. It was the result of exceptional drought conditions that prompted the district to begin pumping from the Colorado river to preserve the water supply during peak season. It was the first time in 65 years that water from the Colorado river had been used to supplement demand due to drought conditions. Supplementing with the Colorado river was necessary to maintain storage in our terminal reservoirs, the Jerry Creek Reservoir. We didn't want to draw them down after a back-to-back drought where we knew the deficit would be so great that we couldn't refill them potentially going into another drought year next year. I'm told the two-percent drought pumping rate was necessary to offset the increased costs that happen when the district pumps from the Colorado river, including an increased use in electricity, increased costs in chemicals to treat the river water, as well as maintenance costs from using our pump stations. Our system is naturally gravity fed. When we pull from the Grand Mesa it is delivered to our treatment plant to our customers' homes all by gravity and that keeps the cost low for our customers but when we pump from the Colorado river it uses a lot of electricity. Ute water will stop pumping from the Colorado river, however, due to the severity of the drought conditions this past year, they will still need to utilize multiple water sources in the Plateau Creek watershed. Ute water tells us that although these water quality improvements are a big step, customers may still experience moderate hardness levels in their tap water.

KKCO The News at 6P 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 22nd, 2021
Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds
Duration: 2:16

It's been remarkably warm at this time of year compared to previous years. Resulting in Powderhorn moving back their tentative opening day. KKCO 11 News reporter Natasha Lynn was in Powderhorn earlier today and has the story. I'm here at Powderhorn where normally around this time of year there's a lot more snow. As you can see behind me there's not quite enough to open the resort. Which was originally planned to open this Friday the 26th. Normally the resort opens in December. But due to high snow levels over the last few years, they thought they would open early this year. But Mother Nature had other plans. Powderhorn Marketing & Sales Director Ryan Robinson says there has been a lot less snow. "Compared to last year we've had about half as much early season natural snowfall & it's been much warmer this year so we've only made about 10-15% of the snow we made up to this point last year." Mountain crews are ready with the snow making system and their staff is READY. They're just waiting for the lower temperatures so they can make more man-made snow to open. "We aren't quite ready for opening day yet. Typically, we open mid-December. With the new snow making system we installed we're looking for every opportunity to make additional man-made snow. But we still need some help from mother nature. We need colder temperatures & natural snowfall to supplement what we're doing with the man-made snow. It's been warm & it's been dry." Meteorologist Brad Miller says the mountains throughout the state have generally been experiencing the same thing as Powderhorn. But that it won't be like this all winter long & we will still get snow eventually. "A weak little system moving through here before

Thanksgiving might pick up a few inches of snow out of that but it's not gonna be a big benefit to the ski resorts out there. It's just a weak system moving through with very little moisture. So once that's out of here we're probably not talking about much of anything for at least another week." As soon as Mother Nature gives us a couple storms combined with some colder temperatures, the community will be back to the slopes & maybe even throwing some snowballs. Reporting from Powderhorn, I'm Natasha Lynn. Powderhorn will keep the public updated on their opening day via their website. We'll have a link to that on our website.

KKCO News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 10th, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson, Taylor Burke
Duration: 2:21

A blast of snow finally makes to the high country. Tonight, we are talking to a local ski resort about this much needed round of snow. KKCO News 11 reporter Taylor Burke shows us how this storm played out for our ski resorts. This most recent storm brought about 20 inches of snow to Powderhorn. Colorado resorts finally getting some relief after a very warm fall. Record high temperatures have left mountain resorts reliant on artificial snow. This is our first significant snow fall of the season which means this snow in a lot of areas is right on grass and dirt. We thank everyone for their patience as we get additional terrain open but we still have a lot of work to do. We have seen more than 200 days without snowfall so these recent storms have Ryan Robinson, the marketing and sales director at Powderhorn thrilled. He says this most recent storm was not only plentiful, but it was also dense. He says it is exactly what they need to build a base on the trails which can hold them over for the entire season. Exactly what we needed to get additional terrain open. Mountain crews are on the mountain now working to do trail checks, grooming, track packing, and everything they need to do to get more terrain open here at the resort. Ski resorts often depend on snow machines early in the season. This year's warm temperatures limited snowmaking, which can only happen when temperatures drop low enough. This led resorts like Powderhorn to delay their opening, and then limit how much terrain they could open. Despite it all, they made it work. They have sold more passes this year than ever before. Elizabeth Fogerty at visit grand junction says the blast of snow is also good for the local tourism economy. We market Powderhorn heavily. So obviously the hiking and mountain biking in the warmer seasons but certainly helps our winter tourism during these months which then continues to benefit the restaurants and retail shops. I'm told we remain cognizant of attracting tourism when business is typically slower in the grand valley. According to visit grand junction tourism for this week is up 13% from this same week back in 2019.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 2nd, 2021
Reporter: Bernie Lange, Taylor Burke
Duration: 2:49

Climate experts say they are concerned by snowpack levels on the Western Slope. Snowpack is critical to Colorado and other western states for water supply. Reporter Taylor Burke has more on the potential impacts we could see next year. I spoke with a water expert here at CMU earlier today and she says it is very concerning. The experts say Colorado needs an above average snowpack year to start recovering from a dry summer this year and last year. Without that snowpack, water levels along the Colorado river will likely remain low. Hannah Holmes, the director at the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University is nervous about long term effects of a lack of snowpack on the western slope. It's not looking great, but it could change in a hurry. What's more concerning is only one out of the past five years has been good and that was 2019. It's concerning that in recent years we've been getting more bad than good years. This summer we saw the Colorado River hit historically low water levels. For the first time, Ute water had to release water from upstream reservoirs to keep record low levels from sinking even further. Andrea Lopez at Ute water says if there's another year like that, they may use strategies they don't typically use. When we blended water from the Colorado river this summer it was a mitigation strategy to help keep those reservoirs at a healthy level, so we didn't drop to a critical level in our reservoirs. Snowpack on the mesa is 76% of the median and around Ouray and Gunnison is 61% of what is considered normal. Meanwhile, in Durango snowpack sits at 34% of normal levels. Experts say the gap between current conditions and normal snowpack is concerning. If you have dry soil going into the fall then that takes the first of whatever snowpack we do get if the soil started off the winter dry. Then when the snow starts to melt it gets that soil wet which is good, but it means there's that much less available for streams. With warmer weather and dryer soil, that means even with a substantial snowpack. It would not necessarily translate to higher water levels. Ute water says we could face another year of drought. We will rely on a lot of the storage we do have. So, we have water sheds in different parts of the state as well as the grand mesa. The good news is it's early in the year and most of the time we rely on the spring storms to bring us back up to healthy levels. Officials say we do live in a volatile climate so anything can happen but seeing levels below the median is always concerning.

CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

October 5th, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds

Duration: 2:53

The number of covid cases in mesa county continues to increase. Yesterday, the health department reported 266 new cases in the county, which included cases from over the weekend. Health officials say the steady increase is driven by the county's low vaccination rate, which is at 51 percent. KKCO 11 news reporter Natasha Lynn spoke with health officials and joins us live with the latest. Health officials tell me we are currently seeing the second highest incident rates since the start of the pandemic. And with the flu season around the corner, officials worry about what comes next. Before the delta variant entered the county in early May, positive cases, hospitalizations, & death counts were declining. But starting in early august, the county has been seeing a steady rise in all these incident rates. "Since the beginning of august, we are seeing those levels increase. It's been a steady increase. Nothing sharp or drastic has happened in the past 2 weeks. We're at the point now where we are seeing a rolling 7 day average of new daily covid cases be about 80 a day, and in the beginning of august we were seeing that rolling 7 day average be about 30 cases a day." health officials with mesa county public health & community hospital say the county is currently seeing the second highest incident rates since the start of the pandemic, with the first being the initial surge around this time last year in 2020, but rates are still climbing. "Now we're at a point where our illness levels are teetering closer to what they were during that first big surge in mesa county." as far as our local hospitals, capacity levels have been sitting around 90% for the past few months. And ventilator use has been trending upwards over the past month, currently sitting around 80%. "Our admission rates are high at this point, we're full. Between ICU & med surge about 30-40% of our patients are covid admissions. My understanding is that St. Mary's is in the same position. We're back to levels we were seeing last fall & winter" health officials also say staff is getting tired, and they worry about healthcare worker shortages in the coming months. "it's getting difficult to manage all the patients & keep everyone cared for & have staff. Obviously, staff is getting tired, we're coming up on 2 years pretty soon." officials also worry about this coming flu season and say flu season last year didn't hit the county too hard because everyone was social distancing, staying inside, and wearing masks, but this year, since covid restrictions are much more relaxed, officials worry the combination of both covid, and flu infections could be catastrophic. Mesa county public health advises the community to take extra levels of protection right now such as mask wearing and frequent hand washing when transmission levels are high and when you are in close proximity to others.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

October 8th, 2021

Reporter: Tom Ferguson

Duration: 2:00

Health experts say monoclonal antibody therapy treatment for COVID-19 continues to grow in popularity. But, a few weeks after the federal government took over the distribution of the drug, some still fear-- there won't be enough to go around. Our DC Bureau Reporter Kristin Kasper brings us a look, from Washington. One Copy; In short that's the definition of a Monoclonal antibody- a lab created clone that seeks out the COVID-19 virus and blocks it from replicating. Dr. Ryan Bariola with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center says monoclonal antibody therapy is a proven, effective COVID-19 treatment, if taken within 10 days of infection. "It's shown to be very effective in reducing hospitalizations and mortality in certain high-risk patients." Citing an increased demand, the Department of Health and Human Services disrupted that supply chain, announcing last month they'd be gatekeeping the drugs --- allocating to states- instead of allowing hospitals to buy directly from distributors. "The supply is more limited than it has been in the past." The move continues to be criticized by many southern Republican lawmakers who cry federal overreach. Florida Sen. Rick Scott -introducing legislation recently- to reverse the decision. "MY whole goal with the bill I put up was to make sure that the federal government doesn't hold back any potential treatment to somebody who might have COVID." According to HHS spokesperson, they aren't. The agency says it's using a weighted average of hospitalizations and confirmed infections to determine the allocations, which is reflected in the most recent data. So far this week, HHS has doled out 190,000 doses. Florida has received around 16,500, as California, a state with a larger population, received just over 10,000. Meanwhile other states—like Connecticut and Delaware- have received less than 700. Reporting in Washington, I'm KK. The Department of Health and Human Services says they are re-evaluating the allocation numbers on a weekly basis.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

November 5th, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks

Duration: 2:06

With only 51 days to Christmas, there are signs it may be harder than usual to deck your halls this year. The American Christmas tree association says it's more important than ever before to shop early in 20-21. That's because a heat wave, combined with fires and drought, wiped out a lot of the live Christmas tree crop. Mallory Anderson has the story from Colorado Springs. Ronald Perry: "well, we usually sold about 500 of these a year, so there's going to be a lot of disappointed families unfortunately." Colorado Springs garden center — "this place is for the birds" -- revealing today that their usual stock of Christmas trees — will be missing this year. Their supplier of 25 years — calling it quits because of the labor shortage. Ronald Perry: "owner told us he had a hard time finding cutters this year, and also finding transportation to get the trees here was really difficult so they just decided to quit doing it." labor shortages — high demand -- extreme weather in the pacific northwest — and a lack of trees planted during the recession ... all combining for a perfect storm. Levi Heidrich: "this is nationwide — even worldwide — as we do export Christmas trees to other countries. It's something that's just going to affect everybody. Like I said, we're fortunate that we do have that relationship with our grower, and everything's ordered. It's just a matter of getting a semi and getting it here on time." because of inflation — you'll likely end up paying more for your tree. And if you're determined to have a live Christmas tree in the house — plan to spend thanksgiving weekend shopping for one. Levi Heidrich: "don't wait. I know we're probably going to sell out by the first weekend in December. We expect to be out of trees by the 2nd or the 3rd. I think that's the weekend after black Friday. They go fast and then once they're gone, they're gone." in Oregon, some farmers estimate that 90-percent of their Christmas tree crop was lost this season. At this point-- we haven't heard about any local shortages. But don't think getting an artificial tree will be easy either. Supply chain issues are also affecting supply, according to the American Christmas tree association.

KKCO 11 News at 10P 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

November 30th, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange

Duration: 2:12

Small businesses who fought to stay open during the pandemic are now struggling with another challenge. Supply chain issues are forcing them to change how they do business. Luis de Leon is in Denver -- where some business owners are adapting as needed. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "hi guys welcome in!" much like plants. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "they all have personalities!" small businesses need the right conditions to grow. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "for months we weren't getting pottery in so the shelves were pretty sparse." the owner of 'green lady gardens' Jessica Schutz says they're filling the shelves now. But the cost to ship product in. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "and pottery...is something that the freight is very expensive to begin with so to have my freight for an item go from 10% to 28 or 30 or 32% ...it's pretty painful." The result - is what many customers have seen. Prices rise. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "it's hard because you can only sell products for so much so it really bites into our profit margins//it's everywhere." including at cherry creek oriental rugs. Mark Bagher - owner, cherry creek oriental rugs: "i try to best to go choose the merchandise that are good for Coloradans.." owner mark Bagher says that merchandise is mainly imported from India and Pakistan. Shipping costs for him he says - are almost double the normal price he pays. Mark Bagher - owner, cherry creek oriental rugs: "it makes it more difficult//we definitely need our support of clients, of my neighborhood." the rise in demand is continuing to play a role - in the rise in prices. Mac Clouse - professor of finance at the university of Denver - says the holidays in part - create a perfect storm for prices across the board - to rise. Mac Clouse – Prof of finance: "we've gone through in almost two years where people just couldn't do anything//and so people want to travel, they want to be with their friends and family, and all of those are spending items that are going to drive up costs as well." Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "so yeah!" as for small business owners - there's optimism going forward - but also a plea. Jessica Schutz - owner of green lady gardens: "going out, supporting local, you know spending those extra few bucks to keep that person employed and to keep their other employees and keep the dream alive is really important." those small businesses are hoping to get a good chunk of the holiday shopping business.

KKCO News at 6P 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

December 13th, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange, Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:43

Today we are getting some insight into the economic future of the Grand Valley. The Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the Annual Economic Outlook update today at Colorado Mesa University. The keynote speaker presented on the factors both regionally and statewide that have contributed to our economic recovery. KKCO 11 News Reporter Natasha Lynn joins us live at CMU where they gave that update earlier. Experts say over the past year Mesa County has recovered from the covid-19 pandemic aftermath of 2020 quite nicely. With both the return of the

workforce and job creation. But economically we are growing slowly compared to the rest of the state. The economic update began by recognizing 6 local businesses who have expanded and created jobs over the past year. One business being the Christi Reece group, a real estate company in Grand Junction. CEO Christi Reece explains why small businesses like hers are so crucial to communities like ours. "One of the things that makes it different is that we started a fund that we give back to the community so instead of paying a national franchise, we take 2% of all our revenue & give it back to the community to local nonprofits." in the keynote speech, the most important industries to the western slope were recognized as retail trade, tourism, agriculture, & natural resources & mining. "I think agriculture's gonna have a stronger year than it had last year. We think tourism remains strong, particularly summer tourism, car tourism. Natural resources & mining sector has recovered in 2021 & we think 2022 will also be a good year." and they say mesa county in particular has strong numbers in construction which is promising going into next year. Keynote speaker Dr. Wobbekind says consumer confidence has slowed in relation to inflation. "Small businesses are actually very pessimistic nationwide right now. Part of the reason is tremendous price increases in the supply chain & not being able to pass those on." although some small business industries are recovering slower, others are thriving throughout the state. "we've had an incredible year at the Christi Reece group. Not only has the market itself continued to appreciate, but we have grown, adding agents & staff. And we intend to do the same in 2022 & I think the real estate market will continue to stay strong." economists say one reason why they think mesa county in particular is experiencing a slower comeback as far as a return to the workforce is that jobs weren't hit as hard in 2020 compared to the rest of the state. Economists say there are more job openings than employed people throughout the state. So, their next question is how to get more people to participate in the workforce.

KKCO Midday Live 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 10th, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks, Taylor Burke
Duration: 3:25

New numbers are showing most state employees are vaccinated against covid, but thousands still aren't. According to 9-news in Denver, about 45-hundred state employees have either avoided vaccines or decided not to reveal their status. And many are transportation workers. Jeremy Jojola reports. From the president..."it's about protecting yourself and those around you." to governors and mayors. "The silver bullet we need for full recovery is to ensure maximum vaccination." the top bosses of government employees make impactful decisions about vaccines at work. Under mayor Michael Hancock, the city of Denver has fired 26 out of 11-thousand employees for failing to follow its vaccine mandate. "I'm declaring a state of emergency, here in Colorado." governor polis has taken a less-pointed approach. State employees can avoid the shot and avoid disclosing their vaccination status--but they must test twice a week. Our analysis shows out of 28-thousand state employees---about 45-hundred haven't disclosed their status. That's 16 percent of state employees. Compare that to the city of Denver's less than 1% unvaccinated, who got special exemptions. Since your federal tax-dollars pay for covid tests, our data review shows state testing can cost up to a million a week. "Seems like a pretty fair minded approach." Dr. Cindi Fukami is a professor of management at the university of Denver. "so, anytime we lose an employee, it's costly." she says in today's labor market, firing an employee can cost nearly double their salary because you have to recruit, hire and train all over again. Dr. Fukami says the state's approach saves more money and avoids hassle. "I think the good news is that it's kind of extending an olive branch in a situation that's very contentious." our review of state data shows the Colorado department of transportation has the highest non-disclosure rate at 32 percent. That's about 11-hundred employees. "JJ: is your agency doing enough here to try to get that number lower?" Inzeo: we can always do more. C-dot spokesperson matt Inzeo. "it's hard to put it down to one thing." ...can't say exactly why CDOT has the highest non-disclosure rate. "JJ: okay, what is your agency doing to get that number low? From the beginning we've been strongly encouraging everyone to get vaccinated." the agency has hosted health clinics and vaccination buses at CDOT locations. And for those who've refused vaccination---Inzeo says testing works. "we've found nearly 100 cases so far, in a matter of weeks to months. And those are, you know, coworkers who are protected, those are other family members of those employees who are protected." not only do the tests cost money---but the state allows employees to test on the clock, costing state time. CDOT says it's like a drug screen employees are already used to doing. "JJ: is that a good use of agency resources to allow that state-time testing?" "our commercial driver license holders have already had to do similar work. This is already a rhythm of work that's not that unfamiliar." mandatory vaccines or mandatory testing.. "The state is, is in a tough situation. And the issue may be it's better to pay a million dollars a week than to enter into a--more of the unknown." government bosses have been forced to manage a virus that can't be fired and just won't quit.

KKCO The News at 5P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
October 31st, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson, Cristian Sida
Duration: 2:00

This year voters will have to decide if Grand Junction High School will be rebuilt or not. It's a ballot measure for district 51 voters in this election. Our reporter Cristian Sida has more. Earlier today I spoke with community members who say the community is in dire need of a new Grand Junction High School....which measure 4B proposes. The Grand Junction High School may finally be rebuilt. That is if the ballot Issue 4B is passed. This year on the ballot voters will have the opportunity to approve a 115-million-dollar bond. Sarah Shrader, the co-chair of Yes ON GJHS says it's time we serve the children of the community. "We need a better school for them. A better place for them to be educated. So, they can go to college or enter the workforce, and this is the right way to get there." In 2019, there was a similar measure proposed which included the construction of a new building for Grand Junction High School and other projects but failed to pass. This year the measure solely speaks of the building of Grand Junction High School. Shrader says they are hopeful it will pass. "We have had overwhelmingly positive response... The best thing about this that we have Gardner support from all across the political spectrum. Even though a lot of us don't agree on everything. This is something the community has rallied around and really, really agrees." Kristen Lynch a community member says it's a small price to pay. "It's just a small increase overall in your taxes and to make such a great impact on the valley and the future of the valley as a whole." The tax is approximately about three dollars for the average homeowner and the tax will end when the bond is paid off in 20 years. I was told the construction of a new high school will serve generations to come. Election day is this Tuesday. You can drop off your ballot at any of the four polling places in Mesa County UNTIL 7 P-M ON NOVEMBER 2 OR YOU CAN VOTE IN PERSON AT THOSE LOCATIONS AS WELL.

KKCO The 10 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
October 20th, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange
Duration: 2:33

Reaction is continuing to come in since district court judge Valerie Robison removed clerk and recorder Tina Peters as the county's designated election official last Wednesday. This ruling concerns the civil case involving Peters. District Attorney Dan Rubinstein's criminal investigation is ongoing. The 10's reporter Tom Ferguson joins us live in the newsroom with more. In my hands are the court's findings in that civil case. One question I've been asking is how these circumstances might impact voter turnout in the upcoming November election. Mesa county commissioner Cody Davis shared his reaction to the ruling with me. He's stressing that voters can be assured a secure, fair election in a couple weeks. His message: get out and vote. "I personally take no position either way other than we want to have a safe election this fall. And we want people to believe in their elections. So, again, I've said this a lot... But we're taking extra measures this fall, counting it three different ways and then putting all the ballot images online so people can trust that process. It's transparent, it's open." Scott Beilfuss, co-chair of the Mesa County Democrats, is saying he supports the judge's decision regarding clerk Peters. "You know, the Mesa County Democrats don't have any concerns about the integrity of the election. Quite frankly, we lose most elections around here. We should be the ones complaining about this whole thing." I spoke with David Levine, elections integrity fellow with the German Marshall fund, a non-partisan think tank in Washington, D.C. He shared with me his view that mesa county is in good shape with Wayne Williams taking over Peter's election oversight responsibilities. "And I think the other thing that's important about this too is not only for the rest of mesa county but nationally, I think it sends a message that there can be accountability for people... Who are part of the election processes, whether that's election administrators, people who are running for office, or anyone else, there can be accountability for those who are trying to subvert American election processes." this whole situation arose after Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold alleged a security breach at the Mesa County elections office in May of this year. The court found that quote "Peters and {deputy clerk Belinda} Knisley have committed a breach and neglect of duty and other wrongful acts." I did reach out directly to clerk Peters for comment today. I have not heard back at this time. If you'd like to know more about the election systems in Colorado and Mesa County, we'll have links to more information on our website.

KKCO News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 17th, 2021
Reporter: Bernie Lange, Jean Reynolds
Duration: 2:10

Tonight, we are digging deeper into an FBI search, conducted at the home of Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters. KKCO 11 News Reporter Taylor Burke has been making calls on this all day today to get more information. Sources tell me federal, state, and local authorities searched the homes of not only Tina Peters, but three other people as part of an investigation into accusations that Peters was involved in voting machine security breaches. You know, I refuse to give up. I'm more scared than ever because of the tactics they are doing for an innocent person who was just doing her job. The associated press is reporting that Mesa County District Attorney Dan Rubinstein told 'Colorado politics' that the FBI, the State Attorney General's office and local authorities conducted the searches yesterday in Mesa and Garfield counties. This all comes after Peters was stripped of her authority to oversee elections by a county judge in connection to a lawsuit from the state. She is accused of allowing an unauthorized person to access voting software in the county and then lying about it. Mesa county was later ordered to replace its voting equipment after system passwords showed up in a video posted to right-wing websites. Days later, exact digital copies of the county's election system hard drive were posted online after it was discovered that 24-hour video surveillance of the election equipment had been turned off. This was an attempt to intimidate an election official away from investigating the results of the election. We are living in a world where the FBI could have contacted my attorneys, but they chose to go a more drastic route. Peters has maintained that there are compromises in the integrity of the 2020 election and that it should be investigated. The FBI would not confirm the locations of each home searched however, our sister station KUSA is reporting that Sherrona Bishop, who was the former campaign manager for Rep. Lauren Boebert, also had her home searched on Tuesday. Tonight, the FBI not saying much about the court-ordered searches at four locations in Western Colorado. A spokeswoman saying "the FBI conducted authorized law enforcement actions on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, in support of an ongoing investigation. No further comment." I have reached out to Bishop for comment--we're waiting to hear back at this time. We will continue to update you on the details as the story unfolds.

KKCO News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
November 29th, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange
Duration: 2:35

Tonight, we're taking a closer look at what the midterm elections next year might look like here in Colorado. This past November's election could shed some light on what to expect from both Democrats and Republicans as they gear up for 2022. The 10's Tom Ferguson has been looking into this and joins us live with more. According to Kelly Sloan, fellow with the conservative centennial institute think tank in Lakewood, the GOP victory's in Virginia this past November could give Republicans in Colorado and across the US a roadmap to victory. "If Republican candidates around the country can do those two things, focus on the issues that people care about, keep the former president at arm's length, I think that's kind of the recipe for how... Republicans can see some wins in places they perhaps lost some ground over the last few years." Sloan described the economy, education, and crime as winning issues for the GOP. Colorado has shifted towards the Democratic party in recent years, but, according to Sloan, "if Republicans can do those things, I do think there is a chance for them to make a pretty significant comeback." David Pourshoushtari, spokesman for the Colorado Democratic party, is also saying Democrats need to make their case to voters by focusing on the issues. "What Democrats need to make sure that we're doing, and what we're going to be doing here in Colorado, is running on our record. And Democrats have a strong record to run on. We're passing policies that are helping working families, passing policies that are helping small businesses." Pourshoushtari is saying Democrats can't take any elections for granted. He also argued Democrats need to highlight efforts he says are delivering for working families. "While Republicans have their eyes on the past and they're still focusing on the 2020 election, focusing on conspiracy theories there, Democrats are going to continue to fight for the issues that Colorado voters actually care about. So I think that that's going to be where the battle ground is for the 2022 election. Elections are going to look a little different in Colorado in 2022 as well, as the state will have a new congressional district. The new eighth district will extend from the Denver area to the Greeley area, and is considered competitive. Head over to our website for more resources on voting, your representatives, and more.

KKCO News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 6th, 2021
Reporter: Taylor Burke, Jean Reynolds
Duration: 2:18

Tonight, we're learning more about the steps Mesa County is taking to verify the accuracy of this past November's election. You may remember that over the weekend we brought you the news that the hand count of the county's coordinated election had wrapped up. The 10's Tom Ferguson has more on what voter should know about how their elections are being handled. David Levine, elections integrity fellow with the alliance for securing democracy at the German Marshall Fund in Washington, DC., is arguing the county is right to take extra steps to restore voter's confidence in election integrity. "This hand count should be another blow to those who have for months baselessly claimed that there was a rigged election in mesa county and in Colorado and attacked election officials and others for not overturning the results." Sheila Reiner, mesa county treasurer and election supervisor in November's election, explained that the county's election was already certified by the secretary of state, but additional steps including the hand count, auditing results using clear audit systems, and posting ballot images online serve to address public concern over election integrity. "we're being transparent about it throughout the entire process, and, essentially, just going the extra mile to ensure that we have integrity in our election system." Levine is saying the county's steps to verify the election results, in addition to state-wide procedures of using voting machines alongside risk-limiting audits, should make voters confident in election outcomes. Risk-limiting audits count a statistically significant number of paper ballots to compare to machine counts, thus indicating whether the machine's numbers are accurate or not. "And I'm hopeful that others... Within Colorado but also across the country can look to mesa county as an example of what to do to not only ensure that their electoral infrastructure's strong, but also, for how to try and build greater resilience into American Democracy." this is Tom Ferguson, reporting for the Ten. Reiner is also saying she wants voters to know the demonstrated accuracy of the dominion voting machines in this past election applies to past elections as well. Head over to our website for more information on elections in mesa county.

KKCO News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
December 3rd, 2021
Reporter: Taylor Burke
Duration: 2:27

The federal government will not shut down tonight -- after congress passed a bill that keeps funding going until February 18th. That's despite threats by a few senate republicans to derail the deal over objections to President Biden's vaccine mandates for workers. Alice Barr has the latest from Washington. Good news for federal workers this morning -- their paychecks are secure -- with a government shutdown averted. "I am glad that, in the end, cooler heads prevailed, the government will stay open." congress passed a stopgap measure last night -- that funds the government through mid-February. 19 senate republicans joined all democrats voting yes - (Senator Mike Lee Natsot, "it's disgraceful...") despite a push from some GOP members to block the bill -- over opposition to federal vaccine mandates. "The only thing I want to shut down is congress funding enforcement of an immoral, unconstitutional vaccine mandate." republicans plan to bring up a measure next week to overturn the mandate for private businesses. It appears likely to pass the senate, with support from moderate democrat Joe Manchin. "I've been very supportive of a mandate for federal government, for military for all the people that work on government payroll. I've been less enthused about it in the private sector." the bill is less likely to pass the democrat-controlled house -though for now, the mandates are tied up in court. Opponents say the mandates could force unvaccinated employees out of the workforce - at a time when labor shortages are fueling supply chain problems -- and soaring inflation. A November jobs report due out this morning -- could shed light on whether workers sidelined throughout the pandemic are beginning to return to the job. Once again that was Alice Barr reporting. While avoiding a government shutdown is good news -- democratic leaders warned this is not a victory lap. Thorny issues remain to reach a deal on a full-year government funding bill by February

VOLUNTEERISM/ COMMUNITY AID/ COMMUNITY EFFORTS

KKCO The News at 10P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
October 27th, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange
Duration: 2:26

The Grand Junction Salvation Army is holding a Turkey Drive for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. They are in great need for turkey donations so they can not only keep this tradition alive... But make sure those who may not be able to afford it get a holiday meal. The Ten's Natasha Lynn joins us live from the newsroom with more on the drive and how you can help. Lamar Edwards has been behind the scenes making pies for the Annual Salvation Army Thanksgiving dinner for 18 years. He says he makes at least 225 pies every year. "Everybody needs to pitch in & do a little bit for the community and salvation army is a good place to lend your efforts to do that." The Salvation Army Grand Junction has been providing this service for many years. This is the first year the in-person dinner will be held at their 4th street office in their 2 multipurpose rooms. In the past it has been held at the Elks Lodge downtown. "I

think it's really important because a lot of folks don't have an opportunity to sit down & have a nice Thanksgiving meal with friends or loved ones. So that's something that's really near & dear to us." The Salvation Army Grand Junction will be serving meals to those in need at their 4th street location on Thanksgiving Day from 10am to 1pm. Every year they host about 2700 people, about 700 in person and 2000 deliveries. CMU will be cooking the turkeys as well as the stuffing and Western Colorado Community College will be making the rolls. Canyon View Vineyard Church will deliver the meals to those who are unable to leave their residences. "I really do appreciate the community that we live in. They are very generous when it comes to helping the salvation army provide the turkeys to provide for this Thanksgiving meal that we do for the community." If you'd like to donate a turkey, the address is 1-2-3-5 North 4th Street in Grand Junction./ The Salvation Army also wants to mention with the holiday season coming up - if anyone needs help getting toys for Christmas for their kids - we have the information on our website to sign up for that assistance. The Salvation Army is also looking for volunteers for bell ringers for their red kettle campaign. We'll have the information on our website to sign up. They start the day after Christmas.

KKCO 11 News at 10P 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature

October 16th, 2021

Reporter: Tom Ferguson

Duration: 1:36

Earlier today, the Walk to End Alzheimer's Fundraiser took place Saturday morning. Participants raised funds for the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Our reporter Christian Sida has the story. Today flowers of blue, yellow, orange, yellow and purple filled Lincoln Park... For the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's Fundraiser. "These walks occur throughout the state and throughout the nation and the purpose is to raise funds to support our program and services. The programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association are offered free of charge-- no cost-- to anyone who accesses them." many of those gathered for the walk have seen a loved one suffer with the disease, like Abbie Lalone, whose grandfather battled Alzheimer's for over 10 years. "That was a good portion of my life. A lot of memories with him battling this disease and he's motivation as to why I am here and walking in honor of him today." Abbie helped care for her grandfather for the last five years and found a passion with working with that demographic. Her goal is to specialize in geriatrics. "One of the things he dealt with was he didn't like to shave his face-- he thought it hurt. I was the only one he would let help with that. So, my mom and I would go over and help shave his face... Play music and hold his hand." Abbie's message to the public is to embrace every moment with the loved one who is battling Alzheimer's. "All we have is each minute with the loved one and I would just tell them to love on their person with everything they've got and make sure they're patient and embrace them for the chapter they are in, right now. The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's had over 200 participants and raised over 46-thousand dollars.

KKCO News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature

November 26th, 2021

Reporter: Tom Ferguson, Taylor Burke

Duration: 1:46

Many hospitals around the country are thankful this season for u-s service members... Who are being deployed to help them treat covid-19 patients. Marc Sallinger with our sister station k-u-s-a in Denver has the story. The holidays look pretty normal this year until you see what's going on at places like U-C-Health Poudre valley hospital. 1st Lt. Anthony Albina/US. Air force: "this is not my first deployment." deployment not the word most nurses use to describe going to work. 1st Lt. Anthony Albina/US. Air force: "I'm a critical care nurse and a critical care flight nurse for the air force." us air force 1st lieutenant Anthony Albina has treated people in war zones. Now the battle takes him to Fort Collins as part of a department of defense medical response team sent to Colorado from Andrews air force base to help ease staffing and capacity challenges at the hospital. "The medicine itself doesn't change too much. It just changes the environment which you practice it and the resources on hand. "they're helping us out immensely and we're just trying to get through every day." Megan Tschacher is an ICU nurse at Poudre Valley Hospital. Megan Tschacher/Poudre valley hospital ICU nurse: "is this the worst it's been? It's up there. It's definitely up there." finally, help is arriving. Megan Tschacher/Poudre valley hospital ICU nurse: "they can take some of that weight off of our shoulders and we can kind of breathe a little." on this thanksgiving, help is worth being thankful for. 1st Lt. Anthony Albina/US. Air force: "wherever the need is, we're very fortunate to be able to fill it." even on a holiday, it's back to work. About 20 air force service members will be deployed to Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins for as long as the hospital needs help.

KKCO 11 Midday Live 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature

November 24th, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks

Duration: 3:26

Let's talk about the urge to quit -- and start over. Two journalists right here in Western Colorado-- decided to follow that feeling. Reporter Steve Staeger meets two reporters who followed through... and are getting noticed for it. Good journalists rarely make the news. They report it...with color and flair. "You've got to see this easter bunny...it's kind of creepy." But sometimes good journalists like Erin and Mike...They deserve to be the front page story. Because the work they're doing at the Ouray County Plaindealer... is bringing a small community newspaper back to life. "Oh! We're going to be the worst interview you guys have ever had. Are journalists the worst people to interview?" Erin McIntyre - the co-publisher - isn't into the attention. "Walter...do not assault the TV people." But her dog is. "We named him Walter Cronkite in honor of one of our favorite newsmen." Mike Wiggins...the other co-publisher knows a story when he sees one. "We've sort have developed this reputation...especially you... of sort of being these hard charging, take no prisoner, be careful what you say, or it might end up in the newspaper." Sense the connection here? "I think there's a reason journalists marry each other. Don't you think? M: Because no one else can stand to be with them? E (laughs) probably. M Yeah...I think that's right." The couple worked at a much larger newspaper in Grand Junction. But in 2019...they gave it up "We thought we could do really good work at a smaller paper and that's why we decided to buy the Plain Dealer." Two journalists...bought the second oldest newspaper on the western slope. "It is hard... it is time consuming. It is the hardest I've ever worked." Walter doesn't make things any easier. "WALTER no.....sorry we're working on the house training." When they're not cleaning up after their newshound... Mike and Erin have filled these pages with the kind of reporting you'd expect from a major metro newspaper. "We've uncovered things that were going on here for awhile that weren't reported on before." Their reporting revealed county workers were getting disciplined for working too hard during the pandemic. They uncovered that the county sheriff hadn't disclosed DUIs on his record. "Our sheriff was removed from office with more than 93 percent of the voters ousting him after our reporting." "The narrative for many years has been that newspapers are dying but what we found here at community weeklies is that... no...that's not the case. If you're doing good work ... the community will support you." And this community does. "We really like your reporting you go after the facts." "These people just sent us \$50 to support our good work in addition to renewing their subscription. "It says keep up the good work. It's become a paper we can be proud of." Positive feedback is a rare thing for reporters these days. "I like making a difference in a small place where people care and they deserve to know what's going on." Good journalists never want to be the story. "Oh my god you're not getting video of me putting the bow on the dog. But Mike and Erin deserve it. "If you put this in the story, oh my god. I'm gonna die." Whether they want it or not. It's been an award-winning year for the Plain Dealer. In May - they were given the Keeper of the Flame award from the 'Colorado Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists'. They also won the 'Colorado Press Association's' Rising Star Award in June.

KKCO 11 Midday Live 2nd Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****December 6th, 2021****Reporter: Taylor Burke, Erin Crooks****Duration: 2:27**

Motorcycle enthusiasts hit the roads once again on Saturday, marking the return of a grand junction tradition. The 42nd annual 'western slope toy run' brought out bikers, spectators, and a countless number of toys. It was all to help out local families during the Christmas season. Anchor Erin Crooks went out to capture all the excitement-- take a look. "We're out here today for the annual hogs toy run." "We have all the bikes line up. People can register if they bring a toy." Western Slope HOG Director, Toy Run Chair "I know we've had anywhere from you know, 700 to 900, maybe even 1,000 bikes. I'm really hoping for 1,000 bikes this year, ya know it's beautiful weather." "Here at noon, we will kick stands up and we will follow Santa down Patterson all the way to Grand Mesa Middle School where he has some trucks waiting to take some toys, help him take those toys to the North Pole to get those wrapped for kids in need." Amber West -- Corps Officer, Salvation Army "All these toys that the community members and people are bringing are benefitting kids in our community in Grand Junction through the Salvation Army's Angel Troop Program." "We fill two of our box trucks, full of toys, full of bikes, full of stuffed animals..." "Teddy bears, Barbie dolls, action figures..." Amber West -- Corps Officer, Salvation Army "Even just walking around this morning and seeing so many smiles on people's faces. They're so happy to be out here, so happy to be supporting the community in this way." "A couple of grinchers out here, we have some other people looking very festive, and then of course Santa is floating around here somewhere." "Ho ho ho Merry Toy Run! Ho ho ho!" "You know last year we weren't able to do this event due to Covid. And so this year, being out here in person, face to face..." WesternSlope HOG Director, Toy Run Chair "It means a lot to see everyone from the community who loves to ride, coming out here, put on their best Christmas gear and helping out Santa." "Ho ho ho ... Merry Christmas! Ho ho ho ho ho!"

KKCO 11 News at 5p Top Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****September 19, 2021****Reporter: Tom Ferguson, Taylor Burke**

Duration: 2:02

Two organizations are teaming up to host a benefit concert to raise money to help the homeless youth of the Grand Valley. KKCO 11 NEWS reporter Cristian Sida joins us live tonight with more. The cooperative effort between Sing For Your Lives and Art Song Colorado WILL teach people about music and gather donations. "We are talking about how music can heal the world and so I think that this concert "I'll be home for Christmas" is a great example of how we as artist can work together to make a change in the world that is meaningful to us." Eapen Leubner with Art Song Colorado says this is the first time they will be hosting this benefit concert. The beneficiary of the event will be Keris, Inc the parent company of 'The House,' an organization that provides support to those who are experiencing homelessness. "So, this is an opportunity for our organizations to team up to raise money to support this really important mission on the Western Slope." Art Song Colorado is a new organization in the state that tries to introduce to brand new audiences to the joy of classical music by performing throughout the state but Leubner tells me .."Grand Junction was really a unique place for us because the grand junction arts council provided us a grant right at the beginning when we were hit with the pandemic to create video content about classical singing and so we thought it would be great to find some organization where we can try pay it forward." The concert will be filled with both classical and Christmas music performed by a variety of artist from the community... Leubner says it's all the profits will go to the critical community service. The concert is free, but donations are encouraged It will take place December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Art Center of Western Colorado... Reporting live Cristian Sida, KKCO 11 NEWS. Leubner tells if you are unable to make it to the concert you can still donate online, which we will link on our site.

YOUTH/CHILDREN AT RISK/YOUTH VIOLENCE/YOUTH SUPPORT
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KKCO Midday 1st Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****October 15th, 2021****Reporter: Erin Crooks****Duration: 1:58**

A Colorado District Attorney is hoping to keep kids out of jail.. And out of the court system... By making 'diversion programs' more accessible. Reporter Angeline McCall explains what they are, and how they're hoping to get more kids to successfully complete all the steps. On Peoria near Cornell Avenue in Aurora, a new space is meant to change future's. We want to see kids successfully complete this program. We do not want to see them come across our desk as an adult with a felony case or anything that could really damage their life. 18th District Attorney John Kellner is re-allocating his staff to a new office – to boost young offender's chances of staying out of jail... and the court system.... And instead, offer them more support... We are giving kids the tools and the understanding along with their parents to help keep them out of trouble and out of the system entirely. Those tools come from a new diversion program that offers help from counselors and victim advocates. The new building... represents less barriers, with a light rail station in walking distance. To have those resources, that's one thing. But to make sure they are accessible to people we want to serve, that is a totally different thing. Right now -- 40-percent of the 18th district's juvenile cases are in the diversion program. Less than 7 percent go on to re-offend after successfully completing the program. For our program participants on the juvenile side, it's actually extremely rare because they really do work with kids to make sure they have access. The kids can only 'graduate' if they show up... D-A Kellner hopes this will make it easier for them to make that life-change. That's what I hope to see. Less and less cases on our actual docket. D-A Kellner has also just piloted an adult diversion program for addiction. He says it's resulted in a 37-percent increase in drug overdose deaths in Colorado alone... and increase in possession-related charges.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story**Including: Web Channel Feature****October 4th, 2021****Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Bernie Lange****Duration: 3:08**

A young boy living in Grand Junction just recently received a high-tech prosthetic arm from a company called unlimited tomorrow after years of complications. KKCO 11 News reporter Natasha Lynn has more on this incredible story. Rhyker was born with Amniotic Band Syndrome, meaning he was born without a right hand, which was very difficult for him as a young kid. But his parents never gave up hope to get him a prosthetic arm. Until 1-day last month, a donor came through. "He's thought of everything that he can make his nubby into. Pieces he can put it in, a little gun, drumsticks when he was 3, he'd tape drumsticks to it & beat the drums." after years of complications with getting a prosthetic arm for 9-year-old Rhyker Colunga, a donor came through from a company in New York called Unlimited Tomorrow. His parents decided to surprise him with the prosthetic when it came time for the reveal. "How long was that in there? The day daddy didn't let me come out of the room, I already knew it came. I'm like, did the unlimited tomorrow hand come already. I was like that's my hand it has to be. This whole time he's never opened that package that was in the garage." Rhyker is currently in 4th grade. He should have been right-handed, so it was very difficult for

him to write in school. "I think it'll really help him in school. For a long time, he started to get really self-conscious about it. He would hide it & start to act kinda weird. But we pushed him to talk to people about it, be open, & make it funny. Like a shark bit it off." the way it works is, an electrode inside the prosthetic attaches to the limb, which reads Rhyker's muscle movement. When Rhyler flexes his muscle it will sense 6 different grips - like grabbing something, waving, pointing, or closing or opening his hand. The prosthetic will do it using a motor. "The true limb sensors recognize the difference an actual muscle pulse to activate a grip versus natural movement of his arm where he's not necessarily looking to activate a grip." to learn how to control it, Rhyler will watch a number of videos which includes training exercises "there's 8 tasks that he'll follow to calibrate his sensors. Essentially, he's training those sensors so they know when to activate a grip from the simple pulse of his muscles." for Rhyker, he's excited to eventually play sports or learn to play an instrument. "We are super excited. It's just been a long time." Rhyker has been waiting for this prosthetic arm since the summer before he began kindergarten. He says first he wants to master writing and holding things like a glass. His parents say Rhyker is at a perfect age to try a prosthetic, so he has an opportunity to use one if he chooses to.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story
Including: Web Channel Feature

November 9th, 2021

Reporter: Sarah Schwabe, Natasha Lynn

Duration: 1:45

Mental health support for Colorado youth has always been a critical need, but it's especially important right now following the aftermath of the pandemic. KKCO 11 News Reporter Natasha Lynn found out more about this program in relation to our area. She joins us live tonight. The new statewide program called 'I Matter' launched October 27 with the purpose of aiding youth in their mental health following the repercussions of the pandemic. It offers kids 3 free sessions with a licensed therapist, removing the barrier of cost. I'm here in front of orchard mesa middle school where some students are learning about this new program. I Matter is a new program that offers up to THREE free behavioral health sessions for Colorado students who are 18 or younger. It also provides the services for those who are 21 or younger if they are receiving special education services. Liz Owens with the state department of human services office of behavioral health says the bill passed in June after seeing the mental health needs of kids EXACERBATED by the pandemic. "Covid brought on isolation, grief, cut off youth from their typical supports whether that be their school system or friends, just a lot of changes in people's lives & a lot of sadness. So, we wanted to do something that would help youth immediately & break down some of the key barriers to accessing mental health services & that's really cost." School District 51 is a proud supporter of the program. The district's crisis coordinator Jason Talley says they have seen a significant impact on students AMID the ONGOING pandemic. "We've definitely seen an increase in students struggling with mental health issues. I think having not been in school for a period of time or had lack of structure. I see this really helping a lot of students who often times their needs are beyond what we can give them. So this helps speed up the process of getting more resources plugged in to those students lives." I Matter was part of Governor Polis's comeback plan related to Covid. The program is funded through June 30TH of next year. IT provides both mental health and substance use disorder services for youth. "We think this program is life changing. We're able to remove cost, which is everybody's first question with therapy. It also removes, who's going to know about this, pieces related to stigma. We really hope this helps youth develop a lasting relationship with prioritizing their mental wellness." All kids need to do is go online and fill out an intake form which then locates licensed therapists in their area. From there, it lists options of participating licensed clinicians both in-person and via telehealth for them to pick from and schedule with. Liz Owens says over 200 youth have already scheduled appointments in the 2 weeks it's been active. We'll have information on our website with how to sign up.

KKCO News at 6P 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature

November 9th, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds, Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:15

A mom in Olathe says her son is being bullied, and she is accusing the school district of not doing enough to help. KKCO 11 News Taylor Burke spoke with the mother as well as the school district about these accusations. Any parent can imagine the pain they would feel if their child came home from school and said they were being bullied. One mom says she is going through it. All she wants is for the school to be held accountable. When they would not address things with us and i started to feel powerless I wasn't sure what to do but I can't come home and let my son cry more than once and not say anything. Alicia Barrett's son is the sixth-generation member of their family to attend Olathe Elementary School. She says she feels forced to pull her son out, which makes the situation extra hard on her. He made a 3D pen thing in class for his dad and some kid broke it right in front of him. He went to the teacher and was met with " that's a you problem" so the next day he comes home crying. The next day he makes another and put it in his desk, and it was stolen." According to Barrett, her son was also being bullied on the playground and went to a

teacher for help. Ask your child. Because mine didn't want to say. He kept saying the teachers are calling it tattling. If we tattle, they treat us terrible when we go to the teacher. So please ask your student if they are doing ok. Because they won't tell you right out. Matt Jenkins, with Montrose County school district says the have thoroughly investigated Barrett's claims. He says the district takes bullying very seriously. We have worked hard to develop a culture of safety and inclusion and respect and continue to try to define our culture as one of equity and tolerate and we do not tolerate bullying. I'm told as part of the investigation the school district reviewed the staff and had a dialogue with the mom and her child. The district feels the issue has been resolved, however Barrett does not. The school also says that for parents and kids the door is always open if they'd like to reach out if they are concerned about bullying.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

December 8th, 2021

Reporter: Cristian Sida, Jean Reynolds

Duration: 2:10

Schools around the globe...including school district 51 in mesa county.... are taking part in 'Hour of Code. IT'S A global computer science initiative. Cristian Sida caught up some students at one local school that is involved. He joins us live tonight at new Emerson Elementary School. The Hour of Code... teaches students the basics of computer science. like today here at New Emerson where they will hold a week of coding education. "S is for science, T is for technology, E is for engineering and M is for Mathematics." Julia Stephen, is a third grader, at New Emerson School, where this week she... along her classmates... are taking part in 'Hour of Code.' "So, we are coding robots." Hour of Code is a worldwide event... where schools around the globe aim to educate students about computer science and raise awareness about the importance of STEM-related professions. "Basically, the idea is how to teach kids how to code from a young age because they know it's so important for people to know how to code and so when you learn young; you know how to do it your whole life and it actually is a big advantage in the workforce." Emily Shockley, with Mesa County Valley School District 51 says students enjoy this week of STEM education. "Yeah, I thought it was really fun." According to Shockley, the goal is to make these lessons about coding entertaining yet educational. "It's not like you're just sitting in a dark room on a computer just- you know- typing things in. You are actually having fun with your whole class. Sometimes you're coding robots like you saw today at New Emerson." Another student, Luke Bagly believes that learning about coding will help him in the future. "When you get older and have a job it will help you." Hour of Code is designed to prove that anybody can learn the basics of computer science... "Hour of Code is a great introduction to coding for students that might've not had the opportunity." But also. To encourage more students to pursue careers in that field. "If you can code you can change the world." Hour of Code is hosted once a year on the second week of December. d51 has provided computer science education for a few years now and has about 11 schools taking part this year.

KKCO 11 News at 6P 1st Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

October 4th, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks,

Duration: 1:58

Colorado is making it easier to become a teacher to try and attract more people to rural districts. The vast majority of schools districts in the state are in rural areas. Those rural districts are facing a critical shortage of staff. Harvey Rude, Colorado Center for Rural Education, Director I'm in my 49th year as an educator. Dr. Harvey Rude knows the challenges... I'm Director of the Colorado Center for Rural Education. The challenges that small rural school districts face year after year. There are some schools that haven't had math teachers for five years. We've told you before about how difficult it is for rural schools to hire staff. Now they're relying on different tactics to fill hundreds of open positions. The issue of educator shortage is something that addresses all schools in all states around the country. The Center for Rural Education at the University of Northern Colorado provides incentives for people to teach in rural areas. But even that isn't enough. Some districts now hire community members with bachelor's degrees to teach classes while they also train them to be teachers. This has been a life saver for so many of our rural communities. Others are leaning more heavily on remote learning. If a district doesn't have a math teacher for example, they're working to put students in a virtual classroom, regardless of where in the state the teacher leading the class actually works. You may be in a class with students from other districts at the same time. The state also passed a bill this year aimed at increasing recruitment and retention of teachers. Solutions... that hope to solve a challenge that's gone on for years. Education is the profession that support every other profession. More than 80-PERCENT of the state's districts are in rural areas. An additional challenge that rural districts in Colorado's ski towns face-- is that it's really expensive to live there... Making it even more challenging to hire staff there.

**KKCO PSA's PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT
TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Topic of PSA (varying lengths of: 10, :15, :20, and :30)

of Times Aired

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