

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.

2nd Quarter 2020

PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

DAYBREAK	Monday thru Friday	5:00-7:00a
KKCO 11 NEWS AT NOON - LIVE AT NOON	Monday thru Friday	12:00 – 12:30p
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 <u>Network</u> News Programs Carried by KKCO:

EARLY TODAY	Monday thru Thursday	4:30-5am
EARLY TODAY	Sundays	4:30-5am
THE TODAY SHOW	Monday thru Friday	7-11am
NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	Monday thru Friday	5:30-6pm
SATURDAY TODAY	Saturdays	6-8am
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: Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Dr. Vin Gupta, Vice President Mike Pence, Dr. Deborah Birx, Professor Sir John Bell, Ana Palmer, Priscilla Thompson, David French, Dr. Nahid Bhadelia, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY).

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 #1Agri-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: Meat prices up, Cow herds down, The GMO Wheat Controversy, Low Crop prices, Mid West Crops.

ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE/ PET HEALTH & LAWS

KKCO Daybreak 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 16, 2020

Reporter: Sarah Schwabe/Linnie Supall

Duration: 1:47

Just like you might be having a tough time dealing with being cooped up. Your pets could be facing the same stress. Daybreak reporter Linnie Supall spoke with a professional dog trainer and behaviorist who is helping families learn to cope with these changes. This is how we do social distancing to walk with your dog."

Dale buchanan is a certified dog trainer and animal behaviorist. As the founder of south Florida's top gun dog training he's seen a spike in calls from clients over the last four weeks. "Excessive barking, chewing things inside the house and jumping on people, urinating and going potty inside the house, which they weren't doing before." So Buchanan is getting back to basics. Reinforcing obedience training with 12 year old Spaulding and Diesel, a 7 month old puppy from Tri-County Animal Rescue. "The puppy wants to go all over the place but we're keeping it civil. These guys are behaving. This is exercise, socialization, mental stimulation all wrapped up in one." Juan Ortega is Diesel's owner and says his pup is already showing signs of improvement. Plus... "we've also been trying to walk the dog 5-8 times a day. There's a lot of physical and mental stimulation." but Buchanan adds during times of uncertainty a dog owner's stress and anxiety levels have an impact too. "Our dogs can quickly pick that up. So that's another thing to consider when your dog is not behaving properly all of a sudden." Even after a tiger in New York's Bronx Zoo surprisingly tested positive for Coronavirus... Experts say there is still no evidence that house pets are at risk. However out of an abundance of caution the American Veterinary Medical Association does recommend you consider having someone else care for your pet if you test positive for the disease.

KKCO 11 News at 10p Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 29, 2020

Reporter: Matt VanderveerJean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:22

A man on a mission to find the remains of his best friend... man's best friend...and he needs your help. Answers might be right here in Grand Junction. This neighborhood in the Redlands is one of many that Mason Mitchell has canvassed since the break in; he's not asking for an apology or even answers, just his dog back. "He was my best friend, his name was Doobie, and he was a German shepherd mix." A rescue dog he got in college. "I had him for six years, seven months, and eight days." Tuesday was his birthday... and Mitchell was reminiscing. "He saved my life on multiple occasions; he stood between me and a black bear before." He went down to Monarch pass on Saturday. "We were planning on spreading his ashes, doing a ceremony, remembering him." And awoke Sunday to his van ransacked after the window was broken into. "I got all my clothes stolen, a bunch of ski gear, ski boots, some keys and out of everything, obviously, the most important thing to me was his ashes." Doobie's ashes... valuable in a different way. "We followed a GPS watch that was stolen, we just used the 'find my' app." leading Mitchell here, to Grand Junction. "All day Monday, I knocked on every door in about a quarter mile of where the watch was located." But, no watch. And no ashes. So he's asking for your help... "I think a lot of people will understand that dogs aren't just pets." In bringing Doobie home. "He doesn't belong on the side of the road somewhere. He belongs, you know, with me and somewhere beautiful like all the places we've been together." Inside the bin taken from his car was a silver tin containing his ashes, a tuft of his fur, his blanket... Mitchell is asking for anyone with any information to step forward. The watch last pinged at a Walmart in Delta; the initial report was filed with the Chaffee county sheriff's office but both the Mesa County and Delta County sheriff's offices have been involved. Anyone with any information, please call local law enforcement.

KKCO 11 News at 5p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 3, 2020

Reporter: Jason Burger/Jeanne Moos

Duration: 2:31

A lot of people are turning to man's best friend to get them through this pandemic. Jeanne Moos reports on the bond that seems to grow tighter the more we isolate. It used to be our dogs got upset when left alone. But these days we humans are the ones feeling separation anxiety. "Maintain 6 feet social distance"? Tell that to a dog. There's nothing

like a cuddly pet to make the couch seem less lonely. Even Billie Eilish had an armful of pups when she performed from self-quarantine, petting as she crooned. No wonder adoptions went from almost 200 last April to well over 300 this April at the Helen Woodward Animal Center in San Diego. Anna Fairman adopted Archie in mid-March as a stay at home order went into effect...He's since gained 10 pounds and now...He's learned the most basic quarantine tricks, though he's not rolling over for Brutus, the pet tortoise. Dog owners are paying tribute to their pets. Spoiling them with chicken pot pie. Enlivening lockdown by throwing a scones and cream birthday brunch for this good boy. Talking dog memes are making the rounds. A Colorado woman trained her golden retriever sunny to deliver groceries to the next door neighbor in self-isolation. Pet owners ask vets "should my pet wear a face mask in public?" the short answer..."no"...though someone forgot to tell Priscilla. Pity the poor dogs isolated from this groundhog hogging a slice of pizza in Philadelphia. Predicting, Kimmel says, several weeks more of quarantine. Instead of burying your head in the sand during the pandemic, let a puppy bury his head in your lap. And raise your spirits by levitating your wizard of a dog.

KKCO Midday Live

Including: Web Channel Feature

May 12, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks

Duration: 1:58

Puppy fever is spreading across the US! It seems more people decided they wanted pets in recent weeks, while hunkering down due to the covid-19 outbreak. Now, there's a national shortage of dogs... And some new pet parents might be in over their heads.... If puppies weren't already hard to resist...

Weeks at home seems to have spurred an interest in canine companions. Animal shelters around the country say they've seen a surge in adoptions during the pandemic. Some have even reported emptying their kennels! Animal shelters around the country say they've seen a surge in adoptions during the pandemic. Some have even reported emptying their kennels! "doodle" breeder Jenna Stone says she's had a 400% increase in calls and web traffic since February. Without the right considerations eager pet parents may end up with more than they bargained for. That's leading to another increase in demand for dog trainers! Dog Wizard co-owner Danielle Kharmen says clients are seeking help because new pets have gotten used to a quarantine lifestyle... With 24/7 attention. As many states continue phased reopening... Trainers are seeing a sharp increase in dogs with separation anxiety... Leading to destructive behavior. Trainers say it's important to start a structured schedule for your pup... That includes time away from family members or getting used to a crate. Pet owners can also take advantage of virtual training programs such as puppy preschool. Tips to keep dogs... And humans... Happy... Beyond the quarantine. The humane society says they're excited to see that some regional shelters are clearing out... But are concerned there will be a wave of returns later this year.

KKCO 11 News at 5p Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 18, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Goldene Brown

Duration: 1:40

A popular section of a local dog park is being closed for improvements. City officials say they had some left over money and wanted to do some good for pet owners. Officials with the city want to remind people that the small senior dog area at Canyon View Park will be closed from June 22nd, until July 1st of next year." The Small Senior Dog Area at Canyon View Park is closing its gates to make some changes -- Adding Dog Tuff Turf Grass to keep wear and tear low as they come in and out. Officials say they have leftover money from a dog park project they're working on at Las Colonias, and wanted to put the extra dollars towards something the community uses. While the dog area is closed, they said there will be other alternatives...including the opening of a Dog Park at Las Colonias in July. The large dog area as well as the pond area will remain open. two additional dog parks will open at Las Colonias in summer of 2021

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 24, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Jaclyn Allen

Duration: 2:15

An unwelcome guest made itself known in Boulder county, Colorado. Officials say a bear has broken into nine cabins in the last six weeks. And while the area might be "bear country" -- Colorado parks and wildlife says this bear has gotten used to searching for food in people's cabins... And needs to be caught. Jaclyn Allen has the details. In Boulder county mountain communities -- Wildlife may be their way of life, but lately in Peaceful valley, contact 7 is hearing about one bear wearing out his welcome. Colorado parks and wildlife district manager Joe Padia believes just one bear is tied to as many as nine cabin break-ins in the last six weeks. Busting windows -- raiding refrigerators -- even chewing on bear-resistant trash cans. So CPW is putting out a bear trap like this in the bear's area -- a bear who is lured by Swiss Miss cocoa and Maxwell House coffee. People who live here usually give bears the benefit of the doubt -- but say this time is different. So for now, wildlife officers say this is a reminder to put away food lock doors and report bears early so they can be hazed before this kind of behavior becomes habit. Officials says if you see a bear try to avoid them noticing you.

CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

KKCO The Ten Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 5, 2020

Reporter: Goldene Brown/Augusta McCain

Duration: 1:52

The Mesa County Sheriff's office responded to an early morning car theft that ended in a serious crash around 30 road. My dogs started barking crazily so that's what woke me up" She got up to her backdoor completely ajar... she went to wake up her boyfriend. "As he was coming out, he saw my car driving away." Nona phoned 9-1-1. "A couple minutes later, we kind of heard some sirens go by and then I would say that about ten minutes after that they called to say that they did find my car but it was totaled." After driving at a high speed on a frontage road, the vehicle rolled and the driver was ejected at I-70B and North Ave. "The keys were inside my home." Nona up late working last night and she forgot to lock her backdoor... "I feel totally scared and violated, like someone was in my space." The timing of this is what makes it so painful...because Nona is a home health nurse. "I work out of my car so my car is kind of my office. My car was fully stocked with supplies I might need; we're trying to work from home as much as possible, too." So while she tries to find a vehicle for work tomorrow and wrestles with the uneasiness of a stranger in her home, Nona considers herself lucky. "I'm grateful for my dogs. I'm grateful that they were able to chase them out of the home before they took anything or hurt anybody." The male driver was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, we're told the man has since died. This case is currently under investigation by the Mesa County Sheriff's office with assistance from The Grand Junction Police Department.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 22, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks

Duration 2:16

A manhunt is under way in Utah, following the brutal murder of a couple in their own home. Police say Tony and Katherine Butterfield were gunned down Saturday morning. The main suspect - Albert Johnson - is nowhere to be found. As Pat Reavy reports Johnson's wife is behind bars. A day of yard work for sue martin who just learned last night. That her landscaper, 31-year-old Tony Butterfield, and his wife were murdered inside their West Jordan home. Tony and his wife ran a landscaping business called "electric blue yard service." Once a week, tony would show up at Sue's home to mow. He also managed her sprinklers, washed her windows and hung up her Christmas lights. Sue says tony would sometimes show up with a small work crew. But she doesn't recognize the man police are looking for, 31 year old Albert Johnson, who some are telling us worked for Tony. Police are not confirming any of that and not saying how the two knew each other. They are still hoping to first find him. And they are not getting any help from Johnson's wife - 29 year old Sina Johnson. As a result, Sina Johnson is behind bars, facing charges of obstruction of justice and tampering with evidence. According to the probable cause statement. She "withheld the whereabouts of her husband and falsified her recounts of what occurred and her involvement" she "has had contact with her husband on multiple occasions prior to, and after the homicide." She "disposed of items of evidentiary value". She "aided her husband in fleeing." and she's considered a "substantial danger to any other individual or to the community." and is considered "likely to flee" because she told police she had "plans to buy a plane ticket to Arizona." police believe the Butterfields were killed while trying to defend their home from Johnson.

The couple's three children were there at the time, but none of them were injured. So far there's no word from investigators on Johnson's suspected motive.

KKCO 11 News at 10p Top Story

May 28, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:15

What started out as a search for a potential arsonist has hit a dead-end tonight. This-- after several fires were put out in a section of north Grand Junction, threatening structures and bringing in a helicopter. I'm here north of G road 26 road at one of the many fires intermittent from 25 to 26 road. "I got home from work today and there was a fire behind my house and also a fire on this side of the canal." Crews responded to multiple calls on multiple fires around 26 road at little after 4 today. "We've seen some trailers and some hauling like equipment that was damaged but I'm not aware of any structures that were damaged, there were several threatened." A priority was protecting those structures... calling in a firefighting helicopter from Rifle. "Part of what is causing the spread of this fire is very dry, tall grass on the side of the roads so it's easy for this fire to get going and spread." The cause of the fire is still being investigated, but we know so far that it doesn't seem to be a standard, out-of-control controlled burn. "We got the reverse 9-1-1 call at the house, on the phone call, it says it was a person on a bike riding around setting fires." Updated information says the person on the bike has been contacted and is not involved. They're asking for the public's help in looking for anyone suspicious in the 26 Road area. "If they have any recording equipment on their homes, any recording doorbells, see anything suspicious, please contact the Grand Junction Police Department." Anyone with any information is asked to call nonemergency dispatch. Grand Junction, Palisade. Clifton and Lower Valley are all responding... we'll continue to monitor this-- check our social media and website for the most up to date information.

KKCO The 10 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

May 30, 2020

Reporter: Jason Burger

Duration: 2:22

The financial impact of the coronavirus has been devastating across the economy but particularly for ride-sharing. Companies like Uber and Lyft have been dealt a blow-- but are now trying to battle back with a renewed emphasis on safety. In a recent ad for 'Uber,' a father holds his child--- friends and family wave from afar--- and people hunker down in their homes...doing everything but get inside a car: the message--- 'stay home for everyone who can't'--- reflects a reality devastating companies like Uber, Lyft and Bird: safety concerns and lockdowns...have led to leaner ridership: Ubers bookings dropped *80-percent* in April... Lyft rides fell *75-percent from the same month last year. And e-bikes and scooters have lost their buzz--- with 'wheels' and 'lime' pausing operations in some markets. Not to mention the impact on drivers... Walter Stefano returned to work a couple weeks ago--- protected by a plastic barrier and plenty of cleaning products... But *not armed for the economic bite: Uber's offered workers 19-million in financial aid so far --- and has buckled down on safety since the start of the pandemic: you can't enter a car without until agreeing to wear a face covering and acknowledging no symptoms... The company's pumped 50-million dollars into cleaning supplies and PPE for drivers... And new this morning-- riders can book 'hourly windows' at a flat rate, to reduce exposure. Lyft, likewise, making face masks mandatory for riders and drivers...and investing heavily in cleaning supplies. For ride-sharing users like Amanda Rivera...the risks at this point--- seem manageable. A call to action for being conscientious...wearing a mask, and refusing to ride with those who won't...

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 12, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Goldene Brown

Duration: 1:55

Residents in one local neighborhood are speaking up after they say they've seen a recent uptick in crime and want to put an end to it. Goldene Brown has more details. Grand Junction Police Department says one of the best ways to prevent break-ins is to lock your doors." Residents of one Grand Junction neighborhood say they can't catch a break. (Resident) "We should all as families, and people be able to go to sleep at night and think Oh is there someone outside, is my car locked? We should feel safe and sound." They say car thefts in their Brookwillow

community have gone up. Several neighbors catching alleged thieves on camera. "My biggest thing is just to have everyone aware, and maybe even the community come together, and just keep an eye out for each other." One resident telling me that someone stole a pistol, and broke into her home -- saying that she fears that it could put the community in danger. "There is a lot of bad guys who don't need weapons, and if they have access to those, that puts the community at a huge risk." Grand Junction Police say most thefts of this nature are preventable. "Thieves are looking for cars where their doors have been unlocked, windows are rolled down and the car is unattended and they can see valuables inside." But say if you see something, say something. "It makes you question every single person you see in the neighborhood because you don't know if they are casing the neighborhood, what if they hurt the kids?" Now I'm told break-ins of this nature is expected to increase as the weather warms up. In Grand Junction. Officials also say hiding your valuables and parking in a well-lit area can help prevent car break ins.

KKCO 11 News at 6 Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 16, 2020

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration 2:33

Developing tonight-- a man was found dead this morning in a canal.

The body was found off of 38 road in the canal owned by Orchard Mesa Irrigation. Details are extremely limited tonight. At this point in the investigation, Mesa County deputies are unable to say if this death appears suspicious or if there are any people of interest... They tell us they'll know more on how to investigate once the autopsy is done... I'm here at the unfortunate, site where the body was found. I'm told this area is where they've seen quite a few deaths come through in the last couple of years. A body discovered in a palisade canal by an employee of the Orchard Mesa irrigation district. "Called the sheriff's office, they came out, they believe he actually went into my canal on the other side of the river, and if that's where he went in the he went through five different siphons and tunnels." Details are limited tonight-- no word on how long the body was there or if the death appears suspicious. Deputies telling me they'll know more about how to investigate once the autopsy is done... Still, it's an incident that has the manager of the canal hoping people take extra precautions..."People go hiking on the Palisade Rim Trail, they don't take water for their dogs, and they come back and the dog goes straight to our canals for water, go in our canal, and then the people come to my office, want to know if we seen their dog..." He says it's not just humans that can fall victim to the rushing cold and deep water... It's your pets too... He hopes hikers will bring water for their dogs so they aren't tempted to drink from the canals- and usually, yes we have, and it's dead." He says the canal water travels through tight pipes and tunnels making it impossible to breathe. "These banks are just sheer walls and if they fall in it's very hard to get out." And he says it's not just the edges people should be concerned about. "Even though it's summer time, the water is in the 50 and 60 degrees and that's cold enough to get hypothermia." Most importantly, "Be very careful around canals, pay extra close attention to the little ones and your four-legged friends... especially with your pets and your children." The manager of the irrigation district says they see a human drowning here about once a year. Among the victims, are wildlife-they've seen elk, cattle, and even a bear end up here... in this very heart-breaking spot. Be sure to check our social

ENVIRONMENT/WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 15, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

media pages and website for the most up to date information.

Duration: 2:53

The age old question for people on both sides of the debate. Can recreation and oil and gas development coexist? that question highlighted was posed to our neighbor in Utah... a question we might soon be asking in our own backyard. Bike trails like the ones you see behind me cover a lot of public land... Moab's recreation-driven economy depends on them... and so do some areas closer to home. The fact that they were thinking of leasing part of the slickrock trail for oil and gas is just a great reason for why the system needs an update." The BLM decided against selling leases near the world-famous bike trail after taking heat from lawmakers... Ashley Korenblat says this is a scenario she foresees in a lot of recreation-centered communities

"Any acre that isn't protected is available for oil and gas. There are definitely some areas around the Grand Junction/Fruita area could be at risk for the same time of problem." And that the recreation and oil and gas don't mix. "You can't have conflicting uses on the same acre." The BLM says, though, that they're no stranger to recreation and oil and gas development in close proximity. We have to balance a lot of uses for public lands." But says that they work to protect these recreation areas through special designations. "We often have stipulations such as controlled surface use so there's not going to be an impact to the recreation with having oil and gas leasing." In fact, the BLM says while on a bike ride or a hike, you might not even be aware you're on leased land. "With the way technology these days and the way people drill and develop, you would never even know oil and gas leasing was going on under a recreation site." But Ashley asks, why risk it? "There's a worldwide glut in oil and gas right now, you know, there's other uses of these acres that are really benefitting nearby communities." One of the things Ashley emphasized was that in the case of slickrock, just because there was a world-famous biking trail, didn't mean it was exempt from leasing. The BLM, though, says they give special designations to rec-focused areas through discussions with the public, stakeholders, and the County... they stressed to me that they're always looking for community input. Some folks are calling for a change in the oil and gas leasing process... one US Senator introduced a bill in January to generally prohibit leasing on lands with low or no development potential. This land would instead be used for things like wildlife habitat preservation and outdoor recreation.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 28, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds

Duration: 1:50

Those warm temperatures we'll be getting this week -- are going to kick the spring runoff into high gear. Cory Reppenhagen spoke with a hydrologist about what they are expecting to see in our rivers. The last time it hit 80 degrees in Denver was October 16th. That's 194 days ago. There will be a few of those 80-degree days this week. We'll even come close to tying a record in Denver for the earliest 90-degree day of the year -- which was set on April 30th. The Colorado mountains will get highs in the 60's with all that sunshine this week. That means accelerated snow melt. Snowpack levels are still high. 3 percent above average statewide, and 20 percent above average in the South Platte basin. There are a few flood warnings in the northern Rockies, but none in Colorado. "No gauges are expected to go above action stage right now. Not even cause any streams to go above bankfull" National Weather Service Hydrologist Treste Huse says Colorado snowpack lasts longer because of our high elevation. The snow is deeper, and overnight lows are still well below freezing in the mountains She's says in way, it would even be better for a warm end to April to reduce some of that deep snowpack early. "The longer the snowpack remains into June, generally the more likely it is to come down faster" Huse says it will take a big precipitation event to occur during snowmelt to raise a flood threat. She says with snowmelt alone, there is only a 10 percent chance of flooding even in our areas most vulnerable spot, in Weld County near Kersey. These high temperatures will also dry up Colorado -- which will increase fire danger. There is a fire weather watch in southwest Colorado, and a red flag warning to in western Kansas and Nebraska.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

May 20, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer /Jean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:15

We've asked before: can oil and gas drilling... and outdoor recreation coexist? That question reinvigorated in Moab as lands are up for lease near national parks. I'm here at BLM lands in our neck of the woods... a little farther to the west in Utah, the BLM is considering leasing over a hundred thousand acres for oil and gas development near Arches and Canyonlands national parks. "There is absolutely no need to offer these lands for lease."

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance says leasing near national parks just isn't worth the risk for outdoor rec centered economies "That sort of development is just goes against the protection of dark night skies, clean air, clean water." Drawing tourists from all over... something relatable a little closer to home. "Nobody is coming to Moab or to Fruita to see the flaring or natural gas or flare rigs." But the Western Energy Alliance says that won't be the case. "They're all in these areas designated no surface occupancy, meaning that, looking at those federal lands, you don't know they're being developed for oil and natural gas." Using horizontal drills beneath the surface... a rig somewhere else. "Just as in Grand Junction, Fruita... there's land use planning that occurs. The bureau of land management looks at the land, looks at all the resource values: is it near a park, is it near a recreation area, is it near a trail..."

While the Western Energy Alliance says that they've heard this tune before from environmentalists, it's not just

about these national parks. "Let's be clear about what their agenda is. It's about stopping all oil and gas. Not just on federal lands, but completely." These a hundred - some thousand acres representing a larger rift in the future of energy: to drill, or not to drill. "The united states needs to be transitioning away from fossil fuel development." The BLM will begin taking public comment beginning Thursday on these lands. Some of these nominated leases come within a mile or so of these national parks. Arches and Canyonlands are two of Utah's most popular destinations; Arches sees more than 1.5 million visitors annually.

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 27, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Jason Burger

Duration: 1:55

When it comes to fighting fires, there's lots of logistics involved, but some new smart phone technology could make that easier. That's why senator Cory Gardner was in the valley today to watch a simulated situation here at Watson Island. This is how managing an active wildland fire is currently done. With radios, and a physical map. It's a system that most incident commanders have used for years... but is possible to make it better. Members of the Colorado center for Excellence for Advanced Technology and Aerial Firefighting showed Senator Gardner a new system to track firefighters in the field. It's an app called the Team Awareness Kit. "Everyone that carries the app will be able to see a dot where the other firefighters are at." Through the app, they can also mark if a fire has grown in a specific area...and put eyes in the sky. "we can even access live drone feeds to show video over the incident."

KKCO 11 News at 5p Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 6, 2020

Reporter: Jason Burger/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 2:02

Even with some rain helping out today, fire crews are still battling flames, and trying to get those fires contained. A total of four fires were reported yesterday, and though the rain did help some-- it also brought a new set of challenges for the crews. And when we got there there was a fairly large fire..." Four fires burned in Western Colorado yesterday. "probably going to approximately 20 acres." Two in McInnis Canyon, one in the little Bookcliffs, and one in Palisade. The BLM gathered fire fighters from all over the valley and Craig to help fight the fires burning in the canyon and Bookcliffs. The fires proved difficult to access on ground so the first to start attacking were the air crews. Today, the BLM used 3 hot shot teams—which is a 20 percent crew of fire fighters. As of this morning, the fire was still on the ground. Though the rain may help deplete the fires, it does bring a set of new challenges for the teams. "muddy roads and when you have difficult access already that can hinder some of our getting back into some of those remote areas." The crews had to gain access on ground through Debeque. It's important to check fire restrictions. "There's going to be more red flag warnings that will be coming out..." before heading out for things like camping to avoid open flames. As these fires were burning, multiple calls were getting backed up in Grand Junction--for things like power lines and lightning strikes. The Lower-Valley Fire Department was also able to help respond to those. We hope to hear an update on today's assessment of the fires soon.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 12, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 2:10

Fires and wind have resulted in some pretty busy firefighters over the last few weeks.

Here's an update on breaking news we had for you last night regarding the squirrel rock fire near Cedaredge. a resident today who explained to me the fear she felt, as she saw the fire on her way home. From fuels surrounding the fire "We felt it imperative" to its growing complexity "to notify residents to start evacuating." "It was pretty huge and I was pretty worried." The Delta County Sheriff's office and cooperating fire departments had a tough decision to make. "So our number one concern is safety of residents, of saving lives, and then also of property up in that area." The majority of the people evacuated are now allowed back in their homes, but the ones closest to the fire remain away. "I'm pleased with cooperation, I know it's, it's a hardship for everyone to evacuate, especially in such a short amount of time." The changing winds made a big impact on the firefighting and sheriff's

office judgment calls. "The amount of equipment and the amount of personnel that was driving on those narrow roads. We just needed safety for the firefighters." "I can't say enough about the crews that went up there, we had great mutual aid cooperation within the county, we had Cedaredge fire department on scene, Delta fire department on scene, Hotchkiss fire department, and then we had our, our federal partners came up." Highway 65 was also closed because of a separate structure fire Officials believe the fire might have been caused from a target practice by a property owner in the area. As of this morning, the fire is 50 percent contained. "so we've made some significant progress with it." The fire has currently burned a little more than 40 acres. Team work... "I can't say enough about the cooperation. Well...and the attack on the fire, that's what Sheriff Taylor credits the efforts to. I think that's why we're in such a good place, right now, today." Be sure to follow our social media page and website. We'll put all the most up to date information there. Head to nbc 11 news dot com

CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 1, 2020

Reporter: Matt/Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:41

We brought you a story a couple weeks ago about property owners who were waiving rent for the month of April amid the Coronavirus pandemic. Tonight-- a different story-- the opposite, in fact. A Delta apartment complex is raising rent, saving they're adjusting to market price... the owners of the Windsors apartments didn't want to talk with me on camera, but reached out to me in a statement, saying that they let tenants know about rent increases well ahead of the coronavirus crisis. The folks who live here, though, say to continue with the increase during these times is just insensitive. Robert picked his two-bedroom apartment at the Windsors because it fit his budget... A similar story for many neighbors, like Scott here. "Last year, they raised the rent from 480 to 500 which I can understand that." But a couple of weeks ago, they got a letter on their doors. "It was like three or four days after this virus thing started. "Scott's letter is dated March 11th. "It said something to the effect of, 'you're getting your rent way cheaper and we're going to jack this place up." The notice actually reads that tenants of The Windsors have been paying "below market rent," and that rent would increase by a hundred and fifty dollars on the first of May. Robert lost his part time iob at a restaurant in Delta because of the coronavirus, and he knows he's not the only one struggling. "In all my years, I haven't seen my country where it's at right now." Robert's neighbor Scott is still employed, but he too fears this increase might affect him. "I might have to get an extra job or something." And while Robert was apprehensive at first about speaking out... "I'm going to wait and see if they kick me out over this." He knew he had to say something. "I'm not here to cause trouble, I'm not here to cause grief for anybody, but I spent a lot of years in law enforcement fighting for what's right... to implement this when our country is in the shape that it's in is wrong." The owners of the apartment complex say that the rate of \$650 is still well below market rate in Delta. They also say most of their tenants are "essential workers" and haven't been affected by job loss. It's true there are likely people who can afford the price hike-- but what about folks like Robert who have lost their job because of the virus? the owners say they and their property management company Area Best will be working with their tenants to accommodate those who are truly in need. According to Rent Data dot org, the average rent for a two bedroom apartment in Delta County is a little more than 900 dollars.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 7, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Goldene Brown

Duration: 1:55

Municipal Elections for Palisade and Fruita are still being held tonight. Officials tell us that amid coronavirus, they still got a pretty normal amount of returned ballots. Now, COVID-19 has definitely been a concern when it comes to elections, but residents here in Fruita can actually drive right up and drop their ballots off in this drop off box. Evidence of COVID-19 may be seen throughout the Western Slope but municipal elections are business as usual. You know obviously I always feel that they but especially your municipal elections, a lot closer to people here than state and federal level elections." Residents in Fruita and Palisade will be voting on new members to their city council and board of trustees

"Only real change is they are not able to come into city hall, and use our ballot box at city hall." The election is mailin or drop off...that way folks can maintain a six foot distance from others. We've been doing mail ballot elections for about 12, 14 year, so it's people mailing in their ballot or dropping off at our drop box out in the parking lot." But they are taking precautions when it comes to handling the ballots wearing more protective gear. You know obviously when we're going to the ballots, handling those with gloves, in the tabulation room, making sure everyone has gloves, has separation of distance." Because they say "your vote matters." "Someone running for office might be your neighbor, you see them at the store. So, it's a little bit more personal. And, always important to vote." "Now residents have until 7 p.m. tonight to vote, after that they will no longer be accepting any ballots, but they will be counting that tonight. Palisade has two candidates for mayor that they'll vote on and Fruita is asking residents to vote on a lodging tax increase of 3%.

KKCO 11 News at 5p Top Story Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 5, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jason Burger

Duration: 1:40

State officials say alternative care sites around the state have been chosen, in case hospitals are eventually overwhelmed with patients, but so far they haven't been activated. KKCO 11 News reporter Jason Burger looked into what that means for one of those sites here in Grand Junction. Last month, there was talk about bringing more beds to western Colorado for recovering Covid-19 patients, and officials say a local location has signed a lease with the state, but it hasn't been activated just yet. Back in April, Mesa County commissioners and emergency planners were told about a plan to bring more treatment beds to the state, and western Colorado. One of the sites for this is here at Grand Junction at Western Slope Memory Care, which was formerly the Welbrook rehabilitation building on Patterson road...the management company for that building tells us crews are currently doing renovations inside, but state officials say they have not had to activate any alternative care sites yet, but the planning needs to be done now. This site, as well as the other alternative care sites remain available, and can be used in very short notice, if the hospitals start exceeding their capacity for patient care." The state identified the Grand Junction site with the help of the Army corps of engineers, and state public health officials. And I'm told at the memory care facility here, there will be 50 total private rooms with bathrooms to treat infected patients. State officials say the site could be ready to go by July, but so far there just hasn't been a huge need.

KKCO Midday Live Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 15, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Rachel DePompa

Duration: 3:04

Scammers are taking advantage of folks looking for work because of this pandemic. They are posting fake jobs, not only wasting your valuable time, but trying to steal your money. Rachel DePompa exposes the scheme with the help of a Virginia woman who knew something wasn't quite right. Rachel DePompa: Sandrine Morris works as a nursing assistant, but she's been patiently looking over the last year for a job in the field she loves. Sandrine Morris: "I have a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration and I thought, 'Okay, maybe I should just try again." Rachel DePompa: So she got on indeed jobs.com and started applying. Two weeks letter, she got a response. Sandrine Morris: "I recently got an e-mail saying, you applied to us, we got your resume, would you be available for an interview?" Rachel DePompa: She got a message claiming to be from Alvogen Pharmaceuticals, a real company based in New Jersey. She showed us the email. It says they had her resume and she was "shortlisted" for the next step. An interview! That interview we be conducted online. They asked her to download google hangouts. She showed us the entire chat exchange. In it the people alleging to be from Alvogen tell her all about the company and the job. Sandrine Morris: "It did feel like it was normal because I've been to so many job interviews. He asked me five questions and those five questions were similar to a typical job interview question." Rachel: She got a letter after the interview telling her she got the job! She would be working from home, for now. Rachel: They sent her a check for \$3,450 to buy a computer and software. They wanted her to deposit it immediately. There's even a letter with detailed instructions. It says "it's mandatory that you send a copy of the deposit receipt." Rachel: That's when the red flags started going up. Sandrine went to her bank, Navy Federal Credit Union, to find out if the check was real. Rachel: She says the bank tellers confirmed that the check was a fake. This was a scam. Barry Moore: Better Business Bureau: "I think Covid-19 has really put it out front because people have lost their jobs or been furloughed or been laid off without pay and they need an income so they go to

the internet." Rachel: A quick search of the BBB's Scam tracker shows reports of 705 employment scams nationwide just in the last 3 months. Rachel: Indeed.com tells us-- it "encourages job seekers to report any suspect job advertisements" and "if they feel it necessary, to make a report to the police." Rachel: On its Indeed.com profile Alvogen Pharmaceuticals does not have any jobs listed in Richmond. We reached out to let the company know about the imposter job post. So far-- we've not heard back. Rachel on cam: If anyone asks you to pay money for an interview it might be a scam. If they want to send you a check to buy things for your new job before you've even started- it's likely a scam. You need to research the company-- look up thee website, see if it's advertising jobs. Call the company up if you have to. And be very cautious of any interview that asks you share your banking information.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 11, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 2:10

We talk about PTSD a lot and the resources available. June happens to be month dedicated to those suffering from it... I'm here at the V-A medical center, where earlier I learned exactly what P-T-S-D is from, it's symptoms to treatments. Take a look. June is P-T-S-D awareness month. "what people don't know," It stands for post-traumatic stress disorder "is it's an actual shift in the mind and body." Though the disease is commonly associated with veterans-- and a high percentage of vets do acquire it from combat-- it can also stem from other traumas as well. "this can be anything from combat, assault, sexual assault, childhood trauma, natural disaster, accident." Triggers can occur in things like nightmares and flashbacks "and what we find, is that depending on the trauma is people may have a really hard time going out in public, the dark may become a problem, loud and unexpected noises may be really big." The disorder is hormonal and involuntary. "We also start seeing negative changes in perceptions and beliefs that weren't there prior." One symptom is avoidance of anything that might remind someone of that experience. "some people might think, PTSD is about weakness, or you know, they chose it, the reality is not only is it not about weakness, not about people choosing it, but you also can't ignore that." Millions of adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with the disease yearly. "we also want to educate people that there are treatments, you know, that are out there." The first step in the VA's treatment plan for PTSD is a conversation. "People can actually really make shifts, decrease symptoms, increase their functions, they can hug their kids again." Harmon says she sees improvement from many patients. "People can recover, within the first 3 months. "They can get their lives back." Numbers..that makes her job all the more worth it. Due to covid-19, the V.A. now offers virtual options for people seeking treatment. You can text the Veterans crisis line at 838-255. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide you can call the national suicide prevention lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 24, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Rachel Depompa

Duration: 3:37

Covid-consumer problems are pouring into the government. And these scams are costing you money... To the tune of nearly 60-million.... In just the first 6 months of the year. Rachel DepPompa has a few ways to protect yourself. This orange envelope certainly gets your attention: it says important covid-19 economic stimulus document enclosed. Inside-- what looks like a check-- for 3300 bucks for Covid-19 auto stimulus. So-- this is actually a car ad-from Louisiana based Traffic Jam Events LLC... and the Federal Trade Commission's filed suit to halt what the agency considers a scheme-- to lure people to a used car sale. Traffic Jam Events has yet to respond to the federal injunction-- to stop the mailers. We reached out and heard nothing back. This isn't the first time we've seen coronavirus used in a pitch... (Ringing phone) Robocall: The coronavirus has caused the us to declare a national emergency. Rachel: From endless robo calls-- to near miss scams-- "Be really wary." Parker Michels Boyce discovered a fake zoom tech support phone number. Rachel: The Federal Trade Commission now specifically tracking covid19scams-- reporting more than 91,808 complaints between January 1st and June 8th. "So it tells me that the scammers are hard at work sitting at their desks just like every single one of us. It also shows me that enterprises, that individuals and organizations have been thrust into this digital future and they're not ready for it." Rachel: Kathryn Harrison is CEO of Deep Trust Alliance: a non profit fighting against digital disinformation. She points out - We're all using video chats-- and technology to communicate more-- There's less in person interaction-- which opens the door to more fraud. "How do you know that I'm Kathryn Harrison? There's an app that iust came out in the last couple of weeks called Avatar Fi and I could put another face over mine.

I could be Julia Roberts or Renee Zellwellger." Rachel: For the record-- she is Kathryn-- but she's pointing out-how hard it is for companies to verify identities. "If you just always assumed there was a way to meet up in person and do something like look at their form of identification, you are in kind of a world of hurt right now." Rachel: Because the fraudsters can take advantage of companies that don't have a robust way to verify identities. Cameron D'Ambrosi is with One World Identity-- a strategy firm focused on digital identity. Rachel: Both Cameron and Kathryn says there's not a lot of technology out there to help you at the moment. Its up to you to be vigilant. Rachel: Enable two factor authentication and the strongest passwords possible on every single account you have. Set up notifications through email for every financial account-- especially your bank account. Kathryn: "Even your utility bill. making sure that you get an email every time a bill is processed." Rachel: Cameron says check your credit report as much as possible. And when it comes to any of the federal loan programs or even filing your taxes-file early-- And be careful what you put online. Don't put dates in you Linkedin profile. Scammers have all the time in the world to scour your social media-- and find the answers to authentication questions-- like what's your high school mascot or what year did you graduate?

POLITICS/LAWMAKING

KKCO 11 News at 5p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 25, 2020

Reporter: Jason Burger/Tyler Stricker

Duration: 2:29

Senators Bennet, Gardner and Congressman Scott Tipton have signed off on a letter requesting disaster relief for western slope farms, in response to damaged peach crops. The letter sent to agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue asks the federal government to quickly sign off on the declaration. This comes after nearly a week of below freezing temperatures damaged western Colorado fruit crops. It was expected to be a big year until the spring freeze settled in. Governor Polis has also reached out to the US Department of Agriculture for assistance. After a late season freeze on April 13, Colorado officials are calling for a secretarial disaster declaration, the damage the freeze has done has left an impact that hasn't been this hard in almost twenty years... it's very discouraging to say the least, it was a few hours event and it had a year-long consequence and perhaps beyond." Grand Junction farmstead grows everything but corn and potatoes, they lost some crops but are pushing ahead... the freeze was really hard, it was a deep freeze that really affected a few of our crops, we get to replant and retry which we are really fortunate about. the peach and the cherry farmers, they can't just plant another seed and try again this season." Governor Jared Polis and the Commissioner of Agriculture are requesting aid to western slope farmers that account for 75% of Colorado's fruit production... the secretarial disaster declaration can help with that... (CHARLIE TALBOTT) "it kind of just fast tracks aid as it becomes available." (DAWN TRUJILLO) "especially for us small farmers and the AG here in Colorado, it would be tremendous." it will also help crops that are uninsurable like cherries and pears... and the freeze has farmers thinking of the future. (DAWN TRUJILLO) "farmers here are very unsure about the farmers markets, are we going to be open? are we going to have a place to distribute and sell our product? is it going to be a safe environment? And even with all of those questions, there still should be fruit available on the western slope, just not as much. (CHARLIE TALBOTT) "there will be fruit out here, there will be a peach festival, there will be peaches and there will be daiquiris. there is going to be enough for those just not enough to keep our farmers going for a year." The western slope's various fruits like pears, peaches and more have taken a huge hit and farmers will look to get more assistance. The economic impact of the freeze could be as high as 50 million dollars.

KKCO 11 News at 10 Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 27, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:20

Congress just passed an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program which includes over \$310 billion in new funding for small businesses. Those businesses can apply starting today. The 10's Augusta McCain talked to one local bank that's already doled out millions in PPP loans-- about what they expect now. Applications for the paycheck protection program have now reopened after additional funds were allocated just last week... keeping banks like Timberline here busy. "Right now, businesses are in trouble and we need to help them." That's exactly what the \$349 billion coronavirus loan program for small businesses set out to do on April 3rd...

"We were able to process 650 loans and secure over a hundred and two million dollars." and then the money ran

out. "We actually applied for a PPP loan ourselves and got approved. A lot of our clients also got approved and it was about 50/50. About half were able to get the loan, the other half have been approved but not been funded yet." Jon Maraschin here with the business incubator says this money is essential for the startups he works with "The implication really the first one is, people get laid off or fired or furloughed, the second one is if businesses don't have enough cash, they might not be able to come back and reopen." This new chunk of change for PPP loans now opening up applications again. "Right now a lot of businesses are really uncomfortable... the stimulus package of 320 million dollars isn't enough and they know it." It's expected to only last days. "That'll run through the people in the pipeline, maybe a few more but not many." The government stretching their dollar to cover all the businesses that have already applied, and the ones that still need to "There are still a lot of businesses that could apply for this." Taking care of the families behind your favorite mom and pop businesses. "On the backside of those applications, those are people." Officials are encouraging folks: get your applications in now. It took just 13 days to exhaust the original almost 350 billion.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 13, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Peter Zampa

Duration: 2:05

As COVID-19 takes a toll on every aspect of American life, the future of political campaigning is murky as well. With many afraid of random human contact because of possible virus spread, our Washington Bureau's Peter Zampa reports - kissing babies could be a thing of the past. The concerto of physical interaction. It historically brings Americans together with the nation's top leaders. A handshake, a selfie, kissing a baby. In-person campaigning builds relatability, says campaign expert Matt Dallek. Personal interactions can matter. But Dallek says during this COVID-19 era politicians are forced to shift to other persuasion tactics. More local tv interviews, remote town halls, creating podcasts. Dallek thinks many of these ideas will remain in a post-coronavirus climate. But he believes old school tactics will return. MATT DALLEK: Overall we're still going to see a reversion to the kind of in-person campaigning. PETER ZAMPA: It's unknown if politicians will want to return to these close-contact practices. If they do - will anyone be there handing over a baby to kiss? Dr. Nosheneranjbar: People may not be going to the live rallies as much but I wonder if peoples' voices are going to present themselves in more creative ways. Dr. Nosheneranjbar cautions against generalizing that all humans will fear physical contact in the future. But she says a pandemic of this magnitude sticks with people... Trauma from the coronavirus may cause previously social butterflies to cocoon, or at least think twice before entering crowded situations. Dr. Nosheneranjbar: There's going to be this pull of, you know, what if there are these grandparents who, you know, might still be vulnerable? What if I have it? You know, what if so and so is not watching and not washing their hands and shows up and is coughing all over the place? The biggest political gatherings of the year, the national conventions, are postponed until August. As of now, they are slated to take place in person...kissing babies and all. In Washington.

KKCO 11 News at 5p 2nd story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 19, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/NBC News

Duration 1:50

With unemployment in the US topping 14-percent... Congress is weighing its next steps to help people hurt by the Coronavirus crisis. Today, the treasury secretary defended the Trump administration's handling of the economy as some Democrats' accused the white house of forcing workers to choose between their jobs and their lives. Treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin it comes as Democrats and Republicans are increasingly divided on what to comes next for the ailing economy. On the virtual hot seat testifying before the Senate banking committee. Democrats accusing the Trump administration of pushing states to end coronavirus lockdowns and business closings. The House last week passed a fourth economic aid bill calling for three trillion dollars in new relief spending... Senate republicans say it's a non-starter.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 10, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Steve Staeger

Duration: 2:24

The state legislature seems ready to remove the special legal protection Colorado's law enforcement officers receive. Sheriffs often say- without qualified immunity - officers wouldn't risk intervening in tough situations. The State Senate passed a bill to kill qualified immunity... and it looks likely to pass in the House. Steve Staeger reports, "They didn't want government officials including police officers to hesistate in making split second decisions out of fear of in case they got it wrong... they would then be personally sued and have to pay damages." That is the purpose behind qualified immunity. It's not necessarily a law - but a standard upheld in courts. Basically - if you go to the court to sue a police officer for violating your rights...say...by using excessive force you have to prove two things. "You have to prove not only did the officer use excessive force in a way that violated your rights and was illegal...even if you prove that...you can prove that the conduct was illegal, you still lose unless you can point to an earlier case with basically exactly the same facts." That's Ian Farrell by the way - a constitutional law professor at DU. "The court has said...okay fine that's excessive force...but we don't see any earlier cases where the police did exactly the same thing...therefore you lose." And Farrell says often times in cases like this - a court doesn't even rule on conduct - which can make it awfully hard to create precedent. "There may never be a clearly established rule because the court never gets to that particular question. The accountability bill making its way through the state legislature right now removes that requirement. You don't have to point to the result of another identical court case. It would only apply in state court - but Farrell says the US Supreme Court could hear arguments in any of 8 qualified immunity cases in front of them right now. "This seems like it is a pressing issue that the court may well take up."; The police accountability bill in its current form does allow for some leniency for officers. Farrell says they have something called a reasonability defense - basically if they had a reasonable belief that what they did was legal - their department would have to pay the legal bills. If they don't - they could be held accountable for up to 5 percent of the judgement or 25-thousand dollars.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

June 23, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Jason Burger

Duration 3:54

An update to a story we told you about last week-- about election ballots seen strewn on the ground and some flying out of the drop box at the central services building in Grand Junction. The Mesa County clerk and recorder says those claims have been looked into. They say the drop box in question has been inspected for tampering and issues with the slot and nothing wrong was found. The Secretary of State's office and clerk and recorder Tina Peters say they reviewed video that shows a man driving up in a pick up who laid ballots on the edge of the lip without inserting them into the box.... Then driving away. They also say they observed a woman depositing her ballot on the lip of the box when they blew away. She reported it to staff. They say elections staff and bipartisan judges captured the ballots and put them inside the dropbox. They recommend everyone using the drop box to return their ballots make sure it is fully inserted before leaving. Meanwhile Tina Peters speaking out against the recall effort against her. She says the woman overseeing the recall helped out the group spearheading the effort to have her ousted... Tina Peters filed a complaint after petitions were printed and given to the recall effort against her...and she says that's illegal, while others say it's just common practice. Mesa County clerk Tina Peters has filed a complaint with the Secretary of State's office, saying Eagle County treasurer Teak Simonton printed and distributed petitions to the "Recall Tina Peters" effort. Simonton is the designated election official, put in charge by Mesa County commissioners, to oversee Peter's recall proceedings. Peters says the act of providing the petitions for the recall effort is a campaign donation, and, is illegal. But Teak Simonton says in her 14 years as a clerk and recorder, printing the recall petitions is just part of the job. Simonton says she got the nod to print the petitions from the secretary of state's office, and doesn't see this as a campaign donation at all. It cost just over 600-dollars for the petitions to be printed, but the recall tina peters group has said they will pay back the money that came out of taxpayer's pockets. And Simonton says she was transparent about the petitions the whole time, and Mesa County was aware of her procedure. And I'm told the secretary of state's office will review the complaint, but there's no timeline on when they will make a ruling... Organizers with the recall tina peters effort say they have the invoice for payment, but have not sent in a check yet. The group needs more than twelve thousand one hundred valid signatures to recall Peters.

VOLUNTEERISM/ COMMUNITY AID/ COMMUNITY EFFORTS

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 2, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Tyler Stricker

Duration: 2:27

The Grand Junction police chief issuing a stark reminder about keeping your distance in public spaces. Here it is in a nutshell.... Listen to the governor's orders or face the consequences. The chief acknowledged that most people are taking the order seriously but with all of western Colorado's open space... Some people may gather in groups in what he calls willful disobedience of the governor's orders... Action will be taken. The meeting this morning focused on continued safety with emphasis with staying away from others. Colorado has so many beautiful places to enjoy outdoors... But during the governors stay at home order, we must enjoy them with social distancing in mind... Positive cases continue to climb daily in Mesa county... The latest numbers from public health officials show 18 positive cases in Mesa county, 15 in Montrose county, one in Delta county and 43 in Garfield county. As for students in district 51, they have almost gone through their first full week of distance learning... District 51 has handed out over 8,000 Chromebooks... And while there are no students at school, food services are still being provided... Sirko also talked about the importance of mental health of students and parents... For resources on that, head over to the district 51 website. Just moments ago-- we received new numbers from the Montrose county health department. They're number jumping from 15... To 27 positive cases.

KKCO The Ten 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 7, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds

Duration: 2:30

The Italians started it - with their their singing from the balconies...but, San Francisco is credited with - "the howl" - a way to offer vocal support for healthcare workers...and to release frustration. The idea has spread to Colorado, and even the governor is asking people to join the chorus from their own homes. Reporter Noel Brennan take us back to last night's howl... For all it's taken away, Covid-19 has gifted us reflection. "Oh yeah. Full moon tonight. Very bright." helping us illuminate what really matters in our lives. "My three-year-old and my partner and my baby." it's given us gratitude for people like Maureen Murphy. "I'm an ER nurse." and at 8 p-m – it's gifted Colorado a crescendo of sound... far away howling that's fitting for a full moon. "Like a coyote? Like a wolf? You ready?" Voices echo from Denver to the mountains. Julie Freeman – Evergreen "in solidarity and support of everybody fighting this thing, here goes mom! Wooo!" Close to a cheer – but they call this a howl. Grady howl - you can hear it from city streets to rural roads. Henderson in unison from Union Station. It's a gift Governor Polis asked us all to share. The governor urges people across the state to participate. Calling it one more way to keep your spirits up during quarantine.

KKCO The Ten Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

May 26, 2020

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Matt Vanderveer/Augusta McCain

Duration: 2:15

City of Grand Junction Planning Commissioners heard the project tonight.

Behind me is the proposed site of Magnus court subdivision... residents of the neighborhood down below aren't too happy about it. "People care about the quietness of our neighborhood. The safety, the pristineness." Residents surrounding Riggs hill complain about the increase of traffic that nearly 75 new homes will bring "They're narrow roads and 700 extra cars every day would mean very little pedestrian traffic." Sparking quality of life concerns-"Our kids walk to school. They bike the neighborhood. And that would no longer be allowable." And environmental ones- "We've experienced a lot of water coming down from the hills. Our concern is that when they start removing the vegetation and the natural soils that even more water will start coming down.""I am very concerned about the air quality if 500 to 800 cars are going to be coming through our neighborhood."

The Magnus Court subdivision was first heard by the planning commission this February unsuccessfully. "The developers have had a chance to implement some changes onto their plan." Ciavonne, Roberts & Associates represented these developers in the City Planning meeting tonight... and while they didn't want to talk with me on camera, they highlighted the development's innovative designs, the need for housing, and even improving some of the trails on Riggs hill. And while the final decision rests on City Council, residents are just hoping to have their voices heard. "I hope that if they are going to go ahead and do this, they listen to what we need and request." The developer plans to put 74 homes on to nearly 70 acres... folks I spoke with said a lot of the opposition would dissipate if there were just fewer houses planned. At a planning meeting tonight, commissioners approved the developer's plan 6 to 1 for the Magnus Court subdivision.

KKCO 11 News at 6 pm 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 28, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 2:10

As the Grand Valley progresses toward phase 3 of opening up, not all businesses have felt it's economic lift but one industry is still struggling to stay afloat. I visited two bed and breakfasts today, businesses apart of the hospitality industry that have struggled to survive without travelers. "There's been a drastic reduction in business" All because Covid-19 and the lack of travel "due to the governor putting in the stay at home policy..." The virus has radically altered the hospitality industry, the Grand Valley is no exception. "Prior to the stay at home order, I had reservations from people overseas and even in the United States and they have just been systematically cancelling their reservations." David Lester, owner of Willow Pond bed and breakfast in Grand Junction tries to give as much of a full refund as possible. In the past few months Willow Pond has seen an approximately 90% reduction in revenue since last year, while Castle Creek has seen about 65 percent downturn. The CDC implemented new sanitary guidelines that local bed and breakfasts have had to adapt to. That includes, food service changes. "Used to do a buffet, and now we don't do a buffet, we do plated meals." Castle Creek Manor received no reservations for the entire month of April, but the owner is still optimistic. "I'm just so excited to be in this valley because they're the support we have received as a small business." The reopening of Mesa County has inched her business closer to getting back on track. "I think it's, it's starting to get some momentum" The owner of Willow Pond tells me, he ends up losing 5 to 10% of a booking, if he has to give a full refund. Both b and b's say they're trying to adjust to their guests' individual needs as much as they can during this time.

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 1, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 2:10

After many protests over the weekend we thought we'd dig a little dipper and check-in on the community's thoughts. Speakers, marched, and gathered in protest over the weekend. {Laurel Carpenter} "Politicians can illustrate those changes in their lives as well, but what comes after that? And illustrate them in the policies they make" protestors are hoping for change. {Alyssa Buchanan} "I think everyone deserves a voice, and of course all lives matter, it's not just one race or the next." The community is hoping the peace stays for good. {Olivia Swinger} "I think Grand Junction did a really good job about being respectful about it, it didn't seem like there was too much violence or aggression," So does Grand Junction Police Chief, Doug Shoemaker. He wouldn't talk to us on camera but-- in a series of tweets this weekend, he discussed taking action and making changes. "And as a majority white community, it's our responsibilities to find out how we're going to address this and to take action and actually change our daily lives in ways that support and protect people of color." (protest organizer) He also praised local law enforcement for their protection over the weekend. "I think it's awesome that people even care about it here in town." There was a total of 3 protests that we're aware of this weekend in Grand Junction, following the death of George Floyd. {Ragen Buchanan} "If you are going to protest, it needs to be peaceful for people to truly understand and here what you're saying because if you are burning down buildings and hurting other people, that makes you seem like the bad guy." we are still anticipating more protests in the valley throughout the week. You can check out or website and Facebook page for all the updates on local protests.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

June 19, 2020

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Matt Vanderveer/Paulina Aguilar

Duration: 2:22

It's a day meant to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Grand Junction held its first annual Juneteenth event. June 19th 1865... a day in American history now widely famous as the end of slavery. Today it's known as Juneteenth-- and cities all over the country including Grand Junction celebrated. For Grand junction it was the inaugural event. It's always good when we have celebrations of Juneteenth because Juneteenth is all about celebrating African American culture, celebrating family, celebrating African American freedom especially in today's climate, in today's events." There was music and food but today's focus was education. There were displays, speeches and people telling stories educating children and adults. "Education is really important. So people understand racism versus white privilege. Really the systemic racism that is still happening in the world today." Some say the narrative gets lost in communication sometimes. And holding events like this can give people the right story. When you come out here, you meet people face to face. You get the story face to face with no filter. You get the experiences, the culture. It's not just a black and white thing." I spoke to a woman with biracial grandchildren who say they have been to many Juneteenth celebrations. She talks about racism openly with them. (missy combs) "Their mom is black and their dad is white. They're blonde and light skinned. They talk about how they're white in the winter and black in the summer. We have lots of conversations about this but it's still difficult for them to understand everything." On June 3rd, city council heard from residents about racism in Grand Junction. Experiences run the gamut—both good and bad. (Jesse Bradford) "to see these people, it's not surprising because i already expected it. I knew that i can come back into this community, that i had their back and the same way they had my back." Already as a result of protests and marches, change has begun. Most recently, CMU deciding to remove Walter Walker's name from their field—and a coalition on race formed after CMU's first ever black head football coach met with Grand Junction police chief Doug Shoemaker. All strides, people I talked to say, make the world a more accepting place. (Jesse Bradford) "whether it's Hispanic, Polynesian, Italian, whatever race you are, if you don't know about another race, just ask."

YOUTH/CHILDREN AT RISK/YOUTH VIOLENCE/YOUTH SUPPORT

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

April 9, 2020

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Bernie Lange/Paulina Aguilar

Duration: 1:45

Montrose school district officially ending in person classes for the rest of the school year.

KKCO 11 News' Paulina Aguilar talked with school officials about what this means for parents, students and teachers moving forward. Montrose school district is currently on spring break and has completed two weeks of remote learning thus far. Superintendent, Stephen Schiell says their experience has been stressful but positive. Track: for Montrose school district, the end of the 2020 school year is officially over as they know it. All in-person classes done for the rest of the year. (Stephen Schiell) "It's going well is what I'd say. There's bumps on the road but we're working on it every day. We have a great team. We are making calls on a weekly basis and of course our online programs." Remote learning has become the new normal. Teachers prepare lessons and find new ways to engage children who are now learning from home. (Stephen Schiell) "We don't want any more of our people to be in danger. I don't want students with immune deficiencies to be put in jeopardy. We don't want staff members with health issues as well. It got to be very obvious that staying in remote learning is the best thing to do." The school district affects over 20 thousand people and the superintendent doesn't want to take any chances. (Stephen Schiell) "They're all working very hard to make it work and we're very proud of them. The tremendous positive support has been amazing. They want their children safe; they want their children to learn. It's not the best, but it's the best that we can do." Over the past couple of summers there have been mediation and enrichment programs, and now the district is looking to see what they can offer for summer 2020. (Stephen Schiell) "right now it's in the developing stage. May 1st, it's not going to be better. To be able to predict when we can get that going, right now it's too early." the school district also says plans for a potential graduation ceremony in late July, early August is in the works and will be announced in the coming weeks. District 51 hasn't followed suit yet.

KKCO The 10 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

April 22, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Nelson Garcia

Duration 2:38

Students around Colorado are now a few weeks into remote learning after COVID-19 shut down classrooms. But... school at home doesn't always work well for everyone. As Reporter Nelson Garcia shows us... it can be a real challenge for students with special needs. For many people life is about order. But what happens when that order is disrupted? "It's been a lot harder for me actually." Jacob Ruth is senior at Bishop Machebeuf High School and made the switch to remote learning on March 18. "It's tough, especially for kids that have special needs." Tina Ruth says her son is on the Autism spectrum and learning through video chat doesn't really work. "He definitely is not getting as much out of school now as he was when he was in school." "It's horrible actually for me because I used to like being in a classroom with people." Change is a challenge... the rearranging of life's order... according to Dr. Annette Nunez, "Well, the way I look at it this is that we're not maybe necessarily keeping up with the academics and that's okay because right now, we're teaching our kids flexibility and that's a life skill." "Well, the way I look at it this is that we're not maybe necessarily keeping up with the academics and that's okay because right now, we're teaching our kids flexibility and that's a life skill." "And, it can cause anxiety and stress in which they can become difficult. They can lash out maybe physically, verbally." "I haven't seen regression but he's definitely doing more things that he used to not do." "I think it will be draining on parents." Nunez worries about parents with younger children with autism trying to learn online. "You have to be really overly animated maybe using different voices to keep their attention." "Isolation has been difficult for people who've been on the spectrum actually and if I was just about around five years old as my mom said, then it would be so challenging for me." Especially since no one really knows when remote learning will end. "But, if you're at home and your parents are trying to work and they're working at the house or maybe they're back at their jobs. I don't know if its sustainable for the average disabled child that really needs that one on one support." "Children with Autism and developmental disabilities, they feel nonverbal stressors of the world 100 times more than we do." "I could go a little insane because isolation has been difficult for people. A fact of life... until order can be restored. Jacob says he misses the social interaction the most- and his Mom Tina says at this point in his education that's actually the most important thing as he prepares for college.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 1, 2020

Reporter: Erin Crooks/NBC News

Duration: 2:03

If you feel like your kids are playing video games non-stop these days... You're not alone! NBC's Liz McLaughlin tells us about the recent gaming surge... And tips for parents... With more time at home... Players are logging on and leveling up. "Like, a hundred and seven percent uptick in people using games" amidst the on-screen battles. Parents may be waging their own war with regulating kids' screen time. "If I would've let him play Fortnite as much he wants to, he would've missed that Coronavirus is even happening." Parents can learn about setting device controls at "parental tools dot org".... Detailing ways to set time limits.... And manage access. It's important for parents to know they can lock certain games that might be rated for more mature audiences from being played on the device at home." Parents can find game ratings on packaging or the product details page for digital downloads... With valuable information including age appropriateness...And whether the game allows online communication and in-app purchases "it's very important for parents to set rules up front with their kids about how much money, if any, they can spend online." Experts say it's also important to manage expectations... "know that you need to make effective transitions from stopping the game into something else with your child or with your family." So there's less pushback when it's time to put down the controller. And if you can't beat em... Join em! It's a great way to spend quality time with their kids maybe even get a few cool points" a 'hands on' approach... To keep gaming in check. The nintendo switch has been in high demand during the pandemic, and is sold out on multiple websites. Nintendo's new "Animal Crossing" game is wildly popular... Selling a record number of digital copies in March, according to Nielsen.

KKCO Daybreak 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

May 11, 2020

Report: Sarah Schwabe/Jessica Sanchez

Duration: 2:14

The San Francisco earthquake, Hurricane Katrina and the Covid-19 pandemic. All three caused, or are still causing, death, widespread loss, and major disruption to family life. But experts say there are things parents can do to minimize the impact on kids. Daybreak reporter Jessica Sanchez has more. For Anthony and Petra Soliz reading, math and sign language class are happening at home. They're missing friends, summer camps and, for Anthony, a long awaited fifth grade graduation ceremony. "I've tried to give them permission to just cry and be upset because this is not a fun time." Jessica Dym Bartlett is a developmental scientist studying childhood resilience during natural disasters. "You're looking out for times when there's much more anger or clinginess or acting out." Social scientists have studied the effects of natural disasters on children and can apply some of the lessons learned about resilience to the current pandemic. "Adults can reassure children about their safety and the safety of loved ones and tell them it's the adult's job to ensure their safety." Bartlett says that natural disasters or a public health crisis like Covid-19 will cause some kids to worry about their own safety and the safety of their loved ones and many may behave differently in reaction to strong feelings like fear, worry, sadness and anger. Bartlett suggests parents think of the three "r's", reassurance, routines and regulation. For regulation, parents can guide kids through mindfulness activities. Cynthia Soliz posts their daily routine. Time assigned for chores, homework, and educational activities. "We did a lot of legos and baked a lot of things." and every afternoon, time to play and be kids like this shaving crèam battle to blow off steam. "I understand this isn't going to be the highlight of their childhood. But I hope it's something they can look back on fondly with some fun things." Experts suggest that even short periods quality time can bolster children's sense of safety and security during scary times. Consider setting up regular times for kids to talk with grandparents.

KKCO The Ten 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

June 5, 2020

Reporter: Matt Vanderveer/Jean Reynolds/Paulina Aquilar

Duration: 2:30

Talking about the George Floyd homicide with your kids can be tricky. It's a sensitive subject no doubt. D-51's superintendent put out a letter for parents today addressing the issue and the district's policy stance on racism. Paulina Aguilar reports. Superintendent, Doctor Diana Sirko and the board has taken upon themselves and sent a letter to all District 51 staff members and families addressing racism in schools. She spoke to a black mother with three kids in the school system who have experienced discrimination. But say sometimes kids may not speak up. But not everyone follows the golden rule. I spoke with a mother, who didn't want to be on camera, of two biracial children, ages 9 and 10 who've experienced racism. Her son threatened to commit suicide at school. He said it was because he has brown eyes and brown skin. He said a little white boy walked up to him on the playground and said he didn't want to be his friend anymore because all black people are slaves. There were no real repercussions for this little boy's discriminating against my son." This incident led to physical altercations with kids calling him names. "I can tell that the teacher knew he wasn't the aggressor but he still got in trouble. To tell my son that it's more dangerous for him to protect himself against someone hurting him because of what he looks like, is disgusting." And her daughter had incidents of her own. (parent) "she's had people cut on her hair. They touch her without asking." This mother telling me she wants a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination—begging the question ... are district 51's policies strong enough? (Diana) "We have policies and procedures but what we're seeing is you have to move beyond talk and make sure your actions match those messages." (parent) "I think some of the people involved have handled it pretty well but sometimes i think it is a little shrugged off." the parent told me her son is doing better but want to see more changes in the fall when school starts. The parents have thought about changing schools *again but say any school they go to, they'll face the same problem. The superintendent says if you see something, say something.

KKCO 11 News at 5 Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

June 22, 2020

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Goldene Brown/Yzabelah Roberts

Duration: 1:40

Big news on the graduation front in the Grand Valley... school District 51 announced their official plan for the class of 2020. The ceremonies will take place from July 10th through the 13th. There will be two ceremonies a day, one at 8 in the morning, the other at 8 at night. Each graduate will be allowed to invite four guests and each party will have their own section to maintain social distancing. We talked to one Fruita Monument High School graduate on his thoughts of the celebration. "I feel like it's kind of sad that it's been pushed out so far because I feel like a lot of seniors are going to lose that feeling of excitement to walk and they've kind of just moved on already, but for a lot of us it's still a cool thing for us to be able to walk. This whole second semester was tough for our seniors, they missed so many celebrations so it's just, we're very excited we get to do this for the kids." There will also be a live stream video and radio broadcast for those who can't attend. The district says most of the other details regarding things like ticket location and split family accommodations will be taken care of by the schools individually. Graduates are required to wear a mask, and other attendees are encouraged.

KKCO PSA'S PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

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