



**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.**

3rd 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	4:30-5am
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, Al Cardenas, Donna Edwards, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), Richard Engel, Gov. Andy Beshear (D-Ky.), Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Sec. Alejandro Mayorkas.

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

KKCO The 10 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 28, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration: 2:36

Colorado Parks and Wildlife brought the Keystone Policy Center to Grand Junction this evening to discuss wolf re-introduction. Keystone has been facilitating discussions about this topic across the state since Colorado voters approved wolf re-introduction back in November of 2020. Keystone was here in town today simply to engage the community on the issue. The organization doesn't have a position on the wolf reintroduction debate. However, those I spoke with at the event did express concern. Janie VanWinkle, a Mesa county rancher, came to the event this afternoon realizing that the ballot initiative has passed and wolf reintroduction is coming to western Colorado. However, her concerns remain. "The stress that the wolves place on the livestock and the wildlife is horrendous. Just knowing the wolves are out there, we'll see things happen. And we know this because of the northern states have gone through this process. We'll see conception rates drop 30%, and that hits our bottom line absolutely." According to VanWinkle, bringing wolves back to western Colorado is a mistake. In terms of going forward, she thinks there are only bad options, and worries about her ranch and wild animal populations. Mesa County Commissioner Cody Davis says he is focused on engaging with reality. "So obviously this is kind of tough for us here in Mesa county, we didn't vote for wolves. And we didn't want wolves. And most of the funding for the wolves passing last year was paid for by out-of-state organizations, environmental organizations, in California. So, we're not happy about it, but one thing we do have to recognize it was voted in and it is state law now, so we're here, we're engaging in the process." Commissioner Davis is glad Colorado Parks and Wildlife is organizing these meeting across the western slope and listening to the public's thoughts. "We're in a scoping phase right now. A draft plan has not been written. We're out here early talking to folks. We want to hear what people's questions, ideas, suggestions, and concerns are. As keystone and also as CPW staff, we're here to listen and capture those ideas." Shapiro explained that input from these sessions is making its way to the advisory groups and agencies in charge of the wolf reintroduction process. Proposition 114, the ballot initiative bringing gray wolves back to Colorado, directs CPW to establish a wolf population west of the continental divide by the end of 2023. Keystone has been making its way across communities in western Colorado. Next, the group will be heading over to the front range.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 29, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Jamie Leary

Duration: 1:17

Horse power on the highway -- literally. Drivers on I-70 recently experienced just that... After a group of horses escaped from a nearby rodeo and made a break for the freeway. Parts of the incident were caught on video. Jamie Leary reports. Eagle county may be rural, but this... Trooper: "I wouldn't say it was a typical day in Eagle county." Friday night after the Eagle county rodeo, it took only one horse spooked by an electric fence. Trooper: "and they all took off running down a fairgrounds road." Right onto I-70. State patrol, managed to block traffic on the east and west ends, and along with Gypsum Fire did everything they could to get them to slow. Trooper: "We even saw cowboys riding down the interstate, trying to catch up to them, to rope them and stop that lead horse. Uh, so my goal was to try and get in front of them and slow them down." The troopers tactics worked. The horses eventually slowed coming to a stop and a grassy field where community members were waiting to assist. Trooper: "we were lucky there was enough cowboys in town. Otherwise, we would've had a much larger mess." The horses were eventually rounded up...and none of them were harmed.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 11, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Bryan Wendland

Duration: 5:43

Northwest Colorado is home to hundreds of wild horses in 'Sand Wash Basin'-- but that number is about to shrink. The Bureau of Land Management called for an emergency gather - where they plan to round up and sell up to 700 horses. Despite that... two sisters have been fighting for these horses for years. Photojournalist Bryan Wendland has

their story. There's a magic out of sand wash basin, it grabs your heart and just doesn't let go. Sand Wash Basin is in our third year out of four years in a drought and Colorado's classification... I think we're in extreme drought...ah it's all of a sudden we were involved...with trying to save the lives...of the wild horses that were out here...well we're sisters...we've known each other for many years...a long time way have our moments...that's a good thing you didn't get here...fine as earlier you know it's really kind...of rare to be able to have this kind of...relationship will be this old it is rare...so we're taking you to like draw...which is the northern corner of the basin...and it is actually the major... on Lee major water site...left in Sand Wash basin right now...part of what you're seeing...out here is the drought conditions...and all of this sage brush our winter fat...that's bear that should all...pretty much lee have blossoms on it so we've only got one major...your water source left...which is lake draw so we've got anywhere...from three to five hundred horses...probably using that one water source...and that many horses coming into water...at one location is is really hard...on the land and the vegetation...it's the fighting and the stress...that occurs around the water source... when there's so many horses...competing for that same water...that same water source we've been...working with the BLM since January...to try to figure out how we were going to...attack or approach Paul on water this year...and actually um we just learned...a few minutes ago that national...so bill them nationally is going to help... um our local BLM purchased some of those...water tanks and help with some of the...expensive watering these forces if it hadn't been for the horses...we wouldn't have crossed...the Mississippi American people...oh far more to the American horse...than what they realize...it's amazing to know that these animals...these wild horses...have maintained and adapted...and have lived for hundreds of years...in this harsh harsh surrounding terrain...wild horse warriors...originated to get the fence...five thousand dollars to put this fence in...and the majority of that money was raised in two months...it will start two hundred feet...and run all the way up to the cattle guard...on the west side of the basin...well we've had too many people died from...horses and other animals...that this just had to go in brings tears to my eyes it's um pretty...ah ah a long time coming...and there have been...it's been a lot of blood sweat and tears...and to see this first post.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 27, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration: 2:10

A Delta county woman is speaking out about her concerns over a planned gather of wild horses at the Sand Wash Basin in Moffat county. The Bureau of Land Management is saying the situation there is an emergency and needs to be addressed. Both the concerned resident I spoke with and the BLM told me the reasons behind where they stand. Both are saying they care deeply about these horses. "These are American icons. These are the horses that formed the west." Lee Phillips has had a horse originally from the Sand Wash Basin heard for 25 years. The horse, named Big Girl, is part of why Phillips is speaking out now. Her main concern: the use of helicopters. "Flying a helicopter to gather these horses could be an absolute bloodbath. There are small foals out there less than a month old, and they're going to run these horses across the basin and into holding pens. There's other ways to do this, to draw the horses to the holding pen." The BLM is telling me ... Its committed to sustaining horse populations and preserving the basin. A spokesman for the agency is saying quote: "years of overpopulation have devastated the range -- couple that with the extreme drought we have experienced for several years, it will take several growing seasons for the forage to grow and the range to heal." Phillips is saying she understands the need to gather a certain number of horses to help preserve the basin environment but argues that the methods of getting the horses and their treatment once captured needs to improve. The BLM telling me quote: "the BLM is committed to maintaining a healthy wild horse herd on healthy public lands. The Sand Wash Basin will continue to have a viable, healthy wild horse herd at a sustainable population level."

Phillips shared her view that the BLM doesn't understand the impact some of its actions can have on horse populations. The agency is saying its actions are necessary to protect other species in the basin as well. Of the almost 900 horses in the area, the b-l-m plans on gathering just under 800, then eventually releasing 50 back into the wild. The bulk of the horses gathered will be put up for adoption, according to the agency.

KKCO Daybreak 6a 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

September 8, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks

Duration: 2:23

An incredible story of survival out of Alaska. As a Sitka resident recounts surviving a vicious bear attack while at work. Jay Kim tells us how swift action from his colleagues saved his life. We need to warn you some viewers may find some of this imagery disturbing.. Sitka resident Jess Coltharp is a technician and vessel captain for the Alaska

Department of Fish and Game... a title he's held for the past 14 years. Last month, he was on a routine work trip with his deckhand named Anthony, and a volunteer named Ethan. The trio was doing a salmon streaming survey just a few hours north of Sitka, specifically looking for chum. "We got there and we walked the entirety of the stream, we counted all the salmon and got to the top and turned around." On the journey back downstream, Coltharp was leading the way.. When he ran into something much bigger than a fish... A brown bear.. "I looked over my shoulder to say something to the guys. And that's when I heard the branches break and I turned and looked up and as the branches are breaking I kind of see this bear kind of materialize out of the dark." Before he even had time to react, the brown bear was charging him. That's when he decided to dive on the ground. "I remember thinking that Anthony was gonna shoot the bear so I wasn't too worried about the bear killing me as much as I was worried about getting out of the way and taking as little damage in the process." The bear then bit his leg and started shaking him around, but the attack was brief thanks to his deckhand Anthony who shot the bear. "I remember jumping up and telling Anthony 'Nice shot dude, thanks for saving my life' and that's when I felt the blood go running down my leg and it's like 'Oh yeah, this is still kind of an emergency situation and we need to really assess the damage and see how quickly we can get out of here.'" The three sent a message to their boss using an inreach phone, and a short time later, a fish and game pilot showed up to fly Coltharp to a local hospital. "And then the next morning they did a cleanup surgery. We ended up flying to Anchorage." Coltharp says he's on the mend and in good spirits now, and says without his deckhand and volunteer, things could've been a lot worse. "I think their presence saved my life as well as his quick thinking and accurate shooting." There are roughly 40 bear attacks reported worldwide every year, according to pet pedia... With about 11 of them happening in North America.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

September 13, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Tom Ferguson/Nelson Garcia

Duration: 3:21

The historic "wild horse gather" in the Sand Wash Basin has ended. The Bureau of Land Management captured its final horses on Sunday, bringing the total of the 12-day operation to 684 -- which is roughly about 80 percent of the herd living in northwestern Colorado. The reason for the round-up is drought conditions - according to the B-L-M - leaving too little food and water to sustain a large population. Reporter Nelson Garcia continues our coverage of the largest wild horse round-up in Colorado history - with a look at what could be next. The trouble with being a witness at a Bureau of Land Management horse gather -- is you have to watch it. You know there's so many other ways to do this." "It looked like Hawk at the front." ... is one of the number of wild horse advocates documenting the capture of more than 80 percent of the herd in the Sand Wash Basin in Moffat County. "It's a spiritual place out here and the reason that it's spiritual is because of the wild horses." That spirit also means profit. "And, you go up into the Sand Wash Basin." Tom Kleinschnitz runs the Moffat County Tourism Association. "We've absolutely had people from every state of the union. We've had people from Europe come." He says wild horses are part of a \$30 million impact for Moffat County businesses. "For tourism, it would be harder to find horses in the future." Harder, but he says the message stays the same. "They're part of the American West. They're protected out there and we will continue to people know about that resource." "I felt like when I was in the line this morning that I was going to a funeral procession for my friends." Frederick believes tourists looking for horses will go elsewhere. "And, they'll never come back. They'll never give another dime to Craig because the town of Craig did not fight at all for us and we bring a lot of money into that town." "And, I think we certainly need to be advocates, both ways, advocates for the lands, advocates for the horse and advocates for the citizens of Moffat County that want to get it right." "Poor thing." The captured horses will now be put up for public adoption. "After they leave here, we don't know what's gonna happen." Jason Lutterman is with the Wild Horse and Burro Program.. which is offering a \$1,000 incentive to people who can adopt. "To adopt a wild horse from the Bureau of Land Management, you have to go through a robust adoption application process." ...Which he says includes compliance checks and essentially 12 months of fostering the horse before receiving official ownership. "That's why the Bureau of Land Management does what we can within the adoption period to make sure that these animals are going to good homes from the onset so that we put them on a good pathway." "A lot of them have very bad lives and as soon as they get that incentive, they have no incentive to keep the horse." Frederick says some of these previously wild horses will end up sold to slaughter. Lutterman acknowledges it is a problem, but the BLM can't do anything once the horses become private property. "Well, we never like to see that happen. Our goal is to always put these animals into long term forever homes, we like to call them. That's why we have these safeguards in place." Promises and holding pens -- for creatures that were born to roam free in the Sand Wash Basin. "I'm absolutely devastated." The BLM will continue to manage the size of the herd using fertility control. The official Appropriate Management Level for wild horses in the Sand Wash Basin is between 163 and 362.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
July 20, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:12

The Grand Junction Police Department is investigating a burglary at Mesa Jewelers on Downtown Main Street. They are asking for help to figure out who did it. Our reporter Taylor Burke spoke to the owners of Mesa Jewelry today. At about 7:35 yesterday morning, the security alarm at Mesa Jewelers was triggered. I'm told a man burglarized the store, causing damages to the locks and multiple showcases before stealing 108 thousand dollars' worth of merchandise. A little bit of disbelief really. Its.... you know, you feel violated, you feel shocked, and then you get to work. We are going to put it behind us as quickly as possible. Security footage shows the suspect messing with the locks around 3am MONDAY. Police believe the suspect first broke into the main door to see if the alarm would sound, then left the premises, changed clothes, and later returned to commit the crime. It's very upsetting. It's not life changing. It's not going to change Mesa Jewelers business at all. We have insurance. It's going to be very inconvenient, but we were able to open our store at 1230 yesterday and it's been business as usual. Mr. Kelly has been in the Jewelry business for 45 years. He has been at the downtown location three years. He says he has never had anything like this happen. He is grateful that his store has insurance and says the police are doing a thorough investigation. There are a lot of other bright spots because he didn't get into the other 12 showcases, so we were lucky in many ways, but we really want to find this gentleman. The owners here at Mesa Jewelers hope to catch this criminal in the hopes to recover their jewelry and so he cannot commit a similar crime anywhere else. If you know who the man might be, call police on their non-emergency hotline. The number is 970-242-6707.

KKCO Midday Live Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
July 23, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Matt Jablow

Duration 2:30

Newly released body camera video shows the moment a former Idaho Springs, Colorado, police officer tased a 75-year-old man. Matt Jablow has the video -- and an update on the man's health since the incident. A warning: the story shows the man being tased -- and might be disturbing to some viewers. It was just after 10-30 at night. Officer Hanning and Officer Ellie Summers responded to a call for an assault at an apartment building. They were called by neighbor ... Saying Michael Clark had punched someone in the face. Clark and his lawyer deny that ever happened. Sara Schielke/Attorney for Michael Clark: "I've probably seen it about a hundred times, and I'm still not desensitized to it." And Clark was never charged with a crime. Sara Schielke/Michael Clark's Attorney: "He was sleeping. He never left his apartment that night." The body camera video shows Hanning knocking on Clark's door -- never saying he's a police officer. Clark answered with a small sword in his hand ... Not knowing -- he says-- who was there. Sara Schielke/Attorney for Michael Clark: "here you can see Officer Hanning kicks him and punches, him and tells him to put it down." Hanning ordered Clark to put the sword on top of a book shelf, and he did -- but eighteen seconds later, after Clark refused Hanning's order to get on the ground, Hanning shot Clark in the stomach with his taser. Clark hit his head on a chair on the way down. Paramedics took him to the hospital. Thirty-six hours later, according to his lawyer, he suffered a stroke. Sara Schielke/Attorney for Michael Clark: "They're just getting him into the hallway." He's now in a 24-hour nursing care facility -- in need of a double bypass heart surgery. Sara Schielke/Attorney for Michael Clark: "this is a good man. This is one of our best community members." Officer Hanning, meanwhile, faces assault charges -- and the Idaho Springs Police Department has now fired him. Sara Schielke/attorney for Michael Clark: "knowing what's happened to Michael since then, in terms of him losing all of his health and his independence, that moment when he falls back, being tased, is heartbreaking. Sara Schielke, Clark's lawyer, says she has seen the body cam video a few dozen times already but still finds it deeply disturbing. Sara Schielke/Attorney for Michael Clark: "the reaction is outrage, anger. It makes no sense. I think it's pretty clear that this was a, an attack on an elderly man for no good reason." A judge ordered prosecutors to release the video next Thursday -- but Schielke beat them to it. As a result -- the judge held her in contempt of court.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story

August 10, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/ Marc Sallinger

Duration: 1:55

The preliminary hearing continues today....in the case of a man accused of killing his missing wife. Suzanne Morpew was last seen in May of 2020. And new revelations surfaced about an affair and a struggling marriage. Marc Sallinger has the story. Investigators revealed on the stand today that Suzanne Morpew had a two year long affair before she went missing. They say she spied on her husband Barry using a spy pen, thinking he was having an affair also. Investigators say they do not believe Barry was cheating. Testimony in court today painted a picture of a marriage filled with deceit and mistrust. Investigators say Suzanne and a Michigan man, they call her lover, would talk nearly every day. They would talk about getting married and even about going to live in Ecuador. Investigators believe her husband Barry was unaware of the affair. The judge was also shown text messages today between Suzanne and a friend. In those, Suzanne details a struggling marriage where she talks about feeling unsafe and contemplates getting a restraining order against Barry. Barry maintains his innocence, even as he faces first degree murder charges. Suzanne's body is still missing more than a year after she first disappeared. Investigators say they've spent thousands upon thousands of hours searching for her with little information found. They said they have not found any blood or human remains through all the searches. Barry Morpew sat in court today wearing a suit and cowboy boots, though cameras were not allowed inside. This video is from a previous hearing when a camera was allowed. He made gestures to his daughters and family sitting in the back of the courtroom, including dropping his mask and mouthing "I love you to them." Marc Sallinger look live tag We still don't know the answers to the biggest questions in this case: What evidence do investigators have that tie Barry Morpew to his wife's death. We're hoping to learn more about that tomorrow as the preliminary hearing continues

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 11, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration: 1:55

Tonight we are learning that the Mesa County District Attorney's office is conducting a criminal investigation related to the county's election system security breach. Two investigations are underway in connection to the Mesa county election system security breach. The Colorado Secretary of State's office is conducting an administrative investigation. DA Dan Rubinstein shared details on how his office got involved. "I was contacted Monday morning by the Deputy Secretary of State who advised that they were conducting an investigation into some security protocols, procedures that they believe may have been violated by our clerk and recorder, and that they believe there was potentially criminal matters involved as well." This criminal probe is a separate investigation to the secretary of state's investigation. Yesterday, both searched the Mesa county clerk and recorder's office in connection to the election systems breach. "We have quite a bit of follow up and processing of some computer information and other related information that we will need to look at before we are able to form any conclusions as to whether any crimes were committed or by whom." the secretary of state's office released a statement in response to my inquiries on its search. It reads in part quote: "the secretary can use her enforcement authority to issue orders directing any action in compliance with any title 1 statute or its corresponding rule." Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters spoke at a cyber symposium in South Dakota last night about the searches of her office. The symposium is being held by Mypillow founder Mike Lindell. This whole situation came from the secretary of state's office picking up on passwords used to access county voting equipment posted online. Our sister station in Denver is reporting that Ron Watkins, a well-known figure with the group Qanon, posted the images on the website gateway pundit dot com. Dominion voting systems, the vendor of Mesa county's election equipment sent me a statement reading quote: "Dominion is fully cooperating with authorities on this matter." i have reached out to clerk peters directly today asking if she has anything she'd like to let us know. I have not heard back yet. She did send me a statement on Monday saying that she will share more information when the investigation has concluded. We have her entire statement posted on our website. We'll continue to monitor updates and get any new information to you as soon as we get it.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

September 20, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds

Duration: 1:55

The search for a young woman who disappeared while on a cross country road trip with her fiancé -- appears to have

come to a heartbreaking end. Authorities in Wyoming confirming Sunday that a body was found matching the description of Gabby Petito. It all comes as investigators in Florida search for her fiancé who hasn't been seen in nearly a week. After hours searching the grounds, and a large law enforcement presence -- Sunday brought a grim discovery. Charles Jones/FBI "Human remains were discovered, consistent with the description of Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito." Charles Jones -- with the FBI says the full forensic identification has not been completed. But they fell confident enough to inform her Gabby's family, and console them publicly. Charles Jones/FBI "As every parent can imagine, this is an incredibly difficult time for the family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. We ask that you all respect the privacy as they mourn the loss of their daughter." The autopsy is scheduled for Tuesday. That will confirm the identity 100-percent, and will provide more information about what exactly killed her. Multiple law enforcement agencies have been searching the grounds of the spread creek dispersed camping area -- where gabby was last seen. The site is still closed -- and will be off limits to the public. Charles Jones/FBI "This is an active and ongoing investigation. So we ask everyone maintain distance from law enforcement personnel and equipment." Jones says the public's help in this case has been remarkable. There have been many tips -- like this video a family sent in -- after they realized they had passed the couple's van while in the area. Charles Jones/FBI "We continue to seek information from anyone who utilized the Spread Creek Dispersed Camping Area between the dates of August 27th and August 30th. The FBI searched Brian Laundrie's home today in North Port, Florida.

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

Feature September 23, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:25

We are learning new information tonight about a suspicious death related to a fire at a Grand Junction home. One person is now behind bars, facing murder and arson charges in the case. As we told you last night, the Grand Junction Fire Department responded here yesterday afternoon for a report of a fire. But the situation would turn into a suspicious death investigation. Now we're learning more about the person who has been arrested in the case. 33 year old Kellan Hoyt is now facing a long list of charges including first degree Murder, First Degree Arson, Tampering with a Deceased Human Body, AND Second Degree Assault with Intent to Cause Bodily Injury by Strangulation. His arrest comes after the Grand Junction Fire Department responded to home on the 500 block of 29 1/2 road near parkway drive yesterday afternoon. After putting out the fire, they found a woman dead inside. There's a lot of investigative work that has been done already and still has to be done. Investigators have to process the scene, they are also working with the fire department on a fire investigation as well as interview any potential witnesses. The coroner's office has not yet released the identity of the woman. They will also be working to determine the cause and manner of death. Once the person is identified and next of kin is notified they will release that name. About 10 minutes after the initial report of the fire, dispatchers got a 911 call with information about a person who may have been involved in the incident. We're told deputies identified that person as Kellan Hoyt, and took him into custody. Now investigators are asking for the public's help to figure out what happened. We're asking if there were any members of the public who may have information leading up to this incident or any information about this case to please give us a call. The investigation is ongoing. I'm told All documents in the case have been sealed by the court so certain details cannot yet be released.

ENVIRONMENT/WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER

KKCO Midday Live Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 5, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Patrik Perez

Duration: 1:52

Traffic is moving along I-70 again near Glenwood Canyon after the most recent closure. The interstate has shut down four times in the past week because of mudslides. Patrik Perez has more on that story. Like straight out of a disaster movie is how Zack Beins describes his family's drive home from Glenwood Springs Saturday afternoon. Beins: "Something from a Stephen King movie." Zack says he and about a dozen other cars got stuck between mudslides on I-70 in Glenwood Canyon for several hours. Beins: "all of us getting out, walking around in the middle of I 70 is definitely a surreal sight." The mudslides were a result of heavy rain in the area causing debris along the burn scars to flow down the canyon and onto I-70. Beins: "we saw debris, rocks, dirt and logs getting pushed across." Worried they'd get stuck in another mudslide some of the drivers used shovels to clear the drainages. Beins: "some of the mud up there was, you know, a good foot and a half, two feet deep." CDOT says there were at least five mudslides all located east of the hanging lake tunnel along a two-mile stretch of the canyon. Schwantes: "Some

slides were up to nine feet deep in mud, rocks and vegetation material." These mudslides will keep happening, CDOT says, because of the 30-thousand acre burn scar. And there's not much they can do at the highway level. Group: "it's complicated by the fact that we're in a tight, narrow canyon. There isn't a lot of area to work. You know, there isn't a footprint to install a lot of mitigation." That means more hours-long lane closures and cleanups like these in the near future. Your best bet, CDOT says, is to check on weather conditions and avoid driving through the area in the afternoon. That's when the storms are more likely to occur. A lesson learned for Zack and his family. Beins: "It's going to give us good stories to tell later."

**KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
July 21, 2021**

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson/Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:36

Due to low flows in the Colorado River, the River Park at Las Colonias has been blocked off with sandbags. The park is still open for use but water is more stagnant, creating a different experience for river recreationists. The sandbags are placed just downstream of the Las Colonias boat ramp. When water levels in the Colorado river drop below 810 cubic feet per second, the River Park channel has to be cut off from the main channel to protect the critical habitat in our river system. This happens in conditions of extreme drought, which we are in. So that the water stays in the main channel. Our permitting that we needed to be able to build the river park requires us to dam the river to close off that river park channel anytime that the flows in the main stem of the river around the grand valley irrigation canal drop below 810cfs. So basically when the river drops too low, we can no longer divert water from the main stem into the river park channel." This is a condition of the city of Grand Junction's permits and they need to stay in compliance of that to prevent the river park from being shut down completely. "The river park is still open, it's just a very different experience. You're no longer able to float in an inner tube or stand up paddleboard or kayak. It's more floating in the pools of water rather than moving water." The sandbags not only help divert the water during this drought, but also helps change the habitat for fish with the water levels being so low. "The river park, it's not only a recreational feature. It's also very much to protect critical fish habitat. So one of the ways the river park does that is it helps remove the minimize the amount of habitat that's available for invasive fish species like bass. And it helps protect fish habitat for endangered fish." Grand Junction Parks & Rec urges river users to not remove the sandbags! They tell me they will soon have educational signs around the area to explain to the public why the sandbags are there. I was told the signs will be up within the next 2 weeks. Grand Junction Parks & Rec estimate that the sandbags will be able to be removed next spring. Once we get some rainfall and runoff, the river levels rise up.

**KKCO The 10 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
August 11, 2021**

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:06

Governor Polis toured the I-70 corridor in Glenwood canyon today to survey the area and get a look at the progress that has been made after destructive mudslides. This morning Governor Polis came out to Glenwood to visit the canyon and see firsthand the extent of the damage caused by the mudslides. He is adamant that the states stance is they want more resiliency and more alternative routes. Looks a lot better and a lot cleaner. I saw the drone photography from a week and a half ago where we would be standing in 10 to 15 feet of mud. Good news is, mud is clear. good news the road is intact in most places. Bad news there is some structural damage in a few areas. The governor was joined by the Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation, other state officials, as well as incident command and engineering teams leading the response on the ground. All of whom state they have a short-and long-term plan in place to ensure massive closures such as this one will be preventable in the future. There needs to be a long-term structural fix over the next few months of the upper and lower deck and we are working on this in real time on the emergency repairs to bring on a contractor as much as possible. I'm told it only take a quarter inch of rain to cause a mudslide. The Governor pointed out even though the canyon will open this weekend that short term closures in the weeks ahead are extremely likely. We are in many ways the structural damage was not worse. There could have easily been additional gaps that would have required additional days and weeks to repair. So we are confident that can be patched up and one lane each can be in place, weather permitting by Saturday afternoon. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done and boulders that need to be removed but Governor Jared Polis says his goal is to have one lane open by this Saturday and have the canyon fully functioning by Thanksgiving. Since mudslides closed in Glenwood Canyon, Governor Polis has issued two state disaster declarations.

KKCO The Ten 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
August 12, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Sarah Dallof
Duration: 1:40

Millions of Americans across 34 states are in the grip of extreme heat once again today... As officials urge people to stay cool... And safe. Sarah dallof has the story. Sweltering summer temperatures putting much of the country in the hot zone... "I just can't wait to get home to my A/C/"... And potentially in danger. Nearly 200 million Americans under a heat advisory of some form, including in northern California where the Dixie fire continues to rage...And Oregon... Officials there have declared a state of emergency and opened cooling centers. "It would be great for folks to check on their neighbors their loved ones." The high temperatures spanning across the midwest... In Michigan...Severe storms knocked out power -and air conditioning- to hundreds of thousands of homes...And continuing east... Where New Yorkers are being asked to conserve electricity as demand soars. People urged to hydrate and take frequent breaks, especially if working outdoors. In Nebraska... A 16-year-old football player died after collapsing from heatstroke during practice. A brutal heat wave not expected to break in some regions until the weekend.

KKCO The Ten 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 7, 2021
Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Kyle Midura
Duration: 2:02

Most pilots steer around storm systems but Hurricane hunters chart a course through them. As Washington Bureau Reporter Kyle Midura explains, mechanical issues can jeopardize safety in the air and on the ground. Torrential rain and howling wind are normal flight conditions for the men and women of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. But as Ida hurtled toward Louisiana – a crack spiderwebbed across the co-pilot's windshield at the tail-end of that Saturday's morning mission. The flight's navigator – Lt. Col. Mark Withee – says the crack didn't put the crew in danger but did force them back to base early. Withee say typically crews are able to get back into the air and the mission, but in this case, they didn't have enough spare time left on the data-collection clock. Forecasters rely on getting measurements in real-time. Florida State Prof. Mark Bourassa says computers digest terabytes of data collected by Air Force and NOAA flights... Each wind, pressure, temperature, and radar reading add up to a better prediction about a hurricane's power and path...Over the decades – the readings helped refine satellite measurement and even reformulate (redefine) the forecast models. NOAA completed all of its Ida flights but may not be as well prepared if issues do arise during future storms. Corrosion grounded its jet for days as Hurricane Hermine bore down on Florida in 2016. A year later, Congress demanded a backup jet – NOAA HAS one in the wings, but it still needs to be outfitted with specialized research technology before it's ready to fly these missions. Hurricane Hunter flights end once a storm makes landfall – but pilots and crew are likely to be up in the air again soon. This season is producing more named storms than usual and the peak does not typically arrive until September 10th.

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 20, 2021
Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Pattrik Perez
Duration: 1:31

Dozens of people are searching the Poudre Canyon for a woman, missing two months after massive flooding and mudslides. Crews say search efforts will continue, until she's found. Pattrik Perez has more. At least a dozen agencies were stretched out in parts of Highway 14 in Poudre Canyon on Saturday in hopes of finding Diana Brown. We're trying to do a full-court press today and touch the 16 miles of river and hopefully put closure for the family and recover the body," Diana and three members of her family -- including her husband-- were killed July 20th when flash flooding swept through the canyon. They were staying in a cabin when the water rose. "It's pretty rough when you lose four members of the same family in one tragic accident," With an 8 am start time more than 100 people searched through the Poudre river. Clear skies, low water flows and water levels created the perfect conditions. "We can get a good look under rocks and those deep pools to see if she's maybe wedged between some rocks or some things like that. The search teams include dive teams, dogs, drones -- whatever and whoever it takes to find Diana. We gotta keep telling them what's going on and not give up. If were unsuccessful today we're gonna try different things and keep searching until we recover her. But time is running out. Joe Shellhammer says they need to take advantage of this visibility while they can, before the winter month approach.

It will really, really, hinder and slow things down. It's our job to give that family closure. So if it takes tons of resources and tons of searches then were gonna do it.

CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

KKCO The Ten Top Story Including: Web Channel Feature

July 2, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jon Decker

Duration: 4:02

Lawmakers say they want the way crash tests are done to change – to make cars safer for women. This comes after a recent report from our national investigative team and d-c bureau... that proved women are going unaccounted for in some of the most critical crash tests. In the last month – both parties in both the house and senate began taking up the issue... our chief white house correspondent Jon Decker spoke with those leading the charge to correct the collision division. REPORTER JON DECKER: Five star safety ratings... you see them advertised... the measure of how well a car, truck or van will withstand a crash. But our investigation found the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or NHTSA, bases the majority of those ratings on 5-foot-9, 170-pound male crash test dummies. In the tests for the two most common kinds of crashes – the male dummy is the driver, and the female dummy is a passenger. This is despite data showing female drivers are 73-percent more likely to be badly injured and up to 20-percent more likely to be killed in a crash ... and that there are more women licensed to drive than men. Just one week after our story aired, the top Republican on the House Subcommittee on Consumer Safety and Commerce - Congressman Gus Bilirakis - who we spoke to as part of our investigation - raised the issue during a hearing on automobile technologies. REP. GUS BILIRAKIS: I have seen recent reports where gender is not reflected during these crash safety tests. I believe that physiological differences between a man and a woman must be considered to rectify gaps that may exist within the safety standards. DECKER: One week after that hearing, the Chairwoman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton – who we also interviewed as part of our investigation – announced she would introduce legislation that would mandate that NHTSA update its vehicle crash testing standards. DEL. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON: I'm going to particularly press this bill forward, I can see no reason why it wouldn't get strong support in the House and the Senate. DECKER: Is it fair to say, Congresswoman that our investigation is the impetus for your legislation? HOLMES NORTON: Probably so. I wasn't even aware of this difference. Until your investigation showed that it existed. DECKER: Many women don't know that difference exists either....and that they could be at greater risk behind the wheel. ALICIA TRAUTWEIN, INJURED IN 2014 CRASH: That's something I never would have thought of, because when you hear safety standards, and that a certain car might be safer ... You're thinking that that's for anyone who's driving. You don't think it's only for the you know, for men as opposed to women you don't think about that. And so it's very misleading." DECKER: The strong reaction to our story quickly extended to the Senate side of the Capitol – where bipartisan legislation has just been introduced by Democratic Michigan Senator Gary Peters and Republican Nebraska Senator Deb Fischer. Their legislation – known as The FAIR Crash Tests Act would order the Government Accountability Office – Congress's watchdog agency – to evaluate NHTSA's failure to equally use crash test dummies that represent women drivers. The bill would also require the GAO to compare NHTSA's practices to other safety rating programs, such as in Europe, and to evaluate options for strengthening the agency's vehicle safety testing to reduce gender-based disparities in car crash outcomes. DECKER: Still no reaction from NHTSA – which – through a spokesman declined our repeated requests to answer our questions about what lawmakers from both parties call an unacceptable gender inequity. We've learned from Congressman Bilirakis and Congresswoman Norton they will formally introduce a house version of the bill in the coming days. They say they are confident it will move through the process quickly.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story Including: Web Channel Feature

July 5, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Pattrik Perez

Duration: 1:52

When I-70 closes, the problem extends far beyond the road. Reporter Marc Sallinger shows us how businesses that rely on Glenwood Canyon were forced to make adjustments. It's hard to go rafting if the road to the water is closed. This is new, but as a result of the fires last year i guess it's something that we might have to live with this summer and make some plans accordingly.

When Glenwood Canyon closes because of mudslides, people like Kim Lindsay feel the impact. She's a guide with Timberline tours in Eagle. Kim can't get her customers into Glenwood Canyon to raft down the Colorado river when I-70 is shut down. They've been forced to get creative, taking tours to different rivers while the cleanup continues inside the canyon. Even if there's just a hint of it, some of that landslides and covers the highway, blocking our access to and or from the river. The Grizzly Creek fire last summer shut down the canyon also. Now the impact of the fire continues with mudslides. Kim says CDOT has put together a warning system to let them know when the canyon might shut down so they can reroute their business to places like the Arkansas river. They also work together to make sure they can keep operating as long as possible. CDOT and the forest service have been awesome. On the one of the busiest weekends of the year, mudslides aren't what visitors came to see.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 12, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Jaleesa Irizarry

Duration: 2:12

The Colorado Attorney General says it's not a matter of if we'll see fake vaccination cards-- it's a matter of when. With more and more companies and universities requiring a proof of vaccination...the likelihood of people forging that document have increased. Reporter Jaleesa Irizarry shows us... how the University of Colorado is doing their part to try & keep people honest. As CU Boulder prepares for students to move back in their administration is hoping to get a message out. CU's Melanie Marquez Parra says the way to do that is with a proof of vaccination. All students, faculty and staff will be required to be vaccinated... or have a medical or non-medical exemption. Once the proof is submitted it's looked over by staff. So every submission that a student provides is reviewed to make sure that the provider has signed the card, if it is a 2 dose vaccine that the dates are in line with what is necessary for that particular vaccine. If any information looks to be like maybe its inaccurate or maybe there isn't enough information to verify what's been provided then a staff member would reach out to that student. Steps... Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser hopes other colleges and companies take. We're monitoring this threat that fake vaccine cards are going to get out there. AG Weiser says as of right now he's not aware of any reports of fraudulent cards in Colorado... but anticipates they will come. And the culprits... will face a hefty consequence. There's a federal law against counterfeit or faking a federal card in this case a card from the CDC. There are also state level crimes at issue here as well, obviously forgery or fraud. Crimes... CU Boulder administration don't anticipate they'll run into. They just hope... students take the right steps and move into this school year as safe as possible. CU students & staff have until September 15th to submit their proof of vaccination. The campus is also requiring all students & staff to wear masks in public indoor spaces.

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 13, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:58

Mesa County Public Health held a news conference this morning with local hospitals regarding COVID-19 vaccines. They announced something that may not sit well with some employees. Hospital officials from St. Mary's, Community Hospital, Family Health West, and Mind Springs collectively announced a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all their employees effective November 1st. Due to the recent COVID-19 surge and highly contagious variants. The healthcare organizations standing with us today will now require COVID-19 vaccinations for their staff. We recognize that some could be excepted from a mandate for identified medical or religious reasons." Mesa County Public Health Director Jeff Kuhr does go on to say specific policies and effective dates can vary at each organization. But November 1st is what they are all aiming for. Health officials say vaccination is key to protect those who remain unvaccinated such as children under 12 and vulnerable immunocompromised individuals. "COVID-19 vaccination is the most effective way of preventing serious illness & death in folks who could contract it. It's helpful to protect our staff & patients from contracting COVID-19 from each other. It's also the right thing to do to lead by example in our community." Health officials go on to say they expect pushback from employees but that there could possibly be exceptions made on a case-by-case basis dependent on employee's health conditions & religious beliefs. "We think one of the biggest things that can help us is if the FDA would get busy & get it approved. We hear studies anywhere from 20-50% of unvaccinated people are saying that because of the FDA approval that's what they're waiting for. So we're hoping that'll be soon. Potentially by Labor day." Health officials go on to say the delta variant is about 50% more infectious than the original strain. So it's really important that everyone that can get vaccinated does so - in order to protect those who can't

"Since May 23, 100% of our positive tests that were sent to the lab & genetically sequenced have been the delta variant. We have very high levels of delta variant here and because it's so infectious it tends to be infecting kids at a higher rate so it's really important that we stop transmission however we can." Health officials stress that education and immunity - getting everyone vaccinated is the key to putting all historic pandemics behind us - including this one. Community Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Thomas Tobin stated these vaccines have been given in more quantity than any other medication or vaccine in history prior to getting FDA approval. Saying it's the perfect study to prove safety and efficacy. Dr. Andrew Jones stated most patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in Mesa County are unvaccinated. The vaccine mandate was determined so that health care providers can lead by example and prevent possible spread to their patients and other employees.

KKCO Midday Live 2nd Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 23, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks/Luis DeLeon
duration: 1:51

Right now, ICU's across the country are filling up with COVID patients. According to the Mesa County Health Department about 84 percent of ICU beds are in use but other hospitals in Colorado are under much more pressure. ICU's are full in Northern Colorado. Hospitals in Larimer and Weld counties are overwhelmed... and it's not just Coloradans filling those beds. They're getting COVID patients from Wyoming too. Luis de Leon explains. For more than three weeks now - Larimer county's main hospitals have been hovering at 100 percent or more for ICU bed occupancy levels. 103 percent as of Tuesday night. State epidemiologist doctor Rachel Herlihy explains. "We do see that Larimer County's rates continue to be slightly elevated, above the state rate, but Weld County's rates are significantly higher" Both UC Health and Banner Health - each of whom have several hospitals in northern Colorado - say their patient volumes are high. And both of which - have taken in several COVID-19 patients from our neighbors to the north - Wyoming. (Dr. Rachel Herlihy - State Epidemiologist) "We know Wyoming residents can also be potentially hospitalized in northern Colorado - that's a common practice - we know that that does occur - and so that could be part of what we're seeing right now." UC Health has taken in 3 patients from Wyoming over the past week. They're accepting fewer out-of-state requests because of how busy they are. Banner Health has fewer than 5 out of state COVID patients as of Tuesday. Both hospitals say they accept transfers from their region and out of the area when they have space - which has been their process throughout the pandemic. One factor to consider - Wyoming has a smaller number of ICU beds. For example, there's just 6 at the Cheyenne veterans affairs medical center - with 1 available as of Tuesday. (Dr. Rachel Herlihy - State Epidemiologist) Overall message here is that at the individual level, vaccine is certainly going to protect you from being hospitalized, and at population level vaccine will protect our health care capacity

KKCO Midday Live Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 24, 2021
Reporter: Erin Crooks/Darius Johnson
Duration: 2:05

It's the news many parents have been waiting for. Pfizer's vaccine could be approved for kids as soon as the end of next month. Here in Colorado -- there's one doctor who has good reason to feel optimistic. As Darius Johnson shows us, he helped coordinate the local vaccine trial. Pfizer -- releasing new data that it's vaccine is safe and high effective in children ages 5 to 11. 252 children participated in a trial at Children's Hospital Colorado. Now we wait for emergency use authorization. "The way I see it is I realize there is a lot of natural hesitancy out there. But this is a very safe vaccine. It has an incredible boost to the immune system that it gives people to fight COVID." Dr. Lalit Bajaj was the executive sponsor of the trial at Children's Hospital. He says getting kids vaccinated is the key to moving forward. "This will change the course of this pandemic if we can get a significant number of these patients vaccinated. :36 Keep them out of the hospital and hopefully keep them in schools." The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is tracking outbreak data that's released weekly. On September 15 -- about a dozen schools in the metro area had outbreaks with 5 or more cases. "We will continue to see the virus spread there's no doubt. And we've seen a lot of people stressed and worried as kids have tested positive in our schools, they have concerns of exposure, they need to get tested, and they need to get their kids hopefully back in school and parents back to work. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics... children now account for around one in four new cases... while the number of hospitalized kids remains relatively small in Colorado... Dr. Bajaj says he's seeing more now. "We've seen many more children who have presented sick with COVID to our system and our emergency departments."

Dr. Bajaj knows there's a lot of hesitancy, but he encourages parents to trust the science.

POLITICS/LAWMAKING

KKCO The Ten Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 1, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Alice Barr

Duration: 1:45

The namesake business of former president Donald Trump -- and its chief financial officer -- formally charged today in a Manhattan courtroom -- on tax and fraud allegations. The former president himself has not been accused of wrongdoing... But prosecutors say the investigation is not over. Alice Barr has the latest from Washington. Today in Manhattan -- the Trump Organization -- and its Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg -- charged in an alleged decade-and-a-half long tax scheme. Weisselberg accused of grand larceny, conspiracy and other charges. Prosecutors say he dodged 1.7 million dollars in taxes -- On benefits like cars and apartments. Former president Donald Trump -- not accused of wrongdoing in this case. Attorneys for the organization -- and Weisselberg -- pleading not guilty. Legal experts believe prosecutors are hoping to convince the longtime trump organization executive -- to cooperate in a broader investigation by the Manhattan district attorney and New York attorney general. "He's in a position to understand not only what happened but whether people had knowledge and intent to commit crimes." "Some people have to be charged in order to cooperate and I've even had a few cases where people cooperated after they've been convicted. So if there is a path to others - this is the beginning and not the end." A spokesperson for the organization saying Weisselberg is -- quote -- "being used by the Manhattan District Attorney as a pawn in a scorched earth attempt to harm the former President." Mr. Trump -- denouncing the investigation as "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time." It comes as he looks to reassert his hold over the republican party. Just yesterday, more than 30 house republicans joined the former president for a visit to the southern border. And he's begun holding rallies again -- planning a political comeback -- amid questions over his financial empire.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 24, 2021

Reporter: Saphire Cervantes/Natasha Lynn

Duration 3:49

Today the Mesa County Republican Party hosted their Annual Lincoln Day Dinner fundraiser held at the Grand Junction Convention Center. At 6 pm the main doors opened for a silent auction and the VIP reception. At 7, the dinner in the ballroom was held as well as a live auction, followed by speeches by representatives Lauren Boebert and Jim Jordan. I had the privilege of speaking with Congresswoman Boebert about her agenda in congress and the reason behind why she brought along Congressman Jim Jordan. "I am honored to be joining the ranks with him in the freedom caucus, he was the chairman of the freedom caucus. It's a 1 term position so we have chairman Andy Begs from Arizona now who is leading the group with full force. These are members of congress who care about those forgotten voters and care about putting those people first." Congresswoman Boebert shared with us what she is working on right now in Congress, specifically her Forestry Bill in response to the wildfires Colorado saw last year.

"Now if we were able to manage our forests, we wouldn't of seen the devastation that we saw last year. And my bill requires harvesting to take place of this dead timber that has been killed by the bark beetles." Representative Boebert also gave us a sneak peak of a new water initiative she will soon be introducing for water conservation in Colorado.

"I have my western water security act that prevents the federal government from taking water out of Colorado." Congresswoman Boebert also mentioned her invitation which Secretary Halland accepted to visit the BLM headquarters here in Grand Junction yesterday. "I gotta tell you I'm still a little hesitant at the signals that she was sending to us yesterday. This is a bipartisan effort. We had governor polis here offering his support to keep the BLM headquarters here in Grand Junction and it seems like there's still some political hesitancy there. This makes sense to keep the headquarters here in Grand Junction. It makes great economic sense and the lands that are affected by these decision makers need to be experienced by these decision makers and not beaurocrats in Washington DC." However not everyone is happy about the representatives being here. The opposing side says Congresswoman Boebert has not followed through with her promises, mentioning she is not bringing up the important local issues here such as affordable housing, lack of affordable healthcare options, and not supporting vaccination sooner.

"CD3 is an area that's been hard hit by COVID. We have a huge tourist industry here that was hit hard by it and consequently it took a lot longer to come back from it than it would otherwise." Some on the opposing side express concern over Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan who is under investigation and was in attendance tonight. "Here is one of the best members of Congress doing what she told the voters here in Colorado she would do if she got the opportunity to serve in the US House of Representatives. So she asked me to come out and do an event for her today, a fundraising event, and then be here tonight." The issues Congresswoman Lauren Boebert shared with me which are important to her and to western Colorado are her forestry & wildfire mitigation bill & voter equality. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert also shared with me the new water bill she will be introducing called the western water security act as well as her hesitancy regarding some of the signals she received from Secretary Halland yesterday regarding keeping the BLM headquarters here in Grand Junction. Republican party of Mesa County Chairman Kevin McCarney says they hold this event every year in reminder of our country's roots and Abraham Lincoln freeing the African American slaves in the south.

KKCO The 10 Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
August 10, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Alice Barr
Duration: 1:47

After passing a massive bipartisan infrastructure bill today in the senate... Democrats get ready to go it alone on a 3-point-5 trillion dollar budget plan that will dramatically boost spending on health care, education and climate change. Alice Barr has the latest from Washington. In the US Senate today -- a huge step toward an historic investment in the nation's aging infrastructure. 19 republican senators voting with all democrats. To pass a \$1.2 trillion dollar bipartisan package -- the centerpiece of President Biden's agenda. Vice President Kamala Harris presiding over the final vote -- as the white house celebrates a major victory in both policy -- and bipartisanship. The bill pours billions into roads and bridges -- high speed internet -- rail -- clean water -- and energy -- elusive goals in Washington for decades. "This bill is going to put people to work - modernizing our roads and our highways and our bridges." The Senate immediately pivoted to a separate \$3.5 trillion dollar budget resolution -- that shores up the nation's social safety net. It would dramatically boost spending on democratic priorities like health care, education and climate change -- paid for by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy. Republicans slamming the social investments -- for ballooning the deficit and adding to already rising inflation. But democrats believe they have the numbers to pass what would amount to the biggest government expansion since the new deal of the 1930s.

KKCO The 10 Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
August 18, 2021
Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson
Duration 3:14

Tonight we're hearing from the two people selected to take over Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters' election oversight. Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold appointed Mesa County Treasurer Sheila Reiner to step in. Shortly after her appointment, Mesa County commissioners appointed former secretary of state Wayne Williams for the position. While conflict between the secretary and the commissioners may arise over who ultimately has the authority to fill the vacancy, both Reiner and Williams say they are focused on running secure elections in Mesa County. According to Reiner, neither of them knew that Jena Griswold and the county commissioners would put forward conflicting appointments for election supervision in Mesa County. After the news broke, Reiner said they got in touch and agreed that working together regardless of how things play out would best serve Mesa County residents. Until such time as a resolution occurs, Sheila and I are working together. We've worked together for a number of years. We were county clerks together: she was a county clerk when I was secretary of state. We each have great confidence in each other's abilities, and so we've sent correspondence out to staff to let them know that on major decisions we're going to be conferring." The current situation with the clerk and recorder's office presenting certain challenges, according to Reiner. "What's most important to both of us is that Mesa County can count on the voting systems, and the election staff in Mesa County feels supported, and that we will have a successful recovery from this." when asked about this thoughts about the allegations raised against Clerk Peters and whether she should resign, Williams had this to say: "Yes, given, unless, right, everything I've read is wrong. But if you violate the public trust, and you impact the integrity of the election systems, then that is a situation that makes it so you cannot effectively perform that job." The commissioners told me last night that they are determined that the secretary of state does not get her way in making elections-oversight appointments, indicating that they will go to court if needed to sort this out. Reiner says she's been in touch with Griswold's office to let her know how things stand here in Mesa County. "I just let the

secretary of state know, through her staff member, that you know we're fine, things on the ground are going fine while they work out their conflict." I did reach out to Griswold's office asking for a response to the commissioner's move. I received word from Griswold's office saying that the commissioners do not have the authority to appoint an election supervisor. The commissioners are saying they do have that authority and Griswold does not. Griswold's office also saying that she is working to provide oversight and ensure election integrity.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

September 20, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration 3:18

Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters gave us her first on camera interview since the Colorado secretary of state Jena Griswold alleged a security breach at her office. Peters bringing forth her own allegations. She is saying a loss of data in the county's voting system now makes it impossible to audit the election records from November of 2020. Clerk Peters submitted this report to the Mesa County commissioners on Friday. Peters says this document shows evidence that during a routine maintenance operation on Mesa County's voting systems on May 25, almost 30 thousand files were lost. She is saying the secretary of state and voting system vendor Dominion are responsible. "Behind my back and contrary to prior representations, these records were destroyed by the secretary of state and the vendor. And, preventing any audit of the 2020 election. This appears to be a serious crime. But thanks to my arranging for a forensic image, that the EMS servers, just beforehand, those records are preserved." Tina Peters is saying this loss of data is serious. She is encouraging the public to look over the report themselves. She says cyber forensic expert Doug Gould examined forensic images taken from the voting system to draw these conclusions. "The report also shows that these machines cannot meet certification requirements of the state of Colorado and should not have been certified for use. This is why I had to arrange for these images to be made. It was the only way I could find if the records were in fact destroyed, and whether the machines were designed to accurately tabulate the votes. And it turned out my suspicions were correct." The report also includes screenshots, which clerk Peters is pointing towards as evidence that these files were lost. The Mesa County commissioners are saying these allegations are serious, and that they are looking into them. "We've reached out to a couple cyber experts, and again we just got this on Friday afternoon and it's Monday so, this report is very fresh. It also has been filed with the courts by Tina Peters' attorney Scott Gessler, so it is going to be used in court, to prove or at least allege, that there has been some type of election impropriety." Clerk Peters is saying she does not trust the current voting systems in place. Commissioner Cody Davis says multiple steps are in place to ensure election security in Mesa County, including cross checking votes between hand counts, Dominion machines, and clear ballot machines. Here's Commissioner Davis on what they're hearing at this point about the allegations raised in the report. "So far, the preliminary look that our cyber security experts have looked into, don't put a lot of weight into them, but we still want them thoroughly vetted by the proper parties." Peters says further details and reports regarding these allegations are forthcoming. I did reach out to the secretary of state's office to ask for a response to these allegations raised by clerk Peters. I have not heard back at this time. Commissioner Davis is encouraging the public to turn out and vote this fall. He says the multiple security measures put in place, like cross-tabulation and posting ballot images online, will ensure election security in Mesa County.

KKCO The 10 Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

September 21, 2021

Reporter: Bernie Lange/Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration: 2:10

The Mesa County Board of Commissioners held a townhall this evening at 6 p-m at the old Mesa County courthouse. The commissioners discussed a number of issues and answered the public's questions. Among the topics discussed: allegations concerning Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters. The allegations regarding the Clerk and Recorder's office were not the only things discussed. Other topics included housing, water, and the planned community halls projects to be constructed across the county. "The heat of the battle going on about the voting machines and Tina, you know, takes up a lot of the time when there's a lot of other things we want to talk about. You know, there's a big shortage on day care, certainly education always comes up, economic development, there's not enough good jobs." Commissioner Janet Rowland shared with me why she thinks it's important for the board to engage with the community on these issues. "The town halls are really important. It allows us time to share with citizens some of the things the county is working on, but probably the best part for me is hearing from the citizens, their questions, their ideas to make our community better." In addition to concerns over election security in Mesa County, residents asked questions about managing versus promoting development. Commissioner Cody Davis also shared the board's plans to possibly implement an excise tax on marijuana to fund mental health resources. Voters will

decide in November whether to allow marijuana cultivation in unincorporated Mesa County.

"The community wants to have input on things with their governments. And so, to have continuous forums is very important. They don't, this is the first one in two years they've had in Grand Junction, so it's time to do more of these things." This town hall in Grand Junction is a part of a series of such events. The board has held others in Fruita, DeBeque, Collbran, and other locations across the county.

VOLUNTEERISM/ COMMUNITY AID/ COMMUNITY EFFORTS

KKCO The Ten 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 3, 2021

Reporter: Taylor Burke/Nelson Garcia

Duration: 2:57

A walk with his dad one year ago led to the start of a movement. Now... As reporter Nelson Garcia reports... Stephen Singer is committed to keeping the natural area around his home beautiful... However long it takes. If you ever see something unusual hiking on a Colorado trail... it just might be the vision of man who was angry... at all the unusual things he saw in nature. Steven Singer took his dad into the mountains for father's day last year when he arrived at a place called Balanced Rock. Singer co-founded a nonprofit called Keeping Colorado Beautiful to remove graffiti from places like Red Rock canyon open space near Colorado Springs. Wesley Hermann is a park ranger who says graffiti and vandalism are increasing problems. "Unfortunately, we've seen a couple of instances of people spray painting directly on the rocks which is pretty difficult to remove." Not only does singer have to use an environmentally friendly solvent that won't destroy the rock, Singer and his team of volunteers have to bring all the equipment into hard-to-reach areas. "Depending on how well this goes, we may have to run down and fill up those tanks again and haul them back up for second, third, however times it takes to get the job done." The job is getting done, Singer says, but not fast enough. "Well, right now, the biggest problem is getting caught up because nobody's been addressing the problem for decades and so there's decades worth of graffiti out there all over place." and... A generation's worth of people who want to help. "Went out there and did my first removal, posted it online and it blew up and got a whole lot of traction." Singer says this movement has gone viral and Keeping Colorado Beautiful is growing. "Well, the point is, when you've let it go, eventually you're gonna have rainbow-colored mountains. Is that the future we want to leave our kids?" A response by singer that turned into action...a response fueled by anger. Anger of a man who just wanted to a nice day with dad on Father's Day. "The best way to cap a week off is getting to wash graffiti away and watch the rocks go back to the way they should be."Co-Founder Matt Montgomery helped Singer organize the structure of Keeping Colorado Beautiful. Montgomery says the whole effort relies on volunteers and donations to survive

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

July 22, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:26

Tonight, we are learning that a gift card scam has been running rampant through the Grand Valley, mostly targeting the elderly population. We have been receiving multiple calls and emails from victims of this scam the last few weeks. this scam is very common no matter what community you live in and con artists have latched onto gift cards as a convenient form of payment in their scams as they are extremely difficult to track. Gift card scammers often prey on a sense of urgency and vulnerability so often times we see the elderly population is affected by these scams. Someone will call and ask you to pay for something by putting money on a gift card, like a Google Play or iTunes card, and then ask you to give them the numbers on the back of the card. If they ask you to do this, they're trying to scam you. No real business or government agency will ever insist you pay them with a gift card. While we encourage you to absolutely report this to local law enforcement if you do unfortunately fall victim to it. We want the community to know that these financial scams are completely devastating to the victims and make sure you take every precaution you can to not fall victim to one of these. In recent weeks, volunteers with the Grand Junction Police Department have delivered warning signs about this scam to local retailers to be posted on gift card displays. Employees are also often trained to be on the lookout for someone who may be purchasing large amounts of cards to help protect residents. Mark Irvin is one such witness who has stopped these scams from happening. It's really easy to get people to believe what they want them to do. I just feel so bad for people. They have worked hard for their money. Especially elderly people. And to get scammed out of it by somebody who really doesn't care. Scammers will tell you that they are with law enforcement or the government and often tell you that you have to pay right away to avoid being arrested, which is never the case.

Law enforcement says the most important thing you can do is contact them immediately if you feel like you are about to be scammed. You can also call a trusted family member to make sure this is in fact a scam.

KKCO The Ten Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 19, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson

Duration: 2:25

Residents got the chance to add their suggestions to plans for a new community campus in Clifton this evening. The 10's Tom Ferguson listened in and talked to residents and Mesa County officials about the plans for new community spaces in Clifton. This new community hall and campus is one of several that the Mesa County commissioners have planned. Others will be found in Whitewater, DeBeque, and Loma. The county invited Clifton residents to engage with the planning process this evening as the campus takes shape. "We want them to voice their opinions on what they want in the building, so it's not just the commissioners putting up a building and putting whatever they want to put in there. We want it to be community driven." Organizers planning on building a library, early childhood education center, event space, and more to the Clifton community campus. Commissioner Scott McInnis sharing his vision for future community investments in the area. "The county is earmarking probably around 15 to 20 million dollars to go into this Clifton area. On top of that, we got the CDOT doing highway improvements, so we're, we're a group of people at the county commission that are very, very, excited about Clifton, this promise was made a long, long, time ago to Clifton, for a community hall for example as it was with DeBeque, as it was with Loma and Whitewater. We're going to fulfill that promise." A promise made back in the eighties, actually. McInnis saying the tax revenue intended for the community halls projects ended up defraying lost revenue from Exxon closing down operations in the county. "And I believe this will be a way to bring them a place where they feel identity with Clifton and where they'll be able to get to know people when we have events and different things. So I'm super excited, the proposal sounds really good to me." The county is looking to buy this grass field from Mesa County Valley School District 51 to use as the site of the campus. It is located on D 1/2 road right next to Rocky Mountain Elementary. The county is still in the earlier phases of planning for the new campus. Organizers hope to break ground on the project by spring of 2022. Most of the funding will be coming from the county, with the rest expected to be brought in through grants. Other amenities the county has in mind for the project include a community garden, job fairs, and health clinics among others.

KKCO 11 News at 6p Top Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 19, 2021

Reporter: Sarah Schwabe/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:28

Preparations for Peach Fest are officially underway. Tonight, we are talking to organizers to see if they're concerned about the I-70 closure impacting the turnout. Our reporter Taylor Burke had a look at what went into the groundwork and what we can look forward to this weekend. That's right the 52nd annual Peach Fest is here. Crews here at the park have been tirelessly staging tents and putting up fences so that vendors can come in first thing tomorrow morning. If it's your first time attending peach festival I'd say prepare for any weather and come have fun with us. There's tons to do. We have a great kid's sections, it's family friendly, we also have live music both days. This evening will feature a kickoff event on third and Main Street with an ice cream social as well as a live band. Keeping with tradition the Peach Queen will be there, presented with her court. Brant Harrison, the owner of Kokopelli Farms is excited to put his famous fried peach pies on display. If you've ever had a Palisade peach you know just how special they are. I think they're the best in the world. Despite the unusual amount of rain the past few days and I-70 being shut down once again. Peach festival officials tell me that it is adding concern, but it is hardly dampening their spirits. After last year with the coronavirus completely cancelling the festival they are over the moon to be celebrating the iconic festival with locals and visitors. With the rain that's happened last night and this morning were not sure what that looks like and we're just hopeful that it will be ok. Naturally we expect to see a wide variety of peach cuisine. with an attraction like tasty peaches, the festival is sure to bring in all types of people who have different reasons for enjoying the fruit. The Peach fest runs Friday and Saturday ending with a feast in the fields event.

KKCO 11 News at 5p Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 18, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson/Natasha Lynn
Duration: 2:30

Today is the first day of the 2-day Colorado Mountain Winefest. Organizers are celebrating its 30th anniversary of being in the grand valley. Everyone is so excited to be here after it was cancelled last year due to COVID. Normally the festival is only 1 day. But due to COVID-safety concerns, organizers expanded it to be a 2-day festival to help with social distancing. And to coincide with Colorado wine week. Everybody's been really excited to celebrate the event & come back together & cheers to Colorado wine & get together in a beautiful festival & park to get together & drink & celebrate." Colorado Mountain Winefest attendees received a commemorative tote & glass with unlimited wine samplings. The festival also has live music, artists, vendors, educational seminars, an ice carving demo, & chef demos for food & wine pairings. "We're so excited to be here this year. And we're just having a great time getting to taste all these wonderful wineries & we're having so much fun." Colorado Mountain Winefest was voted as the number 1 wine festival in the nation in 2017. So normally people come from all over the country, and even the world to attend this festival. But this year, with COVID travel safety concerns & limited capacity, people came from all over the state to attend. "Due to COVID & safety protocols & wanting to produce the most safe event for our vendors & wineries & volunteers & attendees & the community, we broke our event down to 2300 attendees & pulled back our vendors & wineries to 35 & 20 respectively to allow for increased social distancing & spacing in the park." Winefest benefits Western Colorado in many ways. One being an economic driver. Local wineries, vineyards, growers, hotels, & restaurants rely on the annual festival for tourism dollars and boost in business. I was told this year's Winefest completely sold out. There were 2300 attendees today & the same number will be back tomorrow. For those who want to attend but missed an opening, you can still attend multiple Colorado wine week events this weekend such as food & wine pairings at various wineries & restaurants. We'll have information on our website about those wine week events going on for the rest of the weekend.

KKCO 11 News at 5p Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature
September 19, 2021
Reporter: Tom Ferguson/Natasha Lynn
Duration: 2:26

This weekend was the 6th annual Tribute to Aviation event put on by Montrose Regional Airport. Our Reporter Natasha Lynn has more on the 2-day event. "Everyone was so excited to be in attendance after it was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 safety concerns. Both civilians & military veterans alike came out to see & tour some military aircraft. Both past & present. As well as speak with active military personnel." The much-anticipated tribute to aviation signature event featured a static display of various military aircraft. Meaning, there was little movement involved. But most of the aircraft were open for spectators to tour. As well as speak with pilots & crew. "This event for our community is one of the highlights. Its by far the largest event for the Montrose community. And the airport is really proud to put this on & attract individuals from across the western slope to showcase & display careers in aviation whether it be military careers or general aviation careers." The event also had a learn to fly area, with information for pilot's lessons. As well as educational areas to learn about aviation careers. "Montrose County is home to a large number of veterans. And we are grateful for their service & dedication to our country. Naturally we attract a large number of military aircraft. So a lot of our veterans want to come out, perhaps some of them have served, flown, or had missions in these aircraft. And it's kind of nice to relive some of those memories & see those aircraft again. So we're proud to make that happen." The featured aircraft this year is the B52 Bomber that has been in operation since the 1950s. "I loved the military. I was proud to serve my country. And I remember some of these planes & I really enjoy being here & meeting all the great people that are coming by. And they share their stories with me & it makes my day complete." The 6th annual Tribute to Aviation event is the biggest event in Montrose County. Over 20,000 people came out to the event this weekend. As aviation remains a key industry in both today's society & the military. "The event was both entertaining & inspiring. For adults looking to learn to fly. And for kids interested in an aviation career. The US Army parachute team called the Golden Knights even demonstrated a jump at 2pm both days of the event. The event had over 45 military & civilian aircraft on display.

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

July 16, 2021

Reporter: Tom Ferguson/Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:55

This upcoming school year, the main goal of D51 is to keep schools open to in-person learning, continue to provide a safe learning environment, and return to as much of a normal school year as possible. Vaccination for students and staff will not be required but reduces the likelihood that staff and students may be quarantined. And masks will not be required regardless of vaccination status. D51 will still offer in-person learning as well as an online option through Grand River Academy. School District 51 leadership is in constant communication with Mesa County Public Health and will make adjustments to the "Keeping Schools Open Plan," if needed. Some of the protocols that could be reinstated include requiring masks, routine testing of unvaccinated staff, & previous quarantine measures for students and staff. "This plan is a work in progress in the sense that if things change, which we know with Covid and the variants that's entirely possible, then the plan could be remediated accordingly. But we're really wanting our kids to be able to return to a sense of normalcy wherever possible." D51 students in grades PreK-12 will continue with in-person learning five days a week with revised COVID-19 protocols in place. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our county on a regular basis and make changes where needed. D51 leadership is in constant communication with MCPH, and we will make adjustments to the "Keeping Schools Open Plan," if needed.

Some of the protocols/procedures that could be reinstated include requiring masks, routine testing of unvaccinated staff, & previous quarantine measures for students and staff. While the COVID-19 vaccine is completely voluntary for staff and students, data shows that fully vaccinated individuals are at a much lower risk of getting COVID-19. We are highly encouraging eligible staff and students to take advantage of receiving this free, safe vaccine. It can also keep you from potentially being quarantined throughout the school year. Face coverings will not be required for any D51 student or staff member. But they are highly recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated. Bus windows will remain open to increase air flow. They will not be quarantining fully vaccinated, non-symptomatic students and staff if someone in their household tests positive. Students or staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked by MCPH to isolate for 10 days. Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff who show symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 will be sent home for 10 days but can return earlier with a resolution of symptoms and a negative COVID-19 test. Symptomatic students, staff, and families should not enter any D51 school or facility.

Visitors will continue to be allowed in district facilities. But Visitors who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a face covering while inside. Regular, daily disinfection of schools and other district facilities by custodial staff will continue. Teachers will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies but will not be required to disinfect between classes. Students and staff will continue to have access to hand sanitizer. We will continue to encourage proper and frequent hand washing and disinfection throughout the school day. Whenever physical distancing is possible, it is still encouraged...especially if you are not fully vaccinated. D51 highly encourages families to enroll their students in a D51 school for in-person learning as this is the most effective model for delivery of instruction for the majority of our students. But, they realize that in-person learning might not be the best option for every child. So they have taken the D51 Online program from last year, reduced the size, and placed it under the umbrella of the Grand River Academy. The district highly encourages families to enroll their students in a D51 school for in-person learning because they say it is the most effective learning model for most students. But, they realize it might not be the best option for every child. So they have taken the D51 Online program from last year, reduced the size, and placed it under the umbrella of the Grand River Academy. We'll have a link on our website with the district's entire plan for the upcoming school year.

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

July 19, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Tom Ferguson/Saphire Cervantes

Duration 2:09

For 8 years now, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy has helped spark an interest in entrepreneurship for young adults in the community. Since 2013, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy has shown Grand Junction youth you're never too young to start your own business. "The Young Entrepreneurs Academy or YEA as we like to call it is for student in middle school and high school who want to start and run their own business. So, we take them through the process of coming up with the business idea if they don't already have one, we help make a business plan, they then pitch that plan to a panel of real investors who give them real money to go out and make their business. Then they launch their business at a trade show." The chamber brought YEA here because they said the community was missing an outlet for students who wanted to become entrepreneurs. "We were really missing that entrepreneurship training for students we want to have them get that spark for entrepreneurship and learn how to express their ideas, see an idea through and actually have an idea come through fruition. Just kind of get them ready for the future." while the program does help foster young entrepreneurs, students can learn much more from it.

"it teaches them real world skills. A lot of our students they come in and they can't do any public speaking they're scared, it's a fear of mine still, but they come out of it and they can talk to anybody. They don't have any of that fear anymore. It's tons of just those soft skills that employees are often looking for." The overall goal of the program is to help students become well-rounded business professionals. "If they're interested in business and they want to make their own business, this is where you do it. All of our students pretty much end up with a full functioning business at the end of the class. They're making real money." Applications are open now. Students will have to include a transcript and a letter of recommendation with their application, and they will also be asked to complete an interview with committee members to be accepted into the academy. Students have until September 15th to apply.

KKCO 11 News at 6p 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 12, 2021

Report: Jean Reynolds/Natasha Lynn

Duration: 2:24

Student Transport of America, the company D51 contracts to drive their school busses, is experiencing a severe school bus driver shortage right now. Not only in the Grand Valley, but nationwide. They've tried getting creative - such as combining routes and in some cases, having 3 kids in a seat. But they cannot add anymore routes, resulting in overcrowded busses. I am told they really need more drivers to make ends meet. Otherwise bell times may have to be delayed. "It can be a very rewarding job. You get to make a difference in a child's life. Many times you're the first person they see in the morning. The driver may be the first one to say good morning to that child." Last year, they got creative, combined routes, and made it work. But this year with the majority of students back in the classroom and borrowed drivers from other areas having to return home, D51 is in desperate need for more drivers to get students to and from school. "Because STA is a large company, they have some drivers coming over from their other sites to help out. And they double up because our high schools are picked up much earlier than our elementaries, so sometimes you can switch routes after you do your high school route and then go do an elementary route." They started to become short on drivers in March of 2020. And over the course of the pandemic, many school bus drivers continued to retire due to COVID safety concerns, as many of them have underlying health conditions. "It's an unprecedented year. Where we are currently short a significant number of drivers to get the kids to school. We've got the busses and the means to hire good, qualified candidates. Unfortunately, we're having a difficult time trying to fill the routes." School bus drivers are not the only positions in shortage right now. Many positions in education such as custodians and substitute teachers experienced a huge drop over the course of the pandemic due to safety. We'll have information on our website on how to apply for a school bus driver position here in Mesa County. The positions include full training and start out as part time 20 hours a week with the opportunity to work full-time.

KKCO 11 news at 6p 2nd Story

Including: Web Channel Feature

August 18, 2021

Reporter: Jean Reynolds/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:32

Other school districts in Colorado are starting to require masks in schools. D51 is encouraging mask use, but there is no mandate. But the debate is heating up. Our reporter Taylor Burke spoke with D51 parents on both sides of the issue. The Keeping Schools Open task force will be meeting tonight for the continued discussion towards best school practices. Parents on both sides are extremely passionate and concerned causing tensions to boil over. Right now, it feels like the school district is waiting for something bad to happen in order to have a political will to do the right thing which is follow the guidance. They are not following the guidance and they are gambling with our schools being open and our kid's health. Health officials recommend masks to slow the spread of the delta variant, which has caused a new wave of cases and hospitalizations across the state, primarily among unvaccinated populations. Safety measures vary at schools across the state, with no centralized order coming from the Governors administration. Everyone in the school board meeting last night I think agrees on one thing. They want our schools open so that kids can be in class and in person. Joel Sholtes tells me his wife was one of the parents at the D51 school board meeting last night, where emotions were running high. This is video one parent sent us from the meeting, which shows a packed house. Some parents showed up to pressure school officials to require masks, while others argued masks should be a decision made by the parents. We can allow for students to have choice with the masks and to have parents choose just like how Jeff Kuhr is allowing for Mesa County residents to have that choice. Cindy Ficklin is a substitute teacher and parent, and says she doesn't want kids to lose the excitement that they started the school year with due to mask use.

Last year when kids were in masks we saw a variety of issues. Kids felt isolated, there was some identity erosion, and had a hard time concentrating. The task force that is meeting tonight includes medical professionals, teachers, parents, and community members, all of whom have different views on the matter. Of course we will keep you posted on the outcome of the task force meeting. The CDC does recommend that everyone in K-12 schools should wear masks since kids under the age of 12 are not eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine but ultimately the school district will have the final ruling.

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

September 17, 2021

Reporter: Tom Ferguson/Taylor Burke

Duration: 2:28

A viral TikTok challenge has led to damaged property and stolen items from schools, including at least four in District 51. Our reporter Taylor Burke has more on what you need to look out for. It's called the "devious lick" challenge, which involves stealing school property and destroying or vandalizing school bathrooms. This is a serious issue and its disappointing that we are even needing to have this conversation, that this is a national trend in our school system. I'm told "'lick" is another word for stealing or a successful type of theft. Sadly, D51 schools have not been immune to the destructive trend. Grand Junction High School, Central high School, Mount Garfield Middle School, and Grand Mesa Middle School all have reported issues of vandalism. Soap dispensers, toilets, and fire alarms are generally what is destroyed during this challenge. Anything that goes on social media is out there for the world to see so if you're putting things on Tiktok, Facebook, Snapchat, we will find it. And there's also people who will walk in on you doing it or see you doing it. It has gotten so bad, TikTok removed the hash tag "devious lick" from the app. Now when you try to search for the phrase, a message appears explaining that the content has been removed because it violates the app's guidelines. There has been a student charged with criminal mischief and there's other cases still being investigated. again, it's imperative we are talking to our students about the consequences they can face when they become involved in this trend. Parents need to be hyper aware of this challenge because there are serious consequences that come along with it. The district said it plans to take serious actions against students who are found guilty, including suspension and even potential criminal charges. We're told School resource officers with the Grand Junction Police Department are continually working with D51 when issues like this pop up.

**KKCO Midday Live Top Story
Including: Web Channel Feature**

September 23, 2021

Reporter: Erin Crooks/Spencer Soicher

Duration: 2:10

The entire football team at a high school in Peyton, Colorado has been suspended. The district made the announcement Wednesday afternoon... As the El Paso County Sheriff's Office investigates one or more players on the team. Spencer Soicher reports. "I'm worried that if your kid is associated with this football team right now, and these allegations, even if they're not proved, this is already out there." On Tuesday all football team activities were suspended here at Falcon High. It comes as the El Paso County Sheriff's Office has revealed -- it's investigating an allegation of sexual misconduct involving at least one falcon high school football player. School principal Darryl Bonds sent out an e-mail to families Tuesday afternoon -- writing, quote... 'The safety of students, families, and staff is non-negotiable.' Dr. Bonds went on to say the school couldn't discuss the investigation further. Parents of the players think that's not fair... And suspending the entire team paints all their kids as predators. Troy Stinson/father of player "They're going to have to deal with that stigma coming out of it, whether they're involved or not." My frustration comes with, they put out something like that saying this is an active investigation. So if you put out something like that, and it's an active investigation, why are you putting it out there?" Players are upset too. Senior Daymon McDonald telling us -- covid already stripped away one season from the falcons - and this punishment is an overreach. Daymon McDonald/high school senior "I don't think the whole team should be punished for choices that people made. That's not us as a school or as individual people." With more than half the season now in jeopardy--- McDonald hopes someone in a position of influence will hear his team's pleas to get back on the field. Daymon McDonald/high school senior "I hope they can get stuff figured out and i hope that CHSAA, the school board and the district look at our perspectives as seniors and have some heart and love for us." The football coaches have been placed on administrative leave. The sheriff's office confirmed the investigation could be criminal in nature. District 49 has said the incident constitutes hazing and harassment.

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

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

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