



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.

1st Quarter 2023

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 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 daily, 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 the top 30 or so visually displayed, they never actually leave the Web Channel Feature server making these accessible for viewers to conduct a search to retrieve each of these in the future. Video segments stay within the server approximately 1-2 weeks, as space is available.

Regular Network News Programs Carried by KKCO:

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

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

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

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

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

ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE/ PET HEALTH & LAWS

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 1st Story B Block

Dog Shelter

January 16, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 2:04

Judie Jones/Director of Make a Difference Rescue, "So right now we're going to be blocking this all off." Judie Jones is showing me the places where the non-profit dog rescue plans to add security at their Detroit shelter. "Now the next step is we're installing flood lights all along the top." make a difference rescue is currently home to 45 dogs like holly here that they've found abandoned and or abused across Detroit. They're able to start adding much needed security this winter because a mystery supporter donated 500-thousand-dollars in what they called an emergency basis on Friday. Sarah Grimmer/reporting "Five hundred thousand dollars!" Judie jones/director of make a difference rescue "talk about spirit of Detroit, right? It is amazing." The donations come after a heart-wrenching week for the team. Judie jones/director of make a difference rescue "This week we had our worst nightmare occur, we got broken into for the fourth time, but unfortunately this time they took my dogs, they took four of them." thankfully - with help from the entire community - Judie Jones/director of make a difference rescue "everywhere i go it's like did you get the dogs?" and our own Kim Craig. Judie jones/director of make a difference rescue "Kim Craig has been wonderful." The dogs were found safe. But Judie says they need more security in Detroit and ultimately a new, safer shelter to make sure that this does not keep happening. Judie jones/director of make a difference rescue "the privacy fence right there we had to replace, every time someone breaks in they take down the fence." so today. After a whirlwind of a week... This dog rescuer says she's asking people to step up and donate to help them reach their goal of 1-million-dollars by the spring to build their dream dog shelter. They have a few locations in mind where they'd like to build a safer, bigger facility where these dogs can run and play until their forever family comes and adopts them. Judie jones/director of make a difference rescue. "I just really want to thank everybody because it does take you know a village to come together." Sarah grimmer/standup "if you would like to make a donation you can do so with this PayPal, or by sending a check to this Birmingham location. I put all this information on our website. Judie says that any donation that you make really can help save the life of one of the dogs that is living inside this building right now.

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 1st Story B Block

Boulder Bear Selfies

January 26, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:49

A bear in Boulder, Colorado discovers wildlife cameras and poses for hundreds of photos. According to officials with Boulder open space and mountain parks, of the 580 photos captured, roughly 400 were photos of the bear peering into the camera. Boulder open space and mountain parks has nine cameras across its 46-thousand-acre land system. The cameras are there to help the department learn more about how local wildlife species use the landscape while minimizing staff presence in sensitive habitats. The cameras are activated to snap pictures when an animal's motion sets off the flash. At night, the cameras are armed with infrared light so as not to disturb nocturnal species.

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st Story A Block

Wolf Hearing

February 7, 2023

Reporter: Cristian Sida and Bernie Lange

Duration: 2:24

Big pushback in Rifle today over the state's draft plan to re-introduce wolves. On the list... Ranchers worried overcompensation for livestock lost to wolves... Rules for how to protect herds... And people ticked off over possible wolf hunting. A packed room... And tense times when western slope residents weighed in on wolf re-introduction. Today...Reporter Cristian Sida was in Rifle for the hearing. What can you tell us? Bernie—the Colorado Mountain College. In rifle heard from people all over western Colorado... C-P-W says the goal is to develop a plan... That most of the public will support. Here's the auditorium at Colorado Mountain College overflowing with ranchers and environmentalists. "You guys know it's going to be a death sentence." He's talking about wildlife... But the other side claims wolves helped heal an eco-system. "Have thirty years of data when wolves were introduced into Montana, Idaho. Populations of elk are the same of greater." Thirty to 50 gray wolves from the Northern Rocky Mountains will be moved to Colorado's Western Slope no later than the end of the year. But first... The state needs to finalize its wolf management plan. It's not easy... Especially when you consider the final vote in 2020 ...

Reintroduction approved by less than one percentage point... Almost all support focused in areas like Denver... Colorado Springs. Now opponents... Like some ranchers... Worry what wolves will cost their family business. "With insufficient compensation... I believe the compensation amounts are overlooked ... For example, with compensation cap being 8-thousand or less... I don't believe it's a fair amount... To do with the cost of owning a large animal much less raising." And ecological impacts "I'm here to speak in behalf of the Colorado wildlife. How dare you? That's what I would like to say. How dare you?" When wolves are introduced... Ranchers want a way to fight back before wolf kill. "First, and foremost... I believe lethal technique control ... Keep it legal. I do not know how you possibly mane wolves without." "Lethal take--- it does need to be part of this plan." But wolf advocates pushed back. "The best available date does not support lethal force against wolves." And... With two more hearings ahead... It's likely these people won't be any closer to agreement. C-P-W will present the final draft plan in April... And then voting for the approval in May.

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 1st Story A Block

K9 Officer Dies

February 13, 2023

Reporter: Gabriele Gonzalez

Duration: 1:20

The Jeffco sheriff's office is mourning a police dog, killed Sunday. It's the first K-9 the department has ever lost in the line of duty. Meanwhile the suspects face as many as 13 charges for allegedly shooting the K9 officer. The officer says a suspect -- who tried to escape by running -- shot THE K-9 In Golden. He had served the department for more than seven years. The sheriff says he ordered the dog to catch a suspect who ran from officers into some woods. She says the suspect shot and killed the dog before officers arrested him hours later. Yesterday morning officers gave the K-9 a hero's procession. His body was wrapped in an American flag and escorted from the crime scene to Fort Collins. The department says vets at Colorado State University will examine the dog which will allow evidence of its death to be submitted in court. Officers say this began just after midnight near the entrance to the School of Mines Campus. Golden Police say they tried to talk to a driver who slumped over the steering wheel of his car. They say he woke up, drove a couple blocks, and then stopped again.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story C Block

Bird Flu

March 20, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:47

Here have been more than 63-hundred known cases of bird flu in all 50 states, according to the c-d-c. But there are probably many more unknown. In 47 states -- there have been multiple outbreaks among poultry -- involved more than 58-and-a-half million birds. The US Department of Agriculture says it's also shown up in some noncommercial backyard flocks as well. Matthew Binnicker, Director, Clinical Virology, Mayo Clinic/"as the virus infects more birds, it may mutate." Matthew Binnicker -- Director of Clinical Virology at Mayo Clinic -- says another concern about this strain -- is that it appears to not only infect birds -- but also some mammals in the US -- including seals, mink, fox, bears being identified to be infected with this strain." Binnicker says the virus spreads only through direct contact with an infected animal to prevent exposure -- stay away from dead birds. Matthew Binnicker, "If you see a bird that has died on your grounds on your property, don't go up and handle the bird because what we're seeing is that in the few cases of avian influenza in humans, that has been the route."

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 2nd Story A Block

Lion Attack

March 21, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:00

A man suffered minor injuries after being attacked by a mountain lion this weekend in Chaffee County. The man told Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officers that he and his wife were in an in-ground hot tub located away from the rental home they were staying at when he felt something grab his head. according to CPW He and his wife began screaming and splashing water at the animal. The man's wife then grabbed a flashlight and shined it on the lion. The big cat backed up about 20 feet from the couple and the hot tub. The couple told officers they were able to get out of the hot tub and make it back to the rental home. CPW said the man suffered four superficial scratches from the clawing and refused medical treatment.

CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 2nd Story A Block

St. Mary's Lock Down

January 17, 2023

Reporter: Cristian Sida

Duration: 2:10

Yesterday's shooting on Patterson Road saw several near misses for police and citizens alike, though no injuries were reported. Shots first began to ring out around 12:08 p.m., and law enforcement quickly swarmed the area, resulting in the arrest of Michael Viegas. The chain of events leading to his arrest, however, were unclear and alarming for Grand Junction citizens as law enforcement rushed to determine the source of the gunfire. Scanner traffic suggested that the shooter was closer to St. Mary's Medical Pavilion, according to the affidavit, but 911 callers couldn't pinpoint the exact direction the shots were coming from. As businesses, museums, and clinics in the area locked down and citizens took cover, police combed the area for the shooter. Authorities say that as they were searching for an area near the intersection of 12th Street and Patterson Road, a bullet ricochet hit directly in front of a patrol car. The officer abandoned his patrol car and took cover behind a second, fearing for his life and for the lives of others near him. Despite the harrowing near miss, authorities say that the gunshot broadcast the approximate area where the shooter was, narrowing the search zone to Northern Way. Law enforcement then moved to block off the area to car and foot traffic and called in armored vehicles. Caught in the middle was a FedEx driver at work, according to arrest documents. The driver had been delivering a package to an apartment on Northern Way when she heard a gunshot. The bullet flew past the driver and into the FedEx truck's tire and rim, deflating the former and damaging the latter. The affidavit also states that the truck was parked just 30 feet from the apartment, directly in front of the apartment Viegas would later be arrested at. A detective spotted a movement in an apartment building on Northern Way shortly afterwards, says arrest documents. After an armored vehicle was sent in to investigate the apartment, and a detective spotted a man standing on an apartment patio holding a rifle with a metal rail and a scope aimed at a group of Grand Junction Police officers. "It looked like the armed man was scanning the area looking for a target to shoot," said the detective. Three to four GJPD officers were in the line of fire, and detectives on the scene said that they believed the officers were in "imminent danger of being shot." The affidavit also points out that multiple bullet holes were found on a car between the shooter and the group of officers. At some point after spotting the armored vehicle, Viegas allegedly retreated into the apartment and fired off 12 more shots from his rifle, according to the affidavit. Approximately four minutes later, a deputy reported that he had eyes on Viegas. According to the affidavit, Viegas allegedly exited the apartment empty-handed and unarmed but still refused to cooperate with law enforcement. Law enforcement noticed that Viegas appeared to be drunk, which he later admitted to. After a standoff of over ten minutes, law enforcement shot Viegas with 40mm foam rounds and tasered him. After transporting Viegas to a hospital for evaluation, law enforcement began searching for the apartment he was holed up in. Investigators reported that 27 spent casings were found in and around the front door of the unit, including underneath the front steps, on the patio, and inside the front entryway. Viegas also had two weapons stashed in the apartment: one AR-style rifle stated to be either a .223 or a 5.56, and a .308 rifle with a large scope, according to investigators. The affidavit also reports that the apartment was littered with whiskey, beer, and vodka bottles in "varying stages of fullness." Viegas was jailed the same day of the shooting, and is facing charges of attempted first degree murder, attempted first degree murder of a peace officer, first degree assault, criminal mischief, prohibited use of weapons, reckless endangerment, and resisting arrest.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 2nd Story A Block

GJPD Building Crash

January 26, 2023

Reporter: Hannah Hickman

Duration: 1:06

An arrest affidavit details what led up to a man crashing his pickup truck into the Grand Junction Police Department Lobby yesterday. This drastic surveillance footage showing the moment the truck broke through the doors... With debris falling on the truck and lobby floor. Eventually armed officers surround the wreckage, and the suspect 45-year-old Nathan Chacon faces several charges including attempted first-degree murder...vehicular assault among others. According to the police affidavit, officers have been on their radar for several months...in fact at least 90 calls were made for service involving Chacon over the last few months. Some of these calls leading up to the day the truck drove into the building around 12:30 yesterday afternoon. According to the affidavit, Chacon left his house yesterday...and believed he was being followed by several cars. That's when Chacon said he began making erratic turns and turning downside streets to avoid these vehicles. Chacon then told officers he drove into the station parking lot and said he didn't want to be killed and then chose to drive into the lobby instead. He's now in the Mesa County jail. He's due in court February 3rd.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story in A Block

Cohee Verdict

February 3, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange and Kyrsten McBrayer

Duration: 2:18

Prosecutors are wrapping up their case against 21-year-old Brian Cohee. He's accused of killing and dismembering 69-year-old Warren Barnes back in 2021. Cohee admitted to the murder... But claimed he's not guilty because he was insane. Our reporter Kyrsten McBrayer is here to give an update. We found out that a couple questions were left out during forensic psychologist dr. Laura Serrano-Amerigo's evaluation of Cohee. This evaluation was to assess Cohee's sanity at the time he committed the crime. For such evaluations, there is a set list of questions psychologists ask. The two questions unasked were "Did you think the offense was wrong before doing it?" and "did you think the offense was wrong when you were doing it?" defense attorneys said it's a big deal those two questions were not asked and included in Cohee's assessment. The defense also brought up several of Cohee's statements not mentioned when the prosecution questioned Dr. Serrano... On the list.... Cohee said, quote, "for a two-week period, there was a strong instinct to bite someone's throat and rip it out, or bite a shoulder." according to Cohee, this thought began between the ages of 15-17 but the last time he reports experiencing these impulses was the night he murdered Barnes. In that same transcript... Cohee said... Quote... "when i would see a person the first thing in my mind... I would see them being shot or stabbed. Or body parts missing, intrusive thoughts" We learned about the final hours of Warren Barnes' life. Forensic video analyst Jordan Huslig scrubbed through Barnes' phone data. He found Barnes made a call to an unknown number close to 7pm... Then interacted with the app people ready/job stack and played a mobile card game of what appeared to be poker. Shortly after that... He was killed. Kyrsten McBrayer – KKCO News 11. We'll keep an eye on this trial and let you know when the prosecution rests.

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 1st Story B Block

GJPD Chief Smith

February 3, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 2:01

Smith has spent 25 years in law enforcement. Most of that time with the Grand Junction Police Department. With the community growing and his staff shrinking.... Recruiting efforts are becoming a critical part of the job. The department should have 143 officers on the street. But right now, only have 114 with several still training at the academy. Which presents another challenge... Young recruits thrown into the fire. When you hire young staff at 21 or 22 years old, they go from being a Rookie out there on the street to their own making decisions. It takes a while to learn this job, it takes a while to learn the nuances of this job. Chief Smith, although challenged by staffing issues, response times remain consistent. Smith says a collaboration with the other agencies is valuable as well. When Patterson Road was shut down earlier in January. Several agencies responded... And fortunately, no one was hurt. The demand is higher than our staff availability and our resources are, so we've learned to leverage our resources better and work together. White flash. I think that's one of our great assets. The conversations we have and the working relationships we have with those folks really make us a lot stronger. And like many Colorado law enforcement agencies politics and legislation can dictate a lot within a department... Like Colorado's red flag law or senate bill 217 which removes qualified immunity. Thus, holding officers more accountable. 217 was created in the shadow of Elijah McClain's death allegedly at the hands of Aurora Police Officers in 2021. Meant to uphold police integrity but could also deter the recruitment of officers. We've been able to overcome a lot of those things simply by the fact our organizations are professional and we're out here to do the right thing. and if we're conducting business the way we are supposed to and the way we are expected to do those things are challenges we can overcome - WHITE FLASH- and that's really what it is. If you don't understand what the bill is. Asking you or telling us what to do makes it difficult to comply as a department when the bill itself is hard to understand. Another challenge the already thinly stretched pd will be dealing with soon... Legal pot shops. Chief Smith believes steps the city has taken to curb crime related to legalized recreational pot will make their jobs easier. I believe the city has done a good job by going into this with eyes wide open. I think the way the city does it is very smart, and we'll see less challenges in it because of the way the city went into it.

KKCO 11 News @ 5A 1st Story A Block**Pedophile Sentence****March 15, 2023****Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez****Duration: 1:16**

New this morning... A Grand Junction man is sentenced to prison over enticing children online. 33-year-old Benjamin David Harbin was sentenced to ten years in federal prison and a life term of supervised release for enticing minors to engage in child pornography. Harbin fell on law enforcement's radar after they tracked Instagram accounts used to communicate with minor females back to Harbin. This case was brought as part of project safe childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Harbin was the subject of law enforcement investigations in the United States, Canada, and England.

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 1st Story in A Block**Car Remains****March 21, 2023****Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez****Duration: 1:00**

New information we're following. After we alerted you on mobile over the weekend that searchers found a missing Grand Junction woman's car. Teams report the car was found in a remote area of the book cliffs north of Moab Utah... The sheriff there says it looks like the car wrecked... And that human remains were found inside it's registered to this woman... Melissa Gonzales... She disappeared last November. And while the State Bureau of Investigation reported on Twitter, she's been found... Mesa County is quick to say the no one's positively identified the remains found in her car. We asked CBI why they ended the search for her without a confirmation. CBI's spokesperson says they received incorrect information from Mesa County. They've since removed the Tweet. We'll let you know what happens next.

ENVIRONMENT/WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER**KKCO 11 News @ 10P 1st Story A Block****Dangerous Avalanche Conditions in Backcountry****January 13, 2023****Reporter: Cristian Sida****Duration: 1:58**

Hidden by the beauty, a very real danger sits in plain sight. Jordan Champalou, skier: "We had like a foot of beautiful powder all day. It was just absolutely phenomenal runs all day." At nearly 12,000 feet, tourists taking selfies mix with backcountry thrill seekers. Jordan: "the people who ride this, they know that's not a safe spot to ride right now." two avalanches were triggered near Loveland pass within a matter of minutes this afternoon. As rescue crews responded to one, a different skier set off another in a spot most know to stay away from. Jake Smith, Alpine Rescue Team, Mountain Rescue Association: "As we were heading down, another slide occurred at the same time on Idiot's Cornice." Idiot's Cornice "it's kind of a fitting name unfortunately." It's got quite a reputation up here. Jordan: "That cornice up on that ridge, we call that Idiot's Cornice because it's a really dangerous thing to ride this time of the season." Jordan Champalou saw the helicopter and dozens of rescuers arrive. Jordan: "they're out here with helicopters and snow mobiles and they're making sure that we're all safe. And then you're going to go up there and cause an avalanche. It's not a good move." Jake: "Your only sign that a slope is about to slide might be that it rips out underneath you." Jake Smith responded with the Alpine rescue team. He fears the dangerous conditions mixed with a long weekend will keep him busy. Jake: "The holiday weekend hasn't even started yet and we're already starting to respond to calls." Avalanches have killed four people in three weeks in Colorado. The snow conditions might seem stable, until they're not. Jake: "we're in the awkward phase where the snowpack seems a little more stable and it's harder for people to get those obvious signs of instability that they might expect to see."

when beauty collides with danger, it's probably best to stay away from Idiot's Cornice." Jordan: "I understand why one would like to do it because it is such a beautiful line. But at the end of the day, it's just not a safe thing to do right now. It's just not."

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 1st Story A Block**Trees****January 14, 2023****Reporter: Cristian Sida****Duration: 1:00**

The City of Grand Junction's Forestry Board is working to make the community greener. On Friday at a meeting the Board discussed the development of an Urban Forestry Master Plan to help guide the program in the city. It's a draft but what the program is working toward diversifying and expanding the canopy, conserving water without compromising tree health, extending the benefits of trees equitably, and integrating trees into relevant city decisions. "You know, the master plan, once it's finished, it would give us a chance to look at the areas where, you know, we can make progress towards improvement. When it comes to trees and measuring canopy cover, it's different, because it's not, this year, we're going to fix this problem. You know, its trees take decades. So, trying to have a good sound strategy. And it's a long game, urban forestry is it's, you know, trying to find the right ways to make progress that that happens over the course of many years is the way you go." The board wants to get the public's input. We have a link to a survey on our webpage.

KKCO 11 News @ 5P 2nd Story B Block**Lake Powell Levels****February 9, 2023****Reporter: Bernie Lange****Duration: 2:11**

Lake Powell Water Deficit Remains Dire. The Upper Colorado River Commission says the water levels at Lake Powell have been on a 22-year decline and the reservoir hit a record low elevation last year. They say it would take 16.4 million acre-feet of water to fill Lake Powell back up to where it was in 2000. So, what would it take for that to happen? Well let's look at the mountain snowpack, which is where most of the water that feeds into Lake Powell comes from. It's been a very snowy winter in the west this season. An estimate by the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at the University of Colorado shows there is already 29.6 million acre-feet of water sealed inside the snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin. So, if you could magically put that water directly into the reservoir, you could fill Lake Powell to the brim right now, but a lot of that snowmelt must travel more than 300 miles to get to Lake Powell. And on that journey, some of the water gets absorbed into the drought-stricken soils, and some of the water gets intercepted by upstream water users. Another big factor to consider is evaporation. And the evaporation rates are increasing as the atmosphere warms and increases its capacity to hold water vapor. Those factors subtract a lot more water than most people think. The Upper Colorado River Commission says, if the snow stays steady through the rest of the season, and finishes up at about 40% above average, they expect Lake Powell to rise by about 1.5 million acre-feet. That's only a 6% increase. So, it would take 10 consecutive snow seasons with 40% above average snowpack to fill Lake Powell back up to where it was 22 years ago. But wait, we are not done subtracting. We also must consider that water needs to be released from Lake Powell every year to supply water to users downstream. The UCRC says that adds another 5 years to the equation. So that's how you get the estimate that it would take 15 years of above average snowpack to refill Lake Powell.

KKCO 11 News @ 5P 2nd Story B Block**Severe Weather West Coast to Midwest****February 27, 2023****Reporter: Bernie Lange****Duration: 1:28**

Some Michigan residents faced a fourth straight day without power Sunday as crews continued work to restore electricity more than 165,000 homes and businesses in the greater Detroit area following last week's ice storm. Leah Thomas, whose home north of Detroit lost power Wednesday night, was still waiting Sunday afternoon for the power to come back. Thomas said she feels lucky that she and their 17-year-old son have been able to stay at her parents' nearby home, which still has power, while they are in Florida. With her husband traveling out of town, Thomas said it was up to her to recharge the battery to their home's backup sump pump Sunday with her car. She went to multiple stores to find a long cable for the task. "I'm a strong woman. I figured it out," she said. "Our basement is OK, so we're the lucky ones." But with the local school district on mid-winter break, Thomas said some of their neighbors have been out of town and will be returning to find a mess from burst water pipes and flooded basements. "They don't know what they're coming home to," she said. Powerful storms with widespread wind gusts moved into Oklahoma on Sunday evening from the Texas panhandle. The National Weather Service said that tornado watches and warnings remained in effect in parts of Oklahoma after tornados were spotted there and in Kansas. Widespread gusts up to 90 mph (144 kilometers) were reported in southwest Oklahoma with downed trees

and power lines, road closures and damage to homes around Norman and Shawnee. The Norman Police Department said on Facebook that they were responding to storm damage on the south and eastern sides of Norman about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Oklahoma City. In their post, they said they are still assessing potential injuries and the extent of all the damage. In hard-hit southeastern Michigan, still reeling from the ice storm and high winds, the state's two main utilities — DTE Energy and Consumers Energy — reported about 168,000 homes and businesses were without power as of about 6 p.m. Sunday. About 132,000 of those were DTE customers. Both utilities said they still hoped to have the lights back on by Sunday night for most of their affected customers. DTE Energy spokeswoman Cindy Hecht said some DTE business and residential customers have been without power since late Wednesday, but she did not know how many. She said power restoration efforts have proven time-consuming because of the large number of damaged lines, including individual lines linking single homes on the grid. Wednesday's ice storm coated lines and trees with a half an inch (more than 1.25 centimeters) of ice or more. The storm was followed Thursday by high winds that put about 600,000 DTE customers in the dark at the storm's peak. Hecht said that was the second-largest number of outages DTE has ever experienced, topped only by a March 2017 windstorm that cut power to about 800,000 of its customers. "The icing event we had this week is equivalent to a hurricane for coastal utilities. It was the amount of ice and high winds — the winds and the amount of ice accumulation on lines and branches," she said. Hecht said the utility's meteorologists have been tracking another storm system that will move into Michigan on Monday, and the utility is "prepared to respond." The outages prompted some Democratic state lawmakers to call for legislative hearings in Lansing to question utilities about the long restoration times and reliability issues. "There will be hearings. We will be taking over," State Sen. Darrin Camilleri told WDIV-TV. California, meanwhile, got a brief break from severe weather after a powerful storm a day earlier swelled Los Angeles-area rivers to dangerous levels, flooded roads and dumped snow at elevations as low as about 1,000 feet (300 meters). The sun came out briefly Sunday in greater LA, where residents emerged to marvel at mountains to the north and east blanketed in white. Suburban Santa Clarita, in hills north of Los Angeles, received its first significant snowfall since 1989. "We went outside and we let our sons play in the snow," resident Cesar Torres told the Santa Clarita Signal. "We figured, while the snow's there, might as well make a snowman out of it." "Extremely dangerous and near to impossible mountain travel is expected due to heavy snow and strong wind," the weather service's Sacramento office warned on Twitter. After fierce winds toppled trees and downed wires, about 65,000 utility customers remained without electricity statewide as of Sunday afternoon, according to PowerOutage.us. The majority of the outages were in Los Angeles. Days of downpours dumped almost 11 inches (28 cm) of rain in the Woodland Hills area of LA's San Fernando Valley, while nearly 7 inches (18 cm) were reported in Beverly Hills. In Valencia, north of LA, county officials said the heavy rains eroded an embankment at an RV park and swept multiple motorhomes into the Santa Clara River, with emergency video showing one of the vehicles toppled on its side. No one was reported injured. Rare blizzard warnings for Southern California mountains and widespread flood watches ended late Saturday. But Interstate 5, the West Coast's major north-south highway, was closed off and on due to heavy snow and ice in the Tejon Pass through the mountains north of Los Angeles. Emergency crews, meanwhile, worked to clear mountain roads east of LA of snow and ice. The weather service said Mountain High, one of the closest ski resorts to Los Angeles, received an eye-popping 7.75 feet (2.3 meters) of snow during the last storm, with more possible this week. Rain and snow were falling again Sunday in Northern California as the first of two new storms began moving in. Blizzard warnings go into effect at 4 a.m. Monday and will last until Wednesday for much of the Sierra Nevada.

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 1st Story A Block

Japanese Beetles

March 5, 2023

Reporter: Cristian Sida and Kyrsten McBrayer

Duration: 1:55

Last week we told you that an invasive species of beetle has been found in Grand Junction, but many are still curious. How the bug made its way across the Continental Divide. Here's Kyrsten McBrayer with more. We received this email shortly after airing our first story on the beetles. And this map shows Bookcliff Gardens directly in the hot spot for this outbreak. Tyler Bertroch... Operations manager for Bookcliff Gardens wants to make it clear they don't know where the beetles came from. In our seminar, obviously, we saw the outbreak diagram and it was all around us. We knew we were talking with the CDA. And we don't know where it came from. Actually, " -12 secs the noxious weed and pest management coordinator told us that these beetles have inhabited Mesa County since 2002. "Mesa County has been monitoring and trapping for Japanese beetles for the past 20 years, we detected a reproducing population." The reproducing population may be responsible for the current infestation. But gardeners like Bertroch thinks that the outbreak might have started a different way... "It could have been a rogue landscaper not registered with the CDA that went over and went and got some sod came back. And there's a lot of development around her. Yes, that's what that's the hunch of where we think it came from." Before plants are shipped to Bookcliff gardens, they go through an extensive check point... They are sprayed with pesticides and other bug killing products

to eliminate larva. When they arrive here, plants are checked for signs of bugs and sprayed again in the spring. "mid-April. And it's about a two-week interval spray. Generally, we don't have any problems." Bertroch say's Japanese beetles start off in grass... He advises homeowners to be proactive by spraying insecticides around their lawn by mid-April and reapply in June.

KKCO 11 News @10P 2nd Story B Block

Talat

March 10, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:37

A spectacular atmospheric phenomenon...that must be seen to be believed ...It resulted in a rare and welcomed mid-air flight diversion! Jeremy Roth has today's "take a look at this!" The northern lights were in rare, remarkable form recently. As the cascading colors were enjoyed by folks. All over the planet ...and beyond! We'll get to that in a minute. First, take a look at the view in Alaska, were glimpses of phenomena. Which are produced by electromagnetic waves during geomagnetic storms are less rare, but certainly no less breathtaking. In the UK, the Grassholme Observatory shared a timelapse video of the Aurora A-Rollin' across the sky - an event the observatory says is only visible a few times a year. An air Baltic flight was treated to a vivid view high above the Baltic Sea. And they weren't the only flight to sight the lights. Images from at least two passenger flights went viral after the pilots made unscheduled midair loops to give folks on board. Plenty of chances to take in and take pics of the amazing views. But the money shot must be from one twitter user with a very enviable vantage point. Astronaut John Cassada shared this stunner from the International Space Station with a caption that read... "absolutely unreal." I'll tell you what's unreal ... This Australia man's dedication to one lucky frog! TikTok user "unknown Dazza" shared a video showing the evolution... Of a homemade house he crafted for a friendly backyard frog. After the frog showed up, Dazza made it a 3D-printed house. But when it went viral, and followers unloaded scores of suggestions, Dazza spent months upgrading the frog flat until it was a full-on amphibian estate complete with a porch, a garden, a waterfall and more! Wow that pad is rad for a dude used to a lily pad.

CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Local Eggs Prices

January 13, 2023

Reporter: Kyrsten McBrayer and Bernie Lange

Duration: 2:30

The avian flu, or bird flu, has now spread to every large manufacturer in the egg industry, but the prices don't just affect the average consumer. The avian flu is being blamed largely for these... high egg prices. We did an online search for the cost of eggs at these major grocery stores. A dozen eggs are \$5.49 at Kroger stores; \$4.89 at Safeway; an 18 count of eggs from Walmart is almost \$10.00! A dozen organic eggs from Sprouts is \$5.99. Our reporter Kyrsten McBrayer has the story, Kyrsten? Many local businesses are affected by the shortage, having to face a difficult question... Should the extra cost of ingredients be placed on the consumer? For years be Sweet Café and Bakeshop has been a staple for many in Grand Junction, priding themselves on their high-quality baked goods. But recently they've witnessed unprecedented costs. For a bakery that uses 60 to 70 dozen eggs a week, they're still getting used to the new prices. "Just to kind of put it into perspective for everybody in the common consumer. We're spending well over \$300 a week on eggs, and it used to be \$120 a week." Over two times their normal cost. An outbreak in December swept through Colorado, killing almost 6.4 million birds, and counting (many in poultry). Officials say they have no way of controlling or stopping the spread. "I mean, nobody likes to pay, you know, a lot of money for a breakfast burrito or something like that. But like, especially with the eggs, we have had to increase our prices. And it might just be hopefully just a temporary, like, egg tax kind of thing, hopefully our customers will appreciate and understand that." A Nebraska bakery had to close their doors thanks to the rising cost of ingredients. They hope to be at the farmers market this spring where they originated.

KKCO 11 News @ 5A 1st Story A Block

SNAP Food Assistance

January 30, 2023

Reporter: Adam Woodbrey

Duration: 1:13

We are following up with the Federal SNAP benefit cut. Starting in March, there will be less money to put food on the table for families that rely on those benefits. That's because the temporary emergency allotments given during the covid-19 pandemic are ending. It's coming at a time when many are already struggling to make ends meet. A

Grand Junction woman says she relies on social security and snap benefits. Now, that comes out to \$1,000/month and due to her health issues, she had to change her diet, which is expensive. "Also need to look at those of us with severe health issues that may end up in the hospital, how much are they going to pay out in medical expenses, if the lack of food or the lack of nutritious food, which i cook every day, is not getting in my system, I can't take my heart meds. I ended up in the hospital. I think it's a lot cheaper to help somebody with a little bit of food to get by, assess the situation and keep going." The Food Bank of the Rockies says it's ready to assist over the next few months, but the organization need help too...donations or volunteers.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Housing

February 13, 2023

Reporter: Hannah Hickman and Kyrsten McBrayer

Duration: 2:24

A group of Western Slope residents want more action from Grand Junction leaders. The informal group calls itself, Housing First No More Deaths. While they claim they aren't being heard... we've got some emails from city workers that they're all too aware of the growing problem. Our Kyrsten McBrayer is working for you to find out more, Kyrsten? Travel to any large city in the pacific northwest and you can see the struggle... now city officials are working to make sure what happened in places like Seattle and Portland... doesn't happen here. "I mean, it's just getting out of hand is getting to be a humanitarian crisis, even the city, people in the city admit that." That's Glen Greuling, a minister with Green Faith Ministries, he is also experiencing homelessness in Mesa County. He's talking about the rising homeless population in Grand Junction, and he wants to know why the city canceled a third meeting focused on homeless people at Whitman Park... as well as those who provide meals. "When I was a pup, I was raised in a group home and that's where everything's done by concession. You know, you call rap sessions and everybody in the household hammers out the problem and you find solutions that way. We asked the city about their decision. Here's what the city told us... the crowd appeared too large... and tensions likely too high for a productive meeting. "When I was a pup, I was raised in a group home and that's where everything's done by concession. You know, you call rap sessions and everybody in the household hammers out the problem and you find solutions that way. Everybody's a winner. You don't just have winners and losers because that doesn't work." and he'll tell you the causes of homelessness are as varied as the people stuck in crisis. What is our community supportive of and how do we meet the needs of homeless individuals who you know may have unique needs specific to here and so that also is responsive in a way that shows dignity and respect" chambers fired off an email detailing why she believes crisis levels are fast approaching. We'll know next month about the city's needs survey. In this email, Chambers told top city leaders that homelessness is rapidly increasing. A 45% increase from 2021 to 2022. An estimated 130 additional D51 students classified as homeless... The city estimates that totals about 750 and we really want to build out a plan and a strategy that addresses those concerns. While people like Chambers know there are no simple answers... people like grueling the high cost of homes... on the streets.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story B Block

Up In Smoke

February 17, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 2:05

Colorado has set the example for several other states in generating millions in tax revenue from the sale of legal retail marijuana. according to the trade group marijuana industry group over \$320 million dollars from taxes on pot has gone toward building excellent schools today organization. that makes up about 25% of the program's entire budget. according to the industry group Colorado saw an almost \$100 million decline in marijuana tax revenue last year, sales numbers released in January by the Colorado department of revenue show a sharp decline in recreational and medical marijuana sales since 2021. 423 million in revenue in 2021... down to 325 million last year. creating a funding shortfall for public programs like affordable housing, education, and mental health. sure... inflation is a problem with nearly everything. People just don't have as much money to spend. in just two weeks... grand junction jumps into the legal marijuana business with the random selection of marijuana shops. but it comes when some wonder whether tax revenues from legalized marijuana are ***going*** up in smoke. the Colorado medical marijuana industry the medical market is down about 47 percent statewide and the recreational market is down about 20 percent because demand for recreational weed is down... so is the cost of marijuana products. in September of 2022 pot shops made around 147 million dollars in tax revenue. down from 181 million the year before and 206 million in 2020. What that means is when the states joint budget committee looks at pot tax revenue, they'll e=be looking at a 100-million-dollar shortfall which means less grant money for programs who rely on the sales tax from pot... to support their programs. in fiscal year 2021-22 alone, nearly \$15.3 million in state cannabis dollars went to state affordable housing... certainly a hot button issue in grand junction. but sales have dropped... fast. and

the revenue generated to support programs are in peril... and perhaps so too are the pot shops themselves due to slower sales "different factors play into that.... " But in grand junction... a fresh start could rejuvenate a struggling industry the traveling season is coming up. We are busy in the summer when people travel, camping, seeing family and doing those sorts of recreational things that they're looking forward to. in not only a state but also a city banking on projected marijuana tax revenues for future projects. last year... grand junction dipped into its general fund to the tune of 800-thousand dollars for new recreational opportunities. That's because plans to use marijuana sales tax fell flat... no pot shops... no tax. now backers are asking the city to approve a new rec center.... A portion of its operating costs are expected to be paid by a newly enacted marijuana tax. that's because voters approved a cannabis tax in 2021. but we've asked about projected revenue from that... and so far... that total is up in the air.

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 2nd Story A Block

Eli Lilly

March 1, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:00

Drugmaker Eli Lilly is capping the out-of-pocket cost of its insulin at \$35 a month. "People with diabetes are announcing today that we're capping pharmacies in the United States. It's a welcomed announcement as insulin makers continue to face pressure from members of congress and advocacy groups to lower the cost of the lifesaving medication. Eli Lilly said today that the change takes effect immediately and applies to people with commercial insurance coverage. Additionally, Eli Lilly said that later this year they will lower the list price for several of its other products, including Humalog and Humulin, by 70 percent.

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st B Block

Teacher Recruitment

March 1, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:44

Teachers in Colorado's classrooms need help. They are overworked and understaffed. A new bill at the state legislature could help. It would make it easier to recruit teachers in Colorado. A recent survey by the Colorado Education Association found 85 percent of educators felt the teacher shortage is worse than they've ever seen. Reporter Jaleesa Irizarry explains how this bill will hopefully make a difference. No textbook can really grasp the impact a teaching shortage has... when the solution has yet to be written. Which... at the end of the day means kids don't get what they need. Dave Lockley is the president of District Twelve Educators' Association. More importantly he's a middle school teacher... that knows the consequences the shortage is having on education. We have classrooms that have not had a full-time educator this entire school year. Not only does it exponentially increase the workload when we're short educators, it also really lowers the individualized attention we can give everyone one of those students. A piece of legislation headed to the Senate floor is hoping to fix that. The bill will have Colorado join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. {NATS Colorado Education Association. A move the Colorado Education Association fully supports. Anything we can do like this to provide ways to eliminate that educator shortage is a positive thing. Amie Baca-Oehlert is the President of the C-E-A. She says the compact is a set of states that make it easier for teachers to take jobs out of the state from where they are licensed. Our hope is that when we have something like this enacted it will allow us to start the school year fully staffed to maintain people in those positions all throughout the year. For Lockley the bill would get more teachers here faster... and easier. I would say more than ten times, probably 100 times easier. But he knows this is just a band-aid. He hopes the perception of the teaching field changes... so others want to make a career out of it. We need to talk about education with all of its greatness. Not saying there's not growth but we need to lead with greatness and then say here's how we can be better.

POLITICS AND LAWMAKING

KKCO 11 News @ 5P 2nd Story A Block

Geothermal

January 24, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange

Duration: 1:10

We first told you last week, at his state of the state address, Governor Jared Polis talking about his goal of getting the state on 100% renewable energy...the Governor highlighting the work at Colorado Mesa University. The University is delving into geothermal energy to heat and cool buildings on campus...University President John

Marshall says with two rivers coming through Grand Junction, the area is an ideal place for geothermal technology. As it stands, several buildings are already connected to the network...and if state lawmakers approve more funding for the school, the network could be expanded to more areas on campus. We're thrilled to have the governor's support, and putting forward a funding proposal that would allow us to drill additional drill fields and connect what we call the central loop. What that would do is allow us to connect our remaining buildings, some of the older buildings, into this new technology, and overall reduce our cost of heating and cooling our buildings. This is one of those rare win wins. President Marshall says using the geothermal, is saving students about 2 percent on tuition...and if the school can expand the technology...that could raise to 3 to 4 percent.

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st Story B Block

Car Theft Bill

January 31, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 2:10

It's a statistic the chamber of commerce would never brag about. Colorado set another dubious record in 20-22 -- the most car thefts reported in state history. yesterday a group of Colorado legislators -- both republicans and democrats -- announced a plan to revamp state law when it comes to charges, and penalties, for car thieves. Kevin Vaughan was at the capitol when the new measure was unveiled. last year -- close to \$1 billion worth of vehicles were stolen from Colorado residents. That's a huge number. but that number doesn't measure the hardships for victims. Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, imagine waking up one morning to find your only way of getting to work or getting your kids to school or daycare is gone. car thieves swiped more than 41,000 vehicles in Colorado in 10-22 -- another new record. in response ... a group of legislators from both sides of the aisle unveiled a proposal to revamp state law. Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, it shouldn't matter if a stolen car is a brand-new BMW worth more than most folks making a year, or a 20-year-old Prius like mine with \$700. a car is a car -- and the crime of stealing one should be treated the same. right now, state law doesn't. Instead, the more valuable the car, the more serious the charges. Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, says it's time to change that. Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, by removing this outdated provision and state law that ties the value of a car to the penalty for stealing it, we're saying that no car theft in our state is acceptable. the past two years, about one-fifth of car thefts were charged as misdemeanors -- possible for vehicles worth less than \$2,000. this proposal would make virtually all of them felonies -- and increase penalties for many repeat offender's senator Bob Gardner, a republican, believes the more serious charges would have another effect ... to make sure that those who commit these crimes and do so on a repeated basis are not released without sufficient bail or release conditions to ensure that they don't re-offend while awaiting trial. The announcement was attended by several law enforcement officials who support this measure and several legislators from both parties. It's not clear if it is passed how soon we'll get an idea of whether it's working.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Spy Balloon

February 3, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange

Duration: 2:20

The US Defense Department is closely monitoring a suspected Chinese spy balloon moving across the u.s. China claims it's a 'civilian airship' used for weather research, that was blown off course. While U.S. Officials debate what to do about it -- the incident is further complicating already tense us - China relations. Alice Barr has the latest from Washington. A strange sight high in the sky -- setting off alarm bells about potential Chinese surveillance -- and now postponing secretary of state Antony Blinken's planned trip to China -- just before he was set to leave. Sot/ John Brennan / Former CIA Director, "I think we have to send a very clear signal to China that this is unacceptable. Chinese officials saying they regret that what they're calling a *civilian weather balloon* crossed into u-s air space. The pentagon isn't buying that. Sot/ Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder/Pentagon Press Secretary, "We do know that the balloon has violated U.S. airspace and international law." The defense department's press secretary said the balloon isn't just floating -- it can maneuver -- and is flying at about 60,000 feet -- well above civilian air traffic. Witnesses first spotted it above Billings, Montana -- and it's now moving eastward across the middle of the country. Sot/ Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder/Pentagon Press Secretary, "Right now we assess that there is no threat physical threat or military threat to people on the ground - so we are continuing to monitor." White house officials telling NBC news -- they took action to make it very difficult for the Chinese to learn anything significant. The defense department noting that -- while it's assessing its options -- shooting the balloon down could cause damage or injuries to people on the ground. But many republican lawmakers are accusing the Biden administration of not doing enough. Sot/ Mike Gallagher (R) Wisconsin/ House Intelligence Committee Member, "We can't simply allow this thing to keep transiting across the United States." Members Of Congress Now Asking for a full Intelligence briefing -- with questions left up in the air -- along with that balloon -- that Americans may be able to see for

themselves. Chinese officials urging the u-s stay cool-headed -- insisting strong winds blew the balloon far off its intended course. When it was sighted over Montana -- that was some 6,000 miles from China.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Utility Rate Ballot Initiative

February 6, 2023

Reporter: Hannah Hickman and Bernie Lange

Duration: 2:28

ROBERT KENNEY, XCEL ENERGY COLORADO PRESIDENT

BOB FRENZEL, XCEL ENERGY CEO

Standing outside in the shade on a chilly day -- energy company executives announced a plan to help needy Coloradans stay warm. ROBERT KENNEY/XCEL COLORADO President "We're making a commitment of \$500,000 ourselves, and our partners are also making a commitment, we're going to reach over a million dollars." This is Xcel Energy Colorado President Robert Kenney. Announcing Xcel's share of the million dollars that will go to Energy Outreach Colorado -- a group that provides payment assistance for customers who need help. According to Energy Outreach Colorado -- just last week... it issued \$528,000 dollars to 751 applicants for energy assistance. That's more than the half million Xcel just committed to giving. COLORADO PREZ, "This is in addition to the ongoing support that we provide Energy Outreach Colorado, that's about \$19 million a year." Let's pause for a moment. A spokeswoman with Energy Outreach Colorado told me this afternoon that Xcel provides \$5,000 dollars to sponsor a golf tournament each year. The rest of the money Xcel gives Energy Outreach Colorado comes from Xcel's ratepayers...you, the customer. Money from different line items on your bill. Money from the new 75-cent energy assistance charge on both your electric and gas bills. And money from late payment fees. So, let's hear that again. COLORADO PREZ "This is in addition to the ongoing support that we provide Energy Outreach Colorado, that's about \$19 million a year." The ongoing support that we provide Energy Outreach Colorado is really the support you provide -- that passes through Xcel. Also at this news conference was Xcel CEO Bob Frenzel. We showed you his picture last week when reporting on the company's 1-point-7-billion-dollar profit... which comes from all eight states that Xcel services. MZ: "Viewers are asking, it is possible or why not for Xcel to use some of that profit to just slash customer bills currently?" Frenzel: "Sure, I appreciate the question and the feedback, and I am particularly interested in addressing our customers' concerns. He explained the company reinvests its profits in infrastructure and capital improvements. "We do believe we are giving back to our communities and our customers through reinvestment into our networks, making the necessary investments that we need for a safe, reliable and affordable future."

KKCO 11 News @ 5P 1st Story B Block

Student Loans

March 2, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange and Hannah Hickman

Duration: 2:04

Today the supreme court hears oral arguments in cases that challenge President Biden's plan to forgive up to \$20-grand in student loan debt owed by tens of millions of Americans. Already 26-million people have applied for that relief but have found themselves in legal limbo as a group of republican states have led a challenge against the policy. Alice Barr has more from Washington. Passionate protest outside the supreme court today -- as justices hear arguments over whether the Biden administration can move forward with plans to forgive up to 20-thousand dollars in student loan debt -- for lower-income borrowers. "For us this is the fight for our lives and this is the fight for our future," the administration says more than 40 million Americans are eligible for relief -- 26 million have already applied. But six republican-led states filed suit to block the program -- arguing that federal agencies cannot put in place sweeping new policies with a significant economic impact -- without congress signing off. Justices in the court's conservative majority zeroing in on that point. Sot/ voice of chief justice john Roberts "we take very seriously the idea of separation of powers." also questioning whether the policy is fair to other Americans. Sot/ voice of justice Neil Gorsuch for example, people who've paid their loans." the Biden administration arguing the plan falls under a 2003 law -- that allows for student loan relief when there's a "national emergency" -- the administration and advocates say the covid pandemic applies. Sot/ Randi Weingarten President American Federation of Teachers "everything else about covid that small business got, big businesses got - the states didn't sue. Why are they suing about individuals who really need it?" Liberal-leaning justices today questioning whether the challengers have legal standing to sue -- SOT/Harry Litman / former U.S. Attorney "The people who are suing have to show they have been injured and the six states really have not been injured here." And analysts say *that is the administration's best hope for preserving the policy. The national covid emergency is expected to end in May -- but the administration says economic consequences will persist -- for people who fell behind. The court is expected to rule by late June.

KKCO 11 News @ 5A 1st Story A Block**Marillac Clinic****March 9, 2023****Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez****Duration: 2:08**

New this afternoon District 51 Board rejects Marillac-Health Clinic for the new Grand Junction High School. The evening ended with a 3-2 vote to reject the clinic inside the school. Board President Andrea Hartz, Vice President with Jones, and treasurer and secretary Angela Lema voted to reject the clinic. Board members Doug Levinson and Kari Sholtes voted to include the clinic. The clinic was included in the nearly \$145 million construction budget. The vote came after months of debate between board and community members about whether a school-based health clinic should be included in the new Grand Junction High School opening fall of 2024... In a statement a spokesperson for USPS acknowledged that in the last few months their operations have not hit their standard in the mountains. They say they've taken steps to hire borrow employees across the west and deployed teams to the mountains to assess the situation of deliveries. "I think it's lost time and it's uncertainty." but Macdonald says many folks can't afford any more delays. "You don't know if you can trust that mail is going to come through. and that puts a hardship on people. you don't know if your social security check is going to be delayed or if it's going to be there on time."

VOLUNTEERISM/COMMUNITY AID/COMMUNITY EFFORTS**KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st Story B Block****Orchard Mesa Pool****January 6, 2023****Reporter: Hannah Hickman****Duration: 1:56**

It's a tale as old as time at this point but we have more information on the life of the Orchard Mesa Pool. The Grand Junction City council was set to meet on January 4, 2023, about the Orchard Mesa Pool in a meeting before the regularly scheduled public city council meeting. In this intimate meeting in an administrative conference room in City Hall, the tension in the room appeared palpable as the topic of the pool was brought up. Grand Junction Mayor Anna Stout opened the meeting calling for a vote to head into an executive session, shortly after a discussion on the matter took place. Council members launched into a discussion on the transparency issue of the Orchard Mesa Pool. The discussion highlighted the importance the pool has to the public. One council member even expressed how the city council hasn't gone about the topic of the Orchard Mesa Pool in the best way. With this about half of the city council members agreed the topic of the pool needs to be discussed more in the public eye so the community can know what exactly is going on. The vote to head into an executive session did not pass in a four-to-one vote with Mayor Stout being the only aye. In a public city council meeting later that night, Mayor Stout provided a statement saying the Orchard Mesa Pool will remain open until another aquatic center is made available to the community.

KKCO 11 News @ 5PA 1st Story A Block**Car Seat Safety Inspections****January 6, 2023****Reporter: Hannah Hickman****Duration: 1:56**

In 2022, the Grand Junction Fire Department responded to six-hundred and twenty-two 9-1-1 calls reporting car crashes... Many of them include children. To ensure your child's safety while driving, GJFD is offering free car seat checks. According to the CDC, motor vehicle accidents account for the second leading cause of death in kids under 18. GJFD says eighty to ninety percent of their car-seat inspections find errors. Colorado law states. Rear-facing car seats are required for the first year of your child's life. The American society of pediatrics advises using a rear-facing car seat up to three years-old, or at least to the height and weight requirements of your car seat. Children may be eager to move to a booster seat, but it is recommended to only move to a booster when the back of your children's knees are able to reach over the seat without a booster. Seat belts need to rest across the shoulder like an adult. "Moving to the next car seat is a milestone in your child's development. When the truth is keeping them in the car seat, they're up to the height and weight limit...It's the safest place they're ever going to be," says Ellis Thompson-Ellis, community outreach specialist for GJFD. So how can you perform your own assessment? Using the latch system or seat belt, tighten the seat. Grab along the back of the car seat or belt path and shake the seat side to side. Movement should not be more than an inch. Next, buckle your child in the car seat. Gently tighten the belts using your seat fastener. At the shoulder, perform the pinch test...Pinch the belt where it rests on your child's shoulder, there shouldn't be any slack. If you find some slack, tighten your seat a bit more so it is secure. Lastly,

ensure the chest clip is across the chest as indicated. If you're unsure of your car seat's safety, you can schedule an appointment with GJFD on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Grand Junction Trash

February 6, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange and Kyrsten McBrayer

Duration: 1:37

The City of Grand Junction is introducing their new trash and recycling program to the public... officials hope to create less waste while saving you pennies. Our reporter Kyrsten McBrayer went to city hall today to find out more, Kyrsten? Bernie, this new program will begin phase one on March 7th... The goal is to decrease contamination across recyclable material while providing cheaper rates than competitive programs. waste management costs 62 dollars for a single family 64-gallon garbage and recycling duo. Through the city you will pay just over 15 dollars. Residents who already use the trash service through the city can opt for a smaller trash bin size in exchange for two recycling bins for metal and plastic. "If you have city trash, you're not obligated to use the recycling program. The program is incentivized that it can reduce your costs if you choose to recycle, because you can get a smaller trash container. and that's what the pricing is based on this the size of your trash container and not the how many recycling containers you get. glass will no longer be allowed in the new recycling bins but can be dropped off at the recycling facility of 333 west avenue. We did reach out to waste management in Grand Junction for a comment... they said the recent change by the city does not affect them and are glad to see an increase in recycling. If you have questions, there will be an informational open house at city hall--February 23rd-from 4-7 p.m. Thank you, Kyrsten, phase one will start with a small pocket of people downtown and expand from there. It is estimated that 21 hundred homes will be affected.

KKCO 11 News @ 6P 1st Story A Block

Grand Junction Community Rec Center

February 21, 2023

Reporter: Bernie Lange

Duration: 1:45

Also happening right now... A chance for you to learn more about the proposed 70-million-dollar Grand Junction Community Rec Center. The measure will appear on April's ballot. That's because voters will need to approve a point-one-four increase in the city sales tax. That money will be used to help build the center... And will be sunset in 30 years when the construction bonds are paid. Supporters call it the right time... For the right project. We live in a wonderful community with wonderful open space. But it doesn't necessarily mean we have year-round fitness opportunities. And so that's one thing that community rec center will be able to fulfill. The other thing is that key word, it's in their community. It's more than just a rec center. It also is a community meeting spot, place to meet, play and grow. And so, we have meeting rooms for the people to be able to utilize classrooms people be able to utilize. Tonight's meeting is at the Edgewater brewery ... It runs until 6:30 tonight.

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 2nd Story A Block

Western Colorado on Film

March 1, 2023

Reporter: Kyrsten McBrayer

Duration: 2:35

Over the weekend we told you how Colorado's new deputy film commissioner wants to try to duplicate the economic success *Yellowstone... The TV series...brought to the state of Montana. Now... Two filmmakers in the valley are excited about what the future holds. Hank Braxton.... A film producer shot his first movie around 30 years ago at summer camp. Since then, ... He's produced 37 films, directed 21, and wrote 14 scripts since then... And now that his wife, Arielle Brachfeld, is the deputy film commissioner, he says he's hopeful for the future of film in Colorado. When we interviewed Brachfeld she told us landscapes in the state enrich production value and deserve to be on screen... Her husband believes she's got what it takes to get the job done. "She's been the business side of all my movies." 14:16-15:14 "she wants to expand that to other rural areas in Montrose. Delta, Craig, like get out to all these places and get, get kids doing art, when they're in high school, expand a middle school, you know, like, show them away, like you can do this," coming up at 6....our Kyrsten McBrayer talks to two top dogs of the film industry, in the Grand Valley.

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st Story A Block**School Closure D51****March 10, 2023****Reporter: Cristian Sida****Duration: 1:00**

A new reaction after we broke the news online and on social that Mesa County Schools will close East Middle School this summer. But what's next? Reporter Cristian Sida spoke to one of the board members... What did you learn? Bernie--- the president of the school board, Andrea Heitz, says the district is working closely with the students and staff. The mesa county valley school district 51 board voted three to two to close the school. It came after a consultant recommending close east middle and two elementary schools. We are told students will be able to complete the semester. The school will have counseling support for students and teachers. Parents can choose what school their schools will go to. The decision comes at a time when the district is adjusting to declining enrollment. We're told it's a way to combat the potential loss of state funding. "there was the discussion around the east middle school closure, and that's just, you know, our middle school numbers on our full time equivalent, the fte is just kind of at a, you know, critical mass of where we are going to have to start, lose or moving people around too much or not, or not having enough people excuse me, in those positions, to be able to provide the services and programming that we need for our kids." Heitz says she believes the board made the right decision. The next thing the school board will discuss is the closure of Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary and Orchard Avenue Elementary ... Next week. Cristian Sida, 11 News. That meeting is supposed to happen next Thursday... Tonight at ten... Hear from the teachers' union with a reaction that might surprise you.

YOUTH/CHILDREN AT RISK- YOUTH VIOLENCE/SUPPORT**KKCO 11 News @ 5A 2nd Story A Block****Free Meals****January 30, 2023****Reporter: Adam Woodbrey****Duration: 1:22**

Colorado's summer meals program wants to ensure children receive healthy meals during the summer months when school is out of session. Last summer, more than 2 million meals were served to students at more than 600 sites operated under the state's summer meals program. It's funded by the US Department of Agriculture and administered by the Colorado Department of Education's school nutrition unit. Colorado blueprint to end hunger and hunger free Colorado are working together to expand the program to reach more kids and teens by increasing awareness of the program and providing more resources and training to existing and new program sponsors. I think that we always need more summer sponsors and summer sites in general. There are fewer summer sites than there are schools that serve meals during the school year. and so, we know that there's a gap there. and although I can't speak to the western soap or mesa in particular, we do know that there are large areas of the state where there are gaps in access, and certainly more sites and sponsors are needed all across the state." in the summer of 2022, there were 43 summer feeding sites in mesa county. that served over 37-thousand meals.

KKCO 11 News @ 6A 1st Story B Block**Social Media Limit****January 30, 2023****Reporter: Adam Woodbrey****Duration: 1:59**

We turn now to kids and the danger of social media. A new poll finds the issue that worries parents the *most* about their kids. Is their mental health. And now... The nation's top doctor is addressing the issue -- suggesting tougher age restrictions. A-B-C's Derrick Dennis explains: His morning -the US Surgeon General - taking a stand against kids on social media - saying 13 is still too young. Dr. Vivek Murthy // US Surgeon General: "I personally based on the data I've seen believe that 13 is too early. And I think that it's a time you know, early adolescence where kids are developing their identity, their sense of self." ABC news medical contributor doctor Alok Patel says research shows the surgeon general is right. Dr. Alok Patel // Stanford children's health: "those brains are still developing, and we have enough research to show that constant social media scrolling can affect brain chemistry in these young kids. There was plenty of research to suggest that social media, especially social media addiction, can have a negative impact on teens mental health, increasing risk of conditions such as anxiety, depression, body dysmorphia, disrupting sleep schoolwork. Teens are even exposed to misinformation, hate speech, cyber bullying, and predators out there who want to manipulate teens and get their identity and their privacy. This teen told us images she saw on social media left her feeling inadequate. No name provided: "it really is just so stressful to pick one picture that has to be perfect." When it comes to age, most of the popular social-media apps are ages 12 and

up. Only twitter has a 17-and-older requirement. Industry executives point out social media's benefits: Mark Zuckerberg // CEO, META: "The research that we've seen is that using social apps to connect with other people can have positive mental-health benefits." But many experts and parents insist... Restraints are needed: Dr. Alok Patel // Stanford Children's Health: "I simply do not think we have the ability to keep every teen out there from getting on a device and lying about their age. But I think it's important that we have a transparent necessary conversation about the risks not only from a public health perspective, but from the companies themselves." even in China - where Tik-Tok was developed - there's an age and time restriction on the Chinese version. Those under 14 can only access it on "youth mode," and for just 40 minutes a day. Advocates want similar controls here in the US.

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 2nd Story B Block

Hazed and Confused Settlement

February 21, 2023

Reporter: Hannah Hickman and Bernie Lange

Duration: 3:23

The family of a student who died from alcohol poisoning while pledging a fraternity will receive nearly \$3 million from Bowling Green State University to settle its hazing-related lawsuit, according to an agreement announced Monday. As part of the settlement, the family of Stone Foltz and the university both said they will work to address and eliminate hazing on college campuses. Foltz's parents have started a foundation focused on hazing education and have spoken to students at other universities about its dangers. "We can continue our fight saving lives," said Shari Foltz, whose son died of alcohol poisoning in March 2021. A university investigation found that the 20-year-old had attended a fraternity initiation event where there was a tradition of new members finishing or attempting to finish a bottle of alcohol. Foltz, from Delaware, Ohio, was found unconscious after members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity dropped him off at his apartment. He died three days after he was put on life support. Both sides said in a joint statement issued Monday that they will be forever impacted by his death. "This resolution keeps the Foltz family and BGSU community from reliving the tragedy for years to come in the courtroom and allows us to focus on furthering our shared mission of eradicating hazing in Ohio and across the nation. Leading these efforts in our communities is the real work that honors Stone," the statement said. The settlement with the university is on top of more than \$7 million in payouts made to the family by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and those who had a role in the hazing, according to court documents. Eight former fraternity members either pleaded guilty or were found guilty on various charges, including reckless homicide, hazing and giving alcohol to a minor. Two of the eight, though, were acquitted last year of more serious charges including involuntary manslaughter and reckless homicide. Their defense attorneys had argued Foltz was not forced or required to finish the entire bottle and made that decision on his own. In their lawsuit, Foltz's parents accused the school of failing to stop hazing in fraternities and sororities despite being aware of it. Their attorney, Rex Elliott, said on Monday that the university is making an effort to prevent another tragedy from happening and that colleges nationwide must play a role in reforming how fraternities and sororities bring in new members. "Greek organizations will not survive if hazing doesn't come to an end," Elliott said. "Hazing and pledge programs are a relic of the past." After the hazing death, Bowling Green expelled Pi Kappa Alpha and said it would never again be recognized on campus. The university also developed a plan to address anti-hazing efforts, including hiring a prevention coordinator and making it easier for students to tell the school about hazing. Stone Foltz's death also spurred changes beyond Bowling Green, including a new state law that created tougher criminal penalties for hazing — a proposal first made after an Ohio University student died in 2018 after ingesting nitrous oxide at a fraternity house.

KKCO 11 News @ 12P 1st Story B Block

Gambling on College Campuses

February 28, 2023

Reporter: Gabriel Gonzalez

Duration: 1:00

As part of a four-month investigation into sports betting on college campuses, the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism, and the Howard Center for investigative journalism at the University of Maryland sought contracts from ISU, Michigan State and three other universities known to have sports betting brands as sponsors: University of Colorado Boulder...University of Denver...University of Maryland. The lack of transparency with college campuses striking up deals with sports betting companies is concerning gambling addiction experts. All but the university of Denver are public universities and therefore are subject to open records requests under public information laws. Of the five schools with the most extensive ties to sports betting brands...only c-u boulder released its' agreement. Some privately held sports marketing companies create other private companies organized to only handle the deals with the campuses.

KKCO 11 News @ 10P 1st Story B Block**TikTok****March 1, 2023****Reporter: Hannah Hickman****Duration: 1:50**

TikTok has announced a new way to prevent teens from endlessly scrolling on its app. The social media platform says in the coming months, accounts for users under 18 will default to a one-hour screen limit. Once sixty minutes hits, teens will be prompted to enter a passcode to extend their time on the app. This new setting is able to be turned off. But if it is... Teens who spend more than 100 minutes a day on Tik Tok... Will be prompted to set a daily screen limit for themselves. Tik Tok also announced an update to its family pairing feature. Parents or caregivers will be able to filter videos with words or hashtags they don't want to appear in their teen's feed. They will also be able to set a custom screen time limit and a custom schedule to mute notifications.

KKCO 11 News @ 1P 1st Story B Block**Fentanyl Social Media****March 1, 2023****Reporter: Gabriele Gonzalez****Duration: 1:33**

Social Media certainly can make parents nervous if their kids are regular participants in online platforms. What's really concerning is the ease in which people can traffic drugs like fentanyl using social media. Snapchat is coming under fire in Colorado for just that. now Colorado attorney general Phil Weiser is lending his support for families who have lost loved ones to overdose from drugs purchased on social media sites. Here's reporter Kelly Reinke. They don't have to go to a scary, dangerous part of town to buy drugs. They can order it right from their house and have it delivered. Kimberly Osterman said her son bought fentanyl on Snapchat - just as easy as ordering pizza. Two years ago...that counterfeit fentanyl pill killed her 18-year-old son Max. They don't want to cooperate. Because they want all these people on their platform. It is money in their pocket. Absolutely they need to be more transparent. Colorado's Attorney General Phil Weiser agrees. In a report released today, he said social media is becoming a hotspot for distributing drugs.... but it's unclear how prevalent it is. The report found platforms aren't transparent with their data. Sometimes law enforcement faces delays. It can be quite significant delays before they are getting access to information related to distribution of fentanyl on these platforms. A law passed last year required Democrat Phil Weiser to put together this report - which looked at how the internet is used for the sale and distribution of fentanyl. The study found dealers are creative - using emojis, and slang terms to avoid getting caught. It also identified loopholes. Not all platforms have a one strike and you're out policy. Some platforms allow people multiple chances of being caught distributing deadly drugs before they are told you are out. Weiser believes there should be more oversight of these platforms. So does Kimberly...who wants other parents to pay attention too. Snapchat needs to change their platform and make it a safe platform if it is going to be an existing platform.

Issues Programming Report**1st Quarter****KKCO PSA's PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT
TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Topic of PSA (varying lengths of: 10, :15, :20, and :30)	# of Times Aired
	1 st Quarter
	KKCO
1-800 Runaway	13
A Bloody Nightmare	5
AARP Social Isolation	6
Adopt Pure Love	8
AM Angel View	6
AM Lizard Flare	10
AM Tylenol	10
American Auto	1
ATM AIS Insurance	6

ATM Final Expense	14
ATM Low-Cost Air	14
ATM Medguard Alert	12
ATM Sell My Home	4
ATM Smart Fares	4
ATM Taxman	14
ATM US Med CGM	6
Autism Speaks- Big Day	1
Back In Time Stem	1
BGHD Blood Kit	1
Catholic Charities Poverty	4
Center for Safe Sport	16
Circle Buckle Up – Spring	1
Chamber is US 3	1
Colorado Department of Labor	1
Costly Care March	1
DC League of Super Pets	6
Do the Vape Talk	14
Don't Skip – Vaccinate	16
Drug Free World They Lied	1
E Cigarettes and Kids	13
Feeding America Gen	18
First Responders Children	14
Fruita Chamber Branding	4
Gray Scholarship New	1
Habitat for Humanity Garth	1
Heavyweight Muscle John Cena	18
Homeward Bound 2018	12
How We Do It	14
Joseph Center	6

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

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

of Times Aired

1st Quarter	KKCO
Junior Achievements Future Work	2
Ken Paves – Awareness	6
Keyboard Cat	1
Kids Aid Backpack	2
Lions Club International	12
March of Dimes	10
Marine Corps Quality Citizens	14

Multiple Sclerosis	3
National Park Right Place	14
No Kid Hungry	10
Not Dead Yet New Feb 8th	1
One In Four NRSF	14
Operation Lifesaver 2019	17
Paralyzed Veterans	2
Partners Bike Club Min	2
Partners Red Shoes	14
Pass It On Three Pointer	6
Pests Without Borders	14
Pets and People Together	2
Pharmacy: Buying Safely	14
Play Catch With Her	1
Preventing Auto Theft	15
Protect Our Families	1
Real Deal Anthem	22
Rec Boating and Fishing	13
Red Cross The Great Escape	11
Rivers Edge West CHRIS 22	2
Rivers Edge West RICA 22	10
Rivers Edge West Two 2019	2
Saving For Retirement	18
SE Guide Dogs Never Alone	2
SE Guide Dogs Puppies	9
See What You'd Miss	10
Selective Service	6
Smokey Bear AI Camping	3
Smokey Bear AI Grilling	6
Speak Up for Nature	1

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

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

of Times Aired

1st Quarter	KKCO
Special Olympics Gold Medal	20
Starlight Children	6
Susan Better Lives	9
Texting and Driving	2
The Henry Ford	2
The Nonprofit Alliance	6
There Is No Normal	8
USDAVA Innovation	5
VA Stand with US	13
Veterans Crisis Prevention	11
Vitalant Blood PSA	2
We Are Rotary 2022	13
Wounded Warriors Stigma	2