

KNFO Quarterly Issues Report
4th Quarter of the Calendar Year 2022
Filed on Jan 1st, 2023

The following are the issues that KNFO, licensed to Basalt, Colorado, has identified as serving the public trust, within our service area. A brief Synopsis of issues and programs addressing them has been filed in the stations next license renewal.

Eagle County:

- 1.)The Xfinity birds of Prey IS world Cup downhill race had to be cancelled due to a snowstorm.
- 2.)After repeated attempts to make Camp Hale a national monument, President Joe Biden will sign a law to make it so.
- 3.)Vail's back bowls finally opened for the season with more than 2,000 acres of terrain.
- 4.)Now that Camp Hale is a National Monument, what is next for the 340 acres?
- 5.)Enrollment in the Eagle County School District has fallen dramatically.
- 6.)Vail Resort's Game Creek Express Lift finally opens to the Game Creek Bowl.
- 7.)There is an avalanche beacon training park just outside of Minturn that will save lives.
- 8.)repairs to Nottingham Lake in Avon will lower the lake level considerably for a short period of time.
- 9.)Copper Mountain is the first ski resort to start snowmaking this season.
- 10.) The ice is now thick enough on Nottingham Lake to allow the public to ice skate.
- 11.) The town of Vail updates its lottery selection process to make it clear and equitable for affordable housing.

Pitkin County:

- 1.) A team of Aspen Middle Schoolers are heading back to the First Lego League State Challenge Colorado State Championship.
- 2.) Leaders in Pitkin County want to limit house sizes in rural areas to just 5,750 square feet.
- 3.) It is the holiday season and that means skiing and snowboarding will cost big bucks.
- 4.) 3rd Congressional District hopeful Adam Frisch is accused of having an affair and changing a crucial vote to keep it concealed....
- 5.) A Basalt man accused of improperly touching and grooming children will be allowed to see his own children supervised....
- 6.) Pitkin County elections officials beef up security at early voting centers.
- 7.) Farmers in the Roaring Fork Valley will be celebrated this weekend at Farm Fest in Carbondale.
- 8.) The Colorado Department of Transportation is amping up efforts to hire snowplow drivers in the Roaring Fork and Eagle Valley.
- 9.) Conde Nast Traveler magazine says it's 250,000 readers cite Aspen as the second-best small city in the US to visit...
- 10.) Aspen Valley Hospital is raising wages by raising all of its fees and costs.
- 11.) Cornerstone Christian Church has been accused of violating its nonprofit status by offering up the church stage to Congresswoman Lauren Boebert.
- 12.) Sheriff candidate Michael Buglione is criticized for buying a Pitkin County Home and living in an Aspen employee housing unit.

Garfield County:

- 1.) US Rep. Lauren Boebert is getting blowback for saying men and women are created equal, but we are not the same. She says women are the lesser vessel and we need masculinity in our lives to balance that so called weakness...
- 2.) Pueblo County goes big for Democrat Adam Frisch.... Most of the outstanding ballots in the county are going for Frisch...
- 3.) The race for the 3rd Congressional Seat is going down to the wire and will likely require a recount...
- 4.) The Coal Ridge High School Cheerleading team won the 2A3A division for the fifth straight year.... The team had the third highest score in the entire tournament...
- 5.) School officials in the Roaring Fork School District decide that delaying classes for two hours is a terrible idea and will just cancel school on snow days...
- 6.) A new fire suppressant was tested Monday that could be a game changer in the fight against wildfire....
- 7.) Former Aspen City Councilman Adam Frisch did what nobody predict, he made the race for the 3rd Congressional District razor close.
- 8.) The Roaring Fork School district board will take comment on their plan to support and encourage transgender and gender expansive/nonconforming students.
- 9.) A 40-foot fifth wheel trailer caught fire last night at Ami's Acres and burned to the ground. Glenwood Springs transportation officials are asking the public to help reduce traffic in town....
- 10.) Republican incumbent Tom Jankovsky beat back his challenger by just 344 votes.
- 11.) Public Works officials in Glenwood Springs are considering banning certain materials from the landfill.

Today's Xfinity birds of Prey FIS World Cup downhill race on the Birds of Prey course at Beaver Creek had to be cancelled.... Strong winds and heavy snow moved into the area early this morning... The legendary Birds of Prey race course was designed by Olympic downhill gold medalist Bernhard Russi of Switzerland..... It was built in 1997 in preparation for the 1999 World Alpine Ski Championships..... The course drops 757 meters, with an average gradient of 17 degrees and max gradient of 32 degrees..... Tomorrow's race is a go with a whole schedule of family friendly activities in Beaver Creek Village.... Saturday's Downhill race starts at 10AM.... A full line up of activities can be found at bcworldcup.com

EAGLE COUNTY

It is an idea that is long overdue and appears to be on a path to reality.... President Joe Biden reportedly plans to travel to Colorado next week to designate Camp Hale as a national monument.... The Los Angeles Times first reported the president would be flying into Colorado and the widespread speculation is the President will make it official.... The 10th Mountain Division of the US Army trained at Camp Hale in 1945 taking advantage of the harsh winter conditions there to train for Alpine combat.... The camp between Red Cliff and Leadville, was named for General Irving Hale and sits at 9,200 feet... When it was in full operation, approximately 15,000 soldiers were housed there....

It was a glorious day in Vail yesterday and if you were lucky enough to be there, you got first tracks in some of the resort's back bowls.... Vail Mountain dropped the ropes Thursday opening up some of the terrain in the Back Bowls including parts of the Sun Up, Tea Cup and China bowls.... The opening of 2,000 acres of terrain brings Vail's total terrain open up to 3,200 acres....

Now that Camp Hale is the largest National monument in the country, now what? In 2015, the US Forest Service, the National Forest Foundation, Eagle County and local residents formed a group of ideas to restore the area... The Vail Daily reports that those ideas include restoring the Eagle River to its' original route... The river was straightened when Camp Hale was built.... Restoring more than 340 acres of wetlands that were filled in for the 10th Mountain Division Training site.... Improving the campground facilities and adding interpretive historic signs and kiosks at several locations in the area....

Eagle County School District conducted its annual count of students this month and Sandy Farrell, the district's chief operating officer says the grand total is 5,949 which she characterizes as a significant drop in student enrollment according to the Vail Daily..... She anticipates that enrollment numbers will continue to decline due to the high cost of living in the Eagle Valley... School district population dictates how much revenue will come from the state through the Colorado School Finance Act..... Based on Farrell's numbers, the Eagle County School District will receive \$10,029.39 per pupil, which represents a \$732.25 increase over last year....

Vail Mountain skiers and snowboarders got a treat Monday when the ski resort opened its shiny new, six-seat chairlift in Game Creek Bowl... The lift had been delayed, like many new ski lifts this year due to supply chain issues.... With the opening of the Game Creek Express lift, that meant the Game Creek Bowl is officially open..... Usually, the Game Creek Bowl opens in early December, but the lift delays kept the area closed until now.....

It is a matter of life and death.... Not only wearing an avalanche beacon while traveling in the backcountry but knowing how to use it.... There is an avalanche beacon training park just outside of Minturn and it is now open... The park is part of the White River National Forest and was developed in partnership with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC).... It is located near the Mountain Meadow Trailhead next to the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger Station, which is about a quarter mile from the I-70 exit for Minturn.... The training site features eight buried transmitters that can be turned on and off from a control panel.... The self-operating system is open all day to the public....

If you notice that Nottingham Lake looks a bit low, you are right... The town of Avon has begun lowering the lake level in preparation for a shoreline maintenance project... Ewing Trucking & Construction LLC has been hired by the town to lower the water approximately 5 feet to repair lake edge erosion and add rock slope protection around the existing fishing pier... Work starts October 24th and will be done by the end of the month....

It is the first week in October and one ski resort has already started snowmaking... Usually, Arapahoe Basin, Keystone and Loveland all vie to be the first ski resort to open in the month of October..... The three resorts have yet to turn on their snow guns... Copper, however, won't be opening until the second week in November but will have the US Ski Team training to top October 21st.... Copper is in a partnership with the U.S. Ski Team to provide preseason training for the World Cup season.... Last year A-Basin was the big winner opening on Oct. 17, Keystone opened five days later Oct. 22 and Loveland opened on Oct. 30.

Ice skating is back in Avon..... Cold temperatures froze the ice on Nottingham Lake and the public ice rink is expected to open December 26th..... Community members and visitors with their own skates can enjoy the use of the Nottingham Lake ice rink for free but are required to sign a liability waiver. Skaters can also expect to enjoy hot cocoa, s'mores, fire pits, music, seasonal lighting and beautiful views.... Normal operating hours are from 3-8PM on weekdays and noon to 8PM on weekends.... Go to Avonrec.org for more information....

The town of Vail has updated its lottery selection process to make it more clear and equitable for workers seeking affordable housing... Prior to the changes, applicants for affordable housing in town could receive as many as five tickets for things like working in town for more than five years, being employed in Vail, currently living in town , living in town for five or more years, and for completing the application.... On Tuesday, town council voted unanimously to change the rule to a maximum of three tickets... One for filling out the application, one for not owning free market real estate in Vail and one for unsuccessfully participating in a previous lottery....

A team of Aspen Middle Schoolers are going back to the First Lego League State Challenge Colorado State Championship in two weeks, to this time, win it all... The team named Robot Rookies, is made up of Spencer Ward, Bennet Zilberman, Wyatt Weins, Max Carney and Hayden Bailey placed second last year and was the top qualifier this year in the robot game according to the Aspen Times.... The kids build a robot for the competition that must complete 13 missions in 2.5 minutes... The team must also give a 30-minute presentation.... Three other teams from Aspen Middle are heading to the competition including team TuxBots, AIR and Electric Blitz.... The event is December 10th at CU Denver....

PITKIN
COUNTY

Pitkin County, the home to Aspen, is concerned about population growth, construction waste and all the greenhouse gas emissions that come with it.... Many consider the huge homes built diminishing the quality of life for residents.... The Community Growth Advisory Committee, 26 locals looking at possible changes to the land use code, is considering limiting house sizes in rural areas to 5,750 square feet.... Current zoning allows up to 15,000 square feet of residential floor area on residential and agricultural parcels in most of the county except for some areas in the Aspen/Pitkin urban growth boundary... A document explaining the restriction reads, "The larger the home, the higher the demand is for services, straining an already tight labor market with a limited availability of employees," "As a result, we are seeing that the servicing of the homes is generating a secondary economy for employees pitting community retail stores, accommodations and restaurants against contractors fighting for workers... The Aspen Times reports that Committee member Cliff Weiss said at a meeting last week that "Less construction, less waste from construction, less services, less energy, less employees, less traffic, it's that simple," he said. "We are feeding an industry that is bigger than tourism in this valley and house caps will at least keep that industry from growing out of control."

It's peak season for skiing and snowboarding this week and area ski resorts are charging top dollar.... Steamboat Springs is charging the most this year in Colorado.... Riders walking up to the lift ticket window will pay \$269 through today and then \$275 for Dec. 27-28..... Vail Resorts is next asking for \$262 a day for the opportunity to ski the back bowls... Breckenridge will cost you \$241... Aspen Snowmass will charge \$229 a day to ski their four mountains, Telluride \$219.... Copper Mountain will charge you up to \$219 a day.... A-Basin up to \$169.... Crested Butte will cost you \$166... Sunlight Mountain Resort in Glenwood Springs will cost you around \$100 bucks.... All these prices are walk up prices, discounts are offered if you buy online in advance at all resorts, although during the holidays, those discounts will be minimal...

New accusations of infidelity and voting against his party's interest to conceal the affair, are being levied against the Democrat running against 3rd Congressional District representative Lauren Boebert... Todd Gardner, the former owner of High Mountain Taxi in Aspen produced a video published on the Breitbart News website, admitting to using extortion to pressure Adam Frisch, then an Aspen City Councilman, to vote against a transportation ordinance that would have hurt his taxi company.... Frisch is running to unseat Boebert in Washington... Gardner says he caught Frisch, and a very well-known Aspen resident, having an extramarital affair in one of his storage units.... The unit was rented by the woman.... A year later, when Aspen City Council debated subsidizing a company like Lyft to ferry people in and out of town, Gardner pressured Frisch, using video evidence, to vote against the plan... Frisch became the deciding vote to kill the idea.... The Frisch campaign has yet to issue a response....

A Pitkin County judge has ruled that a Basalt man, criminally accused of improperly touching and grooming two children at a day-care center, can see his kids over the holiday.... Judge Chris Seldin modified a protection order to allow defendant Christopher Tedstone up to two hours of daily supervised visitation with his children until January 3rd according to the Aspen Times.... The wife of Tedstone made the motion to directly supervise all visits.... Tedstone was arrested Dec. 9 after an investigation into allegations from parents of two different children that Tedstone had improperly touched and interacted with them while they were attending a local day-care center.... Tedstone's next hearing is in January.....

It is far better to be safe than sorry..... Pitkin County elections officials are beefing up security security at the early-voting center and providing police escorts for election judges for this midterm election according to the Aspen Times..... In a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll released last week, nearly half of U.S. voters have concerns about violence or voter intimidation and polling places, and another two-thirds are fearful that extremists will retaliate if the election results don't swing in their favor.... So far, 2,080 votes have been received by Pitkin County out of the 14,000 registered voters...

It is October and it means Farm Fest in Carbondale... It used to be known as Oktoberfest, but that name has been ditched in favor of farmers and local and healthy eating! There will be a downtown nighttime farmers market featuring live music and local restaurants showing off how they transform local ingredients into delicious masterpieces... The festivities will wrap up with a community lunch at Spring Creek Ranch, featuring a line-up of local culinary champions who will create a feast from produce sourced throughout the Roaring Fork Valley and Western Colorado, according to a press release.... The city says Oktoberfest, this weekend will be a celebration for local ag and foodies to tell their stories and highlight their connection to regional heritage.....

The Colorado Department of Transportation is amping up their efforts to hire snowplow drivers in the Roaring Fork Valley and in the Eagle Valley.... CDOT has about 70-80 percent of snowplow jobs filled, but some areas, like the Roaring Fork Valley, need help badly.... CDOT needs six snowplow drivers to be stationed in El Jebel and one more to be stationed in Carbondale... Housing is the primary obstacle to hiring in the Roaring Fork Valley where studio where roommate situations are more than \$1000 per month... The starting salary with CDOT is \$44,000 per year.... CDOT is offering \$1000 monthly to deal with high rent and is looking into acquiring affordable housing... Anyone who has a CDL license and is interested in working for CDOT this winter should contact the Colorado Department of Transportation...

In a survey of 250,000 readers of the magazine Conde Nast Traveler cites Aspen as the second-best small city in the US to visit.... The magazine cites the world class ski slopes, lodging, après and the art scene as reasons to spend the extra money to go to Aspen.... The top five destinations for small town travel include Savannah Georgia coming in at number five, followed by Alexandria Virginia and number four. Santa Fe New Mexico is number three followed by Aspen. Number one on the list? Charleston South Carolina....

Wages are going up at Aspen Valley Hospital... The Aspen times reports that an across-the-board wage increase of 6% takes effect Jan. 1 for employees at Aspen Valley Hospital..... The wage increase is to attract and maintain the current staff that live in an area plagued by high housing costs.... The wage increase will come at a cost and patients will pay for it..... The hospital also plans a 6% increase in all of its fees and costs....

A complaint against Cornerstone Christian Church in Basalt over a visit by Representative Lauren Boebert challenges the church's nonprofit status with the IRS after Boebert took the stage to talk politics.... The Aspen Times reports that the complaint was filed by the group American Muckrakers, a political action committee in North Carolina whose sole purpose is to have representative Lauren Boebert defeated.... The outside group has spent more than \$16,000 to defeat Boebert and is currently suing Boebert for comments made on the Sean Hannity show... Boebert appeared at Cornerstone Christian Church in June and spoke at the church's two services and talked about the overturning of Roe v. Wade and shared her opinion that the church should direct politics rather than politics directing the church...

Sheriff candidate Michael Buglione is facing blow back after buying a Pitkin County home in November of 2020 and living in an Aspen employee housing until this summer.... The Aspen Times reports that that would have put Buglione in violation of the Aspen Pitkin County housing Authority rules that prohibit owner or renter of deed restrict employee housing from possessing developed residential property in all of Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork River drainage.... Buglione told the times that he moved out of his deed restricted housing into his Basalt home after renovations were completed in the Elk Run residence.... Another problem, Buglione, while living in Aspen away from his renovated home, was renting the home to the previous owner..... Buglione filed for his candidacy for Sheriff in February using his Aspen deed restricted unit as his home address.... He amended the filing in late July according to the Times....

U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert is getting some blowback for comments she made on a video chat with comedian Brad Stine Friday.... Discussing the differences between males and females, Boebert said, "we are created equal, we're not the same..." She added that "Women are the lesser vessel, and we need masculinity in our lives to balance that, that so called weakness." The video was posted on the left wing account PatriotTakes.... A representative says Boebert misspoke and meant to say weaker, not lesser.... Her opponent running against her in the third quickly tweeted out that Rep Boebert is belittling the generations of women fighting for freedom to make their own life choices, whether that's prioritizing careers, families, service or a combo....

GARFIELD
COUNTY

Pueblo County is going big for Democrat Adam Frisch..... The counting and curing of ballots in the county where most of the outstanding ballots originate have cut incumbent Republican Lauren Boebert's lead in half.... The counting must be completed by tomorrow and currently only 668 votes separate the two as of 3PM Thursday.... Should the numbers stay the same, a mandatory recount will be conducted to finally determine the winner....

No change on the race for the 3rd Congressional Seat in Colorado.... Republican incumbent Lauren Boeberts lead over Aspen Democrat Adam Frisch remains unchanged at 1,122 votes..... Boebert has 162,040 to Frisch's 160,918 98.98% of the vote has been counted....

An automatic recount is likely because the margin of victory is within .5% or approximately 1,700 votes forcing a recount.....

Make it FIVE STRAIGHT for Coal Ridge High School's cheerleading team! The co ed team made up of 12 girls and 7 boys traveled to the Denver Coliseum Friday and Saturday and won the 2A/3A division with the third highest score in the tournament.... Other area teams competing, Glenwood Springs took 8th and Rifle finished 24th ...

It is an idea that has been growing as of late.... On snowy mornings, instead of cancelling classes, delay classes for two hours to allow for roads to be cleared.... The Roaring Fork School District has decided that delaying classes isn't really the best idea.... Surveys from parents and staff overwhelmingly showed that the idea was less than ideal.... More than 2,100 people participated in the survey... Garfield Re-2 and Aspen districts still delay classes, but the Roaring Fork School district, which includes public schools in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Basalt, will just do it the old fashioned way, cancel classes....

A new fire suppressant was tested Monday that firefighters hope will become a game changing weapon in the fight against wildfire... Colorado River Fire Rescue and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control set up two large piles of sagebrush and greasewood at the Rifle Garfield County Airport according to the Glenwood Springs Post Independent... The two piles were set on fire and reached a temperature of 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.... The product called FS-01 was applied to the fires... The suppressant didn't completely extinguish the two fires but did show promising results.... FS-01 is used extensively in Europe to attack wildfire.

Former Aspen City Councilman Adam Frisch did what nobody in the country predicted, he made the third congressional district race close and just missed unseating Congresswoman Lauren Boebert by a few hundred votes.... The Colorado's Secretary of State announced yesterday that U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert officially won the race by 554 votes over Frisch.....

The Roaring Fork School District board will meet tonight and will be getting an earful from supporters and opponents of a plan to support and encourage transgender and gender expansive/nonconforming students.... The last time the board heard comments in September, numerous people spoke in favor of the district's toolkit which directs more school resources to support LGBTQ+ students and also honors personal pronoun choices... Jim Tarr, the pastor at Cornerstone Christian Church in Basalt has been a vocal critic of the program and he questions the message the district is sending to the youth....

--Jim Tarr—

The school board meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. at the District Office, 400 Sopris Ave., in Carbondale....

The board will take public comment at approximately 6:55 p.m., followed by discussion and decisions on several district policies and revisions.... Those who wish to speak are invited on a first-come, first-served basis.... Comments are limited to three minutes and 45 minutes overall....

A 40-foot fifth wheel trailer caught fire last night at Ami's Acres and was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived on scene at just before 3AM this morning.... The occupants were evacuated, one had to be hospitalized... A dog was taken to Valley Emergency Pet Care in Basalt.... Neighboring trailers had to be evacuated and suffered smoke damage.... Three fire engines, one water tender and 13 firefighters put out the fire....

Glenwood Springs transportation officials are asking the public to help come up with a strategy to reduce traffic in town... Anyone with any idea on how to reduce single occupancy auto trips into town is being asked to participate January 10th at Morgridge Commons on the second floor... Organizers hope to maximize traveler choices by improving mobility options and infrastructure for transit, biking, walking and ridesharing..... The meeting begins at 6PM January 10th....

In the final count for Garfield County Commissioner, incumbent Republican Tom Jankovsky beat his challenger, Democrat Ryan Gordon by 344 votes..... Jankovsky will begin his fourth term by the slimmest margin.... 50.7% to 49.3%..... The outcome is not official until the ballots are canvassed next month....

Public works officials in Glenwood Springs are considering banning certain material from being dumped at the South Canyon Landfill..... The Post Independent reports that materials that can be recycled or composted may be banned in the future to extend the life of the landfill..... South Canyon Landfill Manager Liz Mauro told city council last week that the primary focus is on yard waste, metal, cardboard, and food waste... These are the more common materials being dumped in the landfill that that could be recycled or composted.... Officials recommend starting with yard waste which is easily composted... Yard waste accounts for 8.7% of the total waste going into the landfill, about 3,350 tons worth, instead of being composted....