

Stations KAJX and KCJX (Aspen Public Radio)
Quarterly Listing of Community Issues and Programs
[October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021]

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Local and regional hospitals at capacity with influx of mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 patients

Issue: Unvaccinated people are extending the pandemic and stretching healthcare resources

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: The fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to sweep across the state, and local hospitals are once again being stretched thin. As regional hospitals in places such as Grand Junction and Denver fill up, Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs has seen an influx of patients in recent weeks. According to Valley View's chief medical officer, Dr. David Brooks, the hospital has been at capacity over the past month — and things don't seem to be getting better.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 300 kids receive COVID shots at the first pediatric vaccine clinic in Pitkin County

Issue: COVID-19 vaccine distribution and equity

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: November 15, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Local medical professionals administered the COVID-19 vaccine to 300 kids at the Aspen High School gymnasium Nov. 12. Pitkin County Public Health made sure the facility was outfitted with games, movies, snacks and therapy animals to help calm any nervous children. The next pediatric COVID vaccine clinics in Pitkin County are scheduled for Nov. 16 and 17 at Basalt Middle school and Nov. 18 and 19 at Aspen Middle School.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: COVID-19 cases rise in the valley as omicron moves in for the holidays

Issue: Unvaccinated people are extending the pandemic and stretching healthcare resources

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: December 21, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Pitkin County health officials were notified Monday that the first case of the omicron variant was detected in the county. Garfield County reported the first case of the variant on the Western Slope on Dec. 15. The local residents who tested positive for omicron had each

been vaccinated with two doses, but neither had received a booster shot. According to local health officials, the Pitkin County resident that tested positive for omicron had recently traveled to Mexico. More than half of the six people who have now tested positive for the variant in Colorado had recent travel history.

WILDFIRES

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: A prescribed burn in Idaho shows why good fire requires good neighbors

Issue: Prescribed burns help combat wildfires

Reporter: Madelyn Beck

Date: October 16, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Federal and state firefighters religiously put out blazes around the Western U.S. for decades. But now, unburned forests combined with warmer temperatures drying out brush are fueling unprecedented extreme fire behavior. That includes unpredictable blazes that create their own weather. Fires lit in cool, controlled conditions in the fall could fend off or slow down destructive ones down the line. Prescribed burns can also help regenerate ecosystems that evolved with fire.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Wildfires break out in the Mountain West, causing two fatalities

Issue: Drought and climate change extend the West's wildfire season

Reporter: Maggie Mullen

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: In Colorado, the Kruger Rock Fire near Estes Park began when high winds blew a tree onto a powerline, causing it to arc. It spread quickly across steep terrain, thanks to those same strong winds mixed with unusually dry conditions. In Wyoming, a wildfire burning near Clark, in Park County, was also caused when trees got blown into a power line and is now 100 percent contained.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Nighttime's not quieting wildfires like it used to, study shows

Issue: Climate change is impacting wildfire activity

Reporter: Maggie Mullen

Date: December 6, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Wildfire activity generally slows at night as winds die down, temperatures drop and humidity rises. But a new study suggests that's changing. U.S. Forest Service researchers

examined data from heat-sensing satellites dating back to 2003, and found that increases in nighttime fire activity outpaced daytime increases. The study's lead author, Patrick Freeborn, based at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Mont., says his team's findings raise safety concerns for firefighters.

GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Proposition 120 sparks a debate over property tax cuts. Here's why it's complicated by a recent bill

Issue: Information on statewide ballot initiatives

Reporter: Scott Franz

Date: October 7, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: With home values skyrocketing, many Colorado voters have a chance to significantly lower their property tax bills this November. But Proposition 120 is more complex than it seems. It's touted as a permanent, 9% property tax cut for businesses and homeowners. But a state law passed by the legislature last spring is complicating the picture.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 2021 election info and results for Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield counties

Issue: Information on local and statewide elections

Reporter: Aspen Public Radio Staff

Date: November 1-2, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: A recap of Aspen Public Radio's local and statewide election results.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Colorado has new legislative districts. Find out which one is yours

Issue: New maps of legislative districts will affect races for the next decade

Reporter: Scott Franz

Date: November 15, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: The Colorado Supreme Court has approved new maps of legislative districts that will affect statehouse races for the next decade. The new boundaries appear to give Democrats an edge in next year's elections to determine which party controls the legislative agenda at the Capitol.

ECONOMY/JOBS/POVERTY

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Principals are vacuuming hallways and serving lunch as school staffing shortage deepens

Issue: Staffing shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

Reporter: Nate Hegyi

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: It's mid-morning at Gwendolyn Woolley Elementary School in North Las Vegas and principal Joseph Uy is walking the hallways. Behind the scenes he's exhausted. That's because of severe staffing shortages across the district. Woolley Elementary has fifteen vacancies right now – about 25% of his staff.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Fixing policing means recruiting, retaining more women, advocates say

Issue: Adding more women to police forces to address gender parity, systemic racism in policing

Reporter: Robyn Vincent

Date: November 1, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: As communities reckon with deep problems in policing highlighted by the murder of George Floyd, some advocates are working toward what they say is one solution: achieving gender parity. Research suggests women officers could fundamentally change American policing as we know it. They use less force – and less excessive force – and get better outcomes for crime victims, especially in sexual assault cases, than their male counterparts. They also are perceived as more honest and compassionate by diverse communities and are named in fewer lawsuits and complaints.

LAND USE, DEVELOPMENT, AND HOUSING

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: In several Colorado mountain towns, Airbnb's on the ballot

Issue: Short-term rentals impacting affordable housing

Reporter: Nate Hegyi

Date: November 1, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Some of the West's most popular ski towns are voting on whether to regulate short-term vacation rentals. In Colorado, voters in Telluride are looking at capping the number of short-term rentals in town and doubling licensing fees. In Crested Butte, there's a proposal to

raise taxes on vacation rentals to help pay for affordable housing. The towns of Avon, Leadville and Ouray are also considering similar measures.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: SkiCo urges Pitkin County to approve Pandora's expansion, but final vote remains uncertain

Issue: County commissioners consider land use expansion

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: November 3, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: On Oct. 27 Pitkin County commissioners reviewed Aspen Skiing Co.'s proposal to expand the Aspen Mountain ski area into the side-country terrain known as the Pandora's on the east side of Richmond Ridge.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Aspen's community development director on the city's residential and rental moratorium

Issue: Short-term rentals impacting affordable housing

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: December 14, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Despite opposition from many in the real estate, property management and development community, the Aspen City Council on Dec. 8 voted unanimously to temporarily halt most new short-term rental licenses and residential development permits. The emergency ordinance is scheduled to be in effect until June 8. During the six-month moratorium, city officials plan to come up with new regulations for residential development and vacation rentals.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Jackson Hole's hot housing market and the exodus of the working class

Issue: Short-term rentals impacting affordable housing

Reporter: Maggie Mullen

Date: December 19, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Residents moving from Jackson Hole, Wyo. due to the lack of affordable or stable housing isn't a new phenomenon. But the current exodus is happening at a critical moment in the valley's history. Tourists are flocking to the area in numbers never seen before-nearby Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks broke visitation records this season. This summer, some workers were forced to move elsewhere for housing. The shortage of labor caused many businesses to either close their doors or limit their hours. There's a lot of wealth involved in the equation, too.

HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY/SCIENCE

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: In The Woods: Bark beetles on the move in Aspen, and how the climate crisis is driving local infestations

Issue: Examining climate change and its effects on the Roaring Fork Valley's trees

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: October 25, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Halle Zander reports on the beetle activity in the Roaring Fork Valley and what we might expect our forests to look like in the future. It's the first installment of our series "In the Woods," which looks at the links between local trees and climate change.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: In The Woods: Fruit trees planted by homesteaders bear fruit for local food producers — and may hold clues for fighting climate change

Issue: Examining climate change and its effects on the Roaring Fork Valley's trees

Reporter: Kirsten Dobroth

Date: October 26, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: As part of Aspen Public Radio's series "In the Woods" — which examines the link between trees and climate change — reporter Kirsten Dobroth looks at how the valley's old fruit trees might offer some solutions in the fight against the climate crisis.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: In The Woods: Aspen trees are threatened by climate change, but some people say there are ways to preserve future groves

Issue: Examining climate change and its effects on the Roaring Fork Valley's trees

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: October 27, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: In the last installment of Aspen Public Radio's series "In the Woods," reporter Eleanor Bennett talked with people who keep a close eye on our aspen groves to find out what, if anything, can be done to protect the city of Aspen's namesake.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Heat wave shatters temperature records around the Mountain West

Issue: Record heat, drought, and climate change extend the West's wildfire season

Reporter: Maggie Mullen

Date: December 4, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: December in the Mountain West was downright balmy, with high temperatures breaking decades-old records around the region. In Montana, several cities broke long-standing high temperature records – by 10 degrees in some locations. Pueblo, Colo., reached a record 75 degrees. In Wyoming, Laramie and Cheyenne both broke their daily records at 62 and 70 degrees, respectively.

EMERGENCY/PUBLIC SAFETY/CRIME

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Google Maps to show wildfire locations, emergency contacts

Issue: Emergency information updated during wildfires

Reporter: Madelyn Beck

Date: October 3, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Google Maps will soon launch a new filter that shows the location of active wildfires. Beyond that, when you click on a blaze, it will show emergency resources related to it. “It’s important to also pair that geospatial information with things like emergency phone numbers, emergency websites, evacuation information,” said Vanessa Schneider, who works with Google’s crisis response team that built this tool.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Aspen student discusses TikTok scare after national threats

Issue: The impact of targeted school shooting threats on students

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: December 22, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: On Dec. 16, the Aspen School District advised parents about a series of videos on the social networking platform TikTok that threatened nationwide school shootings the following day. The threats were not deemed credible, and no threats were specifically targeted at the schools in the Aspen School District, but the warning made some students and parents nervous.

EDUCATION

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Highlights from the forum for the six Aspen School District candidates

Issue: Local school board candidates discuss important education topics

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: October 20, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Voters this year will be filling three open seats on the Aspen School District board. Local media outlets hosted a forum Oct. 14 to ask the candidates questions about the district's response to COVID-19, student mental health, the culture of the district, equity, teacher compensation, and other issues.

NONPROFITS

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 'It's up to all of us': Local advocacy leaders on the path to environmental and climate justice

Issue: Local nonprofits address issues of climate and environmental justice

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: December 17, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: Our public lands are at the heart of what makes Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley a unique place, but many people face barriers to enjoying them. At the same time, climate change has arrived — although it's not impacting everyone equally. Local advocacy leaders, including Beatriz Soto and Omar Sarabia, are working to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to create more-equitable access to the outdoors at Wilderness Workshop's program Defiende Nuestra Tierra (Defend Our Land) and Conservation Colorado's Protégete programs, respectively.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Question regarding Wheeler money is on the ballot for Aspen voters in November election

Issue: Funding for arts and cultural programming in the Roaring Fork Valley

Reporter: Kirsten Dobroth and Eleanor Bennett

Date: October 14, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: Aspen voters this week received their ballots for November's election. One ballot question drawing particular attention is 2A, which asks voters to lift a cap on grants to local arts organizations raised from the Wheeler Opera House's real estate transfer tax. Morning Edition host Eleanor Bennett spoke to arts-and-culture reporter Kirsten Dobroth about what 2A means and about what passage would mean for future arts funding in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Shining Mountains Film Festival brings a celebration of Native American life and culture to Aspen

Issue: Arts and cultural programming in the Roaring Fork Valley

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 6:04 AM, 7:04 AM, 8:04 AM

Description: After taking a year off due to the pandemic, the Aspen Indigenous Foundation is bringing its fourth annual film festival back to the Wheeler Opera House. This weekend's Shining Mountains Film Festival features 10 films celebrating Native American life and culture.

SOCIAL ISSUES/ RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 'I have hope in my life again': Recovery program in Rifle helping those in need

Issue: Sharing diverse viewpoints from community members in substance abuse recovery

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: October 1, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: A woman named Janet was one of about 10 community members gathered at Colorado Mountain College in Rifle on Monday for a weekly recovery meeting with Discovery Cafe. But this cafe is not one with baristas and overpriced lattes. Rather, it's a nonclinical, peer-support system for people in recovery. Gabe Cohen, who founded Discovery Cafe last October, began meetings at CMC earlier this year.

Program: N/A

Story Title: English In Action: Immigrant Voices 2021

Issue: Sharing diverse viewpoints from community members who immigrated to the United States

Reporter: Aspen Public Radio Staff

Date: November 25, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM

Description: Supporting the belief that storytelling can foster cross-cultural understanding and connection within our diverse community, Aspen Public Radio is proud to present English In Action: Immigrant Voices 2021, an annual event produced by English in Action which provides the opportunity for local immigrant community members to share a part of their lives with a wider audience.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: False narratives create more challenges for American Indians struggling with substance abuse

Issue: Combating misperceptions about substance abuse in Native American populations

Reporter: Robyn Vincent

Date: December 1, 2021

Time: 6:45 - 6:50 AM, 8:45 - 8:50 AM, and 5:44 - 5:49 PM

Description: There's a false narrative that Native Americans are more genetically predisposed to becoming addicted to alcohol than European Americans. New research suggests that simply believing it can be harmful. "The more that the participants believed in this idea, the more likely they were to drink, to have more drinking days, and also greater likelihood that they reported more intense cravings," said Vivian Gonzalez, a psychology professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.