

Stations KAJX and KCJX (Aspen Public Radio)
Quarterly Listing of Community Issues and Programs
January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Roaring Fork School District discusses rollout of new sex-ed curriculum ahead of wellness committee meeting

Issue: school sex-ed curriculum

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: January 4, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The Roaring Fork School District's wellness committee is meeting on Jan. 16 to discuss its new "3R" health curriculum, which stands for rights, respect, and responsibility. The school board passed the K-12 comprehensive human sexuality curriculum last spring, despite pushback from some parents who said the content was inappropriate.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 650-acre Snowmass Creek Valley ranch to go to PitCo Open Space & Trails

Issue: land conservation, public access to public land

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: January 8, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Pitkin County has reached a deal on what will be its most expensive Open Space and Trails purchase to date. The county will pay \$34 million for 650 acres of land in the upper Snowmass Creek valley, surrounded on three sides by the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Irene Wittrock reflects on the enormous, but rewarding task of managing Carbondale's temporary migrant shelter

Issue: housing for migrants

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: January 10, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM.

Description: For the last two months, Rifle resident Irene Wittrock has been at the Third Street Center in Carbondale nearly every day, helping run a temporary shelter for about 60 migrants. Wittrock works for the local Latino advocacy nonprofit Voces Unidas, which has registered more than 170 newcomers since early November. Aspen Public Radio spoke with Wittrock earlier this week about her experiences on the ground at the shelter every day.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: A free legal clinic in a Colorado resort town is helping migrants get work permits

Issue: work permits for migrants

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: January 11, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Cities being overwhelmed by migrants say giving them work permits quickly would mean less homelessness and spending on public assistance. Some are hosting legal clinics to help, but it's complicated.

Program: Sunday Special

Story Title: Naturalist Nights: Yellowstone Wolves: A Quarter Century of Research and Observations with Taylor Rabe

Issue: reintroduction of wolves into Colorado, including possibly our area

Producer: James Barrs

Date: January 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 - 7:59 PM.

Description: Taylor Rabe works as a biological technician for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, where she spends her days tracking and observing radio-collared wolves and sharing invaluable insight and knowledge about these special animals with millions of park visitors. In this presentation, Taylor shares the stories, data collected, and controversies surrounding Yellowstone Wolves and their future going forward.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: 'How much they don't know': rolling out controversial '3R' health and sexuality curriculum in Roaring Fork schools

Issue: sex-ed curriculum in schools

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: January 17, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The Roaring Fork School District's wellness committee held a meeting with families Tuesday night to discuss the "3R" health curriculum. The three R's stand for "rights, respect and responsibility." While the school board has faced a lot of negative feedback over the curriculum from parents who find aspects of it inappropriate, parents at Tuesday's meeting spent most of their time listening.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: U.S. Forest Service withdraws approval for Uinta Basin Railway

Issue: environmental risks of oil transportation through area

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: January 18, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The U.S. Forest Service has withdrawn a special use authorization for the Uinta Basin Railway.

The railway would have used existing tracks that run alongside 100 miles of the Colorado River, including through Glenwood Canyon and the upper Colorado east of Dotsero, to transport waxy crude oil from Utah's Uinta Basin to oil refineries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Regional housing forum looks at data behind local housing crisis, discusses solutions

Issue: housing shortage and high cost of housing

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The West Mountain Regional Housing Coalition hosted a forum at the Arts Campus at Willits, or TACAW, last week. Officials intended for the forum to be a "point-in-time" look at housing in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys, as well as an overview of some of the programs the coalition has created to address the housing crisis.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Embattled Re-2 school board member says Voces Unidas pushes "radical agendas" in 2023 emails

Issue: school board member recall effort

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Garfield Re-2 school board member Tony May is facing more backlash in the midst of a petition to recall him from his seat. The recall petition accuses May of bullying and intimidating district staff, parents, and community members. It also says he used his position as president to push a political agenda in the form of the right-wing American Birthright Standard for the district social studies curriculum.

Program: Sunday Special

Story Title: Naturalist Nights: Born to be Wild: The Ecological Benefits of Wild & Scenic Rivers

Issue: possible wild and scenic designation for a local river

Producer: James Barrs

Date: January 26, 2024

Time: 7:00 - 7:59 PM.

Description: The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve selected rivers in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Learn how these free-flowing rivers provide essential habitat for aquatic species in a changing world.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Newly-arrived immigrants put a sharper focus on Roaring Fork Valley's housing struggle

Issue: housing shortage and high cost of housing in the valley

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Over 170 people, many from Venezuela, have arrived in the Roaring Fork Valley over the past three months, but most of them, like so many other people in the community, have not been able to find stable housing. The Valley Alliance to End Homelessness hosted a panel in Glenwood Springs on Jan. 29 to discuss the challenges local groups face in finding housing for recent immigrants.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Roaring Fork schools consider new drug prevention strategies, experts weigh in

Issue: school drug policies

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: When school district staff gathered at Basalt High School (BHS) on Jan. 18, they taught families about fentanyl contamination and how to recognize the warning signs of drug addiction. Interim Principal Megan Hartmann says they're hosting these sessions because kids across the country are using pretty serious substances, both intentionally or otherwise.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: The ‘Kind Neighbor Project’ aims to strengthen community with weekly dinners for seasonal workers

Issue: connecting seasonal workers to the community

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: February 9, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM.

Description: There’s a new community dinner on Thursdays at the Snowmass Chapel for “lifties” and others who spend the winter working on the mountains or in town. Organizers are calling the free weekly event “The Kind Neighbor Project” and the idea is to build community, especially with young seasonal workers who might not feel a sense of belonging in the valley yet.

Program: Sunday Special

Story Title: English in Action: Immigrant Voices 2024

Issue: immigrant experiences in our communities

Producer: James Barrs

Date: February 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 - 7:59 PM.

Description: Listen in to local nonprofit organization English In Action's signature storytelling experience, Immigrant Voices, recorded at TACAW. This event provides a unique opportunity for six immigrant community members, including English In Action students, to raise their voices and share a part of their lives with a live audience.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: An ‘epicurean journey’ through the state of Colorado encourages diners to think about the origins of their food

Issue: farm to table and local food movement

Reporter: Kaya Williams

Date: February 11, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM.

Description: In the Roaring Fork Valley and well beyond it, farm-to-table restaurants are telling stories about the meals they serve, in hopes that diners will leave with a greater appreciation for the people who grew that food and for the land that it came from. The concept isn't new — one of the earliest versions, Chez Panisse, opened more than 50 years ago in California — but it continues to earn awards and recognition, both for flavor and the ideas behind it. In this first story of a three-part series, reporter Kaya Williams visits one of those farm-to-table concepts in Aspen and decides to dig deeper into the purpose and impact of it all.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Farmers see flavor as a ‘gateway’ to help people recognize the value of local agriculture

Issue: farm to table and local food movement

Reporter: Kaya Williams

Date: February 12, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM..

Description: Farm-to-table restaurants operate on the premise that locally-sourced ingredients are better for the environment, better for the community, and better for flavor, too. Many chefs — and foodies — also believe that telling the stories behind those ingredients can help diners feel more connected to the people who grew their food. So, what’s in it for the farmers? In this second story of a three-part series, reporter Kaya Williams heads from the table to the farm to find out.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: ‘It’s mainstream now, so get out and get it’: Chefs, restaurants and restaurant awards shape the culture of farm-to-table dining

Issue: farm to table and local food movement

Reporter: Kaya Williams

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM.

Description: Throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, there are more than 40 cafes, restaurants and bars that tout their relationships with nearby farms and ranches. There’s even a map of them — the Roaring Fork and Farm map — listing “local food champions” from Aspen to Glenwood Springs. In this final story of a three-part series, reporter Kaya Williams speaks with several of the chefs about the past, present and future of the farm-to-table movement.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Democratic candidates stress importance of affordable housing, gun restrictions and mental health at Basalt forum

Issue: issues for upcoming local election

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: February 15, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Democratic parties from Pitkin, Garfield and Eagle counties hosted their first 2024 candidate forum at the Basalt Regional Library on Monday, Feb. 12. Many candidates agreed that they want to see more action on issues like housing affordability, gun restrictions and mental health. Organizers invited seven Democrats who will be seen across the three county ballots in the June primary. The candidates included those running for Colorado's Congressional District 3, State Senate District 5 and State House District 57 as well as University of Colorado Regent.

Program: Sunday Special

Story Title: Wild Perspectives: Just Say Hello: Building a More Inclusive Mountain Town

Issue: inclusivity in mountain towns

Producer: James Barrs

Date: February 21, 2024

Time: 7:00 - 7:59 PM.

Description: Hear from three thriving adaptive athletes in the Roaring Fork Valley who are using their art, visibility, and voice to remind us that when access for people with disabilities is equal, the possibilities become limitless.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Reproductive rights groups collect signatures in Aspen to get abortion protections on the November ballot

Issue: campaign to protect abortion rights

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: February 26, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Reproductive rights advocates in Colorado are racing to gather enough signatures to put Proposition 89 on the November ballot ahead of the April 25 deadline. The ballot measure would secure a person's right to have an abortion in the state constitution. It would also eliminate some barriers to state funding and insurance coverage. Several Denver-based groups were collecting signatures in Aspen on Tuesday, Feb. 13. People were eager to participate in the effort.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Tony May recall petition signatures deemed sufficient

Issue: school board member recall effort

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: February 29, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The effort to recall Garfield Re-2 school board member Tony May has been a success, according to the Garfield County Clerk. The Coalition for Responsible Education in Re-2 calling for his recall needed 2,038 signatures, and the clerk says the petition had 2,441 valid signatures.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Garfield County declares itself “non-sanctuary county”

Issue: whether county should be a “sanctuary county”

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Garfield County commissioners say they won’t be opening shelters or providing non-emergency services to “uninvited migrants and/or undocumented immigrants” that come to the area. That’s according to a resolution that declares Garfield a “non-sanctuary county” that the commissioners unanimously approved during Monday’s meeting in Rifle.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Changes and challenges to come in some Roaring Fork Valley school districts

Issue: school district policies and governance

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: March 8, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: School districts in the Roaring Fork Valley have made a lot of news this week. The Aspen and Roaring Fork schools are looking for new superintendents, Aspen is considering a new cellphone policy, and an activist group in Garfield RE-2 has collected enough signatures to force a recall election for Tony May’s seat. All Things Considered Host Halle Zander has been covering the stories and spoke with Aspen Public Radio News Director Kelsey Brunner to discuss the implications of the upcoming changes.

Program: Sunday Special

Story Title: Naturalist Nights: The Economics of Public Lands and Protected Areas

Issue: managing public lands

Producer: James Barrs

Date: March 8, 2024

Time: 7:00 - 7:59 PM.

Description: Public lands have historically operated under multiple-use mandates ranging from mining to grazing to recreation to conservation. The multiple uses of public lands have various economic ramifications and distributional effects for adjacent communities and for the public. In this presentation, Evan Hjerpe explains how economic activities on public lands affect regional economies, summarizes recent research conducted on the economic influence of protected areas, and illustrates economic transitions occurring in and near public lands.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Journalist Paul Andersen goes ‘in search of community’ from Aspen to Parachute

Issue: maintaining community while cost to be in the community continues to rise

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: March 13, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:59 AM, and 4:44 - 4:59 PM.

Description: A sense of belonging is crucial to the success of a city or town of any size, but for many longtime locals in Aspen, it seems to be slipping away. In the first part of his series “In search of community” for Aspen Journalism, longtime local journalist Paul Andersen looks at the tension between Aspen as a community versus a commodity.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Photographer Pete McBride captures the ‘imminent, pressing challenge’ of the Colorado River crisis in a new book of photos and essays

Issue: management of the Colorado River

Reporter: Kaya Williams

Date: March 18, 2024

Time: 7:50 - 7:59 AM, and 4:50 - 4:59 PM.

Description: For nearly 20 years, local photographer Pete McBride has documented environmental changes in the Colorado River watershed. On foot, in boats and in airplanes, McBride has followed the river from its source in the Rocky Mountains, to its end in a parched delta in Mexico. His latest book, out March 26, revisits that work and pairs it with essays and detailed captions about the growing demand and shrinking supply of the river, expanding on a collection McBride published in 2010.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: For local Latino advocates, Garfield County's "non-sanctuary county" resolution means more anti-immigrant rhetoric

Issue: whether county should be a "sanctuary county"

Reporter: Caroline Llanes

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Garfield County commissioners recently rejected a request of \$50,000 from the town of Carbondale, seeking support for its response to the new immigrants, including shelter and case assistance. Carbondale has seen roughly 150 new immigrants come to the town since November. The commissioners then went a step further at their Mar. 5, 2024 board meeting, by drafting and unanimously passing a resolution declaring Garfield a "non-sanctuary county."

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: The Aspen School District is considering new, restrictive smartphone policies, but addiction could persist

Issue: smart phone policies in schools

Reporter: Halle Zander

Date: March 20, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Smartphones can be a big distraction for students, and high school teachers often have to police cellphone use in their classrooms to keep kids focused. Aspen School District staff are joining schools across the country and considering new policies to remove this distraction, but even the toughest districtwide policies may not be enough to curb smartphone addiction.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Carbondale to close shelters for new immigrants, leaving some uncertain about the future

Issue: housing for migrants

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: March 28, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: The overnight shelters set up by the town of Carbondale and Recovery Resources for new immigrants, mostly from Venezuela, are closing at the end of this weekend, leaving some unsure of their next steps. The shelters at Town Hall and the United Methodist Church were started earlier this year with state funding to house about 40 people, after the temporary shelter space at the Third Street Center closed.

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Story Title: Students ‘dance their hearts out’ at the valley’s first Friendship Ball for kids and young adults with disabilities

Issue: exclusion of students with disabilities from school social events

Reporter: Eleanor Bennett

Date: March 21, 2024

Time: 7:45 - 7:50 AM, and 4:44 - 4:49 PM.

Description: Prom is a rite of passage for students, but many get left out for lots of different reasons, including those with physical and developmental disabilities, who often aren’t made to feel welcome. That’s why local schools in the Roaring Fork Valley teamed up with the national organization Best Buddies to make prom more accessible and fun for all.