

MONTHLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ASPEN PUBLIC RADIO NEWS

YEAR 2014

JANUARY 2014-MARCH 2014

GOVERNMENT

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 27

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Aspen City Council often hears from local groups on issues about zoning or preservation. Now, leaders will also focus on the concerns of a specific age group: Aspenites under forty. Councilors approved the Next Generation Commission at a meeting on Monday, January 27th. The main idea is to figure out what issues are most important to residents between eighteen and forty... and how to best tackle them.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 3

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Following complaints from customers and local officials about the high premiums for health care in resort mountain communities, state officials now say they will look into why health care prices are so high in Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield counties. The Colorado Division of Insurance announced Monday, February 3rd it's launching a study to get to the bottom of that big question... despite the announcement, they don't plan to lower premiums soon.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: March 5

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: It's a mid-term election year and the race is already underway. Tuesday night, Democrats and Republicans in Aspen and around the state held their caucuses. The local parties gathered to assess which candidates could win primary elections later this year.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 27

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Pitkin County is leading an effort to explore the development of new trails in the Upper Valley. At issue is whether new trails are needed for users like mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians. The effort is also meant to stop illegal trails from being built.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 17

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: The non-profit Rocky Mountain Institute is moving forward with plans to build an "Innovation Center" in downtown Basalt. The organization submitted a sketch plan to Town Council last month and if council supports it, construction could start in the fall. RMI specializes in sustainability and energy efficiency and the structure near the Roaring Fork River, will be highly efficient. The \$15 million building will be double the size of the group's current headquarters in Old Snowmass.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: March 26

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: The process of moving families out of Basalt's Pan and Fork mobile home park is nearly complete. Just one family remains in the flood-prone neighborhood which will eventually become a public park.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

SOCIAL ISSUES

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 15

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Some people waited over two hours before the Doctor's Garden opened in Carbondale, Wednesday, to make the first purchases of legal retail marijuana in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Reporter: Rob St. Mary

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 14

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: A string of suicides has sparked a community meeting on the subject. After three deaths in period of ten days, the Aspen Hope Center held a gathering yesterday on how to better tackle the troubling problem. Counselors, law enforcement, residents, and others met in Basalt.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: March 17

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Law enforcement is adjusting to legal marijuana in the Roaring Fork Valley and around Colorado... and that includes making sure people aren't on pot behind the wheel. The Colorado Department of Transportation recently announced a new campaign this month to crack down on high drivers... and for at least one local drivers education company, it also means taking more time to talk with students about pot.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

ENVIRONMENT

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 30

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: As the state prepares a statewide water plan, a local non profit wants to make sure our rivers and streams in the Valley are protected. Basalt-based Roaring Fork Conservancy is pinpointing environmental values, so, as the state searches for more water to fill growing needs, local waterways stay full.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 19

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: The Thompson Divide Coalition announced yesterday that Garfield County is supporting proposed legislation to protect the Thompson Divide. Hours later, the County denied that description... and said Commissioners said no such thing.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 27

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Insects and disease continue to assault forests across Colorado. The biggest growing threat is a beetle that's attacking high altitude trees. In the Roaring Fork Valley, the danger for private landowners comes from an insect that's been ravaging the state for much longer. It attacks lodge pole pines. That's according to a new report by the Colorado Forest Service. To learn more, Aspen Public Radio's Elise Thatcher spoke with Colorado Forest Service Ranger Kelly Rogers.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

EMERGENCY / BREAKING NEWS / CRIME

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 28

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Three people are dead, including the pilot, following a helicopter crash south of Silt, earlier today. The Garfield County Sheriff's department says it was notified just before 11:20am this morning of the crash. According to a press release from the department, the helicopter was doing routine inspections of power lines when it hooked a line crossing County Road 331 and crashed killing all onboard.

Reporter: Rob St. Mary

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 7

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Aspen authorities are asking the public to look over a video...that may aid in a fraud case. On January 20th police discovered a "skimmer" on an ATM at the Wells Fargo Bank in Aspen. Thieves use such a device to read data strips on bank cards. A small camera was also attached to the ATM to record people punching in their ID numbers. That camera could lead authorities to a suspect.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: March 27

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Three defendants in a local homicide case are now on the same court schedule... at least, for now. That's after a Pitkin County court hearing yesterday, Wednesday, March 26th, for Aspen resident Kathy Carpenter. The longtime local was the last of the three people arrested for the alleged murder of Aspen native Nancy Pfister. Carpenter appeared before Judge Gail Nichols yesterday, with court-appointed attorney was Greg Greer.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

EDUCATION

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 12

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: It's been called a Swiss cheese mountain—that's Aspen Mountain, and it's filled with holes from a history of mining. Some caverns are ten stories high. Telling stories about them--and other tales of years gone by-- is all in a day's work for History Coach Mike Monroney. He hosts ski tours for the Aspen Historical Society. Aspen Public Radio's Elise Thatcher clicked into her skis and joined the Aspen Mountain tour last week.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: If you've skied one of the four Aspen Skiing Company's mountains, you've probably seen the common safety warnings. Signs range from "slow" to "no straightlining." Now, Ski Co is part of a month-long effort by the National Ski Areas Association to drill that message home. When you get off the Elk Camp Gondola at Snowmass, there's a tent with tantalizing free cider, stickers and Cliff bars... that is if you can first pass a quiz about safety. Tackling that issue on the slopes is a multifaceted affair. Level one is, well, skiing more slowly.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: March 17

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Environmental education is expanding in schools across the Roaring Fork Valley. The Aspen Center for Environmental Studies grew its teaching programs over the last two years to include schools like Basalt Elementary and Carbondale's Crystal River Elementary school. As Aspen Public Radio's Marci Krivonen reports, studies show schools with environmental programs score higher on standardized tests.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

NONPROFITS

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 3

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: The Aspen Global Change Institute (AGCI) is a small non-profit organization based out of Basalt. Despite their size, AGCI packs a punch in the science community and has a goal to protect the natural well-being of the Roaring Fork Valley and the of the Earth as a whole.

John Katzenberger, co-founder and Director of AGCI, and James Arnott, Program Director of AGCI, share the organization's history and mission to "further the scientific understanding of Earth's systems and global environmental change through interdisciplinary scientific workshops, educational programs, and publications and videos about global change science".

Reporter: Cornelia Carpenter

Program: Morning News

Date: March 24

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Chris Tribble, founder and director of Carbondale's True Media Foundation, discusses the future of media and how his foundation is working to educate students in new technology while encouraging the art of good storytelling through video media. In April, students in the after-school program, *BeHeard!*, are going to film and broadcast a live panel discussing the effects of legal marijuana and its impact on teenagers. This production is in collaboration with Youth Zone. Dana Marlatt, board secretary and administrator of True Media, and Patricia Petit-Blair, a student filmmaker with *BeHeard!*, also share details about the live broadcast.

Reporter: Cornelia Carpenter

Program: Morning News

Date: March 31

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Three years ago, longtime Aspen local and well-known journalist, Brent Gardner-Smith, looked at the news landscape in the valley and determined it was lacking in investigative stories. With that in mind, he launched Aspen Journalism. The model of a non-profit news organization in the Roaring Fork Valley was something Gardner-Smith envisioned in grad school, and established after an internship with *Pro Publica*, one of the nation's largest independent news agencies. Board President Tim McFlynn also contributes in the first part of Aspen Public Radio's *Non-Profit in the Spotlight*.

Reporter: Cornelia Carpenter

ARTS AND CULTURE

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 6

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: As the Olympic Games get closer, the competitions are heating up. The Aspen-area athletes competing in ski racing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding and freeskiing will find out soon whether they've made Team USA. Some local athletes compete in the halfpipe like snowboarder Gretchen Bleiler and freeskiers Torin Yater-Wallace and Alex Ferreira. Skiing Halfpipe is a new discipline at the upcoming Olympics. Just like many competitions, this event can be dangerous and even fatal. A new documentary features 2010 Olympic hopeful Kevin Pearce who crashed during training and suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 18

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: For the last month two poets have been in the Roaring Fork Valley working with students in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt and Aspen. Organized by the Aspen Writer's Foundation, they held workshops on poetry encouraging, guiding and mentoring. And, what they were about in these sessions; was slam poetry.

Reporter: Roger Adams

Program: Morning News

Date: March 14

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: In Aspen this week, well-known brands like Helly Hansen and Columbia are being featured on the runway during Aspen International Fashion Week. Farther Downvalley, a different kind of fashion show is about to get underway. The so-called Green is the New Black show highlights recycled and sustainable clothing.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

ENERGY

Program: Morning News

Date: Jan. 9

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: The White River National Forest is working toward the final stages of updating its oil and gas plan. The document sets out rules for the energy industry, like where and when they can operate on the Forest. And, it could impact what happens in the Thompson Divide. The agency is updating the old plan partly because oil and gas operations have advanced in the area.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 13

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: There isn't enough natural gas in the Thompson Divide to make it worth drilling... that's the conclusion of a report by consultants hired by the Thompson Divide Coalition. The Carbondale group has been trying to buy oil and gas leases from drilling companies. An industry group, however, says there aren't enough facts to say if Thompson leases would be a bust, and it accuses the Coalition of being disingenuous about its intentions.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 24

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Oil and gas operators must have equipment to catch and cut down on methane leaks. That's part of new air quality requirements chosen yesterday by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

SCIENCE

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 6

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Scientists in Colorado are working to improve runoff forecasting in the West so water managers can meet growing needs in the future. A growing population coupled with climate change means every drop will count. Scientists are mapping terrain and snow with lasers to provide a more accurate picture of the snowpack. It's called the NASA JPL Airborne Snow Observatory. Aspen Public Radio's Marci Krivonen spoke with Jeff Deems, a research scientist with the University of Colorado, Boulder. He's involved with the project.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 17

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Scientists are still examining some of the mammoth bones found at a big dig in Snowmass. The discovery took place more than three years ago-- but the painstaking review of the ice age fossils means that it could take years to thoroughly examine everything that was found. The Ice Age Discovery Center recently unveiled a mammoth tusk that's been wrapped up in a protective jacket.

Reporter: Elise Thatcher

Program: Morning News

Date: Feb. 18

Time: 6:04, 7:04, 8:04, 8:33

Description: Officials at the White River National Forest are anticipating significant cuts to their noxious weed management program. Funding to fight invasive species on the Forest has declined in recent years and it's beginning to impact the land.

Reporter: Marci Krivonen

