

KNFO Quarterly Issues Report
1st Quarter of the Calendar Year 2024
Filed April. 1st, 2024

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.)Eagle County Commissioners will debate the West End Project soon. The project features a mix of 275 apartments in Edwards.
- 2.)River Radamus found his first World Cup podium over the weekend finishing third, .78 seconds behind Marcos Odermatt in Switzerland.
- 3.)Eagle County Sheriff's Deputies dispatched to a shots fired call Sunday where a resident was driving recklessly firing hi handgun from the car.
- 4.)Comedian Nick Swardson apologizes for an incident Sunday at the Vilar Performing Center.... The Comedian was escorted off the stage after his behavior became erratic.
- 5.)Eagle County Treasurers office announced that property owners will not receive their property tax statements until mid-February, two weeks later than normal.
- 6.)State Senate Bill 184 would require renal car customers to pay an extra \$3 per day to fund a train between Steamboat and Denver.
- 7.)Two new direct flights are coming to the Eagle Cuntly Regional Airport this summer. Dive Redi, director of aviation for the Eagle County Regional Apport says the flight will connect to Houston and Chicago.
- 8.)Avon officials say something must be done to make US Highway 6 safer for pedestrians.
- 9.)Vail Resorts announced today that fewer skiers have visited this year, visits down 16% so far.
- 10.) The United States Postal Service says it's working on the poor postal situation that has been plaguing the area for months.
- 11.) A Vail Real estate broker is accused of stalking.

Pitkin County:

- 1.) A 45-year-old Roaring Fork Valley man is telling the courts he shouldn't have to repay \$56 million dollars in loans because the Denver bank publicly disgraced him.
- 2.) The Stifel Aspen Winter International got underway today with Marco Odermatt besting the field by a full second.
- 3.) The Aspen Pitkin County Airport Advisory Board agreed to a plan to move the runway 80 feet to the west to secure federal funding.
- 4.) The Roaring Fork School District board of Education has purchased a three-bedroom townhome in River Valley Ranch for \$1.23 million dollars. The townhome will be offered to the acting superintendent.
- 5.) A domestic incident in the Marolt Ranch Apartment complex forces Aspen School District to put the district in secure mode.
- 6.) Nine lucky Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club Students got to meet Shaun White Sunday, ask him questions, and go snowboarding on nine gifted snowboards.
- 7.) Pitkin County Commissioners discussed the jail situation in town as everyone agrees the jail is unsafe.
- 8.) A popular hiking area in Aspen had to be closed Monday after a reported robbery on Smuggler Mountain Road. The victim was held at knifepoint by an unknown man.
- 9.) The Snowmass Center is now up for sale. The 58,000 square feet is on the market for \$38.92 million dollars and is home to Clark's Market, Taster's Pizza, Sundance Liquor and a pharmacy.
- 10.) 5 fire engines, 2 ladder trucks and 1 rescue truck were dispatched to 230 Carriage Way in Snowmass Village where an upper Willows condominium was burning.
- 11.) Commuters on Highway 82 today will need to detour as two companies, retrieve a vehicle that left the road down a cliff.

Garfield County:

- 1.) Jayson Boebert, former husband to Congresswoman Lauren Boebert was arrested for allegedly shoving his thumb into his son's mouth during an altercation.
- 2.) The Roaring Fork School District Board of Education named interim superintendent Anna Cole as the sole finalist for the top job to lead the district.
- 3.) The Roaring Fork Transit Authority board of directors announce that Kurt Ravenschlag will take over as CEO. Dan Blankenship announced recently he will be retiring from his post after years leading the transit authority.
- 4.) The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority has made some headway hiring drivers but will continue to have a hard time for the rest of January.
- 5.) Interstate 70 had to be closed today in Glenwood Canyon after a rockslide occurred between Grizzly Creek and Hanging Lake.
- 6.) State Senator Dylan Roberts and State Senator Perry Will have introduced legislation in Denver to prohibit semi-trucks from traveling in the left lane on I-70 unless passing a vehicle traveling below the speed limit.
- 7.) Glenwood Springs City Council last week signed off on a new affordable housing project for locals 55 years and older.
- 8.) A new spin on an old scam is making its way through Garfield and Summit Counties.
- 9.) The Colorado River Water Conservation District voted unanimously Monday to contribute \$20 million dollars toward purchasing Shoshone Power Plant and its water rights.
- 10.) Boot Tan fest is moved to Sunlight Mountain resort where women, nonbinary and female identifying individuals ski Sunlight Mountain naked. 450 women participated last year.
- 11.) Glenwood Springs City council is trying to figure out how to pay for South Bridge after the city was awarded nearly \$50 million dollars. The total cost is estimated to cost \$76 million dollars.
- 12.) The Colorado Special Olympics was held over the weekend with six skiing and snowboarding events.

It is a giant development in Edwards that will now head for debate amongst Eagle County Commissioners....

The Eagle County Planning Commission earlier this week gave their blessing to the West End Project.... The project features 275 studio, one and two bedroom apartment units and will bring approximately more than 350 cars to the area... Many in Edwards support the project but traffic engineers warn that traffic delays will result... Traffic engineers warn that wait times at the roundabout will approach 45 seconds.... Eagle County commissioners will get the final say on whether the West End Project in Edwards gets built in future meetings...

EAGLE

In his sixth year skiing on the World Cup, Edwards native River Radamus found himself on the podium in Palisades Tahoe..... Radamus finished third .78 seconds behind winner Marcos Odermatt of Switzerland..... Odermatt has won all seven GS events and guaranteed himself the overall award this season, his third straight..... The 26 year old Radamus placed fourth in the GS in the 2022 Olympics.... He also had a fourth place finish last year in Switzerland.... With the podium, Radamus is in 9th place in the World Cup GS standings...

Eagle County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a "shots fired" call Sunday around 9PM in Edwards.... Callers reported hearing several shots fired near Lake Creek Village.... A resident showed video surveillance of a vehicle driving recklessly with the sound of gunshots... At approximately 10:30 p.m., deputies observed Edwin Raul Castillo Torres shooting some rounds into the air from his vehicle. Eagle County Sheriff's Deputies took Mr. Torres into custody and charged him with DUI, drunk and reckless with a gun...

Comedian Nick Swardson is apologizing after an incident Sunday when he was led off stage at the Vilar Performing Arts Center.... The comedian known for his work in Reno911, Adam Sandler movies and Comedy Central was performing with awkward pauses, semi coherent statements and frequently bickered with the audience.... He was led off the stage after 20 minutes... In a statement Monday, the 47 year old blamed alcohol use and cannabis edibles for his erratic behavior.... On X he posted, "Just casually woke up on TMZ," "Travel tip: don't drink and take edibles in high altitude. (Expletive) brain diarrhea. I'll make it up to you Beaver Creek!"... Swardson will give it another go in two shows tonight at the Belly Up in Aspen....

The Eagle County Treasurers office Tuesday announced that property owners will not receive their property tax statements until mid-February, about two weeks later than normal.... The extra time is needed to make sure the changes to laws to accommodate property tax relief passed by the Colorado legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis are calculated into the county's tax roll properly.... The extra time will allow taxing authorities sufficient time to certify their mill levies....

The state senate has a bill moving through the legislature that would fund a train running between Denver and Steamboat Springs.... Senate Bill 184 would require rental car customers to pay an extra \$3 per day to help fund the project... It is estimated that the tax would raise \$50 billion dollars per year... State lawmakers are hoping to secure a portion of the \$66 billion dollar infrastructure investment and Jobs Act that offers funding for any project when the state can show it can cover 20% of the cost... House Speaker Julie McCluskie, D-Dillon is a co-sponsor of the bill..... The mountain rail project would modify the already-existing rail line from Denver to Winter Park and extend it to Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Craig.....

Two new direct flights are coming to the Eagle County Regional Airport this summer..... David Reid, director of aviation for the Eagle County Regional Airport told the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority that the EGE Air Alliance board has entered into a minimum revenue guarantee with United Airlines to offer two new-to-summer routes from Houston and Chicago..... A minimum revenue guarantee is a monetary subsidy offered by an airport to an airline to try out a new flight route according to the Vail Daily.... Reid says that minimum revenue guarantees are “standard practice used by airports and airlines across the country. The new flights will go online February 17th.....

Avon officials say something must be done to make U.S. Highway 6 safer for pedestrians.... Two men have died this year in hit and run accidents on the roadway, 43 year old Mario Vildozola Romero was struck killed in the early morning hours of January riding his bicycle home from work.... 76-year-old John "Jack" Ladesic of Pennsylvania was hit and killed near Stonberidge Drive in Avon... Avon town officials want the Colorado Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit for drivers between Post Boulevard and West Beaver Creek Boulevard to 35 miles per hour and put in protected pedestrian crosswalks all along that stretch of Highway 6 according to the Vail Daily.... Officials say these ideas have been around for a decade and simply must be realized...

How great is this! Vail Resorts announced Thursday that season to date total skier visits are down more than 16% meaning shorter lift lines... Vail resorts also reported yesterday that total lift ticket revenue is up 2.6% compared to last year.... Some may speculate that when single day walk up lift tickets went to their highest rate ever, \$299 over the holidays, that may have fueled the increase in lift ticket revenue... Vail Resorts CEO Kirsten Lynch blamed the weather for the decline.....

The United States Postal Service is working on post office issues in Vail.... There are several issues that need to be addressed at the post office including a broken window since late last year, a damaged cluster box in West Vail and a parking lot full of potholes... James Boxrud, a spokesperson for the Postal Service, tells the Vail Daily that repairs are in the works... What that means is anyone's guess but postal operations throughout the Colorado high country are plagued by underemployment and Vail's issues are shared by many post offices in other resort communities.....

A Vail real estate broker is accused of stalking.... 61 year old Tye Stockton was arrested Dec. 27 the class 5 felony or stalking causing emotional distress.... The Vail Daily reports that Stockton allegedly placed an air tag style tracking device in the vehicle of the alleged victim.... He is also facing misdemeanor charges of domestic violence... Stockton is a successful Eagle County broker accumulating more than \$144 million dollars in 2022...

A 45-year-old Roaring Fork Valley man is telling the courts he shouldn't have to repay \$56 million dollars in loans after a Denver bank, in his words, publicly disgraced him.... Dan Burrell is being sued by First Western bank asking to foreclose on a half dozen properties used as collateral for the loans according to the Denver Post.... Burrell is counter suing First Western accusing the bank of interfering with an auction of his \$38.5 million house, violating federal lending laws, and invading his privacy.... Burrell has tried to auction off an 8,400-square-foot house on Red Mountain in Aspen and a 4,200-acre ranch in nearby Carbondale for \$86.5 million.... He also owns properties in Nantucket and Vero Beach, FL.... First Western is also suing Burrell in Eagle County in an attempt to foreclose on two properties in Basalt's Willits neighborhood.....,

PITKIN

The Stifel (stee-full) Aspen Winternational got underway today underway today with the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Giant slalom race.... Marco Odermatt won his 11th straight GS race besting the field by a full second.... American and Eagle County resident River Radamus finished in 11th place about 2 seconds back.... The racing continues on Saturday with another GS race beginning at 10AM underneath the Shadow Mountain lift at Aspen Mountain...

The Aspen-Pitkin County Airport Advisory Board has signed off on the plan to move the runway 80 feet to the west to secure federal funding... The runway is deteriorating rapidly and needs to be repaired or replaced.... An advisory board that began studying the airport in 2019 recommended that the runway remain in its current location and move the taxiway instead.... The FAA told the board that to secure money from Washington, the runway had to be moved, otherwise, Pitkin County would have to fund all improvements itself... By moving the runway, aircraft with wingspans up to 118 feet would be allowed to use the airport.... Currently only aircraft with a wingspan less than 95 feet are allowed to land in Aspen..... With the added wingspan, critics fear larger commercial and private planes could be approved to land in Aspen sometime in the future.... Despite those fears, the loss of federal dollars to help maintain the airport were the motivating factor in moving the runway....

The Roaring Fork School District Board of Education has found a property and unanimously agreed to purchase a three-bedroom townhome in the Crystal Bluffs loop of River Valley Ranch for \$1.23 million dollars.... the townhome will be offered to the incoming superintendent and their successors.... Should a superintendent opt to purchase a home individually, the townhome will be offered to another RFSD executive team member.... The board has received nine applications for the open superintendent role... Finalists will be interviewed next monthly.... The board plans to have a new superintendent is expected assume their duties July 1st...

A domestic incident in the Marolt Ranch Apartment complex forced The Aspen School District campus into what is being called secure mode.... Aspen police responded to a report of a man with a gun standing outside one of the units.... When police arrived, the suspect was unarmed..... He was arrested on various charges related to trespassing, harassment and stalking... The secure state at Aspen Schools lasted about 6 minutes.... Secure mode means all students and staff must remain in the buildings while continuing with the normal school day as usual.....

Nine lucky Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club Students got to meet Shaun White Sunday and ask him questions about his favorite memories snowboarding, what advice he would give his young self, and then the 9–12-year old’s were given free snowboards.... White told the kids that constant practice will make difficult snowboarding moves easier... The nine lucky kids were told that they would set up their new snowboards on Monday and ride with the snowboarding legend....

Pitkin County Commissioners discussed the jail situation in town where something needs to be done.... The jail, constructed in 1984, was declared unsafe after an inmate attacked jail staff.... Former Sheriff Joe DiSalvo reached a conditional deal with Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario in 2022 to temporarily house Pitkin County inmates in the facility in Glenwood Springs for a time while a solution was being planned.... DiSalvo recommended building a new jail... Several locals were against the idea and supported DiSalvo's opponent Michael Buglione in the 2022 election.... Buglione ran on the promise of keeping the jail... He told the Aspen Daily News in the 2022 election "We don't need a new jail. We need to make the jail we have safer for everybody who enters and future-proof for any new technology that comes our way,".... Yesterday he told commissioners that he supported building a new jail that would cost between \$95 million just out of Aspen at the AABC, or building a \$102.5 million dollar facility on the existing site in town..... Sheriff Buglione now recommends the more expensive option, building the jail in town... He told commissioners that expanding the existing jail 7,000 square feet, at a cost of approximately \$41 million dollars, is his least favorite option... The five commissioners all had a different opinion and will need to come to some consensus before solving the bigger problem, funding....

A popular hiking area in Aspen had to be closed Monday after a reported robbery.... Smuggler Mountain Road was closed around 10AM Monday after a woman claimed she was held at knifepoint by a man who demanded her belongings.... The woman was not hurt and had her purse and phone stolen... Local law enforcement used drones to try to locate the man who was said to be in his 20's and had dark hair... There were no witnesses although two people claimed to see a man running down the trail that fit the description.... Running down the trail in the winter is not common due to limited traction..... The incident occurred just below the observation deck.... An investigation is underway....

It is a staple of the Snowmass Village community, and it is up for sale. The Snowmass Center, just off the roundabout near the parking ramp, is on the market for \$38.92 million dollars according to the Aspen Daily News... The center is home to Clarks Market, a pharmacy, Taster's Pizza, Sundance Liquor, Daly Diner, and several other small businesses... The nearly 39 million dollars is twice what the building sold for just eight years ago, but this time the property has approvals for 64 free market residential units, 10 employee housing units and the rights to redevelop 58,000 square feet... Gabe Molnar of Douglas Elliman Real Estate has the listing for the property, which went on the market Jan. 11.....

5 fire engines, 2 ladder trucks, and 1 rescue truck were dispatched to 230 Carriage Way in Snowmass Village Wednesday morning... 47 fire fighters arrived at the upper Willows condominium complex to find heavy smoke coming from the attic and eaves of building D.... The reporting party was able to get everyone evacuated from the area.... No one was injured in the fire; an investigation is underway... Six condominium owners lost their homes.... Home fires most commonly start in the kitchen.... Wood stoves and fireplaces are next... Fires started by smoking are the leading cause of deaths...

Commuters traveling down valley today along Colorado Highway 82 will need to detour at 9AM this morning as tow companies need to retrieve a vehicle that left the road yesterday afternoon... The retrieval is expected to be difficult and there is no estimated length of time the highway closure will last..... Again, that down valley closure on HWY 82 today will begin at 9AM....

A Boebert was arrested today... Jayson Boebert, allegedly shoved his thumb into one of his son's mouth during an altercation early Tuesday morning He was arrested today on suspicion of misdemeanor assault, criminal mischief, prohibited use of a firearm, obstructing a peace officer, trespassing and disorderly conduct in connection to both incidents, according to court records..... Boebert, and his former wife Congresswoman Lauren Boebert got into a fight last week at a Silt area restaurant... Jayson claimed Lauren punched him twice in the face... After an investigation, Silt police determined the domestic abuse claims against Lauren Boebert were unfounded.... Jayson was reportedly highly intoxicated that night and repeatedly shouted profanities at police....

GARFIELD County

The Roaring Fork School District Board of Education named interim superintendent Anna Cole as the sole finalist for the top job to lead the district.... Former superintendent Jesus Rodriguez stepped down in October after not coming to agreeable terms on housing and she took over the leadership role..... Cole has been with the district since 2017.....

The Roaring Fork Transit Authority board of directors has announced the next CEO.... Kurt Ravenschlag, the chief operating officer at RFTA since 2018 will take over for retiring Dan Blankenship..... Before joining RFTA, Ravenschlag served as the general manager of Transfort, the public transportation provider in Fort Collins.... Prior to that he served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.... RFTA will now have to wait 14 days before formally appointing Ravenschlag as required by statute...

The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority has made some headway hiring drivers, but January is still going to be a rough month.... RFTA CEO Dan Blankenship tells the Post Independent that the transit agency is getting closer to 100% driver staffing, but they are still unable to restart routes that have been suspended due to a driver shortage.... He says the agency needs to have an extra 20% of drivers to cover for unexpected absences before RFTA can restore service to pre pandemic levels... He says January will be another tough month, but February may see some added routes... RFTA has raised their compensation packages to attract more drivers including \$33 per hour to start, health insurance, paid time off, the option to work overtime, access to employee housing, and a full Aspen Skiing Company ski pass....

Interstate 70 had to be closed today in Glenwood Canyon after a rockslide occurred between Grizzly Creek and Hanging Lake.... The slide was reported around 10AM and the highway was closed... It reopened a little after 1130AM.... There were no injuries.

State Senator Dylan Roberts and State Senator Perry Will have introduced legislation in Denver to prohibit semi-trucks from traveling in the left lane on I-70 unless passing a vehicle traveling below the speed limit.... Senate Bill 100 would apply to all commercial vehicles that weigh more than 16,000 pounds driving between Morrison and Glenwood Springs... The bill would also require commercial vehicles to travel with chains everywhere on I-70 west of I-25 from September through the month of May... Critics of the bill say the chain restrictions would require trucks who rarely travel that route to carry chains just in case and would be unnecessarily costly... Chains can cost truckers a couple of hundred dollars.... They also say that requiring semi-trucks from Denver to Grand Junction to drive in the right lane would slow travel times and push drivers into the 11-hour duty limit... That could impact delivery costs... Proponents say that the law would reduce the amount of unnecessary traffic accidents on I-70.....

Glenwood Springs City Council last week signed off on a new affordable housing project for locals 55 years and older... BlueLine Development and Catholic Charities Housing are teaming up to build the 42 unit project.... The \$23 million dollar building will be four stories high built on a vacant half acre lot at the corner of Midland and 27th street.... the Benedict project will restrict tenants to incomes between 30% and 80% AMI for 40 years. Rents will range from approximately \$550 to \$1,500 per month.... City Council motioned to approve "The Benedict" architectural plan. The project passed 6-1, with Councilor Jonathan Godes voting against suggesting that residents of Aspen and Denver could possibly apply for the housing...

A new spin on an old scam is making its way through Garfield County.... The scammer poses as law enforcement telling recipients that they are under the threat of imminent arrest... Then the victim is contacted separately by someone posing as law enforcement and told there is an active warrant out for their arrest.... The victim is then instructed to meet the deputy with one or more Visa gift cards, often in the amounts of \$500.00 each or to send the cards to the deputy and this would pay off the warrant.... Officials say never pay a fine with gift cards, EVER.... You will never be called and told you have an active warrant for your arrest..... If you are concerned about a phone call allegedly from authorities.... Wait until normal business hours and call the main office of the business, agency or department that you suspect may be fraudulent....

The Colorado River Water Conservation District voted unanimously Monday to contribute \$20 million dollars toward purchasing Shoshone power Plant water rights from Xcel Energy.... According to the Colorado Sun, the power plant, located off Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon, has some of the oldest water rights directly on the Colorado River in Colorado. Under water law, this seniority means Shoshone gets its full water supply even in times of shortage.... Should the power plant ever shut down, the economic and environmental impacts would be catastrophic.... The Colorado River District has chipped in \$20 million dollars and plans to raise another \$10 million from other partners on the Western Slope.... The River District will ask the federal government for the remaining \$49 million to complete the \$98.5 million dollar purchase...

When Bluebird Backcountry near Kremmling closed for good, it left a popular female-focused ski festival that features skiing and snowboarding in the buff out in the cold.... The Boot Tan fest is a casual ladies only naked ski lap that grew to approximately 450 women last year in Kremmling... Organizers have found a new home, at Sunlight Mountain Resort in Glenwood Springs... The 3rd annual Boot Tan Fest invites women, nonbinary and female-identifying individuals to Sunlight Mountain on March 29-30 for a weekend of skiing and snowboarding, capped off with a naked lap.... Boot Tan Fest will start after the resort closes on March 29th... Participants will need to show a ticket to ride after 3PM before going for the naked lap..... Organizers expect more than 1,500 women to participate this year... Go to boottanfest.com for more information....

Glenwood Springs City Council met Thursday to discuss South Bridge and how to pay for it.... early in 2023, the city of Glenwood Springs was awarded \$49.6 million dollars by the Biden – Harris Administration to build South Bridge... The project would provide a critical second access between SH 82 and the western side of the Roaring Fork River in the south Glenwood Springs area in the event of an emergency evacuation..... Currently there is only one crossing... Early last year city officials estimated that the cost of the bridge would be around \$76 million, but City Engineer Ryan Gordon warned council that in 9 months, that cost may have risen significantly... The city has approximately \$20 million in reserves and with get \$4 million from the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority... The project's final design isn't even completed yet.... The only thing known as the city needs a second evacuation route for the residents living in South Glenwood Springs...

The Special Olympics Colorado annual Western winter games is in Glenwood Springs this weekend starting today.... Opening ceremonies are at 8:30AM before six skiing and snowboarding events including the Giant Slalom, Slalom and Sit Ski and Tether, Unified..... The Nordic events will take place at Argonaut Farms near Sopris Elementary... 19 teams will compete featuring more than 200 athletes, Unified Partners and coaches at these events, and more than 40 volunteers....