

WHO declares pandemic

NCMC hospital worker tests positive for COVID-19

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33 cases in Colorado as of Wednesday

IN THE PAST 2 DAYS ...

New coronavirus creating a lot of headlines as it spreads rapidly

Weld Health Department still hasn't received COVID-19 test kits

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NCAA cancels tournaments

Big Sky, college conferences cancel tournaments

NBA, NHL suspend seasons

UNC going online after Spring Break

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To find the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, go to greeleytribune.com

Several events canceled due to COVID-19 concerns

« NCAA cancels winter, spring championships; UNC wrestling will miss title chance

GREELEY
The NCAA canceled its winter and spring championship events in an attempt to halt the spread of COVID-19. NCAA President Mark Emmert and the Board of Governors announced the decision Thursday afternoon. The ruling includes the Division I men's and women's basketball tournaments. "This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the events do not contribute to (the) spread of the pandemic, and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during this academic year given ongoing decisions by other entities."

The NCAA is expected to "work through formal language" related to student-athlete eligibility, CollegeFootballTalk writer Bryan Fischer tweeted.

Twitter users have been calling on the organization to give players another year of eligibility because of the lost

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A6: PDC Energy to slow Front Range drilling after oil prices sink

B5: Brazilian man who met Trump has virus; no plans to test Trump

postseason contests and full seasons, in some cases.

An official ruling is supposed to come in the next few days or weeks, Fischer said.

Northern Colorado was poised to send five wrestlers to the NCAA Championship in Minneapolis next weekend.

Freshmen Masha Schwartz (133 pounds) and Andrew Alirez (149) qualified for the national tournament at the Big 12 Championship last week. Juniors Alan Clothier (184), Jacob Seely (197) and Dalton Robertson (285) were also set to compete for the Bears.

The ruling comes one day after wrestling tournament brackets were released. The organization also stated Wednesday it would host the events with limited personnel and family. Fans would not be allowed.

Other major sports organizations have suspended their seasons or canceled events. The NBA, NHL and MLB have all postponed their seasons indefinitely.

« UNC spring sports suspended after conference ruling

GREELEY
The University of Northern Colorado's spring sports season has been put on hold, according to a release sent Thursday night.

The Big Sky Conference ruled it would suspend all intercollegiate competition for its member schools indefinitely.

Changes were made to protect the health and safety of student-athletes in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Big Sky Presidents' Council expects to reassess the situation at a later time.

« CONTINUED A2: Events canceled

FIRESTONE HOME EXPLOSION

Regulators will seek record fine

Kerr McGee, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp., Would pay \$18.25M

By John Aguilar
The Denver Post

State energy regulators on Thursday said they will seek to fine a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp. \$18.25 million in connection to the deadly explosion at a home in Firestone nearly three years ago that a federal probe determined was caused by natural gas leaking from a severed underground pipe.

It would be the largest enforcement penalty ever sought by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The fine would be levied on Kerr McGee, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp. Kerr McGee was a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum, which was purchased last year by Occidental.

The COGCC will make a decision on the recommendation April 6.

The April 17, 2017, blast killed Mark Martinez and Joey Irwin and left Erin Martinez, Mark's wife and Irwin's sister, badly burned. Mark Martinez and Irwin were replacing a hot water heater in the Weld County home's basement at the time.

Erin Martinez issued a statement on the announcement Thursday morning.

"No amount of penalty or fine is ever going to take away our immense pain and suffering nor bring Mark and Joey back," she said. "We have to wake up every morning and go to bed every night living with this horrific nightmare. Our lives are forever changed. It is hard to comprehend that the only recourse is a penalty or a fine, how do you put a price on human life?"

"However, legally that is all that can be done."

The National Transportation Safety Board's investigation into the explosion, the results of which were released last fall,

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BLOOMIN' FUN

When to see the best blooms at Denver Botanic Gardens

Go + Do, B1

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« WEATHER

A little rain, then snow
High 40 Low 26

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