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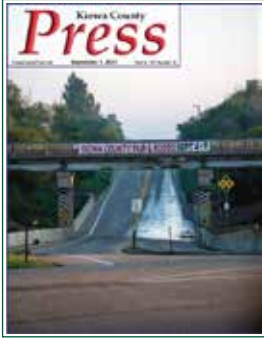
September 8, 2023

Volume 136, Number 36



PERIODICAL

About the Front Page



Where has the year gone already? The 2023 Kiowa County Fair and Rodeo starts next week.

Photo by Chris Sorensen

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Kiowa County Press

136 years and counting!

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

REVEREND STEVEN ZANDSTRA

MATTHEW 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he

gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Following the time of Peter's confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16), Jesus felt it was time to reveal the things He must do to conduct His work as "the Christ." And it would all climax with His suffering and death and resurrection in Jerusalem (cf. 21). However, the disciples pictured Jesus to be a conquering King, in the worldly realm. So, Peter boldly rebukes Jesus, "Far be it from You, Lord!," in other words

"this must not be!" (cf. 22). Even today human reason finds the idea of a crucified Christ offensive. They see Jesus as a Leader, Teacher, an Example, but as the Savior who sacrificed Himself on the cross to atone for men's sins "far be it from You, Lord!"

After scolding Peter, Jesus proceeds to tell His disciples that they too must walk the way of the cross. Jesus says, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself" (24). In other words, "let him deny" his old nature, his carnal desires, all the things which he would naturally love. That may be giving up sinful pleasures, wrongful gain, popularity, and those who would lead you away from God. What is more, self-denial may bring dissension in our own home. Jesus said, "I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother . . . And a person's enemies will be those of his own household" (cf. Mt.10:35-36). Self-denial calls for control of passion at all costs; "If your right eye

causes you to sin, [Jesus says] tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell" (cf. Mt. 5:20-30). Again, "If anyone would come after Me, let him . . . take up his cross." The cross here may be mockery and persecution for Christ's sake. Second Timothy 3:12 says, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." The cross we bear for Christ's sake may be suffering or affliction which the Lord permits to come into our lives to crucify our self-will. Taking up our cross is not a cross of our choosing, God Himself chooses the proper cross for you. And you can be sure it will always be the one that is best suited to your needs.

Followers of Christ must lose this worldly life if we are to have eternal life. Trying to save this temporal life by giving up Christ and His doctrine, a person loses their true life here and eternal life hereafter. Self-denial and taking up our cross and enduring all sorts of calamities is difficult. Yet, none of us can come to Christ, deny self, take up our cross, and follow Him unless the Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel, strengthens, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. So, rejoice, again I say rejoice! Jesus did "the things of God." He willingly suffered, died, and rose again, because He loves us even "while we [are] still sinners" (cf. Rm. 5:8). And I pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, every one of us will answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" . . . "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (cf. 15-16) and fill our lives with "the things of God." Amen.

Pages from the Past

15 Years Ago
September 5, 2008
The National FFA
organization selected from a pool of more than 600 candidates nation-wide, the Eads FFA Chapter as a 3 star winner in the National FFA Chapter award program.

About Town- Melissa Peterson & Doris Lessenden: The Youth Council of Eads High School was working out in the blazing sun & blasting winds pulling

weed & raking at the park near the railroad tracks.

25 Years Ago
September 4, 1998
USDA Update- Rod Johnson: With the increase acreage of spring crops, storage will be at a premium this fall. Between 3 crops we have about 20,000 above normal for harvest.
Highway 287 south of Eads was closed when a truck driver crashed through construction

barricades causing his cargo of industrial cleaner to leak.

40 Years Ago
September 9, 1983
Nursing Home News- LaVerne Fischer: Everyone enjoyed the peaches given by Rhua Sloan & Neta Dunlap. These were home grown tree ripened & delicious.

50 Years Ago
September 7, 1973
Mrs. Bob (Bert) Howerton of Eads landed a 32-inch 12 lb. Catfish from Nee No She.

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ABOUT TOWN

DORIS LESSENDEN



attending the state fair in Pueblo.

This was an exciting football weekend for the Eads Eagles and Denver Broncos. The Broncos won over the Rams in Denver. The Eads team is mostly all underclassmen who played valiantly over the third ranked team in the state, and lost by a few points. Shirley Nelson was interested in this game because she had grandsons on both teams: Case Nelson, Eads junior quarterback, and Clayton Nelson, a freshman at Karval High School, who plays on the Genoa-Hugo football team.

Leon Tanck, an Eads High School graduate, died in Vega, Texas, where he and his wife, Barbara, of 53 years and two sons lived. What I admired about Leon was his love for his home town of Eads, and how he always came back for the county fair days and class reunions. I observed that, in his later years of illness, several former schoolmates who were his friends drove to Texas to spend time with him. Isn't that beautiful? Friends are so precious.

I read in the "Pages

"THE LORD BLESSES THE HOME OF EVERY GOOD PERSON."
PROVERBS 3:33

The first day of the Colorado State Fair was exciting for many people, but most especially for about 40 members of families related to Art and June Blooding because their family was one of about 10 who were recognized for having a farm that was 100 years or older. The impressive wood and gold plaque and road sign is imprinted, "Art and June Blooding and Girls Farm." Sisters who flew here from California were Micki and Shaleta, and the other three sisters live in Eads: Mary, Areta, and Sylvia. What a joyful reunion time their extended family had! How times fly by since they were our west of Eads country neighbors. When Areta and Shaleta came the visit me, I told them "happy birthday, this month." I was so amazed when they reminded me that they were 75! I exclaimed, "Oh, I remember the day of your birth! I was in Mary Peck's home working on 4-H projects."

Neil and Connie Richardson's children, Wesley and Jessica of Alamosa, and Trice Watts of Tribune, Kansas, spent some cousin time while

from the Past" in the Kiowa County Press that "40 years ago, August 26, 1983, Bob Miller won top honors at the Eads Annual Tri-State Golf Tournament." When I reminded him he said, "You know I am 97 years old now." That same box stated that, "75 years ago in August 1948, the Eads School Band attended the State Fair." Our Band Director, Philomene Liesen, and her husband, Tommy, arranged so much enjoyment for young people. That was a very exciting for a young girl like me because, a year later, I was lying paralyzed from the neck down except for my lungs in a Pueblo hospital. That experience of marching in the long state fair parade and seeing the fair gave me good memories as I survived polio in the months and years the come.

I saw Bill Trosper help Linda Trosper, Hospital Auxiliary lady, carry and lift items high where she made her monthly display in the Weisbrod Extended Care Unit. I was so pleased when she hung up a "Friendship Quilt" made by my mother, Ida. On each side of it are two little boy western shirts that have satin embroidered designs on the yokes and cuffs of shirts that Bill's mother lovingly made.

Thank you to local

pastors who have served many years to bring the Word of God to the local nursing home and assisted living home Sunday afternoons plus their own churches. Their messages and visits are so meaningful to the residents.

Community friends are glad that Lane Gooden is recuperating after several weeks from a fall.

Gail Voss has been busy distributing community calendars and devotion books.

Prairie Pines Assisted Living Center had a great turnout of people who came to enjoy their luau meal Saturday night. It was by reservation, and so many came that they had to wait until some diners had finished eating in that big dining room. At this party, guests enjoyed swimming, competing in Corn Hole, hula hoops, and great music. Alice Glover won the prize for the "Best Hawaiian Dress" when she wore her lovely long navy and red dress that she acquired when she visited her son, Richard and Koy Glover and family, during her visit while her son was stationed in Hawaii. Friends of the Glovers feel really fortunate who were able to enjoy Rich's great cooking and grilling that he learned when they lived in Ha-

wai. The Glovers have moved the Ohio.

Floyd and Wynona Barnes called from Nebraska asking for more details about the county fair in Eads this weekend. As a quick reminder, Wednesday evening is a big goat show under the pavilion. Thursday and Friday mornings will be the popular breakfast north of the bank. There is a beef barbeque Friday at noon, and a pork barbeque Saturday. Friday and Saturday there will CPRA rodeos, with several other types of rodeos and roping for four evenings. The parade is at 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

We have noticed many fine improvements around Weisbrod Hospital, extended care Unit and Eads Clinic. Many thanks go to the leadership team, Board, and new CEO.

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Pastor's Pearls

Pastor Rich Z.

WHAT PATH ARE YOU ON?

"There is a way that seems right to man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Jesus said, "I am the way...no one comes to the Father except by me."

Proverbs 14:12 and John 14:6

KIOWA COUNTY WEATHER

Aug 29 2023 - Sept 04 2023
8:00 a.m. reading for the previous 24 hours

Date	High	Low	Precip	Snow
29	88	58	0.00	0.00
30	87	56	0.00	0.00
31	90	58	0.00	0.00
01	94	57	0.00	0.00
02	100	57	0.00	0.00
03	99	59	0.00	0.00
04	96	61	0.00	0.00

Last Year High/Low: 93/55
Sept Precip. ('22/'23)..... 0.39/0.00
Year-to-Date ('22/'23) .. 14.28/18.91

Snow ('22/'23)
Month:.....0.00/0.00
Year:20.86/17.2

4 DAY FORECAST for KIOWA COUNTY

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
Precipitation 0%-0%	Precipitation 0%-20%	Precipitation 20%-0%	Precipitation 0%-0%
91	90	85	77
56	54	51	49

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USDA UPDATE

EADS USDA SERVICE CENTER STAFF

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **NAP APPLICATION FOR COVERAGE DEADLINE** - Alfalfa and Grass - December 1, 2023
- **2023 LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM or LFP** - Kiowa County eligible - deadline to apply January 30, 2024.

Disclaimer: Information in this UPDATE is pertinent to Kiowa County FSA only. Producers reading this and that do not have FSA interest in Kiowa County are advised to contact their local FSA Office.

THE USDA SERVICE CENTER HAS A DROP BOX AVAILABLE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

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KIOWA COUNTY FAIR

The USDA Service Center will be closed Monday, September 4, for Labor Day. The office will be open normal business hours during the fair, Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ANNUAL FORAGE AND CROP INSURANCE LINKAGE REQUIREMENT

General Rule of Linkage for ERP Phase 1 and 2

As producers are reviewing insurance needs with their respective agent; be aware there are linkage requirements for accepting the ERP

phase 1 and 2 payments.

As a condition of payment eligibility and accepting the ERP payment, producers must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage, as applicable, for the identified crop or trees. By signing the application, producers are agreeing to purchase crop insurance or NAP as applicable for the crop, at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops; or at the basic 50/55 (catastrophic) coverage level or higher for NAP crops for the next 2 available crop years.

How does this relate to the Risk Management Agency's Annual Forage and Rainfall Index Program?

If a producer has received benefits on a Pasture Rangeland and Forage, Annual Forage, or WFRP/Micro Farm policy, for linkage, the producer is required to obtain coverage for the number of acres for which an ERP payment was received, purchase PRF or individual crop insurance policy at 60/100 coverage level or higher or NAP at the basic 50/55 (catastrophic) level of coverage or higher if crop insurance is not available in the county.

Example: To meet linkage a producer could purchase PRF, a forage production crop insurance policy or NAP as applicable for the crop.

If a producer has received benefits on annual forage, for linkage, the producer is required to purchase annual forage or individual crop insurance policy at 60/100 coverage level or higher, or NAP at the basic 50/55 (catastrophic) level of coverage or higher if crop insurance is not available on the crop in the county.

Example: Producer has an Annual Forage policy and receives an ERP 2022 payment due to a loss on wheat for grain and a loss on sorghum forage hay. To meet linkage producer may purchase annual forage or a wheat policy and NAP for sorghum forage.

NRCS IN COLORADO EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CSP FUNDING OPPORTUNITY


CSP Application Deadline Extended to September 8, 2023

Colorado ag producers who have existing conservation measures and

are looking to add and improve upon them are encouraged to apply for enrollment into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Through CSP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers ag landowners a variety of conservation practices and enhancements, and the opportunity to implement activities through new technologies and management techniques.

The NRCS is implementing this round of CSP funding through its ACT NOW Initiative. Colorado's ACT NOW Initiatives allows producers who apply for applicable NRCS funding and have fully established eligibility records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) the potential to know if their project will be funded before leaving the USDA service center. Landowners interested in improving grazing conditions, increasing crop resiliency, developing wildlife habitat, and are within the project area (see list below) are encouraged to apply.

Landowner participation is limited to the following areas for this round of CSP funding: Meeker (Rio Blanco County), Craig (Moffatt County), Montrose (Montrose County), Gunnison (Gunnison County), Norwood (San Miguel County), Durango/Ignacio (La Plata County), Pagosa Springs (Archuleta County), Center/Alamosa/San Luis (Saguache, Costilla, Alamosa, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Conejos Counties) Trinidad (Las Animas County), Walsenburg (Huerfano County), Springfield (Baca County), Las Animas (Bent County), Lamar (Prowers County), Pueblo (Pueblo County), Rocky Ford (Otero/Crowley County), Cheyenne



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<p>Kiowa County FSA Committee Sean Harkness - LAA 1 - East area - Committee Vice-Chairperson Destiny Haase - LAA 2 - Central area - Committee Reg Member Michael Zimmerman - LAA3 - West area - Committee Chairperson</p> <p>USDA Service Center Contact Information Telephone 719-438-5851 FSA (Ext 2), NRCS (Ext 3). FSA Fax number: 844-332-7501 E-mail individuals using firstname.lastname@usda.gov FSA: dawna.weirich, charla.feris, brandi.nevius, teri.ellis NRCS: steven.schmid2, scott.smith3, marlin.miller, tmcowell@pheasantsforever.org</p>	<p>Kiowa County Farm Loan Contact Information</p> <p>CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT</p> <p>Telephone 719-336-3437 (ext 2) Mary Rhoades mary.rhoades@usda.gov Nicole Lubbers nicole.lubbers@usda.gov</p> <p>Service Center Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. By appointment only on Friday.</p> <p>FSA Information For information on programs visit www.Farmers.gov.</p>
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Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo

September 3 - September 9, 2023

September 9
Parade 10:00 Maine St. Eads, CO
Parade Theme "A New Day...A Better Way"

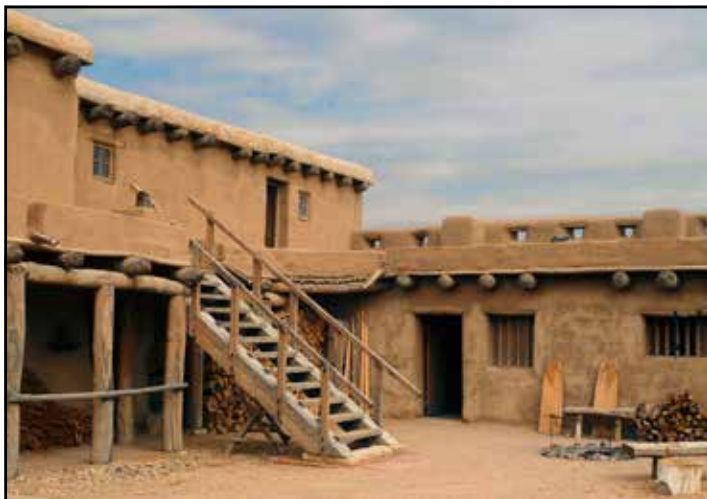


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continued on A5

Program looks at the 'second life' of Bent's Old Fort



The public is invited to visit Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site September 8-9 for a program on the Second Life of Bent's Old Fort.

Bent's Old Fort had a long history after its days as a trading post were over. From 1860 to 1875 the site was used as a home station by

a series of stagecoach lines. It also served as a US Post Office for much of that time. We will attempt to bring that era to life for a weekend, with over 80 living history volunteers bringing that period demonstrating to visitors how they lived at that time.

This program will be

set in a year of great change in our nation's history, 1865. The Civil War was finally at an end; however, this area was still reeling from the shockwaves of the Sand Creek Massacre from the previous year. The regular army was coming west to replace volunteer troops, and Congress had sent a committee to investigate the causes of the Colorado War of 1864-65 that was fought between the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Lakota and the United States Army due to continued encroachment on Tribal lands.

Come interact with Native Americans, Stage Company Employees and Passengers, Infan-

try, Cavalry, Freighters, Emigrants, Buffalo Hunters, and the Land Office.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

•**11:00 a.m. - Driving the Stage - An interactive children's program.** Presented by Eric Smallwood, Kansas State Historical Society (In front of the fort)

•**1:00 p.m. - Rebels in Blue: Galvanized Yankees on the Santa Fe Trail.** Presented by Ranger Bill Holcombe, Bent's Old Fort NHS (In Wagon Shed)

•**2:30 p.m. - Bent's Old Fort: From Buffalo Robes to Stagecoaches.** Presented by Ranger Jake Koch, Bent's Old Fort NHS (In Wagon Shed)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

•**9:00 a.m. - Rebels in**

Blue: Galvanized Yankees on the Santa Fe Trail. Presented by Ranger Bill Holcombe, Bent's Old Fort NHS (In Wagon Shed)

•**10:00 a.m. - Bent's Old Fort: From Buffalo Robes to Stagecoaches.** Presented by Ranger Jake Koch, Bent's Old Fort NHS (In Wagon Shed)

•**11:00 a.m. - The Military on the Southern Plains in 1865.** Presented by Dr. Bob Wettemann, US Air Force Academy (In Wagon Shed)

•**1:30pm - Investigating a Tragedy: A Living History Presentation.** Facilitated by Ranger Jake Koch, Bent's Old Fort Staff and Volunteers (In Fort Plaza)

•**3:00p.m. - The Sand Creek Massacre and Its Aftermath.** Presented by Ranger Teri Jobe, Sand Creek Massacre NHS (In Wagon Shed)

The park's standard fee for people aged 16 and up will apply. Kids 15 and under are free. All National Park Passes are honored. Fees will be collected at the fort entrance.

Visitors should be prepared for the weather. Temperatures may still be high at the time of this event. Please be aware of your limits and use your best judgement. Water, sunscreen, and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. There is a one quarter mile walk from the parking lot to the fort.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site is located on Colorado Highway 194, eight miles east of La Junta or 15 miles west of Las Animas.

Management of John Martin Reservoir State Wildlife Area reverts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Aug. 31

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is ending its management of the John Martin Reservoir State Wildlife Area on Aug. 31 after 55 years after being unable to reach a new agreement with the

property's owner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

CPW will continue to manage John Martin Reservoir State Park, which is operated under

a separate agreement with the Corps.

The 19,471-acre wildlife area surrounds the reservoir west of the state park and is a destination for hunting, fish-

ing, boating, camping and wildlife viewing.

Beginning Sept. 1, any questions about the wildlife area should be directed to the Army Corps.

USDA Update Continued from A4

Wells (Cheyenne County), Eads (Kiowa County), Burlington/Flagler (Kit Carson County), Hugo (Lincoln County), Longmont (Boulder County), Denver Metro (Jefferson and Denver Counties), Brighton (Adams County), Byers (Arapahoe County), Akron (Washington County), Yuma/

Wray (Yuma County), Julesburg (Sedgwick County) Holyoke (Phillips County), Ft. Collins (Larimer County), Greeley (Weld County) Grand Junction, (Mesa Count), and Delta (Delta County).

CSP funding is available to both large-and small-scale producers and is implemented through five-year con-

tacts. It offers eligible land a baseline payment in addition to the incentive payment. All new activities establish through CSP must be completed on land that the eligible producer has operated for at least five years.

Interested participants are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center that ser-

vices their County. To learn more about CSP and other NRCS programs, benefits, and opportunities, visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.

CSP applications are due to the local NRCS offices by September 8, 2023.

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VALUE OF A FREE PRESS

By LINLY STUM

Mid-morning January 1, 2018, on my way home from the store in Sheridan Lake, I stopped and counted the airliner vapor trails crisscrossing the sky above. There were 24. Seventeen years ago, when I spent some time in Russia with an agronomy professor friend, we were the only airliner arriving. When we left, we were the only plane leaving, and Moscow is a very large city of over 12 million. This is why this volume of airline traffic was so noticed by me.

Air traffic is considered a very good barometer of commercial activity in a country. It is true that this was a very low period in Russian economy, and we can be sure that it is much better today. But still, this disparity of commercial activity that is us, the USA, who also comprise only %5 of world population, emphasizes that we voters need to do a better job monitoring what those men and women

we elect actually do to protect what we have. An economy this size of ours means there are quite a number of groups and individuals that have achieved great wealth and power. This happens with a free economy, but, at the same time some of those with great power are not satisfied with the status quo and simply want more and more and more. This is well-stated by the following very old quote attributed to Lord Acton and expressed in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1877: "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Great wealth certainly carries with it great influence. Likewise, the ability to influence people through the spoken word can have tremendous impact. Even on a small scale—from the preacher at church to the local politician—the aptitude to stand in front of a group of people and influence those who listen imbues a sense of

power in the speaker that can be intoxicating and requires great wisdom to contain. Examples of such wise men are found throughout history. Abraham Lincoln as a prime example. Unfortunately, examples of those overcome by the intoxication of influence can be found, as well. Jim Jones come to mind. David Koresh, Lenin, Stalin and, most notably Hitler.

However, just as wisdom is required of those who are powerful speakers, equally great wisdom is required of those who listen. Wisdom, knowledge, persistence and the conscious act of being well informed are the tools required in discerning what is true from what is not, what appeals to our better selves from what appeals to the baser instincts.

As complacent and uninterested people can go the path of the Romans.

For this, we are very dependent on a free press. At the same time,

those with the most to fear from a free press will complain the most about it. 1930's German History shows what can happen if those in power can dictate what the press can print. It matters not what we might think about the press; the press is what stands between us and a dictator.

For you history buffs, I have an English translation of Hitler's 1936 speech to the German people where he disclosed his horrible plans for eliminating non-Aryan people and for world domination by Germany, ultimately influencing millions of people through the power of his words alone. Other countries paid very little attention. If they would have paid attention and reacted then, could WWII not have happened?

In another more recent—and, perhaps, relevant—example, if a reporter had not disclosed that our main

trade negotiator had made the nasty comment that "farmers were just a bunch of whiners", those who read the article and shared it with others would not have had about 30 Republican legislators plus some Democrats sign a letter of protest—a letter that, notable, is missing Senator Gardner's signature. This is troubling because he is from a major agriculture area—Yuma, Colorado. The absence of that signature says a great deal as well.

It is incumbent upon us, the voters, the listeners, the ones who populate the crowds to monitor what elected officials are doing—or not—on our behalf. A free press—and an informed public—is vital if we are going to do our part.

I wrote this in 2018, but after what happened to a small Kansas newspaper, I believe it needs to repeat and reprinted.

Former Rocky Ford officer arrested

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is sending out this release on behalf of the Rocky Ford Police Department and the Otero County Sheriff's Office.

On August 22, 2023, law enforcement officials

from the Rocky Ford Police Department, the Otero County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation arrested George Ibarra, 41, on charges related to incidents that allegedly occurred while he was employed as a Rocky

Ford Police officer. The arrest charges are tampering with evidence, official misconduct, and theft.

Mr. Ibarra was booked into the Bent County Sheriff's Office. His booking photo is unavailable at this time.

Ibarra is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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A TRIBUTE TO JUDY – PART 2

ERNEST HAMMER

*Judith Darlene Hammer
May 31, 1938 –
August 8, 2023*

THE WILDEST WEDDING EVER

Judy and I got married August 25, just before I started my sophomore year. This was the wildest wedding ever, bar none. We were married in the First Methodist Church in Colorado Springs.

I had Hammer cousins from the mountains and Baker cousins from the

prairie. Judy had cousins from Kansas.

My cousins had plans to separate us as we came in the church door. Judy's cousins protected us there. My friend, Jerry Christian, who was my best man, and his girlfriend, Ruth, took us toward Penrose with three cars following us. When we got to Penrose, Dave Shoemaker, who was married to my cousin, Helen, from the mountains, had an appendicitis attack, so that took him out of the race. We headed to Pueblo then back to Judy's parents' house in Security.

When we got to Judy's parents' home, Judy went to change clothes and get her suitcase. On the outside, a brawl ensued between Judy's cousins and mine. Dad was standing there with the garden hose in his hand. He couldn't stand it, so he handed the hose to Judy's Mom, and she didn't know what to do with it.

While they were all brawling, Judy came out with her suitcase and Jerry drove down two blocks and over one where our car was parked in a friend's driveway.

We drove to Denver and had a nice meal. We had planned on being in Cheyenne for our honeymoon night, but we settled for Denver.

That fall we bought an eight foot by 33-foot used trailer house from my Uncle Ralph and Aunt Nina. We parked it in a trailer court close to the campus.

We got acquainted with an older couple who had two little girls. The three-year old's name was Judy. She just couldn't understand how Judy could have the same name as she did. Bill & Elaine Siminoe became lifelong friends.

I took my horse to college to practice roping. I also did odd jobs. Judy got a receptionist job for an insurance agent in uptown Fort Collins.

One time my friend, Daryl Hutch, and I were practicing roping and getting tired. We decided to visit Judy at her

office. Our pickups were hooked up to our horse trailers, so we decided to ride Daryl's bicycle. Here comes two muddy cowboys riding a bicycle to visit Judy at her fancy and clean office. She was so embarrassed.

The next year, 1958, Tony was born by cesarean October 20 in Memorial hospital in Colorado Springs. Andy was born, also by cesarean and the same hospital, May 17, 1963. October 15, 1964, Kim was born also cesarean and the same hospital.

Part 1 was published August 28, 2023, and can be found here. <https://kiowacountypress.net/content/tribute-judy-part-1>

Next week Part 3

THOUGHTS, THINGS AND TRIVIA BY JACK

JACK JOHNSON

Kit Carson Day was this past weekend with a decent attendance, the barbeque was scrumptious, the rodeo was entertaining, especially the little cowpokes and the melodrama was a big hit.

The last festival Kiowa County Fair is this week, so summer is nearing its run for this year in the manner that I remember from my growing up period.

The sweltering heat would occur towards the end of August and last through the middle of September. The heat got me reminiscing about the celebrations that I was most familiar with; Lincoln County Fair, Cheyenne County

Fair, Kiowa County Fair, Wild Horse Oldtimers Day and Kit Carson Day required short sleeves, shade and cold drinks.

The county fairs were usually three-day gatherings with a parade, 4-H exhibits, rodeo and horse racing, farm and garden produce competition, livestock competition and a midway with carnival games, amusement rides and offbeat entertainment. The fairs ended with a dance on the last day.

The most memorable were the one-day town festivals with displays of handicrafts, a rodeo, maybe a baseball game, a parade, a pit barbeque and competi-

tive contests for both the young and old. The day ended with rowdy dance music furnished by local musicians.


The most exciting was my participation in the barbeque; help dig the pit by hand, haul in the firewood, prepare the pan, peel potatoes, clean onions, listen to uncles and pit boss argue about seasoning and liquids (wine or cider vinegar), place meat, potatoes, onions, seasoning and liquids in pan, cover and lower in over the hot coals, cover the hole a sheet of iron and a foot of dirt. Build a fire for the coffee pot to keep awake while watching for steam escaping from the pit. Sunday after church we cleaned the pan and backfilled the hole.

Good readers, no column next week, I will be at a rendezvous in the foothills south of Denver.

Family Stories Weaved into Tales by the granddaughter of Kiowa County Ranchers, Jesse and Flora James

"Faith Lights a Flame" and "Hope Travels Through"

Author, Loni Kemper Moore



Book Signing Event

September 9, 11am - 4pm at Kiowa County Fair



Kiowa County Fair

JACKPOT

THURSDAY SEPT. 7th

KIOWA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, EADS COLORADO

ENTER AT 6PM ROPE AT 7PM

#13 SLIDE

Money Paid

Enter 6x each way. \$40 a man.
1 1/2 seconds up and 1 1/2 down.
No more than 6 seconds up and
no more than 6 sec off

#10 STRAIGHT

Money Paid

Enter 6x each way.
\$40 a man.

PRODUCED BY JW ENTERPRISES INC. 719.469.1133

Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo Schedule

SUN SEPT 3

- 10 am Kiowa County Riding Club Open Gymkhana - Contact Cody Fox 303-907-1002

WED SEPT 6

- 10 am 4-H & FFA Livestock in Place
- 1 pm 4-H & FFA Poultry & Rabbit Show
- 5-7 pm Exhibit Hall Opens for Open Class Entries
- 6 pm 4-H & FFA Goat Show
- 6 Pm SECCC Barrel Race - Contact Tori Hawks 719-688-9024
- 7 pm Exhibit Hall Closes

THU SEPT 7

- 6 am Chuckwagon Breakfast on Maine Street
- 7-9 am Exhibit Hall Opens to Receive Open Class Entries
- 9 am 4-H and FFA Swine Show
- 10 am Exhibit Hall Closes - Judging Begins
- 11 am-5 pm Kid's Inflatables Opens
- 12 pm 4-H FFA Beef Show
- 1 pm Dog Trials - Contact Gary Wollert 719-688-1107
- 2 pm 4-H and FFA Sheep Show
- 3 pm 4-H and FFA Round Robin Showmanship
- 6 pm Team Roping - Contact JW McCui-

Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo Schedule

Thu Sept 7 continued

Phone: 719-469-1133

- 6 pm Exhibit Hall Closes

FRI SEPT 8

- 6 am Chuckwagon Breakfast on Maine Street
- 8 am Exhibit Hall Opens 9:30 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale
- 11 am-5 pm Kid's Inflatables Opens
- 12 pm Beef BBQ
- 1 pm CPRA Rodeo and Horse Races - Contact Cody Fox 303-907-1002
- 3 pm 4-H & FFA Animals released to be taken home
- 6 pm Mountain States Ranch Rodeo Calcutta CASH ONLY
- 7 pm Ranch Rodeo - Contact JW McCuiston 719-469-1133

SAT SEPT 9

- 10 am Parade on Maine Street
- 11 am Exhibit Hall Opens
- 11 am-5 pm Kid's Inflatables Opens
- 12 pm Pork BBQ
- 1 pm CPRA Rodeo and Horse Races - Contact Cody Fox 303-907-1002
- 2 pm Premium List Posted in Community Building
- 4 pm All Exhibits Released After Checkout by Secretary
- 6 pm Ranch Bronc Riding Calcutta CASH ONLY
- 7 pm Ranch Bronc Riding - Contact Salt River Rodeo 520-975-6788

KIOWA COUNTY FAIR RANCH RODEO



KIOWA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | EADS, CO

FRIDAY, SEPT 8TH

6 O'CLOCK CHECK-IN | RODEO EVENTS START AT 7PM

FIVE MAN TEAMS (LIMIT 12 TEAMS) | ENTRY FEE \$500/TEAM (CASH ONLY)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT (719) 469-1133

Plains Printing - Eads CO

SOUTHEAST CO SCHOOL SPORT SCORES & CALENDARS

Southeast Colorado high school volleyball scores – August 29-September 2, 2023

CLASS 1A

Cotopaxi vs Manzanola

Wednesday, August 30

- Cotopaxi 3
- Manzanola 1

Flagler vs Bethune

- Flagler 3
- Bethune 1

Deer Trail vs Stratton

- Deer Trail 0
- Stratton 3

Eads vs Hi-Plains

- Eads 0
- Hi-Plains 3

Genoa-Hugo/Karval vs Elbert

- Genoa-Hugo/Karval 3
- Elbert 0

Thursday, August 31

St. Francis KS vs Cheyenne Wells Tournament

- St. Francis 2
- Cheyenne Wells 1

Granada vs South Baca

- Granada 3
- South Baca 1

#5 La Veta vs #3 Cheraw

- La Veta 2
- Cheraw 3

Rocky Ford vs Holly

- Rocky Ford 0
- Holly 3

Kit Carson vs Limon

- Kit Carson 2
- Limon 3

#12 Idalia vs Cheyenne Wells

- Idalia 2
- Cheyenne Wells 0

Friday, September 1

Eads vs #24 Sierra Grande

- Eads 3
- Sierra Grande 0

#3 Cheraw vs Kim/Branson

- Cheraw 3
- Kim/Branson 1

Saturday, September 2

Eads vs Kim/Branson

- Eads 3
- Kim/Branson 0

McClave vs #6 Simla

- McClave 3
- Simla 1

CLASS 2A

Wednesday, August 29

Rocky Ford vs The Vanguard School

- Rocky Ford 1
- The Vanguard School 3

Walsenburg vs Fowler

- Walsenburg 2
- Fowler 3

Burlington vs Hi-Plains

- Burlington 2
- Hi-Plains 3

Las Animas vs Holly

- Las Animas 2
- Holly 3

#9 Swink v #23 Crowley County

- Swink 3
- Crowley County 0

Thursday, August 31

James Irwin vs Fowler

- James Irwin 3
- Fowler 1

#9 Swink vs Las Animas

- Swink 3
- Las Animas 0

KIT CARSON SCHOOL CALENDAR

THU SEPTEMBER 7

- 4:00 p.m. Junior High/JV/V Volleyball vs Springfield

FRI SEPTEMBER 8

- 8:00 a.m. School in session

SAT SEPTEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m. Junior High/JV/V Volleyball vs Kiowa
- 1:00 p.m. Junior High Football vs Kiowa
- 4:00 p.m. V Football vs Kiowa

TUE SEPTEMBER 12

- 4:00 p.m. Junior High/HV/V Volleyball vs McClave

Cheyenne Wells School Calendar

THU SEPTEMBER 7

- 9:00 a.m. High School Golf @ Rocky Ford LV6:00 am
- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Dental Screening
- 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Mini Cheer Camp- High School Gym

FRI SEPTEMBER 8

- 2:00 p.m. High School Football @ Arickaree LV 10:00 a.m.

SAT SEPTEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m. Homecoming Mini Cheer Camp

MON SEPTEMBER 11

- 4:00 p.m. 6-8 Grade Youth Volleyball- Tiger Den Gym

Friday, September 1

Limon vs #5 Meeker

- Limon 3
- Meeker 2

Saturday, September 2

#25 Center vs Las Animas

- Center 3
- Las Animas 2

THU SEPTEMBER 14

- 4:00 p.m. Junior High/JV/V Volleyball vs Eads

FRI SEPTEMBER 15

- 9:00 a.m. Qtr. Meeting Region 1 & 3
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football @ Eads
- 7:00 p.m. V Football @ Eads LV 2:30 p.m.

WED SEPTEMBER 20 - THU SEPTEMBER 21

- FFA Conference- Freshman

FRI SEPTEMBER 22

- 8:00 a.m. School in session
- 3:00 p.m. Junior High/JV/V Volleyball vs Walsh
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football vs Walsh

PLAINVIEW SCHOOL CALENDAR

TUE SEPTEMBER 12

- 2:30 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Alta Vista

FRI SEPTEMBER 15

- 8:30 a.m. High School Knowledge Bowl @ Flagler

TUE SEPTEMBER 26

- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Volleyball vs Eads

FRI SEPTEMBER 29

- 8:30 a.m. High School Knowledge Bowl @ LCC

TUE OCTOBER 3

- 2:30 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Alta Vista

THU SEPTEMBER 14

- 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Mini Cheer camp

FRI SEPTEMBER 15

- 2:30 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Cheraw LV 11:00am
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football @ Cheraw LV 12:00 pm
- 5:00 p.m. High School Volleyball @ Cheraw LV 2:30 pm
- 7:00 p.m. High School Football @ Cheraw LV 2:30 pm

MON SEPTEMBER 18

- 1:00 p.m. High School Regional Golf @ Alamosa LV 8:00 am
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football Weightlifting- Tiger Den Weight Rm
- 4:00 p.m. 6-8 Grade Youth Volleyball- Tiger Den Gym

- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football Weightlifting- Tiger Den Weight Rm
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Volleyball vs Plainview
- 6:00 p.m. 1-5 Youth Volleyball- Tiger Den Gym

TUE SEPTEMBER 12

- 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Mini Cheer camp

WED SEPTEMBER 13

- 7:30 a.m. Field Trip Americans Holocaust Exhibit- CO Springs
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football Weightlifting- Tiger Den Weight Rm
- 4:00 p.m. 6-8 Grade Youth Volleyball- Tiger Den Gym
- 6:00 p.m. 1-5 Youth Volleyball- Tiger Den Gym

Wray vs Burlington

- Wray 0
- Burlington 2

Burlington vs Arickaree

- Burlington 2
- Arickaree 1

CLASS 3A

Tuesday, August 29

Hoehne vs La Junta

- Hoehne 3
- La Junta 0

Southeast Colorado high school football scores – September 1-2, 2023

6-MAN

Friday, September 1

- Eads vs Sierra Grande
 - Eads 47
 - Sierra Grande 58
- Bethune vs Weldon Valley
 - Bethune 13
 - Weldon Valley 59
- Walsh vs Mountain Valley
 - Walsh 59
 - Mountain Valley 6
- Cheyenne Wells vs Cheylin
 - Cheyenne Wells 0

• Cheylin 50

Granada vs Stratton

- Granada 28
 - Stratton 62
- Kit Carson vs Genoa-Hugo**
- Kit Carson 29
 - Genoa-Hugo 66
- Hi-Plains vs Miami-Yoder**
- Hi-Plains 0
 - Miami-Yoder 42

8-MAN

Friday, September 1

- Springfield vs Sargent**
- Springfield 0

• Sargent 42

Crowley County vs Byers

- Crowley County 8
 - Byers 42
- Simla vs Fowler**
- Simla 47
 - Fowler 0

Merino vs McClave

- Merino 8
- McClave 16

Swink vs Sanford

- Swink 61
- Sanford 22

Walsenburg vs Wiley

- Walsenburg 0
- Wiley 20

Lyons vs Las Animas

- Lyons 46
- Las Animas 0

CLASS 1A

Friday, September 1

- #15 Burlington vs Elizabeth**
- Burlington 12
 - Elizabeth 33

Rocky Ford vs Del Norte

- Rocky Ford 12
- Del Norte 48

Saturday, September 2

- #1 Limon vs #11 Meeker**
- Limon 28
 - Meeker 7

CLASS 2A

Saturday, September 2

- Lamar vs Fort Lupton**
- Lamar 14
 - Fort Lupton 7

#16 Pagosa Springs vs #13 La Junta

EADS SCHOOL CALENDAR

Volleyball @ Stratton 7:00 p.m.

WED SEPTEMBER 13

- Lunch: Manicotti

THU SEPTEMBER 14

- Lunch: Chicken Strips
- High School Softball Lamar @ James Irwin
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Kit Carson
- 5:00 p.m. High School Volleyball @ Kit Carson LV 2:45 p.m.

FRI SEPTEMBER 15

- 8:30 a.m. High School Knowledge Bowl @ Flagler 8:30 LV 6:50 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Football vs Kit Carson
- 7:00 p.m. High School Football vs Kit Carson

MON SEPTEMBER 18

- Lunch: Chicken & Noodles
- 3:00 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Springfield
- 5:00 p.m. High School Volleyball @ Springfield LV 1:30 p.m.

TUE SEPTEMBER 19

- Lunch: Lasagna
- 4:00 p.m. HS Softball Wiley @ Woodland Park

THU SEPTEMBER 7

- 9:00 a.m. Golf @ Rocky Ford LV 6:45 a.m.
- NO SCHOOL FAIR

FRI SEPTEMBER 8

- 9:00 a.m. Livestock Sale
- 5:00 p.m. High School Volleyball @ Tribune
- 7:00 p.m. High School Football @ Tribune

SAT SEPTEMBER 9

- High School Lamar Softball TBA
- 11:00/1:00 High School Softball Wiley @ Mitchell

MON SEPTEMBER 11

- Lunch: Sloppy Joes
- Mid-terms due

TUE SEPTEMBER 12

- 8:00 a.m. screenings with school nurse - K,1,2,3,5,7,9 and all new students and students with a IEP
- Lunch: Beef Stroganoff
- 4:00 p.m. Junior High Volleyball @ Stratton LV 2:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. High School

Southeast Colorado Class 3 A Girls Softball – Aug 28 -Sept 2, 2023

MONDAY AUGUST 28

- #6 University vs Limon**
- University 8
 - Limon 0

TUESDAY AUGUST 29

#21 La Junta vs Pueblo South

- La Junta 4
- Pueblo South 8

#11 Lamar vs #16 Rocky Ford

- Lamar 21
- Rocky Ford 7

THURSDAY AUGUST 31

Burlington vs #11 Lamar

- Burlington 3
- Lamar 19

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1

#1 Eaton vs #12 Wiley

- Eaton 9
- Wiley 0

#6 University vs #12 Wiley

- University 14
- Wiley 4

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Limon vs #24 Meeker

- Limon 10
- Meeker 14

Limon vs #24 Meeker

- Limon 12
- Meeker 24

Holyoke vs Burlington

- Holyoke 19
- Burlington 2

Holyoke vs Burlington

- Holyoke 24
- Burlington 14

#21 La Junta vs #11 Lamar

- La Junta 3
- Lamar 4

#23 Forge Christian vs #12 Wiley

- Forge Christian 4
- Wiley 11

Widefield vs #16 Rocky Ford

- Widefield 3
- Rocky Ford 4



COLORADO

CRISIS SERVICES

844-493-TALK (8255)

OR TEXT TALK TO 38255

PRAIRIE PINES LUAU -SUCCESS!

Prairie Pines Hawaiian Luau was a Success.

VIOLET SNEYD

The first annual themed party for the prairie Pines Auxiliary was a huge success!

Residents and their families and friends from the community came together to raise money for the auxiliary. 56 people plus residents came out for grilled sausage, shrimp, and pineapple, Snow cones, cakes, and more to eat.

We want to give a shout out to our BBQ crew who did a great job Greg Ashmore and his

nephew.

Games were played and music was DJ'd by Eads very own Jessica Sierra! Jessica donated her time, and we truly appreciate her for this.

The 1st cornhole tournament gave Cory Miller and Cameron Crow bragging rights as the winners. The boys donated their winnings back to the Auxiliary and we appreciate them.

A special mention Jennifer Crow came in 2nd and we want to give her a big shout out!

Winners of the best

dressed were:

- **At Large:** Alice Glover
- **Resident Female:** Diane Fleshman
- **Resident Male:** Charles Crow who had an awesome shirt.

Thank you to all who came and all who donated and participated in the event.

Each year the auxiliary will host a themed party to help raise funds for Prairie Pines. Keep a look out for next year's theme so you can plan to attend and participate in the theme!!



Prairie Pines Assisted Living



Prairie Pines Serenity Garden
101 E. Lowell St Eads, CO

We are Committed to Making a Difference in People's Lives

719-438-2141

prairepines@esrta.com

<https://www.prairiepinesassistedlivingcommunity.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PrairiePinesAssistedLiving/>

Kiowa County Veteran's Office

Janelle Crow
Administrator Assistant

1305 Goff St.
PO Box 100
Eads CO 81036

(719) 438-5860
kiowaco.vso@gmail.com



Jimmy & Faye Bendorf Estate Garage Sale

September 7-10 2023

- *9/7 Thursday 6pm-8pm
- *9/8 Friday 8am-12pm
- *9/9 Saturday 7-9:30am (break for parade) 11am-1pm
- *9/10 Sunday 12-4pm



**905 Hickman St,
Eads, CO**

Furniture, Cookbooks, Bedroom Set, Antique and Retro items, Kitchenware, artwork, tools and clothing



Opinion: Proposition HH - Not the Solution to Coloradans Property Tax Issue

REPRESENTATIVE TY WINTER

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) protects Coloradans from the unnecessary expansion of state government by requiring a ballot initiative to raise taxes or expand the state general fund. TABOR requires excess tax revenue be returned to taxpayers unless a vote allows the state to retain the funds. In short, TABOR gives power to the people concerning how their hard-earned money will be spent.

The governor and democrat lawmakers have touted Proposition HH as a property tax cut. While Coloradans could initially see a decrease in property taxes, tax cuts do not come out of thin air, funding must come from somewhere. Along with the tax cuts, Coloradans will receive substantially smaller, or no annual TABOR refunds.

Packaging the proposition as a tax cut is an underhanded tactic to dupe voters into relinquishing TABOR protections. This deceitful move will allow the Colorado General Fund to grow, increase state spending, and inflate the size of our government. According to the Fiscal Note for Proposition HH, a "Yes" vote on this measure would allow the state to retain, "\$166.6 million for FY 2023-24; \$358.6 million for FY 2024-25; and larger

amounts in subsequent fiscal years through at least FY 2031-32." The report continues, saying, "the bill is expected to allow the state to retain about \$200 million more each year than in the prior year, provided that state revenue meets or exceeds the cap."

Republican lawmakers have proposed a special session to solve the property tax issue. These requests were ignored by Governor Jared Polis, who believes the issue can wait until the 2024 legislative session. This stall tactic speaks volumes. Polis is unwilling to concede property tax relief without hoarding TABOR refunds in return. If passing Proposition HH was just about reducing property taxes, the issue could have been solved by bills like HB23-1054 Property Valuation, during the 2023 session. The Property Valuation bill was introduced in the House on January 9th, 2023 by Republicans Representative Lisa Frelino and Senator Byron Pelton. The proposed bill would have postponed property reassessment until 2025 and ensure when the reassessment took place, the valuation amount would not increase by more than 5%. This measure would have relieved the amount of property tax Coloradans owed without jeopardizing TABOR refunds. Democrats in the House

Finance Committee voted to postpone the bill indefinitely.

Instead, on May 1st, seven days before the end of the 2023 session, democrats introduced SB23-303, the bill putting Proposition HH on the ballot. Bills are supposed to be introduced in the Colorado Legislature by the 17th legislative day in the Senate and the 22nd legislative day in the House. These deadlines ensure that bills undergo substan-

tive debate and receive stakeholder input before they become law. To pass the measure before the end of the 2023 Legislative Session, democrat lawmakers used Rule 14. This sparingly used rule allows the majority party to cut off bill discussion, effectively silencing dissent.

To summarize, Proposition HH is a deceptive measure, hastily pushed through the legislature with little consideration from your elected rep-

resentatives. This is not the solution to Coloradans property tax issue. It is up to you, as a voter in the great State of Colorado, to protect our rights. A "NO" vote on Proposition HH is a vote to protect Coloradans from giving up our Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. A "NO" vote protects Coloradans from government expansion.

Ty Winter is the Colorado State Representative for House District 47.

SMOKING
MAKES ME
FEEL
GOOD.



SMOKING
MAKES ME
FEEL
GUILTY.

SOMETIMES YOU LOVE SMOKING.
SOMETIMES YOU DON'T.

TOBACCO
FREE CO

If you're thinking about quitting, we'll help you take a first step. Learn how at TobaccoFreeCO.org.

For more information to help you quit tobacco, contact your local health department.



KIOWA COUNTY SALARY-JUNE 2023

Lucky 13

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PURSUANT TO CRS 30-25-111, et. seq., the following is a list of salaries paid by the Kiowa County Board of Commissioners for the month of June, 2023 as follows to-wit:

HOUSE BILL 07-1187, Salary information for all county employees and officials shall be published twice annually. The first publication shall be in August and shall include each employee's title and gross monthly salary for the prior June.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GROSS SALARY</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u>	
<u>ROAD & BRIDGE</u>			
Administrative Assistant	2,732.12	50,501.85	
Equipment Operator	3,248.90	36.32%	
Equipment Operator	3,291.67		
Equipment Operator	3,166.67		
Road Foreman - District 3	3,865.33		
Equipment Operator	3,334.83		
Road Foreman - District 1	3,813.33		
Equipment Operator	3,294.08		
<u>COUNTY GENERAL</u>			
Administrator	3,904.88		
Coroner	870.33		
Deputy Sheriff	4,427.45		
Office Assistant	1,083.33		
Extension Administrative Assistant	2,484.04		
Emergency Mgt. Coordinator	2,609.27		
Treasurer	3,839.17		
Deputy Sheriff	451.90		
Courthouse Security Officer	3,365.55		
Maintenance Supervisor	3,466.67		
Maintenance	2,946.67		
Commissioner - District 1	2,985.41		
Office Deputy	2,484.04		
Undersheriff	5,547.67		
Clerk Assistant	2,484.04		
Assessor	3,839.17		
Landfill Operator	3,033.33		
Commissioner - District 3	2,985.41		
Finance Officer	2,594.54		
Commissioner - District 2	3,263.29		
Transit Van Driver (part-time)	1,040.03		
Landfill Manager	3,640.00		
Maintenance (part-time)	390.00		
Senior Citizens Coordinator	500.00		
Deputy Sheriff	5,064.09		
Clerk Deputy	2,513.51		
Senior Citizens Coordinator	500.00		
Treasurer Deputy	2,484.04		
Transit Van Driver (part-time)	204.75		
Clerk & Recorder	3,839.17		
Transit Van Driver (part-time)	240.55		
Assessor Deputy	2,484.04		
Sheriff	4,496.83		
Extension Salaries	2,945.00		
District Attorney Salaries and Fringes	2,218.50		
<u>HUMAN SERVICES</u>			
Child & Adult Protection / Case Worker	3,865.33	State Share	County Share
Eligibility Technician	3,096.98	3,285.53	579.80
Office Manager / Child Support	2,484.04	2,632.43	464.55
Child & Adult Protection / Case Worker	4,108.43	2,111.43	372.61
Social Service Director	5,477.15	3,492.17	616.26
Total		4,655.58	821.57
		16,177.14	2,854.79
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH</u>			
Public Health office manager	2,492.47		
CMG Coordinator	4,725.07		
GRAND TOTAL	\$144,223.07		

The countywide average percentage of salary that is paid in addition to regular wages as fringe benefits is 36%. Fringe benefits include medical and life insurance, retirement, unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and employer's share of FICA. **85% of Social Services salaries are reimbursed by federal/state to the county.** No fringes are paid on Extension Agents by the county. District Attorney's office fringes are paid to the office of the District Attorney and are included in their salaries.

The above report is published under the direction of the Board of Kiowa County Commissioners. Christina M. Adamson, County Administrator

Published September 08, 2023
In the Kiowa County Press

Published: 09/06/2023

TOWN OF EADS FULL TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Town of Eads has opening for Maintenance worker.
Application and a full de-

scription of the job duties can be picked up at the Eads Town Hall. Health insurance, vacation and sick leave and other benefits are included.

Drug Testing is required, Town of Eads is an EOE, Any and all applications can be denied.

**Eads Town Hall 110
W.13th St. Eads, CO**

ROAD & BRIDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

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* Applications will also be accepted from individuals with an Associates Degree, which may, or may not, qualify for an educational waiver from the State of Colorado.

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- 6:00 am Chuckwagon- Breakfast Maine St Eads

- 10:00 am Eads Senior citizens Brunch
- 6:00 pm Jackpot Roping- Kiowa County Fairgrounds
- Kiowa County Fair

FRI SEPT 8

- 6:00 am Chuckwagon Breakfast- Maine St Eads
- 9:00 am Cheyenne County Board of Commissioners Meeting
- 12:00 pm Beef BBQ- Kiowa County Fairgrounds

TO BE LISTED IN UPCOMING EVENTS SEND INFORMATION TO KIOWACOUNTYPRESS@GMAIL.COM

- grounds
- 1:00 pm CPRA Rodeo & Horse Races- Kiowa County Fairgrounds
 - 7:00 pm Ranch Rodeo- Kiowa County Fairgrounds

SAT SEPT 9

- 10:00 am Parade- Maine St Eads
- 12:00 pm Pork BBQ- Kiowa County Fairgrounds
- 1:00 pm CPRA Rodeo and Horse Race- Kiowa County Fairgrounds
- 7:00 pm Ranch

Bronc Riding- Kiowa County Fairgrounds Auxiliary Meeting

TUE SEPT 12

- 5:00 pm Eads Board of Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 pm Haswell City Council Meeting
- 6:30 pm Prairie Pines Assisted Living Board Meeting

THU SEPT 14

- 9:00 am Kiowa County Board of Commissioners Meeting
- 6:00 pm Prairie Pines Assisted Living

TUE SEPT 19

- 9:00 am Cheyenne County Board of Commissioners-Board of Public Health- Board of Human Services Meeting
- 7:00 pm Kiowa County Fire Protection District Board Meeting

WED SEPT 20

- 12:00 pm Eads Senior citizens Dinner
- 5:30 pm Haswell Senior citizens Dinner

BIRTHDAYS

September 11

- Abenie Adams
- Matt Prince
- Taylor Young
- Josh Martin

September 12

- Suzette Koch
- Leisha Peck
- Nicolle Lenox
- Seth Simpkins
- Kayla McLoud
- Cayon Brown
- Harold McKnight* In Memory

September 13

- Andrea Morgan
- Tina Joy

September 14

- Will Elam
- Kawika Douglas Kelley Clark
- Avery Weisdorfer
- Luke Barnett
- Kayson Collier
- Aspen Monohan

September 15

- Dustin Owen
- Case Nelson
- Brad Hager

September 16

- Jimmy Brown
- Brad Howe
- Keanan Gooden
- Reid Jackson Kleisen
- Mia Crow
- Blaire Howe
- Cheyenne Brown
- Haniah Perner

September 17

- Christopher Owens
- Huntley Elizabeth Mendez

ANNIVERSARIES

September 11

- Areta & Terry Laird

September 12

- Callie & Jarod Leoffler
- Savannah & David Stengal

September 13

- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lening

September 16

- Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lening
- Mr. & Mrs. John Barton

September 17

- Mr. & Mrs. DJ Weber
- Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Shaw

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September 8, 2023

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Colorado elected officials blast IRS proposal to tax TABOR refunds

JOE MUELLER

(The Center Square)

Elected officials in Colorado are sounding the alarm on a possible change to Internal Revenue Service rules on taxing state tax refunds.

The IRS' 16-page [guidance](#) on "federal income tax consequences of certain state payments" clarifies the federal tax status of state and local tax refunds and other payments made by governments to individuals.

"Payments made by states under legislatively provided social benefit programs for the promotion of the general welfare are not included as income on an individual recipient's federal income tax return," the IRS [said](#) in a news release.

"This updates the previous guidance, which only described the taxability of payments made during 2022," the IRS said. "Today's notice also requests comments



regarding the application of the rules described in this notice, as well as specific aspects of state payment programs or additional situations on which federal income tax guidance would be helpful."

Governor Jared Polis said the proposal goes against a 30-year precedent of Taxpayer's Bill of Rights refunds being exempt from federal taxes. In years when the state's revenue exceeds the revenue cap, Colorado

taxpayers receive a tax refund under TABOR.

"This absurd potential action from the IRS would cost Coloradans money and confuse people, and I call on the Biden administration to reverse course," Polis said in a statement.

In February, Polis voiced his approval of an [IRS decision not to require](#) Coloradans to pay federal income tax on 2022 TABOR refunds. Colorado was one of 17 states with payments excluded from federal income tax liability in 2022.

Polis' office estimates Coloradans would pay \$400 million in federal taxes, or approximately \$100 per individual, on their 2022 returns without the IRS exception.

"Our administration strongly disagrees with the IRS guidance as it fails to factor in that TABOR refunds are returning sales tax dollars in addition to income tax dollars and fees that our citizens have already

paid and therefore are an entirely legitimate tax refund and should not be subject to further state or federal taxation," the governor added.

Colorado's congressional delegation sent a [letter](#) to IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel on Thursday taking issue with the proposal.

"We urge the IRS not to abandon 30 years of precedent, and we hope you can resolve the current ambiguity so that Colorado's taxpayers do not face further confusion to say nothing of the nightmarish burden of an unprecedented tax," the letter said.

"For 30 years, the IRS has not taxed TABOR refunds – and it makes no sense for them to start now," U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., [tweeted](#). "I'm committed to working with the IRS to ensure TABOR's precedent is respected and that Coloradans can keep the money they are entitled to."

"TABOR is a refund of Coloradans' hard earned tax dollars, not new income. The IRS has agreed for 30 years," U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., said. "We're not going to let that change now."

For a state tax refund to fall under the IRS "general welfare exclusion" and not be considered as federal gross income, it must be for the "promotion of general welfare (that is, based on the need of the individual or family receiving such payments)..."

In November, Colorado voters will decide on [Proposition HH](#), which proposes reducing the residential property tax rate to 6.7 percent and replacing the lost revenue with TABOR refund money.

New Colorado age discrimination law could help fill in-demand jobs

ERIC GALATAS

(Colorado News Connection)

Colorado employers will soon be barred from asking questions that could reveal someone's age on a job application.

Colorado lawmakers passed the [Job Application Fairness Act](#) in the last session to address age discrimination, which AARP projects [could cost the nation nearly \\$4 trillion in lost productivity by mid-century](#).

Andrea Kuwik - senior policy analyst with the Bell Policy Center - said in addition to highly honed skill sets, older workers also bring hard-won wisdom that comes with years of experience. "Whenever we have

multi-generational workplaces - so, both older workers, younger workers, middle-age workers - there has been research that shows that increases productivity," said Kuwik. "It benefits the employer, it benefits the workplace across the board."

Continuing to work is a necessity for the vast majority of Americans who have zero or insufficient retirement savings.

[According to the National Institute on Retirement Security](#), white baby boomers own over 90 percent of the generation's financial assets. Just 3 percent are owned by Black or Hispanic boomers.

According to

AARP, [over six in ten workers age 40 and older have seen or experienced some form of age discrimination](#) in the workplace. The growing use of computer algorithms also makes it easier to weed out older job candidates.

Kuwik said many workers who turn 65 - the age society says it's time slow down and enjoy one's 'golden years' - want to remain productive members of society.

"But we also know that a lot of people are saying, 'I want to continue to work, because I find that really meaningful and really valuable. It makes me feel like I am contributing to my community,'" said Kuwik.

DeGette decries ‘poison pills’ in House spending bills as government shutdown looms

LINDSEY TOOMER

(Colorado Newswire)

As Congress prepares to go back into session September 12, U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette of Denver is worried about the prospects of a government shutdown.

The U.S. House has passed only one of its annual appropriations bills. With far-right Republicans inserting what DeGette, a Democrat, referred to as “poison pills” in typically bipartisan appropriations legislation, such as the [annual defense authorization bill](#), she is concerned about finishing everything Congress needs to do before the federal government’s new fiscal year starts October 1.

DeGette said the House still has 11 more appropriations bills to pass, and she said several that have already gone through committee are “chockablock full of these poison pill amendments, all kinds of messaging amendments that are really irrelevant to funding our country.” She also said Republican leadership has made extensive cuts that congressional Democrats are also not happy about.

“They had a 22% across the board cut in the agriculture bill, and so all of the Republicans in the Midwest in these ag districts said, ‘I’m not going to vote for that bill because it has huge cuts for our people,’ so they were unable to bring it to the floor,” DeGette said. “So they not only have problems with these far-right message amendments, but they also have severe problems with their own caucus.”

DeGette’s remarks came during a roundtable with Colorado journalists Thursday at her



Denver office, taking the group through her most recent work in Wash-

ington D.C. Because Republicans have only a five-vote ma-

majority in the House, DeGette said it will be very easy for a group of the “far-right MAGA Republicans” to “hold the entire agenda hostage.” She said members of the far-right Freedom Caucus, which includes Lauren Boebert and Ken Buck of Colorado, have said they won’t vote for appropriations bills unless certain demands they’re making of Speaker Kevin McCarthy are met.

DeGette said she hopes McCarthy will pursue a short-term continuing resolution, which temporarily maintains current spending levels, to prevent the government from shutting down. This would look similar to how the federal government was able to get the [debt ceiling package through](#) earlier this year.

“I didn’t like everything in there, but I voted for it because it was a compromise, and when you have divided government, you have to have compromise,” DeGette said. “So we could do a continuing resolution based on that agreement last spring — it would be very easy to do.”

[Before Congress went into recess](#), the Senate had passed all 12 bipartisan spending bills out of committee. If the Congress misses an end-of-the-year deadline to pass its funding, the debt-limit deal calls for a drastic 1% across-the-board spending cut to defense and domestic discretionary programs.

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New IRS guidance revives possibility of taxing Colorado’s TABOR refunds

CHASE WOODRUFF

(Colorado Newswire)

Federal officials are once again floating a plan to treat refund payments made to Coloradans under the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights as taxable income, and state leaders aren’t happy about it.

In a [notice](#) issued Wednesday, the Internal Revenue Service proposed guidance on how it will treat payments made by a variety of state refund and benefit programs in the 2023 tax year. The guidance doesn’t contain a clear exception that would allow filers to exclude TABOR payments from their federal gross income next year and beyond.

In a statement, Governor Jared Polis said his administration “strongly disagrees with the IRS guidance,” which would reverse nearly 30 years

of precedent in how the IRS treats Colorado’s refund mechanism. The TABOR amendment, which mandated the refunds alongside a variety of other anti-tax measures, was approved by Colorado voters in 1992.

“This absurd potential action from the IRS would cost Coloradans money and confuse people, and I call on the Biden administration to reverse course,” Polis, a Democrat, said. “The IRS is proposing going back on thirty years of not treating TABOR refunds as taxable income.”

The IRS first raised the possibility of taxing the payments earlier this year, when it warned residents of Colorado and 20 other states to hold off on filing their 2022 tax returns while the agency finalized its guidance. Many of the states in question had issued special tax refunds

or relief payments using pandemic-era aid funding.

Colorado elected officials from both parties [decried that guidance and its timing](#), after the 2022 tax filing season had already begun. Within days, [the IRS backed off](#), declaring that “in the interest of sound tax administration and other factors, taxpayers in many states will not need to report these payments on their 2022 tax returns.”

Despite continued pressure from Colorado leaders, however, the new guidance revives the potential for TABOR refunds to be taxed beginning this year.

The structure of 2023 TABOR refunds is tied to the outcome of [Proposition HH](#), the property tax measure on the November ballot. If the ballot measure is approved, Coloradans will receive

another round of flat-rate refund checks, repeating the formula that lawmakers opted for last year. If Proposition HH fails, the formula would revert to a tiered structure, with higher-income taxpayers getting larger refunds.

The IRS notice requests comments on the application of its rules, which states and members of the public can submit through October 16.

“After considering the comments, the Department of the Treasury and the IRS intend to issue further guidance on the Federal income tax consequences of State payments,” the notice said.

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Overdose prevention center bill could return to Colorado Capitol next year

SARA WILSON

(Colorado Newsline)

A Colorado legislative interim committee voted Wednesday to draft a bill for next session that would give a legal pathway for sites where people could use illicit drugs under supervision to operate in some parts of the state.

It is one of five bills the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee voted to send through the drafting process. Rep. Elisabeth Epps and Sens. Kevin Priola and Kyle Mullica, all Democrats, will help draft the bill.

Overdose prevention centers, sometimes called safe-use or supervised-injection sites, allow people to take illegal drugs, like fentanyl and



other opioids, under the watch of staff trained to respond to overdoses.

"Folks who are doing this work day in and day out are telling us that this is one of the things they need. One. Not in a vac-

uum and not without access to all the things that lead up to recovery and treatment and prevention. Of course not. But one of them," Epps said Wednesday.

The committee voted

6-4 along party lines to draft the bill.

Epps and Priola [sponsored a bill earlier this year](#) that would have let municipalities decide whether to let overdose prevention centers operate. It passed the House of Representatives and then died in its Senate committee, where Mullica voted with Republicans to kill it.

"I still struggle today. I'll be honest and transparent — I'm not convinced that this policy is the most effective one for us to do. But I do believe it's a conversation we should be having and it's a conversation this committee should be having," Mullica said.

He said there is a "strong chance" he won't support the bill when the committee votes on whether to push it through.

1,799 overdose deaths

Harm reduction experts claim that overdose prevention centers effectively reduce the risk of overdose and public drug consumption. The centers sometimes offer resources to connect people who use drugs to treatment and counseling.

Opponents, however,

view the centers as doing little to address the opioid crisis while making it easier to consume illegal drugs.

Last year, 1,799 people in Colorado [died from a drug overdose](#).

The committee has met several times this summer to learn about the scope of the substance use disorder problem in Colorado and consider the current mitigation resources. Lawmakers on the committee have heard from a wide range of presenters, including state health department officials, law enforcement, health care providers and people with lived experience.

In addition to the overdose prevention center bill, the committee voted to draft bills under the broad umbrellas of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. All five bills will be drafted and polished before a September 27 meeting to consider public comment. The committee will then vote at the end of October on which bills to recommend for Legislative Council approval and introduction next session, which starts in January.

If the Legislative Council does not sign off on a bill a committee sends to it, a lawmaker can decide to run that bill independently.

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One million Coloradans lack access to dental care

ERIC GALATAS

(Colorado News Connection)

Just 49 percent of Coloradans are able to access the dental care they need, and health advocates say increasing the number of licensed dental therapists -- especially in low-income areas, communities of color, and rural parts of the state -- could help fill in the gap.

Kyle Piccola, vice president of communications and advocacy for Healthier Colorado, said dental health is directly linked to overall physical and mental health. When people go for days or weeks with pain in their mouth, it can lead to a cascade of negative impacts.

"The data is clear. Likely that person is going to miss work, their emotional well-being is going to go down. If you're a young person, you're going to be missing school,"

Piccola outlined. "There are huge repercussions to not taking care of your oral health."

More than one million Coloradans lack access to proper dental care, and there are more than 100 areas across the state designated as experiencing a Dental Care Health Professional Shortage, [according to an analysis](#) by KFF. The state would need to add at least 143 practitioners to meet the dental health needs of all Coloradans.

Dental therapists can be licensed in Colorado after three years of instruction. It takes at least eight years to become a dentist.

Piccola pointed out clinics with dental therapists who work under the supervision of a dentist and are trained to provide most common treatments have seen improved outcomes, including lower numbers of tooth extractions.

"School-based dental therapists have been able to cut fillings in half for those kids," Piccola reported. "In tribes and rural areas, the wait times and the travel times that those people have been experiencing have been significantly reduced."

Colorado is one of 13 states currently set up to license dental therapists, and Piccola noted the state recently made it easier for people who want to relocate to the Centennial State to bring their credentials along with them.

"Any dental therapist can take any one of the dental therapy programs around the country," Piccola emphasized. "As long as they meet the education training requirements, then they can go ahead and apply for a license to come and practice here in Colorado as well."





Commentary: We must get to root causes of Colorado's mental health crisis

VINCENT ATCHITY

(Colorado Newline)

For 70 years, Mental Health Colorado has prioritized the health and well-being of Coloradans across the lifespan by improving access to and quality of care, supports and services while fighting against policies that perpetuate disparities and increase the potential harms of substance use. Our state is in the midst of a serious health crisis and we have to respond in a timely manner to provide immediate relief to Coloradans who are suffering and need our support.

But in order to promote healthier minds across the lifespan for generations to come, we must shift and broaden our approach today to transform the health and well-being of our communities.

Most of us have experienced watching a friend, a family member, a neighbor, or a co-worker who hit a rough patch with mental health or substance use and struggle to obtain support and find the right resources to get back on track. As too many of us know, this can be

a slippery slope that upends a person's life and creates a downward spiral that becomes increasingly difficult to reverse. This can include becoming isolated from one's friends and family, experiencing a decline in physical health, developing a substance use condition, losing a job, becoming unhoused, ending up in jail, or worse.

Heartbreakingly, Colorado has a significant population of adults who are in the midst of these kinds of crises, and a system that is woefully ill-equipped to care for them. According to our parent organization Mental Health America's [2023 State of Mental Health in America Report](#), Colorado ranked 45 out of 51 for adult mental health, meaning we have some of the highest prevalence of mental illness and lowest rates of access to care. A staggering 6% of Colorado adults are having serious thoughts of suicide, and over 34% of Colorado adults with mental illness reported being unable to receive the care they needed, whether due to cost, unavailability of appointments, or

provider incompetence.

We have failed to create a society that prioritizes the health and well-being of every community member and gives them the tools they need to thrive from childhood into old age.

Given this unfortunate reality, we have rightly focused much of our work and resources on efforts like expanding mental health bed capacity and mending our broken mental health safety net so that fewer of these Coloradans slip through the cracks.

But the fact that so much of our focus is on meeting the unmet needs of Coloradans who are already experiencing a crisis emphasizes how we have already failed. We have failed to create a society that prioritizes the health and well-being of every community member and gives them the tools they need to thrive from childhood into old age. And as a result, we find ourselves in a vicious cycle of ever-growing need and not enough resources. And if we don't get to the root causes of our increasingly unhealthy society, this cycle is doomed to continue.

As they say, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In order to shift this lethal dynamic, we must begin to adopt a holistic view of human well-being that looks at the care of the whole person, not just one or another aspect of an emergent health need, through all stages of life. This means increasing access to housing, making health care more affordable, fostering more connection within our communities, providing opportunities for Coloradans to earn a good life, fighting discrimination, and so much more. And much of this must take place at a young age so that we can nurture younger generations before they become unhealthy adults.

We must invest upfront in communities that prioritize human health and well-being — not just spend reactively when people are already ill and in crisis. By focusing on prevention and promoting healthier minds across the lifespan starting at square one, we can make a huge impact on the health of future generations and avoid the cycle of failure in which we find our-

selves now, where Coloradans slip through the cracks because we didn't support them sooner.

There are no easy solutions to address the effect of the pandemic, the prevalence of increasingly deadly drugs, social media, racism, bullying, and gun violence on our kids. But we can at least begin to reorient our thinking and start building a healthier world.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a hotline for individuals in crisis or for those looking to help someone else. To speak with a trained listener, call 988. Visit [988lifeline.org](#) for crisis chat services or for more information.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans and service members in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential hotline, online chat, or text. Dial 988 and Press 1 or visit [vet-erancrisisline.net](#) for crisis chat services and more information.

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Montana ACLU files legal support opposing TikTok ban

MARK MORAN

(Big Sky Connection)

The [ACLU of Montana](#) is supporting a [lawsuit](#) to overturn a ban on the social media platform TikTok.

Montana lawmakers passed a bill fining app providers who make TikTok available in their online stores. The ban is set to go into effect next year. Montana was the first state to effectively outlaw TikTok when it passed [Senate Bill 419](#) in the spring. The measure prohibits app providers from offering TikTok to users in Montana and imposes a \$10,000 fine on app stores each time a Montana-based user downloads it, and another \$10,000 for every day they offer TikTok after that.

Alex Rate, ACLU of Montana legal director,



called the move a violation of Montanans' right to free speech.

"In order for a democracy to function, individuals need an unabridged

right to speak," he said, "and when the legislature or the government decides to restrict those ways that we can speak with one another, that

violates our constitutional rights."

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen argued that the TikTok ban isn't about free expression, but said it focuses on protecting people from the Chinese Communist Party - in his words, "a known adversary to the United

States."

Knudsen said SB 419 doesn't prohibit the messages, ideas and content found on TikTok, but "prohibits the use of a product in Montana," and that the consumer-protection interest in the ban is "unrelated to the suppression of free expression." The lawsuit to stop the ban from going into effect was originally filed by TikTok's creators. Rate contended that TikTok is more than just a video-sharing entertainment app.

"This is an important social-media platform for many people across the state," he said, "including Indigenous users."

SB 419 alleges that TikTok seeks to harvest and share information with the People's Republic of China, which the bill claims has an interest in gathering information about Montanans, Montana companies, and users' intellectual property "to engage in corporate and international espionage."

'Disagree Better': Utah governor leads initiative to ease hyper-partisanship

ALEX GONZALEZ

(Utah News Connection)

Utah Governor Spencer Cox wants people to learn to disagree.

As the elected chair of the National Governors Association, he is leading [a campaign called "Disagree Better"](#) - an initiative "designed to help Americans bridge the partisan divide," and adopt more positive approaches to politics and social discourse.

Last week, a day after the first Republican presidential debate, Cox took to X - the platform formerly known as Twitter - and shared a video where he said he has found "listening to understand as opposed to listening to debate is a powerful tool."

"Healthy disagreement is about staying true to who we are, to the prin-

ciples that we believe in," said Cox, "but also not attacking the person who disagrees with us."

Cox acknowledges that the United States is deeply divided and a majority of Americans are tired of the division and hyper-partisanship.

According to the Pew Research Center, [partisanship continues to be the dividing line](#) in the American public's political attitudes - far surpassing other markers such as age, race and ethnicity.

Cox said the nation was created with 50 states, of which he calls "laboratories of democracy." He said each state is uniquely positioned to work together and learn from one another.

The Disagree Better initiative has a list of recommended strategies and tools for state and

local leaders to implement in an effort to ease tensions.

"Because what happens is when we're curious, when we're really trying to understand where the other person is coming from," said Cox, "they're much more likely to give us that same opportunity and to listen to us."

Cox said it's an important message with the 2024 presidential primaries in full effect.

[A recent poll found that](#) more Americans viewed neither President Joe Biden, the likely Democratic nominee, nor former President Donald Trump, the clear front-runner for the Republican Party, in a favorable light than those who saw either of them favorably.

Montana asks court to uphold its TikTok ban

CHRIS WOODWARD

(The Center Square)

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen urged a federal judge to keep his state's ban on TikTok in effect while a lawsuit plays out in a federal courtroom.

The attorney general said in a statement this week that all levels of government "have recognized the dangers of TikTok because it is under the thumb of Chinese Communist Party officials," and pointed to his state's legislative response taking action.

Montana's TikTok ban, signed into law in May by Governor Greg Gianforte, was the first outright ban in the country, the governor's office [said](#) at the time. The law prohibits

app stores from making TikTok available for download starting next year.

TikTok filed a lawsuit challenging the law in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana. Knudsen's office filed a brief in response last week, saying, "[Senate Bill 419] is a valid exercise of the Legislature's authority, so Plaintiffs' motion to preliminarily enjoin it must be denied."

"Our legislators and Governor Gianforte did the right thing in prohibiting TikTok from operating in Montana as long as it is under the control of a foreign adversary," Knudsen added in the statement. "My office looks forward to vigorously defending the law as this case proceeds."

Scammers who defrauded people out of over \$30 million indicted in Utah

TOM JOYCE
(The Center Square)

A federal grand jury in Salt Lake City indicted seven defendants, including the founder and former President of Noah's Event Venue in South Jordan, Utah, with 18 counts of wire fraud.

Court documents say that several people conspired to engage in a nationwide scheme to commit over \$30 million in fraud, primarily against elderly people. The people defrauded were incentivized to invest in Noah Event Centers.

Those indicted include: William J. Bowser, 60, of Hendersonville, North Carolina; Christopher J. Ashby, 49, of Salt Lake County, Utah; Scott W. Beynon, 46, of Davis County, Utah; Jordan S. Nelson, 42, of Salt Lake County, Utah; Scott L. Rutherford, 51, of Utah County, Utah; John D. Hamrick, 64, of Franconia, New Hampshire and the Vice President and Director of Edmund and Wheeler Inc., according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah.

Noah Event Centers were unprofitable and only sustained its existence through infusions from new investor funds, the release said. It also said the defendants never used the funds as promised. Instead of using investor funds to develop and construct new event centers, they spent the money on Noah's operations, prior investors, construction costs of other event centers, and rents on previously sold Noah Event Centers.

"As part of their alleged scheme, the defendants used the internet, telephone, email, and



other means to promote, offer, and sell fractional Tenant-in-Common interests in five Noah

Event Centers through the use of a network of financial planners, 1031 exchange specialists,

real estate brokers, and other salespeople, using glossy marketing materials showing pictures of

beautifully constructed buildings and promising impressive long-term financial returns," the release said.

The defendants will make their initial court appearance on September 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in courtroom 8.4 before a U.S. Magistrate Judge. They will appear at the Orrin G. Hatch United States District Courthouse in downtown Salt Lake City.

U.S. Attorney Trina A. Higgins of the District of Utah announced the indictments.

The United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) investigating the case, while assistant United States Attorneys Cy H. Castle, Stewart M. Young, Stephen P. Dent, and Peter Kuhn for the District of Utah are prosecuting it.

"An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law," the release said.

Program bridging digital divide for low income Utahns

ALEX GONZALEZ
(Utah News Connection)

Salt Lake County and its partners are trying to [spread the word and promote enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program](#). ACP's primary goal is to get [lower-income households](#) either a discount on internet access or free service.

Collyn Mosquito, Promise Economic Wellbeing coordinator for [Millcreek Promise](#), has conducted outreach events around Millcreek to spread the word. The next outreach event is from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the Holladay

Hills Living Community.

Mosquito said a number of barriers inhibit those who need it most from signing up.

"So there is a language barrier, and there's also a mobility barrier, issues with transportation, the ability to understand how to sign up for internet," he said, "especially for something as complex as ACP."

The Affordable Connectivity Program was expanded through the federal infrastructure bill and now offers a \$30 monthly benefit toward high-speed, in-home broadband service, and a \$100 benefit for devices. The monthly broad-

band benefit is \$75 for Native Americans on Tribal lands. [Only about 17 percent of eligible Utahns have enrolled so far.](#)

Earlier this year, Salt Lake County and its partners received nearly \$170,000 to conduct outreach and promote enrollment. Mosquito said that in the process of assisting communities, he knows that people struggle paying their internet bill or were "up-sold" on an internet plan. He said those who have signed up for the ACP are grateful for the cost savings. According to Millcreek Promise, one in 10 households doesn't

have an internet subscription and relies on a cellular data plan.

"It is definitely more than just saving money, it's definitely giving you the chance to access the digital resources that are out there," he said. "Some of these families have young children still in school, and so they'll be able to use their Chromebooks at home."

Mosquito called the ACP an important "stepping stone" on a path to digital equity - but it will only be effective if more is done to improve public awareness of the program.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Oklahoma bank cited by DOJ for discrimination

KIM JARRETT

(The Center Square)

American Bank of Oklahoma will offer \$1.15 million in credit opportunities to a Tulsa neighborhood as part of a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

The bank discriminated against the neighborhood, which was the site of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the DOJ said in a news release. The inci-

dents occurred between 2017 and 2021.

The complaint also alleged that bank employees, including executives and loan officers, sent and received emails with racial slurs.

“American Bank of Oklahoma engaged in the illegal practice of redlining and failed to serve the diverse members of our Tulsa community as they attempted to purchase homes,” said U.S. Attorney Clinton

Johnson for the Northern District of Oklahoma. “These practices are often hard to identify and prosecute and I want to thank the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division for taking measures to correct these abhorrent business practices.”

The bank denied the allegations, but officials said they agreed to the settlement to avoid costs and protracted litigation.

“As Oklahomans, we

carry a profound sense of sorrow for the tragic events of the Tulsa Race Massacre over a century ago,” bank officials said in a [news release](#). “It is with deep concern that we note the Justice Department’s decision to reference this distressing historical event in its complaint against our bank, established a mere 25 years ago. ABOK stands as a small community bank, with \$383 million in assets and

constrained resources, endeavoring to maintain competitiveness within the City of Tulsa.”

In addition to the credit opportunities, the settlement requires the bank to invest a minimum of \$950,000 into a loan subsidy fund for majority Black and Hispanic neighborhoods, spend \$100,000 for outreach and consumer education and an additional \$100,000 to develop community partnerships to increase access to residential mortgage credit, the DOJ said. Two of the bank’s mortgage officers should serve majority Black and Hispanic neighborhoods, according to the settlement.

“This agreement will help expand investment in Black communities and communities of color in Tulsa and increase opportunities for homeownership and financial stability. Remedial provisions in the agreement will open up opportunities for building generational wealth while focusing on neighborhoods that bear the scars of the Tulsa Race Massacre,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division.

Electric vehicle sales not slowing down in Arizona, nationally

ALEX GONZALEZ

(Arizona News Connection)

Experts say consumer interest and sales of electric vehicles across the country aren’t slowing down.

Arizona is among the top 10 states for EV auto registrations. Year-to-date, [EV sales are up more than 50 percent, year over year, which Chris Harto, senior policy analyst at Consumer Reports](#), said is impressive, considering how much fuel prices have come down. However, in Arizona, the [average gas price](#) is currently \$4.25 per gallon - about

40 cents more than the national average - which may entice Arizona drivers to make the switch.

Harto said interest rates might also turn out to be a factor in sales.

“Interest rates have gone up quite a bit, and I think that is going to have an effect on the whole vehicle market, regardless of vehicle type,” he said. “We’re not quite seeing a slowdown, quite yet.”

He said he suspects the market is still trying to adjust and “catch up” after EVs - and vehicles in general - have been in such limited supply in recent years. While many

have speculated that EV inventories are high, Harto countered that the “EV only” companies - such as Polstar, Rivian and Tesla - report “very low inventory.”

Harto said affordability is top of mind for many people shopping for an electric vehicle. [Consumer Reports found](#) 70 percent of EV sales so far this year have been from just nine models, all of which start at less than \$45,000 when incentives are factored in. He also said he recognizes many are concerned about the lack of charging infrastructure, but said that is chang-

ing. Arizona has nearly 1,000 charging stations, although more are in the works.

“You definitely have a group of consumers who are waiting for the federal funds that are going out to the states to really build out that national charging network,” he said, “to give them that little extra bit of confidence.”

He said a number of new requirements have either limited or changed which EVs can qualify for tax credits. So, of course, those that are eligible for tax credits seem to be selling better than those that don’t.

New Mexico's wildlife 'kill quotas' face scrutiny



ROZ BROWN

(New Mexico News Connection)

Opponents of a plan to allow hunters to kill more black bears in New Mexico over the next four years say escalating climate-change threats faced by wildlife are not being considered.

The state's Department of Game and Fish took public comments on the [proposal](#) last week.

Mary Katherine Ray,

wildlife chair for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, said even though the increased number of bear kills is small, none of the density studies have been peer-approved or published. She noted fires in recent years, while temperatures across the state continue to rise.

"How does this alter populations? The current proposals don't

even consider it," Ray contended. "Instead, they expand hunting for bears into the heat of summer in two southern bear zones, and increase the bear kill quota in the Gila, where so much as burned down in recent years. These animals need a break."

The New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association maintains hunting is needed to control the number of predators and reduce conflicts with people. The Commission is scheduled to make a decision at its October meeting. In 2022, the largest forest fire in the state's history burned more than 341,000 acres and destroyed 220 structures.

Seasonal hunting limits for bears would be bumped up in several areas of the state, raising the total kills allowed to 864 from the current 804.

John Crenshaw, former chief of the Public Information and Outreach Di-

vision for the Texas Department of Game and Fish and member of the state's Wildlife Federation, told commissioners he supports the plan.

"We urge you to hold your ground," Crenshaw emphasized. "The department's professionals presented you with a conservative, biologically sound rule to govern bear and cougar hunting over the next four years. We strongly urge you to pass this rule as presented."

Thomas Solomon, a resident of Bernalillo County, shared a story about a recent bear break-in at his house

east of Albuquerque. Solomon said the bear tore up his kitchen trying to get to bird feeders he had brought in overnight.

"Despite that, I harbor no ill will toward this bear or other apex predators," Solomon stated. "I live in their ecosystem. I don't think that we should increase the bear-cougar killing quotas, given all the other things that we are doing to harm their environment."

The proposal would keep cougar hunting limits the same in all but one management zone, where it would drop by 17 kills, reducing the yearly limit to 563.

Nevada sued over Medicaid coverage for abortion

CHRIS WOODWARD

(The Center Square)

Nevada is facing a lawsuit that aims to do away with the state's ban on Medicaid coverage for abortion.

The [lawsuit](#), filed in Clark County by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Silver State Hope Fund, a nonprofit that helps people pay for abortions, asks "to remove the exclusion of abortion from Medicaid coverage from the Medicaid Services Manual and order that abortion care is eligible for reimbursement under the Nevada Medicaid program."

Nevada is among [34 states](#) that follow federal Hyde Amendment standards from the 1970s that say states cannot use federal Medicaid dollars to pay for abortions, the only exceptions being for rape, incest, or life of the mother.

Silver State Hope Fund [said](#) in a press release the policy goes against Nevada's newly ratified Equal Rights Amendment, which

says individuals cannot be denied care based on sex. Silver State Vice President and Acting Executive Director Erin Bilbray-Kohn added that every person "deserves dignified access to health care, including abortion care."

"For too long, women and people who need access to abortion have been denied coverage just because they get their insurance from the state's Medicaid program," Bilbray-Kohn said. "Nevada's Medicaid policy has forced organizations like Silver State Hope Fund to step in where the state has failed to provide funding to pregnant Nevadans to cover abortion-related costs, but this shouldn't be how the system works."

"Seventeen states cover abortion care in their Medicaid programs, and under our state's Equal Rights Amendment, Nevada needs to do the same," said West Juhl, director of communications and campaigns at ACLU of Nevada.

Guilty pleas secured in election-related cases in Georgia and Arizona

LEONARD ROBINSON

(The Center Square)

Guilty pleas were entered in multiple federal cases involving those charged with making illegal threats against election officials in Georgia and Arizona.

The pleas, submitted in the Northern District of Georgia and the District of Arizona, marks 14 successful charges from the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force.

Chad Stark, a 55-year-old man from Texas, pleaded guilty to posting a message online threatening several Georgia public officials following the 2020 election, [according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice](#).

Mark Rissi, a 64-year

old man from Iowa, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison in the District of Arizona, [according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice](#). Rissi pleaded guilty to charges for sending threatening communications to a Maricopa County election official and Arizona's former attorney general, Mark Brnovich, in 2021.

Joshua Russell, a 44-year old man from Ohio, pleaded guilty to sending threatening communications to an election official with Arizona's secretary of state in 2022, [according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice](#).

The U.S. Department of Justice created the Election Threats Task Force in response to

an uptick in hostile and threatening communications towards election officials. The task force, per an earlier statement, includes members from the Criminal Division, the Civil Rights division, National Security division and the FBI.

"A functioning democracy requires that the public servants who administer our elections are able to do their jobs without fearing for their lives," U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a press release. "The Justice Department will continue to investigate and prosecute those who target election officials and election workers as part of our broader efforts to safeguard the right to vote and to defend our democracy."

Federal judge considers stay in abortion case affecting Montana, Kansas and Virginia

DARRELL EHRLICK

(Kansas Reflector)

A federal judge in Virginia will likely stay — or pause — a case regarding medical providers and mifepristone, a drug commonly used as part of chemical abortions, because of similar challenges in Texas and Washington.

Groups from Virginia, Montana and Kansas had filed the suit in the Charlottesville division of Virginia and asked Judge Robert S. Ballou to order the Food and Drug Administration to drop requirements of reporting adverse effects of the drug as well as limiting which providers can prescribe it. The plaintiffs, a group of women's health providers and clinics, had said an April ruling by a federal judge in Texas would have curtailed their ability to prescribe



the drug via telehealth.

However, Ballou pointed out that the Texas case, as well as a different one in Washington state, focus on the FDA, mifepristone and what prescription guidelines should be in place. Those issues are winding their

way through other federal courts and will likely land at the U.S. Supreme Court. Ballou said for those reasons, and because most of the legal actions surrounding medical providers' ability to prescribe mifepristone have been temporarily

paused because of the ongoing court action, it was in the best interest to wait or pause the Virginia case until the matter was decided, possibly by the nation's highest court.

Originally, medical providers pointed to the re-

markable track record of safety for the drug, noting that its risk of death was much smaller than some over-the-counter medications, including ibuprofen. However, the organizations bristled at more restrictions being implemented by the FDA without corresponding scientific data. They said that the additional measures were burdensome and limited healthcare for women who were considering an abortion.

"Plaintiffs have offered no evidence that FDA intends to take action to change any of mifepristone's (tracking and prescribing requirements) or to restrict the access of the drug in Virginia, Kansas or Montana," Ballou said in a memorandum opinion. "Indeed the FDA has been enjoined from changing (them) at this time in 17 states and the District of Columbia by the Washington court."

Ballou did point out, though, that the issue may again become ready to litigate in court after a decision by the Supreme Court or an appeals court.

"I agree that the outcome of the (Texas) case could have an impact on plaintiffs, but it is neither necessary nor appropriate to issue a preliminary injunction in anticipation or because of a ruling from another court," Ballou said.

He ordered all parties to set up a conference to make sure the record in the court case is complete before issuing any final order.

This story was produced by the Daily Montanan, a States Newsroom affiliate.

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19 state attorneys general file brief seeking to narrow Title IX exemptions

TOM JOYCE

(The Center Square)

Attorneys General from 19 states — including Colorado — and the District of Columbia filed an amicus brief this week with the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in a class-action case titled *Hunter v U.S. Department of Education*.

The 19-state coalition, led by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, filed the brief based on their interpretation of Title IX, a law that prevents sex discrimination in federally funded schools.

The brief argues that a 2020 rule change regarding how the government interprets Title IX is invalid.

The politicians support students who filed a lawsuit to oppose im-

plementing a religious exemption for parts of the law.

"When Congress enacted Title IX, it included a narrow exemption for schools controlled by religious institutions that have tenets incompatible with Title IX," a press release from Rosenblum's office said. "However, during the Trump administration, the Department of Education used administrative rulemaking to vastly expand this narrow religious exemption."

A new rule that came under the Trump administration made it more difficult for students to tell which schools claim a religious exemption, Rosenblum's office claimed in the release.

The Department of Education got rid of a requirement that schools

tell the Office for Civil Rights in writing that they plan to invoke a religious exemption.

"During the Trump administration, his Department of Education gutted protections for women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and other classes of students that had been in place for four decades," Attorney General Rosenblum said. "Title IX needs to be strengthened, not systematically weakened. Students ought to know before they get to campuses whether their academic institutions will protect their rights or undermine them."

The Attorneys General said they want students to know if their school is claiming a religious exemption into such matters before such an incident occurs.



Study: Demand for green jobs in Texas twice the national rate

Ramona Schindelheim for [WorkingNation](#).

(Texas News Service)

As home to more than 4,700 companies engaged in energy production, transmission, exploration, supply, and technology, Houston has long claimed the title of “The Energy Capital of the World.”

Oil and gas have been at the economic heart of the city and surrounding region since the massive Spindletop oil find in 1901 ushered in rapid expansion of the industry and led to Texas’ dominance in the energy field in the 1940s.

But, with the ever-growing focus on renewable energy, the Houston region wants to be known by another moniker: “The Energy Transition Capital of the World.”

“This is the industry that is going to have to lead the transition to a low-carbon world,” says [Peter Beard](#), SVP regional workforce development at the [Greater Houston Partnership](#). In 2020, the Partnership made that mission a priority, forming the [Houston Energy Transition Initiative](#) (HETI).

There’s a lot at stake. In a 2021 report, HETI

estimated that the region could lose as many as 650,000 jobs “if no action is taken to respond to the changing energy landscape.”

Action means opportunity.

The green economy is a job creator

You may be surprised to learn that Texas - home to four of the country’s 10 largest cities - already leads the country in renewable electricity production, with about 26.5% of the electricity generation in the state coming from renewable sources, according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA).

With the commitment to embracing renewables such as solar and wind, and circular energy production and technology, there are potentially tens of thousands of green job and career opportunities - many of them requiring very little upskilling - in the region and in the entire state.

In our newly released [Green Jobs Now: Texas](#) report - a [WorkingNation](#) and [Lightcast](#) analysis of the green labor market in the state - we find that the green workforce in Texas is al-

ready large and is growing.

Our report estimates there were over 127,000 workers in the Texas green economy last year, with nearly 44,000 new jobs openings posted by the end of 2022.

Employment demand for green jobs will increase an estimated 11.7% over the next five years, according to the [WorkingNation-Lightcast](#) report, far above the national average of 5.5%.

Texas has a workforce well-positioned to fill those jobs. The report estimates there are more than 4.4 million workers in the state who could be upskilled into the green jobs, directly and indirectly.

“These workers come from a variety of different occupations and educational backgrounds and reskilling them could the pipeline of green workers faster than relying on new postsecondary graduates alone,” the report states.

“There’s this longer pathway as we think about what is the existing energy industry doing to lower its carbon footprint through adding technologies to their existing work,” says Beard.

“Think about the technologies that we’re putting out on the table in terms of carbon capture utilization and storage and being able to put it back into the ground, or having a hydrogen hub that’s developing and delivering green hydrogen.”

He adds, “And think about those facilities, which are similar to our petrochemical facilities, need to be built and maintained. The indirect jobs related to the industrial construction side in the energy transition are going to be critically important.”

“We are not getting rid of petrochemicals anytime soon. We’re going to need to use LNG as a bridge to get people out of other technologies like coal. So how do we make use of natural gas, which emits less carbon, to support the transition. There are these origin jobs. They’re going to change and adjust as we add low-carbon technologies into the existing industries. But then there are going to be new industries like hydrogen which are the destination,” says Beard.

As the new technologies grow, he says, there will be new opportuni-

ties created and barriers to entering the field can and should be lowered. “You look across the value stream and look at jobs that have lower barriers to entry, that don’t require four-year degrees and probably don’t require two-year technical degrees. These are [entry-level] roles that could be accessible to disadvantaged communities.”

Houston: Engaging the younger generation

“We focus on how we prepare ourselves for the future,” says [Olivera Jankovska](#), the director of education for the city of Houston, the largest city in Texas and the fourth-largest city in the country.

“Our mayor [Sylvester Turner](#) really focuses on ensuring that we stay at least five years ahead of what’s needed in this economy.”

“He’s challenged each and every single department - whether it’s those that deal with youth or with development of communities or with resilience - to focusing on what will the community need five years from here for our economy to

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ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIBER BONUS SECTION

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continue growing,” says Jankovska.

She says that as the city prepares itself for the future, there is a lot of thought given to the [green economy, jobs, and energy transition](#).

As it turns out, Houston is the largest municipal purchaser of green power in the nation, with more than 92% of the municipal electricity supply sourced from wind and solar, according to the [Climate Mayors](#), a bipartisan network of more than 750 mayors dedicated to create climate action on a local level. Mayor Turner was the first chair of the group and is now chair emeritus.

“We’re moving away from the traditional coal, oil, and gas into a renewable, tech-based, efficiency-based economy. There are so many opportunities for efficiencies, right? EVs. Electricity. Our buildings. We are well positioned, not just for the training aspect of it, but to meet that demand,” she adds.

Jankovska says the city is focusing on training the city’s youth to fill these roles. “The jobs that are needed are going to have youth who are trained today for the next 5, 10, 15 years of the timeframe.”

“Mayor Turner wants to focus on the untapped potential of young people participating in our economy. Houston is the nation’s most diverse city, and it’s a very youthful state. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the population is zero to 18, 37% is zero to 24. Those two are very valuable components towards developing a workforce that will bring those unique talents and ideas and will meet the job market needs,” she tells me.

Earlier this month, Houston became the first city in the U.S. to be rec-

ognized as a child-friendly city by UNICEF, in part because of its focus over the past two years to exposing young people between the ages of 16 and 24 to local career opportunities.

[Hire Houston Youth](#) works with more than 600 local business to connect young people to eight-week-long internships, apprenticeships, and jobs. Jankov-



ka says this is often the first exposure to a career the young people have ever had and it can be life-changing.

“Our focus for the last two years has been STEM and medicine, IT, and green jobs. For each, we had a minimum of 1,000 placements goal and I know for a fact that in all three we have exceeded that goal.”

“An invested person is an interested person. So, if it’s focused on carbon capture, we’ll find the methods and ways to engage the youth and enlightenment about carbon capture and place them into an eight-week program. After those eight weeks, it’s ‘Look at that. It looks like there is a career that I don’t need to go to a four-year col-

lege for and I can still get a six-figure yearly salary.’ That’s the mentality that we want to cultivate in the community,” Jankovska concludes.

San Antonio: Employing the marginalized community

During the height of COVID, San Antonio - the nation’s seventh-largest city - was making national news

plus people into education and training programs, and get at least 15,600 of those placed into high-quality jobs in in-demand sectors, including clean energy,” he adds.

San Antonio’s role in the state’s transition to clear energy is substantial, with a number of wind companies headquartered in the city. OCL Solar Power develops utility-scale solar energy for communities around the country and partners with the local utility company to provide electricity for San Antonio. Mission Solar is a big manufacturer of solar panels.

“Employers are expanding and growing in the clean energy space. So that they can have the talent they need to meet their business needs, we’re partnering with our [local community college](#) and employers on training. We’re trying to make that connection so that the people who need to benefit the

most in our community are equipped with those cutting-edge skills and abilities and certifications that they need to fill those jobs,” according to Ramsey.

To that end, San Antonio is also partnering with the [National League of Cities](#) to develop pathways for some of its marginalized community members in its highest poverty areas to make them aware of the opportunities in the sector.

“Solar installers are in high demand with local contractors as companies are attempting to meet the demand for both residential and commercial applications of solar technology.”

“On the manufacturing side of the house, the attention to detail, the

quality control, and quality assurance are skills that are necessary and needed to fill that space,” Ramsey tells me.

He adds, “As you look at the electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is aligned to federal initiatives, you need the workforce in place that is qualified and certified to both install and maintain those EV charging stations. As that infrastructure continues to be built out, it’s another critical skillset that community members need to obtain in order to be able to accomplish those goals.”

Ramsey points out there are many job seekers and workers who already have some of the basic skills for the industry; they just need a little extra training or certifications.

“Licensed electricians might need a specific certification in order to install the charging stations, so as an additional credential they can add to their toolbox to be able to meet the contractor demands for getting that work done. There are also some transferable skills for people who work in other industry sectors that can benefit the clean energy space. We are identifying what those skills are and which occupations provide this most seamless transition over into clean energy so that we can provide that roadmap for potential employees within the sector.”

Ramsey says there has already been progress in the Ready to Work program, with hundreds of people placed in jobs with a median wage of \$18 an hour to start. He sees developing this pathway in the green energy sector as essential to the city’s and its residents’ economic health.

“Being a high-minority, low-educational attainment rate population is something that we are

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trying to drastically shift. Mayor Nirenberg and the city council are intentional about wanting to change that narrative and shift the trajectory of the people in our community here. And partnering with employers in industry sectors like clean energy, that have good-paying, family-sustaining jobs, is going to be the key ingredient to putting people on a path to economic stability.”

Dallas: Economic mobility through access

Dallas, the country’s ninth largest city, also was hit hard by the economic fallout from the pandemic.

Fourteen-point-three percent (14.3%) of Dallas County residents lived below the poverty line in 2021, according to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. That was down slightly from 14.6% the previous year.

Disrupting poverty through green career training and community education is at the heart of [Green Careers Texas](#), founded as Green Careers Dallas in 2016 by executive director [Tracy Wallace](#).

“I have a strong passion for that intersection of economic justice, racial justice, and environmental justice. Our program sits in the lowest-income zip code in the city of Dallas. Here low-income means Black and Latinx,” says Wallace. “All of poverty is about lack of access to... just fill in the blank.”

The program is a two-day solar installation course that teaches the basics of panel deployment, and industry safety standards. It also gives participants access to employers trying to fill these in-demand jobs. Green Careers Texas has partnered with [Tex-](#)

[as Solar Industry Society](#), which works with low-to-moderate income communities on local solar projects.

She says the program recruits hard-to-employ individuals, including people returning from prison or with a criminal record, and readies them for a career in the solar industry. Many of the participants are referrals through their partnership with the [South Dallas Employment Project](#).

“The populations that

been vulnerable - were it for being born in a zip code that determines your health outcomes or your educational outcome - then access should be there to participate in this industry. I’ve watched people that enter the industry not knowing what they’re going to do with their lives. And they start working in this industry and before you know it they’re operations manager running the warehouse. There is a true

will undermine our livelihoods and way of life.” That call to action means new career opportunities. “Our analysis demonstrates that robust growth in the green economy opens new pathways to high-quality jobs and rewarding careers for those who have historically had limited opportunities in the Austin labor market,” says Michael Oden, one of the authors of the report.

[Austin Civilian Conservation Corps](#) (ACCC)

the work is done.”

ACCC Internal Pathways is a cross-departmental effort that consists of 53 temporary staff positions hired as individual placements within specific green job fields within the city of Austin. Most of the participants are from Austin and have graduated from high school. Some participants are in college while others are considering their next steps.

“These ACCC members and specialists gain exposure to environmental careers through hands-on experience, job shadowing, mentorship, career portfolio-building, and exposure to equity-based green workforce curriculum,” adds Espinoza.

“Job placement after their term is a main focus. The specialists are people who have successfully matriculated through the program who serve as team leads for the newer team members and work to expand their pathways.”

Espinoza says that internships and experiential learning opportunities have been proven to have significant impact on the future career paths of participants, but these opportunities have traditionally been limited to those with connections and know-how.

“ACCC members get these same benefits while being paid. Through the career development opportunities, the ACCC members have clearer paths into professional careers; opportunities many of their family members and neighbors may have never had,” he says.

[WorkingNation](#) senior editorial producer Laura Aka contributed to this report.

Ramona Schindheim wrote this article for [WorkingNation](#).

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we’re recruiting from often have been raised in the neighborhoods that have been dumped on environmentally,” adds Wallace.

“When people have been raised where their health is likely affected because of environmental nonsense - whether it’s concrete batch plants or a lead smelter plant in West Dallas and a chrome plating plant - it seems like those are the people that ought to benefit from green energy first as a matter of fairness and justice.”

The program has expanded from the single Dallas zip code it started in to the suburbs and now Houston. The next planned addition is Austin. Wallace says she sees it making an impact. “For people that have

pathway of advancement.”

Austin: Equity in green workforce development

With 966,000-plus residents, the Texas capital of Austin now ranks as the tenth largest city in the country and it continues to be one of the fastest growing. By one estimate, Austin could have more than three million residents by 2030.

The city government is on a mission to make certain that growth is done in a green way. According to a [report prepared for it by the University of Texas-Austin](#), “If forceful actions are not taken to transform the way we produce, consume and travel, the economic costs of climate change and associated effects

is part of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department. It describes itself as “the next generation Climate Corps.” Its mission is to prioritize equity in green workforce development, while expanding the narrative around what a green career looks like.

“Equity is centered throughout ACCC,” explains [Juan Espinoza](#), ACCC program manager.

“The history of green workforce development has primarily been accessible to whiter, wealthier communities, despite much of the work being done in communities of color. ACCC works to provide these same opportunities so that the future of the green workforce has people from the communities in which much of

Gun law raises funding concerns for school hunting programs

SAMANTHA DIETEL

(Colorado Newswire)

Republican lawmakers are concerned that the Biden administration is interpreting last year's bipartisan gun safety law to cut funding for school archery and hunting programs, though programs themselves say they haven't been affected.

A provision in the law – a bipartisan effort to curb gun violence that established new criminal offenses, and expanded background check requirements and the scope of existing restrictions, according to the bill [summary](#) – bans education funding for “training in the use of a dangerous weapon.” Republicans in Congress have noted concern that could lead to funding cuts for school programs that encourage gun safety.

The law included a provision that “prohibits the use of elementary and secondary education funds to provide any person with a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon.”

The Department of Education has interpreted this provision to defund school archery and hunting programs across the country, scores of Republican lawmakers say, which prompted wide disapproval.

However, there is little evidence that any programs have yet been affected.

Patrick O'Connell, director of training and technology at the National Archery in the Schools Program, an organization that coordinates school archery programs across the country and has spoken out in defense of archery and firearm safety education, said he is



unaware of any schools that have been affected by a loss of funding.

“Just a large number of schools concerned about that possibility,” he said.

Spokespeople for the Education Department did not return messages seeking comment.

Criticism from lawmakers

Funding for hunting and archery programs generally comes from student fees, organized fundraisers, donations or state funds — with federal money adding relatively little, Michael Bloxom, the NASP Alabama state coordinator, said.

But congressional Republicans have still voiced objections about potential losses in that funding.

In an August 4 [letter](#), 66 House Republicans pressed Education Secretary Miguel Cardona to restore funding for archery and hunting programs.

The representatives praised the long safety records of such programs and the opportunities that they provide for students.

“These scholastic programs are where millions of kids learn safe and responsible firearm handling and storage, and

this egregious, irresponsible overreach by your Department will have far-reaching negative consequences,” the representatives wrote.

In an August 11 [letter](#) to President Joe Biden, 19 Republican senators demanded that the administration withdraw Education Department [guidance](#) specifying that federal funds cannot be used for firearm training programs. That reversal would allow school archery and hunting programs to continue receiving federal funds, they said.

The senators, led by U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican and the third-ranking member of the Senate GOP, used the letter to highlight the importance of school archery and hunting programs.

“While the administration claims to be eliminating dangerous activities, this guidance will, in fact, have the opposite effect,” the senators wrote. “These programs provided thousands of students with the opportunity to learn proper instruction for firearm and archery safety.”

The senators, none of whom were among the 14 Senate Republicans who joined the full Dem-

ocratic caucus [in voting for the bill](#) last year, called on the Biden administration to reverse “this misguided decision and ensure funding for these vital programs is not withheld.”

Objections haven't come only from Republicans. Sen. Jon Tester, a Montana Democrat, also wrote a [letter](#) to Cardona to express concern about how the interpretation of the gun law may affect school archery and hunting programs.

“In Montana, our schools have long offered shooting sport and hunter safety classes that play an important role in teaching safety and personal responsibility to students,” Tester said in his letter. “Outdoor recreation is foundational to our western way of life and any reduction of federal support for these educational programs is unacceptable.”

U.S. Rep. Mark Green, a Republican from Tennessee who chairs the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, introduced a [bill](#) on Aug. 1 meant to ensure federal funding for school archery and hunting programs would continue.

Green said that the Biden administration should not prevent Tennessee schoolchildren from receiving safety and skills training in archery, hunting or other shooting sports.

“The classes President Biden wants to defund aren't only about hunting and archery, they are about teaching young Americans how to respect nature and to focus on a goal,” Green said. “The Biden administration's decision to strip funding for these important classes doesn't just miss the mark, it misses the entire target.”

The Department of Ed-

ucation issued a [statement](#) to Fox News last month that it would work to restore federal funding for these programs.

Signs of impact

Officials with state chapters of NASP say they have been unaffected by the recent funding interpretation.

Generally the only cost to the schools may come in the form of teacher salaries, Bloxom, the Alabama NASP coordinator, said.

Still, there has been confusion and concern from people involved in the program.

“There was a lot of concern and discussion among teachers and parents, and a lot of that fear was due to a lack of information,” Bloxom said.

Alabama's programs have not been interrupted so far, he said.

“We are hopeful a compromise on the interpretation by the US DOE will permanently alleviate the fear that these important programs could be affected in the future,” Bloxom said.

Wyoming NASP coordinator William Poole said the legislation has been misinterpreted and that it is unclear how it would impact schools in his state.

“Our agency and partners are working to understand the intent of the legislation,” Poole said. “We will continue to support and advocate wholeheartedly for hunter education and archery in the schools. These programs play a vital role in fostering conservation ethic in our youngest citizens.”

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Education, environmental groups press for safe drinking water in schools

MIKE MOEN

(Greater Dakota News Service)

With kids around the nation back in school, the issue of whether all students and staff have access to safe drinking water remains a focal point of education and environmental groups. They want federal officials to update a key rule.

Organizations such as the National Parent Teacher Association and National Education Association have [sent the Environmental Protection Agency a letter](#) - asking it to bolster [the Lead and Copper Rule, which regulates the levels of these contaminants in public drinking water](#).

Environmental America signed on to the letter too, and the group's Clean Water Director John Rumpler said despite more awareness about the dangers, students and teachers still are at risk.

"What the data shows us, from the last few years," said Rumpler, "is that lead contamina-

tion of schools' drinking water is in fact, widespread."

Recent findings from his group show that more than 70 percent of schools in several states have confirmed instances of lead contamination.

The Biden administration is carrying out funding initiatives approved by Congress to remove lead pipes.

But Rumpler said updating the federal rule

would compel more states, school boards and utilities to respond.

The agency is expected to consider the matter this fall, and advocates say they want the EPA to be aggressive.

Despite an overhaul of the Lead and Copper Rule in 2021, Rumpler still described it as "weak" in protecting kids. He added that this is not just a concern regarding schools that were built

decades ago.

"The federal standards limiting the amount of lead in plumbing and faucets and fountains was only updated as recently as 2014," said Rumpler, "which means it's quite likely that school buildings that are only a decade old have a substantial threat of lead contamination."

The coalition says those materials should be replaced. Meanwhile,

it says only schools that provide their own water are regulated under the federal rule.

For these buildings, the letter calls on the EPA to require filters to remove lead and set a one-part-per-billion limit on lead in water. They say those changes would also help guide school districts that use public water systems.

Expert: Unaddressed hearing woes could make school life miserable

MIKE MOEN

(Minnesota News Connection)

Parents across the nation have been feverishly helping their kids get ready for the new school year. A health expert says if hearing has been an issue for the child, it's something that can't be left off the to-do list.

Dr. Kelly Conroy, an audiologist at the Mayo Clinic, said every two to three children out of 1,000 have hearing loss. If a student [can't hear what's happening in the classroom](#), she said, it might appear that it's an

issue of being inattentive. However, Conroy said this could be a sign they're struggling to engage with the learning process because of their hearing.

"And that can definitely be something that can be progressive," she said, "or it can be something that is intermittent, based upon other issues with their ears."

That could include recurring symptoms from an untreated ear infection, or it could stem from prolonged exposure to loud volumes from sources such as

headphones. Either way, she said, it could hurt academic performance, especially for young kids developing speech skills.

Even if your school has screenings, Conroy encouraged parents to bring up the issue with their family doctor, and a specialist referral could be provided, if needed.

In the meantime, Conroy said families can ask the school to make some accommodations while long-term solutions are sought.

"The classroom is very noisy," she said, "and that's where the parents

and teachers need to be really cognizant of that, certainly if they're aware of it, and have them seated in a place that's proper, where they can hear the teacher better."

She said hearing loss even in just one ear can negatively affect a student's ability to follow along in class. As for prevention, experts have said kids should follow the "60-60" rule, which is listening to music or video content through headphones at 60 percent of the maximum volume for no more than 60 minutes a day.

Researchers warn about synthetic opioids more powerful than fentanyl

[BRETT ROWLAND](#)

(The Center Square)

Synthetic opioids estimated to be 10 times more potent than fentanyl are creeping into the illicit drug market in the U.S., according to new research.

“Synthetic opioids, such as the fentanyl analog and nitazene drug class, are among the fastest growing types of opioids being detected in patients in the emergency department with illicit opioid overdose,” researchers warned in a [paper](#) published Tuesday in JAMA Network Open.

Nitazenes were developed in the 1950s as opioid analgesics, but were never approved to market, according to another [study](#) published this summer. That paper notes that “a characteristic of nitazenes is their high potency (e.g., hundreds to thousands fold more potent than morphine and other opioids and tenfold more potent than fentanyl).”



“Clinicians should be aware of these opioids in the drug supply so they are adequately prepared to care for these patients and anticipate needing

to use multiple doses of naloxone,” according to the JAMA Network Open [study](#) by Alexandra Amaducci, Kim Aldy, Sharan Campleman and

others.

In the study of 537 overdose patients in the U.S. from 2020 to 2022, researchers found nine people tested pos-

itive for nitazenes such as broprhine, isotonitazene, metonitazene, or N-piperidinyl etonitazene. That’s about 1.7 percent of the total. Of the 537 patients, 11 were found to only test positive for fentanyl – about 2 percent.

Why nitazenes are showing up in the illicit drug supply is unclear, but researchers said it may be the result of changing regulations.

“The exact motivation to produce nitazenes and broprhine are unclear,” according to the study. “The increased regulation of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues throughout the last decade may have led to a change in the chemical precursors required for clandestine laboratory production that were not yet regulated. This change in chemical precursors may have led to these newer and more potent opioids.”

The study found that people who overdosed on nitazenes and other novel potent opioids may require more naloxone to reverse overdose symptoms.

“These findings suggest that [novel potent opioids] may have a higher potency than fentanyl due to the observed naloxone administration in the clinical setting of overdose,” according to the study. It also noted that “further study is warranted to confirm these preliminary associations.”

“Furthermore, this preliminary data underscores the urgent need to study [novel potent opioids] in a larger, future cohort,” the authors wrote. “These data suggest that [novel potent opioids] may have higher potency than fentanyl and by extension heroin.”

Governors urge Congress to address prescription drug shortages

[KIM JARRETT](#)

(The Center Square)

Eleven governors are asking Congress to adopt policies to ease the nation’s prescription drug shortages.

The governors said in a letter sent Tuesday to Congressional leaders that 80 percent of active ingredients in prescription drugs are made outside of the U.S., mainly in India and China. But little is done to change that, they said.

“States are taking what limited action we can to combat prescription drug shortages,” the governors said. “Individual states have expanded our medical caches to

increase the diversity of prescription drugs that are stockpiled in case of emergency shortages. To create real change, the states need Washington to take action.”

The governors are asking Congress to consider policies that would “increase diversity in the manufacturing of generic medications with regards to both raw materials and final manufacturing,” require the FDA to be more transparent about shortages and supply disruptions and reexamine expiration date guidance to extend medicines shelf lives.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf indicat-

ed he would work with Congress, the governors said.

“Congress needs to improve the inspection process for manufacturers to decrease the risk that everyday Americans are currently facing,” the [governors said](#). “These practical steps toward greater transparency and flexibility will ensure safety and dependability in our pharmaceutical supply chain.”

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, the lead author of the letter, directed the Department of Health to study the state’s drug shortages. In July, she [ordered health officials](#) to include albuterol, epineph-

rine, insulin, prednisone, pediatric amoxicillin, and the antibiotics the department has stockpiled in its emergency cache. She also extended South Dakota’s cache to five more cities.

The governors of Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Texas and Wyoming also signed the letter addressed to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

IRS lost millions of taxpayer records that could be used for identity theft

CASEY HARPER

(The Center Square)

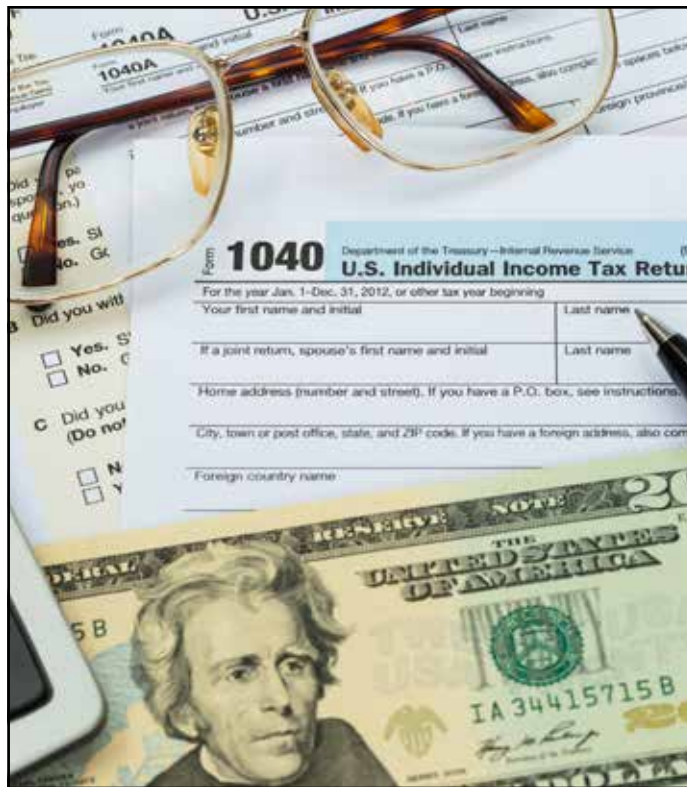
The Internal Revenue Service lost millions of taxpayer records and federal employees don't know where they have gone.

Lawmakers want answers and accountability for the IRS over those documents, which could be used by nefarious actors to steal Americans' identity.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa and House Ways and Means Chair Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., sent a letter to IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel raising concerns about the IRS' inventory of taxpayer records.

"The IRS's lackadaisical attitude towards the loss of millions of taxpayer records containing Social Security numbers, addresses, and other sensitive tax return information is appalling," the letter said. "The American people deserve better."

The IRS keeps microfilm records of individual



and business tax records in warehouses around the country. However, a recent Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report found that millions of those re-

ords were unaccounted for, and federal employees couldn't answer questions about what happened to them.

The TIGTA report, released earlier this month,

says the IRS is "not in compliance" with federal recordkeeping rules.

"Specifically, the microfilm cartridges are being stored on open shelving in the middle of the Files building, a large warehouse," the report said. "The warehouse is accessible by all Files Function personnel within the facility, and the shelving is not within eyesight of the IRS personnel responsible for overseeing microfilm activities."

The letter lays out some of the more concerning examples of improper storage. From the letter:

TIGTA also reported that the IRS was unable to locate any of the fiscal year (FY) 2010 backup records that should have been sent from a Tax Processing Center in Fresno, California, to Kansas City,

Missouri. In addition, the IRS could not account for 4,500 backup cartridges from FY 2019 containing individual taxpayer information and 4,000 backup cartridges from FY 2018 containing business tax records. This means the IRS cannot account for possibly 17 million tax records between FY 2018 and FY 2019 alone.

Moreover, during an onsite visit to an IRS Tax Processing Center, TIGTA observed multiple empty boxes that were intended to store up to 168 backup cartridges with hand written notes stating "sent for reformat 4-11-2013." IRS personnel, however, had no idea where these backup cartridges were located because the microfilm contractor that would have received the backup units went out of business in 2018.

The lawmakers' letter demanded answers about what has been done to rectify the problem, one of many administrative issues for the agency.

Lawmakers have also blasted the IRS for destroying about 30 million taxpayer documents.

Smith and Oversight Subcommittee Chairman David Schweikert, R-Ariz., sent a letter to Werfel in July saying the IRS has skirted oversight over the records and "willfully ignored" multiple information requests from Congress.

That inquiry began after a different TIGTA report showed the IRS destroyed 30 million taxpayer records in 2021. Those documents could have been used to help Americans defend themselves during audits, which President Joe Biden has pledged to ramp up to increase federal revenue.

Feds consider whether to allow betting on election outcomes

SUZANNE POTTER

(California News Service)

A proposal to allow betting on which political party will control Congress is drawing opposition from pro-democracy groups and from a coalition of progressive senators.

The New York trading company Kalshi has asked the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for approval to offer derivatives trading on so-called "event contracts," specifically, on control of Congress.

Stephen Spaulding, vice president of policy for the nonprofit Common Cause, said gam-

bling on elections is bad for democracy.

"You can imagine wealthy gamblers could make significant money by exploiting disinformation to influence an electoral outcome that would protect the bettors' bottom line," Spaulding pointed out. "This again opens up a significant risk to the perception that the winners and losers of an election are not determined by voters, but by those who stand to gain financially."

Backers of the proposal say it would allow companies to hedge against certain outcomes, limiting risk. Eliezer Mishory, Kalshi's chief regulato-

ry officer, has argued betting on elections is already allowed overseas, and suggests this proposal would give the federal government oversight powers.

Spaulding noted the "Citizens United" Supreme Court decision allowed companies to spend unlimited money on elections, and called betting on elections a "profound threat to democracy."

"You can imagine a situation where an entity places an enormous wager on the outcome of an election, and also funnels resources through Super PACs or other 'dark money' vehicles to

influence the outcome of an election," Spaulding explained. "That is inherently, we think, anti-democratic."

Both Common Cause and some U.S. senators, including California's Dianne Feinstein, submitted letters of opposition during the public comment period, which ended in July. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is expected to make a decision by Sept. 21.

Support for this reporting was provided by The Carnegie Corporation of New York.



Job growth exceeds economists' expectations as unemployment inches up

CASEY QUINLAN

(Colorado Newsline)

The labor market is stable and healthy, economists and policy experts say, although the unemployment rate ticked up in the month of August.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' report released Friday showed that unemployment rose to 3.8 percent in August from 3.5 percent in July. Meanwhile the economy added 187,000 jobs, above expectations of 170,000 jobs from economists polled by Reuters. In July, 157,000 jobs were added.

Although a rise in the unemployment rate may look foreboding, it's actually an indication of people looking for work in a more attractive labor market with higher wage growth and employers who may be more willing to offer more job flexibility, said Mike Konczal, a director at the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank. Those factors may have appealed to people who were returning to the labor market after some time away.

"We saw that the unemployment rate went up, basically entirely because the labor force

expanded. The labor force is people looking for a job and working. And in particular, among the unemployed, people who are new entrants to the labor market, were the ones who drove it," Konczal said.

The number of jobs the economy added this month is also cause for confidence in the job market, even if it is slowing down.

"For this stage of recovery where unemployment has been below 4 percent for well over a year, that level of job growth is pretty remarkable. You would probably only need like 100,000 [jobs added] to keep up with the population growth," Konczal said.

Wages inched up 0.2 percent in August compared to 0.4 percent in July. Overall, wage growth rose 4.3 percent over the past 12 months. Although wage growth is still strong and higher on a three-month basis than it was before the pandemic, Konczal said it's lower than a year and a half ago when the Federal Reserve was concerned it would fuel inflation.

The Fed raised the key interest rate in July, making it the highest in

more than two decades. It is considering raising it again to continue fighting inflation to bring it down to its target of 2 percent from its current rate of 3.2 percent.

Economists and policy experts caution that a rate hike from the Fed could hurt some of the gains workers made during the recovery.

"We should be concerned about the labor market softening too fast given that there's been a lot of rate hikes," Konczal said. "We know housing is still probably going to slow again."

Economists and policy advocates also are closely tracking the unemployment rate in the Black community, which fell to a record low of 4.7 percent in April, before seeing two consecutive months of increases. It hit a high of 6 percent in June, and currently stands at 5.3 percent in the August jobs report.

Before the jobs report on Friday, Katherine Gallagher Robbins, senior fellow at the National Partnership for Women & Families, told States Newsroom in an email: "While the economy is still very good, there are signs – such as the trends in Black women's

employment, as well as the fact that the number of jobs added in July (187,000) was significantly below the average monthly gains for the prior 12 months (312,000) – that indicate a slowing. We have long maintained that rate hikes – which disproportionately impact marginalized workers – are not the right tool for fighting inflation. To me the most recent trends make that even more clear."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also revised those 187,000 jobs in July down to 157,000 jobs.

The marginalization and discrimination against Black people in the U.S. economy is one of the reasons that economists look at Black unemployment and other relevant labor data as an indicator of where the economy is headed, economic research has shown. Black workers ages 25 to 54 faced higher unemployment earlier and for a more sustained period than white workers in the Great Recession, according to a 2020 analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Konczal said, "The Fed has indicated that it is comfortable with unem-

ployment going up a little bit to fight inflation in different ways. And I think there's good reason and empirical reason to think Black unemployment might increase first. It is still something to watch with concern."

Bilal Baydoun, director of policy and research at Groundwork Collaborative, said the strong labor market has provided more opportunities for labor organizing this year. There have been 251 labor actions from January to Aug. 30, according to Cornell's strike tracker.

"This is a historic opening for workers not just to make progress against the pandemic economy and the pandemic recovery, but also against the pre-pandemic economy. The rise in labor activity spurred by a tight labor market is very promising," he said. "And the Fed is threatening to stifle a lot of that progress, which is curious because merely years ago, the very workers that we almost exclusively refer to as essential are proving to be ever expendable in Fed policymaking."

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U.S. Labor Department proposing rule to boost overtime pay eligibility for salaried workers

[RANDY BRACHT](#)

(The Center Square)

The U.S. Department of Labor issued notice Wednesday of a proposal to increase the threshold for required overtime payments to salaried workers whose weekly or annual wages are considered low income.

If enacted, the [proposed rule](#) would guarantee overtime pay for most salaried employees earning less than \$1,059 per week, or about \$55,000 per year. It also calls for an “escalator” that automatically updates the salary threshold every three years to reflect current earnings data. The Labor Department estimates the rule could apply to about 3.6 million workers nationwide.

That possibility has sparked opposition from some employers and business interests over increased operational costs.

Under current federal regulations, so-called “white collar” employees earning at least \$684 a week – equivalent to \$35,568 annually – are generally exempt from receiving overtime pay.

The proposal is aimed

at salaried employees, not manual laborers and other blue-collar workers who are typically paid by the hour and entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay regardless of income level.

Generally, employees covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act must receive overtime pay at a minimum of 1-1/2 times their regular pay rate when working more than 40 hours per week. Some states have their own overtime laws. In such instances, an employee is entitled to overtime pay at the higher standard.

Job classifications exempt from federal overtime pay requirements for salaried employees may include executive, administrative, professional, creative, computer, outside sales, and “highly compensated” positions.

The Labor Department’s current exemption threshold was enacted in 2019 during the Trump Administration and took effect in January 2020. It was a reduction from the \$47,476 threshold established under the prior Obama Administration.

The current rules are

no longer appropriate, said Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su, who called them “outdated and out-of-sync.”

“I’ve heard from workers again and again about working long hours, for no extra pay, all while earning low salaries that don’t come anywhere close to compensating them for their sacrifices,” Su said in a Wednesday [news release](#).

“Today, the Biden-Harris administration is proposing a rule that would help restore workers’ economic security by giving millions more salaried workers the right to overtime protections if they earn less than \$55,000 a year,” she said. “Workers deserve to continue to share in the economic prosperity of Bidenomics.”

Marc Freedman, vice president of workplace policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, voiced opposition to the proposed rule.

“The Department of Labor’s proposed overtime regulation is the wrong rulemaking at the wrong time,” Freedman said in a Thursday [statement](#).

Freedman said the

proposal spikes the salary threshold by more than 50 percent and will increase costs for small businesses, nonprofits, and other employers at a time when businesses already face persistent workforce shortages that are hindering the economy.

“The proposed regulation also includes an automatic escalator clause that lacks statutory authorization and guarantees the salary threshold will become unworkable in just a few short years,” Freedman said. “The U.S. Chamber hopes that DOL heeds the comments and input from employers and makes significant changes in its proposal.”

In contrast, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., issued a Thursday [statement](#) saying, “Workers should be compensated fairly when they work long hours; it’s that simple.”

“For too long, giant corporations have gone to great lengths to stiff their workers of the overtime wages they deserve, and that needs to end,” said Murray, senior member and former chair of the Senate’s Committee on Health, Education,

Labor, and Pension.

“Democrats and the Biden-Harris administration are fighting back to protect workers by expanding overtime protections ... This proposal is a huge step in the right direction and would make a meaningful difference for millions of hardworking people across America,” said Murray, who denounced the threshold reduction under the Trump administration.

Some critics of the rule say the proposed wage-threshold increase does not consider regional economic factors. A \$55,000 annual wage might be considered “low” in major metropolitan areas, such as Los Angeles or New York, but relatively high compared to average wages paid in many rural parts of the country.

The Labor Department’s “Notice for Proposed Rulemaking” can be viewed at www.regulations.gov. It will be submitted for posting on the Federal Register, when it will be open to public comment for 60 days.

Bipartisan bill aims to improve agricultural conservation practices

TOM JOYCE

(The Center Square)

U.S. Senators from four states are working together on a bipartisan bill they hope will improve agricultural conservation practices.

U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich, D-New Mexico, Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota recently filed a bill to streamline the Natural Resource Conservation Service's process for updating and adopting conservation practice standards they say will help farmers and ranchers "improve soil health, build resilience to climate impacts, and achieve their conservation goals," according to a press release from Heinrich's office.

The lawmakers think the bill will help ranchers

and farmers voluntarily follow NRCS conservation practices.

Heinrich said farmers need ways to make their land more resilient, and he thinks this would help.

"Regenerative agriculture and soil health practices help farmers and producers make their working lands more resilient, something that is widely wanted and needed," Heinrich said in the release. "As Congress negotiates the next Farm Bill, Republicans and Democrats agree that we must update the process for developing new conservation practice standards at the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and make that process more transparent and accessible for all. By leveraging innovation happening in New Mexico and across the country, producers

can build more resilience into their operations and make a real difference in our fight against climate change."

Ernst said she supports the bill since she thinks it will help the long-term viability of farming in Iowa.

"Iowa's ability to remain a powerhouse and leader in conservation is heavily determined by how efficiently we can improve and streamline the process for getting new technologies into farmers' hands," Ernst said in the release. "By boosting efforts to conserve vulnerable areas, we can promote positive habitat health, increase water quality, strengthen the health of our soil, and ultimately ensure that future generations also have the opportunity to farm."

Marshall concurred

and said government bureaucrats are making it difficult for farmers to access sound conservation practices.

"The current process for adopting and updating the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards (CPS) is flawed by bureaucratic processes that lack clear and consistent guidelines," Marshall said in the release. "Our producers are rightfully frustrated by the federal government complicating their conservation efforts. We should always strive to make government agencies just as nimble and innovative as the farmers they serve. I'm proud to work on this bipartisan solution with my colleagues to ensure farmers have the tools necessary to support conservation efforts and help producers leave their land cleaner, safer, and healthier than they found it."

Klobuchar also voiced her support for the legislation.

"Minnesota farmers have been long-time leaders in protecting soil and water quality," Klobuchar said in the release. "That is why it is crucial that we have an effective and efficient process for conservation practices to be approved and implemented on the ground. This bipartisan legislation makes common sense improvements that will ensure our farmers have access to the latest tools to support conservation practices."

The Streamlining Conservation Practice Standards Act has support from over 140 organizations, including Regenerate America/Kiss the Ground and the New

Mexico Healthy Soils Working Group.

The Streamlining Conservation Practice Standards Act would do the following, according to the release:

Clarify the process for updating existing NRCS conservation practice standards (CPS) and establishing new CPS: Updates the review process for existing conservation practice standards to at least once every 5 years on a rolling basis and makes the process more transparent by providing the opportunity for public input. Requires the USDA to set up a new streamlined, publicly accessible process for establishing interim conservation practice standards and conservation practice standards, including a published timeline for review and a portal for public submission of conservation practices for consideration as an interim conservation practice standard.

Make CPS more transparent and accessible: Requires the USDA to increase transparency and provide more publicly available information about conservation practice standards, what data and scientific information must be considered in their establishment, and how the public can engage with the process, including how the public can engage State technical committees to consider interim conservation practice standards already in effect in other states.

Clarify one of the purposes of Conservation Innovation Grants: to help incorporate innovative approaches and new technologies into new and existing CPS.

Advocates blast EPA over 'inaction' on confinement rules

MARK MORAN

(Iowa News Service)

Clean-water activists [are angry over a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) to sidestep action on threats to water posed by factory farms.

A group of petitioners, including [Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement](#), called on the EPA six years ago to toughen regulations.

Along with dozens of other organizations, Iowa CCI [petitioned the EPA in 2017](#) to strengthen its factory farm water pollution regulations under the Clean Water Act.

In a recent decision, [the EPA announced it would form a committee to study the issue](#) rather than impose any new regulations or require Iowa regulators to enforce existing law

more strictly.

Chair of Iowa CCI's Board of Directors Barb Kalbach said the EPA's inaction creates unsafe water conditions for Iowans.

"Too dirty to swim in or fish in or whatever, have recreation in," said Kalbach. "That's mostly what we get. So, we had hoped the EPA could pressure the state of Iowa to enforce regulations."

Kalbach argued that the EPA's weak rules have left the large-scale livestock industry mostly unregulated.

Iowa produces nearly 24 million hogs a year, highest in the nation.

In its ruling, the EPA says it shares environmental concerns over the large livestock operations and agrees many may be in violation of the Clean Water Act - but stopped

short of strengthening regulations and instead announced an advisory committee to further study the issue.

Kalbach called this type of inaction typical.

"My reaction was color me surprised," said Kalbach. "I have absolutely no faith that a committee will make any kind of decision or any kind of recommendation that has not been made to EPA for the last 15 years. Absolutely nothing will come out of that."

Large-scale livestock feeding operations, also known as CAFOs, are well-known sources of water pollution in Iowa - where, left unchecked, nitrates can leach into nearby rivers, lakes and streams, making the water dangerous for both humans and wildlife.

Food prices expected to rise through 2024

CASEY HARPER

(The Center Square)

Recently released federal pricing analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that food prices will continue to rise through 2024.

The USDA pointed to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index released earlier this month, which showed consumer prices overall rose 3.2 percent in the previous twelve months. Food prices, though rose more quickly at 4.9 percent during the same time.

Now, USDA says that increase will continue.

“Food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2023 than in 2022 but still at above historical-average rates,” USDA said in its analysis. “In 2023, all food prices are predicted to increase 5.9 percent, with a prediction interval of 5.3 percent to 6.5 percent. Food-at-home prices are predicted to increase 5.2 percent, with a prediction interval of 4.4 percent to 6.1 percent. Food-away-from-home prices are predicted to increase 7.1 percent, with a prediction interval of 6.8 percent to 7.5 percent.”

Food prices are rising more slowly than the fever pitch inflation spike earlier in the Biden administration, but those prices are still increasing.

“Food prices are expected to continue to decelerate but not decline in 2024,” USDA said. “In 2024, all food prices are predicted to increase 2.8 percent, with a prediction interval of -2.0 percent to 7.9 percent. Food-at-home prices are predicted to increase 2.1 percent, with a prediction interval of -5.1 percent to 9.9 percent, and food-away-from-home prices are predicted to



increase 5.1 percent, with a prediction interval of 2.7 percent to 7.5 percent.”

Food costs soared in particular in 2022, rising by 9.9 percent. While 2022 saw the largest spike, prices had already

begun rising earlier in the Biden administration.

Food prices rose noticeably in 2020, increasing by more than 3 percent while some categories like meat became even more expensive than that.

“The largest price increases were for meat categories: beef and veal prices increased by 9.6 percent, pork prices by 6.3 percent, and poultry prices by 5.6 percent,” USDA said. “The only category to decrease in

price in 2020 was fresh fruits, by 0.8 percent.”

In 2021, the price of food-at-home rose 3.5 percent while the food-away-from-home prices rose 4.5 percent. Once again, beef saw a spike in cost, though all categories became more expensive.

“Of all the CPI food-at-home categories tracked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Economic Research Service (ERS), the beef and veal category had the largest relative price increase (9.3 percent) and the fresh vegetables category the smallest (1.1 percent),” USDA said. “No food categories decreased in price in 2021 compared with their prices in 2020.”

As The Center Square previously reported, U.S. lawmakers are gearing up to renew the “farm bill” legislation, a major spending package focused mostly on agricultural issues.

That spending package, which normally authorizes five years of funds, could top a trillion dollars this time around. The existing farm bill expires Sept. 30 of this year.

Fed board meets in Idaho to discuss nuclear waste storage

ERIC TEGETHOFF

(Northern Rockies News Service)

Federal officials are in Idaho to discuss where to store nuclear waste. The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, an independent federal agency, is holding two meetings in Idaho Falls. The first is today and will feature a [workshop](#) on the siting of radioactive waste facilities. Wednesday’s [board meeting](#) will focus on the Energy Department’s consent-based siting process for waste.

Don Hancock, the nu-

clear waste program director for the Southwest Research and Information Center, said the consent-based process fell by the wayside during the Trump administration but has become a focus again under President Biden.

“They’re starting off saying we think we want to come up with a consent-based process to see if we can store spent fuel for some considerable period of time,” he explained. “But people would be consenting to temporary storage as opposed to permanent

disposal.”

Hancock added the Obama administration decided the siting process should prioritize temporary sites rather than long-term geological storage and the Biden administration has picked up there. The public can be involved in both Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board’s meetings this week, either in person or online.

Hancock noted that Boise State University was selected by the Energy Department to receive [\\$2 million dollars](#) to

study consent-based siting. However, he added it is not clear what that means for Idaho.

“An important question that I think people of Idaho would want to know is does Boise State and their partners think that what they’re doing now and what they could be doing down the line is having Idaho consent to being this kind of interim storage site?” he said.

Boise State University did not respond to a request for comment by the deadline for this story.

RODDY SCHEER & DOUG MOSS

Dear EarthTalk

Are carbon offsets an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or are they just corporate greenwashing with little if any environmental impact?

Joe M., Milwaukee, WI

If you want to get environmental advocates agitated, bring up carbon offsetting. It is among the most hotly debated climate solution efforts, with opinions fanned out on the spectrum from whole-heartedly for, entirely against, and everywhere in between. But what actually is it?

Offsetting is the act of counterbalancing harmful emissions one might be responsible for by funding a project that removes the same amount of emissions from the atmosphere, i.e. planting trees to compensate for an airplane flight. Offsets are hooked up to a broader financial system called a “carbon

market,” where investors can buy “carbon credits” to compensate for their emissions. One credit equals one ton of CO₂.

There are two types of carbon markets, one “voluntary” and one called “compliance.” Compliance markets are controlled by official policy, and a cap-and-trade system, where by a government will set a “cap” (a limit) how much CO₂ an industry may release, and then divide it into permits, which are either given or sold to companies within that industry. If a company doesn’t use all of its allowance, it can sell the extra to bigger emitters for a profit. Each year, the cap is supposed to get lower and lower, driving the price of polluting up and, in theory, sending companies careening towards renewables and clean energy.

The voluntary system is similar, but it functions outside of government regula-



tion. Companies purchase credits from carbon offsetting projects in order to prove their environmental standards. On paper, this sounds great. But activists do have valid concerns. An investigation into Verra, the world’s leading voluntary carbon credit certifier, found that over 90 percent of its credits were phantom ones with no environmental benefit. So, it is easy to see why some think it is a

massive scam.

“Stop greenwashing!” shouted young climate activist Greta Thunberg at an assembly of experts at the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. The topic? Carbon offsetting. Greenpeace is very vocal on the matter too, seeing it as merely “[t]ree planting window dressing aimed at distracting [us] from ecosystem destruc-

tion.” But solid belief in the potential in the market is also valid. Johan Rockström from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research says that offsetting generates much-needed investments even if it does lack proper regulation. In fact, investments in green spaces and local communities are a major upside to offsetting. By selling credits that maintain natural landscapes, often in developing countries, the carbon markets funnel money into wildlife, and could even eventually reverse the depressing maxim: “Our forests are worth more dead than alive.”

And what about the carbon that is already in the atmosphere? Naveen Shivalingam, co-founder of Peak 365, a carbon market solutions company, notes that “the negatives [of the carbon markets] are pretty far reaching. But the fact remains that we have 60 billion tons [of CO₂] too many in the atmosphere. Even if the world magically switched to renewables tomorrow, we would still be in a climate disaster in 50 years.” Offsetting projects provide a viable escape route.

Los Alamos team sees modeling as tool to blend hydrogen in natural gas pipelines

TOM JOYCE

(The Center Square)

Math modeling can improve safety when blending hydrogen with natural gas for transportation, Los Alamos National Laboratory announced in a press release this week.

A safe hydrogen transition is among the proposed solutions to help the United States reach a net-zero-carbon economy.

“Mixing hydrogen into a natural gas pipeline changes how the gases flow, which will create new conditions for operators,” Anatoly Zlotnik, a co-author of a new paper on the modeling in the journal PRX Energy, said.

“Our modeling shows that injecting hydrogen gradually into a natural gas pipeline network allows safe, predictable operations.”

Zlotnik is a mathematician at the federal Los Alamos National Laboratory. His expertise is in modeling, designing, and controlling energy transmission systems.

Zlotnik and his Los Alamos colleagues used nonlinear partial differential equations to develop a model for transporting heterogeneous natural gas and hydrogen mixtures through pipeline systems.

The team included compressor and regulator units, supply stations that “inject gas into the

network at a defined pressure and hydrogen blends, and flow stations that withdraw the mixture from the network,” in its infrastructure modeling, according to the release.

Hydrogen transport via existing natural gas pipeline networks lets operators maximize the utility of existing infrastructure as part of a carbon reduction strategy to deal with climate change.

“Hydrogen is much lighter than natural gas, which is mostly methane, so blending them challenges pipeline operation in new ways,” the release said.

The team at Los Alamos concluded that limit-

ing the rate of change of hydrogen injection into a natural gas pipeline will prevent significant changes in pressures.

The team thinks its methods could allow operators to create standards regarding injection rates.

Hydrogen does not emit carbon dioxide. In a fuel cell, hydrogen can create electricity to power cars, trucks and facilities when coupled with oxygen.

Additionally, hydrogen can be blended with natural gas and used in appliances, including household furnaces and dryers. Or, companies can burn it to generate electricity or power manufacturing facilities.

CONTACTS

- Peak 365, peak365.co.uk
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, www.pik-potsdam.de/en/home
- Is Carbon Offsetting Greenwashing? The Big Picture, impactful.ninja/is-carbon-offsetting-greenwashing/.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earth-talk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Dear Dietitian – Taking a look at coffee

LEANNE McCRATE, RDN, LD



things simple, and they work efficiently. Some of the drawbacks of their personality are that they can be abrupt and sometimes moody. Black coffee drinkers tend to be set in their ways and resist change.

Many people seek comfort in coffee by adding cream and sugar. They are often people pleasers and will go out of their way to help someone. They are giving but may get over-extended while volunteering for too many charities. Since they often put others' needs above their own, they may need improvement in self-care.

Those who make instant coffee are said to be procrastinators and don't mind waiting until the last minute to make their brew before dashing out the door. They are laid back and take life as it comes. Sometimes they can be too laid back and neglect health issues. Instant coffee drinks are not good planners.

People who order decaffeinated coffee like to be in control and may be perfectionistic. They tend to their health needs and make good choices. On the downside, decaf drinkers tend to be worriers and can be overly sensitive.

Iced coffee drinks are popular now. Folks who order these brews are spontaneous and like to try new things. They are outgoing and consider themselves to be trendsetters. On the dark side, they may fall for gimmicks and don't always think things through before acting.

If you haven't tried a flavored coffee, I suggest doing so. Many flavors are on the market, including ha-

zelnut, pumpkin spice, and salted caramel. Flavored coffee drinkers are risk-takers. They like variety and aren't afraid of change. Some less favorable characteristics of this group include impulsivity and being highly sensitive (2).

Now that you know what

your coffee says about you, see if you can mix it up next time and dare to be different.

Dear Dietitian

References

(1) Rolfsen, E. (9 Aug 2020). Coffee trivia to

amaze your friends and delight total strangers. <https://www.beanpoet.com/coffee-trivia/>

(2) Walters, E. (8 Jul 2018) What does your coffee reveal about you? <https://psychcentral.com/blog/what-does-your-coffee-reveal-about-you/>

Cooking at Home

Tex-Mex Skillet

Makes: 8 Servings
Cook Time: 20 minutes
Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 1/2 medium head lettuce
- 1 medium green bell pepper
- 1 large tomato
- 1 small jalapeno pepper
- 1 medium red onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 ounces low-fat cheddar cheese
- 1 can of black beans (no salt added)
- 1 pound lean ground beef (turkey or chicken)
- 2 2/3 cups frozen corn
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 8 whole wheat flour tortillas (6 inch)
- dash ground black pepper

Directions

Rinse lettuce, bell pepper, tomato, and jalapeño. Rinse and peel onion. Peel garlic.

Chop or shred lettuce into bite size pieces. Mince garlic. Halve the jalapeño and bell peppers. Remove seeds with the tip of a knife. Dice peppers.

Over a small bowl, grate tomato and onion using the coarse side of a box grater. Collect all pulp and juices.

Grate cheddar cheese.

In a colander, drain and rinse beans.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook meat, bell pepper, and garlic, until meat is lightly browned. Drain to remove fat.

Stir in frozen corn, beans, water, and spices. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and cover. Simmer for 10 minutes, or until most liquid is gone.

While meat mixture is simmering, make a salsa. Add jalapeño and a pinch of salt to the grated tomato and onion. Stir and set aside.

Divide the meat mixture evenly among the 8 tortillas. Top each with grated cheese, salsa, and lettuce. Roll up and serve.

Source: [Meeting Your MyPlate Goals on a Budget](#) Toolkit by MyPlate [National Strategic Partners](#).

Nutrition Information

Nutrients	Amount
Total Calories	250
Total Fat	5 g
Saturated Fat	1 g
Cholesterol	30 mg
Sodium	410 mg
Carbohydrates	31 g
Dietary Fiber	12 g
Total Sugars	3 g
Added Sugars included	0 g
Protein	20 g
Vitamin D	0 mcg
Calcium	60 mg
Iron	2 mg
Potassium	872 mg

Movie Review - Gran Turismo

BOB GARVER

Like its main character, “Gran Turismo” fights hard to overcome the stigma of its association with a video game. Video game movies have taken some big steps lately, both creatively and commercially, with efforts like the “Sonic the Hedgehog” series and “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” though the genre still lacks that one ceiling-shattering creative standout. Unlike its main character, “Gran Turismo” ultimately can’t quite pull it off. It’s close, it really is, but this movie comes just short of being the first video game movie to earn my recommendation.

Archie Madekwe stars as Jann Mardenborough, a gamer struggling to find his place in the world. He’s not interested in pursuing an education or a career,

much to the consternation of his father (Djimon Hounsou). The only time he feels like he’s accomplishing anything is when he’s playing the “Gran Turismo” racing game, but there’s no future in that... or is there? Nissan executive Danny Moore (Orlando Bloom) has a plan to take the best players from around the world and put them behind the wheel of real race cars. Jann qualifies, and thus his underdog journey begins.

Jann trains under the harsh tutelage of former racer Jack Salter (David Harbour), a mentor that lost his own nerve for racing after a fatal accident. Not only does Jack not believe in Jann, he doesn’t believe in the whole concept of simulated racing translating to actual racing.

Many other characters hold the same belief, saying that real racing isn’t the same as gaming and that it’s too dangerous for this type of experiment. I’d say it becomes monotonous, but the hazards of racecar driving can’t be overstated.

We follow Jann as he goes through a crash-course (for lack of a better term) in racing at a makeshift academy where he needs to finish in the top five of his class, to a qualifying circuit where he has seven races to finish in at least fourth place to earn a contract, to the 24 Hours of Le Mans race (yes, the one from “Ford vs Ferrari”) where he has to finish at least third or sim racing will be shut down forever. Along the way he gradually earns the respect of his peers, naysayers, and most difficult of all, his family.

It’s mostly typical underdog sports-movie stuff,



without the necessary feature of much in the way of traditional athletics. I know racecar drivers are real athletes, and I’m not saying otherwise, but nothing changes the fact that the actors can always be filmed vibrating and breathing heavily from the driver’s seat while the car, driven by a someone else (in this case, it’s often the real Jann Mardenborough), is what’s seen in the most tense sequences. On the other hand, Harbour turns in an excellent performance and sports movies are as popular as they are for a reason – because it’s easy to get caught up in them – including this one.

I was on the fence about “Gran Turismo.” I was tempted to say that this movie just barely breaks the streak of there never being a “good” video game movie, or that it doesn’t really count as a video game movie because the movie is more “about” the game than it is an adaptation. But then I learned of a deal-breaker: this movie

completely misrepresents a horrific real-life event that takes place at the end of the second act. In the movie it takes place at a time when a setback needs to happen so Jann has an obstacle to overcome going into Le Mans. In real life, it took place two years later. This certainly isn’t the first time in movie history that real-life details have been fudged for dramatic purposes, but this one is so blatant and was called out so immediately that it really makes me question how much respect the filmmakers really had for their subject. And when I start questioning that, it makes me question how much respect they have for their audience.

Grade: C

“Gran Turismo” is rated PG-13 for intense action and some strong language. Its running time is 134 minutes.

Contact Bob Garver at rg251@nyu.edu.

Home Country – Paying tuition

SLIM RANGLES



display there. With the kids and their prize animals.

Over the years I’ve interviewed a ton of these kids for whichever newspaper I was working for, and it’s never ceased to amaze me. You give a kid a calf, or help him or her work to earn one, and then the work begins. There’s the brushing and polishing, and feeding scientifically to bring out the best in the animal’s conformation. And a kid must halter break the calf, which isn’t easy at all, so that 700 pounds of beef follows you around on a leash.

And the kid gives hugs and snuggles from the growing calf, and gets them back in spades. That’s the part I don’t understand. You

see, if the calf and the kid have worked together well enough over the past season, the calf will bring big bucks to the owner at the big sale. Restaurant chains pay premium dollars to say their Flamo Burgers are made from prize-winning cattle.

So the kid and the calf are separated for good, one going on to college more affordably now, and the other to the Flamo Burger factory.

And there are tears, of course, and deep questions to be asked, but the bottom line is that a beef in great condition can pay for a lot of tuition.

Here’s a little something we can do to help: <https://www.ktvu.com/news/online-ways-you-can-help-those-affected-by-the-lahaina-fire>.

The calendar, and the quality of the air we breathe, insist it’s state fair season. The competition is great to watch, no matter what it is. You know, like trying to knock down a pile of cinder blocks with a ping pong ball at 50 feet.

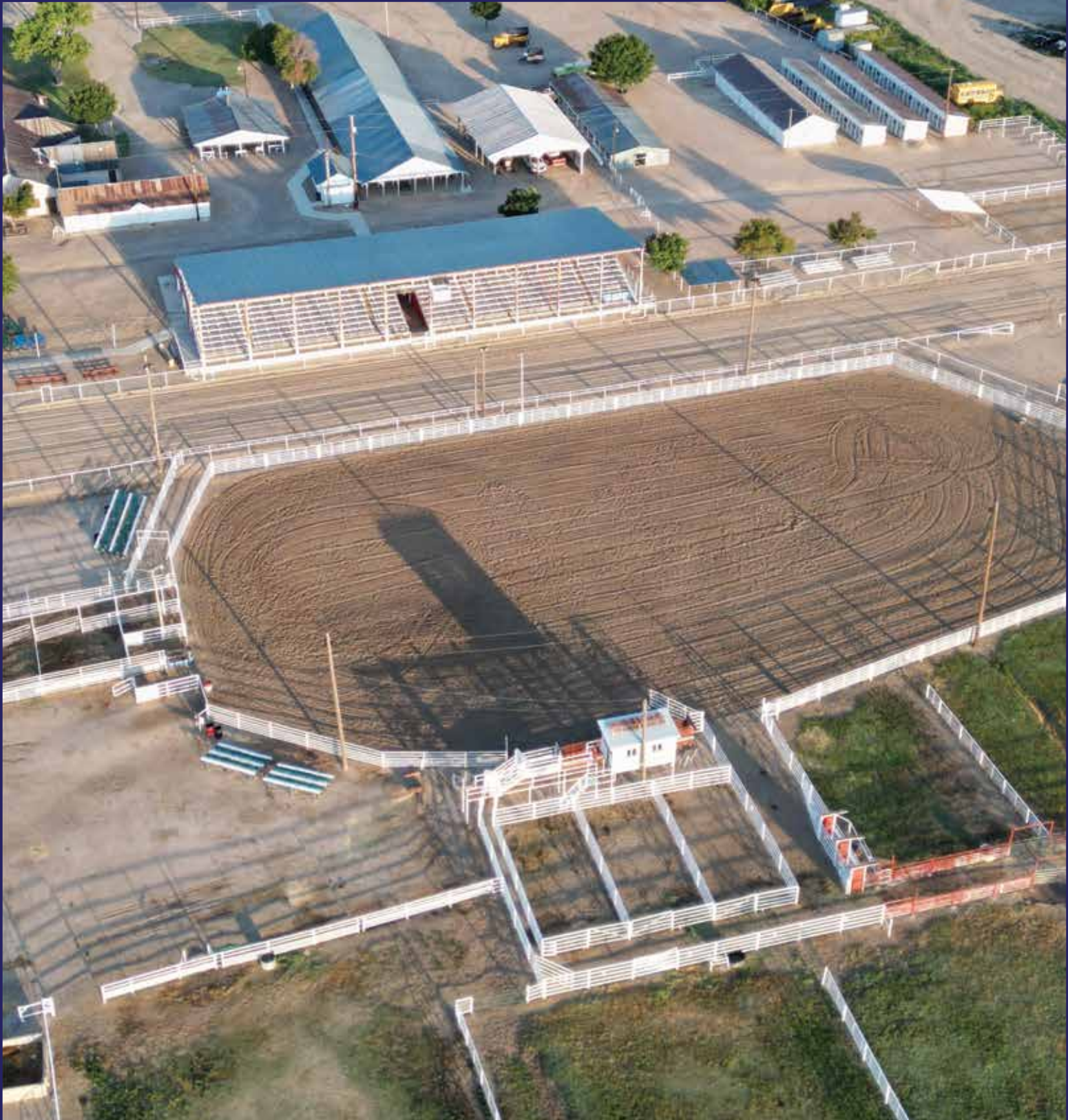
But there is also love and devotion and great pride and tremendous work on

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September 8, 2023

Volume 136, Number 36



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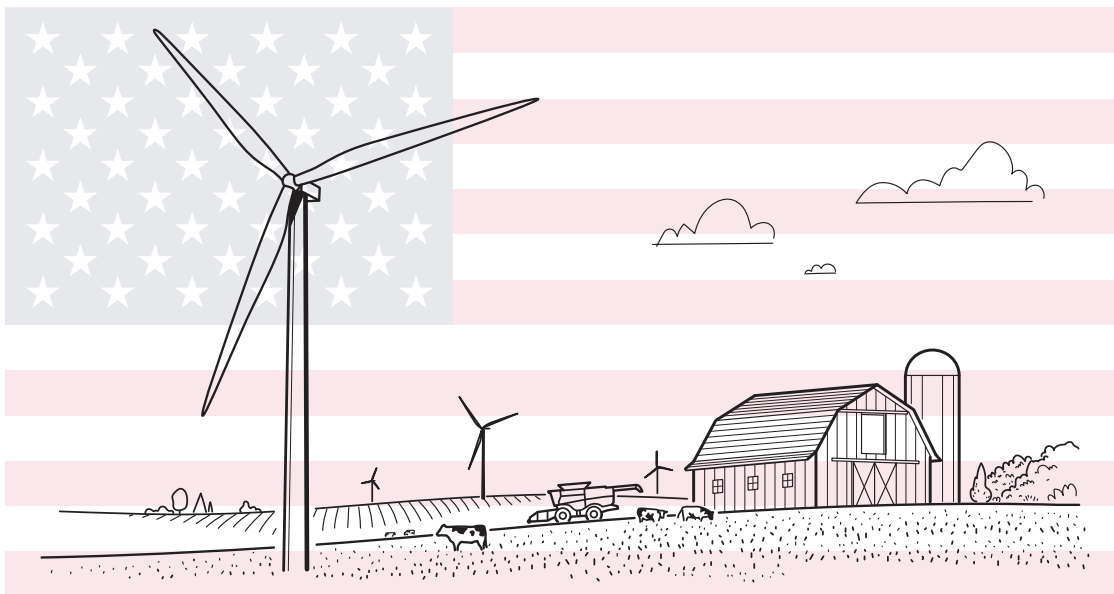



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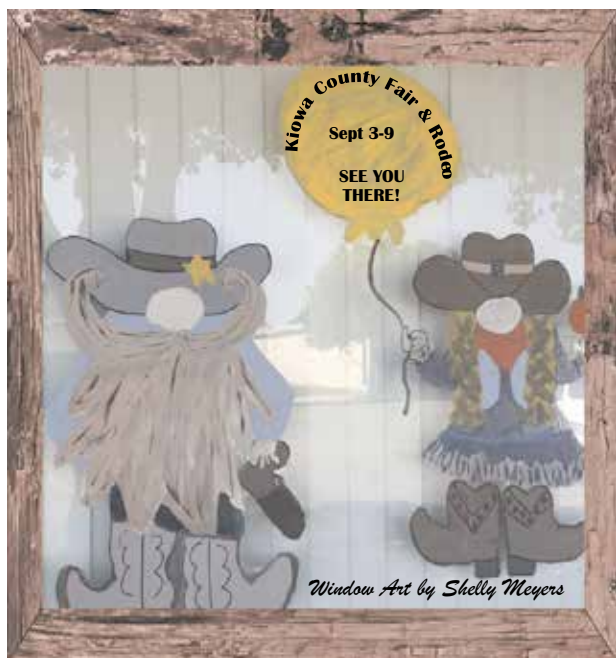
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 Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo**

Fair
Hours Tue -Thu 10 am- 7 pm Fri 10 am- 9 pm Sat after parade-9pm
 Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/jjliquor/>



*"Come on in and water up,
 or just fan the Breeze"*

40549 HWY 287 Eads CO 719-438-2226

Windmill Saloon
"A New Day...A Better Way"

*After a long day at the Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo
 Come in Sit Down & Relax
 to your favorite tune on the Jukebox
 or have a round or two of 8-Ball*

Kiowa County Abstract Company

See you at the
 Kiowa County
 Fair & Rodeo
 September 3-9

"A New Day...A Better Way"

1304 Goff St - Eads, CO (719) 438-5811

KIOWA COUNTY FAIR HORSE RACES EADS, COLORADO FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8 and SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

ENTRIES - 7 HORSE GATE

RACE ENTRIES OPEN AUGUST 28, 2023, 10:00am &
CLOSE AUGUST 29, 2023, 4:00pm.

ENTRY FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023,
 3:00pm VIA BANK WIRE TRANSFER.

BANK DETAILS & WIRE TRANSFER INSTRUCTIONS
 WILL BE PROVIDED UPON ENTRY

FRIDAY RACES @ 1:00 pm

GATE	ENTRY	ADDED
220 YD OPEN	\$2,000	\$1,000
220 YD OPEN	\$1,500	\$1,000
100 YD DASH	\$1,000	\$1,000

LARRY & SUSAN LUSHER MEMORIAL

3/8 MILE OPEN	\$ 500	\$1,700
220 YD SADDLE (Lap & Tap)	\$100	\$500

* SADDLE RACES ENTER DAY BEFORE RACE ON
 SITE.

* CASH ONLY.

* STOCK SADDLES ONLY

TO ENTER CALL OR TEXT: **719-688-8099**

SATURDAY RACES @ 1:00pm

GATE	ENTRY	ADDED
220 YD OPEN	\$2,000	\$1,000
220YD OPEN	\$1,500	\$1,000
100 YD DASH	\$1,000	\$1,000
1/2 MI + 70 YD.	\$ 300	\$500

ROB KELLEY MEMORIAL

3/8 MILE OPEN	\$500	\$1,700
220 YD SADDLE (Lap & Tap)	\$100	\$500
120 YD PONY.	\$100	\$500

**ENTRY FEES & ADDED MONEY GOES TO THE PURSE
 FIVE (5) OR MORE HORSES PER RACE PAYS TWO (2) PLACES
 RACES LIMITED TO PURSE MONEY AVAILABLE AND HORSES ON GROUNDS**

BUCKLES* TO HIGH POINT JOCKEY & TRAINER

*Buckle certificates awarded and custom buckles will be mailed to the winners.