



POWERFUL PERFORMANCES GIVE TIGERS WIN

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CASH NAMED STUDENT LION OF MONTH: PAGE 3A

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 • \$1.00 • NO. 246 | CANONCITYDAILYRECORD.COM |   

UPCOMING

TODAY

6 p.m. An artist lecture at the Fremont Center for the Arts, 505 Macon Ave. will feature local artist Nichole Montanez and the Face of Cannabis. Her exhibit includes portraits and documentary photographs of the children who would change the medical cannabis movement forever. For more information, call 719-275-2790 or visit Femontarts.org.

6 p.m. The Cañon City Chamber of Commerce will host its annual La Pasta Party at the Abbey Events Center, 2951 E. U.S. 50. Drinks begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. There will be celebrity waiters and waitresses, a silent auction, music entertainment and more.

NATIONWIDE

Lawsuit claims student was mocked and shamed by teacher for sitting during pledge

HARTFORD, Conn. — A Waterbury teen has sued a teacher and the city's school board, alleging she was "mocked and shamed" for not standing during the Pledge of Allegiance, a protest she said was over racial discrimination in the country.

The suit, filed Monday in U.S. District Court, alleges a First Amendment violation and names the teacher at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Ralph Belvedere, and the district's school board.

The student, an unnamed, 14-year-old black girl, alleges in September and October she and other students were called upon by Belvedere to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the lawsuit reads.

But the girl and other students remained seated in what they said was a "peaceful and non-disruptive expression of their belief that African-Americans suffer from racial discrimination in the United States," according to the lawsuit.

The student's attorney, John Williams, wrote in the lawsuit that the plaintiff and the others were mocked and shamed when Belvedere thanked other students for standing during the pledge, while saying the student was "dishonest" for how she expressed her beliefs.

Another teacher was also brought into the classroom to lecture the students on "their supposed lack of patriotism," the lawsuit reads.

The lawsuit also alleges that the student was wrongly accused of not doing her classwork.

Williams wrote in the suit that the plaintiff "has been frightened and intimidated and has suffered emotional distress and anxiety."

— *The Hartford Courant*

LOTTERY

Cash 5: 2-7-10-15-22
Pick 3 Midday: 0-5-1
Pick 3 Evening: 0-6-8

WEATHER



High: 67 **Low:** 37
Nice with sunshine.
Full forecast, Page 2A

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Cañon City



A view of the Royal Gorge Bridge.

Carie Canterbury / Daily Record

Revenue Boost

City to receive more than \$2.7 million from bridge and park

By **Carie Canterbury**
The Daily Record

One of Cañon City's greatest assets, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, generates for the city 700 percent more than what it receives in property taxes from local residents.

Only about 4 percent of Cañon City residents' total property taxes go to the city.

"The property tax levy would have to be a 700-percent increase if it weren't for the bridge," said City Administrator Tony O'Rourke during Monday's proposed 2019 budget hearing.

He said the city's largest source of revenue is from sales tax.

The city will have received more than \$2.7 million based on the lease agreement with the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park in 2018, which is about \$176,000 more than last year.

Harry Hargrave, the CEO for the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, said there are 216 employees, and revenues are up about eight percent this year.

He said the bridge and park spends about \$875,000 a year marketing Cañon City and the Royal Gorge Region.

"We see our marketing as something that hopefully enables the rest of the community to prosper and adds to the attendance all around," he said.

Attendance this year is expected to be about 365,000, up about two percent from last year.

During Monday's meeting, the council accepted the proposed 2019 budget, with revisions. The proposed budget is \$36.6 million, which represents a \$5.5 million, or 17 percent increase over the 2018 budget.

Two-thirds of the proposed budget increase is related to the stormwater fund capital improvements and related debt service payments (\$1.98 million) and property acquisition costs (\$1.25 million).

Water fund capital outlay (\$613,000), potential Lodging Tax fund contribution (\$300,000), police annex renovation costs (\$200,000) and parks staffing increase (\$129,000) make up the rest of the increase amount.

"We've gotten significant feedback from the public both in person and in our survey that there is a great need to address our stormwater problems in the city," O'Rourke said. "The second major piece is property acquisition."

Please see **BUDGET**, 6A

Decision 2018

Economics: a look at Prop. 112

The two sides with two different stories about well setbacks

By **John Aguilar**
The Denver Post

Up to 147,800 jobs lost over the next 12 years. Up to \$1.1 billion in forfeited tax revenue for state and local governments in that time. In all, up to \$141 billion in lost oil and gas production in Colorado by 2030.

That is the dire economic forecast often touted by opponents of Proposition 112 — the ballot issue that calls for increasing the minimum distance for new oil and gas wells from homes, schools, rivers and lakes to 2,500 feet — should the measure pass on Nov. 6. More than four out of every five non-federal

acres in Colorado would be off-limits to new drilling under the stricter setback, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission estimates.

The economic numbers come from a report issued earlier this year from a consortium of business groups led by the Common Sense Policy Roundtable, with numbers checked by faculty at the Colorado School of Mines.

Colorado Rising, the group behind Proposition 112, calls the job loss claims a "scare tactic" and the economic impacts of reduced drilling "greatly overstated" on its campaign website. It is pushing the measure because it believes the current setback of 500 feet from homes exposes too many Coloradans to unhealthy, and even deadly, emissions from well sites.

But Gary Arnold, business manager of the Denver Pipefitters Local 208, said the projected economic devastation of Proposition 112 is all too real.

"We're not going to say our jobs are more important than somebody's health, but we do think workers should be part of the conversation as we move forward," he said.

"We can't leave the middle-class and blue-collar workers out."

Arnold said the impacts of an expanded no-drilling zone go far beyond the front-line oil and gas workers running the well site day to day.

"There's also the whole level of workers who are doing custom fabrication and manufacturing of equipment — just because they are not on site doesn't mean they won't be affected," he said.

Please see **PROP. 112**, 6A

GOP lawmakers trying to save parts of Obamacare

By **Jennifer Haberkorn**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers and candidates across the country are suddenly telling voters they'll protect pre-existing conditions rules, brushing aside the fact that many voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act dozens of times and that GOP leaders pledge to resume that fight in 2019.

The shift reflects the growing popularity of Obamacare and Democrats' success in using the issue to make a compelling closing argument in the midterm races.

A handful of Republican lawmakers and candidates, including California Rep. Dana Rohrabacher and Missouri Senate hopeful Josh Hawley, have filmed ads about their children's medical conditions — the kinds of health problems that without Obamacare's protections would make insurance coverage unaffordable. Others have made promises in videos and debates.

Rohrabacher filmed an ad with his daughter, who was diagnosed with leukemia at age 8.

"For her and all our families, we must protect America's health care system," he said. "That's why I'm tak-

ing on both parties and fighting for those with pre-existing conditions."

"Earlier this year we learned our oldest has a rare chronic disease, a pre-existing condition," Hawley said in his own ad. "We know what that's like. ... I support forcing insurance companies to cover all pre-existing conditions."

Rohrabacher voted to repeal Obamacare — along with its protections for pre-existing conditions — dozens of times, including as recently as 2017.

Hawley is one of several GOP state attorneys general leading a lawsuit to invalidate the Affordable Care Act, including pre-existing conditions

rules. The Trump administration supports the suit, arguing that the pre-existing condition provision in particular should be eliminated. It was the White House's decision in that suit that gave Democrats greater leverage to push the issue of health care on the campaign trail this year.

Despite that, President Donald Trump on Thursday tried to give the GOP additional cover on the issue. "All Republicans support people with pre-existing conditions, and if they don't, they will after I speak to them. I am in total support," he tweeted.

Please see **HEALTH CARE**, 6A

Cañon City

Council readies to address stormwater problem

By **Carie Canterbury**
The Daily Record

The Cañon City Council is braced to take action in tackling a decades-old, multimillion dollar problem: stormwater.

The city is facing more than \$75 million in improvements, and during Wednesday's Vision Committee meeting, the council members agreed that while no one is in favor of a stormwater rate increase, they want to face the problem, tackling it one step at a time.

The first step will be to approve the investment of \$8 million in stormwater projects the next three years with incremental stormwater fee increases during the next five years. The council is set to issue \$8 million in certificates of participation to fund the stormwater capital improvement plan.

Because of the annual appropriation requirements of COPs, they do not require voter approval and are not subject to TABOR, according to Jonathan Heroux, the managing director with Piper Jaffray, the city's financial underwriter.

The \$8 million project would be financed for 20 years, at an annual debt service of \$599,750 per year, totaling nearly \$12 million. The estimated interest rate is 4.19 percent.

The average residential monthly increase to cover the debt service would be \$4.23 in 2019, then 68 cents, 72 cents, 75 cents and 79 cents each year thereafter. The average commercial monthly increase will be \$21.79 in 2019, then \$3.51, \$3.69, \$3.87 and \$4.06 the following years.

The audience in the council chambers gave three separate rounds of applause when council members announced that it is time that something is done to address the problem.

"It is a grave decision to have an increase, that's a lot to ask of our residents, that's a lot to ask of our business owners, and a 20-year debt where we can't borrow again, that's a lot to ask of us as a city, as well," said Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Smith. "However, this is an issue that has not been addressed for decades on end ... nobody has had the guts or the fortitude or leadership to actually get anything done and actually address it because it is a big decision and it is difficult to do, but something finally has to be done."

Councilwoman Kaitlin Turner said she would still like to see the formation of a regional stormwater district, which likely would have to assume the \$8 million debt.

O'Rourke said 26 percent of the population in the eight drainage basins don't live in the city, so they haven't been paying any stormwater fees.

During the meeting, Fremont

Please see **STORMWATER**, 6A