

LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

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AN EDITION OF THE LONGMONT TIMES-CALL



OUT OF GAS

Ram scores first 14 points but can't hold lead against AFA

SPORTS, 1B



NIMBLE TOUCH

Artisan threads beaded rosaries, jewelry with care

FOCUS, 1C

\$164

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INSIDE

FAMILY LEAVE

State Dems vow to pass bill

BY ALEX BURNES
THE DENVER POST

Dr. Sonal Patel would like to grow her small business, but she's not sure she can afford to.

"I'm getting busier. I'd love to hire someone to help me out," said Patel, the sole proprietor of an in-home health care company for new moms and babies.

One question nagging at her: What if the person she hires needs to take time off for family or medical reasons?

Colorado will, for the sixth and perhaps final time, consider a bill in 2020

to approve a statewide paid family leave program. Patel strongly supports this effort, but worries about possible damage it could do to small businesses like hers.

"How's it going to affect me? What about the monetary aspect?" she wondered. "Could I hire someone temporary to replace the person on leave, and would I be mandated to do something for them, as well?"

"There's a lot of concerns."

On this topic, that is an understatement.

There is no standard requirement for paid family leave for Colorado workers, and there's broad consensus across the political spectrum about the need for change. But what that change should look like, and whether it is possible to find a compromise that benefits workers and employers alike, has been hotly debated.

Democrats say they're intent on passing a paid family leave bill next year, but as the session's January opening approaches, there

SEE LEAVE, 8A



RJ SANGOSTI / The Denver Post

Dr. Sonal Patel does a baby checkup on a 10-day-old boy and his mother in Arvada on Thursday. Patel is a pediatrician and neonatologist who founded her own company, NayaCare, doing postpartum checkups on mothers who have recently given birth.

Spotlight

White House: Trump undergoes exam at Walter Reed, results healthy

BETHESDA, Md. — President Donald Trump spent more than two hours at Walter Reed National Medical Center on Saturday for what the White House said were medical tests as part of his annual physical.

The appointment wasn't on Trump's weekend public schedule, and his last physical was in February. Press secretary Stephanie Grisham said the 73-year-old president was "anticipating a very busy 2020" and wanted to take advantage of "a free weekend" in Washington to begin portions of his routine checkup.

She did not specify which tests he'd received or explain why the visit had not been disclosed in advance. Trump's 2018 and 2019 physicals were both announced ahead of time and appeared on his public schedule.

Grisham said after the visit that the president had had "a quick exam and labs" and assured he remains in good health.

"The President remains healthy and energetic without complaints, as demonstrated by his repeated vigorous rally performances in front of thousands of Americans several times a week," she said.

Trump also spent time at the hospital meeting with the family of a special forces soldier injured in Afghanistan. And he visited with medical staff "to share his thanks for all the outstanding care they provide to our Wounded Warriors, and wish them an early happy Thanksgiving," Grisham said.

It was the president's ninth visit to the hospital since taking office.

— Associated Press

DOWNTOWN LOVELAND

McKee Thrift Avenue to move next month

New space at 1605 N. Lincoln Ave. undergoing renovation

BY CRAIG YOUNG
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

McKee Thrift Avenue, a downtown shop that turns used clothing and kitchenware into about \$90,000 worth of hospital equipment each year, is moving to a new location next month.

The thrift store at 428 N. Cleveland Ave., which has been raising money for McKee Medical Center in Loveland for at least 23 years, will relocate to 1605 N. Lincoln Ave.

The shop is moving because the building it occupies was sold in February by Banner Health, which owns McKee Medical Center, and the new owners are redeveloping the property.

Joan Fenwick, a volunteer manager at McKee Thrift Avenue, said the store will close Nov. 27, and volunteers will spend the next week getting everything moved into the new location.

Target reopening date is
SEE THRIFT, 6A

Development

For more stories about development in Loveland, see page 5B

ISSUES 2A AND 2B



JENNY SPARKS / Loveland Reporter-Herald

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Engineer Doug Vinzant, left, shows there is not much room between him and the ceiling in the workout area Friday in the fire station at 251 Knobcone Drive in north Loveland. Firefighter Linda Thatcher chuckles as Vinzant demonstrates how the small space is.

Eight projects face murky future after vote fails

Officials wait for council direction, contemplate future ballot measure

BY MAX LEVY
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

This fall, Loveland ballot issues 2A and 2B offered an avenue for voters to secure about \$224.7 million over the next 21 years to fund a slate of eight public improvement projects.

With voters' rejection of the 0.3- and 0.2-cent sales tax hikes that would have provided the funding, the future of the projects is now up in the air.

City Manager Steve Adams said it is ultimately up to the Loveland City Council to decide how the city will proceed with funding.

"There's a lot of financial discussion that will need to occur with our council," he said, adding that he would like to see the new Ward II councilor seated before any discussion takes place.

The projects included road and trail improvements, new facilities for the Loveland Museum and Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, and a new city recreation and senior center and library.

The city currently has a sales tax rate of 3%, or three cents on the dollar, which is low compared with many surrounding communities.

City staffers first floated the idea

of a sales tax increase in 2017. A citizen group was assembled the following year, and the group brainstormed the package of eight projects, titling it the Community Improvement Program.

When it finally came before the dais, some members of the public and councilors objected to the "bundling" of public safety and infrastructure improvements with what were deemed to be non-critical items.

Fitness club owners also painted the rec center as an attempt by the city to compete with local businesses.

SEE PROJECTS, 2A

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More Nation news on 10A >>>

Officer, suspect wounded in Thursday night shooting; second suspect dead

A Greeley police officer was wounded Thursday night during a shooting with two suspects following a car chase involving multiple Weld County law enforcement agencies.

One unnamed suspect also was wounded in the incident, according to a news release issued by the Weld Critical Incident Response Team. Another suspect reportedly was fatally shot.

Police had not released the names of the suspects as of Friday afternoon. The name of the officer also was not immediately released.

— The Denver Post

More Region news on 6A >>>

Weather forecast

High: 54
Low: 37
Partly sunny

Full Forecast on 11B >>>

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