



Rams' D ready to put it all together
CSU will see another strong rushing attack from Wyoming
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Impeachment Inquiry updates
Republicans assail security aide who reported Trump call
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High: 50 | Low: 25
Cooler; p.m. showers
Details on 5B

\$1.50

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 2019 • No. 324 • LONGMONT, COLORADO

LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL

OUR Center flap sparks ethics talk

By JOHN FRYAR
STAFF WRITER

Longmont City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to schedule a meeting to discuss ethics and whether two councilwomen's October contacts with the OUR Center board president violated legal or ethical standards for local elected officials.

That vote followed more than 30 minutes of sometimes angry Council discussions and debates over last week's revelations that the Outreach United Resource Center's Julia Rush reached out to Mayor Brian Bagley, the county's purchasing division, and Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty to inform

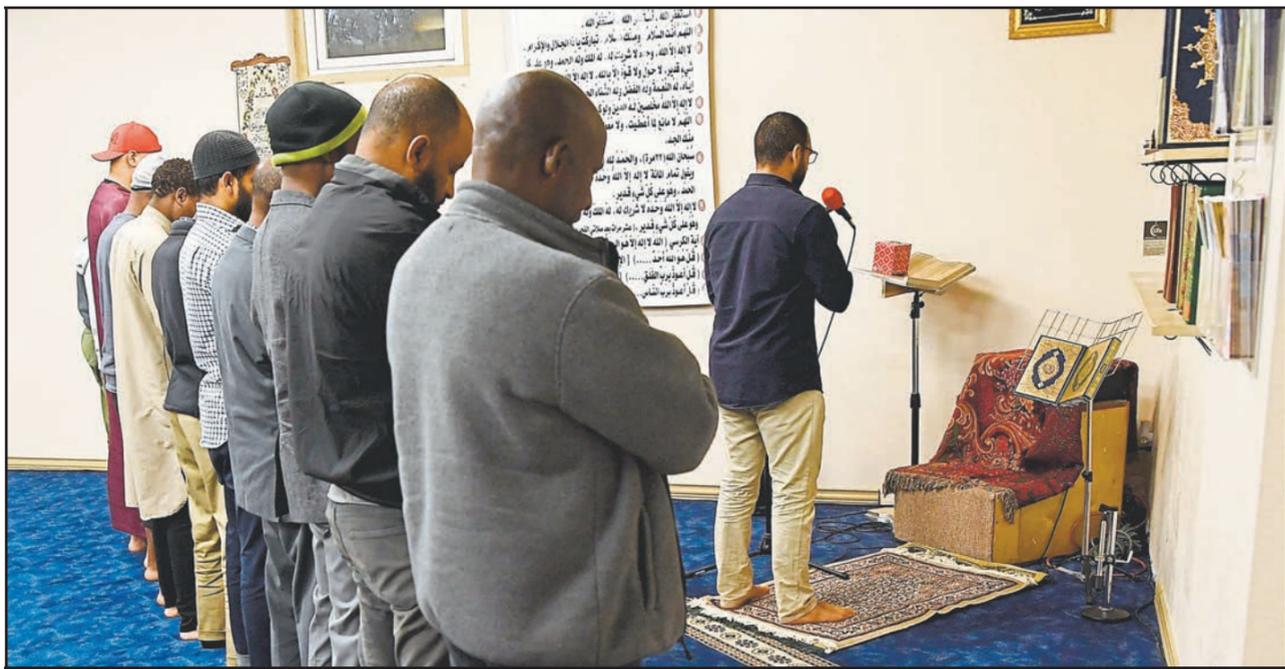
them of her fears that Councilwomen Polly Christensen and Joan Peck were threatening a shutoff of city funding if OUR Center applied for 2020 funding from Homeless Solutions for Boulder County.

At issue is an Oct. 24 telephone call Rush said she received from Peck and two Oct. 24 emails

Rush received from Christensen, then the city's mayor pro tem, which Rush said appeared to be urging the OUR Center not to compete with HOPE, the Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement Agency, for funding to provide navigation services to Longmont homeless people through the county's

coordinated entry program. Christensen opened Tuesday night's Council discussion about the situation when — as "a point of privilege to make a statement" — she said "I'm not a politician. I'm a representative" and apologized for using her personal email account, rather than her

Please see COUNCIL, 9A



Men participate in evening prayers at the Masjid Al-Shuhada Downtown Denver Islamic Center lead by Imam Muhammad Kolia, right, on Tuesday.

Andy Cross / The Denver Post

BOULDER COUNTY ELECTION

Round two of audits delays sign off

By JOHN MARINELLI
STAFF WRITER

Discrepancies in the statewide risk limiting audit for Proposition DD have forced round two of the process in Boulder County, preventing the Canvass Board from signing off on final election results as scheduled Tuesday.

"So even though we have no discrepancies, we still have a second round of the audit," said Luke Belant with the Boulder County Elections Division during a Tuesday Canvass Board meeting. "We have a pull of 64 ballots, down from 105 in the first round."

The Boulder County Elections division had a deadline of 5 p.m. Tuesday to finish round two of the audit and submit its results. As of approximately 3 p.m. Tuesday, County Clerk and Recorder Molly Fitzpatrick said the audit team was around halfway done.

"Because ... you don't want any sort of human error, it's worth double, double checking," she said.

According to Mircalla Wozniak, communications specialist for the Boulder County Elections Division, officials found no discrepancies in the

Please see ELECTION, 9A

Colorado sees 16% rise in reported hate crimes amid drop nationwide

By ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
THE DENVER POST

After an accused white supremacist was charged with plotting to blow up the second-oldest synagogue in Colorado this month, hundreds of people attended a solidarity service at the Temple Emanuel Synagogue in Pueblo, forming a human chain around the house of worship.

The locked hands symbolized protection, said Michael Atlas-Acuna, the temple's president. They reinforced the security guards and alarm system the synagogue already employed, and preceded the infrared cameras being installed this week thanks to an outpouring of community donations.

Seated inside the temple during services, Atlas-Acuna said, are congregants with concealed-weapon permits, strategically located in case a threat makes it past the security guards and locked doors.

"It's sad that all houses of worship have to do this, but it's the reality of the days

we live in," Atlas-Acuna said. "We have to face our reality and prepare accordingly."

Now, in the wake of the Temple Emanuel threat, comes the FBI's annual hate-crime report, which shows the number of reported hate crimes in Colorado increased 16% between 2017 and 2018, despite a slight decrease — 0.8% — nationwide in reports of bias-motivated crimes.

In Colorado, people reported 123 hate crimes in 2018 compared to 106 in 2017. Of the reports received last year in this state, 78 were based on race, ethnicity or national origin, 24 on sexual orientation, 16 with religious ties, three based on gender identity and two relating to disability, the FBI report said.

Hate crimes directed at victims based on their race, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability all went up from 2017 to 2018 in Colorado, the report said.

"In the last several weeks, we saw the planned attack on a Pueblo synagogue, saw the mosque attack in downtown Denver," Colorado Attorney General Phil

Weiser said Tuesday. "We have seen in our state too much hate. I hadn't been aware we are divergent from national trends. That was a painful reminder of the work we have to do."

Weiser announced plans this week to launch a public-private partnership addressing Colorado's hate crimes. Partner organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union, Anti-Defamation League Mountain States Region, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, One Colorado and Denver law enforcement agencies.

Weiser said he'd been thinking about forming the coalition shortly after his 2018 election and started talking with the Anti-Defamation League around that time about finding ways to better train and work with law enforcement on hate crimes.

He hopes the coalition makes victims and "people on the receiving side of hate" feel supported.

"Everyone should be proud of their

Please see CRIMES, 9A

Prosecutors allege man tried to control assault victim from behind bars

By KELSEY HAMMON
STAFF WRITER

A Longmont man who choked a woman may have also tried to manipulate her into lying to investigators and to prevent her from testifying against him, according to a recently released arrest affidavit that outlines new charges against him.

Following a weeklong trial this summer, a jury returned a split verdict and convicted Christopher Martinez, 45, of second-degree assault — strangulation, second-degree assault with a

deadly weapon, criminal mischief, obstruction of a telephone service and violation of a protection order, but found him not guilty of attempted murder and first-degree assault in the wake of a July 2018 assault.

According to an arrest affidavit filed Nov. 14, Martinez also is being charged on suspicion of violating a protection order, violating bail bond conditions and tampering with a victim. Martinez will appear in Boulder District Court on Thursday for an official filing of charges.

The prosecution filed a memorandum with the new charges less than 48 hours before Martinez was scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 15. In response, defense attorneys filed a motion to continue Martinez's sentencing stating the last-minute filing would not allow them enough time to respond to the prosecution's arguments and represent their client to the best of their ability.

Martinez was arrested July 29, 2018, after an altercation in which he choked the victim to



Martinez

the point where she nearly lost consciousness, according to the original arrest affidavit. When she tried to call police, he broke her iPhone and punched her in the face. While putting her in a chokehold, he said, "This ends here and now," according to the affidavit.

The woman began to yell for help after hitting Martinez in the face and tossing his car keys out

the window, the affidavit stated. She reported to police that Martinez left once she began to yell.

The victim was taken to Longmont United Hospital. Doctors told police the victim had bruising from the strangulation, a cut to her chin and bruising on her arms and thighs. The Nov. 14 affidavit also described burst capillaries in her eyes and stated her throat ached for weeks after the assault.

In October, investigators learned from District Attorney's

Please see ASSAULT, 9A

