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DURANGO

City feels the need to reduce speed

Pilot tests will pave the way for safer streets

BY GABRIELLE WALLACE
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Durango City Council voted to adopt a speed management plan at a meeting on Tuesday.

The speed management plan was formed to address speeding and safety on Durango streets. It will establish a screening process for community- and staff-identified concerns and establish a process to test different tactics through pilot projects to gather data and determine the best implementations.

Data gathering will help refine designs before making permanent investments, which can be a burden on taxpayers, Lily Oswald, multimodal manager, said.

"This toolbox, this plan, creates a consistent process to follow with time-bound steps – that's for staff to anticipate, and the community. It includes a toolbox of strategies and matrices for decisions which are rooted in engineering, education and enforcement," she said.

Pilot projects allow the city to respond to concerns and determine the best way to address issues and receive community feedback, Oswald said. Pilot projects are short-term and low-cost, she added.

"It allows the city and community to see what works. Residents, businesses and travelers can experience these changes while the city measures their effectiveness and can adjust along the way," she said.

Over the summer, the city conducted two speed demonstration projects to test traffic calming strategies on Goeglein Gulch Road and Riverview Drive. These demonstrations were separate from the plan put in front of council on Tuesday, Oswald emphasized at the meeting. The two demonstrations were required components of the Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant from the Federal Highway Administration, which has helped fund the speed management process.

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Part of the intention of the recently dedicated Indigenous Garden at Fort Lewis College is to teach students about Indigenous food sovereignty. Currently, the garden has roughly designated perennial landscape zones, such as the edible bed. The garden will continue to grow, adding more plants as it expands, though some of what can be planted is limited because of the region's climate and altitude.

Indigenous Garden at Fort Lewis College cultivates cultural connection



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

After a dedication ceremony of the Fort Lewis College Indigenous Garden, attendees walk through the garden Oct. 2 on the college campus. The Indigenous Garden is located on the south side of the Arts Building, just north of Hesperus Peace Park.

BY JANE ROONEY
HERALD STAFF WRITER

The recently dedicated Indigenous Garden at Fort Lewis College stands as a space rooted in Indigenous knowledge – a place grounded in the heart of healing and reconciliation.

"This should be seen as a shared living space, and think of it as somewhere we can all grow," said Joslynn Lee, of the Diné (Navajo), K'awaika (Laguna Pueblo) and Haak'u (Acoma Pueblo) people and an associate professor of chemistry.

"I hope you spend some time here, greet all of our relatives." Treating plants as relatives rather than as extractive resources is one of the lessons the Indigenous Garden teaches, said Maggie Magierski, a member of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida tribes of Alaska and Indigenous Garden coordinator.

The Indigenous Garden has roughly designated perennial landscape zones, including a medicinal bed, a natural dye bed, an edible bed, a craft and tool bed, and a desert plant bed, she said.

FLC's Reconciliation Department has three key elements

for its method of institutional reconciliation: acknowledgment, repair and healing, said Rosalinda Linares-Gray, director of the department.

Acknowledgment means talking about FLC's past as a federal Indian boarding school. Repair is about dialogue and building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and community members, they said.

"Having a place that can represent dialogue and understanding and new ways of knowing that our communities haven't had access to for many years is an opportunity for all students, people, community

members to learn and grow and repair together," Linares-Gray said.

The Indigenous Garden offers an opportunity to facilitate healing, Linares-Gray said.

Back in 2019 and 2020, FLC hosted discussions among the FLC History Committee, faculty, staff and students about the inaccurate portrayal of the federal Indian boarding school in panels at the clock tower. The panels did not accurately depict the cultural cleansing that took place and were ceremonially removed in 2021.

During these discussions,

See **GARDEN, 14A**

New renderings released for city hall, police department project

Construction process on downtown buildings could commence as early as mid-October

BY GABRIELLE WALLACE
HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Durango City Hall and Police Department project has an updated design and rendering that showcase what the new civic campus will look like, including the addition of on-site parking.

The much-anticipated design update was revealed at the Tuesday City Council meeting. The new plan includes connectivity

to Buckley Park, the conversion of the auditorium in the historic high school at 201 E. 12th St. to City Council chambers, the restoration of track and gym space for use by staff members, and a newly constructed police station that will act as a secondary building to the main facility, City Hall.

"I'm blown away," Mayor Dave Woodruff said. "I'm very excited about the work, the expertise, all



A rendering of the city of Durango's city hall and police department project as seen from 12th Street showcases the historic high school's restoration and transformation into City Hall at 201 E. 12th St.

Screenshot

the professionals that have put in their time and energy into this, something that's going to be a legacy item for the next 50-plus years for our community. I'm excited where this is headed."

See **RENDERINGS, 14A**