



Windsor faces another No. 1 with unbeaten year on line

SPORTS, 1B

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 | COLORADOAN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Loud sounds have hidden health risks



When using power tools, lawn equipment or other machinery, wear properly fitted earplugs or earmuffs from the start, rather than waiting until the noise becomes uncomfortable. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Noise pollution a serious but often forgotten hazard

Laura Coco
San Diego State University | THE CONVERSATION

The human body is remarkably good at getting used to the environment around it. You’ve probably experienced this if you’ve ever gone to a matinee and emerged from the dark theater into sunshine. Your eyes sting, so you squint and shield your face until they adjust to the bright sunlight. • In the same way, the body can grow accustomed to constant noise. With repeated exposure to traffic, leaf blowers, construction, loud music, crowded restaurants, fitness classes and sporting events, you can become accustomed to loud environments. Over time, what once seemed unusually loud may barely register.

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Hearing damage is only part of the story. Noise acts as a stressor, activating the autonomic nervous and endocrine systems and affecting heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological processes.

Fort Collins sets record for latest 90-degree day – twice

Rebecca Powell
Fort Collins Coloradoan
USA TODAY NETWORK

Up until this week, Fort Collins had never recorded a temperature in the 90s during the month of October.

It’s now happened twice, and high temperatures this week are expected to remain above average.

Fort Collins reached 90 degrees on both Oct. 5 and 6 — 15 degrees higher than normal — according to the official Fort Collins weather station on the campus of Colorado State University.

Prior to that, it had never gotten hotter than 88 degrees during October, according to records kept by the Colorado Climate Center that date back into the 1800s.

Here are the current five hottest October days in Fort Collins on record:

- Oct. 6, 2026: 90 degrees
- Oct. 5, 2026: 90 degrees
- Oct. 2, 2024: 88 degrees
- Oct. 16, 1991: 88 degrees
- Oct. 17, 1926: 88 degrees

Prior to this week, the latest 90-degree or higher day had been Sept. 28, when it reached 91 degrees in 2011.

Hot week ahead

After two hot days, temperatures for the week will be less extreme but still above normal, according to the National Weather Service forecast.

It calls for highs in the mid-80s and sunny skies all week, with a cool-down and chance for showers starting next week.

- **Oct. 8:** High near 84. Low around 53.
- **Oct. 9:** High near 84. Low around 54.
- **Oct. 10:** High near 82. Low around 53.
- **Oct. 11:** High near 75. Low around 49.

What a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote would mean for Amendment 84

Nate Trela
Fort Collins Coloradoan
USA TODAY NETWORK

Colorado voters will decide whether to change the identification requirements for voting by mail.

Amendment 84, Mail Ballot Voter Identification, asks voters to weigh in on the required identification for voting by mail. Currently, voters must provide a signature to verify their identity when voting by mail or dropping off ballots. The amendment would add the requirement of writing the last four digits of a Social Security number, driver’s license or state identification number for their

ballot to be counted.

Here’s a look at the ballot language, how it got to the ballot, what a “yes” or “no” vote would mean, and how many votes it needs to pass.

Election Day is Nov. 3.

Ballot language for Amendment 84

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring a voter to sign and include the last four digits of their social security number or their Colorado driver’s license or identification card number on the outside of their mail ballot for any federal or state elec-

tion, and, in connection therewith, allowing the voter to correct missing or incorrect information, including with alternative forms of identification; and prohibiting a county clerk and recorder from counting the mail ballot unless the problem is fixed?

Was it citizen initiated or put on the ballot by the legislature?

This measure was citizen initiated.

What a ‘yes’ vote means

A “yes” vote on Amendment 84 would mean voters would have to “pro-

vide identification information with their mail ballot, in addition to their signature,” according to the 2026 State Ballot Information Booklet, also called the blue book.

What a ‘no’ vote means

A “no” vote on Amendment 84 would leave unchanged the “current signature-only verification system for mail ballots,” according to the blue book.

How many votes it needs to pass

As a constitutional amendment, it needs 55% approval to pass.

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