



# Pueblo South scores 9 touchdowns in lopsided victory over Harrison

SPORTS, 1B

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# The Pueblo Chieftain

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 | CHIEFTAIN.COM

WEEKEND

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# SNAP benefits for 40,000 Puebloans put on hold



Care and Share Food Bank Driver Maverick Singleton unloads food at a summer food distribution in Pueblo. PROVIDED BY CARE AND SHARE

# Pause comes next month amid shutdown

Justin Reutter  
Pueblo Chieftain  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Colorado Governor’s Office has requested \$10 million to provide aid to food banks statewide as the federal government shutdown suspends Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

SNAP benefits are on hold in November, impacting up to 23% of Pueblo’s population, as the federal shutdown enters its fourth week.

Approximately \$7.8 million per month is distributed in SNAP benefits in Pueblo County, with benefits reaching 22,500 families and roughly 40,000 individuals each month, Pueblo County Commissioner Miles Lucero stated in a meeting on Oct. 21.

Statewide, 334,590 households and 614,911 individuals rely on SNAP; 50% percent are children, 10% are elderly, and 15% are people with disabilities.

To mitigate the impact, Governor Jared Polis’s office submitted two requests on Oct. 22 to the state Joint Budget Committee: one to consider approval for



Governor Jared Polis addresses media on Oct. 22. JUSTIN REUTTER/ THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

up to \$10 million in General Fund revenue to support food banks and pantries, and another to extend previously approved funding for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition access through November. WIC supports food access for nearly 100,000 women and children in Colorado.

“Colorado families and children could go hungry without access to

SNAP, and the State of Colorado cannot fund this federal initiative to the tune of \$120 million per month or \$1.48 billion per year,” Polis said in a news release.

“Coloradans take care of one another, and we’re stepping up to make sure hardworking families can continue

See BENEFITS, Page 7A

# PUEBLO COUNTY Body found in greenhouse identified as 40-year-old Puebloan

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USA TODAY NETWORK

A Pueblo woman whose body was found in an abandoned structure in west Pueblo County on Oct. 15 has been identified by the Pueblo County Coroner’s Office.

The deceased was identified on Oct. 23 as Alicia Espinoza, 40, by Interim Pueblo Coroner Dr. Gregory Grahek.

Espinoza’s body was found by an individual cleaning an abandoned greenhouse in the 9100 block of US Highway 96. The body “appeared to have been there for some time,” according to a Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office news release.

PCSO detectives continue to investigate the incident as a suspicious death. The sheriff’s office is asking anyone who has information about Espinoza or this incident to contact the PCSO at 719-583-6436.

Questions, comments, or story tips? Contact Justin Reutter at jreutterma@gannett.com. Follow him on X, at @jayreutter1. Support local news, subscribe to The Pueblo Chieftain at subscribe.chieftain.com.

# AG: Colorado sees increase in domestic violence homicides

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Colorado saw a rise in domestic violence homicides in 2024, despite overall homicides decreasing, according to a report from the Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board released Oct. 21 by the Colorado Attorney General’s Office.

The report identified 54 domestic violence fatality cases resulting in 72 deaths in 2024, a 24% increase from the prior year. Of those deaths, 38 were killed by current or former intimate partners, and eight were collateral victims, all of whom were children between 3 months and 7 years old. Five

See HOMICIDES, Page 2A

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