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Pueblo County Courthouse. ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Police probing deadly hit-and-run

Zach Hillstrom
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pueblo police are investigating a deadly hit-and-run wreck after a pedestrian was struck and killed near Route and Baystate avenues the evening of May 5.

Police dispatch received a report of a "disturbance" just before 10:30 p.m. and responded to the scene to find an individual lying in the road who "appeared to have been struck by a vehicle," according to a Pueblo Police Department news release.

"The victim was rushed to the hospital but pronounced dead shortly thereafter," Pueblo police officials said in the release.

Pueblo PD traffic investigators are investigating the incident. The Pueblo County Coroner's Office will release the victim's identity after their next of kin has been notified.

Chieftain Editor Zach Hillstrom can be reached at zhillstrom@usatoday-co.com or on X, at [@ZachHillstrom](https://twitter.com/ZachHillstrom). Support local news; subscribe to the Pueblo Chieftain at subscribe.chieftain.com.

County executive resigns 3 months after appointment

Justin Reutter
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pueblo County Interim Chief Administrative Officer Brandon Mathews has resigned roughly three months after his appointment.

Commissioner Miles Lucero mentioned Mathews' departure during a May 5 Pueblo Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) work session, though he didn't provide details, only stating that a job listing for the CAO position has been posted and will close at midnight on May 17.

Mathews is now the director of labor and employee relations for Aurora Public Schools, according to his LinkedIn profile.

"I want to thank Dr. Mathews for his

commitment to the county over the last few years, being willing and able to step up after the transition from the county manager, and we wish him the best," Lucero said during the May 5 meeting.

"But we will move forward, and we are seeking a rockstar to fill that role. It is a very important, high-demand position, and we are looking forward to seeing the pool of applicants we pull for that one."

Mathews had served as interim CAO since the county transitioned from its former management structure, replacing former county manager Sabina Genesio with a C-suite model led by a CAO, chief legal officer, chief financial officer, chief technology officer, and chief human resources officer.

According to the job listing, the salary for the CAO position is between \$138,696 and \$208,020 annually, though the an-

anticipated starting range is between \$160,000 and \$165,000.

The transition from the county manager to the C-suite model, announced Feb. 3, was part of an effort to reduce the county's \$10.2 million budget deficit and give the BOCC more direct oversight over county finances in the future.

When reached for comment on the circumstances of Mathew's sudden departure, Lucero stated that, on the advice of the County Attorney's Office, he could not comment on personnel matters.

Questions, comments, or story tips? Contact Justin at jreutterma@gannett.com. Follow him on X, formerly known as Twitter, [@jayreutter1](https://twitter.com/jayreutter1). Support local news, subscribe to the Pueblo Chieftain at subscribe.chieftain.com.

Memo hints at possible U.S.-Iran peace deal

Michael Loria, Bart Jansen and Andrea Riquier
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said Iran could either agree to a framework for peace talks or bombing would resume, after he had paused the military operation to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said May 6 on social media the war that began Feb. 28, with a ceasefire since April 7, could end if Iran agrees to U.S. terms and allows commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. But he said if Tehran doesn't agree, bombing would resume "at a much higher level and intensity."

His appeal for peace came after he paused "Project Freedom," an effort launched on May 4 to move U.S. commercial vessels through the critical shipping channel. Military leaders said a few U.S. vessels safely passed through the strait in the operation, but Iran restarted its attacks on commercial vessels and neighboring Gulf states.

Trump said in a statement that "we have mutually agreed that ... Project Freedom will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized."

An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson, cited by Iran's ISNA news agency, said Iran would convey its response soon via Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks and has since served as the main conduit for messages between the sides.

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Lake Clara drained for dredging project

Jessica Skropanic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pueblo Parks and Recreation has launched a dredging project at Lake Clara in Mineral Palace Park.

The project aims to remove accumulated sediment, organic muck, and debris, which have significantly reduced the lake's depth and impacted its ecosystem, according to a city announcement.

The effort requires draining the lake to reduce nutrient loads that contribute to poor water quality, excessive aquatic plant growth, and recurring toxic algal blooms.

"By restoring the lake's depth and improving its water quality, we hope to create a healthier environment for fish and other aquatic life, while enhancing



Lake Clara at Mineral Palace Park has been drained for a dredging project. ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

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