



NFL: Which of the unbeatens takes over No. 1?

SPORTS, 1B

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'Murder. I killed him'



10th Judicial District Attorney Kala Beauvais speaks during a press conference on June 25.
ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Jury convicts Pueblo West mom in death of 3-year-old son

Justin Reutter
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Pueblo West woman was found guilty on Oct. 6 of killing her 3-year-old son. Following a three-week jury trial, Samantha Kimberly was convicted of first-degree murder and two counts of child abuse in the June 8, 2024, death of the toddler. During closing arguments Oct. 2, District Attorney Kala Beauvais said the prosecution's case was pretty well summed up by photographs, statements made by Kimberly's 14-year-old son, and Kimberly's own words to investigators. Beauvais highlighted statements by

Kimberly, including statements that she "lost control" and was "wailing on" her son the day that he died. Beauvais also pointed to a statement to investigators in which Kimberly told them, "All I can give you is a list of excuses – there's no reason I should have done it." When investigators informed Kimberly that her son had died and asked her what that meant, she responded: "Murder. I killed him." Beauvais said Kimberly told investigators how hard she was on her two children. She reportedly told investigators that her 14-year-old had lost 40 pounds in the two months since the family moved to Colorado. Kimberly and her co-defendant, Brittany Farmer – who was sentenced to 45

years in prison in December 2025 after pleading guilty to second-degree murder – would force the two boys to walk around the living room for hours with minimal breaks and barely any water, according to statements from her 14-year-old son. Kimberly and Farmer would also beat the two boys, with the instrument progressing from a bare hand, to a slipper, to the backside of a belt, and finally the buckle end of the belt. While both women would participate in the beatings, the 14-year-old stated it was his mother who was beating him and his brother the day that the 3-year-old died, Beauvais said. The 14-year-old's posterior, lower

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Police chief outlines ALPR policies

James Bartolo
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

For weeks, Pueblo City Council meetings have been a hotbed of arguments for and against automatic license plate readers (ALPR). Pueblo Police Department representatives have argued that the high-speed camera systems that automatically photograph passing vehicle license plates are needed to prevent and solve crimes, while activists have raised concerns about the creation of a surveillance state and potential misuse by bad actors. During an Oct. 5 Pueblo City Council work session, Pueblo Police Chief Chris Noeller gave a presentation on the department's current ALPR policy. He also shared what he believed to be benefits of using ALPRs in Pueblo. "They assist in real-time crime detection, locating stolen vehicles, fugitives and missing persons," Noeller said. "ALPR complements other systems like ShotSpotter, cameras and DFR (Drone as First Responder). When used together, they increase efficiency and the likelihood for a successful case." FindingFlock.com, a public database that tracks ALPR cameras across the United States, has identified 93 ALPR camera systems operated by public and private entities in Pueblo, giving the city the fourth-highest number of ALPR camera systems among the 45 Colorado cities indexed in the database. That's about 1.6 systems per square mile and 3.4% of the Colorado cameras documented. Under Pueblo PD Directive 26-2, police are authorized to use ALPR camera systems to identify or locate vehicles that are stolen, wanted or

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U.S. 30-year mortgage rate surges to 7.49%

Ann Saphir
REUTERS

The interest rate on the most common U.S. home loan jumped last week to its highest in almost three years, worsening affordability for buyers four weeks before elections that will decide if President Donald Trump's Republicans keep control of Congress. The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage surged 19 basis points to 7.49% in the week ended Oct. 2, the Mortgage Bankers Association said on Oct. 7. It was last higher in November 2023. Mortgage rates are tied closely to the yield on U.S. 10-year Treasury notes, which earlier this week hit a 24-year high, driven by worries over inflationary pressures from soaring oil prices and data showing stronger economic growth.

The cost of living is the top issue on Americans' minds as they decide how they will vote on Nov. 3, a Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Oct. 5 showed, and is one reason why Trump's approval rating is at a record low of 32%. Home borrowing rates are up about 1.4 percentage points since joint U.S.-Israeli strikes against Iran began in late February, tracking a similar rise in the 10-year Treasury yield, which topped 5.3% on Oct. 5. Inflation is also on the rise, registering 3.4% in August by a measure that the Federal Reserve targets at 2%. Fed policymakers have signaled they expect to follow their September interest-rate increase with another rate hike by year's end, though markets are for now betting they will not move at their

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MARCO BELLO/REUTERS FILE

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