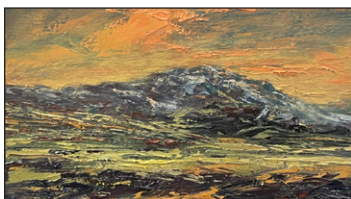




Restaurant closes doors
Oskar Blues permanently closes in downtown Springs. **BUSINESS, B1**



Springs artist opens show
Collection features oil paintings of sea and landscapes from around world. **GO! 7**

BONUS COVERAGE
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Ring in 2026



JERILEE BENNETT, THE GAZETTE

AROUND THE WORLD

Revelers use their smartphones to film the falling balloons and confetti as they celebrate during the New Year countdown event held at a shopping mall in Beijing early Thursday.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL: After a morning tea, visitors to the Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs celebrated Noon Year's Eve at the castle at noon, toasting somewhere in the world where it was New Year's Day 2026.

INSIDE

2026 around Colorado Springs
Stories we'll be following in the year ahead **A3**

Sports in the new year
2026 will feature more than the Olympics — Read more on **C1**

Boebert calls for override

Request for vote is in response to Trump's veto of bipartisan water bill

BY **MARIANNE GOODLAND**
The Gazette

Republican U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert and others have raised the specter that President Donald Trump's Tuesday veto, which blocked a long-awaited bipartisan effort to finish a southeastern Colorado water project, is more about politics.

The veto was the first of Trump's second term. It concerns a project that supporters say is critical to delivering clean drinking water to approximately 50,000 residents of the lower Arkansas Valley.

The president described the project as economically not viable — and one that Colorado, not the federal government, should pay for.

'Rot in hell'
Trump post reignites feud with Gov. Polis over Tina Peters. **A6**

In a statement posted on X, Boebert said Trump vetoed a completely "noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that passed both the House and Senate unanimously. Why? Because nothing says 'America First' like denying clean drinking water to 50,000 people, many of whom voted for Trump in all three elections."

Boebert also hinted that Trump's veto could be political retaliation for "calling out corruption and demanding accountability."

Boebert was one of a handful of House Republicans who signed onto a discharge petition that forced the House to vote on releasing the Epstein files.

Trump is also unhappy with Colorado over the state's refusal to release former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters from a state prison. Peters is serving a nine-year sentence for tampering with election equipment after the 2020 election.

SEE **BOEBERT** • PAGE 6

'Safe parking' for people living in their vehicles prepares to launch in Springs

BY **DEBBIE KELLEY**
The Gazette

Emergency Medical Technician Codi Natelli knows what it's like to live in a cramped car with everything you own and sleep in a makeshift bed on a seat built for driving. After her dad drained the family's bank account and took off, the

three kids and their mom were evicted and spent two years living out of their Oldsmobile Bravada. Natelli was a sophomore and junior in high school.

"It's ... hard," she said. "We had just lost all our stuff, people already thought negatively of us because we were on the poor end, my mom worked part time at a gas sta-

tion, and we didn't have anywhere else to go. I was just trying to make things work, which was really difficult."

A vision Natelli has been working on for the past two years to help others in Colorado Springs rise above the familiar plight of spend-

SEE **PARKING** • PAGE 9

Colorado experiencing record amount of flu hospitalizations

BY **STEPHANIE EARLS**
The Gazette

With almost 800 hospitalizations statewide last week, Colorado is in the throes of its worst flu surge in almost a generation, less than midway through a season of sickness doctors say they worry hasn't yet bared its full fangs.

"We've definitely seen an increase in the flu, and I think over the last two to three weeks we've seen an increasing number of patients showing up who are sicker with the flu," said Dr. David Steinbruner, chief medical officer and an emergency medicine physician at UCHHealth

SEE **FLU** • PAGE 12

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WEATHER B6
HIGH 60, LOW 34



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