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VEGAS' 5-GOAL OUTBURST »1B

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

# THE DENVER POST

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021



PARTLY SUNNY; A P.M. STORM ▲88° ▼58° »14A • © THE DENVER POST • \$2 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER

★

## 96-YEAR-OLD OBSERVES D-DAY



World War II veteran Charles Shay, 96, pays tribute during a ceremony commemorating D-Day in the American Cemetery in Normandy on Sunday. Shay, a Penobscot Native American who landed as an U.S. army medic on June 6, 1944, was the only surviving D-Day veteran at the Ver-sur-Mer ceremony in France. *David Vincent, The Associated Press* » STORY, 10A

\$400M MEASURE

## Details on city projects unclear

Denver's bond proposal is "backwards" without project list, economists say

By Conrad Swanson  
*The Denver Post*

In April, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock pitched a \$400 million bond measure, saying it would help the city recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in its growing backlog of infrastructure projects.

The idea that he would reverse the typical order of operations when it comes to such measures — that is, not giving a clear idea of what the money would go to — is unusual, economists told *The Denver Post*. They also questioned Hancock's justification of using the massive borrowing package to rebound from the pandemic.

But the mayor and his top financial adviser defend the proposal, saying residents will have a specific list of projects before it's passed to the City Council. That

BONDS » 6A

## FREE SPEECH

## ACLU faces internal tensions, identity crisis

By Michael Powell  
© *The New York Times Co.*

It was supposed to be the celebration of a grand career as the American Civil Liberties Union presented a prestigious award to longtime lawyer David Goldberger. He had argued one of its most famous cases, defending the free speech rights of Nazis in the 1970s to march in Skokie, Ill., home to many Holocaust survivors.

Goldberger, now 79, adored the ACLU. But at his celebratory luncheon in 2017, he listened to one speaker after another and felt a growing unease.

A law professor argued that the free speech rights of the far-right were not worthy of defense by the ACLU and that Black people experienced offensive speech far more viscerally than white allies. In the hallway outside, an ACLU official argued it was perfectly legiti-

mate for his lawyers to decline to defend hate speech.

Goldberger, a Jew who defended the free speech of those whose views he found repugnant, felt profoundly discouraged.

"I got the sense it was more important for ACLU staff to identify with clients and progressive causes than to stand on principle," he said in a recent interview. "Liberals are leaving the First Amendment behind."

The ACLU, America's high temple of free speech and civil liberties, has emerged as a muscular and richly funded progressive powerhouse in recent years, taking on the Trump administration in more than 400 lawsuits. But the organization finds itself riven with internal tensions over whether it has stepped away from a founding principle: unwavering devotion to the First Amendment.

ACLU » 8A

## SAND CREEK

## Chemicals in water near Suncor raise concerns

By Bruce Finley  
*The Denver Post*

Two instances of oily muck within eight days on Sand Creek near the Suncor Energy oil refinery have state health officials concerned a 20-year-old underground clay wall that holds back toxic chemicals is failing.

More than a year ago, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ordered Suncor to replace the wall, which runs for 2,000 feet about 30 feet down parallel to the creek in Commerce City, records show. That mandate came after a similar oil slick, and Suncor is supposed to start designing a fix for the wall at the end

SUNCOR » 6A

## DENVER &amp; THE WEST

### 7 ARE DISCIPLINED OVER USE OF FORCE

One deputy and one officer were suspected for grabbing or placing pressure on someone's neck. »2A

**Pit bulls.** City Council in Lone Tree gives preliminary approval to ending a ban against the breed. »2A

## NATION &amp; WORLD

### STATE BUDGETS ARE UP IN A BIG WAY

After big cuts amid a pandemic recession, spending plans are up 10% or more in many states. »10A

**Setback for Dems.** Sen. Joe Manchin said he won't vote for party's bill to combat voter suppression. »11A

## COVID-19

### MORE KIDS EXPECTED IN SUMMER SCHOOL

More children than ever before could be in classrooms to make up for lost learning during the outbreak. »11A

**Booster shots.** What scientists know — and don't know — about how long protection will last. »12A

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