

THE DENVER POST

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017



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OUTGROWING OFFICE SPACE

City govt. on a hiring blitz

Denver has been producing jobs steadily for 5 years

By Jon Murray
The Denver Post

In a boom town full of growth industries, one of the most consistent job producers in Denver for five years running has been city government.

After a postrecession hiring blitz, Denver government offices have outgrown several city-owned office buildings, including downtown's massive and modern Wellington E. Webb municipal building.

That expansion, which includes plans for more hiring next year, could end up increasing the municipal workforce by nearly one-fifth between 2012 and 2018, a Denver Post review has found.

As city finance officials have inked multiyear deals for private office space fronting Civic Center, the number of budgeted positions this year reached the equivalent of 12,445 full-time positions, including some temporary workers. Mayor Michael Hancock's proposed \$2 billion operating budget for 2018 would increase that total to 12,918.

Denver's hiring spree has been no secret, with each year's budget

adding hundreds of new positions. Some have addressed crises, including a dangerous shortage of jail deputies. Others provided staff for new buildings the city has opened. Many more positions have been sprinkled across departments citywide, from core operations to self-sustaining entities such as Denver International Airport.

Hancock and his financial advisers say the hiring, while robust,

has been targeted to respond to a multitude of needs in a fast-growing city that has increased its population by nearly a quarter in a decade.

They maintain that the spending on payroll — roughly \$1.1 billion last year — is sustainable. Even so, chief financial officer Brendan Hanlon says the next recession still may require austerity because the city relies on sales

HIRING » 4A

STANDING UP FOR THOSE WHO KNEEL



Several Broncos players take a knee during the national anthem before a game against the Buffalo Bills on Sunday at New Era Field in Orchard Park, N.Y. President Donald Trump's criticism of players who protest during the anthem sparked a mass increase in such activism, with more than 150 NFL players displaying unity, some by sitting or kneeling. *John Leyba, The Denver Post*

Gardner's take: U.S. senator says there are more important things to focus on now than Trump's words. » 8A

Inside Sports: 32 Broncos defy Trump in silent protest Sunday • Denver suffers first loss of season, falling 26-16 to Buffalo » SECTION B

“NORTH KOREA PLAYBOOK”

Gardner sees his plan in Trump's decisions

By Mark K. Matthews
The Denver Post

WASHINGTON» Long before President Donald Trump dubbed him the “Rocket Man,” North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was known by a different nickname in the office of U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner: the “Forgotten Maniac.”

That's the moniker Gardner coined for Kim in the first year that he chaired the Senate sub-

committee that oversees East Asia policy, and the dig was intended as a swipe at both Kim and an Obama administration that Gardner saw as too lax on North Korea's ambitions.

“Chaos in the Middle East has diverted Western eyes, but Kim Jong Un's reign of terror in North Korea continues,” the Colorado Republican wrote in a December 2015 essay in *The Wall Street Journal*. “It is time

GARDNER » 10A

Trump administration alters travel ban countries

By The Washington Post

WASHINGTON» The Trump administration announced new restrictions Sunday on visitors from eight countries — an expansion of the pre-existing travel ban that has spurred fierce legal debates over security, immigration and discrimination.

Officials had said they wanted the new rules to be tough and targeted. The move comes as the key portion of President Donald Trump's travel ban, which

bars the issuance of visas to citizens of six majority-Muslim countries, is set to expire.

“These restrictions are necessary and conditions-based, not time-based,” a senior administration official said.

The new travel restrictions represent the third version offered by the Trump administration.

Three nations were added to the list of countries whose citizens will face the restrictions: Chad, North Korea and

BAN » 14A

NATION/WORLD SEVERAL SHOT AT NASHVILLE CHURCH

An usher jumps in to save people after a masked gunman opens fire at a Nashville, Tenn., church, walking silently down the aisle as he shoots unsuspecting congregants. » 12A

DENVER & THE WEST

Walker Stapleton joins gubernatorial race. Colorado's treasurer officially jumps into the crowded Republican primary contest for governor. » 2A

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