

### **Unemployment Update**

- La Plata County's unemployment rate was 2.9% in June, up from 2.7% in May
- San Juan County was 1.8% in June, down from 2.1% in May
- Montezuma County was 3.4%, up from 3.1%
- Dolores County was 2.7%, up from 2.6%
- Archuleta County was 3.1%, up from 2.9%

### **La Plata County Sales & Lodgers Tax Update**

- Sales tax collections for April show an increase of \$94,724 or 5.10% in comparison to the same period in 2021. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$580,031 or 8.22% as compared to the same period in 2021.
- Lodger's tax collections are earned Quarterly; Quarter 1 Lodgers tax increased \$15,603 or 6.69% in comparison to Quarter 1, 2021.

### **Colorado Ballot Initiatives (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/> )**

- #31 - would reduce the state income tax rate to 4.4% from 4.55%
- #58 - would decriminalize and regulate the use of "magic" mushrooms
- #96 - would allow liquor retailers to be able to open an unlimited number of stores in Colorado beginning in 2037
- #108 - would divert 0.1% of taxable income from the general fund to the state affordable housing fund
- #121 - would allow retailers who have a license to sell beer to also sell wine
- #122 - would allow third-party services to deliver alcohol

### **Downtown Durango Update**

- A discussion on parking will take place for downtown Durango business owners on Tuesday, 9/13 at 1:30 pm at the Durango Public Library. A meeting for the public will take place that evening at 5:30 pm at the FLC Center for Innovation at the Durango Mall.

### **Durango Lodgers Tax Update**

- Durango City Councilors have agreed to ask voters if they can retain the overage collected through Lodgers Tax in 2021 and 2022. Should the ballot question fail, the money would be refunded to residential utility customers.
- Ballot language is as follows:
  - QUESTION 2-A: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY TO RETAIN CERTAIN REVENUES FROM THE CITY LODGERS' TAX INCREASE. MAY THE CITY KEEP ALL REVENUES COLLECTED IN 2021 IN EXCESS OF \$900,000 FROM THE 2021 VOTER-APPROVED INCREASED LODGERS' TAX RATE OF 3.25% AND ALL REVENUES COLLECTED IN 2022 THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE REFUNDED FOR EXCEEDING ESTIMATES IN THE NOTICE MAILED TO VOTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2021 INCREASED LODGERS' TAX RATE OF 3.25% AND MAY THE CITY SPEND SUCH EXCESS REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE LODGERS' TAX FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:  
66% FOR AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING PROGRAMS; 20% FOR TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, AND TRANSIT SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES; AND 14% FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, AND MAY THE CITY CONTINUE TO COLLECT THE TAX AT THE 3.25% RATE?

### **La Plata County Oil and Gas Regulations Update**

- La Plata County staff presented the draft of Chapter 90 of the County Land Use Code to County Commissioners and the Planning Commission. Community Development Director Neal Starkebaum said the county intends to harmonize county oil and gas regulations in Chapter 90 with those of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC). Changes include the requirement for annual reporting from all operators and a required

\$175,000 financial assurance from major operators. Next steps in the process will be public meetings with stakeholders and interested parties.

### Homeless Camp Update

- The county is on track to close Purple Cliffs on September 30.

### La Plata County Road Impact Fee

- La Plata County Commissioners directed staff to move forward with looking at the implementation of a road impact fee to pay for the cost of the growing community. In a work session in August, Consultants explained the need for \$145.6M in road improvements between 2023 and 2040 in La Plata County. A road impact fee would only cover a fraction of the total need and would potentially only apply to new commercial, industrial and residential development in unincorporated La Plata County.

### Project Approvals

- The La Plata BOCC approved the Nugget minor land use permit for expansion of the existing bar and two cabins, including but not limited to a deck expansion, covered stage, relocation of food truck and storage trailer with platform and stairs, two shipping containers, and formalization of the gravel seating area. The project is located at 48721 N US Hwy 550.
- The BOCC also approved 3 compressors and associated pipelines at CR 318 in Ignacio. Arkoma plans to use the compressors to gather natural gas at the Semler and Jaques oil and gas facilities and the pipelines will connect the two facilities.
- The La Plata County Planning Commission (LPC PC) approved the Meadows Market Minor Permit, a mixed-use project to include a small market with an upstairs residential apartment located on Edgemont Meadows Rd. The main level will house the market, which is to be a small convenience store with some food service (and no sales of gasoline). The upper level will house a 430 square foot office and a 1220 square foot 2-bedroom apartment. Outdoor seating is also proposed, and an area for food trucks. Several residents spoke in support of the project.
- The LPC PC also approved the subdivision of 48 acres into 3 lots on CR 252 in the Animas Valley. The subject parcel is zoned as commercial, but no plans were revealed for the future of the subdivided land at this time.
- The Durango Planning Commission (PC) approved Crossroads II, a mixed-use building at 1037 Main Avenue. Currently the site has one building along Main Avenue occupied by Studio &. A surface parking lot is located on the foundation. The applicants are proposing to demolish the existing structures and build a mixed-use building containing 4,086 square feet of commercial space, 3 office spaces, 3 work-live units, 4 live-work units and 16 residential units.
- The Durango PC also approved the Champion Xpress Car Wash site plan and variance located at 780 South Camino del Rio between the Durango Mall and Durango Harley Davidson. The project includes a 6,400 square foot building containing the wash tunnel and 19 vacuum stations.

### Meetings attended August 4 - September 1

8/4 - 3 pm LAC meeting	8/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
8/8 - 2:30 pm BOCC Work Session	8/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
8/8 - 4:30 pm Durango URA meeting	8/18 - 6 pm BOCC/Planning Commission Joint Work Session
8/9 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	8/22 - 10 am BOCC Work Session
8/9 - 3:30 pm BOCC Work Session	8/22 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission
8/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	8/23 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
8/11 - 12 pm Durango BID Board Meeting	8/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
8/11 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	8/25 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
8/16 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	9/1 - 3 pm LAC Meeting
8/16 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	

