



Leadville, Colorado

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New hospital should be underway this summer

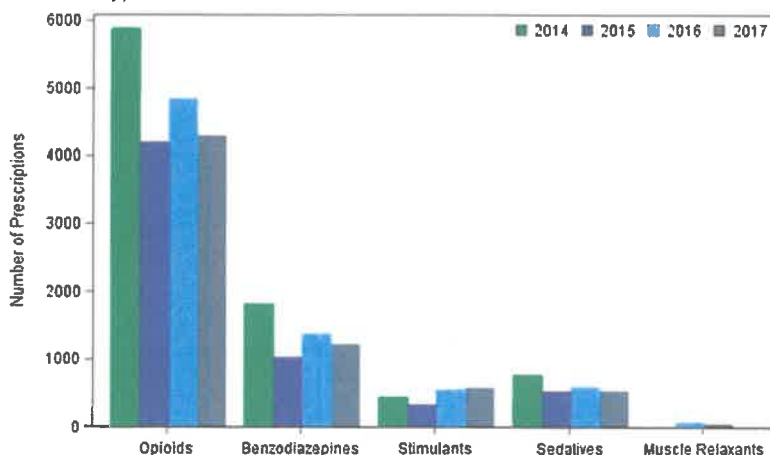


Davis Partnership Architects

Drawings of the new hospital show a more modern aesthetic than the old design. Davis Partnership Architects' plans include south facing windows, an atrium-style waiting room and sloped roofs to ease snow removal.

Overdose deaths often due to opioids

Figure 4: Amount of Controlled Substances Dispensed to Residents, by Drug Class, Lake County, 2014-2017



Excludes Buprenorphine medications commonly used to treat opioid use disorder
Data Source: Colorado Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
Analysis by: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2018

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

The majority of controlled substances prescribed to Lake County residents are opioids.

by Rachel Woolworth
Herald Staff Writer

Of the 63,000 Americans who died from drug overdoses in 2016, two out of every three deaths stemmed from opioids (prescription or heroin).

According to a new Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment study, 57 percent of drug overdose deaths in Colorado in 2017 involved an opioid.

Generally, the state's urban counties such as Pueblo and Denver, and rural counties such as Lake and Chaffee,

show similar opioid prescription rates. Colorado's frontier counties, such as Costilla and Moffat, display slightly higher rates.

In 2017, over 7,000 controlled substance prescriptions were dispensed to 1,856

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by Rachel Woolworth
Herald Staff Writer

St. Vincent Hospital hopes to begin construction on its new hospital building this summer.

Though SVGH tried to build a new facility in 2017, the project was paused due to financial problems. Two years later, SVGH has successfully turned around its finances and is ready to hit the ground running.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture loan SVGH secured in 2017 is on hold until 2021. The federal agency must sign-off on the hospital's new architectural plans before the financing is final.

The loan, which will fund approximately 80 percent of the \$23,000,000 project, has an interest rate of 2.75 percent and a term of 35 years.

According to SVGH CEO Gary Campbell, the district hopes to secure private funding to cover the other 20 percent of the costs by May.

Campbell estimates that the project's annual loan payments will be around \$1,600,000. The debt service will not become due until 2021.

In November, Stroudwater, a healthcare consulting firm, completed a

market analysis of the new hospital project.

The firm projected that long-term gains in patient revenue, added services like surgical procedures and increased market share will offset the increased expense of the new facility. Additionally, SVGH will make its last payment on a bond the district incurred in the 1990s this year.

Davis Partnership Architects, the same firm SVGH contracted with in 2017, has updated the new facility's designs.

Though the hospital will still be built in-between SVGH's current parking area and the Leadville Dog Park, the orientation of the building has shifted. The main entrance now faces south with employee parking and an ambulance entry to the north of the building.

The helipad, which was originally located to the west of the hospital, is now to the building's east. The change was made in response to a group of Sixth Street residents who were worried about the landing pad's proximity to their homes.

In 2016, SVGH completed

Continued on page 2

Dispatcher lawsuit amended

by Rachel Woolworth
Herald Staff Writer

The civil lawsuit brought against the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Board of County Commissioners in December by Nicole Garner, Maria Chavez and Chelsea Parsons has been amended.

The women are suing the county, as well as former LCSO employees Rod Fenske, Fernando Mendoza and Mary Ann Hammer for unlawful sex discrimination, retaliation and violations of rights to free speech and equal protection under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

According to the lawsuit, the Board of County Commissioners' Human Resources Department told

Sheriff Amy Reyes that Lake County would not hire the plaintiffs back until the lawsuit was over.

"Sheriff Reyes was attempting to end the culture of discrimination and retaliation that had previously gone unchecked and ran rampant in the Sheriff's Office, but the BOCC continued to engage in a pattern of retaliation against the plaintiffs," the complaint states.

Reyes told the *Herald* that she had a verbal agreement with the BOCC to run the idea of hiring Garner and Chavez past LCSO's legal team. She did so and there were no issues. Garner and Chavez have since been rehired to the office.



New hospital should bring more providers, specialists

Continued from page 1

an environmental report of the 10-acre wooded tract the district will expand to. Campbell is waiting to hear back from the USDA to see if the district needs to provide and updated or supplemental report.

The firm's updated drawings of the hospital center around a modern aesthetic that responds to neighboring Lake County High School. The design takes advantage of southern exposure and is more cost efficient, Campbell said.

The district is considering building either a tunnel or a heated sheltered sidewalk between the new and old hospital building as some patient services, like physical therapy, will remain in the old building.

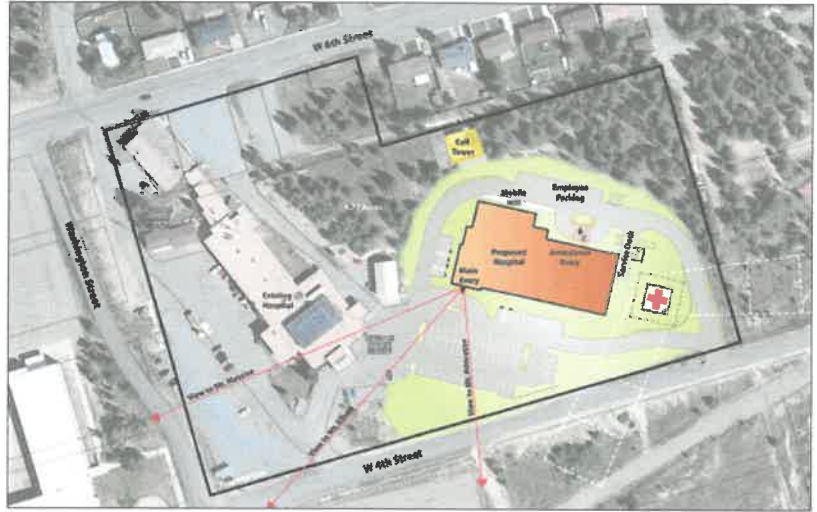
The new facility will fea-

ture an emergency room, eight inpatient rooms, ambulance services, a laboratory, imaging/radiology and surgical services, a new offering for SVGH. Campbell is also considering a parking area and hook-up for a portable MRI truck.

"This is a micro-hospital design that gives us flexibility with staff work flows and efficiency," Campbell told the Herald.

If all goes as planned, the district hopes to complete the hospital by late 2020. SVGH will host a public meeting on the architectural plans on March 20.

"A new hospital helps us attract new providers and new specialists," SVGH Director of Outreach and Development Karen Onderdonk said. "It will really increase the healthcare offerings here in Leadville."



Davis Partnership Architects moved the helipad away from the west side of the building after a group of Sixth Street residents voiced issues with the landing pad's location.

Agreement mediated between LURA and sanitation district

by Rachel Woolworth
Herald Staff Writer

After over a month of mediation, the Leadville Urban Renewal Authority and Leadville Sanitation District's mediation panel concluded that LURA should retain 85 percent of the tax increment generated by LSD's mill levy within the Urban Renewal Authority plan area. The finding leaves LSD with a 15 percent shareback of the tax

increment.

LURA had previously requested 100 percent of the tax increment. Four options are now available to the LURA board as next steps.

One option is for the board

to incorporate the mediators' findings into an Urban Renewal Plan and then adopt the plan.

Another option is for the board to adopt the Urban Renewal Plan without incor-

porating the panel's findings. If the board proceeds with this option, LURA would forgo the opportunity to collect any of LSD's tax increment.

If LURA wants to negotiate further, the board could incor-

porate the mediators' findings into a tax increment sharing agreement or start the negotiation over.

LURA will decide how to move forward at the board's Feb. 12 meeting.



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