

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

# THE DENVER POST

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022  A LITTLE SNOW ▲38° ▼19° »18A • © THE DENVER POST • \$2 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER

UKRAINE

## Nuclear plant captured

Despite middle-of-night fighting, no reports of radiation leaks

By Andrew Drake, Francesca Ebel, Yuras Karmanau and Mstyslav Chernov  
The Associated Press

KYIV, UKRAINE» Russian troops Friday seized the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe after a

middle-of-the-night attack that set it on fire and briefly raised worldwide fears of a catastrophe in the most chilling turn yet in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Firefighters put out the blaze, and no radiation was released, U.N. and Ukrainian officials said. Russian forces pressed on with

their week-old offensive on multiple fronts, although they did not appear to gain significant ground in fighting Friday. The number of refugees fleeing the country eclipsed 1.2 million.

While the vast Russian armored column threatening Kyiv remained stalled outside the capital,

Putin's military has launched hundreds of missiles and artillery attacks on cities and other sites across the country, and it made significant gains on the ground in the south in an apparent bid to cut off Ukraine's access to the sea.

In the attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in the southeastern city of Enerhodar, the chief of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael

Mariano Grossi, said a Russian "projectile" hit a training center, not any of the six reactors.

The attack triggered global alarm and fear of a catastrophe

UKRAINE » 15A

**Business: Sanctions on Russia are starting to wreak havoc on international trade, with potentially devastating consequences.** »11A

## PREPARING FOR SNOW JOBS



Student Mitch Henkel, 19, talks to fellow students as he drives a snow groomer toward the terrain park during the ski area operations class at Colorado Mountain College on March 1 in Leadville. At the college, students can earn a degree to learn specialized technical and management skills for careers at ski resorts. »STORY, 1C Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

UTAH

## Rail line to carry oil raises concerns

Project could bring 10 trains, two miles long, through Denver daily

By Conrad Swanson  
The Denver Post

A railroad project out of Utah that would bring up to 10 oil trains, each two miles long, through Denver daily has federal approval but no clear picture of the environmental damage it might cause, dozens of opposing Colorado counties and cities say.

The proposed 85-mile line would allow drilling operations in northeastern Utah's Uinta Basin to expand and connect to refineries in Texas and Louisiana, rolling through Colorado in the process, likely alongside Interstate 70 and the Colorado River.

Work on the new line could begin as early as next year, but the project faces new hurdles after Eagle County and several conservation groups sued to require a deep-

TRAIN » 8A

BOSTON MARATHON ATTACK

## High court reimposes bomber's death sentence

By Mark Sherman  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON» The Supreme Court has reinstated the death sentence for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

The justices, by a 6-3 vote Friday, agreed with the Biden administration's arguments that a federal appeals court was wrong to throw out the sentence of death a jury imposed on Tsarnaev for his role

in the bombing that killed three people near the finish line of the marathon in 2013.

"Dzhokhar Tsarnaev committed heinous crimes. The Sixth Amendment nonetheless guaranteed him a fair trial before an impartial jury. He received one," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority, made up of the court's six conservative justices.

BOSTON » 9A

## COLORADO REPORT CRITICIZES SNAP SYSTEM

Coloradans are less likely to have a lawyer in administrative court or appeal a dispute over their food-stamp benefits. »2A

## BUSINESS PANDEMIC GRIP ON ECONOMY LOOSENS

Falling coronavirus cases brought a flood of new jobs and more people rejoined the labor force in February. »11A

COLORADO'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

## Lawmakers want to raise minimum age for charges

By Shelly Bradbury  
The Denver Post

Just over 500 children ages 10, 11 and 12 were charged with crimes in Colorado's juvenile courts last year — a number that a trio of Democratic lawmakers hopes to drop to zero.

State Sen. Julie Gonzales and Reps. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez and Jennifer Bacon are pushing to raise the minimum age for juvenile prosecu-

tions in the state from 10 to 13 in all cases except when a child is suspected of homicide.

The move is aimed at preventing a bevy of down-the-road consequences for children who are arrested at such young ages, supporters of the bill said, although some opponents said the court system is a necessary tool to get children help and that it can't be

JUVENILES » 8A

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**FITNESS:** Improve muscles, in just seconds a day »2c

# Life & Culture

**REACTION:** Colorado brewery changing the name of its Shirtless Putin beer »2c

## Skin up, strip down

Take a naked lap at all-female ski festival in Colorado

By **Tiney Ricciardi**  
The Denver Post

Attention ladies: If you've ever wanted to bare your backside in the backcountry, there's an event this month that's specifically designed as a safe space where you can drop trow.

The Boot Tan Fest on March 15 invites women, female-identifying and non-binary individuals to Bluebird Backcountry ski area in Kremmling for a day of live music, beer, tacos and gear demonstrations, capped off with a naked ski lap.

You read that right. At 3 p.m. the day of the event, women will skin up and strip down for a run on the mountain.

"It is the best feeling," said Jenny Verrochi, founder of the event and co-founder of the local Wild Barn Coffee, who organized a naked lap at the same venue in 2021. It was a spontaneous affair last year, she said, inspired by the woman known as the Nudy Judy that graces Wild Barn's cans of nitro cold brew. Details spread by word of mouth and 22 people showed up to ski in the buff.

"You feel supported because every body is different and every personality is different. But when you're outside and you're exposed like that and there's no men around to judge you, it's the most powerful feeling ever," Verrochi said. "We wanted more women to experience that."

Verrochi and her business partner Alyssa Evans quickly began planning a follow-up event in hopes of making backcountry skiing a more inclusive, accessible and empowering sport. A \$69 ticket to Boot Tan Fest includes a day pass for the mountain, which does not have chairlifts, plus access to the festival. Beginners

**SKI NAKED » 4C**

### If you go

Boot Tan Fest takes place March 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bluebird Backcountry, 12210 Colorado 14, Kremmling. Tickets cost \$69 at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), plus additional fees for car camping reservations (\$25), a dog pass (\$10), and gear rentals. Capacity is limited to 300 women. For additional lodging options, Verrochi recommends looking for Airbnbs and hotels in Kremmling or nearby Steamboat Springs.



Jason Gusaas, assistant professor of ski area operations at Colorado Mountain College, second from left, works with students on using snowplows in the terrain park at Colorado Mountain College on March 1. Photos by Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

# Grooming a passion

Leadville, community college work to provide minority youth access to skiing, finding careers in the industry



Student Madi Kish, 20, smiles as she drives a snowcat out of the bay at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville on March 1.



Student Miles Heck, 19, works at repairing a terrain park feature in the maintenance shop during his Ski Area Operations class at Colorado Mountain College.

By **John Meyer** The Denver Post

**LEADVILLE»**  
Vanessa Saldivar was introduced to skiing when she was 5 years old in a small town at the foot of Oregon's Mount Hood. Her father, Pablo, took her to a local beginner's slope even though he didn't know how to ski, let alone how to teach someone.

She didn't have a lift ticket, but he rented skis for her. She wore jeans, with socks for mittens.

"He walked me up the bunny hill, set

me down and let me go," said Saldivar, who immigrated from Mexico with her parents when she was an infant. "We just did that, and I learned to ski. I was so lucky, even though my mom and dad had a very typical immigrant story of working in restaurants. My dad gave me this gift. It set me on a path of winter sports that is still a huge passion of mine.

"So many of our youth do not get that opportunity to fall in love with the sport."

Saldivar and a lot of other committed folks in Leadville — North America's

**CMC » 3C**

## STANDLEY LAKE

# Famous bald eagle couple appears to be tending to a new egg

By **John Meyer**  
The Denver Post

Colorado's most famous bald eagle, the Standley Lake female known as F420, is believed to have laid an egg.

F420 and her mate, known as Dad, garnered a huge following two years ago — aided by live streaming coverage from the City of Westminster's Standley Lake Eagle Cam — after F420 ran off Dad's former mate and took over the nest. After some initial reluctance, Dad took up with F420 and she laid an egg last year. One eaglet hatched but was killed when the branch on which the nest was built collapsed. The eaglet could not yet fly and was

killed in the fall.

Since then, F420 and Dad took over an abandoned hawk's nest at another location in Standley Lake Regional Park and Wildlife Refuge and enlarged it to accommodate their needs.

Lori Golden, founder of the Standley Lake Eagle Cam Facebook Group, said it was obvious last weekend that the couple was incubating a new egg.

"Normally the way you can tell when an egg is laid, there's an eagle sitting on the nest," Golden said. "That means they're incubating it, and the other one is sitting on the branch, on guard."

Golden said F420 and Dad are taking turns sitting on the egg. She believes the egg was laid Sat-

urday, which would be 364 days after last year's egg was laid.

Neither Golden nor park officials are disclosing the location of the new nest to prevent crowds from disturbing the eagle couple. The Eagle Cam currently is not operating.

Golden said the new egg likely will incubate for 35-38 days, perhaps 40 if there is more than one, and that it will be obvious it has hatched when F420 and Dad are observed feeding the newcomer. It probably will take another four weeks before the eaglet is tall enough for its head to be seen above the rim of the nest.

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F420 sits on an egg in the Standley Lake bald eagle nest on Sunday while Dad hangs out on a branch, keeping watch. Provided by Lori Golden

“The ski industry is a billion-dollar industry. With CMC and this tremendous human resource we have here in Lake County, working in the ski industry could be a wonderful career.”

John McMurtry, executive director of the Lake County Community Fund

## CMC

### ◀FROM 1C

highest unincorporated city at 10,152 feet — are trying to bring that kind of opportunity to children of modest means in Lake County. She is executive director of Get Outdoors Leadville, a county program entirely funded by grants from Great Outdoors Colorado and other sources. GOL, as locals call it, provides summer and winter programs for local youth. It also maintains a “gear library” at the Leadville campus of Colorado Mountain College for those who cannot afford to buy their own equipment.

“We give exposure and an access point to the sport that has been so exclusive in the past,” Saldivar said. “We’re trying to make sure our youth have an opportunity to learn to ski, to be outside and feel like they belong here.”

Many in the community are working toward that goal. Cloud City Mountain Sports is a non-profit that provides access to alpine and nordic ski teams at a fraction of what it costs in other ski towns. It owns a ski slope adjacent to the CMC campus, which the college supports by providing snowmaking and grooming operations performed by students in its Ski Area Operations program.

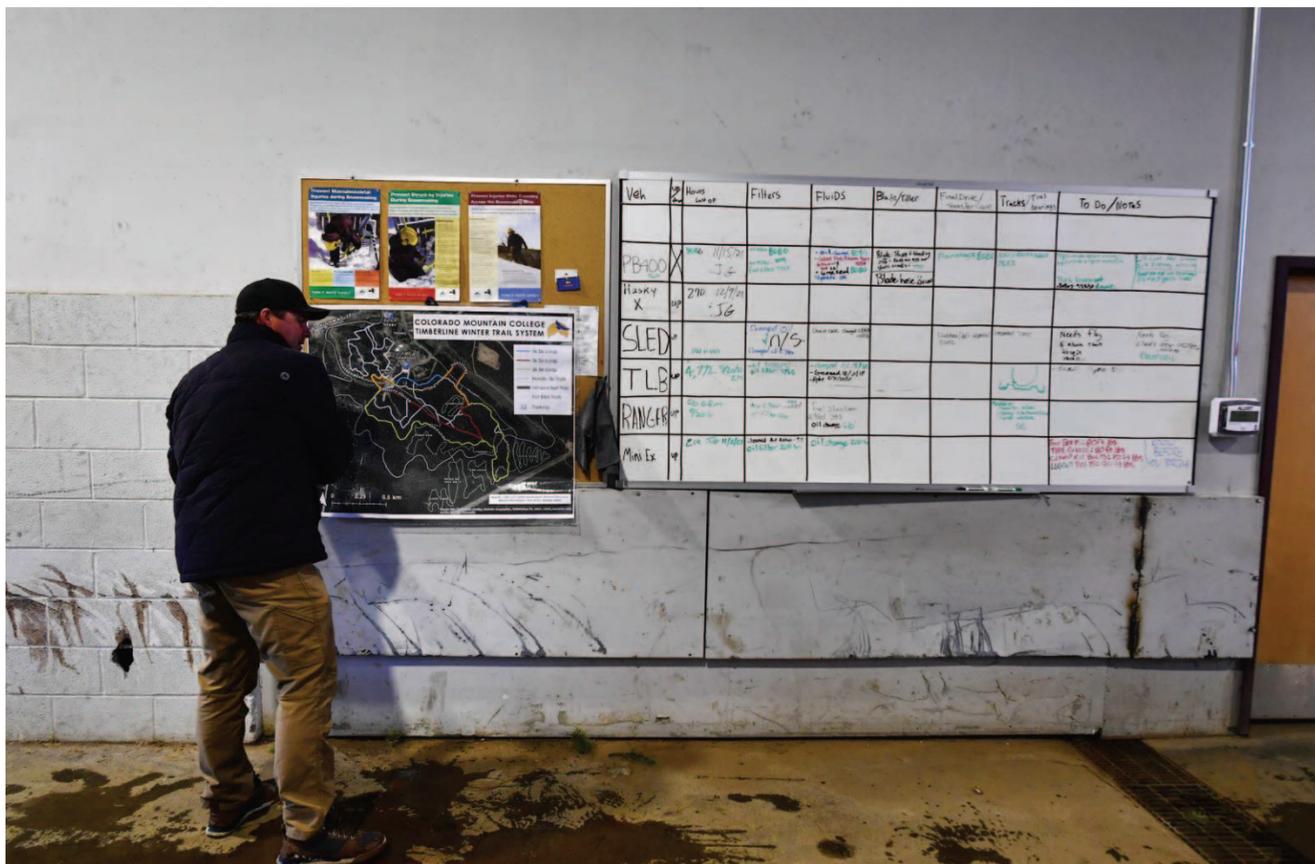
Ben Cairns, dean of CMC’s Leadville campus, is also the volunteer president of Cloud City Mountain Sports, and he coaches the Lake County High School ski team. Before taking the CMC job last year, he was principal of the high school.

“CMC is so interested right now in the ski industry, in questions of affordability in mountain towns, increasingly having students and staff who are having trouble living in mountain towns,” Cairns said. “So this affordable approach to skiing is really interesting. The relationship between CMC and the ski club is so interconnected.”

About 27% of the children in Lake County are poor, with about 67% receiving free or reduced-cost school lunches, according to John McMurtry, executive director of the Lake County Community Fund. The Lake County school district is about 70% Hispanic, many the children of immigrants. More than 70% of the county’s workforce have jobs outside of the county, with many commuting over mountain passes to Summit County or Vail to work in the service industry.

Colorado Mountain College has 11 locations across the state with three residential campuses, one of which is in Leadville. Last year, CMC was designated a Hispanic Serving Institution by the federal government — a distinction awarded to colleges that have more than 25% Hispanic enrollment — which makes CMC eligible for additional grant funding. Many of CMC’s Hispanic students have parents who do not speak English.

“Lots of our families are washing dishes, doing the really challenging work,” Cairns said of Leadville’s demographic make-



Jason Gusaas, assistant professor of Ski Area Operations at CMC, looks at the daily schedule of things to do in the maintenance shop in the bay at Colorado Mountain College on March 1. Photos by Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

up. “We’d love for more students to venture into other parts of the ski industry that are more secure, higher paying. And it’s all here at CMC.”

At the Leadville campus, students can earn a two-year associate degree in Ski Area Operations. Using the college’s two snowcats, they learn how to groom slopes, build terrain parks and conduct snowmaking operations. They learn lift maintenance and repair. They can receive basic training in ski patrolling, get EMT training and learn how to put on events like ski races and rail jams.

“We’re surrounded here by world-renowned resorts,” McMurtry said. “The ski industry is a billion-dollar industry. With CMC and this tremendous human resource we have here in Lake County, working in the ski industry could be a wonderful career.”

Brian Rosser, one of two full-time faculty members assigned to the program, couldn’t agree more. He has spent three decades working in the industry.

“There is no business like snow business,” Rosser said. “It is an industry that is full of people who are passionate about snow sports.”

Erick Corral Parra commutes 40 miles from Edwards to attend Ski Area Operations classes in Leadville. On Tuesday morning, he had four hours of classroom instruction as part of a course called Terrain Park and Halfpipe Operations, followed by an afternoon outdoor lab where a dozen students built a terrain park by running 10,000-pound snowcats, raking and shoveling snow, building rails and other features.

“I love this environment; I love working in the ski industry; I love working outside,” said Parra, 20, a snowboarder. “It’s pretty cool that my campus has a backyard (terrain) park that anyone can try out. I really enjoy building whatever we’re going to do for the day.”

But without widening access to skiing and snowboarding, Lake County youth may not be inclined to pursue ski industry careers. In his role as leader of the CMC Leadville campus and head of Cloud City Mountain Sports, Cairns yearns to provide opportunities for more minority youth.

“Right now, our ski team does not look like the demographic of Leadville,” Cairns said. “Our ski team is still largely kids who



Students help load a large terrain park feature onto the front of a snow cat to take it back to the shop for repairs.



Jason Gusaas, assistant professor of Ski Area Operations at CMC, conducts a lecture before heading out to the field with students.

grew up skiing, who have parents who work in the ski industry. What we have learned is that it’s really hard (for a kid) to add ski racing as a school sport in middle school or high school. We have to expand our reach into a learn-to-ski program so a student who gets to sixth or seventh grade feels comfortable jumping into a race course.”

Ski Cooper, where the Cloud

City skiers do much of their training, is 10 miles from town. Now the ski club is raising funds to install a surface lift on the small ski slope that Cloud City owns next to the CMC campus. Currently, skiers have to hike for their turns there, but a surface lift would make it ideal for beginners.

“Cooper has been a great partner, but it’s really hard to get a

kid out to Cooper, get all their gear and put them in a lesson,” Cairns said. “We’re 100% convinced that if we do learn-to-ski here as an after-school program, that is the key, rather than trying to get kids out to Cooper on Saturday.”

That’s one reason the partnership between the college, the ski club, and Get Outdoors Leadville is so valuable.

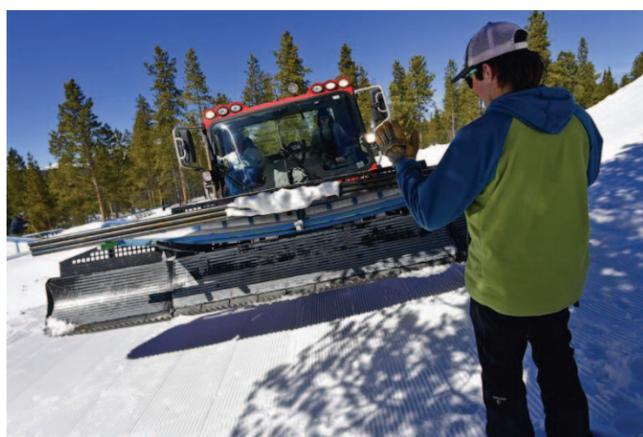
“If you can get young people to connect to the ski industry, to feel comfortable on skis, to feel comfortable on snow, and if we could then help those students realize this is an awesome industry and career and matriculate into our ski operations program, that would be a dream,” Cairns said.

“That really is our goal, both as Cloud City Mountain Sports and as CMC: to help our community connect to the winter sports industry. And then, to realize there are really viable career paths that are really rewarding, and really fun, in the outdoors.”

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Student Lotus Lyell, 21, works with other students in the terrain park during their Ski Area Operations class.



Student Alex Holter, 21, right, guides student Mitch Henkel, 19, as he drives the snowcat towards the terrain park.