**UKRAINE**

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

By Andrew Drake, Francesco Elo, Yuriy Karmanau and Natasha Chervon

The Associated Press

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**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.

**UTAH**

Rail line to carry oil raises concerns

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

By Conrad Swanson

A railroad project 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, despite opposition from Coloradans and cities nearby.

The proposed 85-mile line would allow drilling operations in northeastern Utah’s Uinta Basin to expand and connect to rail and pipeline terminals 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 environmental review.

**COLORADO**

REPORT CRITICIZES SNAP SYSTEM

Coloradoans are less likely to lose their food-stamp benefits.

**BUSINESS**

PANDEMIC GRIP ON ECONOMY LOOSENS

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

**COLORADO’S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Lawmakers want to raise minimum age for charges

By Shelly Bradbury

Just over 500 children ages 10, 11 and 12 were charged as criminals 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 prosecutions in the state from 10 to 13 in all cases except when a child is suspected of homicidal intent.

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...
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’re 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 do just that.

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, boot, navo, and gear demonstrations, capp’d 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 Vorchs, 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 all-female last year, she said, inspired by the woman known as the Nudy Lady that graces Wild Barn’s cans of nitro cold brew.

“Very few 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 man around to judge you, it’s the most powerful feeling ever,” Vorchs said. “We wanted more women to experience that.”

Vorchs 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 $50 ticket to Boot Tan Fest includes a naked lap for the mountain, which does not have chairlifts, plus access to the festival. Beginners are welcome.

If you go
The Boot Tan Fest takes place March 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kremmling’s 22202 Conifer Rd.
• Tickets over $50 or eventbrite.com, plus additional fees for car rentals. Capacity is limited to 300 women.

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 once more.

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 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 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 Saturday, which would be 364 days after last year’s egg was laid.

Neither Golden nor park officials are revealing 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 hatch in 35-38 days, perhaps 40 if there is more than one, and that it will be obvious if it has hatched when F420 and Dad are observed feeding the newcomer.

“So many of our youth do not get that opportunity to fall in love with the sport,” Golden said. “I feel 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.”

Famous bald eagle couple appears to be tending to a new egg
By John Meyer
The Denver Post

Famous bald eagle couple appears to be tending to a new egg while Dad hangs out on a branch, keeping watch. Provided by Lori Golden

Leadville, community college work to provide minority youth access to skiing, finding careers in the industry
By John Meyer
The Denver Post

By Tiney Ricciardi
The Denver Post

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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 opportunity.

Jason Guazzas, assistant professor of Ski Area Operations at CMC, looks at the daily schedule of things to do in the maintenance shop in the boy at Colorado Mountain College on March 3. Photos by Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

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

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