



HOME WRESTLING

DHS boys squad impresses on senior night 1c

ACTION LINE

Is the environment going to the dogs? 2A

THE Durango HERALD

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DURANGO HIGH SCHOOL

Students trade class for protest

‘Skipping our lessons to teach you one,’ read one sign

BY ELIZABETH POND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

About 200 Durango High School students and a smattering of supportive community members marched down Main Avenue on Friday during school hours to protest recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity.

Students intentionally missed two class periods to join the crowd, which made its way through DHS property, south to downtown Durango and back again. A handful of class absences can lead to disciplinary action – but many of the students marching on Main said they were more than willing to take an attendance strike to be at the protest.

“It’s our friends out there (being taken),” 11th grader Lila Scherer-Sickler said as she marched alongside her classmates. “It’s people we know in Durango, and we just felt like, as kids, we don’t often get an opportunity to have our voice out there, and we just took the chance. A bunch of us are missing AP classes right now, (but) I think that the opportunity to get your voice out there is more important.”

The crowd of high schoolers touted handmade signs and

See PROTEST, 8A

Emergency overflow remains unusable until fixes can be made



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

Ken Beck, superintendent of the Pine River Irrigation District, looks out at Vallecito Reservoir on Jan. 15 as he stands on the walls of the dam. The infrastructure will require a massive repair in the next few years.

BIG FIX NEEDED FOR DAM

BY JESSICA BOWMAN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

VALLECITO – Vallecito dam is due for some serious upkeep. Built in the late 1930s, the infrastructure that maintains Vallecito Reservoir is decades beyond its original design life. So far, things have held up remarkably well, and the dam’s engineering remains impressively sound.

But aging materials and erosion have caused significant damage to the dam’s emergency support structures, and a major repair project is coming



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PRID operates, maintains and manages Vallecito Dam and Reservoir, which holds and delivers supplemental irrigation water to 65,000 acres of land downstream – the lifeblood for ranchers and

See VALLECITO, 8A



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald

Sidewalks were filled Friday in downtown Durango with spectators watching the Snowdown Light Parade 2026.

Annual Snowdown parade lights up downtown Durango

Dinosaurs and prospectors and chain saws, oh my!

BY ELIZABETH POND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Main Avenue was transformed Friday into a menagerie of whimsy during this year’s Snowdown Light Parade.

Dinosaurs, prospectors, yards of flannel, covered wagons, a yeti, humanoid trees, a healthy dose of Victorian garb, Jazzercise cowboys, chain saws, bubbles, bears, horses, rams, chickens and motorcycles all helped paradegeers get into a party mood and go back in time for this year’s Snowdown theme: Uniquely Colorado – Then and Wow!

The parade, hosted once again

by Purgatory Resort, gave participants the opportunity to time travel to celebrate Colorado’s 150th anniversary and all that makes the state special.

Some floats leaned heavily into the theme of celebrating Colorado’s history and quirks – one with an intricately decorated Victorian room, another featuring a mega-sized miner working

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