



DURANGO FILM FEST

Durango native screens movie at upcoming festival **1B**

FANTASTIC FINISH

Five of six Durango wrestlers place at state **6A**

THE Durango HERALD

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Rep. Hurd quiet on Trump snub

President throws support behind Hope Scheppelman

BY JESSICA BOWMAN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

At Tuesday night's State of the Union address, Rep. Jeff Hurd was among the few Republican lawmakers who remained seated during several standing ovations for President Donald Trump's tariffs.

That's not surprising, considering the freshman house member for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District recently lost the president's endorsement for reelection over his opposition to the national emergency declaration from February 2025, which subjected Canada to tariffs. Trump shifted his endorsement to Hope Scheppelman, Hurd's opponent in the upcoming CD-3 Republican primary.

"Congressman Hurd is one of a small number of Legislators who have let me and our Country down," Trump said in a Truth Social post Saturday. "He is more interested in protecting Foreign Countries that have been ripping us off for decades than he is the United States of America."

The day after Trump's post, Hurd responded on X, saying he would always put his constituents first and that his votes are guided by what is best for his district and the "long-term strength" of the country. Shortly after last week's Congressional vote on the tariffs, Hurd wrote on X that he felt the tariffs were negatively affecting agricultural producers and steel mills in his district.

Both the La Plata County Republicans and Southwest Republican Women declined to comment on Hurd's loss of endorsement until after the June primaries. However, some local Republicans doubted that Hurd was truly ever a Trump supporter – not necessarily a negative for them.

Hurd has so far declined to respond to *The Durango Herald's* requests for comment about losing Trump's endorsement.

But he briefly acknowledged his vote denying Trump's plan

See **HRUD, 8A**

Despite new transparency law, hidden costs persist in La Plata County



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald

Cook Tom Switala, with Steamworks Brewing Co., works in the kitchen on Wednesday at the Durango restaurant. Several Peak Food and Beverage-owned restaurants, including Steamworks, charge a 3% "livable wage" fee on orders.

SPOTTING SNEAKY FEES

BY ELIZABETH POND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Those extra fees that appear on receipts, sometimes labeled as "kitchen appreciation," "courtesy charge" or simply "fees," are paid by consumers nationwide – including in the Durango.

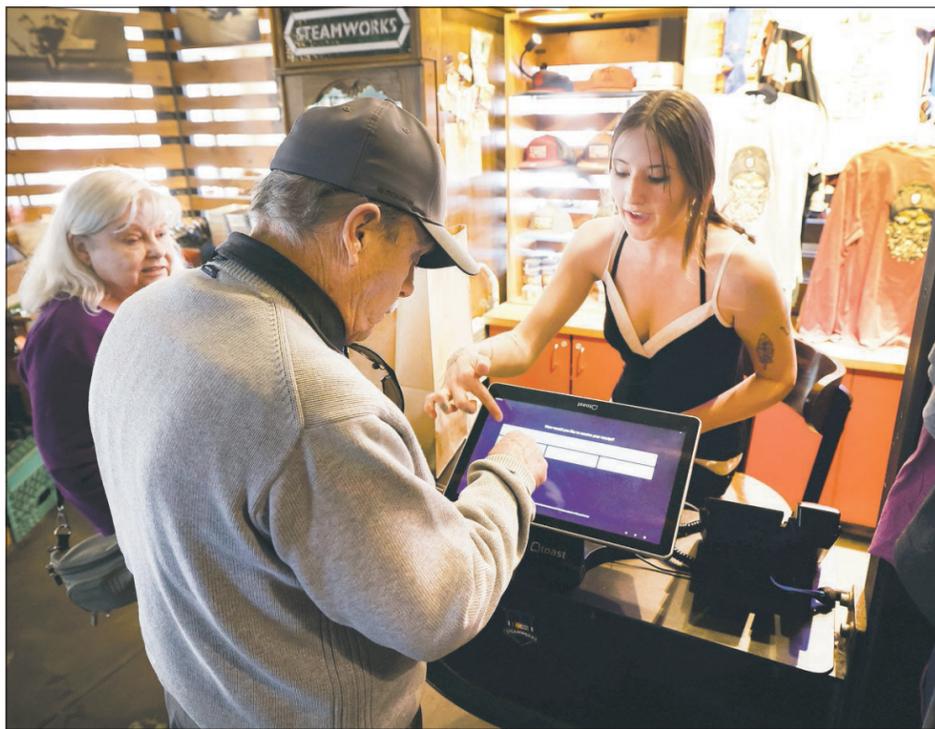
Often called "junk fees," these small, extra charges can add up, costing consumers significant amounts over time.

A new Colorado law, HB25-1090, went into effect Jan. 1 that requires businesses and landlords to display full and complete costs upfront in an effort to eliminate undisclosed charges. But the law does not prohibit junk fees, so long as they are disclosed.

A range of local food and drink businesses charge various junk fees or surcharges, including Steamworks, El Moro Spirits and Tavern, Cream Bean Berry and The Diamond Belle Saloon.

A 3% "livable wage" fee

See **FEES, 8A**



Marin Farley, with Steamworks Brewing Company, assists Bruce Spining and his sister Avena Spining pick up their to-go order on Wednesday at the Durango restaurant. According to Peak Food and Beverage Co-Founder and CEO Kris Oyler, a 3% "livable wage fee" is added to orders to fairly pay employees without raising menu prices.

Winter plagued by 'freakishly bad' atmospheric pattern

Major snowfall last week quickly followed by 60-degree temperatures this week

BY SCOUT EDMONDSON
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Last week, Southwest Colorado saw enough snow to cancel school and snarl travel. A week later, winter appears to have vaporized – replaced by clear skies, dry roads and temperatures warm enough for sandals and T-shirts.

According to the National Weather Service, the high temperatures in Durango reached 63 degrees Thursday. It is the latest episode of weird winter weather

this year.

Jonathan Harvey, an associate professor of geosciences at Fort Lewis College, said in an email to *The Durango Herald* that winter's absence is because of stubborn high-pressure ridges steering the jet stream – a belt of fast-moving winds that separates warm tropical air to the south from cold arctic air to the north – toward the northern United States.

"We have spent most of the winter under a 'ridge' in the jet stream, which has prevented



Friday, Feb. 20



Thursday, Feb. 26

What a difference a week makes. To the left, children enjoy sledding on Feb. 20 at Buckley Park. Six days later, Buckley Park is void of snow with temperatures reaching the low 60s.

SCOUT EDMONDSON/Durango Herald

cold air and storms from hitting our region," he said.

That, according to National Weather Service forecaster Lucas Boyer, is because of warm seawater temperatures in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

"We've had ample warm water in the in the Eastern Pacific for a lot of the winter," he said. "We've really seen the jet stream get pushed north, which means warm air to the south. It's been really devastating for any kind of snowfall production."

Boyer said any storms that have managed to break through that high-pressure ridge were

See **WEATHER, 8A**

A&E | **1B**
City, Region, State | **3A**
Movies | **3B**

Obituaries | **2A**
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Sports | **6A**

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Today: Sunny. Partly cloudy tonight.
High 65 | Low 32.
More weather | **8B**

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