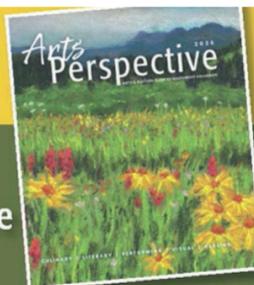


IN THIS EDITION:



Arts Perspective

END OF ERA

Rawles retiring after 17 years at DHS 1c

LOOK FOR MAIL DELIVERY

Starting Wednesday 3A

THE Durango HERALD

SERVING THE HEART OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO | DURANGOHERALD.COM | SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 | \$2.00

DURANGO/LA PLATA COUNTY AIRPORT

'We're not holding up'

Local TSA officers struggle without pay during shutdown

BY JESSICA BOWMAN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

How long can someone keep showing up to work without a paycheck as bills pile up and credit cards max out? In Durango, Transportation Security Administration agents are beginning to find out.

If paychecks authorized under President Donald Trump's executive action arrive Monday as promised, the lapse will have stretched to about five weeks. But the damage is already done.

More than a month into the shutdown, morale is deteriorating, debt is mounting and bills are going unpaid, said Angela Grana, a TSA officer at Durango-La Plata County Airport and regional vice president of AFGE Local 1127.

The partial shutdown, approaching its sixth week, has halted Department of Homeland Security operations deemed non-essential, while TSA officers are still required to report to work as essential personnel. It is the second record-length shutdown in six months during which they have been forced to work without pay.

The president signed an executive order designating emergency funds to pay TSA employees on Friday after a similar measure stalled in Congress. But just days before, some said they had already neared the breaking point.

"We're not holding up," Grana said. "We're wanting to commit suicide. We're sleeping in our cars. We're not feeding our families. We're not going to have Easter. It's so wrong what's happening."

See TSA, 8A

Third No Kings protest in Durango draws thousands



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

Thousands of participants in the No Kings march and rally filled Main Avenue on Saturday as they left Buckley Park walking and chanting to Fifth Street.

TAKING TO THE STREETS

BY CHRISTIAN BURNEY
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Calls for love and solidarity rebounded through Buckley Park on Saturday afternoon where several thousand protesters gathered for a third No Kings march and rally.

The protest, as with previous No Kings events, was held in more than 1,000 towns and cities across the country on Saturday in a movement of defiance against President Donald Trump and his administration.

The march began with a rally at Buckley Park and went down Main Avenue to Fifth Street. Organizers said they had all the proper permits in place to close Main Avenue. They limited speakers to half an hour, noting they had a tight timeline to demonstrate in compliance with permits.

National No Kings organizers expected the nationwide protests to draw about 9 million people across the country on Saturday, KPTV reported. The last No Kings event in October had an estimated 7



Elli Morris and Dan King rallied a crowd of thousands of protesters in Buckley Park during a No Kings march and rally on Saturday.

million attendees, and the first No Kings protest in June had about 5 million participants.

The Durango Herald estimated 3,200 or more protesters attended the march in Durango on Saturday.

Officers from Durango

Police Department were on scene to monitor event and escort the march. Barricades were placed at 13th and 14th streets bordering Buckley Park to keep vehicle traffic out of the staging area.

Hecklers appeared to be few

and far between. The Herald observed one man riding a bicycle and aggressively shouting "Democracy in action."

A group of teenagers on the 1200 block of Main Avenue watched protesters march by. The Herald observed a teenage girl say to a boy, "Dare me to yell 'I support Trump?'"

One protester passed masks out to participants in Buckley Park, noting a police camera tower placed in the grass near the southwest end of the park.

Several speakers rallied the crowd before it marched up Main Avenue.

Buckley Park was sparsely populated as of 1 p.m. But over the course of about 30 minutes, hundreds of attendees from the greater Durango area made their way onto the grass, many carrying signs expressing their displeasure with the current administration or demanding accountability.

"Turn the files into trials," "Make corruption criminal again" and "No kings, no ICE, no liars, no ballrooms, no

See PROTEST, 8A

Animas River may face low flows after sparse winter

A kayaker makes his way through rapids in the Durango Whitewater Park on Friday with the Animas River flowing at 1,000 cubic feet per second.



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald

Outfitters have plans to pivot; say plenty of visiting families enjoy lower water levels

BY SCOUT EDMONDSON
HERALD STAFF WRITER

A below-average winter followed by above-average temperatures is causing snowpack in the San Juan Mountains to melt earlier than usual.

According to the National Resource Conservation Service, the snowpack in the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan River Basin was at 18% of the historical norm this week. That puts it about a month ahead of 2002 levels, which set the previous record-low snowpack.

National Weather Service meteorologist Kris Sanders said last winter could set a record for one of the earliest peak snowpacks – the period in spring when accumulated snow reaches its maximum volume and density before melting – since records began being kept.

"Usually melt out isn't until mid-June," he said. "The last earliest melt out was around May 19 or so. We could just blow that record out of the water."

See RIVER, 8A

Business | 1D
City, Region, State | 3A
Obituaries | 4A

Opinion | 1B
Southwest Life | 8B
Sports | 1C



Today: Sunny. Partly cloudy tonight.
High 77 | Low 40.
More weather | 6C

News tips | 247-3504 or 375-4567
Subscribe | 375-4530
Place a classified ad | 247-3504

