



## CAN'T CATCH A BREAK

Second car crashes into statues on Florida Road 3A

## ON TO PLAYOFFS

DHS baseball loses series against Palisade 6A

# THE Durango HERALD

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## Through the EYES of the HIVE



Honey bees work in one of Chelsea Farley's hives May 3 near a garden north of Durango.

DURANGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Fired officer keeps badge

Former recruit stayed certified despite DUI, misconduct allegations

BY SHELLY BRADBURY  
THE DENVER POST

Just 11 days after Jermal Ball became a certified Colorado peace officer, he was pulled over for suspected drunken driving by an officer in his own police department.

Behind the wheel, Ball – then a trainee officer at the Durango Police Department – told the colleague who pulled him over that he hadn't had anything to drink that night in 2022. He passed field sobriety tests, but he smelled of alcohol and slurred as he spoke. He couldn't recite the alphabet, and the officer who pulled him over suspected the man was using insider tricks to beat at least one of the sobriety tests, according to police internal affairs records obtained by *The Denver Post*.

Officer Sam Kullberg decided he didn't have enough evidence to arrest Ball for driving under the influence. But he called a supervisor to the scene who started an internal affairs investigation. As part of that, they forced Ball to submit to a breath test, and he blew a 0.157 blood-alcohol content, nearly twice the legal limit. The officers left Ball in the care of his son – who was also a Durango police officer – and removed his service weapon from the door of his vehicle.

Durango police fired Ball three days later for lying about drinking that night and for having his weapon on him while drunk, according to the internal

See OFFICER, 12A



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

Chelsea Farley, left, treasure of the Four Corners Beekeeper Association, checks on her beehives May 3 as her sister looks on north of Durango.

## Beekeepers see signs of stress in colonies after warm winter, erratic spring

BY JESSIE BOWMAN  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

There is a lot to learn from bees, their health and their behavior. Beekeepers consider them canaries in the coal mine for climate change.

Durango's bees are sending one message in particular: It's too hot.

In her 18 years of beekeeping, Carol Tyrell, vice president of the Four Corners Beekeepers Association, said she has seen noticeable shifts in local climate conditions over

the past three to four years.

She has watched the warmer winters and reduced snowpack cause bees to fly during months when they would normally remain clustered inside their hives.

This year has been the most drastic shift, she said. And

after one of the warmest winters on record and a stretch of extreme heat, bees in Southwest Colorado are showing the effects of rapid weather swings.

"It's definitely created a

See BEES, 12A

Around THE CORNERS

## Rasta Stevie reflects on affordability, community activism

Reggae DJ, skiing icon wants young people to reject scarcity narratives, follow their hearts

BY SCOUT EDMONDSON  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

When Telluride Ski Patrol went on strike in December and January, employees' demands

were fairly simple: They wanted higher hourly wages and benefits to make living in the famously expensive town feasible.

The strike, which lasted from Dec. 27 to Jan. 9, disrupted the

tourism-reliant mountain town.

When the ski patrol union accepted a deal with Telluride's owners, it brought some relief but was another episode in the national conversation about how rising costs and demand for specialized mountain skills are

See RASTA STEVIE, 5A

"I tell people all the time, don't let this program that's been created in your mind of what you're supposed to be get to you. Live your life. Do what makes you happy. Go for it. Show up in the places that bring you joy and it will all work out."

— RASTA STEVIE

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