

Wednesday  
September 3, 2025

# THE DAILY SENTINEL

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

\$4.00

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## Test run

By DALE STRODE  
Sentinel Correspondent

Six? Six in a row? The Colorado Mesa University cycling team stomped on the pedals this week, kicking off the team's quest for a sixth consecutive national mountain bike championship.

The cycling Mavericks, back on campus barely a month, hosted the season-opening CMU Rumble at Powderhorn Mountain Resort featuring college mountain bike teams from the Rocky Mountain region.

Over two days, the collegians competed in cross country racing, short track cross country, downhill and dual slalom — a new event on the CMU/Powderhorn program. And a key event for next month's upcoming Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships, also set for Powderhorn Mountain Resort.

"Our dual slalom track is new to the mountain and new to this event," Colorado Mesa University mountain bike coach Brian Flaherty said. "It drew a huge crowd, and I think we'll see double



DALE SHRULL/The Daily Sentinel

With spectators and fellow competitors watching, a downhill racer flies off a rock jump during the CMU Mountain Bike Rumble downhill race at Powderhorn Mountain Resort on Sunday. The two days of racing that included cross country, downhill and dual slalom was a prelude to Colorado Mesa and Powderhorn hosting the collegiate national championships Oct. 9-12.

Mavs open cycling season at Powderhorn, where CMU will go for 6th national title in October



LARRY ROBINSON/The Daily Sentinel

Collegiate mountain bicyclists compete in dual slalom races during the CMU 2025 Rumble at Powderhorn Mountain Resort on Aug. 30. The dual slalom was a new event on the CMU/Powderhorn program. The CMU Rumble was the first race of the season for the Mavericks, who are looking to win their sixth straight national mountain biking title. Powderhorn will host the national championships from Oct. 9-12.

that crowd for nationals here."

He explained that in order for CMU and Powderhorn to host collegiate nationals, a dual slalom

track was required.

With a partnership led by the Grand Junction Sports Commission, Powderhorn and CMU agreed to build the dual slalom course.

USA Cycling subsequently designated Powderhorn as the host site for the 2025 college nationals, which will be held Oct. 9-12. Powderhorn also will host again in the fall of 2026.

The result is the CMU mountain bikers will be on home trails for nationals, hoping to add to earlier national championships won at Big Bear, California, Durango's Purgatory Resort (2), Zirconia, North Carolina and—in 2024 — Bentonville, Arkansas.

### NATIONALS AT HOME

"Most collegiate programs don't have the opportunity (to host national championship



LARRY ROBINSON/The Daily Sentinel

Collegiate mountain bicyclists compete in dual slalom races during the CMU 2025 Rumble at Powderhorn Mountain Resort on Aug. 30.

cycling events)," Flaherty said. "It's part of the advantage for us, with not having as much disrupted time away from school ... plus the travel."

He said the CMU Rumble is a perfect test run for the college mountain bikers in advance of next month's national championships.

Officials will make a

### NATIONALS

The college mountain bike national championships will be held at Powderhorn Mountain Resort Oct. 9-12.

few course changes and modifications, particularly on the new dual slalom

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## 'Really troubling'

JBC's Taggart breaks down special session outcome

By NATHAN DEAL  
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Budget cuts in Colorado went into effect Monday after a special session to address a \$750 million hole in the state budget.

Because President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, or H.R. 1, re-

wrote the federal tax code to extend and expand income tax

breaks, Colorado's tax code was also impacted, as Colorado is a "rolling conformity" state, meaning the state automatically adopts federal tax policy.

To address this, a special legislative session was held from Aug. 21-28. Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill reversing state plans to increase reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers, slashing higher education spending and grants, letting the state sell tax credits to raise money to offset the deficit, implementing some tax increases, and changing around 20 budget line items in total.

After the conclusion of the session, The Daily Sentinel interviewed House District 55 Rep. Rick Taggart (R-Grand Junction), one of two Republicans who sits on the state's six-person Joint Budget Committee, the body to which Polis was required to present his budget plan.

**Sentinel:** Do you think this session was handled effectively or do you come away thinking the state has put itself in a position where it will need to address its budget again next year?

"I think it's more of the latter. I was really hoping that the governor, in his plan he presented to us with cuts and transfers of \$250 million, was once and for all going to start looking at the structural deficit. Instead, he continued down the path of, first and foremost, transfers, \$105 million of which comes from Proposition 123 — which is more than legal because the ballot language is such that, if we don't have a reserve, those dollars can be put to other use — and those dollars are really necessary for low and middle-income housing. There are projects on the docket that I'm worried about and projects that could be on the docket in the future that I'm worried about."

"We continue to transfer funds from cash funds as compared to looking at the structural deficit.

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RICK TAGGART

## Sweet Home Alabama?

Trump's Space Command headquarters relocation choice faces bipartisan rejection from Colorado reps

By NATHAN DEAL  
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President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he will relocate U.S. Space Command from its Peterson Space Force Base headquarters in Colorado Springs to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

Near the end of his first term in 2021, Trump announced plans to relocate the headquarters to Alabama. Joe Biden then reversed the decision in 2023, opting to keep Space Command in Colorado. Now, Trump plans on seeing out his original decision, hoping that Space Command will call Alabama home for "hundreds of years."

During an announcement in the Oval Office, Trump said Colorado's

mail-in voting system played a role in his decision.

"I want to thank Colorado. The problem I have with Colorado, one of the big problems, they do mail-in voting," Trump said. "They went to all mail-in voting, so they have automatically crooked elections, and we can't have that. When a state is for mail-in voting, that means they want dishonest elections, because that's what that means, so that played a big factor also."

### COLORADO DELEGATION RESPONDS

Shortly after Trump's announcement, Colorado's congressional delegation unanimously condemned Trump's decision, unifying across party lines.

Those against the move include 3rd Congressional District Rep. Jeff Hurd (R-Grand Junction), 4th Congressional District Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Windsor), Democratic U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet, as well as Democratic House Representatives Diane DeGette, Joe Neguse, Brittany Pettersen and Jason Crow, and Republican House Representatives Jeff Crank and Gabe Evans.

Both Hurd and Hickenlooper's offices provided the following joint statement to The Daily Sentinel:

"Today's decision to move U.S. Space Command's headquarters out of Colorado and to Ala-

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump listen as Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., speaks during an event about the relocation of U.S. Space Command headquarters from Colorado to Alabama in the Oval Office on Tuesday. Every member of Colorado's congressional delegation, Democrats and Republicans alike, unanimously condemned Trump's decision to relocate the U.S. Space Command headquarters from Colorado Springs to Alabama, saying in a joint statement, "We will take the necessary action to keep it there."