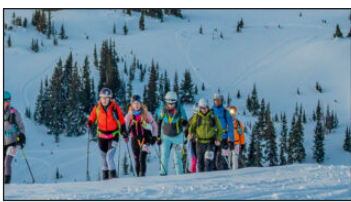




Avalanche beat Islanders
Colorado beats New York 4-1 on Sunday at Ball Arena in Denver.
SPORTS, C1



New olympic sport debuts
Ski mountaineering is debuting at the 2026 winter Olympics.
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‘We have nothing to hide’

In reversal, Trump says House Republicans should vote to release Epstein files

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON • President Donald Trump said House Republicans should vote to release the files in the Jeffrey Epstein case, a startling reversal after previously fighting the proposal as a growing number of those in his own party supported it.
“We have nothing to hide, and it’s time to move on from this Democrat Hoax perpetrated by Radical Left Lunatics in

order to deflect from the Great Success of the Republican Party,” Trump wrote on social media late Sunday after landing at Joint Base Andrews following a weekend in Florida.
Trump’s statement followed a fierce fight within the GOP over the files, including an increasingly nasty split with Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who had long been one of his fiercest supporters. The president’s shift is an

implicit acknowledgement that supporters of the measure have enough votes to pass it the House, although it has an unclear future in the Senate.
It is a rare example of Trump backtracking because of opposition within the GOP. In his return to office and in his second term as president, Trump has largely consolidated power in the Republican Party. “I DON’T CARE!” Trump

wrote in his social media post. “All I do care about is that Republicans get BACK ON POINT.”
Lawmakers who support the bill have been predicting a big win in the House this week with a “deluge of Republicans” voting for it, bucking the GOP leadership and the president.
In his opposition to the pro-

SEE EPSTEIN • PAGE 4

Air Force Academy may reduce visiting professor program

BY MARY SHINN
The Gazette
The Air Force Academy might pare back the number of distinguished visiting professors it hires next school year as a cost-saving measure — a step that worries professors with knowledge of the proposed cuts. Those who are concerned

say the number of highly qualified instructors has already been reduced.
The visiting professor program started in 1975 with two participants and through the years the Air Force Academy’s 20 departments have had the chance to host out-

SEE AIR FORCE • PAGE 4

BRONCOS 22, CHIEFS 19

Broncos shout message with victory: Chiefs, your kingdom is done

COMMENTARY



MARK KISZLA
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The Chiefs’ Kingdom came tumbling down, a football dynasty crushed by an orange wrecking ball.
What we saw Sunday, when the Broncos beat Kansas City 22-19, was more than the biggest win in 10 years for a franchise that not only needed to revamp its roster, but rebuild a city’s faith.
And a thrilled congregation of 75,911 at Empower Field witnessed something felt like new history in the making:
The slaying of the NFL’s big red menace.
Maybe more important to long-suffering Broncomaniacs, it felt like a welcome new era of football in Denver.
“To be the best you’ve got to beat the best,” Broncos quarterback Bo Nix said.
When kicker Wil Lutz lined up for a 35-yard field goal on the final snap of the fourth quarter, teammate Nik Bonitto knew what everybody in Denver was thinking, because he was haunted by the same horrible memory of a victory that got away last November in Kansas City.
“I still kinda had PTSD,” said Bonitto, admitting he hugged a teammate on the sideline because he was too afraid to watch Lutz do his thing under pressure.
But this time, instead of hearing an ugly thud, Denver players soaked in the roar

of their home crowd as Lutz drilled his clutch kick between the uprights and straight through the heart of the Chiefs.
The pain that gnawed at Bonitto had more than 365 days to subside. And the memory of how Kansas City beat Denver in 2024, when Chiefs linebacker Leo Chanel blocked a 35-yard field goal by Lutz as the scoreboard clock expired, is a scar that can now be worn like a badge of honor by the Broncos.
“It was a learning experience,” said Courtland Sutton, whose 20-yard catch on third-and-long felt like the make-or-break moment of Denver’s game-winning drive.
Shortly after Sutton came up big, teammate Troy Franklin brought the hammer down. When an official turned a blind eye as Franklin got away with a little push against a defender with a long pass from Nix in the air, he came down with a 32-yard reception deep into K.C. territory that could make you believe maybe the Chiefs don’t always get bailed out by the refs any longer.
Yes, for die-hards in Colorado, this rivalry had been irritating, frustrating and infuriating. The triumvirate of quarterback Patrick Mahomes, coach Andy Reid and tight end Travis Kelce won all the trophies and even managed to steal a pop diva’s heart, for what seemed like forever.
But nothing in the NFL lasts forever.
The red sun is slowly setting in the AFC West, as new stars come out in the Rocky

SEE KISZLA • PAGE 7



JERILEE BENNETT, THE GAZETTE

Broncos kicker Wil Lutz, right, gets jumped on by teammates tight end Adam Trautman, left, and punter Jeremy Crawshaw to celebrate his fourth field goal, which won the game for Denver on the last play at Empower Field at Mile High in Denver on Sunday. Coverage in Sports, C1

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