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Broncos
Battle-worn Calvin Throckmorton holds things down with multiple injuries. **SPORTS, C1**



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The drive-thru has become woven into the fabric of the culture. **ARCHIVES, D1**

BONUS COVERAGE
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Schools reopen with measles concerns

BY NICOLE C. BRAMBILA
The Gazette

Colorado is entering the new school year without active measles transmission, but health officials remain concerned as kindergarten MMR coverage sits at just 87.8% and most counties fall below the 95% threshold considered protective against outbreaks.

“These declining vaccination rates, both nationally and here in Colo-

rado, directly increase the risk of outbreaks of measles and other preventable diseases,” Hope Shuler, a spokesperson with the state Health Department, said in an email.

“In 2025, we saw the highest number of measles cases reported in Colorado since 1995, emphasizing that these are not theoretical risks, but real dangers that can lead to hospitalizations and severe complications for our children and communities,

as well as missed days of school for students who are not vaccinated.”

Last school year, 54 of Colorado’s 64 counties had kindergarten vaccination rates for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) below 95%, according to state data. And nine counties — Alamosa, Clear Creek, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Elbert, Gilpin, Hinsdale and Teller — had rates below 80%.

To be considered protective in a community, 95% or more of individuals

should be vaccinated against measles.

The state has responded to declining vaccination rates with outreach, expanded access and public education, Shuler said.

As of July 3, Colorado has had 24 cases and six hospitalizations, state data shows. The majority were among the unvaccinated.

Earlier this year, an outbreak at Broomfield High School prompted health officials to temporarily bar

more than two dozen unvaccinated students from attending class.

All five measles cases reported in Adams County this year were linked to a high school outbreak, county health officials said. There are currently no known cases or public exposure locations in the county and no indication of ongoing community transmission.

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Larry Walker sees his statue unveiled



JERILEE BENNETT, THE GAZETTE

Rockies Hall of Famer Larry Walker waves to the crowd next to his statue in front of Coors Field on Sunday. Walker’s statue is the first one depicting a Rockies player at the stadium. Fellow Hall of Famer Todd Helton will see his statue unveiled Sept. 20. **Coverage in Sports, C1**

ERBOCES dissolution impacts funding

BY ERIC YOUNG
The Gazette

Some alternatives to brick-and-mortar public schools will continue operating for the 2026-27 school year, while the future of others remains up in the air.

Following the dissolution of the Education reEnvisioned Board of Cooperative Educational Services (ERBOCES) last week and new state requirements, funding for homeschool programs has yet to be secured.

ERBOCES, which was based in Monument, formed in 2013 to provide partnering districts alternative education programs like charter schools, contract schools, online schools and homeschool enrichment (HSE) programs.

Following legislative changes to how HSEs qualify for state funding, fleeting participation and heightened scrutiny from the state over operations and fund allocations, School District 49 Board of Education voted to dissolve ERBOCES at a special Aug. 17 meeting. At the time of the vote, D-49 was its only member district and state law requires at least two.

ERBOCES served about 13,500 students last year, according to the Colorado Department of Education.

The board resolution also outlines an emergency transfer procedure for ERBOCES’ four online schools, which have already begun their new school years. The State Board of Education subsequently approved the transfer during its Aug. 20 meeting.

D-49 will serve as the authorizer and administrative unit for the Colorado Preparatory

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Focus on the Family hires David C Cook as primary publisher

BY DEBBIE KELLEY
The Gazette

Two large evangelical Christian media organizations headquartered in Colorado Springs for the first time are combining publishing efforts, which officials hope leads to increased market reach for both.

David C Cook has signed a multiyear contract with Focus on the Family to be its “primary publishing partner,” the organizations announced last week.

“It’s great because we’re super close to each other, and proximity can be a good thing with partner-

ships — to be able to sit down in a room together and talk,” said Linda Howard, executive publisher of David C Cook.

The organization, based in Colorado Springs for 36 years, includes three divisions: David C Cook Christian book publishing, Group Pub-

lishing, which produces curriculum such as Sunday school and vacation Bible school materials; and Integrity Music, a Christian record and worship music publishing arm. Collectively, they form Cook Media

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WEATHER B6

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