

OVER THE PASS



"I was good at school and swimming. And the girls, as a kid if not so much later in life. I could read at sixth-grade level in first grade. Later I was on the debate team and newspaper staff. I was good in humanities and languages."

— Adam Gregg, technician, Apple, Salt Lake City, Utah



"I was a straight-A student and Civil War buff. I was a voracious reader. Still am. I grew up here. I was a 4-H kid, lots of animals—dog obedience, market lambs and horses."

— Maya Carlisle, ranger, Zion National Park, Utah

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What were you good at as a kid?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Riding horses. I did three-day eventing for seven years. It's jumping, English. I started rodeo about five years ago and I was Chaffee County Rodeo Queen in 2013."

— Jewel Jump, in-transition ("I'm only 18!), Buena Vista, Colorado



"Swimming. I was Colorado state champion when I was ten, state high-point AAU champion. Anything else? Pissing off my mom."

— Kevin Crosby, counselor, THS, Trinidad

STATE BRIEFS

Associated Press

County official announces bid for Colorado governor

LOVELAND, Colo. (AP) — A county commissioner in northern Colorado has announced plans to run for governor in 2018.

The Reporter-Herald reports that Larimer County Commissioner Lew Gaiter announced he would join the race for the Republican nomination Sunday in front of family and friends. He plans to make a larger announcement next month at the Colorado Republican State Central Committee meeting.

Gaiter has focused on bridging the gap between the state's urban and rural counties through his "Move Colorado Forward" campaign. The campaign also aims to strengthen the state's economy and promote responsible resource management.

Gaiter's commissioner seat is up for election in 2018. He could've run for one more term.

Once he officially joins the gubernatorial race, he'll be competing with fellow Larimer County Republican JoAnne Silva and 10 other registered candidates.

Colorado loses top 10 ranking for coal production

DENVER (AP) — A new federal report shows Colorado is no longer ranked among the top 10 states for coal production after seeing a more than 20 percent drop in production in 2015.

The Denver Post reports that figures released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration on Friday show Colorado's mines produced nearly 19 million short tons of coal in 2015. That put it 11th on the list of states.

Colorado ranked 10th among states the previous year after producing 24 million short tons of coal in 2014.

State figures show Colorado had an even bigger drop in coal production last year, producing less than 13 million short tons.

Decreased demand for coal has been brought on by shrinking exports, mine closures and bankruptcies and stricter environmental regulations.

No liquor in Walmart after sharply divided Colorado vote

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Walmart stores won't be selling liquor after a bill to allow the sales failed by a single vote Monday in the state Senate.

Senators voted 18-17 to defeat a bill adjusting Colorado's liquor code a year after Colorado made its biggest alcohol change since the end of Prohibition by allowing more grocers to sell full-strength beer.

The debate wasn't along party lines. Democrats and Republicans were both ardent supporters and opponents of the Walmart change.

Walmart helped negotiate last year's alcohol bill, but apparently overlooked a provision making it impossible for Walmart stores to sell liquor.

This year's measure was advertised as a "clean-up"

measure. But it elicited opposition from senators who argued that Walmart would drive more independent liquor stores out of business.

Strong winds kick up dust, delay Denver flights

DENVER (AP) — Strong winds from a cold front are kicking up dust across the Eastern Plains and delaying some flights at Denver International Airport.

Frontier Airlines canceled a handful of flights Monday because of the winds, which have been gusting up to 60 mph, in the eastern half of the state.

They've fueled grass fires in Colorado Springs, Aurora and La Junta. Low visibility from dust and smoke from a fire 20 miles east of Sterling shut down Interstate 76.

The system is also bringing snow to parts of the mountains. Vail Pass was temporarily shut down because of accidents in the morning.

2016 was busiest year ever at Denver International Airport

DENVER (AP) — Denver International Airport has set another record for passenger traffic.

Nearly 58.3 million travelers passed through the airport in 2016, soaring by more than 4 million people over the previous passenger traffic record set one year earlier.

Airport CEO Kim Day says in a statement says DIA has seen three consecutive years of record-setting passenger growth, driven by strong demand for travel to and from Denver, large increases in airline capacity and efforts to secure new airlines and destinations around the world.

The Denver Post reports that DIA also smashed the previous record book for its single busiest days in airport history.

Of the top 10 busiest days ever, all occurred in 2016. The single busiest day was the Sunday after Thanksgiving, when 188,486 passengers traveled through the airport.

More red flag conditions in eastern Colorado

WELLINGTON, Colo. (AP) — A grass fire burned about 2,000 acres in Larimer County before being contained, and conditions were ripe Sunday for more wildfires to get out of control.

The National Weather Service posted a red flag warning has been posted for much of eastern Colorado from the Front Range to the eastern border on Sunday.

On Saturday, the high winds and warm temperatures resulted in wildfires along the Front Range.

In Larimer County, the fire burned north of Wellington near the Wyoming border.

Wellington Fire Department spokeswoman Rachael Gonzales tells KMGH-TV in Denver that the fire was reported about 4 p.m. and contained overnight.

No arrests in Colorado Springs convenience store robbery

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Colorado Springs police say three armed men dressed in dark clothing and wearing ski goggles robbed a convenience store.

The robbery occurred about 11:25 p.m. Saturday. One suspect took cash from the cash register while the other two loaded a backpack with food.

The men then took off on foot. No one was hurt.

No arrests have been made.

The only description given by police was that one suspect was white male and two black.

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