



THE Durango HERALD

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SHAUN STANLEY/Durango Herald photos

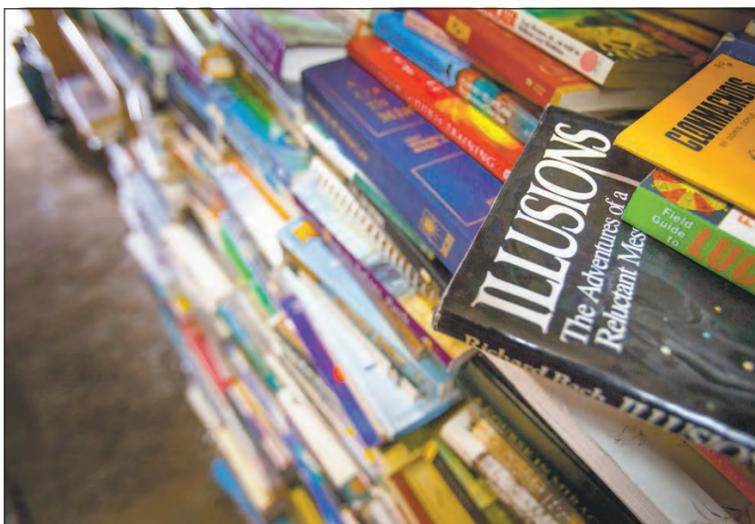
George Hassan, owner of Southwest Book Trader on East Fifth Street in Durango, said he's mostly into adventure and travel narratives these days.

Don't judge a bookstore owner by his cover

George Hassan knows a little about nearly every book in his store

BY JESSICA PACE
HERALD STAFF WRITER

In the 1990s, Hunter S. Thompson came to Durango to give a talk at Fort Lewis College. During his visit, he and his attorney, John Clancy, dipped into a ratty bookstore at the corner of East Second Avenue and Fifth Street so Clancy could bid hello to his friend and book trader, George Hassan. Inside, Thompson spotted a first-edition, hardback copy of Thompson's own novel, *Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas*, which he brandished in Hassan's face, demanding to know where he got the book. "He said something to imply it was his," Hassan said. While he was preoccupied, Thompson disappeared — with the book. The author was easy to track down, as he could be heard bellowing from a clothing store down the street,



"I buy what I can resell," says Hassan. His store, Southwest Book Trader, is the oldest book store in Durango.

See **BOOKS, 8A**

ONLINE To see more photos and a video on this story, visit durangoherald.com

ANIMAS HIGH SCHOOL

Plan will expand model

Underclassmen projects to cross more disciplines

BY ANN BUTLER
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Public charter Animas High School will move more deeply into its project-based learning model for the 2016-2017 school year by restructuring its schedule.

The school approved the new schedule last week. It will add an additional period to the school day and allow freshmen, sophomores and juniors to participate in more interdisciplinary projects, incorporate more applied math into projects and delve into an extended array of electives, which will replace the exploratories. Seniors already prepare major interdisciplinary projects as part of their graduation requirement.

"Our seniors are doing projects of their own design now, and the quality is really impressive because they are real-world projects about things that really matter to them," said math teacher Kyle Edmondson. "Technically, the second semester of the senior year is worthless, but not here. We want to encourage students to start the process from their freshman year rather than waiting until their senior year."

The change was inspired by the documentary "Most Likely to Succeed," which chronicles the successes of High Tech High in the San Diego area, said Edmondson and AHS humanities teacher Lori Fisher, both of whom taught at High Tech High before coming to Durango. AHS

See **ANIMAS, 8A**

Activists want ballot measures to limit drilling

Falling oil and gas prices have not cooled fervor on the Front Range

BY JOSHUA ZAFFOS
HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Over the past two years, plummeting natural gas and

oil prices have caused energy companies in Colorado to lay off thousands of employees, and put a pinch in state and local tax revenues.

But if you thought this might cool anti-fracking fever on the Front Range, you were wrong.

As 2016 began, two organizations filed petitions for statewide ballot measures that would allow communities to ban drilling and fracking within their boundaries, or effec-

tively prohibit new drilling by greatly expanding setbacks between development and homes or other buildings. Activists are unhappy with state-level efforts to regulate the industry, and there's enough new drilling along the populated and oil-rich area north of Denver to portend a new boom, should

prices recover.

"There's no foot coming off the gas," says Merrilly Mazza, a councilwoman in Lafayette, near Boulder, and president of the Colorado Community Rights Network.

In 2014, Mazza and others

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Today: Mainly cloudy, a rain or snow shower in the morning.
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