



BACK TO VIETNAM

DHS play recounts women who served **1B**



Broncos' offseason offensive line makeover likely to continue **7A**

LPEA District 4 ballots in error **3A**

THE Durango HERALD

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THEATER-SHOOTING TRIAL

Nearly 3 years later, arguments open

Key dispute revolves around sanity of James Holmes

BY SADIE GURMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CENTENNIAL – Two versions of the unstable mind of James Holmes were presented to a jury Monday as lawyers revealed many more details

about his conversion from a promising grad student to a gunman capable of opening fire on hundreds of unsuspecting moviegoers at a "Batman" premiere.

The lead prosecutor displayed an image of the theater



Holmes

door on a TV screen as he told of a sinister but sane killer who methodically carried out the 2012 mass murder to make himself feel good and be remembered. "Through this door is horror. Through this door are bullets, blood, brains and bodies. Through this door, one guy

who thought as if he had lost his career, lost his love life, lost his purpose, came to execute a plan," said District Attorney George Brauchler, standing before a scale model of the theater.

Brauchler said two previously secret court-ordered psychiatric exams found Holmes to be sane.

Public Defender Daniel King countered that Holmes suffers from schizophrenia, a diagno-

sis confirmed by 20 doctors.

Jurors must decide whether Holmes was able to know right from wrong when he slipped into the theater, unleashed tear gas and killed 12 people and wounded 70. He's charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder, an explosives offense and committing an act of violence for the mayhem he caused on July 20, 2012.

See TRIAL, 10A



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald file photos

ABOVE: Crews complete maintenance on the banks of the Animas River in Durango's Whitewater Park in March. Grouted structures are expected to limit the amount of maintenance the park will need, and the rapids are designed to assist fish through the passage – built in a section of river in the park that was already disturbed. BELOW: A kayaker and children play on rocks placed in the river and on its banks in the park.

LEGISLATURE 2015

Police-oversight bills advance

Body cameras among three that must still pass through Senate

BY IVAN MORENO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER – Three bills aimed at increasing oversight on Colorado law enforcement – including expanding the use of body cameras – advanced Monday in the state Senate as legislators respond to public outcry around the country about allegations of police misconduct.

The cameras proposal would encourage departments to use them by creating a grant program to help pay for the devices. Another bill would add civilians to the state-training board for peace officers to give the public more influence over how po-

"I think (a body camera) exonerates law enforcement more so than it indicts them."

SEN. JOHN COOKE
REPUBLICAN

lice agencies operate. A third measure would require law enforcement to have consent or a warrant to seize a citizens' recording of police activity.

The three bills cleared the Senate Judiciary but still have to make it through the full chamber; the House has already passed the proposals.

The measure to increase the use of body cameras has bipartisan support and stands of good chance of passing.

"I've always been very supportive of body cameras because I think it exonerates law enforcement more so than it indicts them," said Republican Sen. John Cooke, the former sheriff in Weld County and one of the

See LEGISLATURE, 10A

Are rapids fish-friendly?

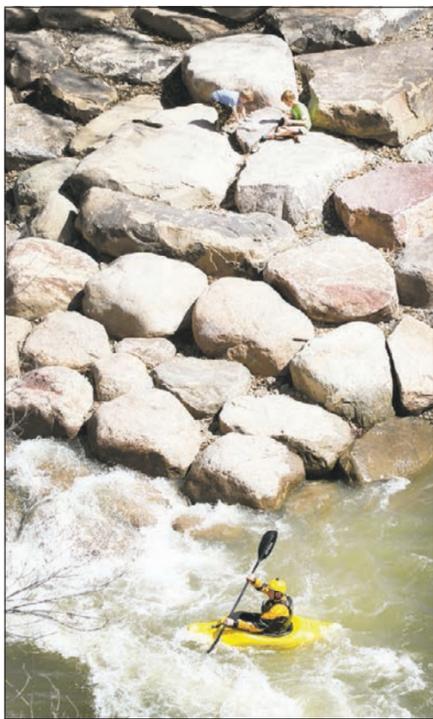
Whitewater parks balance recreation with river health

BY MARY SHINN
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Whitewater courses – such as Durango's Whitewater Park at Santa Rita Park – are popular throughout the state, but there is contention around how they affect river health.

Whitewater advocates have anecdotally noticed more fishermen near whitewater rapids, and they are working on gathering data to show how the parks can benefit fish.

But Colorado Parks and Wildlife data show the parks degrade fish habitat and their ability to migrate upstream, said Jim White, a biologist with



the department.

"Whitewater park features are not suitable fish habitat," he said.

Human-made parks create fierce velocities that make it hard for fish to migrate over them. Fish must also battle a washing-machine effect in the human-made pools, he said.

The parks are also being built in or near towns, where whitewater rapids would be less likely to occur.

"By the time you get down to broader valleys ... they are not typically natural features," he said.

However, engineers and advocates – including Scott Shiple who designed the improvements to Smelter Rapid – argue whitewater parks can be built to improve fish habitat, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife is basing its conclusion on limited studies.

"As far as hard science goes,

See RAPIDS, 10A

Fate of nationwide gay marriage before U.S. high court

BY MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justices to address issue explicitly left open from 2013 decision

WASHINGTON – Tuesday is a potential watershed moment for America's gay and lesbian couples. After rapid changes that have made same-sex marriage legal in all but 14 states,

the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments over whether it should be the law of the land.

All eyes will be on the justices for any signals that they are prepared to rule that the

Constitution forbids states from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. On the sidewalk outside, people have been waiting in line since Friday for prized seats for the his-

toric arguments.

The cases before the court come from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee – all of which had their marriage bans upheld by the federal ap-

peals court in Cincinnati in November. That is the only federal appeals court that has ruled in favor of the states since the Supreme Court, in 2013, struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law.

See GAY MARRIAGE, 10A

Arts | **1B**
City, Region, State | **3A**
Comics | **3B**

Local briefs | **2A**
Lotto | **10A**
Marketplace | **4B**

Nation | **5A**
Sports | **7A**
World | **6A**

Today: Clouds breaking at times. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. High 59 | Low 32. More weather | **10B**

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