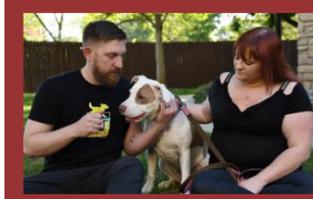




NBA PLAYOFFS

Nuggets are fine as the underdog
 SPORTS, 1B



PIT BULLS

Louisville soon to be the last to maintain a ban on the breed
 FRONT RANGE, 3A

COVID CATCH-UP

Kids head to summer school

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

With her three teenagers vaccinated against COVID-19, Aja Purnell-Mitchell left it up to them to decide whether to go back to school during summer break.

The decision was unanimous: summer school.

“Getting them back into it, helping them socialize back with their friends, maybe meet some new people, and, of course, pick up the things that they lacked on Zoom,” the Durham County, N.C., mother said, ticking off her hopes for the session ahead, which will be the first time her children have been in the classroom since the outbreak

took hold in the spring of 2020.

Across the U.S., more children than ever before could be in classrooms for summer school this year to make up for lost learning during the outbreak, which caused monumental disruptions in education. School districts nationwide are expanding their summer programs and offering bonuses to get teachers to take part.

Under the most recent federal pandemic relief package, the Biden administration is requiring states to devote some of the billions of dollars to summer programs.

The U.S. Education Department said it is too early to know how many students will sign up. But the

number is all but certain to exceed the estimated 3.3 million who went to mandatory or optional summer school in 2019, before the pandemic.

In Montgomery, Ala., for example, more than 12,000 of the school system’s 28,000 students signed up before the June 1 deadline. Typically about 2,500 go to summer school. Philadelphia had enrolled 14,700 by Friday and was expecting more for the mostly in-person programs, up from the 9,300 students in last summer’s all-virtual sessions.

“It’s an understatement to say the needs are greater this year,” said Kalman Hettleman, an education policy analyst in Maryland.

Hettleman worries most about the reading skills of disadvantaged younger students who were falling behind even before COVID-19 closed schools and were likely to encounter technological hurdles afterward.

“It’s not realistic to think that summer school, no matter how good and intense, will close all the gaps because many of these kids had gaps before the pandemic,” said Hettleman, who wants to see sessions mandatory for low-performing students in Baltimore. “But it will help, and it will at least give them a fighting chance if there are intense interventions during the

SEE SCHOOL, 4A

Spotlight

High court asked to review men-only draft registration law

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is being asked to decide whether it’s sex discrimination for the government to require only men to register for the draft when they turn 18.

The question of whether it’s unconstitutional to require men but not women to register could be viewed as one with little practical impact. The last time there was a draft was during the Vietnam War, and the military has been all-volunteer since. But the registration requirement is one of the few remaining places where federal law treats men and women differently, and women’s groups are among those arguing that allowing it to stand is harmful.

The justices could say as soon as Monday whether they will hear a case involving the Military Selective Service Act, which requires men to register for the draft.

Ria Tabacco Mar, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Women’s Rights Project, who is urging the court to take up the issue, says requiring men to register imposes a “serious burden on men that’s not being imposed on women.”

Men who do not register can lose eligibility for student loans and civil service jobs, and failing to register is also a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison.

Even if the draft is never used again, retaining the men-only requirement sends a “really damaging message,” said Tabacco Mar, who represents the National Coalition For Men and two individual men challenging the law.

— Associated Press

EXCESSIVE FORCE

Denver officers, deputies punished

BY ELISE SCHMELZER
 THE DENVER POST

A Denver police officer who fired his gun at homeowners who had reported their security alarm was ringing for no reason will lose pay, along with two other Denver police officers, and four sheriff’s deputies were suspended for using excessive force on inmates and arrestees.

Disciplinary letters for the officers and deputies provided by the Denver Department of Public Safety show that one deputy and one officer were suspected for grabbing or placing pressure on someone’s neck. All the letters were issued in May.

Officer Joseph Merino on June 13, 2019, fired at homeowners in their own home while responding to a burglary alarm even though the homeowners told the 911 call taker they were home and just wanted an officer to drive by, his disciplinary letter shows. A dispatcher, however, told Merino that the homeowners were not present at the house and he responded to the address.

The homeowners told police that they saw a figure with a flashlight near their home so they banged the glass to try to scare that person away.

“We heard a loud bang and my husband thought someone was still trying to get in,” one of the homeowners said in a statement, according to the disciplinary letter. “We realized it was an officer after I looked outside and saw the cop car outside.”

Merino told investigators that he didn’t know the homeowners were in the house and that the loud bang on the glass scared him and he fired the gun in defense. The bullet struck the house but did not injure anyone and public safety officials suspended him for four days for the incident, according to the letter.

Merino will serve a

SEE FORCE, 2A

FIVE QUESTIONS



Karli Conrad-Davis, a recreation specialist (aquatics) with the city of Loveland, poses for a photo Friday on the platform to the old slide overlooking Winona Pool in Loveland.

JENNY SPARKS / Loveland Reporter-Herald

Karli Conrad-Davis keeps eye on swimmers

Iowa native landed first lifeguard job as a teen

One doesn’t walk up to a lifeguard on duty and strike up casual conversation. So, what are they thinking while on duty?

Karli Conrad-Davis began working as a lifeguard in her hometown of Lamoni, Iowa, as a teenager, and she has made a career of helping others enjoy outdoor activities.

Today, the city of Loveland recreation specialist answers a few questions about working as a lifeguard and what that focused person in a red swimsuit does on the job.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BE A LIFEGUARD?

I grew up in a tiny town in Iowa, where riding bikes to the outdoor pool, then to the local coffee shop for ice cream in the evening before the \$4 movie at the coliseum, was the ideal way to spend a summer day. When my classmates and I turned 15 and saw posters at school to take the lifeguard class, it wasn’t kind of a matter of who WASN’T going to take the course? I always saw the lifeguards as so

Karli Conrad-Davis

Occupation: Recreation specialist (aquatics).
Age: 27.
Years in Loveland: One year and four months.

Five Questions

Is there someone you’d like to know more about? Email nominations for the Five Questions feature to news@reporter-herald.com.

cool and wanted to become one. I couldn’t think of a better way to get paid — to be outside at my favorite place!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE CERTIFIED AS A LIFEGUARD?

To be eligible to become certified, you have to show you are strong in the water: Swim 300 yards front crawl or breaststroke, tread water for two minutes without hands, and swim to a brick on

the bottom of the pool, pick it up, and swim back to the start. That intimidates a lot of people. Throughout the course, you have to show that you can learn water rescue skills, first aid, CPR and, finally, that you can work alone and as a team to accomplish the objective of helping or saving people.

HOW DOES A LIFEGUARD STAY FOCUSED WHILE ON DUTY?

I think each lifeguard will tell you they have their own ways of staying focused, but it is important that you are searching all parts of the water every 10 seconds. I find people intriguing, especially families, and so I just think of it as a matter of continually checking in on each one of the precious families, for example.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE WHO FINDS HIMSELF IN TROUBLE IN THE WATER?

As long as you are able, call for help. Make a big splash about it!

SEE LIFEGUARD, 2A

More Nation news on 5A >>>

Crews respond to large oil well fire in Bennett

Teams from the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office and several other Denver-area emergency agencies responded Saturday afternoon to a fire at an oil and gas well site near Bennett.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office said on Twitter at 7:46 p.m. Saturday that the fire at the oil well was under control.

Sheriff’s office spokeswoman Ginger Delgado said the site was evacuated and a large area was closed off for safety reasons. There was heavy smoke in the area. The sheriff’s office asked helicopters flying over the area to pull back because of possible explosions.

The site has four wells owned by Denver-based Crestone Peak Resources. The wells aren’t producing yet, said Jason Oates, Crestone’s vice president of government affairs and public relations. He said it’s believed the fire started in equipment being used to complete the wells, the last step of construction before the oil and gas start flowing. Forty people working for different contractors were at the site when the fire started. Oates said no was injured, and everyone was accounted for.

— The Denver Post

More Region news on 3A >>>

Weather forecast

High: 91
 Low: 59
 Partly sunny

Full Forecast on 5B >>>