

LOTTERY

POWERBALL \$20 million
Saturday: 8-12-40-45-51
Powerball: 15
Power Play: 2
MEGA MILLIONS \$250M
Friday: 23-26-35-41-43
Mega Ball: 7; Megaplier: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE \$1,000
Saturday: 6-12-32-35-41-13
LOTTO \$1.9 million
Saturday: 9-16-19-21-24-33
Plus: 1-6-8-9-17-34
CASH 5 \$20,000
Saturday: 3-16-19-21-31
PICK 3 \$2,500
Saturday: 9-8-3 | 5-7-1

In brief

HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS
Colorado alpinist dies
challenging unclimbed face

A Colorado mountain climber fell to his death while descending the Jannu East peak in Nepal this month, during a third attempt at establishing a route on the peak's north face.

A tribute to Michael Gardner published by the American Alpine Club said the 32-year-old was widely respected among his fellow alpinists for his "empathy, enthusiasm, dedication to the craft of climbing, pure motivations and lack of ego."

"His quiet pursuit of the mountains on his own terms means his legacy is not flashy but found in traces and in the background — he was climbing and skiing for the sake of the craft, not for recognition," the organization wrote.

Gardner was born in Ridgway and spent his childhood shadowing his father, George, on climbing expeditions around the world, according to Arc'teryx, an outdoor clothing brand that sponsored Gardner and announced his death on social media Oct. 8.

The company's post described Gardner as a consummate outdoorsman and athlete who enjoyed skateboarding and skiing in addition to his lifelong passion of mountain climbing.

Gardner and longtime climbing partner Sam Hennessey racked up accomplishments in places such as the Denali and Grand Teton national parks, setting records on difficult routes and establishing new paths up some of the country's most rugged peaks.

On Oct. 7, Gardner and Hennessey were attempting the north face of Jannu East, also known as Kumbhakarna East, when Gardner fell during their descent. Hennessey returned from the climb.

Gardner's surviving family includes his mother, Colleen, and sister, Megan, according to Climbing Magazine. The magazine said the October climb marked Gardner and Hennessey's fourth time visiting Jannu East and was their third try at the north face.

Gardner's father died from a fall in Grand Teton when Gardner was 16.

— *Max Levy, The Denver Post*

NEW MEXICO
Jail officer accused
of orchestrating
attacks on inmates

ALBUQUERQUE» A corrections officer at a county jail is accused of orchestrating attacks in the shower on two inmates who suffer from mental illness, according to a police report.

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office incident report obtained by the Albuquerque Journal says that security camera footage showed inmates "attacking other inmates while under the supervision" of the officer, Nathan Shpiller.

Johanna Sandoval, the mother of one of the inmates, told the newspaper that her son, 61, is diagnosed with bipolar disorder and requires daily medication. She said the allegations are "terrible."

Shpiller, an officer at the jail since November 2022, has not been charged.

Candace Hopkins, a spokesperson for the jail, also declined to comment, citing an ongoing internal investigation. Shpiller was removed from duty in August and is on paid leave while the department investigates.

Inmates who were involved in the attacks said they believed Shpiller targeted two inmates because of their mental health issues, the newspaper reported.

— *The Associated Press*



COURTESY OF MAKE-A-WISH-COLORADO

Adair Hodgkinson meets members of the Chi Omega sorority at the University of Colorado on Sept. 29.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Sorority raises money to fulfill wish of professor's daughter

BOULDER» Adair Hodgkinson is a 9-year-old who likes calling her friends, reading, making arts and crafts and baking. Her favorite animals are whales and dogs, and she loves soccer and French fries.

Hodgkinson was born with a congenital heart condition that required multiple surgeries when she was young. She will soon be granted a wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and she hopes to meet her favorite singer, Olivia Rodrigo, and go to her concert.

She goes to the doctor more than other kids, but her dad said she

otherwise will live a happy, normal life.

"She walks and she runs and everything about her is like a regular kid, which is a testament to the surgeons and doctors at the Children's Hospital," her dad, Bobby Hodgkinson, said.

Adair was the featured wish kid at the University of Colorado Chi Omega sorority's annual Make-A-Wish fundraiser Sept. 29. The foundation connected the sorority with her because she lives in Boulder and her dad is a professor at CU.

— *Daily Camera*

LOVELAND

IMPROVING TRANSIT



JENNY SPARKS — REPORTER-HERALD

Gov. Jared Polis, center left, takes a selfie with CDOT's Kelly Smith, center, during the grand opening Tuesday of three mobility hubs along Interstate 25 at the Centerra Mobility Hub in Loveland. The hubs were constructed as part of the I-25 North Lanes Express Project, which broke ground in 2016. In addition to Loveland's, there are hubs at Colorado 56 in Berthoud and Colorado 119 in Longmont. Riders can take the Bustang to nearby cities, north to Fort Collins or south to Denver Union Station.

VAIL VETERANS PROGRAM

Wounded heroes learn purpose-driven living

By Tricia Swenson
Vail Daily

Zachariah Collett has seen the peaks and valleys of Vail. He also has seen the peaks and valleys of life.

Collett enlisted in the Army in 2002 and was deployed to Kuwait in April 2003. He spent 13 months in Mosul, Iraq, where he was hit by multiple improvised explosive devices throughout the year. Collett deployed back to Iraq in 2005 for 12 more months in Baghdad, where he encountered additional IED attacks.

"Over my 28 months in combat, I'd been exposed to more IEDs than I could count. I had a brain injury and obviously post-traumatic stress. I've since had seven back surgeries and my spine fused in multiple locations. And I'd gone through addiction to medication and addiction to alcohol, and I've overcome those," said Collett, a staff sergeant with a rank of E-6. "I went through a divorce due to my terrible state of existence and had suicide attempts. You name it, the universe threw it all at me, to make me wake up, to realize that this was not the life I was supposed to be leading ... And now I'm grateful for it all."

Collett, who has gone on to earn his bachelor's degree in psychology and is now in graduate school and spends time with his wife and four children knows about the ups and downs of life.

"Life is still waiting for you when you get back off the mountain. Because on the other side of a mountain is another mountain, right?" Collett said. "And ultimately, as you climb the peak of one mountain, you're going to look off the peak and say, 'Oh, no, now I've got to go back down into the darkness of the valley. It's life. It's inevitable.'"

The Vail Veterans Program



COURTESY OF VAIL VETERANS PROGRAM

The Vail Veterans Program brings 20 veterans to Vail for a three-day workshop that offers the space to dig deep and better understand one's potential in life by defining their mission and discovering who they can be after their service and through navigating an injury.

asked Collett to be a part of the Veterans Path to Success this fall. Collett is a Vail Veterans Program alumnus and has participated in some of the recreational programs before. He is an ambassador of the nonprofit that was started in Vail 20 years ago by Cheryl Jensen.

Together he and Jensen knew what he was doing could provide emotional, spiritual, mental physical growth and healing for our nation's heroes through its content depth and intensity. The program's intent provides meaningful personal results. It is a personal journey for the veterans to discover how to be the best version of themselves and redefine their life's mission.

The program's two facilitators were certified instructors from Johnson & Johnson's Human Performance Institute. Collett completed training, which allowed him to help facilitate this week's program and provide a bridge between the program's facilitators and the veterans since his story has a common thread that resonated with the vets.

"I think I was able to put a lot of hearts and minds at ease because nobody really had an understanding of what they were coming here for," Collett said. "They knew the Veterans Path to Success was some sort of work, some kind of mental work. But they didn't know what they were getting into."

Collett admits that he really didn't know what he was getting into, either.

"I didn't really have a great feel for how it was going to flow

VETERANS » PAGE 3

Ads

FROM PAGE 1

continued to rise across the state — and critics attacked the 2019 charging reforms — the legislature revisited the law in 2022. It restored the tougher charge for fentanyl possession above 1 gram. Caraveo also voted for that bill during her last year in the legislature.

“So when we saw that the level was wrong for fentanyl specifically, we went back in and we fixed it,” Caraveo told The Post in an interview this month. “That’s what you do as a legislator — you see how your bills exist in the real world, and you come back and you adjust.”

During her term in Congress, Caraveo sponsored a drug-related bill that was signed into law by President Joe Biden. It directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to focus on researching existing and emerging illicit drugs containing xylazine, or “tranq,” a powerful animal tranquilizer that’s potentially lethal when used by people.

Hitting Evans on gay marriage, abortion

The House Majority PAC, a political action committee that backs Democratic candidates for Congress, put together an ad attacking Evans for his positions on same-sex marriage and abortion. The ad claims that Evans thinks “gays and lesbians shouldn’t be allowed to marry.”

“He even compared gay marriage to incest,” the ad says.

Evans’ stance on same-sex marriage has evolved significantly. It has for many politicians, including former President Barack Obama, especially in the years leading up to (and since) the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationally in 2015.

In a recent interview



KATHRYN SCOTT — SPECIAL TO THE DENVER POST

LEFT: State Rep. Gabe Evans, right, shakes hand with Wallace Tyron during a tour at Aurora Organic Dairy in Platteville on Oct. 16. RIGHT: U.S. Rep. Yadira Caraveo greets supporters at her campaign office to promote her reelection bid on Oct. 12 in Northglenn.



HYOUNG CHANG — THE DENVER POST

with Denver7, Evans, a former Black Hawk helicopter pilot in the Army and a former Arvada police officer, said he had worked with gay and lesbian soldiers and cops. “I would have taken a bullet for them; they would have taken a bullet for me,” he said.

As far as likening same-sex marriage to incest, that comparison was made 20 years ago in a published letter to the editor that Evans wrote when he was 17. Evans told The Post that he planned to vote for this year’s Amendment J, which would strip the now-defunct same-sex marriage ban from the state constitution.

The ad also claims Evans would make abortion illegal, “even in cases of rape or incest.” While Evans has taken a tougher position against abortion in the past, he repeatedly has said on the campaign trail this year that he would make exceptions for rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at risk; he says he does not support a national ban on abortion.

Attacking Caraveo on immigration

In an ad by Evans’ campaign, the Republican takes aim at Caraveo over her positions on border security

and immigration. It cites rising crime and drug trafficking as consequences of lax border policies promulgated during the Biden administration, allowing for increases in crossings by migrants seeking asylum and immigrants entering illegally.

“And Yadira Caraveo is responsible for it all,” Evans says, looking into the camera while surrounded by law enforcement officials.

But Caraveo is just one of 535 votes in Congress and can’t possibly be blamed for everything going wrong at the U.S. southern border. She also took office less than two years ago.

The ad seizes on shifts in Caraveo’s stances on immigration and border control in recent years. As a state legislator in 2021, she signed a letter sent to Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, along with congressional leaders, requesting that Congress “divest from immigration enforcement agencies” such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Fast-forward to this past summer, when Caraveo backed a Republican-sponsored House resolution “strongly condemning” Harris for the Biden administration’s “failure to secure

the United States border.”

It was a position criticized as politically expedient by her Republican foes and denounced as cruel by some Democratic allies.

The fact stands that U.S. immigration policy has been troubled for decades, and neither party has been able to solve it. This year, a bipartisan border security bill that was backed by the labor union for border patrol agents — which later endorsed former President Donald Trump this month — fizzled in part after Trump made clear that he opposed it.

Tying Evans to Boebert and MAGA extremes

Caraveo’s campaign has run an ad that tries to tie

Evans to conservative firebrand Lauren Boebert, the two-term Colorado congresswoman running for another term in a new congressional district this fall, as well as to Trump’s MAGA movement.

That’s his mantra that’s short for “Make America Great Again.”

“He only cares about that Boebert stuff — banning abortion, invalidating gay marriages,” the ad declares.

Those claims do not account for the candidate’s most recent positions (see above).

As for the MAGA references, Trump’s brand of Republican politics hasn’t played well in much of Colorado; the Republican nominee was behind Harris by

double-digit margins in polls conducted in the late summer.

And the 8th is Colorado’s most evenly divided congressional district, politically speaking.

Evans has expressed support for Trump and his repeat run for the White House, while receiving the former president’s endorsement in return.

Evans doesn’t back Trump’s claims that the 2020 election was stolen; he’s said Biden won. He does add a caveat — he has said that there was interference in the run-up to the election related to attempts to suppress the story surrounding an abandoned laptop computer belonging to Hunter Biden, the son of the current president.

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Veterans

FROM PAGE 2

and how I was really going to play a part in this,” Collett said. “It never really came to fruition until the moment arrived and it provided opportunities for vulnerability, honesty and truth.”

“It’s really hard for me not to get choked up about it because the men and women that came here on Monday did not leave the same today,” Collett said. “They didn’t really know what they were going to do here. Yet they said yes. They knew they needed something.”

Building blocks

Collett mentioned how so many veterans are seeking resources externally, looking elsewhere to find the answers.

“When all of those resources fail to create change, there’s only one place to look, and that’s within yourself,” Collett said. “I would venture to say that there were a couple of souls here that had found rock bottom, and the bravery that they displayed, the courage they displayed to know that they needed something else. But the reality was that they have everything that they need within themselves.”

The Veterans Path to Success program teaches by using a pyramid model, where the bottom level of the pyramid is the physical realm and finding a way to get back into some sort of physical condition that will support the body. Nutrition is a big part of the base of the pyramid as well.

“If we don’t maintain the body with resistance training, cardio, all those things, the system is not going to support the other pieces of the pyramid, which are mental energy, spiritual energy and emotional energy,” Collett said.

“That’s what we’re trying to teach these men and women is how to recognize each one of these pieces



COURTESY OF VAIL VETERANS PROGRAM

Alumni begin working to become the best version of themselves.

and the energy required to be who you ultimately are supposed to be. And the big goal of this program is to help them discover their purpose,” Collett said.

Last week, 20 vets attended the three-day program at the Lodge at Vail in Vail Village.

“I think they’re really challenged by this kind of work because they are the most selfless humans God has ever put on this Earth,” Collett said. “Service to others is something every one of them resonates with and often ... when you’re injured and you can no longer serve others, then the identity crisis happens.”

Collett compared the mindset change to the demolition of a building.

“A lot of these men and women put up big, giant walls and these big, huge concrete barriers that they have had for decades,” he said. “They let it go in a space which we created that was absolutely conducive to safety, camaraderie, love, compassion and empathy. What we’re doing here is unlike anything else, especially anything else that we’ve done as a program.”

The Vail Veterans Program provides military injured and their families free, world-class therapeutic programs that may bring

them to the slopes or the golf course, a biking trail or horse ranch. Those recreational programs do build confidence and build community but the Veterans Path to Success is more purpose-driven.

“What we do in our other programs is absolutely beautiful, but this is allowing them to come here, create change, go back into the community and live out their purpose,” Collett said.

Collett felt the change, too, and found his purpose this week in Vail. He reflected on all the people alongside him throughout the years, giving him tough love, forcing him to look inside of himself for the answers, which finally brought him to a place where he said he feels he can be a lighthouse for others.

“I think that’s all I ever wanted to be is a lighthouse because these veterans, these incredible humans are in a storm on a daily basis,” Collett said. “And if I can just be a little bit of light for them, so they know that it’s possible to make it back and correct the course. That’s what my purpose on this Earth is. I didn’t think I had any more tears to cry. It’s been extremely heavy this week, but I’m so grateful to finally be able to walk in my purpose.”



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