Mesa State slowly recovers from loss of two students

Taylor Stonehouse
Editor

After nearly a week of grieving the loss of two Mesa State College students, the college is beginning to recover.

Jennifer Kois and Jacob "Jake" Brock, both 19, were killed by a suspected drunken driver on March 22. The two students were traveling on Interstate 70 when former Lafayette policeman Patrick Strawmatt, 42, slammed into the back of their 2001 Saturn at a reported speed of 120 mph. Both teenagers were ejected from the vehicle after it reportedly rolled several times off the road.

As reported in The Daily Sentinel, Kois died en route to St. Mary's Hospital, and Brock died shortly after arrival.

Strawmatt survived the crash and had to be extricated from his Toyota 4Runner. After a short visit to St. Mary's Hospital, Strawmatt was arrested and taken to jail. He now faces first-degree murder charges. Mesa County District Attorney Pete Hauszinger told The Daily Sentinel. Charges will be filed April 3.

On campus, Mesa State administrators reacted quickly to the news, and Mesa State President Tim Foster sent an e-mail to all faculty, staff and students on March 23 to inform them of the event. He says the administration is prepared to support any memorial services the students plan.

"Our students are sharp, so we can facilitate," Foster said. "We'll be supportive of whatever they decide."

According to Associated Student Government President Shannon Robinson, efforts are underway to organize a candlelight vigil for the students, but a date has not been set for the event.

"A date will be scheduled pending the preferences of the families of (Kois) and (Brock)," Mesa State Spokesperson Dana Nunn said.

In the meantime, students are encouraged to take advantage of the services that are available to them. Behavioral Clinical Service is free to students, and Housing Director Chip Thomas said his assistance has been utilized and appreciated. On March 23, Behavioral Clinical Service counselors came to Piñon Hall for a floor meeting with the residents. Students can now visit the BSC office at 2004 N. 12th Street or call 241-6900 to speak with a counselor.

ASG passes student fee increase, despite suggestion to withdraw bill

Arden Walston
Reporter

The college center renovation issue has made for a long and tumultuous road of debate and discussion for the Associated Student Government as of late. It was a hot topic again at the ASG meeting March 22.

At the beginning of the meeting, Deb Hoefer, director of the college center, informed ASG members that the state funding for the Saunders Field house project could likely be cut drastically, possibly creating a larger construction debt for Mesa State.

"I appreciate all you've done, but respectfully I request you to pull the bill and not vote on it right now," Hoefer said during the meeting. Hoefer said that she had discussed it with Mesa State President Tim Foster, and she felt that adding another large project such as the college center would be unwise with the uncertainty of funding for Saunders looming ahead.

President Foster agreed that Mesa State is now trying to figure out exactly how to proceed with Saunders, but that the college center project is not an immediate concern since construction will not begin right away.

"This project isn't going to happen for a couple years. You can't do anything that we've talked about until Saunders gets done. It's not a big time crunch. So in this instance, we do have the luxury of time," Foster said.

Foster also confirmed that it is not a possibility for student fees to be used for the Saunders project.

"The only student fee-supported project will be the student center," Foster said. He also voiced his approval of the ASG senators and their hard work in trying to get student input for the issue.

"I gave credit to ASG for sticking with a higher fee. They want it to be a really nice student center, and that's good. It's part of moving Mesa up the quality track," Foster said.

At the meeting, Hoefer voiced concern over the fact that while senators had spent time getting student input about the renovations, no one had directly approached any of the college-center staff to get their thoughts.

"This project is supposed to be building community, not dividing it," Hoefer said during the meeting. "That's why I came to you tonight— I didn't want to hear any more attacks. There is a healthy way to debate and that's not what I've been seeing."

After a lengthy executive session at the March 22 meeting, the entire ASG came together again to discuss the highly controversial issue. Several of the senators wanted to postpone the bill again, while others wanted to vote and move on.

Despite encouragement and invitations for students to attend the meeting to give their opinions on the possible student fee increase to fund the college center renovations, no more than a handful of students showed up.

The senators voted to pass the bill to increase student fees to fund the college-center renovation project with a 12-3 outcome.

"I would love for this to go to student vote, but I say we hit them where it hurts, and when they ask, 'Why did you vote for it?' say, 'Well you elected me,'" Minority Senator Donte J. King-DeFlora said.

ASG President Shannon Robinson has yet to approve the bill. She is still considering it and hoping for more student input before making her final decision. If the bill is approved, it will be handed up to the Board of Trustees as a recommendation.

"I was very impressed with the senate, they had a great debate. After the executive session it was obvious they'd done a lot of talking," Robinson said. "There were people on the senate who held out strong for what they believed in, and that's what they are for."

"This campus is missing the link to student life, and that is the student center. Our goal is to be able to get commuter students and on-campus students together, to provide learning opportunities outside of the classroom," Robinson said.

awalston@mesastate.edu
United Kingdom

A diplomatic and media battle continued Monday over the fate of 15 British marines and sailors arrested in Iranian waters Friday. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair called the arrests "very serious," "unjustified and wrong." A military spokesperson maintained that the marines had been conducting routine counter-smuggling operations in Iraqi territorial waters. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said the arrests followed an "illegal entry" and described a broader pattern of "aggressive behavior" by recent British and American naval activities in the Persian Gulf as a potential flashpoint between his government and the west. Both countries' navies have staged military drills and shows of force in the Gulf in recent months. On March 24, the United Nations Security Council imposed even more severe sanctions on the Iranian government for refusing to halt its uranium enrichment program, which the Bush administration regime fears could lead to weapons-grade nuclear development.

Ireland

In a move that would have been unthinkable 30 years ago, major catholic and protestant political leaders have reached a power-sharing agreement in northern Ireland following last month's elections. The Democratic Unionist Party, lead by the firebrand Rev. Ian Paisley, and Sinn Fein, long the political wing of the liberationist Irish Republican Army, of Gerry Adams will enter into a "new era" of coalition government in May after decades of bloody conflict. Direct British rule has been in place since 2002 following a scandal involving IRA spies operative in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The new government will contain four ministers from the Democratic Unionist Party, three from Sinn Fein, two from the Ulster Unionist Party, and one from the Social Democratic and Labor Party. Guiding the "devolution" of power from British administrators to local officials will be the first major test of the new government. British intelligence services were embarrassed last year by new testimony concerning their role during the civil conflict in Ireland.

Africa

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees drew attention to the plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing repression, violence and impoverishment in the Horn of Africa on March 26. The deaths of 30 refugees at the hands of pirates on that day was just the latest incident where vulnerable boat refugees have been targeted in this crisis. Often well-armed and highly equipped, criminal organizations operate in east African waters are known to have killed 262 in Yemen's territorial waters this year alone. The desperate boaters often travel in precarious vessels and have been subject to looting, rape, brutality and murder on a mass scale before they even reach their destinations, where they may be extorted, turned away, or placed in dilapidated refugee camps, said the UNHCR. Four hundred and fifty Ethiopian and Somali refugees were thrown overboard to drown in the latest such incident on March 26.

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Wednesday

High 53°
Low 29°

Thursday

High 56°
Low 29°

Friday

High 61°
Low 37°

Saturday

High 66°
Low 40°

Sunday

High 69°
Low 39°

Source: the National Weather Service
Local bands play for a chance to open Rock Jam

Amanda Friar
News Reporter

Beginning April 5 and continuing every Thursday night, Rum Bay will be hosting the Grand Junction Battle of the Bands 2007. Fourteen bands will be competing for the prize of opening for Rock Jam on Sept. 7. This is the second Battle of the Bands in which the winner will open for Rock Jam.

The 14 bands competing were picked on their ability to advance through several rounds. There will be four rounds of competition. The first round will contain all 14 bands. In the second round, the number of bands is reduced to eight. Half of the bands are eliminated in the third round, leaving four. The final round consists of the last two bands, which will determine the winner.

"Two hands compete each night for different things, (like) music originality, stage presence and, visual appeal," President and CEO of T-8 Marketing, Inc. Sean Gibbs said.

To help with publicity, different companies sponsor the event and also sponsor bands. According to grand-junctionmusic.com, there are sponsorship spots available for everything ranging from local newspapers, television stations, music supply stores, printing companies and radio stations. Companies that are sponsoring the events are ultimately paying to sponsor certain bands and the event itself.

"It's been pretty successful up until now, so we're going to continue doing it," Gibbs said.

Almost anybody can judge the event, as well. There is already a wide range of people judging including representatives from Mesa State's radio station, KMSA. The Daily Sentinel, the Free Press and other news stations.

Some of the bands also feature students from Mesa State.

"We would love to have more Mesa State bands performing in it," said Gibbs.

While there is no age cap on the hands competing, people coming to watch have to be 21 or over to get into Rum Bay. This makes it difficult for bands including members ages 18-21 who want their friends and fans to come watch because they would not be able to get in to support the band.

"We don't want to exclude anybody, but hands have certain limits to what (they) can and can't do," said Gibbs.

It is uncertain yet if they are going to allow high school bands in or not. The 14 bands that will be competing have not yet been chosen, so check grand-junctionmusic.com for further information as the event draws closer.

Students meet prospective employers at third annual Teacher Education Fair

Melanie Moore
News Reporter

Prospective teachers explored job opportunities Thursday with 12 school districts from across the Western Slope during Mesa State College's Western Region Education Fair. The schools represented were from the 14-county region Mesa State serves, including Garfield, Delta, Rio Blanco and Mesa counties.

More than 40 candidates from the teacher education program were screened by potential employers throughout the day and several of the students received valuable feedback from the school districts on what they need to do in order to get hired.

"It really is an event that we do specifically for our community and one that our community feels is very valuable," Director of Regional Programs Heather Exby said.

According to Exby, the majority of graduates from the Mesa State teacher education program decide to stay and teach in the region, so hosting a fair allows the area schools to recruit Mesa State graduates and also allows the students to realize the needs of the school districts.

The fair was first offered three years ago and was originally proposed by a regional superintendent who felt it would be beneficial to target area students because they have already chosen to live in the Western Slope.

"These are people who already live in Colorado and want to work here," Exby said.

"Our graduates are very well-prepared to enter their schools," Exby said. "The fair provides them with a variety of information on what schools are looking for, as well as what else they need to do to get hired."

By law, primary and secondary teachers only need their bachelor's degree and to be able to secure a teacher's license by passing the state accreditation tests. However, students with training to teach English as a second language, science, math and special education are in high demand, Exby said.

The Rocky Mountain Education Fair features 40 school districts and will take place April 5-6 at Western State College in Gunnison, Colo. For more information, contact Heather Exby at 248-1942.

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News Reporter

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Grief: Tragedy hits college

Friends of Brock and Kois say that while reality is starting to set in, it's been hard to come to terms with their deaths.

Greg Morgan, a Mesa State student and good friend of Kois, said he first heard about the accident in a text message he received in class. He said it's been hard to overcome the loss of such a good friend.

"I don't know about everyone else, but I can't believe she's really gone," Morgan said. "It's been hard to overcome the loss of such a good friend."

As soon as I saw the picture of (Kois) I could remember her smiling at me in the dining hall," Robinson said. "I keep thinking, I'll see her around campus."

"Memorial funds have also been established for both Brock and Kois," Foster said. "This event shows us how fragile life is."
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All services performed by students supervised by licensed instructors
*must present student ID at time of the service
Opinions
Nate Nichols, editor
jnichol@mesastate.edu

Evolution of friendship

Last Saturday night was one of those quite nights. I decided to chill in my room, listen to music and cruise MySpace. As I was surfing the seas of smiling faces, I came across several profiles of friends from along time ago. I started to wonder why it is that we keep some friends, while some slip away over time.

I can remember certain friends from my days as a little squirt that I annoyed out of being friends or made enemies out of, such as the kid whose action figures I always stole or the kid I threw up on. I have met a variety of friends here, I have met a variety of friends just like most of my old friends are probably doing. I guess I kind of expected to lose quite a few as well. In my short time here, I have met a variety of friends of all backgrounds and from different states. Let’s just hope I don’t go stealing their action figures or throwing up on them because I would like to keep a couple for a change.

If you’ve ever used the Internet you’re probably familiar with MySpace, Facebook and YouTube. If you don’t know what I’m talking about, you may as well stop reading now.

Founded in 2003, MySpace has gathered a horde of publicity — both good and bad. While its site offers endless hours of mind-numbing entertainment allowing you to browse your way through a labyrinth of people you never dreamt you’d speak to again, it also has its downsides (as if discovering your past isn’t already a downfall).

There are always the jerks who abuse a good thing and cause controversy like so many of the sex offenders and violent predators found utilizing MySpace to prey upon their next victims. Undoubtedly, MySpace crime is on the rise and I’m sure somebody, somewhere is forming a MySpace task force right now to combat the problem. I wish them the best.

Aside from the fresh new music, homemade videos, friend requests and perverts, MySpace is now surprisingly trying to break into the news business. What’s not surprising is that everyone has something to say about it.

The problem is that MySpace is trying to launch its own news service which will allow readers to read articles, rate and comment on them, and post whatever stories they want to their personal pages, and this is causing media professionals to freak. I don’t mean the type of freaking that takes place on a high school gym floor during Homecoming; I’m talking serious anxiety over the fate of their news organizations’ sites.

They’re worried that MySpace news will trump their own websites, as MySpace currently averages an audience of 100 million people. The other major factor is that most of this audience is young.

I’m not really seeing the problem here. For years, news professionals have been trying to find better ways to reach young readers and this seems to be a pretty great solution. Don’t you think?

Let’s say you have to bring an article into class as part of an assignment. You can either log on to MySpace and read the most current news while commenting on your friend’s new pictures of her dog Boris, or you can hooft it to the nearest gas station to pick up a copy of the Denver Post for a dollar. Raise your hand if you’d rather do it via MySpace.

See, if all those media people would just pop a Xanax and take a deep breath, they’d see a solution, not a problem. For too long they’ve been complaining that the youth don’t take an interest in news, but if they posted it on MySpace the audience would be there every day with the news right in front of them. Trust me, it would work.

You show me 10 kids who don’t log on to MySpace or Facebook as part of their daily routine and I’ll shut my mouth. (I won’t really, but you get what I’m saying.)

Better yet, maybe the hyperventilating newies should try logging on to MySpace themselves and browse around to get a taste. I bet they’d see it as another platform for news organizations to sell their product. And in business, that’s not a bad thing.

But who cares about any of this? I need to go check my MySpace.

www.CoxAndForkum.com

As I move on in life, I find that I’m meeting new friends just like most of my old friends are probably doing. I guess I kind of expected to lose quite a few as well. In my short time here, I have met a variety of friends of all backgrounds and from different states. Let’s just hope I don’t go stealing their action figures or throwing up on them because I would like to keep a couple for a change.

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The news about MySpace

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Parge Hatten
Photographers
Letters to the Editor

Sailor mouth offends

As a concerned citizen, I must voice my discontent with the article, "Mouth like a sailor?" Allowing antiquated stereotypes to be endorsed by the school paper speaks poorly of Mesa State College.

This article offends not only females, but males who happen to respect them, and people who live in trailer parks. It is contradictory for an institution that allows females — a group that makes up half of the world's population — to receive an education and then expect them to be silent.

The column lacks professionalism when referring to "talking dirty" and by using slang terms for female body parts. The school paper prides itself on being "the voice of students," but in a sad state if the only writers it can find only know how to concentrate on "naughtiness and virginity-losing schematics" instead of important issues at hand.

Though the opinions printed in the Criterion may not directly reflect the institution, many do not separate the two. If the goal is to increase Mesa State's reputation, cleaning up the stories would not be a bad idea. Also, many tons of potential freshmen and parents have come through, and I cannot help but feel ashamed of the decreasing quality of the literature on campus.

Monique Carrillo

Thanks for your letter, Mo. You'll be pleased to know the Criterion is always looking for new contributors. Our current staff consists of several students who possess many different opinions, and apparently neither Heather nor Nate's coincides with yours. As such, we encourage you to submit an application. Certainly your perspective will allow us to increase the quality of literature on campus.

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Editorial: take your time

We were deeply saddened to hear that Mesa State College lost two more students, especially under such tragic (and preventable) circumstances. Jacob Bruck and Jennifer Kois were active and motivated individuals with promising futures, and they will be missed.

Our condolences go out to all family and friends of Jacob and Jennifer, and anyone else who is grieving their loss.

As terrible as the situation has been for friends and family, our college has handled this episode with incredible grace. We can only imagine what those who are grieving can be going through, and we hope students take advantage of the Behavioral Clinical Services that are available to them. BCS counselors have made several on-campus visits since the tragedy, and we commend their active involvement with our students.

We appreciate and acknowledge Associated Student Government President Shannon Robinson's remarks on the issue, as quoted in The Daily Sentinel's March 24 issue.

"I'd like to see students take something from this and be aware if you're going to be out, (sic) when you get in a car after you've been drinking ... this is what can happen."

Mesa State students are facing eight more solid weeks of school, and we can see (even in our own office) that spring fever is starting to set in. Now, more than ever, students could be facing some potentially dangerous decisions.

We echo Robinson's statement and hope that students make the safest choices possible. While we are not responsible for others' actions, as obvious in this event, we all are accountable for our own actions and not creating a dangerous situation for anyone else.

SERFS is one of the best programs available to Mesa State students. These drivers are only a phone call away (257-9797) and provide the best way to get home for anyone who is unable to drive. We hope more students utilize this resource instead of taking a chance. As our college just witnessed, it's not worth taking that chance.

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Grand Valley counseling services

Behavioral Clinical Services
Mon.-Thr.
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
(970) 241-6500

Behavioral Health and Wellness, PLLC
(970) 242-5707

Alpha Center Psychological Services
(970) 241-2948

White River Counseling
(970) 434-6312

Inner Journey Counseling
(970) 242-1433

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Content for editorials is determined by the editorial board and written by the editor.
Overrun by volleyball girls

This last Saturday, I decided to take a stroll down to the recreation center in attempt to work on my fitness (I'm delicious). But instead of being greeted by my fellow hung-over, huffin' and puffin' Mesa State colleagues, I ran into something much different, much more terrifying, I was harshly greeted by a thousand, no, a million ankle-biting, squealing, screaming, volleyball-playing girls.

They were everywhere with their pigtailed swinging, the pungent smell of hairspray in the air and matching uniforms with knee-high socks. My eyes wide open with terror, I turned to run.

I fled to Saunders Field House, hoping to find refuge on the basketball courts and avoid the groups of matching munchkins. But to my horror I realized they were everywhere, on both courts and the auxiliary gym. Flooding the hallways with their terrible giggles, I suddenly felt as though I were in middle school all over again.

After regaining some composure, I went and spoke with the front desk attendant who told me that these tournaments would be continuing throughout the day and she was "sorry" for the "inconvenience." "Sorry? I don't want a sorry - I want to play basketball in the courts that I pay extra money for each and every year.

There used to be sign in the recreation center gym that read, "Your student fees at work." How come my student fees don't apply on Saturdays? What's next, are they going to rent out the cafeteria so we can only eat at certain meal times because we are also trying to feed the whole local population from my tuition and fees money?

Is the college hunting for money to the point where it puts the best interests of students aside in order to get a little extra money for facility use from some peewee leaguers? Maybe we should've decided not to put up our most recent addition of crummy fountain in front of the student center, which I have yet to even see running properly.

Next time there is going to be a tuition increase, I would really like to know what's in store for the money I'm about to borrow and will have to pay back with interest in a couple years. If they can't really specify where my money is going, then I would really like my student fees returned because apparently, they are not doing anything to benefit this particular student.

So maybe an additional apology would be at hand for all the students who couldn't use the facilities because of this minor "inconvenience."

And maybe next time someone comes to Mesa State and asks, "Could we possibly screw over the important people who pay for these facilities and give somebody else a chance?" whoever makes the executive decisions will hopefully make the right one so nobody else ever has to face the lollipop kids of terror who, to this day, still cause me to wake up in a cold sweat.

Cody Cochrane
Columnist

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Movie Review

BORAT!

Heather Dunphey
Columnist

Few words would be appropriate to really do “Borat” justice (though “naked,” “hairy” and “wee wee wee” come to mind). Sacha Baron Cohen’s “Borat” may just be the perfect socio-political slam everyone has been waiting for.

Cohen, as Borat, travels across the United States in search of his adored Pamela, offending and humiliating just about everyone he crosses. The sad thing being that Borat barely does anything but ask few questions and try to introduce himself. His experience at the rodeo (in which he sings Kazakhstan’s “national anthem” to the tune of ours) is not only funny, but a little heartbreaking as well. Ignorance in America is portrayed in its most raw form. An example being a cowboy telling Borat to shave off his mustache because he looks like a terrorist, and the sickening display of the extremely inebriated Southern frat boys discussing the complexities and benefits of owning slaves.

The social criticism in “Borat” is subtle only because of the outrageous situations Borat and his producer, Azamat, get themselves into. Borat's confusion of how to properly use a restroom is fantastic, and the wrestling scene is by far the most disgusting (albeit, hilarious) thing I have ever had the misfortune of seeing. Nonetheless, “Borat” is one of those movies you absolutely must see—just don’t see it with your mom, like I did.

Borat has to be the one of the first words Sacha Baron Cohen first utter under his guise of the Kazakhstani national reporter, Borat Sagdiyev. Those words made me laugh. Everything about this movie made me laugh. The mustachioed, brown-suit clad, bumbling correspondent could possibly go down as one of the most memorable characters ever created. Borat could stand with the likes of Ace Ventura or perhaps Charlie Chan, for those of you old enough to remember.

Borat: could've been a cowboy telling Borat to shave off his mustache because he looks like a terrorist, and the sickening display of the extremely inebriated Southern frat boys discussing the complexities and benefits of owning slaves.

Heather Dunphey
mesastate.edu

Max Ryan
Columnist

I like a you. These are some of the first words Sacha Baron Cohen uttered under his guise of the Kazakhstani national reporter, Borat Sagdiyev. Those words made me laugh. Everything about this movie made me laugh.

The mustachioed, brown-suit clad bumbling correspondent could possibly go down as one of the most memorable characters ever created. Borat could stand with the likes of Ace Ventura or perhaps Charlie Chan, for those of you who like the really old school.

Anyway, besides running my mouth full of praises for this biting satire, see this movie. A brilliant social commentary, Cohen, the creative genius behind Borat, could’ve started the next Cold War. His running joke played on everyone he talks to creates humor in places you don’t expect. It felt good to laugh at this movie. It was like laughing at myself. Watching people I call friends make me laugh. Everything about this movie made me laugh.

The social criticism in “Borat” is subtle only because of the outrageous situations Borat and his producer, Azamat, get themselves into. Borat's confusion of how to properly use a restroom is fantastic, and the wrestling scene is by far the most disgusting (albeit, hilarious) thing I have ever had the misfortune of seeing. Nonetheless, “Borat” is one of those movies you absolutely must see—just don’t see it with your mom, like I did.

Borat has to be the king of awkwardness and making people feel as uncomfortable as possible.

“Borat is a very funny movie. It’s also very intelligent, in a idiot savant type of way.”

Max Ryan
mesastate.edu

Quick Review

Skip It!

See It!!

Theater Buy Rent Forget

+++

hdunphey@mesastate.edu

+++

mryan@mesastate.edu

http://criterionfeatures.mesastate.edu
In concert: Kan’nal
Hippies impress at Mesa Theatre

Brian Erickson
Guest Columnist

Kan’nal’s concert Saturday at the Mesa Theatre, with special guests Lynx and Lion Vibes, was not just a concert; it was an experience.

The show opened with Caitlin DeMuth, also known as Lynx, a one-woman band from Boulder. With a voice like Norah Jones and guitar chops that reminded me of Dave Matthews, Lynx was great opener.

She not only played rhythm guitar and bass, but also sang, rapped and beat boxed all at the same time using live recorded loops. I was surprised at how well she could beat box and rap while playing guitar. Lynx left the crowd not only mesmerized but also wanting more and highly anticipating the next act, Lion Vibes.

Lion Vibes, a local favorite, did not disappoint with a set of their tried and true “raggafunk.” Lion Vibes puts a unique spin on their influences, which range from reggae and dance hall to rock and rap. Their set was powerful and moving, which helped the crowd get up off their feet and dance to the deep grooves. Lead singer/MC Professor Lynx rapped while the incredible rhythm section laid down funky beats that the horn section enriched with their Latin jazz style. The crowd sang along to many songs including my favorite, “Fear Not.” What impresses me most about Lion Vibes is how nine talented musicians are able to come together so well, and create songs that are so infectious without the music sounding too busy or crowded.

Lion Vibes proved why they are not only a local legend, but also one of the Western Slope’s best bands.

Headlining the show was Boulder’s very own Kan’nal. While I think that Kan’nal was hyped up a lot more than they should have been, the music was still worth the price of admission. Kan’nal is a modern take on a gypsy, folk and psychedelic combination with your standard guitarists, bass and drums, as well as an accomplished didgeridoo/percussion player. The band came complete with two stage performers/dancers who, among other things, danced and twirled strings of lights to add to the visual impact of the band. Their songs were long, winding and mesmerizing. Lead singer Tzoł had great dynamics and sang in all registers from high to low. Lead guitarist Tierro and bassist Rodolfo locked into each other’s rhythms flawlessly while didgeridoo and percussion player Aaron added the atmosperics. What was really awesome about this band is how their songs took the audience on a journey through a world of sounds and textures. It is easy to see how such a band could develop the following they have and why they are one of Colorado’s best up-and-coming bands.

I can honestly say this concert was one of the best I have been to in a long time and was well worth the money. All three artists were amazing and showed great potential to develop nationally.

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Adding a little bit of BAM!
Tricks for a spicy relationship

Q: What are some ideas for how to spice up a relationship?

A: The key to putting a little excitement back into your relationship is to expand your horizons socially, sexually and otherwise. Keeping an open mind to new ideas is going to be your best bet. Adding spice to your relationship is as easy as just trying something new.

Since the weather is getting nice, the two of you should get out and play. Grab a Frisbee or football and go to a park. Go bowling or play poker. Anything that ups your competitiveness is a safe bet. Sports or anything else that gets your hormones going will add that extra “umph” to the relationship. Afterwards, check out each other’s tan lines and hop in the shower together to rinse off.

The best way to add a little spice to the relationship is sexually. Get it on anywhere and anytime you see fit. Unfortunately for many couples, falling into the same routine is the downfall of excitement. If your sex life is mundane and tends to get a little stale, try something new. This could be as simple as a new position or changing the time of day you two “get together.” If you’re looking for something more adventurous, hop in your car and head up to the Monument and make out overlooking the city lights.

Ladies, nothing will get your man’s testosterone pumping like sexy undergarments. Make a trip to Victoria’s Secret and buy something lacy. Next time the two of you are heading out for dinner give him a quick glance at what you bought – I promise that what he orders for dinner won’t be the only thing on his mind.

If you’re not sexually active, or you’re perfectly satisfied with the amount of romance, simply trying a new restaurant or going for a walk together can add that extra zing you need to get your relationship back on track.

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If your love life needs spice, Heather’s got sound advice.

criterion@mesastate.edu
Grand Junction: near and dear to my heart

Max Ryan
Columnist

There's a certain something that comes with living in Grand Junction. It's hard to describe. Have you ever looked at the sun for an extended period of time? Besides burning out your retinas, it's fascinating. A white-hot globe of pure light that penetrates even through your eyelids, it's almost like you can't look away.

Grand Junction is kind of like that. You experience Grand Junction not like you'd experience any random city on any random vacation. Grand Junction sucks you in like a whirling vortex, 20,000 leagues under the desert and retirement communities.

What's incredible is how easy it is to grow roots here. The ample soil of the Grand Junction human greenhouse grows well, fertilized by college drop-outs, relatively low housing markets and an ample job market procured by fast food demigods.

Grand Junction is many things. A college town that is growing, the city has already invested in its future, which, sad to say, is me and all my other quasi-intelligent mongoloids I call dear friends. Ah yes, four years of college to one day return as a distinguished alumni with his name in the upper right hand corner of his pin-striped, grease-stained jumpsuit. I always knew I liked the smell of gasoline way too much. At least I can live here relatively cheaply.

There's another thing that makes Junction near and dear to my heart. Where else can you find quality housing at these prices? Listed at just under $200,000, a nice three bedroom, two bath house can be easy to come by in Junction. The only thing the listing fails to mention is that your neighbors like a hit of the commune approach. Have you ever seen a house, three motor homes, five tents, and few sleeping bags on the same half-acre? It's a neighborhood within the neighborhood. Maybe you like looking out your window while cooking breakfast, when Bubba, one of the "tenants," busts open his trailer door, proclaiming reason for having fish sticks for lunch: probably because it's his anniversary. Macaroni and cheese would be a real treat, I suppose. Myself, personally, would probably fit right in, since my idea of gourmet is anything with Spam in it. Playing jungle gym on the gutted Camaro with the 20 kids would be a hoot, as well. Gypsies are fun aren't they, children?

Well, let me tell you something. I can definitely afford macaroni and cheese. I get it for free. It's easy when you're connected. Connected to the fried, greasy, semi-faux tasting underworld of fast food. Has that ever occurred to you? The fact there could actually be a KFC Cosa Nostra? What about the McDonalds mafia? The Burger King bosses? If something like this did exist, which I'm probably sure it doesn't, it would exist in Grand Junction. I mean, it already kind of exists, with evil corporations all over the world telling you cheap and easy is better than obese and dead. I'm pretty sure these corporations have an underground bunker running somewhere along North Avenue.

What else can explain the fact that no fast food restaurant is no further than half a mile from any other fast food restaurant? Coincidence? I think not.

Even though this conspiracy runs rampant right under our noses, it does provide numerous jobs. Rock solid resumes in this town have both Good Times and Wiener schnitzel experience right at the top. Nothing says a hard day like sweating actual grease and finding pickles and cheese on any numerous spots on your body. I've worked fast food, and the least I can say is it is an entirely enriching experience. Enriching like meat is enriched with hormones and chemicals, or fulfilling like finding out your Internet date was really six foot seven and could sing the entire three tenor collection in one octave lower. Life's full of wonderful surprises.

Grand Junction is one of the greatest places I've ever lived. Yet, like all places, it has parts I don't understand and can't fathom. I've learned to embrace flaws though. Grand Junction has taught me that. No longer do I kick bums or make fun of drug addicts' houses. No longer do I mock streets that end for no reason, and no longer do I ridicule the 70-year-old man who's in the same class as I am. Instead, I embrace, like offering assistance with any bathroom problems my new friend has or helping up the bums, and then kicking them, then throwing a roll of nickels at them quite hard. It's all about the love. Even Scanner Dan needs a roll of nickels or two.

mryan@mesastate.edu

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Raining Jane Concert

When:
March 28, 2007
@
8:00 PM

Where:
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Concert sponsored by PAC.

www.rainingjane.com
The Blunders by Alex Tuthill

Hey, I'm watching Sex in the City, and I've made a new drinking game!

Every time Samantha says something slutty, you take a shot!

John Blunder 1975-2007
(Died of alcohol poisoning)

Dorm Dorks by Mike Hankins

I used you respect you sight...
Yeah, why'd you take over the internet, genius?

I'm the new 'Star Trek' movie being made...

I'm not playing...

Wondermark by David Marko!

The professor in my psychology lecture has a real interesting philosophy.

He believes there are invisible 'boundaries' between the roles of student and teacher.

Needless to say, I tend to disagree.

In fact, I'm heading over to his house in a bit to discuss the issue.

To-tot his house?

Does he know you're coming over?

He should!

Mesa State by Nate Nichols

DID YOU EVER HEAR BACK ABOUT THAT CONTEST YOU ENTERED?

Yeah, I didn't win.

Apparently it's an ANGUS year.

ANGUS YEAR?

In order to be "fair," the contest administrators unoffically alternate the awards between breeds from year to year.

So to promote fairness, they practice unfair tactics?

Welcome to the age of equality.
Classifieds

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Mesa State Business School Students: Not mutually recognized energy consulting firm needs 1-2 talented students for part-time employment. 10-20 hrs per week. Part-on-site, part-time commuting $7.50/hour. Call Diana Ridgway at 970-259-1192 or visit our website www.dayjoinrstrsconsultants.com.

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Music Students Wanted for after school hours. 858-970-3430.

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1996 KTM 300 MXC!! Good condition. Runs perfect. $400.

1999 Diamondback Mr. Lucky BMX. This bike is loaded. Asking $100.00. No offers will be over looked!

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House for rent. 3234 Kennedy Ave. 3 bed 1 bath. 1 block from college. $725/month + $725 deposit.

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Copy Editor needed. Requires 2 years experience in copy writing or Graduation program student with certification in writing and/or English composition and publishing skills. Please contact Christine.

Box 1053, GJ, CO 81521. www uuus org for more information.

MSC COMMUNITY CAPSULE

Calendar

For more information contact the college center information desk @ 248-1758 or tune-in to Channel 2 on any campus T.V.

WED

Raining Jane Concert 8:00pm

Mesa County School District 51 Career Fair

THURS

Community Career Fair, Saunders

Fri

Paint Ball Trip, TBA

Suns Volleyball Club Tour., Browmson

SAT

Softball vs. CSC Paint Ball Trip, TBA

Mens Volleyball Club Tour., Browmson

SUN

1

MON

2

TUES

3

Egg Extravaganza

Mesa After Dark 9p - 12a

Additional

Outdoor Program (OP) contact for more information: (970) 248-1342

Or stop by our office in the student center, 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. Monday through Friday.
**Nuggets Bucket: I have one loyal reader: my editor**

Kevin Vicker
Columnist

Since September, all of my columns have had my e-mail address at the bottom, but I have yet to receive my first reader comment. It would be nice to get something, even if the feedback comes from enraged readers who think my opinions are garbage. At least I'd know they were reading. But, as far as I know, if I had a nickel for every person reading my column, then I'd either be really rich or really poor.

With the Nuggets still fighting for playoff positioning in the Western Conference and nothing too incredibly interesting happening lately, I thought I would use this as the opportunity to introduce readers to the guy behind the Denver sports opinions. Logically, I probably should have written this stuff in my first column way back in September, but I was covering the Denver Broncos at the time. They were facing some really important decisions about whom to feature at running back, so there were some important things to cover; so I will use the Nuggets Bucket as the place to give you some juicy "nuggets" of information about myself.

This is my final semester at Mesa State and I am, of course, looking forward to graduating in May. I've been given two nicknames here at Mesa State. The first is Outdoor, given to me by my broadcasting professor, Regis Tucci. A couple of years ago, I was announcing a wild basketball game for KTVQ's home of the Mavericks. It was so loud that I was struggling to hear my own thoughts, so anything I said was shouted into the microphone. The next day, at a television production class with Tucci, I continued to shout like I did at the game. He told me I was using my "outdoor voice" and that he might as well just call me "outdoor." The name stuck.

My second nickname is JC and this one is compliments of KMSA's Operations Manager, Dustin Coren. With all I do in sports, you might assume the nickname JC is representative of something related to sports, such as in honor of Joe Carter's 1993 World Series winning home run.

That would be cool, but, in reality, JC stands for Jimmy Cricket. Every Wednesday at 7 p.m., Dustin and I, as well as several others, take part in KMSA's only sports talk show, the Sports Stampede. Compared to Dustin and KMSA's Sports Director, Pat Bahr (look below this column to see his mug shot) I am shorter, skinnier and just smaller in general. Thus, the Jimmy Cricket reference, and the JC nickname.

I'm running out of space, so here are a few more quick hitting nuggets about me. I think bologna on cinnamon raisin bread makes a great sandwich. I'll take fluorescent light over incandescent any day, I'm left handed, and because of the movie "Office Space," I do own a Swingers belt.

Kevin Vicker
vicker@mesa.state.edu

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**Sports Bahr: The most exciting sporting event of the year brings with it regret**

Pat Bahr
Columnist

Why did I pick that team?
That is a question I find myself pondering now that the Final Four is all set. In this tournament there were highs and lows, and more lows followed by yet more lows that brought fire to people's brackets. However, I felt good going into this weekend's slate of games.

I surfaced with two teams that I picked to be in the Final Four, Ohio State and Georgetown. But I still have no chance of being reimbursed my $15 that I spent on office pools.

This is the time to review some of my best picks and some of my worst.

The stop-picking-with-your-heart selections:
I have a lot of ties to the Midwest, Wisconsin to be specific, but I thought Wisconsin and Marquette, which is located in Milwaukee, were not playing their best basketball at the end of the season. I picked them anyway. The Badgers limped through their first round against Texas Corpus-Christi before their tournament time was ended by UNLV. The games that were played without Wisconsin's center Brian Butch, were ones where the Badgers struggled to get anything going early, and in the tournament it is almost impossible to win games if you don't start hot.

Marquette was one of my dumbest picks in a long time. This is a team that started very hot, dominating Duke and Texas Tech in a presssion tournament. They had really strong guard play, but lost five of their last eight and were taken apart by Michigan State. Oh yeah, I had them beating North Carolina by the way.

The I-love-picking-upsets-like-Jim-Nance-loves-the-Masters-Golf-Tournament selections:
Getting an upset pick right feels good, but when you pick the wrong one it burns badly. I always love to pick the underdog and if a team I feel is going to have success in the tournament. Try not to look like a moron, I'll tell you the ones I got right.

Wintrop over Notre Dame, VCU over Duke, Vanderbilt and Tennessee into the sweet sixteen. None of which was much of a surprise.

Now the ones I got wrong:
Old Dominion over Butler, Davidson over Maryland, Oregon over Florida, Pittsburgh over UCLA, Marquette over North Carolina, Oral Roberts over Washington State, Alcorn State over Virginia, Nevada over Memphis. The worst part about most of those games was that they weren't even close.

Even with my lack of success, it is hard to be that disappointed, as the NCAA tournament is one of the best sporting events of the year. On top of that, just remember what John Cougar Mellencamp has told us roughly a billion times during this tournament. This is our country.

Pat Bahr
p.bahr@mesastate.edu

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Mesa State College tennis teams sit even at 7-7

Men and women hope to play well down the stretch, end season strong

Both Mesa State College tennis teams are still in the process of finding their rhythm this season. With each sitting at 7-7 (1-0) in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference play, the season for both teams is by no means a disappointing one. Instead, tough competition and a multiple matches on the road have been the reason for both teams’ 7-7 record. However, with non-conference play now over, seven more match ups for the men, and five for the women remain before the teams head to Pueblo on April 20 for the RMAC championships.

Strong play throughout the season and to get ready for the NCAA tournament.

State went on another winning streak, defeating Colorado Christian University, Paradise Valley, Glendale Community College, and Southwest Minnesota State.

While the lady Mavs sit at 7-7 they do have talent, particularly in junior RMAC preseason player of the year Teri Mayeda. Mayeda has come up big this season, and was recently named RMAC player of the week for her performance against nationally-ranked Cameron State on March 18. Although Mesa State dropped the tournament 7-2, Mayeda knocked off Cameron’s number one singles player Thaïanne Moreira 6-5 and 6-5.

"(Mayeda) has done great, that win was a big win for her," MacDonald said.

The talent doesn’t stop there as junior Crystal Smith has performed particularly well, winning four singles matches this season. Junior Drisa Carrizo brings both experience and talent to the team.

Success for the lady Mavs has come in spurts this season as they are currently on a three-match losing streak. Still, MacDonald believes that if the women can strengthen their doubles play down the stretch, they can finish the season strong.

"In college tennis you need to win two out of three doubles matches," MacDonald said. "That’s what we need to do to be successful."

The Mesa State women’s team will look to get back on the winning side of things on March 31 as they travel to Pueblo to take on the CSU-Pueblo ThunderWolves. The action is set to begin at 3 p.m.

Men’s Tennis:

The men’s team experienced a similar start to the season dropping four straight to tough competition in Kansas in the RMAC Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association challenge. All four teams the Mavs played were ahead of them in the regional rankings; while MacDonald said he is not one to make excuses, he admits that traveling to and playing talented teams in Kansas is tough.

"What hurts us is the 12-hour ride to Topeka and then we go down in altitude," MacDonald said. "We’re hoping that playing the tough competition will pay off later on."

Following the early season losses, Mesa State beat Colorado Christian, dropped one to Montana State of Billings and then went on a tear, winning five matches in a row before falling to Western New Mexico 6-3. The Mavs bounced back quickly, however, defeating Midwestern State 7-1. In their last match, Mesa State fell to No. 17 Cameron State 9-0.

Many people may consider a 7-7 (1-0) record average and not something to be pleased with, but one look at the Mavs roster will probably change their opinion. Out of 14 players, nine of them are freshmen, three are seniors and two are juniors. Given the young talent on the team, MacDonald is happy with how the team has performed so far this season.

"The freshmen are coming along faster than I thought," MacDonald said. "I’m not too unhappy with a seven and seven record right now."

Senior Micah Hill also believes the freshmen are getting better with each match.

"These guys are jumping out and definitely adjusting," Hill said.

Hill knows how hard it is adjusting to college tennis coming straight out of high school and he, along with fellow senior Dave Smith, have done everything they can off the court to make the freshmen feel like a part of the team.

"We try to get them involved as much as possible," Smith said.

Although happy with the team’s performance thus far, MacDonald places importance on the last seven matches of the season.

Last year, the men’s team made it to the NCAA tournament, which is something both MacDonald and his team would like to experience again. MacDonald believes that the freshmen will need to step up, and Mesa will have to finish strong for that to happen.

"The next three weeks are important," MacDonald said. "We need to go five and two (in our next matches)."

Hill and Smith would also like to end their season and careers on positive notes by finishing strong in RMAC play and making noise in the NCAA tournament.

"Ideally we’d like to make regionals and sweep the second half of the season," Smith said.

The Mavs will see if they can meet their goals when they resume play on March 31 against Hawaii of Hilo at home. The match is set to begin at 2 p.m.
Mesa State student lives on the edge

Motorcyclist loves danger, adrenaline rush that stunt riding provides

JB Sadler
Reporter

There are many young extremists out there who love excitement and enjoy living their lives on the edge. Stunt riding is one of the local extreme sports that is full of adrenaline and takes a great amount of skill and talent.

"There are stunt riders out there that will go down, those who have been down, and those who will go down again," Jon Ratkiewicz, a senior at Mesa State College, said. Ratkiewicz, 22, and a Grand Junction native, has an associate’s degree in auto transmission and is working towards his Bachelor’s degree.

Ratkiewicz said he hopes to own his own auto shop someday. He has his friends coming to his garage in hope of getting their bikes fixed, so he already has a start to a promising career.

Stunt riding consists of many difficult tricks that the rider performs while riding on a motorcycle. One of the stunts that Ratkiewicz performs is called "Standing on the Seat," which is when a rider actually stands straight up while the bike is moving at 50 miles per-hour. Along with being very dangerous, stunt riding can also be illegal. If pulled over, a rider can be charged with a 12-point ticket for reckless driving. Another common ticket that is given out to stunt riders is for exhibition of speed, which will also cost riders 12 points on their license.

Along with going to Cycle Fest at the end of every summer, Ratkiewicz and his friend and fellow rider Ryan Rockow frequently ride in a place that they call "The Boat Docks." "Stunt for life," is a saying that keeps Rockow motivated to stunt ride every day. When going stunt riding, the pair tend to find a place where they can just let loose and have a good time.

"Stunt riding is very difficult, and I was riding for four years before even attempting a stunt," Ratkiewicz said. "You must respect your bike."

Ratkiewicz has had four major wrecks, and without his protective gear, he could have been seriously injured while riding. Ratkiewicz said this is why his gear, while being expensive, is worth every penny.

"I never leave my house on my bike without wearing my protective gear," Ratkiewicz said. "It has saved my life numerous times."

Ratkiewicz said he believes he is a safe extremist and loves the adrenaline rush that stunt riding gives him.

Though it is dangerous, he always seems to get back on his bike and ride again. "What doesn’t kill me, only makes me stronger," said Ratkiewicz.

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For details and applications go to www.mesacounty.us or contact Sandy Perry at Mesa County HR/Personnel at 244-1855, located at 544 Rood Ave, Grand Junction, CO ADA/EOE
Mesa State baseball winning streak snapped at 18 games

Despite first loss since February, Mavs still atop RMAC Mountain

Kurtis Murchison
Reporters

The streak was going to end sooner or later, and it did.

The 11th ranked Mesa State Maverick baseball team took a school record 18-game winning streak into a match-up with CSU-Pueblo on Sunday.

Although the Mavericks lost the game 11-9, the team still enjoyed another successful weekend, winning three of four games against the ThunderWolves to improve their overall record to 26-5, (15-1 in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference). The loss was the first of the year in RMAC play, and only the second at SuperZoo Field. Despite losing game four, Mesa State still leads New Mexico Highlands by five and a half games in the Mountain Division of the RMAC. CSU-Pueblo is 19-11 (9-7 RMAC).

On March 23, the Maverick offense gave senior pitcher Brett Armour more than enough run support to win the game 10-2. In the bottom of the fourth, catcher Blaine Bernard hit a crucial two-run home run to give the Mavericks the lead 4-2. Two innings later, in the bottom of the sixth inning, insurance runs were added in the form of a two-run homer by Chandler Herdt to put the Mavs up 6-2. Mesa State scored four more runs in the eighth inning and went on to win the game 10-2. Armour pitched his third complete game of the year, and struck out the side in the ninth, improving his record to 7-1 on the season.

The next day, the Mavericks played a doubleheader against the ThunderWolves. In the first game of the day, the Mavericks’ high-powered offense scored 18 runs en route to an 18-9 victory. Mesa State jumped out to early 4-0 lead after the first inning. All of the damage came with two outs. Curtis Englehart hit a two-run double to left field, and later hit a home run in the sixth inning, in which the Mavericks broke the game wide open scoring six runs. Pitcher Owen Williams was credited with the victory, keeping his record perfect at 4-0. Pitcher Keith Nelson picked up his 11th save of the season, adding to his league-leading total.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Mavs pulled off the victory, winning 3-2. The game was a scoreless battle until the bottom of the fifth, when the Mavericks scored two runs. Matt Bodenbender hit a double to score leadoff hitter Justin Little. Little had four hit singles in the game, putting pressure on the ThunderWolves’ pitchers. The Wolves evened the game in the top half of the next inning, but the Mavs wouldn’t give up. Blake Carbone hit a home run in the bottom of the seventh to score the winning run, pushing the win streak to 18. Nelson picked up his fifth win of the year.

In the final game of the series on Sunday, the Mavericks stomp their way back to from an early deficit to tie the game at nine in the bottom of the eighth inning. But the Mavericks would lose on a two-run shot by the Wolves’ Kevin Meadows in extra innings. Nelson recorded the loss and fell to 5-2. Matt Pavlich and Englehart had solid games as each drove three runs for Mesa State.

The first place Mavericks travel to Kearney, Neb. this weekend to play the University of Nebraska-Kearney Lopers. The Mavs play at 6 p.m. on Friday, then play a doubleheader on Saturday starting at 1 p.m. and round out the four-game series Sunday at Noon.

Mesa State women’s golf team prepares for spring season

Katlin Lubbeley
Reporters

The women’s golf team didn’t end their fall season as well as expected, but that hasn’t discouraged their hopes and expectations for the upcoming season. Spring season will be swinging into action on March 26 and 27 in Phoenix, in what will be the first of four tournaments for the lady Mavericks.

After Phoenix, the women’s team will play twice at Denver and then round out the season with the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship at the Redlands Golf Course.

“IT'S our one final shot to shine and there is a little added pressure to do well because we will be playing at home,” junior Amandi Rollins said.

The two major obstacles the women’s team faces for the spring season are confidence and consistency.

“The challenge that our team faces mostly for the spring is confidence,” sophomore Sandra Peavler said. “Each individual girl has the game, but not the confidence to execute.”

“We all have the skill, but sometimes we doubt ourselves. If we all stay confident then we will be awesome,” Rollins said.

Golf Coach Butch Miller believes the girls need more mental toughness in order to succeed.

“When one of the girls plays well, we all do and when one plays bad, we all play bad.” Miller said.

Miller is expecting certain players to step up and help the team succeed. “I expect three of our juniors, Maggie Cole, (Rollins) and Mandy Preston to be leaders for us,” Miller said. “I also expect big things from (Peavler).”

The women’s team has been training in the winter months, between seasons, to improve their game. The players lift three times a week at 6:30 a.m. to improve core and muscle strength, which helps their swing and balance.

The players also work for about four or five hours, four days a week, on the golf course.

“Practice usually consists of nine- or 18-hole rounds, or working out the kinks in the driving range, putting green or chipping green,” Rollins said.

This spring season gives the team the chance to end on a better note than last season, which Miller thinks is possible since all of the girls are good and continue to improve with each stroke.

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