

Washed Up

by Jennaye Derge

The Animas River is to Durango like kitchens are to houses: it has a magnetic pull that draws everyone around it, to enjoy its bounty and each other's company. At this year's Animas River Days, the town gathered to float, spectate or compete at one of many events including kayak, canoe and SUP slaloms; whitewater rodeos; surf comps; rubber ducky races; and the grand finale river parade on Saturday night. With the river flowing a respectable 3,500 cfs, hundreds of spectators crowded the shore at Santa Rita Park to watch as unabashed boaters, paddlers and even a few tubers braved the rapids. While carnage was less than in past years, there were still a few good wipeouts that delivered what everyone came for.



Nice asterisk.



Welcome to the jungle!



Elvis gets all shook up.



This is what 3,500 cfs smacking you in the face looks like.



That sinking feeling...