



The I-70 Scout

Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail, and Agate

Volume 29, Number 8

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Semi collision entangles I-70 for hours



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A wrecked semi sits across the median of I-70 at Bennett following a rear-end collision with another tractor-trailer rig a little after 9:30 a.m. Jan. 6.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — One driver was seriously injured but no fatalities are expected from a collision between two semis near Bennett that closed both directions of I-70 for several hours Jan. 6.

A little bit after 9:30 a.m. Friday, local law enforcement and emergency responders were dispatched to the median of I-70 immediately east of the Bennett overpass on report of a wrecked and jackknifed semi. Upon arrival, firefighters and EMTs initiated extrication maneuvers in an effort to remove a 52-year-old male from McMinnville, Tenn., from the crushed cab of a 1996 Ken-

worth T600 semi and trailer.

Original reports that the wreckage was part of a head-on collision between two semis were incorrect but a second rig, a 2016 Freightliner Cascadia, was found nearby with damage to the driver's side back corner of its trailer.

"It was previously reported as a head-on but, after investigation, it was determined to be otherwise," a State Patrol spokesman said. "Both vehicles were traveling westbound on Interstate 70 near milepost 304."

After investigation, officers determined the Freightliner (vehicle 1) was traveling "well below interstate speeds" after re-enter-

SEE SEMI CRASH
PAGE 12



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Last week's resumption of the wrestling season included a marquis matchup between two top-ranked local senior wrestlers Jan. 5. In the final bout at Thursday's triangular at Strasburg, Byers' Lain Yapoujian, 2A No. 1 at 150 pounds, defeated Indian and 3A No. 1 144-pounder Zach Marrero. **SEE PAGE 13.**

Arapahoe County delivers new health department



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

At the opening of the Arapahoe County Public Health Department at Altura Plaza Jan. 3, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Chris Urbina, left, meets with Director of Nursing Melissa Spencer, RN; Immunization Program Nurse Manager Talitha Appel, RN; Nurse Health Coordinator Jessica Gomez, RN; and Immunization Program Associate Nurse Manager Caitlin Silverstein, RN.

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

AURORA — The new Arapahoe County health department officially opened Jan. 3.

Staff was welcomed that morning by Director Jennifer Ludwig at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds before proceeding to their offices to settle in.

Arapahoe County Public Health is one of three new entities replacing the Tri-County Health Department that served Arapahoe, Adams and Douglas counties for nearly 75 years. Tri-County's dissolution was primarily the result of disagreements over the public health orders it instituted during the COVID pandemic.

Arapahoe County Commissioners

voted to separate from the Tri-County Health Department in December 2021 following Douglas County's exit in September of that year and Adams County's departure the following month.

Intergovernmental agreements allowed Tri-County to continue providing public health services through the end of 2022. On Jan. 1, 2023, the individual counties, by law, were required to have their own health departments.

The I-70 Scout visited Arapahoe County Public Health's Altura Plaza location in Aurora on its opening day Jan. 3.

The branch at 15400 E. 14th Place has services including environmental health, family planning, birth

SEE ARAPCO PUBLIC HEALTH
PAGE 24

Wet start to winter improves Colo. drought outlook

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

While the full benefits of moisture from snow over the last week of 2022 and first few days of the new year won't likely be noticed until spring, the wetter-than-normal winter has drought forecasters optimistic to start the new year.

According to the first U.S. Drought Monitor report for 2023, released Jan. 3, Colorado is about 40% drought free; 58% abnormally dry or in the first two levels of drought: and less than 2% designated in the two poorest categories — 1.9% in extreme drought (D3) and 0.1% in exceptional drought (D4). In the case of the I-70 Corridor counties of Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert counties, about 70% has improved to moderate drought (D1), approximately 10% is abnormally dry, and the remaining western reaches are out of drought.

The last drought map of last year showed Colorado under 14% out of drought and more than 40% in D2 or worse.

“Beneficial precipitation prompted improving drought conditions across north-central and northeastern Colorado,” said National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration’s Brad Pugh in the Jan. 3 Drought Monitor narrative. “A decrease in the spatial coverage of extreme (D3) drought was also made.”

In most cases across the state, drought status was improved by one designation. The lone areas remaining in the two most severe categories are the far northeast and southeast corners of the state.

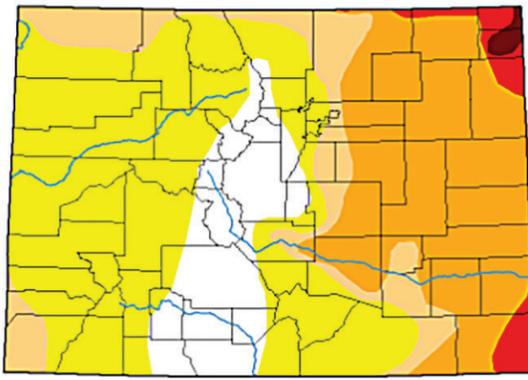
Across much of the I-70 Corridor last week,

Drought Classification

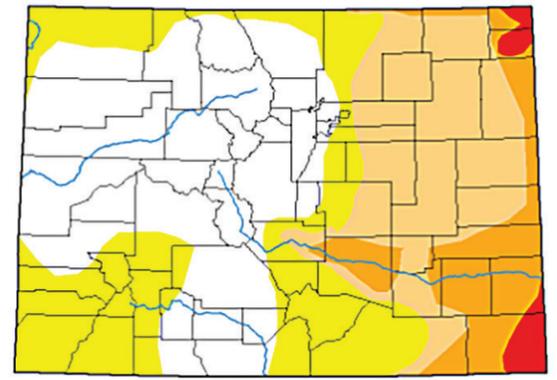
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)

- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

December 27, 2022



January 3, 2023



U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR

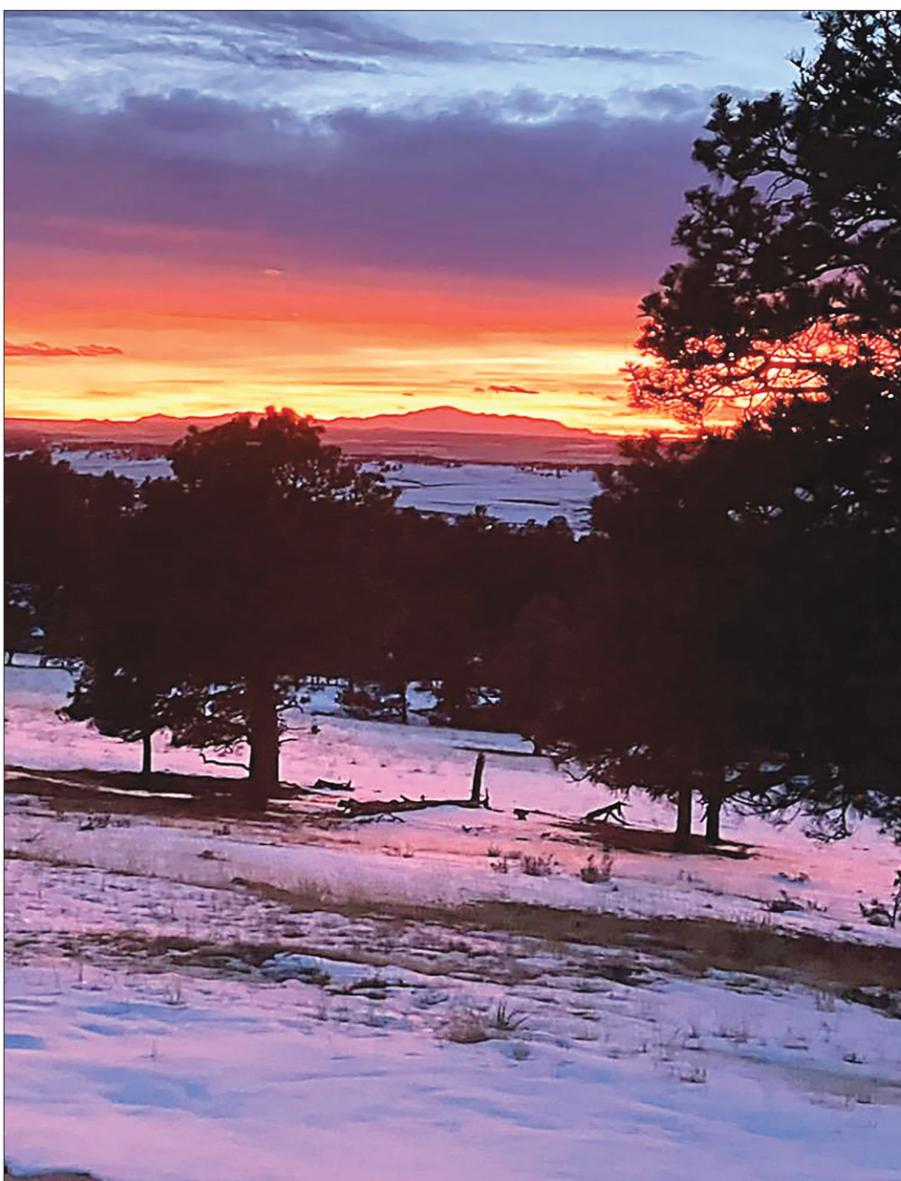
Most of Colorado saw at least a one-category improvement in drought designation between the final drought map of 2022 and the first maps of the new year. The I-70 Corridor has received about two times its normal snowfall between December and the first couple days of January with precipitation amounts closer to three times the historical average for the same period of time.

standing snow accumulations were over a foot as colder-than-normal temperatures continued to blanket the area.

According to the National Weather Service’s Boulder office, areas east of the Front Range have seen approximately 1.5 inches of moisture result from more than a foot of snow between last month and Jan. 4, between two and three times what the region usually sees over that time frame.

“About twice as much snow as usual but the amount of precipitation is closer to three times what is normally seen,” the NWS said. “We weren’t seeing the typical dry, fly-away snows that are typical of the start of winter. They were more like spring storms, particularly late March and April.”

Most recently, overnight squalls Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 dropped a combined 5 inches of new snow, accounting for up to 0.5 inches of moisture.



EMBER SEWARD-SORENSEN/The I-70 Scout

Pike’s Peak is shrouded in a Christmas evening sunset from a vantage point in eastern Elbert County.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds was a site for a drive-thru holiday lights extravaganza between Thanksgiving and New Year’s days. The display, provided by Utah-based Christmas in Color, had several banks of lights impacted by the Dec. 28 snowstorm that dropped several inches of snow along the Front Range and Eastern Plains. But the show went on, including Dec. 29 when the above and below photos were taken. The light show is one off three in Colorado with the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds hosting for the first time. Visitors could tune their radio to an FM signal and get a musical holiday experience as they passed by the various displays.



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- ♦ **2023 BYBSA Pink Sox Rec Softball & Strasburg Baseball** - Deadline February 14th
Practices begin in April in Strasburg. Games will be played the end of April-June on weeknights with the exception of 5/20 for baseball & EOS tournament June 24-25. Go to BYBSA.net/current-programs for more information and to register.

75 MEDIUM

CO latest state to press prez on Canada drug imports

by Phil Galewitz
Kaiser Health Network

The Biden administration is facing mounting pressure from states to let them import medicine from Canada to help lower prescription drug costs.

Colorado Dec. 5 became at least the fourth state to seek federal permission to use the strategy, following Florida, New Hampshire and New Mexico.

President Joe Biden has endorsed the approach, but his administration has yet to green-light a state plan.

“States have done the work, and the only thing preventing them from going ahead is the Biden administration,” said Jane Horvath, a health policy consultant who has worked with states on importation plans.

Health & Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told KHN Dec. 5 that the Biden administration welcomed applications for drug importation programs from Colorado and other states. But he would not pledge that the FDA would rule on any application in 2023.

Asked what his message was to states, he said: “Sign up and submit an application, and we will take a look and see if you are able to get through the process.”

Buyers in the United States pay among the highest prices in the world for brand-name pharmaceuticals. Drugs are generally less expensive in neighboring Canada, where the government controls prices.

Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. government declared that importing drugs from Canada could be done safely — satisfying a condition spelled out in a 2003 federal drug importation law. The Trump administration finalized rules in September 2020 for states to apply.

During his campaign for the White House, Biden said he would allow consumers to import



prescription drugs from other countries if the federal government certified those drugs as safe.

After Biden took office in 2021, he ordered the FDA to work with states to import prescription drugs from Canada. In a speech last year about reducing drug prices, he cited estimates by Colorado about how much money people in the state could save through importation.

Despite the administration’s public show of support, early applicants have been frustrated by the FDA’s inaction.

In August, almost two years after submitting its drug proposal, Florida sued the federal government, accusing the Biden administration of slow-walking its review. The federal government denied the accusation. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential Republican presidential contender for 2024, has championed the state’s effort.

In November, about three months after Florida sued, the FDA sent Florida a 15-page letter asking it to fill dozens of gaps in its plan. The letter asked whether the state wanted to withdraw its application and submit another.

In a December court filing, Florida said “suddenly conjuring so many supposed defects” in its proposal was another “stall tactic” by the govern-

ment.

New Hampshire Health & Human Services Department spokesperson Jake Leon said New Hampshire’s proposal was rejected because it did not identify a Canadian wholesaler to provide the drugs. He said the FDA told the state it could reapply when it found one.

New Mexico remains in discussions with the FDA, said David Morgan, a state Health Department spokesperson.

Other states have signaled interest in importation but have yet to seek federal approval.

The drug industry, wary that a government-organized importation program could eat into its profits, opposes the strategy and has argued it would circumvent controls that keep drugs safe in the U.S.

The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, the drug industry lobby known as PhRMA, sued the federal government in 2020 to block drug importation. That lawsuit is still pending. The Biden administration has argued in court that the lawsuit is invalid because it’s unclear when, if ever, the administration would approve a state’s importation plan.

Many brand-name drugs sold in the U.S. are already made abroad. In addition, millions of Americans have purchased lower-priced drugs from Canada and overseas through online pharmacies and by visiting other countries.

Colorado officials said their proposal aims to save residents and employers an average of 65% off the cost of dozens of medications, including drugs for diabetes, asthma and cancer.

Kim Bimestefer, executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, told *Kaiser Health Network* the state wants to disrupt the current drug pricing system in which manufacturers can charge as much as the market will bear. The FDA told state officials

SEE CANADA DRUGS PAGE 4

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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 CASE NO SD22-002, SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT /
 AMENDED AND RESTATED SERVICE PLAN (SD)**

PROPOSAL: South Metro Fire Rescue District has prepared an amended and restated service plan for the fire protection district to address changes that have occurred since the initial adoption of the service plan in 1967. These changes have been primarily geographic in nature and since 1967 the fire protection district boundaries have shifted and grown through consolidation and expansion with other fire protection districts. This amended and restated fire protection district service plan reflects the changes in geographic boundaries, population and demographics, finances, and services since the original district plan in 1967.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 17, 2023 the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St, Arapahoe Room, Centennial CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. SD22-002, South Metro Fire Rescue District / Amended and Restated Service Plan (SD). The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

More information about this proposal is available at the offices of the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St, Centennial CO 80112 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing planning@arapahoegov.com during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023.

Dead red-tailed hawk discovered at Barr Lake infested with bird flu

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Health Department learned Dec. 27 that two incidents involving wild birds resulted in a positive test for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), a type of influenza virus that infects birds specifically.

A deceased red-tailed hawk collected at Barr Lake State Park near Brighton was found to have HPAI. In addition, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment was notified by Colorado Parks & Wildlife that approximately 100 dead Canadian geese were discovered in an oil and gas pond in southwest Adams County. These birds were found frozen in the pond, and officials suspect they might also be positive for HPAI; however, their frozen state prevents a definite confirmation.

The strain of HPAI identified in these cases is highly contagious among birds and can spread rapidly to wild and domestic flocks. HPAI infection in birds causes severe disease and high death rates, particularly among flocks. The identification of HPAI in Adams County is not unexpected, as the current strain of H5N1 HPAI is actively circulating in all 50 states. The Colorado Department of Agriculture and Parks & Wildlife are the state agencies that monitor and conduct testing for HPAI infections.

Based on the incidents, an increase in HPAI in the Adams County region is assumed. Rarely, some strains of HPAI can cause infection and illness in humans. The current H5N1 strain of HPAI poses a very low risk to the public at this time.

“The Adams County Health Department is closely monitoring the situation involving the detection

of HPAI in wild birds in our county,” said Medical Officer Dr. Bernadette Albanese. “To protect you and your family’s health, residents in our communities should avoid any contact with sick and dying birds. Backyard flock owners should monitor their birds for sudden illness or death.”

Public health and wildlife monitoring are vital to ending the outbreak. Individual bird owners, including those in rural areas, can take action to help stop the spread of the HPAI virus, according to a release. The health department is encouraging bird owners to work to ensure domestic birds do not come into contact with wild birds and to keep poultry confined inside during the high-risk period of migratory bird activity.

Bird owners should also limit traffic on and off farms and use personal protective equipment and disinfection when caring for birds, the release concludes.

For current case counts among wild birds, domestic poultry, and humans, view the bird flu dashboard at www.cdc.gov.

REPORT DEAD BIRDS

Residents who find more than three dead wild birds within two weeks or see live birds showing unusual behavior should report their finding to Parks & Wildlife.

Backyard block owners and commercial bird facilities should watch for multiple sick domestic birds or multiple unusual heads among domestic birds and report their findings to the Colorado State Veterinarian’s Office at (303)869.9130 or the USDA-Veterinary Services Colorado Office at (303)231.5385.

CANADA DRUGS

FROM PAGE 3

it would take the agency six months to review its proposal, she said.

Colorado’s proposed plan would use an Ontario, Canada, wholesaler to send drugs through the border at Buffalo, N.Y., to an importer headquartered in Boise, Idaho. The drugs would be tested by an Ohio laboratory before being sent to pharmacies in Colorado and sold to residents and employers.

Colorado will add safety checks for drugs brought in from Canada, Bimestefer said. “We are highly confident of their quality and bullish on the savings,” she said of the Canadian drugs.

Colorado’s application said the state’s importation strategy faces not only resistance from drug manufacturers, but concerns on the part of pharmacies and the Canadian government.

Canadian officials have opposed U.S. import plans because they fear the efforts could lead to shortages in Canada. However, Bimestefer said Colorado would only bring in drugs if ample supply exists for both countries.

The Colorado Business Group on Health, which includes large employers, strongly favors importation but realizes the Biden administration is under pressure from groups that profit from the status quo, said Robert Smith, the coalition’s executive director.

He called concerns about patient safety a “red herring.”

“The one thing we know about health care is that it is driven by economic self-interests,” he said.

Kaiser Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues.

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Jared Polis acts in wake of temp refinery closure

DENVER — Activation of Colorado's state plan to provide temporary regulatory relief if a fuel supply chain risk due to the temporary shutdown of the Suncor oil refinery in Commerce City was authorized.

Such regulatory relief includes trucking hours, truck weight limits, and streamlined pipeline transporting regulations.

Gov. Jared Polis Dec. 31 verbally declared the activation of the State Emergency Operations Plan. The order directs the Office of Emergency Management to take necessary actions to assist affected jurisdictions with response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

Slash pile fires planned at Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

COMMERCE CITY — The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service began conducting pile-burning activities Jan. 9 on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Weather permitting, burns will be conducted between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Smoke may be visible and the area may smell of smoke.

The refuge burns piles of woody debris, also known as slash, to reduce hazardous fuels. The piles are made from the slash left after thinning trees, primarily including invasive species like Russian olive.

Certain criteria must be met to burn these piles, including smoke dispersal conditions, snow or other precipitation, adequate staffing, and fuel moisture. All pile burns are conducted within the requirements of a smoke permit issued by the state of Colorado.

Strasburg seniors group plans Jan. lunch meeting

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association will host a potluck starting at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

This month, Christina Pastori with the Prairie Creeks Indepen-

AdCo returns gov't bldgs to 5-day sked

BRIGHTON — Mondays are now open at Adams County government buildings.

The county resumed a five-day schedule for public hours at its buildings starting Jan. 3. The updated building schedule will continue to provide a regular 40-hour workweek for residents and employees, but residents will have more flexibility in utilizing in-person services.

Many programs and services are accessible at adcogov.org under the Save a Trip menu. The option allows residents to conduct their county business in the man-

ner most efficient for them. The county encourages residents to use the services, when possible, to minimize in-person visits.

"Moving to full public service hours at all Adams County locations is not only the right thing to do but will also provide additional access for residents," said County Manager Noel Bernal.

All Adams County government offices, including Riverdale Animal Shelter, will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 17.

dent Living Center will speak.

For more information, contact Mary Humphrey at (303)622-4695.

The group meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

30-day extension added to public health directive

DENVER — The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has extended Public Health Order 20-38 an additional 30 days, effective Jan. 1.

The extended order is unchanged. It includes hospital reporting requirements regarding bed capacity. It will expire at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 31 unless extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing.

For more information, visit covid19.colorado.gov.

Free monthly lunch on tap for local veterans, seniors

BENNETT — I-70 Corridor military veterans and senior citizens age 65 and older can receive a free lunch on the second Friday of each month at the Bennett VFW Hall.

The first meal is scheduled at 12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13.

Veterans and seniors from all along the I-70 Corridor are invited. Meals will be served by a group of local volunteer women.

For more information, call Flora Goodnight at (303)549-2589.

Christmas tree recycling available thru Adams Co.

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department is accepting live Christmas trees for recycling from sunrise to sunset through Sunday, Jan. 15, at Riverdale Regional Park.

Participants can follow signs at the park to the drop-off site.

Ornaments, tinsel, garlands, flock, nails and stands must be removed, and a limit of two trees per family applies. No tree limbs, yard waste or trees from commercial operations are allowed.

Riverdale Regional Park is located at 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, one mile west of Highway 85 on 124th Avenue.

For additional information, call the Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department at (303)637-8000.

AdCo adds new app to help its residents report issues

BRIGHTON — Adams County is now using an application that allows residents in unincorporated Adams County to report non-emergency issues to the county.

Through the SeeClickFix app, citizens can report potential code compliance violations such as overgrown weeds, trash, junk and inoperable vehicles.

To report issues directly to the county, downloaded the SeeClickFix app to an iPhone or Android device, or visit adcogov.org/report-issue.

Bennett proclaims winners of holiday lighting contest

BENNETT — Winners of the annual Town of Bennett Holiday Lighting Contest were judged by the Board of Trustees Dec. 20.

First place went to 985 Pinehurst Court; second to 525 Fourth St.; and third to 170 Hancock Court.

Honorable mentions were given to 425 Second St. and 49780 Antelope Drive W.

Bald Eagle Festival set for Barr Lake State Park

BRIGHTON — The 11th annual Bald Eagle Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, at Barr Lake State Park.

Nature's Educators will attend for live Bald Eagle presentations every 30 minutes. The presentation is free but donations to the organization will be greatly appreciated. Activities include kids crafts, a face painter, and shuttle rides to the gazebo.

A guided hike led by Barr Lake volunteers to the gazebo boardwalk will begin at 9 a.m.

The Barr Lake Nature Center is located at 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton. To register, visit cpw.state.co.us.

Bennett Arts Council seeks sponsors for 2023 season

BENNETT — The Bennett Arts Council is seeking sponsors for its upcoming 2023 season.

This year the council has updated sponsorship levels and benefits for residents and businesses alike, including a ticketed VIP event for all sponsorship levels and inclusion on a new donor wall.

The Bennett Arts Council supports free arts and cultural events in the Town of Bennett and on the I-70 Corridor.

For more information, visit townofbennett.colorado.gov.

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P.O. Box 829 • 1522 Main St., Strasburg, Colo. 80136
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Publisher & Editor
 Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

Office Manager
 LuAnne Stegner • lstegner@i-70scout.com

Managing Editor
 Steven Vetter • svetter@i-70scout.com

Staff Writers
 Kathy Smiley

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
 Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair,
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Brenda Lee Vetter



Brenda Lee Vetter, 49, of Strasburg, Colo., lost her battle to cancer on Friday, December 31, 2022 at Denver Hospice, Denver, CO. She was born May 18, 1973, in Denver, Colo., to Bruce and Myrna Vetter.

Brenda attended Strasburg schools from Kindergarten through her Senior year. Brenda played volleyball and basketball in high school, and had the honor of playing in the All Star basketball game her senior year. After graduating high school, she attended UNC, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Communications. Then, she worked at various companies as a Human Resources specialist.

Brenda enjoyed going to concerts, traveling, watching Duke basketball, and spending time with her family and friends. Brenda had an infectious smile and a magnetic personality. She never met a stranger.

She is survived by her father, Bruce (Sandi) Vetter; her sister, Stacy (Carl) Sondburg; brother, Wesley (Stephanie) Vetter; nieces Lexi Sondburg, Jaci Vetter and Delani Vetter; step-sister Meridee (Bud) Mears; step-brothers John Bartik and Robert (Kris) Bartik; and numerous other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother Myrna Armes.

Funeral services were held Jan. 7, 2023, at Mountain View Fellowship, Strasburg, CO, with interment at Mount View Cemetery, Bennett, CO.

Memorial contributions may be made to Journey Church, P.O. Box 503, Strasburg, CO 80102 or Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg, CO 80136.

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ArapCo, AdCo, Bennett seek recommendations for '23 Mayors & Commissioners youth awards

LITTLETON — The Arapahoe County Mayors & Commissioners Youth Awards is now taking nominations for the class of 2023.

This unique honor recognizes teenagers who have overcome obstacles and risen to challenges life has presented.

The award is dedicated to youth who live and attend school in Arapahoe County in traditional classroom settings, group homes and alternative schools, as well as emancipated youth. Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who have overcome different types of adversity and wish to pursue post-secondary education at vocational or two- or four-year schools.

Nominations typically come from teachers, counselors and other educators who are unrelated to the nominees, and all nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday, March 3. The awards will be presented at an in-person ceremony this spring.

High school seniors who live and attend school in Arapahoe County are eligible to receive a post-secondary educational scholarship for use in 2023.

Youth related to Arapahoe County employees are ineligible.

A committee comprised of coun-

Bennett wants applicants for Adams youth awards

BENNETT — The town of Bennett is seeking nominations for this year's Adams County Mayors & Commissioners Youth Awards.

The program recognizes youth in the sixth through 12th grades, up to 20 years old, who have overcome personal adversity to create positive change in their lives. Anyone who knows a deserving young person who has risen to the challenges while maintaining a positive attitude and serving as a role model for other teens can submit a nomination, due no later than Tuesday, Jan. 31.

To nominate a student, contact Denise Taylor at dtaylor@bennett.co.us.

ty elected officials within Arapahoe County will review applications and make recommendations for the awards.

For more information, contact Daniela Villarreal at dvillarreal@arapahoegov.com.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

Deer Trail Conservation District Board. 1 p.m. Schedule and meeting location subject to change during COVID restrictions. E-mail deertraileastadams@gmail.com for current information.

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership. 11:45 a.m., via Zoom. Visit I-70reap.com for meeting ID.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" showing hosted by Deer Trail School PTO. 6 p.m.

Eastern Colorado Honor Band concert. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.

MONDAY, JAN. 16

East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m. Schedule and location subject to change. E-mail to deertraileastadams@gmail.com for current information.

Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Board. 6 p.m., TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave. Call (303)622-4260 for information.

Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning Meeting Agendas page at townofbennett.colorado.gov for information.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17

Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location updates.

EVERY THURSDAY

Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

Gaming Club: Patrons ages 7 and up will play video and competitive games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m. For more information, call (303)903-6734.

EVERY FRIDAY

Storytime: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com. Click on "virtual events."

Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m., Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg, east entrance. For more information, call (303)644-4899.

EVERY SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. For more information, call (303)903-6734.

EVERY MONDAY

Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. New players welcome. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hp-memusicdirector@gmail.com or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.

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Colo. State Board passes inclusive social studies standards

by Erica Meltzer
Chalkbeat Colorado

Colorado social studies lessons must include the experiences and contributions of diverse groups: Latino, Indigenous, African American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, religious minorities, and LGBTQ people.

In a series of recent 4-3 party line votes in November, Democrats on the Colorado State Board of Education approved social studies standards with an expansive view of the American story and who has a place in it. The decision restored many specific references that had been cut from the draft standards in response to negative feedback from conservatives.

And the board also voted unanimously to make changes to standards that guide instruction about the Holocaust and genocide, clarifying that the Nazi Party was fascist, not socialist, and adding historic and contemporary atrocities to the list of what students should know.

The decision moves Colorado in the opposite direction of states under Republican control that are passing laws to limit how teachers can talk about race, gender and sexuality and also to limit how they can support students.

The State Board heard months of debate and received hundreds of e-mails about the standards.

Conservative parents said the standards would divide students by race and ethnicity and introduce ideas about sex and gender at a young age, potentially in violation of parents' values. Republican board members largely agreed.

In response, a standards committee made up

of teachers, community members, and other experts stripped out many specific references in favor of terms like "diverse groups" and "marginalized perspectives."

After those changes, other groups, including parents, students and teachers, rallied in defense of the more inclusive and specific version of the standards. They said students would benefit from seeing themselves in the curriculum and in American history.

In particular, queer youth said they would have understood themselves better and feared less for their futures if they had learned about gay or transgender people living full lives and contributing to their communities. They also want their peers to understand them better.

"My existence is not political," said Reina Hernandez, a trans Latina student at Cherry Creek High School. "It's simply been politicized to pursue a political agenda. Will you support my right as a student to exist publicly?"

NEW STANDARDS NAME GROUPS, REQUIRE SPECIFICS

The State Board restored most of the cut material, with some formatting changes to reduce repetition.

In preschool, rather than asking students, "Why is it important to hear and share multiple diverse perspectives?" a teacher would ask, "Why is it important to hear what friends from different backgrounds (e.g. cultures, races, languages, religions, family composition) have to say?"

In eighth grade, rather than ask students to "analyze evidence from multiple sources including those with conflicting accounts about specific events in both Colorado and United States

history," the standard names the perspectives that should be considered: "Indigenous Peoples, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and African American perspectives on Western colonization and enslavement, Asian American and Latinos' perspectives on immigration, the Indian Removal Act, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Sand Creek Massacre."

Republicans focused their concerns on references in early grades to LGBTQ people. One preschool standard says students should show interest in interacting with and developing relationships with people from a range of backgrounds, and names LGBTQ people among other groups.

Democratic board members said this situation would look like children sharing freely about their families and bringing in family photos, whether they have a mom and a dad or two dads. Republican board member Steve Durham countered with the example of drag queen story time sessions held at some libraries.

He described the standards as "anti-parent" and some parents in the audience agreed.

Mary Goodley described teaching her toddler to sit, then walk, then run, and said teaching younger children about the contributions of members of the LGBTQ community would be like asking them to run before they could sit. She imagined her child entering school, learning about a notable leader in the LGBTQ community, and then wondering what LGBTQ means.

"I don't want my child's first grade teacher to introduce him to these vast sexual complexities,"

SEE SOCIAL STUDIES PAGE 8

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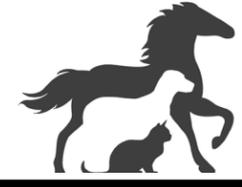
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THANK YOU!





Dear Family, Friends, and Community,

I cannot believe the year we just had! The Toy Drive was amazing, and it couldn't have been done without all your guys' support. To give a quick recap of this year, I had Payton Lasecke be the Toy Drive's ambassador, and I could not believe the results we all produced! At the beginning of October, I wrote the announcement letter for the toy drive, sent it to her and my mother, and Payton got it out there in the community within weeks! She was a great person to have as this year's ambassador, and I could not be more grateful. We ended up with 3,100 toys, which is incredible! We did not expect to end with that many, but we could not be happier with the results! This is all due to the awesome family, friends and community I have surrounding me; this quite literally could not be done without you all being there since day one. I love and thank you all for everything these past 13 years, and it brings tears to my eyes to see how successful this Toy Drive has gotten. This Toy Drive means everything to my family and I, and the fact that you all are behind us and allowing us to keep honoring my brother means the world to us. I love you all and am blessed to have every single one of you in my life!

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Mo, Tu, Th 9AM-5PM
303.261.8853
Info@calvarybennett.org
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Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
Or by Appointment

OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS

SOCIAL STUDIES

FROM PAGE 7

Goodley said. “Teaching children about particular sex and gender notions is a clear violation of parental rights ... and decreases trust in the public education model.”

And parent Janelle Rumley said the idea that students need to see themselves in the curriculum disturbed her, because it suggests white children like her own couldn't be inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. or Harriet Tubman.

But other parents said, without specifics in the standards, their communities' history just doesn't get taught.

Maria Guadalupe Cardoza said she has nine children in the Boulder Valley school district, and “the only thing my children learn about our history is from people of their same color.”

Hernandez, the Cherry Creek student, has been working to develop a class that would cover LGBTQ issues and ethnic studies. Convincing administrators the topics are as important as other academic subjects has been hard, she said. Having social studies standards that list by name the groups whose stories should be told would help students make their case.

“For a very long time, I was scared of who I was,” she said. “With education, it helps.”

STANDARDS AIMED TO SHAPE, NOT DICTATE, INSTRUCTION

Colorado does not set curriculum or choose textbooks at the state level. That will be up to school districts. The standards lay out what students are supposed to know, and school districts usually try to pick curriculum that aligns with state standards. However, little enforcement occurs, especially in subjects like social studies.

The State Board was required to

update the social studies standards to comply with several new state laws that require the inclusion of more diverse perspectives in social studies, call for more robust civics instruction, and make learning about the Holocaust and genocide a graduation requirement.

All three requirements became politically contentious. Republican board member Deb Scheffel wanted Colorado civics standards to be based on the conservative American Birthright standards, an idea Democrats rejected. And Durham shaped the standards around the Holocaust and genocide to associate Nazis with socialism and emphasize the dangers of left-wing governments, leading history teachers, Jewish groups, and others to call for changes.

Also in November, the State Board voted unanimously to make changes to the genocide standards before finalizing the social studies standards.

After reading a quote in which Hitler attacked Jews for being capitalists, Durham voted with other board members to add the word fascist to the description of the Nazi Party at the suggestion of board member Rebecca McClellan.

Board members also voted unanimously to restore references to Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur that had been lost and, at the suggestion of Board Chair Angelika Schroeder, added a requirement that students learn about the Sand Creek massacre as a genocide.

“I don't want people to think with all the -isms that this only happens in other countries,” Schroeder said.

Bureau Chief Erica Meltzer covers education policy and politics and oversees Chalkbeat Colorado's education coverage. Contact Erica at emeltzer@chalkbeat.org.

Preschool provider registration opens

DENVER — In the first week alone, 250 providers signed up to offer more than 12,000 preschool openings for Universal Preschool Colorado, the state Department of Early Childhood announced Dec. 20.

Universal Preschool Colorado is the state-funded high-quality, voluntary mixed delivery preschool program available to every Colorado child in the year prior to kindergarten, the department said in a release.

“Hundreds of high-quality early childhood providers are now one step closer to opening their doors to Colorado kids and families for free, universal preschool,” said Gov. Jared Polis. “This exciting milestone is

part of the bold work we are doing to make universal preschool a reality in Colorado, and we encourage school districts and community preschools to register today.”

Universal Preschool Colorado launches in the fall of 2023. All providers who are licensed to support preschool-aged children can participate in UPK Colorado. They should contact their Local Coordinating Organization to begin the registration process, the release continues. To participate, providers must sign a provider agreement.

Once registered, providers can build out their profiles to advertise their services.

The family enrollment process launches at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17.

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| 29 | \$15.50 | \$29.00 | \$40.50 | \$40.50 |
| 30 | \$15.75 | \$29.50 | \$41.25 | \$41.25 |
| 31 | \$16.00 | \$30.00 | \$42.00 | \$42.00 |
| 32 | \$16.25 | \$30.50 | \$42.75 | \$42.75 |
| 33 | \$16.50 | \$31.00 | \$43.50 | \$43.50 |
| 34 | \$16.75 | \$31.50 | \$44.25 | \$44.25 |
| 35 | \$17.00 | \$32.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 |
| 36 | \$17.25 | \$32.50 | \$45.75 | \$45.75 |
| 37 | \$17.50 | \$33.00 | \$46.50 | \$46.50 |
| 38 | \$17.75 | \$33.50 | \$47.25 | \$47.25 |
| 39 | \$18.00 | \$34.00 | \$48.00 | \$48.00 |
| 40 | \$18.25 | \$34.50 | \$48.75 | \$48.75 |
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Simply fill out this form and mail it with a check payable to The I-70 Scout at P.O. Box 829, Strasburg, CO 80136 or drop it off at our office located at 1522 Main Street, Strasburg (north of Plains Heating building). Ads must be received by Friday at 12:00 p.m. for publication in the following Tuesday's edition.

Please Note:

Ads are charged by the word. Please spell out all words. Any abbreviated words will be spelled out for publication. Abbreviated words, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and websites count as 1 word. Hyphenated words count as 2 words (i.e. part-time).

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.
(303)405-3231
anythinklibraries.org

After-school Art Box Mini Paintings: Kids ages 7-14 will use tiny materials to make tiny paintings to fill the Free Little Art Box at the library entrance. 4:15-5:15 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Kids Adventure Yoga: Children ages 2-6 can practice yoga with local instructor Scott Noble, using their imagination to explore movement through stories, songs and play. The class will focus on yoga poses (and noises) related to animals. Caregivers are encouraged to participate. Yoga mats provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 12.

Teen video production workshops: SeriesFest's Mobile Cinema Lab will visit Anythink Bennett to present this weekly program. Kids ages 12-18 will work in teams to write, produce and edit their own short films and TV pilots. They will learn to utilize the latest filmmaking technology with SeriesFest expert instructors. Participants are encouraged to attend the full, three-week series. Prizes will be awarded for recurring attendance. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturdays, Jan. 14, 21 and 28.

Coffee & Cards: Adults will drink coffee, eat snacks and play hearts, poker, cribbage, Farkel and other games. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13.

Anime club: Fandom friends ages 14 and up will watch, read and discuss all things anime and manga with new projects, activities and discussion topics each month. Snacks provided. 3:30-5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14.

Yoga in the Stacks: Adults will join

Zoom talk with noted author planned

BRIGHTON — An award-winning and bestselling author of more than 20 novels will speak via the Zoom platform at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, and patrons of Anythink Bennett library are invited to participate.

Novelist Kristin Hannah, author of blockbusters such as "The Nightingale" and "The Great Alone," will discuss her latest book, "The Four Winds," a "Read with Jenna" book club selection. A moderated question-and-answer session about her books will follow the presentation.

Each attendee can receive one free book, courtesy of the author, while supplies last. Recipients must attend to obtain a book. Additional copies of Hannah's books are available from The Bookies at thebookies.com.

To register or for more information, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)542-7279.

The movie adaptation of "The Nightingale" is slated for release early this year and "The Great



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Movie versions of two of Kristin Hannah's novels — "The Nightingale" and "The Great Alone" — are in the works.

"Alone" also has been optioned for the big screen.

Hannah's other titles include "Winter Garden," "Night Road" and "Firefly Lane."

local yoga instructor Scott Noble and practice yoga poses that focus on alignment, stability and flexibility. Mats provided. All skill levels welcome. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 3-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14.

Pokémon Trainer League: Kids ages 7-14 will play, trade and discuss all things Pokémon. They can bring their own cards or use a library deck. Snacks provided. 4:15-5:15 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Baby Social Hour and Footprint Crafts:

Parents with infants up to age 1 year old who want to meet and socialize with other new parents are invited to hang out and play with their little ones in baby circle time activities. They will also make foot and hand print keepsakes. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19.

Artist meetup: The Corridor Creative Arts League will ring in the New Year with its reintroduction, updates and challenges. Adults will learn what the CCAL has in store for 2023. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21.

Sled Dog Talk: Karen Land, a three-time participant in the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, and her dogs will teach people of all ages how to dress for the Arctic and care for a team of huskies. 10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Kids Adventure Yoga: Children ages 2-6 can practice yoga with local instructor Scott Noble, using their imagination to explore movement through stories, songs and play. The class will focus on yoga poses (and noises) related to animals. Caregivers are encouraged to participate. Yoga mats provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 26.

Pop-Up Studio: The Studio at Anythink is guided by the philosophy that customers of all ages thrive

when they follow their passions, collaborate with others, and become creative. Anythink's Studio team will explore and create using different technology and tools each month. 1-5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26.

Gel printing workshop: The Corridor Creative Arts League, Anythink Bennett and the Bennett Arts Council will host a gel printing workshop for ages 16 and older with local artist Angie Perryman. The fun and addictive technique is easy for artists of any level. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. The program will run from 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 E. Colfax Ave.

KELVER LIBRARY

585 Main St., Byers
(303)822-9392
www.arapahoelibraries.org

DIY framed key holder: Adults are invited to create a creative and stylish framed key ring. All supplies included. 1-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14.

Gentle Movement: Members of the Byers community can connect with each other while learning light exercises to remain active in the new year. The guest presenter is an expert in gentle movement. Each month features a different subject. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Bug Safari: Families and children ages 5-12 years old can join a bug safari with the Butterfly Pavilion. They will meet invertebrates from environments worldwide and learn more about their characteristics, living environment and importance. 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21.

DAVIES LIBRARY

128 Second Ave., Deer Trail
(303)769-4310
www.arapahoelibraries.org

Friday matinee: All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of "Turning Red" (2022, rated PG, 100 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13.

DIY tea blending: Tweens and teens ages 9-18 can learn the basics of blending loose leaf teas to suit personal tastes. They will make several personalized blends to take home. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Cardboard construction: Children ages 5-12 years can explore cardboard and construction through STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Families with children might find that STEAM makes learning fun. 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26.

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— Henry Ford

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Open First Saturday of Each Month

CHUCK WAGON



Mexican Pizzazz Pizza

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The Scout

Once upon a time, when PepsiCo owned Taco Bell, Pizzazz Pizza was a popular menu item. After many years, for whatever reason, the pizza was no longer offered. Since September, it is back on the menu with a new name, Mexican Pizza.

This recipe for **Mexican Pizzazz Pizza** is a variation of that Taco Bell fan-favorite.

You can mix pizza sauce with enchilada sauce to get more of the original taste. I dot the tops with salsa instead of tomatoes to enhance the flavor.

This recipe makes four individual pizzas requiring two baking sheets. You might have extra sauces and ingredients left over.

Refrigerate leftovers in covered containers. I use them to make Mexican style chili for another meal.

Ahhh. We meet again.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon frying oil
- 1 tablespoon butter

- 8 flour tortillas
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- 1 cup refried beans, warmed
- 1 cup Mexican cheese blend
- 1 cup red enchilada sauce
- ½ cup chunky salsa
- 2 green onions, sliced
- ¼ cup chopped nacho chilies

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 375 degrees. In skillet, brown beef. Drain grease, if needed.

Stir in onions, seasoning, refried beans, half of the cheese, salsa.

Align four tortillas on lined baking sheet. Spread hamburger mixture over each. Cover with remaining tortillas. Spoon enchilada sauce on tops of each. Sprinkle with remaining cheese, salsa, green onions, nacho chilies.

Bake 8-10 minutes until heated through and cheese melts. Slice in wedges and serve on pretty plates.

Bobbie Keefer is a resident of Byers. Watch for more of her recipes in the Eastern Colorado News.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Tuesday, Jan. 10: Turkey meatballs and gravy, dinner roll.

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Mini corn dogs, dinner roll.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Boneless chicken chompers, chips.

Monday, Jan. 16: Chicken patty sandwich.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Walking beef taco, shredded lettuce and cheese, taco sauce.

BENNETT

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Sweet & sour chicken, seasoned rice, broccoli, pears, fortune cookie.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Tuscan chicken sandwich, carrots with ranch, orange.

Monday, Jan. 16: Cowboy burger, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, cookie.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Chicken fajita spaghetti, Texas toast, salad with cherry tomato, peaches.

BYERS

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Chicken tacos, cornbread, baby carrots with ranch, peaches.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Chili, cinnamon

rolls, corn, applesauce.

Friday, Jan. 13: Sloppy joes, Tater Tots, baked beans, pears.

Monday, Jan. 16: No school.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Walking taco, refried beans, carrots, mixed fruit.

DEER TRAIL

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Chicken fried rice, Goldfish, carrots and dressing, grapes.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Cheeseburgers, chips, broccoli, mixed fruit.

Monday, Jan. 16: Pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, string cheese, apple sauce.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Grilled chicken wraps, tomatoes with ranch, chips, mixed fruit.

STRASBURG

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Chicken fajitas.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Waffles, sausage with egg patties.

Friday, Jan. 13: Mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce.

Monday, Jan. 16: No school.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Corn dogs with chips.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



All County offices will be closed on **Monday, Jan. 16** in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

Visit arapahoegov.com/calendar



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



After 44 years of sharing public health resources with its neighbors, Arapahoe County, on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023 opened the doors to its own, single-county Public Health department.

Visit arapahoegov.com/health for details or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



2023 Nominations

Nominations for the Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards, a scholarship program for exceptional high school seniors, are now open. Deadline for submissions is **March 3**.

Visit arapahoegov.com/youthawards



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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, emergency personnel assess how to extricate a damaged semi and trailer that jackknifed in the median of I-70 at Bennett after a mid-morning collision Jan. 6. The second semi, right photo, was able to drive away from the scene with minimal damage to the driver's side back corner of the trailer.

SEMI CRASH

FROM PAGE 1

ing the right lane from the shoulder when the Kenworth (vehicle 2) struck the rear of the first trailer.

"Vehicle #1 came to a controlled stop in the right lane just after impact," the State Patrol's report said. "Vehicle #2 went off of the left side

of the roadway [and down] into the median where it came rest."

The wreckage of the second semi spanned across the entire median with the cab protruding into the inside lane of eastbound I-70 and the trailer partially blocking the inside

westbound lane of the interstate.

After the second vehicle's driver was safely extricated, he was airlifted to a Denver area hospital with serious injuries, but the State Patrol spokesman said the following morning that the injuries weren't thought to be life-threatening. He was said to have been wearing his seat belt, which State Patrol officials said likely helped him avoid fatal injury.

The driver of the first semi, a 53-year-old male from Denver, was uninjured and drove his rig away from the scene.

Both directions of I-70 were shut-down until early afternoon with backups in both directions spanning up to two miles. Traffic heading both ways were redirected to the off-ramps where they were mostly detoured to Highway 36. Another significant traffic logjam of at least

a mile long occurred on the south-east lane of the old highway between Bennett and Lady Bird Hill.

The first reopened lane of traffic was the outside lane of eastbound I-70 about 12 p.m. with the second lane in the same direction cleared just after 1:30 p.m. Both directions of the interstate were fully reopened about 3:10 p.m. A handful of tow trucks were required to right the wreckage and remove it from the scene.

Hazardous material teams were originally called to the scene but fuel spillage was minimal with only one saddle tank reportedly compromised.

"Everything was cleared up about 4 p.m.," the State Patrol said. "Very lucky with that and that there weren't more vehicles involved or a lot more damage and worse injuries."

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CORE Electric Co-operative announces new local gov't, biz relations manager

SEDALIA — CORE Electric Co-operative (CORE) is pleased to announce the hiring of Angie Bedolla as the Local Government and Business Relations Manager.

As the Local Government and Business Relations Manager, Bedolla will be responsible for managing and expanding CORE's relationships with governmental partners and key accounts to ensure alignment and support through expanded programs, economic growth, and the changing energy landscape. She will also support efforts to identify future power needs for commercial and industrial members.



Bedolla

Bedolla joins CORE after five years at Xcel Energy, where she was an account manager focused on electric sustainability, energy ef-

ficiency, electric vehicle initiatives, and demand response programs. She was previously in corporate economic development at Xcel Energy and was an economic development specialist at Adams County Economic Development.

Angie served as Councilwoman for the city of Thornton, representing Ward 4, in 2020 and 2021, where she initiated and fast-tracked grant programs for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also supported redevelopment, business attraction and expansion, and business support services to the existing business community.

"Angie's background in both the utility and economic development spaces is a tremendous asset to our cooperative," said Rob Osborn, CORE's business development Director. "Her ability to support stakeholders and key accounts will benefit not only CORE but the regions we serve now and in the future."

FILL-UP SPECIAL

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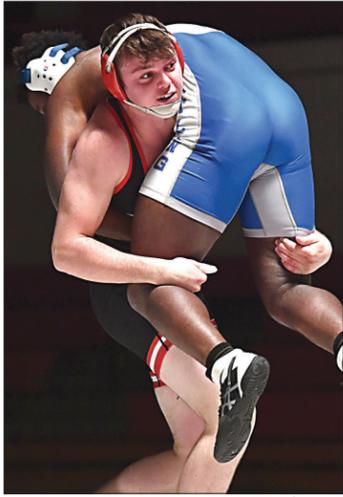
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SPORTS



RICHARD SOUTHARD/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, Strasburg's Egen Stephens picks up Thornton's David Williams during his pinfall victory at 215 pounds during a Jan. 5 home triangular that also included Byers. From center photo, Bulldogs Torin Wardall and Riley Robinson both recorded their first-ever high school victories on Thursday against Thornton.

Bulldogs sweep duals at 'Burg triangular

STRASBURG — While Byers came back from break winning both of its duals at a triangular at Strasburg Jan. 5, the host Indians went 0-2.

After winning four of six matches and beating Thornton 36-24, the green-and-white defeated Strasburg 45-30. The Indians fell to Thornton 36-24.

"And we were without three of our kids, so we could have won by more," said Byers head coach Jon Yapoujian.

"Pretty disappointing, a lot of matches we lost we should have won," lamented Strasburg head

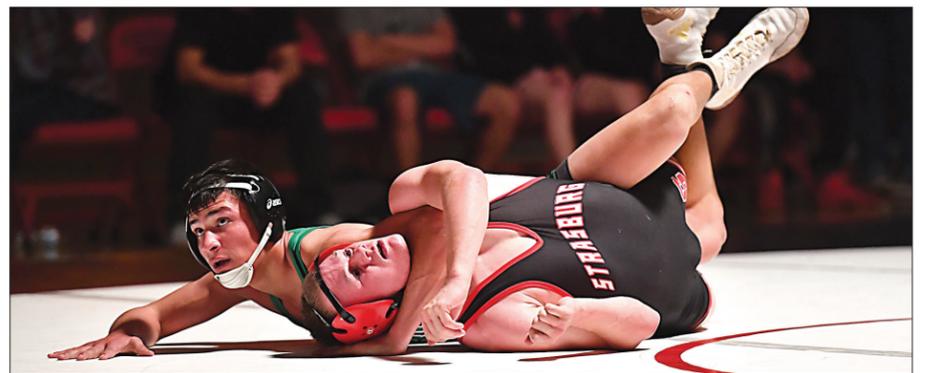
coach Jordan Ross.

The feature bout was at 144 pounds between a pair of local, top-seeded, two-time state champions.

Bulldog senior Lain Yapoujian defeated Strasburg senior Zach Marrero 5-2.

Yapoujian, the top-ranked 2A wrestler at 150 pounds, dropped a weight to grapple with Marrero, No. 1 at 144 in 3A.

For additional coverage from last week, including Bennett's open duals and invitational tournament on Friday and Saturday, respectively, see the Jan. 13 *Eastern Colorado News*.



RICHARD SOUTHARD/For The Scout

Byers' Kaiden Powell puts Strasburg's Zach Rushman in a precarious predicament during the Jan. 5 triangular on the Indians' home mat. Powell was behind through much of the first two periods before pinning Rushman with 20 seconds left in the second.



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

WHO SAYS BASKETBALL IS A NON-CONTACT SPORT? — Lady Eagle Megan Donovan gets a face full of an Arickaree defender's arm and elbow Jan. 4.

Lady Eagle comeback falls short

by Marysue Hauser
For The Scout

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail varsity girls came back from Christmas break Jan. 4 with a close, hard-fought game that ended with a 41-35 loss to the visiting Arickaree Lady Bison.

With a little over a minute left in the first half, the Lady Eagles were trailing 17-7. Deer Trail managed

SEE GB DEER TRAIL
PAGE 14

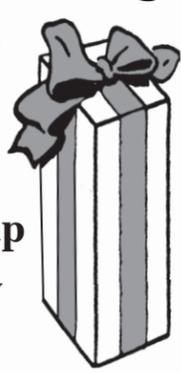


CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Lady Eagle Jeanette Rodriguez shoots against Arickaree.

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Best wishes in 2023!
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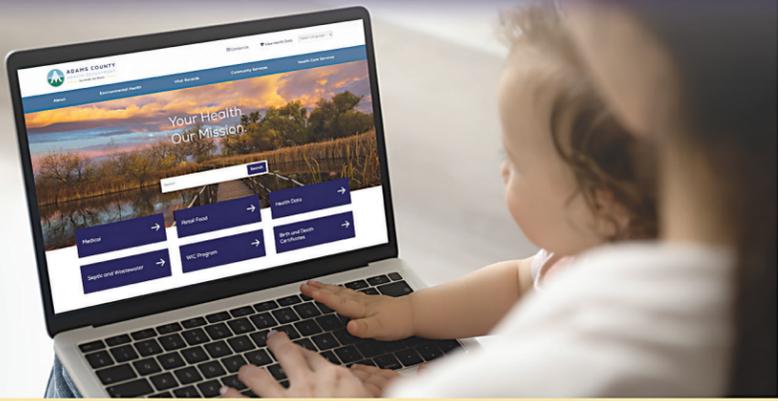
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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

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Visit adamscountyhealthdepartment.org or scan the QR code for important public health updates and information around major initiatives and developments.



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CHRISTMAS TREE
RECYCLING



Adams County is offering free recycling for live Christmas trees. Residents may drop off their Christmas trees now through Sunday, Jan. 15, at Riverdale Regional Park, 9755 Henderson Rd., Brighton, from sunrise to sunset. Signs will direct residents to the self drop-off site.

Ornaments, tinsel, garlands, flock, nails, and stands must be removed before trees are dropped off. There is a limit of two trees per family. Please note: tree limbs, yard waste, or trees from commercial operations will not be accepted.

For additional information, residents are encouraged to call the Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department at 303.637.8000.

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CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Eagle Ivan Paredes crashes to the floor in an effort to keep possession of the ball against Arickaree Jan. 4.

DT boys unable to stop Bison

by Marysue Hauser
For The Scout

The Deer Trail Eagles came back from Christmas break with a 70-28 loss to the Arickaree Bison Jan. 4. Their record so far this season stands at 2-2.

Throughout the first half, the Eagles played hard against Arickaree, but they slowly fell behind. Deer Trail ended the first half with a disadvantage of 40-13.

“We didn’t really fight for position for defensive and offensive rebounds. That’s something that we’ve been working on ever since that game,” said Deer Trail head coach Kyle Dasenbrock. “That’s the main thing that I think we need to work on. If we did that, I don’t think the score would’ve looked like it did.”

The visiting team out-rebounded the host Eagles, doubling their rebounds exactly, 34-17. Sikuea “C Square” Samate led Deer Trail on the boards with six rebounds.

“C Square definitely stood out that night, playing as hard as he could the whole night,” Dasenbrock said. “That’s the best thing that we did — we never stopped hustling

and going all out from the time the ball was tipped until the end of the game. The other coach said that he has never played a team that played as hard as we did. That was something that I was very proud of.”

In addition to Samate leading the team in rebounds, he was one of the team’s top scorers with 5 points. Sophomore Ivan Peredez added 7 points and led the team with 8 steals. Freshman Dillon Ward was the Eagles’ top scorer with 9 points. He also chipped in with three rebounds.

On defense, Deer Trail forced 27 Arickaree turnovers and drew four charges against the visiting Bison.

“There has been a huge improvement in our man-to-man (defensive) principles and I think it showed when we attempted to draw around eight charges, and ended up getting four charging calls,” Dasenbrock said. “But I mean, give credit to Arickaree, they are a very talented team. I think this game was a good opportunity to show what adversity is like and try to fight through that.”

COMING UP
Jan. 10: Idalia.
Jan. 12: @ Kiowa.
Jan. 17: Colorado Deaf & Blind.

GB DEER TRAIL

FROM PAGE 13

to gain some points with two free throws and a quick layup, but the Bison were still in the lead. Arickaree fired back with a well-executed offense and a 3-pointer with only 6 seconds left, bringing the score to 20-11 at the break.

“I think we came out in the first half pretty flat, we had a little time off and it showed,” said Deer Trail head coach Phillip Donovan. “In the second half, however, I was very pleased with our play. I’m super proud of the girls and the heart that they played with. I thought that it was pretty amazing.”

In the second half, the Eagles fought back and managed to close the gap by a significant amount.

Towards the end of the third quarter, senior Alex Donovan completed a three-point play with a free throw after she was fouled on a layup to close the gap to 26-22.

“(Senior) Alex Donovan and (sophomore) Allena Sanchez-Neal definitely stood out because of stats, and they played solid throughout the game,” Donovan said. “However, I really think that the team as a whole showed a lot of heart. ... It was a really good team effort.”

Alex Donovan led the scoring for Deer Trail, tallying 15 points and



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Lady Eagle Jaden Gudenukauf drives the baseline against Arickaree Jan. 4, hitting three-of-three from the free-throw line. Sanchez-Neal was the second-highest scorer, putting up 9 points and adding three steals. Junior Ally Hardwick and freshman Megan Donovan contributed with four and seven rebounds, respectively.

“Arickaree definitely played hard, but I am proud of my team for playing with so much heart,” Donovan said. “For future games, I would say that we need to make sure that we stick to our game and do what we know we can do when it comes to our play.”

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Volume 108, Number 26 FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023

Eastern Colorado News

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Snow blankets area first 2 nights of '23

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

A pair of overnight snows blanketed much of the I-70 Corridor with between 3-5 inches of snow and provided commuters with treacherous travel conditions the morning of Jan. 3.

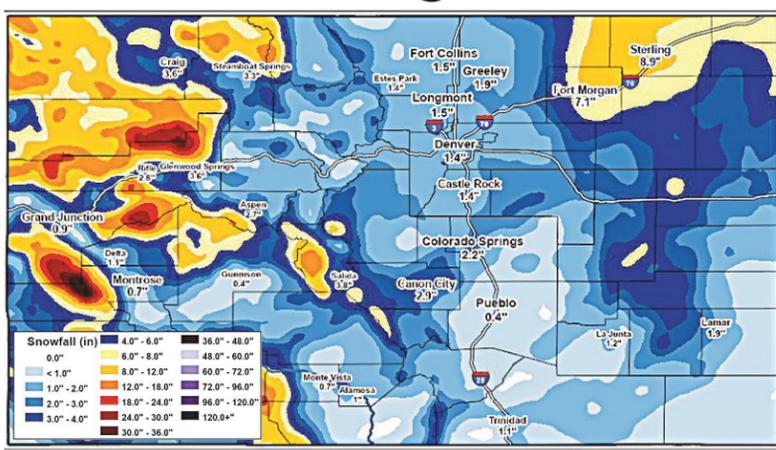
Area weather reports from both Sunday and Monday nights ranged mostly between 1-2 inches with a couple of anomalies — most notably 4 inches of new white stuff falling at Cabin Creek overnight on Sunday and 3-plus inches in and around Strasburg and Bennett Monday night.

According to the National Weather Service's Boulder

office, the I-70 Corridor's two-day snow accumulation was approximately double of what most of the Front Range received but about half of the northeastern corner of the state, which included almost 9 inches falling in and around Sterling. Parts of the seven most northeastern Colorado counties reported between 6-10 inches of snow from 5 a.m. Jan. 1 through 5 a.m. Jan. 3.

While the Corridor's standing snow level has grown beyond the footmark in many places, the most recent storm accounted for only about 0.1 inches of moisture per

SEE STORMS
PAGE 20



Much of the I-70 Corridor received 4-5 inches of snow over separate storms Jan. 1 and Jan. 2. The two-day accumulation was mostly twice what the Front Range received but about half of what the northeastern corner of the state reported.



The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds was a site for a drive thru holiday lights extravaganza between Thanksgiving and New Year's. The display, provided by Utah-based Christmas in Color, had several banks of lights impacted by the Dec. 28 snowstorm that dropped several inches of snow along the Front Range and Eastern Plains. The above photo of a snowman family was taken Dec. 29.

Cracked water pipes shut down Strasburg Elementary kitchen

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The abnormally cold conditions that draped Colorado during most schools' Christmas break took its toll at one I-70 Corridor school district.

According to Strasburg Superintendent Dan Hoff, 13 pipes running under the elementary school cafeteria cracked during the two-week holiday vacation, eliminating hot meals for Strasburg elementary and high school students when they returned to class Jan. 4.

"We are providing sack breakfasts and lunches for the first week back to school for the elementary and high school," said Hoff Wednesday morning, adding that efforts to repair the issues are moving forward. "The return of teachers and staff on Tuesday and students on Wednesday was not impacted because affected areas are not widespread."

In his Jan. 2 memo to district students and families, Hoff added, "Please use this message as an opportunity to be aware and prepare your stu-

SEE FROZEN PIPES
PAGE 4

Agate School in process of revising 2022-23 budget

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AGATE — A significant decrease in student count after the school year started is forcing the I-70 Corridor's smallest school district to re-vamp its current budget mid-year.

During the Dec. 19 Agate School Board meeting, Finance Director Keith Yaich said that the Colorado Department of Education's formal student count in October of 72.5 full-

time equivalents was down from the district's originally budgeted figure of 79 and that the reduction in state revenue requires the district to revamp its 2022-23 budget.

"We even budgeted for 10 kids less than we had at the end of last year. At the last minute, we even took five kids off from where we thought we would be," Yaich said. "But we lost several kids that started the year here but left before October count. We lost a lot of students who were

kids of staff that left. Overall, we are at a decrease of about 20 students from last year."

According to Yaich, the revamping of the budget isn't expected to impact the district significantly but is forcing the distribution of monies in some accounts.

"Financially, the school is still in good shape," Yaich said. "Pretty amazing shape actually with 7-8 months worth of expenses in our reserves," he said.

Many auditors say school districts are fiscally healthy with four or five months of expenses in reserves, he added.

When asked if the district should be even more conservative when estimating its annual budget, Yaich said that going too far can be an issue in one specific area.

"If you shoot too low, then you have to worry about employees and

SEE AGATE BOE
PAGE 4

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO JANUARY 7, 2003

Home foreclosures jumped 60.5% in Adams and Arapahoe counties in 2002, but the foreclosure rate isn't nearly as high as it was in the late 1980s.

Adams County advanced 64.3% from 700 in 2001 to 1,313 in 2002 and Arapahoe County increased 57.5% from 1,000 to 1,575.

The number of foreclosures in Adams County is at its highest level since the late 1980s, said Don DiFlore, the 2003 president of the Aurora Association of Realtors.

Adams County reported 2,690 home foreclosures in 1988, a county high, and Arapahoe reported a record 4,624 in 1987.

"It's been especially common in the last 90 days — we have seen a huge jump in days (houses stay) on the market," DiFlore said.

In the late '90s, many homes would sell within five or six days of being put on the market, he said. Today, homes averaging more than 50 days on the market. As a result, people who counted on selling their homes rather than foreclosing have to wait, and losing their homes to foreclosure.

15 YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 2008

Residents in the far eastern portions of Adams and Arapahoe counties could face stricter vehicle

regulations and other encumbrances because of the Denver-metro area's inability to comply with federal ozone regulations.

On July 23, the nine-county Denver region violated federal standards for eight-hour ground-level ozone standards, and, on Nov. 20, the Environmental Protection Agency formally designated the region an "ozone nonattainment area."

With that designation came a mandate for the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to develop an ozone management plan to be turned into the EPA for federal approval by April 2009. Part of that plan was expected to include the expansion of emissions testing, burn bans and dust mitigation requirements for all of Arapahoe and Adams counties.

An EPA release said a number of ozone violations between 2005 and mid-2007 led to the decision.

10 YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 2013

STRASBURG — The Adams County Sheriff's Office arrested three juveniles and a young adult Dec. 28 in connection with a recent string of property crimes and auto thefts in Bennett and Strasburg.

The suspects, all from Bennett or Strasburg, are connected to the crash of a stolen pickup into the Valley Bank & Trust ATM and 60 criminal mischiefs involving house and auto windows; seven auto thefts; and two cases of theft from motor vehicles.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2023. There are 355 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which ar-

gued for American independence from British rule.

ON THIS DATE

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and

Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public

with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY) went into effect.

In 1971, French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer Rod Stewart is 78. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 74. Singer Pat Benatar is 70. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 69.

—The Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: AT THE SUPERMARKET

ACROSS

1. Rock bottom
6. Attorneys' org.
9. Hefty volume
13. Cast ____
14. It's all the rage
15. Miserable
16. Fit for a king
17. Back then
18. Do like Demosthenes
19. *Checkout clerk
21. *Meat professional
23. "____ the land of the free..."
24. Fictional Himalayan
25. Meme move
28. Man Ray's art movement
30. On cloud nine
35. Crude group
37. Seaside bird
39. Formerly known as dropsy
40. Make-up artist?
41. Blast from the past
43. Bruce Willis' ex
44. Chocolate substitute
46. Mischievous sprites
47. Plaintiff
48. *Advantageous display
50. ____ Spumante
52. Meddle
53. Largest share owner
55. "____ to Joy"
57. *Coldest display
61. *"What's on ____?"
65. Main artery in the body
66. Feathery neckwear
68. Isolated
69. Hipbone-related
70. Octopus' defense
71. Espresso plus steamed milk
72. Eye contact
73. Word from #32 Down
74. Goes up or down

DOWN

1. D.E.A. agent
2. On a deck, perhaps
3. Pad
4. Gem State
5. Depended on
6. From a distance
7. *Reusable one
8. Hacienda brick
9. Cleopatra's necklace
10. Moonfish
11. Boundary line
12. Looker or ogler

CROSSWORD

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15. Capable of movement
20. One of the Muses
22. Shoshonean
24. Railyard worker
25. Gabbana's partner
26. Relating to bees
27. Edward Teach's facial feature
29. *Prepared food department
31. Contributes
32. Get ready to drive (2 words)
33. Type of wheat
34. *Ricotta and eggs section
36. Semiaquatic tetrapod, for short
38. Sips from a flask?
42. Bar by estoppel
45. Novelist HonorÉ de ____
49. Blackbird dessert
51. Paragons
54. Galactic path
56. Pomp
57. Be unsuccessful
58. Dramatic part
59. Sportscaster Andrews
60. JFK or ORD postings
61. Japanese alcoholic beverage
62. Tiny amount
63. Not in favor of
64. Lecherous look
67. *O in BOGO

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

Peculiar People Day

Mars is retrograde for almost two more days and Uranus is retrograde almost two more weeks. Both power planets currently advocate for weird plot twists, flashy surprises and, best of all, an embrace of the more unusual characters in our midst, our beloved standouts, oddballs and originals. Happy Peculiar People Day. If you don't know one, be one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you're known to take charge in many situations, it doesn't mean you always have to. You'll feel the need to conserve energy by letting others take the lead. It's easy to follow along.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your success formula will be so simple: You'll hang out with the people who have what you want, and you'll do what they do. Social energies will blend in harmony, and the time you spend together will be advantageous to all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can sense that your taste is changing because new things appeal to you. You're willing to be a little adventurous in a novel pursuit. It's thrilling to discover the draw of something you didn't even know existed before.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can imagine an exciting future or a worse one. A future just like today is the easiest one to imagine, but it's also the least likely version of tomorrow to occur. This is an ideal day to implement a small improvement.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If they have a right to demand, then you have an obligation to give them what they want (or not). However, unless they worked for it or paid for it, the demand is unfounded. Beware of the sneaky disguises of entitlement.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Excuses might just be the truth told at an inopportune moment. Nobody who is anticipating results wants to hear about problems instead. Excellent leadership will involve finding solutions without shaming or blaming.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In an unfamiliar

situation, it could feel like you must fend for yourself, but actually there are lots of ways to navigate that don't involve a defensive stance. Consider blending in, friendliness, entertaining, support or other.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You long for glamour and the stimulation of interesting, creative people to bounce ideas off of. When you don't see it around you, make your own. Plan to throw a party or join one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your physicality will reflect the weight of your feelings and the way your thoughts travel through you. You are too keenly aware of your purpose to allow for meandering. You'll skip the loopy detours and go straight to the point.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Family dynamics will be complicated to navigate, but if it were any other way it wouldn't seem like your kin. This isn't just about who is alpha; it's about how relationships shape you and set up a foundation for your success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can do it the easy way or the hard way. Neither is better. The easy way will require figuring things out. Once you're over the learning curve, it's a coast. The hard way is obvious because it's the way it's usually done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll discover new talents as you start moving more toward the things that attract you. When there's nothing attractive around, get to a different environment — the life of your undeveloped talents depends on it!

Today's Birthday (Jan. 10). There's much in your you-to-you relationships to be proud of this year. You'll be honest with yourself, you'll take chances because you believe you'll prevail no matter what, and because you're so brave, you'll gain what can't be bought. But you'll also get the money. More highlights: an anonymous gift and a wilderness journey. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 17, 25 and 1. Aries and Taurus adore you.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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2022-23 OPEN POSITIONS:

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BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Byers School District 32-J
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 Start date August 1, 2023.

The district is looking for an individual that will provide leadership and administration which will motivate instructional and support personnel to strive for academic excellence so as to provide the best possible opportunities for student achievement, growth and development.

Inherent in the position are the responsibilities for planning, organizing, talent management, facilities and educational programs, financial management, extracurricular activities, emergency procedures, and resource scheduling, which they supervise, consistent with Colorado Revised Statutes, School Board Policies, and the Byers School District Administrative Procedures.

- This is a 200 day position with benefits.
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Administrative Applications are available on the Human Resources page of website under District tab, www.byers32j.k12.co.us, or at the District office. Applications should be submitted to Byers School District, Attn: Tom Turrell, 444 E. Front Street, Byers, CO 80103. Applications may also be emailed to turrell.tom@byers.k12.co.us or faxed to 303-822-9592. For additional information, contact Tom Turrell at (303) 822-5292 x1111.

Applications due February 1, 2023. Start date August 1, 2023.

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Help Wanted



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Byers School District is accepting applications for a facilities director/manager to oversee daily operations within and around the Byers School Campus. Duties include, but are not limited to:

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For additional information, contact Tom Turrell at (303) 822-5292 x1111.

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The Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District is accepting nominations for election to the board of directors. All nominations must be filled out and received by the designated election official by Friday, February 24. Nomination forms can be obtained on the Deer Trail Fire Department Facebook page or from current board members. The election will take place on Tuesday, May 2.

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2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

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Homes & Land

Homes & Land

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I-70
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★★★★★

Mary Zimmerman at Gateway Realty I-70 was truly exceptional. This was our second transaction with her. I was impressed with her level of knowledge and her thorough understanding of the market in rural Colorado. It was a no-brainer to work with her since she was so knowledgeable. I'm thankful I did.

Mary was always available when I contacted her. Her responsiveness was incredible. Her delivery of the information was straight forward. Mary's cool, calm mindset kept my anxiety low and gave me the confidence she would get the job done - and she did! I highly recommend Gateway Realty I-70 and Mary Zimmerman in particular.

— Wildflower Meadows | Byers, CO | Seller
December 2022

★★★★★

Mary is absolutely amazing.

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It was very refreshing to see Mary use her expertise to put all the right people together to make it happen. It was truly humbling experience to see so many people go out of their way to help out our family.

Hands down, myself, as well as my entire family, would recommend her service to anyone in need of an amazing real estate broker. Not to mention, just an overall, sincerely awesome human!! She has left an imprint on my family forever. When we are looking to bring the rest of the family near, she will be our first stop.

— Dragon Moon Grass | Deer Trail, CO. | Buyer
December 2022

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Photographers to shoot upcoming school sports seasons and other activities. Those interested can receive proper credentials from the Colorado High School Activities Association for free entry into events, including the postseason. Mostly interested in receiving photos from games/activities at I-70 Corridor home sites. For more information, contact Steven at The I-70 Scout/Eastern Colorado News, (303)622-9796 or svetter@i-70scout.com.

Part-time reporters to cover evening and weekend meetings and other newsworthy events either live or virtually. Excellent opportunity for teachers with excellent English skills to make extra cash. To apply, send resume and cover letter to dclaussen@i-70scout.com. Openings available immediately.



The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News

MILLENNIAL MONEY

Making preparations to buy a bigger home or invest during 2023?

by Elizabeth Ayoola
 NerdWallet

It has been quite the year. In 2022, we survived high inflation, stock market lows, housing market frenzies, and ongoing Federal Reserve rate hikes. Although we don't have a crystal ball to predict what will happen to the economy next year, we could use this year's events as a guide: Things might remain rocky.

If homeownership and investing are on your 2023 goals list, ask yourself these questions to before whipping out your spreadsheet, money apps or notebooks.

SPACE: WHAT AM I WILLING TO SACRIFICE?

Whether you have a goal of buying a new home or renting a new place next year, you have much to consider. For instance, 30-year fixed mortgage rates went from an average of 3.45% in January to 6.90% in October thanks to inflation and Fed rate increases.

The Fed has already raised interest rates 75 basis points four times this year. This factor, coupled with housing shortages, has driven the national median price of homes above \$400,000 for the first time, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Homeownership could still be an attainable goal, but you might have to make sacrifices, says Zaneilia Harris, a certified financial planner and president of Harris & Harris Wealth Management Group in Upper Marlboro, Md.

"You need to evaluate what you are willing to give up in space in order to own property," Harris says. "You may have to gradually get to where you want, as opposed to just going straight into a single-family house."

This situation could mean starting off with a condo or townhouse and then using the equity from the condo to purchase your next property, Harris says.

CAN OWNERSHIP BE MORE AFFORDABLE?

Another portal to homeownership Harris recommends is the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America, also known as NACA. The mortgage program allows working people to purchase a home with no down payment, closing costs, fees or stringent credit prerequisites.

Members can also buy their homes at a below-market interest rate. The program is currently in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

Buying a home in 2023 could also be more attainable if you're willing to get a roomie, says Jocelyn Wright, a CFP and retirement income certified professional at PF Wealth Management Group in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. She roomed with her sister in 2017.

"It's not going to be forever necessarily, but this gave us the opportunity to have our own home, and we can leverage the equity and all of that going forward," she says.

IS MY PORTFOLIO DIVERSE ENOUGH?

This year hasn't been the greenest for investors — at the start of December, the S&P 500 was down more than 15% in 2022. The market's volatility could understandably make investors unsure about moving forward. Financial professionals say a diverse portfolio and taking the right amount of risk might be steps in the right direction.

Keep diversification in mind, Wright says. Diversification is when you invest in a variety of assets to manage risk and market volatility. The FTX and BlockFi collapses that happened in November are a reminder about avoiding too many investments in one area.

"Unfortunately, a lot of newer investors were very excited about Bitcoin, crypto, (and) all of that, and forgot those lessons," Wright says. "You don't put your short-term money into the market, and those rules always apply."

Wright considers short-term money to be cash you'll need in 12

months to three years.

Instead of putting all of your money into the stock market, put the amount you'll need in the near future into an emergency fund, high-yield savings accounts, a certificate of deposit, or short-term fixed-income securities like Treasury bills, Wright says.

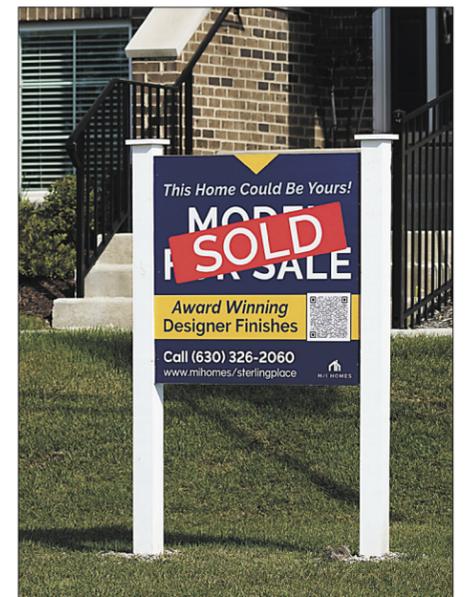
HOW MUCH RISK?

Ask yourself how much risk you're comfortable taking, Harris says. Risk depends a great deal on circumstances, but investors shouldn't fear risk if they have enough income, an emergency fund, and a diverse portfolio, she says. And risk is worth it when you invest for the long term and can reap those long-term rewards.

Harris says younger people who are further away from retirement can and should be willing to take on more risk. Harris, who identifies as black, also says some people of color have historically been afraid to take on much risk, but she wants them to remember that risk/reward combo as well.

If you haven't started investing, or stopped investing because money was tight, remember you can always invest at a comfortable pace.

"You have to invest and become



NAM Y. HUH/Associated Press

A real estate sign stands before a residential property in Northbrook, Ill. Elevated home prices, rising interest rates, and steep competition are disrupting millennials' plans to buy their first home.

comfortable with that, whether that's biweekly, bimonthly or monthly," Harris says.

You can always start with lower-risk investments. Some include I bonds, money market funds, or Treasury-Inflation Protected Securities, also known as TIPS.

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PHOTOS BY KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Arapahoe County Commissioner and Board of Public Health Director Nancy Jackson, left photo, visits the Altura Plaza location Jan. 3 on the opening day of the Arapahoe County Public Health Department. Center, an archway of balloons welcomes staff and clients. Right, Harm Reduction & HIV Prevention Program Manager Clinton Whatley poses in the program's supply storage area.

ARAPCO PUBLIC HEALTH

FROM PAGE 1

control, prenatal and parenting case management, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, harm reduction, HIV and STI clinics, and immunizations for children and adults.

Other locations with varied services are in Greenwood Village, Englewood and south Aurora.

The location was formerly utilized by Tri-County Health, and officials note that residents who used the services should not experience major disruptions. Many of the offices and staff members were hired from Tri-County to serve in their former positions.

"We did an open competitive process — we posted all the jobs. Obviously, people in Tri-County had the expertise with our residents so lots of them applied for those jobs," said Arapahoe County Senior Communications Business Partner Lisa Fedak, adding that around 50 employees work at the Altura location. "We have a significant number of Tri-County people here. In some cases, like if you have a WIC edu-

cator, you could be seeing the same person you saw last month in the same location. That's by design. We wanted to make this transition as seamless as possible."

While heading for a kitchen and seating area where a hot chocolate bar had been set up previously for an employee meet-and-greet, the *Scout* met Arapahoe County Commissioner & Board of Public Health director Nancy Jackson, who was helping a staff member direct a Spanish-speaking resident looking to pay for a new food truck license. The woman was directed to the Environmental Health office.

Jackson said the morning's welcome event was "inspiring." The department-wide staff discussion touched on team building and the department's strategic plan.

"You could feel people's excitement to be a part of a new opportunity for our community," she said. "It's a historic event."

Jackson added that the staff was also familiarized with the county's human services protocol and its

technology program.

"They're still going to be doing their same jobs in many respects, but they have to be learning the Arapahoe County computer system, which is very different from Tri-County's," she noted.

A tour of the facility found HIV/Harm Reduction Program Manager Clinton Whatley at work in the same office he had with Tri-County. The program's purpose is to reduce health and social harms associated with substance use, empower participants to maintain and improve their own health, and prevent opioid overdose and HIV/Hepatitis C transmission within the community.

"We do some work in the office, but we're mostly out in the community, offering HIV testing, exchanging used syringes and such," Whatley said. "We're able now to do some new things that we didn't do with Tri-County, (including some educational presentations in schools), so it's exciting."

A storage area near the office contains supplies for the program.

"We have tests, syringes, water and snacks to give to unhoused folks," Whatley said, posing for a photo in the large room. "We distribute a lot of Narcan/Naloxone for opioid overdose and training for its use."

Whatley added that around 85% of the people they work with are homeless.

The tour through the building's maze of hallways included the immunization department, where staff members were meeting with Dr. Chris Urbina, the department's Chief Medical Officer. Urbina has more than 45 years of experience as a practicing physician and in the public health and general preventative medicine fields. He said he "unretired" to take the position at Arapahoe Public Health.

The chief medical officer provides consultation, technical assistance and medical advice in the development of health promotion and disease prevention programs, med-

ical and clinical input, and the development of sound public health activities.

"The team does all the real work," Urbina said, gesturing at the nurses at the meeting. "Today we're signing all new orders and protocols for immunizations and talking about emergency procedures and how we all work together."

Urbina added that the CMO also serves as signatory licensed physician.

"You're required to have an MD sign all documentation to buy vaccines and medications," he said. "The hard work goes to the nurses and the team out in the community. This is an excellent team, I might add."

"We administer the immunizations and do the paperwork," said Talitha Appel, R.N., the nurse manager for the immunization program, adding that mastering the Arapahoe County system for electronic health records is a new challenge. "Also, we're looking forward to starting up our mobile units again."

The Altura personnel and those at the other locations are ready to meet the public and provide their services now.

For more information visit www.arapahoecountygov.com/Public-Health.

The Adams County Health Department is also now up and running, with locations in Brighton, Commerce City, Denver and Westminster. Visit adamscountyhealth-department.org for more information.

In a telephone town hall last November on the new Public Health Department, Arapahoe County Commissioner and Board of Health Chairperson Nancy Sharpe said that Adams County residents will not be turned away.

"We are working together with Adams County," she said. "If someone goes to an Arapahoe County facility but they live in Adams County, they will receive services there, and vice-versa."



New Winter Hours:
Mon - Sat 8 - 6
(Armory Opens At 9)
Sunday 9 - 5



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Health, medical readiness key to Bennett class

BENNETT — The town of Bennett and Adams County Office of Emergency Management will host a free health and medical preparedness course from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at Town Hall, 207 Mueggel Way.

Participants will learn to prepare their household for disaster, develop backup resources for its health care needs, and provide instructions on improving its recovery.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited to 40 people.

Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Courses will be delivered in English. For interpretation or translation services or other accommodations, e-mail requests to klopez@adco.gov no later than five business days prior to the course.