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The I-70 Scout

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

Volume 29, Number 50

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

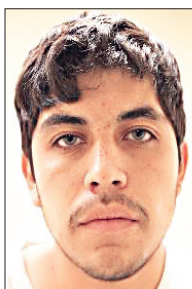
Car theft, vandalism suspects indicted

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — When a 121-count indictment against 13 defendants in a 13-month vehicle theft and burglary ring was announced last week, four of the suspects were still on the loose, but the three suspects alleged to have vandalized a Watkins business in September 2022 are in jail.

The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority, the CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force, and 17th Judicial District Attorney Brian Mason, announced the indictment and suspects' names Oct. 22.

The 121 counts include varying charges including Colorado Organized Crime Act violations,



Valladares

burglary, aggravated motor vehicle theft, and theft. The individuals charged were allegedly part of a prolific group that stole vehicles from



Escalera Hernandez

many metro area and neighboring locations, including Denver International Airport, and then continued

their criminal activities nearby.

"From February 2022 to March 2023, the individuals allegedly stole vehicles from various locations, including DIA, and used some of those vehicles to smash through the fronts of businesses," the DA's office statement said. "They would then allegedly place straps around the ATMs inside and pull the machines from the buildings."

**SEE CAR THEFT RING
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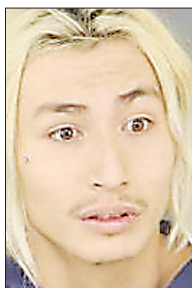
Bennett shooting suspect appears in court

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — The suspect in the late-August shooting at Trupp Park in Bennett will likely have his opportunity to declare his guilt or innocence in mid-November.

After waiving his preliminary hearing Oct. 27 in Ad-

ams County District Court



Prieto

Division Q, Joey Prieto, 20, was scheduled for arraignment at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14. In Colorado, arraignment is typically

where a defendant learns the formal charges against them and usually has the opportunity to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. After an original suggested charge of felony menacing on the arrest affidavit, the DA's office has indicated Prieto is facing two counts

**SEE PRIETO
PAGE 20**

Agate church marks 103rd year

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

AGATE — A church in Agate is celebrating more than 100 years of service to the Eastern Plains community.

Agate Community Church was established in 1920. Recognition of its 100th anniversary was delayed by the pandemic but, on Oct. 22, 2023, the church's 103 years of service was celebrated. Past and present congregants gathered at the church for songs, historical context, shared remembrances, and the reading of the contents of a time capsule from 1967 — followed by cake, punch and fellowship.

Pastor James Kissam, who has led the church since 2006, said each generation has had people who have faithfully served and sustained the church.

"A hundred years says a lot, especially in a small community like this," he said. "This church wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for all the people who came before us, who I refer to as our 'blessed memories.'"

Congregant Donna Dixon



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Agate Community Church was established in 1920.

spoke about some historical highlights and "the wonders I've seen performed here."

Dixon said the church building has, in several instances, served the community in trying times.

"Years ago when there was a fire in the school, they brought the children here for classes while the school was being rebuilt," she said, adding that, more recently, the school was evacuated to the church during a gas leak. "The older kids were upstairs and the younger kids downstairs. Parents were called to pick up their kids. Those kids were won-

derful during that emergency."

A full-circle moment occurred in 2006 when the great-grandson of the man who put in the original foundation of the church visited and signed the guest book.

"He slipped into our service unnoticed and was gone," Dixon said, adding that she hoped the young man found the visit meaningful and helped him feel close to his ancestor.

A special moment for Dixon herself came in 2017

**SEE AGATE CHURCH
PAGE 9**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Headmistress, also known as Bennett Town Administrator Trish Stiles, "sorts" Kaylee L'Heureux-Bell during the town's annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event Oct. 26. This year's theme was "Harry Potter."





ARAPAHOE COUNTY

CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMISSIONERS


Jeff Baker
Commissioner District 3

Featuring Deputy Jason Presley from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office who will discuss law enforcement issues.

Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m.
Eastern Service Center
4405 S. CR. 129 | Bennett, CO



Scan the QR code to sign up for commissioner updates



Veterans Day
All County offices will be closed **Friday, Nov. 10** in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.


Visit arapahoeco.gov/calendar



Return your ballot or vote in person by 7 p.m. on Nov. 7!

ARAPAHOE VOTES.GOV

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Winter is coming—are you ready?
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This coming Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from Nov. 6–Nov. 12. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported. Learn more at naco.org.



Get in the holiday spirit!
Join us for a holiday-themed family fun day at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Saturday, Dec. 9. Featuring a Santa meet-and-greet, horse-drawn carriage rides, live entertainment, make-and-take crafts, petting farm, local craft vendors, festive beverages, food trucks, and more!

Visit arapahoecountyeventcenter.com/visitthevillage



Members of the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain stand on the deck of the Adams County Veterans Memorial at Brighton. The group hosted a change of command ceremony for the monument Oct. 13.

AdCo Vets Memorial: New chief in charge

BRIGHTON — a change of command ceremony took place at the Adams County Veterans Memorial Oct. 13 in Riverdale Regional Park, Brighton.

Cmdr. John “Freeride” Coombs relinquished command to Cmdr. Jamie VanDyke.

VanDyke previously served as an assistant reactor officer aboard the USS Nimitz, home ported in Bremerton, Wash. While aboard the Nimitz, he completed an 11-month deployment with Carrier Strike Group 11 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, and Operation Octave Quartz.

Upon transferring from the Nimitz, he reported as the executive officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain, which hosted the ceremony in May 2022.

Coombs served as the executive officer from November 2020 to May 2022, then assumed duties as the commanding officer for NTAG Rocky Mountain in May 2022. During this time, according to a release, he demonstrated exceptional strategic vision and technical acumen while leading over 185 sailors and civilians across seven states and 360,000 square miles.

His leadership led to extraordinary success in both officer and enlisted recruitment of more than 3,000 highly qualified men and women for service in the U.S. Navy.

NTAG Rocky Mountain’s area of operations includes Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.



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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Constitution amendments key to historical discussion

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society in Strasburg is inviting the public to the second of four evenings of history.

Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg, will discuss the the Bill of Rights and constitutional amendments from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, at TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg. This presentation will be a continuation of the October talk on the U.S. Constitution. It will include details, facts and stories of the 27 amendments to the Constitution.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Comanche Crossing Historical Society and its museum. Organizers prefer adults only.

Future topics will include the Railroad and the Founding of Strasburg Feb. 15; and the Comanche Crossing Museum March 14.

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 meal is scheduled for 12 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10.

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.

Byers church’s kids choir starts rehearsing Nov. 13

BYERS — The Byers Community Church choir for kindergartens through sixth-graders on the I-70 Corridor is now forming for the holiday season.

King’s Kids Singers is an opportunity for children to sing songs and play handbells and other musical instruments.

The choir will hold four practices from 4-6 p.m. every Monday



Astronaut Jordan Dupree poses for a photo at the Anythink Bennett solar eclipse watch party Oct. 14.

from Nov. 13 through Dec. 4 at the church at 135 S. Sherman St.

A program is planned on Saturday, Dec. 9. Watch *The I-70 Scout* for more details.

Children can be preregistered by phone at (303)822-5717 or e-mail to byerschurch@gmail.com with the child’s name, current grade in school, emergency contact and phone number, and any allergies.

Extension offices announce webinar on meal planning

The Arapahoe and Jefferson county extension offices will host a free one-hour webinar entitled Meal Planning with Confidence from 7-8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 8-9.

Class participants will explore the

benefits of meal planning; review the basic steps for creating and organizing a meal plan; use a meal planning template to create a customized back-to-school menu; and create a shopping list based on each participant’s meal plan.

The class includes printable meal planning and shopping list templates, and five master recipe guides for pasta, frittatas, soups, casseroles, and stir-fry meals.

Registration is required one week before the training date so each participant can be sent a voluntary pre-survey.

To sign up, visit arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu.

75th annual Turkey Shoot scheduled by Byers Legion

BYERS — Byers American Legion Post 160 and auxiliary will host its 75th annual Turkey Shoot Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11-12.

The trap shooting competition will run from 8 a.m. until dark each day one mile north of town on U.S. 36.

Bingo begins at 1 p.m. with other activities planned throughout both days at the American Legion Hall, 278 W. Front St.

Scholastic Book Fair slated for Strasburg High School

STRASBURG — Strasburg High School will host a Scholastic Book Fair from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, Nov. 6-9, in the high school library.

Community members are welcome to stop and shop from a wide range of books for young teens and adults.

Nature walk on local birds set for 17-Mile Farm Park

CENTENNIAL — Denver Audubon and Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County will host a Nature Walk ‘N’ Talk from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the 17-Mile Farm House Park, 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial.

Participants will explore the year-round resident birds and search

for nests recently exposed with the changing of the seasons along the Cherry Creek trail. They will also learn how native insects survive the winter and check out native plants that provide winter food for birds through seed and berry production.

Walkers are responsible for their own binoculars, water and snacks. Cameras are permitted. Advance registration, including signing of a liability waiver, is required. To sign up, visit denveraudubon.org.

For more information, call Kate Hogan at (720)214-2743.

Yearly election of officers, mtg set by business group

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce has issued its final call for candidates to be voted on at its Lunch & Learn starting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, at May Farms in Byers.

The following positions must be filled: president, treasurer, Deer Trail/Agate representative, Strasburg representative, and at-large representative.

Chamber membership is required to apply. To participate, contact Becky Zierer at lzbalpacas@aol.com or (303)644-4110.

Representatives from Adams and Arapahoe County health services will speak at the Lunch & Learn. For lunch, RSVP by Friday, Nov. 10, to (720)731-1954 or officei70c-coc@gmail.com.

Prescribed burning slated at national wildlife refuge

COMMERCE CITY — Weather permitting, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will conduct prescribed burning on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge starting Monday, Nov. 6.

Fish & Wildlife plans to burn up to 1,432 acres between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. over two weeks. Smoke will be visible for several miles from the perimeter of the refuge and people in the area may smell smoke.

The burns occur to reinvigorate native prairie vegetation, reduce litter, control weeds, and improve habitat to sustain wildlife.

The I-70 Scout

Published weekly by the I-70 Publishing Company, Inc.

P.O. Box 829 • 1522 Main St., Strasburg, Colo. 80136
e-mail: dclaussen@i-70scout.com • www.i-70scout.com
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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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New Byers High School business sells Bulldog merchandise

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — A student-run business at Byers High School has a place to display and sell its products after the school board approved the purchase of a portable kiosk Oct. 19.

The school's student-based enterprise members design and make Bulldog apparel including T-shirts and sweatshirts sold throughout the year. The Future Business Leaders of America sponsored program is part of the district's Career & Technical Education opportunities.

The kiosk — an EZ-Cart from Cart-King Interna-

tional out of Canada — is a steel-constructed cart with a canopy, locking casters, adjustable shelving, and under-counter storage.

Superintendent Tom Turrell said the kiosk will replace the bins the students used to transport their merchandise to games and other events. He added that the students are working hard and have created a growing business.

"They've gone gung-ho," he said. "They designed stuff for homecoming, which they retired, and they have all new things now."

The enterprise has a business plan with a goal to become self-sufficient — funding its own program.

Designers earn royalties, and students who work in the "shop" make a small wage.

"It's not a lot, but the designers make a little money on each item sold with their design," Turrell said, adding that two students are earning work-based credits with the business.

"They work a couple hours a day making T-shirts and pressing them and filling orders," Turrell said. "They are making a little money for those hours."

Other students earn work-based credits in local businesses, but Turrell is proud that one such opportunity is in-house.

"I've really wanted a

hands-on entrepreneurial (component) in the secondary," he said. "These kids are really running with it."

Turrell added that the business has received at least one request for merchandise from a customer outside the district.

The board approved the kiosk purchase in an amount not to exceed \$6,296.

In other business, \$1,000 holiday bonuses for all staff members were given the nod from the board. Christmas bonuses have ranged from \$100 to \$1,000 over the past few years, depending upon available financial resources. Staff members are also given a choice of a

turkey, ham or roast along with the monetary gift.

The board tabled a decision on how to spruce up the front of the old gym. While painting is an option, directors asked Turrell to look into a business that designs and paints murals.

The board's November meeting will include oaths of office for new board members and the appointment of officers. Five candidates are vying for four open school board seats in the November 7 election. Incumbents Matt Eymann, Allison Harris and Dennis Messer are joined by Jason Meier and Dustin Olsen on the ballot. Director Eve Pugh will exit the board.

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Mahjong: Adults are invited to learn to play Mahjong in a beginners-friendly game the first Friday of each month. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3.

Virtual writers workshop: Adults can share their work with other aspiring writers in a fun, supportive online workshop. Participants will learn to write better and hone their skills through creative exercises. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. A Zoom link will be provided in advance. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 4.

After-school printmaking: Kids ages 7-14 can learn various printmaking techniques including relief, linoleum cutting and even "kitchen lithography!" 4:15-5:15 p.m., Wednesdays, Nov. 8, 15 and 29.

A Brief History of Death: Adults will learn about the history of death and funerary practices in this unique and macabre historical overview. 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

Creepy Crawly Storytime: Butterfly Pavilion representatives will visit for a special story time for ages preschool to 6 years. By reading beloved stories and encountering live animals, children and families come to appreciate various invertebrates as they take on a whole new dimension as literary characters. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Sublimation tumblers: Kids ages 12 and up can make their own tumbler or a gift for a loved one in this installment of Teen Tech. 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League to explore the work of artist John Singer Sargent. The color for the month is brown and the theme is fire, something with an "S," or thankfulness, or participants can choose to design a tablescape. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18.5

DAVIES LIBRARY
128 Second Ave., Deer Trail
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www.arapahoelibraries.org

10 years of 'Geek Out': Fans ages 11-18 of books, comics, games, movies,

music, sports and more can showcase their favorite fandoms by entering Arapahoe Libraries 10th annual "Geek Out" contest.

Original creations will be accepted from Nov. 1-30.

Prizes include a PlayStation 5, iPad and Apple Pencil, Meta Quest

2 starter bundle and Visa gift cards. All winners will be notified Dec. 7. A party and awards ceremony will run from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at Smoky Hill Library.

For more information, visit arapahoelibraries.org/geek-out or call (303)769-4310.

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AdCo Human Svcs input panel forms

BRIGHTON — Officials are seeking feedback from the community to help Adams County improve its Human Services Department.

Council members will meet at the Adams County Human Services Center, 11860 Pecos St., Westminster, every month to share ideas and experiences, provide feedback, and, ultimately, make Adams County Human Services a first-choice resource for our community.

Council members will be paid for their participation. Transportation and childcare can also be reimbursed. Participants must also:

- be willing to share their experiences;
- be available to meet monthly in person; and
- have experience, as a current or past participant, with two or more Adams County Human Services programs.

The programs include adult financial assistance; adult protection; child support services; children and family services such as adoption, foster care and child welfare; food assistance; Head Start; low income energy assistance; Medicaid; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Veteran Services; and the Workforce & Business Center.

For more information, visit adcogov.org.

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From left photo, a multi-story vacant house along I-70 near Powhatan Road is fully engulfed in flames Oct. 22, and little was left of the structure after the almost 2 1/2-hour response.

Structure fire claims old home along I-70

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AURORA — A structure fire last weekend claimed an old house along the north side of I-70 but a nearby power plant and westbound

traffic was unharmed during the almost 2 1/2-hour battle. At approximately 3 p.m. Oct. 22, Sable Altura, Aurora and Bennett-Watkins Fire Departments were all dispatched to 2580 I-70 Service Road about a quarter-mile

west of the Powhatan Road overpass. Upon arrival, a multiple story house was fully engulfed in flames and surrounding parts of the field were on fire. “It quickly spread to a wildland fire progressing west and toward

the highway,” said Bennett-Watkins Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal Caleb Connor. “The wildland fire involved approximately 10 acres of vacant land nearby and was

SEE FIRE
PAGE 6

Calif. man dies while walking on I-70

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LIMON — A California man was killed when he was struck by a semi after walking down the middle of I-70 about seven miles east of Agate about an hour after midnight Oct. 22. According to the Colorado State Patrol, at about 1:08 a.m. Sunday morning, a 38-year-old male from Menlo Park, Calif., walked northbound into the outside lane of eastbound I-70 near mile marker 347. An eastbound Mobile D13 semi pulling a trailer struck the man.

“It was an unlit area, so hard to see, and the vehicle struck the pedestrian with its front and immediately pulled to the right shoulder where it came to rest,” said State Patrol spokesman Trooper Gabriel Moltre. “The pedestrian was declared deceased at scene. The semi driver had no injuries and the seat belt was used.” While the investigation remains open, Moltre indicated that alcohol, drugs and excessive speed are not suspected contributing factors. As of press time, there were no other specifics about why the California man was in the area or walking on the freeway.

Report of shooting near Strasburg erroneous

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Preliminary reports that a domestic dispute about five miles south of Strasburg at the start of the week morphed into a shooting and attempted murder of a woman were erroneous. At about 3:15 p.m. Oct. 23, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to County Road 46 just east of County Road 149 on reports of a female shooting victim. The incident reportedly started elsewhere and ended up at another residence in the area. But, in an Oct. 25 statement, the sheriff’s office clarified that the woman was not shot. “The incident began as a domestic dispute between a husband and wife. A preliminary investigation at the scene revealed the suspect, Trinidad Elerick, 46, shot his wife but she survived,” the updated sheriff’s office statement said.

“Upon further investigation and interviews with the suspect and victim, investigators learned that was not the case. The victim had not been shot, but rather assaulted.” The woman, who sustained a head wound, fled the location of the original assault to a nearby property. “That neighbor called 911 and reported that Elerick had followed the victim, was armed with a gun, was making threats and trying to get inside,” the sheriff’s office statement added. “Elerick eventually left and returned to his home.” The victim was transported to a hospital with what was considered non-life-threatening injuries.



Elerick

SEE ELERICK
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STEVEN VETTER/Eastern Colorado News

October is National Cancer Awareness month and Deer Trail head high school volleyball coach Dee Vashus showed her support of cancer survivors and those lost because of the disease during the school’s homecoming Pink Out match Oct. 13.

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If you didn’t see it in Wednesday’s edition of The I-70 Scout, it’s probably in the ECN.

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In support of veterans, Arapahoe Co. will illuminate its buildings in green

LITTLETON — In advance of Veterans Day, Arapahoe County will illuminate its buildings in green Nov. 6-12 as part of Operation Green Light, a national collaborative initiative of the National Association of Counties to support military veterans.

The week is also intended to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state and federal level to assist veterans and their families.

Arapahoe County has assisted veterans on 643 claims so far in 2023 and anticipate an additional 700 claims to be filed before the end of the year.

“Operation Green Light shines a light on the immense sacrifices our veterans have made,” said Commissioner Bill Holen, a disabled Army Vietnam veteran himself. “We hope to see participation across the county, so our veterans know we appreciate their service and that we have their backs with supportive programs and services built specifically for them.”

Arapahoe County has the second-largest veteran population in Colorado.

The county’s dedicated Veteran Services Office help veterans and their dependents obtain the federal and state benefits they may be eligible to receive.

Staff can assist with assessing need, determining eligibility, and preparing claims and applications to the U.S. government. To further assist our veterans, Arapahoe County opened a second Veterans Services Center in Aurora. Services are free of charge.

“Our Veteran Services Center is staffed by veterans for veterans,” Holen said. “There’s a camaraderie among service members and a built-in level of trust that helps us connect with clients in a personal and effective way.”

Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light in their house to a green bulb.

While Operation Green Light is focused around Veterans Day, participants are encouraged to continue shining a green light year-round. Residents can share their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, NOV. 2**
Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

SATURDAY, NOV. 4
Bennett Community Food Bank. canceled for September only. Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.
Bennett Community Food Bank. 8-10 a.m., Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.

MONDAY, NOV. 6
Strasburg High School Athletic Booster Club. 6 p.m., high school library.
Bingo. 7 p.m., Byers American Legion Hall.
Deer Trail School Board. 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.
Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

TUESDAY, NOV. 7
Adams County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)405-3298 and volunteer attorneys will return calls directly in order of registration during clinic hours. Space limited.
Arapahoe County free legal clinic. 3:30-5 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call
- (303)739-6630 and volunteer attorneys will return calls directly in order of registration during clinic hours. Space limited.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8
Deer Trail Conservation District Board. 1 p.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Deer Trail Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Deer Trail Firehouse.
Strasburg Sanitation & Water Board. 7 p.m., TBK Bank conference room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

EVERY THURSDAY
Gaming Club: Patrons ages 7 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.
Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m. in Byers. For additional information, call (303)968-6934.

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

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LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org
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American Legion Hall
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<http://StrasburgCOC.org>

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
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Missouri Synod
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www.corlems.org



Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
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303-822-9366 • mttaborbyers.org

Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana Tuesday, 5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served

Luke 15:10 There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner than repenteth.

Strasburg Presbyterian Church
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www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325
• Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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Office Hours:
Mo, Tu, Th 9AM-5PM
303.261.8853
Info@calvarybennett.org
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Not-So Dusty Pages

25 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 4, 1998

STRASBURG — The driver of a red, 1997 Ford F-150 pickup wasn’t paying attention when he ran through a stop sign and collided with a Strasburg School bus early Wednesday morning, a Colorado State trooper said.

“There was no evidence he tried to stop at all,” said Trooper Chris Garner.

The pickup was westbound on County Road 30 when its driver allegedly neglected the sign and broadsided the bus going north on County Road 149.

Luckily, nobody was seriously injured. The bus contained a driver, Doug Stevens of Strasburg, and a 10-year-old boy. Both occupants suffered minor abrasions and were transported to the Medical Center of Aurora where they were released later that day.

The driver from Deer Trail had not been drinking, Garner said. He added the bus had the right of way.

20 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 4, 2003

COLORADO SPRINGS — The Strasburg Lady Indians and Byers Lady Bulldogs both advanced to the 2A Colorado State Volleyball Championships by placing 1-2, respectively, at the Region D Tournament at Coronado High School Oct. 31.

To win the regional title, Strasburg defeated Hoehne three sets to two; Byers three sets to one; and

Fowler three sets to none.

Byers took the long route to its state playoff berth. The Bulldogs lost to Fowler three sets to one, but the Lady Grizzlies stumbled against Hoehne, falling in five sets. In the final match, Byers defeated Hoehne in three sets, creating a three-way tie.

A tiebreaker was required. Fowler defeated Hoehne 15-10 and Byers defeated Fowler 16-14 to move both I-70 Corridor teams into the state tournament.

15 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 4, 2008

BYERS — A long-time Deer Trail ranch was announced the winner of a prestigious state award during the joint annual banquet of the Deer Trail and East Adams conservation districts Oct. 29 at the Byers American Legion Hall.

Not only was Price Ranch named the Deer Trail district’s Conservationist of the Year, it was announced John Price and family will receive the State Conservationist of the Year-Ranch Division award from the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts in mid-November.

“This is an award that isn’t possible without all of you that have helped us out over all these years,” Price said. “This is more of a community award that is is us individually.”

The Price family began its ranching operation in the late 1800s and is represented by six generations.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2023. There are 60 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 1, 1991, Clarence Thomas took his place as the newest justice on the Supreme Court.

ON THIS DATE

In 1512, Michelangelo’s just-completed paintings on the ceiling of the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel were publicly unveiled.

In 1604, William Shakespeare’s tragedy “Othello” was first presented at Whitehall

Palace in London.

In 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. George

B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1870, the United States Weather Bureau made its first meteorological observations.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between

his country and Nazi Germany as an “axis” running between Rome and Berlin.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

World Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 88. Country singer Bill Anderson is 86.

—The Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FAMOUS SCIENTISTS

ACROSS

1. Dylan lyric, “There was music in the ___ at night and revolution in the air”

6. *Many scientists have this

9. Alpha Centauri B, e.g.

13. Measured in kilowatt-hours, on electric bill

14. Ring of flowers

15. TV’s “___ Blinders”

16. Make believe

17. Public promotions

18. Appropriate for Halloween

19. *F unit of capacitance named in whose honor?

21. *Marine biologist and “Silent Spring” author

23. L.A. baller

24. Not on a rolling stone?

25. Value added reseller

28. New Zealand fruit

30. Option at a hot dog stand, adj.

35. One’s final notice

37. Without, in French

39. Time being

40. Toy construction set brand

41. Turning token taker

43. Jewish month

44. Jab on field of play

46. A ride up ski hill

47. Short for Milton

48. *A unit of electric current named in whose honor?

50. Home to Zion National Park

52. Wood-shaping tool

53. Morays, pl.

55. One little piggy

57. *A telescope was named in his honor

60. *Primatologist and world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees

64. Popular snorkeler’s attraction

65. Have a cold

67. Sphere in Las Vegas, e.g.

68. Pond buildup

69. To and ___

70. Gives off

71. Goes with a rod

72. Small dog’s bark

73. Tears down

DOWN

1. Take into custody

2. On a deck?

3. So-so

4. a.k.a. tent caterpillar or lappet moth

5. Maurice of “Where the Wild Things Are”

6. Eugene O’Neill’s creation

7. He had

8. Popular 70s genre

9. Witnesses

10. Hawaiian tuber

11. Similar

12. Kind of bourbon

15. P in POI

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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20. Out of whack

22. Cleopatra’s killer, according to legend

24. Not a full size bus

25. *V unit of electric potential named in whose honor?

26. Crosswise, on deck

27. Build temporarily (2 words)

29. *W unit of power named in whose honor?

31. Type of rich soil

32. Most populous country

33. Burn with water

34. *Synonymous with unit of frequency and a car rental company

36. Muscle quality

38. Floor plank

42. Muse of love poetry

45. The ___ makers of “Pitch Perfect”

49. #53 Across, sing.

51. Vacuum cleaner, in U.K.

54. Like kale or spinach

56. Swelling of human organs

57. Golfer’s destination

58. Desires

59. Ancient Semitic deity

60. Lump of stuff

61. Black tropical cuckoos

62. Guitar forerunner

63. Is it really more?

64. *Carl Benz invented the first practical modern one in the 1880s

66. Retirement plan, acr.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

Oh, When the Saints ...

The name “Halloween” is a contraction of “All Hallows’ Eve” or “All Saints’ Eve,” referring to the night before All Saints’ Day. While All Saints’ Day is a solemn religious observance, Halloween has become a more secular and festive holiday. On this All Saints’ Day, the saints will come marching in under a lunar trine to Saturn in soulful Pisces.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No matter how much you love the ones closest to you, spending time with other friends keeps your social life well rounded, increases your knowledge and network and contributes to your happiness, which is good for every relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Once the mother duck gets all her babies in a row, they continue this way, each following a tail feather to the destination. You’ll seek and find team members like this — people who, once directed, will stay on track.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Focus on others and use your intuition to figure out how people you know can help one another. You may not be able to solve your own problem, but you’ll solve someone else’s, and the karma will quickly come full circle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Go to the environments you want to be a part of in the future. Create experiences that reinforce the person you want to be. Surround yourself with people who make it easier for you to do the things that help your growth.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life gets cumbersome, but that didn’t stop the elephant family from roaming Earth for millions of years. Could you think of the heaviness you’re dealing with as might, leverage, or substantial and powerful presence?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The atmosphere gets competitive. Expect posturing, boasting and the like. You don’t have to actively participate by voicing your side, though it will help your game to show up impeccably dressed and with the body language

of confidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A struggle has taught you something, but there’s an end to what it has to offer. Sometimes, you win by just dropping it — not a surrender but a decision to involve yourself in more promising endeavors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To take full possession of this world doesn’t mean you act like you own the place — rather, you approach it like you belong to it, care for it and are open to experiencing its many ways of loving you back.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Divide up the decisions. You won’t get everything you want that way — no one will — which will be better for everyone. You’ll overcome obstacles, earn trust and create rapport, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The big picture is coming into focus. Stop and take in the view. Don’t try to do it while you’re rushing along. Really pause and jot down notes, take a picture or record your thoughts in some way. Honor the inspiration and it will come around more often.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may feel like you’re out on a limb. Scooch your way back to the trunk. Go where you can depend on something or someone who is steady and deeply grounded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will frame events with your words. You’ll attract people to your cause with emotive vocabulary. Because you really feel it, others will, too. Get the feeling right first and the rest will follow.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 1). Your curiosity is a gift and a skill because the more you want to know, the better you get at tracking it down. You’ll search for one thing and find something far more valuable. More highlights: You’ll be a tremendous help to a family or company and be shown appreciation in the language that matters to you. You’ll wheel and deal your way into a proud purchase. Taurus and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 10, 33 and 6.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

AGATE CHURCH

FROM PAGE 1

when several congregants requested to be baptized.

“Church members filled a horse tank with water out behind the church for us to have a baptism,” she said. “I was one of the lucky people who got baptized that day by Pastor Kissam. It was a wonderful occurrence.”

Dixon got a laugh when she added that the water “had been warmed by the sun, but not very much.”

Longtime member Donna Curtis read a historical account of the church, noting that it began when a group met in Agate for religious services in January 1920.

“They were without a church building in which to meet, so services were held in homes or the school building,” she said.

On June 18, 1920, the group formed a charter to organize as Agate Community Church.

“The purpose of this organization was to spread the teachings of Jesus Christ as contained in the Word of God, and to eventually own and maintain such lands and buildings as would be needed to properly provide for the work,” Curtis said. “The vote was unanimous.”

The church was assisted in 1928 by the arrival of Rev. Frank Blanchard and his wife — missionaries who served from a specially fitted railroad car called a chapel car.

Chapel cars were used from the late 1800s to the 1930s as Americans moved west aided by the



Pastor James Kissam, left photo, welcomes people to the celebration marking the 103rd anniversary of Agate Community Church Oct. 22. Right photo, Joan Rector, a member of Agate Community Church since 1961, poses with her 16-year-old granddaughter Lauren Rector. Joan made the three-tier anniversary cake that contained 48 egg whites.

railroads. Several Christian religious denominations including the Baptist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic faiths saw an opportunity to serve the small communities in rural areas via the mobile chapels.

The cars served as a place for religious services as well as living quarters for the missionary pastors.

In 1891, the American Baptist Publication Society debuted a fleet of chapel cars. Funds were

donated to build the first car, Evangel, built by Barney & Smith — a railroad car manufacturer based in Dayton, Ohio. The Baptist chapel car project was supported by several wealthy businessmen including oil magnate John D. Rockefeller.

The Baptist fleet grew to a total of seven cars during the years 1890 to 1913. Thomas Edison,

SEE AGATE CHURCH PAGE 10

Application period begins for heating assistance funding

DENVER — Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), a federally funded program that helps eligible Coloradans pay a portion of their winter home heating costs, opens for the season Nov. 1.

Applications will be accepted through April 30.

LEAP helps eligible individuals and families pay winter home heating costs by making a one-time payment directly to the utility company on behalf of each eligible household.

Last season, a record 89,000 Colorado LEAP recipients received an average benefit of \$559.29.

“Coloradans who use natural gas to heat their homes are expected to spend less on heating this winter compared to last winter,” said Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. “And, while this is good news, inflation is still high, forcing many Coloradans to choose between food, rent, medicine and a warm home. LEAP can help offset these financial pressures.”

To qualify, Coloradans may have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income, equating to a household income of less than \$71,112 a year for a family of four. Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States living in the household.

In addition, LEAP recipients may be eligible to receive furnace repair and replacement in heat-related emergencies and weatherization services pending the results of a home energy audit.

To apply, visit cdhs.colorado.gov/leap; call 1-866-432-8435 for an application via mail or email; or visit a county human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

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AGATE CHURCH

FROM PAGE 9

though not a member of the church, donated phonographs for all the chapel cars.

The second Baptist chapel car to be built — named Emmanuel — traveled from town to town in sparsely populated western and northwestern states and territories including Eastern Colorado, with stops in Agate, Bennett, Bijou (now Byers), Deer Trail, Limon and Simla.

Emmanuel’s fittings were donated by corporations, including brakes from Westinghouse Air Brake Company. Various Baptist organizations also donated; the car’s furnishings were a gift from the women of the First Baptist Churches of Oakland and San Francisco. The car was dedicated in Denver on May 24, 1893. The longest-serving of the seven Baptist chapel cars, Emmanuel was retired in 1938. The car is now under restoration at a museum in South Dakota. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Curtis described the inside of the cars.

“Emmanuel was 11 feet wide and 75 feet long,” she said. “It contained a 9-square-foot area of space for a combined living room, study, dining room and bedroom. The kitchen area contained a sink, stove, ice box and china closet in a four-foot square area.”

The chapel area contained a brass lectern, a pump organ, pews down each side, a brass lantern and brass chandeliers. Above, the windows were smaller panes of stained glass. The cars could comfortably seat 80 to 100 people.

“It was a church on wheels,” Curtis said.

On Sunday, Jan. 13, 1929, the people gathered in Emmanuel gave gifts and pledges totaling \$1,700 toward the cost of building a church.

“Three weeks later, plots 11 and 12 in the town of Agate were purchased for \$100,” Curtis said. “Services were held in the chapel car until the basement was completed.”

The church continued its service to the community through the Depression, Dust Bowl and two world wars.

“Sunday School and church attendance was steady, and one record indicated attendance for the year was over 700 persons,” Curtis said.

Improvements to the building were made from donations, memorials and volunteer work.

Renovations made during the 1960s were documented in a recently discovered time capsule. Congregation member Tod Davis, who volunteers his time in repair and maintenance of the church, said he was told a time capsule had been placed in an alter rail in the sanctuary. He drilled several small holes in areas of the rail until he located the cache and brought it out to share at the anniversary event.

The items from 1967 included a small Bible, a letter, and lists of church officers and people who contributed in the renovation.

“The letter said Eugene W. Babcock built the alter rail as the final step in remodeling Agate Community Church,” Davis said. “Work began with the basement — building the kitchen and laying the tile in 1963. Water was piped in, and work started on an addition, where restrooms were added. People gave money and many hours of time.”

Davis invited people to write stories or provide other contributions to add to the time capsule.

“We’ll put it all back where I found it,” he said, quipping that everything should fit just fine into the 3½ inch hole he drilled.

Curtis mentioned that the Ladies Missionary Society has been active for countless years.

“They prepared church dinners, served lunch at basketball games, held bake sales, sold cards and fancy work, and sent cards and flowers to members who were sick or in the hospital,” she said. “It became well-known that, during hunting season, the ladies put on their aprons and made delicious chicken and homemade noodle dinners. The proceeds always covered the insurance bill for the church.”

The women donated money to the March of Dimes, Easter Seals, cancer- and heart-related causes, and the Red Cross over the years. Currently the church helps support the Eastern Plains Women’s Resource Center in Byers and Heifer International.

Curtis said the men have always stepped up to provide upkeep and repair jobs.

“Recently we had a workday and all the carpeting on the front steps was replaced and new decking was put on the ramp,” she said. “There was painting and extra cleaning done so, when finished, all looked new again.”

The church has an adult Sunday school class currently studying the minor prophets and two children’s Sunday school classes.

“We have an active prayer chain,” Curtis said. “Not many weeks pass without a call for help for loved ones, friends or others.”

“The greatest joy would be to serve the Lord here for many more years,” she concluded. “All are welcome to join us.”

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SPORTS



V-ball: 'Burg, Bennett advance to regionals



Bennett junior setter Raquel Thorpe (19) keeps the ball alive at home against Englewood Oct. 16.

Lady Tigers take league crown

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The Bennett Lady Tigers won the Frontier League volleyball championship for the second straight year with victories over DSST: Montview and Fort Lupton Oct. 21 at Lake County High School in Leadville.

The championship automatically advanced the Tigers, the third seed, to regionals Nov. 4. Before the league tournament, Bennett was on the bubble for a regional berth.

"I am so proud of the team," said Bennett head coach Corissa Thornton. "As a coach, you just hope that they really dig deep

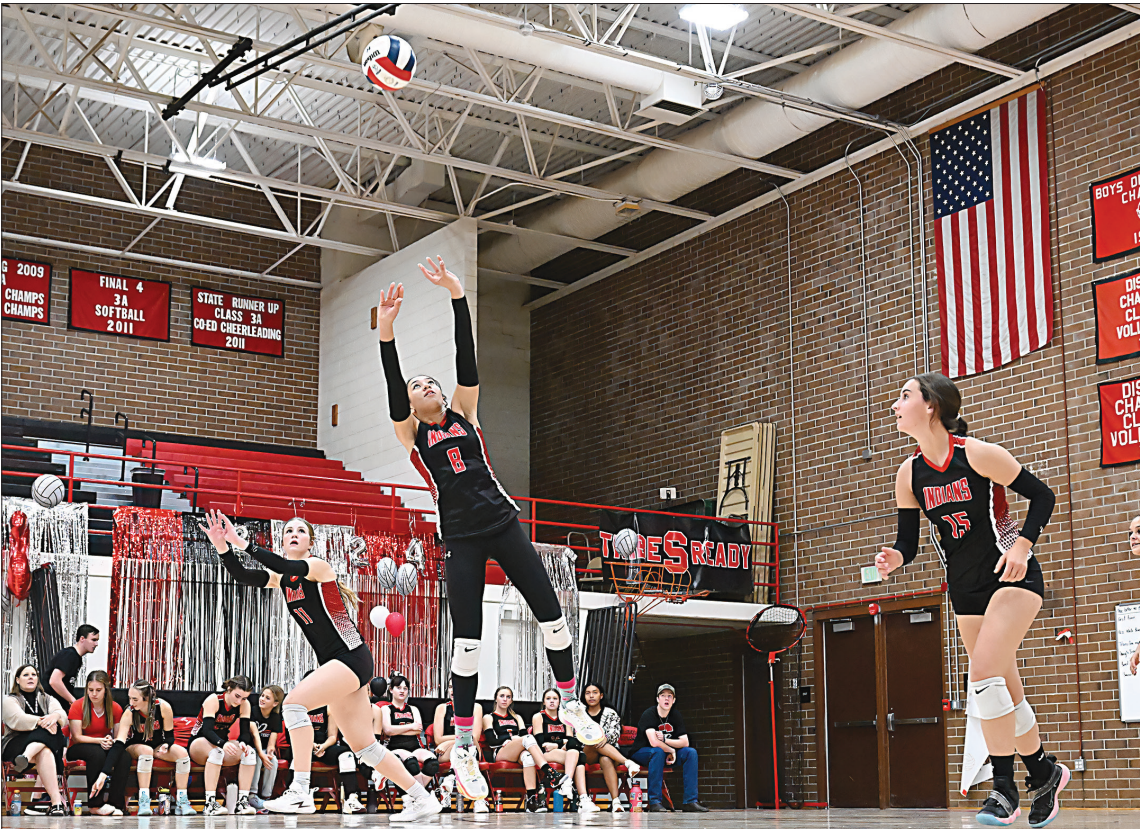
and play their best ball at the end of the season, and that seems to be what my team is doing."

The Tigers beat fourth-seeded Fort Lupton in four sets in the championship game after the Lady Bluedevils had upset No. 1 seeded and unbeaten Lake County in the first round by a score of 21-25, 25-23, 25-23, 10-25, 15-12.

Bennett, the second seed behind Lake County, defeated DSST: Montview, the third seed, in five sets in the semifinals.

Thornton added that all of the games that day "went five sets, five sets, four sets,

SEE VB BENNETT
PAGE 14



Strasburg's Natalie Damron (11), left, and Hannah Nuttall (15) anticipate a pass from setter Peighton Marrero (8) during action against Northridge Oct. 19 at home.

Indian gals win 11 of 12 to end regular season

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

The Strasburg Lady Indians enter the upcoming 2A regional volleyball weekend on a six-game winning streak and victories in 11 of their last 12 matches to conclude the regular season.

Over the final week of the regular season, Strasburg followed up a three-game home victory over 3A Northridge Oct. 19 with a trio of two-game sweeps at the Lyons Tournament Oct. 21, a four-set win at 1A Union Pacific League foe Genoa-Hugo/Karval, and another road sweep at 3A Brush in the Oct. 26 regular-season finale.

Even before the final playoff pairings were released on Monday, after press time, the red-and-black knew it was one of 12 regional hosts this weekend, Nov. 3-4, but whether

it would play on Friday or Saturday and against what two opponents was uncertain. The 17-6 troops of Strasburg head coach Larry Deffenbaugh were ranked No. 8 in the Colorado High School Activities Association's Selection & Seeding Index. While a home site was guaranteed, Deffenbaugh was questioning why the Indians aren't ranked higher.

"We're excited to be hosting again and if we stay level-headed and play like we have been and are capable of, it shouldn't matter who we're playing," Deffenbaugh said. "But we have beaten the No. 5 (Front Range Christian), No. 7 (Vail Christian), and No. 13 (Lyons) teams in our division and played against three of the better 3A teams (No. 3 Jefferson Academy, No. 5 Timnath and No. 6 Liberty Common) and we're

still No. 8. Kind of makes you wonder."

The winner of the dozen three-team regional round-robins this weekend all advance to the Colorado State Volleyball Championships Nov. 9-11 at the Denver Coliseum. The state brackets are a modified double-elimination format.

For updated postseason information, visit, www.i-70scout.com.


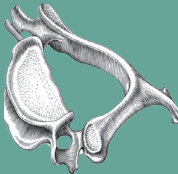
NORTHBRIDGE

In the regular-season home finale and Senior Night for Hannah Nuttall, Kenade Hickson and Katie Seligmann, Strasburg celebrated with a decisive 25-9, 25-15, 25-13 over the visiting 3A Lady Grizzlies from Greeley.

"That's a 3A team that was a lot better last year, but the girls played well and

SEE VB STRASBURG
PAGE 12

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From left photo, Lady Indians Katie Seligmann, Emma Middlemist and Hannah Damron attack the net to record points against Northridge during Senior Night Oct. .19. Seligmann, Kenade Hickson and Hannah Nuttall all played their last regular-season home game for the Lady Indians.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

VB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 11

everyone got in,” Deffenbaugh said. “It was a really good night for the seniors and I was happy for everything that happened that night.”

The hosts dominated the stat sheet, outhitting the Grizzlies 40 kills to 12 and recording a dozen service aces compared to three for Northridge. The Damron sisters, junior Natalie and sophomore Hannah, led the Indians with 10 and 8 kills, respectively, followed by juniors Emma Middlemist and Peighton Marrero with seven apiece, and Seligmann and Nuttall with four each.

In addition to her team-high four aces, Marre-ro also led the squad in assists with 25.

Defensively, Strasburg recorded four blocks, including a solo stuff from Marrero and Natalie Damron assisting on three. Of the hosts’ 44 digs, Natalie Damron and Marrero led with nine and eight, respectively.

@ LYONS TOURNAMENT

LYONS

The opening match at the Lyons quadrangular saw Strasburg down the hosts 25-22, 25-11.

“That’s a squad that’s a lot better than last year, a couple of tall freshmen playing a lot for them,” Deffenbaugh said. “As the match went we improved our passing and were a lot more aggressive. Especially that second set, we put a lot of pressure on them. Really hit the ball hard and placed it well.”

Six Indians accounted for 26 kills, led by Natalie Damron with six and Middlemist, Marre-ro and Hannah Damron with five apiece. When she wasn’t attacking the net, Marrero set to her teammates for 13 of Strasburg’s 15 assists. From the service line, the red-and-black was almost 92% with six aces, with Middlemist accounting for half.

Defensively, the Indians scrambled to 40 digs, led by Middlemist with eight, Natalie Damron seven, and Hickson six.

VAIL CHRISTIAN

In one of its more anticipated matchups of the late season, Strasburg bedeviled the then No. 7 Saints 25-20, 25-15.

“The girls were extremely excited, prepared and they played hard,” Deffenbaugh said. “Got up on them like 14-2 or something in the second set, so the girls were really playing well. They got a couple of little runs on us but we still were the dominant team throughout the match.”

Strasburg won the kill battle 24-13 and exposed the Saints’ serve-receive with 10 aces. The



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Lady Indian Jenna Echer looks to pass the ball while teammate Katie Seligmann does the Limbo to avoid a collision.

balanced attack included Natalie Damron with six kills and four aces; Marrero, six kills and 12 assists; Middlemist, five kills, three aces; Seligmann four kills; and Nuttall, three kills and an ace.

On defense, Marrero and the Damron sisters combined for two blocks and Middlemist, Natalie Damron and Hickson all tied for the team lead in digs with seven.

“I was really pleased in back-to-back matches how we handled it, because that’s maybe what we have to do if we want to get where we want to be over the next couple of weeks,” Deffenbaugh said. “Just like regionals will probably be, it wasn’t easy, but the girls really played well.”

UNION COLONY

In their easiest match of the day, the Indians quickly dispatched of the one-win Timberwolves 25-8, 25-17. Strasburg also defeated Union Colony in Greeley in a three-game sweep to start the season.

“They’re down this year and I feel for them,” Deffenbaugh said. “We played all our girls that match.”

Strasburg recorded 19 kills to only five for the T-wolves — Marrero had six, Natalie Damron five, and six others had at least one apiece. From the service line, Strasburg had 14 kills, led by Marrero, Nuttall and Hannah Damron with three apiece and Seligmann and Middlemist two each.

In total, 11 Indians made the stat sheet.

@ GENOA-HUGO/KARVAL

After losing its first set since Sept. 23, Strasburg rebounded over the next three games to down the spunky home-standing Lady Pirates, 17-25, 25-18, 26-24, 25-21.

“That’s a good little team over there and they gave us a great match. Any given night, you just never know when you’re going to have a battle, so you might as well expect a battle every night and that’s what the girls learned there,” Deffenbaugh said. “We’ve gotten most teams’ best most of the year and we’ve responded pretty well. Bounced back from some close calls.”

The Indians pounded the ball for 56 kills, led by Marrero with 17, Natalie Damron 13, Middlemist 10 and Nuttall with nine. Marrero again facilitated much of the offense with 30 assists but Nuttall also got involved in the passing game, adding 11.

From the service line, Strasburg was 90% with seven aces, led by Marrero with four.

Defensively, the red-and-black’s serve-receive committed one one error, a massive improvement from the start of the season.

“That’s definitely something we needed to work on and have improved on a lot,” Deffenbaugh said.

At the net, the Indians had 10 blocks, including a solo stuff and three assists by Seligmann, Damron six assists, and Marrero four assists.

Of Strasburg’s 71 digs, three reached double-digits — Marrero 13, Hickson 12, and freshman Jenna Echer 10 — and Middlemist and Natalie Damron added nine apiece.

@ BRUSH

To conclude the regular season, Strasburg uprooted the host Beetdiggers 25-18, 25-13, 25-21.

“We controlled that match from beginning to end,” Deffenbaugh said. “Really played well up the middle.”

Stats were unavailable at press time.

PROGRAM STABILITY

Deffenbaugh was also complimentary of the Lady Indians’ junior varsity and C team this season.

The JV team, coached by Nichole Welch, concluded its season 17-2, while the C team, coached by Rae Lynn Bauer and Bailea Carothers, was 16-2.

“A lot of good things happening and a big thank you to those coaches,” Deffenbaugh said.

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Bennett soccer players wrap up the season with losses to Jefferson 4-1 on Oct. 11 and to Fountain Valley 9-2 on Oct. 20. The Tigers were also defeated at Bruce Randolph 5-0 on Oct. 13 and at Lake County 4-2 on Oct. 18. The Tigers had their only halftime lead of the season, 1-0, against Lake County. Pictured are, clockwise from top left, junior Samuel Benesch (27); junior Edwin Aaron Terrazas Varela (9); freshman Houston Broskie (15); sophomore Jesus Villescas, left, and freshman Nathan Ramirez; and senior Samuel Jimenez (10). Bennett ended the year with a record of 1-12-2.

PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMFO/For The Scout

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Health Insurance Specialist

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Thursdays, Nov. 9, Nov. 23 & Dec 7
• 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Strasburg Clinic, Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine, 56441 E. Colfax Ave.

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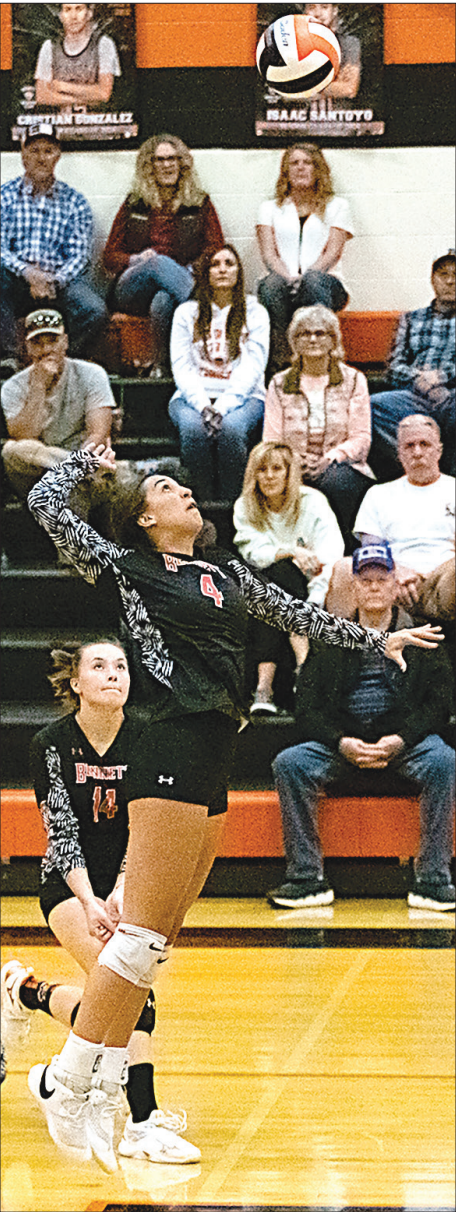
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Against Englewood Oct. 16, Lady Tiger Keisha Mock, left photo, scores a kill; senior Katelyn Faczak digs up the ball; and junior Ava Black (13) sends the ball back over the net during Bennett's 25-14, 25-10, 25-20 victory.

VB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 11



Lady Tiger Jessica Venneberg spikes against Englewood Oct. 16.

four sets. We started playing at 11 (a.m.), and we didn't get done until like 8:30 p.m. It was a really awesome day of volleyball."

Now finishing her second season at the Bennett helm, Thornton said that this year's crown is even sweeter than last year. "The teams, definitely, have improved this year in our league, at least the top five or six teams, and so, for us to come in from the third seed and win, it just made it all that much better."

Entering the regional tourney, Bennett stands at 14-9. Seeding was not available at press time.

DSST: MONTVIEW

Although Bennett beat the Bluedevils for the title, its most gritty match was against the Lady Knights of DSST: Montview, who had defeated the Tigers during the regular season.

Bennett won in five despite losing the first two sets by close margins to the Lady Knights: 26-28, 22-25, 33-31, 25-18, 15-4.

The crux of the triumph occurred in the third set, the longest of the season for local schools.

"We were down most of the time on most of those points that went over 25, and they kept fighting," Thornton said. "I'm still in shock that they even did that. I mean, they dug deep and pulled out the win, then we ended up just coming in and just crushing them the next two sets, in my opinion. The girls just were so fired up from winning

that third set and then we came and took care of business the next two."

Bennett was led by junior Jessica Venneberg with 15 kills, five total blocks and 10 digs. Other key contributors included junior Elizabeth Westendorf with 14 kills, two aces and 19 digs; junior Raquel Thorpe with eight kills, two aces, 20 digs and 21 assists; senior Lily Venneberg, two aces, 24 digs and 15 assists; senior Keisha Mock, four assisted blocks; and junior Brailyn Neade, 15 digs.

Thornton noted that the DSST: Montview contest lasted more than two hours.

FORT LUPTON

Bennett took "only" four sets to defeat Fort Lupton in the championship match. The final tally was 25-22, 25-17, 17-25, 25-16.

"I think Fort Lupton used a lot of their energy to beat Lake County," Thornton said. "Our girls were just ready to go."

Bennett had beaten the Bluedevils during the regular season.

"Fort Lupton is always a contender," she added.

Jessica Venneberg tallied a phenomenal 20 kills to go with two assisted blocks.

"She had a really good game, for sure," Thornton said.

Junior Olivia Schroeder and Westendorf each had seven kills. Schroeder tacked on an ace, one solo and two assisted blocks, and 14 digs, while Westendorf adding

added five aces and 16 digs to her totals.

Thorpe had one ace, 14 digs and 21 assists followed by Lily Venneberg with 20 digs and 15 assists.

Though not a major player in the statistics, senior Katelyn Faczak's fine play was mentioned by her coach.

"I will say that Katie Faczak, she had an amazing defensive game. She really did an amazing job," Thornton said. "She got up so many balls and was in the right position and made some great plays and some good passes."

Faczak ended with four digs and 19 receptions

WELD CENTRAL

Bennett traveled to Weld Central High School at Keenesburg Oct. 19, where the Tigers suffered a five-set loss to conclude the regular season.

The match was close throughout with Bennett winning games one and three and the Lady Rebels taking sets two and four: 25-27, 25-21, 21-25, 25-15, 15-12.

"It was a huge battle back and forth," Thornton said. "We would blow big leads, and it's just something we can't do. That one was a little bit tough."

In this contest, Westendorf had four aces to go with nine kills and 11 digs.

"She has a pretty awesome serve," Thornton said.

The Tigers served 90% as a team.

Venneberg added 11 kills and one solo block; Schroeder had eight kills, one ace, one assisted and one solo block, and 18 digs; Mock, seven kills and an ace; Lily Venneberg, an ace, a solo block, 11 digs and 21 assists; and Thorpe, 13 digs and 21 assists.


ENGLEWOOD

The Tigers faced Englewood at home on Senior Night Oct. 16, and they beat the Lady Pirates with ease, 25-14, 25-10, 25-20.

"It was not an interesting game. They wanted me to put in my C team but I played all my non-starters that game," Thornton said. "I did play everybody. I made sure all the seniors went in, and it was an all-around good night because of that."

Senior Lexi Sondburg tallied eight kills followed by Mock and Thorpe with five each. Westendorf added another four aces, Neade chipped in two, and juniors Hadasa Burgos and Ava Black, Mock and Thorpe all had one.


Junior Danielle Lamberty, Westendorf and senior Lily Venneberg each had four digs.



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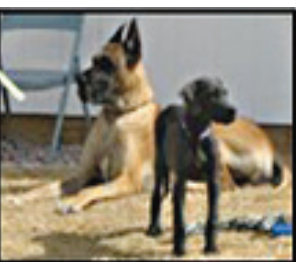
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Strasburg, Byers to host state football first-round games

Class 1A

Bracket Notes

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FIRST ROUND

QUARTERFINALS

SEMIFINALS

CHAMPIONSHIP

G1

1 Limon

16 Cedaredge

Preview

G2

8 Banning Lewis Academy

9 Wiggins

Preview

G3

4 Meeker

13 Highland

Preview

G4

5 Buena Vista

12 Colorado Springs Christian

Preview

G5

2 Holyoke

15 Platte Canyon

Preview

G6

7 Wray

10 Centauri

Preview

G7

6 Strasburg

11 North Fork

Preview

G8

3 Gunnison

14 Yuma

Preview

G9

W1

W2

Preview

G10

W3

W4

Preview

G11

W5

W6

Preview

G12

W7

W8

Preview

G13

W9

W10

Preview

G14

W11

W12

Preview

G15

W13

W14

Preview

COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

The Strasburg Indians streak for consecutive playoff football appearances has reached 13 as the red-and-black made this year’s 1A bracket as the No. 6. seed. The Indians will host 11th-seeded North Fork from the Western Slope in the first round this weekend. While the date and time of the game was uncertain at press time, Strasburg Athletic Director Kevin Hemphill said that it would “most likely” kick off at 1 p.m. on Saturday. The Indians won the Frontier League title with a 47-8 victory at Platte Canyon in Bailey Oct. 28. For coverage, see the Nov. 3 *Eastern Colorado News*.

Class A 8-Man

Bracket Notes

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FIRST ROUND

QUARTERFINALS

SEMIFINALS

CHAMPIONSHIP

G1

1 Mancos

16 Fowler

Preview

G2

8 West Grand

9 Sedgwick County

Preview

G3

4 Lyons

13 Akron

Preview

G4

5 Dove Creek

12 Vail Christian

Preview

G5

3 Haxtun

14 Calhan

Preview

G6

6 Byers

11 Sanford

Preview

G7

7 Merino

10 McClave

Preview

G8

2 Simla

15 Front Range Christian

Preview

G9

W1

W2

Preview

G10

W3

W4

Preview

G11

W5

W6

Preview

G12

W7

W8

Preview

G13

W9

W10

Preview

G14

W11

W12

Preview

G15

W13

W14

Preview

COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

After missing out last year, the Byers Bulldogs are back in the eight-man football playoffs, which kick off this weekend with eight first-round contests. The 8-1 and sixth-seeded Bulldogs will host No. 11 Sanford, who enters the postseason 5-4 overall. According to Byers Athletic Director Jeremy Kerns, the game will take place at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 4. For coverage of the green-and-white’s final regular-season game, a 54-0 win at Front Range Christian Oct. 28, see the Nov. 3 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

BYERS AMERICAN LEGION POST 160

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Monday, Nov. 6: Crunchy chicken tender wrap, tortilla, baked beans, lettuce, cheese, orange.
Tuesday, Nov. 7: Sloppy joe, cheese slice, coleslaw, corn.
Wednesday, Nov. 8: Chicken teriyaki, cilantro lime rice, broccoli, fortune cookie.
Thursday, Nov. 9: Ravioli in red

sauce, Texas toast, carrots, peaches.
BYERS
Thursday, Nov. 2: Spaghetti cheesy rolls, garden salad with ranch, mixed fruit.
Friday, Nov. 3: Taco salad, roll, pinto beans with cheese, grapes.
Monday, Nov. 6: Popcorn chicken, biscuit, celery sticks with ranch, pears.
Tuesday, Nov. 7: Cheese pizza, spinach salad with ranch, strawberries.
Wednesday, Nov. 8: Tater Tot Cas-

serole, dinner roll, steamed carrots, peaches.
Thursday, Nov. 9: Sweet and sour meatballs, steamed rice, egg roll, sliced cucumbers with ranch, grapes.
STRASBURG
Thursday, Nov. 2: Turkey sandwich.
Friday, Nov. 3: Hot dogs.
Monday, Nov. 6: Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll.
Tuesday, Nov. 7: Chili, cinnamon rolls.

Wednesday, Nov. 8: Chicken drumsticks.
Thursday, Nov. 9: Walking tacos.
AGATE
Thursday, Nov. 2: Crunchy chicken wrap, chips.
Monday, Nov. 6: Sloppy joes, fries.
Tuesday, Nov. 7: Orange chicken, rice.
Wednesday, Nov. 8: Cheesy ravioli.
Thursday, Nov. 9: Beef and potato wrap.



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PRIETO FROM PAGE 1

of attempted murder in the first degree.

During a Sept. 20 bond hearing, Judge Brett Martin denied the prosecution’s request to increase bond for Prieto, who posted \$2,000 bond and was released from the Adams County Detention Center a couple days after the original incident on Aug. 29. According to the judge, current bond was thought to be appropriate but he also left open the possibility for increasing bond and putting Prieto back in jail if circumstances changed.

“So at this time, I’m finding that does meet the needs for the community safety, Mr. Prieto,” Martin said, according to the Sept. 20 court hearing transcript. “But you have to understand, if you miss any court dates or you’re not compliant with [the State Review Panel], then I am looking at what the standard customary bond for a class-two felony would be, \$50,000, and that’s kind of going to be my starting point if there are issues.”

During the bond increase debate, prosecutor Michael Perez agreed that Prieto was first approached by an adversarial juvenile acquaintance before the incident occurred, but that the actions that followed were felonious in nature.

“Your honor, I do admit that there [are] some possible defenses in the this particular case,” Perez said. “However, I do believe the conduct by itself is pretty outrageous.”

Prieto reportedly fired four rounds from a firearm at a vehicle that was occupied by not only the juvenile acquaintance but three other parties.

“This happened to take place next to kind of like a soccer training complex with a bunch of kids and parents,” Perez argued. “Multiple eyewitnesses saw the defendant pointing the gun at the vehicle and start shooting.

“When apprehended, Mr. Prieto was on the phone with his father. He said, Dad, I’m going to jail; I just shot two people. This area, like I said, was catty-corner from a youth soccer field complex where a kids’ soccer game was taking place. Many individuals at the game were concerned for their own safety.”

The public defender representing Prieto argued that her client

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3	9	4	7	5	6	2	8	1
2	7	8	4	1	9	3	5	6
7	6	3	8	9	5	4	1	2
5	2	9	1	4	7	6	3	8
8	4	1	6	2	3	9	7	5

has taken all the steps required in the legal process so far and that the original charge suggested by the Adams County Sheriff’s office is more appropriate to the situation.

“[A] vehicle with four individuals drove up along Mr. Prieto as he was just walking on the side of the road,” the defense counsel said. “He had done nothing to engage with this car. They saw him, sought him out. And the individuals in the car all admit that [the juvenile occupant] was the one who first started yelling out of the car and harassing Mr. Prieto.

“Menacing is, at most, I think, what happened here.”

Defense counsel also indicated that Prieto has significant family ties to the area that would minimize the flight chances and that, with the exception of some contact with Texas law enforcement as a juvenile, he has not had “a significant criminal history.”

“Ultimately no convictions were had,” she said.

A man claiming to be Prieto’s father in multiple phone messages to *The I-70 Scout* after the September bond hearing added that his son’s actions were a reaction to longtime threats from the juvenile aggressor mentioned during the court proceedings.

“Pure case of self defense,” Jose Medina said. “You don’t know about this kid ... a total terror. Death threats against us for months.”

But following the Sept. 20 bond hearing, Prieto was booked back into the Adams County Detention Center on Oct. 7 on separate charges of fifth-degree felony menacing with a real or simulated weapon, first-degree misdemeanor child abuse, and violation of a protection order.

“It’s the same person, I got confirmation on that,” a DA’s office spokesperson said. “Second offense occurred while he was out on bond.”

According to the Adams County Sheriff’s Office, as of Oct. 27, Prieto remained in custody on \$10,000 bond.

Prieto is scheduled to appear for another preliminary hearing on the newest charges at 9 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, in Adams County Court Division 5.

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Tuna Pasta Salad

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The ECN

This tuna salad is one example
of a salad without lettuce. Wa-
ter-based tuna is recommended but
I prefer oily tuna because it seems
to have more flavor. Whichever you
use, thoroughly drain it.

Homemade mayonnaise dressing
is easy to make but bottled dressing
is even easier.

Cole slaw dressing has all of the
needed ingredients.

I sometimes make **Tuna Pasta Salad**
with rainbow rotini pasta and add
cubed white cheese.

Yellow cheese is best for white
pasta because it isn't hidden in the
mix.

If you need lettuce to call it a sal-
ad, line your bowl with lettuce!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (12-ounce) package white rotini
pasta
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 1 cup coleslaw dressing
- 1 (6-ounce) can tuna, drained
- ½ cup frozen baby peas
- ½ cup diced cheddar cheese



salt and pepper to taste
½ teaspoon dried dill

DIRECTIONS

Boil pasta to al dente in salted
water. Drain and rinse.
In a pretty salad bowl, mix celery,
onions and cole slaw dressing. Stir
in drained tuna, peas and cheese.
Fold in the cooked pasta.
Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and
dill.
Gently toss. Refrigerate covered
at least 1 hour to chill.
Serve with crackers.



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While Ford F-150 Raptors were reportedly the thieves' preferred vehicles, Jeep Grand Cherokees, Dodge Challengers, and Dodge Chargers were also allegedly stolen. The defendants allegedly utilized sophisticated tools to reprogram key fobs so they could steal the vehicles. They would also allegedly disable the vehicles' GPS tracking systems to avoid apprehension.

"These alleged offenses occurred in multiple jurisdictions including Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Jefferson County, and Logan County," the DA's office statement added. "In total, 59 vehicles were stolen, and there were 31 attempted or completed burglaries."

While sources close to the investigation said they could not confirm whether the crime spree in question involved any auto thefts or burglaries in eastern portions of Adams or Arapahoe counties, the indictment names a Watkins gas station among the businesses vandalized.

Counts 10-13 name Hector Escalera Hernandez, Cesar Poblano Hernandez, and Brian Valladares as alleged perpetrators who broke into and stole from the Watco Gas Station, 33105 E. Colfax Ave, on or around Sept. 1, 2022.

Counts 10 and 12 both allege the trio "knowingly broke an entrance into, entered, or remained unlawfully after a lawful or unlawful

FROM PAGE 1

entry in the building or occupied structure; Count 11 alleges items or cash valued between \$5,000 and \$20,000 was taken; and Count 13 alleges that between \$20,000 and \$100,000 of cash or merchandise was stolen.

Escalera Hernandez, who is cited on 46 of the 121 counts, is the most named suspect in the indictment, while Poblano Hernandez is cited 20 times and Valladares 15 times.

The indictment added that all three suspects in the Watkins case and six others are in custody; Escalera Hernandez was caught in Mexico. Of the four still at-large last week, one was reportedly in Mexico.


The other 10 individuals named in the indictment are:

- Marc Morales Cisneros (29 counts): at large;
- David Nava Delgado (10 counts): in custody;
- Carlos Nava Delgado (16 counts): in custody;
- Jorge Cadena Lujan (18 counts): in custody;
- Stephanie Reza Ramos (19 counts): in custody;
- Rene Ruiz Ochoa (13 counts): in custody;
- Alejandro Silva-Vasquez (8 counts): at large in Mexico;
- Rodrigo Perez-Gonzalez (14 counts): in custody;
- Cruz Cordova (2 counts): at large;
- Jose Merino Ramos (4 counts): at large.


"I'm certain that this indictment will send a message to all who target vulnerable travelers at DIA," Mason said. "This behavior will not be tolerated, and we will pursue justice with all the law enforcement and prosecutorial power we have to deter it."



Silva-Vasquez



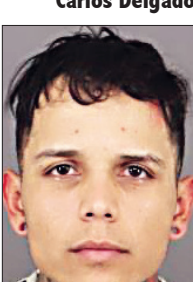
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