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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

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

Volume 30, Number 1

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

## Bennett teacher charged with sex assault

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**BENNETT** — A new Bennett Middle School PE teacher is facing a pair of sexual assault charges after only a month of employment with the district, including less than 10 days to start the 2023-24 school year.

According to the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Chris-

topher James Castellano, is facing allegations of sex assault against a child and sex assault against a child by a person in a position of trust, both fourth-degree felonies, related to a situation that appears to have occurred sometime during the last half of August.

According to a Nov. 16 letter to middle school parents and guardians from Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy, Castellano, who was

hired this past summer, has not been on campus in almost three months. Castellano began his employment with the district on July 24 with the first day of classes for the 2023-24 school year starting on Aug. 14.



Castellano

"Mr. Castellano has been on administrative leave since Aug. 23, 2023, and has remained in this status since this date pending the outcome of an investigation," Purdy's letter said. "Additionally, he has had no contacts with students or been allowed on District 29J property since being placed on this status."

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KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Mrs. Americana (Jessica Stebbins), right, acts out on her own after her son Johnny's teacher, Ms. Calhoun (Giselle Rowe), asks her to meet to discuss his behavior during the Bennett Arts Councils dinner theater performance of "Rebel Without a Clue" at the Bennett Community Center Nov. 18. Local talent was on display throughout the melodramatic comedy written by Eric Zacharias, directed by Robbin Schincke, and featuring actors and stage crew from the I-70 Corridor. The play, which takes place in a small town in the 1950s, features an angsty teenager trying to find himself, frustrating those around him.

## Stuffed animals sought by 'Burg seniors org



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg Comanche VIP Seniors Association parliamentarian Marian Burrell, right, presents Comfort Kritters to fire and sheriff's office officials Nov. 21. Accepting the gifts are Tim Phillips, left, with the Strasburg Fire Protection District, Adams County Sheriff's Office Community Services Specialist Lesley Brown, and Heidi Price, also with Strasburg FPD.

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

**STRASBURG** — The Strasburg Comanche VIP Seniors Association has launched a project to help comfort children in traumatic situations, and the community can help. "Comfort Kritters" will provide local first emergency responders with small

**SEE KRITTERS**  
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## DT EV station defaced prior to ribbon-cutting

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**DEER TRAIL** — "The show must go on." That was the mantra of representatives from the multiple entities that partnered up for the first multiple-station Level 3 electric vehicle charging station between Bennett and Limon during a ribbon-cutting in Deer Trail Nov. 21.

Vandals that hit the site along the north side of Date Street immediately east of Second Avenue with a barrage of red paint the weekend prior didn't deter the enthusiasm of Deer Trail trustees and representatives of CORE Electric Cooperative, the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership, Arapahoe County, and the state energy office.

"A lot of cleaner, elbow grease and determination to get things back in pretty good shape and presentable," one Deer Trail resident said. "A far cry from what it looked like Sunday (Nov. 19)."

During the station's christening, optimism abounded about Deer Trail's new place on the

**SEE EV STATION**  
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vandals wasted no time in damaging the new EV station in Deer Trail over the Nov. 18-19 weekend.





Give Back Through the Poverty Reduction Unit's Amazon

# Wishlist

The Adams County Poverty Reduction Unit has an Amazon Wishlist for supplies for people experiencing homelessness and in need of survival gear. Purchased items are distributed by the Adams County's Street Outreach Network to community members. As the weather gets colder, donations from the wishlist and of gift cards are more crucial than ever.

If you're interested in donating, scan the QR code.



## Join the Adams County Facilities & Fleet Management Team!

The Adams County Facilities & Fleet Management team is hiring a Deputy Director. This role will work with the Director to provide leadership and support for a successful department and oversee the development and implementation of workplans, change management efforts, goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for each assigned divisional service area.

Scan the QR code to learn more and apply.



### STAY CONNECTED

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Public Agencies /AdamsCountyCo

[Adcgov.org](https://adcgov.org)



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout



KRISTA RECTOR/Deer Trail School



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

I-70 Corridor school districts hosted Veterans Day programs Nov. 9-10. Clockwise from top left: Bennett resident and Air Force Sr. Airman Aaliyah Emerick, stationed out of Buckley, attends the Bennett High School program, which included a mentoring session, on Thursday morning; fourth-grader Sadie Hart sings the National Anthem during Strasburg Elementary's Friday-morning festivities; high-schooler Angelia Castilleja plays a patriotic tune on piano during Bennett Elementary's program on Thursday afternoon; elementary students hand out handmade Thank You cards to honored military guests during the Deer Trail School program Nov. 9; and kindergartners are front and center with teacher Holly Brooks, singing "March of the Wee Americans" and "Oh I Love America" during Byers Elementary's Nov. 10 program.



COMMUNITY CORRAL

Advent workshop planned at Byers Community Church

BYERS — An Advent workshop will begin at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, at Byers Community Church. Before Christmas is celebrated there is the traditional time of waiting for the coming of Christ Jesus known as Advent. Participants in the workshop will prepare their hearts and homes with four Advent projects. A donation of \$5 per four projects is requested cover the expense of the materials. Interested parties are asked to check in at byerschurch@gmail.com, (303)822-5717, or the church’s Facebook page so organizers can provide enough materials.

Byers Community Church is located on the corner of Front and Sherman streets at 135 S. Sherman St.

Bennett FFA member sale scheduled for December 8

BENNETT — The annual Bennett FFA Member Auction will start with dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at the Bennett High School auditorium. The auction, where attendees bid on each FFA member for eight hours of community service, will follow at 7 p.m. A silent auction is also planned. Dinner tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. They can be purchased with cash, in person, or online. All donations are tax-deductible. Proceeds benefit the Bennett FFA Chapter and agriculture education at Bennett Schools. For more information, send an e-mail to klinnebur@bsd29j.com. Payouts must be completed before exiting the event.

2023 CSU Crops Clinic: Registration underway

BURLINGTON — Approximately 14 certified crop advisor credits will be offered at the 2023 Colorado State University Crops Clinic from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 6-7, at the Is-

Christmas village planned at fairgrounds

LITTLETON — The public is invited to Visit the Village at Holiday Family Fun Day at the Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds Event Center. Visit the Village activities will include a meet-n-greet photo op with Santa Claus, horse-drawn carriage and train rides, a two by two petting zoo, a model train display, a snow land foam pit, a gingerbread house contest, crafts, a bounce house, face-painting and a S’mores making station. Tickets cost \$10 per person, but

one admission per household is free with the donation of a new, unwrapped gift. The contributions go to support Arapahoe County Human Services’ Partnering for the Holidays gift-giving program. Admission is free for children ages 2 and under. Tickets can be purchased on-site or in advance at www.arapahoecountyeventcenter.com. For more information, send an e-mail to Fairgrounds@Arapahoegov.com. The fairgrounds are located at 25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora.

land Grove Events Center, Greeley. The meeting will be offered both in-person and remotely via Zoom links. Registration is open. Pesticide applicator recertification credits will be offered in categories 101, 102 and 103. Cost is \$95 per person. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit gold-enplains.extension.colostate.edu.

Parade of Lights with cars slated from DT to Bennett

BYERS — Eastern Colorado Car Enthusiasts will present a Christmas Light Parade beginning in Deer Trail at 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16. The convoy will travel Highways 40 and 36 to Bennett. Participants will throw candy to onlookers along the way. For more information and to register, call Pattie Lindsay at (303)886-0771.

Mobile Diaper Days slated for Byers Catholic Church

BYERS — A box truck loaded to the ceiling with diapers (sizes newborn to 6 and pull-ups in three sizes) is coming to Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church, 186 N. McDonnell St., Byers. Distribution will occur at the church parking lot from 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2.

On Mobile Diaper Days, church members distribute free diapers and wipes to residents of the I-70 Corridor. Adult incontinence supplies, which vary in availability, are also offered. For more information, call Nadine at (303)822-9860.

Breakfast with Santa Claus planned at Bennett Dec. 2

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett Board of Trustees will host Breakfast with Santa from 8-11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Bennett Community Center. Food will be served and an opportunity for photos with Santa will be provided. The cost for the annual event is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child with children under 3 admitted for free. Donations to the Bennett Food Bank will be accepted, and proceeds from Breakfast with Santa will go to support the Bennett Holiday Help Program. The Bennett Community Center is located at 1100 W. Colfax Ave.

Cancer Fighters Toy Drive seeks gifts for ages 0-21

STRASBURG — Unwrapped gifts for ages birth to 21 are now being accepted by the 14th annual Cancer Fighters to the Rescue Toy Drive. In Strasburg, donations can be

delivered to the Strasburg Recreation Center; The Gift Shop, 56781 E. Colfax Ave.; Salinas Mexican Food, 56551 E. Colfax Ave.; Napa Auto Parts, 1313 Monroe St.; and 2354 Basil St. In Byers, gifts are being accepted at Byers General Store; Ladybug Landing, 31 W. Bijou Ave.; and Escape the Clock, 251 U.S. Highway 40. Gifts can also be taken to the Bennett Recreation Center; O’Malley’s Mercantile, 1600 Hudson Road, Watkins; Latinas Salon II, 992 S. Abilene St., Aurora; and the Outlets at Castle Rock. To make a cash donation, visit www.gofundme.com.

Lutheran church in Bennett issues its Advent schedule

BENNETT — Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bennett plans Advent services every Wednesday through Christmas: Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13 and 20. The evening will begin with a meal at 6 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m. A Christmas Eve candlelight service starts at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 24. Christ Our Redeemer is located at 275 Ash St.

RSV shots recommended to guard unborn children


DENVER — State health officials Nov. 16 encouraged pregnant women to get vaccinated with Abrysvo to protect their unborn children from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Infants and newborns are especially at risk for severe RSV illness, which is sometimes deadly. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recommends a single dose of Abrysvo during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy from September through January. Most babies whose birthing parent received Abrysvo while pregnant will not need RSV immunization in that same RSV season. Additionally, CDC recommends two RSV vaccines, Abryvo and Arxvy, for adults 60 and older.

# The I-70 Scout

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# Living Christmas Trees

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 <p><b>Montrose Charm Spruce</b> 5-6' Tall #17 Cont. sku# SPR-MCH17F5 Reg Price <del>\$499.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$299</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$249<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>	 <p><b>Dwarf Alberta Spruce</b> 4-5' Tall 10 Gal Grow Bag sku# SPR-ALB10B Reg Price <del>\$269.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$189</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$149<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>
 <p><b>Austrian Pine</b> 5' Tall #20 Cont. sku# PIN-AUS20C5 Reg Price <del>\$439.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$329</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$269<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>	 <p><b>Colorado Blue Spruce</b> 4' Tall 10 Gal Grow Bag sku# SPR-COL10B Reg Price <del>\$299.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$239</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$199<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>
 <p><b>Black Hills Spruce</b> 3-4' Tall #10 Cont. sku# SPR-BLA10C3 Reg Price <del>\$359.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$199</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$179<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>	 <p><b>Black Hills Spruce</b> 5' Tall #20 Cont. sku# SPR-BLA20C Reg Price <del>\$529.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$399</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$299<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>
 <p><b>Southwestern White Pine</b> 6' Tall 10 Gal Grow Bag sku# PIN-SOU10B Reg Price <del>\$349.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$229</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$199<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>	 <p><b>Colorado Spruce</b> Perfect For Table Top Decoration! 2-3' Tall #5 Cont. sku# SPR-COL5C24 Reg Price <del>\$159.95</del> Sale Was <del>\$109</del> <b>Special Holiday Price</b> Now Only <b>\$99<sup>99</sup></b> Each</p>



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**303-652-2961**

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Take I-25 To Exit 235, Then 5 Miles West To The Tree Farm

**HOLIDAY HOURS (Weather Permitting)** • Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm • Sunday Nov. 26th 11-4  
Sunday Dec. 3rd 11-4 • Sunday Dec. 10th 11-4 • Sunday Dec. 17th 11-4 • Closed Dec. 24th thru Jan 2nd



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Gonzalez siblings — Itzayana, 12, top photo; and Alexa, 10; and Karla, 9 — work on their flora and fauna piggy banks at Chilly Day Crafts, a youth program at Davies Library in Deer Trail Nov. 15.



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Shoveling snow is great exercise!  
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LIBRARY NEWS

DAVIES LIBRARY

128 Second Ave., Deer Trail  
(303)769-4310  
www.arapahoelibraries.org  
**Cozy winter crafting:** An afternoon of winter-themed crafting for kids ages 5-12 is planned. All supplies provided; all skill levels welcome. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20.

ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES ON ZOOM

To reserve a spot or for more information on Zoom programming, call (303)542-7279 or visit arapahoelibraries.org.  
**‘Indigenous Ingenuity:’** As part of its celebration of Native American Heritage Month, Deidre Havrelock, author of “Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge,” will be featured in a free virtual event for ages 9-12.

Havrelock will discuss traditional indigenous technology hidden in plain sight. Attendees will learn about Plains Indian Sign Language, corn invention, how to use a halibut hook and more.

Indigenous Ingenuity is a wide-ranging STEM offering, with topics from transportation to civil engineering, hunting technologies, astronomy, brain surgery, architecture and more. The book shines a light on hidden history and includes activities for kids to help them better understand the principles used by Indigenous inventors.

Havrelock is a member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada. She was raised in Edmonton, Alberta, with a house ghost and a feminist grandma, where she

wished for a pet buffalo. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30.

**Vikings and Norse mythology:** Tweens ages 9-12 will learn about Norse gods and goddesses, listen to a Norse myth, and hear about the people who worshipped these gods — the Vikings — while exploring Viking-age objects during a virtual guided tour of Seattle’s National Nordic Museum. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5.

**Favorite adult books of 2023:** Librarians will share their favorite books for adults at a virtual book party on YouTube. Closed captioning provided. 6-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 12.

**Paper Airplane Guy:** World record holder and paper airplane expert John Collins, a.k.a. “The Paper Airplane Guy,” will share cool facts about aerodynamics and teach kids ages 5-12 how to fold and fly paper planes. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.  
(303)405-3231  
anythinklibraries.org  
**Virtual writers workshop:** Adults can share their work with other aspiring writers in a fun, supportive workshop. Participants will learn to write better and hone their skills through creative exercises. Space limited. Registration required at anythinklibraries.org. A Zoom link will be provided in advance. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2.

**Puppies & Cocoa:** Lifeline Puppy Rescue will bring its cutest pups to the library for de-stressing during

the holidays. Hot chocolate and a free gift-wrapping station will be provided. Appropriate for all ages. 12-2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8.

**Yoga in the Stacks:** Adults can practice poses that focus on alignment, stability and flexibility with local yoga instructor Scott Noble. Mats provided. All skill levels welcome. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 9.

**Artist meet-up:** The Corridor Creative Arts League will host an end-of-the-year celebration for adults. Attendees are asked to bring a snack to share, design a holiday card, and participate in an art-based game of Jeopardy. The color for the month is white and the themes are outdoor

scenery, holiday lights, and the mountains. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16.

KELVER LIBRARY

585 Main St., Byers  
(303)822-9392  
www.arapahoelibraries.org  
**Cozy winter crafting:** An afternoon of winter-themed crafting for kids ages 5-12 is planned. All supplies provided; all skill levels welcome. 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16.  
**Barbie Beyond 50:** The Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys will host a presentation on the Barbie doll. Attendees can explore Barbie’s Denver roots and wild history while connecting with other members of the Byers community. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Church Directory



**LIVING SPRINGS  
COWBOY  
CHURCH**  
BYERS, CO  
Sundays at 10:00 AM  
2722 S. County Rd 173 Byers, CO  
In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.  
LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org  
719-659-8848



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

**Saron Lutheran Church**  
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | [saronstrasburg.org](http://saronstrasburg.org)  
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook



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Baptist Church**  
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303-822-9366 • [mttaborbayers.org](http://mttaborbayers.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

**Psalm 31:22** Thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.



**Strasburg Presbyterian Church**  
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO  
[www.spcusa.us](http://www.spcusa.us)  
**303-622-4325**  
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AA - Fridays @ 6pm  
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**mvfcolorado.com**  
**303.622.9600**



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**303.261.8853**  
**Info@calvarybennett.org**  
**calvarybennett.org**



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**Pastor:** Fr. Jeff Wilborn  
186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103  
Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889  
Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551  
[www.ourladyoftheplains.org](http://www.ourladyoftheplains.org)

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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**  
Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm  
Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am  
Or by Appointment  
OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS

Paul Joseph Miller



Paul Joseph Miller, Strasburg, Colo., was born in Hays, Kan., to Alphonse Miller and Basilia (Dreiling) Miller on April 26, 1944. He was baptized at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Catherine, Kan. He departed his earthly life on Nov. 1, 2023 at University Hospital, Aurora, Colo.

Paul was raised in Hays, Kan., where he attended Jefferson Elementary and St. Joseph Military Academy and graduated from Hays High School. He spent two years of high school, between St. Joseph’s Academy and Hays High, at Trenton High School in Nebraska. On August 28, 1964, he married his high school sweetheart, Loretta Hay, in Trenton. To this union, were born their two children, Gregory and Michelle. They started their life together in Hays and then moved to Wichita, Kan., where Paul worked at Boeing. They then moved to Irving, Texas, where he worked for Texas Instruments, and in 1978, they moved to Lakewood, Colo., where he worked at Rocky Flats and the University of Colorado in Denver. They moved to Strasburg in 2018.

Paul was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus and a founding member of Council 7640 at Christ on the Mountain Catholic Church in Lakewood.

Paul was a machinist and loved his trade, especially when he had special projects or was teaching. After he retired, he made little, wooden cars on his CNC milling machine in his home shop for Toys for God’s Kids, who made them available to underprivileged children around the world. His favorite sports included shooting pool, bowling, and fishing. His favorite pool hall, in his home town, was the Blue Moon. Later, he was all set when he got a pool table of his own in his basement, where he could share the fun of playing with family and friends. Bowling a 300-point game seemed to be easy for him, and he had several such games in league bowling! From the time he was a kid, he liked to fish, especially with his brother-in-law in Wyoming. His most recent fishing expedition was at Swanson Lake near Trenton, Neb.

Paul was a kind, gentle man and loved his family deeply. He enjoyed visiting with them, and with old and new friends. A good debate did his heart good! He was proactive and fixed things before they broke, but when something broke, he would figure out how to fix it and get it done. He was seldom idle, being happiest when he had a project. He loved having a beautiful lawn!

Paul is survived by his wife, Loretta, of Strasburg, Colo.; children, Greg (Jackie) Miller, and Michelle (Patrick) Anderson, both of Littleton, Colo.; six grandchildren, Drew Miller, Cammie (Jon) Parich, Jacob (Ashleigh) Anderson, Austin (Jordan) Anderson, Matthew Anderson, and Kayla Anderson; and 10 great-grandchildren, Conner, Grace, Justin, Blake, and Claire Parich, Layla, Sawyer, Maisie, and Walker Anderson, and Shaylee Anderson. Another little one, his eleventh great-grandchild, is expected in March! He is also survived by his sister, Connie (Paul) Simonton, and brother, Aaron (Marcel-la) Miller, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Alphonse and Basilia; sister, Dolores Sander; and brothers, LaVerne, Norman, and Allan Miller.

Memorial donations in Paul’s name can be made to Toys for God’s Kids by mail to 3531 S. Logan St. D-154, Englewood, CO 80113. Donations can also be made to the Capuchin Province of St. Conrad by mail to 3613 Wyandot St., Denver, CO, 80211.



# Man, 34, sentenced to 85 years in prison for killing father during carjacking spree

CENTENNIAL — A 34-year-old man was sentenced Nov. 14 to 85 years in prison for a series of violent crimes, which included murder, multiple carjackings and two home invasions, that ended in an area on the eastern edge of Aurora.

During his two-hour crime spree on Nov. 10, 2021, Andrew Jacobs claimed he was high on methamphetamine and fentanyl. The crimes began at 3:21 p.m. when Jacobs stole a woman’s purse and fired shots into her garage in the 14000 block of East Idaho Drive in Aurora before running away.

At 3:29 p.m., Jacobs approached Carlos Julio Albarracin, 34, and his 6-year-old son at an apartment complex in the 14000 block of East Iowa Drive, about a quarter of a mile away from the first attempted carjacking scene. The father and son were inside their truck when Jacobs shattered the driver’s side window, shot the father at point blank range, and stole the vehicle. The child was able to escape before Jacobs drove off. The boy’s father died as a result of his injuries while protecting his child.

The crimes ended when Jacobs crashed a Ford F-450 truck, which he had stolen at roughly 4:09 p.m. in the 15600 block of East Randolph Place, near 56th Avenue and

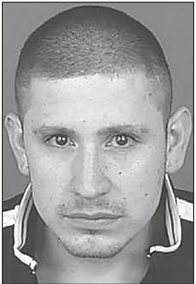
Pena Boulevard. He then stole a Nissan SUV which he crashed near 56th Avenue and E-470.

Jacobs was convicted of second-degree murder; violent crime causing death or serious bodily injury, a sentence enhancer; two counts of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon; and two counts of violent crime — use of a weapon, also a sentence enhancer.

“This was a complicated investigation with multiple crimes committed against a number of victims with numerous scenes throughout Aurora and Denver,” said Aurora Major Crime Homicide Unit Lt. Sean Mitchell. “The plea agreement struck with the 18th Judicial District Attorney’s Office and today’s sentencing are a direct result of the dedication of the lead detective, who was committed to ensuring the victims received justice in this case, especially a young boy who tragically lost his father in a senseless string of crimes.”

Surveillance video and multiple witnesses helped investigators identify Jacobs as the sole suspect in the crime spree.

“This is one of the most egregious crime sprees my team has prosecuted,” said 18th Judicial District Attorney John Kellner. “I can’t imagine the trauma this young child now lives with after witnessing his father’s killing. The decision to plead this case was made to spare this child the grief of having to testify in court.”



Jacobs

# Murder-suicide presumed in death of 4 men

DENVER (AP) — Investigators believe four men found dead Nov. 21 inside a home near 84th Avenue and Franklin Drive in the unincorporated Welby neighborhood of Adams County died as the result of a murder-suicide, authorities said Nov. 22.

The men were all found to have been shot and three of the four are believed to be related, said Sgt. Adam Sherman, a spokesperson for the Adams County Sheriff’s

Office. The man who is suspected of shooting the others is believed to be in his late 40s to 50s. The other men are believed to be in their 70s or 80s, he said.

Investigators do not know yet what led up to the shooting, he said. The discovery was made a day after three people were fatally shot southwest of Denver, allegedly over a property dispute. A suspect was arrested near Albuquerque, N.M., officials announced Nov. 21.

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Strasburg Parks & Rec; Bennett Parks & Rec; Byers General Store; Gift Shop, Strasburg; O'Malley's Mercantile (1600 Hudson Rd., Watkins); Ladybug Landing (31 W. Bijou Ave., Byers); Escape the Clock (251 U.S. Hwy. 40, Byers); Tractor Supply (200 W. Marketplace Dr., Bennett); NAPA Auto Parts, Strasburg; Salinas Mexican Food, Strasburg; Latina Salon II (992 S. Abilene St., Aurora); Outlets @ Castle Rock; 2354 Basil St., Strasburg



Remember, kindness starts with you.

Bring new unwrapped toys for ages 0 to 21

### DROP-OFF DEADLINE:

**DECEMBER 17**

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**In the last 13 years, you all have come together to donate more than 30,000 toys!**

If you don't have time to go shopping but you still want to donate, you can make a cash donation on our GoFundMe page or scan the QR code below

<https://www.gofundme.com/14th-cancer-fighters-to-the-rescue-toy-drive>



# No-till conference speakers announced

KIT CARSON — The Colorado Conservation Tillage Association announced Nov. 6 that the High Plains No-Till Conference will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 6-7, in Burlington.

The event will feature keynote speakers Nicole Masters, Don Day Jr. and Jerry Hatfield.

Masters, an independent agroecologist, author and educator is internationally recognized as a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker on the topic of soil health. Her team of soil coaches works alongside producers in the United States, Canada and Australia on more than 24 million acres, and she brings to the conference her experience in vermiculture, compost tea production, and diverse multi-species systems.

Day is president and

chief meteorologist of Day Weather, Inc. For more than 25 years, he has provided customized broadcast weather services to over 70 radio stations across Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. For the event, he will contribute his expertise in long-range and seasonal weather forecasting as it relates to agricultural producers on the High Plains.

Hatfield, the retired director of the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa, will also speak. His research focused on the interactions among the components of the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and their connection to air, water and soil quality. His current activities focus on helping producers understand the dynamics of soil health and

how it impacts production, profit, sustainability and environmental quality.

The two-day conference will additionally showcase more than 40 breakout sessions presented by producers and industry experts on topics such as markets, composting, regenerative grazing, soil health economics, tax planning, and more. A trade show, outdoor equipment display, Beer & Bull Social, and FFA Day also will be included.

"This will be an excellent opportunity for producers to learn from both internationally-known speakers and High Plains producers," said CCTA Coordinator Joni Mitchek, coordinator for the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association.

For more information, visit [www.HighPlainsNo-Till.com](http://www.HighPlainsNo-Till.com).

# CORRIDOR CALENDAR

## THURSDAY, NOV. 30

**Bennett School Board.** 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit [bsd29j.com](http://bsd29j.com) for a Zoom link. Newly elected board members will take their oath of office and the new board will elect officers.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 2

**Bennett Community Food Bank.** 8-10 a.m., Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.

## MONDAY, DEC. 4

**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.

**Bennett Middle and High School choir concert.** 7 p.m., high school auditorium.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 5

**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, DEC. 6

**Bennett kindergarten winter concert.** 6:30 p.m., high school auditorium.

**Byers Park & Recreation District Board.** 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

## 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. For information, contact Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or [hp-memusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:hp-memusicdirector@gmail.com).

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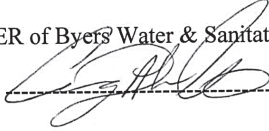
## NOTICE OF BUDGET

Byers Water and Sanitation District

Notice is hereby given that: a proposed budget has been submitted to Byers Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors for the ensuing year of 2024; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Byers Water and Sanitation District, 421 S. Sherman Street, Byers, Colorado, where same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held at 421 S. Sherman Street, Byers, Colorado on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Any interested elector of the Byers Water and Sanitation District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

MANAGER of Byers Water & Sanitation District. Craig A White



## DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2023



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Bennett Community Center  
1100 E. Colfax Avenue



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Happy 50th Anniversary

Rod and Kathleen Koepke will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1, 2023. They were married in 1973 in Deer Trail, Colo., at The Friends Church by Lutheran pastor Leonard G. Fritschel. They have farmed and ranched south of Matheson since October 1976. They began farm life in Matheson, milking dairy cows and have grown into a cow/calf beef operation all while raising their five children: Jake (Karrie) Koepke of Matheson, Kati (J.N.) Wilson of Pueblo West, Kyrei (J.W.) Zion of Elbert, Kelsi (Todd) Leach of Pueblo, and Kalli Koepke of Laramie, WY. They also have 12 grandchildren: Allen (Fiancé Alexis Juhnke) and Cody Koepke; Conner, Talya, Brayden and Brenna Wilson; Jaceen and Kolby Zion; and Lane, Wade, Saige and Hayden Leach. They will celebrate their golden anniversary as well as Rod’s 70th birthday (Nov. 9) with family.



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Main Course - Prime Rib

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Three of the four turkeys pardoned Nov. 20 appear to hang on every word spoken by Gov. Jared Polis.

## Governor pardons four turkeys

DENVER — Maple, Pumpkin, Matilda and Gus were the first four turkeys to receive an official pardon from the governor in Colorado history Nov. 20.

Colorado’s Turkey Pardon is a unique way to support Colorado farmers and ranchers and highlights opportunities for Coloradans to shop locally during the holiday season.

“This beloved tradition is a symbolic way to support the poultry industry and, by launching the Colorado Turkey Pardon, we are reminding people to shop Colorado Proud this holiday season,” Polis said. “Shopping locally in Colorado supports small businesses, boosts our economy, and is better for the environment.”

Pardoning turkeys is a symbolic way to uplift the responsible producers of Colorado poultry, which has weathered a difficult year because of the avian flu.

The Colorado Department of Ag-

riculture’s seasonal maps of farmers’ markets, farm stands, and other places to find Colorado-grown produce, meats and other foods can help Coloradans shop locally.

The turkeys were raised at Hayden Fresh Farm, a Routt County producer that has been feeding Colorado families for years, in Hayden. Founded and operated by Colby and Michelle Townsend, the farm is one of Colorado’s many responsible poultry producers.

Colby Townsend is the co-chair of the Community Agriculture Alliance, an organization serving Routt County and the Yampa River Valley. It works to ensure the agricultural community can adapt to changes in the local and regional economy while remaining active and vital for generations to come.

Following their pardon, Maple, Pumpkin, Matilda, and Gus were sent to Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary in Erie to live out their lives peacefully.

## Winter sports start across Corridor

Even with the last three Colorado high school football title games to be played on Saturday, winter sports along the I-70 Corridor commence this week.

For full previews of local basketball and wrestling teams, see upcoming Friday editions of the *Eastern Colorado News*. Most season-opening schedules follow:

**STRASBURG & BYERS HOOPS**  
This year’s Corridor Classic Tournament

**TIGER TIP OFF**  
The annual Bennett Tiger Tip Off round-robin basketball tournament will run Nov. 30 - Dec. 2. Games start at 3 p.m. the first two days with Saturday’s games set to go at 12 p.m. Bennett plays Frontier Academy on Thursday, DSST: Conservatory Green on Friday, and Bishop Machebeuf on Saturday afternoon.

**EAGLE CLASSIC**  
Deer Trail hosts its own Eagle Classic Dec. 1-2 with Pikes Peak Christian, Bethune and Miami-Yoder also attending. Friday’s games begin at 3 p.m. with Saturday’s action starting at 11 a.m.

**WRESTLING**  
The Strasburg boys follow up a dual at Wellington on Thursday with Saturday’s Chuck Annand Invitational in Akron, which Byers will also attend. The Strasburg girls travel to Greeley West on Friday.

19th ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The local volunteer High Plains Music Ensemble, now eight years old, performed its Mysterious Masterpieces concert Oct. 28 at the Bennett High School Performing Arts Center. The group put its spooky foot forward, playing a handful of songs to get concert-goers in the Halloween spirit. The night of song included a version of the 1967 Halloween classic “Spooky.” Clockwise from top photo: bass player Thomas Stockman, left, pianist and band director Kurt Elliott and percussionist JaLee Kitzman set the pace for the rest of the group; oboe player Christie Godsey is in the Halloween spirit in her cat ears and whiskers; David Pershing plays a trumpet solo; and Michael Martindale, who is also Strasburg Schools’ secondary music teacher, plays a trombone solo. The band will host its first-ever Christmas with the High Plains Music Ensemble Concert at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Bennett High School auditorium. The upcoming event will include a reading of “Twas the Night Before Christmas” from a guest orator from the community.



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce held a Board of Directors election Nov. 15 at its monthly Lunch & Learn Meeting at May Farms in Byers. New and continuing directors are, from left, Byers Representative Debbie Stone, President Becky Zierer, Bennett Representative Nathan Sumner, Treasurer Kristy Funk, Strasburg Representative Candice Rosenbach, Deer Trail/Agate Representative Jessie Ehler, Vice President Lindsay Wheaton, and At Large West Representative Lindy Cosgrove.

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## Arctic Action!

Antarctica! Land of ice.

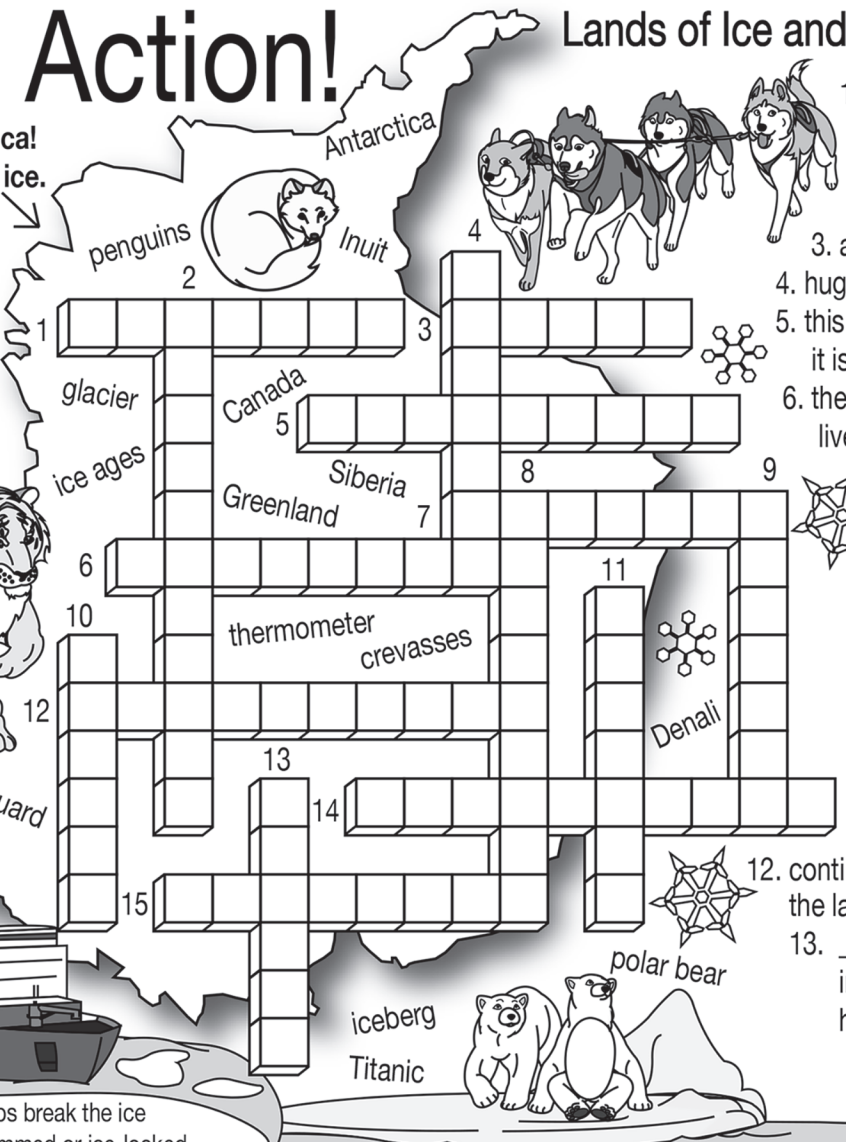
Can you imagine living in a land of cold, snow and ice all year long?

The coldest areas of the world are the Polar regions, North and South. Greenland, Siberia, Alaska and Canada are close to the North Pole. Antarctica is the land mass that surrounds the South Pole.

People started exploring these lands of cold, snow and ice many years ago. In the area of the North Pole, people came to find new trade routes to the Far East. Some explorers wanted to be the first to reach the poles. Many kept written records of their observations.

Today, scientists study weather patterns, glacial movement and animal life in the Polar regions. These lands give clues to the Ice Ages, during which a large part of the Earth's surface was covered with ice!

Read the clues to the right to fill in the crossword puzzle.



1. glacier  
2. penguins  
3. Inuit  
4. Canada  
5. Siberia  
6. Greenland  
7. thermometer  
8. crevasses  
9. Denali  
10. Coast Guard  
11. iceberg  
12. polar bear  
13. Titanic

1. "safest ship in the world," sank after hitting an iceberg

2. glass tube with liquid that rises and falls with the temperature

3. a native people of Canada, Alaska

4. huge area of North Asia, Husky dogs

5. this country's name is "tricky" – it is actually covered in ice

6. the world's largest land meat-eater; lives in the Arctic Circle

7. chunk of a glacier broken off at ocean's edge; only 1/8 can be seen above the water

8. large cracks in the ice

9. over thousands of years, snow hardens into thick mass of slow-moving ice

10. North American nation


11. time periods during which a large part of Earth's surface was covered in ice

12. continent surrounding South Pole; has the largest sheet of ice in the world

13. \_\_\_\_\_ is the highest peak in North America; its temperature has plunged as low as - 75° F

14. group that uses icebreakers to save icebound ships

15. flightless birds known for living in cold places



### + C Items!

There are lots of "icy" items. Can you help little penguin catch them? Find and circle them in the puzzle.

ice skates	ice cream	ice hockey	icebreaker
ice sheet	ice cave	ice fishing	iceboating
ice caps	Iceland	iceberg	icehouse
ice pick	ice milk	ice pack	ice storm

On April 6, 1909, **Robert Peary** and his team were the first men to reach the **North Pole**.


Time to hop!

Uh-oh!

Time for lunch!

Soon after, on December 14, 1911, **Roald Amundsen**, from Norway, and his team were the first to reach the **South Pole**.


If you visit Mount Rainier National Park in the state of Washington or Yosemite National Park in California...



...you will learn about the Ice Ages. You will see signs of a time when it was "winter" all year long!

Really?

Not even a worm?



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F D S C C G C J H U Y K J H G S G V G K O

G K O U I C E L A N D K J U G G F R E K H U Y H K I R V U

X C H U I J H J H R E S A D G N I T A O B E C I O P E C S

B I K J O P O L E J N U Y G T R F D V C U Y G N K H B F E

F P K N H Y C F D S I P O K I U J Y H T G R F G K J E K T

A E E I U E K N G Y C T I C E S H E E T R T H G D J C I Y

V C J T I C E C A V E O U H B T G F R O V S E W Q A I K H

K I M J Y G Y L K J C U R E K A E R B E C I L K P J U W E

U V G B U J K I O L A I O P L K J N M H Y T G E K O U Y D

K J N H Y T R E D F P D F T G H B J U I C E C R E A M L K

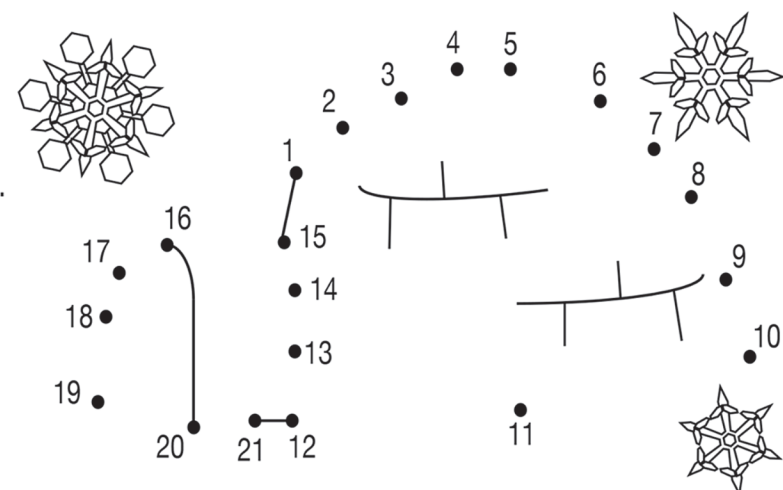
I C E S T O R M K J S R T G B H J U I K M I T K H N E S A

## Snow House Pop Quiz!

The Inuit people of Greenland and the Canadian Arctic live in lands of ice and snow. They have learned how to thrive there. Those who travel or hunt often have the skills to build an igloo or a snow house to shelter themselves. Here is a short pop quiz about igloos.

Read each statement about igloos and circle "T" if it is true or "F" if it is false.

1. An igloo is a dome-shaped house made out of blocks of dirt.	T	F
2. A hunter or traveler could build an igloo for a shelter.	T	F
3. Inuit families today live in wooden or other kinds of houses today.	T	F
4. An igloo has a short tunnel entrance to help keep out wind and cold.	T	F
5. It is very cold outside an igloo, and colder inside.	T	F



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21.

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Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2023





Byers School Board President Donna Sauer, right, gives the oath of office to new and returning directors Jason Meier, left, Allison Harris, Dennis Messer and Matt Eymann.

# Byers students teach zSpace to their board of education

by Kathy Smiley  
Staff Writer

BYERS — The Byers School Board welcomed a new member and said goodbye to another Nov. 16. Newly elected director Jason Meier took the oath of office along with re-elected Matt Eymann, Allison Harris and Dennis Messer. Continuing directors Donna Sauer, Jennifer Borders and Kres Ebert complete the seven-member board. Eve Pugh, who was elected in 2019 along with Eymann, Harris and Messer, did not run for a second term. The board accepted a canvass of votes cast in both Adams and Arapahoe counties. While the three incumbents were solidly the top three vote-getters, the race for the final seat was close between Meier and Dustin Olsen. “When I checked this afternoon, Adams County had updated their election results, and every candidate in the room gained one additional vote,” said Superintendent



Eve Pugh, left, receives recognition and thanks for her service on the Byers School Board from Superintendent Tom Turrell.

Tom Turrell, adding that it widened the gap between Meier and Olsen from 7 to 8 votes. Turrell added that he checked

**SEE BYERS BOE PAGE 12**



Get in the Holiday Spirit,  
Dec. 9 at the Fairgrounds!



Celebrate the holiday season at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, **Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.** It's a family fun day with something for everyone—from shopping with local vendors to make-and-take craft activities, Santa meet-and-greet, petting farm, horse-drawn rides, model train display, train rides, free hot chocolate and s'mores, face painting, food trucks, and tons of fun.

Details and tickets at [arapahoecountyeventcenter.com](http://arapahoecountyeventcenter.com)

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PHOTOS BY KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Byers School Board director Kres Ebert Nov. 16 explores the zSpace platform, an augmented reality program used in several classes in the secondary including science, social studies and welding; Byers School Board directors Matt Eymann and Dennis Messer try their hand at the program as junior Josh Wingo, left, sophomore Maggie Messer, and science teacher Tiffeny O'Dell look on; and students and staff introduce zSpace. Pictured are junior Averie Eymann, left, board members Eve Pugh and Jennifer Borders, ag teacher D.J. Jackson, and board member Donna Sauer.

BYERS BOE

FROM PAGE 11

election results in both Adams and Arapahoe counties each day and Arapahoe County numbers changed consistently, but both counts have seemingly stabilized. A recount would be required if two candidates' final numbers were within three votes from each other.

"I feel confident swearing Jason in tonight," he added. "I have spoken with both candidates and they both agreed that, if something drastic change happens, we can go through this again — but I don't think that is going to happen."

The board approved the following canvass of votes: Messer, 511; Harris, 499; Eymann, 487; Meier, 429; and Olsen, 421.

Board officers were elected, with Sauer continuing as president, Messer as-

suming the vice-presidency, Eymann the secretary position, and Harris continuing as treasurer.

Harris will serve as the BOCES representative, and Borders as the legislative delegate.

The board certified the district's mill levy to Adams and Arapahoe counties and the Colorado Department of Education — a task that must be completed yearly by Dec. 15.

Turrell told the board that, while the current number might change slightly in the next few weeks, the board has in the past certified the mill levy in November and granted the administration the authority to modify the numbers if necessary — sparing the board the need for a special meeting in early December.

"With Proposition HH not passing and the special session happening, this current number might change a little bit, but it won't be dramatic," he told the board. "We will, of course, inform you of any change."

The board approved the mill level of 25.909 general fund mills, .006 abatement mills and 3.250 mill-levy override mills for a total mill levy of 29.165 on total assessed valuation of \$73,941,805. This will generate \$2,156,513. The approved motion also authorized the administration to modify the figures to meet state requirements if the assessed valuation changes prior to Dec. 10.

Secondary staff and students led a demonstration of zSpace, an interactive

augmented reality platform used in many areas across the curriculum including science, social studies, and welding. Board members experimented with the technology themselves.

Instructional coach Amy Burns said the program maps the user's face, and built-in tracking allows natural gestures and movements as they pick up, dissect and interact with virtual objects.

"We have trained about 80% of our staff on this," Burns said. "We spent time letting the teachers play around with it, then in another meeting where the company took us deeper into what the lessons are. You can find lessons to match what is already in your curriculum."

Science teacher Tiffany

O'Dell said the technology is useful in her anatomy and physiology class where dissections are part of the curriculum, providing cost-saving and queasy-stomach-avoiding options.

Agriculture teacher D.J. Jackson uses the program where virtual welding is a steppingstone to proficiency before moving to the shop.

Junior Josh Wingo affirmed the value of the virtual welding component.

"[The virtual program] is more in your face — you can see what you're doing better. Out in the shop it's a little harder to see with a helmet on," he said. "You can go on the computer and physically do something, then take that to the shop and actually do it."



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**SATURDAY, DEC. 2nd from 4-7pm**

**Strasburg Lyons Park on Railroad Ave.**

Kick-off the most wonderful time of the year with Strasburg Parks & Rec!  
Parking is available behind Independent Financial, or along Arapahoe Street.

**Christmas in the Park**

**FREE ACTIVITIES**

- \* Santa Claus and Treats (Weller Insurance)
- \* Santa's Reindeer (Living Springs Vet Care)
- \* Holiday Light Display (20/20 EyeVenue)
- \* Roasted Marshmallows (SHS National Honor Society)
- \* Tractor Hayride (21st Century Equipment)
- \* Hot Chocolate (I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce)
- \* Reindeer Food Kid's Craft (High Plains Bank)
- \* Wreath Contest & Santa Letters (Western Hardware)
- \* Cookie Decorating (SHS National Honor Society)
- \* Roasted Chestnuts at U.S. Mechanical, 1486 Main St.
- \* Free Hot Dogs & Treats at 20/20 EyeVenue, 1506 Main St.
- \* Store Specials & Strasburg Singers at The Gift Shop, 56781 E Colfax Ave.
- \* Visit Local Vendor Booths at Lyons Park Pavilion

**Walking Tacos & Bake Sale**

**{Fundraiser for Twisters Athletics}**

**Visit SANTA from 4-7pm at Lyons Park**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lighting of the Christmas Tree at 5pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tractor Hayride Route: Lyons Park to/from Colfax & Arapahoe**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Craft Fair at Legion Hall from 9am-5pm**

Send your letter to Santa from Strasburg! Look for the RED MAILBOXES at Lyons Park, Rec Center, Post Office, or Western Hardware. Letters will be forwarded to the North Pole (no postage necessary). Santa has promised to send a personal note to your home! To receive a response, your letter must include your first and last name and a return address (printed clearly). DROP-OFF BY DEC. 18.





SCAN ME

In addition to activities at the park, there are many other holiday happenings around town, including LOCAL businesses that will be OPEN late for your shopping pleasure! See our website for a complete list of participating businesses and activities: [www.strasburgparks.org/activities/christmas/](http://www.strasburgparks.org/activities/christmas/)

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Volume 109, Number 18

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023



# Eastern Colorado News

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## Bennett emergency calls on record pace



by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The trend of year-over-year increases in responses in the Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection District won't cease this year even with the absence of a portion of normal summer and fall calls. During the Nov. 9 fire board meeting, Bennett-Watkins Fire Chief Earl Cumley reported that the 108 calls responded to during October was 98 more than the same month last year and that, through the first 10 months of 2023, total calls stood at 1,165. In addition, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue had already responded to 34 calls over the first nine days of November. "That's 9.2% ahead of 2022 so far. We're looking at over a 10% increase probably by the end of the year," Cumley said. "And that's without our normal volume of fire calls over the summer and early fall."

While the abnormally wet months of May and June resulted in an abnormally high number of water rescues and stuck vehicles on the area's gravel roads, that figure is well below the number of grass and field fires under normal circumstances. But Fire Marshal Caleb Connor advised residents to still be cautious this winter. "Especially if it stays pretty dry, it doesn't take much to get something started, even if it turns cold," Connor said. "Plus, you add in the strong winds that are starting to take hold, if a fire starts, it could move pretty quickly. That's what happened in the Marshall Fire up by Boulder and that was at the end of December two years ago."

According to Cumley, the brunt of the recent call volume has been received by crews at Station 93 near Watkins. The Bennett-Watkins District includes the Sky Ranch subdivision at the I-70 and Airport Road interchange.

**ASST. CHIEF BIDS ADIEU**  
The board said goodbye and presented a going-away gift to Bennett-Watkins Assistant Fire Chief Tim McCawley, who is taking over as the Larkspur Fire Chief. An emotional McCawley thanked Cumley, department staff and the board for supporting him over almost two decades at the department. "It's been an incredible 19 years,"

SEE BENNETT FPD PAGE 10

## Topsy-Turvy!



The Old Victory Road "S" curve immediately north of Highway 36 between Bennett and Strasburg claimed another semi Nov. 20, but no one was injured. At about 11 a.m., Adams County Sheriff's deputies, state troopers and Bennett Fire Rescue personnel arrived on scene of a Kenworth semi and trailer with Kansas plates tipped on its passenger side and blocking the eastbound (south) lane of Old Victory Road, which was closed in both directions for about five hours. The driver didn't require transport to a hospital. While light snow and winds were experienced Monday morning, road conditions were not suspected as a contributing factor to the crash.

SEE STRASBURG FPD PAGE 2

## Strasburg fire board OKs new Type 3 truck



by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Fleet management was one of the key focuses of the Strasburg Fire Protection District board meeting Nov. 16 as adding a new engine was approved. The motion for a not-to-exceed amount of \$650,000 for BME Freightliner Type 3 truck was approved 5-0. The vehicle is already in production — in fact, almost three-quarters completed — and board members agreed to allow president Jeff Thain and vice president Tim Phillips to sign the lease agreement with Front Range Fire Apparatus when appropriate. "I just don't think we can let this opportunity slip between our fingers," Phillips said. The new rig is considered a complete service apparatus and can be utilized in both structure fire and wildfire settings. Once the new engine is

SEE STRASBURG FPD PAGE 2



Players and coaches run onto the field in celebration after Strasburg's 28-27 overtime victory over visiting Wray in the 1A football semifinals Nov. 18. The red-and-black take on archival Limon in the state championship game in Pueblo on Saturday afternoon. SEE PAGE 11.

SEE BENNETT FPD PAGE 10



EV STATION

FROM PAGE 1

electric vehicle map and the potential for commuter activity in the “downtown” area.

“Perhaps we’re close to a happy ending on the end of the question ‘What happens if?.’ We’re across from both the post office and one of the town’s few businesses and a park right down the street,” said REAP Executive Director Kip Cheroutes, noting the nearby Jess Baked for You bakery, which supplied appropriately decorated cookies for the event. “You can get a pastry or cookie with coffee and go enjoy a half-hour down at a picnic table while your vehicle charges. Hopefully an economic development opportunity for more businesses in Deer Trail.”

Both town trustees and CORE representatives acknowledged each other as the primary partners on the project after a similar proposal was panned by the Deer Trail School District Board of Education.

“Certainly looking forward to continuing to work with the town of Deer Trail moving forward,” said CORE’s Chief Member Experience Officer Mandi Leshner. “This is something near and dear to my heart.”

“We have made a commitment as a county to start working toward a sustainable future and that means starting one project at a time, like this one,” added Arapahoe County District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker, whose area encompasses the eastern two-thirds of the county including Deer Trail. “EV sales are growing faster than any other segment in the U.S. In Arapahoe County, we are soon to join the ranks of EV owners when we take delivery of the first EV for our fleet.”

But, according to Baker, delivery



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Participants at the dedication of the new two-charger electric vehicle charging station in Deer Trail Nov. 21 are, from left, CORE Electric Cooperative representatives Robert Kiess, Rob Liechty, Angie Bedolla and Mandi Leshner; Colorado Energy Office Deputy Director Dominique Gomez; Regional Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Kip Cheroutes; town trustees John Kettling, Byron Mounce, Heather Kerin, and Gerry Lamont; and Arapahoe County District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker.

of that vehicle has been delayed. “Something about a strike of some sort back in Detroit is what I understand.”

According to Colorado Energy Office Deputy Director Dominique Gomez, who is in charge of the state’s Charge Ahead grant funding program there are over 100,000 EVs in Colorado and countless more that navigate roadways from out of state.

“Plus one in every five new vehicles purchased is an EV,” she added. “A good time for this partnership between everyone to take place.”

The new Deer Trail charging station is one of 2,000 similar sites statewide to receive Charge Ahead grant monies.

Under the agreement between CORE and the town, the maintenance and care of the two chargers will be provided by the power company for the first few years with the

town having the option to take over their operation or remove them.

While the resulting defacing of the chargers themselves was remedied by cleanup efforts, a town official said the vandalism was more extensive as the money and card receiving mechanisms were damaged and will require extensive and costly repairs. But those expenses are reportedly going to be covered by the youths that caused the damage or their families.

“One of the moms of the kids that did this came forward and they are going to foot the bill,” the town source said. “Hopefully they learned something about the repercussions of their actions.”

When the EV chargers will be operational was unknown, but Cheroutes said that, once they are, the Deer Trail location will be promoted on several online outlets, including Facebook and the ChargePoint app.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A car charges at the new Deer Trail EV station.

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THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

**20 YEARS AGO**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2003**  
The suspect in a Byers murder last Mother’s Day was apprehended in Maryland Nov. 25.

Frederick Kenneth Hendriques, 29, will be charged on allegations of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Melissa Paine, 24, in her Byers home May 11. “(Hendriques) was our suspect from the initial stages of the investigation,” said Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson.

Witnesses told deputies they heard a shot and moments later saw Paine’s on-again-off-again boyfriend, Hendriques, leave the house at 369 S. Sherman St. in a car, which was found in Aurora.

“We knew he had traveled out of state,” Robinson said.

At approximately 8 p.m. Nov. 25, the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office was notified that Hendriques had been taken into custody without incident during a routine traffic contact in Howard County, Maryland.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2008**  
**AURORA** — On an isolated road in the southeast corner of Aurora, a water battle boils over land with more bushes than homes, and more questions than answers. The former Lowry Bombing Range has had only one suitor since the Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners awarded a development bid to Australian-based developer Lend Lease in 2006. Nearly a decade before

selecting Lend Lease, the Rangeview Metropolitan District and state land board selected Pure Cycle to develop water resources on the barren land.

There’s been little consensus between the parties since.

Late last month, Lend Lease announced its intentions to possibly terminate it deal at the end of the year to develop what many call the most profitable land in the Denver metro area. Lend Lease Communities President Chris Waggett said the company would “not be able to obtain an adequate water supply or adequate wastewater treatment facilities at a commercially reasonable cost” for development of the 21,000 desolate acres.


**10 YEARS AGO**  
**DECEMBER 3, 2013**  
**STRASBURG** — An Agate man was killed by local law enforcement officers between a Strasburg restaurant and campground early Thanksgiving morning.

Scott Pfeffer, 48, allegedly wielded a shotgun outside of Rookies Restaurant & Saloon around 12:45 a.m. Upon the arrival of local sheriff’s deputies, Pfeffer, still in possession of the gun, ran east across the parking lot and across Monroe Street towards the KOA campground. According to sheriff’s reports, Pfeffer refused to drop his weapon, then pointed the gun at the deputies, who shot him in the entrance of the campground.

No witnesses, members of the public or officers were injured. The scene including Monroe Street wasn’t reopened until between 8-9 a.m.

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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 IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2023. There are 32 days left in the year.

**TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT**  
On Nov. 29, 1981, film star Natalie Wood drowned at age 43 while boating off California’s Santa Catalina Island

with her actor husband Robert Wagner and actor Christopher Walken.

**ON THIS DATE**  
In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.  
In 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr.

Richard E. Byrd, pilot Bernt Balchen, radio operator Harold June and photographer Ashley McKinney made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

In 1961, Enos the chimp was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited

earth twice before returning.  
In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson named a commission headed by Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.  
In 1986, actor Cary Grant died in Davenport, Iowa, at age 82.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS**  
Actor Diane Ladd is 88. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 83. Actor-comedian Howie Mandel is 68. Former Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano is 66. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is 64.  
—The Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MATH 101

ACROSS

1. Loaded up

6. Tube in old TV

9. Pouches

13. Tequila source

14. Stick in water

15. Jig’s French cousin

16. TV’s “\_\_\_ Secretary”

17. Money in Myanmar

18. Photoshop maker

19. \*Result of multiplication

21. \*Whole number

23. \*Say 2+2 is 5, e.g.

24. Arctic floater

25. Dashboard acronym

28. Fountain serving

30. Spanky or Alfalfa

35. Short for “hurry up”

37. Live bait

39. Turn upside down

40. Cassette contents

41. Retire from military, for short

43. Jason’s vessel

44. Sicker

46. “Sight for \_\_\_ eyes”

47. Puppy cry

48. Denver option, at a diner

50. Apartment

52. Green turtle’s domain

53. Final

55. Personal trainer’s place of employment

57. \*Venn \_\_\_

61. \*Point in 2,5

65. Barrel racing meet

66. Gobbled up

68. On the rocks (2 words)

69. \*Fields Medal to a mathematician, e.g.

70. Sports official, for short

71. 8 of something

72. Like Gulf Stream

73. Big bang maker

74. Required things

DOWN

1. “I lift my \_\_\_ beside the golden door”

2. Petri dish gel

3. Carpenter’s groove

4. Dodge, as in tax bill

5. Takes exception to

6. Native Egyptian, in Roman times

7. \*Line with one endpoint

8. Path in the woods

9. Left or right, e.g.

10. Awestruck

11. \*Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces

12. Palm reader, e.g.

15. Cake with filling

20. Three people?

22. Neither here \_\_\_ there

24. Subcontract (2 words)

25. \*1:2, e.g.

26. Sacred song

27. Canada’s favorite tree?

29. “Nobody \_\_\_ It Better”

31. Fix a cat

32. First discovered asteroid

33. \*Measured in degrees

34. Parkinson’s disease drug

36. Banana remnant

38. Between dawn and noon

42. Brown shade

45. Retread, past tense

49. Non-alcoholic brew

51. Rockefeller or Bezos

54. Like today’s phone

56. Kind of pie

57. No-win situation

58. Wisconsin neighbor

59. Jewish month of Purim

60. Disease-causing organism

61. Clever

62. Indoor allergy cause

63. Crushed it, as in a test

64. “\_\_\_ Make a Deal”

67. \*X

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On the Last Leg of a Mercury Journey

Mercury’s days in Sagittarius are numbered. In these last moments of the communication planet’s transit through the sign of the world, make big plans, especially having to do with travel, culture and international dealings. Expansive thought processes invite joy and freedom because big minds make many mundane problems seem small.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Aristotle suggested it over 2,000 years ago and it’s just as true today — excellence is a habit. This is why you don’t let the little things slide. Even if no one else is watching, you’ll practice good form so you’ll be ready when it matters.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There is no need to reach or struggle for your contentment; you only need to claim what you want. If you don’t, that is fine, too. It will be waiting for you either way.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You may not be able to affect the measurable impact of a thing, but you can still alter the immeasurable elements, the most important of which is what a thing means to you. You’re the only one who can determine that.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Always looking to expand your horizons and enlarge your worldview, you’re drawn to interesting people you can learn from. Furthermore, you’ve an instinct for asking the one question that blows the story wide open.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** As the warrior sign, you don’t necessarily seek conflict, but you’re not afraid of it either. Even without a fight, it takes courage to love and live. In the words of Mr. Miyagi, “It’s OK to lose to opponent. Must not lose to fear!”

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You’ll proceed without worrying what people think about you — which is why they like you so much. You’ll move past the things that impress others and home in on a wonder no one else is noticing.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You’ll relieve

someone’s suffering. Maybe that someone is you, and this still counts. Creating peace in any corner improves the world. It only makes sense to start where you are.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It doesn’t take much to make you happy today — just showing up to life, ready to help and willing to go at the natural pace of the action. Everything is a process. Healthy perspective is a function of patience.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If prayer is speaking to the great force of the universe, meditation is listening to that force. Today is like one long walking meditation. You won’t have to do anything formal to connect with big energy and let it speak through you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You make things look easy, which is a talent that usually serves you, but not always. If you’re too accommodating, people grow to take you for granted. Sit out a turn. Your absence illuminates the fullness of your presence.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** While physical assets can be protected by an insurance policy or alarm system, your emotional assets, like joy and generosity, require a different kind of protection. You’ll have your choice of company. You’ll choose the sort who care about your feelings.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You won’t dwell on problems, but you’ll note them, prioritize and decide how to address top issues of concern. You feel super capable and strong, which makes this a perfect day for fixing things.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29).** You are a source of wisdom and guidance, offering insights that enlighten and empower. Your generosity of spirit will have a ripple effect, spreading joy and goodwill to all who encounter you. Your talents will include a way with words that captivates minds and a way with food that captivates stomachs, making you envied and celebrated. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 44, 49 and 18.

— Horoscopes by Holiday





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**KRITTERS**

**FROM PAGE 1**

stuffed animals to give to children they encounter during calls for help – medical, fire, or law enforcement. “This is a project our association is launching as a give-back and thank-you to our local first responders for what they do for our community,” said Marian Burrell, the seniors’ association parliamentarian and the project’s coordinator.

The initial critter presentation took place at the association’s annual Thanksgiving potluck Nov. 21 at the Strasburg American Legion Hall. Officials from Strasburg Fire Rescue and the Adams County Sheriff’s Department Strasburg substation were on hand to accept the three large containers of stuffed animals donated by the seniors’ group.

“We collected 123 ‘kritters’ for the presentation to the fire and sheriff’s departments,” Burrell said. “We definitely have some generous folks!”

Burrell added that the project will be ongoing.

“We’d love it to continue to grow and involve I-70 Corridor communities,” she said. “We’d like to distribute stuffed animals to fire departments in Bennett and Byers, also.”

A year-round Comfort Kritters donation box will be located at the Strasburg Fire Protection District office at 56281 E. Colfax Ave. Stuffed animals should be new and approximately 6 inches long.

“We thank everyone for their support of our first responders who serve our communities and each child who can use some comfort during a scary time,” Burrell said.



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Local fire and sheriff’s office officials were invited to the Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association’s Thanksgiving potluck Nov. 21. Clockwise around the table from top right are Adams County Sheriff’s Office Cmdr. Karl Smalley, Senior Deputy Brian Phillips, School Resource Officer Gio Gonzalez, and Community Services Specialist Lesley Brown; along with Strasburg Fire Protection District Board secretary Rachel Linnebur, administrative assistant Heidi Price, and vice president Tim Phillips.



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17th Judicial Court vacancy occurs

BRIGHTON — The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet at the Adams County Justice Center on Wednesday, Dec. 20, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge. The vacancy will occur on Saturday, Jan. 6. To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the district at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for the position is \$193,008. The initial term of office is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of six years. Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Maria E. Berkenkotter, 2

MISCELLANEOUS

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E. 14th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80203, and the office of the court executive, Patricia Kmitta, 1100 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton, Colo. 80601. Applications also are available at www.courts.state.co.us. The completed application must be e-mailed to the address listed in the instructions no later than 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4. Late applications will not be considered. The members of the nominating commission for the 17th Judicial District are Jonathan Datz and Andrew “Andy” Kramer of Broomfield; Martin Flaum and Jennifer Hostetter of Westminster; and Michelle Stermer and Gina Weitzenkorn of Aurora. The commission has one vacancy. The 17th Judicial District consists of Adams and Broomfield counties. The vacancy will be created by the retirement of Roberto Ramírez.

CASTELLANO FROM PAGE 1

“As a district and as a school, we take these allegations very seriously, and we strive to put the safety and well-being of our students first. Rest assured that our administration has followed Bennett 29J School Policies and are working in partnership with the Adams County Sheriff’s Department.” While questions have arisen from parents and community members about the timing of the letter — about three months after the alleged impropriety occurred — the legal proceedings against Castellano have taken time to develop. According to school district policy KDBA: Parent Notification of Employee Criminal Charges, “The district shall notify parents within two school days after the employee’s preliminary hearing for a specific criminal offense is held, waived or deemed waived by the employee.” The district policy also adds, “If a delay in parent notification is requested by the appropriate law enforcement agency, the district shall delay notification to parents until the request is withdrawn.” According to the Adams County Sheriff’s Office, Castellano wasn’t taken into custody until earlier this month. “[He] was booked into the Adams County Detention Facility on Nov. 6 and released on Nov. 7 on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond,” a sheriff’s office spokesman said Nov. 24. The exact date of Castellano’s preliminary hearing or when charges

were formally filed was unavailable at press time because the courts were closed for Thanksgiving late last week; however, according to an online docket search, an in-person setting hearing has been scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19, in Division Q of Adams County District Court. A setting hearing is where bail, conditions of release, and pretrial restrictions such as travel limitations or protection orders are usually conducted. Specifics of events that led up to Castellano’s suspension from the district and his arrest and charges filed against him were not available at press time. In addition to urging parents to contact herself or her administrative assistant via e-mail or voice-mail, Purdy’s letter urged any other students or family members with information or concerns to file an anonymous Safe 2 Tell report at https://safe2tell.org.

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# CHUCK WAGON



## Leftover Turkey Stew

by **Bobbie Keefer**  
For The Scout

I always look for something to do with holiday leftovers. There aren't many because my kids bring containers and take them home. Usually, they leave enough for me to make at least one more meal.

Gravy might be slight so I make sure to have a packaged mix in the pantry just in case.

Add any green bean casserole leftovers as well.

The turkey is good mixed in the gravy. My sister even adds leftover mashed potatoes.

I don't like grainy stew, so I heat up the potatoes and dressing separately and spoon the turkey stew on top.

Serve it on pretty plates and gobble it up!

**LEFTOVER TURKEY STEW**  
INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 stick butter, cubed
- 2 cups leftover gravy
- 2 cups cooked turkey, cubed
- 2 cups leftover cooked vegetables
- 6-8 leftover biscuits or dinner rolls

DIRECTIONS

In large skillet, sauté onions in butter over medium-high heat.

Add turkey and leftover vegetables, such as corn, peas, carrots and broccoli. Mix to combine.

When warm, stir in gravy. Lower heat and top with biscuits. Cover and simmer until heated through and biscuits are warm.

Remove lid and continue cooking until bubbly and thickened.

## No-Bake Pumpkin Pie

by **Bobbie Keefer**  
For The Scout

Wow everyone with this no-bake pumpkin pie — no oven required!

My kinfolk make this pie every Thanksgiving. I want to share this incredible recipe with everyone who makes pies for the holiday season.

This pumpkin pie is just as decadent and delicious as homemade pie with less effort. (My mom would disagree). A pre-baked pie crust can be used in place of the graham cracker crust.

Pumpkin pie is a Thanksgiving dinner tradition. Contrary to belief, no pumpkin pies were served at the first Thanksgiving feast. Pilgrims didn't have baking ovens in the Plymouth colony. Pumpkins were hollowed out and filled with milk and spices — a drink of pie!

**NO-BAKE PUMPKIN PIE**  
INGREDIENTS

- 1 (8-ounce) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup + 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 (8-ounce) Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 (10-inch) graham cracker pie crust
- 1 can (15-ounce) pumpkin (not pie filling)
- 2 (3.4-ounce) vanilla instant pudding mix
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 can whipped cream





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PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The Strasburg School District hosted its annual Talent & Art Show Nov. 10 at Mountain View Fellowship. From left photo, kindergartner Josie Garcia, with some accompaniment help from father Andy Garcia, wins the Audience Choice Award for her performance of “Girl in the Mirror;” sixth-grader Ensley Owens wins first place in the sixth through 12th-grade division with her piano version of “Rise Up;” and third-grader Bailee Angelo and her puppet friend, Katie, entertain the audience.



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ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

The Bennett High School Drama Guild performed playwright Pat Cook’s murder-comedy “Who’s Dying to be a Millionaire” Nov. 9-10. Above, Sheriff Jesse Marlow, played by Aida Dieudonne, gets a little animated as she filters through the list of suspects of multiple murders of contestants of a popular game show. Carrying on in the background is Clovis Darnell, played by Katelyn Faczak.



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