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The I-70 Scout

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

Volume 30, Number 3

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

SHS repairs expedited after ceiling falls



PHOTO COURTESY STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strasburg High School's spine hallway looks like a tornado went through after the ceiling collapsed a little after midnight Dec. 6.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — An I-70 Corridor high school continued online classes to start this week after an overnight ceiling collapse last Wednesday. “It is estimated that we may be back into the high school for in-person learning Wednesday, Dec. 13,” said an e-mail from Strasburg Superintendent Dan Hoff to school district families Dec. 9, three days after the main spine hallway of the high school was compromised. “No promises, just monitoring the sequence of events that must occur.” “Strasburg Elementary School and Hemphill Middle School will continue with in-person learning.” All three buildings on campus were closed for classes on Dec. 6 because of internet and power breaches, but the elementary and middle schools were both reopened to in-person learning Dec. 7. While the high school has remained closed to students and faculty, online learning commenced Dec. 8 and was well attended on the first day.

“[We] pulled data from the day of remote
SEE CEILING COLLAPSE
PAGE 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

As of Dec. 8, repairs to and cleanup of the Strasburg High School hallway were awaiting approval by inspectors



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Five-year-old Sydney Smith of Bennett is all smiles as she receives a sloppy puppy kiss during Puppies and Cocoa Dec. 8 at Anythink Bennett library.



FACEBOOK LIVE SCREENSHOT

Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown, left, and Special Agent in Charge Brent Beavers with the Denver Field Division of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives discuss the partnership between the two agencies Dec. 4. The event was streamed live on Facebook.

ArapCo sheriff urges holiday gun safety

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

CENTENNIAL — Gun safety and security are paramount year-round, but the holidays make the issues more urgent. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office hosted a live conversation Dec. 4 between Sheriff Tyler Brown and Special Agent in Charge Brent Beavers with the Denver Field Division of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF). Questions about the partnership centered on firearm laws and safety. Beavers said his field division has 127 employees and encompasses the states of Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming. “We supplement local law en-

forcement by bringing expertise — whether it be firearms, explosives, or even fire investigations,” he said. Brown added that RAVEN, the Regional Anti-violence Enforcement Network comprised of local, state and federal agencies, is one example of their partnership. “We send a trained law enforcement officer from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office over to a federal partner like the ATF ... and that allows us to tap into all the resources ATF brings to the table,” Brown said. “It's a great force multiplier of excellent investigators.” One of the most notable forensic technologies employed by RAVEN is the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN);
SEE GUN SAFETY
PAGE 6



ALYSSA STEMOM/For The Scout



ALYSSA STEMOM/For The Scout



ALYSSA STEMOM/For The Scout

Among Santa's first visits along the I-70 Corridor during a busy Dec. 2 was at the town of Bennett's annual Breakfast with Santa at the Bennett Community Center. While town trustees and staff whipped up breakfast, families enjoyed time with the Jolly Old Elf himself. Clockwise from above left, trustee Kevin Barden mans the scrambled eggs station; Brenda Rector, utility billing manager for the town, takes an order; planning manager Steven Hoese drops pancake batter on the griddle; a pajama-clad family takes advantage of the Christmas morning theme as they visit with Santa; and a very young Carter Ogburn appears to tell Old Saint Nick to check with his mom, Kenzie, for his Christmas wish list.



RICHARD SOUTHARD/For The Scout



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COMMUNITY CORRAL

DAR chapter to lay wreaths on graves of vets at Byers

BYERS — The Silver Spike Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution invites the community to honor fallen veterans at 10 a.m., Saturday Dec. 16, at Byers Cemetery.

The group will hold a brief ceremony followed by the placement of evergreen wreaths on each veteran’s grave — 114 in all.

Byers Cemetery is now on the list of cemeteries served by Wreaths Across America — a nonprofit organization that distributes wreaths to cemeteries across the United States.

Community volunteers are welcome to help lay the wreaths.

For more information, text or leave a message for Holly Kaye at (303)378-1647.

Lutheran church in Bennett issues its Advent schedule

BENNETT — Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bennett will host one last Advent service before Christmas on Wednesday, Dec. 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.

Byers church plans service on the year’s longest nite

BYERS — The Christmas season is expressed as joyous and happy, yet for some the holidays are a hard journey involving grief, missing loved ones, or the winter blues.

To help celebrate in a different way with the growing light that overcomes the darkness of winter days, a Longest Night Service, a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year, will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21, at Byers Community Church.

The service will feature readings, hands-on reflections, and candlelight as participants journey to



Bennett resident and mayor Royce Pindell, center, retired from Eastern Slope Technologies Dec. 1, after 35 years of service. Pindell helped grow the communications network in Bennett from landline-only telephones, to dial-up and copper, and fiber-to-home. Pictured with Royce during his retirement party is, from left, son Kyle, grandson Noah, wife Lori, and daughter Jamie Waggoner.

bring the joy of light into the dark places.

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

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.

Adams County seeks artist for new arena at large park

BRIGHTON — Adams County is seeking an artist or team to create fully integrated interior and exterior artworks for a new multi-use arena at Riverdale Regional Park in Brighton.

The arena will explore narratives around land, agriculture, and industry in the West.

As a member of the design team, the artist will closely collaborate

with Adams County Cultural Arts; Populous, the architecture design firm; and the general contractor’s team.

Once complete, the design will be presented to the Adams County Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The selected artist or team will design to a \$1.3 million fabrication and installation budget.

The project is open to professional artists nationally and internationally.

To apply, visit artist.callforentry.org. The application deadline is Thursday, Dec. 14.

17th Judicial District seat: Nominees sent to governor

BRIGHTON — Three candidates have been nominated for a district court judgeship in the 17th Judicial District.

Nominees Arturo G. Hernandez of Brighton, Sarah Sheffield Price of Denver, and Meghan P. Saleebey of Greeley were selected by the 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission Dec. 4.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from Dec. 5 to appoint one nominee as district court judge for the 17th Judicial District, which includes Adams and

Broomfield counties.

The vacancy will occur Jan. 23 as a result of the retirement of Chief Judge Donald S. Quick and subsequent appointment of district court judge Kyle Seedorf to fill Quick’s seat.

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via e-mail to the governor at gov_judicialappointments@state.co.us.

Strasburg Lutheran Church announces holiday events

STRASBURG — Saron Lutheran Church in Strasburg has announced its Advent and Christmas events, which are open to the community.

The last Advent Soup Supper will commence at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20, followed by an evening prayer service at 7:15 p.m., at the church at 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

Hayride caroling and hot cocoa will begin at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16.

A candlelight Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 p.m., also at the church.

Tix available for annual state agriculture forum

CORTEZ — Tickets are now on sale for the 2024 Colorado Ag Forum, which is slated for Feb. 29 at the Westin in Westminster.

This year’s theme is “AgriCULTURE: A Culture of Progress.”

Tickets can be purchased online at ColoradoAgForum.com for an early-bird price of \$160 through Jan. 26; the price is \$210 after that date.

Students and Colorado Ag Leadership Program alumni can purchase tickets at a discount.

A pre-forum reception will be held at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 28, at The Butterfly Pavilion. Tickets are included in the price of forum registration. For those just wanting to attend the reception, an early-bird ticket can be purchased for \$20; the price is \$35 after Jan. 26.

For more information, visit ColoradoAgForum.com.

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Snow Plan

After four years of La Niña conditions, which saw dry winters, El Niño will begin later this year, ushering in plenty of cold temperatures and precipitation, bringing widespread rains and snow. Arapahoe County is ready to keep roads open and safe to the traveling public when snow blankets the region in the weeks to come.

More information on the county’s snow plan can be found at arapahoeco.gov/snow.

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Happy Holidays

All County offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday.





PHOTO COURTESY OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Repairs to the flood-damaged east abutment of the Middle Bijou Creek bridge on Arapahoe County Road 38 west of Deer Trail started this week and are expected to take three weeks to complete.

ArapCo: repairs to flood-ravaged bridge near DT start this week

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The last major project to repair flood-damaged roadways on the Arapahoe County side of the I-70 Corridor commences near Deer Trail this week.

Repairs to the Middle Bijou Creek bridge on County Road 38, aka Woodis Road, about 2.5 miles west of town started Dec. 11, and are expected to take about three weeks to complete.

The bridge’s abutments were exposed and damaged during June flooding.

“The floodwater in the Bijou Creek was so powerful it washed out filter fabric and riprap, a layer of large angular rocks placed along an abutment and stream to protect the soil that supports the bridge’s foundation. Flood water exposed five steel piles on the east abutment of the bridge.

“The County has been working diligently to get this emergency repair planned, designed and completed,” said County Transportation

Manager James Katzer of the \$278,000 emergency repair.

The bridge was temporarily closed after the flooding, but reopened in July but only to commuter vehicles weighing 5 tons or less and with a 25 mph maximum speed limit.

With the exception of temporary lane closures, the bridge will remain open during the repair work, but the travel restrictions will remain in place. Heavier equipment and commercial vehicles must continue to use a detour until repairs are concluded.

According to the county, work to the abutments is the first phase of bridge repairs with creek bed remediation planned for next year.

Last month, Arapahoe County District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker, who represents residents east of Gun Club Road, noted that the county had already spent \$500,000 to repair or rehab eastern county roadways damaged by this past spring’s flooding. Of the 15 areas of most significant damage, County Road 38 bridge is the final stretch to be addressed.



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To apply for Lifeline, you must apply to the Lifeline National Verifier at www.checklifeline.org. You may also print an application from that website. If you have questions about applying, to check eligibility or to request an application, visit www.checklifeline.org or call the National Verifier at 1-800-234-9473.

If you qualify for Lifeline, you may also be eligible for the FCC's low-income internet assistance program called Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is a government program that helps qualifying consumers pay for internet service. If you qualify for ACP, you may receive up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service. For more information about ACP, visit <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.

Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program are government assistance programs. The programs are non-transferable. Only eligible consumers may enroll in either program. There is a limit of one discount per household, per program. Lifeline credits on internet service are only available where minimum supported broadband service is available. If the household becomes ineligible for Lifeline and/or ACP, the household will be subject to TDS' regular rates, terms, and conditions.

For more information from TDS about these programs, call 1-888-CALL-TDS or visit <https://tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html> or tdstelecom.com/acp.



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GUN SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1

several NIBIN lab sites analyze forensics in the Denver area. “That allows us to match or compare shooting sites or groups doing shootings — we can tie more cases into an investigation,” Beavers said, adding that every gun creates a unique picture on the casing head stamp with every shell casing fired. “No firearm has the same; it’s almost like a fingerprint on a casing. By putting that into the computer, the computer is able to analyze and match and then it pulls crime scenes together and helps investigators with clues.”

The technique enables more successful prosecutions of “people that are causing us harm and makes our streets safer,” Beavers added.

Several questions concerning firearms safety and security were answered.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY GUN IS STOLEN?

“Stolen guns usually end up in the hands of bad actors,” Brown said. “Call your local law enforcement and report the theft immediately.”

Beavers added that a proactive step to take is to record the serial numbers of all guns.

“Make sure you have your serial number somewhere in a secure location not in the same place as the firearm,” he said, adding that a PDF form for that purpose is available for print-out on the ATF website. “Having that serial number is going to increase the chances of law enforcement finding that firearm and getting it back to you.”

Does the owner of a legal firearm have any responsibility if the firearm is stolen and used in a crime?

Beavers noted that a gun owner is generally not responsible for the actions of an individual in possession

of their stolen firearm.

“When you purchase a firearm and it is stolen, law enforcement is going to trace the gun and learn that you were the first purchaser,” he said. “So, to avoid liability, have the serial number on hand and report it when it’s stolen.”

GUN SECURITY INSIDE HOME OR VEHICLE

Brown said that almost 23,000 concealed handgun permits have been issued in Arapahoe County and safe storage of firearms is paramount.

“There is a right to own firearms and there is a right in the state of Colorado to be a concealed handgun permit holder if you meet the qualifications for that; but with those rights come a tremendous amount of responsibility,” he said.

Lock boxes and gun locks are essential.

“Kids are naturally curious beings, and if a kid’s curiosity is involved with a firearm, it can lead to tragic events,” Beavers said. “Don’t think they won’t find it on the top shelf. They will. Have a lock box you can secure your gun in.”

Brown added that the sheriff’s office and other organizations provide gun locks for free.

“If you come in and ask us for a gun lock, we don’t ask for an ID,” he added.

Beavers emphasized the responsibility to educate yourself when becoming a gun owner.

“If you’re going to introduce a firearm into the house, obviously educate yourself if you’re a new firearm owner, like taking a concealed carry class, but also educate other family members that might not be familiar with firearms.”

Gun cases are required when

transporting a firearm in a vehicle. The firearm must also be unloaded.

Brown emphasized the importance of securing not only the gun, but the vehicle itself.

“The Denver metro area remains at the top of the list when it comes to motor vehicle theft, and I share this: a stolen car that has a gun in it becomes a recipe for disaster.

“In the state of Colorado, you’re allowed to carry your firearm in your vehicle as an extension of your home, but you need to make sure you’re securing it and you’re not leaving your firearm in your vehicle for any length of time, and definitely not overnight. I beg people not to leave guns in their vehicles overnight.”

Brown said vehicles parked on the street should always be locked and, if they are parked in a garage, the garage door should be shut.

“Just those couple steps really limit the availability of crime to occur,” he said. “Check multiple times to make sure you’re not setting yourself up for a crime of opportunity.”

‘GHOST GUNS’

Beavers said that the ATF has seen a huge increase in privately made firearms, or “ghost guns.”

“The problem for law enforcement is that they don’t have serial numbers and you can’t trace them,” he said.

Some are made with 3D printers, others with kits procured on the Internet. This year, the Colorado Legislature passed a law prohibiting untraceable guns and regulating the components used in their creation.

MACHINE GUN CONVERSION DEVICES

Machine gun conversion devices, sometimes known as “Glock switches” modify handguns or rifles to shoot like machine guns. Such devices are illegal and violate the National Firearms Act.

Beavers said the devices — imported from China or made with 3D printers — are increasingly used in criminal activity.

There’s a real danger there to the public and to law enforcement to encounter somebody with a machine gun conversion device,” he said, adding that they are also dangerous for the person shooting. “They are made of plastic a lot of the time and, when they heat up, they malfunction.”

A legal firearm becomes illegal

when such modifications are made.

Brown noted the importance of knowing the difference between a legal semi-automatic pistol and one converted to automatic.

“With a regular semi-automatic pistol, you pull the trigger and one round leaves the chamber and another one is automatically brought up into the chamber from the ammunition source — the magazine,” he said. “To shoot another round, you have to release the trigger and pull it again.”

Conversely, pulling the trigger on a gun with a conversion device, expels all the ammunition at once.

Brown said that a lot of law enforcement agencies are moving away from using fully automatic firearms, “even though we have the ability to possess those.”

“We’ve moved away from them because their functionality is not what it should be for the purposes that we have in law enforcement,” he added. “It’s a dangerous tool, not only for the community at large, but for the operator.”

‘STRAW PURCHASES’

The ATF defines a straw purchase as purchasing a gun for someone who is prohibited by law from possessing one or for someone who does not want their name associated with the transaction. Straw purchases are a federal crime.

“Just don’t do it,” Brown advised.

GUNS AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Beavers said “Yes,” but you must provide the person’s name and information as part of the background process for the firearm. Brown said a background check using an FFL — Federal Firearm Licensee — is best for a legal transfer.

HANDING DOWN A GUN THRU FAMILY

Yes, in Colorado, immediate family members do not need background checks to transfer firearms between one another as long as the new owner is not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

“If you give something to someone who shouldn’t have a firearm, that can put you in hot water,” Brown said.

In one final piece of advice for gun owners, Beavers said to keep up your shooting skills.

“Don’t let your skills go bad — shooting is a perishable skill,” he said. “Stay current with your skills and with state and federal laws.”

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THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

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DECEMBER 16, 2003
WATKINS — Front Range Airport entered a new era as the airport authority approved its 2004 budget Dec. 5, according to authority and Adams County Commissioner Ted Strickland.

The budget includes an item long fought for by the airport authority: a 190-foot air traffic control tower. “I’m sure everyone in the room appreciates what just took place,” Strickland said upon approval of the budget. “We have secured complete funding for the construction of the air traffic control tower. This signals the beginning of a new era at Front Range Airport.” The funding allows the airport to move forward with construction of the tower. “By this time next year, I hope we’re having a fly-by tape cutting,” Strickland said. The tower cost is estimated around \$4.5 million, with funding coming from Adams County, the Federal Aviation Administration, and loan money, among other sources.

15 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 16, 2008
BENNETT — Corridor commuters could have another choice when it comes to fueling up within the next few weeks if extreme weather avoids the area. More than three years after it burned down at the hand of an arsonist, the Diamond Shamrock east sta-


tion and convenience store at I-70 and Manila Road is close to reopening. A modular facility will provide a temporary home for employees and customers with a permanent facility planned. The new structure includes handicap accessible ramps into the store and will sell food products, but won’t include any deli or restaurant-type service. Gas will be pumped from the existing pumps for now.

10 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 17, 2013
WATKINS — Front Range Airport will become a county airport. The Adams County Board of Commissioners announced its decision to dissolve the Front Range Airport Authority and assume control of the struggling airport Dec. 11. All property, obligations and outstanding contracts will be assumed by the county, and the airport workforce will become county employees. The public general aviation airport, which has seen steady operations and fuel sale declines since 2008 and has been operating at a loss, receives an annual subsidy from Adams County and generates income from other public and private sources. Supplemental funds are often requested for pressing needs, most recently the airport asked the county in July for upwards of \$300,000 in additional funding for 2013.

Adams County established the Front Range Airport Authority in 1982 and Front Range Airport began operations in 1984.

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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 18

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2023. There are 18 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT
On Dec. 13, 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down

further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

ON THIS DATE
In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confed-

erate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew 2 days later. In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.) In 1993, the space shuttle

Endeavour returned from its mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan of Ghana to become its seventh secretary-general.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS
Actor-comedian Dick Van

Dyke is 98. Singer Ted Nugent is 75. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 74. Actor Wendie Malick is 73. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 73. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 70. Actor Steve Buscemi is 66. Singer Taylor Swift is 34. —The Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

1. *Herald, Idalia or Ophelia

6. Do this in the bud

9. Parts of play

13. Cocoon dwellers

14. Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.

15. Alexandre Duma’s “The Black ____”

16. Concerning, archaic

17. Talking Heads’ “And She ____”

18. Give a speech

19. *2023 World Series winners

21. *Imploded submersible’s destination

23. *Kali Uchis’ “I Wish ____ Roses”

24. Don’t step on it twice!

25. *Ryan Gosling’s #48 Across role

28. Winter window picture

30. Imprisons

35. Aphrodite’s son

37. Hindu serpent deity

39. Toughness

40. Angler’s hope

41. Stephen Curry, e.g.

43. Opposed to

44. Tastes like lemon

46. Seven-year desire

47. Turf alternative

48. *Highest-grossing 2023 movie to-date

50. Chris Hemsworth’s repeating role

52. Auction batch

53. Cheese on Peloponnese

55. Kombucha, e.g.

57. *Retired media magnate

61. *King Charles III’s Royal House

65. On the radio (2 words)

66. *Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up

68. 1000 kilograms

69. “Beat it!”

70. Lake, in France

71. Manila hemp

72. Foot digits

73. Freudian topic

74. Runner

DOWN

1. Joust verbally

2. Cat food flavor

3. Word before sesame

4. Gangly

5. Type of shower

6. *Company from which #57 Across retired, ____ Corp

7. Nest egg, acr.

8. Trattoria staple

9. Sign of a saint

10. Kin group

11. South American monkey

12. Design detail, for short

15. Sacred objects on a pole

20. Bitterly regretting

22. Dwight D. Eisenhower

24. Boat race

25. Meat on a stick

26. “Fear of Flying” author Jong

27. Post-it user

29. *Site of tragic wildfires

31. Objectivity preventer

32. Declare invalid

33. Like 1950s style, today

34. *”The Eras Tour” star

36. Balkan native

38. St. Louis attraction

42. Hindu garment

45. Combining two forms

49. What kneecap and leech have in common

51. Airbnb offering

54. Northernmost land, to the ancients

56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d’alhos

57. Lion’s share

58. Beyond natural, in U.K.

59. Steak preference

60. Days, in Havana

61. *Showtime’s “____: The Aftermath”

62. Certain social media message

63. A third of thrice

64. Infantry’s last rows

67. *____-AFTRA

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

On A Retrograde in Capricorn
As demonstrated in theatrical dramas from the boardroom to the monarchy, the figurehead isn’t always the most powerful person in the room. To know where real power lies, one must follow people’s attention, note their fascinations, loyalties and loves. Real power can rest unassuming in the hands of a servant or the potential of a child.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things don’t have to make sense to make life shift in wonderful ways. Kooky and improbable things can come into being, and most often do for those who leave open the window of possibility.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The pro move is often the one that sets up something that will occur a dozen moves ahead. It takes maturity to hang back and consider the long game, which is exactly why you’re drawn to such an approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Instead of sweetening an arrangement with the customary add-ons, consider making it better by taking things away. The stripped-down version will be potent, less stressful to execute and easier to enjoy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While our desires may be beyond our control, there is a wide array of things to want in the world, some more conducive to well-being than others. Go where the good options are likely to be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In matters of interpersonal relationships, theories offer limited guidance. The dynamic interplay of chemistry and power makes it nearly impossible to predict real-life scenarios. You must do the experiment and find out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Talk to your talent and ask it to help you out with more of the work today. If you don’t know which talent to call on, consider this an invitation to investigate. Friends, colleagues and loved ones certainly know. Start by asking them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just as the best actors can convey complicated emotions with incredible restraint and subtlety, you

will give it all in a glance. Looks may flicker across your face for a nanosecond, but all us animals know what it means.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Attention flows to certain things and doesn’t flow to others, and the trail of that attention is a journey and a story. The clueless will gain clues. The oblivious will tune in. The self-aware will gain even more knowledge and wisdom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What’s the main objective? You’ll need to keep calling it out today because the world will seem intent on getting in the way of it. Think of this as a test that teaches you how badly you want something. Keep calling out your purpose and directing your energy to it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are systems of reward and punishment buried so deep in your consciousness that you are not aware they exist until they announce themselves. Today, they will. The urge to celebrate or correct will teach you about yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If the barriers to your success happen to vanish just because you willed them to, it means they were in your head. Most barriers are, so definitely start with this approach. Steal your will and then vanquish the obstacle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Unfortunately, people are more likely to buy into pessimism than optimism today, but you can keep things trending toward the positive if you are subtle with your optimism. Instead of rose-colored glasses, wear rose-colored contacts.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 13). Your karma, shimmering in excellence, will zing back through friends and strangers, in forms expected and unexpected. You’ll design elegant and forward-thinking spaces, workflows, and ways of managing and communicating. You will soak in the love coming to you and often feel the peace of a resounding worthiness in just being you. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 10, 4, 16 and 39.

Sandra Hanson



A Celebration of Life for 40-year Byers resident and 35-year Arapahoe County employee **Sandra Hanson**, who passed away on Nov. 21, will be held at:

6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14
Byers American Legion Hall

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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LIBRARY NEWS

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

Adult book club: “River of the Gods” by Candice Millard. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15.

Artist meet-up: The Corridor Creative Arts League will host an end-of-year celebration for adults. Attendees are asked to bring a snack to share, design a holiday card, and partake in an art-based game of Jeopardy. The color for the month is white and themes are outdoor scenery, holiday lights, and mountains. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16.

Major model Xmas train: All aboard! The public is invited to enjoy an amazing LEGO model train display as it travels through a wintry town and landscape. A member of the Youth in Model Railroading Club will be on hand to answer questions. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 22.

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.

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

Adult book club: “Christmas Shopaholic,” the latest in the bestselling “Shopaholic” series by Sophie Kinsella. 6-7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18.

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.

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.

Cute and cuddly animals: Eco Adventures will host a free virtual event on cute and cuddly animals. Kids ages 5-12 will meet different animals — from hedgehogs to baby alligators — from all over the world. 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27.

KOA honors Strasburg Kampground

BILLINGS, Mont. — Kampgrounds of America Inc., the world’s largest system of open-to-the-public campgrounds, recently announced that the Denver East/Strasburg KOA Holiday campground has earned the KOA Founder’s and President’s Awards.

These awards were presented Nov. 16 at Kampgrounds of America’s annual international convention in Las Vegas.

The KOA Founder’s Award, its highest service award, is named in honor of Dave Drum, who founded KOA on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Mont., in 1962. The Founder’s Award is awarded exclusively to those KOA campground owners and managers who attain world-class scores in both customer service and the KOA Quality Review.

The KOA President’s Award is presented to those campgrounds meeting exceptional quality standards and who receive high customer service scores from their camping guests. KOA surveys hun-

dreds of thousands of campers each year regarding their KOA camping experience.

“Our campground owners and thousands of dedicated employees are essential to providing the superior level of outdoor hospitality KOA guests expect and it’s an honor to recognize this hard work,” said Toby O’Rourke, president and CEO of Kampgrounds of America. “These award-winning KOA owners have made the right investments in their campgrounds and their staff to provide the best outdoor experience in North America.”

Campers are an enthusiastic group of travelers with growing expectations, according to research conducted by KOA. The research found that 53% of campers had already booked at least one camping trip for 2024 compared to just 13% of leisure travelers. This enthusiasm could be tied to the satisfaction campers experienced during their camping trips this year: 58% state that their 2023 trips thus far have exceeded expectations.

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An artist's rendition of the future Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology.

MCC: Ground-breaking set for trades, tech center

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College will host a ground-breaking for the Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology at 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 14, at the Fort Morgan campus, 920 Barlow Road. The ceremony will occur on the east side of the campus at the new building site on the south end of Cottonwood Hall. The Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology will provide space for MCC electrical

programs, including Electromechanical Technology and Industrial Controls & Telematics. It will also provide room to grow the college's trade offerings, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning, solar and green energy technology, and mechatronics programs. The 4,942-square-foot facility will feature flexible laboratory space, equipment and general storage areas, and faculty offices. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, DEC. 14**
Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.
- SATURDAY, DEC. 16**
Bennett Community Food Bank. 8-10 a.m., Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.
- MONDAY, DEC. 18**
East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.
Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at townofbennett.colorado.gov for information.
Agate School Board. 6 p.m.
- TUESDAY, DEC. 19**
Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location updates.
Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30

- p.m., Byers Firehouse.
- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20**
Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.
Bennett Middle School play. 7 p.m., high school auditorium.
- EVERY FRIDAY**
Storytime: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com. Click on "virtual events."
Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m., Mountain View Fellowship, east entrance, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg. For more information, call (303)644-4889.

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2-Day Christmas Market

4-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15
Sip Holiday cocktails with local vendors
Woodhill Small Batch BBQ

9 a.m.-3p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16
Pics with The Grinch (Sponsored by PickleChic)
Breakfast & lunch w/Le Crepe (Mimosas @ Bar)

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Letter From Jesus

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My Dear Child,

It has come to my attention that you may be upset because some folk are taking My name out of the season ... I'd like you to know My feelings on this subject. I don't care what anyone calls the day but if you truly want to celebrate My birth, just get along and love one another.

Now, having said that, let Me go on. If it bothers you that your community does not have a Nativity Scene, simply put one up in your own front lawn. If all My followers did this, there wouldn't be any need for a government paid scene because there would be many of them around town.

Stop worrying about people calling it a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I Who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke on that one in a teaching. In John 15:1-8, I explained Who I am in relation to you and what each of our task were.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of My birth, here is My wish list. Choose something from it.

#1 — Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birth is being celebrated, write a letter to a soldier far from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know... they tell me all the time.

#2 — Visit someone in a Nursing Home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares.

#3 — Instead of writing your boss, complaining about the

wording of the Holiday card sent to employees, write and tell them that you'll be praying for them and their families this year. Then follow that up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

#4 — Instead of giving gifts you can't afford, spend time with loved ones. Hold them in your arms and tell them that I love them.

#5 — Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive them.

#6 — Did you know that someone in your town will attempt suicide this season because they feel alone and hopeless. Since you don't know who that may be, give a smile to everyone you meet. It could make a huge difference.

#7 — Be patient with employees at that retailer who are not allowed to say Merry Christmas. Don't snarl but, instead, smile and wish them a Merry Christmas.

#8 — Support a Missionary who is taking the Good News around the world.

#9 — There are some families in your town who can't afford gifts or a tree. Buy a tree, buy a gift or two, buy food and give to them.

#10 — Behave like a Christian. Let people know by your actions that you are one of Mine.

Don't forget that I am God and can take care of myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of the rest. Check out the above list and get to work. Time is short. I'll help — but the ball is in your court.

Have a Blessed Christmas with all those you love and remember... "I Love You!"

— Jesus

CEILING COLLAPSE

FROM PAGE 1

learning — over 400 log-ins,” a communication from Hoff said. “High participation, engagement, and intent to add value. Thank you parents and students for being flexible.”

The incident that led to the original closures occurred about 12:05 a.m. Dec. 6, when the infrastructure above the ceiling tiles in the high school’s primary hallway came down in one fell swoop and crashed to the floor.

According to an Adams County Sheriff’s official, deputies were the first to respond to the emergency alarm and, while they couldn’t access the inside of the building, were able to see the destruction with the assistance of flashlights from the main entrance.

“Sounded like a really big mess spanning across the entire width of the hallway,” the sheriff’s source said.

Strasburg and Byers fire departments were also dispatched to the high school at 12:08 a.m. but cleared the scene less than an hour later.

Hoff’s first communication to district families about 6 a.m. Wednesday added, “Overnight, we had an infrastructure failure



Strasburg High School Principal Scott Andrews, standing, meets with staff Dec. 7 to go over plans for online learning after their building was struck by a roof collapse about 12:05 a.m. Dec. 6.

along the spine hallway in Strasburg High School,” Hoff said. “This is a setback, it will be addressed proactively and with earnest to return staff and students to a safe learning environment at all schools.”

There was no roof or other external structure damage reported to the high school.

The promise of a quick return to in-person classes in all buildings appeared on track at the end of last week as the repairs to the damaged portions of the high school appeared to be finished Dec. 8, minus the required final inspections. A photo of the repaired area showed the damaged infrastructure once again suspended above ceiling level with the hallway below cleared of all debris.

“[The] high school experienced a collapse of conduit along the entire length of the spine hallway. It was impassable. It had a great deal of exposed wiring. Power was out in much of the building. It was not safe,” Hoff said in his third communication to families after the incident. “[The] high school acts as our hub of connectivity to the other schools and buildings. When it experiences issues, the other buildings are impacted.

“Thank you for your patience today with the abrupt closure of Strasburg 31J schools. That decision is never whimsical. It takes a great deal of assessment, coordination, and systemic what-ifs to make the best decision. The best decision

was made today. It was in the interest of student and staff safety.

“Please know that we want students and staff in the building, yet I will not put them back in school until a thorough analysis of safety measures and certifications are in place.”

While the building was empty when the collapse occurred, members of the coaching staff for the high school girls basketball team, which played at Sterling Tuesday night, reportedly left the building about an hour before it happened. A trio of high school boys basketball games were played in John Mundell Gymnasium until a little after 9 p.m. Tuesday night.

“Again, grateful that this happened overnight and

that no one was injured,” Hoff said. “We are all inconvenienced by this situation, yet perspective is everything. Students and staff were unharmed.”

High school practices and other activities have been moved to the elementary or middle school until repairs are OK’d.

High school infrastructure renovations were part of almost \$20 million worth of campus-wide improvements completed the summer of 2022.

Among the other projects made possible by the voter-approved \$19.8 million construction bond question in 2020 were a new administrative office on the northwest corner of campus, a new gym and additional classroom wing onto the elementary school, and the re-routing of a bus route around the campus perimeter.

Construction delays resulted in the start of classes for the 2022-23 school year being pushed back two weeks.

Taylor Kohrs was the general contractor for the high school and administration hub while Fransen-Pittman constructed the elementary additions.

Our Lady of the Plains

Welcome, please join us for
Christmas Eve Vigil - 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass - 9:00 a.m and 11:30 a.m.
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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

The annual Corridor Classic basketball tournament was hosted by Strasburg Dec. 1-2 with the host Indians defeating Byers in Saturday night's boys championship game. From left photo, Bulldog Quincy Eacret looks to drive against Cade Hemphill; Byers' Kaleb Willoughby, left, and Cameron Eastwood battle for a rebound against Indian Nick Glatfelter, and Strasburg's Tyce Bollers launches a shot over Bulldog Chase Long.

Indians beat Byers in local tourney final

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The championship boys game of this year's Corridor Classic basketball tournament Dec. 2 saw the host Strasburg Indians overcome a slow start to run past neighboring Byers 77-47.

The red-and-black found itself down 11-8 after the first eight minutes and 23-17 midway through the second period when it rallied for 16 straight points to go up 33-23 and take a 35-28 halftime advantage. The troops of Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers maintained their momentum out of the break, scoring the first 12 points of the third quarter and entering the final period up 60-33. The final eight minutes also saw Strasburg outscore the Bulldogs 17-11.

"Byers always comes out fast and confidently against us and I expected them to be fired up and ready to go, which they were. Over the first quarter and first part of the second, we struggled to get out and run," Bollers said. "Our team is primarily comfortable in transition, which is when we can really start to exploit the other team. Once we forced them into a lot of misses and turnovers, we were able to get easy buckets, including from the three-point line."

"We looked like the team that played the night before (an 86-74 over Flatirons Academy) for the first 12 minutes or so, but Strasburg is deeper and they also won by 50 points the night before, so they weren't

quite as taxed when they got against us," said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns. "They just got a lot more easy points than us, especially around the basket and from the free-throw line. We were up 8-10 in the second when our foul trouble helped them get their run started."

During a 25-5 run to end the first half, the Strasburg duo of senior guard Landen Martin and junior wing Tyce Bollers went 6-of-6 behind the three-point arc. For the game, the Indians shot 50%, 11-of-22, from the three-point line, and were 17-of-36 from two-point territory and 10-of-16 from the three-point line.

While Byers had 10 three-pointers of its, the Bulldogs only got to the foul line four times, making one, and mustered eight two-point field goals.

"Going from up 10 to down 10 was frustrating, but we hit a three-pointer to go into halftime only down seven, so I thought we might be OK," Kerns said. "But before you knew it, we started the second half slow and could never get turned back around. We have to be able to stop runs and the best way to do that is to attack the basket and get ourselves to the line. That's something we'll really be working on."

In addition to hot shooting, the Indians' early season chemistry was on display in terms of sharing the basketball.

"My favorite stat so far this season is over 20 assists a game. It's pretty cool to be doing that, especially



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Indian forward Austin Velasco drives the baseline for a reverse layup against Byers in the Dec. 2 championship game of the Corridor Classic.

to start the season," Bollers said. "The boys are extremely unselfish — nobody cares who scores or what get the stats."

Strasburg was led by Bollers with 19 points and four steals, Martin 15 points and seven assists, and senior forward/center Austin Velasco, who recorded a double-double with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Senior Colton Hall added 8 points, while sophomore Nick Glatfelter and fresh-

man Brody Hopwood recorded 6 apiece.

For Byers, sophomore guard Casey Eacret and senior forward Zach Cary both reached double-digits in points with 17 and 11, respectively. Eacret also led in assists with six, followed by junior A.J. Engle with five and classmates Cameron Eastwood and Chase Long with four apiece.

On the boards, Strasburg doubled up the Bulldogs, 39-18.

"We want to get at least 30 boards a night and we've doing a good job of that," Bollers said.

STRASBURG VS CEDAREDDGE

The Indians advanced to Saturday's tournament championship with a 70-23 domination of Cedaredge the previous evening.

The game was a rematch of last year's first-round 3A playoff game when Strasburg upset the host and higher-ranked Bruins. This year's contest wasn't as close, especially after the first quarter. Bollers' troops carried a 13-10 advantage after the first eight minutes but, by halftime, the Indians had taken control 39-17. Coming out of the locker room, Strasburg maintained its momentum, outscoring the visitors from the West Slope 24-2 in the third. The 7-4 fourth quarter was fast moving because of the mercy-rule running clock.

"They had us frustrated early with a lineup we weren't expecting — a lot of height and they slowed us down. It worked the first quarter and then we turned the game with our defensive pressure," Bollers said. "We only allowed 13 points after the first quarter and, at one time, got on a 27-2 run. We're going to be a team of pretty good runs this year, relying on our ability to get into space and transition from defense to offense pretty quickly."

While the Indians were anemic behind the three-point line, going 8-of-31,



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BB CORRIDOR CLASSIC

FROM PAGE 11

they went 17-of-25 from two-point range and were 12-of-19 from the free-throw line.

Sophomore guard Cade Hemphill stepped up to lead the hosts with a game-high 17 points, followed by Bollers with 12 and Velasco, who recorded a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Martin facilitated the offense, recording a game-high eight assists to go along with 9 points. Glatfelter added 8 points and five rebounds.

Defensively, the red-and-black recorded 29 steals, including five each by Hemphill and sophomore Cam Manahan and Hall and Glatfelter with four apiece.

“Our bench as a whole is one of the deepest I’ve had, giving us 20 points a game,” Bollers said. “Not to mention we don’t lose anything in the other aspects of the game. That’s pretty special.”

The Indians improved to 3-0 after the weekend.

BYERS VS FLATIRONS ACADEMY

In the opening boys game of the tournament Dec. 1, Byers, playing its season-opener, outlasted 1A Flatirons Academy 86-74.

“Seeing 74 points scored against us is probably, at face value, not considered a great game but I thought we played pretty well against a couple of really good offensive players that can make their own scoring opportunities. Plus at the fast pace both teams were playing that meant a lot of extra possessions,” Kerns said, also noting that his squad had no scrimmages and limited practice time because of the Bulldogs quarterfinal football run. “Plus we’re still waiting to get healthy coming off of four broken collar bones between the football season and another injury in be-



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Byers’ Zach Cary shoots over Indian Austin Velasco.

tween sports.”

Four Bulldogs reached double-digit points — Eacret with 25, Eastwood 21, Long 17, and Cary 14. Eacret also led the team in assists with six, followed by Engle with five and Eastwood and Long with four each. Eastwood paced the Bulldogs with seven rebounds.

Defensively, Byers recorded 12 steals, led by Eacret’s three and two apiece for junior Drew Mohatt, Long and Eastwood.

“We really did a good job on the hustle and effort part of the game, especially [Eastwood],” Kerns said. “We did things we needed to against a team that I think is going to be in a pretty good spot in 1A at the end of the season. Once we get our full legs and back to full health, we should be pretty good.”

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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Strasburg's Peighton Marrero slings a bounce pass off the dribble against Cedaredge during the opening night of the Corridor Classic Dec. 1-2 on the Indians' home court.

'Burg girls split Corridor Classic games

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Lady Indians went 1-1 and finished second in the girls bracket of the Corridor Classic Dec. 1-2 at John Mundell Gymnasium.

After downing the Bruins from Cedaredge 31-20 on Friday night, the red-and-black fell 50-40 to Flatirons Academy in Saturday night's girls title tilt.

"I knew starting the year, we had some good defensive skills and that we might take some time to gel together offensively," said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames. "We have moments of some really good things happening but not stringing enough plays together consistently."

Friday's game was a struggle for both teams offensively as the only double-digit quarter was 10 by the hosts in the third quarter. The Indians had a 6-5 lead after the first eight minutes and went into halftime up 13-8. A 10-6 third quarter had the Indians up 23-14 and they kept Cedaredge from mounting a fourth-quarter threat.

Junior forward Natalie Damron accounted for more than half the Indians' points with 17, including going 11-of-13 from the free-throw line. Junior guard Peighton Marrero added 6 points to go with her team-high five assists.

In Saturday's title tilt, the 1A visitors slowly edged ahead of the Indians — 12-11 after the first quarter, 22-19 at halftime and 34-27 after three.

Senior Graecy Graf was the top scorer for Strasburg with 14 points, followed by sophomore Hannah Damron with 9, senior Kenade Hickson with 6 and Natalie Damron 5. The Damron sisters led in rebounds — Hannah with 11, including seven on the offensive end, and Natalie with eight.

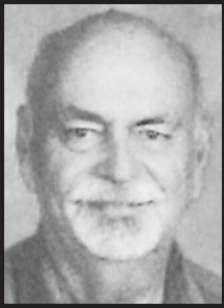


SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Lady Indian Graecy Graf shoots over the Cedaredge defense Dec. 1.



Timothy Trexler



Timothy Martin Trexler passed away on Dec. 2, 2023, in Strasburg, Colo. He was born on February 12, 1951, in Lafayette, La., to David and Dorothy Trexler. Timothy was known for his dedicated work in transportation with RTD, and his custodial and bus driving services for the Strasburg School District.

Timothy spent his childhood years in Denver, Golden, and Indian Hills, Colo. He attended schools in Golden and Evergreen before furthering his education at Metro in Denver for two years. Outside of work, Timothy had a variety of hobbies and interests that brought him joy. He had a deep affection for pets and enjoyed their companionship immensely. Additionally, Timothy had an appreciation for vintage and antique trains. He also enjoyed meeting friends for lunch at Rookies Cafe, camping, and traveling.

Timothy Martin Trexler is survived by his siblings Pam Pastore of Knoxville, Tenn., and Katrina Lawrence of Fort Collins, Colo.

A Memorial Gathering to honor Timothy's life will take place 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at Rookies.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Humane Society.



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Byers Eagles, above left, and Strasburg Bears took first and second, respectively, in the season-ending tournament Oct. 7 for the flag football program for grades 1-3 through the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District this fall. In the division for preschool and kindergarten students, four teams, below, competed — the Bills, left, Buccaneers, Eagles and Bengals. The pre-k players do not compete in a season-ending tournament.



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PHOTOS BY YCARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The Deer Trail girls and boys both finished third in their own Eagle Classic Tournament Dec. 1-2. The Eagle boys fell 52-14 to Miami-Yoder Friday night before responding strong in a 52-27 victory over Bethune the following afternoon. The Lady Eagles fought hard in two defensive slug fests — falling 26-15 to Miami-Yoder on Friday and beating Pikes Peak Christian 20-14 on Saturday. Above, Dylan Bertram, left, Lance Reed and Aiden Coetzee get out on the break Friday night. Right, Lady Eagle Megan Donovan hits the floor to tie the ball up against the Lady Buffaloes on opening night. For full coverage of the Eagle Classic and Deer Trail's Dec. 9 road trip to Cripple Creek-Victor, see the Dec. 15 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

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Real eSTATE of the Corridor

November Home Sales: Bennett, Strasburg, Byers & Deer Trail

Address	Town	Beds	Baths	Total Sq. Ft*	Fin Sq. Ft	*DIM	*Close Price*	% of List
272 W 3rd Ave	Byers	2	1	720	720	56	\$180,000	82%
630 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1653	1653	28	\$365,000	81%
545 Cottonwood Ave	Bennett	3	4	1467	1467	36	\$389,900	91%
530 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1476	1476	62	\$389,900	94%
610 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1851	1851	76	\$390,000	82%
555 Cottonwood Ave	Bennett	3	3	1390	1390	21	\$395,000	94%
560 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1467	1467	69	\$399,900	93%
46536 Orchard Dr	Bennett	3	2	1366	1366	20	\$400,000	77%
605 E Pleasant Ave	Byers	4	2	2336	2164	0	\$400,000	100%
600 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1653	1653	76	\$403,900	88%
510 Kiowa Ave	Bennett	3	3	1653	1653	76	\$405,000	92%
1150 View Ridge Rd	Bennett	3	2	1512	1512	19	\$410,000	96%
2750 Rose Hill St	Strasburg	4	2	1521	1521	10	\$414,000	99%
657 Heartland Dr	Bennett	3	3	1700	1700	71	\$415,000	87%
46533 Orchard Dr	Bennett	3	3	1813	1813	78	\$439,900	84%
610 6th St	Bennett	3	2	3172	3018	5	\$440,000	93%
659 Heartland Dr	Bennett	3	3	1502	1502	103	\$440,000	94%
1709 Arapahoe St	Strasburg	3	3	3444	1882	41	\$450,000	97%
236 Racer St	Bennett	4	3	1953	1953	18	\$455,000	91%
46529 Orchard Dr	Bennett	3	3	2138	2138	55	\$457,973	87%
46540 Orchard Dr	Bennett	3	3	1813	1813	56	\$465,000	98%
46537 Orchard Dr	Bennett	4	3	2377	2377	36	\$479,900	87%
46569 Sunrise Ct	Bennett	4	3	2377	2377	47	\$520,000	89%
4200 Vindale Ln	Byers	3	2	4104	2052	5	\$565,000	100%
1295 Vioewridge Rd	Bennett	3	3	3396	1698	23	\$621,500	99%
11790 Behrens Rd	Byers	4	3	2688	2688	31	\$630,000	99%
4270 Defoe St	Strasburg	3	2	3316	1820	17	\$635,000	100%
62397 E 2nd Ln	Byers	5	3	3248	2912	15	\$670,000	103%
44505 E CR 50	Bennett	3	2	1862	1862	113	\$740,000	93%
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French Toast Breakfast Casserole

by Bobbie Keefer
For The Scout

Make this easy French toast casserole for a special breakfast. It uses traditional French toast that can be made the night before.

If you’ve ever made French toast for a crowd, you know how weary it is to stand in front of the stove making a couple of pieces at a time. The morning of the gathering, pop it in the oven and you can join the fun while it bakes!

Allowing it to soak overnight allows the bread to absorb all of the goodness, which makes every bite perfect. Stale bread is best because it soaks up more of the egg mixture.

I use a loaf of the cheapest bread. Lay the slices across the table for several hours and they become stale. Don’t cut off the crusts. They give the dish more color.

Did you know there are 128 shades of brown? You may not think of brown as a very exciting color. After all, it’s the color of dirt, right? The variety of rich and vibrant hues of brown in this recipe make it appetizing!

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST CASSEROLE
INGREDIENTS

- 6 eggs
- 3 cups milk
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1 loaf bread, cubed



- 2 tablespoons butter, chopped
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- pancake syrup

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 8- by 8-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.

In large bowl, beat together eggs, milk, vanilla, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon. Add bread and mix well to soak all.

Pour into prepared dish. Dot with butter. Combine remaining sugar, cinnamon, pecans. Sprinkle over top.

Bake 45- 50 minutes until golden brown. Slice and serve warm with syrup.

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Monday, Dec. 18: Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll.

Tuesday, Dec. 19: Christmas dinner.

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Chicken noodle soup, crackers.

Thursday, Dec. 21: Pepperoni pizza, cheese pizza.

BENNETT

Thursday, Dec. 14: Beef hot dog with bun, chips, coleslaw, grapes.

Monday, Dec. 18: Barbecue chicken carnita sandwich, celery, pineapple.

Tuesday, Dec. 19: Polo de la playa, tortilla chips, salad, fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Hot open-faced turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, green beans, banana.

Thursday, Dec. 21: Chicken fried rice, roll, broccoli, fresh orange.

BYERS

Thursday, Dec. 14: Holiday meal.

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STRASBURG

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Tuesday, Dec. 19: Corn dogs.

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LOOKING FOR PROPANE? NEED A TANK?

BUY, LEASE & RENT PROGRAMS

1000 Gal Tank, \$5,500.00

500 Gal Tank, \$3,400.00

20#, 30#, 40# & #100 Bottle Refills
(Within expiration date)

Propane Fill \$1.85 per gallon
(Prices subject to change)

Open: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
555 Colfax Ave., Bennett

(303) 644-3251

Roggen Farmer's Elevator Association
Roggen Office: (303) 849-5506

TANNER GUN SHOW

DECEMBER

15 - 17

TannerGunShow.com



\$3 Off

**Present Coupon
At Door!!!**

- **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds**
- **\$15 Ticket Good For All Three Days**
- **Colorado's Largest Gun Show**
- **Buy, Sell, Or Trade**
- **FREE Parking & Kids 12 & Under FREE**
- **Guns, Knives, Tons Of Ammo, & More!!**



Strasburg celebrates start of Christmas season

Strasburg was abuzz with Christmas spirit all day Dec. 2. Clockwise from above left, Ed Pastori, left, and Kevin Hemphill are among the volunteers hanging holiday decorations throughout town; Mitch Swanson wraps garland around a light pole along Colfax Avenue; members of the Crystal Bells choir play for evening shoppers at the Gift Shop. Choir members are, in no particular order, director Becky Stevens, Noelle Horne, Elizabeth Tessler, Debbie Sakagawa, Stephanie Moses, Diana Cable, Angela Hoenshell, Lyn Stevenson and Kristi Stanlis; Darrin Monks preps chestnuts for roasting out in front of the U.S. Mechanical office; the Grinch photo bombs a group of youngsters enjoying the Christmas in the Park festivities hosted by Strasburg Parks & Rec at Lyons Park; an enthusiastic Isabelle Brown, 5, greets Santa Claus, who arrived at Lyons Park with the assistance of the Strasburg Fire Rescue fire truck; and 6-year-old Brylee Johnson, center left, and 3-year-old sister Adalee roast marshmallows with the assistance of grandmother Karen Highland, left, and mother Lindsey.



Photos by Kathy Smiley, Carl Steitz and Steven Vetter



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Keeping You Connected

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

✓ FAST, RELIABLE INTERNET

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1070 N. HWY 36 ✨ Byers, CO 80103



STRASBURG PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT

1832 Burton Street • (303) 622-4260 • StrasburgParks.org

- ♦ **Letters to Santa** - Send a letter to the North Pole (no postage needed), look for the RED mailboxes. Print clearly the child's full name & a return address.
- ♦ **3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament** - Deadline December 13th December 29th, 9am start; Separate boys & girls divisions; Fee: \$100/team
- ♦ **Senior Excursion: Denver Zoo Lights** - December 14th Call (303) 622-4260 to RSVP; Time: 6:30pm-9pm; Fee: \$25 (plus cost of snacks)
- ♦ **Twisters Gymnastics and Cheer Quarter 4 (1/8 - 4/6)** - Deadline December 27th Times & fees can be found at StrasburgParks.org

Happy Holidays!!



SAVE EVEN MORE WITH ESTECH

Now through January 31, we are offering all new members up to \$100 and all upgrades \$50 off their grocery bill at their local grocery store.



Scan the QR code or call (719) 743-2441 to learn more.

Offer valid 12/01/23 - 01/31/24 at 12:59 PM MT. Terms and conditions apply. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

14th TOY DRIVE

kindness starts with you





Cancer Fighters to the Rescue

LOCATIONS TO DROP OFF TOYS:

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

LIKE AND FOLLOW MY SOCIAL NETWORKS:    /Cancer Fighters to the Rescue

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>