



Happy New Year!

See 2023 Year In Review PAGES 5-8

The I-70 Scout

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

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Volume 30, Number 5

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

DT trustees ponder sales tax question

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — In addition to deciding five board seats, the town of Deer Trail might ask residents to approve a sales tax question during this spring's municipal election.

During the Dec. 19 town trustees meeting, placing a 1.75% sales tax proposal on the April 2 ballot was bandied but no specific language has been approved.

Currently, the town has no sales tax. The current 3.25% in taxes paid by Deer Trail residents all goes towards the state and Arapahoe County.

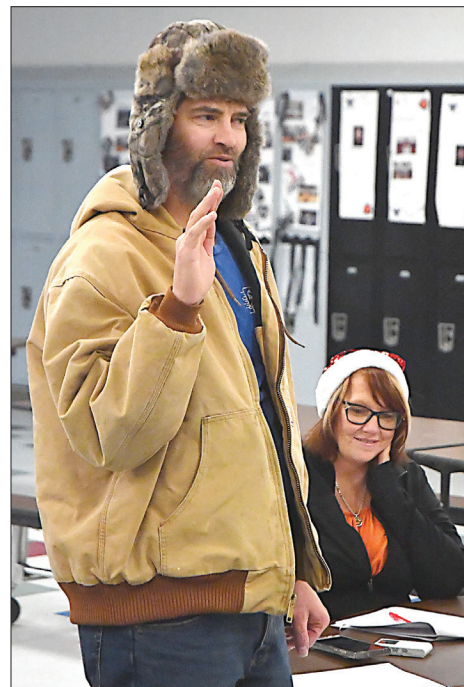
“Even at 1.75%, we’re talking less than 2 cents of every dollar, but that’s more than we’re getting right now,” said trustee Robert Rhodes, who added that projections from the state indicate that the town would likely receive an av-

**SEE DEER TRAIL BOT
PAGE 18**



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

A wide array of mechanical and equine-powered entries were part of a holiday parade of lights that spanned Deer Trail to Bennett Dec. 16.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Chris Sonleitner takes the oath of Agate School Director during the Dec. 18 board meeting as administrative assistant Shelia Tart looks on. Sonleitner was appointed to replace one of two vacancies created by resignations in late October.

Agate School Board adds member, preps BEST grant proposal

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AGATE — Among its wishes for the new year, the Agate School Board is seeking a fifth member and funding sources for significant campus improvements.

During the Dec. 18 School Board meeting, Chris Sonleitner was appointed the fourth school district director, replacing one of two resignations that occurred over the past couple of months. He joins Doug Purdy, Ray Martin and Tonia McBride on the board. Martin and McBride were sworn back onto the board after no November election occurred because of lack of candidates.

Tina Sunshine and Teffanie Recor both announced their intent to resign in October but the two letters of resignation were not approved by the board until this month's meeting.

Under state statute, school dis-
**SEE AGATE BOE
PAGE 14**

AdCo inactivity on eastern bridge projects leaks into '24

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

While Arapahoe County and city of Aurora road crews have made headway on repairing I-70 Corridor arterials severely damaged by May and June floodwaters in their jurisdictions, Adams County has indicated it won't move forward with its two most significant eastern projects until at least the first quarter of 2024.

“We have hired [a] consultant,” said a Dec. 13 statement from Adams County Deputy Director of Public Works Janet Lundquist about the 15th Avenue (County Road 2) washout at Bijou Creek. “The stream bed is currently being surveyed. Staff anticipates holding a public meeting to discuss potential design alternatives

**SEE ROADS & BRIDGES
PAGE 20**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

According to Adams County, the washed out Bijou Creek crossing on 15th Avenue (County Road 2) won't be addressed until February.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Deer management topic of Byers library meeting

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host public meetings for feedback on deer herd management plans for game units in Park, Jefferson, Douglas, Elbert, Arapahoe and parts of Adams counties. The meetings will gather crucial community input on the Northeast Region’s deer population objectives and draft herd management plan, which is effective for 10 years.

A meeting for Elbert County herd D-49 (game management units 104, 105, 106) will start at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 8 at Kelter Library, 585 S. Main St., Byers. For a Zoom link, visit cpw.state.co.us.

Public comments will be synthesized into the draft herd management plan and presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for approval.

Slash pile fires scheduled at Rocky Mountain Arsenal

COMMERCE CITY — Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 2, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will burn piles of woody debris on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

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

Refuge staff burns piles of slash to reduce hazardous fuels. The piles are created after invasive trees like Russian olives are thinned and cut.

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

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov.

Free monthly lunch on tap for local veterans, seniors

BENNETT — I-70 Corridor military veterans and senior citizens



Photographer Carl Steitz of Byers shows off a favorite lightning picture to a customer at a craft fair at the Strasburg American Legion Hall Dec. 2.

age 65 and older can receive a free lunch on the second Friday of each month at the Bennett VFW Hall.

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

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

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

Bennett Recreation Center: Coffee time set for seniors

BENNETT — All I-70 Corridor seniors are invited to Coffee, Cookies & Chat at 11 a.m. every Thursday at the Bennett Recreation District.

The Bennett Recreation Center accepts insurance fitness programs for seniors including Silver Sneakers, Optum (United Health Care), and Silver & Fit (Kaiser). The programs provide discounted or free classic memberships to the facility.

Current classes include Yoga Stretch from 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays — a workout that improves breathing, posture, flexibility, balance and mood through

standing and seated yoga poses.

For more information, call (303)644-5040.

Adams Co. citizens invited to criminal justice classes

BRIGHTON — The 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office is inviting residents of Adams and Broomfield to participate in a free four-week program where they learn about the inner workings of the DA’s office and criminal justice system.

The program will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday from Feb. 20 through March 14, at the 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, 1000 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton.

To apply, visit <https://forms.office.com/g/D2S4cfrGD>.

17th Judicial District Court judge finalists sent to gov

BRIGHTON — The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated three candidates for a district court judgeship effective Jan. 6.

Nominees Sara Sheffield Price and Jeffrey D. Ruff, both of Denver, and Meghan P. Saleebey of Greeley, were selected by the commission Dec. 20.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from Dec. 21 to appoint one of the nominees as district court judge for the 17th Judicial District, which consists of Adams and Broomfield counties.

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

The vacancy was created by the retirement of Roberto Ramirez.

Adopt-A-Pole assistance sought for 2024 holidays

STRASBURG — With 2023 concluding, the Strasburg Lighting Crew is seeking donations for the 2024 Adopt-A-Pole program.

Anyone can adopt as many poles as they like at \$20 each, with contributions to fund the decorations for Christmas 2024.

Each year, volunteers donate time, talents and equipment to repair, rebuild and create new lighting and ground scenes to be placed on the first Saturday of December. The improvements include replacement of old lights with LED bulbs.

Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 14, Strasburg, Colo. 80136 or dropped off at Western Hardware.

Barr Lake State Park site of New Year’s Noon Party

BRIGHTON — New Year’s Eve Noon Party for all ages will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, at the Nature Center at Barr Lake State Park.

Participants will ring in 2024 with crafts, a face-painter, snacks, party favors, and a balloon drop to countdown for a loud celebration at 12 p.m. Pets are not allowed. Stroller parking is available outside the center to leave more room for the kids.

To register, visit the Barr Lake page at cpw.state.co.us.

Barr Lake State Park is located at 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton.

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(303)622-9796 • Fax: (303)622-9794

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Publisher & Editor
Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

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

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

Staff Writers
Kathy Smiley

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair, Emerald Green, Marilee Gillock

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and Christmas we have been
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with your gifts, treats, cards and
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DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP Photo

Attorney Eric Olson, far right, argues before the Colorado Supreme Court Dec. 6 in Denver. The Colorado Supreme Court on Tuesday, Dec. 19, declared former President Donald Trump ineligible for the White House under the U.S. Constitution's insurrection clause and removed him from the state's presidential primary ballot, setting up a likely showdown in the nation's highest court to decide whether the front-runner for the GOP nomination can remain in the race.

Trump campaign vows appeal of Colorado primary ballot ban

by **Eric Galatas**
Public News Service

The Trump campaign has accused the Colorado Supreme Court of interfering in the 2024 elections after its Dec. 19 ruling, which held the former president's actions on Jan. 6, 2021, leading up to a riot and breach of the U.S. Capitol disqualify him from appearing on the state's primary ballot.

David Becker, executive director of the Center for Election Innovation & Research, said the court did not ask for the case to be brought; it simply ruled based on facts and laws.

"It was unprecedented that we had a president who engaged in the behavior that he did on and before Jan. 6," Becker pointed out. "And that's where all of this is coming from; it comes from his behavior, not from the courts having to address that behavior in some way."

The state high court's decision overturned a lower court ruling which found Trump did engage in



REBA SALDANHA/AP Photo

Former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally Dec. 16 in Durham, N.H.

insurrection on Jan. 6, attempting to subvert the will of voters. But the court declined to disqualify Trump because a Civil War-era provision in the U.S. Constitution meant to keep confederates from holding office did not specifically prohibit insurrectionists from holding the office of president.

The Trump campaign called the ruling completely flawed and promised to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. Anticipating an appeal, Colorado justices put a hold on its ruling until Jan. 4, one day before the Colorado Secretary of State must certify primary ballots.

Becker noted that, as it stands today, the former president can still have his name on the ballot.

"Unless the U.S. Supreme Court declines to review the Colorado Supreme Court case, or rules and upholds the Colorado Supreme Court case, he will remain on the Colorado ballot under the terms of this decision," Becker added.

The 14th Amendment bars people from holding federal office if they took an oath to support the U.S. Constitution and then engaged in insurrection or rebellion.

Becker explained the amendment does not stipulate candidates are disqualified from holding office only if they are convicted of insurrection.

"It could have said 'someone convicted of insurrection' could not hold an office of the United States. It doesn't say that, it said 'engaged in insurrection,'" Becker emphasized. "We take the drafters of the Constitution's language at their word."

The I-70 Scout 2023 Year In Review!

JANUARY 10

Arapahoe County delivers new health department



Arapahoe County Public Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Chris Urbina, left, meets with staff members Jan. 3 including the health department’s Director of Nursing Melissa Spencer, R.N.; Immunization Program Nurse Manager Talitha Appel, R.N.; Nurse Health Coordinator Jessica Gomez, R.N.; and Immunization Program Associate Nurse Manager Caitlin Silverstein, R.N.

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

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

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

Arapahoe County Commissioners voted to separate from the Tri-County Health Department in December 2021 following Douglas County’s exit in September of that year and Adams County’s departure the following month. Intergovernmental agreements allowed Tri-County to continue providing public health services through the end of 2022. On Jan. 1, 2023, the individual counties, by law, were required to have their own health departments.

The I-70 Scout visited Arapahoe County Public Health’s Altura Plaza location in Aurora on its opening day Jan. 3. The branch at 15400 E. 14th Pl. has services including environmental health, family planning, birth control, prenatal and parenting case management, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, harm reduction, HIV and STI clinics, and immunizations for children and adults. Other locations with varied services are in Greenwood Village, Englewood and south Aurora.

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

JANUARY 17

Surprise CDOT requirement dents Bennett for add’l \$47K

BENNETT — The town of Bennett’s intersection improvement project at Highway 79 and Marketplace Drive just got more expensive after a new requirement by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) almost doubled the price of third-party inspection services.

The change order request was ultimately approved by the Bennett Board of Trustees Jan. 10 but not without consternation on the part of some trustees and town staff.

The highly visible project to improve the busy intersection in advance of eventual signalization began in October 2021 when the Board of Trustees contracted with Morton Electric to construct an eastbound right turn lane with a channelizing island, corresponding curb ramps, drainage improvements, and signal poles with conduit, controller and associated signal equipment. The project is now substantially complete.

The traffic signal itself will not be added until the intersection meets CDOT traffic and safety warrants, which are granted after specific vehicle and pedestrian traffic, accident history and vehicle delays are met.

Capital Projects Director Daymon Johnson said that, pending further delays, “the signals will arrive in the middle of February and installation occur in March, at which time we should be operational.”

Johnson reviewed the background of the project, noting that, in October 2021, when the contractor was engaged, the town also contracted with Rock-Sol Consulting Group Inc. to act as the third-party inspector for the project, per CDOT requirements. The original contract was for \$49,916.20. The project was anticipated to take 40 days, with completion expected near the end of 2021. He reminded the board of the substantial delays the project has incurred.

“These delays are due solely to CDOT’s inability to provide a timely review of the Access Permit application and the issuing of the subsequent Notice to Proceed to the town,” he said, adding that the town applied for the permit in August 2021, before the project was put out for bid. “The town didn’t receive final approval until April 25, 2022 ... (and) the required Notice to Proceed wasn’t issued until June 16, 2022 — nine months post-bid.”

Johnson said the change order that adds another \$47,480 to Rock-Sol’s contract is a direct result of the delays and a requirement set forth by CDOT representative Robert Williams at a second pre-construction meeting last September to have a full-time inspector on site.

JANUARY 24

I-70 chain reaction claims 50-plus autos

While last week’s winter snowstorm dropped between 10 inches to a foot of snow across much of the I-70 Corridor over approximately 24 hours Jan. 17-18, the aftermath along the area’s main roadway was still felt two days later.

A second wave of snow accompanied by wind started to hit the area during the lunch hour on Wednesday, and a chain reaction accident between Strasburg and Byers on eastbound I-70 wreaked havoc on not only 50-70 vehicles and their occupants, but other commuters going both ways of the thoroughfare.

“We got the first call at 12:48 (p.m.) of a jackknifed semi between 312 and 313,” said Capt. Clint Rushing from the Colorado State Patrol’s Limon Troop Office, noting that Sgt. Clint Collier was the first trooper on the scene about 15 minutes after dispatched. “When [Collier] got on scene, nine semis and 12-13 other vehicles were involved, and they started piling up behind him.”

According to Rushing and Collier, the wide range of vehicles involved included a second significant pile-up behind the original incident and many other property damage issues.

“We had two major pileups and several little ones in the same general area,” Collier said, noting that the first series of crashes occurred near mile point 313.1 with others happening between mile markers 312 and 313. “Twelve was the last big pileup we had, but a lot of slide-offs and several other smaller crashes.”



Strasburg fire chief resigns abruptly

STRASBURG — An unexpected turn of events the week leading up to Christmas has an I-70 Corridor fire department searching for a new leader.

During the Jan. 19 meeting of the Strasburg Fire Protection Board of Directors, President Jeff Thain confirmed that Frank Fields had resigned as Strasburg Fire Rescue Fire Chief and that Pat Conroy is serving as interim chief. Conroy is also the district’s fire marshal.

“We look forward to moving forward in the near term with [Conroy] performing the duties as chief,” Thain said.

Fields submitted his letter of resignation Dec. 19, four days after the fire board’s last meeting of 2022.

JANUARY 31

Adams County unveils new health department

BRIGHTON — Officials with the new Adams County Health Department intend to expand services to the northern side of the I-70 Corridor, but the extent of that improvement remains unknown.

“We are looking for a brick-and-mortar facility out east but that is still in the planning phase,” said Adams County Health Department Executive Director Dr. Kelly Weidenbach to *The I-70 Scout* at the agency’s formal grand opening ceremony at the county’s office in Brighton Jan. 24.

In the meantime, the new health department that replaced the now defunct Tri-County Health Department as of Jan. 1 will continue to administer monthly local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs; host mobile vaccine clinics across the Corridor; and facilitate youth substance abuse prevention effort alongside I-70 Corridor Communities that Care.

When asked about the county’s current lease arrangement in the town of Bennett’s Shared Services Building, Weidenbach indicated the facility isn’t big enough to house the department’s staff.



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The I-70 Scout 2023 Year In Review!

FEBRUARY 14

56th Avenue disintegrates near DIA

AURORA — A portion of a well-known back route into Denver International Airport used by residents to the east is closed and the time frame for reopening is uncertain.

Aurora put up blockades on 56th Avenue between Hudson and Monaghan roads last week after receiving several complaints about the almost un-navigable condition of multiple spots of asphalt along the roadway that runs along the south boundary of DIA. The road closure is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

“The city closed this road to ensure the safety of drivers. Public works is making every attempt to improve the condition of the road as expeditiously as possible and make it passable for commuters,” said a city of Aurora statement on Feb. 10. “Due to the scope and scale of repairs, we are partnering with a local third-party contractor to pave the road. The Suncor oil refinery closure, weather conditions, and the need to secure season- ally appropriate equipment means work may not begin until the spring.”

In some instances, the damage goes below the road base level and traverses across the width of the two-lane road.

“Teeth jarring in some places if you hit them just right,” a Watkins resident told *The I-70 Scout* Feb. 8. “Very easy to bottom out and scrape or damage the bottom of your car. Really bad come the night time even if you’re going the speed limit or slower.”

FEBRUARY 21

Lincoln Health launches medical center in Byers

BYERS — A primary care health clinic is now open on Front Street in Byers.

The new Lincoln Health facility occupies the newly renovated former Kelter Library, which now includes a reception area, five exam rooms, X-ray equipment, and a full lab.

The clinic, at 404 E. Front St., is open five days a week offering family primary care including physical exams, chronic condition management and acute care. Walk-in capability is provided but appointments are encouraged for planned visits.

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting was held Feb. 11 at the clinic with Lincoln Health personnel and Board of Trustees members, the local staff, and supporters in attendance. Lincoln Health operates a hospital, nursing home and assisted living facility in Hugo; an ambulance service; a home health and hospice service; and three additional primary care clinics in Limon, Hugo, and Flagler.

CEO Kevin Stansbury said discussions about expanding westward began six years ago.

“In 2017 our board got together and asked how we could serve the health care needs of those folks that live in the rural areas to the west of us,” he said. “We got a grant for a mobile clinic, and it has been serving Byers, Bennett and Deer Trail for the last several years.”



MARCH 14

Staffer saves choking Hemphill student

STRASBURG — A Hemphill Middle School student was recently saved from possible death thanks to the quick reaction of a faculty member.

During the March 7 Strasburg School Board meeting, middle school paraprofessional Tina Spence was presented a pair of awards for her quick response during an incident last month when a student was choking.

“Tina used the Heimlich maneuver and, quite frankly, saved one of our student’s lives,” said Superintendent Dan Hoff.

In addition to a certificate honoring her efforts, Spence received the Mama Bear Award from Hemphill Middle School Principal Johnnie Echer and Assistant Principal Avis Devlin.

“She’s one of us now,” an emotional Devlin said of Spence. “Very proud of her. You wouldn’t expect anything less from such a caring person.”

One of Spence’s daughters was in attendance for the award presentation.

“[Tina’s] mom wanted to be here but she thought she didn’t want to cry too much and create a scene,” Devlin said.

MARCH 21

Brand new fire engine crashes on ice

The western quarter of the local I-70 Corridor had a double-digit bevy

of auto accidents the first half of March 16, and while none resulted in significant injuries, among the extensive property damage was a costly, untimely loss to an area emergency jurisdiction.

Of the approximately 20 traffic crashes that occurred between Aurora and Limon on Thursday, the Colorado State Patrol said that it received 14 calls from 5:45-11 a.m. ranging between Bennett and Airpark Road — including a fire engine on its side.

Just a little after 8 a.m., state troopers and Adams County deputies responded to Highway 36 near Imboden Road where they found a Bennett-Watkins fire engine on its passenger side on the east-bound side of the roadway.

“Sounds like the crew had just completed a call for service and was en route back to the fire station,” said Capt. Clint Rushing from the State Patrol Limon Troop office. “The road was extremely icy there and the engine lost control, rolling onto its side and off the road.”

No injuries were reported

APRIL 11



Members of the Adams County Sheriff’s Office, Colorado State Patrol and the Bennett-Watkins and Sable Altura fire departments all responded to a tipped-over cement truck on First Street immediately north of Palmer Avenue in Bennett April 7. The driver, who attempted to leap from the tipping vehicle, was airlifted to a Denver hospital with serious injuries but is expected to survive.

MAY 16

Record hailstorm, rains soak E. Colorado

What started out as a damaging hail storm the afternoon of May 10 turned into a three-day rain event for the record books along the I-70 Corridor, especially for Bennett, Strasburg and Byers.

After 5-8 inches of hail — with stones ranging up to golf ball, ping pong ball, and almost tennis ball size — pelted the central part of the I-70 Corridor from approximately 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Mother Nature continued to drop multiple inches of rain through Friday morning.

“It was a dang scary time to be inside a barn with horses with water running in all around us and the noise outside being unbearable,” said Dr. Jennifer Gochanour with Living Springs Veterinary Care of Bennett of her experience during a service call on Manila Road near I-70. “Not a fun time at all for probably a half-hour. Just got slammed.”

Other damage reports included significant water damage at the Strasburg Recreation Center and leaks throughout the Strasburg Schools campus, particularly the high school and elementary schools, and residential reports of roof damage, broken windows, “hail blasting” of paint, and holes in siding and walls.

VEHICULAR WATER RESCUE

Northwest of Strasburg, hail combined with a heavy torrent of rain over the next few hours to force I-70 Corridor and Front Range first-responders to literally swim into action.

About 9 p.m. Wednesday, Strasburg Fire Rescue was first dispatched to the area of 26th Avenue and Wolf Creek Road on report of a stranded pickup amidst high water. Upon arrival, Strasburg, Bennett-Watkins and Sable Altura emergency responders found a Dodge 1500 pickup pushed off the road with four occupants — two adults and two children — standing in the bed of the vehicle.

“The water was running so swiftly and high that it was dangerous to for any of us to get to directly,” said Strasburg Fire Chief Pat Conroy. “We had to call South Metro and they sent out their water rescue dive team. They were tethered off and able to wade out and safely rescue all the occupants. No boat or watercraft was used and probably wouldn’t have helped with how fast the water was running.”



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JUNE 20

Agate, Deer Trail, Byers drenched again

The prolonged stretch of stormy days continue to wreak havoc along the I-70 Corridor and neighboring areas.

Most recently, Agate, Deer Trail and Byers received between 2.5 to 5 inches of rainfall June 14-16. About 1.5 inches of rain that flooded the northwest part of Deer Trail fell in about an hour Thursday afternoon. The deluge was so fast and heavy that the WPA ditch between east-bound I-70 and Fifth Street over-flooded over the street and into the East Bijou Estates subdivision. In a couple of instances, Deer Trail residents with a good sense of humor and a desire to feed their water recreation desires were seen paddling down the filled ditch on an inflatable raft.

“Nothing you can do about it now, so you might as well take advantage of something at the time I guess,” one Deer Trail resident said. “Kind of wish I would have thought of it.” A lifelong community resident added that subdivision residents now know why the WPA ditch is situated the way it is.

“Those people living there haven’t been around long enough to know that ditch was put there in the first place, now they know,” the resident said. “Probably been 30 years, maybe more, since it’s been near the level or over it for that long.”

ADAMS COUNTY ROAD CLOSURES

While a handful of local county roads are likely facing closures into the near future, as of the end of last week all area residents are reportedly able to access their properties.

“All the remaining closures are at creek crossings,” said Adams County Road & Bridge District 3 Manager Dave Tuttle June 16. “Everyone out here is able to get into and out of their homes. It might take a detour and longer way around but no one is unable to get through to their houses. Some people have to go into Weld and Morgan counties, but they can get in and out.

“We had 28 closures at one time. It took working overnight once and over the weekend, but within five days, we had things all opened except for County Road 2. Then Elbert and Douglas counties had their 7 inches of rain (June 5) that led to more widespread flood damage here again. Now we are back down to just a few. Right now, it’s the washouts at creek crossings we can’t do much about until the water recedes or is gone. We are trying to maintain what we currently have opened and hopefully survive any more rain without any more closures.”

Tuttle also reiterated the need for residents and commuters to resist the urge to cross large areas of standing water because, in many cases, the depth of the damage will swallow up vehicles.



The West Bijou Creek washout of County Road 2 (aka 15th Avenue) between Bradbury Krebs and Xmore roads north of Byers recently grew. The recession of the water over the road is expected to take some time and how to move forward with repairs won’t be know until that occurs. Reports say that the roadway’s concrete base was eroded away.

JUNE 27

Floodwaters claim Watkins woman’s life

Recurring heavy rain storms and floodwaters of the past few weeks recently escalated from a mere in- convenience for I-70 Corridor residents and commuters to a matter of life or death across much of the area.

While the moisture collected by the Front Range’s official weather station at Denver International Air- port through the first three weeks of June is already about a quarter-inch ahead of the month’s previous record of 4.96 inches record- ed in 1882, many areas immediately east of the Front Range has received around 10 inches. The historical average rainfall for June is under 2 inches.

WATKINS WOMAN DIES

The region’s first flood-related fatality occurred over- night June 21-22 when a Watkins resident was swept off the east side of Watkins Road Wednesday night. The vehicle wreckage and body of 63-year-old Crystal Buckey wasn’t found until Thursday morning as a trio of drones joined the search.

A large amount of water running north to south on the west side of the highway reportedly crossed near the intersection with Sixth

Avenue, sweeping Buckey’s car off the east side road and under a bridge. The swift current eventually moved the vehicle to its final resting place about a quarter-mile away from the road.

In addition to a heavy volume of water coming from flooded drainages in Douglas and Elbert counties, approximately 2 inches fell in about an hour in and around Watkins Wednesday night.

“Can’t tell you how fast it was moving but it was certainly a very high volume of water that crossed over there,”an Arapahoe County Road & Bridge source said. “Probably just floated it right off the road.”

In addition, two other cars were found swept 50-70 feet off the road- way because of the floodwaters, but no other injuries were reported.

AGATE EVACUATIONS

Rainfall of between 2-4 inches in areas of Elbert, Lincoln and El Paso counties Wednesday night led to a bevy of already swollen creeks over- flowing the following morning, resulting in the rescue of a handful of eastern Elbert County residents from their properties.

In one case, an Agate man living about six miles southwest of town on County Road 153 was extricated from his water-locked house by emergen- cy helicopter mid-after- noon Thursday.

According to Agate Fire Chief Larry Rector, the airborne rescue was at one of the properties and homes that received a brunt of the damage during the flood of 1965.

WATKINS WATER RESCUE

While no rain fell across the I-70 Corridor this past Friday, flood- waters from the previous few days overtook Box Elder Creek and its tributaries, re- sulting in a local and neighboring fire districts combining forces in a pair of water rescues northwest of Watkins.

A little after 1 p.m. June 23, Ben- nett-Watkins and Aurora fire rescues were dispatched to the area of East 56th Avenue and Hudson Road on reports of vehicles washed off the roadways. Upon arrival one person was found inside a stranded vehicle along North Hudson Road and an adult male and juvenile female were found occupying an SUV stuck in the wa- ter along East 56th Avenue.

Over the next two hours, emergency personnel responding in approx- imately 20 pieces of apparatus and another handful of support vehicles from Aurora, Bennett-Watkins, and South Metro fire departments were able to safely get all three occupants out of their vehicles and onto dry ground without injuries.

Firefighters and water rescue specialists were seen walking the stranded commuters through the rapidly flowing water to safety.

“Please avoid this area and remember, ‘Turn Around, Don’t Drown,’” said a Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue statement.

Those two stretches of roads, which are under Aurora’s jurisdiction, have been closed.



AUGUST 1

Back way closure to DIA extended a year

AURORA — Residents of Watkins and Corridor communities farther east will not be able to utilize the shorter back route to Denver Interna- tional Airport or to the northeast metro area through at least next sum- mer, maybe longer.

During a July 27 meeting of Aurora’s Transportation, Airports & Public Works Policy Committee, city officials announced that 56th Avenue be- tween Hudson and Monaghan roads and Hudson Road between 26th and 56th avenues will remain closed for the next 12 months.

“Could be longer than that,” said Aurora’s Deputy Director of Public Works Operations Lynne Center. “Most erosion is at least 4 feet deep, so we are talking more than just repaving or surface repairs. And we expect more damage than we are able to see right now — there’s a lot of problems underneath and that area has really bad soils. Almost like a water bed.”

The estimate for rebuilding both stretches of road is at least \$10 million, but the city applied for a federal transportation PROTECT grant in hopes that 75% of the infrastructure and rebuild expenses might be covered.

According to Center, the cost for the approximately 6,000 square-yards of asphalt required to resurface the areas must be covered by the city but that additional costs could be covered by the grant.



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The I-70 Scout 2023 Year In Review!

AUGUST 29

Body found between 'Burg and Bennett

STRASBURG — An active investigation is ongoing concerning the death of a person whose body was found in a rural area between Bennett and Strasburg the morning of Aug. 23.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office reported that a resident found the body of a woman along Yulle Road between Colfax Avenue and I-70 just before noon. Yulle Road was closed for several hours while multiple deputies were on the scene gathering evidence. The death is being investigated as suspicious.

According to Public Information Officer Deputy John Bartmann the coroner's office has identified the victim, but her name or cause of death had not been released as of Aug. 25. Barton indicated the ID would likely come out the week of Aug. 28.

Editor's Note: The Arapahoe County Coroner's Office later reported that the body found was that of 44-year-old Gabriela Ibanez and that her death was classified as homicide. (*The I-70 Scout*, September 13)

SEPTEMBER 5

Man arrested in Bennett gunfire incident

BENNETT — Additional specifics from an active shooter incident at Trupp Park in west Ben- nett Aug. 29 remained limited at the conclusion of last week, but one suspect is facing charges and no one was physically harmed during the late-afternoon ordeal.

About 5:15 p.m. of the day in question, Adams County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the park on the northwest corner of First Street and Palmer Avenue on reports of multiple shots fired.

"No shooting victims or injured parties were found. We have two persons in custody ...," said an immediate statement from the sheriff's office. "Shell casings have been collected as evidence and investigators continued to interview witnesses."

According to a sheriff's office official, the suspect number dropped to one when the second person in custody was deter- mined to be a victim.

A report of a suspected separate raid at a house along First Street with a helicopter over- head was refuted by sheriff's officials who said it turned out to be a welfare check on a suspected victim from the incident at the park.

"It was a news helicopter flying above," a sheriff's office source said. "Looks like we got the bad guy and thank goodness no one was hurt."

Editor's Note: During a Nov. 14 arraignment hearing in Div. Q of Adams County District Court, Prieto pleaded guilty to fifth-degree felony menacing and first-degree misdemeanor menacing. During the same proceedings, Prieto also pleaded Prieto in another separate case to first-degree misdemeanors of discharge of a weapon and carrying a concealed weapon. (*The I-70 Scout*, November 22)

OCTOBER 4

Byers educator nominated for high honor

BYERS — There's something magical about Ms. O'Dell.

Like Ms. Frizzle, the fictional teacher who takes her class on amazing journeys on *The Magic School Bus*, Tiffeny O'Dell excites her Byers Junior High students about science with her pure joy for the subject and her interactive teaching style. The staff and students at Byers have known and appreciated the extraordinary educator for the last five years and the state of Colorado recently took notice and named her one of seven finalists for Colorado Teacher of the Year.

O'Dell even resembles the fictional teacher in appearance — when *The I-70 Scout* caught up with her during her school day Sept. 21, her red hair was pulled back and she wore a science-themed dress — both Ms. Frizzle trademarks. And like Ms. Frizzle with her pet chameleon Liz, Odell is often seen with a lizard or other creature on her shoulder. She even insisted on "wearing" one of her leopard geckos in her official Byers School ID photo.

"The photographer objected, but I said it was a brooch," she said. "Last year I wore Chad. This year it's Bow, (short for Rainbow)."



Tiffeny O'Dell drives to school with a chick, Becky, on her shoulder.

At Byers she taught sixth grade in the elementary for three years before moving to the junior high last year. She loved sixth grade but was thrilled when the secondary science position came up.

"This is absolutely my dream job," she said. "Every day my husband asks how my day was, and I say, it was amazing! We had so much fun! The kids were great! We got so much done!"

OCTOBER 18

ArapCo OKs revised oil, gas regulations

LITTLETON — While commissioners cited public health and environmental concerns behind last week's changes to local oil and gas regulations, residents in eastern rural parts of Arapahoe County are displeased with a "one size fits all" mentality concerning land- use policy.

During its approximately four-hour public hearing Oct. 10, Arapahoe County commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of multiple amendments to gas and oil facility rules contained within the county's land development code but, most notably, is the increase in facility setbacks from existing or planned reservoirs of at least a mile regardless of its location within the county. In the case of a fracking site being down gradient, or sitting below, from a body of water, the setback can be reduced to 2,000 feet.

"It is important for us to recognize that these are regulations for our entire county," said Board Chair and District 1 Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully. "We need to make sure we're being thoughtful and not singling out one area versus another. We need good processes in place for our entire county."

NOVEMBER 15

DT School Board election results delayed

A significant turnaround in one local school board race occurred two full days after last week's election, but election officials are adamant that no impropriety was behind the delay.

When Arapahoe County released its vote count update after 6 p.m. Nov. 9, the three-person race for a pair of four-year terms on the Deer Trail School Board was turned on its ear as the tie for the final spot was replaced by substantial margins of advantage.

Election Night returns showed Steven Musser in the lead with 167 votes and Gale Bell and Tyler Turecek in a tie with 152 votes. Midday on Wednesday, Musser was up to 170 votes compared to 155 each for Bell and Turecek. But Thursday evening's update from the county showed a significant uptick in votes for all three candidates — Bell took the lead with 241 votes, while Musser fell to second with 235 and Turecek in third at 222.

Despite the Thursday night update accounting for about one-third of the returns for the Deer Trail School District races, Arapahoe County, election officials downplayed the delay.

"Same process we've used previous years. No 'snafus' or 'misplaced or lost' ballots. Those assertions are false," said Arapahoe County Elections spokesman Tom Skelley Nov. 10.

NOVEMBER 29

Bennett teacher charged with sex assault

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, Christopher 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.

"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.

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."

According to the Adams County Sheriff's Office, Castellano wasn't taken into custody until earlier in the month.

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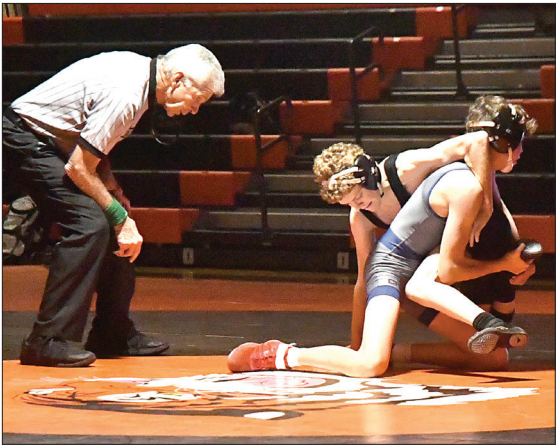


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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY RICHARD SOUTHARD/For The Scout

From left photo in black, Tigers Daniel Jordan (106 pounds), Caycen Scholz (126) and Ethan Jordan (157) take on foes from Chaparral at home Dec. 19.

Lady Tigers shine at major wrestling tourney

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

GREELEY — Wrestling teams from Bennett and Strasburg attended a massive tournament in Greeley Dec. 15-16 with a field of more than 80 teams, 750 boys and 500 girls from New Mexico, Nebraska and Wyoming, as well as Colorado.

The Bennett girls had the best performance in the 64-person brackets at Jimmy John's Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament in Greeley, finishing 22nd out of 62 teams with 81.5 team points. Strasburg was 54th with 14 points.

For Bennett, senior Katelyn Faczak (105 pounds) and sophomore Vivi Gitke (140) reached the finals and senior Marie Jordan took third.

Faczak endured her first defeat of the season, a 1-0 heartbreaker, to Acelyn Duran from Pueblo Central.

"We had a letdown round," said Bennett head coach John Faczak. "She didn't wrestle as well in her finals match as she had done in the previous rounds that day."

Katelyn Faczak surrendered an escape point in the third period.

"We rode [Duran] for a little while, and then we had to let her go to try to win the match," said John Faczak, noting that a takedown was necessary to win whether the score was 1-0 in regulation or 0-0 entering overtime. "Might as well give them the point and wrestle to win."

"[Duran's] tall and lanky and she's a pacer — her goal is to go ahead and keep the score close, and then she tries to score a point right at the end, and that's what she did," he added.

In her earlier matches, Katelyn Faczak went 4-0 with two pins and decisions by scores of 5-3 and 4-3.

Gitke also had a successful run, winning five straight matches by pin to reach the finals before she was pinned in 1:11 by Kacey Walck from North Fork High School in Hotchkiss.

Jordan took two of her first three matches by pinfall and the third by technical fall with a 19-4 score before she ran into Justice Gutierrez of Pomona, who pinned her in 0:35. She



ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

Lady Tiger Vivienne Gitke (140) pins Addie Davidson of Berthoud during a home dual Dec. 6. Gitke was one of three Bennett girls to place at the rugged Jimmy John Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament Dec. 15-16.

rebounded with a 7-4 decision in the consolation semifinals before pinning Fountain-Fort Carson's Mia Moran in 3:53 in the third-place contest.

"They're the best of example of where our team is at right now," said John Faczak, noting that the Lady Tigers had a great boys team to work with them last season. "The by-product of that is that we have a really great girls team."

Bennett traveled to the Findlay (Ohio) FIGHT Girls Wrestling Tournament Dec. 21-22. Results were unavailable at press time.

"[Tourney organizers]

only invite the best kids and the best teams from the state and they looked at us and said 'You're a top 10 team with three girls. That's amazing. We want all of you to be there,'" John Faczak said.

For the Lady Indians, junior Carly Larsen and sophomores Seirra Nicholas and Olivia LeFors won matches by pin in 1:45, 0:45 and 2:35, respectively. Larsen also gained another win when her opponent, April Garayzar of George Washington, forfeited.

BOYS @ GREELEY

The Bennett boys sent

six wrestlers and Strasburg four to the Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament with the Tigers placing 57th with 34 points and Strasburg 75th with 16.

"We're moving in the right direction. This is a really young team, and I can't put into words how immature we are. We are physically immature. Most of them haven't really hit puberty form and there [are] no muscles. We are competitively immature because we haven't ever really got the job done," said Bennett head coach John Faczak. "There's a lot of growing and a lot of learning to be done with this group, probably more than anybody I've ever had in my 23 years of coaching."

"But I see really good signs. This weekend was probably the best that we have had in terms of seeing signs of us moving to the team that we expect ourselves to be."

Top competitors for Bennett in the boys tournament were sophomores Ethan Jordan (157) and Caycen Scholz (126), who went 5-2

SEE W BENNETT-STRASBURG
PAGE 10

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Eaton defeats cold-shooting Strasburg gals

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

EATON — Free throws or the lack thereof contributed to a defeat of the Strasburg Lady Indians at Eaton Dec.16.

The Lady Reds hit only eight of 25 from the charity stripe compared to four of five for Strasburg, but those additional 4 points are reflected in the 47-43 final score.

"The only problem is we only shot five and they shot 25," said Merci Ames, head coach of the Lady Indians. "We felt like if we had got a few chances at the line I think we would have been able to capitalize."

She also noted that the game was

SEE GB STRASBURG
PAGE 10

W BENNETT-STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 9

and 4-2, respectively. Jordan made the top 10 and Scholz the top 12 at the event, but medals go to the top eight wrestlers only.

“Ethan lost in the blood round. One more win and he would have been on the podium,” John Faczak said.

Sophomore Daniel Jordan finished 2-2 on the day.

Strasburg sent only its four best wrestlers to the Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament because of the intensity of the competition.

Strasburg senior Thomas Devlin (190) had the top performance for the Indians, going 3-2. Senior Alejandro Hernandez (132) and sophomore Juan Hernandez both went 1-2.

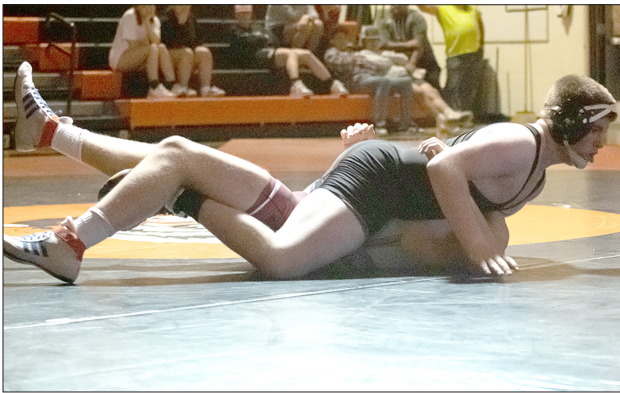
Head coach Jordan Ross said Devlin should not have lost his final match. He had taken down Daniel Ronquillo Montejano of Prairie View twice and had him on his back, but Montejano was able to roll out and pin Devlin with 1 second remaining in the first period.

“Skill-wise, they probably weren’t quite ready to be at that tournament, and I told them that, but I took them because I kind of like looking into the future and thinking they might be kids that push for a qualifying spot at the end of the year so I wanted them to see that higher level of competition.”

STRASBURG @ WELD CENTRAL DUALS

Less experienced Indian wrestlers who did not travel to Greeley attended the eighth annual Keith Kilker Invitational duals meet at Weld Central High School in Keenesburg Dec. 15-16.

“That’s why I like sending my kids there because they can get the mat time, and it’s no matter what — it’s not like a tournament where you lose two and you’re done, you get seven matches no matter what,” Ross said.



ALYSSA STEMOM/For The Scout

Kenneth Jordan (175) puts the heat on an opponent from Berthoud Dec. 6.

Two kids stood out for the Indians. Sophomore Ben Nuttall (106) went 5-2 for the day, and junior Damien Garcia (175) was 2-0.

“He’ll be in the varsity lineup after Christmas and I really think that he could maybe compete for a spot to qualify at the end of the year,” Ross said of Garcia.

Ross noted that the Indians are a young team this year, unlike past years when they had a group of wrestlers that could be relied upon to place highly at tournaments.

“We don’t have that this year, but I think this group is a lot more coachable than teams I’ve had in the past,” Ross concluded. “The high is not as high, but I think the low will really come along by the end of the year.”

The Indians went 3-4 in seven duals over the two days. They defeated Fort Lupton 48-24; Fairview 42-28; and Frederick 42-36 but lost to Denver North 48-24; Estes Park 42-26; Florence 54-21; and University 52-18.

CHAPARRAL @ BENNETT

Scholz pinned Chaparral’s Dalton Komperda



RICHARD SOUTHARD/For The Scout

Tommy Cearn (138) tries to escape his foe from Chaparral Dec. 19.

in 5:37 for the Tigers only win in a home dual Dec. 19.

Bennett surrendered 36 points from forfeits in the 60-6 loss.

BERTHOUD @ BENNETT

At home Dec. 6, Bennett dominated the Spartans on the mat, winning four of five contested matches, but lost the team score to forfeits, 42-27.

Daniel and Ethan Jordan and freshman Kenneth Jordan (175) won by pin in 1:23, 1:04 and 5:06, Scholz pinned his opponent in 3:34, and freshman Dylan Rutledge won a 9-6 decision at 157 pounds.

The Lady Tigers won both contested matches with Faczak and Gitke recording falls in 3:13 and 0:58, but still lost as a team because of five forfeits.

The final score was 30-18.

COMING UP — BOYS & GIRLS

Jan. 5: Bennett open duals

Jan. 6: Mark Purslow Memorial

GB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 9

physical.

“I don’t think that helps very much,” she added. “Eaton’s kind of a tough environment anyway.”

Strasburg led 12-8 after one quarter, but Eaton stormed back for a 21-16 halftime lead and a 34-26 advantage after three periods. Ames said the Indians just went cold from the floor. They hit just 43% of their two-point shots and only 1 of 12 three-pointers.

“We just were not making the

shots that we normally would make,” Ames said.

The Indians picked up the pace on defense and rallied to within 3 points in the fourth quarter, but the effort was too little, too late.

“We should have got them. We should have,” Ames added. “I’m going to take some of the blame for that. I didn’t adjust as quickly as I should have.”

Junior Peighton Marrero led the Indians with 19 points and two

steals.

“That’s probably her best offensive performance ever,” Ames said. “She shot the ball well and played great defense.”

Marrero was followed by senior Graecy Graf with 8 points and six assists; junior Natalie Damron with 6 points and five rebounds; sophomore Taryn LeForce, 5 points; and sophomore Hannah Damron, four rebounds.

Now 3-3, Ames still has high

hopes for her team.

“Even if we’re 3-3, we really feel like we’re in a good spot going into break for the most part,” she concluded. “We feel like we have a very good chance of being very successful this year.”

COMING UP

Jan. 6: @ Rocky Ford

Jan. 9: @ Highland

Jan. 11: @ Ellicott

Jan. 13: @ Valley



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District hosted its first Adaptive Basketball Clinic for kindergarten through eighth-grade special education kids Nov. 16. The participants rotated through four stations including shooting, passing, dribbling and defense. After completing the stations, they were divided into teams of four to five players and played a game for 10 minutes. The right photo provides an example of the stations. Right photo, Colorado Avalanche mascot Bernie poses with the participants and volunteers.

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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY
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Pop-Up Studio: A Pop-Up Studio team of all ages will laser engrave objects ranging from acrylic key chains to metal tags to yo-yos. 3-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 28.

Mahjong: Adults will play mahjong at a beginner’s game on the first Friday of each month. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 5.

Building social, emotional skills in kids: Families with kids ages 20 months to 6 years can help them develop age-appropriate social skills from early childhood mental health expert Brittany Healy. She will discuss developmental skills like coping with emotions, waiting, sharing and turn-taking. Care-givers will practice each new skill with their child. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 1-2 p.m., Fridays, Jan. 5 and 12.

Bots: Participants ages 12 and up will learn to control small robots. 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9.

New Year’s Eve social slated during daytime

ENGLEWOOD — Arapahoe Libraries will host a New Year’s celebration and dance party called Happy Noon Year for all ages from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, at Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial.

Attendees will enjoy winter treats, an outdoor dance party, and a countdown to 12 p.m.

“Happy Noon Year’ is a fun way for kids to ring in the new year without staying up past their bedtime or yours,” said Holly Whelan, Arapahoe Libraries manager of community relations and strategic events.

After the party, attendees can warm up inside the library, which is open from 12-5 p.m. on New Year’s Eve.

For information or to reserve a spot, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)542-7279.

ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES ON ZOOM
To reserve a spot or for more information on Zoom programming, call (303)542-7279 or visit arapahoelibraries.org.

How to draw cute stuff: Angela Nguyen, author of the popular ‘How to Draw Cute Stuff’ series will present a virtual drawing class for kids ages 5-12. She will also discuss her books and creative process. The kids will learn the basics of drawing people and animals using simple

shapes to make their work absolutely adorable. 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11.

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

Aromatherapy: Adults will enjoy an afternoon of aromatherapy crafts to support winter wellness. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE NO LDC23-006, FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS UPDATE /
LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LDC) AMENDMENT

PROPOSAL: Arapahoe County is proposing an amendment to the Arapahoe County Land Development Code to adopt and incorporate into the Code a new Flood Insurance Study (FIS), dated April 11, 2024, with the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), as produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 16, 2024, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial, CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LDC23-006, Floodplain Regulations Update / Land Development Code Amendment. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 13, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commission permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LDC23-006, Floodplain Regulations Update / Land Development Code Amendment. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

More information about this proposal is available at the offices of the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, Engineering Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6500, or by emailing sliu@arapahoegov.com during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023.

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In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.
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Serving Christ and His children on the High Plains
Sunday Service 8:30 a.m.
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Please visit our web site to learn more...
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Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook


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Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod


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www.corlcms.org


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278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • 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

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Strasburg Presbyterian Church
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO
www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325

• Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Church Directory ads start at \$12.60/week



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8:30am & 10:15am
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Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
AA - Fridays @ 6pm
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"

mvfcolorado.com
303.622.9600


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Sunday Service - 10:45 AM
Meeting @ VFW in Bennett
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-Also- Streamed Live On Facebook
Calvary Bennett



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


Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church

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

MASS TIMES

- Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri & every 1st Saturday 8:30 am
- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 9:00 am

11:30 am en español

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

Closure of 2 coal-fired power plants planned in Arizona, Colorado

by **Eric Galatas**
Public News Service

Colorado’s second-largest electricity provider is leaning into federal Inflation Reduction Act dollars to retire two coal-fired power plants, one in Craig and one in Arizona.

John Clark is the Mayor of Ridgway, which gets power from Tri-State through a regional co-op.

He said he sees the new Electric Resource Plan as a major shift for a company that, until recently, had a hard 5% cap on wind, solar and other renewables in its energy portfolio.

“To see them make this big a change,” said Clark, “and actually commit to closing a couple of coal-fired power plants, and also invest in more alternative energy sources — is, I think, a

huge win for everybody. And it’s actually going to reduce rates for their customers.”

Tri-State is hoping to tap a new federal program intended to help rural Americans transition to clean energy to build significant amounts of wind, solar and battery storage resources.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission recently approved an alternative plan for Xcel, the state’s largest provider, that increases reliance on natural gas and cuts investments in lower-cost renewables in the short term.

Tri-State’s proposal would close unit three in Craig in 2028, two years earlier than planned, largely due to coal prices.

Clark noted that Colorado’s Just Transition Action Plan, which received funding in last year’s legislative session, can help communities like Craig built around fossil fuels.

“There’s amazing work being done,” said Clark, “to create new jobs and create new industries, and bolster existing industries in ways that create opportunities for people who might be losing a job at a coal mine or a coal plant.”

Clark said he hopes Tri-State’s proposal will move others to act on climate change.

According to Environmental Protection Agency data, air pollution from unit three in Craig is responsible for \$75 million in increased health-care costs each year from heart attacks, asthma attacks, and other diseases.

“All of these things are huge public health issues,” said Clark. “And I think a giant energy company like Tri-State changing their mind and deciding to step up and take some actions like this is a huge example for others in the industry to try and do some of the same things.”

All pets over 6 months old need to be licensed.

Pet licenses are due by January 31st each year.



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PLEASE LICENSE YOUR PETS!





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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8 am to 6 pm
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 2 pm
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303-644-4MVP

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Adams County Health Dept. (720)532-7208
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Arapahoe County Government (303) 795-4630
Aurora Mental Health & Recovery (303) 617-2300
Barney's Boutique (303) 345-4460
Bennett Parks & Recreation District (303) 644-5040
Bigfoot Auctions (720) 276-4225
Bijou Telephone Co-op Assoc. (303) 822-5400
Blue Sky Party Rentals (303) 622-6777
Browning Blades, (303)547-6790
Candice Rosenbach, REALTOR (720) 320-0445
Claussen Chiropractic (303) 622-4200
Claws and Paws Pet Sitting (303) 644-3332
Colorado Space and Airport (720) 523-7311
Colorado Trailers Direct (303) 731-4631
CORE (303) 622-9231
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Grothe Financial Services, PC (303) 644-4600
Hally Albers (303)946-4373
High Plans Restoration (720) 266-7803
Homeland Gunsmithing LLC (719) 468-8869
I-70 Corridor Communities that Care (303) 644-5049
I-70 Publishing Company (303) 622-9796
I-70 REAP (720) 587-7501
Integrity Insurance and Five Rings Financial (303) 644-4872
Independent Bank (303) 622-4201
Jess Baked For You (303) 518-0113

Kauffman Sales DBA Clark Equipment (303)622-4012
K.I.T. Insurance Agency (303) 644-3047
Knotty Crafting (303)949-4775
Kriegers Commercial Fleet and Automotive (303) 731-9144
LaZyB Acres Alpacas (303) 644-4110
Les Schwab Bennett (720)420-6302
Lighthouse Bookkeeping (303) 859-5415
Lindy Cosgrove (303)257-5477
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Strasburg Parks & Recreation District (303) 622-4260
Strasburg 31J School District 303-622-9211
Sum Financial Services Group (720) 613-6160
TBK Bank (303) 622-6598
TDS Telecom (970) 344-9613
Tuff's Ranch and Tuff's Animal Rescue (501c3) 720-263-2279
Theresa Lane, Broker Associate-Realtor (720) 938-2390
Top Dog Properties (970)688-1125
Town of Bennett (303) 644-3249
U.S. Mechanical Company, Inc. (303) 622-24HR (2447)
Vanderholt Customs (303)618-4000
Ziggi's Coffee (303) 877-5578

Lunch and Learn/Member Meeting
Third Wednesday of the month
See website for details

www.i70ccoc.com
Phone: 720.731.1954
Email: Officei70ccoc@gmail.com

RESOLUTION NO. 23-10

TO SET MILL LEVIES

A RESOLUTION LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2024. TO AID IN THE OPERATION OF AND HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO FOR THE 2024 BUDGET YEAR.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Deer Trail has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law on December 19th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for general operating purposes from property tax revenue is \$169,128; and, **WHEREAS**, the Town finds that it is required to temporarily lower the operating mill levy to render a refund for \$5,607, and:


WHEREAS, the 2023 valuation for assessment for the Town of Deer Trail as certified by the County Assessor is \$12,571,789.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO:

Section 1. That for the purpose of meeting all general operating expenses of the Town during the 2024 budget year, there is hereby levied a tax of 13.007 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the Town for the year 2024.


Section 2. That for the purpose of rendering a refund to its constituents during budget year 2024, there is hereby levied a temporary tax credit/mill levy reduction of .446 mills. That the Town Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify to the County Commissioners of Arapahoe County, Colorado, the mill levies for the Town of Deer Trail as hereinabove determined and set.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of December 2023.



Judd Behrens, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly Sullivan, Town Clerk

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December Special 30-yarder, \$400

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Wishing The I-70 Corridor & everyone
a safe and healthy 2024!

Happy New Year!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STRASBURG AUTO PARTS STAFF:

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Randy, Eric, Anna, CR,
Roger, Phil, Chance,
Jovonni, JD, and Tyler.**

We thank you for your support
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Happy New Year from our family to yours!



303-622-4211
1313 Monroe St.
Strasburg, CO

7:30 am to 6 pm Mon. - Fri.
8 am to 5 pm Saturday
8 am to 1 pm Sunday



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



All County offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 in observance of the New Year's holiday.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



JEFFERSON COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



All My Money

Money Management Series

Money Management Series

Attend a free online class about money management beginning Jan. 9. The four-part series is especially good for those starting out on their own or who are looking to get back on track with their money, but is open to anyone wanting to participate. Sessions are one hour long, from 7-8 p.m.

Visit bit.ly/CSUAllMyMoney to register or scan the QR code with your smartphone.





Join our team!

Arapahoe County Facilities and Fleet Management has an opening for Medium/Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

This job offer opportunities to work for a high-performing organization that strives for excellence every day. Earn a competitive salary with full benefits.

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arapahoeco.gov

WEEK OF DEC. 25



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Tues./Wed./Fri.: 9:30am-5:30pm
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Open First Saturday of Each Month

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Ray Martin, left, and Tonia McBride retake the oath of office for Agate School Board Dec. 18. Both incumbents were appointed back to the board after the November board election was canceled.

AGATE BOE

FROM PAGE 1

districts have 60 days to fill board vacancies following formal resignation approval.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & LAND

McBride and Superintendent Melinda Walls both indicated plans are in place to submit the appropriate paperwork with the state’s Building Excellence Schools Today grant program for building improvements in January.

“Several things — new furnaces and air conditioning in the gymnasium, roof repairs and a breezeway connecting our secondary school to our main building,” Walls said. “A walk-through was done two weeks ago.”

Currently, elementary classes are held in the main building with secondary students and faculty housed in the renovated shop.

The draft application is due to the BEST committee by Jan. 15 with the final application to be submitted by the conclusion of January.

The contract for the purchase of 25 acres north of the school for a future outdoor sports facility has been signed with a closing date likely in January.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Walls said school staff has focused on writing improvement this year and that midyear testing has shown “a lot of progress.” She noted the East Central BOCES Impact team has worked with staff from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- According to Facilities Manager Hunter Kissell, recent maintenance has doubled the amount of flooring in certain areas, increased electrical outlets throughout the building, and added thermostats to all electric cabinet heaters.
- Kissell said the intercom system continues to have glitches, particularly classrooms not hearing notifications. “Mostly have it all working but missing out on some bells and stuff.”
- The next board meeting is slated for 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 29.

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



Dressed in full traditional dance regalia, Nick Ohitika Najin, left photo, performs a powwow dance for people of all ages who attended the Native American Heritage Month Celebration at Anythink Wright Farms Nov. 2. Center, Chelsea Kaiah stands with one of her rawhide pieces, “Jingle Moon,” on display at Anythink Wright Farms in Thornton. Kaiah is the artist-in-residence for the 2023 Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art at Anythink Fall Artist Showcase. Community members can see Kaiah’s work at Anythink Bennett, Anythink Perl Mack and Anythink Wright Farms, through December. Right, Joslyn Running Wolf, a member of the Colorado Inter-Tribal Dancers, performs a Fancy Shawl Dance, which mimics the motions of a butterfly in flight.

2023 TOY DRIVE

21st Century Equipment is now accepting donations for our annual toy drive! Help Santa bring toys to every child this year by donating a gift at our Strasburg Location

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Strasburg CO 80136

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF BENNETT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

TOWN OF BENNETT TO HOLD MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Town of Bennett will conduct an election on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The 2024 Town Board election ballot will list the positions of Mayor and four (4) Trustee seats. All available seats are for a four-year term.

Nomination Petitions will be available at the Town Clerk’s office at 8:00 AM on January 2, 2024 and must be returned to the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on January 22, 2024. Only petitions obtained directly from the Town Clerk’s office may be circulated. Blank petition forms may not be copied for the purpose of obtaining additional signatures or to give to other candidates. Petition forms from the Town Clerk’s office may NOT be disassembled. Each candidate must turn in all of his/her petitions at one time.

Every registered elector 18 years of age or older may be a candidate for office, if he/she has resided within the Town for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. Residency within an area annexed to the Town shall count towards the residency requirements in the Town.

Nomination petitions require a minimum of 10 signatures. Each signer must be a registered elector residing within the Town limits. No registered elector shall sign more than one nomination petition for each separate office to be filled.

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming election and who have not registered to vote must do so on or before Election Day. Persons may register to vote, if living in Adams County at the Adams County Motor Vehicle Office, 355 South 1st Street in Bennett; and if living in Arapahoe County at the county offices at 5334 South Prince Street in Littleton or Arapahoe County Motor Vehicle Office, 538 N. Highway 36, Byers, CO 80103. Persons may also register to vote online at govotecolorado.com

If you have questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 303-644-3249 ext. 1001.

Christina Hart
Town Clerk

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on the 20th and 27th of December, 2023, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on the 22nd and 29th of December, 2023.

Range Hours
Sunday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Monday thru Saturday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Cattlemen’s conference coming in January

LAKEWOOD — Registration is now open for Colorado Cattlemen’s Association 2024 Mid-Winter Conference, which will be held Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 15-16, at the Denver Marriott West Hotel in Golden.

The 2024 Mid-Winter Conference will open with CCA’s Board of Directors meeting, as well as board meetings for both the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust and Colorado CattleWomen.

The first round of steering committee meetings will follow that afternoon. Following the meetings, the CCA President’s Reception is

planned.

Jan. 16 will be a full day starting with two more rounds of steering committee meetings in the morning to facilitate discussions about topics and issues affecting every aspect of Colorado’s beef industry.

At Tuesday’s lunch, CCA will host its business meeting and recognize several award-winners, and the organization will facilitate a visit to the state Capitol in the afternoon. Legislators are invited to a reception and banquet that evening.

To register or for more information, visit www.coloradocattle.org or call (303)431-6422.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, DEC. 28**

Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Call Diane, (303)644-3717 for meeting ID.
- TUESDAY, JAN. 2**


Adams County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)405-3298. Appointments available at Anythink libraries for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library’s computer link. Space limited.

Arapahoe County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)739-6630. Appointments avail-
- able at Aurora Main Library for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library’s computer link. Space limited.
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3**


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

Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. in Byers. For information, call (303)903-6734.
- EVERY MONDAY**

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



Happy New Year!



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2024

Sunday, Dec. 31

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

25 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 30, 1998

Ford Motor Company chose a Byers man to star in a down-to-earth advertising campaign portraying the company as one that cares about the environment.

Steve Kerby works as an emissions technician for Ford. His efforts, in part, are the reason Ford’s newer sports utility vehicles emit 35% less emissions than those required by the government.

Kerby speaks throughout both commercials. Ford originally scheduled Kerby to do one 30-second commercial but liked him so much that it shot a 60-second ad as well.

Kerby spent time filming with a tame bear, in a recording studio, on a sound stage, in Los Angeles for pictures (used in magazine ads in such publications as *Time*), and uncertain state mountain roads driving 20-30 miles over the speed limit. The Colorado State Patrol closed down the roads during filming.

“That was fun,” Kerby said. “Everyday was something new. They didn’t tell me ahead of time what was going on.”

15 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 30, 2008

AURORA — E-470 will begin its transition to a cashless, non-stop tolling system Jan. 1 by offering License Plate Toll, the first phase of a program to discontinue cash toll collection by July 4.

The change will allow drivers without EXpressToll transponders to drive the toll road and pay later through pho-

to-based license plate billing. Although a scheduled toll increase also occurs Jan. 1, E-470’s EXpressToll customers will pay less than the new standard rates that apply to License Plate Toll and cash customers.

Beginning Jan. 1, photos will be taken of the front and rear license plates of vehicles whose drivers choose not to pay by cash and whose vehicles are not equipped with EXpressToll transponders.

10 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 31, 2013

BENNETT — At least one grinch appeared to be locally on the prowl as residents south of Bennett reported mail stolen out of their boxes in the days leading up to Christmas.

Three residents along Kiowa-Bennett Road contacted *The I-70 Scout* Dec. 26-27 to say they and neighbors had filed complaints with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office and Bennett Post Office about missing mail Dec. 23-24.

The Bennett postmaster and spokesperson with the U.S. Postal Inspector’s office in Denver confirmed that boxes were illegally accessed and mail stolen but total incidents and specifics were not yet known.

“We have received reports of thefts from some rural boxes and are investigating,” said Pamela Durkee with the U.S. Postal Inspector’s office.

“Post office boxes were definitely rifled through,” added a second U.S. Postal Service spokesperson.

Most of the thefts were believed to have occurred along Kiowa-Bennett Road between the Antelope Hills subdivision and Quincy Avenue.

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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 23

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2023. There are four days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 27, 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown

and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

ON THIS DATE

In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France.

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1904, James Barrie’s play “Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up” opened at the Duke of York’s Theater in London.

In 1932, New York City’s Radio City Music Hall first opened.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the

World Bank.

In 1958, American physicist James Van Allen reported the discovery of a second radiation belt around Earth, in addition to one found earlier in the year.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

Actor John Amos is 84.

Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 79. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 75. Jazz singer- musician T.S. Monk is 74. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 72. Rock musician David Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 71. Journalist- turned-politician Arthur Kent is 70.

—The Associated Press

HOROSCOPE

Luck, Light as Snow Drifts

The afterparty to the Cold Moon features a light dusting of luck, as unique as drifting snowflakes. And though the solar trine to Jupiter shimmers with the sort of good fortune we could really use right now, two other Mercurial aspects suggest a little work will still be necessary to land it. Happiness that feels earned is sweeter anyway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though it’s fun to spend time with people who share your interests, this is not a prerequisite to enjoying your friendship. In fact, you have very little in common with some of your favorite people. Your hearts match up, and that is enough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Dive into a complex task. The unsteadiness you feel at the start is temporary. You’ll develop proficiency soon enough. The early challenges are par for the course and will later serve as a contrast and testament to your expertise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Name your feelings and you will have more ease with your experience of them, as there is power in a name. What is named can be more readily embraced, or released, whichever way you need this to go.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Robots excel at executing precise maneuvers repeatedly without fatigue, yet they lack the ability to respond to anything beyond their programming. But for you, repetition will get wearisome. Seek fresh circumstances that challenge you to think creatively.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You’ll create an offering that people really want. It’s not all about the item itself; it’s also about the limited supply of it. Make sure they know this thing of yours is rare, nearly unavailable in fact or very difficult to obtain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The sun doesn’t worry about giving equally to everyone. It shines for all, and this will also be your approach. You’ll radiate warmth and many will come forward to bask in it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your unhurried pace exudes confidence and makes

you a magnet for good fortune. There’s nowhere you have to be that is not where you are. Embody this, and the synchronicity you feel with your surroundings keeps the opportunities coming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There’s comfort in a comedy because you know that however it ends, it will be happy. Happy endings are among the most defining characteristics of comedy. Assume you’re in one now. It will make the ups and downs easier to roll with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loving someone often means tolerating more from them than you would from anyone else. The principle extends to labors of love, too. Your dedication to a passion project will be fueled by love and will yield remarkable and astonishing results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An active mind is energizing, while an overactive mind is depleting. You’ll exist in a mental space that feels wonderful as you work out a right-sized physical challenge. While your body is moving, your subconscious will organize your thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Technically, the problem at hand is not your problem at all. And yet, sooner or later, the group’s concerns will wind up being your concern. You’ll feel drawn to help, to take on a corner and lift. Together you can move mountains.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If forced to choose a side, you’ll forgo getting a deeper understanding of the situation. Complex situations call for solutions instead of sides. Seek understanding of the context of a problem and you are halfway to solving it.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27). You’ll invest well in the new year and enjoy getting creative with the fruits of this. You’ll revel in your ability to make a difference in the lives of others. More highlights: Your intense enjoyment of ordinary things elevates them to the realm of the remarkable. You change the negative into a positive, find the opportunity in limitation and make the most of each win. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 31, 35, 19 and 41.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: ZODIAC SIGNS

ACROSS

1. NASDAQ’s TSLA

6. Meme dance move

9. Feudal laborer

13. Plant louse

14. Inflated feeling

15. Signaling flare

16. She turned to stone, Greek mythology

17. Barn call

18. L in AWOL

19. *Zodiac sign for those born on Halloween

21. *Ford “Zodiac”

23. Cash machine, acr.

24. Island

25. Short for although

28. Cul de ____, pl.

30. Owing something (2 words)

35. Argo’s propellers

37. Mature

39. Passed

40. Guilty, e.g.

41. Presidential promises, e.g.

43. Those against

44. Waker-upper

46. Skin infection

47. King of beasts

48. *1960s California serial killer

50. Address a deity

52. Short for ensign

53. Hoodwink

55. New Zealand parrot

57. *Fish sign

60. *Half man/half horse sign

64. Blood vessel

65. This is well if it ends well

67. Body trunk

68. Move like ivy

69. Grazing field

70. Plant with liquorice-flavored seeds

71. Catch one’s breath

72. Trim the lawn

73. Roebuck’s partner

DOWN

1. Sun kisses

2. Colossal

3. Pest command

4. *Zodiac sign or Don DeLillo’s 1988 novel

5. One who is skilled at something

6. Visual presentation

7. “Four score and seven years ____”

8. Dora the Explorer’s simian friend

9. Court petitioner

10. Genesis twin

11. RPMs

12. Extra charge

15. Like a native speaker

20. Insect, post-metamorphosis

22. Prince in Disney’s “Aladdin” movie

24. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.

25. *Birthstone for some born under Scorpio or Sagittarius

26. Hello, alt. sp.

27. Mountain nymph

29. *Cancer crustacean

31. Lentil soup

32. Golfer Els

33. Take a chance (2 words)

34. *Gemini

36. Delhi dress

38. Sound of a fan

42. Satisfy, as in thirst

45. Eccentric one

49. Pool tool

51. Gossipy ones

54. Religious song

56. Make amends

57. Skin opening

58. Wraths

59. Proofreader’s mark

60. Old-fashioned bathtub foot

61. Vocal piece for one

62. Brezhnev’s domain

63. Fish eggs, pl.

64. Acronym, abbr.

66. *#47 Across, in the sky

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

TOWN OF DEER TRAIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP
(REZONE) AT 4731 CR 217

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Deer Trail Board of Trustees shall hold a public hearing concerning the request for an amendment to the zoning map (rezone) from the R (Residential) to A (Agricultural) district, located at ALL OF THE NE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 12, AND THAT PART OF THE NW 1 / 4 OF THE SE 1 / 4 OF SECTION 12, LYING EAST AND NORTHEAST OF THE NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 70, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 60 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M., EXCEPT THE SOUTH 30 FEET OF SAID NE 1/4 SE 1/ 4, AND EXCEPT THE SOUTH 30 FEET OF THE EAST 30 FEET OF SAID NW 1/4 SE 1/4, FOR ROADWAY PURPOSES, Town of Deer Trail, Arapahoe County, Colorado and generally located at the NW corner of S Price Rd and Carriage Ct (4731 CR 217), pursuant to the Town of Deer Trail Zoning Ordinance.



The public hearing shall be held before the Board of Trustees on January 9, 2024, at the hour of 7:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter as the agenda of the Board of Trustees permits, 555 2nd Avenue, Deer Trail, Colorado 80105, or at a place otherwise specified by the Town Clerk.

Further information is available by calling (303) 769-4464.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS MAY ATTEND

Published in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, Dec. 22 and 29, 2023, and *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, and, Wednesday, Jan.3, 2024.

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RESOLUTION NO. 23- 08

TO APPROPRIATE SUMS OF MONEY

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE AMOUNT AND FOR THE PURPOSE AS SET FORTH BELOW FOR THE TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO, FOR THE 2024 BUDGET YEAR.

WHEREAS, the Deer Trail Town Board of Trustees has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget law on December 19, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Trustees has made provision therein for revenues in an amount equal to or greater than the total proposed expenditures as set forth in said budget; and,


WHEREAS, it is not only required by law, but also necessary to appropriate the revenues provided in the budget to and for the purposes described below, thereby establishing a limitation on expenditures for the operations of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEER TRAIL, COLORADO TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES:


That the following sums are hereby appropriated from the revenue of each fund to each fund, for purposes stated:

General Fund	
Current operating expenses	\$306,750
Capital outlay	-0-
Debt service	-0-
Total General Fund	\$306,750
Water Fund	
Current operating expenses	\$250,850
Capital outlay	-0-
Debt service	-0-
Total Water Fund	\$250,850
Sewer Fund	
Current operating expenses	\$243,350
Capital outlay	-0-
Debt service	-0-
Total Sewer Fund	\$243,350
Open Space Fund	
Current operating expenses	\$50,000
Capital outlay	-0-
Debt service	-0-
Total Open Space Fund	\$50,000

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of December 2023.

X 
Judd Behrens
Mayor

Attest:

X 
Kimberly Sullivan
Town Clerk

DEER TRAIL BOT

FROM PAGE 1

erage of \$500,000 annually with the proposed assessment to start. “When those Amazon packages are delivered out here, someone buys a car or whatever is bought here directly, [the town] currently gets nothing.”

Board members also said that sales tax revenue would be earmarked to cover expenses directly related to road improvements and paying off the town’s new sewer plant, which has an anticipated price tag of approximately \$10 million.

“I know there’s a lot of feelings of ‘no more taxes’ out here but the thing that really gets me more excited about it is knowing that we could be getting something from the people traveling I-70 and stopping here for their gas and anything else they might be buying,” Mayor Judd Behrens said. “Every little bit is going to help.”

All of the town’s previous sales tax proposals have been defeated, including a 69% to 31% failure of a 2.25% request in November 2021. Total voter turnout two years ago was under 300, approximately 30% of the town’s registered voter total at that time.

Deer Trail is currently one of about 40 of the state’s 269 incorporated municipalities without its own sales tax.

In other election news, outgoing Town Clerk Ali Eldringhoff said that self-nominating petitions for the five open board seats will be available for pick-up starting Jan. 2 and that interested parties must return their packets with 10 signatures from registered voters in the town by Jan. 22. The top two vote-getters will receive four-year terms with the next three to receive two-year terms.

OTHER BUSINESS

- During discussion of the town’s new sewer plant, Rhodes and Behrens both reiterated that efforts are underway to garner as much grant funding and other financial assistance to help reduce the costs to residents. Projected impacts to residents on the sewer system have ranged wildly from the town’s engineer — anything from approximately \$60 per month to well over \$100. In addition to mitigating the impact to local wastewater bills, Behrens said additional funding help could reduce the length of time to pay the project off, which is currently estimated at around 40 years.
- The board unanimously approved next year’s law enforcement contract with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office for \$75,000 with the caveat that the town requests additional traffic enforcement efforts, specifically monthly speed traps. Between January 2022 and November of this year, the sheriff’s office has had 174 calls that have led to a report.
- Trustees unanimously approved a \$40,000 allocation of Arapahoe County Open Space funds for trees and a drip irrigation system between the Bijou Creek subdivision and I-70, and upkeep, basketball court improvements and better weed mitigation at Spirit of the Prairie Park on the west edge of town.
- Eldringhoff’s replacement Kim Sullivan took the oath of town clerk.
- The next town board meeting is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9, at town hall.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-09

TO ADOPT THE 2024 BUDGET

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET AND SUMMARIZING REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR EACH FUND FOR THE TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO, DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, the board of Trustees of the Town of Deer Trail appointed Town Clerk Ali Eldringhoff as the Budget Officer to prepare and submit a proposed budget to said governing body at the proper time; and

WHEREAS, Ali Eldringhoff submitted a proposed budget to this governing body on October 10th, 2023 for its consideration; and

WHEREAS, whatever increases may have been made in the expenditures, like increases were added to the revenues or planned to be expended from reserves/fund balances so that the budget remains in balance as required by law.

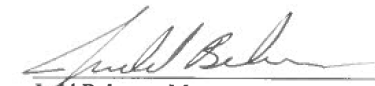
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO:

Section 1. That the budget as submitted, amended, and summarized by fund, hereby is approved and adopted as the budget of the Town of Deer Trail for the year stated above.

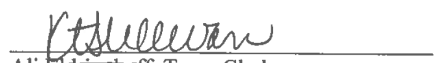
Section 1. That the budget hereby approved and adopted shall be signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk and made a part of the public records of the Town of Deer Trail.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of December 2023.

TOWN OF DEER TRAIL, COLORADO


Judd Behrens, Mayor

Attest:


Ali Eldringhoff, Town Clerk
Kimberly T. Sullivan

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159



152



158



168



156



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ROADS AND BRIDGES

FROM PAGE 1

in February.”

The roadway has been closed between Bradbury Krebs and Xmore roads since mid-May when floodwaters ripped up the concrete low-water crossing and the adjacent asphalt on both sides of the creek bed.

Lundquist did not directly answer a question about residents’ concerns that the county was going to leave the washout area as is without repair or replacement.

“We are actively reviewing design alternatives for this project and will present options at [the] public meeting,” Lundquist added.

A little further west, residents north of Bennett still have a long wait before the 144th Avenue bridge between Penrith and Converse roads is reopened.

“Final design is scheduled to kick off this month,” Lundquist saved.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Bijou Creek bed on 15th Avenue between Bradbury-Krebs and Xmore roads remains untouched.

“We will request a sole source request in March as the design works towards being finalized.”

When asked about any plans to improve the detour route around the 144th Avenue bridge, Lundquist indicated resurfacing of Penrith or Converse or 152nd and 160th Avenues aren’t planned.

“We are increasing the maintenance on the detour routes to mitigate the increased traffic,” she said, “however, we do not have current plans for surface changes on these routes at this time.”

Specifics concerning the reasons behind the already seven-month delay in any progress for either project were unavailable.

In the meantime, Arapahoe County’s final bridge repair is underway on County Road 38 over East Bijou Creek about three miles west of Deer Trail. The project, including replacement of riprap around five piles on the west side bridge abutment, was expected to be completed over the next week or two.

Road crews affiliated with the city of Aurora have also been busy rehabilitating a portion of Imboden Road and planning full rebuilds of portions of both 56th Avenue and Hudson Roads, both which provide access to the southeast side of Denver International Airport.

“Both directions of Imboden Road between 56th Avenue and 72nd Avenue are now open to traffic, but some shoulder closures may still occur while road improvement work is wrapping up,” a statement from the city of Aurora said earlier this month.

While much of the Imboden damage occurred prior to the spring floods, heavy water flows worsened the surface.

While full closures of 56th Avenue between Monaghan and Hudson roads and on Hudson between 26th and 56th avenues are expected to remain in place through July 15, 2025, plans and funding for the full rebuild of the area have commenced. The city applied for a 75% PROTECT Grant in August with hopes of covering a large portion the projected \$10 million price tag.

The repairs go beyond resurfacing the approximately five miles of roadway. Infrastructure, including bridges, culverts and stream bed restoration, is also required.

While most significant repairs along the north side of I-70 appear to be more than a year out, residents’ frustrations seem to deepen the further east they live.

“How sad is that — we know more from Aurora about the roads out here than from Adams County. Nothing from anyone there,” a resident from north of Byers said. “Even the guys on the road crews don’t know what the hell is going on with creek crossings out here. Oh yeah, none of the Adams County commissioners live out here, so why would they care.”

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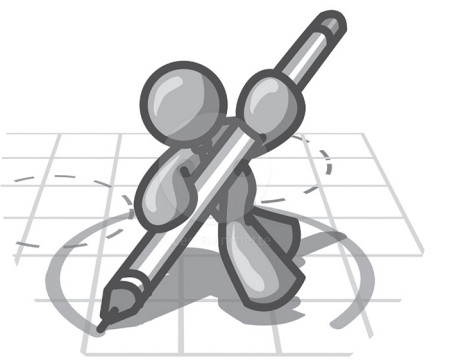
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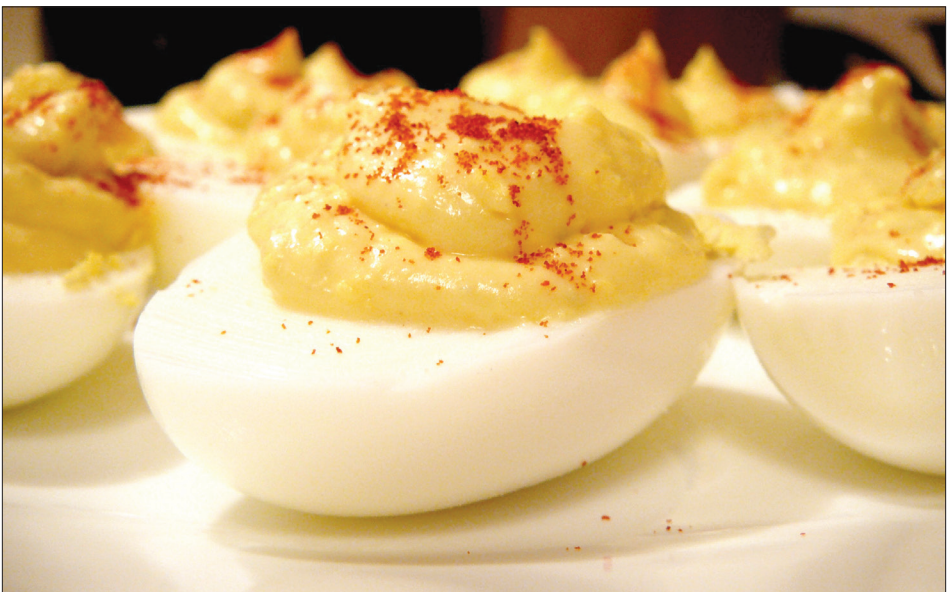
LUNCH MENUS

BYERS
Wednesday, Jan. 3: Spaghetti, cheesy rolls, garden salad, mixed fruit.
Thursday, Jan. 4: Cheeseburger, Tater Tots, baby carrots, peaches.

DEER TRAIL
Wednesday, Jan. 3: Hot dog, macaroni and cheese, assorted fruits and vegetables.
Thursday, Jan. 4: Turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy, assorted fruits and vegetables.

PRINTING & Design!
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The I-70 Scout, 303-622-9796.

CHUCK WAGON



Heavenly Deviled Eggs

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The Scout

If eggs are boiled too long, the yolks turn green. I have found that 12 minutes is the perfect cooking time for easy peeling.

Rumors state that old eggs are easier to peel than fresh ones. This tip is true. Old eggs mean a few days, not weeks or months.

When the peels stick and leave marks on the eggs, it is called denaturing. If too elderly, they will float in the boiling water.

I don't know why it seems so difficult to make perfect deviled eggs. I usually only make them a couple of times a year for a holiday side dish. I get to use my pretty deviled egg platter but it holds 12. I boil a dozen eggs and end up with about 10 that are usable.

- 2 teaspoon dill pickle relish
- 1/2 teaspoon Louisiana Hot Sauce
- onion salt
- pepper
- paprika

DIRECTIONS
Boil eggs in large saucepan for 12 minutes. Add a pinch of salt to make peeling easier. Immediately remove eggs to ice cold water.

Crack on fat end while cooling. When cool enough to handle, peel the eggs.

Next, slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to mixing bowl. Arrange egg white halves on a pretty serving platter.

Mash the yolks. Add mustard, Miracle Whip, relish, hot sauce, onion salt and pepper. (I prefer Miracle Whip instead of mayonnaise because it has a sweeter taste. If you prefer mayonnaise, add a little sugar.)

Mix until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe mixture into egg white halves. Dust with paprika.

Cottage food safety webinar sked released

Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties has released its schedule for online food safety training for cottage food producers.

Participants will learn Colorado Cottage Food Act guidelines and the specifics of operating a home-based cottage food business.

Upon completion of the webinar and the accompanying exam, they will receive a three-year food safety certificate.

Five classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fridays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, April 12, May 3, and June 14.

A sixth class will run from 5-8:30 p.m., Friday, March 12.

The cost is \$50. Interested parties can register through Eventbrite. Registration closes four days prior to each class.

For more information, contact Sheila Gains at Sheila.gains@colostate.edu or (303)730-1920.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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JEFF BAKER, COMMISSIONER, ARAPAHOE COUNTY DISTRICT 3



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with family and friends this holiday season.
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Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season and New Year
filled with the love and joy of Jesus Christ.
New Year's Eve Mass 7:00pm
New Year's Day Mass at 8:30am and 7:00pm.
Celebrating our holy day of obligation -The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.