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The I-70 Scout

Volume 30, Number 20

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

Thursday, April 11, 2024

New sales tax: Deer Trail forges ahead

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — While uncertainty surrounds who will be the final member of the next board of trustees, the town of Deer Trail will be moving forward as the newest Colorado munic-

ipality to collect its own sales tax.

According to Deer Trail Mayor Judd Behrens, whether Brandon Rowley or Mary Arnold, who both received 62 votes during the April 2 municipal election, will be a trustee will be determined at a later

date.

“We have to bring out the (election) judges again for a public recount,” Behrens said without citing a specific date. “If it’s still tied after that, they draw straws or pick names out of a hat. We have a few weeks.”

The winner of the

tie-breaker will serve a two-year term.

The three winners of four-year terms are incumbent Robert Rhodes, who was top vote-getter with 104, followed by newcomers Ashley Buss and Sanford Bell, who received 84 and 65 votes, respectively.

The other four candidates that did not receive enough votes to get on the board are incumbent John Kettling with 58, Dara Sanders 41, Phil Steel 38, and Dashelle Guertin with 30.

SEE DT SALES TAX PAGE 4



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Samantha Woodward, 6, dances alongside the Easter Bunny a community Easter Egg Hunt & Hop hosted by the Byers Park & Recreation District and local businesses March 30. In the background, Byers Rec District Director Willy Elliott mans the prize table. **SEE PAGE 11.**

Third straight Bennett School bond question in limbo

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The odds of Bennett School District moving forward with a third consecutive construction bond ballot question appear to be dwindling but more due diligence is required before a final determination is made.

During the March 26 school board meeting, administrative staff was directed to move forward with a campus-wide facility assessment, which will likely lead to a survey of district residents.

“We’re gonna do a facil-

ity condition index to assess our current facilities and what it would cost to restore them,” said Bennett School Finance Director Keith Yaich. “Possibly doing some additions and other things like that, so might be another route [that] could be cheaper, at least for the interim.”

According to Yaich, a facility study would likely cost the district \$50,000 to \$80,000, but that the cost would be covered by cash-in-lieu monies that have been collected from developers building within the district. In addition, the approximately three-

month study couldn’t start until the district hires a consultant through a formal request for proposal (RFP) process.

“But we should be able to blow through an RFP process without much issue and have someone hired before the April board meeting,” Yaich said. “We’re talking about them looking at everything from top to bottom, end to end. Every room of every building, every window, whether we’re asbestos-compliant, parking lots, everything.”

Superintendent Robin **SEE BENNETT BOE PAGE 14**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Winners of the annual Bennett’s Got Talent contest March 28 are Angelia Castilleja, who took first with a piano solo, left; Benji Santos, who was second by singing “Neon Moon” by Brooks and Dunn; and third, Natalee Sanders and Madison Wood, who performed “Agony” from “Into the Woods.”

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Strasburg seniors group schedules April luncheon

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association will host its monthly potluck starting at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the Strasburg Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Avenue.

Speaker will be Raymond Morris from Byers, an Eastern Colorado historian.

The group regularly meets the third Tuesday of each month.

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

Bankers, CO treasurer reps to address area biz group

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its April Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday April 17, at May Farms Byers.

Speakers will be representatives of Independent Financial and the Colorado Treasurer's office.

Independent Financial will sponsor the lunch. Local photographer Carl Steitz will be on hand to provide professional head shots for business promotions.

RSVPs to (720) 731-1954 or officei70ccoc@gmail.com are requested.

Pollinator-friendly gardens key to 17 Mile House class

CENTENNIAL — A class on pollinator-friendly gardening will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, April 13, at the 17 Mile House Farm Park, 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial.

Attendees will visit with Colorado State University Extension Master Gardeners, Native Plant Master volunteers, and horticulturists to learn about bee-friendly gardening, support of pollinators, and the Native Bee Watch program. The farm's beekeeper will be on-site to share the basics on beekeeping and honeybees.

Activities include seed-planting and nature tours at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Small-group tours of the historic 17 Mile House and barn will also be

I-70 Scout becomes a Thursday publication

Dear Readers, Customers, Residents & Friends:

The printing industry has forced us to move publication of *The I-70 Scout* to Thursdays, and minor formatting adjustments were also made. The shift is reflected in this edition.

The *Scout* was founded as a Wednesday paper in 1994, became a Tuesday paper in approximately 1998, then a Wednesday paper again last August. We have never had a page format change in my 29 years as publisher and editor and, while this one is fairly minor with only a narrower printed area on the page and thinner column guides, that we have to change at all is truly a sign of the times.

A slimmer *Eastern Colorado News* will remain a Friday paper. All advertising, except legal advertising, will be removed, allowing us to still provide the same amount of news within the *ECN*.

Your feedback is appreciated. Anyone with questions should feel free to call me at (303)622-9796.

— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

offered.

The event is free but registration at www.arapahoeco.gov is required due to capacity limits.

Horse club moves shows to Arapahoe fairgrounds

BYERS — The Comanche Crossing Horsemen's Association has announced dates and a new location for its 2024 Summer Buckle Series.

The shows and gymkhanas will be held once monthly starting with halter shows at 9 a.m., Sundays, April 28, May 26, June 9, July 7, Aug. 11, Sept. 15 and Oct. 6, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora.

The show office will open at 8 a.m., and the Western competition will follow the halter contest. Gymkhana will not start before 12 p.m.

Riders who pre-enter on the Friday prior to the show will save \$10.

For information, e-mail to comanchecrossinghorsemen@gmail.com or visit cchahorseclub.com.

First responders invited to wildland fire training

ALAMOSA — A collaborative effort to bring cost-effective, high-quality, hands-on training to first responders of the Eastern Plains is coming soon.

Fire on the Plains 2024, hosted by the Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Acade-

my, runs from April 26-28, Friday through Sunday, at Otero Junior College, La Junta.

For more information and to register, visit www.cwfima.org.

'Burg Elementary Council seeks pet food donations

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Elementary Student Council is collecting food for pets in need as a community service project.

The council seeks unopened bags, boxes and cans of pet food for its Care Corner from April 1-19. All pet food will be donated locally.

A drop-off box is located in the foyer of the elementary school.

For more information, contact Cameron Schiller, Strasburg Elementary assistant principal, at (303)622-9215, ext. 636.

Adams Co. seeks feedback gen'l election voting sites

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Elections Department is seeking public comment on proposed Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC) and 24-Hour Drop Box locations for the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

More information on locations and a link to the survey is available at adamsvotes.com.

Comments on the locations can also be e-mailed to adams.elections@adcogov.org.

The public comment period is

open through Monday, April 29.

Storm spotter training set for area community center

BENNETT — The public is welcome to attend SKYWARN storm spotter training in Bennett later this month.

The class, hosted by the National Weather Service, will run from 6-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 22, at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.

The training addresses the dynamic nature of weather, with a focus on thunderstorms and severe weather preparedness. It also covers thunderstorm development, storm structure, identification of severe weather features, reporting procedures, and basic safety.

Free monthly lunch on tap for local veterans, seniors

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

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

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

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

Zoo tickets the grand prize at 'Burg church's Kid's Day

STRASBURG — A free event at Mountain View Fellowship will commence with services at 8:30 a.m. or 10:15 a.m., Sunday, April 14, at the church, 1955 Headlight Rd. in Strasburg.

Kid's Day will follow the services in the church's east parking lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event includes a free lunch for the family, bounce castles, a barrel train, piñatas, a wheel of prizes, kona ice and cotton candy, and a Family-Four Pack to the Denver Zoo will be given away.

For more information, call (303)622-9600 or visit mvfcolorado.com.

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MGN ONLINE

Former 18th Judicial District Attorney George Brauchler, right, points to the defendant during his prosecution of Aurora theater shooter James Holmes in 2015. Holmes was convicted in the 2012 Aurora slayings.

Ex-DA qualifies for state primary ballot

DENVER — The Colorado Secretary of State announced March 27 that a former district attorney has qualified to appear on the state primary ballot as a Republican DA candidate for the newly formed 23rd Judicial District.

Of 1,830 qualified signatures provided by George Brauchler, 1,241 were accepted and 589 rejected. Candidates for district attorney in both the 19th and 23rd

Judicial districts are required to collect 1,000 signatures.

Brauchler served as district attorney for the 18th Judicial District, which encompasses Arapahoe, Elbert, Lincoln and Douglas counties, from 2013-21.

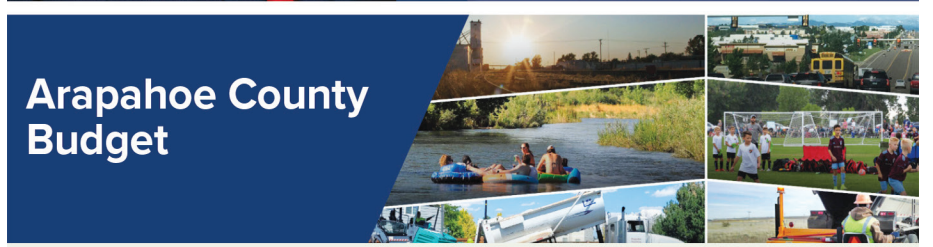
The 23rd Judicial District will consist of Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties, while Arapahoe will become the only county in the 18th district.



CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMISSIONERS

Jeff Baker
Commissioner District 3
Featuring community partner organizations for a panel discussion about coordinated efforts to address homelessness.

Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m.
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25690 E. Quincy Ave. | Aurora



Arapahoe County Budget

Arapahoe County faces significant budget shortfall starting in 2025
After years of insufficient tax revenues combined with a continued increase in demand for services, Arapahoe County faces a choice - and is asking for your input. Read more and provide your input at acbudget.com.

Arapahoe County property tax deadline

For taxpayers who chose to pay their taxes in one full payment, rather than in two half-payments, the full payment due date is **April 30**. For taxpayers paying in two installments, the second installment is due **June 15**. For more information, visit arapahoeco.gov/treasurer.

Wine and Chalk Art Festival
Join us for the fourth annual Chalk Lines & Vines at the Fairgrounds on **May 18 and 19**. Visit arapahoecountyeventcenter.com or scan the QR code for details.

ONLINE AUCTION

Kit Carson County Irrigated Farm

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Auction Start: April 15, 2024 at 10 a.m. MST
Auction End: April 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. MST

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This irrigated farm ground produces excellent crops, good grazing, and recreational benefits. The current tenant is growing corn, wheat and running cattle on the pivots. There is very good infrastructure on this farm.

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. #ThrivingFamilies

Support for parents is prevention for kids

arapahoeco.gov WEEK OF APRIL 8



DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

Union Pacific Locomotive 1943 brings its "Support Our Troops" through Strasburg recently.

Church Directory

LIVING SPRINGS

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

CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP

 Worship with us! Sundays at 10 a.m.
 In-person and online:
www.cornerstonebennett.com
 Foundation Youth Group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Tuesday
 303-644-3450 | 460 3rd St., Bennett

Strasburg Church of Christ

 Serving Christ and His children on the High Plains
Sunday Service 8:30 a.m.
 American Legion Hall
 56423 Westview Ave., Strasburg, CO
 Please visit our web site to learn more...
<http://StrasburgCOC.org>

Mountain View Fellowship




 Bible-Based • Nondenominational
Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:15am
Servicio en Español a las 10:15am
 1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg
Sunday Service Livestream at
<https://www.mvfcolorado.online.church>
 Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
 Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
 Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"
mvfcolorado.com
 303.622.9600

Saron Lutheran Church
 1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
 Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook

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 186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103
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 Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551
www.ourladyoftheplains.org

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 Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
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 278 S. Sherman St., Byers
 303-822-9366 • mttaborbyers.org
 Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
 Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church Awana Tuesday, 5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Church Directory ads start at \$13.50/week

Strasburg Presbyterian Church
 56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO
www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325
 • Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 • Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

DT SALES TAX

FROM PAGE 1

Current trustees Gerry Lamont and Heather Kerin did not run for reelection.

More about the tie-breaker process was expected to be discussed during the April 9 board meeting.

TAX QUESTION PASSES

While voter turnout was just under 20%, the residents that visited the polling place in town hall approved the proposed 1.75% sales and use tax 60.7% to 39.3%.

Part of the question included earmarking at least 75% of the funds be used for infrastructure improvements, in particular upcoming sewer upgrades including a mechanical plant, for probably 20-30 years.

The original tax proposal is expected to help quell future exorbitant sewer bill increases.

When pondering the tax question's verbiage, specifically the percentage, Rhodes said Colorado Department of Revenue projections were that, at 1.75%, the town should collect approximately half-a-million dollars in annual revenue, to start, if the tax proposal passes. In addition to taxing sales within the town's jurisdiction, the proposal also includes 1.75% on vehicles and construction materials purchased by residents even if

bought outside the municipality.

Behrens added that the town's current annual budget is between \$750,000 and \$800,000. The remaining 25% of collected taxes go to the town's general fund.

Before last week's vote, Deer Trail residents paid 3.25% in combined state and Arapahoe County sales tax but none was received directly by the town. The total 5% tax to be included in Deer Trail, including county and state assessments, is still at least 3% below many other neighboring jurisdictions or similarly sized towns.

Last week's vote snapped a long streak of failed sales tax questions previously proposed by the town board. Most recently, town residents voted 69% to 31% against a 2.25% sales request in November 2021. Leading up to the election Deer Trail was one of approximately 40 of the state's 269 incorporated municipalities without its own sales tax.

VOTER TURNOUT

While 160 residents cast votes for trustee candidates, 153 voted on the sales tax question.

The week leading up to the election, town officials said that Arapahoe County shows 807 registered voters in Deer Trail.

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HOURS

- Monday: By Appointment
- Tues./Wed./Fri.: 9:30am-5:30pm
- Thursday: 9:30am-1:30pm
- Open First Saturday of Each Month



STRASBURG ELEMENTARY

PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP

DATE: April 22, 2024 & May 13, 2024
WHAT: Registration & Developmental Screenings
WHO: New children registering for preschool who will be 3 or 4 years old on or before June 1, 2024. Screenings also available to children under 5 who may have developmental concerns.



***More information will be emailed upon appointment signup. Space is limited. Secure your child's spot today!**

SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR CALLING THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY AT 303-622-9215.

www.strasburg31j.com bmatthews@strasburg31j.com



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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

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

Yoga in the Stacks: Adults can practice poses that focus on alignment, stability and flexibility with Bennett yoga instructor Scott Noble. Mats provided. All skill levels welcome. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit anythinklibraries.org. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 13.

Hakeem Furious Poetry Workshop: Seasoned adult writers and first-time poets can celebrate National Poetry Month with poet Hakeem Furious, who will help them dive into the world of poetry. Participants can share their writing on Saturday, April 27, at the Poetry Slam, hosted by Adams County Poet Laureate Kerrie Joy, at Anythink Wright Farms, 5877 E. 120th Ave., Thornton. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, April 20.

Artist meet-up: Patrons ages 16 and up only can join the Corridor Creative Arts League for a mini origami workshop led by Grace Yu. Each participant will learn the age-old technique of folding paper into unique shapes and create a statement piece. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up.

2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 20.

Tarot Club: Adults can learn about the tarot and practice their skills by doing readings for other participants at this beginner-friendly workshop. Participants can bring their own deck or borrow one from the library. This program is designed to explore the tarot and improve card-reading skills. 2-3:30 p.m., Friday, April 26.

Poetry workshop: Established writers and first-time poets will celebrate National Poetry Month with a workshop hosted by Lighthouse Writers Workshop and Anythink libraries. Using generative prompts and published poems, Lighthouse instructor Joy Sawyer will help inspire adults to dive into the world of poetry. Participants can share their work at the Poetry Slam, hosted by Adams County Poet Laureate Kerrie Joy, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, April 27, Anythink Wright Farms. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up.

Painted papers: In part one of this two-part series, participants ages 16 and older only will learn to create unique hand-painted papers using a variety of mark-making tools and household items from local artist Angie Perryman. Hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League and sponsored by the Bennett Arts Council, the event will occur at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave. In part two, participants will discover how to use the papers they made. Space limited; registration

required. To sign up, visit anythinklibraries.org. 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 27.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

WWII's 10th Mountain Division: Arapahoe Libraries and History Colorado will host a presentation on the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in World War II. Attendees can learn about this piece of Colorado history and view historical artifacts. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, April 17.

Pour-painted pots: Teens and tweens ages 9-17 can experiment with the fluid "pour-painting" technique to create uniquely decorated pots for indoor or outdoor plants. Attendees can paint a few pots for their room or shared space and take home free supplies to start a mini garden. All supplies provided; all skill levels welcome. 1-2 p.m., Saturday, April 20.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Friday matinee: All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of "Family Camp" (2022, rated PG, 1 hour, 51 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, April 12.

Adult book club: "The Maid" by Nita Prose. The heartwarming mystery novel is a New York Times bestseller, Good Morning America Book Club pick and Edgar Award

finalist. 6-7 p.m., Monday, April 15.

Froggy crafts for kids: April is National Frog Month, and kids ages 5-12 are invited to celebrate with an afternoon of frog-themed crafts. All supplies provided; all skill levels welcome. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, April 24.

ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES ON ZOOM

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

'See and be seen': Educator Jane Barton will present an online talk for adults on Zoom about forging meaningful connections called "See and Be Seen."

Humans are relational creatures. In fact, this characteristic has helped ensure their survival as a species. But how do people come together and stay together? How do they connect in meaningful ways, thereby creating supportive and sustaining communities? In this event, educator Jane Barton will share how people can take the time to see other people, and then allow them to see each other. By seeing and being seen, Barton says people can identify potential points of connection to reinforce one's sense of belonging.

Barton firmly believes knowledge is power, particularly with challenges around aging. She is passionate about complex and emotional topics. 2-3:30 p.m., Friday, April 26.

To make a reservation, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)542-7279.

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Strasburg Veterinary Clinic

Equine Vaccination Clinics

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SPORTS



Soccer pitch: Lady Tigers enjoy solid start

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Bennett Lady Tigers' strong showing on the soccer pitch early this spring continued as they have won four of five times to start the season, including both times against Frontier League foes.

The orange-and-black followed up its first setback, 4-1 to visiting Frontier Academy March 29, with a 3-0 shutout victory against visiting Valley April 2 and a 6-1 win at conference rival Fort Lupton April 5.

"Really good start to season," said Bennett head coach Mike Rinner. "Girls playing well as a team, spreading goal scoring out across many girls."

The extra scoring punch is welcome support to senior Arianna Harrison, who was Bennett's primary offensive weapon last season, accounting for 24 of Bennett's 29 total goals. This season, the Lady Tigers have already tallied 24 goals on the season spread across seven players, led by Byers freshman Reese West with eight, Harrison six, Strasburg's junior Finnish exchange student Eerika Harju with four, and

SEE SOCCER PAGE 8

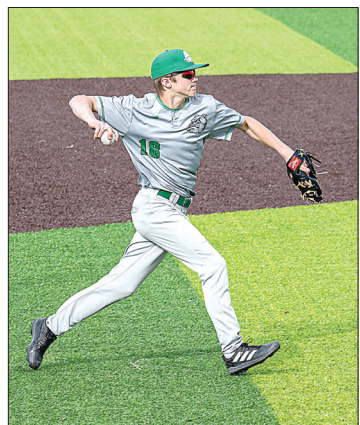


PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Clockwise from top left, Lady Tiger Reese West (3) splits a triple team against Valley April 2; Arianna Harrison (4) rushes up the field against Frontier Academy March 29; and Eerika Harju (38) surveys the field against Wolverine defenders.

Bulldogs defeat Briggsdale by 10-run mercy rule

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Byers third baseman Jack Earl prepares to fire across the diamond against Briggsdale.

BYERS — The youthful Byers Bulldogs used two big innings to clip the wings of an improving squad from Briggsdale 15-5 in five innings at home March 29.

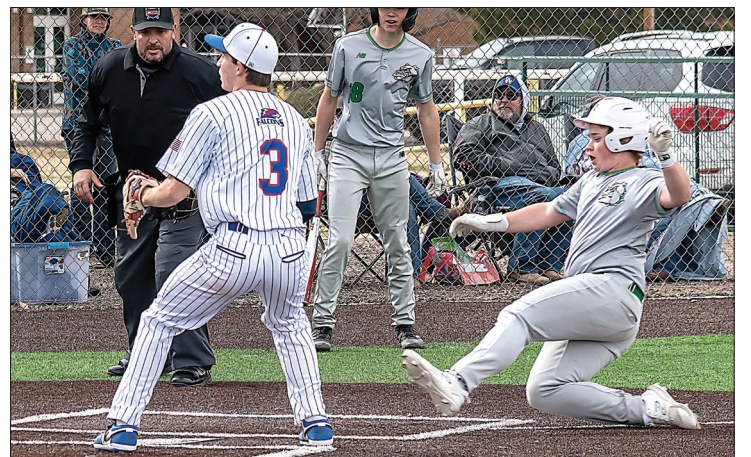
When the two played last year up north, the green-and-white came home early after a 26-1 victory in two innings. While this year's contest still resulted in an early stoppage, the visiting

Falcons put up a little more of a fight.

The green-and-white utilized the legs of freshman Gabe Price to take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. After walking to start the game, Price stole second and third and crossed home plate on a wild pitch by the Falcon hurler.

After allowing a run in the top of the second, Byers regained a one-run lead in the bottom of the frame

SEE BB BYERS PAGE 8



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Bulldog Alan Brewer slides safely into home after a Briggsdale wild pitch March 29.

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STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten ROUND UP

The Strasburg School District will be hosting Kindergarten Roundup for next year's kindergarten students and their parents on **FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2024**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The screening will take place at Strasburg Elementary.

Screenings will be completed on children registering for kindergarten that will be 5 years old on or before June 1st, 2024, and must reside in Strasburg School District. Parents or guardians can call the office at (303) 622-9215 to schedule an appointment for your child. Appointments will take at least 1 hour. If your child attended Strasburg Preschool this year, you do not need to attend Kindergarten Roundup.

For your child to be registered for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, all students will need to bring a birth certificate, an updated immunization record, and proof of residency (utility bill).

To make the kindergarten round-up successful:

- Make other arrangements for siblings
- Only one adult with each kindergartner
- Have paperwork ready to go

Teachers will be taking your child to a classroom for screening and transition children between activities.

If you know someone with a kindergarten aged child please pass along this information!

For further information or to make an appointment, please call the elementary office at (303)622-9215.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE 7

junior Marayha Munoz with three.

“The opposition can’t focus on just Arianna or one other single attacker now and the girls are taking advantage,” Rinner said.

SINKING VALLEY

The Lady Tigers rebounded from a tough loss to end last month to sink the visiting Lady Vikings thanks to a hat-trick — three goals in the same game — off the foot of West and the hands of senior goalkeeper Carmen Rinner, who saved all 14 shots she faced.

Senior Belen Zubia and junior Marelin Vazquez assisted on two of West’s goals.

Defensively, the hosts were led again by senior Lily Venneberg with four steals, followed by West and junior Raquel Thorpe with two apiece. As a team, Bennett recorded 13 steals.



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout

Belen Zubia rubs elbows with a Valley defender April 2, and defenders Nadia Perez (29) and Emma Jordan set up a picket fence against a Viking attacker.

BEDEVILING FORT LUPTON

The host Bluedevils proved little match for the streaking Lady Tigers, who scored the first two goals and last four to salt away Friday’s victory. Fort Lupton’s lone goal came late in the first half.

Bennett dominated possession, firing 30 shots compared to 12 by the hosts.

For the second straight game, a Tiger had a hat-trick, but this time it was Harrison, followed by West with two and Thorpe with the other tally. Harrison also added an assist as did senior Aileen Maciel.

Defensively, Rinner made 11 saves on 12 Bluedevil shots for the win and her teammates in front of her recorded 10 steals, led by Harrison with three and West and Venneberg with

two apiece.

EARLY SETBACK

Against Frontier Academy, the Tigers found themselves down 2-0 at halftime and were unable to muster a comeback, losing the final 40 minutes 2-1.

Bennett outshot the Wolverines 22-17 but had issues figuring out the visiting goalkeeper.

Munoz tallied Bennett’s lone goal with West being credited with an assist.

Defensively, the hosts had 15 steals, led by Thorpe and Harju with three apiece and Harrison, Venneberg and senior Katelyn Faczak

with two each.

Rinner made 13 saves.

With about one-third of the season completed, Bennett is currently sitting No. 18 in the Colorado High School Activities Association’s Selection & Seeding Index, which determines the 32-team bracket in 3A. As of April 6, Rinner’s troops are one of four teams still undefeated in conference play — Englewood and Bruce Randolph both at 3-0 and Middle Park at 1-0.

COMING UP

April 13: Middle Park

BB BYERS

FROM PAGE 7

when sophomore Alan Brewer singled, was sacrificed to second, stole third, and scored on another wild pitch.

The hosts appeared to take command with a 6-run third to go up 8-1. After Price reached on a dropped third strike and stole second, he scooted home on a double by junior Garrett Crecelius, who scored on a single by classmate Carson Gaudot. Another single by junior Chas Butterfield drove in Gaudot. After two consecutive steals, Butterfield crossed home on a Falcon defensive miscue. Another Briggsdale error allowed Brewer, who reached on an error, to score. Byers’ final run of the frame was scored by freshman Kaden Bennett, who reached on a two-base error and scored on a combination of another steal and wild pitch.

Despite allowing the visitors to close the gap with a 4-run top of the fifth, Byers ended the game early with 7 in the bottom of the frame. The first four Bulldog hitters reached via two errors, a walk, and hit by pitch with three crossing home plate. After a double play that appeared to quell the hosts’ momentum, junior Chase Long doubled, and both Crecelius and Gaudot were hit by pitches, when Butterfield sealed the victory with a bases-clearing double.

“The kids are finally learning how to win here and there, but we still have to be more consistent, especially in the field and on the mound,” said Byers head coach D.J. Jackson. “Offensively, a lot better than about anytime last year and much improved from the first few games earlier this spring.”

Byers outhit the visitors 6-4, walked six times, were hit by pitches four times and were the recipients of four Falcon errors. Only six of the Bulldogs’ runs were earned.

Butterfield had a multi-hit game with two, including a double, while driving in 4 runs and scoring two. Brewer crossed home plate three times, while Price, Bennett, Crecelius, and Gaudot added 2 runs each.

On the base paths, Byers utilized its speed, tallying 18 stolen bases, led by Price with four, Brewer and Butterfield three each, and Bennett, Earl and Gaudot two apiece.

“We are bigger, stronger but, especially faster this year and we’re taking advantage when we get on base,” Jackson said.

On the mound, sophomore Jaxzen Egger continues to make his ascension

to the top of the Bulldog rotation, allowing one earned run on two hits, while walking three and striking out nine over the first four innings. Junior Drew Mohatt threw the fifth, giving up 4 runs, 3 earned, on one hit while walking three and striking out one.

Defensively, Byers committed one error.

The win advanced the green-and-white to 3-5 overall.

The Bulldogs’ opportunity for a second consecutive victory on April 1 was dashed by Mother Nature, which decided to throw a temper tantrum midway through the game at Elbert. With the hosts up 4-3 with one out in the bottom of the fourth, blowing snow forced the suspension and later cancellation of the game.

“Pretty wild. It started out sunny and pretty warm

and, in the third inning, it started to snow, and then it just let loose and you couldn’t hardly see your glove in front of your face,” said Bulldog junior infielder Marshall Hacker.

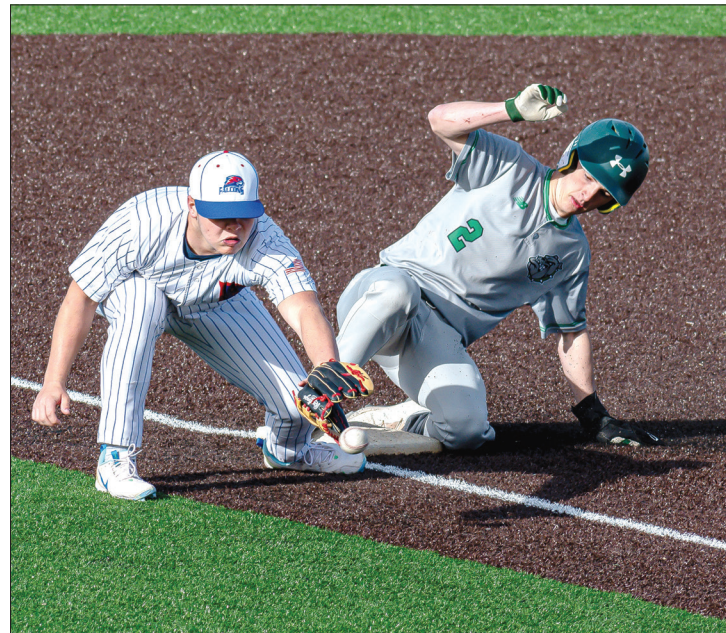
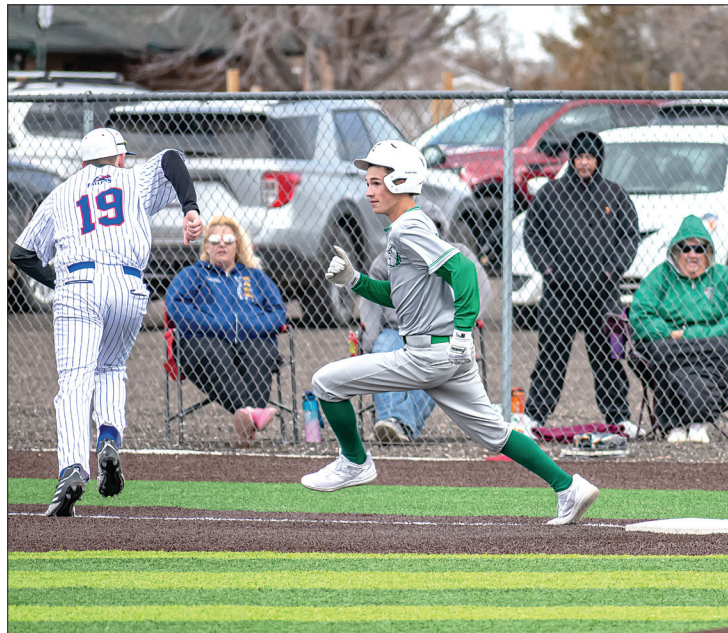
According to Byers Athletic Director Jeremy Kerns, the game cannot be made up.

“Couldn’t find a date to finish it,” he said. “Elbert has to end their regular season early since they are 1A, which throws a wrench into things.”

The Bulldogs traveled to Burlington April 5 for a Union Pacific League tilt and fell to the host Cougars 9-2. Specifics were unavailable at press time.

COMING UP

April 16: Wiggins
April 18: Stratton
April 20: @ Lyons
April 23: Crowley County
April 27: Flatirons, Dayspring Christian @ Byers



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Bulldog catcher Chas Butterfield settles under a foul pop-fly to record an out on a Briggsdale batter March 29; Kaden Bennett quickly rounds first base after a Briggsdale error; and Chase Long slides in safely to third ahead of a throw from the Falcon catcher.

Bennett Tigers top Wellington, beaten by Platte Valley

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Bennett Tigers split a pair of nonconference games against Patriot League schools, falling 4-1 at Platte Valley in Kersey March 30 and holding on late for an ugly 6-5 win against visiting Wellington April 1.

WELLINGTON

The visiting Eagles took a 1-0 lead after first at-bats, but Bennett tied the game in the bottom of the second when junior Brody Hawes walked and senior courtesy runner Isaac Santoyo advanced to third on a single by sophomore Cougar Cronk and scored on a sacrifice fly by senior Triston Cronk.

Wellington regained the advantage, 2-1, in the top of third but Bennett again responded in its portion of the fourth when Cougar Cronk was hit by a pitch, tagged up to go to second, and scored on a misplayed ball off the bat of Triston Cronk.

An RBI double by freshman Evan Dear and a 2-RBI double by junior Dane Ortiz put the Tigers up 5-2 after five innings, but Wellington tied the game in the top of the sixth.

In what turned out to be the game-winning run, junior Ben Mathis tripled to drive in freshman Avant Dickens in the bottom of the sixth.

The Tigers were able to overcome a 9-7 hitting deficit and six errors in the victory.

"Not pretty but we grinded one out," said Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz. "Have to play a lot cleaner, especially in the field."

But the defense and pitching of Mathis stoutened when needed, leaving 10 Eagle base runners stranded.

In addition to two hits, including the game-winner, Mathis threw all seven innings, giving up 5 runs, 2 earned, on five hits while striking out seven and hitting one batter.

"He threw strikes and gave us a chance," Ortiz said. "That's all you can ask for on the mound."

The offense was also led by Forrest Smith, who walked twice in addition to a base hit, and Santoyo, who stole Bennett's only base and scored twice in his capacity as courtesy runner for Hawes, who was behind the plate. When not pitching, Mathis is the starting Ti-

ger catcher.

@ PLATTE VALLEY

In Saturday's game, the orange-and-black drew first blood in the top of the third when sophomore Cougar Cronk singled and rounded the bases on three steals.

Bennett kept the 1-0 advantage until the fifth when the host Broncos scored two and added another pair of runs in the sixth. Bennett was unable to muster any more offense.

"There's times we're really struggling with our bats and don't have a lot of patience at the plate," said Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz.

The Tigers were out-hit 10-2 and struck out 11 times while receiving only two free passes.

Cougar Cronk and Hawes had

SEE BB BENNETT PAGE 10



ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout

Junior Ben Mathis (2) slides safely into third base after hitting a run-scoring triple in the sixth inning against Wellington.



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Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of Roggen Farmers Elevator

(a Colorado Cooperative Association) will be held at

**Longmeadow Hunting Lodge
Wiggins, CO**

on April 18th, 2024, at 6 p.m.
for the following purposes:

- 1) To elect 2 members to the Board of Directors;
- 2) To receive the financial report of the Association.
- 3) To discuss and transact such other business that may come before the Association at the time.
- 4) Report of operations by Management.
By order of the Board of Directors.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Monday, April 15: Barbecue pork, potato wedge.

Tuesday, April 16: Biscuits with sausage gravy.

Wednesday, April 17: Cuban sandwich, hash brown patty.

Thursday, April 18: Bean & cheese burrito, green chili, lettuce, tomato.

BYERS

Friday, April 12: Hamburger pizza, garden salad, orange wedges.

Monday, April 15: Corn dogs, Sun Chips, baked beans, peaches.

Tuesday, April 16: Pasta bake, cheesy roll, garden salad, pears.

Wednesday, April 17: Sloppy joe, Tater Tots, strawberries.

Thursday, April 18: Salisbury steak,

mashed potatoes, steamed carrots.

BENNETT

Monday, April 15: Popcorn chicken, chips, corn, peaches, cookie.

Tuesday, April 16: Spaghetti, Texas toast, salad, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, April 17: Chicken nachos, refried beans, pears.

Thursday, April 18: Hamburger, Tater Tots, coleslaw, orange.

STRASBURG

Monday, April 15: Lasagna roll-ups.
Tuesday, April 16: Tater Tots with taco meat.

Wednesday, April 17: Hamburger rice casserole.

Thursday, April 18: Chicken & waffles.



ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout

Freshman Owen Hawes hits a hard line drive for an out against Wellington April 1.

BB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 9

the two Tiger hits.

On the mound, junior Peyton Mott threw five innings, giving up 2 earned runs on eight hits while walking one and striking out eight. Hawes threw the final inning, giving up 2 earned runs on two hits while walking one.

The Tiger defense committed two errors.

Bennett entered last weekend's Northern Colorado Classic Tournament at University (Greeley) and Eaton 2-5 overall. The annual meeting of schools from across the state was reportedly cut to a one-

day tournament with Bennett going 2-1 on the day. Specifics were unavailable at press time.

COMING UP

April 13: @ Middle Park

April 15: Fort Lupton

April 17: @ Englewood

April 20: Platte Canyon

April 22: Arrupe Jesuit

April 24: Arvada

April 27: @ Elizabeth

May 1: Jefferson

May 4: Strasburg

May 6: @ DSST: Montview

May 8: Bruce Randolph

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- Piñatas

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Bennett FFA plans clay shoot fundraiser

BENNETT — Sponsorships and contestants are sought for the annual Bennett FFA Alumni & Supporters Sporting Clay Shoot.

Registration runs from 7-8:30 a.m. with the competition beginning at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, April 27, at the Kiowa Creek Sporting Club, 46700 E. County Road 30, Bennett. Lunch and awards will follow.

Sponsorships run from \$125 to \$3,000. Raffle prizes and give-

aways are also needed.

Teams are limited to six shooters per team. Eye and ear protection is required.

The registration deadline is 3 p.m., Thursday, April 25. Cost is \$80 per shooter.

All proceeds go to Bennett agricultural education.

For sponsorship information or to register a team, contact Brittaney Hudson at bennettffaalum@gmail.com or (303)241-4070.

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Organized and operated by Watkins Volleyball, LLC




PHOTOS BY KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Byers residents Eva Sager and Allison Martinez, both 8, compete in the gunny sack race at a community Easter Egg Hunt & Hop hosted by the Byers Park & Recreation District and local businesses March 30; Audrey Beruan, 8, of Bennett, proudly shows off the golden egg that would earn her a special prize; and Tatum Coolidge, 10, of Byers presents the pickleball set she received with her golden egg.

STRASBURG PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT
 1932 Burton Street - (303) 622-4260 - StrasburgParks.org

- ◆ **Senior Excursion: Manitou Cliff Dwellings** - April 25th
 Spots are limited, call (303) 622-4260 to RSVP; Fee: \$10 (plus lunch)
- ◆ **Youth Baseball Camp** - Deadline April 28th
 Dates: May 14 & 16; Ages: 6-10 (5-6:30pm), 11-14 (6:30-8pm);
 Fee: \$50 (includes shirt)
- ◆ **Father's Day at the Rockies Fundraiser** - Deadline May 28th
 Date: Sunday, June 16 at 1:10pm; Fee: Lower level seats - \$32,
 Upper level - \$22, Lot B Parking Pass - \$23; Everyone welcome!

Mavis Ashby



Mavis Nadine Ashby
 October 11, 1941 - March 31, 2024 (age 82)

Funeral Services:
 11 a.m., Thursday, April 11
 Strasburg Community Church
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Graveside Services: 12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11
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Colorado Cattlemen's conference deemed a big success

LAKEWOOD — The Colorado Cattlemen's Association recently wrapped up its 2024 Mid-Winter Conference at the Denver Marriott West in Golden.

Attendees also had the opportunity to network with Colorado's legislators at CCA's Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet.

The event started Jan. 15 with meetings amongst leadership and members, including meetings of the board and for the Ranching Legacy Leadership program. The Colorado CattleWomen also held their member and board meetings.

This year, CCA devised a new model for its 10 steering commit-

tees to decrease overlap and increase engagement for interested participants. The first round of committee meetings began Jan. 15. The day ended with a social hour at the President's Reception, where members networked with industry stakeholders. On Jan. 16, members continued with CCA's additional steering committee meetings. The meetings offer critical updates and establish organizational policies on a range of legislative and regulatory topics.

Following an awards lunch, CCA hosted its mid-year business session. Because of bad weather, members were unable to travel to

the state Capitol to engage with legislators. However, CCA instead hosted a legislative panel on-site that gave producers a unique opportunity to have a pointed dialog with their legislators.

That evening, CCA held its Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet, where attendees discussed ag-related issues while building personal relationships through matters of mutual importance.

"CCA is a grassroots, member-driven organization representing the interests of cattle ranching families throughout the state," said Robert Farnam, CCA president. "While our primary focus relates to the beef industry, CCA is also interested in all issues dealing with private property rights, natural resources, and economic viability."

The CCA's 2024 annual convention runs from June 24-26 in Colorado Springs.

AWARDS

The evening ended with the presentation of the following prestigious 2023 awards from the Colorado CattleWomen.

OUTSTANDING COMMERCIAL PRODUCER

Eagle Rock Ranch in Jefferson was named the Outstanding Commercial Producer of the Year.

For more than 150 years, Eagle Rock Ranch has been an operational cow-calf and haying operation. The Gottenborg family has been actively involved in the ag industry while emphasizing high-altitude genetics and carcass traits for their black Angus cattle.

The Gottenborgs also connect with consumers and customers through brick-and-mortar stores, online sales, and restaurant partnerships. The family's motto is "quality in everything we do."

OUTSTANDING SEEDSTOCK PRODUCER

The CCA Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year went to Trosper Angus near Eads.

The Trosper family is known for its functional, productive and quality Angus cattle and offers phenotypically sound bulls with low birth weight EPDS. This year will be the family's 40th anniversary of its bull sale.

The Trosper support their community through the 4-H and FFA programs and are involved in cattlemen's associations at the local

and state levels.

BRAND INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

Nicole Taylor was named Brand Inspector of the Year.

Taylor was praised for her quick, professional and detail-oriented qualities as a brand inspector, and was honored for taking on additional work following the unexpected death of her area supervisor, going above and beyond the call of her duties without seeking credit or acknowledgment.

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Law Officers of the Year award was given to Baca County Sheriff Aaron Shiplett and Undersheriff Chris Griffin.

Both officers have had significant involvement in Baca County, including the ongoing investigation of a cattle rustler. They have collaborated with the state brand inspector, among many other authorities.

Both officers are dependable for not only agriculture but also for members of the community who recognize their abilities to provide safety and support.

CATTLEWOMAN OF THE YEAR

CattleWomen of the Year was presented to Marsha Daughenbaugh.

Daughenbaugh has been a prominent leader in her community, and her dedication and enthusiasm for CCW are unmatched.

CATTLEWOMEN ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Colorado CattleWomen Rookie of the Year award went to Barb Howe. Howe devotes her time to promoting the beef industry in the Denver area. She also works part-time for Colorado Proud.

TOP INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER

Pat Karney won the 2023 Individual Membership Recruiter Contest and the wonderful S01 Priefert Rancher chute.

AFFILIATE RATE-OF-GROWTH

CCA's Rate-of-Growth winner is given to the affiliate with the highest rate-of-growth averaged based on the size of the affiliate, retention of members, and new members recruited.

The affiliate with the highest rate-of-growth in 2023 was the Routt County Cattlemen's Association.

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Saturday, April 27th • 8am - Noon • Living Springs Vet Clinic • 820 Sharis Ct., **Bennett**
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Survey: ArapCo residents concerned about essential services

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County residents care most about the key county services that affect their quality of life, especially as they relate to crime and public safety, road improvements, homelessness, and housing affordability.

Those themes arose from a recent survey of 2,875 residents. The survey, fielded from Feb. 12-21, gauged awareness of and satisfaction with mandated and essential services provided by the county. A summary of results follows; the full analysis is available at www.acbudget.com.

• 54% say they are familiar with the public

services provided by the county and 51% approve of the job the county is doing in providing those services.

- 52% approve of the work of the sheriff's office and 52% rank reducing crime and improving public safety as their top priority.
- 60% rate county road conditions as "fair" or "poor," and 39% want roads to be the county's top priority.
- 31% want to see the county create affordable rental and homeownership opportunities.
- 63% think the county has the financial resources to provide an acceptable level of

services.

Public perception about the county's financial future sits at odds with its budget reality as one-time federal funding will soon dry up and inflation and population growth will stretch the county's budget further.

"It's ironic that nearly two-thirds of survey respondents think we have the financial resources needed to deliver on these essential services," said Board Chair Carrie Warren-Gully. "Because, without additional revenue, the county is facing significant budget cuts come

SEE ARAPCO SURVEY PAGE 14

Colorado Ballet troupe plans Bennett visit

BENNETT — The Colorado Ballet Studio Company will visit Bennett to perform excerpts from ballets based on folk tales and literary classics while moving through the history of ballet.

Doors for "From the Page to the Stage" open at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 26, at the Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

Professional dancers will perform brief excerpts from one of Colorado Ballet's season produc-

tions with quick discussions on how stories are translated into dance, a brief history of ballet, pointe shoe FAQ, and male roles in dance. The audience can interview the dancers at the conclusion of the program, which is available with sensory friendly adaptations.

Bleacher seating available for the first 100 attendees.

The program is hosted by the Bennett Arts Council and Bennett Park & Recreation District.

E. Colo. small biz summit set for Fort Morgan

GREELEY — This year's Small Business Development Rural Entrepreneur Summit is coming to Eastern Colorado from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, at The Block, 19592 E. Eighth Ave., Fort Morgan.

The event, sponsored by the East Colorado Small Business Development Center, features professionals who will discuss social media, accountability, business perspectives, automation power, hiring

versus outsourcing, profits and nonprofits, grants, and tourism.

The Eastern Colorado SBDC offers business consultation to maximize the economic potential of entrepreneurs in Eastern Colorado.

Its mission is to help existing and new businesses prosper.

The event costs \$75, which includes lunch. For more information or to register, visit eastcoloradosbdc.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the Office of the Arapahoe County Assessor

Colorado law requires the county assessor to hear objections to real property classifications and valuations beginning May 1, 2024. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor's office no later than June 10, 2024.

Colorado law requires the county assessor to begin hearing objections to personal property valuations no later than June 17, 2024. Objections to personal property valuations must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor's office no later than June 30, 2024.

If you need any assistance please contact the county assessor's office at 303-795-4600.

PK Kaiser, County Assessor

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, April 11, 2024, and in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, April 12, 2024.

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BENNETT BOE

FROM PAGE 1

Purdy added that the assessment would be similar to processes conducted by nearby school districts experiencing similar growth patterns, particularly citing Elbert, Eaton, Brighton and Thornton.

“So, basically, for \$80 grand, [someone] can tell us what we need to go in front of the public with,” said Board President Kyle Meyer.

“I think it is beneficial to survey the community,” added director Alyssa Pae about a possible next step after the facility report. “Getting more buy-in, collecting more input. The bond has failed because that’s a lot of money for people, coming out of their own pockets, plus I think [voters] question if this is the best option versus laying out all the options within reason.”

Board secretary Andrew Thornton added that the facility report might lead to less expensive improvement options than what previous bond questions specified.

“Maybe looking at a single building off campus and not just a new campus,” he said.

In addition, the prospects for an extensive ballot this November has school officials leery.

“There’s potential of Arapahoe County putting (tax questions) on the ballot, and we are hearing rumblings that the fire department and the town might go for something and, with it being a presidential year, it’s going to be really tough to sell a bond, I think,” Yaich said. “But it’s not 100%.”

Even if the facility assessment happens quicker than projected, having a bond question together by state-mandated ballot deadlines in the summer is uncertain.

In November, district residents voted 63% to 37% against an \$80 million construction bond request, which included plans for a new high school on west side of town on 73 acres purchased by the district earlier last year.

Last year’s question was \$30 million more than a similar request in 2022, which was defeated by a margin of 56% to 44% across the district.

Any future bond requests of a similar scope would likely well exceed \$100 million.



Bennett’s Got Talent organizer Olivia Martin addresses the audience as judges Jacob Lang, a student-teacher, special education instructor Brittaney Hudson, and fourth-grade teacher Caitlin DeVries look on.

“We were based off of \$380 per foot last year,” said Yaich about the construction cost estimate used last year. “Right now, it’s \$650 per foot.”

In his financial update, Yaich said that, since mid-2017, developers building homes within the district have paid \$2.526 million of cash-in-lieu and that \$1.13 million of that was spent to purchase the land originally projected to house a new campus. The developer of Sky Ranch has paid \$1.6 million to the district with other builders in and around Bennett paying the other approximately \$925,000.

Cash-in-lieu is money paid by developers instead of setting aside land for possible school sites. In most cases, the amount of land to be dedicated would be woefully short to build a school on. The cash in lieu money is received at the permitting phase.

Yaich also said that conversations have occurred with the town of Bennett about trying to add a tax assessment or reallocation specifically earmarked for the school district; however, any such effort would require a vote by residents.

TEACHER SALARY INCREASES

The board unanimously approved higher teacher salaries for 2024-25, but the extent of those

increases were not released during the meeting.

“Everyone will receive a pretty generous raise as far as certified teaching staff. We want them to understand how important they are to us and our overwhelming desire to retain them. When it comes to the extra money we’re receiving from the state, that’s where we’re putting it,” said Purdy, adding that herself and Yaich worked extensively on a salary schedule that properly compensates mid-level experience teachers with a master’s degree.

But, the extent of those raises won’t be publicly released until neighboring district conclude their salary schedule processes.

“When this has been shared, it’s been when they’re working on theirs, and they always seem to bump it \$200 to \$300 more,” Purdy said. “So, we’re going to keep it under wraps but we need to approve it so we can offer up contracts.”

“I don’t think we could fiscally do much better on this than we did,” added Yaich.

The list of certified staff renewals was unanimously approved by the board.

PRESCHOOL TUITION INCREASE

The board unanimously ap-

proved increasing preschool tuition from \$225 per month this year to \$350 per month for 2024-25.

According to Preschool Director Britt Travis, the increase puts Bennett “in the middle” amongst other Corridor school districts and local private preschool providers. Bennett preschool has a capacity of 77 students, but that seven slots are held back for IEP students that enter the district.

Currently, 76 students attend the preschool — 50 4-year-olds and 26 3-year-olds — with another 10 on the waiting list. The preschool currently has three teachers and three paraprofessionals.

“If families want their kids in preschool, they are paying to do that,” Travis said. “We could increase some salaries and buy more supplies and materials for the kids.”

OTHER BUSINESS

- After an executive session for contract negotiations, the board unanimously ratified Purdy’s superintendent contract through the 2025-26 school year. The contract did not include an extension as Purdy is looking to retire in the near future. Purdy, who was hired in July 2016, is in her eighth year at Bennett.
- According to Purdy, the district has retained its School Resource Officer through the Adams County Sheriff’s Office for \$5,000 per month. The SRO was among the casualties when the sheriff’s office and town of Bennett formally parted ways in February.
- The district’s 22-year-old phone system is being replaced by a more modern IP-based system. Recently, the district has had issues with its 911 calling system and the new GoTo Connect system is expected to remedy them. Technology Director Jeff Bain said the new system will be cheaper to install than the previous system was over two decades ago.
- The board next meets at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 18, at the high school library or via Zoom.

ARAPCO SURVEY

FROM PAGE 13

2025.”

One-time federal funding that helped pull the county through the pandemic, and resulting inflationary pressures, is drying up and TABOR restrictions forced a 29% reduction in the county’s share of property taxes this year — leaving \$74 million uncollected.

Additionally, of the taxes paid by residents, the county only keeps \$32/month for a home valued at \$500,000. That money is spread thin across nearly two-dozen departments working tirelessly to keep neighborhoods safe, roads in good condition, and vulnerable individuals and families safe and secure.

Given the financial situation facing the county, the survey also gauged support for two potential ballot measures to fund essential services. While the Board of County Commissioners is months away from making a decision, the public input will help inform the direction:

- 55% said they would support a 0.25% sales tax increase, which would cost the average household an extra \$52/year and raise up to \$45 million annually.
- 50% said they would support a measure to allow the county to retain revenue above TABOR limits, which would cost the owner

of a \$500,000 home about \$155/year and raise up to \$75 million annually.

“The entire Board of County Commissioners is committed to preserving the quality of life our residents deserve and have come to expect,” Warren-Gully said. “It’s clear we need to do a better job of educating our residents about the increased demands on the county and the resources needed to address them.”

In March, the county launched a comprehensive public and stakeholder outreach effort with presentations, events, public meetings and more. Residents are encouraged to visit www.acbudget.com for more information.

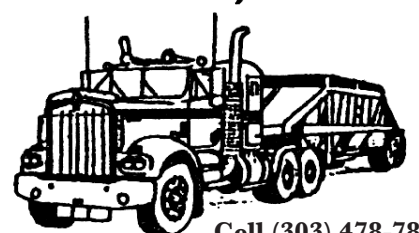
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THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

15 YEARS AGO

APRIL 14, 2009

DEER TRAIL — A former Deer Trail mayor took his trustee's oath of office at the Deer Trail Town Board meeting April 7.

James Johnson replaces trustee David Boyd, who was recalled in a special election held March 31. He and one board member butted heads almost immediately, when Johnson objected to trustee John Monnahan's request that the town vacate streets and alleys with the confines of the Deer Trail Jockey Club property.

A 4-2 vote, with Jonson and trustee Gerald Mergl the only dissenters, approved the streets' vacation, which in effect transfers ownership to the Jockey Club and prevent the town from building on the property in the future.

"I don't see why the city should give up seven acres," Johnson said.

10 YEARS AGO

APRIL 15, 2014

COLORADO SPRINGS — The I-70 Corridor's primary health care provider will have a new name and be part of a larger network when a merger with a Pikes Peak area-based group is finalized at the end of the month

As of midnight April 30, Plains Medical Center will become part of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, a system of 21 health care centers that serve

approximately 66,000 over 2,700 square miles in El Paso and Teller counties. All four of PMC's clinics — Strasburg, Limon, Flagler and Kiowa — will join the Peak Vista network.

"For our [PMC] patients, we want to maintain the same high quality of service and not interfere with what's been working," said Peak Vista CEO Pam McManus April 10.

5 YEARS AGO

APRIL 9, 2019

STRASBURG — For the second time since the beginning of the year, Strasburg High School must replace a coach who has won multiple state titles from its fall sports program.

While many throughout the community hoped it was an April Fools' joke, 13-year Indians heads football coach Jeff Giger's April 1 announcement that he is leaving at the end of the year was not a moment of levity.

"I accepted the job on Saturday (March 30)," said Giger, referring to his next gig as head football coach at Brighton High School. "After that whirlwind of emotions, I told the boys of the situation Monday afternoon.

Giger concludes his Strasburg tenure with an overall record of 88-52, including back-to-back state titles in 2016 and an undefeated 2017 campaign, and three consecutive trips to the 1A state championship game.

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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 21

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 11, the 102nd day of 2024. There are 264 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included the Fair Housing Act, a week after

the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

ON THIS DATE

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as Emperor of the French and was banished to the island of Elba.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd

outside the White House, saying, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." (It was the last public address Lincoln would deliver.)

In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect.

In 1945, during World War

II, American soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers played in an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field, four days before his regular-season debut that

broke baseball's color line.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Ethel Kennedy is 96. Actor Joel Grey is 92. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 83. Movie writer-director John Milius is 80. Actor Peter Riegert is 77.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: NATIONAL PARKS

ACROSS

1. Rhymes with, and similar in meaning, to blob
5. Refrigerator sound
8. Action word
12. Left, in Russia
13. Departed
14. Locomotive hair
15. As opposed to St. in a city, pl.
16. French cordial flavoring
17. Type of lily, pl.
18. *Voyageurs National Park location
20. Like Andersen's duckling
21. Poacher's ware
22. Unit of pressure
23. *Volcanoes National Park location
26. Dionysus' female followers
30. U.N. labor agency
31. Camels' relatives
34. Pelvic bones
35. Smears
37. "___ of the land"
38. Gertrude Stein's reception room
39. Sicilian rumbler
40. Strong influence
42. To sum
43. Blushes
45. *Utah national park
47. What blanket and landing have in common
48. State before birth
50. Eastern European
52. *Yosemite's famous monolith (2 words)
56. Cockamamie
57. Effect of pain?
58. First weekly news magazine in U.S.
59. South African currency, pl.
60. Tolstoy's Karenina
61. The 15th of March
62. King Kong and Koko, e.g.
63. Hot one in a bun
64. Copper coin

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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- ter words)
14. "___ for alarm"
 19. See nor hear this? pl.
 22. Faux ___
 23. Opposite of seeker
 24. Winged
 25. One of Florence Nightingale's concerns
 26. American Indians of Yucatan
 27. Islam's Supreme Being
 28. D in LED
 29. *White ___ National Park in New Mexico
 32. Financial help
 33. *Need one to navigate a National Park?
 36. *The Lakota called it "Mako Sica"
 38. Razor sharpener
 40. *Old Faithful ___, lodging spot in Yellowstone
 41. Poolside hut
 44. Roof overhang
 46. Rotten Tomatoes contributor
 48. Latin American plain
 49. Getting an A
 50. Finger-produced sound
 51. Muffin Man's Drury ___
 52. "Goodness gracious!"
 53. Ocean motion
 54. Word of agreement
 55. *Bald Eagle's home in Acadia or Olympic National Parks
 56. One of the Gershwins

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

HOROSCOPE

Commerce Conjunction

The sun and Mercury conjunction highlights the intersection of passion and commerce. When you enjoy your work, compensation may feel secondary, but it's still essential for anything called "work." Without compensation the effort is correctly categorized as "charity," "leisure" or "penance" as the case may be. Life balance depends on accurate analysis of the data.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your search for grace and transcendence will lead you to others who are searching, too. With so many eyes on the situation, the spiritual treasure will be found. You'll feel it before you see it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you are asleep or awake, you are still you, proving that it takes no effort for you to be yourself. What does take work is enacting the various roles and fulfilling the responsibilities you have taken on. Don't confuse the true self with its roles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's good to make a big deal over the little things you enjoy. You'll get even more delight when you look back on them. These are the textures that make the story interesting, the spices that give your memories their kick.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When your people are having fun, so are you. When they aren't, it's hard for you to enjoy yourself. You can't control the enjoyment of others, but if it's your party, you can control the guest list. So, think of your life as your party.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some wax poetic about how every rose has its thorns. You're in the mood to see this as a rather dramatic stance considering the number of lovely blossoms out there with absolutely smooth stems. Love and beauty don't have to hurt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no reason to wait around to make your vision happen. Start tweaking elements of the current design for comfort, style and efficiency. In activating these changes, you'll make happiness accessible for

now and for later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You strive to give your best to all and treat everyone with a quality of attention intended to convey respect. The most telling mark of character is how a person treats those who they perceive as having less power or status.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Success will depend on whether you can bridge a gap between you and the other person. Understanding where the other person is at is crucial information to get before the construction of said bridge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). With work, raw talents and half-baked notions will come together to create something remarkable. These things take time. The daily results may not look like much, but it all adds up rather quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You won't wait until you have a reason to diversify. You'll do it now. By seeking advice, friendship and news from a variety of sources, you increase your knowledge of the world, make more accurate predictions and thus, grow your power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stress can interfere with performance or it can enhance it. It's all about the level. Say yes to things that are a little bit much and decline the propositions that present enormous challenge or none at all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have made connections that transcend time and space. Today you will send and receive messages regardless of where the other person is in the world or beyond.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 11). Get ready for a year of adventurous exploration, driven by intuition and curiosity, of which you have plenty. New destinations and uncharted intellectual territory will be sources of exhilaration, discovery and change. More highlights: brushes with fame, intensive study, invites that expand your network, family or point of view. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 3, 28 and 39.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Winners of the Journey Church chili-soup cook-off Feb. 23 at the Bennett VFW Hall are, from left across both photos, Amanda Schultz of Strasburg, first place; Erica Bertram of Bennett, second and third place, and, judges' choice, Dusty Morris of Strasburg, getting choked by his aunt and fellow competitor, Rachel Linnebur of Strasburg. Journey Church is located in Strasburg.



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CHUCK WAGON

Apple Coffee Cake

by **Bobbie Keefer**
 For The Scout

This cake is so flavorful for a simple recipe and easy to make with a mix instead of scratch ingredients.

I substitute the water with fruit juice. My hubby likes raisins so I fold some in the batter.

Spoon the pie filling in clumps over the batter.

It will rise over the apples as the cake bakes.

Coffee cake does not actually contain coffee but is so-called because it is typically served with coffee.

The term comes from the German kaffeekuchen, which means a gathering involving coffee, cake, chitchat and recipe exchange.

And, my mom said, lots of gossip.



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9- by 13-inch baking dish.

In mixer bowl, beat cake mix, cinnamon, sour cream, eggs, water. Pour into prepared baking dish. Spoon pie filling evenly over batter.

Bake 35-40 minutes until center tests done. Cool.

In small bowl, mix powdered sugar and milk to make glaze. Drizzle over cake.

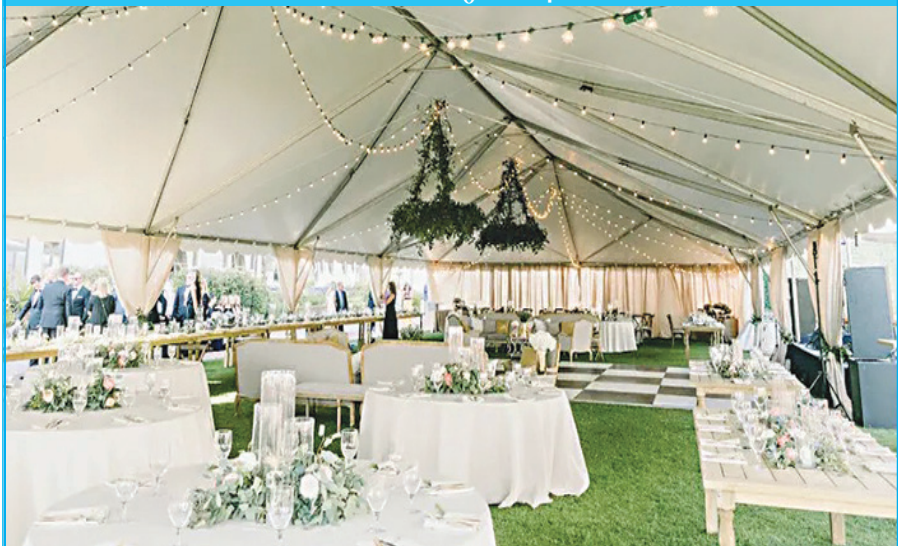
APPLE COFFEE CAKE
INGREDIENTS

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup water
- 1 can (20-ounce) apple pie filling
- glaze
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1½ tablespoon milk

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CORRIDOR CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

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

MONDAY, APRIL 15

East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

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

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

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

Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.

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

Byers Fire Protection District Board.

6:30 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board work-study. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

Bennett School Board. Work study 5 p.m., regular meeting 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit bsd29j.com for a Zoom link.

Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit Board of Education at byers32j.k12.co.us for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.

Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.

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Applications can be sent to: Attn: Stacy Sondburg, Byers School District 32J, 444 E. Front Street, Byers CO, 80103; (303) 822-9592 fax; or sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us.



Byers School District 32-J is now accepting applications for a:

Elementary Teachers For 2024-25

Certified Application can be found at: www.byers32j.k12.co.us under the Human Resources tab on the District page. Applications should be submitted to Byers School District, Attn: Stacy Sondburg, 444 E. Front St., Byers, CO 80103.

Applications may also be emailed to sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us or faxed to 303-822-9592.

For additional information, please call Machaela Eymann at (303)822-5292, x1113.

Special education teacher for a significant needs program located at the Strasburg School District for the 2024-2025 school year. Current Colorado special education teacher license required. BA salary range: \$41,000-\$47,300 and MA salary range: \$46,250-\$52,550 based on experience. Excellent benefits including full health benefits. Collaborative work environment with lots of free continuing education opportunities available. May be eligible for student loan forgiveness. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecbores.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the green button "Apply Online" located at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101 or tracy@ecbores.org. EOE. 5/16

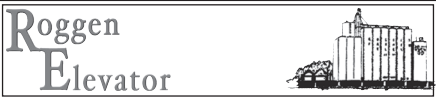
East Central BOCES is seeking a part-time, 3 days/week teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for the 2024-2025 school year. Salary range: \$27,750-\$32,790 for 112 days dependent on experience and education. Must have or be able to attain a Colorado teaching license with an endorsement as a special education specialist (deaf/hard of hearing required). Complete assessments, attend IEP meetings, provide direct and indirect special education services. Excellent benefits including access to a company vehicle or mileage reimbursement and fully paid health insurance including vision and dental. May be eligible for loan forgiveness program. Flexible scheduling with the opportunity to complete some work from home. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecbores.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the green button "Apply Online" located at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101. EOE. 5/16

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED



FT Propane Services (Driver, Tech)

We are seeking a qualified, self-motivated, career-oriented person with a strong work ethic to help us provide exceptional service on the Colorado Front Range.

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- Must be able to lift up to 75 lbs. and work in all weather conditions;
- Meet all DOT requirements.

APPLY ON LINE AT:

WWW.ROGGENFARMERSELEV.COM
FOR QUESTIONS CALL (303)644-3251

Full-time school psychologist or intern to join our dynamic, multidisciplinary team of professionals for the 2024-2025 school year (school districts east of Limon). Requirements: educational specialist (EdS) Colorado certified, provide PreK-12 intervention including assessment, development of IEPs and consultation services. Competitive salaries: EdS \$57,800-\$66,200 and intern \$53,590-\$59,550; both commensurate upon experience. Excellent benefits including dental, vision and medical insurance; flexible scheduling with the opportunity to complete some work at home; use of a car or mileage reimbursement. May also be eligible for loan forgiveness. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecboces.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the green button "Apply Online" located at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101. EOE. 5/16

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Country living 2½ miles northeast of Strasburg. Lower level of house, 3 bedrooms (2 "noncomplying"), 2 full baths, large living room, office/dining, shared laundry. Separate entrance, garage, parking, fenced yard. \$1,700/month. Contact sailinginlife@netze-ro.net for more information. 4/18

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Letter jackets and chenilles. Harriet McNeill, (303)919-2065. 4/24c

Photos from *The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News* are available for purchase in color or black and white. 4x6 \$6; 5x7 \$8; 8½x11 \$12. (303)622-9796. 4/18c

WANTED

Wanting to buy: coins and coin collections; jewelry; watches (wrist and pocket); Native American jewelry; silver tea sets and flatware; guns and gun collections (federally licensed). I come to you. (720)327-7867. 5/9

FREE

Free, free, free. Pick up of autos, farm equipment, batteries, all nonferrous metal types. Also available for a minimal fee, pick up of appliances, TVs, piles, etc. Call Blaine today at (303)819-7659. 4/18c

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HOMES & LAND

For every 1% drop in rates, another 5 million households qualify for a \$400k mortgage.

Waiting for mortgage rates to decline is now the #1 reason homeowners are not actively shopping for a home.

#2 is waiting for a life stage or lifestyle change like birth of a child, retirement, child leaving home, etc.

Waiting for rates to come down is waiting to compete. Competition, combined with low inventory, make prices go up.

The mortgage payment difference between a 7% rate on a \$400,000 loan and a 6.25% rate on a \$420,000 loan is around \$75 per month or around \$900 per year.

Doesn't seem to make sense to wait for rates to come down.

HOMES & LAND

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LISA ELDRINGHOFF/For The Scout

A local bison herd decided the grass was greener on the other side of the fence the morning of March 18 as it wandered westward along Arapahoe County Road 38 a couple miles west of Deer Trail. A trio of Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies helped neighbors herd the giant beasts to a collection point until they were claimed by owners about 6 a.m. the next day.



ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO



EMPOWERING FAMILIES WITH FOOD, NUTRITION, EDUCATION, AND MORE

Adams County Women, Infants & Children (WIC) services and other resources will be available in Bennett in 2024.

Third Thursday of the Month | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Bennett Community Center
1100 E. Colfax Ave.

WIC

The nation's most successful public health nutrition program provides healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding guidance, and community support to income-eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people, and children up to five years old.

Call **303.439.5990** to schedule an appointment with a WIC representative at these events.



ACHS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Learn about food, cash, childcare, and medical assistance programs. Representatives from the public assistance team will be available to answer questions, help fill out applications, and more.

Walk-ins are welcome.

ACHD HARM REDUCTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH

These teams provide safer sex resources, HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, Naloxone, and other resources such as gun locks, syringe access, and fentanyl test strips.

To learn more about Harm Reduction, call **303.363.3077** or visit adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/harm-reduction.

To learn more about sexual health, call **303.363.3018** or visit adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/sexual-health.

ADAMS COUNTY CONNECT SUMMER KICK-OFF

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
12-3 P.M. | ROTELLA PARK
adcogov.org/acc

Mark your calendars! Kick off summer with Adams County Connect and join us for fun, food, and games on Saturday, April 27, noon - 3 p.m., at Rotella Park, 1824 Coronado Pkwy. N., Denver. This is the perfect opportunity to gather summer resources while enjoying entertainment for the whole family.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



STAY CONNECTED:

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 Skool Daze, April 26th; Renegade, April 27.

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