



Covering the I-70 Corridor for 30 Years

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# The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 6

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

Thursday, January 9, 2025

## Boy, 17, rescued from old missile silo

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

WATKINS — A New Year's hike gone wrong.

That was apparently the case when, for the second time in eight months, a teenager fell into abandoned I-70 Corridor missile silos Jan. 1.

At about 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue was originally dispatched to the 4500 block of South Imboden Road on the former Lowry Bombing & Gunnery Range owned by the Colorado State Land Board on request for a "confined space" rescue.

Upon arrival, rescuers from Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue and deputies from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office discovered that one teen had broken through the cover of a ventilation shaft of one of the four decommissioned Titan Missile silo locations on the property and fell approximately 30 feet. The teen was among three trespassers — two juveniles and an adult — who stumbled onto the defunct missile silo hatches.

The teen that fell landed in several feet of water that wasn't past his head but reportedly helped soften his landing and likely lessened the injuries he suffered.

Bennett-Watkins, the primary response agency under Battalion Chief Derek Nystrom and Assistant Chief Caleb Connor, received assistance from Sable Altura, South Metro and Deer Trail fire departments to extricate the juve-



CHARLES BROSHOUS/5280Fire.com

Corridor firefighter Tyler Loveless, foreground, is pulled out ahead of Sable Altura Fire Chief Rich Solomon after the rescue of a 17-year-old boy who fell into an abandoned Titan I Missile silo shaft south of Watkins Jan. 1.

nile. A pair of Sable Altura members were lowered into the shaft via a rope-and-pulley system and extricated the juvenile from the silo at roughly 5 p.m.

The injured party was transported non-emergent to a local hospital with minor injuries.

A medical chopper originally dispatched to the scene was not needed since the juvenile's inju-

ries were not considered serious or life-threatening.

Approximately 15 emergency apparatus and 25 personnel assisted in the rescue.

Whether there will be charges against any of the three people found at the scene was uncertain at press time.

"The investigator was waiting on the owner's answer as to if they

want to press charges," an Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office spokesman told *The I-70 Scout* Jan. 3.

A State Land Board spokeswoman said the agency is investigating the incident.

"At this time SLB has no comment other than gratitude to the first responders," said Kristin

**SEE MISSILE SILO RESCUE  
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## Trailer park ducks 'big boom' in gas plant blaze



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Flames peek through the infrastructure of the Wattenberg Gas Processing Plant at I-70 and Powhaton Road Jan. 2. Firefighters and plant employees fought the blaze for about 3½ hours to safely extinguish the flames and shut down the fuel source.

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

AURORA — "Basically, we were trying to avoid the big boom!"

That was the report of Sable Altura Fire Chief Rich Solomon after members of his firefighting crew and neighboring jurisdictions kept a nearby gas plant from exploding late during the second day of the new year.

A proper emergency plan and rapid response from local first responders helped contain flames to the point of origin at the Wattenberg Gas Processing Facility on the northwest corner of the I-70 interchange with Powhaton Road on reports of visible flames emanating from one of the site's large-scale storage areas. The approximately 5½-hour

emergency response commenced at approximately 5:45 p.m. Jan. 2.

"It was a large tank, piece of equipment, failure in a valve. That was the point of origin," Solomon said. "It was part of the piping. We had active flames shooting out of a pressurized gas cylinder. Found some equipment that failed under pressure — a pop of the valve was the point of a mechanical malfunction."

Upon finding the fire's origin, efforts commenced to keep the cylinder from overheating, exploding and threatening the rest of the complex and nearby residential subdivisions.

"It's called a BLEVE — Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion. Basically we're trying to avoid the

**SEE GAS FIRE  
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# COMMUNITY CORRAL

## ArapCo seeks volunteers for homelessness project

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County is seeking volunteers for its annual Point in Time Count of homeless people on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

An accurate count of the unhoused population helps to guide funding and critical resources to assist them.

From sunset on Jan. 27 through sunset Jan. 28, volunteers will be stationed at locations across the county to survey individuals experiencing homelessness.

The county seeks a minimum of four volunteers for its unincorporated area to cover three shifts over the course of the day: 7-10 a.m.; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 1-3 p.m.

To sign up or for more information, visit [arapahoeco.gov](http://arapahoeco.gov).

## Newspaper presentation planned for local biz org

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn starting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15, at May Farms in Byers.

Speaker will be Douglas Claussen, publisher and editor of *The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News*. The newspaper will also sponsor lunch.

To RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to [officei70ccoc@gmail.com](mailto:officei70ccoc@gmail.com) by Friday, Jan. 10.

## Vitalant blood drive slated for Strasburg High School

STRASBURG — A Vitalant blood drive is planned from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10, at Strasburg High School.

Every single donation can save up to three lives.

Donors are advised to eat a healthy, low-fat meal within two hours of donation. The previous day, they should eat a salty snack as each donor loses about a gram of salt. Replacing it ahead of time helps keep blood pressure normal.

They should also hydrate by drinking 8-16 ounces of a non-alcoholic beverage one hour before

## Partnerships key to new AdCo office

BRIGHTON — The Executive Leadership Team in Adams County will celebrate an exciting strategic change within the County Manager's Office with a luncheon later this month.

The realignment includes creation of the Office of Strategic Partnerships & Resilient Communities (SPARC), which will officially launch in early 2025. The goal of SPARC is to enhance the way the county builds and sustains partnerships, both internally and with external organizations.

The luncheon is planned from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Waymire Dome at Riverdale Regional Park, 9755

Henderson Road, Brighton.

According to a release, by centralizing the efforts, SPARC will:

- foster strategic collaborations with nonprofits, community-based organizations, and other partners.
- support Adams County departments in accessing funding through a new centralized grants team dedicated to identifying, securing and managing grants.
- strengthen Adams County's commitment to long-term community resilience and sustainable growth by implementing innovative approaches to capacity building.

donation. Water or sport drinks are recommended.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-877-258-4825. For more information, call Kathy with Vitalant at (720)838-6955.

## Strasburg VIP seniors plan schedule December lunch

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association will host a potluck starting at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Savannah Chapa, Bennett Community Development Manager, will speak.

The group, which provides a social outlet for area seniors, meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

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

## Family center announces yearly meeting, boutique

BYERS — The Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains will hold its annual public board meeting starting at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 20, at the center.

The meeting is open to the public. Visitors with concerns are en-

couraged to attend.

The center will host its monthly open boutique from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25. Shoppers should enter through the front door to register before they browse for little ones from the center's selection of baby to size 6 clothing, shoes, coats, diapers and more.

The center is located at 228 W. Front St., Byers. For more information, call (303)822-9368.

## Fire agency seeks vols for ultrasound training

BENNETT-WATKINS — Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue is seeking adult models to help train paramedics in practicing basic ultrasound exams.

For more information and a registration form, call Josie Fischer at (720)893-7674.

## Narconon issues warning about the use of ketamine

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. — Narconon is offering an important message about Ketamine, a drug with both medical uses and serious risks.

Ketamine is a prescription medication primarily used as an anesthetic in medical and veterinary

practices. It is known for its ability to induce sedation, relieve pain, and create a state of dissociation.

Ketamine recently has been approved for certain mental health conditions. However, even with medical supervision, no longitudinal research backs up the claims for success. Another issue is that a high risk and huge market for recreational use exists for the drug.

Narconon helps people all over the United States find treatment to end addiction.

For more information, visit [www.narcononnewliferetreat.org](http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org) or call 1-800-431-1754.

## Christmas tree recycling available thru Adams Co.

BRIGHTON — Adams County is again offering free recycling of live Christmas trees to its residents.

Residents can drop off their trees from sunrise to sunset through Sunday, Jan. 12, at Riverdale Regional Park, 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton. Signs will direct residents to the drop-off site.

All lights, ornaments and decor should be removed. Tree limbs, yard waste, or trees from commercial operations will not be accepted.

For more information, call (303)637-8000.

## Big address signs offered at cost by Strasburg FPD

The Strasburg Fire Protection District is offering address signs at cost.

The price is \$33 for each reflective 6- by 30-inch sign. The signs are available in green or blue with 4-inch white numbers.

According to a release, the signs significantly help the emergency crews find an address in a faster and safer manner, especially at night when the addresses on the front of a house are not lit.

To have a sign made, contact the Strasburg Fire Protection District at (303)622-4444, ext. 1.

Credit cards are not accepted.

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# Municipal landfills: Colorado Health Dept. seeks drop in greenhouse gas emissions

DENVER — The Air Pollution Control Division at the Colorado Public Health & Environment is hosting public meetings on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from municipal solid waste landfills.

Such landfills are significant sources of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Addressing emissions from municipal solid waste landfills will help Colorado achieve its ambitious climate goals.

“Listening to diverse experiences and feedback will help us continue leading the way to address climate change and reduce air pollution that harms Colorado communities,” said CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division Director Michael Ogletree.

Input will help inform a new rule proposal, which the division plans for the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission this year.

Registration is required. Zoom meetings are planned from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, and 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26. To access the meetings, search for “landfill methane reductions” at [cdphe.colorado.gov](https://cdphe.colorado.gov).

Interested parties can also send written comments to [climatexchange@state.co.us](mailto:climatexchange@state.co.us). Put “landfill methane reductions” in the subject line.

From August to November, the division convened a group of diverse experts to inform early de-

velopment of the rule proposal. In addition, the division met with the Community Council for Environmental Justice & Air Quality and is working with policy experts to ensure the proposed rule effectively considers protections for neighboring communities. The division will continue developing the rule with feedback received at public meetings and in writing.

The division is considering new requirements such as:

- gas collection and control systems with the provision that such systems be installed sooner than federal requires.
- methane monitoring, including options for alternative technologies and remote monitoring to identify large emission sources.
- enclosed flares for methane emissions control. Landfill operators use flares to burn off captured landfill gas, which changes methane to less potent gases, like carbon dioxide.

A reduction in methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills is one of many actions outlined in the state’s Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap 2.0, which lays out key actions to help Colorado achieve its climate goals. Municipal solid waste landfills contain organic waste that emits greenhouse gases as it decays. Organic waste can include food scraps, lawn and garden trimmings, and wood.



## ARAPAHOE COUNTY



All County offices will be closed **Monday, Jan. 20** in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.



### Common Plant Diseases

Attend a free information session on the most common plant diseases in Colorado. The class will be held at the **Aurora Central Library, Jan. 16, 2025, 4–5 p.m.** Learn about the symptoms and signs to look for on your landscape plants, and how to tackle each disease properly.

Register now at <https://bit.ly/CSUPlantDisease>

### Everyone Counts

**Volunteer to support efforts to end homelessness**

We’re looking for one-time volunteers for the annual Point in Time Count on **Jan. 28** to help survey those experiencing homelessness.

For more information, visit [arapahoeco.gov/volunteer](https://arapahoeco.gov/volunteer)



### Join our team

Arapahoe County is always hiring. A full listing of open positions is available on [arapahoeco.gov/jobs](https://arapahoeco.gov/jobs) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

[arapahoeco.gov](https://arapahoeco.gov)

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## CORRIDOR CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, JAN. 11

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

### MONDAY, JAN. 13

**Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry.** 9-11 a.m., Kelter Library parking lot, 585 S. Main St., Byers. Pre-registration at newclient.link2feed.com.

**Strasburg School Board.** 6 p.m., Strasburg High School Central Services building board room. Visit [strasburg31j.com](http://strasburg31j.com) for link.

**Byers Water & Sanitation District Board.** 7 p.m., 421 S. Sherman St.

**Deer Trail Fire Protection District Board.** 7 p.m., Deer Trail Firehouse.

**Deer Trail School Board.** 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 14

**Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry.** 4-8 p.m., Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.

**Daughters of the American Revolution Silver Spike Chapter.** 6:30 p.m., TBK Bank Committee Room, Strasburg.

**Bennett Board of Trustees.** Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit [townofbennett.colorado.gov](http://townofbennett.colorado.gov).

**Deer Trail Town Board.** Work session 6:30 p.m., regular meeting 7 p.m., Town Hall, 555 Second Ave.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

**I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce**

Lunch & Learn. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.

**Prairie Voices concert.** 5:30 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

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

### THURSDAY, JAN. 16

**Strasburg American Legion Post 183.** 6:30 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

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

**Byers School Board.** 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit Board of Education at [byers32j.k12.co.us](http://byers32j.k12.co.us) for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.

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

### EVERY MONDAY

**High Plains Music Ensemble** rehearsals. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or [hpmemusicedirector@gmail.com](mailto:hpmemusicedirector@gmail.com) or visit [www.highplainsmusicensemble.com](http://www.highplainsmusicensemble.com).

**AA open meeting.** 7 p.m., Victorian schoolhouse at Ace Hardware, 21761 U.S. Highway 40, Limon. For information, call Sara at (828)243-7681.

### EVERY TUESDAY

**Toddler Time:** Children ages 2-3 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities for active toddlers. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

## MCC's 3rd bachelor's degree OK'd, \$739K Opportunity NOW Grant rec'd

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College received accreditation to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Education with an endorsement in Technology Education from the Higher Learning Commission Nov. 8.

Additionally, MCC was awarded an Opportunity NOW Grant of \$739,917, which is providing vital resources for curriculum development and student support services for the program.

The new degree, MCC's third bachelor's program, will incorporate more applied, hands-on learning than a traditional bachelor's degree. The program will prepare students to teach Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes in secondary schools (grades 7-12).

MCC Director of Special Projects and past Vice President of Instruction for eight years, Kathy Frisbie, began working on the idea of a bachelor's degree in education in 2019, when it became apparent that rural communities were facing a critical, unresolved teacher shortage.

She began investigating offering a teacher prep program at MCC. Frisbie has been engaged in dialogue with the Colorado Department of Education along with the Colorado Community College System for years on ways to make the degree happen for students in rural areas.

"This is a huge milestone for the MCC community," said Frisbie, who is the primary author and project lead for the Opportunity NOW Grant. "Offering the BAS in Education with a Technology Education focus will open doors for individuals in rural areas who otherwise would not be able to reach their goal of becoming a teacher. It will have a direct impact on the economic mobility of many individuals as well as address the critical shortage of rural teachers."

The Opportunity NOW Color-

do grant program was designed to help communities across Colorado create and expand innovative work force and talent development initiatives. The goal is to help connect Coloradans with in-demand, high-skill, high-wage occupations. The grants support regional partnerships that bring together educational institutions, industry leaders, and employers to address work force development needs.

MCC's selection as a grant recipient affirms the college's dedication to enhancing educational access and advancing workforce development in the region, according to a release.

Taylor Schneider joined the Morgan Community College team in 2022 as Lead Education Faculty, bringing a background in teaching secondary English Language Arts at Fort Morgan High School. After transitioning to MCC, Taylor

took the job of developing the BAS in Education with a focus on Technology Education.

"We've developed a comprehensive curriculum, hands-on coursework, and a residency model that effectively prepares future educators for today's dynamic classrooms," Schneider said. "This program is essential for addressing the growing demand for Career and Technical Education in our schools and communities, supporting both local work force development and student success. Most importantly, it provides accessible, high-quality teacher preparation in rural Colorado, ensuring our communities have the educators they need to thrive."

Spring classes begin Jan. 21. Individuals interested in pursuing the BAS in Education program should apply at [www.Morgancc.edu](http://www.Morgancc.edu).

For more information, contact Taylor Schneider at [Taylor.Schneider@MorganCC.edu](mailto:Taylor.Schneider@MorganCC.edu) or call (970)542-3235.



Frisbie



Schneider

## Watch for Upcoming 2025 Auctions

More information to come on website soon!



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### ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**CASE NO. ASI24-001, EASTGATE / REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST (1041 REGULATIONS), MAJOR WATER AND SEWER PROJECT & CASE NO. GDP23-003, EASTGATE / GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**PROPOSAL:** The applicant and property owner, Property 292, LLC (John Wakeman and Sharon Dowhan), are requesting approval of a 1041 Permit for a Major Water and Sewer Project and for approval of a General Development Plan to serve the development known as Eastgate, located at the southwest corner of Interstate 70 and Monaghan Road, 27500 and 27450 E Colfax Avenue. The proposed water and sewer extension to be considered for the 1041 permit would serve the development and the General Development Plan would approve zoning for approximately 405,000 square-feet of commercial, retail and light industrial property and approximately 1,000 single-family attached and multi-family residential units.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on February 11, 2025, 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 ASI24-001, Eastgate / 1041, Major Water and Sewer Project & GDP23-003, Eastgate / General Development Plan. 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, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing [planning@arapahoe.gov](mailto:planning@arapahoe.gov) during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

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# Colorado State Patrol program aids motor vehicle theft victims

GOLDEN — The Colorado State Patrol recently announced its the continued support of motor vehicle theft victims through its secondary cost assistance program.

The unique grant-funded opportunity is in partnership with the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Now, for the second consecutive year, the Colorado State Patrol Victim's Services Unit has secured grant funding to reduce the financial impact and stress for victims of auto theft. No other state is offering a program of this kind.

Through an application process, Colorado residents in need who have been victims of auto theft may be eligible to receive funding to offset specific costs associated with the crime and get them back on the road.

When a vehicle is stolen, community members want their property recovered. Thus far, in 2024, Colorado continues to recover more than 90% of all stolen vehicles.

While the likelihood is high that

auto theft victims will see their property again, they are often shocked by some of the unknown or unexpected costs associated with the crime. The Colorado State Patrol wants to help secure financial support for these expenses to return the vehicle to an operable condition and minimize the impact an auto theft may have on a person's life.

Expenses that victims may be eligible to recoup are:

- alternative transportation;
- public transportation;
- ride-share services;
- rental vehicle services;
- cleaning and sanitation fees;
- towing and storage fees;
- vehicle repair reimbursement;
- steering wheel locks; and
- hardening devices.

Colorado residents whose registered and insured vehicle was stolen should visit lockdownyourcar.org to view a list of available resources and complete the new online victim's assistance application to determine eligibility for assistance.

# Economic policy expert: CO working families would pay more under Trump tax proposals

by Eric Galatas  
Public News Service

President-elect Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have promised to pass a new tax bill, and a new report breaks down the expected winners and losers.

Joe Hughes, senior policy analyst with the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy, says based on Trump's campaign proposals, the top 10 percent — those making more than \$900,000 a year — will see their tax bill go down by more than \$36,000, on average.

"The top 5% of households make more than \$360,000 a year. They will likely see their taxes go down. For the other 95% of Americans, they will likely see their taxes go up," he said.

Hughes added that Americans earning between \$55,000 and \$94,000 a year would have to pay over \$1,500 more in income taxes. The combined increases would further shift the tax burden — to pay for bridges, schools, health care and highways — from corporations and higher-income individuals to low- and middle-income families. Trump has claimed, without evidence, that increasing

tariffs on foreign goods would cover revenues lost due to tax cuts.

Hughes says because companies pass the costs of tariffs along to consumers, Americans will also be hit with what is essentially a national sales tax.

He added the incoming administration's proposals, if enacted, could increase the national debt by as much as \$15 trillion over the next decade.

"The proposals to increase tariffs are not going to raise enough revenue to offset the tax cuts that he's proposed to give to high-income individuals and to corporations," Hughes continued.

Trump has called the election results a mandate for his policies. But Hughes noted a strong majority of Americans support a tax code that's fair, one that asks those who can afford it to contribute more. They don't think billionaires such as Elon Musk should pay less than working families.

"Most Americans, even a majority of Republicans, support higher income taxes on the wealthy and on corporations," he said. "So, there is some disconnect here between the candidate that they voted for and the policies that actually poll well with voters."



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**Direct marketing workshop offered in tandem with no-till conference**

KIT CARSON — Next month, the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and Burlington Soil Conservation District will host a “Harvesting Success Workshop” at the Burlington Community & Education Center.

The Feb. 3 workshop, a precursor to the High Plains No-Till Conference on Feb. 4-5, is designed to challenge, inspire and equip producers for a journey into direct marketing. Attendees will delve into topics ranging from establishing a mission statement and goals to product development, pricing, and stress management through a comprehensive workbook and guided instruction from Roy Pfaltzgraff and Emily Kamala.

“We’ve received many requests from producers for more information on how to navigate the world of direct marketing,” said CCTA Coordinator Joni Mitchek. “This workshop will be an excellent opportunity to dive into practical strategies on that front, as well as gain valuable insights from other producers in the High Plains region.”

Attendees will leave with a copy of the course material and innovative ideas for creating new mar-

kets, diversifying their farming operations, and building resilience into their business. Pre-registration is required, and the \$20 fee includes lunch for the day.

Following the workshop, the High Plains No-Till Conference will kick off on Tuesday, Feb. 4, with a weather outlook presentation from Don Day Jr. and a full schedule of educational breakout sessions related to soil health and farm business management.

Roy Pfaltzgraff will also provide a keynote address discussing data from the past 30 years and how evolving farming methods have changed the bottom line of their farm in northeastern Colorado.

Allen Williams, founding partner of Understanding Ag LLC, the Soil Health Academy, and Regennified LLC, will join another full lineup of speakers on Wednesday, Feb. 5, with a keynote presentation exploring the advantages of transitioning farms and ranches to a regenerative approach.

For schedules and registration information, visit [www.highplainsnotill.com](http://www.highplainsnotill.com).

For more information, contact Joni Mitchek at [coordinator@highplainsnotill.com](mailto:coordinator@highplainsnotill.com) or (719)892-0379.

**15 problem-solving courts accredited**

DENVER — The Statewide Problem-Solving Court Advisory Committee has recently accredited 15 problem-solving courts, including the 17th Judicial District Family Treatment Court, through a special program.

Certification through the Problem-Solving Court Tiered Accreditation Program marks a significant achievement for the courts. It recognizes their commitment to evidence-based, research-proven practices in line with the Colorado Adult Problem-Solving Court Unified Standards.

The program ensures that these courts follow best practice standards and provides tailored training, technical assistance, and resources based on the court’s accreditation tier.

Each court underwent a rigorous evaluation, which included an in-depth review of supporting documents. An advisory commit-

tee determined that all 15 courts met the necessary standards for their assigned tier levels, further acknowledging their dedication to problem-solving approaches in addressing cases.

The committee, composed of leaders in problem-solving courts throughout the state and the judiciary, approved the following for accreditation at various tier level recommendations.

Each accredited court will undergo a re-accreditation process every three years, although they can advance to a higher tier if they demonstrate program enhancements.

Each Gold Tier court will also participate in an observation to determine application of practices to become Statewide Mentor Courts.

For more information, e-mail to [desiree.hermocillo@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:desiree.hermocillo@judicial.state.co.us)

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# VITAL SIGN: Aurora Fox Theater returns past for future

by Bear Atwood  
Sentinel Story Sprint Reporter

AURORA — Upgraded back to its nostalgic state, the Aurora Fox Arts Center’s signature 61-foot sign is lighting up the night once more with its original 1946 colors.

For long-time patrons of the theater, such as retired Aurora firefighter Mike Ackman, preserving this part of Aurora’s history couldn’t have come sooner.

“I can still picture it in my mind, exactly what it looked like,” said Ackman, whose father attended John Wayne movies in the 1940s at the theater and where he watched shows in the 1960s. “I always remember the marquee that was over the doors, the ticket taker, and the snack bar. People going into the movie theater and opening the door on the side and letting their friends sneak into the theater.”

Ackman has seen the theater bustling with moviegoers at its highest peak and at its lowest valley in 1981, when it caught fire.

As a firefighter, he was sent as part of the relief crew the morning after to ensure the fire would not reignite.

“To go in as a firefighter when the whole thing was gutted was overwhelming to me,” Ackman said. “It was just sad. It was like a loss because there was no real guarantee that they were going to rebuild it.



PHILIP B. POSTON/Sentinel Colorado

As a result of contributions of \$110,313, mostly from a grant, the Aurora Fox Theater will be able to replace faulty wiring, revamp the neon tubes, and make other improvements.

That’s what I kept remembering: that, ‘Oh, my God, they’re gonna tear my Fox Theatre down.’ You know, it’s the only place I really knew.”

But that didn’t happen. The post-war Fox Theatre transitioned into a performing arts center in 1985 after community members petitioned for the city to purchase the building. To this day, the Arts Center thrives as two theaters; so does its sign.

After approval in early 2020 for a State Historical Fund grant and receiving donations from the Aurora Museum Foundation, Visit

Aurora and the city’s municipal funds, the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the original sign company delayed the theater sign’s renovation. Now, more than \$143,000 later, the sign is complete.

While the project was initially estimated to cost \$120,000, unexpected road bumps were revealed as the paint was chipped away.

Chris Geddes, the City of Aurora’s Historic Preservation Specialist, has worked closely with the theater and sign restoration project, digging through local news articles for early colored pictures of

the sign for references and scraping off paint samples.

“I’m afraid of heights, so it’s pretty amazing that I actually got to go up there,” Geddes said.

Initially, the theater had plans to restore the color to match what they thought to be their oldest color photo of the theater from 1962, which depicted a forest green sign accented yellow.

That was until the sign company DaVinci Sign Systems Inc. had taken off a panel from the top and side during their sign survey and found a faded bit of yellow paint that bled through.

The finding led Geddes and the sign designer to do more digging to find out what the original colors were, looking at the other old Fox Theatres through Colorado and the country. Starting the search for the real original colors in December 2023, it wasn’t until May that Geddes and the team went into a crane lift and hand scraped the paint, which revealed more yellow and a light green accent.

“The Fox Inter-Mountain Amusement Corporation had hundreds of theaters across the country, and we started seeing a pattern where they did red and yellow in a lot of theaters,” Geddes said. “I texted the designer and said, OK, we’re gonna need to tweak the drawing a little bit because

**SEE FOX THEATER PAGE 8**

## Nominees sought for 17th JD judgeship

BRIGHTON — The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Adams County Justice Center to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 17th Judicial District at the time of investiture and must have been admitted into the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary is \$198,798.24.

A district judge’s initial term of office is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of six years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio

chair of the nominating commission, Justice Richard Gabriel, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, and the office of the court executive, Patricia Kmita, 1100 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton, as well as coloradojudicial.gov.

The completed application must be e-mailed to the address listed in the instructions no later than 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17. Late applications will not be considered.

Any person wishing to suggest a candidate may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10.

The vacancy was created by the death of the Honorable Sharon Holbrook Dec. 31.

## Arapahoe suspends enrollments to Child Care Assistance Program

LITTLETON — Because of a lack of state and federal funding, Arapahoe County is no longer processing enrollments for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

This freeze will have far-reaching implications for families who have to choose between working and providing care for children. The county does not have other specific supports to help families access affordable child care.

According to a release, families who:

- were receiving CCCAP prior to the freeze will continue in the program.
- applied for CCCAP before Jan. 1 will have their applications reviewed and processed under the current guidelines. Any families approved before the freeze date will be added to the program.
- submitted applications after Jan. 1 will have their application kept on file for processing if the freeze ends in the future. No new applicants will be added to the program.
- are looking for affordable child care in light of the freeze should explore private child care options with sliding-scale services and community-based resources. You can also reach out to the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council.

Other metro area counties have already frozen CCCAP enrollments because of similar financial constraints. The freeze stems from a combination of financial pressures:

**Provider rate increases:** Payments

to child care providers are rising statewide, adding millions to the cost of providing care.

**Reduced parental fees:** Families are required to pay a smaller portion of the cost of care, pushing the cost difference back onto counties.

**Enrollment-based payments:** The shift to provider payments based on enrollment, rather than attendance, adds millions to the cost of providing care. While this change stabilizes care providers, it strains county budgets.

**Expiration of federal funds:** Temporary funding from the American Rescue Plan Act helped offset costs, but its expiration leaves a significant shortfall.

If Arapahoe County receives additional funding from the state or federal government in the future, applications could then be processed. An expected end date for the freeze is unknown.

Arapahoe County plans to work with state and federal partners to secure the funding needed to restore CCCAP and ensure its long-term sustainability. In the meantime, participants are encouraged to reach out to their congressmen, state representatives, and other federal legislators. Sharing personal stories and advocating for increased federal funding can help bring attention to the challenges families and counties are facing under the current requirements.

The county is also engaging with child care providers to discuss the impacts of these changes and encourage them to continue working with families during this challenging period.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The first heavy frost of the new year occurred Jan. 4, the same morning that volunteers removed the Christmas street decorations along Colfax Avenue in Strasburg. Above, Dean Miller, left, and Chad Hopwood get lift assistance for a light pole adornment at the intersection of Colfax and Main Street. Saturday morning’s heavy frost and fog was a precursor to 1-2 inches of snow that fell across much of the I-70 Corridor later in the day through Sunday morning.



FOX THEATER

FROM PAGE 7

we found yellow in another place.’ And he says, ‘Oh my gosh, that’s amazing.’ Then we were scraping, and we found the green on the front.”

To add to the struggle, the team discovered an obscene amount of bird droppings caked on the sign. After years of buildup, the sign had turned into a “biohazard,” according to Geddes. To continue the restoration, the theater had to hire a biohazard team to clean the mess.

Why put so much effort and money toward revitalizing an old sign? It seems Aurora can’t help but value the Fox as a center for art and community, said Rich Cowden, the theater’s executive director.

Just as the community came together to save the theater in the past, several organizations in Aurora contributed to the sign restoration.

Ginger White Brunetti, the director of the Aurora Library & Culture Services Department, says the project wouldn’t have happened without community support.

“It’s a facility that’s been around for so long, but there’s always an opportunity to continue to sort of reinvent in some ways,” White

Brunetti said. “When it comes to the Aurora Cultural Arts District, this has been an important anchor of the district and perhaps one of the best known in part because of its visibility and its history.

In other words, the renovation is representative of Aurora itself as it evolves and changes while still making efforts to preserve and honor its history.

The theater has dipped into syn-ergetic programming with its recent production of the Percy Jackson musical in collaboration with the Aurora Public Library to encourage kids to read the book that inspired it. The same goes for the theater’s next production, which is an adaptation of Jules Verne’s novel “Around the World in 80 Days” slated for the fall.

The theater is also reaching out to other Scientific & Cultural Facilities District organizations to try and attract a more diverse audience and support the SCFD groups such as Roshni and the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra.

“My vision for this place is always that this is a primary community space, where everyone is welcome, where we try to keep things affordable,” Cowden said. “We try to keep the quality very



SENTINEL COLORADO FILE PHOTO

The Aurora Fox and the Aurora Cultural Arts District light up the night on East Colfax Avenue.

high, and part of that is partnering with other community organizations. I think it’s one of the things that we’re going to focus on as we keep going. ... Some of those dramatic pieces that also have strong literary backgrounds, whether that’s for young adults, small kids, older or mature folks to be able to offer those.”

To Ackman, the theater is a cornerstone of historic Aurora, and it seems many would agree because, after the fire, community members successfully petitioned the city to buy the theater and convert

it to a public space.

Today, Ackman is on the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission and helps in preserving and restoring historic buildings such as the Fox throughout the city.

“My old shopping centers where I used to shop, where I used to get my hair cut — that’s all gone, and it’s all six-story apartment buildings,” Ackman said. “It’s tough to tell people, (the commission wants) to landmark your gas station because of its historic styling when somebody offers \$2 million for the property.”

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## Avoidance of secondary crashes

### State troopers share hot zones, top causes

GOLDEN — Daily drivers regularly see crash scenes. These incidents can be frightening and disruptive, and they also can lead to additional crashes.

A secondary crash is one that occurs because of another crash. Secondary crashes are a major cause of line-of-duty deaths for emergency workers.

The Colorado State Patrol is sharing the hot zones across the state where secondary crashes are most prevalent and the top driving behaviors that lead to such wrecks.

Looking at the secondary crashes investigated by the CSP from 2021 through Nov. 13, 2024, troopers have handled over 880 secondary crashes. Approximately 35% of these secondary crashes occurred during poor, active weather conditions (e.g., snow, fog, freezing rain, strong winds), while the majority of crashes took place during clear conditions, with the peak months from November through January.

According to Colorado State Patrol data of secondary crashes from this same time period, the top highways are I-25 (330 secondary crashes); I-70 (208); I-76 (29); Colorado Highway C-470 (26); and U.S. Highway 24 (20).

“First responders are well aware

of the risks posed to them as they work on crash scenes,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, CSP chief. “They work to investigate thoroughly and clear a scene as quickly as possible, despite how long it can feel to motorists caught in traffic related to a crash.”

Colorado State Patrol secondary crash data also revealed the top three causal factors for crashes during the time period: following too closely (292); distracted driving (195); and speeding (172).

The Colorado Move Over law was one step in protecting emergency workers while handling the duties of the crash. The law has increased protections over the years, with the most recent expansion happening in August 2023 when the law expanded to include any vehicle with emergency lighting activated on the road or shoulder.

Colorado Drivers have two choices when they see an emergency, towing or maintenance vehicle or passenger vehicle with emergency hazards on: move over at least one lane or, if they cannot safely move over, slow down to a safe speed.

Safe speed means drivers must slow down to 25 mph or less in 40 mph zones or by at least 20 mph in a 45 mph or higher zone.

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PHOTOS BY DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

Joey Connor, left photo, George Harbaugh and Kinsley Harris seem fascinated by the holiday Lego model train display at Anythink Bennett library last month.



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Duarte Ortiz displays traditional clothing and Tsik+ri amulets at a pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican history and culture program Dec. 7 at Anythink Bennett Library. Local expert Andres Duarte Ortiz also helped participants construct Tsik+ri amulets. The Tsik+ri is a diamond-shaped cross with uniting lines between all the points, symbolizing the directions of the universe.



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Brenna Rubenaker, 4, pats a pup at a De-stressing the Holidays program Dec. 7 at Anythink Bennett library. Participants took a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays by snuggling puppies from Lifeline Puppy Rescue, playing video games in a luxury event truck, and sipping hot drinks.

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I don't know who all get the Eastern Colorado News paper, but there was a front page article on what ACTUALLY happened at the UPS store in Bennett, and I thought that in the interest of fairness I would pass the info along. To be honest, I was not sure if the guy but as usual the social media "know it alls" spread lies like crazy. I have seen on here, the guy had "beat some old lady to a pulp." In fact, she was the one who attacked him. He did retaliate. Both were arrested and are in jail. I have an eye witness account.

"I don't know who all get the Eastern Colorado News paper, but there was a front page article on what ACTUALLY happened at the UPS store in Bennett, and I thought that in the interest of fairness I would pass the info along."  
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# SPORTS



## Pheasant, quail hunting forecast improved for 2025

Pheasant populations across the Eastern Plains of Colorado will range from slightly to significantly better than 2023, depending on local conditions.

Generally across the core range in northeast Colorado, two nesting seasons have passed since the lasting negative effects of the severe drought of 2020-23 and the severe winter of 2022-23, which severely decreased populations of pheasants.

Fairly warm and dry weather conditions in May and June likely helped the hatch and survival of chicks, which can be hampered by wet, cool conditions soon after hatching.

One good measure of pheasant populations are spring call counts. Every spring in May, Colorado Parks & Wildlife personnel conduct pheasant "crow counts" which provide trend information about male pheasant numbers. Unfortunately, crowing counts provide an index only and make no prediction about future populations because they make no inference about nest success and chick recruitment. However, they do serve as an indicator of abundance of male pheasants going into the nesting season.

In 2024 in northeast Colorado, pheasant call count surveys increased to 20.6/station average, from 12.3 in 2023 — a 65% rise.

Bottom line, the breeding population was up in 2024. Combined with good weather condition during the nesting period, a bump in overall population should occur.

In southeast Colorado, crowing counts are lower than the northeast, which is typical. The weather, on average, has been fair to decent; however, the lack of widespread habitat is a continued concern for southeast Colorado.

Hunters harvested fewer than 16,000 pheasants in Colorado in 2023-24, the lowest on record and an indicator of the severity of the 2020-23 drought conditions prior to severe winter in northeast Colorado. While stripper head harvested wheat stubble has helped slow declines, the lack of permanent grass cover of sufficient quality, lack of good brood habitat, and generally unfavorable weather has severely restricted bird numbers.

A drastic decline in the quality and quantity of Conservation Reserve Program lands



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over the last decade has compounded matters. Many CRP fields that served as a great buffer against severe winter weather have expired from the federal program and no longer offer habitat. The lack of undisturbed grass cover will likely limit the upper end of pheasant populations at some point, according to a release.

### NORTHEAST COLORADO

Spotty is a continuing theme for the northeast portion of Colorado consisting of Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, Logan, Washington, Morgan and southeast Weld counties. Populations will be slightly better than 2023. Some areas have increased beyond "slightly better," but the degree is difficult to predict.

The stage was set for today's low numbers when three seasons of drought reduced cover value and severe winter with approximately 80 days of frozen snow cover from mid-December through late February 2023 significantly increased winter mortality. The southern reaches of the area recovered faster after the blizzard of 2022-23, so expect better populations there.

Parks & Wildlife receives reports from landowners during wheat harvest, and the overwhelming reports in July noted few or no broods. The trend changed a bit as autumn began with increased observations of pheasants in October. As the fall has progressed, it seems that pheasants are spotty but better than 2024. In future seasons, 2024 should go down as an important year for rebuilding the population.

Total CRP acres have greatly declined across the core pheasant range in northeast Colorado.

### SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

Bobwhite quail took the brunt of the severe winter the area experienced in 2022-23 as expected in Washington, Logan, Sedgwick and eastern Morgan counties.

However, the bobwhites are seeing a quick turnaround. Whistle counts returned from a low of 7-8 in 2023 to approximately 16 in 2024, which is close to average for the South Platte.

Hunters should expect to see more bobwhites on the South Platte this year. Overall, the hunt should be fair.

### EAST CENTRAL COLORADO

Pheasant populations should be similar to 2023 in Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa and southern Yuma counties. In Kit Carson County, hunters will note a significant loss of CRP acres, which has impacted populations, as well as the amount of land available to hunt. New CRP fields have been seen in this area, although it is unknown if that trend will continue.

Many walk-in access areas in Kiowa County are enrolled primarily for their value for light goose hunting, with fields that offer little cover for pheasants and quail.

### EXTREME SOUTHEAST COLORADO

Pheasants continue to suffer from a general lack of good habitat and drought conditions in Baca and Prowers counties.

Good habitat exists in the area around Walsh and Stonington. Pheasant populations could be better than in 2023 but will remain the poor to fair category.

While weather across most of the region was average in 2024, the core area around Walsh was drier. Hunters should expect to find moderate to good numbers of pheasants where good habitat exists.

Quail populations are expected to be better than in 2022. Bobwhite quail appear to have prospered. Southeast Colorado has not experienced severe drought conditions for a few years, although many localized areas were drier than optimal.

Reports on scaled quail are highly variable but improving. Expect scaled quail populations are expected to be similar or somewhat better than in 2023.



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## GAS FIRE

**FROM PAGE 1**

big boom," Solomon said. "We had to keep the vapor from heating up and get the valve(s) shut down."

A combination of firefighters and a plant employee had to get within close proximity of the cylinder to shut off two valves directly supplying fuel to the fire.

"It took multiple (water) lines to keep the tank cool," Solomon said. "We protected our guys and the plant employee under the cover of water."

The fire threat was reportedly contained about 3½ hours after dispatch and the scene was formally cleared at approximately 11:30 p.m.

Damage was limited to the point of origin at the plant and, while residents of nearby subdivisions were on alert, no mass exodus occurred.

According to Solomon, a pre-planned emergency protocol was properly implemented.

"We had just gone over their (emergency) plan a few weeks ago," said Solomon of recent meetings with the facility's management team from Western Midstream Partners. "It was effective at shutting down the plant and mitigated most of the damage that could have been done."

"We were assisted by the city of Aurora — all the resources we asked for, we got 'em. Super critical help also from Bennett-Watkins. And everyone appeared all plugged in with unified emergency command coming from Adams County. A great unified effort."

One hiccup occurred during the notification process with local residents about the possibility of evacuation if the entire gas plant was compromised.

A reverse-911 call from Adams County commanded local residents to shelter in place but to be ready

to immediately evacuate if the need arose; however, on the Arapahoe County side where Fox Ridge Farms and Sky Ranch are located, the emergency notice was reportedly to evacuate, which contradicted the frontage road closure from Airpark to Gun Club roads.

Confirmation from Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office about the situation was unavailable at press time.

According to a spokesperson representing Western Midstream, no one was injured from the fire and no other issues are anticipated.

"There are no community impacts at this time," the company statement said. "We continue to work closely with local emergency responders to investigate the cause and resolve the situation. We are grateful to all local authorities for their quick response, invaluable assistance, and continued support."



PHOTO COURTESY SABLE ALTIURA FIRE RESCUE

Firefighters finish up clean-up and pick-up of equipment following a pressurized storage tank fire at the Wattenburg gas processing facility on the northwest corner of the I-70/Powhatan Road interchange Jan. 2.

## TABOR override allows Arapahoe County to put \$570M into essential services

**LITTLETON** —The Arapahoe County Commissioners Dec. 10 unanimously approved the 2025 budget, which represents a \$570 million investment in essential services for its 655,000 residents.

The 2025 adopted budget reflects the additional revenue the county can expect from the passage of ballot measure 1A, which released the county from revenue and spending limits imposed by

the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Given the short turnaround time between the election and the statutory requirements to adopt a budget, commissioners made minimal but impactful additions to the final version, restoring funding to nonprofit organizations that expand safety net services for domestic violence, victim support, food assistance, homelessness prevention,

and mental health programs.

"The passage of 1A helped stabilize our budget and ensure the essential services residents expect will remain going forward," said Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully. "The board remains committed to efficiently using public funds and will develop a thoughtful process to meet our mission and strategic vision."

The budget also includes \$22.5 million to establish the new 18th Judicial District, which will solely focus on Arapahoe County next year, while Douglas, Lincoln and Elbert counties will form the new 23rd Judicial District.

Additional elements of the bud-

get include:

- \$19.7 million for road and bridge operations;
- \$56.5 million to provide public health, human services, and workforce development programs that support those most vulnerable in our community;
- \$14.9 million to maintain, acquire and construct open space and park projects;
- \$50.6 million for public safety programs within the sheriff's office; and
- \$10.2 million for capital improvement projects that address deferred facility maintenance, technology and transportation infrastructure.

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
024-002, EASTGATE METRO DISTRICT  
COMBINED SERVICE PLANS**

**PROPOSAL:** Jeffrey Erb, Erb Law, LLC, is proposing to establish six metropolitan districts in accordance with Article 1 of Title 32, Colorado Revised Statutes, to serve the development known as Eastgate, located at the southwest corner of Interstate 70 and Monaghan Road, 27500 and 27450 E Colfax Avenue, and is requesting approval of the Combined Service Plans for such districts. The proposed special districts would serve approximately 405,000 square-feet of commercial, retail, and light industrial property and approximately 1,000 single-family attached and multi-family residential units.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 11, 2025, 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 Combined Service Plans and metropolitan districts proposed in Case No. SD24-002, Eastgate Metro District Nos 1-6 / Combined Service Plans. 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, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing [planning@arapahoegov.com](mailto:planning@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 Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

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# Crashes dot I-70 Corridor throughout New Year's week

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

Local first responders and law enforcement officers had a busy first few days of 2025, including a handful of crashes along I-70 Jan. 3-4.

In most instances, vehicle occupants received minor injuries or were uninjured, but one crash saw a Strasburg woman hospitalized with serious injuries.

At about 10:45 a.m. Jan. 3, a Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue command vehicle was rear-ended while on scene of a prior incident.

Bennett-Watkins Assistant Fire Chief Caleb Connor was on scene of a previous incident with his command vehicle blocking the right lane (No. 2) of westbound I-70 near milepost 296.

"The driver of the emergency vehicle was outside of it when another car in Lane 1 began veering into Lane No. 2, striking the emergency vehicle's rear end," a State Patrol spokeswoman said.

The car's driver, a 61-year-old female from Strasburg, was transported to a hospital with serious injuries.

Preliminary reports indicate that the car's driver might have suffered a medical episode when the collision occurred. As of press time, the Colorado State Patrol said no citations had been issued.

Connor was uninjured. The westbound lanes were temporarily closed.

### DUMP TRUCK ROLLOVER

A few hours later that same day, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue and the State Patrol were on scene of a an overturned dump truck on I-70 about a half-



More than a handful of accidents occurred along the I-70 Corridor the first few days of 2025, including an unoccupied Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue command vehicle being rear-ended by a driver on westbound I-70 near Watkins about 10:45 a.m. Jan. 3.



PHOTOS COURTESY ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

mile west of Manila Road.

Emergency responders were dispatched at 1:26 p.m. Jan. 3 to the area of mile marker 298 and found a commercial dump truck on its top facing west in the center median.

Both occupants reportedly self-extricated themselves from the wreckage and were outside when responders arrived.

While scanner chatter indicated the accident might have been caused by a blown tire, the State Patrol reported that the driver was cited with careless driving. In addition, Jean McGivney, 34, of Greeley was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving without a valid license, and operating a motor vehicle when safety belt not fastened.

Approximately 90 gallons of engine fluids required mopping up by state hazmat workers during the extensive cleanup.

The scene was active until about 4 p.m.

### JAN. 4 ACCIDENTS

On Jan. 4 at about 4 p.m.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The occupants of a westbound commercial dump truck that rolled onto its roof into the median of I-70 near mile marker 298 about a half-mile west of Manila Road were uninjured.

near mile marker 294, state troopers responded to a property damage crash.

A Ford F-150 pickup rollover shut down the No. 1 lane of westbound I-70 temporarily.

The 45-year-old male driver from Colorado, who was cited for careless driving, was uninjured.

Less than a half-hour later in the same vicinity, troopers responded to three vehicles along the right shoulder of eastbound I-70.

The three vehicles — a Chevy Silhouette, Chevy Cruze and GMC SUV were reportedly involved in a

collision about 4:25 p.m., but specifics of the crash were unavailable. One driver was transported with injuries.

At press time, the investigation was ongoing and charges were unknown.

### SUNDAY MORNING DUI

At about 4:30 a.m., Jan. 5 near I-70 mile marker 314, state troopers and Byers Fire Rescue workers responded to a vehicle that crashed through a guardrail.

The driver of a blue Subaru Impreza was transported to a hospital with moderate injuries.

The State Patrol said that the crash was originally called in as a two-vehicle incident but that the investigation unveiled it was a suspected DUI single-vehicle crash.

Emily Gorski, 34, of Centennial was also issued a summons for careless driving and displaying of fictitious plates.

### VEHICLE FIRES

At least three vehicles caught fire along I-70 Jan. 3-6, including a red pickup that was fully engulfed in flames along the eastbound shoulder at the interchange with E-470.

  
**Cancer Fighters to the Rescue**  
**THANK YOU!**



Dear Family, Friends, and Community,

The 15th Cancer Fighters to the Rescue toy drive has officially ended, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude. This year has been incredible; we donated more than 5,700 toys! And it's all thanks to your support and belief in this cause. I want to express my deepest thanks to my family and biggest supporters. Your unconditional love and encouragement mean the world to me. Thank you to everyone who graciously allowed me to place a box for the toy collection; your generosity has made all the difference. A special thanks to the schools and the I-70 Corridor community, whose involvement helped bring this toy drive to life. Thank you, CSP, APS, Outlets at Castle Rock, and Audi, for your continuous support. The success of this drive would not have been possible without each of you. I am deeply touched and beyond grateful to everyone who contributed to our GoFundMe campaign. Your generous donations made it possible for us to go out and shop for toys. To the incredible ambassadors Peighton, Natalie, and Tyce, who worked alongside me with such dedication, your commitment to this cause has been inspiring. You've given your time, energy, and heart; I can never thank you enough. Thank you, Mom and Dad. Your support, not only for this toy drive but for everything I do, has been a constant source of strength. I am forever grateful for your love and for being my foundation. This toy drive has been a success because of YOU. Because you believe in the cause, your kindness and your generosity, children with cancer experienced joy this holiday season. Thank you for allowing me to do this and continue to honor my brother, Diego.

Let's prepare for the 16th Cancer Fighters to the Rescue toy drive! Kindness started with you.

Daniel Alvarado





Hot drinks and staying active...     ...will keep you warmed up all winter.  Kids: color stuff in! 

**Newspaper Fun!**  
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What's better than a hot drink to warm up everyone during the colder winter months? Coffee, tea and rich, sweet hot chocolate are favorites. What does your family like?

# Winter Warm-Up!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzles:

1. sweetener  
2. people do this with tea to check its quality  
3. hot \_\_\_\_\_ is needed  
4. late afternoon  
5. some people "read" tea \_\_\_\_\_  
6. used for boiling water  
7. largest grower  
of tea

Tea!

8. teapot + sugar bowl + cream pitcher  
+ teacups + saucers = a tea \_\_\_\_\_
9. cover to keep teapot warm
10. to make a drink by putting tea  
leaves in hot water for a while
11. tea grows on a \_\_\_\_\_
12. lightens the tea \_\_\_\_\_



Coffee!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - world's largest coffee producer
2. the coffee bean is beanlike, but it is really a \_\_\_\_\_
3. planted seeds grow into coffee \_\_\_\_\_
4. takes about 3-4 years for a coffee tree to grow red \_\_\_\_\_, called "cherries" - each holding 2 coffee beans
5. 100 \_\_\_\_\_ of coffee cherries only supplies 20 \_\_\_\_\_ of coffee beans
6. beans must be \_\_\_\_\_ (usually in the sun) before they can be stored
7. after drying, \_\_\_\_\_ remove any layers of skin from the beans
8. beans are green, but they are \_\_\_\_\_ brown and ground
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brazil \_\_\_\_\_ po  
tre  
c  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
roasted 6 seed  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
fr  
machines  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
fr  
a cup of coffee and coffee beans



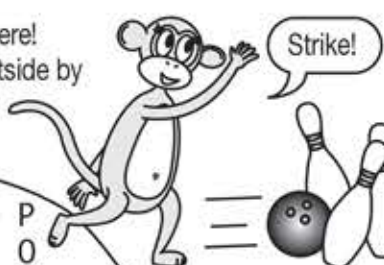
Cocoa!

- cocoa trees were originally grown in South and Central \_\_\_\_\_
- fruits, called \_\_\_\_\_, grow on the branches and trunks of cocoa trees
- inside them are the \_\_\_\_\_, called cocoa beans, which are white
- the beans turn brown while \_\_\_\_\_ (sun)
- a little inside piece of the bean (nib) is taken from the bean and crushed into a \_\_\_\_\_ form
- the liquid is then mixed with \_\_\_\_\_, cocoa butter and vanilla
- the new mixture is \_\_\_\_\_ finely – the finer, the richer it becomes
- the whole \_\_\_\_\_ enjoys chocolate and cocoa



## Warm-Up Activities and Sports

Wow, it's cold out there!  
Warm up inside or outside by  
moving around.

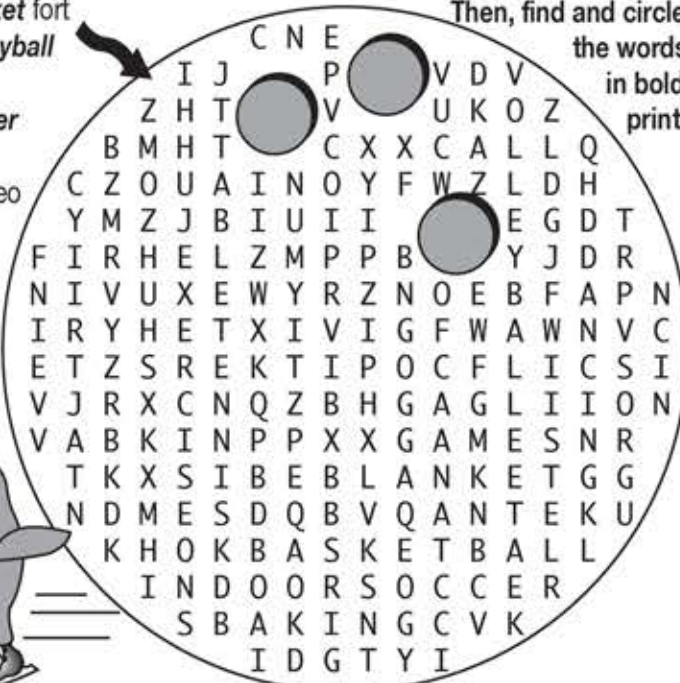


### Indoor Action

1. motion detection sports **games**  
2. build a **blanket** fort  
3. balloon **volleyball**  
4. **basketball**  
5. **indoor soccer**  
6. **table tennis**  
7. **exercise** video  
8. **baking**  
9. **bowling**  
10. **dancing**

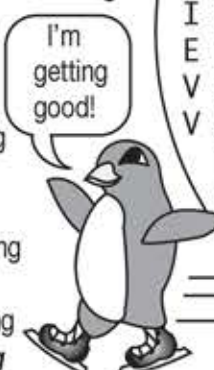
Read our lists of outside and inside activities and sports that will keep you moving and warming up!

Then, find and circle the words in bold print.



## Outdoor Fun

1. **skiing**
2. **snowboarding**
3. **ice skating**
4. **snowball** fighting
5. **sledding**
6. snow **tubing**
7. **snowman** building
8. **snowshoeing**
9. snow **fort** building
10. snow **shoveling**



Follow this color key to find out:

O = Orange  
Y = Yellow

## What Did Mother Teapot Say to Her Little Ones?

*You are my...*

[illegible]

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2025



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO  
JANUARY 11, 2005

A nine-year-old boy saved his mother, sister and friend after pulling himself out of an upside-down SUV that crashed in a steep ravine during the snowstorm Jan 4.

David Dennis was riding in his family's Ford Expedition with his mother Raquel Dennis, sister Valerie Dennis and friend Jacquelyn Ermeling, when the SUV crashed on Country Road 137, .7 miles south of I-70, and flipped over onto a Ravine. "I want everyone to know how heroic David was to do what he did and keep a level head during it all," said Vicki Ermeling, mother of Jacquelyn Ermeling.

Dennis, a fourth grader at Bennett Elementary School, was able to get out of the wrecked vehicle despite the storm and get to the road where he found help by signaling a car to stop.

15 YEARS AGO  
JANUARY 12, 2010

New legislation mandates that drivers take extra caution when approaching a stopped school bus.

HB 1236, passed last summer, requires that motorists halt 20 feet front and rear from a school bus that is stopped with the overhead

red lamps flashing and the stop arm extended. While vehicles have always been required to stop for buses, no distance requirements were stated.

Local school transportation directors said they have experienced problems with drivers not heeding stopped buses that are loading or unloading children on their daily routes.

10 YEARS AGO  
JANUARY 13, 2015

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Planning Commission Jan. 8 narrowly recommended that the permit renewal for a fly ash and liquid waste dump site eight miles northwest of Bennett move forward to county commissioners for approval.

The vote was 4-3 in favor of the certificate of designation renewal, receiving of low-level radioactive waste and expansion of hours for Waste Management's CSI disposal facility just west of Schumacher Road on 88th Avenue.

The company had requested a 30-year renewal period, but planners recommended the term be reduced and a June 2039 deadline be set to mirror the general timeline of the neighboring East Regional Landfill site.

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

© StatePoint Media  
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.  
**SOLUTION ON PAGE 18**

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2025. There are 356 days left in the year.

**TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT**

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel

bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1945, during World War

II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

In 2005, Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority. Fol-

lowing the death of Yasser Arafat the previous November.

In 2018, downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down Southern California hillsides that had been stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire; more than 20 people died and hundreds

of homes were damaged or destroyed.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS**

Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 81. Actor J.K. Simmons is 70. Actor Jodely Richardson is 60. Musician Dave Matthews is 58.

—Associated Press

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**  
**THEME: SNOW DAY**

ACROSS

- Larger-than-life
- Capone's family
- Wild swine
- "You're not allowed," to a baby
- Deal with it
- Cunningly
- Shower with affection
- Allege
- City in Belgium
- "Snow Day exercise?"
- Poet Pound
- Ovine sign of the zodiac
- Tasseled hat
- All together (2 words)
- Military College of South Carolina, with The
- For every
- a.k.a. association football
- "All-day Snow Day garb?"
- Delete
- Crude fuel
- Read-only disc
- Good's counterpart
- Popular flowering shrub
- Female ancestor
- Two heads are better than one, e.g.
- Bering Strait state
- Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- Like thick smoke
- Fountain option
- "No two are alike, sing"
- Surround (2 words)
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- "Like a river, with over
- #51 Down, pl.
- Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- Olufsen's partner
- Sound of a bell
- Not him
- Surfer's stop

DOWN

- Odds' partners
- Tubby little cubby
- "He's Just Not That \_\_\_ You"
- Of the same period
- "Popular Snow Day pastime"
- Some tournaments
- Zugspitze, e.g.
- "Severe weather"
- Deed hearing
- Algae, sing.
- Marble bread
- \_\_\_ Jack, English pirate
- "As opposed to rain"

**CROSSWORD**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
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|    |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |    |

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**Lunar Mood Change**

With the moody moon change, feelings arise uninvited, and if you turn them away, they won't go; rather they'll just settle in until they get what they want. Whether your feelings hide in waiting to jump scare you, or cause a ruckus that's impossible to ignore, they'll continue in kind until they get your attention. What do they want? To be felt, of course! Once you process them, they'll depart.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your imagination is a vehicle of time travel today, favoring the far-flung future, which it paints in the hues of vibrant, fantastical fun, some of which will in time prove mind-blowingly accurate to reality.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Knowing how deeply love can wound, yet choosing to give it, feel it and trust it anyway, is the very essence of love. Without the shadow of pain, there's no risk — and without risk, there's no love.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** To some degree, you're the glue that holds your group together. No matter the size of your contribution, it's vital; things simply wouldn't flow the same without you. Your gift for listening helps others feel truly seen, and that's a rare and powerful thing.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You are like the Samurai warrior who spends years honing deadly skills but is bound by honor only to fight as a last resort. Discipline and restraint are the dual pillars of their existence, a paradox that demands constant vigilance.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's not how you look or what you say, but there's something going on with you that people are captivated by. Your passion and drive culminate in a vibrant energy that pulls people into your circle of supporters, friends and fans.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Note that some people love to be first, and it's probably better just to let them have that because it will calm them down, making them easier to manage. Wherever you are, it will be a position of power, if not now, then when you leverage it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You can be powerful from wherever you happen to be. From humble and mundane environments to larger-than-life circumstances, you have an instinct for figuring out how you fit in. Each move you make teaches you more about your own capabilities.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's funny how even the most realistic expectations can refuse to be met by reality. That's the prerogative of reality, and it's your prerogative to roll with it or resist. Either way might be worthwhile, though it should be noted that one takes a lot more energy than the other.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Don't worry yet about who is understanding your scene. What matters is that it makes sense to you. The rest can catch up later if you need them to, but you're likely to attract a new crew of believers in the near future.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you have to explain why something is loving, it probably isn't. Loving acts carry a distinct energy; they resonate unmistakably as love, or they don't. Trust your instincts to recognize the difference, and don't let anyone convince you otherwise.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Complaining is only as effective as the problem-solving ability of the person you're complaining to. You'll air a grievance and start an awareness that gets wheels in motion.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When people don't tell you what they want, you'll root around to figure it out. They'll find your deference and kindness flattering, let down their guard, and either tell you or give you a hint.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9).** This year has it all, periods of chasing the sun and vibrant celebrations offset by cozy-sweet comfortable grooves. You'll build bonds of love. What emerges from relationships feels healthy and wears well, eventually becoming a cohesive shared history that will fortify your heart for years to come. More highlights: Two big sales, a physical triumph and the clever creativity that wins a heart. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 11, 12, 20 and 15.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17



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## To prevent rabies, ArapCo asks public to report dog bites

ENGLEWOOD — Arapahoe County Animal Services is reminding dog owners and residents to do what is right and report the bite.

According to Animal Services Field Supervisor Alyssa Haden, dog bites are common and pet owners often ask the same questions: Is my dog going to be taken? What happens now?

"Many times, pet owners are scared of the situation, but we want to help with a resolution," Haden said. "In most cases, a dog that's bitten a person is placed on a brief in-home observation period to verify the health of the pet."

According to state law, when a health care provider treats a dog or cat bite that has broken the skin, they must report the bite to the animal control agency where the incident occurred. If a resident is unsure about reporting a dog bite, they should reach out Animal Services for guidance.

This procedure helps ensure that rabies, a fatal disease that can be transmitted from dogs to humans, is caught before spreading. Since 1931, no human case of rabies has been reported in the state.

When a bite is reported, an animal control officer will contact the pet owner to review standard guidelines, offer resources, and check the pet's rabies vaccination status. All dogs and cats, regardless of vaccination status, are then required to undergo a 10-day quarantine. The observation period allows the owner to monitor for signs of rabies. After the quarantine, an officer will do a home check to ensure the pet is healthy.

In unincorporated Arapahoe County, a dog license is not required for pet owners. Instead, the county requires pet owners to provide proof of a current rabies vaccination for their dog.

For more information or to report an animal concern in unincorporated Arapahoe County or the Deer Trail, visit [www.arapahoeco.gov](http://www.arapahoeco.gov). To report anonymously, call (720)874-6750, ext. 4.

## Pathways to lessen dementia risk found

by Eric Galatas  
Public News Service

Dementia, a disease with profound effects on families, loved ones and caregivers, affects more than 55 million people globally, including 6 million in the U.S.

New research shows people can reduce their risks by making even small changes in their daily routines, for example, through exercise and eating more vegetables.

Sarah Lock, senior vice president for policy at AARP, said policymakers can also take important steps to make it easier for people to maintain healthy behaviors.

"When we do that, we can disrupt dementia," Lock said. "That's a really exciting possibility, given that so many of us — as our nation is aging — are facing that risk."

Dementia is the third-largest cause of death in the nation for people age 70 and older, and two-thirds of Americans have at least one major potential risk factor. People who smoke five cigarettes per day have a 16% higher dementia risk than nonsmokers. People with pre-diabetes face a 25% increased risk, which rises to 50% with full-blown diabetes. Prolonged exposure to air pollution is also a major dementia risk factor.

Other risk factors include alcohol use, depression, high body mass index, hearing loss, hypertension, low education, physical inactivity, social isolation and traumatic brain injury. Lock pointed out policies to reduce these risks can vary by state. For example, in Colorado, physical inactivity may not be as big of a problem as in other states, but hearing loss is relatively high.

"We can suggest to policymakers that they focus on ways to help people screen and correct for hearing loss," Lock noted. "In Colorado, that might be a wiser use of public dollars, to go after the problem that seems to be biggest in your state."

Lock added the goal of the research is to offer people pathways to better brain health and to give older Americans more quality time with their loved ones. The findings were released by the new Dementia Risk Reduction Project, a collaboration between AARP, the Alzheimer's Disease Data Initiative, and the University of Washington.

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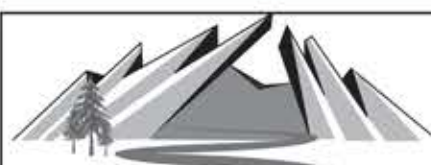
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## Crash Data Dashboard tells transport story of Denver-area safety

DENVER — For researchers and planners, data tells a story. With the new Crash Data Dashboard, the Denver Regional Council of Governments hopes to empower the region to tell its own transportation safety story.

Every data point in the dashboard reflects human lives impacted by a crash — a reminder that behind the statistics are real people and communities.

The Crash Data Dashboard continues to cover crash data for the region over a rolling five-year period (currently 2018-22) as new data becomes available. Although newly released this past fall, the dashboard has already helped several member governments assess their respective areas for safety improvements.

According to Michele Riccio with Adams County, planners have been working with the unincorporated community of Strasburg on updating the Strasburg Subarea Plan.

"The last time the town had a plan was in the early 2000s and it did not include a transportation component," Riccio said.

Additionally, planners have been using the dashboard to pull statistics for the town, export the data into a geographic information system (GIS), and share the information at two open-houses.

DRCOG ensured the new Crash Data Dashboard would be a user-friendly, accessible tool for the region's member governments and the public. The dashboard is structured around themed tabs with maps and charts analyzing the crash data and providing reference data layers for context.

As Crash Data Dashboard usage grows, DRCOG hopes to continue highlighting the importance of accurate, timely data to track where fatal crashes occur and how communities can improve safety.

## LUNCH MENUS

#### AGATE

Monday, Jan. 13: Mini corn dogs, chips, corn.

Tuesday, Jan. 14: Beef tacos, tortilla chips.

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Chicken nuggets, baked beans.

Thursday, Jan. 16: Pepperoni pizza.

#### BENNETT

Monday, Jan. 13: Cowboy burger, coleslaw, cookie.

Tuesday, Jan. 14: Chicken fajita spaghetti, salad, Texas toast.

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Curry gravy meatballs, roll, cilantro rice.

Thursday, Jan. 16: Pulled pork sandwich, roll, green beans.

#### BYERS

Friday, Jan. 10: Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, steamed carrots.

Monday, Jan. 13: Hamburgers, baked beans.

Tuesday, Jan. 14: Chicken alfredo fillet, brown rice, green beans.

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Cheese ravioli, bread sticks, mixed veggies.

Thursday, Jan. 16: Mini corn dogs, Fritos, cucumber slices.

#### STRASBURG

Friday, Jan. 10: Egg rolls, rice.

Tuesday, Jan. 14: Chicken fajitas.

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Grilled cheese, tomato soup.

Thursday, Jan. 16: Sloppy joes.

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The district is hoping to have the new director join the district in February 2025 for the remaining of the 2024-25 school year for training in preparation for the 2025-26 school year.

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**Friday matinee:** All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of "Inside Out 2" (2024, rated PG, 1 hour, 36 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10.

**Adult book club:** "Miss Morgans Book Brigade" by Janet Skeslien Charles. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14.

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# CHUCK WAGON



## Baked Chicken Burritos

by **Bobbie Keefer**  
For The Scout

Serve these burritos with classic Mexican side dishes like refried beans, guacamole or Pico de Gallo. Mexican rice is another good choice. The dish is easy to make and very flavorful. If I don't have any leftover chicken, I use canned chicken breast chunks, which is a staple in my pantry.

Which chili? Hormel brand has more beans and is milder. It tastes like classic chili. Wolf brand has a smoother consistency, is the most spicy, has the most flavor, and tastes like homemade. The canned version of Wendy's chili is also good. It tastes great and has lots of beef.

Taste buds change as you age, giving a less sense of flavor and spice. There are 2,000 to 10,000 taste buds on your tongue. What you like won't be the same for everyone.

I ask my tastebuds, "Which chili do you like?" And then I choose the one my hubby likes!

### BAKED CHICKEN BURRITOS

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1/4 cup chopped green bell pep-

- per
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- 1/4 cup chopped nacho peppers
- 1 can (15 oz) chili with beans
- 4 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 8 flour tortillas
- 4 cups shredded cheese blend
- 3 green onions, chopped
- salsa

#### DIRECTIONS

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

Heat butter in medium stock pot. Add onions and bell peppers. Cook until softened.

Mix in flour to make roux. Stir in the broth. Add diced tomatoes, taco seasoning, nacho peppers. Simmer 5 minutes.

Stir in chili, cream cheese, chicken. Spoon filling equally in centers of each tortilla. Sprinkle with cheese. Fold and roll.

Arrange in prepared pan. Tent with foil. Bake 30-35 minutes until heated through.

Remove from oven and scatter green onions on top. Serve with salsa and condiments of choice.

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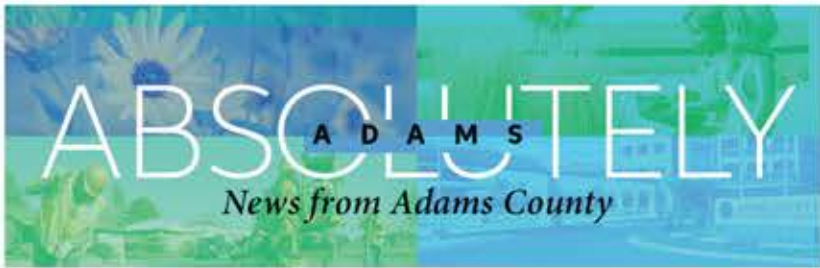
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PHOTOS BY CHARLES BROSHOUS/5280Fire.com

Sable Altura firefighter Tyler Loveless, left photo, and Chief Rich Solomon are helped out of a ventilation chamber after rescuing a teenager that had fallen down the shaft of a Titan I Missile silo on the former Lowry Bombing Range near the area of Quincy Avenue and Imboden Road on New Year's day.

MISSILE SILO RESCUE

FROM PAGE 1

Kemp via e-mail Jan. 3.

Emergency responders urge people to adhere to trespass law and refrain from any questionable activity around dangerous facilities, especially vacant deteriorating ones.

“They were messing around with the top of the silo and an accident happened,” a South Metro spokesperson said. “These are very dangerous silos that you can be injured in, so we just would really ask that people respect the private property and stay off this land and out

of that property.”

The Titan I missile silo network, including six in Eastern Colorado, was built in the 1950s and early 1960s under President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

All Colorado facilities were decommissioned in 1965 but the infrastructure for them remains underground.

The silo involved is one of four such facilities on the former Lowry Range.

Deer Trail and neighboring I-70 Corridor

firefighters are no stranger to the dangers presented by the deteriorating underground structures as they were forced into action the first Sunday of May when one member of a group of eight teenagers was seriously injured after falling through a tunnel at the vacant missile silo about four miles north of Deer Trail.

The extensive maze of underground tunnels and other impediments, particularly flooded corridors and broken glass, resulted in the rescue itself taking at least four hours.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES BROSHOUS/5280Fire.com

Efforts to rescue a teenager that had fallen about 30 feet down a ventilation shaft of a former Titan I Missile silo south of Watkins commenced about 3:30 p.m. on New Year's day with the extrication concluding about 5 p.m.

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