



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 11 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Construction of new 'Burg park delayed

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Efforts to make Strasburg's newest recreational jewel come to fruition have been delayed, but officials hope to be back on track for completion by the end of year.

During a special meeting Feb. 5, the Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors unanimously voted to reject all three final bids for Community Park East and provide District Manager Angie Graf the authority to proceed in finding a satisfactory resolution within the project's \$3.5 million budget.

Four companies submitted bids for the project with the board perusing the three finalists whose proposals met the scope of work and timeline requirement; however, all three bids were over the budgeted amount. Final bids were just under \$3.7 million from Taylor Kohrs LLC, just over \$3.96 million from Building by Design, and approximately \$4.15 million

SEE STRASBURG PRD
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The transition of a former electric cooperative equipment yard into Community Park East along the east side of Wagner Street between Colorado and Sunset avenues in Strasburg has been delayed as Strasburg Metro Park & Recreation District officials recently rejected all three final construction bids.



Last week's winds made for clear skies and phenomenal viewing of planets and stars, including this view of the Horsehead Nebula about 9:30 p.m. Feb. 5 from the Wolf Creek Run subdivision in northwest Strasburg.

Schools set plans for ICE visits

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

While school officials statewide are hopeful the trend of no immigration enforcement interruption continues, indications are that any campus visits will be minimally invasive and low-key.

In the case of a visit from ICE agents, protocols are in place to protect local students, teachers and staff in areas that are off-limits.

Through the end of last week, recommended protocols for handling Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ment actions on campus have not yet been utilized by any Colorado school district.

"A survey of superintendents found no reports of ICE officials visiting schools in Colorado," said a memo to school districts statewide. "If ICE visits a school, it is more likely due to parents being detained and arranging care for their child."

Last week's memo came from education oversight groups, including East Central BOCES, which includes Bennett through Agate. I-70 Corridor superintendents have also met as a group to discuss how to handle the situation.

School officials and staff have been reminded that ICE officers are not offered any exceptions to laws regarding restricted access to classrooms or student information.

"If ICE arrives at the school seeking access to a student or records, immediately contact the principal and superintendent. As with any directory request, follow FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and district policy, which prohibit the dis-

SEE ICE & SCHOOLS
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DT School proceeds with principal search

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — In addition to an update on the search for a new secondary principal, the Deer Trail School Board was informed Feb. 3 of recent efforts by the district's library partner to upgrade the inventory of books for older students.

According to Superintendent Mike Jobman, the district has received 10 applicants for the middle and high school principal position, currently held by the retiring Greg Swiatkowski.

"Our selection committee will get it narrowed down to probably three or four (finalists) with the plan to have interviews on Feb. 21," he said. "That's a staff development day as well, so should be a good opportunity for a

lot of interaction with the staff and input afterwards."

The school hopes to name Swiatkowski's successor before spring break.

LIBRARY NEWS

Davies Library School Librarian Liaison Katie Musser updated the board about efforts to bulk up the inventory of books and materials for students and customers above elementary age.

Of the 226 new titles recently purchased by Musser, 112 were in the young adult category, 53 for middle school, 12 adult, and 49 in the elementary — 23 for the lower grades and 26 for the upper levels. A previous purchase was heavily weighted for the school's youngest

SEE DEER TRAIL BOE
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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Bennett FFA chapter plans Taste of Colorado Feb. 20

BENNETT — The Bennett FFA chapter will host its annual Taste of Colorado from 11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20. The event will feature a meal made up of Colorado-grown meat and produce and prepared by Bennett FFA members. Dine-in service or carryout is available.

Pre-sale tickets of \$10 apiece are available up to the week of the event. Ticket prices are \$15 the week of. Tickets are available from FFA officers or from FFA Advisor Kendal Linnebur at Bennett High School. Additional information is available by e-mail at klinnebur@bsd29j.com.

AdCo economic development plans for February biz lunch

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19, at May Farms in Byers. The Adams County Community & Economic Development Office is planning a presentation, and May Farms will sponsor lunch. To RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday, Feb. 14.

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, served by a group of local volunteers, is scheduled at 12 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14. Veterans and seniors from all along the I-70 Corridor are invited. For more information, call Flora Goodnight at (303)549-2589.

Newspaper presentation set for Strasburg seniors group

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association will host a potluck starting at 11:45 a.m.,

Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave. Douglas Claussen, publisher and editor of *The I-70 Scout* and *Eastern Colorado News*, 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.

AdCo Valentine's Day party aimed at marriage licenses

Planning to say "I do" soon or know someone who is? Such individuals are invited to join the Adams County Recording Department for a Valentine's Day celebration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, at the Government Center. The celebration includes on-the-spot marriage or civil union licenses, photo opportunities, and giveaways for couples and families. To complete the application, visit adco.gov/recording and bring your \$30 application fee to the event. No appointment is necessary. The Adams County Government Center is located at 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton.

\$2,500 scholarships offered thru Roy & Linda Funk fund

Three scholarships of \$2,500 each are now available to students at Bennett, Deer Trail, Strasburg, Agate, Byers and Limon schools through the Roy & Linda Funk Scholarship. Students complete just one application to also be automatically matched to additional scholarships. Applications are available until Sunday, March 16, at www.NoCoFoundation.org/Scholarships. For more information, e-mail to Scholarships@NoCoFoundation.org.

Bennett plans town hall mtg on plans, initiatives, grants

BENNETT — The community can discuss upcoming initiatives and residential grant opportunities with the Bennett Town Board of Trustees and town staff at a town hall from 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Bennett Town Hall.

The gathering will address the sub-area plan for Bennett's area south of I-70; the Residential Pressure Reducing Valve Program; and the new Be-Safe grant program. Bennett Town Hall is located at 207 Muegge Way.

Application period underway for sheriff's citizen academy

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for its 2025 Citizen Academy from 6-8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and two select Saturdays from March 5 through April 23. The series of classes is designed to give the community a peek into the inner workings of the sheriff's office. The topics include crime scene investigation, defensive tactics, firearms simulator, and DUI and traffic enforcement. For more information and to apply, visit www.AdamsSheriff.org.

Board of Review participants wanted by Arapahoe County

LITTLETON — The Arapahoe County Board of Review is seeking new members. The Board of Review assists in interpreting and enforcing Arapahoe County building codes. It hears requests for variances from applicants who wish to deviate from the building code. Members consider statements and evidence provided by county staff, applicants and witnesses, and vote on requests. Members shall be experienced in building construction. Regular members serve four-year terms while associate members serve one-year terms. For more information and to apply, visit www.arapahoeco.gov.

Culture of Life Dinner slated for Catholic church in Byers

BYERS — The Knight of Columbus Council 13221 at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church will host its annual Culture of Life dinner and auction starting at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Byers American Legion Hall.

Proceeds benefit the Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains and the Northeast Colorado Mobile Ultra-Sound Unit. Doors open at 1 p.m. for the silent auction. Food service begins at 2 p.m. Speakers and a live auction follow dinner. The meal includes pulled chicken, pulled pork, beans, potato salad, coffee and lemonade. Prices start at \$10 per person or \$25 per family. To donate items for the auction, call Jerry Mosbrucker at (303)929-0507. For more information, call Mark Prieur at (303)810-4749. The Byers American Legion Hall is located at 278 W. Front St.

Groundbreaking announced for Civic Center Park, Bennett

BENNETT — The town of Bennett will host a groundbreaking ceremony for Civic Center Park at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19, on Muegge Way just west of Town Hall. The much-anticipated project will bring new recreational opportunities to the community, including baseball fields, a splash pad, a restroom and concessions building, and enhanced landscaping and site furnishings. The project is possible through funding from an Adams County Open Space Grant.

Growing cut flowers seminar planned at library in Aurora

ENGLEWOOD — Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County is hosting a fun presentation about gardening specifically to produce cut flowers. The free class, for ages 18 and up, runs from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, at Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway. Master Gardener Donnetta Wilhelm will discuss which flowering plants are the best candidates for cut flower arrangements and how to grow them. Participants will learn how to turn their own gardens into cutting gardens for indoor flower arrangements. To register, visit arapahoeco.gov and look for the Feb. 7 edition of The County Line newsletter.

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

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

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

Staff Writers
Kathy Smiley

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair, Marilee Gillock, Bailey Sigg, Coral Oliveros

Byers Park & Rec prepares for Easter and July 4th events

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — The Byers Park & Recreation District board discussed upcoming projects and events Feb. 5.

The district will host an Easter Hunt and Hop at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 12, at Byers Community Park. Businesses throughout town and Kelter Library will also participate in the “hop” portion of the event by handing out candy at their locations. The district will host an egg hunt with prizes in three age groups.

Board president JaLee Kitzman noted residents at her parents’ senior apartment complex will fill the 3,000-plus plastic eggs with candy.

“They love doing it — they get together in the art room and chat and work on a project for the kids,” she said.

Kitzman suggested tasking Byers High School students to hide the eggs at the park in exchange for community service hours — adding another avenue for community participation.

Planning for the Fourth of July has commenced, and Kitzman said she will meet with the organizers of Bennett Days to learn about their processes for getting sponsors and planning events. She is also in communication with a fireworks company to potentially schedule a show the night of July 5. The district has four people interested in training for pyrotechnics certification who could take the classroom portion of the course before July, receive hands-on training on Independence Day weekend, and earn certification for 2026.

Kitzman contacted Frank Kalcevic with Northeastern Colorado Antique Tractor Pullers, who said the group will return this year for a tractor pull in conjunction with the fireworks.

Director Wendy Hise is working with the rodeo company to plan the annual Quint Valley Fourth of July Rodeo.

The theme for the Fourth of July parade will be “Small Town Freedom.”

Registration is open for spring youth baseball, with early bird pricing available through Feb. 28. The I-70 Corridor Union Pacific Baseball League includes kids of all skill levels ages 4-13. Teams from Bennett, Strasburg, Byers and Deer Trail will play each other. Visit byersparkandrec.com for registration information.

The board set deadlines for spring projects and maintenance — including preparing the baseball fields for the season by March 24.

The Quonset’s kitchen is being remodeled in-house by director Kagen Kitzman with the help of JaLee Kitzman and director Willy Elliott. Completion is hoped for by April 15.

Board members will hold a work day at Byers Community Park in mid-March to clean up and mow the area in preparation for the Easter event. Artificial turf at the park is under consideration and director Janet Herman is looking into pricing.

The district’s attorney, Robert Tibbals reported on deadlines for a board election May 6. Several directors’ terms are coming up, and the district has published a call for nominees for three four-year terms and one two-year term. All current directors are el-

igible to run again. Interested parties must turn in self-nomination forms to designated election official Kagen Kitzman by Feb. 28.

While agricultural properties within the boundaries of the Byers Park & Recreation District are exempt from inclusion into the district for tax purposes, when the property is re-zoned to residential, the property owners are assessed the district mill levy of 2.589 mills. The Adams and Arapahoe county assessors’ offices should, by state statute, notify the district of such zoning changes. Tibbals reported that Adams County recently notified him of two such instances.

Tibbals sends a letter to the proper-

ty owner informing them of the district’s mill levy and files a petition in court where a judge issues the inclusion order.

“It will take a few months to get all that done, but we’ll get it all squared away in accordance with Adams County,” he said.

Tibbals added that Arapahoe County has not been providing the district with updated information on property that becomes eligible for inclusion even though he has made several requests over the past two years.

“I’ll follow up with them again, because we need to get every property into the district that we can for mill levy purposes going forward,” he said.

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Bennett names Volunteers of the Year

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BENNETT — Two community members were recognized as volunteers of the year by the Bennett Board of Trustees Jan. 28.

Flora and Dan Goodnight were honored for 27 years of service to the community through the Bennett Community Food Bank. The food bank, which operated out of the Bennett Community Center, recently closed upon their retirement.

The food bank service was not affiliated with the town of Bennett, but the town supported it through rent forgiveness since 2020 and a grant the same year from U.S. census funds to

purchase a box truck for picking up donations.

The Goodnights volunteered at the food bank since its inception, and Flora served as its unpaid director since 2008.

A proclamation read by Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Barden noted that the food bank, under the Goodnights' guidance, became a cornerstone of the community, providing essential resources, support and hope to countless individuals and families.

"Flora and Dan Goodnight exemplify the spirit of volunteerism, selflessness and commitment to improving the lives of others, inspiring all who have had the privilege to work alongside them," Barden said.



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ARAPAHOE VOTES

2024 Elections: A look back

Voter Turnout Data:
VOTING METHOD FOR EACH ELECTION

	MAIL BALLOT	IN-PERSON
March Presidential Primary	99% (137,763)	1% (1,797)
June State Primary	99% (81,140)	1% (567)
Presidential Election	95% (305,871)	5% (25,077)

Active Eligible Voters:

	March Presidential Primary	June State Primary	November Presidential Election
Count	410,517	402,216	429,803

Turnout Percentage:


	March	June
Percentage	34%	20%

Total Ballots Counted:

	March	June	November
Count	139,560	81,709	330,948

Age:


Our oldest voters (2 of them) in the Presidential Election were 108 years old!



Voter Services Data:

Total number of voter registrations, registration updates, cancellations and affiliation changes in 2024: 207,433

Total number of election judges who worked the 2024 Elections: 536



Agate School avoids cold weather damage that community couldn't

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AGATE — While last month's frigid temperatures did result in a couple days of closures in the interest of keeping students and buses out of harm's way, Agate School officials reported no major issues.

"The town had a little bit of an issue but we held up pretty good," said Facilities Director Hunter Kissman, noting that a supply line to the town's water tank froze during sub-zero temperatures. "Didn't freeze on our end and, luckily, no issues with the heat or anything like that. Had to work pretty hard to get the propane tank filled after everything melted and re-froze, but still got down there."

Kissman also said that an electrical circuit in the secondary school's shop area was recently repaired and that a recent staff work day helped get a storage room cleaned up and reorganized. Rooftop units were also recently repaired and Kissman said he continues to work on converting all

school lighting to LEDs.

"More than half of the school upgraded to this point," he said.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Superintendent Melinda Walls said the district has implemented a new teaching and assessment protocol to help catch up first- and second-graders' reading performance. Walls said the efforts are proving successful and in an effort to overcome "lots of drama" that occurred the previous year.
- Walls said the state food service inspection was recently concluded with no major violations reported.
- In response to concerns about addressing mid-year bus route changes, the board said they would approve general route structures at the start of the school year with Walls or Transportation Director Rick Martin given the discretion to modify as students enter or leave the district.
- The board approved the final 2024-25 budget of \$2.7 million.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO LE24-003, RANGEVIEW BOX ELDER WELL FIELD 2 / LOCATION AND EXTENT

PROPOSAL: Rangeview Metropolitan District ("Rangeview") is proposing to construct the Box Elder Creek Well Field 2 project which consists of four horizontal wells, approximately five miles of 24-inch transmission pipeline, and 3,800 feet of 12-inch pipeline that connects the horizontal wells to the 24-inch transmission main. The horizontal wells will allow Rangeview to capture a portion of their water rights in the Box Elder Creek drainage basin and use that water for municipal use.

The well field will be located in the S ½ of Section 27 and N ½ of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 64 West of the 6th Principal Meridian in parcel numbers 2069-00-0-00-020 and 2069-00-0-00-019. The proposed pipeline will follow existing utility corridors from the proposed well field to the existing Lowry Ridge Storage Pond. The property is zoned A-1 and is entirely owned by the Colorado State Land Board. The proposed facilities will be constructed on a Rangeview utility easement granted by the Colorado State Land Board. No new access roads are proposed for the facilities and construction traffic will utilize existing entrances to the parcels off E. Quincy Avenue and County Line Road. No above ground structures are proposed. The new impervious area associated with this project is less than 50 square feet. The total area of disturbance associated with the project is ~24.6 acres and all existing grades will remain the same following pipeline and well construction.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 4, 2025, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial, CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described LE24-003, Rangeview Box Elder Well Field 2 / Location and Extent. 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 during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, and Eastern Colorado News on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025.

Bennett School budget OK'd

by **Shylo Bockenfeld**
Editorial Assistant

BENNETT — Grant funding and state reimbursements help make up the tight budget for the Bennett School District, according to Superintendent Robin Purdy during a special meeting of the School Board Jan. 31.

The total appropriation of \$31,733,616 for 2024-25 includes \$21,703,701 going to the general fund, \$7,182,682 to charter schools, \$520,180 to the food services/special revenue fund, \$519,187 to the government designated general grants fund, \$559,866 to the pupil activity special revenue fund, and \$1.238 million to the capital reserve capital projects fund.

Local property tax accounted for \$11,556,000 of revenue, vehicle taxes added \$589,000, and preschool funding \$350,000 with \$25,000 expected in student paid tuition. School safety grants from the town of Bennett provided around \$25,000 total for communications equipment. The CNA program also received \$6,000 in grant funding. Another \$7,000 grant is set aside for work to be done on the projector in the auditorium. And a \$5,000 annual library grant will be divided up by the principles as they deem necessary.

According to Purdy, the state back-filled the displaced funding from Senate Bill 24-233's lowered assessment rates for property owners and decreased local share of school financing. The board is also waiting on reimbursements from the federal government for things such as special education.

State marijuana funding has increased over the last year to around \$11,000 per month, but that is earmarked for building renovations and safety improvements. There is also an additional appropriation of marijuana funding to charter schools.

Some grants were acquired by teachers and staff directly. A vaping prevention grant totaling \$216,000 will cover partial salaries for staff at the schools, and educational materials on the subject. Another staff member wrote a menstrual hygiene products accessibility grant providing \$2,500. Gifted and talented funding, including for college level classes,

totaling around \$11,000 will also be passed along to educators.

Purdy spoke of high utility expenses due, in part, to overwatering of sports fields during the summer for which the district received financial penalties and \$15,000 in water bills that accrued between July and August of 2024. The board discussed the potential to install synthetic turf or access a well, however, these solutions were not yet accompanied by quotes or a formal cost/benefit analysis.

Changes to the school curriculums to add more reading and writing instruction set the budget back slightly as well due to the additional cost of five years of consumables and online subscriptions providing the educational content. Additional funds in the salary portion of the budget will cover a strategic planning team that has been meeting, an advisory group, upgrades to servers and iPads for traveling students that cost roughly \$1,200 per device.

The district also welcomes new bus drivers who will see increased salaries and a new radio monitoring system, which will let students and parents know how the bus schedule is running. The transportation budget is also expanding for a new school bus and new snow removal equipment, which Superintendent Purdy notes has been a particular issue this winter.

The next regular board meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the high school library.

Strasburg Singers announce productions of 'Newsies Jr.'

BENNETT — The Strasburg Singers will present "Disney Newsies Jr." on Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1, at the Bennett High School auditorium.

Cast B will perform at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 and 4 p.m. March 1. Cast A will take the state at 7 p.m. March 1.

"Disney Newsies Jr." is based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White. It was originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions.

The music is by Alan Menken with lyrics by Jack Feldman. Harvey Fierstein wrote the book for the stage musical, "Newsies."



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ARAPAHOE COUNTY



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All County offices will be closed
Monday, Feb. 17 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.



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ARAPAHOE COUNTY
CLERK & RECORDER

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Private school scholarship opportunity opens

DENVER — ACE Scholarships has begun accepting applications from lower-income Colorado students and families seeking financial assistance to attend K-12 private schools during the 2025-26 school year.

ACE's privately funded scholarships are awarded to help lower-income students attend one of ACE's 176 K-12 partner institutions in Colorado that can better address students' individual learning needs and educational goals.

The application process remains open until April 15. Interested students and families are encouraged to apply at www.acescholarships.org.

To qualify, recipients and their families' income must be at or below 350% of the federal poverty limit.

Church Directory

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



I-70 Corridor qualifies 14 for state grappling

Four local ladies bring home regional weight championships; 'Burg second in team standings

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

This week's Colorado State Wrestling Championships will include 14 I-70 Corridor grapplers taking the mat.

Strasburg and Bennett each boasted seven state qualifiers after this past weekend's set of regional tournaments statewide. For Strasburg, six Lady Indians and one boy will make the trek to Ball Arena in Denver starting this Thursday, while Bennett will be represented by a half-dozen boys and their lone Lady Tiger.

LADIES FIRST

Bennett freshman Emma Faczak took the 105-pound championship at 4A Region 4 in Yuma Feb. 7-8 and enters the state tournament with a 38-3 record.

The Strasburg Lady Indians finished second as a team at 4A Region 3 in Canon City, including three weight champions, one runner-up, and a pair of third-place finishers, who will all compete in Denver over championship weekend.

The Gitke sister duo of junior Vivienne (140 pounds) and Madilyn (155) and junior Olivia Le Fors (190) all took home regional weight titles, while senior Carly Larsen (170) was second,



BRITTANEY HUDSON/For The Scout



RICK JACOBY/For The Scout

Left photo, Bennett freshman Emma Faczak stands atop the podium after winning the 105-pound weight title at the 4A Girls Region 4 Tournament in Yuma Feb. 7-8. Right photo, The Strasburg Lady Indians finish second as a team at the 4A Girls Region 3 Tournament at Canon City last weekend and qualified six for this week's state tournament in Denver. Pictured are, back row from left, Strasburg head coach Matt Croft, Vivienne Gitke, Sierra Aberle, Carly Larsen, Kaelyn Bailey, assistant coach Anna Welch, and Olivia Le Fors and, front row, Madilyn Gitke and Autumn Kulpa. The two Gitke sisters and Le Fors won their weight classes, while Larsen was second, and Kulpa and Aberle both finished third.

and senior Sierra Aberle (130) and junior Autumn Kulpa (125) finished third.

Vivienne Gitke enters the state tournament with a 43-2 record while her younger sister is 43-4. Kulpa is 25-25, Aberle 24-17, Larsen 38-16,

and Le Fors 11-10.

GENTLEMAN QUALIFIERS

Junior Juan Fernandez (285) was the lone Indian qualifier, finishing second at 3A Region 2 at Valley in Gilcrest. Fernandez is 27-15 entering

the weekend.

For the Bennett Tigers, who finished sixth as a team at 3A Region 1 at Alameda, five runners-up and a third-place finisher make up the contingent

SEE WRESTLING PAGE 8



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/For The I-70 Scout

Both Bennett squads defeated Platte Canyon at home Feb 6. From left photo, Lady Tiger Raquel Thorpe keeps the ball from going out of bounds and Owen Stiers (2) and Avant Dickens (5) both attack the rim.

Bennett girls, boys sweep Huskies on home hardwood

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett boys and girls basketball teams were both less than hospitable hosts to their guests from Bailey Feb. 6.

The Lady Tigers dominated Platte Canyon 59-31 and the boys ran their way to a 93-44 blowout victory over the Huskies.

In both contests, the hosts overcame slight struggles early to crush the Foothills opposition.

LADY TIGERS

After clawing its way to a 16-13 lead after the first quarter, the orange-and-black went into halftime up 33-19 and, by the end of the third quarter, had an insurmountable 53-25 advantage.

"Played a couple of our better quarters in the second and third, just need to do that consistently for an entire game," said Lady Tigers head coach Mike Rios. "Defensively, pretty pleased. Still need to work on our shooting."

As a team, Bennett shot

27% from the field, including 8-of-27 from the three-point line, and went 15-of-31 from the free-throw line.

"Getting to the bucket and getting offensive rebounds but not paying them off as much as we need to," Rios said. "But one of our better nights from three."

Senior Jessica Venneberg continued to lead the Tigers with a game-high 18 points, while classmate Olivia Schroeder had a break-out game from deep, sinking 5-of-9 three-pointers for 15 points.

Sophomore Emilee Venneberg chipped in with 11 points. Six other Lady Tigers tacked on 1-5 points.

"Probably Olivia's best game she's played," Rios said. "Starting to develop some confidence."

The hosts recorded 14 assists, led by senior point guard Raquel Thorpe with five, while Jessica Venneberg, senior Brailyn Neade, and junior Mya Robledo added two apiece.

The older Venneberg sister completed a double-double

with 10 of the Tigers' 32 rebounds. She also led in steals with seven, while younger sister, Emilee, recorded five thefts.

The victory is Bennett's eighth straight and has bumped the Tigers record to 11-6 overall.

In a last-minute addition to the schedule, Rios' troops traveled to Lafayette Jan. 10 to tip off with 4A No. 9-ranked Peak to Peak. For coverage, see the Feb. 14 edition of the

SEE BENNETT BASKETBALL PAGE 10

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE 7

at state.

Juniors Daniel Jordan (106), Caycen Scholz (126), Tommy Cearn (150), Ethan Jordan (157), and sophomore Kenneth Jordan (165) all reached their respective weight finals but lost their championship matches. Freshman Liam Sanchez (113) finished third place at regionals.

Entering the state tournament, Daniel Jordan is 27-15; Sanchez, 25-18; Scholz, 39-11; Cearn, 37-17; Ethan Jordan, 38-10; and Kenneth Jordan, 15-7.

For a full wrap-up o regional wrestling weekend, see the Feb. 14 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

This year marks the first year that Colorado has split the girls competition into two divisions.

Starting at 12 p.m. Thursday, the 4A girls, which includes Bennett and Strasburg, will join the 2A and 3A boys on 12 mats for Session 1 at Ball Arena in downtown Denver. The opening window is expected to run through 4 p.m.



Left photo, Bennett qualified six boys for this week's state wrestling tournament. Pictured, from left, are assistant coach Jeremy Scholz, Caycen Scholz, Liam Sanchez, Kenneth Jordan, Daniel Jordan, Tommy Cearn, Ethan Jordan, and head coach John Faczak. Right photo, Juan Fernandez is Strasburg's lone boys qualifier.

The second round of matches for 4A girls and 2A/3A boys will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday with the championship semifinals and third-round consolation matches for all classifications starting at 6 p.m. that same day.

On Saturday, consolation semis and fifth- and third-place matches will start at 9 a.m.

The championship matches for all six divisions — four boys and two girls classifications — will start with the Parade of Champions at 4 p.m. on Saturday.



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INDIANS



From Strasburg Athletic Department
Strasburg School District 31J



Indian boys sweep pair of northern Patriot League rivals

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The Strasburg Indians thumped Liberty Common and Platte Valley in recent road games, including a victory over the 10th-ranked team in the Class 3A boys basketball seeding index.

Strasburg whipped Liberty Common 73-52 Jan. 31.

"It's a really big win," said Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers. "That was really a tough place, generally, for us to play in the past."

Bollers noted the school's small gym and rugged atmosphere. "All around it's just a tough place for us."

The Indians controlled the game throughout with scores of 19-13, 39-23 and 52-38 after each of the first three quarters.

The Indians had big second quarters in both games, winning the period 20-10 over Liberty Common.

"We got stops, we were able to get out on the open floor, our transition usually ended up leading to a lot of open shots for our shooters, too — not just fast break stuff to the basket," Bollers said.

Once the opponents started sprinting back to shut down the paint, Strasburg kicked the ball out to open teammates.

"Defensively, we were just really solid," Bollers added. "We didn't give them much on the offensive boards."

Sophomore Brody Hopwood had a bit of a break-

out game with a career-high 22 points, which included nine-of-10 free-throws. His previous high was 16 points scored earlier this season. He also had seven rebounds and three assists.

"They were really collapsing in the paint hard on our drivers and we were able to get nice, easy kicks out to shooters, and they didn't really account for Brody a whole lot, and he made the most of it," Bollers said.

As a whole, the Indians also shot well as a whole, hitting 53% of their field goals attempts.

In addition, the team got to the basket and rebounded well with 37 boards, which is particularly notable because the Eagles are a good rebounding team.

"We hurt them a lot on the boards," Bollers added.

Other top rebounders were juniors Cam Manahan with seven and Nick Glatfelter with six, respectively, and senior Tyce Bollers with four.

Tyce Bollers scored 20 points on eight-of-12 shooting and led the team with two steals.

"He was just extremely aggressive getting into the paint and, if they shut him down, he did a great job kicking out and hitting open shooters," coach Bollers added.

Sophomore Colton Holloway dished out six assists while Hopwood and Glatfelter had three each. Glatfelter also had two blocked shots and 8 points.

@ PLATTE VALLEY

Strasburg also won the second quarter against

Platte Valley 25-12 en route to a 59-41 win Feb. 4.

Tyce Bollers led the way with three three-pointers in the quarter.

"We shot the ball well from the outside and, again, defensively, we didn't give up any second chance opportunities," coach Bollers said. "We held to one shot largely in that quarter. That was it."

"Those defensive stops always fuel our transition game and our offense so much. This team, this whole year, has lived getting good offense off of defensive stops."

Glatfelter had his eighth double double of the year with 12 points and 10 boards. He also had three assists.

"He worked so hard on the offensive and defensive boards, and he creates a lot of opportunities for our other guys," coach Bollers said.

Strasburg enjoyed a 30-22 rebounding edge over the Broncos and committed just seven turnovers.

"We took care of the ball really well against Platte Valley," the coach added.

Tyce Bollers scored 25 points with four rebounds and three assists followed by Hopwood with 8 points four boards and four dimes; junior Cam Manahan with 7 points and five rebounds; and Holloway with two blocked shots.

"We're getting solid contributions from everybody, up and down," Kyle Bollers concluded.

COMING UP

Feb. 15: Forge Christian.

Feb. 18: Frontier Academy.

Ailing 'Burg girls have streak snapped; rebound with win

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The Lady Indians split a pair of close road games in recent action, falling to Skyview 47-43 Feb. 1 but defeating Platte Valley 63-60 Feb. 4.

The loss to Skyview, the No. 9 team in the Maxpreps 4A rankings, broke the Lady Indians' 11-game winning streak.

Strasburg head coach Merci Ames said the Skyview gym has a loud, very competitive atmosphere.

"We knew this was going to be a very competitive, kind of scrappy, very fast-paced game," Ames said. "That was part of the reason we scheduled them, right, because it's the type of thing we're going to see in the playoffs."

"We just felt it would be a good experience, and I think it was, even though unfortunately we ended up a

little bit short."

The Indians led most of the way but trailed 13-11 after one period, led 19-17 at halftime, and were behind 36-32 entering the final frame.

"We got in a little bit of foul trouble," Ames added. "I feel like we made a couple of mental mistakes that we probably shouldn't have."

With the defense of the Lady Wolverines focused on Strasburg seniors Peighton Marrero and Natalie Damron, sophomore Addi Kent stepped up for 16 points, including three three-pointers, and three rebounds.

Junior Taryn LaForce also benefited. She scored 13 points and brought down six boards. Natalie Damron ended with 6 points and eight rebounds while Marrero had 2 points and six assists.

Marrero, junior Hannah Damron, Natalie Damron and LaForce all had two steals.

@ PLATTE VALLEY

The Indians enjoyed leads of 21-12 and 36-21 after each of the first two quarters and were seemingly in command, but the Patriot League's Lady Broncos won both the third and fourth periods by 6 points to account for the final margin.

"We got in some foul trouble, and Platte Valley shot a little bit better than they normally do, and we maybe shot a little bit worse than we normally do," Ames said. "We were a little bit under the weather so we maybe made a few more mental mistakes than we would normally."

Kent and senior McKenna Sell missed the game due to illness.

Marrero bounced back from Skyview with 18 points, seven rebounds, three assists, and eight steals.

Natalie Damron recorded her 11th double-double of the season with 14 points and 13 rebounds. She also had

three steals.

Hannah Damron added 14 points, eight rebounds, three assists, and two steals followed by LaForce with 7 points and 10 boards and sophomore Wynne Winter with 5 points and nine assists.

"That was a good win, even though it shouldn't have been as close as it was," Ames concluded.

STATUS REPORT


With a 53-38 loss to Highland Feb. 7 and a 59-16 triumph over Platte Canyon Feb. 8, the Indians now stand at 12-4 overall and 7-1 in the Patriot League. See the Feb. 14 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.

Strasburg faced Yuma Feb. 11. Results were not available at press time. It wraps up the regular season at home against Forge Christian Feb. 15 and at Frontier Academy Feb. 18.

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Bennett student Hadasa Burgos shows off her school spirit during the girls and boys basketball games against visiting Platte Canyon Feb. 6.

BENNETT BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 7

Eastern Colorado News.

TIGER BOYS

The Bennett boys led from the tip but, with the score 14-10 midway through the first quarter, the troops of first-year head coach Wesley Burke utilized their speed advantage to gain a 24-14 lead after the first eight minutes and a 54-19 advantage at halftime. The Tiger offense never let down, scoring 23 and 16 in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, while holding the Huskies to 9 and 6.

"They are big but we wanted to focus on running on them when we could and, I think, the guys did a good job of that and really attacking the bucket, not being intimidated," Burke said. "Plus we started hitting shots from the outside and that loosened things up even more in the paint and at the rim."

The Tigers shot almost 50% from the field, including 12-of-26 from the three-point line, while going 25-of-31 from the charity stripe.

Four of Bennett's five starters reached double-digit points — senior Jayden Ivory with 25, including 11-of-12 from the free-throw line; senior leading scorer Owen Stiers with 18 on 8-of-9 shooting from the free-throw line; 16 for junior Austin Stiers; and senior Brody Hawes with 13. Sophomore Owen Hawes also came off the bench for 10 points. Ivory and Austin Stiers tied for the team lead in assists with five apiece.

Nine of the 14 Tigers that saw the court scored.

On the glass, Bennett recorded 36 rebounds, led by Ivory and sophomore sixth man Avant Dickens with six each, Brody Hawes with five, and Owen Stiers and sophomore Evan Garner with four apiece.

"Really good team win," Burke said. "Going to need our younger guys to step up, especially if our top six ever get into foul trouble or are bumped and bruised."



Above, Lady Tiger Olivia Schroeder hits one of her five three-pointers during Bennett's victory over Platte Canyon.

For the second consecutive game, Brody Hawes was hit in the face but returned to play after he was patched up.

The 15-3 Tigers, ranked No. 15 in the 4A seeding poll, travel to Leadville tonight to take on Lake County before a rematch of last year's first-round regional playoff game at Ault against 3A top-five ranked Highland on Saturday.

New product could benefit beef growers

by Scott Stinnett
Golden Plains Area Extension Specialist

BURLINGTON — A relatively new product that is beginning to get the attention of some beef producers is maternal bovine appeasing substances (mBAS).

The product trade name is FerAppease, which is a topical product being used and studied for its ability to lower stress in beef cattle.

“The active ingredient of FerAppease is a synthetic analogue of the Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance (mBAS),” the FerAppease website states. “mBAS is naturally secreted by the sebaceous gland located on the skin of the mammary gland with the unique function of inducing an appeasing effect on the nursing offspring.”

Texas A&M University studies on the effects of the product, and have shown cattle, especially younger

calves experiencing stress such as weaning and preconditioning, do respond positively to mBAS treatment. They weaned a group of 80 head of calves (40 heifers and 40 steers) with similar breeding and within four days in age. The group treated with mBAS had higher ration intake and gains the first 28 days after weaning.

Another study with the same animals looked at immune response after vaccinations showed that hair cortisol concentrations were lower in mBAS-treated calves on day 14, indicating lower stress. Serum concentrations of antibodies against bovine viral diarrhea virus were greater in mBAS-treated calves, showing a better immune response.

The studies lean toward the usefulness of mBAS products during weaning and preconditioning by lowering stress, increasing immune response to vaccinations, and improving appetite and gains in the pens.

LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY
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Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their care-givers can drop in for Valentine’s Day activities to them prepare for school and take home a free goody bag to continue the learning at home. Free crafts and toddler-friendly snacks provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 14.

Edible candy mosaics: Tweens and teens ages 9-18 will craft candy mosaics using graham crackers, candies and icing to make edible works of art. All supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Colorado Railroad Museum: A presentation for adults by the Colorado Railroad Museum will address Galloping Goose rail cars of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Book Buddies: Kids ages 5-8 can celebrate their favorite book characters with art, games and more. This

months book is “Dragons Love Tacos.” Reading the book is unnecessary to enjoy the event. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Kusogea Nobi Drum Ensemble: Children ages 5-12 will listen to a drum ensemble performance, hear about the rich history and cultural significance of drums, and learn to play a traditional rhythm from West Africa. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Learning on the Go: Learning on the Go is geared to ages 18 months to 5 years, but all are welcome for stories and songs and to play with their little ones. Free books and activities provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5.

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Movie matinee: All ages are invited to an indoor afternoon screening of “IF” (2024, rated PG, 1 hour, 48 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14.

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The office will be closed Feb. 20-25; reopens Feb. 26.



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Deer Trail was among the schools represented at the FBLA District 5 Competition Feb. 6 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. Pictured, from left, are: Chauncy Gudenkauf, fourth in public speaking; Valentino Puento, third in Help Desk; Ayden Martinez, Business Management and Personal Finance competitor; Allena Sanchez-Neal, Client Services participant; Taylor Reis, second in Help Desk; and Jaden Gudenkauf, fourth in Client Services.



Deer Trail FFA participated in Colorado FFA District 11 competitions Feb. 5 at Westminster High School. Representing Deer Trail, from left, are: Itzel Marquez, third in FFA Creed Speaking; Sebastian Sanchez-Neal; Chauncy Gudenkauf; Ayden Martinez, third in Employment Skills; Alex Samate; and Advisor Amanda Clayton.

Hired Hand Auction slated by DT FFA

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail FFA Annual Hired Hand Auction will begin with dinner at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Deer Trail School.

The auction run by auctioneer Steve Linnebur of Byers will follow.

Each year, Deer Trail FFA members donate eight hours of community service to be sold off to the highest bidder.

Funds raised from the event help cover meals and hotels for overnight FFA trips; FFA Week supplies and banquet expenses; National West-

ern Stock Show tickets; convention expenses; community projects; and expenses related to the Colorado Department of Education and leadership development events.

The auction also provides real-world skills, career exploration opportunities, and a stronger connection to the community.

Dinner will feature an all-you-can-eat taco bar.

Cost is \$10 per plate for adults and \$6 per plate for seniors and kids under 10.

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Deer Trail's Got Talent took place in the school's auditorium Jan. 23 and it was full of smiles. Clockwise from top left, first-grader Brayden Delbozque lets out a huge smile after his dance, second grader Leyla Camp rocks heart-shaped glasses during her performance of "APT" by Bruno Mars; fourth grader Kathryn Manriquez Bustamante was the center of attention during her group's dance; father-son duo of Matthew Stiles, left, and son, Donnie, rock out during their performance of "Nothing Else Matters;" and first-grader Everleigh Smith performs her song and dance routine

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Tapia Residences Subdivision and Rezoning

Case Number: PRC2024-00003

Planning Commission Hearing Date: February 27, 2025 at 6 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: March 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.
Case Manager: Lia Campbell, LCampbell@adcogov.org, 720.523.6949
Request: 1. Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) of approximately 39 to acres to Agricultural-2 from Agricultural-3; 2. Major subdivision preliminary plat to create three lots in the Agricultural-2 zone district.
Address: 7190 Converse Road
Parcel Number: 0181503200006

Applicant: The Meyer Richard W Family Trust, C/O Tim Meyer, P.O. Box 303, Kiowa, CO 80117-0303
Public Hearings Location: 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy., Brighton, CO 80601

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025.



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Happy Valentine's Day!

Good Fun and Good Business too!

Whew! I've been delivering Valentine surprises all day long. I'm tired, but happy because it's nice that so many people care about other people and want to send them nice Valentines!

Read these clues to fill in the crossword to discover the most popular gifts given on Valentine's Day:

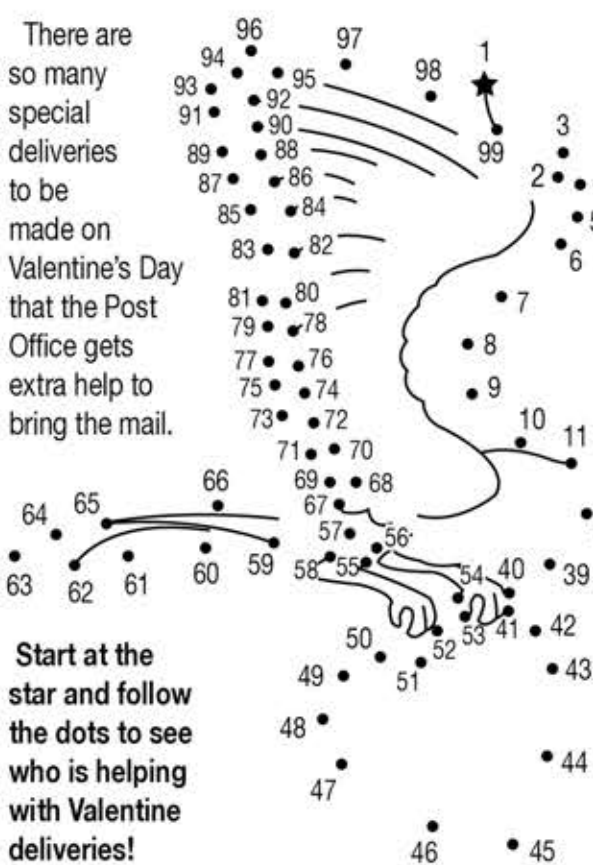
- 1. Poetry and fun Valentine stories will fly off store and library shelves.
- 2. The first box, introduced by Richard Cadbury, had a painting of his daughter holding a kitten on its cover. Later, he created the first heart-shaped box.
- 3. These used to be made by hand and delivered in person. Now they are machine-made and a billion are enjoyed all over the world.
- 4. These snuggly birds, along with doves, have been popular to give or use in designs for Valentine's Day. Each year, Fort Worth Zoo in Texas lets people add a "wild child" to their family by buying a Valentine's Day or other "adoption" package. The money raised goes to care for animals.
- 5. People will sell a lot of pizza, doughnuts and other food items in this shape.

- 6. Red roses are thought to be the most romantic and the most popular kind given on Valentine's Day.
- 7. The first type of this gift may have been made out of shells and bones. Ancient Egyptians gave this gift made out of gold with precious stones to kings.
- 8. Some people will go to plays or comedy _____.
- 9. These sugary messages were invented by Oliver Chase in 1847. Today, the Necco company makes about 100,000 pounds of these a day!
- 10. People will create special memories attending parent/child or other family _____.
- 11. Bakeries will sell cakes, cupcakes and Valentine _____.
- 12. The oldest of these is thought to be the one discovered on a clay tablet written about 4,000 years ago (from a priestess to a king).
- 13. People will enjoy this meal out.
- 14. People will buy tickets to listen to romantic _____ at concert halls.



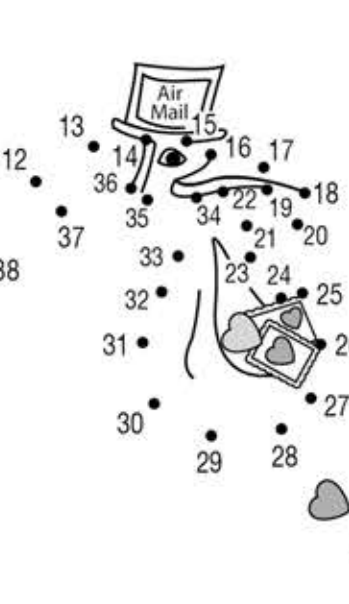
Can you find and circle 12 or more words that have 3 syllables as in the word "Val-en-tine"?

There are so many special deliveries to be made on Valentine's Day that the Post Office gets extra help to bring the mail.



Start at the star and follow the dots to see who is helping with Valentine deliveries!

A Special Valentine Delivery!



Hearty Sayings!

Match these sayings to their meanings:

- 1. change of heart
- 2. cross my heart
- 3. eat your heart out
- 4. half-hearted
- 5. heart of gold
- 6. heart of stone
- 7. have your heart set on something
- 8. having a heart-to-heart
- 9. take something to heart
- 10. to your heart's content
- 11. heart is in the right place
- 12. heart skips a beat

- A. is kind and caring
- B. to want something a certain way and not be willing to work out a different way to do it
- C. make an important promise
- D. very uncaring
- E. not giving something your full effort
- F. take something very personally
- G. to make someone jealous
- H. frightened or excited
- I. as much as you want
- J. change your mind
- K. meant well
- L. have a meaningful talk

Friendly Messages!

Here are some fun Valentine messages. They each use a "play on words." Can you write the name of the animal that completes each pun in the blanks?

No kidding, want to "_____ " to recess?

tuna

Hive

I'm your 'mane' man, and I'm not "_____."

steer

"_____ " wanted to be your friend.

whale

You make me want to sing a "_____."

goat

You're "_____ " above average.

lion

"_____ " be your friend!

Owl

I'll "_____ " you in the right direction.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

To begin its Feb. 8 meeting, the board of directors of Strasburg School District 31-J heard student Brelynn Breakall's original oratory that won the state championship Feb. 5 at competition at Heritage High School. "Families aren't easy," Breakall performed. "The ethics of society are declining at a rapid rate ... Forty-three percent of first marriages end in divorce o separations ... Staying in love become so difficult." During the performance, the 15-year-old used gestures, eye contact, and changes in her voice's tone and volume to emphasize her statements. "Parents understand absolutely nothing you say, do, think, or feel," Breakall warned children. She compared the hours children watch television each week with the minutes children and parents communicate.

15 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

CENTENNIAL — An Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputy was exonerated of any wrongdoing in the wounding of a Bennett man during a hostage incident last month southwest of Bennett. The 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office and Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson announced Feb. 11 that Danny Barber, 45, is facing two class 6 felony and four class 2 misdemeanor charges after allegedly holding his parents against their will and confronting a deputy and Colorado State Patrol trooper

around 7 a.m. Jan. 5. The district attorney also said that the deputy, who shot Barber three times, will not face chargers or disciplinary action. The investigation was done by the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office Critical Incident Team.

10 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County Commissioners unanimously approved three requests for the proposed Prosper Development during a Feb. 10 public hearing. Commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of a 1041 new communities permit, a preliminary development plan, and service plans for eight metropolitan districts to finance and provide infrastructure to the almost 5,100-acre mixed use subdivision. The commissioners, who held their first public hearing on Prosper Jan. 27, upheld the Arapahoe County Planning Commission recommendation to approve the 1041 permit but overturned recommendations against the preliminary development plan and metro district service plans. The Planning Commission's process took three public hearings. "The Prosper Development meets all the requirements of the county's comprehensive plan, a plan developed by the citizens of eastern Arapahoe County," said commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3, including eastern unincorporated parts of the county. "Prosper will bring jobs and renewable water infrastructure to the I-70 Corridor while also allowing the eastern part of the county to maintain its rural culture."

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

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2025. There are 322 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 12, 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton in his impeachment trial of charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

ON THIS DATE

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who had claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a log cabin at

Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Ky.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in New York City.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 2002, former Yugoslav

president Slobodan Milošević went on trial in The Hague, charged with genocide and war crimes.

In 2019, Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, was convicted in New York of running a drug smuggling operation, murder and money laundering. (Guz-

man is serving a life sentence at the federal supermax prison in Florence, Colo.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Author Judy Blume is 87. Country singer Moe Bandy is 81. Musician Michael McDonald is 73. Actor Josh Brolin is 57.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1960s

ACROSS

1. Unit of electrical capacity F

6. Knicks' org.

9. Herring's cousin

13. City in Belgium

14. "The Beatles hit "Drive My ____"

15. Monument to Buddha

16. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)

17. Affirmative to captain

18. Like a beaver?

19. "Che's last name

21. "Stonewall riots location

23. Division of time

24. West African country

25. Refuse to comply

28. "The Jackson 5 co-founder

30. "Don ____ of Barney Fife fame

35. Soon, to a bard

37. Hyperbolic tangent

39. Sunlight's interference

40. "Apollo Moon Landing org.

41. Operatic solos

43. Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident

44. Deposit the ashes

46. Related to ear

47. Meat in a can

48. Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)

50. Not written

52. Pilot's estimate, acr.

53. Ill-mannered one

55. Hawaiian welcome wreath

57. "Ford's pony car

61. "Assassinated president

65. "____ death do us part"

66. Down Under runner

68. Hindu caste

69. Moonshine maker

70. "Spock's was pointy

71. Comforter stuffing

72. Ruptured

73. Ground cover

74. Coach-and-four

DOWN

1. Use a cat o' nine tails

2. Hokkaido language

3. Network of nerves

4. Mojave plant

5. Go away

6. March Madness org.

7. "____ of Pigs, failed military operation

8. Madison Square Garden, e.g.

9. Command to Fido

10. Designer Boss

11. Copycat

12. Sinister side in "Star Wars"

15. Garment-making

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20. Yogurt-based dip

22. Benevolent one

24. Hall order keeper

25. "Joplin of "Summertime" fame

26. Foolish

27. Same as boatswain

29. Tropical tuber

31. Auto pioneer

32. Brownish gray

33. Something yummy

34. "Certain march starting point

36. Backgammon predecessor

38. "Place for a flower

42. Part of mermaid's tale

45. Cricket umpire's call (2 words)

49. Not, prefix

51. Optical devices

54. S-shaped moldings

56. Arctic people

57. Necessary thing

58. Archaic preposition

59. "Bob Marley's hit "____ It Up"

60. Fresco piece

61. Kurdistan native

62. Cocoyam

63. Fortune-telling coffee remnants

64. Ready and eager

67. "Zedong of Cultural Revolution

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

HOROSCOPE

Snow Moon Smiling

The full moon in the sign of the charismatic cat reminds us that nothing is more irresistibly attractive than happiness. There's not a lotion, potion, accessory or accoutrement that can be bought that has the attractive power of a genuine smile because it radiates qualities that people naturally seek in themselves: positivity, confidence and emotional wholeness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are full of potential, love and wisdom. Make room in your life for people who truly match your energy, intentions and values. Humor is high on the list and encompasses many of your other values like intelligence and presence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The difficult truth is that a lot of people are working from their own wounds, limited perspectives or unresolved stuff, which can make it difficult for them to show up for others in the ways they truly want or need to — a fact of life not to be internalized by you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though you desire success, you recognize that it can be scary. If you do well, you'll be in unknown territory. Remember how you faced the unknown before and not only managed it but eventually learned to own it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your personal life is like a house party where people come and go, giving the festivities a kind of arc. If everyone arrived at the same time, it wouldn't be as interesting, manageable or fun. The natural rhythm of arrivals and exits is for the best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's something calling for your attention, urging you to track it. By recording this data, you'll gain clarity and control, setting the stage for positive change. Awareness through numbers can transform your life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your personal life may feel short-staffed, and that's because there really are a few openings. Define the position and you're more likely to get a qualified candidate, this time with the skills, values and other qualifications you hold dear. Quality applicants forthcoming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A bold playfulness is inside you, just waiting for the recess bell to ring. The thing is, once you're no longer in school, such bells cannot liberate you. That's good news. Liberate yourself. Ring your own bell.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Establish boundaries that honor your limits and energy. Define what you're willing to give and hold firm. Balance comes when you stop overextending and others start stepping up. Let fairness guide your actions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your relationship with food, like your relationships with people, is something you're working on. Instead of being hard on yourself, reflect on what might help. No single moment defines your self-care journey.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not doing what's expected because it's expected, though the expected thing might coincidentally just happen to also be what you feel like doing. It might also be a way to conserve energy when you don't care either way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If only you could flip a switch to protect yourself from getting hurt by certain people. But if you could, you'd be less human, as things that run on circuits tend to be machines. Trust that your empowerment is organic, resilient and intelligent beyond logic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Certain people have a way of getting under your skin. You deserve the space to prioritize your own needs. Give yourself some breathing room to focus on other things, and it will help reduce the emotional intensity of these relationships.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12). If you wonder why so many seem to come into your sphere this year, it's because you are uniquely compelling and magnetic. Also, you guide people to roles where they light up. More highlights: You pay closer attention, notice more and feel bigger, and for these reasons, you'll be astoundingly creative. You'll be paid and rewarded for it. Also, the tables will turn in a situation that is decades old. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 6, 7, 20 and 42.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

DEER TRAIL BOE

FROM PAGE 1

group of readers — 159 children’s titles, three items for juniors, and four for young adults.

This school year’s new purchases included 140 nonfiction titles with the rest fiction.

“Didn’t have a very healthy collection of books for our older students. We need to meet the needs of all our students,” Musser said. “It was a scarier proposition buying middle school and high school books, but a criteria for buying new books was developed, especially those levels.”

Arapahoe Libraries, the umbrella district for Davies Library and Kelter Library in Byers, also announced it has a vacancy on its board of directors and is seeking applicants to fill the seat. Interested persons are asked to complete the online application at arapahoelibraries.org by 4 p.m., Sunday, March 2. Additional information is available by contacting Executive Director Oli Sanidas at (303)792-8987.

SNOW DAY CONCERNS

Based on the approved calendar for this school year, the district has one snow day left and Jobman said that secondary school students and staff have been made aware that e-learning might have to be utilized if future cancellations occur.

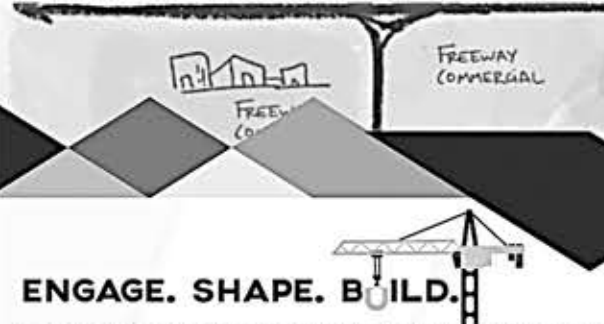
“We haven’t even hit our normal snowiest month of the season yet, so we’ll probably cut things pretty close,” said Jobman, adding that any virtual instruction would occur on a Google platform. “It’s either that, Friday school, or maybe going into June. We have got to keep in mind the student-contact hours that are required.”

During last month’s cold spell that included sub-zero temperatures, Jobman said that the district’s first two-hour delayed start in many years proved fruitful.

“A little bumpy but everyone worked through it and survived,” he said. “Probably move forward with that as one of our options in the future.”

OTHER BUSINESS

- Jobman said that the outdoor stadium’s new concession stand, including restrooms, should be fully operational before the school hosts a middle school track meet in the spring. Hooking the plumbing into the town’s wastewater system is expected to occur once the weather shows a consistent warm-up. All punch list items have been completed and permanent certificates of occupancy received for the three modular classrooms.
- During a presentation about grant-funded teacher and staff instructional support that’s been provided the past 3½ years, Cheryl Alba with McCrel indicated that the efforts are paying off despite the amount of teacher turnover at the district. McCrel said she has had to catch up 12 new teachers during the second year of the program and seven this past school year. Alba’s efforts have included improving instructional framework for teachers district-wide.
- During the district accountability committee report, secondary teacher Kyle Dasenbrock said efforts are underway to attack high levels of student absenteeism. Among the recommendations are to make a middle and high school Back to School Night mandatory for students and guardians and to develop new events to spur additional interest.



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- Residential Pressure Reducing Valve Program
- Introduction of the new BeSafe Grant

This is your chance to learn more about these projects, ask questions, and share your ideas to help shape our community's future. We look forward to hearing from you!

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ICE & SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

tribution of student information except under specific circumstances confirmed by the superintendent,” suggested protocols say. “Instruct ICE officials to remain in the front office or designated waiting area until the principal and superintendent arrive.”

FERPA is federal law that protects privacy of students’ school records.

In addition, staff is urged to not involve themselves during in-person visits from ICE agents and to let administrators control the situation.

Principals or superintendents should be in charge of collecting officer information and all documentation related to the visit and should refrain from getting involved in an altercation.

“Hold any warrant, subpoena, or documentation for the superintendent to review,” the protocols state. “Do not attempt to physically impede the officer, even if they appear to exceed the authorization under a warrant. If ICE enters the premises without consent, staff should document all interactions while on campus.”

In addition, the Arapahoe and Adams county sheriff’s offices, which provide SRO or other law enforcement services to I-70 Corridor schools, have already said they have no partnership with ICE and will not assist if any immigration-based activity occurs on campuses.

Schools have historically been off limits for immigration enforcement activity, but among President Donald Trump’s first actions after taking his second oath was to rescind a decades-old policy that prevented agents from arresting illegal immigrants in “sensitive places,” including schools, hospitals and churches.

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Wednesday, Feb. 19: Chili, salad, cinnamon rolls, Fritos, peaches.

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Friday, Feb. 14: No school.

Monday, Feb. 17: No school.

Tuesday, Feb. 18: Chicken alfredo fillet, brown rice, green beans, peaches.

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Big game harvest survey ends 2/15

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife randomly selected approximately 170,000 license holders with deer, elk and pronghorn to participate in the 2024 Big Game Harvest Survey, and the deadline to finish the survey is fast approaching.

The data collected through the survey is vital to CPW wildlife managers and will be used to inform deer, elk, and pronghorn season and license setting for 2025. Responses are important, even if you did not hunt or harvest!

Selected hunters were notified via e-mail, text message, and live-operator phone call that they were eligible to complete the survey. They are asked to complete the survey before Feb. 15 by clicking on the link in the e-mail or text message, visiting survey.colobgharvest.com, or calling toll-free at 1-855-924-4278.

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Tomb of the Unknown Soldier presentation set for Feb. 20

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg will host “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arlington National Cemetery” from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum Curator Cliff Smith will discuss the origins and traditions of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located in Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C.

The founding of the cemetery, traditions and stories about the cemetery’s current and past history will be addressed.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for light snacks and conversations.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society. For more information, call (303)622-4322.

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by Bobbie Keefer
For The Scout

Mature peppers have more sugars that give them their sweetness. Red bell peppers are the sweetest of all the colors. They all start out green and turn yellow, orange and finally red. Red is oldest. These peppers keep their firmness as they age. Bell peppers, which are classified as a fruit because they contain seeds and grow from a flower. They can be dried and ground to make paprika. While the most common paprika color is red, green and yellow paprika exists, but they are not widely available in grocery stores. I stick with bright orange-red paprika — even if it's made with old peppers.

STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

- INGREDIENTS
- 6 bell peppers, any color
 - 1/2 pound lean ground beef
 - 1/2 pound Italian sausage
 - 1/2 cup diced onion
 - 1 teaspoon minced garlic
 - 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
 - 1 1/4 cups beef broth
 - 1/2 cup uncooked instant rice
 - 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning blend
 - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1/2 teaspoon paprika
 - 3 cups marinara sauce
 - 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray 9x13" baking dish with non-stick. Cut tops off peppers. Dice and set aside. Core peppers. Boil in large pot of water 5 minutes. Drain. Fry ground beef, Italian sausage, onion in large skillet. Drain grease. Add garlic, tomatoes, broth, rice, Worcestershire sauce, reserved diced pepper tops, Italian seasoning, black pepper, paprika. Stir in 1/2 cup marinara. Cook for 5 minutes. Spoon 1 1/2 cups marinara in bottom of prepared dish. Stuff pepper cavities with beef mixture. Arrange peppers, filled-side-up, in pan. Spoon remaining marinara over top. Bake covered 35 minutes. Remove from oven. Top with cheese. Bake uncovered 10 minutes until cooked through and cheese is melted. Rest 5 minutes before serving.



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Construction is underway to bring improved amenities and increased flood prevention measures to Riverdale Regional Park.

For information about this project, including scheduled changes to entrances, exits, and parking, scan this QR code.



adcogov.org/rp-improvements

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Mom,
I Love You Always!
— Su

Baby Bonanza,
Hope your day is as
sweet as you are!!
Happy Valentine's Day,
— Love Mom & Dad

Happy
Valentine's Day,
my Loooooove!
— Meg

Long as I know that it's you and me,
Time don't matter at all!
Kaci, I'm in it for
the long haul.
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!
Love,
Mike

Happy
Valentine's
Day
Buttercup!
Love, William

Happy
Valentine's
Day
SCOTT
— from your Chachas!

Happy Valentine's Day!
Can't wait to officially get
married to you beautiful!
We Love you
Mommy Denisel
— Love Tony and the Kids

STRASBURG PRD

from ECI Site Construction.

In addition to a highly anticipated splash pad water feature, at full buildout, the new park on the east side of Wagner Street across from the existing Community Park will also have outdoor sports courts, integrated trails, and an amphitheater with an open park seating area. The existing building on the former electric cooperative equipment yard is being demolished to be replaced by a facility more suitable to the planned usage, including housing the splash park's water closet. The district also decided to move forward with an outdoor classroom and a pathway, including a bridge, to the middle school along the shared eastern property line with the school district.

District legal counsel Robert Tibbals recommended the board reject all bids in an effort to get the project under budget.

Graf added that she didn't like the idea of going back to contractors and having them recommend what not to do.

"We've put a lot of heart and soul into this and I'm not comfortable taking pieces away from the project," said Graf, adding that certain portions are grant-dependent. "Some things can't be eliminated or we lose that funding. I just wish the numbers had come in a

little lower."

In addition, the state lottery-funded GOCO grants for the project expire at the end of the year, meaning the project must be completed before 2026, but Graf noted that all engineering permits from the district are accounted for, which should help expedite the project.

Graf hopes that contractors or at least some of their subcontractors will come back with reduced numbers.

Tibbals added that the district is not required to limit its search to the bid finalists and encouraged Graf and staff to exhaust efforts with other companies to find a cost-effective remedy.

BUILDING UPDATES

Parks & Recreation Manager Nick Dickens reported that recent discussions with the Adams County Building Department resulted in a partial remedy for utilizing the district's machine shed at the north baseball field in the near future.

According to Dickens, the county has waived the bathroom requirement for the building since facilities are available at the Strasburg Rec Center across Sunset Avenue to the south. The district has completed lighting and exit signage requirements and will have required ventila-

tion installed.

The building, which was completed during the summer, has been unoccupied since late October when efforts to receive a certificate of occupancy were derailed by allegedly "unnecessarily burdensome and time consuming" red tape thrown up by Adams County Chief Building Official Justin Blair.

According to the district, Blair reportedly contacted both Graf and Dickens in late October to say that county staff had previously erred when classifying the building's use as "utility" ("U"). Instead, Blair called it "storage" ("S"), and that a certificate of occupancy would not be issued. The new designation required mechanical ventilation systems, exit signage and restrooms.

The district has reiterated that the building has always been planned as storage only for the district's handful of maintenance vehicles and equipment and that no activities are planned for inside.

In addition, Dickens said that the neighboring building to the rec center that houses gym facilities is going through a county process to change its designated occupancy and not its intended use.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The board unanimously approved renewal of an annual service contract with CPA Scott Wright for the 2024 audit. Wright, based out of Salida, bumped the contract to \$5,000 but, Graf said that increase has occurred only after numerous years at \$4,000. "He's been really good to us and hasn't raised his price in a long time," she said of Wright's services. Board member Lonnie Losh added that the district's audit has become a longer process and "much more complicated."
- Tibbals said that the notice for nominations for this year's May 6 special district election has been disseminated and that two four-year terms are up for grabs along with a single two-year term. A self-nomination form is available from the district office at 1932 Burton St., Strasburg. Information is available by calling (303)622-4260 or e-mailing angie@strasburgparks.org.

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