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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 12

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Byers water system struggles continue

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — Occasional disruptions in service in Byers will occur as the water district's improvement project moves forward, but district officials are striving to keep shutdowns to a minimum.

The Byers Water & Sanitation District Board discussed the district's aging infrastructure and the project construction process at its regular business meeting Jan. 13. While board meetings generally occur at the district office, this one was held at the Kelter Library meeting room to accommodate the number of community members in attendance. A

Zoom link was also provided for remote access.

A Jan. 6 full-system water shut down was followed by a Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) boiling order. At least two planned partial shutdowns occurred the next week.

SEE BYERS WSD
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Deer Trail students from Tessa Haight's fourth-grade class belt out the National Anthem before the annual basketball games with Byers Feb. 11. Singers are Arihanna Alfano, left, Marielle Mier, Kathryn Manriquez Bustamante, Robbert Lambert, Zoey Orsborn, Hailey Jeffrey, Haight, Izaiiah Aragon, Catherine Wailes, AbdiAziz Haji, Karla Gonzalez Barajas, and Manuel Mier.

Longtime area leader dead at 69

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

WATKINS — After his almost two-decade stint of political advocacy for the I-70 Corridor was cut short by a cancer diagnosis, former Arapahoe County Commissioner and Colorado House District 56 Representative Rod Bockenfeld, 69, succumbed to the disease late last week.

News of Bockenfeld's passing originally circulated the state Capitol Feb. 13, about 1½ years after he announced his diagnosis. On Friday morning, his death was formally acknowledged on the floor of the Colorado House, including messages from House Minority Leader Rose Puglise and the Republican Caucus and the tolling of the Capitol's bells in his honor.

"I wish Godspeed to my predecessor, Rod Bockenfeld," said current HD56 Rep. Chris Richardson, R-Elizabeth, who won last November's election after Bockenfeld did not run again. "He was thought of fondly and with great respect throughout the region. [His wife] Susan let me know that the end was



Bockenfeld

peaceful, pain-free, and he was surrounded by his family."

"Rod Bockenfeld was a great man. He loved the people of eastern Arapahoe County and that part of the I-70 Corridor — the farmers and ranchers, teachers and small businesses," said Arapahoe County District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker, who replaced Bockenfeld in 2016. "He was a friend and a mentor to me and countless other fiscal conservatives."

Bockenfeld served as county commissioner for the eastern portion of the county from 2004-16 until he was term-limited. Bockenfeld and his wife, Susan, also moved to Watkins, where they resided until his death. He was also a fixture at public events throughout the area, particularly Strasburg Hometown Days, Bennett Days, the Byers Fourth of July parade, and the Deer Trail Rodeo.

"He loved nothing more than driving me around to show me land owned by [you name the constituent] and what their dreams and goals were. What they hoped would be achieved on that land. Who could be trusted and who to be wary of," Baker added. "He stood for principled conservatism. Fiscal

SEE BOCKENFELD
PAGE 24

Strasburg park project back on track

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Just a week after it appeared on the verge of being significantly delayed, the Strasburg Community Park East project appears back on track for completion by the end of the year.

During a Feb. 14 special meeting, the Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District board of directors voted 4-0 to approve a contractor for the park to be located on the old electric cooperative equipment yard along the east side of Wagner Street across from the existing Community Park.

Vice president Scott Gerrard, Lonnie Losh, Mitch Swanson and Angie Serna voted in favor while President Cindy Fahey was absent.

Brush-based Buildings by Design's revised bid of \$3,485,921 came in below the project's \$3.5 million budget and the board gave the go-ahead with the hopes of having the work commence the beginning of March.

"They came back with some really positive value-engineering options that didn't include us having to take any pieces of the

SEE NEW PARK
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SUBMITTED GRAPHIC

Among the features included in the Community Park East project along the east side of Wagner Street between Colorado and Sunset Avenue in Strasburg is a splash pad similar to the one depicted above.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

\$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.

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.

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

Deer Trail plans FFA Annual Hired Hand Auction

DEER TRAIL — The annual Deer Trail FFA 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 are “sold” to the highest bidder and will donate eight hours of community service to the buyer. Funds received help cover meals and hotels for overnight trips; FFA Week supplies and banquet expenses; National Western Stock Show tickets; convention expenses; community projects; and other expenses. The event 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.

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. TBK Bank is located at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

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.

Local conservation districts taking seedling tree orders

BYERS — The Deer Trail and East Adams conservation districts are now accepting orders as part of their annual seedling tree sale. Among the offerings are a wide selection of conservation trees, native seedlings, and eco-friendly planting materials designed to support sustainable farming and reforestation efforts. Available materials also include durable seedling pots, drip irrigation systems, and affordable tree trays. Deadline for ordering is Monday, March 31. Additional information is available at (303)822-5257 or deertraileastadams@gmail.com. The conservation district office, 133 W. Bijou Ave., Byers, is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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., Thursday, 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, when they go up to \$15 each. 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.

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.

Polis celebrates agreement between Comcast, Altitude

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis Feb. 4 released a statement on the deal between Altitude Sports and Comcast, allowing more Coloradans to watch the Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche. “After far too long a wait, Comcast and Altitude are finally putting Coloradans first, allowing us to watch our world-class Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche,” Polis said. In 2019, Polis sent a letter to Jim Martin, then President and CEO of Kroenke Sports & Entertainment, encouraging the company to reach a deal allowing Coloradans to watch their favorite teams at home on DISH and Comcast and had several follow-up conversations with both sides.

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SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

The I-70 Scout

Published weekly by the I-70 Publishing Company, Inc.

P.O. Box 829 • 1522 Main St., Strasburg, Colo. 80136
e-mail: dclausen@i-70scout.com • www.i-70scout.com
(303)622-9796 • Fax: (303)622-9794

DEADLINE
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303-822-9366 • mttaborbysers.org

Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
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Hosea 12:6 Turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

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strasburgorthodox.org

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY MCYA
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2025 NOMINATIONS

The Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards recognizes teenagers who have overcome adversity and risen to challenges. Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who wish to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities at vocational schools, two- or four-year colleges, or trade and certification programs. Teachers, counselors, and school admins can nominate exceptional seniors through **March 7** at arapahoeco.gov/youthawards.

Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan
Weigh In On Draft Concepts

- Open House at Kelter Library**
Thursday, March 6, 4:30–6 p.m.
 - Virtual Presentation**
Wednesday, March 12, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
 - Online Survey**
Feb. 20–March 16
- Learn more at www.arapahoeco.gov/bijoubasin



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LIBRARY NEWS

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www.arapahoelibraries.org

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their care-givers can drop in to a teddy bear tea party 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. Friday, Feb. 21.

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 to enjoy stories and songs and play with their little ones. At the end, free books and activities will be provided to continue the learning at home. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5.

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

Little Explorers: Children ages 2-5 and their care-givers will explore a monthly theme that combines learning and literacy. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 20.

Adult book club: "We Are the Brennans" by Tracey Lange. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24.

NEW PARK

project out," said District Manager Angie Graf. "Same end-product but within our budget. Very excited to move forward."

The board originally rejected three final bids on Feb. 5 as they all exceeded the district's stated budget and authorized Graf to further explore its options.

"We included in-person negotiations," said Graf, noting that the four contractors that responded to the original RFP were contacted over the week following the rejection notice. "We were able to get the base bid, building and add alternates all still included through those discussions."

Buildings by Design's approved bid was approximately \$500,000 under its previous proposal.

Other contractors involved in the process were Taylor Kohrs LLC, ECI Site Construction and FNF Construction, who was eliminated from contention previously because of a lack of a construction schedule in their original bid packet. Final revised numbers from the other contractors were not available.

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to a splash pad water feature, the new park will also include outdoor sports courts, integrated trails and an amphitheater with an open park seating area at full buildout. The existing building on the former electric cooperative equipment yard will be demolished and be replaced by a facility more suitable to the planned recreation usage, including 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.

"We've put a lot of heart and soul into this project," said Graf, adding that construction completion by the end of this year is a must.

State lottery-funded GOCO grants toward 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 start of construction.

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Ultrasound added to Bennett ambulances

Ultrasound added to Bennett ambulances

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

The department is currently one of only two Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies in Colorado with the training and equipment to employ ultrasound technology and which hold

Ultrasound scans of cardiac or trauma patients at the scenes of emergencies provide first-responders a higher level of clarity when making crucial decisions before transporting patients to the hospital.

Bennett-Watkins EMS Battalion

PAGE 6

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ArapCo: Input period ends 2-21 on proposed Infrastructure Design & Construction Standards

LITTLETON — The public has one final chance to provide feedback on Arapahoe County Infrastructure Design & Construction Standards. The guidelines for roadways are under revision to account for continued growth and align with industry best practices. The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to address the changes starting 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, in the East Hearing Room at the Administration Building, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton. Comment can also be provided by calling 1-855-436-3656 and pressing *3 on the keypad to be added to the speaking queue. The Infrastructure Design & Construction Standards is a comprehensive guide for roadway facilities. It applies to all subdivisions, re-subdivisions,

planned unit developments, and any other proposed construction submitted for approval in unincorporated Arapahoe County. The proposal:

- reorganizes chapters to improve the flow of information.
- updates the Roadway Classification nomenclature and right-of-way requirements to align with the 2040 Transportation Master Plan.
- updates roadway requirements to meet latest design standards and references to the most current sources.
- specifies that an Engineer's Cost Estimate needs to be prepared by a licensed Engineer in Colorado.
- adds flashfill as acceptable backfill material;

- adds checklists in Appendix F; and
- reformats the document for ease of use.

Traffic signal and pavement marking standards for unincorporated areas of the county are also included in the proposal. If adopted, the proposed traffic signal standards would provide uniform guidelines for all county-maintained traffic signals, crosswalks, fiber and all other related traffic infrastructure. The proposed pavement marking standards would provide direction for visual uniformity when it comes to crosswalks, arrows, bicycle lanes and school zones. Public comment will taken through Friday, Feb. 21. To participate, visit www.arapahoeco.gov to view the IDCS draft, to comment, and for more information.

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— Dr. Claussen

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During the initial training, firefighter/paramedic Steven Foster, left, and Battalion Chief Tyler Cumley practice scanning images with an ultrasound simulation machine that familiarizes users with examples of abnormal conditions.

ULTRASOUND

FROM PAGE 5

Chief Josie Fischer told *The I-70 Scout* Feb. 11 that, in pulse-less cardiac arrest situations where resuscitation efforts are made, an ultrasound is telling.

"During cardiac arrest situations, we can view the heart and see different cardiac rhythms that may assist in determining if we perform further interventions and/or transport," she said. "We can not only look at the heart, but also the lungs and large vessels and help identify problems that may be causing acute emergent medical conditions."

While Bennett-Watkins providers are currently trained to use the technology for heart and cardiac arrest patients, with additional training they will be qualified to take scans on trauma patients to look for internal bleeding or hemorrhage.

"That will be huge for us, especially here on the rural I-70 Corridor," Fischer said. "As you know, tons of crashes occur on I-70, and we have lots of horse riding and UTV (accidents). We have a significant amount of trauma within our district."

Other goals are further down the road.

"In 2026 we'll be rolling out IV access — guided ultrasound," Fischer said. "We will then be able to ultrasound patients on which IVs are difficult to start in the field."

The ultrasound rollout occurred in January after a large training event Jan. 25.

"We had multiple physicians from UC Health and Denver Health and a lot of ultrasound groups from the Denver Metro area come out to train our providers in POCUS, along with myself and our medical director, Dr. Andra Farcas," Fischer said.

Training will continue throughout the year and beyond.

Fischer said the goal is to have trauma ultrasound protocol by the end of 2025.

In between training opportunities, Bennett-Watkins EMS personnel practice the skills they've learned.

"The crews are constantly training; they pull up the ultrasound and practice on each other," she said. "It is a perishable skill, and we want to make sure that we're able to sustain this project."

The ultrasound technology was put into use immediately.

"(In the two weeks since the Jan. 25 rollout,) we've had a couple of calls we've been able to utilize our current protocol," Fischer said.

The new equipment was, in part, grant funded.

"In 2023 we applied for a state grant through [the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment] and ended up receiving the funds for the ultrasounds and a couple of cardiac monitors with a 50% match," Fischer said. "We budgeted for 2024 to purchase the equipment."

Fischer added that the capabilities of ultrasound technology are huge.

"We're super excited to provide these opportunities and these diagnostics to our community members," she said.



SPORTS



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ALYSSA STEMPO/The I-70 Scout

Clockwise from top left, Vivi Gitke (140 pounds) and Madilyn Gitke (155) both of Strasburg; Emma Faczak (105) of Bennett; and Carly Larsen (170) from Strasburg advance to semifinals during day one of the Colorado State Wrestling Championships at Ball Arena in Denver Feb. 13-15. Both Gitkes and Faczak won 4A titles while Larsen placed sixth. For full coverage, see the Feb. 21 *Eastern Colorado News*.

Area wrestlers shine at state wrestling tourney

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DENVER — Half of the I-70 Corridor’s 14 state wrestling tournament qualifiers won their first matches and five advanced out of the quarterfinals during the opening ses-

sion at Ball Arena in downtown Denver Feb. 13. A pair of Bennett grapplers — Lady Tiger freshman Emma Faczak (105 pounds) and Tiger junior Caycen Scholz (126) — and the Lady Indian trio of junior Vivienne Gitke (140), freshman

Madilyn Gitke (155), and senior Carly Larsen (170) all won two matches Thursday afternoon to advance to Friday’s championship semifinal matches. Faczak won both of her opening-day matches by first-period pinfalls — 1:27

against Eagle Valley’s Luvlyn Ward and 1:45 over Woodland Park’s Jasmine Brewer. After recording a high-scoring 16-10 decision over Delta’s Matthew Valdez, Scholz pinned Brush’s Elias Barraza 50 seconds into the third period.

The older Gitke wrestled less than 2 minutes total Thursday afternoon, pinning Yuma’s Sierra Brown in 34 seconds and Conifer’s Sierra Nordwald in 1:15, while younger sister pinned both

SEE W STATE
PAGE 8

Indians fall to '24 state champions

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

YUMA — The No. 3 Strasburg Indians’ worst defensive effort of the year — per their coach — led directly to a 68-63 loss at No. 4 Yuma Feb. 11. The Indians, trailing 66-63, had a chance to tie with the ball late in the game but did not convert. “A lot of defensive lapses led to easy makes for them,” said Indian head coach Kyle Bollers. “I don’t think they’re a team that should score 68 points on us. “It was frustrating. We gave up a lot in transition. We didn’t get a lot in transition. And that’s something we pride ourselves on is dominating the transition scoring, and we just didn’t do it.” Yuma’s 68 points were the third-most scored against the Indians this season. Strasburg yielded 77 points in a loss to Windsor Charter Jan. 21 and 69 in a victory over Prospect Ridge Dec. 10. The Indians had a 9-point lead twice in the game but gave it up both times. A 22-6 run by the Outlaws spanning the third and fourth quarters badly hurt the Indians. “That one ended up being the difference even though we made a great comeback to the end,” Bollers said. “We played pretty poorly, I thought, all around and still had a chance to win the game. “We just dug ourselves too big a hole with giving

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 8

Bennett boys victorious on road trip to Leadville

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LEADVILLE — Bennett’s return trip from Leadville last week was made more palatable after the Tiger boys muscled their way to a 75-61 victory over Lake County Feb. 12. After both teams scored 18 points over the opening quarter, the visitors got their running legs in motion to take a 41-31 lead at halftime. A 21-15 third-quarter advantage had the orange-and-black up 62-46 entering the final eight minutes, which the hosts narrowly won 15-13. The Tigers entered the contest without starting senior center Ethan Francis, who didn’t make the trip because of illness and, 10 seconds after halftime, starting senior forward Jayden Ivory was ejected after receiving his second technical foul on the evening. “We started (sophomore) Brayden Schmalz and (classmate) Avant (Dickens) had to come in with a few more minutes off the bench,” said Bennett head coach Wesley Burke, adding that sophomore Owen Hawes also saw significant playing time against the Panthers. “We were able to fill the holes we had that night and feel like we are finding a top eight that we can feel comfortable with.” Burke’s confidence in Schmalz paid off as he

SEE BB BENNETT
PAGE 8

'Burg girls corral Outlaws

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

YUMA — Strasburg won every quarter en route to a 44-28 victory at Yuma Feb. 11. The Lady Indians topped the Outlaw girls 12-7, 8-7, 9-7 and 15-7 over four periods. “It was a good win in a tough environment,” said head coach Merci Ames. “It was so physical it was hard to tell if somebody was hitting somebody. People were getting clotheslined.” The Indians were led by senior Natalie Damron with a monster double-double — 15 points and 13 rebounds. She tacked on two assists, a steal, and an assist for good measure. Senior Peighton Marrero contributed 12 points, six boards, five assists, and eight steals followed by junior Taryn LaForce with 6 points and nine rebounds; junior Hannah Damron, 5 points and two steals; and sophomore Addi Kent, 4 points and three steals. Both Damrons and Kent all had one block. Sophomore Tatijana Rojahn tacked on two steals, and junior Mikayla Friedrich, sophomores Wynne Winter and Maria Del Blanco, and freshman Paloma Rodriguez all contributed. Ames said her bench played great when the Damrons, LaForce and Marrero got into foul trouble. “[Our] bench was a vital piece,” she noted. The victory made it two in a row for Strasburg and improved its record to 14-4. The Indians defeated Forge Christian at home Feb. 15 and traveled to Frontier Academy Feb. 18. Further information was not available at press time. Watch the Feb. 21 *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.



ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Three area boys make it to the quarterfinals of the 3A boys tourney — Caycen Scholz (126), left, and Tommy Cearns (150), both of Bennett, and Juan Hernandez (285) of Strasburg. Scholz took fourth but Cearns and Hernandez did not place. Ethan Jordan (157) with Bennett finished fifth through the wrestle-backs but did not win in the first round. Watch the Feb. 21 *Eastern Colorado News* for complete results.

W STATE

FROM PAGE 7

Moffat County's Callah Caperton and Pueblo Central's Maliyah Sandoval in the final 20 seconds of the second period. Larsen pinned Liberty Common's Julianna Darmfall in 4:46 before desperately holding on for an 11-9 quarterfinal victory over Drue Glob from Pueblo Central.

Juniors Tommy Cearns (150) and Juan Fernandez (285), from Bennett and Strasburg, respectively, both won their opening matches on Thursday before faltering in the quarterfinals.

After recording a 21-6 technical fall over Brush's Percy Odle in the opening round, Cearns lost 17-1 to Alamosa's Dyson Woodward.

Fernandez pinned Benson Inga of Elizabeth in 5:22 before losing by 3:41 pinfall to Sam Stockton of Resurrection Christian.

Three other Lady Indians and a quartet of Bennett boys fell in their opening-round matches.

Friday's series of consolation rounds and evening semifinal matches were followed by fifth- and third-place contests and title tilts on Saturday.

For full coverage, see the Feb. 21 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

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BB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

ended the night with a game-high 14 rebounds to go along with 4 points.

The Tigers shot 40% from the field, including 20-of-46 from two-point range, including 13 assisted buckets, and were 20-of-33 from the charity stripe.

The four Bennett starters available at tip-off all tallied double-digit points led by the Stiers brother duo of senior, Owen, and junior, Austin, with 26 and 17, respectively. Ivory recorded a dozen before exiting the contest. Fellow senior Brody Hawes added a 12-point, 10-rebound double-double to go along with a game-high five assists.

"Owen, scored a lot, pretty efficient from two. Austin shot 10 free throws (made seven); when he's going downhill, attacking the hoop strong, he's tough to stop and pretty good for us," Burke said. "Brody is a prime example of fitting into his role and playing it

very well. A lot of hard work through the offseason and football season and it's finally paying off."

Bennett forced 23 Panther turnovers, including 12 steals, led by Ivory's four, three by Owen Stiers, and two each for Austin Stiers and Hawes.

The Tigers advanced to 16-3 overall on the season and remained in the middle (No. 14) of the top 32 teams in the 4A seeding index for the postseason. The orange-and-black had an opportunity to jump up the polls with a road game at 3A No. 6 Highland Feb. 15, and its home contest against Frontier League foe Fort Lupton Feb. 18, but results were unavailable at press time. For complete coverage, see the Feb. 21 *Eastern Colorado News*.

The Fort Lupton game was expected to be for the conference title.

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BB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 7

up that big run and just not defending well enough and that's what happened. You play against another top four team and that's what happens."

Strasburg did have a balanced scoring attack with four players in double figures.

"We were good enough offensively, even though we weren't great, but, defensively, we just weren't good enough, and that's what got us," Bollers said.

Sophomore Brody Hopwood flirted with a triple-double with 12 points, nine rebounds, and seven assists.

"He had probably the best game of his career," Bollers said. "He was really good."

Junior Nick Glatfelter was top scorer with 19 points and also had nine rebounds and the team's only blocked shot.

"We did a lot of damage to their zone on the inside," Bollers said.

Glatfelter was followed by junior Cade Hemphill with 15 points, three rebounds, and two steals; senior Tyce Bollers, 13 points, three rebounds,

three assists, and three steals; and junior Cam Manahan, 4 points, three boards, two assists, and two steals.

Both Bollers and Hemphill struggled with their outside shooting. Hemphill connected on just 3-of-10 three point attempts while Bollers was 1-for-7. As a team, the Indians were 5-of-25 from three-point land.

"You got to hit the three against the zone," Bollers said.

Strasburg returned to the No. 3 spot in the 3A rankings after Yuma was beaten by Windsor Charter. The Indians have faced every team in the 3A top five and the game against Forge Christian Feb. 15 was their 10th against a top 10 team from 2A, 3A or 4A.

The Indians concluded the regular season at home against Frontier Academy Feb. 18.

The 3A Patriot League Tournament starts with a likely home game Feb. 21. The conference semifinals will be hosted by higher seeds Feb. 25 with Championship Friday on Feb. 28 at Weld Central.

Byers girls, boys ground Eagles during hardwood rivalry



Byers' Eli Cary looks for an opening between a quartet of Deer Trail defenders during the schools' annual contest on the Eagles' home court Feb.

Bulldogs fly high wire-to-wire

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — A drastic mismatch on paper between diverging programs came to fruition as the 2A No. 7-ranked Byers Bulldog boys easily took care of their winless hosts from Deer Trail 62-21 Feb. 11.

For Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns, a depleted starting five still only played the first 5-6 minutes as they ran out to a 16-3 first-quarter lead. The Bulldogs' second team played much of the second quarter before Kerns put in the rest of the 18 guys he suited up. Junior starting guard Quincy Eacret sat out the game because of a bum wrist.

"Our second group was about 16-3 also and then got



Eagle Chauncy Gudenkauf races with the dribble ahead of Byers' A.J. Engle.

the rest of our guys off the bench, including five that have never suited varsity before," Kerns said. "Really

SEE BB BYERS @ DT PAGE 10

Green-clad ladies overcome sluggish start on road court

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The annual Corridor hardwood rivalry between the Byers and Deer Trail girls Feb. 11 started out closely contested, but the visiting Lady Bulldogs pulled away for a 56-25 victory.

Down to a roster of six, the host red-and-white was tied 7-7 after the first eight minutes and went up 9-7 early in the second quarter, but Byers scored the next 10 points and 12 of 15 to take a 19-12 advantage at halftime. The Bulldogs maintained the momentum out of the locker room, scoring the first 13 points en route to a 24-4 third-quarter advantage and 43-16 lead entering the final eight minutes.

"Didn't start off the game the way we wanted, a little late to the party. Not too pleased with our communication," said Byers head coach Chris Cary about his underclassmen-dominated squad's performance. "In the third quarter, handled what we needed to do. Probably something we should have done in the first and second quarters."

"Our girls are still playing really hard but injury and sickness has played a big role in the games lately," said Deer Trail head coach Phil Donovan, who currently has one senior, one junior, two sophomores and two freshmen available.

Eleven Bulldogs scratched



Above, Lady Bulldog Leyla Sayler and Deer Trail's Megan Donovan chase after a loose ball Feb. 11. Below, Byers' Sydney Smith (23) and Kaci Harris are sandwiched by Lady Eagles Kylie Bryant, left, and Allena Sanchez-Neal during a rebounding battle.



the stat sheet, led by sophomore Madi Olsen with 12 points, eight rebounds, five assists and two steals, and freshman Layla Sayler with an 11-point, 10-rebound double-double to go with three assists and a pair of steals. Sophomore Taiya Eymann came off the bench for 9

points; junior Abi Green, 8 points; freshman Joclynn Rector, 6 points, eight rebounds and four steals; and freshman Ainsley Sauer, 6 points, four rebounds and steals. The game was also the first time senior Allie Pelton

SEE GB BYERS @ DT PAGE 10

Deer Trail School is rounding up our 2025-2026 **KINDERGARTNERS!**

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Virtual sportspersons caucus scheduled

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Northeast Region will host a virtual sportspersons caucus from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, so hunters and anglers can discuss current issues and ask questions to staff and biologists.

Interested attendees must register prior to the virtual event by using this link. Use the latest version of Zoom.

The caucus will cover changes to the draw, resident vs. non-resident tags, and over-the-counter archery

changes. Gray wolf reintroduction efforts will also be update. The 2025 Big Game brochure will be reviewed.

"We want to hear from hunters and anglers about their experiences and questions," said CPW Northeast Regional Manager Mark Leslie. "The caucus is a great opportunity to ask questions and speak directly to your local CPW staff."

All sportspersons who live and recreate in the Northeast Region are encouraged to attend.



Lady Bulldog Joclynn Rector splits the Deer Trail double-team of Fatuma Hussein, left, and Vailini Samate on her way to the bucket.

GB BYERS @ DT

FROM PAGE 9

has been on the court since injuring her knee the first week after Christmas break.

"Getting Allie back should help us, especially once she gets back acclimated to game conditions," Cary said. "If nothing else, her senior leadership, along with (classmate) Averie Eymann, should help us as we get ready for the postseason."

For Deer Trail, senior Allena Sanchez-Neal led with 9 points, followed by sophomore Vailini Samate and freshman Fatuma Hussein with 5 apiece, sophomore Kylie Bryant, 4; and junior Megan Donovan with 2.

The victory advanced Byers to 12-6 overall, 4-1 against Union Pacific League opposition. The green-and-white closed out league play with a 59-45 home victory over arch rival Limon on Valentine's Day. For full coverage, see the Feb. 21 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Byers concludes the regular season at Heritage Christian in Fort Collins Feb. 22, and will be part of the first-ever end-of-season tournament between the Union Pacific and Lower Platte leagues. After a first-round game at a higher seed Feb. 25, semifinal and championship rounds will be held Feb. 28 and March 1 at Akron. The UP will be represented by Byers, Limon and Burlington, while Akron, Haxtun, Holyoke, Merino and Sedgwick County are from the Lower Platte.

OTHER DEER TRAIL ACTION

A split of games leading up to the Byers contest and two losses to conclude last week had the Lady Eagles at 5-13 overall, 0-5 against the UP League.

Deer Trail's fifth win of the season was 41-10 defensive domination against visiting Cripple Creek/Victor Feb. 6.

After posting a 6-0 first quarter shutout, Donovan's troops had a 16-8 advantage at halftime, but the Eagle defensive got back to its stingy ways,



Lady Bulldog Taiya Eymann high-fives with Byers assistant coach Dan Zufall after coming off the floor during the annual rivalry game with Deer Trail Feb. 11.

allowing only two second-half points and blanking the Pioneers 14-0 in the third quarter.

All seven Eagles that suited scored. Sanchez-Neal paced the hosts' offense with 17 points, followed by Megan Donovan with 11; Hussein, 4; freshman Itzel Marquez, 3; and Samate, Bryant and freshman KyAnn Kitzman with 2 apiece.

The Cripple Creek victory was a bounce-back for the Eagles after they fell 52-26 at home to 1A third-ranked Stratton Feb. 4.

Between its last win and the Byers game, Deer Trail lost 52-23 in a makeup game at Caliche Feb. 8.

Most recently, the red-and-white lost 27-15 to visiting Hi-Plains Feb. 13 and 41-14 at Genoa-Hugo/Karval.

With two weeks left in the season, Deer Trail traveled to Colorado Springs Feb. 18 for a battle of Eagles with Pikes Peak Christian before hosting Burlington Feb. 20.

Lady Tigers 1-1 in road blowouts

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

The Bennett Lady Tigers found themselves on both ends of road trip hardwood blowouts to start last week.

After struggling mightily in a 51-22 loss to Peak to Peak in Lafayette on Feb. 10, the orange-and-black bounced back with a dominating 49-14 victory over Lake County in Leadville Feb. 12.

@ LAKE COUNTY

The troops of Bennett head coach Mike Rios took out their frustration over an outgunned set of Lady Panthers, winning the first quarter 22-6 and never looking back.

"Went on cruise control after that," Rios said. "Probably didn't execute on high level but still got it done."

Bennett senior Jessica Venneberg doubled up the hosts' point total by herself, scoring 28, and completed a double-double with 10 rebounds to go along with three assists and three steals. Sophomore Emilee Venneberg added 6 points and five steals; senior Olivia Schroeder, 5 points and 5 assists; and junior Maddison Hawkins corralled six offensive rebounds.

@ PEAK TO PEAK

The host Pumas were less than

hospitable Monday night, outscoring Bennett 16-3 and 13-3 over the first two quarters, respectively. The visitors took the third quarter 12-11, but couldn't maintain the momentum, losing the fourth 11-4.

"Against Peak to Peak, we didn't stick to the game plan early," Rios said. "We finally started to in the second half and won the third quarter but, by then, it was too late. Not a great offensive night."

Rios' troops struggled mightily to stop the Peak to Peak duo of 6'5" senior Alexandra Eschmeyer and sophomore guard Neve Gustafson, who recorded 25 and 13 points, respectively.

Bennett concluded the night shooting only 7-of-46, 15%, from the field. The Lady Tigers were 8-of-10 from the free-throw line.

Jessica Venneberg scored half the Tigers' points with 11 and had three of her squad's nine steals. Schroeder ended the night with a team-high eight rebounds, while Emilee Venneberg had all three of Bennett's assists.

Entering their Feb. 15 contest at Highland (Ault), the orange-and-black was 12-7 overall, 3-0 against Frontier League competition, and No. 22 in the 4A state poll for determining the 32-team state bracket. For coverage of the game at Highland, see the Feb. 21 *Eastern Colorado News*.

BB BYERS @ DT

FROM PAGE 9

pleased with how we played the game the right way and in a respectful way. I thought Deer Trail did some good things when they were running their man offense against us, but the shots were just not falling for them."

Fourteen Bulldogs scored with top honors being shared by senior Garrett Crecelius and sophomore Samuel Linnebur who had 7 points each off the bench. Senior sixth- or seventh-man Chas Butterfield added 6 points, while classmates Carson Gaudot and Cody Harris tacked on 5 points apiece. Ten others had 2-4 points.

"Pretty cool to see (senior) Brent West get in for his first time and get a basket late to which the crowd went crazy," Kerns said. "Also good to get (senior) Cameron Eastwood and (sophomore) Caleb Eastwood in to play together as brothers. Kind of fun."

Deer Trail's points came from three of the six that played. Sophomore Chauncy Gudenkauf paced the red-and-white with a game-high 10 points, followed by seniors Kooper Eldringhoff and Koltin Kitzman with 6 and 5, respectively.

The victory moved Byers to 14-4 overall, 4-1 in Union Pacific League Play.

The Bulldogs hosted arch-rival Limon Feb. 14. For full coverage of Byers' last-second 58-55 victory, see the Feb. 21 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

The Bulldogs travel to Fort Collins to face Heritage Christian Feb. 22, before participating in a joint Union Pacific/Lower Platte conference tournament starting at home Feb. 26. The final two rounds take place Feb. 28 and March 1 at Akron.

DEER TRAIL'S STRUGGLES CONTINUE

Through games played Feb. 14, the Eagles were 0-18.

The week leading up to the Byers game saw head coach Mark Dille's troops defeated 65-29 at home by Stratton Feb. 4, before playing their closest contest of the season but fall-



Byers' Carson Gaudot corrals a rebound in front of Deer Trail's Hernesto Anguiano during the schools' annual rivalry contest Feb. 11.

ing short to visiting Cripple Creek-Victor, 34-26, Feb. 6, and losing 57-24 at Caliche two days later.

Following the rivalry matchup last Tuesday, Deer Trail was competitive at home against Hi-Plains but lost 42-32 Feb. 13. Last Friday, the road trip to Hugo was unsuccessful as the red-and-white fell 58-28.

Starting Feb. 18, the Eagles will conclude the 2024-25 campaign with three of four on the road. After a pair of road trips to Pikes Peak Christian in Colorado Springs and to Burlington Feb. 18 and 20, respectively, the red-and-white will host Elbert in a makeup contest Feb. 24. The season concludes at Manzanola Feb. 27.



PHOTOS BY LIAM COURTNEY-DAVIS/University of Colorado at Boulder
Reddish-brown bands of Tava sandstone, left photo, cut through other rocks. The Tava is also cross-cut by silvery-gray veins of iron oxide. Right, a 5-meter-tall, almost vertical Tava dike is evident in this section of Pikes Peak granite.

‘Snowball Earth’

Was it a global event? New study delivers best proof yet

by Daniel Strain
CU Boulder Today

BOULDER — Geologists have uncovered strong evidence from Colorado that massive glaciers covered Earth down to the equator hundreds of millions of years ago, transforming the planet into an icicle floating in space.
The study, led by CU Boulder, is a coup for proponents of a long-standing theory known as Snowball Earth. It posits that from about 720 million to 635 million years ago and, for reasons that remain unclear, a runaway chain of events radically altered the

planet’s climate. Temperatures plummeted, and ice sheets possibly several miles thick crept over every inch of Earth’s surface.
“This study presents the first physical evidence that Snowball Earth reached the heart of continents at the equator,” said Liam Courtney-Davies, lead author of the new study and postdoctoral researcher in the CU Department of Geological Sciences.
In new research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a team of geologists describes the missing link, found in
SEE SNOWBALL EARTH
PAGE 12



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Best of the West Honor Band



Select Bennett High School band students — Angelia Castilleja, left, Joselyne Hermosillo, Kaleb Chavez, Joseph Harris, Ayden Reynolds, Monica Madera, Justin Wilson and Danica Bertram — pose for a photo at the Best of the West Honor Band at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction Dec. 5-7. Castilleja took first chair in percussion, and Justin Wilson was named second chair alto saxophonist in the Gold Ensemble. Hermosillo, Chavez, Harris, Reynolds, Madera, and Bertram all participated in the Maroon Ensemble. More than 20 schools from across the state participated in the event where they auditioned for ensembles, participated in master classes, worked with world renown clinicians, and performed at a concert for the public.



Deer Trail fifth-grader Rykhan Pelletier is the winner of the school's spelling bee for first- through sixth-graders Jan. 22.



Byers sixth-grader Leo Rash celebrates his victory in the Byers Elementary Spelling Bee held Feb. 3 for fourth- through sixth-graders.

SNOWBALL EARTH

FROM PAGE 11

an unusual pebbly sandstone encapsulated within the granite that forms Pikes Peak.

The study zeroes in on the Front Range, where a series of rocks nicknamed the Tavakaiv, or “Tava,” sandstones hold clues to this frigid period in Earth’s past, Courtney-Davies said.

The researchers used a dating technique called laser ablation mass spectrometry, which zaps minerals with lasers to release some of the atoms inside. They showed that these rocks had been forced underground between about 690 million to 660 million years ago — in all likelihood from the weight of huge glaciers above them.

Courtney-Davies said the study will help scientists understand a critical phase in not just the planet’s geologic history but also the history of life on Earth. The first multicellular organisms may have emerged in oceans immediately after Snowball Earth thawed.

“You have the climate evolving, and you have life evolving with it. All of these things happened during Snowball Earth upheaval,” he said. “We have to better characterize this entire time period to understand how we and the planet evolved together.”

SEARCHING FOR SNOW

The term “Snowball Earth” dates back to a paper published in 1992 by American geologist Joseph Kirschvink.

Despite decades of research, scientists are yet to agree whether the entire globe actually froze. Geologists, for example, have discovered the fingerprints of thick ice from this time period along ancient coastal areas, but not within the interior of continents close to the equator.

Colorado enters the picture here. At the time, the region didn’t sit at the northern latitudes where it does today. Instead, Colorado rested over the equator as a landlocked part of the ancient supercontinent Laurentia.

If glaciers formed here, scientists believe, then they could have formed anywhere.

GOING DEEP

The search for that missing piece of the puzzle brought Courtney-Davies and his colleagues to the Tava sandstones. Today, these features poke up

from the ground in a few locations along Colorado’s Front Range, most notably around Pikes Peak. To the untrained eye, they might seem like ordinary-looking yellow to brown rock running in vertical bands less than an inch to many feet wide.

But for geologists, these features have an unusual history. They likely began as sands at the surface of Colorado at some point in the past. But then forces pushed them underground — like claws digging into the Earth’s crust.

“These are classic geological features called injectites that often form below some ice sheets, including in modern-day Antarctica,” Courtney-Davies said.

Courtney-Davies wanted to find out if the Tava sandstones were also connected to ice sheets. To do that, the researchers calculated the ages of mineral veins that sliced through those features.

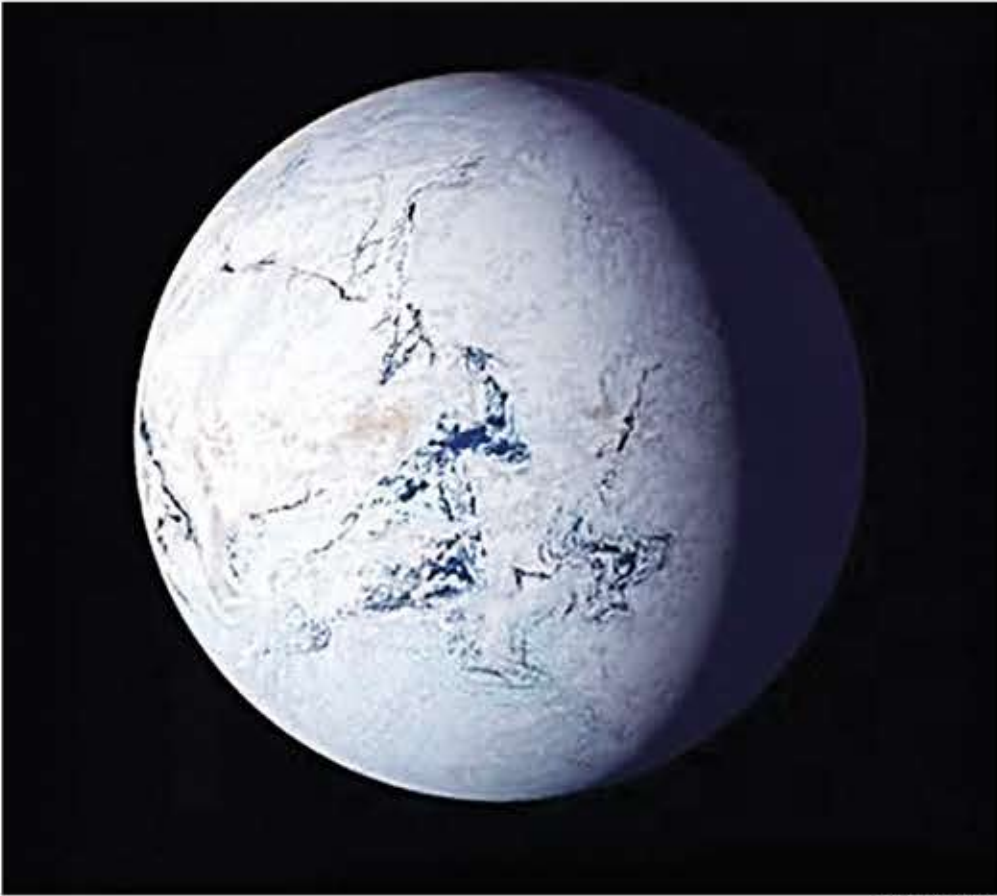
They collected tiny samples of the minerals, which are rich in iron oxide (essentially rust), then hit them with a laser. In the process, the minerals released small quantities of lead and the radioactive element uranium. Because uranium atoms decay into lead at a constant rate, the team could use them as a sort of timekeeper for the planet’s rocks.

It was a Eureka moment: The group’s findings suggest that the Tava sandstone had been pushed underground during Snowball Earth. The group suspects that, at the time, thick ice sheets formed over Colorado, exposing the sands to intense pressures. Eventually, and with nowhere else to go, they pushed down into the bedrock below.

The researchers aren’t done yet: If such features formed in Colorado during Snowball Earth, they probably formed in other spots around North America.

“We want to get the word out so that others try and find these features and help us build a more complete picture of Snowball Earth,” Courtney-Davies said.

Co-authors of the study include Rebecca Flowers, professor of geological sciences at CU Boulder, and researchers from Colorado College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and the University of California at Berkeley.



Earth iced over during the Cryogenian Period, but life on the planet survived. NASA illustration

2025 CITIZENS ACADEMY

WEDNESDAYS (AND TWO SELECT SATURDAYS) FROM MARCH 5TH- APRIL 23, FROM 6-8:30 P.M.

A series of classes designed to give community members a peek into the inner workings of the Adams County Sheriff’s Office.

- Crime Scene Investigation
- Defensive Tactics
- Firearms Simulator
- DUI & Traffic Enforcement
- Community Policing
- Driving
- Office of Emergency Management

And Much, Much More.

Scan the QR Code for more info and to apply.

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to be part of the Sheriff’s Office? Here’s your chance!

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Strasburg American Legion Post 183. 6:30 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit byers32j.k12.co.us for a link to live meeting via Zoom.
Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoeconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.
Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Senior citizen game day. 1-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.

Bennett Board of Trustees. Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. Visit townofbennett.colorado.gov for a Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.

EVERY THURSDAY

Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing, dance and learn to play musical instruments. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.
Preschool Storytime: Children up to ages 3-6 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that promote early literacy. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.
Play & Learn for ages 1-3 and their families. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.
Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.
Coffee, Cookies & Chat for all I-70 Corri-

dor seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.

Gaming Club: Patrons ages 10 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

EVERY FRIDAY

Preschool storytime: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com. Click on "virtual events."

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

Free tax planning offered to Arapahoe Co. families

LITTLETON — Through March 28, households with an income of \$67,000 or less can sign up for free tax assistance from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays at Arapahoe County Public Health, 14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora.

Participants could be eligible for cash back from the Family Affordability Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. More people qualify for these credits than they realize but they must first file a federal and state tax return to receive them.

Taxes can be filed securely and for free at www.GetAheadColorado.org. The IRS tax deadline is April 15.

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"This is interesting... I see your lifeline... plus twenty years!"

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...writing and publishing them.




Kids: color stuff in!



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Happy birthday to us!



When you "publish" something, you are sharing your ideas with others in a "public way."

This year, *Newspaper Fun* is celebrating 20 years of publishing our weekly educational activity page. That may seem like a long time, but some newspapers have been in print for a *century* or more. Humans have been publishing in one form or another for thousands of years. Cave drawings were the earliest way for people to put their ideas on display for others.


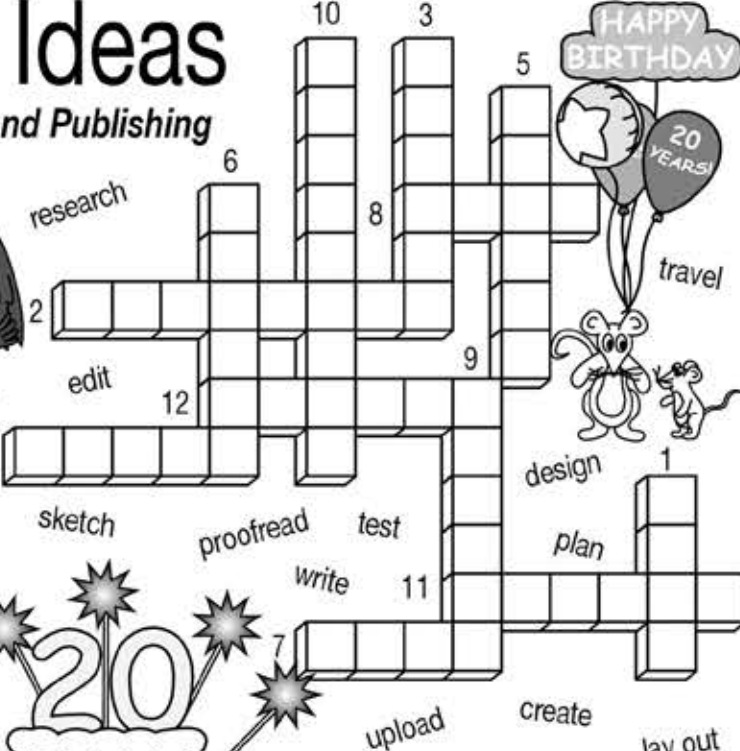

Have you ever dreamed of publishing? This page shows you 12 basic steps for how we do it! Perhaps *you* can publish a newsletter or web site!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

- _____ a calendar of themes: holidays, seasons, subjects taught in school, events
- _____ the theme to learn interesting facts and decide how information will be used
- _____ out ideas for the types of puzzles and how they might fit on a page
- _____ clues, word banks, directions, hints
- _____ the puzzles: crosswords, dot-to-dots, mazes, word searches
- _____ the illustrations and cartoons that we imagine
- _____ (and tweak) the writing to make sure everything is as clear as possible
- _____ the puzzles to make sure they are accurate and fun
- _____ the writing (copy), puzzles and illustrations to make an attractive presentation
- _____ to look for any errors: spelling, facts, names
- _____ the final product to a web site so others can print and enjoy it
- start all over again: _____, visit places, explore, talk to people, take photographs and notes for future themes

Sharing Ideas

The Art of Writing and Publishing




Yum! Cake.


Publish your ideas, too.

Party Fun

Here are 2 fun party ideas:

- gummy _____ worms
- _____ s r d c





Artists may do their work by hand, on a computer, or by using a combination of both.

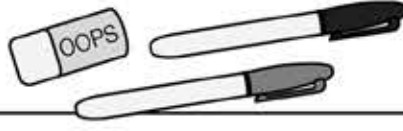
Writer's Tools

- computer
- monitor
- keyboard
- printer
- backup storage
- word processing program

Artist's Tools

- dictionary
- notebooks
- pens
- laptop
- carry bag
- phone
- ink
- ruler
- easel
- erasers
- mannequin
- art pencil
- blending tool
- drawing program
- digital camera
- sharpener
- drawing paper
- sketch books
- scanner

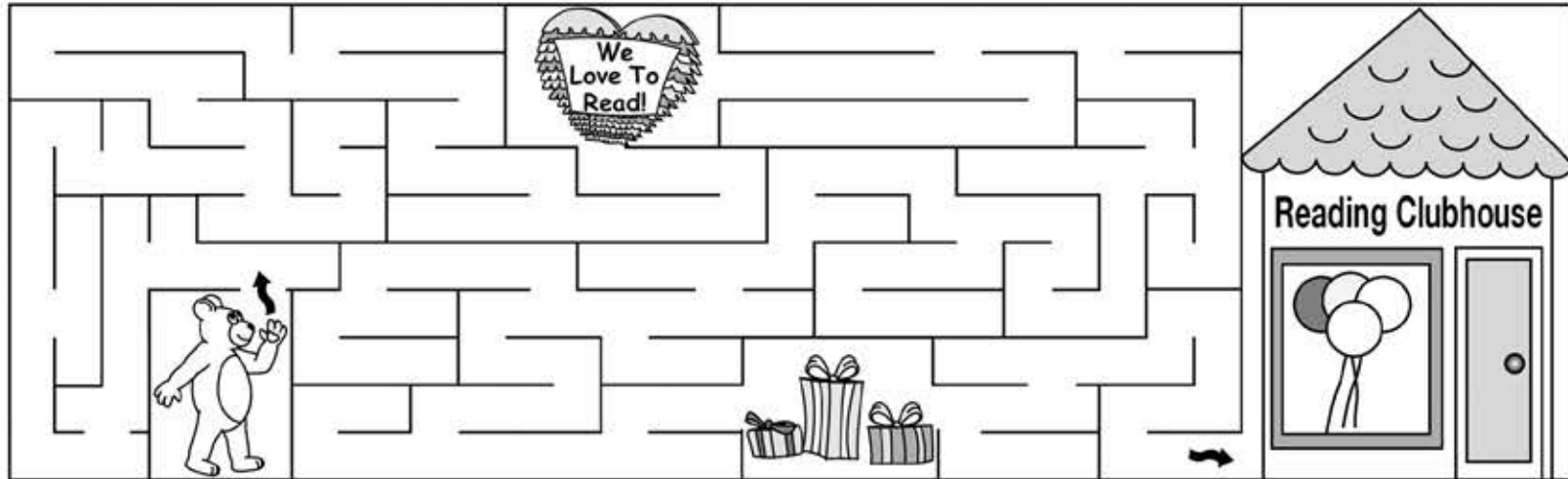
Tools of Writing and Drawing



D	I	C	T	I	O	N	A	R	Y	A	N	A	M	P	H	O	N	E	R	B	B	V	S	C	R
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D	Q	U	D	G	C	K	F	G	Q	Q	Y	S	T	M	E	I	T	C	R	L	E	T	A	F	Y
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I	W	O	M	E	W	U	O	N	R	S	V	S	P	E	C	X	C	K	D	R	N	W	Q	T	R
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P	H	U	I	T	T	I	N	K	X	M	K	T	N	M	V	O	J	C	Q	A	O	U	N	J	O
A	A	I	O	R	N	A	I	H	J	Z	I	O	G	N	B	O	J	B	A	G	O	L	J	C	M
P	R	N	A	O	Z	H	F	V	U	G	X	Z	V	Y	E	K	N	O	S	N	L	E	I	Y	P
E	P	E	M	N	L	B	J	E	I	V	S	F	E	F	Z	R	Y	L	U	G	C	R	K	B	U
R	E	V	G	P	E	N	S	D	E	X	R	K	Z	P	E	Q	E	Q	N	E	G	Y	I	M	T
Z	N	U	T	R	V	D	A	T	N	G	S	C	P	E	R	A	S	E	R	S	J	K	N	G	E
D	E	D	C	W	O	R	D	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	I	N	G	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	R
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L	S	O	X	Y	Z	A	M	L	Y	X	D	V	B	S	K	E	T	C	H	B	O	O	K	S	Q

Surprise Party!

Everyone is meeting at the clubhouse to hold a party to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their fun activity page. Help Forest pick up the piñata and the gifts on his way there.



Reading Clubhouse

Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2024

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 22, 2005

A bill has passed the Colorado House to allow the Front Range Toll Road Co. Inc to complete a privately funded 210-mile toll road from Fort Collins to Pueblo that will cross the I-70 Corridor between Watkins and Bennett.

HB 05-1030, sponsored by Rep. Jim Sullivan and Sen. Suzanne Williams, amends a state law to allow the statewide tolling authority to set consistent tolls through multiple counties, updates the law to conform to current traffic issues, and preserves local government land use authority in developing the corridor.

HB 05-1030 unanimously passed the House Transportation Committee on Feb. 2 and passed the House on a 62-3 vote on third reading on Feb. 8.

The bill requires “the board of directors of the statewide tolling enterprise to fix toll rates for any private toll road that is located in more than one county.”

It specifies the “types of land, improvements, facilities and property rights that private toll roads may include, specifying the manner of enforcement of tolls and applicable traffic laws, authorizing the conveyance of private toll roads or interests therein.”

15 YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 23, 2010

BRIGHTON — A Watkins women will spend the rest of her life in jail after an Adams County jury recently found her guilty of killing her father and stepmother early last year.

Kara Lorelle Lounsbury, 32, was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder Feb. 16 and sentenced to two life sentences with no chance of parole in connection with the deaths

of Harold Enander, 69, and wife Velva Sue Enander, 61, on Jan. 15, 2009. The couple was killed at their home along east 144th Avenue near Imboden Road east of Brighton and north of Watkins.

The jury believed the prosecution’s argument that Lounsbury was motivated to kill because of financial issues and past beliefs of verbal and sexual abuse.

“This was an incredibly violent and callous crime. There is never a good motive for murder, but to kill your own parents for money is exceptionally heinous,” said Adams/Broomfield County District Attorney Don Quick.

10 YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

DENVER — Denver International Airport, with its iconic peaked roof design, has been an Eastern Plains landmark for 20 years.

The airport’s first full day of operations was Feb. 28, 1995, with United flights to Kansas City and from Colorado Springs the first to depart and arrive. Today, DIA is the 15th-busiest airport in the world and the fifth-busiest in the United States, with 52 million passengers traveling through each year. At 53 square miles, it is the largest airport by area in the United States. DIA is one of Colorado’s primary economic engines, generating more than \$26 million annually.

The airport’s journey from its beginning has been, at times, as bumpy as the turbulence over the Rocky Mountains that its design emulates.

For 66 years, beginning in October 1929, Denver’s primary airport was Stapleton International Airport. Stapleton, which opened as Denver Municipal Airport, was renamed in 1944 after Benjamin E. Stapleton, who was the city’s mayor for most of the years from 1923 to 1947 and spearheaded the project.

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	8	6					1	5
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		9		5	1			

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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. 19, the 50th day of 2025. There are 315 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 19, 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the internment of

125,000 people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens.

ON THIS DATE

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1847, the first rescuers reached members of the Donner Party, who had been snowbound in the Sierra

Nevada mountains near the California-Nevada border for nearly four months.

In 1878, inventor Thomas Edison was issued a patent for the phonograph.

In 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as the first wave of U.S. Marines landed at Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to

seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, calling the issuing of the 1942 internment order for people of Japanese ancestry “a sad day in American history,” signed a proclamation formally confirming its termination.

In 2003, an Iranian military plane carrying members of the elite

Revolutionary Guards crashed in southeastern Iran, killing all 275 people on board.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer Smokey Robinson is 85. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath) is 77. Actor Jeff Daniels is 70. Actor Ray Winstone is 68. NBA center Nikola Jokić is 30.

—Associated Press

HOROSCOPE

Pisces Sun Does Impressions

It’s said that we become the average of the five people we spend the most time with. Early in Pisces season, we’re reminded of our impressionability, how easily we absorb the energies of those around us. These relationships shape us, and with that comes responsibility — especially to set a good example for those who look to us, like our children.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You see beauty in your life and reflect it in the world around you — whether it’s through your actions, your intention or how you move in a room — which shows such confidence and presence. A lot of people work their whole lives to find that, and you have it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Give yourself some well-deserved grace as you reflect on interactions. See the nuances in what happened. Notice patterns, both in how others engage and how you respond. The awareness will be powerful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can admire and see people in a certain way, and that can bring you pleasure even if they don’t reciprocate. Reciprocation is nice to have, but not having it is OK, too, because it’s your way of seeing others that you’re really in love with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The excellent relationship experiences have taught you, but the not so excellent ones have taught you more. You’ll be reminded of both lessons and would do well to apply them to your current situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Only you can determine what’s worth wanting for yourself, and with time, the answer may evolve in ways you never expected. Your desires are as dynamic as you are, shaped by growth, experience and the unfolding of life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Among the most satisfying forms of justice, poetic justice ranks high. When life rhymes — whether literally or figuratively — it feels like the universe is aligning, delivering outcomes meaningful and fitting, and with an unexpected twist of irony.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There’s a fine line between danger and opportunity, with each holding the potential to shape the other. Today, that line is blurred, and the thrill lies in not knowing which is which, making this a time full of exhilarating unpredictability.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Ambition can cloud your perspective, making you see what you want to be true rather than what actually is. But that vision is powerful. It’s the spark that drives you to turn what you dream into reality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Bad manners come from the misinformed or poorly taught. Good manners are easily attained by those who ask the right questions and follow directions. You’ll navigate situations gracefully, gain what you need and build lasting bonds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You crave quick answers and would love a guarantee, but that’s not in the cards today. This is the very beginning of a long story, and there are many clues in this part — foreshadowing, even.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Conflict isn’t a natural or comfortable space for you, and that’s not a flaw; it’s a reflection of your values and the kinds of relationships you cultivate, where harmony, mutual respect and kindness take precedence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The good things about you don’t disappear because of what you’re going through. Your capacity to love, your creativity, your ability to care for others — those things are always there.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19). You’ll be in environments that amplify what you are good at, that lift your effervescent spirit and attract your perfect team. Together you will be like a wave, moving the world with your energies, work, processes and products. More highlights: You’ll use your humor and charm, lifting spirits wherever you go. Also, family solidarity, celebration and truly fun competitions. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 15, 26 and 31.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: THE OSCARS

- ACROSS
1. 1/10
6. European tourist tax, acr.
9. “Germinal” author ...mile
13. Bye, in Paris
14. Bigheadedness
15. Relating to wine, arch.
16. Tabletop mountains
17. H+, e.g.
18. Large key on the right
19. “___ Boys”
21. “Emilia Pérez” leading actress
23. H in HMS, sometimes
24. Kids’ get-away
25. Like certain Four
28. Queen of Carthage
30. Razzed
35. Scary fairytale creature
37. Soft drink
39. Like certain egg order
40. Sir Mix-___
41. “Sean Baker’s original screenplay
43. Loyal, arch.
44. Caldecott award
46. Ascus, pl.
47. AI’s learning material
48. Harry ___, once of One Direction
50. Wearing footgear
52. “At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang “I’m Just ___”
53. Sushi restaurant libation
55. Unit of length of yarn
57. “This year’s Academy Awards host
60. “Elphaba and Galinda story
63. Antique shop item
64. Metal-bearing rock
66. Mountain nymph
68. Southeast Asian org.
69. Lavatory, abbr.
70. “___ Theatre
71. Whimper
72. Sodium hydroxide
73. Follow
- DOWN
1. Scottish cap
2. Barbara of “I Dream of Jeannie”
3. Not yet final, at law
4. Mold a mind
5. Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
6. Bride’s cover
7. Opposite of hence
8. Polynesian kingdom
9. Zn
10. “I’m ___ you!”
11. Property right
12. Acronym, abbr.
15. Evening worship

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
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71					72			73			

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20. “All My Children” vixen
22. Invoice qty.
24. Colossus, pl.
25. Fizzes
26. End of a shoelace
27. “The Brutalist” leading actor
29. Spanish lady
31. Old, in Scottish
32. Go stealthily
33. Related on mother’s side
34. “Chalamet’s role
36. Et alibi, abbr.
38. St. Louis’ Gateway
42. Garlicky mayonnaise
45. Acne, technically
49. Famous frat house
51. Crack
54. Grassy mound
56. Ohio metropolis
57. Yorkshire river
58. Tea or beer
59. Iranian money
60. We have
61. Mature elvers
62. Dabu-___, chili pepper condiment
63. Operator’s equip.
65. “Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
67. Yellow #5, e.g.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

The shutdowns are necessary when old valves leak and are replaced. Board president Shannon Roth said that the most recent leak occurred at Owens and Third Avenue when contractor Global Underground Corp. was potholing — making test holes to accurately locate underground lines. “They actually ran into another tap just down the street from the one that busted last time and it’s the same kind of deal,” Roth explained. “The whole saddle of the tap literally disintegrated — just came apart.” District manager Kagen Kitzman said Byers’ water system is more than 70 years old, and that some portions have been in the ground that long. “They never wrapped the saddles with plastic, like they do now,” he added. Roth said that the process to replace bad valves was reevaluated at a recent meeting with project engineers and insertion valves — which can be put in place without shutting the water down — will be used in some areas. “So, we’re going to move that direction right now,” Roth said. “We plan to put about 14 of them in.” Roth added that some partial shutdowns will still occur, including when the main 12-inch tie-in to the water plant is worked on. “When we’re putting in the valves where we shut down and isolate, we’re looking at just shutting down no more than 50 homes at a time,” he said. “So hopefully we can avoid these big disruptions that we had, and maybe just have maybe one more.” Roth and Kitzman both emphasized that the community will be notified several days in advance of any shutdowns. The district now has a Facebook page where up-to-date information will be posted. Paper notices attached to residents’ doors will still be used, and research into an all-call system is occurring. A district web page is also in the works. The district’s water operator, Wayne Ramey of Ramey Environmental Compliance, Inc. explained when and why boil advisories are issued, noting that boil orders are necessary when the entire system loses pressure. If any bacteria had at some point been inadvertently introduced into a water pipe, it is held on the wall of the pipe by the pressure of the flowing water and doesn’t cause contamination. “When you lose that pressure, it allows those bacteria to fall off the pipe and, when you repressurize, it is in the water,” he said, adding that the bacteria could sicken, or even kill, people, especially those with compromised immune systems. The state issues a boil order, and districts are required to follow a procedure to clean the system. “The way you have to get it back into service is to raise the chlorine up above four milligrams per liter,” Ramey said. “You get that throughout your system and, when you’ve tested and recorded those numbers, you turn the chlorine back to normal. You flush all that super chlorinated water

back out, and you take tests to see if you have any total coliform positives.” The board approved a change order for Global Underground contract to pay \$8,569.03 for leak repairs. Another change order was for the second component of the system improvement project — the refurbishment of the oldest water storage tanks. Swedish Industrial Coatings was awarded the contract for the tank improvements in September, presenting the lowest bid of \$135,700. The change order adding \$47,884 to the contract was approved after discussion. The project, currently underway, involves re-coating the interior of water storage tanks 1 and 2 and other improvements on tanks 1, 2 and 3. The change order reflects issues including the need to grind down areas of old welding that would cause weak spots in the coating. The areas came to light during sandblasting. The sandblasting also required additional aggregate not covered by the bid. Director Annette Tarantino questioned why the issue wasn’t anticipated and covered in the original bid and suggested further discussion with consulting engineers GMS, Inc. “I understand why they did it, but I don’t understand why it wasn’t part of the original project,” she noted. Roth agreed. “I’m sure some of [the issues] couldn’t be seen in our initial inspections,” he said, adding that discussion should be held to determine what should have been seen and what wasn’t seen. “I think (the contractors) need to be here to defend any change orders going down the road.”

Because the tank improvements are required by the state and the district has already received several extensions, the board approved the expenditure to keep the project moving forward. Kitzman said that work on tank 2 is complete. In other discussion, Kitzman reported that Global Underground is being held up in its effort to get a permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to bore under I-70. Permit requests have been submitted several times and, so far, have been returned with more questions. Water usage for December was 2,910,000 gallons — an increase of 30,400 gallons from November —

much of which can be attributed to the leaks. The 2025 budget was submitted to the state and accepted.

MECHANICAL SEWER PLANT New CDPHE regulations require the Byers Water & Sanitation District to have a mechanical sewer plant in operation by Feb. 28, 2029. The news was announced by the district in December, and, at the Jan. 13 regular district board meeting, Ramey provided more information, noting that more stringent regulations are now in place, including requirements on wastewater discharge, nutrients and effluent toxicity.

“Deer Trail has to do the same. Strasburg has to do the same. Almost every town out here on the Eastern Plains will have to do this,” he said. Ramey said that current permits will include a date at which time the new limits must be met.

“You have to hire an engineer and budget for the engineering by Feb. 28 of this year,” he said. “Then the engineer has one year to study the town — where and how much development is going to occur and how much capacity is needed?”

Ramey said another aspect considered is how many pounds of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) will be required. BOD is a measure of how much oxygen bacteria and other microorganisms use to break down organic matter in wastewater.

“A way to describe it is: how much oxygen does it take to add to that water so it doesn’t kill fish? Even though there’s no fish in West Bijou Creek,” he noted.

The engineer will present a 20-year plan and three alternatives for the district to meet the new regulations. The presentation will be in an open meeting at which the board will make a decision and the district will have a year to design the new facility and hire a contractor to construct it.

“It’s a long process and it’ll take five years to get through it because there are a lot of agencies that you have to go through, including for the funding,” Ramey said.

He added that the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission changed the designation of the West Bijou Creek and other creeks in 2022.

“It used to be an ephemeral stream, meaning it only has water in it when it rains,” he said, adding that, as it doesn’t support aquatic life, it didn’t have a nutrient requirement. “You’d need a BOD, E Coli and total suspended solids (reports) like you do now, but that would be it.”

Ramey said the creek was changed to include unclassified, use-protected, reviewable or designated threatened endangered species habitat.

“They threw ‘water supply’ on it as well. I don’t know anybody that pulls water out of the West Bijou Creek for drinking, but (the designation) changed the requirement.”

Ramey said the new requirements are unlikely to change “unless everybody got together and hired Perry Mason to go in and testify to the commission that it’s bankrupting everybody. Until that happens, we still have to push forward; otherwise penalties and fines come with noncompliance.”

Ramey said he will send out a request for proposals to four or five consultants and the district board will review the submissions and make a hiring decision. A consultant must be under contract no later than April 1.

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East Central BOCES is seeking a part-time, 3.5 days/week teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year (approximately 53 days). Salary range: \$13,754-\$18,122 dependent on experience and education. Requirements: Hold or be able to attain a Colorado teaching license with an endorsement as a special education specialist (deaf/hard of hearing required). Complete assessments, attend IEP meetings, provide direct and indirect special education services. Benefits: Excellent benefits including access to a company vehicle or mileage reimbursement and fully paid health insurance including vision and dental. May be eligible for loan forgiveness program. Flexible scheduling with the opportunity to complete some work from home. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecboces.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the grey button "Apply Online" located at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101. EOE. 2/19

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Board Member Sought

The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce needs an area representative for the Deer Trail/Agate Communities. This is a volunteer position on the Board of Directors. All Board members must be a member of the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce and the position has a two-year commitment.
Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm currently held at TBK Bank in Strasburg. Our Lunch and Learn sessions are the third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at May Farms in Byers.
Please contact Becky Zierer at lzbalpacas@aol.com or (303)475-0485 with any questions.

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BEFORE

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:

410,517
March
Presidential
Primary


402,216
June
State
Primary

429,903
November
Presidential
Election

Turnout Percentage:



March 34%
June 20%
November 77%

Total Ballots Counted:


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

Age:


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



Voter Services Data:

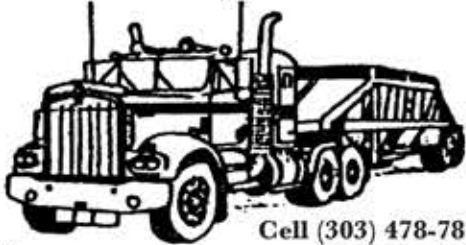
Total number of voter registrations, registration updates, cancellations and affiliation changes in 2024: 207,433

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



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- For 2025 seniors or previous graduates from: Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail, Agate & Limon.

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www.NoCoFoundation.org/Scholarships
(Or scan QR Code)



Chopper cam shows hero tackling car thief

CENTENNIAL — The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has released helicopter video showing a Good Samaritan capturing a car thief.

Johan Sebastian Eslava-Osorio's selfless act led to the arrest of James McDonald, 41, who was wanted for aggravated motor vehicle theft in Arapahoe County.

In March 2023, McDonald was on a crime spree that spanned multiple jurisdictions:

- On March 11, 2023, McDonald visited Groove Ford at 10039 E. Arapahoe Road in Centennial and asked to test drive a red Ford F-150 truck. He later stole the truck. Investigators obtained an arrest warrant for McDonald for aggravated motor vehicle theft.
- On March 13, 2023, McDonald stole an RV in Lakewood. The RV had a 9mm handgun inside.
- On March 16, 2023, Park County deputies spotted a woman driving the stolen red Ford F-150 and McDonald driving the stolen motorhome. The vehicles were driving next to each other. Both eluded deputies, resulting in a police pursuit, which was ultimately terminated for safety reasons.
- On March 20, 2023, Arapahoe County deputies located the stolen RV at a storage facility in Englewood. Multiple firearms were found inside the RV.

On March 21, 2023, McDonald stole a black Ford F-150 pickup truck from a car dealer in Franktown.

On March 24, 2023, while driving the stolen black Ford F-150, McDonald eluded a Lakewood police officer who attempted to stop him.

The final incident prompted Arapahoe County investigators to track McDonald, and the Denver Police Department provided its Air1 helicopter for assistance. Air1 followed McDonald through Denver for about an hour until he crashed the F-150 and fled on foot. He was chased down and tackled by Good Samaritan Johan Sebastian Eslava-Osorio, who held McDonald down until officers arrived. McDonald was arrested for the aggravated motor vehicle theft in Arapahoe County.

"I'm certain that if the suspect had fled the scene of the accident on foot, his desperate attempts to get away would have surely led to additional victims or additional property damage," said Sheriff's Investigator Jose Diaz.

McDonald was sentenced for the aggravated auto theft in Arapahoe County. He's serving a 40-year prison sentence at the Skyline Correctional Center in Canon City.

Although the case closed more than a year ago, investigators had to wait until the matter was resolved in court before releasing the video.

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CHUCK WAGON

Glazed Candied Carrots

by Bobbie Keefer
For The Scout

This is so good!
Use whole carrots. Baby carrots are made with older carrots. As carrots age, the natural sugars turn to starch, which is why baby carrots lose their sweetness.
I like carrots in salads and on a relish tray with ranch dressing.
My husband likes carrot cake. He didn't know carrot cake was actually made with carrots. He says that makes it a vegetable cake!

GLAZED CANDIED CARROTS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb carrots
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS

Peel carrots.



Cut in long strips.
Put in large sauce pan. Add butter, brown sugar and honey.
Simmer, stirring occasionally, until sauce caramelizes and carrots soften.
Season with salt and pepper to taste.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Feb. 20: Bean and cheese burrito.
Monday, Feb. 24: Chicken tender wrap, whole grain tortilla.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Turkey with gravy, dinner roll.
Wednesday, Feb. 26: Fish sandwich, baked beans.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Feb. 20: Chili, cinnamon rolls.
Friday, Feb. 21: Mozzarella sticks.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Chicken and waffles.
Wednesday, Feb. 26: Burritos.

BENNETT

Thursday, Feb. 20: Monte Cristo sandwich, potato wedges, coleslaw, mixed fruit.
Monday, Feb. 24: Hot dog, French fries, broccoli, fruit cup.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Orange popcorn

chicken, rice, oriental vegetables, pineapple tidbits.
Wednesday, Feb. 26: Macaroni and cheese with ham, green beans, fruit cocktail.

BYERS

Thursday, Feb. 20: Mini corn dogs, Fritos, cucumber slices, tropical fruit.
Friday, Feb. 21: French toast sticks, sausage links, potato puffs, orange wedges.
Monday, Feb. 24: Pulled pork sandwich, corn chips, broccoli with ranch, applesauce.
Tuesday, Feb. 25: Bean and cheese burritos, tortilla chips, corn, pears.
Wednesday, Feb. 26: Chicken ramen, egg roll, steamed carrots, grapes.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Feb. 20: Shredded pork fajita tacos with corn tortilla, shredded cheese, sour cream, refried beans, cut mango.

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PHOTOS COURTESY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Golden mussels, above, were detected near Stockton, Calif., in October.

Golden mussel deemed an ‘aquatic nuisance’

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife has temporarily designated golden mussels, a highly invasive mussel species, as an aquatic nuisance species “for a period not to exceed nine months.”

Although golden mussels have not yet been found in Colorado, the designation will provide CPW with the necessary authority to prevent its introduction. It is illegal for any person to possess, import, export, ship, transport, release, place or plant any aquatic nuisance species in Colorado.

“During this nine-month temporary designation, we will be considering more long-term regulatory solutions,” said Jeff Davis, CPW director.

The golden mussel was detected

near Stockton, Calif., in October and has since been discovered in several other California waterways. While the invasive species is well-established in other countries, where it has been shown to have impacts even greater than those associated with the well-known zebra and quagga mussels, this instance is the first detection of golden mussels in the United States.

“By implementing this temporary designation in advance of the upcoming boating season, we have the authority necessary to protect our aquatic resources from the potentially devastating impacts associated with this highly invasive species,” said CPW Invasive Species Program Manager Robert Walters.

Bennett OKs natural gas franchise

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BENNETT — The Bennett Board of Trustees Feb. 11 approved a long-term agreement with Colorado Natural Gas Inc. to provide and distribute natural gas within the town.

The franchise agreement, approved via ordinance after a second reading and public hearing, has a 25-year term and a 5% annual franchise fee based on gross revenues. The agreement replaces an expired 25-year franchise agreement made with Eastern Colorado Utility Company in 1987.

Provisions in the agreement state that CNG:

- will be permitted to use public and dedicated streets and other public places as they currently exist or may be laid out in the future;
- must obtain written approval from the town in advance before performing any work in the town’s parks or open spaces;
- must repair any sidewalk, graveled or paved streets or other public place in a workmanlike manner; and
- will bear the cost of relocating its facilities to accommodate a town project. The cost of other must be borne by the party requesting it.

Additionally, if CNG increases its franchise fees in a city or town in the surrounding area, the town of Bennett can increase its fee to the higher rate.

In a related action, the board updated Chapter 5 of the Bennett Municipal Code governing franchises and communication systems in town. The amendment simplifies the chapter by

ensuring each article contains only one section for franchises.

Town Manager Trish Stiles reminded the board that their gold shovels will be employed at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19, at a groundbreaking ceremony for Civic Center Park.

At 5:30 p.m. that same day, trustees and town staff will meet with interested residents at an Engage. Shape. Build. event at town hall.



Topics will include:

- the development of a comprehensive subarea plan for the area south of I-70 — a plan to guide future growth in the region and facilitate development and public investments over the next 10–20 years;
- the need for residents to install pressure-reducing valves in their homes as part of an upgrade to a single-pressure zone system in the town by 2026. The upgrade will increase water pressure for residential homes. The town will offer a rebate program to help residents with installation costs; and
- the launch of the BeSafe grant which, in partnership with the Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue District, will assist residents in reducing fire risks by covering a portion of the costs for certain fire prevention equipment and services.


Consultants from Norris Design will be on hand to seek public input on the sub-area plan; members of the town Utilities Department will answer questions about the water system improvements; and Bennett’s Community Services team will speak to residents about the BeSafe grant.

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BOCKENFELD FROM PAGE 1

responsibility ruled all he did. He wanted citizens to know how their tax dollars were spent and he did not trust government to be open and transparent, that’s why he joined government; to force them to be open and transparent. Taxpayers have lost an ally, an advocate, and a force to be reckoned with.”

Two years after leaving Arapahoe County, Bockenfeld threw his hat in the ring for HD56 and, after winning the Republican primary against incumbent Philip Covarrubias, was elected in the November 2018 general election, winning 56% to 41% over Democrat Dave Rose. In the 2020 election, Bockenfeld won reelection, defeating Democrat Gigi Carminati by almost 11,750 votes. In 2022, Bockenfeld won his third consecutive two-year term, taking 75.83% of the votes cast. Bockenfeld did not run for re-election last year, citing health reasons. Bockenfeld first publicly announced his cancer diagnosis in October 2023.

“Our terms as county commissioners overlapped as I began my ser-

vice, and later, as the legislator now holding the seat he once represented in the Colorado General Assembly, I had the privilege of viewing him as a mentor. His leadership, wisdom and commitment to his community were an inspiration,” Richardson said. “Rod’s impact will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. Rest in peace, Rod — your service and dedication to Colorado will always be remembered.”

After being born, raised and doing all of his schooling in the Quincy, Ill., area in the 1960s and ’70s, Bockenfeld moved to Colorado where he started work as a financial crimes investigator. He also received a diploma from the University of Colorado graduate school of banking.

In addition to his wife, Susan, Bockenfeld’s family includes five children and nine grandchildren.

While information about services was unavailable at press time, Richardson said the Colorado Legislature is planning a joint tribute to Bockenfeld in the coming weeks.



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