



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 13 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Byers School expands teacher housing



Ryker Hurley portrays Buffalo Bill Cody (1846-1917), during A Night at the Museum hosted by Byers Elementary School fourth-graders Feb. 13. **SEE PAGE 24.**

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — Byers School District increased its inventory of teacher housing options after the board of directors approved the purchase of a home Feb. 20.

The 1,369 square feet, three-bedroom, one-bath house located on South Owens Street sits on a 2.5-acre lot. The property also includes an outbuilding and a chicken coop.

Superintendent Tom Turrell said the acreage has additional water taps and could potentially be used for the agriculture department.

“That water source is a plus for what you could do in the future — possibly a location for other shop or ag activities or a barn housing small animals,” he said.

After discussion, the school board unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the \$490,000 purchase from the general fund beginning fund balance. The resolution states that the district has identified a need for additional real estate to support its educational mission and that all necessary due diligence was conducted before the purchase was made. Turrell is authorized to execute all documents to complete the transaction.

The district now owns two houses and 10 apartments used as teacherages with low rent. A district policy outlines the specifics of the rent and other conditions. The policy was revised last August to include a provision for a small yearly increase in rent, based, in part, on the renter’s salary increase from the previous year. With the purchase of the

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Aspiring 'Burg artists request help from school board

by Shylo Bockenfeld
Editorial Assistant

STRASBURG — As the spring performing arts season quickly approaches for all levels of Strasburg School District students, hopes are the board of directors will help assist in funding future performances.

Student artists spoke during the public comment portion of the Feb. 10 school board meeting to lament the lack of funding for appropriate stage microphones and the overall distribution of support to the visual and performing arts programs.

Presenting students stated their passion for art or theater, which led them to conduct recent fundraisers for Christmas and Valentine’s Day, which garnered a total of \$339.50. The amount raised is still not enough to afford new stage microphones. According to the students, audience members have said they could not hear the performances in the old gym.

Senior band and drama student Erin Johnson added that the last two high-school drama productions were both student-led and that additional help is necessary.

“It cannot be supported by just the students,” Johnson said.

She added that, while the elementary school has a strong music department with its annual spring musical at the Bennett Schools auditorium, few art classes and programs exist at the secondary level. The students also noted the disparity between the financial support the arts receive compared to other extracurricular activities.

Johnson and her cohorts urged the board to consider more short-term funding, adding that more stage repairs are needed in addition to new microphones. They also presented more ambitious long-term goals, including a new auditorium that can be used by all grade levels for productions and assemblies.

The student artists overwhelmingly expressed the need for “better support of students’ career goals in the arts,” and that the arts receive the same level of financial support and recognition given other programs.

This year’s elementary musical is “Disney’s Newsies JR,” which will take place at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 28, and at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at the Bennett auditorium.

“As most of you know, our fourth- and

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Fourth-grader Aspen Sir-Vandewerken plays “Breathe” on the piano as teacher Jenny Authier provides assistance during a Strasburg Schools recital Feb. 6. **SEE PAGE 6.**



Firefighters from Bennett to Deer Trail and the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 600 block of Third Avenue in Deer Trail about 8:30 a.m., Feb. 18, on reports of heavy smoke emanating from a house. Upon arrival, flames were discovered in the crawlspace and had climbed up the northeast corner wall, which had to be vented and extinguished. The fire investigation ruled the incident accidental. Two people were on-site when fire occurred but no one, including firefighters, were injured. Third Avenue between Date and Elm streets was reopened about 11:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

St. Patrick's Day meal slated by 'Burg Presbyterian Church

STRASBURG — The annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner to benefit the Zimbabwe Mission Project is scheduled from 5:30-7 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at Strasburg Presbyterian Church, 56635 Iowa Ave.

The meal will consist of corned beef and cabbage, homemade soda bread, potatoes and dessert.

Cost is \$15 per adult or two adults for \$25 and \$8 per child.

For reservations and tickets, call Strasburg Presbyterian Church at (303)622-4325.

Shakes sold to rest homes recalled after Listeria spike

Cartons of frozen shakes sold to nursing homes and other institutions are being recalled after an outbreak of listeria linked to the products.

The supplemental shakes are labeled under the brands Lyons ReadyCare and Sysco Imperial and were sold to institutional customers, including hospitals and long-term care facilities, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration said Feb. 21.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention said listeria cases linked to the products date to 2018 but investigators had been previously unable to identify the source. Some 38 people were infected with listeria, including 11 who died.

The FDA's investigation is still underway.

Arapahoe Co. judge promoted to 18th Judicial District Court

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis filled a position on the 18th Judicial District Court with an Arapahoe County Court judge within the district Jan. 31.

The appointment of Joshua J. Williford is effective immediately.

It fills a new judgeship created by legislation that changed the boundaries of the existing 18th District and established the new 23rd Judicial District.

Williford has held his Arapahoe County post since 2017. His docket consists primarily of criminal matters. He was previously Chief Deputy

Open house set on Bijou Basin draft plans

LITTLETON — The creation of a master plan for the Bijou Basin Open Space continues with a new round of public engagement to get community feedback on three draft master plan concepts.

A public open house is planned from 4:30-6 p.m., Thursday, March 6, at Kelter Public Library, 585 S. Main St. in Byers.

Engagement for the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan began in the summer 2024. The effort included a booth at both the Arapahoe County Fair and Bennett Days, direct letters and phone calls with immediate neighbors, an open house in Byers, and a survey. General feedback in the first round of engagement prioritized trails for hiking and wildlife viewing while minimizing ecological impacts and supporting existing grazing and agricultural practices.

Based on public input, the county created the draft master plan con-

cepts.

A virtual public meeting will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12.

In addition, an online survey is open through Sunday, March 16.

For more information and links to the survey and virtual meeting, visit www.arapahoeco.gov/bijoubasin.

Arapahoe County purchased roughly 2,800 acres of open space with Open Space Sales & Use Tax funds in December 2010 and, in January 2025, the county purchased an additional 362 acres. The property is located about five miles south of Byers at the junction of Quincy Avenue (County Road 30) and Bradbury-Krebs Road (County Road 173) and includes a 1,470-acre conservation easement held by the Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust. The land is adjacent to several parcels of conservation land such as Mule Gulch Open Space and the West Bijou Ranch.

District Attorney (2014-17), Senior Deputy District Attorney (2011-14), and Deputy District Attorney (2007-11) in the 18th Judicial District; and Deputy District Attorney in the 17th Judicial District (2003-07).

He received a bachelor's degree from Wheaton (Ill.) College in 2000 and his law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2003.

Free tax planning available to Arapahoe County 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.

\$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 additional information, e-mail to Scholarships@NoCoFoundation.org.

Theme for Lent announced by Byers Community Church

BYERS — Byers Community Church will hold Lenten services beginning with the imposition of ashes at 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday, March 5.

The church will have weekly Sunday

worship services at 9:30 a.m. with Bible Study immediately following. Its theme for Lent is "Everything in Between," which focuses on meeting God in the midst of extremes while examining familiar stories from the Bible.

Byers Community Church is located at the corner of Sherman and Front streets in Byers.

Water bath canning seminar slated by extension offices

CENTENNIAL — Extension offices in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties will teach participants to safely water bath can high-acid foods is planned from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, at the Arapahoe County Extension Office, 6934 S. Lima St., Centennial.

At Water Bath Canning Grape Jelly, participants will learn to to preserve high acid foods by hot water bath canning.

They will also discuss the importance of adjusting for elevation and make grape jelly from grapes harvested at the Jefferson County Extension garden.

The event costs \$20 per person, which is refundable up to seven days before the event, plus a \$3.18 non-refundable Eventbrite fee.

To register, visit arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu.

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.

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Trump says he may take control of the US Postal Service

by Maryclaire Dale
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Donald Trump Feb. 21 said he may put the U.S. Postal Service under the control of the Commerce Department in what would be an executive branch takeover of the agency, which has operated as an independent entity since 1970.

“We want to have a post office that works well and doesn’t lose massive amounts of money,” Trump said. “We’re thinking about doing that. And it’ll be a form of a merger, but it’ll remain the Postal Service, and I think it’ll operate a lot better.”

Trump made the remarks at the swearing-in of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. He called the move a way to stop losses at the \$78 billion-a-year agency, which has struggled to balance the books with the decline of first-class mail.

“He’s got a great business instinct, which is what we need, and we’re looking at it, and we think we can turn it around,” Trump said of Lutnick. “It’s been just a tremendous loser for this country, tremendous amounts of money that they’ve lost.”

Here are some things to know about U.S. Postal Service operations.

WHAT’S THE HISTORY OF THE USPS?

The Post Office was created during the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin became the first postmaster general.

In 1872, Congress named it an executive branch department.

But that changed after an eight-day postal strike over wages and benefits in 1970, when President Richard Nixon signed the Postal Reorganization Act, which made it an independent, self-financing agency called the U.S. Postal Service.

In recent years, as it’s sometimes struggled to stay afloat, the Postal Service has fought calls from Trump and others that it be privatized.



President Donald Trump speaks during a ceremonial swearing-in for Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick Feb. 21 in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

WHO WORKS FOR THE USPS?

The 1970 reorganization gave workers pay raises and the right to collective bargaining, helping generations of Americans, especially blacks and other minorities, move into the middle class. Today, the USPS employs about 640,000 workers tasked with delivering mail, medicine, election ballots and packages across the country, from inner cities to rural areas and even far-flung islands. They remained on duty during the coronavirus pandemic, when the American Postal Workers Union says more than 200 postal workers died.

WHO RUNS THE USPS?

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a Republican donor who owned a logistics business, was appointed to lead the U.S. Postal Service during Trump’s first term in 2020. He has faced repeated challenges during his tenure, including the pandemic, surges in mail-in election ballots, and efforts to stem losses through cost and service cuts. He announced a 10-year turnaround plan last year, but last week said he plans to step down and asked the Postal Service Board of Governors to begin looking for his

successor.

WHO’S ON U.S. POSTAL BOARD? HOW ARE THEY SELECTED?

The board is made up of up to nine members, appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. No more than five members can come from the same political party.

The current chair is Amber F. McReynolds, a former election official from Colorado.

The vice chair, Derek Kan, worked in the first Trump administration. Both were appointed by President Joe Biden.

Three vacancies on the board remain after the Senate failed to vote on Biden’s nominees to fill those seats. Biden appointed four of the current six governors and Trump two.

The board has the power to hire and fire the postmaster general. Both that person and a deputy postmaster also serve on the board.

HOW IS THE USPS FUNDED?

Since the 1970 reorganization, the USPS has been largely self-funded. The bulk of its annual \$78.5 billion budget comes from customer fees, according to the Congressional Research Service. Congress provides a relatively small annual appropriation — about \$50 million in fiscal year 2023 — to subsidize free and reduced-cost mail services.

Amid challenges that include the decline in profitable first-class mail and the cost of retiree benefits, the Postal Service accumulated \$87 billion in losses from 2007-20.

Last year, DeJoy announced a 10-year plan to modernize operations and stem losses, warning customers to expect “uncomfortable” rate hikes as the Postal Service seeks to stabilize its finances.

Critics, including members of Congress from several states, have said that the first consolidations slowed service and that further consolidations could particularly hurt rural mail delivery.

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AnT's Freeze Dried Treats (303)956-5959
Arapahoe County Government (303) 795-4630
Aurora Mental Health & Recovery (303) 617-2300
Barnyard Boutique (303) 345-4460
Bennett Parks & Recreation District (303) 644-5040
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Lindy Cosgrove (303)257-5477
Linnebur Auctions, Inc. (303) 822-9298
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May Farms LLC (303) 822-5800
Morgan Community College (719) 775-8873
Patricia Davis — Thirty-One Gifts (303) 601-1321
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Smoke Show Meats (785)534-7412
South Havana Motor Company (303)644-4221
Stayin' Alive AED & CPR Training (918) 497-8384
Strasburg Parks & Recreation District (303) 622-4260
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Town of Bennett (303) 644-3249
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ARAPAHOE COUNTY



Hot Water Bath Canning: Grape Jelly
Learn how to make grape jelly using the hot water bath canning technique. The hands-on workshop will be held **March 5, 7–8:30 p.m.** at the Arapahoe County CSU Extension Office in Centennial.

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



Share your passion—Get involved today!
Apply now to serve on the **Board of Review**

Our Board of Review is seeking new members and is the perfect place to marry your experience in building construction with the interpretation and enforcement of Arapahoe County’s building codes. Board members hear requests for variances from applicants who wish to deviate from the building code. They also consider statements and evidence before voting on requests.

Learn more and apply at arapahoeco.gov/citizenboards



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES | **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 arapahoeco.gov/bijoubasin



arapahoeco.gov

WEEK OF FEB. 24

USPS

FROM PAGE 3

HOW DOES TRUMP VIEW THE USPS?
Trump has been a critic of the Postal Service since his first term in office. In 2020, he threatened to block it from COVID-19 relief funding unless it quadrupled the package rates it charges large customers like Amazon, owned by billionaire Jeff Bezos. Bezos also owns *The Washington*

Post, whose often coverage ranked Trump. More recently, Trump mused in December about privatizing the service given the competition it faced from Amazon, UPS, FedEx and others. “It’s an idea a lot of people have had for a long time. We’re looking at it,” the president said.

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.
275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044
www.corlms.org

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • mttaborbysers.org
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



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AdCo names new IT director

BRIGHTON — Adams County has appointed a new Director of Information Technology & Innovation (ITi).

Jason Schultz, a seasoned IT leader with more than 30 years of experience, has been instrumental in driving digital transformation, strategic planning, and operational excellence within the county's ITi teams.

Previously serving as interim director and deputy director of ITi, Schultz spearheaded the development of the ITi department's five-year strategic plan, which will transform the department into an IT service-delivery model that focuses on business and customer needs.

"Jason's deep expertise and leadership in IT make him an invaluable asset to Adams County," said Interim

County Manager David Fraser. "His vision for the future of technology will help drive efficiency and enhance services for our community."

Before joining ITi at Adams County, Schultz was the IT director for the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, which serves Adams and Broomfield counties. While there, he focused on modernizing technology.

His efforts helped improve efficiency across the judicial system and ensured the office stayed ahead in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

"By focusing on innovation and service-driven outcomes, we will ensure Adams County remains at the forefront of digital transformation to better serve our residents," Schultz said.

Schultz holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Colorado at Denver and is currently pursuing an executive master of public administration.

John Charles Hess



John C. Hess was born in Missouri on May 1, 1946, to Harold Hess and Gertrude Condor. Shortly after birth, they moved to New York briefly then moved to Colorado.

As a young adult, he entered the Army and served 4 years and then entered a 31-year career in law enforcement that concluded with retirement as a Captain in 2003. Through his line of work he met and married Marge in 1981 and acquired his three beloved stepchildren — Michael Larchick, Ann Vossler, and Chris Larchick. In 1984, John and Marge welcomed a son, Jonathan H. Hess.

Upon retirement, he spent his days farming on their farm in Eastern Colorado.

John passed peacefully on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, surrounded by love. He lived a life full of love, fun adventures, some shenanigans and accomplishments. He loved all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with all his heart. But there was no question his wife Marge of 44 years was the love and light of his life.

John is preceded in death by his parents Harold Hess and Gertrude Condor and brother Randy Condor.

John is survived by his wife Marge Hess of Colorado; children Michael (Betty) Larchick of Colorado, Ann (Bill) Vossler of Wyoming, Chris Larchick of Colorado, Jonathan (Kayla) Hess of Colorado; grandchildren Colby Vossler, Joey Vossler, Frankie Vossler, Chase Vossler, Kyler Larchick, Michael Larchick, Camden Hess, Peysen Hess and Kelby Hess; and many great grandchildren.

John was remembered Feb. 14 during memorial services, including full Honor Guard processions from the Denver Sheriff's Department and Denver Police Department, at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church.



DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg, discusses the World War II medals he's holding at a historical presentation called "U.S. Military Exhibits at the Museum" Jan. 23 at TBK Bank.

CLAUSSEN CHIROPRACTIC



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"Whether you think you can, or think you cannot, either way you're right."

— Henry Ford



HOURS

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Thursday: 9:30am-1:30pm
Open First Saturday of Each Month



Kindergarten Roundup

Who: Screenings will be completed on children registering for kindergarten that will be 5 years old on or before August 1st, 2025, and must reside in Strasburg School District. If your child has attended Strasburg Preschool, they do not need to attend.

When: April 7th, 2025 at 8am

Where: Strasburg Elementary School

Schedule your child's appointment by calling the school directly at 303-622-9211 ext. 628

More information will be emailed upon appointment sign up



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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

Strasburg Schools hosted a music recital for all grades Feb. 6 at the elementary cafeteria. Performances ranged from singing and piano to violin and more. Top row from left, second-grader Elise Davis, left, sings her heart out to the song of "Popular," and first-grader Aziel Karoki is all smiles after his performance of "Lemonade Stand" on the piano. Second row, freshman Rickey Lengel performs "Long Long Ago" on the violin," and eighth-grader Brielle Barnes shows signs of relief after her version of "A Giddy Girl" on the piano. Third row, fourth-graders Violet Jimenez and Rylee Hale perform a vocal duet of "Part of your World," and fifth-grader Cruz Kemper plays a rock medley of "7 Nation Army," "Enter Sandman," "Smoke on the Water" and "The Joker" on his electric guitar. Bottom row, junior Emmory Owens sings "The Wizard and I," while fifth-grader Elliott Musser plays "Solas" on the piano.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

The Eastern Colorado Honor Choir took to the Bennett High School auditorium stage Jan. 17. A wide range of middle to high school students came together for a night of singing and entertainment. All photos above show the wide variety of kids who attended with a few local faces from Bennett, Strasburg and Byers. Other participating schools were Calhan, Peyton, Limon, Miami Yoder, and Simla.

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PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP

Friday, March 14 & Monday, April 7

Preschool Registration and Developmental Screenings

Children new to Strasburg Preschool who will be at least 3 years old on or before August 1, 2025, are eligible. Developmental screenings will also be offered for any child under 5 who may have developmental concerns.

*Children turning 5 on or before August 1, 2025 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten.

Schedule your child's appointment by calling (303) 622-9215, ext. 628.

Specific registration details will be emailed upon sign-up.

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Nominations open for ArapCo youth honors

LITTLETON —The committee that makes recommendations for the winners of the Arapahoe County Mayors & Commissioners Youth Awards (ACMCYA), which recognize teenagers who have overcome obstacles and risen to challenges life has presented, is now accepting nominations.

The award is unique because it encompasses youth who live and attend school in Arapahoe County, including those in traditional classroom settings, group homes, alternative schools, emancipated youth, and individuals with disabilities. The ACMCYA celebrates the resilience, achievements, and diverse experiences of all youth, including those with disabilities.

Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who have overcome adversity and wish to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities at vocational schools, two- or four-year colleges, or trade and certification programs.

Seniors who live and attend school in Arapahoe County are eligible to receive a post-secondary educational scholarship. Youth related to Arapahoe County employees are not eligible.

The application should be submitted by a teacher, counselor, school administrator or other professional

als working with youth (such as case managers, providers and coaches), who are not related to the youth.

The nominator must provide details on why the student should be considered for the award, including ways the student has helped their community and how they have overcome challenges.

Nominators must attach a student-written three-paragraph essay describing what they have learned from overcoming challenges, plans for their future, and their goals for the years ahead.

A committee comprised of county elected officials (commissioners, mayors, etc.) review applications and make recommendations for awards and scholarships based on the student's desire to rise above adversity, determination to create positive change within their environment, and the positive contributions and service to their communities and families.

Scholarship amounts and the number of scholarships awarded are determined on a year-by-year basis.

Nominations for the 2025 awards cycle will be accepted through Friday, March 7, through the Grant Nomination Platform.

For more information, contact Daniela Villarreal at dvillarreal@arapaho.gov.

LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their care-givers can drop in for bug-themed activities and take home a free goody bag to continue the learning at home.

Free crafts and toddler-friendly snacks provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28.

Mardis Gras craft: Kids and tweens ages 5-12 can create a colorful, dinosaur-shaped float using a shoebox as a Mardis Gras activity, then participate in a miniature parade. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, March 4.

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.

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 5.

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum: Adults are invited to a show-and-tell of quilts from the 1930s Depression Era hosted by the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 19.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Wacky Wednesdays: Kids and tweens can drop in for snacks, games, cool tech and creative crafts. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5.



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Eligible Coloradans can get assistance to pay part of their home heating bills

DENVER — The Colorado Department of Human Services is reminding residents statewide that they might be eligible for assistance to pay a portion of their home heating bills this winter, as well as lower their energy costs for years to come.

So far this season, a record number of Coloradans have applied for — and received — benefits through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) when compared to this same time in previous seasons.

Nearly 61,500 Coloradans have already received benefits through LEAP this heating season, an 11 percent increase from this same time last season. Coloradans have through April 30 to apply.

During the 2023-24 heating season, more than 85,000 Coloradans received LEAP benefits.

“No one should go without heat this winter, and we encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible for LEAP to apply,” says Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. “While the program cannot pay the entire cost of heating your home this winter, LEAP can lessen some of the burdens that come during the colder months.”

LEAP helps by making a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 directly to the utility company on behalf of each eligible household.

LEAP recipients may also be able to receive furnace repair and replacement.

To qualify, Coloradans may have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income, which is a household income of less than \$78,060 a year for a family of four.

Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

To apply, visit cdhs.colorado.com/leap, call the HEAT HELP line at 1-866-432-8435 to receive an application via mail or e-mail; or visit the county human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

The Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that assists eligible hard-working Colorado families, seniors and individuals by paying a portion of their winter home heating costs.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Feb. 27: Popcorn chicken.

BENNETT

Thursday, Feb. 27: Denver omelet, country potatoes, dinner roll, grapes.

BYERS

Thursday, Feb. 27: Cheesy hot dogs, Tater Tots, peaches.

Friday, Feb. 28: Hamburgers, baked beans, broccoli and carrots, grapes.

Monday, March 3: Walking taco, corn, mixed fruit.

Tuesday, March 4: Salisbury steak, dinner roll with butter, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Wednesday, March 5: Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, steamed carrots.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Feb. 27: Meatball sub sandwiches.

Friday, Feb. 28: Chicken tortilla soup.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Feb. 27: Fresh oven-roasted chicken with cornbread, peas, pear cup.

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ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO



Park in Progress: Improvements Underway

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

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



adcogov.org/rp-improvements

Sign Up for Diabetes EDUCATION CLASSES



If taking control of your health is a priority for you in 2025, Adams County Health Department has options for you, including two new classes.

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STRASBURG BOE

FROM PAGE 1

fifth-graders put on a spectacular show every year,” said Superintendent Kelle Bongard as she introduced one of the student-actors in full news-boy garb.

The production is a 2012 Broadway musical version of the original “Newsies” film from 1992.

COLLEGE & CAREER PREP EXPANSION

The board is considering a new college and career program called Xello purported to be an electronic portfolio for students K-12.

The current college and career program, Naviance, covers sixth through 12th grades. A student dashboard set up by grade level meant to mimic social media will guide students in college choices and financial aid searches, as well as serve as a portfolio of their work, while allowing younger students to play in different career roles.

“Does it ask the staff to do more?” inquired First Vice President Diana Elliott.

According to the staff presentation, the new program includes preloaded lessons and curriculum with the possibility, but not the requirement, that teachers can add lessons.

President Michael Marrero also questioned whether Xello would provide a return on investment. According to presenters, the program would allow the school to track students past graduation to see if they continue on to college and complete a secondary program

The program’s initial cost of \$7,947 was approved with its purchase and roll-out planned for March.

CHASING DOWN LAWMAKERS

Elliott described how she and Bongard recently went to the Capitol in Denver and “chased down” their local representation.

She highlighted numerous proposed laws that could impact schools:

- SB 25-153 would include updated financial reporting requirements for the school. The bill summary says, “Each report must include additional information concerning actual marketing, student recruitment, lobbying, contractor, and education management provider expenditures and all sources of revenue.” According to Elliott, the amount of impact to Stras-

burg is unknown but, “additional work for us, and I will be sure and mention that to [our state Senate] member.”

- SB 25-123 expands Holocaust and genocide portions of social studies curriculum to include “the genocide against Native Americans, the Sand Creek massacre and other massacres, and the Colorado Native American residential and boarding schools.”
- HB 25-1149, “Comprehensive Black History & Culture Education in K-12): It creates a new black historical and cultural studies advisory committee within the Colorado Department of Education to “recommend standards and related materials and to contribute technical assistance at the request of local education providers. ... The committee’s recommendations must advance developmentally appropriate but comprehensive instruction that features factual accounts of the struggles and contributions of black Americans in all fields of endeavor.”
- HB 25-1135 would require individual school districts to implement policies for the use of cell phones on campus. It does not require school districts to institute restrictions or bans but mandates that a written policy on the issue is in place for each district. SB 25-063 asks individual districts to “establish written policies for the acquisition, retention, display, and use of library resources and for the use of a public school library facility.” Elliott said there are concerns that both bills could circumvent local control over school policies.
- SB 25-077, which extends maximum response times to Colorado Open Records Act request from three to five days and, in the case of an extension, from seven to 10 days.

Elliott said she plans to return to the Capitol Feb. 27 to make sure Strasburg’s and the I-70 Corridor’s school interests are taken under consideration.

The board’s next regularly scheduled meeting is at 6 p.m., Monday, March 10, at the district’s Central Service Building, 2102 Wagner St.

Give room to aggressive drivers

Response can diminish risk of traffic accident

GOLDEN — Whether driving on a highway or neighborhood street, every motorist has experienced another driver making an unsafe lane change or being “cut off.”

Unsafe lane changes often cause an emotional reaction for the driver maintaining their lane position, but how one responds can either restore a safe environment or increase the risk to themselves and other drivers.

Preliminary data shows that, last year, lane violations were the top causal factor for injury and fatal crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol.

Current numbers show troopers investigated more than 575 fatal and injury lane violation crashes. The crashes occurred consistently each day of the week, but the peak times fell from 2-5 p.m.

“There are several reasons that drivers may cut another person off. A person could be distracted, driving aggressively, or miscalculate the distance between vehicles,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol chief. “Despite the frustration it causes, the reason doesn’t matter at that moment. Instead of reacting, create distance and space between you and that driver. You matter more

than any real or perceived affront.”

When changing lanes, drivers must wait for a gap in traffic to leave a safe distance between vehicles. Once a driver sees an opening, turn on the turn signal and check all mirrors and blind spots to move into the desired lane safely and smoothly. Unsafe or aggressive lane changes can cause crashes when another driver doesn’t have time to react.

“If someone cuts you off, the worst thing you can do is create a new hazard by reacting out of anger or frustration,” Packard said. “Don’t escalate the situation. It’s very possible that the initial incident was never about you and you can regain control of the situation by putting space between you and that driver.”

Other motorists should avoid aggressive drivers by getting out of the way, not making eye contact, or indicating disapproval of their behavior. Contact the Colorado State Patrol as soon as safely possible by pulling over and calling *CSP (*277).

Be prepared to provide the following information: vehicle description, license plate number, location and direction of travel, driver description, and the demonstrated aggressive driving behavior.

'24 auto theft data released

GOLDEN — The Colorado State Patrol has been working hard to track and share the collected auto theft data for 2024.

While reducing auto theft continues to be a priority for Colorado, with 2024 complete, the State Patrol can provide an update on the current landscape.

For the second consecutive year, Colorado has reported a decline in the total volume of motor vehicle thefts. In 2024, Colorado saw a 25% reduction in auto theft compared to 2023. And, even more impressively, this is a 41% reduction since 2022, when the most vehicle thefts by volume were recorded.

Using an average loss value, Colorado saved approximately \$121 million in total losses compared to the prior year. While auto thefts remain high, the efforts, which include the public’s growing awareness of the crime and proactive measures to keep vehicles safe and working.

Coloradans are asked to continue their theft prevention routines, locking their cars and taking their keys every time. From steering wheel locks to GPS trackers and kill switches, everything a vehicle owner does proactively can make a substantial impact on preventing auto theft in 2025.

Drivers can learn how to keep their cars safe at the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority web page, lockdownyourcar.colorado.gov. It features the latest articles and information on preventing auto theft.

Victims of auto theft can learn more at the site about the Victims Assistance program, which is available to residents of Colorado.

CO'S TOP 10 MOST STOLEN VEHICLES IN '24

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10. Kia Sportage

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SPORTS



Bennett Lady Tigers blow past Fort Lupton



Bennett sophomore Shelby Stiers, right, scrambles for a loose ball against Fort Lupton Feb. 18 at home.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett Lady Tigers remained undefeated in four hardwood games against 4A Frontier League teams after they dispatched of visiting Fort Lupton, 57-41, Feb. 18.

The orange-and-black troops of head coach Mike Rios scored the first 12 points of the game and had a 21-5 advantage late in the first quarter before going into halftime up 30-20. The visiting Bluedevils tried to hang around after halftime but got no closer than 8 points.

“We jumped on them early, but had some foul trouble in the second, having multiple starters on the bench,” Rios said. “The third was a good turning point — better team defense, which let our offense get going.”

The Tigers shot only 5-of-21 from the three-point line but three of those makes extended their lead back into double-digits in the second half; with the score 43-34 with six minutes left in the game, senior Olivia Schroeder’s three-pointer put the Tigers up 11. From two-point range, the hosts went 18-of-46, 39%, while going only 6-of-19 from the free-throw line.

The trio of senior Jessica Venneberg, sophomore

SEE GB BENNETT
PAGE 14



Senior Jessica Venneberg (4) brings the ball up the court against the Bluedevils.



Left photo, Strasburg senior Kam Gilbert goes hard to the hole against Frontier Academy. Right, junior Cam Manahan rips down a rebound against the Wolverines.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Indians torch Frontier Academy

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Indians improved to 18-3 overall with victories over Frontier Academy Feb. 18 and Highland Feb. 21.

The 70-60 win over Highland occurred in a first-round Patriot League tournament game at home. The Indians travel to Loveland to face Resurrection Christian in the semifinals tonight with Championship Saturday set for March 1 at Weld Central in Keenesburg. Further information was

not available at press time.

FRONTIER ACADEMY

Strasburg beat the Wolverines with ease as the 82-33 final score indicates. The Indians raced to advantages of 17-4, 38-12 and 63-22 over the course of the first three quarters.

“We got out to a fast start offensively. Mostly it was fueled by our defense turning into transition opportunities,” said Kyle Bollers, head coach of the Indians. “Defensively, we were

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 14

Bennett squanders late lead

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In what likely determined hardwood supremacy in the 4A Frontier League, the Bennett boys lost a late lead and succumbed to visiting Fort Lupton, 48-46, Feb. 18.

The battle between conference unbeaten hosts saw the orange-and-black hold a 14-12 lead after the opening quarter and extend its advantage to 26-18 at halftime. The deficit grew to 30-18 after the first two possessions of the third quarter, but Bennett’s lead was whittled to 37-31 entering

the final period. With 2:30 left in the game, Bennett was up 45-39 but two-point and three-point buckets by the Bluedevils tied the score at 45-44 with 1:25 on the clock. A split on Bennett free throws and another Fort Lupton basket tied the score at 46 with 1:05 remaining. Tiger senior Jayden Ivory was fouled on a layup attempt with 21.7 seconds left but missed both free throws and, with 2.5 seconds left, the visitors scored the game-winning bucket on a drive-and-dish.

While Bennett shot over 40% from

SEE BB BENNETT
PAGE 14



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMBO/For The Scout

Left photo, Bennett junior Austin Stiers looks to pass ahead against Fort Lupton. Right, senior Owen Stiers defends against a Bluedevil ball handler as senior Ethan Francis awaits at the rim.

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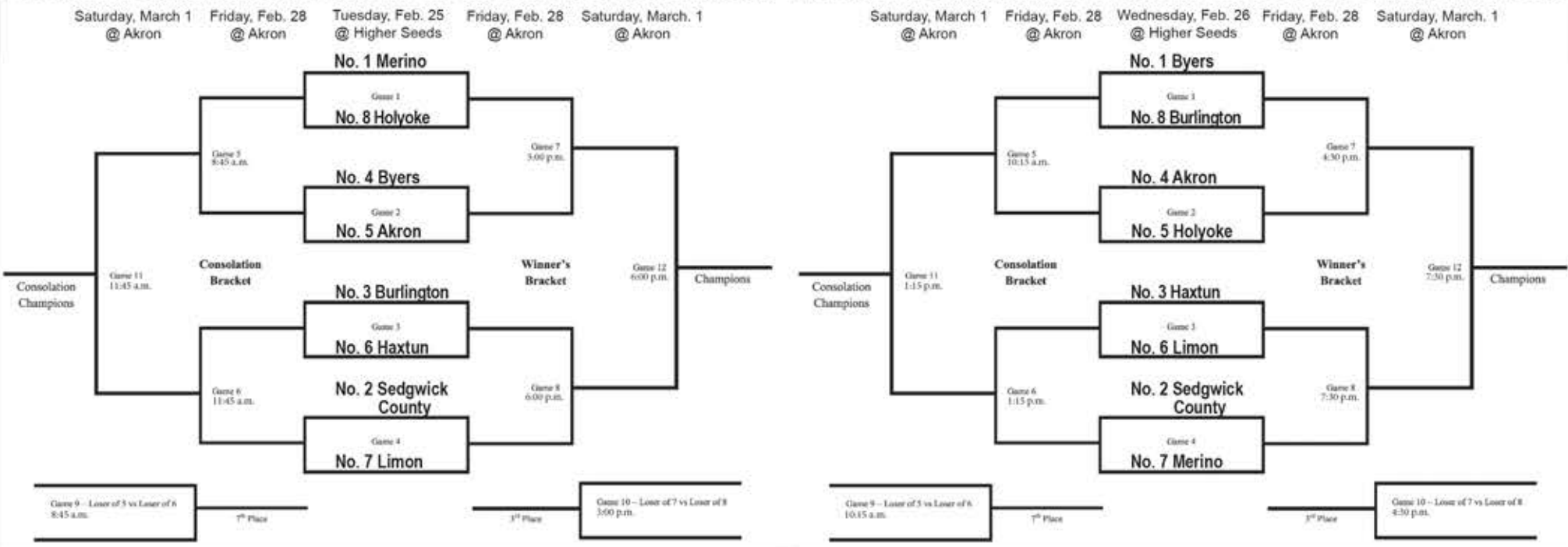
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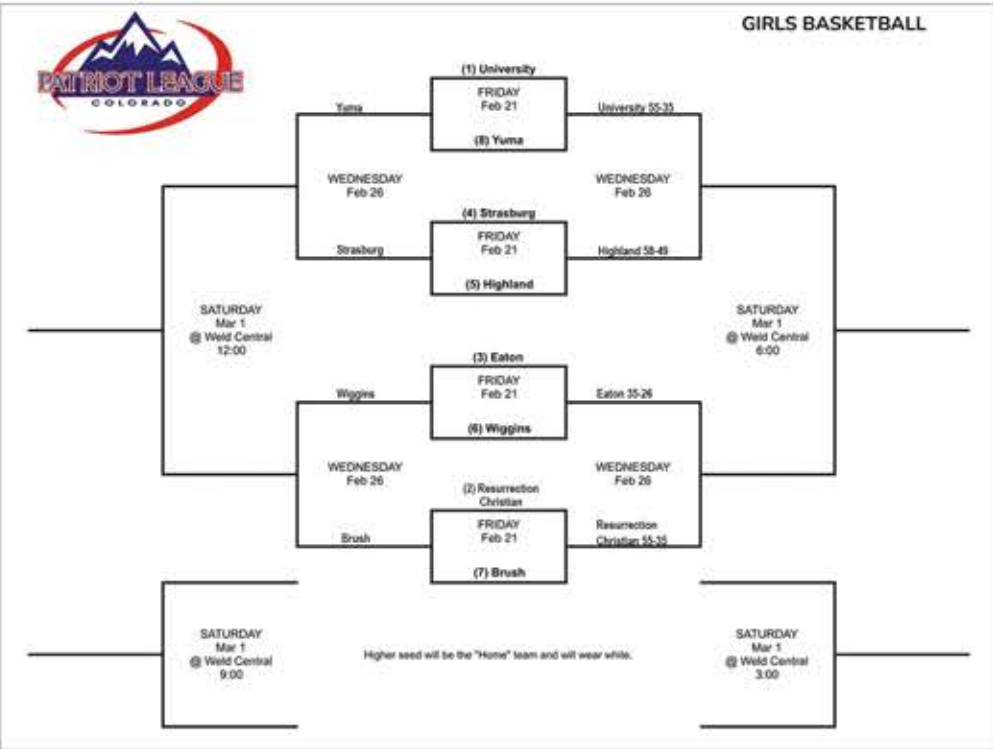
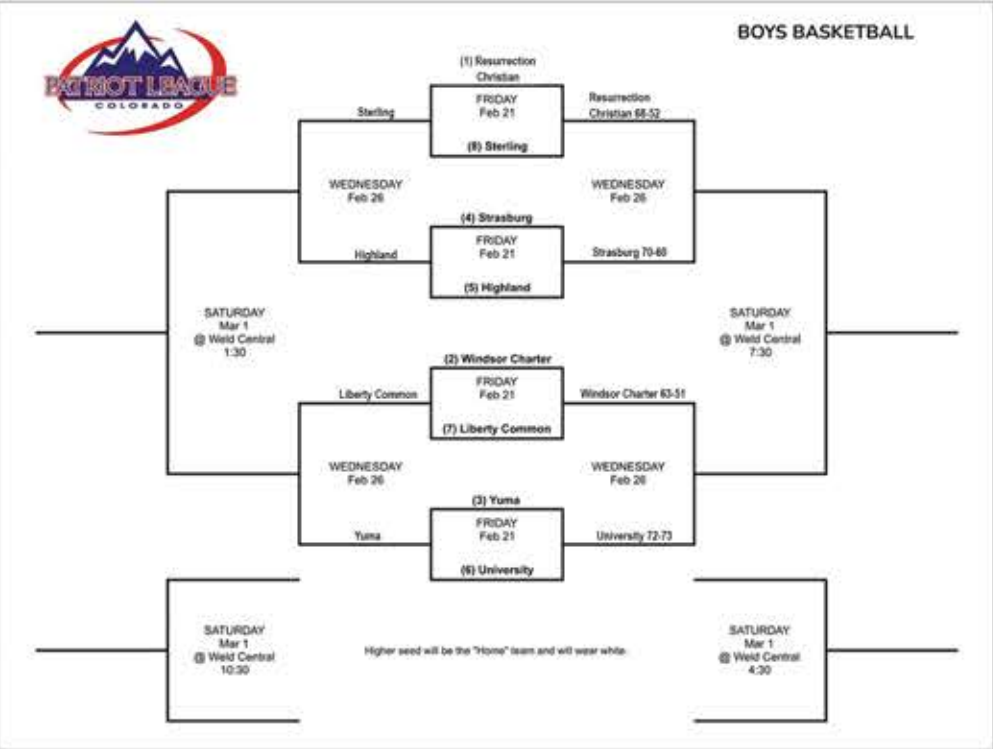
GALLON

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2A Union Pacific/Lower Platte End-of-Season Girls Tournament 2A Union Pacific/Lower Platte End-of-Season Boys Tournament



This week marks the conclusion of the high school basketball regular season, including the first-ever joint tournament between the 2A schools of the Union Pacific and Lower Platte leagues. Among the participating schools is Byers. The No. 4 Lady Bulldogs hosted fifth-seeded Akron Feb. 25 while the top-seeded Byers boys hosted No. 8 Burlington Feb. 26. Both games occurred after press time, so results were unavailable. The semifinal and championship rounds are both at Akron on Friday and Saturday. The regional level of state playoffs occur March 7-8 at the top eight-seeded teams for both girls and boys. The Colorado High School Activities Association is expected to release the state playoff pairings for 1A through 4A boys and girls on Sunday,



Both Strasburg basketball teams entered the Patriot League Tournament fourth seeds but, while the boys won their quarterfinal match 70-60 over Highland Feb. 21, the Lady Indians lost to the same school the same night. The Indian boys advanced to play top-seeded Resurrection Christian at Loveland tonight, while the girls will host Yuma in a consolation semifinal. Both teams will be part of Championship Saturday at Weld Central March 1. The regional round of the state playoffs will take place March 7-8 with top-eight seeds hosting. Pairing should be announced by the Colorado High School Activities Association on Sunday, March 2.

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Sharon Gaudot

Sharon L. Gaudot was born on August 2, 1947, in Denver, Colo., to Avery and Betty Ebert. She graduated from Harrison High School in Colorado Springs, Colo. After graduation, she married Fredrick Morrisette, and they moved to Newport News, Va. Through this union, they had two daughters, Carrie and Shellie. Fred passed away in an automobile accident in 1970. After his death, Sharon returned to Colorado to be near family. While working, Sharon met Dale Gaudot, and they were married July 6, 1972. Through this union, their son, Dean, was born.

Throughout Sharon's life, she enjoyed canning, and baking (especially banana and zucchini bread.) She also enjoyed crocheting, reading, camping, fishing, and doing ceramics. Sharon was a bartender her entire adult life. She had the personality and spitfire attitude for the job. During summer weekends, you could find Sharon at either Jackson Lake or Bonnie Reservoir with her family and friends. Sharon was the secretary for Byers Park and Rec District for several years, and during her time with them, she prided herself in helping organize the Fourth of July Rodeo. She organized the best concession stand around. During summers when her grandchildren were young, you could see them tagging along with her trying to maintain the Byers Park. Almost every year, you could catch Sharon dealing Black Jack at the Byers Turkey Shoot for the American Legion. She was known for her Sour Cream Raisin Pie that she would make for the pie sale. In addition, Sharon was a retiree from the Byers Fire and Rescue where she served for 20-plus years helping keep her community cared for and safe. Sharon's love for her family was evident; she almost always had a grandkid or several of them with her.

Sharon is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Dale; her children, Carrie (Joe) Kalcevic, Shellie (Steve) Cook, and Dean (Becky) Gaudot; her grandchildren, Gretchen (Eric) Little of West Bloomfield, Mich., Sarah Kalcevic of Bennett, Kaitlyn (Chad) Hickman of Keenesburg, Carl (Shelby) Cook of Denver, Preston and Carson Gaudot of Byers; and seven great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Carolyn (Jerry) Hankins; niece, Elle Stafford; nephew, Stacy Hankins; and several cousins.

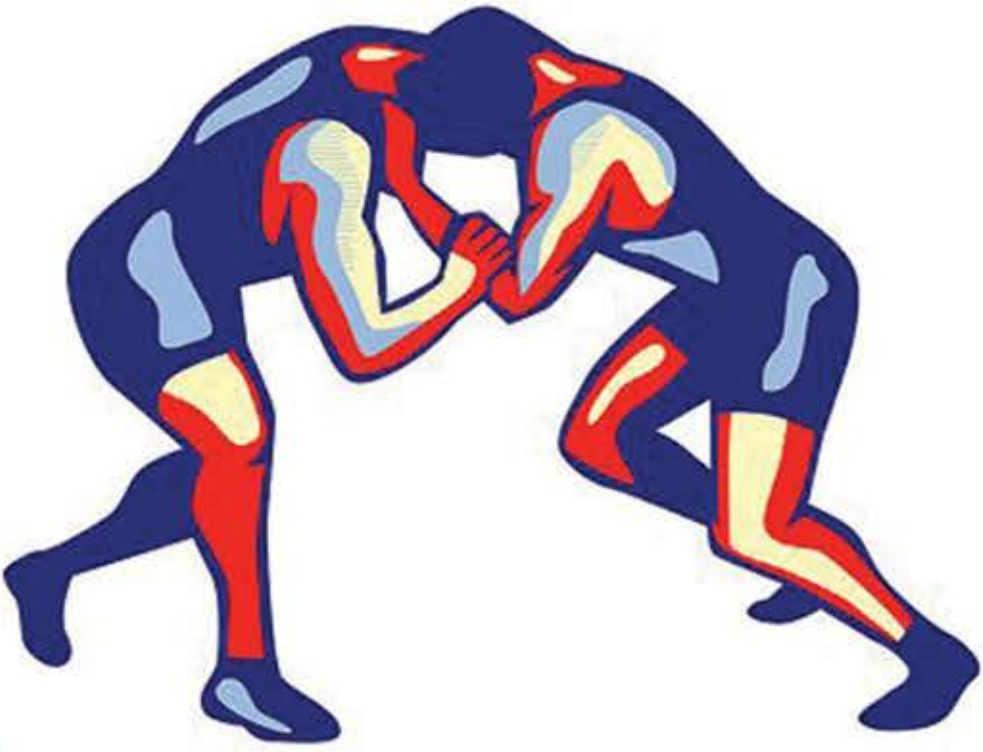
Sharon is preceded in death by her mother, Betty; her father, Avery; and her first husband, Fredrick Morrisette.

A Celebration of Sharon's life will be held 1-3 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at the Byers American Legion, 278 W. Front St. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Byers Fire Protection District, PO Box 85, Byers, CO 80103, or Strasburg Fire Protection District, PO Box 911, Strasburg, CO 80136.

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BB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 11

the field — 5-of-13 from the three-point line and 11-of-24 from closer-in — it was also 9-of-14 from the charity stripe and committed 29 turnovers. While the Bluedevils made only a third of their field goals, including 3-of-16 from behind the line, they went 7-of-8 on free throws and committed 15 turnovers.

Bennett's starters accounted for all its points — seniors Owen Stiers and Brody Hawes with 14 and 12, respectively, junior Austin Stiers 8, and Ivory and senior Ethan Francis with 7 and 5, respectively. The Tigers assisted on all but four made buckets with both Stiers brothers and Hawes tying for the team-high with three.

On the boards, the Tigers won the rebound battle 34-23, led by Ivory with nine and Owen Stiers and Hawes with seven each.

Defensively, Owen Stiers recorded a team-high four steals, while Austin Stiers and Hawes had two steals apiece. Owen Stiers and Francis recorded two blocks each.

The Tigers dropped to 16-5 overall and, as of Feb. 23, remained No. 14 in the 4A state rankings for postseason seeding. The orange-and-black traveled to conference foe Alameda for a makeup game Feb. 24 and will conclude the regular season at Prospect Ridge Academy in Broomfield Feb. 28. Postseason pairings are expected to be released Sunday, March 2. The top eight seeds, determined exclusively by the state rankings, will host four-team regional tournaments March 7-8. The eight regional champions advance to the 4A State Tournament March 12, 14 and 15 at the Denver Coliseum.



Bennett sophomore Brody Hawes blows past the Fort Lupton defense for 2 points.

Big-game license draw application period nears

DENVER — Hunters should start planning for their 2025 Colorado adventure now.

Hunters hoping to draw a big-game license in 2025 are urged to review the changes in licenses, seasons and fees in the 2025 Colorado Big Game brochure prior to the opening of the primary draw application period (March 1 through 8 p.m. April 1).

Colorado Parks & Wildlife is encouraging hunters to submit their applications early to avoid complications or delays. They are advised to view CPW's hunting statistics for

information from previous draws to help maximize their draw potential.

"We encourage all hunters to apply early and check their online accounts to ensure their contact information and credit card information is up to date and valid through May 2025," said CPW License, Reservations & Customer Operations Manager Danielle Isenhardt. "Hunters will receive e-mail updates on their draw results and the status of their payments."

For the 2025 Colorado Big Game brochure and a link to CPW's "What's New" video, visit cpw.state.co.us.



Senior Nathan Kraft (25) dishes off to a teammate against Frontier Academy.

BB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 11

very solid, dominating the boards and holding Frontier to only 12 first half points and under 35 for the game. Our on ball pressure was very good and Frontier struggled to handle it."

The Indians shot well again with 10 three-pointers, led by seniors Taylor Lasecke and Nathan Kraft and junior Cade Hemphill with two each. Lasecke and Kraft had career highs of 8 and 6 points, respectively. They also got to play more with fellow seniors Tyce Bollers and Kam Gilbert, who are in the regular rotation.

"It was really awesome to send our seniors off in a good way in their last

regular season home game," Kyle Bollers said. "Every senior started and contributed in a big way."

Tyce Bollers finished with 18 points plus four assists and three steals followed by junior Nick Glatfelter with 13 points, nine rebounds, and three blocked shots; Hemphill, 10 points and four rebounds; junior Gideon Milner, 9 points; sophomore Colton Holloway, 7 points, four assists, and four steals; junior Cam Manahan, 4 points, seven rebounds, five steals, and four blocked shots; and sophomore Brody Hopwood, four rebounds; and Gilbert, 3 points.

GB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 11

Emilee Venneberg, and senior Elizabeth Westendorf all scored double-digits with 16, 12 and 10, respectively, while senior Olivia Schroeder added 8 and freshman Mattie Robledo chipped in 6.

Bennett recorded a dozen assists, led by Emilee Venneberg with four and Jessica Venneberg and Schroeder three apiece.

On the glass, the Lady Tigers won the rebounding battle 42-34, including 18-14 on the offensive end. Schroeder led the victors with 11 boards, while Emilee Venneberg had seven (five offensive), senior Maddison Hawkins, six; and Jessica Venneberg and Westendorf with four apiece.

Defensively, the Tiger pick-pockets were out in force with 20 steals, led by Jessica Venneberg with six and younger sister, Emilee, with four. Schroeder added three steals and Westendorf and senior Brailyn Neade had two apiece.

The Lady Tigers entered this last week of the regular season 13-8 overall with two games remaining. After traveling to Alameda for a makeup conference game Feb. 24, the Lady Tigers go to St. Mary's Academy in Englewood Feb. 27.

Rios' troops appear safely in the 32-team 4A girls playoffs, which will start with eight regional tournaments March 7-8. The Tigers were ranked 19th in the Colorado High School Activities Association's Selection & Seeding Index dated Feb. 23. Regional tournament pairings are expected to be announced on Sunday, March 2.



Senior Elizabeth Westendorf puts up a shot against the Lady Bluedevils.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
MARCH 1, 2005

A public meeting Feb. 22 at the E-470 administrative office explained why the City of Aurora and the E-470 Public Highway Authority, in association with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), are conducting an environmental assessment and preliminary engineering study of the I-70/E-470 Interchange Complex.

The assessment of I-70/E-470 interchange was a result of the highway's low scores concerning several efficiency issues.

The project study area extends from 26th Avenue to the Sixth Avenue Parkway in the north-south direction and from Airpark Road to Tower Road in the east-west direction, interchanges at Piccadilly Road and Harvest Mile Road, as well as the possible elimination of access to I-70 at Gun Club Road.

The main goals for the plan are to improve regional mobility by improving the I-70 to E-470 interchange and provided free-way to toll way linkage.

The plan is expected to correct roadway deficiencies, correct missing ramp movement on I-70/Colfax, enhance access for adjacent land use, separate service access from freeway-to-tollway movement, and accommodate planned development.

15 YEARS AGO
MARCH 2, 2010

AGATE — A cross-country trucker avoided serious injury when his tractor-trailer rolled during the early morning hours Feb. 25 on westbound I-70 a mile east of Agate, but traffic was detoured and delayed for several hours.

The accident occurred about 4 a.m. when the driver, whose identity was withheld by the Colorado State Patrol, took out about 150 feet of median guardrail and rolled a quarter turn,

coming to rest on the driver side.

"We had about an hour's worth of time when the entire interstate, westbound, was closed down. That was until we could get a wrecker out there to open up one lane," said CSP Cpl. Gerald Lamb. "We detoured westbound traffic at Highway 86 for about the first hour and then let traffic through on the far right lane."

The driver was transported via ambulance to Lincoln Community Hospital in Hugo but was treated and released.

10 YEARS AGO
MARCH 3, 2015

BRIGHTON — Adams County is hopeful that a proposed pilot project for new software will minimize election-day snafus and expedite the process for counting votes and remedying duplicate or questioned ballots.

During a Feb. 26 unveiling at the Adams County Government Center, officials with Clear Ballot presented its Clear Count product, which aims to speed up the process by which ballots are entered into a computerized election database and expedites the ability to find ballots that are in question because of questionable bubble marks, write-in candidates or duplication.

Under the current process, ballots are scanned one at a time by Adams County election officials, but new technology allows groups of about 150 ballots to be scanned at one time over approximately 2 minutes.

All ballots can be accessed electronically to allow election officials to determine cast votes.

"It's a matter of improving the deficiencies in the process," said Adams County Clerk & Recorder Stan Martin, who assumed the position from term-limited Karen Long at the beginning of the year.

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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. 26, the 57th day of 2025. There are 308 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 26, 1993, a truck bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

(The bomb failed to topple the North Tower into the South Tower, as the terrorists had hoped; both structures were destroyed in the 9/11 attack eight years later.)

ON THIS DATE

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba, sailing back to France in a bid to regain power.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed an act making the Grand Canyon a national park.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which had probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought by a Texas cattleman who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Singer Mitch Ryder is 80. Singer Michael Bolton is 72. Hockey Hall of Famer Joe Mullen is 68. Actor Greg Germann is 67. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 67. Singer Erykah Badu (EHR'-ih-kah bah-DOO') is 54. Filmmaker Sean Baker is 54.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: DANCE MOVES

- ACROSS
- 1. Mrs. in Germany
 - 5. "Nae Nae's partner
 - 8. m in F = ma
 - 12. Deadly sin
 - 13. Hindu serpent deity
 - 14. Blood line
 - 15. State location of Miami University
 - 16. Last word on radio
 - 17. Best friend quality
 - 18. "Sideways dance step
 - 20. Buzzing pest
 - 21. "That is" in Latin
 - 22. Corvine bird's sound
 - 23. Omicron or Delta, e.g.
 - 26. Verb derived from "wreath"
 - 30. Although, for short
 - 31. Demijohn
 - 34. Kings of ___ band
 - 35. Act against
 - 37. Bruin legend Bobby ___
 - 38. Southern cuisine pods
 - 39. Cold war initials
 - 40. Transmitted radio signal
 - 42. French vineyard
 - 43. Strong suits
 - 45. Overnight flight
 - 47. Like a dancer in The Royal Ballet company
 - 48. Polynesian island country
 - 50. Dracula's bane
 - 52. "Dancer's gardening tool simulation
 - 56. Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
 - 57. Eon, alt. sp.
 - 58. Reminiscent of certain hardwood, to sommelier
 - 59. In a tilted position
 - 60. Flower holder
 - 61. Cartoon lightbulb
 - 62. Police informer
 - 63. Before, poetically
 - 64. Koppel and Turner, e.g.
- DOWN
- 1. Use cat o'nine tails
 - 2. German industrial valley
 - 3. "Heat of the Moment" band
 - 4. Sir Thomas More's famous book
 - 5. Actress Viola ___
 - 6. ___ provocateur
 - 7. Like some necessities
 - 8. "Michael Jackson's backward move
 - 9. Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
 - 10. Immediately, to a doctor
 - 11. Salt, in Mexico
 - 13. Nine-day Christian devotion
 - 14. Aquatic scum

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- 19. Authoritative proclamation
- 22. "___ Me a River"
- 23. Pull strings
- 24. Not those
- 25. Comedy Central's public humiliation
- 26. "a.k.a. caterpillar, with The
- 27. 9 a.m. prayer
- 28. Ancient
- 29. Follow as a consequence
- 32. Sturgeon output, pl.
- 33. Lingerie staple
- 36. "Serena Williams' Super Bowl LIX move (2 words)
- 38. Theater, to Socrates
- 40. Sis' sibling
- 41. King's mantle fur
- 44. Painter Max or Director Lubitsch
- 46. Armed gang member in India
- 48. Asparagus unit
- 49. What phoenix did
- 50. Numbers
- 51. Gulf V.I.P.
- 52. "Keep this information" button
- 53. Place a load on
- 54. Augmented
- 55. Swedish shag rugs
- 56. "Running ___"

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

HOROSCOPE

Countdown to the New Moon

Tomorrow the moon goes dark in the sign of soul, an opportunity to reset. Today is for reflection. If you could wave a magic wand over any relationship in your life and set it back to a completely clean slate, where would you direct that magic? With a little hope and the intent to try again, change will happen. So, what is the change you desire?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're inspired! You're inspirational! You're both at once. A group will form around you. It doesn't mean you have to be the leader — you're lucky when you take as much or as little responsibility as you wish.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Something lovely will happen simply because you showed up. You don't even have to show up strong for this to be true. Showing up in any capacity — scaling down, simplifying or even just doing the bare minimum — is still showing up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationships that tend to destabilize you over and over signal something unhealthy. It's not about one person being "bad" or even entirely conscious of their behavior — it's just how the relationship is structured, and how it affects you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). All it takes is one good decision to move everything forward. Investigate the choices of those you admire. You will have the chance to make similar moves in the near future.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What happens when you don't get what you need or want? Should you demand it? Apply charm? Propose a way to win it? Or do you really need it at all? Today brings the kind of decisions with the potential to define you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You deserve emotional support and a comforting presence in your life. Being able to just lean on someone and feel held makes a difference. It's OK to want that, and it's OK to give that to yourself, too, even if it feels like a foreign concept.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're growing, even if it feels slow or painful at times. Sometimes it's the hardest stuff that shapes us the most. Express your feelings. It's part

of the process. The work will get easier, the magic deeper.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've a yearning to be cast in a role or relationship that better reflects the person you know you are but perhaps have not yet become. You crave alignment between your inner self and the life you envision, a sense of belonging that resonates with your true potential.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some of the things that will make you wise — such as experiences, education, travel and even making your own costly mistakes — may set you back financially. However, never hesitate to invest in yourself, as the value far outweighs the cost.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How appealing it would be to have everything just fall into place; to feel seen and appreciated the way you deserve. It's so easy to wish for that instant relief from stress, but even without a lucky break, you are cool, and your worth doesn't change based on who notices it right away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sustainable habits usually have a bit of flexibility built into them that allows for a feeling of accomplishment because you showed up in some way, instead of judgment that you didn't show up in only one particular way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Good mysteries have a fun feeling attached to seeking the answers. Bad mysteries are like stinking garbage bins. If there's anything worth knowing in there, it's probably not also worth going through the gross experience of finding out.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 26). This is a year when your attitude and style will bring about happy outcomes. When you're intense, you'll see what others miss. When you're laid back, it leaves room for people to help you, and you'll get plenty of perfect help. More highlights: Someone wonderful will give you an abundance of what you need. Love grows increasingly honest and connected. You'll take on a mentor role that highlights your tenderness. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 2, 22 and 13.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



In Lands of Cold and Snow!

Seals, hares, oxen, foxes and squirrels are some animals that can live in cold, snowy climates. Do you know other animals that live in lands of cold and snow? Many live where land and water meet.

Will you read the clues below and fill in the crossword? I can "bearly" wait to see the answers.

1. walk in single file; lead animal breaks trail in snow; known to travel great distances

2. large sea animal hunted for its hide, ivory tusks, oil; moves in herds; sunbathes in groups

3. Dall _____ - horned animal; hooves have rough pads to help traverse mountains

4. polar _____ has black skin, but "white" fur; hunts seals from sea ice

5. large, beaked bird; dives up to 60 meters to catch fish

6. collared _____ - burrows under snow; eats stored seed, bark

7. snowshoe _____ - lives above ground unlike many long-eared cousins; grows white coat of fur for camouflage

8. timber _____; moves up to 12 miles a day in a pack to hunt

9. largest of northern deer; wide hooves help it walk in snow

10. Alaskan _____; oldest known sled dog; does not normally live in wild, cared for by people; has strength and endurance

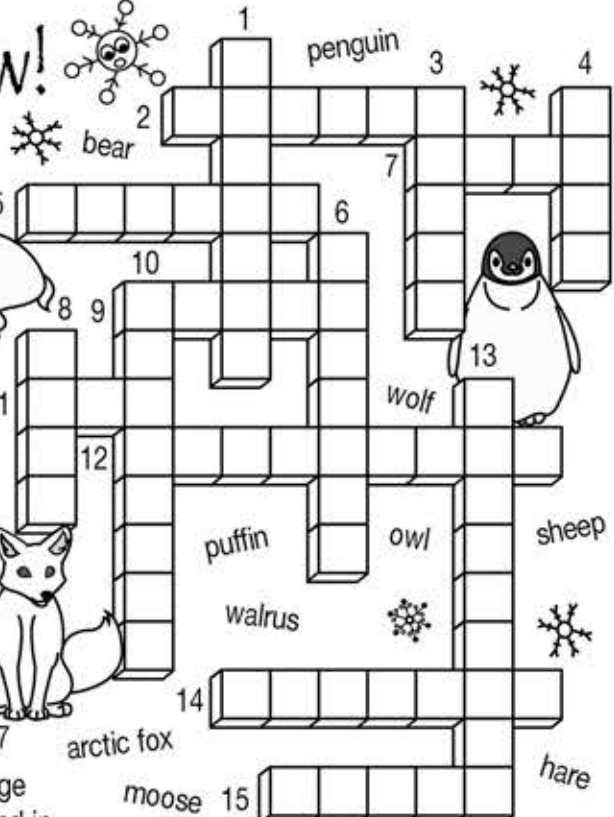
11. snowy _____; stays awake during day, unlike others; white feathers; travels to slightly warmer places in winter

12. fluffy white animal; can hear prey as it moves under snow

13. short legs, long nose and hair; finds things under snow using smell

14. flightless bird glides on stomach along snow, ice; huddles with others for warmth; oil on feathers protects from cold water

15. bird; migrates to slightly warmer climates for cold winter months; moves in large groups to protect young from predators like arctic fox




1 penguin
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35
36
37
38

goose
wolf
puffin
owl
sheep
walrus
arctic fox
moose
malamute
caribou
lemming
wolverine
hare


Who Am I?

I live on the edge of snowy lands and in the icy waters. I am a wonderful swimmer and diver! Who am I?



Follow the dots to see me!





How Do Penguins Keep Warm?

There are many animals and birds living in the lands of cold, snow and ice. My cousin, Pearly the Polar Bear, lives up north in the Arctic. Penguins do not live with the polar bears in the area near the North Pole. They live in areas farther south. Some live in deep cold, such as on the continent of Antarctica, near the South Pole.


Some live in warmer areas around the world. Layers of fat and feathers keep penguins warm. Penguins are one of my favorite animals. They are such fun to watch. They seem to know they're putting on a show! Speaking of penguins and shows...can you fill in the blanks to answer my new joke below?

What did the penguins sing after putting on their best hats and "tails"?

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A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5 F 6 G 7 H 8 I 9 J 10 K 11 L 12 M 13










N 14 O 15 P 16 Q 17 R 18 S 19 T 20 U 21 V 22 W 23 X 24 Y 25 Z 26



Hey! That sounds a lot like that hit song by the famous composer, Irving Berlin.

DoubleTake

Study these penguins. Can you find and circle the 2 that are exactly alike?



Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

Pick me!

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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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— Confucius

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FRIDAY, FEB. 28**SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Bingo. 7 p.m., Byers American Legion Hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

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online meeting. General meeting at 6:30
p.m., board meeting follows at 7 p.m.

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PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Screen

Byers High School celebrated Winterfest Feb. 10-15. The week of Valentine's Day activities included costume days, contests and a Saturday night dance. The crowning of Valentine's Day royalty occurred during basketball games against Limon Feb. 14. Seniors Carson Gaudot and Anna Jenkins, left photo, are the 2025 Valentine King and Queen, while juniors Brodie Fisbeck and Kiera Egloff are Prince and Princess.

BYERS BOE

FROM PAGE 1

new house, the board had further discussion on the policy, but any potential changes were tabled until next month's meeting.

Points of discussion included whether to limit the length of time a teacher can stay in district housing. The feasibility of encouraging renters to deposit savings into an account to build a fund for a down payment on the purchase of their own home in the future was also considered.

Turrell noted that low-rent housing is an invaluable incentive for the district to attract new teachers.

"Every district around us has a four-day school week," he said. "That's an incentive for them. This is really our counterincentive, because they don't have teacherages."

Secondary principal Kelly Boren, who lived in a district teacherage when he was hired nine years ago but has since purchased his own home, said housing, or the lack of it, is a huge issue for people on a teacher's salary, especially in the first years of employment.

"I know myself when I did move here, there just wasn't anything for me to rent at any price," he said. "It looks like the market's opening up now, but when you're a first-year teacher or newer teacher, you're just not making much money."

Boren added that low pay rolls into a bigger issue.

"We were just discussing it at a principals' meeting — the teacher shortage," he said. "And it looks like we're not even close to the peak of it yet."

Boren said that in his first years at Byers, "We were getting, five, six, up to 10 applicants per job. We're definitely not getting that now. I've had some jobs posted for over a year, with no applicants."

Boren added that the teacherages have been big factors in signing on



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cossette Kerns, left, and Quincy Bowling were the student representatives at the Feb. 20 Byers School Board meeting.

several good teachers over the years. Further discussion on the housing policy will occur at next month's meeting.

Student representatives at the February meeting were Quincy Bowling and Cossette Kerns. Both indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to attend the meeting and offer their input.

"I've been to two board meetings, one last year and one this year, for student council," Kerns said. "I just like observing. I feel like I've learned so much already; it is a new perspective and an environment I haven't really seen just in class. It's very eye opening to me to see everything that goes on behind the scenes."


The next regular meeting of the Byers School Board is Thursday, March 27.




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CHUCK WAGON



Glazed Honey Bun Cake

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The Scout

Have you had a Honey Bun? It is an individually wrapped sweet roll similar to a cinnamon roll. They are a favorite snack sold in convenience stores and vending machines.

Original Honey Buns are made with honey and deep fried. Quick stop stores across the United States sell them for \$3.99. That's for one!

You can make a whole batch of Honey Buns for that price! Well, maybe not. This recipe uses three eggs.

GLAZED HONEY BUN CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 (8-ounce) sour cream
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup brown sugar

- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

ICING

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9- by 13-inch cake pan with non-stick spray.

In mixer bowl, beat together cake mix, eggs, sour cream, oil, water.

In bowl, mix brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour half of the batter into prepared baking pan. Sprinkle with sugar-cinnamon mixture.

Pour remaining batter on top. Drag knife through batter to create swirls.

Bake 40 minutes or until tests done.

Icing: Mix powdered sugar, milk, vanilla until smooth. Adjust as needed to make pour-able. Drizzle over warm cake. Good served with ice cream.

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Byers Elementary School fourth-graders from Abbie Mitchell and Juliana Worden's classes present A Night at the Museum Feb. 13. Each student researched a famous Coloradan, assumed their persona, and told their story. Visitors were impressed by the students' knowledge and speaking skills as well as their well-crafted posters. Pictured are, clockwise from top left, Julee Price is Todd Helton (1973-present), who spent his entire 17-year professional baseball career as the first baseman for the Colorado Rockies; Tynlee Fickbohm portrays Emily Griffith (1868-1947), a visionary educator who advocated for adult, vocational and alternative education; Evelyn Stoll portrays World Cup alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn (1984-present); Mace MacLennan is John Elway (1960-present), the quarterback for the Denver Broncos for his entire football career; and Dalton Stark is singer/songwriter John Denver (1943-1997).

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130 S. 2nd Ave
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Deer Trail, CO 80105

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Sin cita previa!