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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 16

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

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

DT, Byers lose electricity after pole burnt



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A power pole in the middle of a field of corn stalks along the north side of I-70 near Bradbury-Krebs Road caught fire, broke and resulted in about 2,000 CORE Electric Cooperative customers from Byers and Deer Trail losing electricity midday March 14.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

While dropping between quarter- and a third-of-an-inch of precipitation along much of the I-70 Corridor, last Friday's quick-moving spring squall also included strong winds that knocked out power to a couple thousand residences between Byers and Deer Trail.

Just before 11 a.m. March 14, CORE Electric Cooperative received word of a power outage from both Byers and Deer Trail customers.

A search of the power grid found the breach to be just north of I-70 along Bradbury-Krebs Road between Strasburg and Byers.

Upon arrival, the top of a power pole was found burned, the brace dislodged and a power line sagging down towards a field of dry corn stalks below.

"An insulator on our 44kV transmission line failed that resulted in tracking from the energized conductor to the pole, which burned the pole top off," said CORE Ben-

nett Branch Manager Robert Kiess. "Crews immediately patrolled the line, found the problem, and worked to restore power to all members affected."

According to Kiess, the outage lasted 10:55 a.m. to 12:22 p.m. Friday and impacted 1,978 meters in both Byers and Deer Trail.

No fire occurred to the surrounding property.

Kiess said the weather was a causal factor.

"The moisture and wind played a part, yes," he concluded.

STEPPED-UP FIRE PREVENTION

The day prior to the outage the power cooperative announced preemptive measures to mitigate fire hazards this spring, which could result in additional power interruptions.

"Due to high-risk conditions, CORE's alternate relay settings are now engaged in the Bennett and Sedalia districts, causing lines to de-energize the instant a fault, such as a branch or a tree in the line, is detected," said the

company's March 13 statement, which coincided with an eight-county Red Flag Warning, including Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert counties. "The line will stay de-energized until the cause of the fault is determined to no longer be a fire risk. Alternate relay settings do not preemptively turn off any part of our system, but since these settings do not allow the equipment to self-restore power, there may be sustained outages instead of blinks during this time.

"These settings are essential to reduce the risk of igniting vegetation or other fuels near CORE lines to keep our employees and communities safe."

OTHER FRIDAY WEATHER IMPACTS

The strong winds of March 14 wreaked havoc on commuters traveling southeastern Colorado as all main arterioles off of I-70 between Limon and the Kansas and Oklahoma state lines were shut down most of the afternoon because of limited, in some cases zero, visibility.

Byers H₂O project hits more snags

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Both components of Byers Water & Sanitation District's improvement project are moving forward, but cost increases on one side and permit problems on the other are creating headaches.

The district board discussed project progress March 10. The \$4.2 million water system improvement project has two main components — installing a water line north of the railroad tracks and re-coating the interior of water storage tanks 1 and 2. Other improvements on tanks 1, 2 and 3

have occurred and additional water hydrants and valves will be installed. The project is being managed by consulting engineers GMS, Inc.

Concerning the water line project, GMS engineer Samuel Wood reported that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has not approved the installation plans for the portion on Main Street between the railroad and I-70. The original submitted plans showed the line installed inside the roadway.

"We had some back and forth with CDOT and it came down to they want-

**SEE BYERS WSD
PAGE 24**

Bennett trustees rebuke meeting crashers

by **Shylo Bockenfeld**
Editorial Assistant

BENNETT — Two versions of a presentation to the Bennett Board of Trustees March 11 show that proposed administrative penalties could be a source of revenue to the town.

During the meeting, which was unceremoniously interrupted by uninvited online content, the board also approved a partial rebate on a pressure-releasing valve, announced the turnaround efficiency for building permits, planned for local expansion,

and discussed outreach efforts.

MEETING INTERRUPTION

Shortly after the work session began several Zoom users changed their displays to create a hateful and profane array of videos with white supremacist overtones.

The users were removed from the digital platform and the meeting continued as planned. Information Technology staff reportedly adjusted security settings and continues to in-

**SEE BENNETT BOT
PAGE 22**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Ginger Williams takes aim during a Mother and Son Nerf Battle sponsored by the Deer Trail PTO March 8 at the school gymnasium. **SEE PAGE 4.**

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Strasburg museum curiosities key to March 20 presentation

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg will host “Unique Items in the Comanche Crossing Museum Collection” from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, March 20, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum Curator Cliff Smith will discuss unique items housed in the collections of the museum.

The railroad, farming, pioneering and items of Old Strasburg will be showcased.

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.

Lent: Catholic church slates fish fries and soup suppers

BYERS — Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church will host Knights of Columbus fish fries and altar and rosary soup supper night.

Fish fries are planned on Fridays, March 7 and 21 and April 4.

Soup suppers will occur on Fridays, March 14 and 18 and April 11.

Meals are served from 5-6:15 p.m. with stations of the cross starting after at 6:30 p.m.

The fish fry menu includes cod, \$7 for one piece or \$10 for two pieces, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, Tater Tots and coffee or lemonade.

The soup supper menu features a variety of soups, dessert, grilled cheese sandwich, coffee or juice, all for a free will offering.

For more information, call Diane Fahey at (303)748-3897.

Chamber of Commerce plans biz-oriented Easter Egg Hunt

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host an Easter Egg Hunt from Monday, April 7 through Monday, April 21.

Eggs will be hidden at participating area businesses.

Each location will have at least one

2 scholarships offered by County Clerks Assn.

LITTLETON — The Colorado County Clerks Association is accepting submissions for its 2025 scholarship program.

Winning applicants will receive \$1,500 or \$1,000 scholarship awards for expenses at universities, colleges, junior or community colleges, or technical institutions. Students pursuing studies in public service are given special consideration.

The contest is open to graduating high school seniors.

Arapahoe County seniors can send their completed application and supporting documents to clerk@arapahoegov.com. Applicants in other counties must send their documents and applications to the clerk and recorder three

Three scholarships are available — two \$1,500 awards and one \$1,000 award.

The application deadline is Friday, March 28. For more information, visit www.clerkandrecorder.org.

“golden” egg containing a \$25 gift card or voucher. Smaller, treat- and trinket-filled toys will also be hidden at each location.

To get a business recognized by choosing to hide a golden egg with a voucher, contact Watkins Board Representative Candice Rosenbach at Candice.Rosenbach@gmail.com.

ArapCo seeks three members for Fair Planning Committee

CENTENNIAL — The Arapahoe County Fair Planning Committee has three current vacancies must fill three current vacancies and a fourth to expire soon.

Meetings occur at 6:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

The committee helps plan and manage 4-H livestock events and projects as well as the public competition activities for the fair.

It consists of 10 members serving one-year terms.

The planning committee liaison is Dina Baker. She can be reached at dbaker@arapahoegov.com.

To review the panel’s bylaws, visit <https://www.arapahoeco.gov>.

Colorado State University Extension staff advises the group.

Strasburg Lutheran releases Lenten soup supper schedule

STRASBURG — Saron Lutheran Church hosts Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays during Lent, March 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9.

Soup supper begins at 6:30 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 7:15 p.m.

The church is located at 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

Business Checklists the key to SBDC program in Limon

GREELEY — The Small Business Development Center will host a free informative session where participants can explore their vision and empower their business goals.

“Empowering Your Vision with a Constructive Business Checklist” runs from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, at the Limon Community Building.

The workshop will cover essential steps to strengthen the business foundation, such as evaluating business goals, developing a plan for unexpected challenges, and utilizing a business checklist.

For more information, e-mail to info@eastcoloradosbdc.com.

Free tax assistance offered to ArapCo, AdCo residents

BRIGHTON — Free, in-person tax preparation is now available through April 11 to residents of Adams and Arapahoe counties who have an income of \$67,000 per year or less.

The assistance is available from:

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the second and fourth Fridays of the month, Arapahoe County Centrepont Plaza, 14879 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora. Appointments can be made at taxhelpcolorado.as.me/acph.

- Anythink Library Commerce City, 7185 Monaco St., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Services available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit taxhelpco.org or e-mail to taxsupport@adcogov.org.

Assistance is available in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

RSVPs required for dinner hosted by Bennett church

BENNETT — Cornerstone Fellowship Church is hosting a free community dinner from 4:30-7 p.m., Saturday, April 5. RSVP is required due to limited seating.

Dinner will consist of spaghetti with meat sauce (gluten-free options available), salad, dinner rolls, lemonade, coffee and dessert.

To attend, RSVP to coordination@cornerstonebennett.com or call the church office at (303)644-3450.

Include name, number of guests, phone number, and any gluten-free requests.

Cornerstone Fellowship Church is located at 460 Third St. Bennett.

Polis appoints new judge to Arapahoe County Court

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis March 14 filled a vacancy on the Arapahoe County Court in the 18th Judicial District.

Polis appointed Garen D. Gervy, a district court magistrate in the 18th Judicial District, effective immediately.

Gervy’s docket consists of domestic matters. He previously worked as a public defender (2012-24) in the State Public Defender’s Office in Golden. He also served as law clerk for R. Brooke Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado (2011-12) and for the First Judicial District Court (2010-11).

Gervy received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at San Diego in 2003 and his juris doctorate from the University of Colorado Law School in 2009.

The vacancy occurred when Joshua J. Williford was named to the 18th Judicial District Court.

Eastern Colorado News

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CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 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 a live meeting via Zoom.
Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.

MONDAY, MARCH 24
West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting infon at westarapahoconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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. For a Zoom link, visit townofbennett.colorado.gov.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.

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.

FL man who threatened CO Sec'y of State sentenced

DENVER — A Florida man March 4 was sentenced to 24 months in prison followed by three years supervised release and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine for sending threats to Secretary of State Jena Griswold and others.



The U.S. Department of Justice case against Richard Kantwill included four charges of interstate transmission of threatening communication — including a threat of violence against Griswold — as well as a number of threatening communications towards other public figures.

"Threats to try to intimidate election officials are unacceptable," Griswold said. "It's important that threats like these are taken seriously and that bad actors are charged for their actions."

The threat cited Griswold as the "number 1 target" in a purported investigation conducted by Kantwill and included references to targeted violence against her. It used racist, misogynistic, sexist and vulgar slurs.

The threat was sent Feb. 9, 2024, the day following the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing of Donald J. Trump v. Norma Anderson, et. al.

That case concerned whether the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution disqualified Donald Trump from appearing

on Colorado's Presidential Primary ballot because of his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol. Griswold was a defendant in the initial case.

The Supreme Court ruled on March 4, 2024, that states cannot enforce Section 3 of the 14th Amendment for federal candidates before Congressional action. Trump was eligible to appear on Colorado's ballot and votes cast for him in the March 5 Presidential Primary were counted.

Since this case was filed in September 2023, Griswold has received more than 2,300 threats of violence or death.

At least three other people have either been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, threatening of violence toward her.

Scholarships available via community colleges

DENVER — The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges has opened its scholarship application for the 2025-26 academic year.

The foundation is offering funding opportunities for students attending or planning to attend one of the 13 colleges in the Colorado Community College System next academic year. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m., Sunday, April 27.

The application process is easy to complete and qualifies students for awards of up to \$5,000. Last summer, the foundation awarded about \$563,474 in scholarships to nearly 300 community college students.

"Many community college students face obstacles in their pursuit of higher education, which makes these scholarships truly impactful in providing opportunities for economic mobility to our students," said J. Adam Cermak, the foundation's executive director.

Applicants undergo a holistic selection process that considers their goals, circumstances, and financial need. As part of the application, students submit short written responses about their education, career aspirations, and community involvement. To ensure accessibility, the foundation requires only one application to match students with all eligible scholarships, simplifying the process and expanding access to financial support.

"This scholarship is bringing me closer to realizing my dream of becoming a registered nurse in Colorado," said Charlotte Atiiru, a student at the Community College of Aurora and a current recipient of the foundation's COL John and Mildred Garcia Scholarship. "A girl whose dreams were once challenged by poverty is now on the path to success."

For information, visit cccs.edu.

Bennett gov't plans event for youth award nominees

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett Board of Trustees will honor the town's 2025 nominees for the Adams County Metro Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards.

The recognition will occur at a special ceremony at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at Bennett Town Hall.

The public is welcome. To attend, RSVP to Denise Taylor at (303)644-3249, ext. 1029.



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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
The Deer Trail School PTO hosted a Mother and Son Nerf Battle fundraiser March 8 in the Eagle gymnasium. Left photo, 10-year-old Stetson Bell and mother Michaela Bell unleash some foam bullet fury on another pair of participants while seeking refuge behind a makeshift wall. Right photo, fifth-grader Conner Woodard does his best Elmer Fudd impression as he prepares to go hunting.



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Saturday, April 5 • Kelter Library (Arapahoe Libraries) • 585 S. Main St., Byers
Saturday, April 12 • TBK Bank • 56641 Colfax Ave., Strasburg
Saturday, April 19 • Deer Trail Town Hall • 555 2nd Ave., Deer Trail
Saturday, April 26 • Hudson Public Works Bldg. • 258 5th Ave., Hudson
Saturday, May 3 • Living Springs Vet Clinic • 820 Sharis Ct., Bennett

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As seen on **ANIMAL PLANET**

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Our Lady of the Plains Knights of Columbus Council 13221 in Byers last month presented two checks focusing on assisting with the education and extracurricular activities for intellectually challenged youth along the I-70 Corridor. The money was raised during the group's annual Tootsie Roll fundraiser last fall. The first check presented at Strasburg Schools Feb. 13 was for \$1,464.53 to the Strasburg High School Unified Bowling Team with a second check for \$2,500 presented to East Central BOCES Executive Director Jason Westfall for BOCES special education programs. Pictured, from left, are Knights of Columbus members Greg Singhisen and Kevin Hemphill; students Tyler Steinman and Daniel Aramowicz; bowling head coach Vicki Manahan; students Colin Jones, Ally Tree, Nathaniel Harkness, Madi Steinman and Rylee Tiffany; assistant coach Shay Zuther; student Max Dobransky; and Knights Jerry Mosbrucker and Mike Donnellon with Donnellon's grandson Tate Eikleberry.

TOWN OF BENNETT, COLORADO
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024

GENERAL FUND		
REVENUES		
Taxes:		
Property Tax	\$	796,835
Sales Tax		4,793,656
Other Tax		105,582
Franchise & Royalty		98,117
License & Permits		513,380
Impact and Development Fees		27,702
Charges for Services		106,174
Fines and Forfeiture's		20,739
Other Revenues		875,148
Transfers from Other Funds		960,882
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	8,298,214

EXPENDITURES		
Administration	\$	1,942,667
Finance		440,020
Internal Service		473,167
Boards and Commissions		219,851
Town Clerk		99,176
Municipal Court		35,744
Public Safety		722,487
Community Development		530,302
Planning		175,132
IT		318,692
Economic Development		137,230
Public Works Internal Service		503,879
CIP		157,535
Parks and Recreation		468,161
Public Buildings and Grounds		322,511
Non-Departmental		666,507
Transfers to Other Funds		297,250
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	7,510,311

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND		
REVENUES		
Taxes	\$	439,559
Other Revenues		62,691
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	502,250

EXPENDITURES		
Road and Bridge	\$	216,226
Transfers to Other Funds		137,088
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	353,314

SALES TAX CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND		
REVENUES		
Sales Tax	\$	1,604,136
Grant		449,491
Other Revenue		109,028
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	2,162,656

EXPENDITURES		
Capital	\$	685,556
Maintenance		145,327
Debt Service		353,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	1,183,984

ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	16,356
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	24,126
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-

ADAMS COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	81,439
Transfers to Other Funds		55,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	55,000

RESERVE FUND		
REVENUES		
Transfer from General Fund (Tabor)		81,350
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	81,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-

GRANT FUND		
REVENUES		
Adams County Open Space	\$	791,034
Arapahoe County Open Space		-
DOLA		31,253
Other Grants		589,921
Transfers from Other Funds		465,218
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	1,877,426

EXPENDITURES		
Adams County Open Space	\$	1,244,488
CDOT		507,105
DOLA		67,692
Other Expenditures		58,141
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	1,877,426

CIP FUND		
REVENUES		
Use Tax	\$	388,277
Other Revenue		381,387
Transfers from Other Funds		215,900
Use of Fund Balance		796,765
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	1,782,328

EXPENDITURES		
Capital	\$	1,557,228
Debt Service		225,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	1,782,328

WASTE WATER CAPITAL FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	1,670,187
Transfers to Other Funds		827,043
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	827,043

WATER CAPITAL FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	3,096,500
Transfers to Other Funds		1,081,445
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	1,081,445

TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	323,586
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-

PUBLIC FACILITIES CAPITAL FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	410,218
Transfers to Other Funds		410,218
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	410,218

STORM DRAINAGE FUND		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	83,032
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	8,950

WATER FUND		
REVENUES		
Water Sales	\$	1,882,709
Other Revenues		101,051
Transfers from other funds		1,081,445
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	3,065,205

EXPENDITURES		
Water Operations	\$	808,364
Capital Expenditures		1,081,445
Debt Service		507,488
Water Rights		20,000
Transfers to Other Funds		411,897
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	2,829,193

WASTE WATER FUND		
REVENUES		
Waste Water Sales	\$	1,469,308
Grant		375,770
Other Revenues		209,057
Transfer from other funds		827,043
Bond Issue		30,546,001
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	33,427,179

EXPENDITURES		
Waste Water Operations	\$	641,601
Capital Expenditures		842,503
Debt Service		220,099
Transfers to Other Funds		411,897
Bond Issuance Costs		546,001
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	2,662,100

BENNETT ART & CULTURE FUND		
REVENUES		
Donations/Sponsors	\$	72,367
Grant		5,222
Transfer from General Fund		21,510
Art Council		15,025
Use of Fund Balance		42,262
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	156,386

EXPENDITURES		
Bennett Days	\$	99,099
Bennett Art Council		57,287
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	156,386

I, being the Treasurer for the Town of Bennett, hereby certify that the above statement is a true and correct annual account of revenues and expenditures of the Town of Bennett for the year 2024, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in accordance with C.R.S., Section 31-20-304.

Danette Ruvalcaba, Bennett Town Treasurer

#3044
Published in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, February 28, and March 7, 14 and 21, 2025 and in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, March 12, 19 and 26.



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Byers Rec District plans annual events

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — The Byers Park & Recreation District Board discussed maintenance projects and upcoming events March 5.

The next community event hosted by the district is a free Easter Egg Hunt & Hop at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 12. More than 3,000 candy-filled plastic eggs will be up for grabs for children grouped into three age categories at Byers Community Park, followed by visits with the Easter Bunny and outdoor games.

Following the event at the park, kids can “hop” to participating local businesses to collect more Easter treats.

The board approved an expenditure of \$6,000 to improve portions of Byers Community Park before the Easter event. Refined granite will be purchased and installed in areas around the park where additional picnic tables will be placed. The park needs other maintenance, including turf replacement in grassy areas. The cost of artificial turf is prohibitive at this time but will be kept in mind if a grant opportunity arises. In the meantime, board members will investigate purchasing several pallets of used turf.

A board directors election will be held May 6. A call for nominations resulted in six candidates for four positions. Candidates include incumbents JaLee Kitzman, Janet Herman, Wendy Hise and Willy Elliott, and community members Lindsey Cox and Andy Cox. A drawing was held to determine the order the candidates will be listed on the ballot with the district’s attorney Robert Tibbals drawing the names from a hat. Tibbals also went over the various deadlines that must be met for the election, including ordering UOCAVA (Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) lists, getting updated voter lists from both Adams and Arapahoe county assessors, certifying the ballot content, ordering the ballots, finding certified election judges, and ensuring the judges attend an online class. The board approved an expenditure of \$150 each to compensate the judges.

The designated election official is director Kagen Kitzman, who has two years left on his four-year term. The election will be held at the Byers American Legion Hall. The regular May board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, May 13, to allow time to finalize election results.

The board approved an expenditure of \$600 a year to join two other special districts — the Byers Water & Sanitation District and the Byers Fire Protection District — in an all-call system provided by OnSolve. Individual districts can send out announcements or emergency information.

“Together, we can have up to 2,900 contacts in the system,” Elliott said. “We don’t think we’ll get anywhere near that.”

People can sign up for messages from one, two or all three districts. The service is free for residents and messages can be received by their choice of phone, text, or email.

Fourth of July planning is underway. Events sponsored by the rec district on Friday, July 4 include the annual parade down Front Street, a quilt show at Quint Valley, and the annual CPRA-sanctioned rodeo. The district’s fireworks display will occur on Saturday, July 5.

Additional community events on the Fourth include a Knights of Columbus breakfast at the Byers American Legion Hall and a street and vendor fair sponsored by Wide Open Heating, Air and Electric.

The next meeting of the Byers Park & Recreation District board is 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, at Quint Valley.

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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



SPORTS



Indians advance to 3A championship game

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

DENVER — The Strasburg Indians reached the finals of the Class 3A State Boys Basketball Tournament by turning the tables on Windsor Charter Academy in the semifinals March 14 at the University of Denver.

The Indians won a brutal battle with the Firebirds 54-46 to reach the state championship game for the first time in school history. In January, WCA whipped Strasburg 77-55.

In the March 15 title bout, Resurrection Christian defeated the Indians 55-42. For complete coverage, see the March 21 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Strasburg concluded the season as the second-best team in Class 3A with a record of 23-5 while WCA finished at 25-3 and Resurrection Christian 28-0.

WINDSOR CHARTER ACADEMY

The Indians jumped on the Firebirds 10-0 to start the game, which became a seesaw battle thereafter. Strasburg led 15-7 after one quarter, but WCA was up 26-20 at the half.

The Indians struggled to shoot the



Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers, left, and Indians Kam Gilbert, Nick Glatfelter, Colton Holloway, Cam Manahan and Tyce Bollers celebrate as the clock winds down on the Indians 75-43 victory over Highland in the 3A state quarterfinals March 13 at Hamilton Gym on the campus of University of Denver.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

ball in the first half as a whole.

"In the second quarter, their pressure, defensively, in the pass lanes really started to bother us," said Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers. "We had some turnovers. They got some run-out layups and things like that."

In the third, the Firebirds built their biggest lead at 34-23, before the Indians got their outside game going. They outscored WCA 17-5 the rest of the period for a 40-39 advantage entering the last eight minutes.

"And then we never gave the lead

back again and it was because we were able to hit some shots from the outside," Bollers continued. "We executed our sets so well in the third quarter, and that just led to some easy

SEE BB 'BURG
PAGE 9

Byers boys 0-2 at Great 8

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LOVELAND — Despite consecutive losses in the quarterfinals and consolation semifinals of the 2A Boys Great Eight March 13-14 at Blue Arena in Loveland, Byers' head coach said his troops can hold their heads high.

"So super proud of how we continued to fight and the maturity they showed after a really tough loss in the quarterfinals," said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns after his fourth-seeded Bulldogs fell 51-49 to No. 5 Plateau Valley and 56-50 in the consolation bracket against Sanford. "Especially on Friday, we lost the game, but not a terrible way for the season to end because we fought to the end and made it close."

PLATEAU VALLEY

Against the Western Slope Cowboys, Byers found itself tied at 7 after the first eight minutes and down 22-17 at halftime before pulling the game within a point, 35-34, entering the final period. With about 2½ minutes left the Bulldogs had pulled ahead 46-40 and, about a minute later, an unanticipated weapon appeared on scene for the opposition aided by questionable officiating.

"A kid that had made only five three-pointers all year, makes two against us in the final 1½ minutes. We're up 4 with 40 seconds left when we are called for a foul. They go one and one but we don't get the board, they get a kick-out three to tie it,"

SEE BB BYERS
PAGE 8



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMIO/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Bulldog A.J. Engle drives around a Plateau Valley defender during the 2A quarterfinals March 13 at Blue Arena in Loveland, and Drew Mohatt shoots over an outstretched Cowboy hand.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Indians Taryn LaForce, left, and Peighton Marrero struggle to get to the bucket against Resurrection Christian defenders during Strasburg's state quarterfinal loss March 13.

'Burg girls fall in quarters

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

DENVER — Strasburg's quest to win the Class 3A Girls State Basketball Tournament was quickly derailed in the quarterfinals March 13 when the Lady Indians' star center injured her knee early against eventual state champion Resurrection Christian.

Senior Natalie Damron went down late in the first quarter. She later returned to no avail, and the Lady Indians were eliminated by a score of 54-28 at the University of Denver.

The Lady Cougars led from wire to wire, increasing their advantage as the game wore on.

Junior Hannah Damron is among a handful of Lady Indians expected to return to the hardwood for Strasburg head coach Merci Ames next season.

SEE GB 'BURG
PAGE 9

Kerns said. “With 15 seconds left, we’re under the bucket with a play, get a wide-open layup, looks like we get fouled but no call. Their kid gets a floater in the lane, alligator-arms it short off the front off the rim and a late whistle for a foul it doesn’t look like we commit.”

After the Plateau Valley player made both free throws, Byers had 2.9 seconds to go the length of the court but the final play was unsuccessful.

“Had like the old Valparaiso play from the college tournament all those years ago — long pass, we got it back to (senior) Quincy (Eacret) for a pretty good look. The defender on top appears to get a lot of ball but the kid below takes Quincy’s legs out and no call,” Kerns said. “Just seemed [that official] didn’t want the game to go into overtime. He was in the position on all three calls later and didn’t make one right call.

“But, at the same time, we didn’t start the game well, didn’t shoot well which put us behind. We do some things better early, we probably don’t put the game in the officials’ hands.”

The Bulldogs made about a third of its field goal attempts, but were only 1-of-12 from behind the three-point line. Despite making eight of their last 11 free throws, the Bulldogs were 16-of-24 for the game.

“If we are up 8 or more instead of 6 it probably doesn’t matter if that kid throws up some stuff that goes in and we don’t get some of those calls,” Kerns said.

The guard duo of sophomore James Maes and Eacret paced the Bulldogs with 14 and 12 points, respectively, followed by senior forwards Cameron Eastwood and Kaleb Willoughby with 8 and 7, respectively, and seniors Cody Harris, A.J. Engle and Chas Butterfield with 2 apiece. Maes had a team-high in assists with three

while Willoughby and Engle added two each.

Willoughby corralled a team-high six rebounds, while Eastwood and Engle both had five.

Defensively, of the Bulldogs’ 10 steals, Maes had three and Willoughby and Eastwood two apiece.

SANFORD

Friday’s consolation game saw the Mustangs from the San Luis Valley dominate the first 75% of the game with end-of-quarter leads of 13-6, 29-12 and 44-28; however the Bulldogs scratched back to make the game interesting, pulling within 4 points in the final minutes.

“We got down by 23, but from about the 5-minute mark in the third, we outscored them by 17,” Kerns said. “When you lose a game when you think you could win a state championship, it would be easy to come back with a lack of focus, but I don’t think that was the case on Friday. We just couldn’t make a shot early and things kind of escalated against us. Showed a lot of character with how hard we still fought and got ourselves back into the game.”

Shooting woes again hurt the Bulldogs, who recorded only four makes beyond the arc on Friday.

“Only made five three-pointers the whole weekend,” Kerns said. “Had some good looks but had to work so hard to get them. Both teams were like us in the fact they liked to play aggressive, in-your-face man defense.”

Eacret and Maes again reached double-digit points with 18 and 12, respectively, while Eastwood chipped in 9; Harris, 5; Willoughby, 4; and Butterfield, 2.

SEASON WRAP-UP

The Bulldogs will lose 15 seniors to graduation off of this year’s 21-6 cam-



Byers’ Quincy Eacret streaks ahead of the Plateau Valley defense with the dribble during the 2A quarterfinals at Blue Arena in Loveland March 13.

paign but the top two scorers return for Kerns next season.

“In terms of our seniors, what a special group, not only athletically but in the classroom and in the hallways,” Kerns said, noting that the group was in junior high when the COVID pandemic occurred. “When CHSAA wasn’t playing football or other games, these kids still wanted to play and we found a way to do it with the schools a little further east of us. Just a really determined group of kids that set the school record for wins in a season.”

Kerns added that the adversity faced by his squad during the football quarterfinals two years ago and before Christmas break this season makes this winter’s accomplishments more rewarding. The Bulldogs lost senior point guard Chase Long to a season-ending knee injury during the first game of the season; lost Eastwood, Harris and sophomore Gabe

Price temporarily to injuries and Kerns’ mother passed away in early December.

“You add that to these kids getting hosed in the football playoffs two years ago by a bad call, they’ve shown a lot of growth and maturity that I’m so proud of,” Kerns said. “Instead of playing the blame game like a couple of years ago, they take on some of the responsibility.”

Eacret (13.7 points per game) and Maes (11) will be asked to shoulder much of the load to start next season, but Kerns said a third key scorer will likely be sophomore Gabe Price. Other significant contributions are expected to come from sophomores Samuel Linnebur, Devin Mohatt, Caleb Eastwood and junior Krayton Ebert.

The Union Pacific League All-Conference game will take place on Thursday in Burlington with Byers represented by four members — Eacret, Maes, Engle and Eastwood.



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Monday, April 7

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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.

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ALYSSA STEMFO/For The Scout

From left photo, Strasburg's Tyce Bollers drives the lane against Windsor Charter Academy in the semi-finals March 14, and teammate Nick Glatfelter rejects a shot during the quarterfinals the day before.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

BB 'BURG

FROM PAGE 7

looks and then, defensively, we were incredibly solid all night.”

The defense was huge as Windsor Charter entered the contest averaging 68 points per game.

“I couldn’t ask for much more,” Bollers added.

He added that, when the Indians lost by 22 to WCA in the regular season, they were tight and perhaps a little intimidated.

“We let the atmosphere at Windsor Charter get to us,” he said of the road game. “We’ve grown up a lot since then. And I thought we were just tough today. Just gritty and tough all around.”

Strasburg’s scoring leaders were junior Nick Glatfelter with 19 points, senior Tyce Bollers with 13, sophomore Brody Hopwood 8, and junior Cade Hemphill 7.

“I thought that Nick Glatfelter was tremendous today. He was awesome,” coach Bollers said. “He shouldered the offensive load in the first half. Second half, third quarter, Tyce got going and, you know, Tyce gets going, we’re a whole lot better.”

The coach noted huge shots by Hopwood and Hemphill and a fine defensive performance by sophomore Colton Holloway on the Firebirds’ senior point guard Kellen Ball, who finished with 19 points but also turned the ball over six times.

Holloway paced Strasburg with four steals while juniors Cam Manahan and Gideon Milner had two each.

WCA was frequently called for traveling during the course of the game.

“In my opinion, it was our defensive ball pressure that caused them to travel quite a bit,” coach Bollers said.

Glatfelter completed a double-double with 11 rebounds, followed by Hopwood, Bollers and Holloway with

five apiece.

Holloway also led the Indians with six assists followed by Hopwood and Manahan with three each.

HIGHLAND

That the Indians defeated Highland in the quarterfinals was no surprise given that they already had topped the Huskies twice in February — by 16 and 10 points. But no one expected Strasburg to blow out the Huskies by a 32-point margin.

Strasburg held leads of 22-14, 43-32 and 56-39 after each of the first three quarters before cruising to a 75-43 victory.

“We were able to get into transition all night long,” coach Bollers said. “Our transition game was tremendous.”

Scoring leaders were Tyce Bollers with 19, Hopwood 18, Glatfelter 13, Hemphill 10, and Holloway 5. Glatfelter and Tyce Bollers had six dimes each with Hemphill and Holloway contributing three apiece.

“Again, our defense led to our offense as it has so many times this year,” the coach continued. “Defensively, we had them so frustrated.”

The defensive effort was reflected in Strasburg’s 13 steals and five blocked shots.

Top thieves were Hemphill with four, Hopwood with three, and Glatfelter and Tyce Bollers with two each. Glatfelter also had three blocks.

The Indians also rebounded well. Glatfelter pulled down eight boards followed by Manahan with four and Hopwood and Holloway three apiece.

“You have to rebound well to beat Highland because they rely so much on offensive boards,” coach Bollers added. “If you don’t control the paint, you’re going to be in trouble.”

GB 'BURG

FROM PAGE 7

They were up 10-4, 19-7 and 40-20 after each of the first three quarters.

In the end, Strasburg played well enough defensively but couldn’t buy a basket on the other end of the court. The Indians shot just 18.5% — one of 10 from the three-point line — and converted only seven-of-18 free throw attempts.

Strasburg ends the season with a 19-7 record.

“I felt like these girls came in and worked every day and were resilient and did the best that they could do and there’s nothing more I can ask,” said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames. “They worked really hard. It was a good season.”

Strasburg was paced by senior Peighton Marrero with 8 points, four rebounds and two assists; sophomore Hannah Damron with 6 points and a blocked shot; junior Taryn LaForce, eight rebounds; sophomore Addi Kent, 5 points, four rebounds and two steals; and sophomore Wynne Winter, 3 points, four boards, and two steals.

“I want to thank everybody for their help and support this year,” Ames



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Senior Natalie Damron receives a hug from head coach Merci Ames following Strasburg’s quarterfinal loss to Resurrection Christian March 13.

concluded.

Strasburg had handed the Cougars one of its two losses this season, defeating them in overtime at home Jan. 24 by a score of 67-61.

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Adult Skills Clinics start Thursday, May 1.

Youth Camp (ages 9-13) is Saturday, June 7.

Adult Coed 4x4 League starts Tuesday, June 3.

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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

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Softball camps scheduled by Strasburg HS program

STRASBURG — The Strasburg High School softball program will host softball camps on Saturday, March 29, and Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6.

The March 29 camp will focus on pitching. New pitchers will play from 9-11 a.m. and pitchers with one or more years of experience will take the mound from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The deadline to apply for the pitch-

ing camp is Thursday, March 27, The cost is \$40.

The April 5-6 camp will address hitting and fielding with players ages 6-10 going from 9-11 a.m. and ages 11-16 playing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 4. The cost is \$50.

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

Wheat growers seek scholarship applicants

FORT COLLINS — The Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) will award two \$1,000 scholarships in 2025.

One will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who plans to attend an accredited college, university, junior college or community college. The student must enter college the same year as their graduation from high school.

The second scholarship is the Larry K. Haynes CAWG Memorial Scholarship. It will be awarded to a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student who is attending an accredited

college, university, junior college or community college.

The applicants' parents, grandparents or legal guardians must be current or new members of CAWG or the applicant must be nominated by a CAWG current member. Students intending to major in agriculture related fields are urged to apply. The scholarships are one-year, non-renewable awards.

To apply, download an application at coloradowheat.org. Applicants must fill out and return the CAWG scholarship form no later than Friday, March 28.

Winter wheat survey: Langin returns to No. 1

FORT COLLINS — Langin was the most popular winter wheat variety planted in Colorado, according to the 2025 Colorado Winter Wheat Variety Survey released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service Feb. 28.

This research marks the fifth time Langin has topped the survey, accounting for 12.9 percent of the state's winter wheat acreage. After holding the top spot for four consecutive years, Langin briefly fell to second place in 2024 before reclaiming the top position this year.

Developed by the Colorado State University Wheat Breeding & Genetics Program and released in 2016 under the PlainsGold brand by the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation, Langin is a hard red winter wheat variety known for its high yield potential, drought tolerance, and excellent milling and baking qualities.

"Knowing which varieties are most popular with producers is important," said Brad Erker, executive director of Colorado Wheat. "It helps the CSU Wheat Breeding Program know

where to allocate the most resources and which traits to focus on so it can continue to release varieties that impact their bottom line."

Other PlainsGold varieties dominated the top four spots in the survey. Byrd ranked second, planted on 10.7% of Colorado's winter wheat acres, followed by Avery at 7.9%. Amplify SF, which held the top position in 2024, moved to fourth place with 6.7%. In all, 13 of the top 14 varieties in the survey are marketed by PlainsGold.

The PlainsGold brand, introduced in 2012, carries some the most well-known and innovative winter wheat varieties available today in the High Plains. The PlainsGold brand, varieties and AXigen trait are owned by the farmer-governed Colorado Wheat Research Foundation.

Royalties from the sale of PlainsGold seed support the public wheat breeding program at Colorado State University, which further enhances the funding provided by the wheat assessment paid by all Colorado wheat farmers.

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A photo provided by NASA shows the Intuitive Machines' Athena lander approaching the surface of the moon March 6.

Private lunar lander declared dead after landing sideways in a crater near the south pole of the moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A private lunar lander is no longer working after landing sideways in a crater near the moon's south pole and its mission is over, officials said March 7.

The news came less than 24 hours after the botched landing attempt by Texas-based Intuitive Machines.

Launched the previous week, the lander named Athena missed its mark by more than 800 feet and ended up in a frigid crater, the company said in declaring it dead.

Athena managed to send back pictures confirming its position and activate a few experiments before going silent. NASA and other customers had packed the lander with tens of millions of dollars' worth of experiments including an ice drill, drone and a pair of rovers to roam the unexplored terrain ahead of astronauts' planned ar-

rival later this decade.

It's unlikely Athena's batteries can be recharged given the way the lander's solar panels are pointed and the extreme cold in the crater.

"The mission has concluded and teams are continuing to assess the data collected throughout the mission," the company said in a statement.

The bigger, four-wheeled rover never made it off the fallen lander, but data beamed back indicates it survived and could have driven away had everything gone well, said Lunar Outpost, the Colorado company that owns it.

This effort was the second landing attempt for Intuitive Machines. The first, a year ago, also ended with a sideways landing, but the company

SEE LUNAR LANDER
PAGE 12



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GOVERNOR'S SUMMER JOB HUNT YOUTH JOB FAIR

The Workforce & Business Center (WBC) will be hosting a job fair from **3-6 p.m. on Thursday, March 27** in the Apple Rooms of the Human Services Center at 11860 Pecos St. in Westminster. The event is for youth ages 16-24 and will help connect them with employers looking to hire seasonal and full-time positions. **Scan the QR code below to register!**



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LUNAR LANDER

FROM PAGE 11

was able to keep it going for longer than this time. Despite all the problems, the company's first lander managed to put the United States back on the moon for the first time in more than 50 years.

Another Texas company recently scored a successful landing under NASA's commercial lunar delivery program, intended to jumpstart business on the moon while preparing for astronauts' return. Firefly Aerospace put its Blue Ghost lander down in the far northern latitudes of the moon's near side.

Firefly CEO Jason Kim reported March 7 that eight of the 10 NASA experiments on Blue Ghost already have met their mission objectives. It's expected to operate for another week until lunar day-time ends and solar power is no longer available.

The south polar region of the moon is particularly difficult to reach and operate on given the harsh

sun angles, limited communications with Earth, and uncharted, rugged terrain. Athena's landing was the closest a spacecraft has come to the south pole, just 100 miles away. That's where NASA is targeting for its first landing by astronauts since the 1960s and 1970s Apollo program, no earlier than 2027. The craters are believed to hold tons of frozen water that could be used by future crews to drink and turn into rocket fuel.

Intuitive Machines has contracts with NASA for two more moon landing deliveries. The company said it must determine exactly what went wrong this time before launching the next mission. After the 15-foot Athena landed, controllers rushed to turn off some of its equipment to conserve power while salvaging what they could. In both landings by Intuitive Machines, problems arose last minute

with the prime laser navigation system.

Intuitive Machines' rocket-propelled drone, Grace, was supposed to hop across the lunar surface before jumping into a crater to look for frozen water. The two rovers from two other companies, one American and one Japanese, were going to scout around the area as well.

NASA's ice drill was activated before the lander's batteries died but was unable to penetrate the lunar surface as planned, given the lander's prone position. Flight controllers did manage to rotate the drill to prove it worked, and a companion science instrument collected some data, NASA said. Several other mission objectives were accelerated, according to Intuitive Machines.

NASA paid \$62 million to Intuitive Machines to get its three experiments to the moon.

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A look at moon landing successes and failures

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Landing a spacecraft on the moon has long been a series of hits and misses.

The latest casualty came March 7 after Intuitive Machines put another lander sideways on the moon through a NASA-sponsored program. Within 24 hours, the lander's batteries were dead and the mission was over.

Last year's mission by Intuitive Machines lasted a little longer. Despite hampered operations, it put the U.S. back on the moon for the first time since the end of the Apollo program.

Another U.S. company — Firefly Aerospace — recently added its lunar lander to the win list, becoming the first private entity to pull off a fully successful moon landing.

Both Texas businesses are part of NASA's effort to support commercial deliveries to the moon ahead of astronaut missions later this decade.

The moon is littered with wreckage from failed landings over the years. A rundown on the moon's winners and losers follows.

FIRST VICTORIES

The Soviet Union's Luna 9 successfully touches down on the moon in 1966, after its predecessors crash or miss the moon altogether. The U.S. follows four months later with Surveyor 1. Both countries achieve more robotic landings, as the race heats up to land men.

APOLLO RULES

NASA clinches the space race with the Soviets in 1969 with a moon landing by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Twelve astronauts explore the surface over six missions, before the program ends with Apollo 17 in 1972. Still the only country to send humans to the moon, the U.S. hopes to return crews to the surface by the end of 2026 or so, a year after a lunar fly-around by astronauts.

CHINA EMERGES

China, in 2013, becomes the third country to successfully land on the moon, delivering a rover named Yutu, Chinese for jade rabbit. China follows with the Yutu-2 rover in 2019, this time touching down on the moon's unexplored far side — an impressive first. A sample return mission on the moon's near side in 2020 yields nearly 4 pounds of lunar rocks and dirt. Another sample return mission from the far side in 2024 delivers rocks and soil from the less explored part of the moon. Seen as NASA's biggest moon rival, China aims to put its astronauts on the moon by 2030.

RUSSIA STUMBLES

In 2023, Russia tries for its first moon landing in nearly a half-centu-

A flock of birds flies in front of a full moon over the city center in Tallinn, Estonia last October.

ry, but the Luna 25 spacecraft smashes into the moon. The country's previous lander — 1976's Luna 24 — not only landed, but returned moon rocks to Earth.

INDIA TRIUMPHS ON TAKE 2

After its first lander slams into the moon in 2019, India regroups and launches Chandrayaan-3 (Hindi for moon craft) in 2023. The craft successfully touches down, making India the fourth country to score a lunar landing. The win comes just four days after Russia's crash-landing.

JAPAN LANDS SIDeways

Japan becomes the fifth country to land successfully on the moon, with its spacecraft touching down in January. The craft lands on the wrong side, compromising its ability to generate solar power, but manages to crank out pictures and science before falling silent when the long lunar night sets in.

PRIVATE MOON LANDING ATTEMPTS

A privately funded lander from Israel, named Beresheet, Hebrew for "in the beginning," crashes into the moon in 2019. A Japanese entrepreneur's company, ispace, launches a lunar lander in 2023, but it, too, wrecks.

Intuitive Machines becomes the first private outfit to achieve a safe moon landing. The lander tipped over on its side in 2024, but worked briefly with limited communications. Another U.S. company — Astrobotic Technology — tried to send a lander to the moon the same year, but had to give up because of a fuel leak, eventually returning to Earth and burning up over the Pacific.

This year's private rush to the moon began with Firefly nailing its landing by Blue Ghost, delivering experiments for NASA. Next came Intuitive Machines' second toppled landing. One more commercial landing looms: Japan's ispace company aims to land June 5 after sharing a rocket ride from Florida with Blue Ghost in January.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Byers High School Knowledge Bowl team qualified for this week's state competition for the fourth year in a row after winning the 2A Regional Contest Feb. 10. The team includes, from left, Nick Papaianopol, Ben Gerhardt, Torin Wardall, Jena Rains, and Ian Foose. Krayton Ebert and Cris Papaianopol are not pictured. Rains was also named the Senior Most Valuable Player from the regional contest.


LIBRARY NEWS

DAVIES LIBRARY

128 Second Ave., Deer Trail
(303)769-4310
www.arapahoelibraries.org
Fairytale Crafts: Tweens and teens are invited to make fairytale-themed crafts, decorate a "magic" mirror, and design a bookish trinket box. All supplies provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 26.
Little Explorers: Children ages 2-5 and their caregivers explore a monthly theme that combines learning and literacy.
10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 20.

KELVER LIBRARY

585 Main St., Byers
(303)822-9392
www.arapahoelibraries.org
Will it waffle? Will they waffle, or will they crumble? Kids ages 5-18 will make traditional waffles and test out fun ingredients with a variety of toppings. 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 20.
Book Buddies: Kids ages 5-8 can celebrate their favorite book characters with art, games and more. The book this month is "The School for Magical Monsters." No need to read the book. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 25.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
MARCH 22, 2005

The Town of Limon celebrated on St. Patrick's Day, but it was nothing to do with leprechauns.

Town administrator Joe Kiely said a special meeting of the board of trustees was called to receive "a significant donation to the town" and inform department heads. "We expect this to happen very quickly."

Representatives of an anonymous donor called town officials recently to inform them of the donation for town projects.

"The donor wishes to remain anonymous, and the Town of Limon has agreed to maintain the donor's anonymity," Kiely said. "The Town of Limon has a very long history of volunteerism and long-range planning. The donation that we announce today is being offered because of this history."

The donor "has indicated an intent to donate \$1 million for the benefit of the Limon Ambulance Service and the Limon Volunteer Fire Department," Kiely said. "This funding is earmarked for the purchase of capital expenditures including a new rural fire truck, replacement pumper truck and ambulances. Danny Adams, fire chief, and Lonnie Knudsen, ambulance supervisor, will be working cooperatively with the board of trustees to determine how to divide this generous donation."

15 YEARS AGO
MARCH 23, 2010

Corridor firefighters had a full day of activity March 18, battling several blazes — including at least two grass fires, an electrical fire in a Byers' business, and a case of suspected arson between Aurora and Deer Trail.

"We got started at 3:30 in the morning and didn't get finished up until 5 that afternoon," said Bennett Fire Chief Earl Curley. "It was a pretty exhausting day."

The day began with Bennett Fire rescue called to Airpark

Road and I-70 on a report of a house fire.

Bennett Fire Chief Earl Cumley indicated the dilapidated home has been a hangout the past several years and fires at the location have occurred there in the past. Arapahoe County Sheriff's Dispatch indicated the first call occurred at 3:20 a.m.

"This is probably the third time we've responded to a fire there," Cumley said. "This time we just let the entire contents inside burn and then extinguished it. Nobody was hurt and, I think, we may have done away with a possible problem home."

10 YEARS AGO
MARCH 24, 2015

BYERS — It takes a special person, at age 17, to maintain a 4.0 average, excel as an athlete and student leader, and volunteer in the community.

And it takes an exceptional person to do all of the above, enter an intense scholarship competition, impress a high-level selection committee, and be awarded the prestigious Boettcher Scholarship from the Boettcher Foundation for a full ride to any four-year college in Colorado. Boettcher scholarships have been given yearly to Colorado's best and brightest students since 1952. Prospective scholars go through a rigorous application and interview process. Around 1,600 student apply for the 40 scholarships each year.

Members of the Boettcher Founders Selection Committee judge applicants on their superior scholastic ability, evidence of leadership and involvement, strive to community and school, and outstanding character — all areas in which Andrea shines.

Andrea has lived in Byers her whole life and attended Byers School since kindergarten. She was raised by mother, Barbara Taylor. She has two older siblings. Andrea's scholarship application required an essay on the person most influential in her life, and she wrote about her mother.

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

SOLUTION ON PAGE 21

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, March 19, the 78th day of 2025. There are 287 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On March 19, 2003, in a televised address, President George W. Bush announced that coalition forces had begun an invasion of Iraq.

ON THIS DATE

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure that made the state the first to legalize gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, more than 800 service members were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin near Japan.

In 1953, the 25th Academy Awards ceremony was the first to be televised; "The Greatest Show on Earth" would win the Oscar for Best Picture.

In 1965, archeologist E. Lee Spence discovered the wreckage of the SS Georgiana, a Confederate ship that sunk near Charleston, S.C., 102 years earlier.

In 1966, Texas Western (now the University of Texas at El Paso) became the first team to start five Black players in the NCAA basketball tournament's championship game; they defeated top-ranked Kentucky in the final, 72-65.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid

a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer Ruth Pointer is 79. Actor Bruce Willis is 70. NFL coach Andy Reid is 67. Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin is 43.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VACATION DESTINATIONS

ACROSS

1. Aladdin's find

5. Reggae precursor

8. "Lights out" signal

12. Not good

13. Flock's echo

14. ___ diet, a.k.a. caveman diet

15. Kind of jerk

16. "Southern and Southwestern U.S. region: Sun ___"

17. Financial backer

18. "Switzerland's skiing destination (2 words)"

20. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.

21. Clint Eastwood's "Play ___ for Me"

22. One in a pod

23. Wear out

26. Masculine

30. "Princess' turf"

31. Makes a sum (2 words)

34. "He's Just Not That ___ You"

35. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion

37. Choose

38. Provide food

39. Answer from a tunnel

40. Virtual you

42. ___ Scare

43. Prickly plant

45. "Second "National Lampoon's Vacation" destination

47. Biblical Adam's partner

48. Cause and effect cycle?

50. Goals

52. "Jamaica and Cayman Islands location

56. Bert's sidekick

57. Poet Pound

58. Hay bundle

59. "The Great Gatsby" author

60. Billiards relative

61. Theories

62. ___-deaf

63. Boar's mate

64. Reason to cram

DOWN

1. Not more

2. Swear, not curse

3. Between mini and maxi

4. Bodily fluid

5. Small silvery fish

6. ___ G. of "SpongeBob SquarePants"

7. Aardvark's repast

8. "Serengeti National Park location

9. Aquatic plant

10. Pressure inducer

11. "Costa del ___", Spain

13. Humiliated

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

Illusion and Delusions of a Neptunian Conjunction

"Authenticity" is an overused, misunderstood word. There are many aspects of you that are "real," but which should you present to earn the label "authentic"? The very question sets the stage for inauthenticity. Perhaps to be "authentic" we must stop caring about it so much. It is human nature to care how we're being perceived. To admit that is authentic indeed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're interested and curious about everything and everyone. It's very attractive, and so is the way you move. Don't be afraid to take up space. When you enter a room, people notice. When you cross a room, they feel the force of your spirit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). For what you're building today, much will be up for interpretation. So, there's really no need to take directions, suggestions, instructions or expectations too literally. The looser your approach, the better the outcome.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's useless to chase happiness because happiness has its own rules and shows up when the conditions are right, which is something happiness knows and we do not. Happiness often alights when we let go of trying to control or define everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Personal growth isn't always obvious from the outside, but when you look back, you'll notice you're of a different mind from where you were last year. What once felt certain seems irrelevant; what you dismissed holds new meaning.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may have harsh judgments about yourself, but they do not represent the truth of who you are. You are dynamic, smart, loving, funny and incredibly perceptive. That shines through no matter what.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes you don't know you've made a meaningful connection until later, when nuances of an interaction linger. Recall can be tricky, but the fact that a memory surfaces at all speaks to the likelihood that this is the start of a story to be

continued.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a reason you are where you are. And though the people around you need you, and some of them wouldn't be fully functional without you, this is not your sole reason for being. You are here to engage, experience, bask and become.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are socially susceptible in the best possible way, adopting and absorbing the best in what is around you. And when you see behaviors you wouldn't want to adopt, you use those examples to steer you toward your goal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You had one way to accomplish things, and now new tools are available to give you different ways of doing the same thing. So, what will actually make your work better? Avoid change for the sake of change, as it will only waste your time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is a day to keep the cards close to the vest, revealing little or nothing. There's a great benefit to exercising caution in what you say, post or react to. The less others know, the more freedoms you'll have later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be among people who naturally fall within the bell curve of typical social behavior, people who have to work hard at it and people who don't achieve it. You'll be kind to all, and others will follow your lead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Creativity is alive in you. Don't worry whether you're applying what you've learned; you can't help but do so. Your self-expression uses everything you know and have experienced up until this point, both consciously and unconsciously. Trust.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Mar. 19). You belong. Never has that been more clear to you than in this year filled with moments of awe, which play with your sense of scale and put you in touch with the truth of your essential nature as both infinitesimal and woven into something vast. More highlights: vows exchanged, contracts signed, huge contributions to the causes that matter to you, and a group adventure. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 33, 29 and 1.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

Spring has sprung and we'll all...

...be doing spring cleaning at home.

Kids: color stuff in!

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Get Ready For Spring

I spring upon the pests in gardens to help clean them out!



There are many jobs to be done after a long winter. People in the city, town and country all do spring cleaning and chores based on their needs. How many different jobs have you seen people doing? How many have you helped to do? **Read the clues to fill in the crossword with chores.** (Hint: use a pencil to fill in the clues below first. This puzzle is a bit tricky!)

repairing

sweeping

hanging

mowing

planting

washing

sowing

watering

trimming

beating

painting

setting

pulling

paving

waxing

Can you find and circle 10 words that begin with the letter "s"?

1. _____ trees
2. _____ weeds
3. _____ flowers
4. _____ roofs
5. _____ driveways
6. _____ laundry
7. _____ up pools
8. _____ fields
9. _____ bushes
10. _____ lawns
11. _____ rugs
12. _____ windows
13. _____ cars
14. _____ fences
15. _____ sidewalks

Flowers spring up, leaves spring open, baby animals spring to life!

"Spring" Sayings!

Lots of things spring to mind when we think of the word "spring."

Match each "spring" phrase below to its meaning:

1. She's no spring chicken.
2. The ideas spring to mind.
3. The dogs spring to life when I feed them.
4. Daffodils are springing up.
5. I will spring for a new basketball.
6. My brother likes new jokes that he can spring on me.
- A. growing
- B. not young anymore
- C. are thought of right away
- D. start moving around
- E. surprise me with
- F. buy

Before It Rains!

Dad wants to get indoors before the showers get near. Can you help him finish mowing?

Ahhhhh!

A Sunny Chore!

Connect the dots to see what we have to wash so that sunlight can come into our homes!

We're cleaning out our closet.

(Hint: use a ruler to help keep lines straight.)

Triple Take!
Little Duck is enjoying a rainy spring day. Study each cartoon from left to right. What changes can you find from A to B? From B to C?


A

B

C

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BENNETT BOT

FROM PAGE 1

investigate the harassment.

An Arapahoe County Sheriff’s spokesman said the department is aware of the situation, which was deemed as sexually explicit content, but whether a formal investigation has commenced was unknown.

“I know about something that happened in Bennett, because we were out there talking to the town and it came up in conversation,” the spokesman said. “I was told it was porn that popped up on the screen. I am not aware that anything is happening on our side because of this.”

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

“We had two versions of this Powerpoint,” said Community Services Supervisor Keith Buono.

An earlier draft accompanied the minutes on the town website.

His office appears to have changed “Potential Revenue” to “2024 Test Cases” in the headline of a slide with statistics about the amount of money the town could make by adding administrative penalties. But Buono added that penalties are, first and foremost, an effort to expedite compliance of town code.

“The purpose of this section is to encourage prompt compliance with the code and prompt payment of penalties assessed,” he said citing subsection 1-4-70(A)(2).

Revenue is not the primary purpose of the administrative penalty, but it was mentioned three times in the visual presentation, including the altered slide with statistics and projected monies to be produced.

There are no statistics projecting deterrence of repeat offenses, and the section does not provide for situations where a person has no ability to pay.

It does have a section about the consequences for the failure to pay that includes additional fees, interest at a rate of 10% per annum, referral for collection, liens on property, and suspension or revocation of town-issued licenses.

Buono reassured the board that, “We’re not out to try and punish. We’re not out to try and get money. We’re trying to obtain compliance. And what we have found, through time, is that the individuals that resist coming into compliance usually come into compliance once we give them a summons.”

Other municipalities in the state use the penalties, including Longmont, Ridgeway, Lyons, Denver, Golden and Colorado Springs. States such as Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina, California and Texas also allow municipalities to charge administrative penalties.

The revision to the code could be decided with a vote at the next board

Officer-involved shooting occurs near Brighton

BRIGHTON — The Adams County SWAT Team, the Brighton Police Department, and other specialized members of area task forces responded to 20400 E. 160th Ave. on Feb. 20 at approximately 8 a.m. to serve a search warrant for the Colorado Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force.

Upon initiating contact on the property, the situation quickly turned into a standoff, and an adult female barricaded herself and began threatening the law enforcement personnel on scene.

The female also claimed to have several hostages with her.

The SWAT team began crisis negotiations with the female, but she was uncooperative as SWAT attempted several different modes of communication.

During the hours of negotiations, the other people with her eventually exited and were taken to a safe location.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., the SWAT team approached and attempted to breach the wall where the woman was and, as they did, she began to shoot.

Several deputies returned with gunfire as they attempted to protect themselves and move out of the path of gunfire.

Three deputies were struck during the incident and received non-life-threatening injuries. All three deputies were treated for their injuries and later released from medical care.

The initial investigation revealed a deceased body in the area where the gunfire occurred.

The identification and cause of death are pending investigation by the Adams County Coroner’s Office.

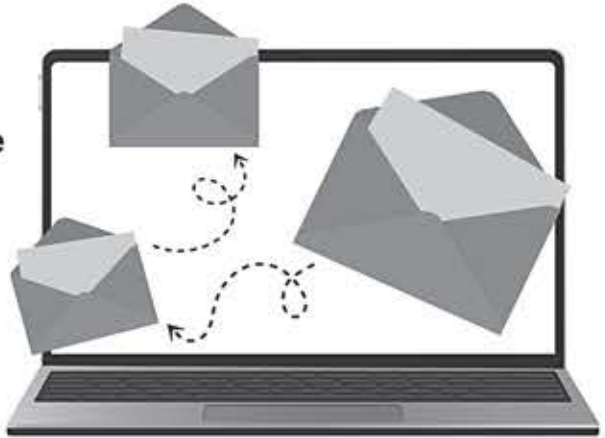
The 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team is investigating the incident.

The deputies involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure.

After the investigation is completed, any changes to their status will be determined.


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meeting.

PRESSURE-REDUCING VALVE REBATE

The board approved a partial rebate program for homeowners who install pressure reducing valves on their individual service lines, though newer builds came with them pre-installed and are not eligible.

Installation of the PRV costs homeowners around \$700. The rebate covers \$322 and the town will waive permitting fees, pointed out CIP and Utilities Director Daniel Pershin. The valves are usually adjustable, but the standard recommended by the plumbing code is 65 PSI, and maintenance of the PRVs would be a homeowner responsibility.

Bennett owns and maintains the water infrastructure, which is currently on a two-pressure system, and Pershing described efforts to reduce it to a one-pressure system at a recent Engage. Shape. Build public forum.

PERMIT TURNAROUNDS

“We are still doing next-day inspections” for building permits, said Community and Economic Development Director Savannah Chapa adding, “one to three days for quick permits, one- to two-week turn-arounds for our stock homes, which is the majority of home permits, and we do two- to three-week turnarounds for commercial plan reviews.”

Her office has dedicated drop-in hours when the public is welcome to discuss their ideas, maintains an online progress map, and looks to hire an additional planner.

In 2024 the town issued 530 permits — 470 residential, 100 new homes, and 300 on existing homes for improvements like solar, air conditioning, landscaping and fencing.

LOCAL EXPANSION PLANNED

The board approved a hotel and restaurant liquor license for Los Charros Mexican Restaurant.

In addition to the Launch-Pad Brewery recently opening, other future businesses with applications under review include Panda Express, Open and Affordable Dental, Auto-Zone, and Jiffy Lube.

Developer Bill Mahar presented his progress on a long-term plan for land use, potential annexation, future development, mapping utilities, road connectivity, access to medical care, and employment opportunities in the subarea south of I-70 primarily in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

The plan seeks to buffer residential homes from freeway traffic with commercial zoning bordering I-70, and mixed residential further south overlooking the Kiowa Creek open space greenway and floodplain, which is expected to be the primary natural feature in the area.

Areas surrounding and south of the the Antelope Hills neighborhood will likely remain low density and rural. Some of those landowners are considering solar panel fields.

Mahar would appreciate additional feedback from the community at stakeholder meetings in the coming weeks. The plan will be finalized for the board to review in late April.

BOARD OUTREACH EFFORTS

The board agreed to sponsor a \$2,500 table at the Court-Appointed Special Advocates Light of Hope luncheon on Friday, April 25, at the OMNI Hotel in Broomfield.

The town contributes annually to CASA, which is a charitable organization that provides court-appointed case management and legislative advocacy on behalf of children who are removed from their families through dependency and neglect hearings brought by the state.

The town may initiate a membership with lobbying policy advocacy group Accelerate Colorado, which would include an annual trip to Washington, D.C., to meet national legislators.

Adams and Arapahoe counties, Aurora, Glendale, and some businesses are already members.

District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker will attend on behalf of Arapahoe County. He will have the opportunity to seek federal assistance for infrastructure needs including road and bridge maintenance.

The Centennial Crossing Project will be delayed by six to eight weeks, pushing construction to winter weather months at the end of year. The board attributes the delay to the halving of the Colorado Department of Transportation’s Denver staff and the need for a full partnership with CDOT on planning efforts.

CHUCK WAGON



Asparagus Potato Soup

by Bobbie Keefer
For The Scout

Yum!

I make recipes with asparagus, which can be productive in the garden for up to 30 years, almost daily for several weeks in the spring. New shoots come up so often that a new batch is ready to be picked every other day. The season lasts two to three weeks for young plants. Established plants produce up to eight weeks! My mom taught me that a pinch of baking soda in the cooking water keeps asparagus greener. Dandelions and asparagus are two of the first plants to come up in the spring. Dandelion whiskey wine and asparagus soup!

ASPARAGUS POTATO SOUP

- INGREDIENTS
- 3 tablespoons butter
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 3 peeled potatoes, chopped
 - 3 cans chicken broth
 - 2 cups milk
 - 2 teaspoon thyme
 - 1 teaspoon pepper
 - 12+ asparagus, cut up

DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in pot. Add onion, potatoes, broth, milk, thyme, pepper. Bring to boil. Cover and simmer until potatoes are tender. Add asparagus. Simmer 5 minutes. Smash with masher. Ladle into bowls.

LUNCH MENUS

- AGATE**
- Monday, March 24: Chicken nuggets.
Tuesday, March 25: Hamburger, fries.
Wednesday, March 26: Lasagna roll-up, dinner roll.
Thursday, March 27: Sweet & Sour Chicken, brown rice.
- BENNETT**
- Monday, March 24: Turkey sandwich, shredded lettuce, black beans, fruit cocktail.
Tuesday, March 25: Spaghetti, roll, green beans, banana.
Wednesday, March 26: Hawaiian ham coconut rice bowl, oriental vegetables, fresh grapes.
Thursday, March 27: Greek chicken wrap, fresh broccoli, applesauce.
- BYERS**
- Monday, March 24: Cheesy bread sticks

- with marinara, baby carrots with ranch.
Tuesday, March 25: Ham and cheese hoagie, Sun Chips, baked beans, orange.
Wednesday, March 26: Chicken Parmesan, bread sticks, green beans, mixed fruit.
Thursday, March 27: Taco salad, cornbread, broccoli with ranch, pears.
Friday, March 28: Bean and cheese burrito, Spanish rice, corn, peaches.
- STRASBURG**
- Tuesday, March 25: Chicken fajitas, refried beans.
Wednesday, March 26: Soup Day.
Thursday, March 27: Sweet & Sour Meatballs over rice.
Friday, March 28: Chicken sandwiches.
- DEER TRAIL**
- Thursday, March 27: Chicken nachos, refried beans, corn, sliced apples.

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Saturday, April 5

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Due to limited seating, please RSVP

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(Please include name, numbers of guests, phone number and if any gluten free guests.)

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