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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 7

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

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Bennett FPD seeks Sky Ranch firehouse



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This home at Sky Ranch southwest of Watkins has been serving as a de facto fire station (No. 93) while the Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection District seeks a more appropriate structure.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — As 2025 commences, one of the Bennett-Watkins fire chief's new year's resolutions is to have a brick-and-mortar base of operations in the westernmost part of the district as soon as possible.

"We don't have an immediate fire response. I need a fire truck there and the fact we don't [have one there] right now is hurting us," said Bennett-Watkins Fire Chief Earl Cumley about the current situation at the Sky Ranch subdivision during the fire district's board of directors meeting Jan. 9. "We're going to meet with

[Arapahoe County] on what they will allow on the property."

The current setup at Sky Ranch has the fire department occupying a residential unit, but housing adequate apparatus and equipment is almost impossible, particularly with no indoor parking or storage available.

"Right now, we're having to drive to the station (in Watkins)," Cumley said of staff that currently stays at the Sky Ranch house during shift. "Just not a really good second option right now."

Cumley said he understands that a permanent fire station in the development is likely a \$6 million to

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PHOTOS BY DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

Among this past holiday season's plethora of decorations along the I-70 Corridor were a pair of elaborate layouts on the south side of the interstate between Watkins and the Airpark Road interchange.

Unexpectedly powerful storm wreaks havoc locally

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Last Thursday's snowstorm turned out more severe than prognosticators originally forecast, upsetting local commuters and parents of I-70 Corridor schoolchildren.

In the day or two leading up to Jan. 9, forecasters mostly predicted a trace to an inch of snow in and around the Denver-met-

ro area; however, when all was said and done, areas south and east received at least 3 inches of snow with strong winds drifting snow several feet high.

In addition, below-freezing temperatures through much of Thursday morning had residents questioning most local school districts' decision to not delay or cancel classes for the day. Corridor school officials with Bennett, Strasburg,

Byers and Deer Trail reiterated that the decision to move forward with classes was made before daylight when forecasts still indicated stormy conditions would dissipate quickly.

"If I had foreseen the weather that would emerge when the decision needs to be made by 5 a.m., I assure you that the outcome would have been different," said Strasburg Superintendent Kelle Bongard in

a letter to district families. "The unexpected change in weather, marked by snow and windy conditions, created a challenging morning commute for our staff and students alike."

"Once our families and students were already on their way, it simply was not feasible to call for a delay or closure. Our team diligently monitors weather patterns and makes decisions based on the best available

information at the time."

Byers Superintendent Tom Turrell reiterated that all five local school superintendents were in contact with each other before making the decision to keep schools open for much of the day.

"We were first told that things would roll out of here in the morning by around 7:30 and, by the

SEE STORM
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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Strasburg VIP seniors plan schedule December lunch

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

Savannah Chapa, Bennett Community Development Manager, will speak.

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

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

‘Spirit Night’ fundraiser scheduled by foundation

BENNETT — Tickets are now on sale for Spirit Night hosted by the Hearts, Hands & Hope Foundation from 4-8 p.m., Thursday, March 13, at Urban Air Adventure Park, 9550 E. 40th Ave., Denver.

Urban Air features activities such as trampolines, climbing walls, bumper cars, dodgeball, laser tag and bowling.

Exclusive Spirit Night pricing ranges from \$16.99 to \$25.99 per person depending on the number of attractions desired. “Spirit Night” should be mentioned at the time of purchase to receive the discount. The foundation will receive 20% of each ticket sold.

The nonprofit Hearts, Hands & Hope Foundation supports women & children who are battling breast cancer and other cancers.

For more information, visit heartshandsandhopefoundation.org.

Family center announces yearly meeting, boutique

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

The meeting is open to the public. Visitors with concerns are encouraged to attend.

The center will host its monthly open boutique from 10 a.m. to 12

ArapCo seeks youth award nominees

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County commissioners are seeking nominations for the Mayors & Commissioners Youth Awards, which provide scholarships to teenagers who have overcome obstacles and risen to life’s challenges.

The awards provide scholarships to graduating seniors who have overcome adversity and wish to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities at vocational, two-year, or four-year schools. The number and amount of scholarships are determined on a yearly basis.

Applications may be submitted by a teacher, counselor or school administrator who is not related to the student. The nominator must provide details on why the student should be considered for the award, including ways the student has helped their com-

munity 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 what they hope to accomplish in the years ahead.

A committee of county commissioners and municipal mayors 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.

Nominations are open until 5 p.m., Friday, March 7. For the nomination form, visit the Youth Awards page at www.arapahoe-co.gov.

p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25. Shoppers should enter through the front door to register before they browse in the center’s selection of baby to size 6 clothing, shoes, coats, diapers and more.

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

Watkins firm earns \$3.9M during fiscal 1st quarter

WATKINS (AP) — Pure Cycle Corp. Jan. 8 reported net income of \$3.9 million in its fiscal first quarter.

On a per-share basis, the Watkins-based company said it had net income of 16 cents.

The water and wastewater services company posted revenue of \$5.8 million in the period.

Common plant diseases topic of Extension class

LITTLETON — Colorado State University Master Gardeners in Arapahoe County will host a free class on the most common plant

diseases in Colorado. The class will run from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16, at Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway.

Participants ages 18 and up can learn about the symptoms to look for on landscaped plants and how to tackle each disease properly.

To register, visit www.aurora.gov.org.

Spring history discussions planned by ‘Burg museum

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg will host several evenings of history and conversation this spring.

Museum Curator Cliff Smith will discuss several topics at each session with a light snack at 6 p.m. and the presentation from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, and April 24, at the TBK Bank Community Room 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

“U.S. Military Exhibits at the Museum” will be the topic on Jan. 23. It will address the numerous military items in the museum col-

lection. Discussion will include the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart and Bronze Star and their stories.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society.

Narconon issues warning about the use of ketamine

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

Ketamine is a prescription medication primarily used as an anesthetic in medical and veterinary practices. It is known for its ability to induce sedation, relieve pain, and create a state of dissociation.

Ketamine has been approved for certain mental health conditions but, even with medical supervision, no longitudinal research backs up the claims for success. A high risk and huge market for recreational use exists for ketamine.

For more information, visit www.narcononnewliferetreat.org or call 1-800-431-1754.

Youth soccer league opens spring season registration

STRASBURG — Registration has kicked off for the spring season of the Eastern Plains Youth Soccer Association.

To register, visit epysacolorado.org. For information, e-mail to ColoradoEPYSA@gmail.com.

Make-up games will be played on weeknights or Sundays.

4- AND 6-AND-UNDER DIVISIONS

Practices start Monday, March 17, and games follow on Saturdays starting March 29 at Five Acre Park in Strasburg.

8-, 10- AND 12-AND-UNDER DIVISIONS

Practices start Monday, March 17, and games follow on Saturdays for seven weeks starting March 29 at Five Acre Park.

15-AND-UNDER DIVISION

Practices will start in March at 5 Acre Park. Games will occur at the Aurora Sports Park.

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Polis walks tightrope with Trump; deportations likely 1st test

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Gov. Jared Polis donned safety glasses and seized the handle of the electric saw, guiding the buzzing blade down through a stack of printed-out executive orders dating back decades.

Polis' pre-Christmas news conference was designed to highlight how he was repealing unnecessary regulations, and it caught the eye of a prominent Republican — one the Democratic governor's party has grown to despise.

"Nice work," wrote Vivek Ramaswamy, the brash MAGA-disciple, who President-elect Donald Trump tapped to help slash government spending, on the social media site X. "Send that shredder over to (the Department of Government Efficiency) next month!"

Polis reposted Ramaswamy's message and continued to banter with him about closing a federal cheese facility in Missouri. It was only the latest example of how Polis, who prides himself on his quirky independence, is walking a difficult line with the incoming administration.

As Democratic governors across the country adapt to Trump's victory — New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, for instance, reached out to Trump to find common ground while California Gov. Gavin Newsom has prepared for legal battles — Polis stands out.

In the days following the election, he joined Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker to form an ostensibly nonpartisan group of governors to "protect democracy," a seeming reprise of Democrats' resistance during Trump's first term and in line with Newsom's battened-hatches approach.

But days later, Colorado's governor zagged,



Gov. Jared Polis, shown speaking last May, is walking a difficult line when it comes to Donald Trump.

going beyond Hochul's conciliatory call.

Polis cheered Trump's nomination of vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services, noting he had worked with Kennedy before. Polis later defended his comments by saying he personally supports vaccination and hoped Kennedy would take on "big pharma and corporate ag."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Polis explained his outreach with his go-to refrain that isn't often heard in today's hyperpolarized politics: "We can get good ideas from the left and the right."

"There might be some people who are over-simplistically saying they are either for or against whatever is going on in Washington," he said. "I think it's a little bit more nuanced than that."

Some Democratic activists and operatives began texting each other in disbelief after Polis' praise of Kennedy. The Colorado governor has been on several shortlists as a possible 2028 presidential contender, but now a few Democrats are moving him down several spots.

"I think a lot of Democrats have learned the wrong lessons from this race, and he's the prototype of that," said Bakari Sellers, a prominent Democratic strategist in South Carolina, a top early primary state in 2028, of Polis. "After 18 months, when people look at the failures of this administration and you were the one to cuddle up to it, they're going to remember."

Polis supporters see the governor's actions as what one called "vintage Jared." The openly gay, wealthy entrepreneur-turned-politician has a distinctly libertarian bent. He resisted imposing mask or vaccine mandates during the coronavirus pandemic, pushed to eliminate all state income taxes, and has spoken fulsomely about the benefits of capitalism and free trade.

"Jared's not picking a fight; that's not his style," said Ted Trimpa, a veteran Colorado Democratic strategist who's known Polis for decades.

Trimpa added a reference to the California governor, who has highlighted his own ideological opposition to Trump. "It's not what

SEE POLIS & TRUMP

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Alice Irene Kitzman
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Visitation @ 10 a.m.

Funeral @ 11 a.m.

Mountain View Fellowship

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Burial to follow @ Byers Cemetery



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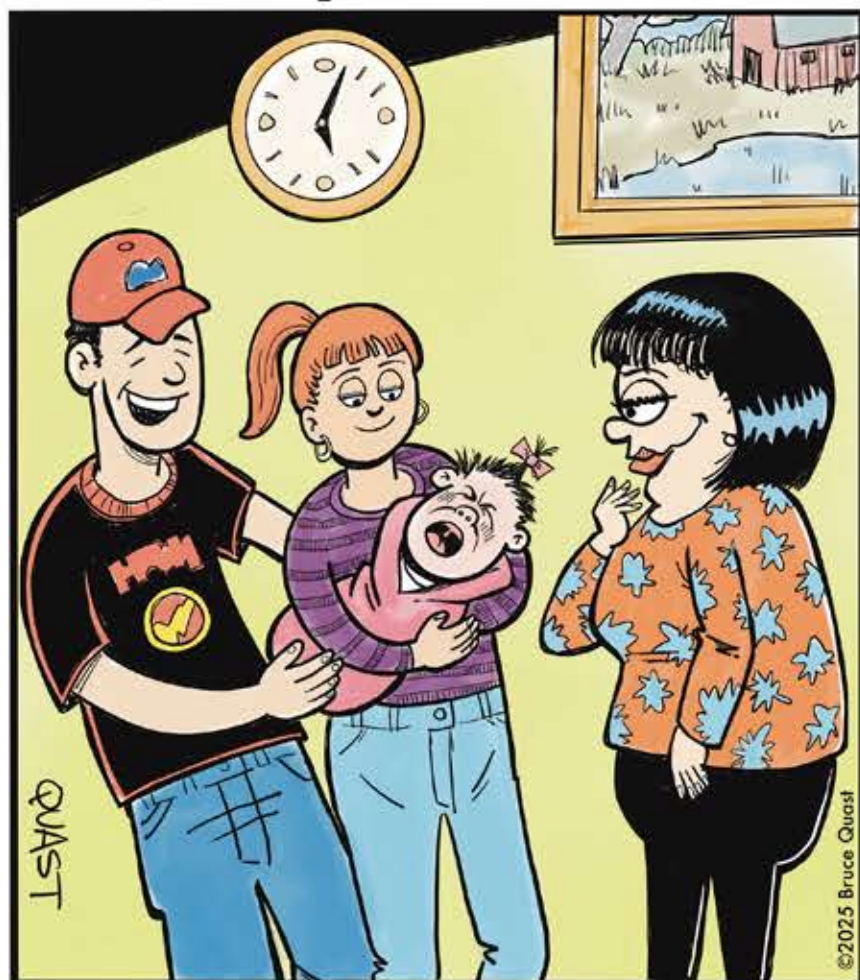


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Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



"We named her 'Jennings', because she's always wailin'!"

Tail Waggin Dog Boarding Case Number: RCU2023-00006

Planning Commission Hearing Date: 01/23/2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: 02/18/2025 at 9:30 a.m.
Location of Hearings: 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy., Brighton, CO 80601
Request: Conditional use permit to allow for a commercial kennel (dog boarding operation) in the Agricultural-3 zone district.

Location: Vicinity of 432000 136th Avenue
Parcel Numbers: 0156300000113

Case Manager: Cody Spaid
Applicant: Kevin McGrath, 432000 136th Avenue
Property Owner: Kevin McGrath



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Social consequences of DUI can be severe, long-lasting

GOLDEN — A DUI arrest is a serious matter in the eyes of the law and the community.

While not often considered before making a choice to drive impaired, the social stigma attached to a DUI can have a long-lasting negative impact on a person's life.

"The penalties set by the court and Division of Motor Vehicles are clear and serious with the goal to stop this driver from driving intoxicated again," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol chief. "As word travels, a DUI can have other consequences, including an effect on how a person is treated in all aspects of their life."

A DUI conviction can undermine your position as a parent, spouse or friend, not to mention impact on professional opportunities.

Professionally, DUIs require extensive time in court, treatment and screenings. Since many such services operate during business hours only, you will likely miss a considerable amount of time from work to meet court requirements.

Professionally, some companies have rules associated with DUI that could result in duty modification, loss of employment, or demotion.

Professionally, DUIs are visible on background checks and could eliminate one from consideration for new employment.

Socially, as word of a DUI spreads, a long line of social acquaintances could be impacted. PTAs, nonprofits, and coaching situation could ask a violator to step down from responsibilities or distance themselves from them.

In personal relationships, a DUI strains relationships with many close friends and family members. A spouse may resent the emotional and financial stress caused by the DUI. Children might question one's authority and friends may no longer want to be seen with you.

"You can lose a lot with one decision," Packard explained. "Whether a felony or misdemeanor, a DUI gives you a criminal record, creating potential new challenges in employment, housing and in your community."

The Colorado State Patrol is publicizing the consequences an average Colorado driver experiences after conviction of DUI as part of its "Don't Underestimate Impairment" campaign. Making a good decision "in the moment" while already intoxicated is unlikely.

POLIS & TRUMP

FROM PAGE 3

[Polis] does. He's not Gavin."

"I do think he is always going to look for ways to work with Trump, even if he vehemently disagrees with other things Trump is doing," said Democrat Steve Fenberg, the departing state Senate president who has known and worked with Polis for over a decade. "The question is how do you balance that with Trump attacking actual institutions and norms?"

When asked about balancing his fears with his concerns that Trump could threaten the Republic, Polis said, "I'm never afraid to speak out where I disagree."

He has voiced concerns over some of Trump's proposed policies but has rarely criticized Trump as other Democrats often do.

One likely area of disagreement is immigration. Trump has zeroed in on Colorado as an example of what he contends are the costs of unchecked migration.

He held a rally in Aurora, a city of 400,000 east of Denver where video surfaced of heavily armed men going door to door in an apartment complex housing recent Venezuelan migrants. A man was shot to death the night the video was recorded.

Trump used the incident in a single apartment building to paint a picture of a city the size of Tampa overrun by immigrant gangs.

He vowed to dub his national mass deportation program "Operation Aurora."

The city government had a long-running battle with the owner of the building and says it will close in the next few weeks. Last month, police said more than a dozen people seized and assaulted a couple in the same building as their apartment was ransacked.

Polis, who in 2004 founded a charter school for immigrant children, clashed with Trump during the campaign over migrants and safety, saying crime was down in Aurora and Colorado overall. He now says that he's eager to work with the incoming administration to deport criminals, but draws the line at going further.

"With regards to folks that haven't violated state laws, I don't think there's a lot of cooperation that they can expect from local employers or communities in Colorado," Polis said.

To Fenberg, the state lawmaker, the Democrats' resistance during Trump's first term no longer seems like a winning strategy. Polis' approach to the new administration could offer a road map, he said.

"We are going to need leaders like Jared to help show us what the new formula should be to be effective at being an opposition party," he concluded.

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January deemed Radon Action Month

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis on Jan. 7 proclaimed January National Radon Action Month and encouraged Coloradans to reduce their risk of radon-induced lung cancer.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment strongly urges Colorado residents to test their homes for radon using a free radon test kit.

“We want everyone to reduce their risk of radon exposure,” said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, CDPHE executive director.

FACTS AND STATISTICS

In Colorado, nearly half of homes have radon levels above the EPA action level, and more than 500 lung cancer deaths in the state each year are attributed to radon.

Living in a home with Colorado’s average radon level is like having 200 chest X-rays a year.

Colorado ranks 45th among all states for the percentage of radon test results above the EPA action level.

Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas with no color, odor or taste. Radon can easily enter homes and other buildings through small openings like cracks in foundations, areas around pumps and drains, and crawl spaces.

Children can be especially susceptible to the harmful effects of radon because of their higher respiratory rate and relative proximity to the ground. Even pets can be susceptible to negative health effects from radon exposure.

The best way to protect against radon is to perform a simple test. Health Department encourages all homeowners to test regardless of neighbors’ radon levels because radon levels can vary from home to home.

Homeowners who already have radon mitigation systems should retest their homes every two years to make sure the system is working properly. Doors and windows should be closed during the duration of the test.

Any home can be affected by elevated levels of radon. Owners of homes with high levels of radon should take action to reduce the risk.

Radon mitigation systems can reduce radon levels in any home. For those who cannot afford a mitigation system, Colorado offers a Low Income Radon Mitigation Assistance program to homeowners who qualify through a simple application process.

For more information, visit www.coloradoradon.info.

Crop adviser credits OK’d for no-till forum

KIT CARSON — The Colorado Conservation Tillage Association will offer certified crop adviser credits for 28 different sessions at the High Plains No-Till Conference Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 4-5, at the Burlington Community & Education Center.

The crop adviser credits approved for the event include six in Nutrient Management, six in Soil and Water Management, 13 in Crop Management, two in Professional Development, and one in Sustainability.

“Each of the breakout and keynote sessions at the event will have an assigned credit,” said CCTA Coordinator Joni Mitchek. “Attendees will be able to either sign in and out of sessions, or utilize a QR code to record their participation.”

Allen Williams, Roy Pfaltzgraff, and Don Day Jr. will serve as keynote speakers for the two-day event and breakout sessions will also be offered to feature producers and ag industry professionals in the High Plains region.

Additional highlights include an ag-specific trade show, outdoor equipment display, and Beer & Bull Social.

For conference and registration information, visit www.HighPlainsNoTill.com.

Participation now costs \$210. Each registration includes lunches, snacks and access to all sessions and the trade show.

For more information, call Mitchek at (719)892-0379 or e-mail to coordinator@highplain-snotill.com.

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"Outer Space:" The Little Makers Club for ages 0-5 will work on space-themed activities to help the kids prepare for school. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 24.

Learning on the Go: Families from grandparents to caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and play with their little ones, then leave with books and activities for learning at home. The program is geared to ages 18 months to 5 years, but younger children are welcome. 10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Church Directory

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<http://StrasburgCOC.org>

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strasburgorthodox.org

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Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
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Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
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James 5:16 The effectual fervent
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



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WEEK OF JAN. 13



Local cagers go 6-0 first night after break

Lady 'Dogs match last season's win total

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

BYERS — The Lady Bulldogs built a big lead and gave it all back, but pulled away late for their seventh straight victory at home against Wiggins Jan. 7.

After an 11-11 first quarter, Byers pulled ahead 21-12 by halftime. Wiggins cut the advantage to 29-27 after three quarters, and the game was nip and tuck through the last period when the Lady Tigers finally pulled ahead 37-36 late in the game.

But Byers responded with its only three-pointer of the contest when senior Averie Eymann banked one in to regain the lead, and Wiggins never scored again. Byers hit just one of nine three attempts for the game. Eymann made one of five tries.

The teams combined on 62 turnovers — 31 per team.

"It's pretty ugly to be quite honest, but I think we all showed some resiliency in that game," said Byers head coach Chris Cary.

The Bulldogs were paced by junior Abi Green with 13 points, Eymann and senior Allie Pelton with



Byers' Ainsley Sauer alters the shot of Wiggins' Karsyn Kerr during the Lady Bulldogs seventh consecutive win Jan. 7.

8 each; freshman Joclynn Rector with 6; and sophomore Madi Olsen with 4.

Pelton finished with seven rebounds and three assists; Olsen

SEE GB BYERS
PAGE 8



Strasburg's Tyce Bollers battles for possession underneath the basket during the Indians victory over visiting Peyton Jan. 7.

No. 1 Strasburg boys remain undefeated

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Indians remained undefeated and at the top of the 3A boys rankings after a wire-to-wire 77-53 home victory against Peyton to open the post-holiday portion of the 2024-25 season.

The hosts — No. 1 according to the Colorado High School Activities Association's 3A Selection & Seeding Index — ran out to a 9-0 lead and carried a 12-5 advantage after the first eight minutes.

Peyton kept the deficit at mostly 5 points through the first half of

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 8

Bennett boys rebound after halftime for conference 'W'

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In an apparent case of halftime adjustments working in spades, the Bennett Tigers used a dominant second half to win their first game after the holiday break and opening Frontier League contest 61-36 at home against The Pinnacle Jan. 7.

"Had to work through some things after that first half but, I think, the boys took it to heart. Came out and played really well after halftime," said first-year Bennett coach Wesley Burke about his squad being down 20-18 at halftime.



SEE BB BENNETT
PAGE 10

Tiger Jayden Ivory shoots over several sets of outstretched arms of The Pinnacle's defense.

Lady Indians shake off rust

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

ENGLEWOOD — The Strasburg girls started slowly and gained momentum throughout the game in a 60-34 drubbing of St. Mary's Academy on the road Jan. 7.

The Lady Indians led 6-3, 25-12 and 37-26 after each of the first three quarters before St. Mary's slapped on an ill-advised press, which Strasburg broke repeatedly in the fourth quarter.

"I didn't think that was very smart," said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames.

As a result, the Indians won the closing

SEE GB STRASBURG
PAGE 8

Lady Tigers rout first Frontier foe | Byers boys take bite out of visitors from Wiggins

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett Lady Tigers opened up post-holiday and Frontier League hardwood action in easy fashion as they ran out to a 21-0 first quarter lead en route to a 58-8 domination over visiting The Pinnacle Jan. 8.

The hosts had a halftime advantage of 39-3 and were up 52-3 after three quarters. The entire fourth quarter was played under the mercy-rule running clock.

"We got all [14] girls in and they all contributed," said Bennett head coach Mike Rios. "Really didn't

SEE GB BENNETT
PAGE 10



Bennett's Raquel Thorpe puts up a floater over The Pinnacle defense.



Byers' James Maes muscled his way to the bucket against multiple Wiggins defenders Jan. 7.

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

Byers' 61-45 win over Wiggins Jan. 7 was a game of runs.

The Bulldogs opened the contest with a 12-2 run, but the Tigers ran back at them to close the gap to 12-10 by the end of the first quarter. The game remained close into the second quarter, but Byers went on a 10-0 run to close the first half with a 26-17 advantage.

Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns credited assistant coach Justin Denette with making the point before the game.

"He said 'Hey guys, this is going to be a game of runs."

SEE BB BYERS
PAGE 8



Bulldog teammates Kaleb Willoughby (0) and Quincy Eacret (15) both get to the bucket for layups against Wiggins Jan. 7.



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

BB BYERS

FROM PAGE 7

Maybe we go on a 10-0 run, they go on a 10-0 run,” Kerns said. “And we went into halftime, and I said, ‘OK, there’s two 10-0 runs. Let’s make the next one ours, and we’ll be up 20.’”

The Bulldogs responded by winning the third period 22-14 for a 48-31 advantage entering the final frame.

“They ramped up their pressure and intensity and forced a few turnovers from us and got themselves back within maybe 11 or 12, but I thought our guys did a good job of keeping their heads for the most part and making free throws down the stretch,” Kerns said.

Kerns played his regular nine-man rotation through the contest but substituted frequently to help their post-holiday conditioning.

“In the fourth, we definitely made sure that the ... four guys that didn’t start the game got a little more time down the stretch, but, you know, some of those starters were still out there when they were coming back a little bit, and it really just was credit to the Wiggins kids for continuing their intensity,” Kerns added.

Byers was led by senior A.J. Engle, junior Quincy Eacret, and sophomore James Maes with 11 points apiece, followed by senior Cameron Eastwood with 10. Seniors Andrew Mohatt and Charles Butterfield chipped in with 6 each.

Butterfield was top rebounder with nine, while Engle and Maes had six each, and Eastwood and senior Kaleb Willoughby added five apiece.

Engle dished out four assists and had five steals; Eastwood added two assists and three steals; and Maes had two assists and two steals. Butterfield had the Bulldogs’ only blocked shot.

Kerns said, prior to the contest, the Bulldogs were “cautiously optimistic” because Wiggins had just beaten a top-5 team in Haxtun after losing to it before Christmas.

“I was impressed with the guys, because they took that kind of caution that we gave them going in, like, ‘Hey, don’t overlook these guys. Respect how good they are,’” Kerns continued. “And I think it really helped us get off to a good start.”

He was also pleased at how his team has responded to the loss of its best player, senior all-state point guard Chase Long.

“It’s been one of those challenging things trying to figure out where we’re at without him, and I think the kids have done a great job,” he said. “We’ve had so many of them really step up to a level that I wasn’t even sure that they could get to. So huge credit to them, and huge credit to my coaching staff.”

The game left Byers with a 7-1 record and the No. 3 slot in Maxpreps’ 2A rankings through Jan. 9 with their only loss to 3A Bennett.

But the Bulldogs ran into Simla, which was the No. 1 team in 2A until Strasburg defeated the Cubs by 1 point before Christmas. Now ranked No. 2, Simla topped Byers 57-48 Friday. Watch the Jan. 17 *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.

COMING UP
Jan. 17: @ Genoa-Hugo.
Jan. 24: Flagler.

GB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 7

frame 23-8 to account for the final margin.

“We started having a few shots go in, which was kind of nice,” Ames added.

Strasburg was paced by senior Peighton Marrero with 17 points and seven steals; senior Natalie Damron with 15 points and 12 rebounds; and sophomore Wynne Winter with 14 points.

“Wynne shot really well. She really did,” Ames said. “She doesn’t usually shoot the ball, so it was good.”

Juniors Taryn LaForce and Hannah Damron and sophomore Addi Kent added 6, 5 and 3 points, respectively, with Kent also dishing out four assists.

The Indians have now won four straight after dropping their first two games. The victory also propelled them into the top 10 of the 3A girls in the Selection & Seeding Index administered by the Colorado High School Activities Association.

Strasburg’s Jan. 9 home game with Woodland Park will be played tonight.

COMING UP
Jan. 18: Platte Canyon.
Jan. 21: Windsor Charter Christian.
Jan. 24: Resurrection Christian.
Jan. 28: @ Brush.
Jan. 31: Liberty Common.
Feb. 1: @ Skyview.
Feb. 4: @ Platte Valley.
Feb. 7: Highland.
Feb. 11: @ Yuma.
Feb. 15: Forge Christian.

GB BYERS

FROM PAGE 7

added five boards; Rector, four assists and four steals; and Eymann and Green, four and two steals, respectively.

A year ago, the game extended Byers’ winning streak to seven with an overall mark of 7-1. However, the Bulldogs were defeated by Simla 57-22 Jan. 10 to drop their record to 7-2. A year ago, they were 1-6.

For complete coverage, see the Jan. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Jan. 17: @ Genoa-Hugo.
Jan. 24: Flagler.



Lady Bulldog Allie Pelton battles with a pair of Wiggins defenders Jan. 7.

CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

BB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 7

the second quarter, but Strasburg appeared to seize the momentum with an 8-0 run in about 1½ minutes to go up 34-21. The halftime score was 40-32.

“We started out pretty strong early, but had too many defensive lapses that kept them in the game,” said Indian junior forward Cameron Manahan. “Especially the second quarter we struggled to stop their No. 23 (Peyton junior Michael Perry) from driving and facilitating to his other guys shooting threes.”

“It was a bit hard getting our shots to fall right after Christmas,” added junior shooting guard Cade Hemphill, “but once they start dropping more consistently, we’ll be OK.”

Out of the locker rooms, the troops of Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers went on a 12-2 run en route to a 57-41 advantage entering the final period. Peyton scored the first point of the fourth quarter but allowed the next 10 to the Indians for an insurmountable 25-point lead with 5 minutes left.

“We picked things up in the second half, a lot more aggressive with our rebounds and working around the basket,” said Manahan, adding that aggressive, tough-nosed play inside resulted in multiple traditional and-one three-point opportunities. “Everyone contributed.”

“We turned it up in the second half, we just need to turn it up like that a lot earlier,” Hemphill added.

Despite being the first game after break, the Indians still approached 50% shooting, 30-of-63, from the field, including 9-of-24 from behind the three-point arc. The Indians went 8-of-13 from the foul line and assisted on 19 (63%) of their made buckets.

For the second time this season, the Indians eclipsed the 40-rebound mark with 43.

Senior wing and leading scorer Tyce Bollers again paced the hosts with 30 points, including 4-of-8 from three-point range, while junior forward Nick Glatfelter had a stat-stuffing night including a double-double of 18 points and 12 rebounds to go with three assists and three blocked shots. Hemphill added 8 points and five rebounds; Manahan, six rebounds; sophomore Brody Hopwood, 7 points and five rebounds; and sophomore Colton Holloway, 6 points and four assists.

The 7-0 Indians were scheduled to travel to Woodland Park Jan. 9, but inclement weather postponed the contest until tonight. The red-and-black hosted 3A Patriot League newcomer Wray (4-4 overall) in both schools’ conference-opener Jan. 11. For complete coverage, see the Jan. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Jan. 18: Platte Canyon.
Jan. 21: @ Windsor Charter.
Jan. 24: Resurrection Christian.



Indian Jayden Miller defends a Peyton ball handler Jan. 7.

STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



Among the Strasburg boys to record victories during a Jan. 8 wrestling triangular with Liberty Common and Weld Central are, from left, Gavin Fischer, Reagan Rosier, and Uvaldo Lopez.

Lady Indians sweep, boys 0-2 in triangular

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Lady Indians went 2-0 as a team during a Jan. 8 home triangular with Liberty Common and Weld Central while the red-and-black-clad boys were 0-2 in duals for the evening.

LADY INDIANS

The host girls split a pair of matches in a 42-6 victory over Liberty Common to start the evening, then won 3-of-4 tilts in a 39-12 team victory over the Lady Rebels.

Against the two-girl roster from Liberty Common, Lady Indian junior Vivienne Gitke, undefeated and ranked No. 1 in 4A girls according to On the Mat Rankings, pinned Anagha Mather in 1:16 at 140 pounds; however, third-ranked 170-pound senior Carly Larsen lost by 1:02 pinfall to Julianna Darmafall.

“Just kind of has to get out of her own head, get back to the things she does well and stay focused for a whole match,” said Strasburg head coach Matt Croft about Larsen, who’s lost three of her last four contests. “But rather have stuff like that happen now and not at regionals or state, right? We have some time to get things righted.”

Six other Lady Indians received forfeits for 36 team points.

The final girls dual of the night started out with what turned out to be the match of the night as Strasburg junior Autumn Kulpa scored a takedown during a 1-minute sudden victory period for an 8-5 decision over Weld Central’s Natalie Prince at 125 pounds. Kulpa rebounded after giving up a late two-point reversal in the third period and a brief moment of hyperventilation before the extra period to get the overtime win.

“Great match to watch, but also should be a

really good confidence builder for her,” Croft said following Kulpa’s match. “Something to be said about finding a way to win in that fashion.”

After Vivi Gitke recorded her second pin of the night, this one in 0:42, her freshman sister, Madilyn Gitke, herself top-ranked at 155 pounds, escaped what would have been a monumental upset against Weld Central first-year sophomore Amelia Nolf. Midway through the second period, the younger Gitke found herself on her back and inches from being pinned; however, she was able to wriggle out of trouble and, about 20 seconds later, Nolf suffered a significant ankle injury and was unable to continue.

“Fortunate and a pretty good wakeup call,” Croft said of Madilyn’s win. “Another reminder of needing to stay focused regardless who you’re wrestling against.”

Strasburg freshman Kaelyn Bailey was pinned in 2:52 at 105 pounds.

Strasburg received four forfeit wins while Weld Central had one.

BOYS DUALS

Despite losing the opening dual to Liberty Common 30-24, the Indian boys won four of six matches, all by pinfall — sophomore Reagan Rosier (132 pounds) in 1:01; sophomore Gavin Fischer (138) in 1:32; freshman Joseph Martinez (144) in 0:45; and freshman Uvaldo Lopez (113) in 1:29.

Juniors Nathan Priddy (150) and Kingston Rodriguez (157) both lost by pinfall.

Liberty Common’s team victory was the result of three forfeits for 18 points.

In their 60-12 loss to Weld Central, Rosier recorded the Indians lone win in five matches, concluding the evening with a 1:28 pinfall. Lopez recorded Strasburg’s other 6 points with a forfeit victory.



Madilyn Gitke of Strasburg escapes the grasp of Weld Central’s Amelia Nolf Jan. 8.

All four of Strasburg’s losses were via pin. “A lot of young kids still learning but also getting better at the same time,” Croft said. “Still have some guys that just need to get their confidence built up.”

The Strasburg boys competed at the Warhorse Invitational at Chatfield on Jan. 11, while the Lady Indians traveled to the Tournament of Knights in Severance the same day.

For complete coverage of both events, see the Jan. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP — LADY INDIANS

Jan. 15: @ James Irwin.
Jan. 17-18: @ Tiara Challenge.
Jan. 22: Sterling.

COMING UP — STRASBURG BOYS

Jan. 15: @ James Irwin.
Jan. 17-18: @ Mel Smith Invitational, Florence.
Jan. 22: Byers.



Vivienne Gitke, left, and Autumn Kulpa recorded two of Strasburg’s three victories against Weld Central during a home triangular Jan. 8.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

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Byers wrestling has multiple boys place

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

WRAY — Byers brought home two place-winners from the 62nd annual Bob Smith Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Wray Dec. 21 to conclude the Bulldogs' pre-holiday schedule.

Junior Brodie Fisbeck placed fifth at 106 pounds after going 3-2 for the day and freshman Wes Butterfield took sixth at 157 pounds with a 3-3 day. Fisbeck scored 14 team points and Butterfield added 12.

The Bulldogs' home dual with Burlington was canceled. Byers was at the Wiggins Invitational Jan. 11. For coverage, see the Jan. 17 *Eastern Colorado News*.

TEAM STANDINGS
1. Chatfield 296

- 2. Wray 234.5
- 3. Dayspring Christian 175.5
- 4. Limon 112.5
- 5. Sedgwick County/Fleming 101.5
- 6. St. Francis/Bird City, Kan. 95
- 7. Merino 87
- 8. Wiggins 84.5
- 9. Akron 64.5
- 10. Lyons 44.5
- 11. North Park 44
- 12. Crowley County 30.5
- 13. Colby, Kan. 28
- 14. Byers 26
- 15. Holyoke 24
- 16. Stratton 11
- 17. Liberty (Joes) 3

COMING UP
Jan. 18: @ Dayspring Christian Dual Tournament.
Jan. 22: @ Strasburg Triangular with Sterling.
Jan. 23: Byers Triangular with Peyton and Akron.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Bennett's Brody Hawes, left, flies in for a layup against The Pinnacle Jan. 7, and Ethan Francis scores the Tigers' first bucket in Frontier League play.

GB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

see the starters much in the second half."

The orange-and-black shot almost 50% from the field, 27-of-58, despite going only 1-of-11 behind the arc. In addition, Bennett went 3-of-8 at the free-throw line.

Of the 10 Lady Tigers that scored, senior Jessica Venneberg led the way with 18, followed by sophomore sister Emilee Venneberg with 8, senior Olivia Schroeder 6, senior Elizabeth Westendorf and sophomore Shelby Stiers 5 apiece, three more with 4 each, and two others with 2.

Other stats of note included Jessica Venneberg with eight steals, six rebounds and five assists; freshman Josie Ladd with five steals; senior Raquel Thorpe with

four steals and three assists; and Schroeder and Emilee Venneberg with three steals apiece.

The victory advanced Bennett to 3-5 overall. The Lady Tigers' second conference game against Alameda on Jan. 9 was postponed due to weather and a make-up date was unknown at press time. The Tigers' took on visiting Platte Valley Jan. 10 in a rematch of last season's first-round playoff game, which the Broncos won on Bennett's home court. For complete coverage, see the Jan. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Jan. 16: @ Jefferson
Jan. 21: Sheridan
Jan. 23: Arrupe Jesuit
Jan. 28: @ Englewood



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Tiger Emilee Venneberg runs past The Pinnacle defenders en route to the bucket Jan. 7, and teammate Mattie Robledo pressures a Lady Timberwolve ball handler.

BB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

"Came out much more aggressive, especially offensively."

After leading 10-4 early, the hosts had an 11-8 advantage after the first quarter, but the visiting Timberwolves went on a run to go up 20-13 midway through the second quarter. The orange-and-black followed a 5-0 run to end the first half with a 24-7 third quarter advantage to take a 42-27 lead entering the final eight minutes. The Tigers continued the second-half domination with a 19-9 fourth quarter.

"Really took command after halftime, started to hit the boards, get around the rim and hit some shots," Burke said, noting that junior guard Austin Stiers hit four three-pointers early in the third quarter, including one near the Bennett "B" at half court. "He got hot and that helped open things up for us."

The Tigers shot better than 50% from the field, 24-of-45, including 7-of-19 from the arc, and were 6-of-12 at the free-throw line. The guard duo of the Stiers brothers paced the hosts with Austin funneling in 18 points and senior Owen with 15. Seniors Jayden Ivory, Brody Hawes and Ethan Francis added 9, 8 and 7 points, respectively.

"If we can get that kind of offensive production out of Brody, we'll

be in pretty good shape," Burke said. "Overall, we have to work on playing the way we did in the second half for all 32 minutes and not having those lapses where we just play so poorly. The boys continue to learn a new system but the buy-in is there, so we should be OK."

The Tigers assisted on 16 of 24 made buckets, led by Hawes and Owen Stiers with four apiece and Austin Stiers with three.

On the glass, the Tigers collected 39 rebounds, led by Ivory with 10, five offensive; Hawes with nine; and Austin Stiers with six.

Defensively, Owen Stiers, Hawes and Francis had two steals apiece with Hawes and Francis also rejecting a Pinnacle shot each.

The Tigers advanced to 7-2 overall with their conference game against Alameda on Jan. 9 postponed because of weather. Bennett played at non conference Patriot League foe Platte Valley Jan. 10. Results were unavailable at press time. For complete coverage, see the Jan. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Jan. 16: @ Jefferson
Jan. 21: Sheridan
Jan. 23: Arrupe Jesuit
Jan. 28: @ Englewood
Jan. 30: Middle Park
Feb. 3: @ Arvada



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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

After an 0-4 start before Christmas break, the Deer Trail Eagles finally returned to the hardwood at Lone Star Jan. 11, a 61-19 loss. Two previously scheduled road games — at Wiley Jan. 7 and at Caliche Jan. 9 — were both postponed because of winter weather and have been rescheduled to Jan. 25 and Feb. 8, respectively. Above from left, Eagle Koltin Kitzman looks for an outlet while on the floor during a 56-33 loss against Liberty Tree Academy Dec. 17, Mursal Hussein runs through the War Eagle defense with the dribble, and Ayden Martinez applies defensive pressure. Deer Trail started a four-game home stand with three contests this week; after hosting Union Pacific League rival Flagler Jan. 14, the Eagles welcome Cheraw Jan. 16 and Elbert Jan. 18.

Labor expert links CO’s obesity rate to economic inequality, low minimum wages

by Eric Galatas
Public News Service

More than one in five Coloradans are considered obese, a chronic medical condition leading to serious health risks and a new study links obesity to income inequality, low minimum wages, and lack of access to healthy foods.

Sophie Mariam, labor policy analyst for the Colorado Fiscal Institute, said many of the state’s most vulnerable workers turn to low-cost fast foods, which are high in both calories and fat, because they cannot find or afford healthier alternatives.

“Lower-income communities and communities of color are more likely to live in food deserts, and more likely to make low wages,” Mariam explained. “When folks make a higher minimum wage, they are more likely to have the income that they need to access

healthier, more nutritious food for themselves and their families.”

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health said addressing obesity is not only about encouraging people to change their behavior. They said real change will require creating environments where healthy food choices are the easiest choice. It means giving workers bigger paychecks and improving food access in neighborhoods not seen as profitable for grocery chains.

Colorado’s minimum wage, at \$14.81 an hour, is the ninth-highest in the nation and a lot higher than the federal minimum of \$7.25. But to earn a living wage, a single adult without kids needs to bring in at least \$25 an hour.

Despite common stereotypes, Mariam pointed out most minimum-wage workers are not teenagers getting valuable work experience.

“A majority of people earning a minimum wage in Colorado are adults, over 24, who are financially supporting or providing for their family,” Mariam emphasized. “It is really critical that these folks have wages that can allow them to be economically self-sufficient.”

Colorado lawmakers recently removed barriers for municipalities across the state to increase their wage floor above the state minimum.

The city of Boulder recently

raised its minimum wage to \$15.57 an hour starting this year, which is still far below the city’s estimated living wage of \$26.36 for individuals.

Mariam hopes the study will be a wake-up call.

“Local elected officials should see research like this as evidence that we need to step up and ensure that minimum wages provide an adequate standard of living for all families across Colorado,” Mariam urged.



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Weekend Sports • Police Reports

44,274 tons of asphalt laid by ArapCo during successful 2024 paving season

LITTLETON — Repairs to a bridge near Strasburg and the Cherry Creek Dam Road were highlights of a successful paving season for the Arapahoe County Public Works & Development Road & Bridge Division.

Crews made improvements to several arterial, collector and residential roadways within unincorporated Arapahoe County.

When all was said and done, Road & Bridge crews used 44,274 tons of asphalt — an amount equaling the weight of a main tower of the Golden Gate Bridge — between April and December.

This year's asphalt total fell short of the record 45,800 tons set in 2023 and almost equaled the record 44,739 tons set in 2022.

The 2024 budget for pavement, asphalt patching, and concrete improvements totaled \$7.5 million for projects identified within Road & Bridge's five-year pavement management plan.

"Overall, we had a really successful year," said Road & Bridge Operations Manager Michael Haraldson. "There are multiple projects that we are very proud of."

Work kicked off in late April with improvements to portions of Yulle Road and County Road 149 in eastern Arapahoe County and Inverness Drive East and Clinton Street near Dry Creek Road and I-25. Improvements were also made to Havana Street and Orchard Avenue.

During the summer months, significant patching took place in the Siena and Thunderbird Estates neighborhoods. Crews will return to the neighborhoods in 2025 to complete road work.

Two significant projects occurred late in the paving season as the Sixth Avenue Bridge west of Strasburg was repaired with pavement resurfacing, joint repair and guardrail replacement. The county contracted the work, which started in early September and wrapped up in October.

In October, the Cherry Creek Dam Road surface was milled and repaved with new striping.


"The warm fall weather was a significant factor in being able to complete these two projects so late in the season," Haraldson said.

A contract crew ended the season in early December by replacing concrete panels on South Buckley Road between Arapahoe and Orchard roads.

In 2025, work will be completed in the Siena and Thunderbird Estates neighborhoods. Work will also occur on Picadilly Street and Copperleaf Boulevard near Eaglecrest High School. Out east, Jolly Road will be improved between South Price and Hayward roads.

Details of the 2025 projects will be posted at www.arapahoeco.gov/pavement.

The county's pavement management plan is now identifying projects for 2030.



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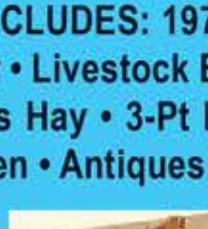
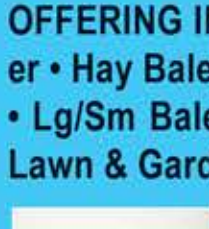
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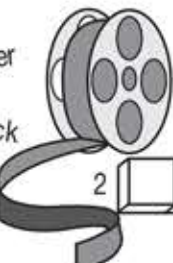

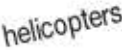

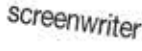

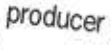
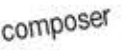

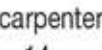




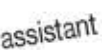

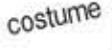

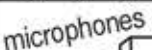

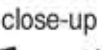
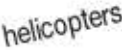

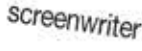

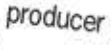
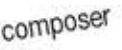

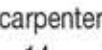




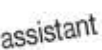
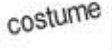

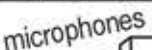

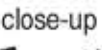
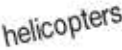

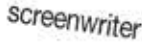

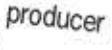
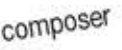

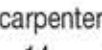




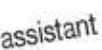
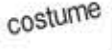

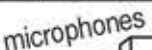

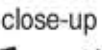
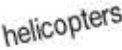

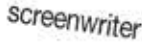

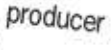
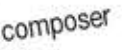

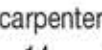




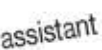
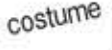

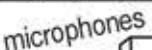

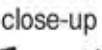
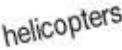

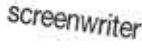

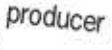
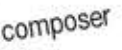

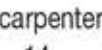




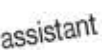
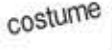

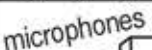

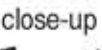
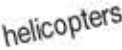

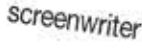

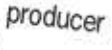
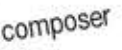

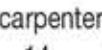




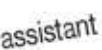
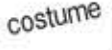

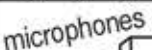

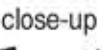
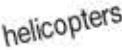

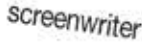

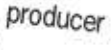
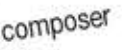

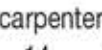




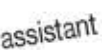
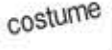

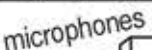

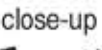
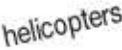

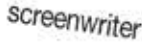

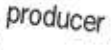
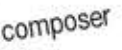

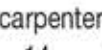




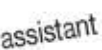
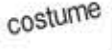

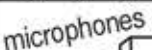

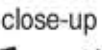
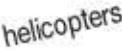

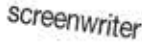

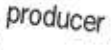
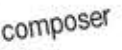

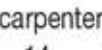




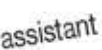
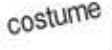

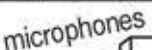

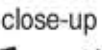
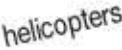

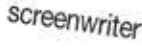

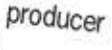
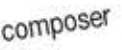

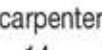




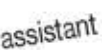
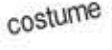

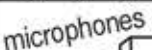

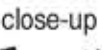
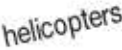

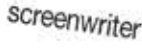

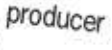
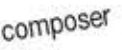

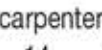




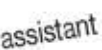
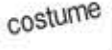

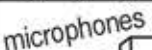

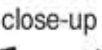
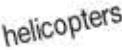

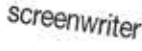

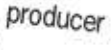
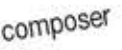

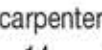




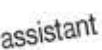
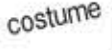

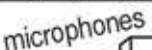

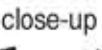
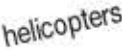

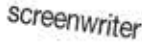

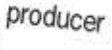
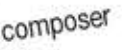

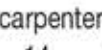




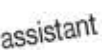
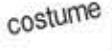

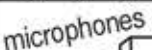

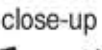
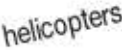

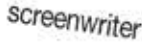

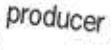
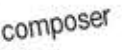

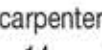




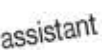
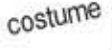

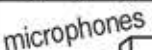

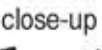
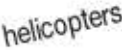

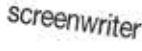

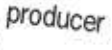
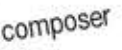

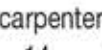




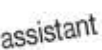
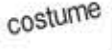

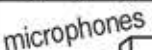

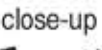
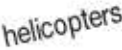

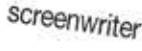

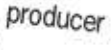
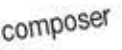

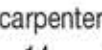




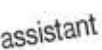
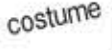

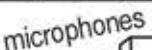

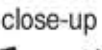
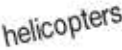

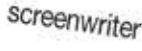

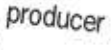
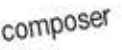

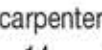




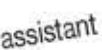
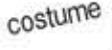

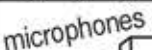

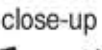
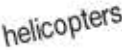

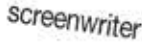

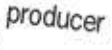
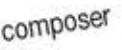

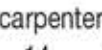




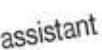
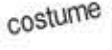

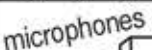

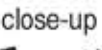
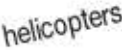

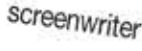

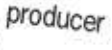
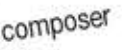

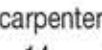




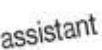
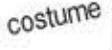

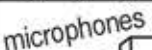

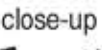
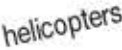

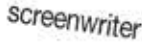

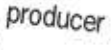
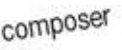

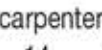




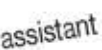
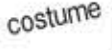

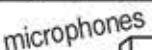

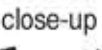
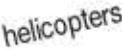

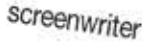

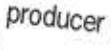
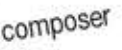

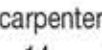




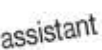
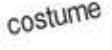

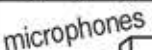

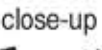
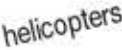

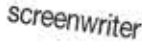

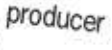
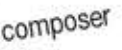

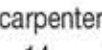




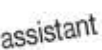
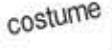

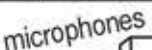

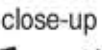
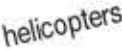

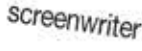

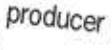
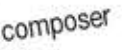

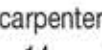




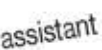
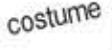

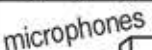

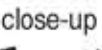
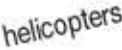

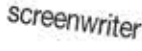

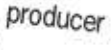
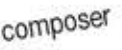

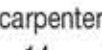




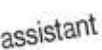
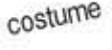

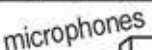

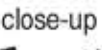
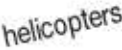

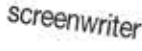

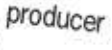
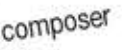

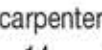




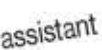
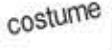

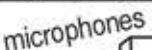

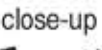
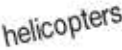

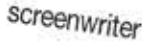

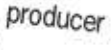
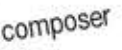

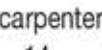




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People Making Movies!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 18, 2005
The Adams County Courthouse was evacuated after a bomb threat Jan. 12.
Lt. Mark Alberti said a courthouse employee received a phone call at 8:27 a.m.
“It was a male’s voice who said ‘you better evacuate [the court house] because we are going to bomb it,’” Alberti said.
Deputies immediately received information that a bomb threat was made to the building.
After receiving the information, deputies took measures to ensure the safety of the residents and those who work in the courthouse.
“Everyone was obviously evacuated after [the call],” Alberti said, “All the inmates were transferred back to jail.” The courthouse remained closed for about two hours while the building was inspected. The courthouse reopened about 11 a.m.

15 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 19, 2010
The Byers Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors discussed Jan. 11 an unfortunate accident involving the district’s 2004 Dodge Dakota called Old Blue.
“It was like a cannon went off,” said district manager Randy Roth. “Old Blue was just sitting there and a lady hit it. You could tell she was out of it. I called the police first and then had it taken in.”

During the accident, the vehicle’s frame was bent and a wheel came off. Issues under the hood are also of concern. The district will a \$500 deductible.
“Basically we have to pay \$500 anyways,” Roth said, “then they’ll go after [the driver]. She didn’t have insurance, her vehicle [registration] was out of date, but she did have a license.

10 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 20, 2015
BENNETT — Tempers flared between Bennett School Board members Jan. 15 over how far to go in implementing a math tutorial program mid-year.
Mike Sheely asked fellow board members to support any secondary math teacher who wants to utilize web-based Kahn Academy by purchasing a classroom’s worth of Chrome Books to access the program. Steely and Diane Moler recently made a trip to the Poudre School District’s Preston Middle School for a firsthand look at how Kahn Academy is utilized in a “collaborative classroom” setting with up to 60 kids at one time. The Fort Collins-based school has 11-of-13 math teacher utilizing Kahn Academy for skill building during the first 10 minutes of class.
Sheely’s motion to have the board spring for the cost of a full classroom of computers to access Kahn Academy failed 3-2 with Sheely and Moler outnumbered by directors Amy Kirkwood, Michael Kisting and Bonnie Feight.

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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, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2025. There are 350 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT
On Jan. 15, 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger landed an Airbus A320 safely in the Hudson River after striking a

flock of birds that disabled both engines shortly after takeoff; all 155 people aboard survived.

ON THIS DATE
In 1559, Elizabeth I was crowned queen of England and Ireland in Westminster Abbey.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, flooding the city’s North End and killing 21.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, known retroactively as Super Bowl I.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS
Actor Andrea Martin is 78. Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 72. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 68. Boxing Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins is 60. Actor-director Regina King is 54. Rapper-reggaeton artist Pitbull is 44.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SNOW DAY

ACROSS

- 43,560 square feet
- Undergarment
- “She ____ a Yellow Ribbon”
- Ocean Spray ____-Apple juice
- #5 Across, pl.
- Concentration of solution, in chemistry
- CISC alternative
- Swearing-in words
- Goodwill branch
- *Artist with most Grammy nominations
- ALCS counterpart
- Winter Olympics participant
- IX minus II
- Drum roll sound
- Front of building, pl.
- Get it wrong
- Upholstery choice
- Reflect deeply
- Raccoon’s cousin
- “____ the fields we go”
- Binary digits code
- Capital on a fjord
- Isaac of science fiction fame
- Consumed
- Within shortest distance
- *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
- Beer faucet
- Corpulent
- Self-satisfied
- *2025 Grammy nominated former band, with The
- Twist and distort
- Bank’s provision
- Flock’s response
- Rance’s wrap
- Elvers
- *2003 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient ____ Puente
- Like some wines
63. ____ it or lose it
- Formerly, formerly

DOWN

- Acronym, abbr.
- Discarded cards in cribbage
- Tear down
- Enclose in a cyst
- Orthodontic appliance
- Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
- Certain tray content
- *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy ____
- Related to ear
- RPMs
- Before, in verse
- Predatory fish

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Gin’s partner
- Giraffe’s striped-leg cousin
- 1995 “Have I Told Your Lately That I Love You” winner ____ Morrison
- Scout’s mission
- What phoenix did
- ____-la
- Non-negotiable
- Old European coin
- Last 8 in college basketball
- More than sly
- *Nominated artist Post Malone’s actual last name
- Hula dancer’s necklace
- *Taylor Swift’s “The ____ Poets Department”
- Nautical “Stop!”
- Nile viper
- *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
- Top scout
- Make a connection
- Double-reed instruments
- Famous Memphis street
- Unforeseen obstacle
- Foal’s mother
- Chieftain in Arabia
- Tennis amount
- General Services Administration
- Romanian money
- *Kendrick Lamar’s “____ Like Us

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

HOROSCOPE

On the Day of a Solar Opposition
There are many ways to discuss problems, including the option of not discussing and hoping it goes away. This is a day to avoid that style and opt for clearing the air with something brave and proactive. The lunar opposition to Mars in domestic Cancer throws an adage into the mix: “Tell me early, I’m your friend. Tell me late, I’m your critic.”
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It’s a full day of back-to-back interactions, and your high energy will have you shining. You’ll seize the opportunity to uplift and inspire others, making a positive influence on those lucky enough to cross your path.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If a thing can’t be proven, why argue the matter? There’s a good reason. Because the discussion tells you something about the other person, their character, general communication style and what’s important to them. It’s not about the topic. It’s about the dynamic.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There’s no universally correct way to see things. Everyone has a distorted viewpoint when compared to that of another. You’ll reflect on what could be considered a distortion and how it impacts your judgment, decisions or understanding of a situation.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Invite people into your life and plans. While there’s a tipping point where involving too many can become overly complicated or cumbersome, you’re still far from that number -- so keep the invitations flowing and enjoy the connections you make along the way!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For a relationship to work well, both parties should agree on the boundaries. This is best done organically because people may agree in theory to things they do not agree with in practice.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You’ve been influenced by memorable people whose lasting impressions kept you following their advice and examples. You’ll now consider how you can create guides for others.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). The classic question of whether the glass is half-full or half-empty wouldn’t arise if the glass simply matched the amount it held. Thinking about efficiency early in any endeavor will prevent problems and keep the focus productive.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The task will be challenging, so it will be hard to want to stick with it. Even the smallest thing can become a distraction. Instead of acting on every whim, jot down unhelpful impulses in a note. This simple act will keep you on track throughout this busy day.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You’ll find yourself in a position to appoint someone in an important role. To assess their potential, take a close look at their current performance. The evidence will speak for itself, and you can safely assume that what’s happening now will happen again later.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The ways you protect yourself from the world will be highlighted. While some boundaries are essential, others might be keeping you from experiencing the joy and connection you deserve. Where can you open up more?
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There’s a maddening paradox in play: While fairness may be a myth, so is futility. In the absence of justice, we can still act and find meaning in the cracks. If nothing is fair, then we can build something even better: purpose.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You’re a critical thinker, but you’re careful to communicate in an unflinching constructive and supportive way, and even then, only when asked. People rarely follow the advice they asked for, and unsolicited advice goes straight to the mental trash bin.
TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 15). Past baggage falls away and you feel powerful, attractive and vital. People feel important around you because they are, in fact, important to you, and your friendship is an adventure, a discovery and an art. More highlights: You’ll hit the financial goals you aim for. You’ll become a master of something difficult. A move brings new activities and social circles. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 15, 20, 11 and 33.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

New Arapahoe County open space rules and regulations now in effect

In December, the Board of County Commissioners adopted new rules and regulations for open space, trail and park properties owned by Arapahoe County following a 30-day public review period.

The new rules now enforceable by law reflect industry best practices and became effective Jan. 1:

- Visitors shall not release animals;
- dogs shall be on leashes;
- default speed limit on trails and pathways is 15 mph;
- no smoking;
- no glass bottles;
- no dumping waste generated off-site;
- no use of flotation devices or flying objects unless otherwise posted; and
- no unpermitted commercial activities;

Reasoning behind the changes follows.

The \$100 maximum fine for violation of the Rules and Regulations is pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 29-7-101 and 18-1.3-503(1.6(a)). Counties do not have the ability to set their own fines and thus must adhere to state statute, which is determined by the state legislature.

The department's updated rules allow for the use of electric bikes and electric scooters. For the safety of all, users must abide by the 15 mph speed limit. The county will initiate a county-wide transit and micro-mobility study in 2025 through Public Works & Development to help inform fu-

ture updates around biking and micro-mobility. The topic continues to evolve and merits further review, with a broader lens on the future of transportation across the region. The public will be asked to share input as part of the process. Meanwhile, the department urges all users — on or off wheels — to be courteous of one another on publicly-funded trails.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The previous rules and regulations were adopted in 1996 and predate the formation of the Open Spaces Department. No updates have occurred to the adopted rules and regulations over the past 28 years despite the program's growth from two properties and 60 acres in 1996 to 28 properties and 5,466 acres in 2024 and expanding operational and public safety needs.

Like many public places, Arapahoe County's parks, trails and open spaces are not immune to damage caused by vandalism, dumping and other destructive activities. After reviewing several well-developed Front Range local government rules and regulations, staff concluded that the current rules and regulations required an update to ensure the protection of the county's natural resources and assets, align better from a consistency standpoint with adjacent agencies, and protect public safety.

For more information, call (720)874-6540 or send an e-mail to askopenspaces@arapahoegov.com.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Jan. 16: Pepperoni pizza.
Monday, Jan. 20: Garden burger on whole grain bun, fries.
Tuesday, Jan. 21: Southwest queso chicken, tortilla chips, corn.
Wednesday, Jan. 22: Sloppy joe mac.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Jan. 16: Sloppy joes.
Friday, Jan. 17: Chicken sandwich.
Tuesday, Jan. 21: Chicken and cheese flauta.
Wednesday, Jan. 22: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes and gravy.

BENNETT

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

Monday, Jan. 20: Southwest queso chicken wrap, tortilla, baked beans.
Tuesday, Jan. 21: Chili with beans.
Wednesday, Jan. 22: Sloppy joe mac, roll, coleslaw.

BYERS

Thursday, Jan. 16: Mini corn dogs, Fritos, cucumber slices.
Friday, Jan. 17: French toast sticks, sausage links, potato puffs.
Tuesday, Jan. 21: Pulled pork sandwich, corn chips, broccoli.
Wednesday, Jan. 22: Bean and cheese burrito, tortilla chips.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Jan. 16: Big Daddy's pizza, chef's choice of fruit and veggies.

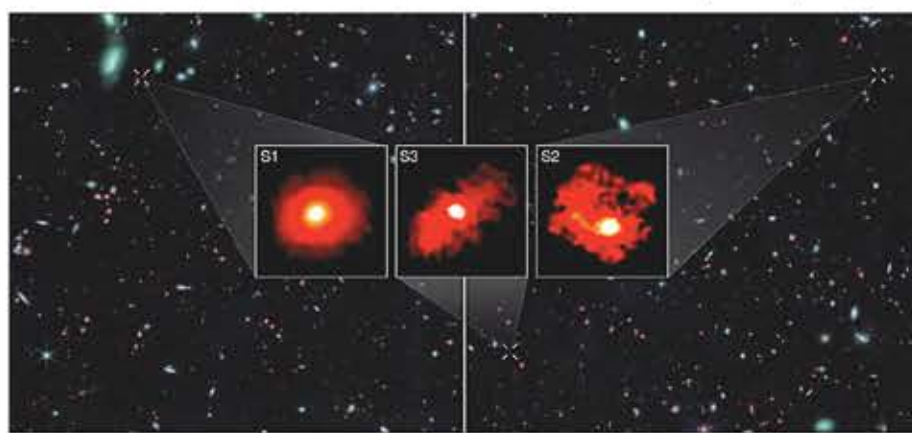


PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

Three recently identified "red monster" galaxies as seen in images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

Existence of three galactic 'red monsters' in early universe proven by astrophysicists

BOULDER — An international team, including an astrophysicist from the University of Colorado at Boulder, has identified three ultra-massive galaxies — nearly as massive as the Milky Way — already in place within the first billion years after the Big Bang.

The surprising discovery was made possible by the James Webb Space Telescope's FRESCO program, which uses the NIRC2/grism spectrograph to measure accurate distances and stellar masses of galaxies. The results indicate that the formation of stars in the early universe was far more efficient than previously thought, challenging existing galaxy formation models.

"The thing that makes these massive galaxies so surprising is that they exist so early, when we don't think they should have had time to form," said the CU astrophysicist Erica Nelson, an assistant professor in the Department of Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences. "It's like arriving home from work to check on your kitten and finding a cougar laying on your couch."

In the theoretical model favored by scientists, galaxies form gradually within large halos of dark matter. Dark matter halos capture gas (atoms and molecules) into gravi-

tationally bound structures.

Typically, only about 20% at most of this gas is converted into stars in galaxies. However, the new findings using NASA's Webb telescope challenge this view. They reveal that massive galaxies in the early universe may have been much more efficient in building stars than their later counterparts, growing more rapidly than previously thought.

Nelson previously helped to identify several of the "red monsters" in a 2023 study. The new research takes an even closer look at several of these candidates — confirming that they are, in fact, as old and as large as they look.

"These results indicate that galaxies in the early universe could form stars with unexpected efficiency," said Mengyuan Xiao of the University of Geneva, lead author of the study. "As we study these galaxies in more depth, they will offer new insights into the conditions that shaped the universe's earliest epochs. The 'red monsters' are just the beginning of a new era in our exploration of the early universe."

The study, which was led by the University of Geneva in Switzerland, was published Nov. 13 in *Nature*.

STORM

FROM PAGE 1

time we were finally notified that it's sticking around longer, it was too late," he said. "We would have had to make the decision by 6:30 at the latest and, even then, that's a hardship on a lot of families if parents have already left for work or waiting on the bus to come pick up their kids."

Release dates later in the day varied with Deer Trail letting students out at 2 p.m., Bennett at 3:15, and Strasburg and Byers both completing the school day.

Agate canceled classes on Thursday.

"I feel like we dodged a bullet," said Agate Superintendent Melinda Walls.

All local schools postponed or canceled after-school activities, including sports. In the case of Burlington visiting Byers for wrestling and Deer Trail sending their high school basketball teams to Wiley, both trips would have been in jeopardy anyway because of the afternoon-long closure of I-70 between Airpark Road and Burlington. Ground blizzard conditions worsened further east and the Colorado Department of Transportation kept the thoroughfare closed from about 12:30-6 p.m.

In addition, the Strasburg boys

were slated to play at Woodland Park with the Lady Indians to host the Woodland Park girls, but areas of I-25 south of Denver also received more snow than forecasters originally expected.

While a handful of crashes, including a pair of rollovers, occurred along Highway 36/40 between Watkins and Deer Trail Thursday afternoon, the Colorado State Patrol reported no serious or fatal injuries.

"One person transported, but no life-threatening injuries," said Capt. Clint Rushing with the State Patrol troop office in Limon. "Looked a lot worse than what they were."

According to area weather reporters, last week's snow accumulation — Tuesday and Thursday combined — was about 6 inches, resulting in approximately a quarter-inch of moisture.

In addition, several local National Weather Service stations showed sub-zero temperatures, including lows of minus-11 at Cabin Creek Jan. 10 and minus-16 near Limon Jan. 8.

At Cabin Creek, sub-zero temps were recorded five of the first 11 days of January, including four straight between Jan. 8-11.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 16

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

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

Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit Board of Education at byers32j.k12.co.us for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Eastern Colorado Honor Choir concert. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium. Tickets \$7 per adult, \$5 per senior or student.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at townofbennett.colorado.gov for information.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.

Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.

Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

Bennett School Board. 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit bsd29j.com for a Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

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Preschool Storytime: Children ages 3-6 listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy activities to promote early literacy. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett.

Play & Learn for ages 1-3. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.

Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

Coffee, Cookies & Chat for all I-70 Corridor seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.

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

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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.

High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For information, contact Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.

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BENNETT FPD**FROM PAGE 1**

\$7 million project over the next five or six years, but he hopes for at least a couple of emergency bays to be built on the property.

"A start to a building, light it, security cameras, that kind of stuff," said Cumley, noting that the interim expense could be taken from the district's carryover funds. "Just looking at our best option to get something done as quickly as possible over there."

Fire district counsel added that the property transfer process to the district is almost complete with the appropriate documentation from the Arapahoe County Treasurer's office among the final obstacles.

"The landowner has to pay off the taxes and everything else that is due," the lawyer said during the board meeting. "The treasurer should be issuing that notice tomorrow and we should have it done by the end of the month."

The board scheduled a 6:30 p.m. work-study on Thursday, Feb. 6, to discuss the Sky Ranch station situation.

EXCLUSION FROM THE DISTRICT

All four board members reluctantly voted in favor of a resolution approving a request from Fischahs, LLC, to exclude its approximately 408 acres of commercial property near 26th Avenue and Monaghan Road.

The agreement includes a one-time payment from the developer of \$25,000 plus reimbursement of all the district's legal fees.

The property is amongst the numerous areas of flagpole annexation from the city of Aurora that

have reached into local areas of the I-70 Corridor.

According to the fire district's counsel, exclusion of the property was likely a foregone conclusion because Aurora could do a municipal request to remove the property from under the fire district's umbrella with probably no compensation in return. In addition, Aurora has already looped a municipal water system in the area and has committed to a future nearby fire station.

While the current tax income from the property towards the district is minimal — approximately \$28,000 in combined assessed valuation — it is expected to have 4 million or 5 million square-feet of light industrial and distribution facilities at full buildout in five or six years. According to estimates from Bennett-Watkins Assistant Fire Chief Caleb Connor, lost property tax revenue to the district could range around \$50,000 per year per building once full build-out is recognized.

A developer's representative said he understands the district's concerns but said the current situation isn't fair to the company.

"[They] really can't move forward while being double-taxed for the same services," the spokesman said.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Last month's 113 emergency responses put the Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue at 1,444 total calls for 2024, 41 ahead of the previous record of 1,403 in 2023. December's calls included 84 EMS/rescue, 11 false alarms, and seven fires. The district's daily average of approximately four calls per day continued to start the new year: through Jan. 9, the fire department had responded to 37 calls in 2025.
- Cumley and Fleet Manager Gustavo Llanes recommended that the board entertain the possibility of purchasing an additional ambulance each of the next two years. Llanes said one of the district's ambulances has 240,000 miles on it and that another retired medic was recently returned to active duty after the department's new ambulance was shelved while mechanical issues from the manufacturer are repaired.

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CHUCK WAGON



Hamburger Cabbage Soup

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The Scout

No surprise! My German mom made this often when I was a kid. I loved it then and still do. She made it with ground sausage instead of hamburger. It was spicy. Red chili peppers and bell peppers are common in German recipes. Germany is one of the top importers of bell peppers and chili peppers. My mom added vinegar powder. I didn't put it in this recipe because most people don't have it in their pantries. White or red vinegar are both OK. This soup is very colorful! Lots of red and orange. Don't use red cabbage. Green cabbage is sweeter and more tender, and red cabbage will turn orange-ish in the soup. Red cabbage is actually purple and doesn't match.

HAMBURGER CABBAGE SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme

- 1/2 teaspoon marjoram
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped chili peppers
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 cups chopped cabbage
- 2 carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 4 cups broth of choice
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1/4 cup vinegar

DIRECTIONS
Cook rice to equal 1 cup. Set aside.
In large pot, brown the hamburger. Drain grease, if needed. Add onion, garlic, bay leaves, thyme, marjoram, black pepper, chili peppers, cloves. Cook until onion is softened, about 5 minutes.
Stir in cabbage, carrots, celery, red bell pepper. Cook 3 minutes. Add broth, tomatoes, vinegar. Bring to boil. Reduce heat.
Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until cabbage is tender. Taste and adjust seasonings as desired.
Stir in the cooked rice. Cook until heated through. Discard bay leaves. Serve in pretty soup bowls with crackers.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valerie and Floyd Beard are among the featured performers at the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Golden Jan. 17-18. Both have meaningful ties to the communities of the I-70 Corridor.

Cowboys gather again in Golden

GOLDEN — A pair of cowboy poets with ties to the I-70 Corridor east of Aurora will be among the featured performers at the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17-18, at the Buffalo Rose Event Center, 1119 Washington Ave., Golden.

Floyd and Valerie Beard of Kim, former male and female poets of the year of the International Western Music Association, are among the entertainers. They will present their work at various sessions over both days.

Floyd Beard was once the executive director of the East Central Board of Cooperative Education Services in Limon, and Valerie once served as the superintendent at Agate School.

During the event, cowboy poets, Western singers, and even old-fashioned yodelers will bring to life the joys and challenges of the Old West.

The Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering, which will celebrate its 34th anniversary in 2025, carries forward generations of cowboy heritage, traditions and entertainment. Cowboy poetry, a tradition born from cattle drives and ranches, began around campfires where cowboys would share tall tales, poems and folk songs after long days in the saddle. The enduring art form remains a vibrant celebration of the Western spirit.

This year’s event will feature other award-winning performers: 3 Trails West, Patty Clayton, Doug Figgs, Kacey and Jenna, Peggy Malone, Danny McCurry, Terry Nash, and The Russellers.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit ColoradoCowboyGathering.org.

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