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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 3

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

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Rec district barred from using new bldg

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — If Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District officials have their Christmas wish

granted, the start of next year will result in the utilization of its new storage facility.

In addition, officials hope the transition is smooth for a new youth baseball ar-

rangement in 2025.

After their board meeting on Nov. 18, recreation district leaders and Adams County Economic Development officials met in Brighton Dec. 3 to discuss

several issues, but most pressing is the vacant new equipment shed located at the north baseball and T-ball fields.

The building, which was completed during the sum-

mer, has been unoccupied since late October when efforts to receive a certificate of occupancy were derailed by allegedly “unnecessarily

SEE 'BURG REC BLDG

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Christmas concert season commences



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Bennett kindergartners and the intermediate school's Tiger Tones perform at a Christmas concert Dec. 5 under the direction of first-year instructor Lauren Paschoalini. Top row from top left, Kiera L'Heureux-Bell, an unidentified singer, Yaretzi Velazquez Varela, Camila Salcido and Gabriella Torres, top left, and Mia Herrera Navarrete, Audra Leeder and Aliyah Rodriguez, top right, sing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Bottom row, Aylah Sanchez, left photo, participates in the “Ukrainian Bell Tower,” and Ximena K. Ocon, center, and Brienne Lawrence and Nailea Reyes Vega, right, look for their parents in the audience. For more I-70 Corridor holiday festivities from last week, **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Election finalized, Kiowa School bond measure fails

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Byers wasn't the only school district on the west edge of the East Central BOCES boundary to have a bond issue fail during last month's general election.

Voters in Elbert County School District C-2, which serves Kiowa and surrounding areas, voted 52% to 48% against a \$13.45 million bond question that would have gone towards a new school. The official final vote count released at the end of November showed 1,082 school district residents voted against the question while 996 were in favor.

“For now, the community's hopes for a new, comprehensive school facility remain on hold,” said a story in the Nov. 14 edition of *The KI YI*, the school district's newsletter. “This marks

the third consecutive year the district has attempted — and failed — to pass a bond for a new school.”

If the question had passed, plans for a new approximately 350-student, \$69 million school would have proceeded with \$55.5 million coming from the state Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant program. The bond would have covered the required 20% from the school district.

When bringing the ballot question forward, school officials cited several factors behind the need for the proposed new 96,000 square-foot building on 40 acres owned by the district along County Road 45 south of the Kiowa Post Office, including:

- significant flood damage the past 15 years;
- the middle school sits too close to Highway 86;

- heating, cooling, electrical and ventilation systems are failing;
- multiple sewer backups; and
- a failing building shell, including roof leaks and water infiltration from around windows and doors.

“The bond's failure means that if Kiowa School District decides to pursue this project in the future, it must restart the entire process: reapplying for the BEST Grant, securing local funding through a new bond, and working through state and community approval channels again from scratch,” *The KI YI* story added.

The new Kiowa School was the second-highest ranked project on the BEST Committee's recommendation list for the 2024 grant cycle,

SEE ELECTION

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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Business Builder grants offered farms, food biz

DENVER — The U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center have launched a \$6.75 million Business Builder program to support farm and food businesses in local and regional markets.

The funding will be distributed on a rolling basis from 2024-27 through three pools of funding.

Applications are being accepted for the first Focus on Place funding pool in Colorado.

The center has \$200,000 available in Business Builder grants for farms and food businesses in Colorado and expects to make 20-60 awards.

The Request for Applications is open through Jan. 10.

Additional funding will be announced as it becomes available. For more information, visit nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com.

Resolution commemorates Space Force's 5th birthday

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two members of Colorado's congressional delegation joined 19 bipartisan colleagues in the House and Senate to introduce a resolution honoring Dec. 20 as the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Space Force.

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and Rep. Jason Crow, both Colorado Democrats, helped introduce the resolution, which recognizes space as a critical military domain, celebrates the essential role the U.S. Space Force and its service members play in our national security, and urges continued development of its capabilities.

The U.S. Space Force was established on Dec. 20, 2019, the first new branch of the U.S. armed services in 73 years.

U.S. Space Force operations,

Community band plans Christmas concert

BENNETT — The High Plains Music Ensemble will present "Christmas with the HPME" starting at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Bennett High School Performing Arts Center, 610 Seventh St.

The free concert will feature music of the holiday season with selections such as "A Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson; "The Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel; "Twas the Night Before Christmas," with narration by George Cronk; vocal selections, including "Noel," "Christmas

Valentine," "Santa got Run Over by a Reindeer," and a sing along of holiday favorites.

In addition, Santa and Mrs. Claus will attend for a photo op following the concert. Donations to the Bennett Performing Arts Booster Club will be accepted.

The High Plains Music Ensemble rehearses at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the Bennett High School band room.

For more information, visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com or call Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568.

previously conducted by the Air Force, include 36 bases and installations across 18 states and territories.

Performing arts boosters plan food drive in Bennett

BENNETT — The Bennett Performing Arts Booster Club will host a winter food drive from Dec. 2-18 to help families along the I-70 Corridor to stay fed all winter long.

The following unexpired items are needed: canned fruit and vegetables, hot and cold cereal, rice, pasta and juice.

Drop-offs donations are during any concert throughout December in the Bennett High School auditorium.

Items collected will benefit the Bennett Community Food Bank. For additional information, contact the Bennett Performing Arts Booster Club at BennettPABC@gmail.com.

Byers Park & Rec plans Bright Christmas Night

BYERS — Byers Bright Christmas Night is coming to town from 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Quonset at Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

Santa will hand out free gifts to the kids, Mrs. Claus will read stories, and both Clauses will be

available for photo opportunities. Activities for the kids with hot chocolate and sugar cookies are also planned.

The Byers Park & Recreation District is also collecting gifts for local families in need. Gifts should be taken to Byers General Store by Friday, Dec. 20.

The donated presents will be distributed at Byers Bright Christmas Night.

For additional information, visit www.byersparkandrec.com.

Local postal bosses plan trip to business meeting

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce December Lunch & Learn will begin at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, at May Farms in Byers.

Speakers will be I-70 Corridor postmasters. LaZyB Acres Alpacas is the lunch sponsor.

To RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday, Dec. 13.

Trombone choir concert planned at Limon church

LIMON — The Eastern Colorado Trombone Choir will perform an hour-long concert starting at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, at Limon Methodist Church, 770 B Ave.

The band will play many tradi-

tional Christmas carols but also not-so-mainstream tunes like "Linus & Lucy" from Charlie Brown, "Wassail Song" by Gustav Holst, and "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow" an American Spiritual.

The trombone choir is under the direction of Mike McCallum.

The event is casual and free. Refreshments will be served after the show.

Pollination discussion set for Aurora Central Library

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County will host "Beauty and the Bees," a free talk about pollinators from 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway.

Colorado State University Extension Horticulture Specialist Lisa Mason, who manages the county's Native Bee Watch Community Science Program, will address ways pollinators and bees can be supported in residential yards.

For additional information and to register, visit the Events page at arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu.

Native Bee Watch is a citizen science program that monitors native bees.

Christmas Eve gathering slated for Saron Lutheran

STRASBURG — Advent and Christmas Eve gatherings are coming to Saron Lutheran Church in Strasburg.

A Holden Evening Prayer service, a quiet time to reflect on the birth of Jesus, will start at 7:15 p.m., Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18.

For those who can arrive earlier, potluck soup supper is planned at 6:30 p.m.

A Christmas Eve service will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24. The service will include many of the favorite carols, closing with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night."

Saron Lutheran Church is located at 1656 Main St., Strasburg. For additional information, visit saronstrasburg.org.



Bennet

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Feds close investigation into E. coli outbreak linked to onions in McDonald's 1/4th Pounders

by Dee-Ann Durbin
Jonel Aleccia
Associated Press

The U.S. government said Dec. 3 it has closed its investigation into an E. coli outbreak tied to McDonald's Quarter Pounder hamburgers after determining that a safety risk no longer exists.

The outbreak, which was first reported Oct. 22, sickened at least 104 people in 14 states, including 34 who were hospitalized, according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. One person in Colorado died and four people developed a potentially life-threatening kidney disease complication.

The FDA, which conducted the investigation along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and state health departments, linked the outbreak to yellow onions distributed by California-based Taylor Farms and served raw on Quarter Pounders at McDonald's restaurants in Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and other states.

No new cases have been reported since Oct. 21, when McDonald's pulled the Quarter Pounder off its menu in the affected states, the CDC said Dec. 3. Taylor Farms initiated a voluntary recall of yellow



NICOLE WEST via AP
This image shows Logan West, 11 months old, of Townsend, Mont., who was sickened in October in an outbreak of E. coli food poisoning tied to sliced onions on McDonald's Quarter Pounder hamburgers.

onions Oct. 22.

Federal and state health officials in Colorado didn't find the strain of E. coli that caused the illnesses in onions it tested or in any samples from the environment. But they concluded that evidence showed that recalled yellow onions were the likely source of the outbreak.

SEE MCD'S ONIONS
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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Beauty and the Bees
Join Arapahoe County CSU Extension Horticulture Specialist Lisa Mason for a talk about bees and pollinators, **Thursday, Dec. 19, 4-5 p.m.** at the Aurora Central Library. Lisa manages the Native Bee Watch, a citizen science program that monitors native bees. Learn what you can do in your own yard to build habitat and support pollinators and bees. Register now at <https://bit.ly/ACCSUBees>.



BYERS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR INCLUSION OF PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PETITION FOR INCLUSION OF THE BELOW DESCRIBED PROPERTY INTO THE BYERS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §32-1-401 ET. SEQ. Said petition has been signed by May Farms RV Resort & Sanctuary @ Byers LLC as the owner of 100% of the property described. A hearing on said petition will be held before the Board of Directors of the District on the 20th day of December, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the District offices 421 South Sherman Street Byers Colorado 80103. All persons interested shall appear at such time and place and show cause in writing why the said petition should not be granted.

Description of Property:
EXHIBIT A


A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 61 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE, STATE OF COLORADO BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE CENTER 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4, BEING A FOUND 2.5" ALUMINUM CAP, LS 30127, FROM WHENCE THE WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4, BEING A FOUND 2" ALUMINUM CAP, LS 18475, BEARS S 89° 01'53" W A DISTANCE OF 1,314.70 FEET, SAID LINE FORMING THE BASIS OF BEARING FOR THIS LEGAL DESCRIPTION.
THENCE S 89° 01'53" W ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE EAST HALF OF NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 4 A DISTANCE OF 1,314.70 FEET TO THE WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4;
THENCE N 01° 09'10" W, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 2,571.42 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF EAST 15TH AVE.
THENCE N 89° 59'25" E ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 1,318.73 FEET TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 4;
THENCE N 89° 00'08" E, CONTINUING ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF EAST 15TH AVE, A DISTANCE OF 948.34 FEET TO A POINT;
THENCE S 01° 03'47" E A DISTANCE OF 2,572.29 FEET TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 4;
THENCE S 17° 46'39" W A DISTANCE OF 937.93 FEET TO A POINT;
THENCE S 88° 59'55" W A DISTANCE OF 646.41 FEET TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 4;
THENCE N 01° 05'05" W ALONG SAID EAST LINE A DISTANCE OF 888.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 6,533,939.1040 SQUARE FEET OR 150.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2024

BYERS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

Manager
Kagen W. Hitzman

Published in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, Nov. 22 and 29, and Dec. 6 and 13, 2024, and in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursdays, Nov. 28, and Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 2024.

**Happy Holidays**
All County offices will be closed **Tuesday, Dec. 24** and **Wednesday, Dec. 25** in observance of the Christmas holiday.

arapahoeco.gov
WEEK OF DEC. 9

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NORAD marks 69 years of tracking Santa

COLORADO SPRINGS — The North American Aerospace Defense Command is ready to track Santa for the 69th year on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

NORAD defends North American airspace. On Christmas Eve, it has one additional mission: tracking Santa Claus as he makes his way across the globe delivering presents to children.

The NORAD Tracks Santa website (www.noradsanta.org) launched Dec. 1. It features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, a movie theater, holiday music, store and more. The website is available in nine languages.

Participants can also count down the days until Santa's journey on mobile devices with the official NORAD Tracks Santa app.

On Dec. 24, trackers worldwide can call 1-877-HI-NORAD to learn about Santa's location from 6 a.m. Tuesday to 12 a.m. Christmas Day.

Website visitors can also see Santa's flight from 4 a.m. to midnight Dec. 24.

McD'S ONIONS

FROM PAGE 3

"McDonald's is no longer serving recalled onions and there does not appear to be a continued food safety concern related to this outbreak," the FDA said in a statement.

McDonald's briefly pulled Quarter Pounders from 3,000 U.S. stores as a result of the outbreak, then narrowed that to 900 stores once testing had pinpointed onions — and not hamburger patties — as the likely source of the E. coli. The company found an alternate supplier and resumed selling Quarter Pounders with slivered onions at all U.S. stores last month.

But the outbreak has hurt demand. In mid-November, McDonald's said it planned to spend \$100 million to bring customers back to stores, including \$65 million that will go directly to the hardest-hit franchisees.

Chicago-based McDonald's wouldn't say Dec. 3 whether its sales have returned to normal levels in the affected regions. But it thanked U.S. regulators for their quick action and said it remains confident in its rigorous food-safety standards.

McDonald's last major food-safety issue happened in 2018, when more than 500 people contracted an intestinal illness after eating its salads.

McDonald's also declined to comment on legal action against the company as a result of the E. coli outbreak.

Nicole and Richard West of Townsend, Mont., are suing McDonald's after their 11-month-old daughter, Logan, was hospitalized in October with E. coli poisoning. The toddler ate a few bites of her father's Quarter Pounder hamburger with onions during a family road trip Oct. 2.

She fell ill a few days later with severe vomiting and diarrhea. Her mother rushed her to the hospital, where she was found to be infected with E. coli O157:H7, which can cause life-threatening illness, particularly in young children.

Richard West also fell ill but didn't seek medical attention because he was at home caring for the family's other children. He lost more than two weeks of work as a truck driver because of the outbreak and the family faces a barrage of medical expenses.

Nicole West said Dec. 3 that Logan's health has improved but the outbreak has shaken the family's confidence in the fast-food giant.

"With kids, when you want to go out to eat, they want to go to McDonald's. They want to get a Happy Meal," West said. "But we just don't trust it anymore."

Byers Bright Christmas Night

Join us for a delightful holiday event with Santa delivering free gifts for kids, free picture opportunities with Santa, and Mrs. Claus reading your favorite stories.

Enjoy the sparkle of Christmas lights and warm up with delicious hot chocolate. Let's celebrate the season together!

Saturday, December 21, 2024

visit our website for more information: www.byersparkandrec.com

Quint Valley Fairgrounds Quonset

5:30pm - 8pm

Free Event



Byers Bright Christmas Gift Donations

Help Bring Holiday Joy to Families in Need!

The Byers Park and Recreation District is collecting gifts for local families who need a little extra cheer this holiday season.

Your generous donations will help make the holidays brighter for those in our community.

Gift Donation Details:

- **Deadline for donations:** December 20th
- **Where to donate:** Byers Country General Store

Gift Distribution: Donated gifts will be handed out to families on December 21st, during the Byers Bright Christmas Night at the Quint Valley Fair Grounds. Santa will be there to spread the holiday magic and deliver your kindness!

Together, we can make this season special for everyone.

Thank you for your generosity and support!





PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Adams and Arapahoe county planning officials visited with Strasburg area residents and business owners during a second public open house Dec. 2 at TBK Bank designed to collect data to assist in the development of an amended Strasburg Subarea Plan, which hasn't been reviewed or modified in about 20 years. According to Adams County Senior Long Range Planner Ella Gleason, the results of both the Nov. 20 and Dec. 2 public meetings will be unveiled via e-mail before the end of the month. An amended subarea plan is anticipated by summer 2025. For additional information, visit <https://engageadams.adcogov.org/strasburg>. From left photo, Gleason takes input about what the future look of Colfax Avenue through the center of Strasburg should look like, and Arapahoe County Long Range Planning Program Manager Loretta Daniel listens to suggestions about future zoning in and around town.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

Strasburg High School and Hemphill Middle School band concert, 7 p.m., Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.

Wreaths Across America ceremony hosted by the Byers Community Cemetery Association and Strasburg High School National Honor Society. 10 a.m., Byers Cemetery. Wreaths to be placed on the graves of 125 veterans. Volunteers needed.

Wreath-laying ceremony. 10 a.m., Mount View Cemetery. Wreaths to be placed on the graves of 122 veterans.

Christmas with the High Plains Music Ensemble. 7 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

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

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

Deer Trail School concert. 6:30 p.m.

Deer Trail Elks plan Breakfast with Santa

DEER TRAIL — The town of Deer Trail and Deer Trail Elks Lodge 2307 will sponsor Breakfast with Santa from 8-10:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 31, at the Elks Lodge, 664 Second Ave.

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee will be served. The cost is \$10 per adult and free for kids.

Photos with Santa will be available for \$5 each.

For more information, visit deertrailevents@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

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.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

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

Bennett secondary choir concert. 7 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

Ag worker, employer fair set for Brighton

BRIGHTON — The state Agricultural Worker Services Program will host an Ag Worker Resource Fair & Conference starting at 12 p.m., Saturday Dec. 14, at the Adams County Government Center, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton.

The event will include workshops for employers on updates to labor law changes coming in 2025 provided by staff from the Colorado Department of Labor Division of Labor Standards & Statistics providing these updates. Overtime rules, meal breaks, and rest periods will particularly be covered.

Employers are also offered a tabling opportunity at no cost to recruit, promote and learn about the services available to their employees and their organizations.

Organizers from the Colorado Department of Agriculture are expecting more than 300 agricultural workers and their families. For more information, contact Aldo Parra at aldo.parra@state.co.us.

James Allen Lunsway



"Knowing Jim, after December 5th Jesus had a new wardrobe in Heaven. By next week he will have a huge list of new friends."

James Allen Lunsway, born on July 13, 1943, in Colby, Kan., passed away peacefully on Dec. 5, 2024, in Parker, Colo. He was the son of Arthur and Ruby (Verbena) Lunsway and the younger brother of Franklin Lunsway.

James grew up on a farm between Colby and Oakley, Kan., and attended school in Oakley, where he excelled in sports, playing football, basketball, and baseball in high school. His love for sports and his competitive spirit carried through much of his life. James' career journey began in the clothing business, where he became a partner at the Curiosity Shop in Oakley, Kan. In 1973, he opened his own clothing store, Mr. Jim's His Shop, in Goodland, Kan. He also became a partner in The His Shop men's clothing store in Colby.

After a brief retirement, James transitioned to a career in finance, where he played an instrumental role in opening the Bennett, Colo., branch of FNB Bank in 2005. He continued to serve with the bank until his official retirement in March of 2024.

James was known for his deep commitment to his community, love of people and kind heart. He was a dedicated member of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce, serving as its president multiple times. His smile lit up a room and his generosity is a legacy that we will all carry with us.

His leadership extended beyond business, as he also coached his children, Kenny's baseball and Angie's softball teams while they were growing up.

James is survived by his beloved children, Angela Sue (Ralph) Borrello of Charlotte, N.C., and Kenneth Arthur Lunsway of Aurora, Colo.; nieces, Leisa Everhart and Penny Jackson of Palm Harbor, Fla., as well as his four cherished grandchildren, Emily, James, Caroline and Samuel Borrello of Charlotte, N.C. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Ruby, and his brother, Franklin.

James' legacy is one of hard work, dedication, and love for his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of James' life will be held at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Rd, Strasburg, CO 80136, with family and friends invited to share their memories.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donation to the James Lunsway Memorial Fund in care of FNB Bank in Bennett, Colo. Charities that were dear to him were the Bennett Food Bank and Wreaths Across America. Please specify which organization you would like the donation to go.

Jeff Swim



Jeffrey Vernon Swim, 56, of Deer Trail, Colo., passed on Dec. 1, 2024. Born on May 15, 1968, in Great Bend, Kan., Jeff moved to Colorado with his family in 1973. He graduated from Byers High School in 1986 and enlisted in the U.S. Army the day after graduation, serving his country with honor for three years.

Jeff's life was defined by his dedication to family, community, and the joy of helping others. He served on the Byers Recreation District Board and the Byers School Board, where his leadership and care for his community shone brightly. A proud member of the Deer Trail Elks Lodge and the Masonic Lodge, Jeff was always eager to contribute his time and energy to local causes, particularly those that uplifted others.

Jeff had a deep love of music, playing the drums in the band Strike Three, and was well-known for his rhythm and energy on stage. His passion for sports was equally profound, as he coached youth wrestling and football, inspiring the next generation of athletes with his encouragement and expertise.

In 1999, Jeff partnered with his parents, Mary Louise and Bobby Lynn Swim, to establish Swim Disposal Service, a family business that continues to serve the community with the same commitment and pride Jeff brought to everything he did.

Jeff is survived by his wife Toni Trupiano-Swim; his cherished sons, Mathew Stephen Swim (companion Danielle Kephart), Philip Jeffrey Swim (companion Stephanie Crouch), and Wryle Vernon Swim (companion Grace Ann Kelly); his treasured grandchildren, Caelan, Presley, and Ryan; his loving parents, Mary Louise and Bobby Lynn Swim; his devoted siblings, Kathy (Greg) Walz, Julie Swim, Nancy Lee Pritchard, Sandra (Jamie) Edwards, Eric Swim, and Warren (Roben) Brooks; along with several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Kenneth and Mary Van Aken, and Vernon Arnold and Savilla Swim.

Jeff will forever be remembered for his kind heart, infectious laughter, strong work ethic, and unwavering commitment to his community and loved ones. His legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

A celebration of Jeff's life was held Dec. 10 at Mountain View Fellowship in Strasburg. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Deer Trail and Byers First Responders.

Rest in peace, Jeff — you will be dearly missed but never forgotten.



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- Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Benefits

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211689CO/10-24/12780

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.
(303)405-3231
anythinklibraries.org

Victorian holiday traditions: Adults will learn about holiday celebrations of the early 1900s from a representative of the Molly Brown House Museum in Denver. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18.

All Aboard: Visitors of all ages can enjoy an amazing display of a LEGO model train as it travels through a wintry landscape. A member of the Youth in Model Railroading Club will answer model train questions. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 18-19; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20.

Yoga in the Stacks: Adults can practice poses that focus on alignment, stability and flexibility with Bennett yoga instructor Scott Noble. Mats provided.

All skill levels welcome. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14.

Tarot club: Adults can learn about the tarot and do readings for other participants to practice their skills in a beginner-friendly workshop. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14.

After School Crafting: Kids ages 7-14 can get creative in the library after school with a different project each month. 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Artist meet-up: The Corridor Creative Arts League will host an end-of-the-year potluck.

Adults can bring a dish to share and make a small craft. 12-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, Bennett Community Center, 1100 E. Colfax Ave.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: Children ages 18 months to 5 years can learn about

cars and transportation through activities, crafts and snacks.

Each session includes a take-home goody bag to continue the learning at home. For more information and to register, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)822-9392. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 13.

Holiday Extravaganza: Parents of Little Makers Club members ages 18 months to 5 years can drop in for a measurement of their child's height and create a custom keepsake ornament. Each session includes a take-home goody bag to continue the learning at home. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 20.

Winter crafts: Kids ages 5-12 will make a variety of festive crafts to get into the holiday spirit. All supplies provided. 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21.

New Year's Party: Little Makers Club members up to age 5 can celebrate the new year at a glow-in-the-dark party. Free goody bags provided to continue the learning at home. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 27.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Friday matinee: All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of Disney "A Christmas Carol" (2009, rated PG, 1 hour, 36 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13.

Adult book club: "The Christmas Escape: A Holiday Romance Novel" by Sara Morgan. 6-7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16.

Little Explores: Children ages 2-5 and their caregivers will explore a monthly theme that combines learning and literacy while they play and learn 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 19.

Winter crafts: Kids and tweens are invited to feel cozy with a variety of festive crafts. All supplies provided. For ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18.



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The Bennett Marching Tigers, above, enjoyed a successful fall season. They took first place in Class 1A at the Friendship Cup Sept. 21 in Eaton; second place in Class 2A in the Douglas County Invitational Competition Oct. 5 in Castle Rock (their first-ever invitational); fifth in Class 2A in the Metro Regional Competition Oct. 15 in Parker (first-ever regional appearance) and third in Class 1A at the Friendship Cup Oct. 19 in Englewood. The Marching Tigers consist of 42 members in grades 7-12. Director is Valerie White. Drum Major is Angelia Castilleja. Their show this year was entitled "Phobias."

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DECEMBER 17

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[Adcgov.org](https://adcgov.org)

Aerial surveys of deer, elk herds begin in NE CO

DENVER — Surveys of deer and elk herds using helicopters are underway through mid-January in the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Northeast Region.

Parks & Wildlife biologists are classifying deer and elk herds from the air near Fort Collins, South Park, Castle Rock and across the Eastern Plains. They are noting

herd size and the sex of animals.

The flights are also a chance to assess the health of deer and elk populations.

The annual aerial surveys are a crucial step in gathering data to better inform the hunting license numbers set for each unit. CPW also uses the data to craft population objectives for each herd.

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strasburgorthodox.org



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www.spcusa.us

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Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana Tuesday, 5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served

Galatians 2:20 I live by the faith
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



Indian boys easily vanquish Merino Rams

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

MERINO — The Indians jumped to a 40-13 half-time advantage and never looked back in an easy road win at Merino Dec. 6 to open their 2024-25 campaign.

Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers was pleased with his team's defensive

intensity in the 75-29 victory.

"We limited Merino to tough shots on their possessions, then we only allowed one shot per possession because we controlled the boards very well," Bollers said.

It didn't hurt that Strasburg shot 73% from two-point land and 50% from three.

"I couldn't have asked for a better shooting night for the first game," Bollers added. "I liked our pace and our execution in transition. We only had seven turnovers and finished with 21 assists. A 3:1 ratio is very good."

Strasburg was paced by senior Tyce Bollers with 17 points and two steals, followed by junior Cade

Hemphill with 14, junior Nick Glatfelter with 9, sophomore Brody Hopwood 8, junior Gideon Miller 7, and sophomores Jayden Miller and Colton Holloway 6 apiece.

Hopwood was top rebounder with eight and tied for the team lead with three assists, while Glatfelter had six boards, three assists, two steals and

three blocked shots. Holloway also had three assists, and junior Cam Manahan grabbed three steals while senior Kam Gilbert had two.

COMING UP
Dec. 13-14: @ Simla Tournament.
Dec. 17: @ Bennett.
Dec. 19: Sterling.
Jan. 7: Peyton.



Lady Indians Vivienne Gitke, left, and Carly Larsen both record first-period pinfall victories in Strasburg's season-opening wrestling dual against Wiggins Dec. 3.

Wiggins grapplers edge Strasburg boys and girls

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — In an opening night dotted by surprise performances for both better and worse, the Strasburg girls and boys wrestling squads both lost closely contested duals with Wiggins Dec. 3.

On the girls side, the red-and-black fell 27-24 while the boys lost 33-27 to the visiting Tigers.

The Lady Indians won two of six contested matches with senior Carly Larsen and junior Vivienne Gitke recording first-period pinfalls at 190 and 145, respectively. In three of the four losses, Strasburg girls were wrestling

up at least one weight class heavier than they will be at the end of the season. All but one of the matches were determined by pinfall with Strasburg junior Autumn Kulpa on the wrong side of a 6-2 decision. Strasburg also received two wins by forfeit.

"The first night is a matter of knocking off a lot of dust and, for the girls, a lot of them did that at a lot heavier weight than what they would be normally," said Strasburg head coach Matt Croft. "But they all got out there and put forth a good effort overall."

On the boys side, Strasburg won three of eight matches — first period pinfalls by freshman Uvaldo Lopez at 113 pounds and sopho-

more Ben Nuttall at 120 pounds and a 14-10 upset decision for sophomore Cadence Pearson at 190 pounds. Pearson's win snapped a three-match losing streak to start the night. Strasburg also won two weights by forfeit.

"By far the most positive surprise of the night, especially wrestling up about 20 pounds from where he will be the rest of the season," Croft said of Pearson's opening-night effort. "I think that really turned around the motivation for the guys the rest of the night. Uvaldo and Ben really followed things up with strong matches."

But Croft cited three disappointing mo-

SEE W STRASBURG
PAGE 10



In the Dec. 3 season-opening dual against Wiggins, the Strasburg boys won three of eight contested matches, including freshman Uvaldo Lopez, left photo, and sophomore Ben Nuttall, who both pinned their opposition in the first period.

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE NO LE24-001, SOUTH PLATTE RENEW REPEATER
INSTALLATION / LOCATION AND EXTENT

PROPOSAL: South Platte Renew is proposing to construct a two-way radio repeater tower. This project will be located at 100 N County Road 269, Deer Trail CO 80105, south of the intersection of East County Road 269 and East US Highway 85 (Parcel ID 1993-00-0-00-026).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 17, 2024, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No LE24-001, South Platte Renew Repeater Installation / Location and Extent. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

More information about this proposal is available at the offices of the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 (appointments are recommended), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing planning@arapahoegov.com during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in The I-70 Scout on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, and Eastern Colorado News on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024.



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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Indian sophomore Cadence Pearson shoots a double-leg take down on his way to a 14-10 decision over Wiggins' Riley Thomas during the season-opening dual Dec. 3.

W STRASBURG

ments — pinfall losses by senior Jose Lopez and junior Kingston Rodriguez at 157 and 175 pounds, respectively, and a 2-1 decision against junior Juan Fernandez at 285 pounds.

“Just not real smart, some very dumb moves with the lead,” Croft said of Lopez’s and Kingston’s losses. “For Juan, it’s a matter of following through with his strength and how he knows how to wrestle. Any of those three matches go our way, that’s probably a dual win for us, but we would much rather to go through these hiccups now than at the end of the season when the state tournament is on the line.”

WIGGINS GIRLS 27, STRASBURG 24

170 pounds: Freshman Madilyn Gitke, loss by 0:46 pinfall.

190: Senior Carly Larsen, won by 1:44 pinfall.

235: Junior Olivia Le Fors, lost by 1:48 pinfall.

100: Sophomore Kiley Whitten, won by forfeit.

125: Junior Autumn Kulpa, lost by 6-2 decision.

135: Senior Sierra Aberle, lost by 1:48 pinfall.

140: Senior Erin Johnson, won by forfeit.

FROM PAGE 9

feit.

145: Junior Vivienne Gitke, won by 1:12 pinfall.

WIGGINS BOYS 33, STRASBURG 27

157: Senior Jose Lopez, lost by 1:54 pinfall.

165: Senior Edwin Terrazas, lost by 0:37 pinfall.

175: Junior Kingston Rodriguez, lost by 1:23 pinfall.

190: Sophomore Cadence Pearson, won 14-10 decision.

285: Junior Juan Fernandez, lost 2-1 decision in overtime.

113: Freshman Uvaldo Lopez, won by 0:38 pinfall.

120: Junior Ben Nuttall, won by 1:16 pinfall.

138: Sophomore Reagan Rosier, won by forfeit.

144: Freshman Joseph Martinez, lost by 0:24 pinfall.

150: Sophomore Salvador Posada, won by forfeit.

COMING UP — LADY INDIANS
Dec. 13-14: @ Eaglecrest Girls Invitational.

COMING UP — STRASBURG BOYS
Dec. 13-14: @ Limon Invitational.
Dec. 18: Fort Morgan.



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Corridor Christmas C






Strasburg Elementary hosted its annual holiday concert Dec. 3 at Mountain View Fellowship. This year, plays wood block and principal JaLee Kitzman plays sleigh bells on "Up on the Housetop;" director Brooke Lay jingles a bell.

Gift Distribution

Saturday, December 14, 2024
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Town of Bennett Town Hall



Thanks to generous donations from the community, including CORE and the Fraternal Order of Police Arapahoe Lodge 31, the Town of Bennett will be hosting a toy and gift distribution.

Gifts will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. If you or someone you know may need extra holiday help this year, please join us.
www.bennettco.gov/community/page/holiday-help



Bennett Elementary School was busy last week with Christmas concerts, including the first grade, left.



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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

It was all smiles of joy during the town of Bennett's annual Breakfast with Santa Dec. 7 at the Bennett Community Center, including a surprise visit from Santa. Clockwise from above left, June Copeland receives a goodie bag from Bennett Trustee Donna Sus; Lilian Holden is all serious about being on Santa's nice list this year; and Slayter Ross sits on Santa's lap as he quietly recites his wish list while Mrs. Claus and a pair of helpful elves listen in.



Celebrations Abound



PHOTOS BY ANGELA LAY/For The Scout

's event involved second and fourth grades and the Strasburg Singers. From left photo, Veda Barnes Jenny Authier and the Strasburg Singers wish the audience a Merry Christmas; and second-grader



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STENO/For The Scout

t photo, performing Dec. 4 and the second grade, right photo, singing the day before.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg was bustling with holiday activity all day Dec. 7. Clockwise from above left, Dave Glatfelter helps the annual volunteer effort to put up pole decorations throughout town; Oliver Harris, 11, roasts a marshmallow during evening activities at Lyons Park; and Christmas Night in Strasburg concluded with a fireworks show south of town.



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VanPelt Planned Unit Development, Amendment No. 2

Case Number: PUD2023-00002

Planning Commission Hearing Date: January 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: January 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
Hearings Location: 4300 S. Adams County Hwy., Brighton, CO

Request:
1. Major Amendment to the VanPelt Final Development Plan. The proposed amendment is to allow additional uses and designate an area for outdoor storage within Lot 1. The uses previously approved for Lot 2 are not proposed for change.

Location of Development Proposal: 4300 Hudson Rd
Parcel Numbers: R18924381801
Legal Description: SUB: VAN PELT SUBDIVISION LOT:1

Adams County Case Manager: Bryan Martin
Applicant: 4300 Hudson Road Estate INC, 19042 Legacy Ridgeway, Westminster, CO 80031

ADAMS COUNTY

Published in The I-70 Scout on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, and the Eastern Colorado News on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024.

Lulu's Inn

33355 CO-36, Watkins
(303) 261-9672

Live Music (7:30 - 11:30 p.m.)
Fri., Dec. 13: Project X (Rock)
Sat., Dec. 14: Eric Golden Band (Country)
Fri., Dec. 20: Hlynd Pylot (Rock)
Sat., Dec. 21: Renegade (Country)



M-F: 11 am - 2 a.m.
Sat & Sun: 10 am - 2 a.m.
Happy Hour:
M-F: 4-6 p.m.

From Our Kitchen:

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Remember US for your Holiday Parties!

New Year's Party: 8:30 p.m., Tues., Dec. 31
Entertainment by Dirty Side Down

Friends, Neighbors, Families
Please join I-70 CCR
December 14, 2024, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Live music, Hot Chocolate & Cider, Story time, Gift Wrapping, Ornaments, Tree Lighting

Mugge House

Winter Wonderland



Our class collected coats, hats...



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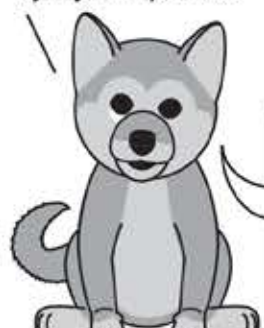
...and mittens to donate to a shelter.



Kids: color stuff in!



Try my mini puzzles!




Days of Caring and Sharing!

December is a month with many holidays. People may celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa. New Year's Eve, the very last night of the year, may be celebrated by everyone! This is a good time of year to show good will toward other people. It is a time when people reach out to help someone or to greet others with "Happy Holidays!"

December 21st is the first day of winter, the coldest season for many. Some families must stretch their budgets to pay for heating, food, health appointments and, often, holiday gifts. Read the clues to find out ways that people are helping others in their communities. Fill in the crossword puzzles.


A. Fight Hunger

- cook for a _____
- help at a soup _____
- collect cans for the food _____
- donate produce that you buy from your local _____ market



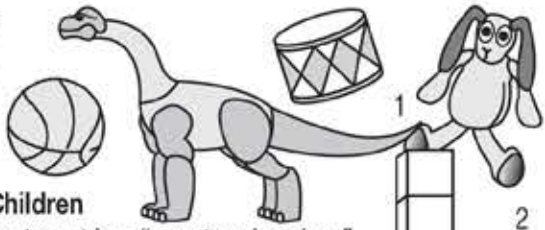
B. Beat the Cold

- collect _____ and sweaters
- start a _____ tree
- donate _____ and quilts
- donate _____ to a fuel fund




C. Bring Joy to Children

- _____ a toy to put in a "new toy drop box"
- _____ away used toys to charity
- _____ a child's toy or jewelry to donate
- _____ new toys to bring to a Children's Home



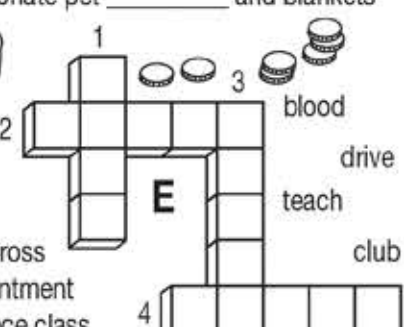
D. Care for Animals

- donate to an animal _____ center
- visit the _____ after the holidays
- give pet _____ to a shelter
- donate pet _____ and blankets



E. Help with Good Health

- start a jogging/biking _____
- donate _____ to the Red Cross
- _____ someone to an appointment
- _____ a free exercise or dance class



A

kitchen 1 shelter

2 _____

farmers 3 _____

pantry 4 _____

B

blankets 1 _____

2 _____

coats 3 _____

money 4 _____

mitten

C

food 1 _____

rescue 2 _____

3 _____

shelter 4 _____

D

bedding 1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

E

1 _____

2 _____


3 _____

4 _____

A Dozen Ways to Show You Care!

Almost every town has a special collection for gifts to spread good cheer to others who don't have much, live alone, or have few relatives with whom to celebrate the season. It doesn't have to cost a lot to give to others. Read these ideas to see if there is something your family would like to do. Find and circle the 25 words in bold print in the gift box.



- Find "new" items around your house that you think you will never use and combine them to make **gift sets**.
- Package** some sporting **equipment** (eg., bat, ball, glove).
- Gather** teas, coffees and cookies on a **tray**.
- Put** a few paperbacks in a **box**: Westerns, kids', cookbooks.
- Arrange** fancy soaps and a nice small towel in a **basket**.
- Place** 2 decks of cards, a notebook and pencils in a **bag**.
- Stuff** cocoa packets and candy canes into a **mug**.
- Fill** a **jar** with wrapped candy and nuts.
- File** some scrapbooking materials inside an **album**.
- Collect** some fun magazines and puzzle books in a **tote bag**.
- Insert** a fun picture, **calendar** artwork or poster into a **frame**.
- Group** colored pens or pencils, stationery in a **case**.



Oooo... I wonder what's in the box!


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

The holidays are




Use the alphabet key to fill in the blanks to see the secret message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 14, 2004

WATKINS — Front Range Airport Authority held a topping out ceremony Dec. 10 for the Air Traffic Control Tower, the tallest general aviation tower in the United States.

The project began four years ago with a FAA-approved study for the tower. Dennis Heap, director of aviation, opened the topping out ceremony with an explanation of why the ceremony included a 15 foot evergreen tree and American flag on the top of the tower.

"I want you to know it's a 15 foot Juniper harvested from the Front Range Authority tree park," Heap said. The three and flag are two symbols of topping out ceremonies."

The projected cost is estimated at \$5.7 million, of which \$4.5 million is construction and equipment

15 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 15, 2009

WATKINS — A fire the morning of Dec. 7 not only severely damaged a structure but also unveiled a commercial business operation illegally inside.

The Bennett, Sable-Altura and Strasburg fire departments were all called to 32555 E. Front

St. in Watkins around 9:30 a.m. to reports a fire was in progress.

Upon arrival, firefighters found a shop engulfed in flames.

"It took about 30-45 minutes to originally knock [the blaze] down and another hour or so to really get it fully extinguished," said Bennett Fire Chief Earl Cumley. "A propane cylinder is what caused the fire."

10 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 16, 2014

BRIGHTON — Six weeks after Nov. 4 election, Adams County is still dealing with ballot issues with the disclosure of a third printing error — this one likely affecting all 207,000 ballots distributed county-wide.

Adam County Clerk & Recorder Karen Long announced Dec. 10 that the error was traced back to Arizona-based Runbeck Election Systems, the county's external printing vendor. Ballots printed and mailed by Runbeck inadvertently contained a number that could potentially be connected to a voter's identity.

Although the error was noticed four days into the counting process. Long, in consultation with the County Attorney's Office, decided not to publicly announce the error at that time.

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					8	7		
2					6			4
			9			5	3	8
			8					2
3		5				8		1
9					7			
5	6	9			4			
8			6					3
		4	7					

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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 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Dec. 12, the 347th day of 2024. There are 19 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 12, 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court recount decision

in Florida's tightly contested presidential election.

ON THIS DATE

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first Black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1985, 248 American sol-

diers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2010, the inflatable roof of the Minneapolis Metrodome collapsed following a snowstorm that had dumped 17 inches on the city. (The NFL was forced to shift an

already rescheduled game between the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants to Detroit's Ford Field.)

In 2015, nearly 200 nations meeting in Paris adopted the first global pact to fight climate change, calling on the world to collectively cut greenhouse gas emissions

but imposing no sanctions on countries that didn't do so.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 92. Singer Connie Francis is 87. Actor Bill Nighy is 75. Gymnast-actor Cathy Rigby is 72. Actor Regina Hall is 54.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

1. Cerberus' domain

6. Chop

9. Mama's husband

13. Unsuitable

14. Adam's partner

15. Echo sounder

16. Sunny prefix

17. Armed conflict

18. In a heated manner

19. "Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical"

21. "Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words)"

23. "___ and the City"

24. Not exciting

25. Accident

28. Rani's dress

30. Talking points

35. Aflame

37. Spanish sparkling wine

39. Slang for money

40. Velum, pl.

41. "November 5th 2024 winner"

43. Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words)

44. Met's offering

46. River in Bohemia

47. Queen of Hearts' pastry

48. "Super Bowl winners in 2024"

50. Visi___ or Ostro___

52. The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the ___"

53. ___ of passage

55. "Milton's center"

57. "Miley Cyrus' Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024"

61. "2024 Summer Olympic Games host"

64. Cat's nine

65. Lowest or highest card

67. Accustom

69. E-wallet content

70. Backstabber

71. N in RN

72. Whipping mark

73. R&R spot

74. Support person

DOWN

1. "Say what?"

2. All over again

3. "MV ___", cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse

4. Long stories

5. Tends a fire

6. Obscene

7. Spermatozoa counterpart

8. Lost, in Paris

9. "Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court"

10. Dead against

11. Explore by touch

12. Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character

15. Hello, in Haifa

20. Dead-on

22. Last month

24. Disclose

25. Wreaked state

26. Bet's predecessor

27. Pileus, pl.

29. Like steak order

31. Maya Angelou, e.g.

32. Itsy-bitsy bits

33. "Caitlin of college basketball"

34. Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. ___ dog

36. Scarlet O'Hara's home

38. Speaking platform

42. Dinklage or Townshend, e.g.

45. Again but differently

49. Elton John's title

51. Shenzi of "The Lion King"

54. Russian rulers, pre-1917

56. Tedium

57. "One ___ Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

58. Classroom pests

59. Elliptical

60. Sunset location

61. Sheep's milk cheese

62. Little Miss Muffet's morsel

63. Gaelic tongue

66. Upper limit

68. Poetic "always"

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HOROSCOPE

Venus and Mars in Opposition

Gendered themes will extend through all areas of life, and there will hardly be an experience that doesn't bring into examination our gender norms. These are also the last days of Mercury retrograde, so it's easy for communication to spin out of control. Favored activities include listening more than you talk, extending curiosity before judgment and leaving well-enough alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Happiness wraps around well-placed commitments. It's worth studying the lives of those who already hold what you're seeking. Their happiness may hold clues to fulfilling success or reveal the limitations of a particular path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ability to do the things you tell yourself to do and behave in a preferred manner depends on understanding your own emotional landscape. Unrecognized feelings motivate uncontrolled action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Focus has always been a prized asset, but its worth has never been as paramount as it is in this century. Recognizing the true value of your attention sets you apart, placing you in a class above.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've built much in your life, but this relationship will form differently. It's not about creating or constructing; it's about opening up, granting trust and welcoming someone into your world. True connection happens through allowing, not building.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What captivates you is a steady character, a rich inner life and the courage to be genuine. Seek those who reveal their true colors in subtle ways, as they hold the kind of strength you admire most.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're careful not to project onto people qualities they do not possess. Last time you did that, you were surprised by what unfolded, and not in a good way. So now you'll take everything at face value and be guided by proof.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you change, what will happen as a result? This is the

unknown that keeps you moving forward in faith and curiosity. Surprises and unexpected delights are around the bend.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A special relationship gets attention. You'll communicate better when you see the other person differently. Assume the best, amp up the respect, get in touch with your natural warmth. Your attitude and approach win the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When trouble follows a person, you'd be remiss not to stay vigilant and aware when you are near that person. And though they may be innocent indeed, they still pose risks you don't have to factor in when you're with the trouble-free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll pinpoint your apprehensions about a relationship. This speaks to your merit as a partner. You're fully aware that allowing yourself to be known comes with risks, and you dive in anyway because bonds are worth it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A gift of the day — beautifully uncomplicated spaces that are like boxes filled with nothing but potential. These spaces may be in rooms, or in the pauses between activities. These spaces may live in peaceful moments of your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You already know what it's like to be a tether ball, trying to get away from the pole but going in circles around it instead. So when the tether is cut, take off any way you can. Wandering, or even getting lost, will be an improvement.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12). The universe is preparing you for a big role. A wave of ambition will wash over you, and you'll soon be setting sail on an adventure to new ports, skill sets and mindsets. More highlights: The demands of a project bring your inner artist alive. You'll shine at events and connect with an entirely new circle. The thing you were trying to compensate for becomes a precious asset. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 21, 30, 7, and 22.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

'BURG REC BLDG**FROM PAGE 1**

burdensome and time consuming" red tape thrown up by Adams County Chief Building Official Justin Blair.

In a letter dated Oct. 31, recreation district president Cindy Fahey expressed the district's displeasure about last-minute building designations and permit changes to Adams County Director of Community & Economic Development Jenni Hall. The letter was included in the Nov. 18 board meeting packet, which was provided to *The I-70 Scout*.

"On Oct. 21, the district passed its final inspection of the maintenance and storage facility," Fahey's letter said. "Staff was excited to move equipment, tools and supplies into the new building after nearly two years from start of the process. However, when seeking a certificate of occupancy (CO), the district was then met with another list of work items to correct or complete in order to obtain such CO — many of which had been previously completed during the course of the county's permit inspections and follow-ups."

A few days later, on Oct. 24, Blair reportedly contacted both District Manager Angie Graf and Parks & Recreation Manager Nick Dickens to announce that county staff had previously erred when classifying the building's use as "utility" ("U") and, instead, called it "storage" ("S"), and that a CO would not be issued. Among the additional requirements because of the new designation are mechanical exhaust/ventilation systems, exit signage and restrooms.

Fahey's letter reiterated that the pole barn has always been planned to only store the district's handful of maintenance vehicles and equipment and that no activities are planned inside.

"These substantial additions suggested by Mr. Blair are outside of the scope of use and project budget. No water or sewer utilities are on the subject property and the pole barn was not designed to include restrooms as it is adjacent to a recreation center, which has restrooms available," Fahey's letter added. "Clearly, the cost of a new set of requirements in contravention of a nearly two-year county process, while based on one person's opinion, results in a complete misapplication of taxpayer monies."

"Therefore, we respectfully request the county issue the CO for the intended and permitted use under the 'U' classification."

Whether last week's meeting between district and county officials will result in any CO in the near future was uncertain but at least one recreation district board member said it felt like "running head-first into a brick wall."

The district's legal counsel drafted a resolution to override the stricter zoning decision. While Resolution 24-06 was approved unan-



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District equipment shed, left photo, at the north baseball and T-ball fields on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Wagner Street remains vacant after one Adams County Building official decided to not grant the district a certificate of occupancy in October. Right photo, among the upcoming work on the Community Park East project is the demolition of the existing storage building on the former power co-op equipment yard.

imously, it was with the caveat "if the district and Adams County are unable to come to an amicable solution."

According to Fahey's letter, the resolution is allowed under state statute, but "the district prefers acting in the spirit of [another statute], which encourages the most efficient and effective use of powers and responsibilities by cooperating with other governments."

One of the district's current storage facilities at the site of the future Community Park East is slated for demolition in the near future, making the need to utilize the vacant structure more dire.

Fahey's letter concluded that the district has run into numerous headaches previously when dealing with the county, including replacement of a 10- or 12-year-old culvert and resurfacing of Sunset Avenue at the entry of the north baseball field, the delayed permitting process for the Community Park East project, and overly lengthy process at the Wolf Creek Run West recreation fields.

"We encourage county staff to conduct a thorough review of the permitting process in regard to public works projects, in particular, other governmental entities," she said. "The district is not a developer motivated by profit; instead, the district is a steward of public tax funds raised for benefit of the community's parks and recreational services and its efforts should be handled in a cooperative intergovernmental fashion for mutual benefit of all, including the citizens."

YOUTH BASEBALL REORGANIZATION

Activities director Sara Rushman recently announced efforts have commenced between the three Corridor recreation districts to reestablish the Union Pacific League youth baseball program after the Brighton Youth Baseball & Softball Association (BYBSA) decided against renewing its contract with local programs.

Baseball for ages 6-13 will include teams in

Bennett, Strasburg and Byers with interested players from Deer Trail to participate with Byers.

"Interested players will register for teams where they attend school," a letter to local families said. "The UPL will be a rec league built on fundamentals first and foremost. League standings will have no bearing on tournament seeding to help ensure equitable playing time."

For softball, the Eastern Plains Pink Sox will continue its partnership with the Indian Peaks Girls Softball Association with practices and half of games played in Strasburg. In the case of the 8-and-under group, if enough teams are formed, games will only be played at Strasburg.

Pee wee T-ball for ages 2-4 will again require no practices with games held in Strasburg. For ages 4-5, games will also be held in Strasburg with practices to be determined at a later date.

Big D's Warriors Adaptive Baseball League will continue to be free for local youth with physical and mental challenges.

Registration begins Jan. 1. Volunteer coaches and umpires are also needed. More information and applications are available at www.strasburgparks.org.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Graf said bids for Community Park East construction are due at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10. The project will be awarded Jan. 30.
- Twisters Athletics Director Tina Connely reported 197 gymnasts are enrolled, including 28 girls on the competitive roster. End-of-year showcases for the program occur Dec. 16-20.
- The board unanimously approved the 2025 budget resolution and certification of mill levies through both Adams and Arapahoe counties.
- Next year's meeting schedule was approved — Thursday, Jan. 16, and Mondays, March 17, June 16, Sept. 15, and Nov. 17, all at 6 p.m. at the TBK Bank meeting room.

ELECTION**FROM PAGE 1**

but with the caveat that "[grant monies] are contingent upon a November 2024 bond election."

FINAL BYERS SCHOOL COUNT

When the final vote tally was made official Nov. 26, Byers School District Issue 5C, asking for \$17.19 million in bond funding for campus expansion and improvements, failed by a count of 885 (58%) against and 639 (42%) for.

If passed, the bond proposal would have added classroom, academic and support areas to the existing high school; enhanced the school's career and technical education spaces; and renovated, replaced and modernized athletic, performance and multi-use facilities.

The estimated tax increase for the bond for residential property would have been \$10 to \$11 per month for each \$100,000 in actual value. The estimated annual tax increase on agricultural property

was between \$3.70 and \$3.80 per sprinkler irrigated acre in Adams County and \$4.60 and \$4.70 in Arapahoe County; and \$4.20 to \$4.30 per flood irrigated acre in Adams County.

OTHER LOCAL VOTES OF NOTE

An Arapahoe County request to "de-Bruce" and be allowed to utilize all tax revenue collected above Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits was approved by residents county-wide in a landslide.

According to the final vote count, 214,893 residents (71.14%) favored the proposal — earmarking the extra tax revenue for transportation infrastructure and maintenance; crime prevention and neighborhood safety; and housing and protective services — while 87,194 voters (28.86%) were in opposition.

In another lopsided vote count going the opposite way, Adams County voters soundly rejected

Ballot Issue 1A, which would have earmarked a 0.15% sales tax increase (\$22.2 million annually) over 20 years for creation of 6,000 affordable housing units.

The final vote tally was 150,168 (69.93%) against and 64,565 (30.07%) in favor.

The Arapahoe County District 3 Commissioner race was close for a second straight time but, unlike four years ago, Republican incumbent Jeff Baker won without a recount. Baker received 33,421 (51.35%) of the vote, while Democrat challenger Scott Brown received 31,665 votes (48.65%).

In eastern Adams County, the District 5 Commissioner race was won by Democrat incumbent Lynn Baca, who received 114,775 votes (54.19%) compared to Republican challenger Jim Wood of Watkins with 97,015 votes (45.81%).

FINAL TURNOUTS

Final vote reports showed that

Arapahoe County had a slightly greater turnout percentage than Adams County, but both were behind the percentage of voters that cast ballots across the state.

In her Dec. 6 certification announcement, Secretary of State Jena Griswold said 3,240,549, or 79.5%, of Colorado's 4,074,680 active voters cast their ballots. More than 92% of ballots were returned by mail with the remaining 7.8% of voters doing it in-person.

The breakdown of ballots cast by political affiliation included:

- 1,457,199 (44.97%), Unaffiliated;
- 895,070 (27.62%), Democrat; and
- 826,510 (25.51%), Republican.

According to final canvass results, Arapahoe County counted 330,948 ballots (77.59%) of the total 426,537 active voters on record. In Adams County, 236,899 (73.98%) of 320,225 active voters cast their ballots.

\$740,000 in grants available to help obliterate noxious weeds

BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s Noxious Weed Program is accepting applications for weed management grants to help fight populations of state-listed noxious weeds in critical areas.

“This funding is particularly important in helping new or underfunded weed management programs invest in their area of Colorado and bring additional resources to where they are needed,” said CDA’s Noxious Weed Program Manager Patty York.

Applications from eligible organizations are being taken until 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16. Applica-

tions must follow all the specifications in the Request for Applications document. Full requirements can be found at ag.colorado.gov.

This year, the program will award approximately \$700,000 from the Noxious Weed Fund and approximately \$40,000 from the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Program to projects that help manage high-priority noxious weeds happening between April 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026.

Eligible organizations include counties, municipalities, conservation districts, nonprofits, and organized private entities such as road or homeowners associations. Requests can be for any amount, but all carry a one-to-one funding match. Applicants must submit materials via e-mail and include a table of which noxious weeds they want to target, the proposed bud-

get, and a map identifying noxious weed sites and treatment areas.

Noxious weeds are non-native, aggressive, invader species that replace native vegetation, reduce agricultural productivity, cause wind and water erosion, and pose an increased threat from wildfire.

Noxious weeds in Colorado include Orange Hawkweed, Myrtle Spurge, Giant Reed, Purple Loosestrife and Knotweed.

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HELP WANTED



Byers School District 32-J

is now accepting applications for a:

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Paraprofessional

Byers School District offers competitive wages, insurance, and a positive work environment. Classified application is available on the Human Resources page of website, www.byers32j.k12.co.us, under the District tab.

Byers School District 32J
444 E. Front Street
Byers CO, 80103
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(303) 822-9592 fax
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Special education teacher for a significant needs program located at the Strasburg School District beginning January, 2025. Current Colorado special education teacher license required. BA salary range: \$41,000-\$47,300; MA salary range: \$46,250-\$52,550 based on experience. Excellent benefits including full health benefits. Collaborative work environment with lots of free continuing education opportunities available; may be eligible for student loan forgiveness. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecbores.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the green button "Apply Online" at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101 or tracyg@ecbores.org. EOE. 1/2

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1973 Ford 8000 Dump Truck	VIN: R15308
1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee Utility Passenger	VIN: 311502

Please call Hank's Towing: Becky 303-489-4746

Noxious weed panel nominees sought

BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee is seeking nominations to fill four vacant positions — one for an agricultural producer, another for a resource, industry or environmental specialist, and two for at-large members.

The primary responsibility of the committee is to discuss Colorado's weed management challenges and craft solutions that best reflect public and private interests. The committee makes recommendations to the Colorado Department of Agriculture concerning designation and classification of state noxious weeds; development and implementation of state weed management plans; and prescribed techniques for eradication, containment and suppression of state noxious weeds.

"The members of the Noxious

Weed Advisory Committee play an important role in shaping department and state policy concerning noxious weeds. Their recommendations help protect landowners, agricultural lands and the environment," said Patty York, Noxious Weed Program manager.

The committee's 17 members are appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and represent varying interests and geographic locations. Members serve two-year terms and the committee meets quarterly, with most meetings occurring at CDA's Broomfield office and including a virtual option. At least one meeting and corresponding field trip are usually held outside the Denver area annually.

Nominations must be submitted through an application form at ag.colorado.gov no later than Friday, Dec. 20.



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CHUCK WAGON



Fresh Apple Cake

by Sara Mize
For The Scout

This recipe is a family favorite handed down for generations with added spice from the original recipe listed in the 1978 Southern Sideboards Cookbook. It's a labor of love that will be requested year after year.

FRESH APPLE CAKE

CAKE INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup cooking oil (vegetable works fine)
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground all spice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 cups chopped, peeled apples (about 4 apples)
- 1 cup ground pecans (optional)

CAKE DIRECTIONS

Combine oil and sugar. Beat in eggs. Sift together all dry ingredients and add to egg mixture (mix in parts to make it easier to fully integrate). Fold in vanilla, chopped apples, pecans. Bake in a greased 9- by 13-inch pan or flute pan, as pictured, at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Poke with a knife to ensure cake is fully baked.

ICING INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ¼ cup evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

ICING DIRECTIONS

Bring sugar, butter, milk to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat immediately and stir in vanilla. Beat with a spoon until icing is cool. Pour over cake. Sara Mize is a resident of Strasburg.

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Things that can cause subluxations (misalignments of vertebrae causing nerve interference): physical trauma, emotional stress and environmental toxins.

HOURS

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Tues./Wed./Fri.: 9:30am-5:30pm
Thursday: 9:30am-1:30pm
Open First Saturday of Each Month

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- Men's & Women's Bible Studies and Special Events
- KidMid (Midweek Kid's Program)
- Weekly Middle & High School Youth Group
- A New Spanish Service Sundays at 10:15am