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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 4

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

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Byers forced to build new sewer plant

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — Byers water customers learned about changes coming to the district at a Dec. 20 public hearing.

The Byers Water & Sanitation District Board held the hearing to gather input before making a decision on an inclusion request. The petitioner, development group May Farms RV Resort & Sanctuary at Byers LLC, is planning short-term RV resort at property adjacent to Quint Valley. It submitted a petition for the inclusion of 150 acres into the district in July.

A decision on the inclusion was not made; the hearing was continued until Jan. 15. While many questions from the 50-odd community members in attendance were answered, more information from the developers was requested.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Before discussion on the inclusion, water board president Shannon Roth provided key information on the district's current

and future needs. A current project has two main components — installing a water line north of the railroad tracks and re-coating the interior of water storage tanks 1 and 2. Other improvements on tanks 1, 2 and 3 will occur and additional water hydrants and valves will be installed. Consulting engineers GMS Inc. is managing the project.

"We're putting in 12-inch main from basically the water department to the grocery store," Roth said. "Our existing 6-inch lines are aging quite a bit, so the larger line will help with the fire flows."

Roth said that much of the town sees a flow of around 800 to 1,200 gallons per minute.

"But as you get across the railroad tracks and down toward the grocery store, it drops down to about 200 gallons per minute. I'm sure the fire department will appreciate the improvement."

Pipeline work has commenced and completion is expected in spring or summer.

Recoating the tanks, a re-



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Byers Water & Sanitation District Board members Kelli Morrissey, left, Shannon Roth, Annette Tarantino, Janet Herman and Tom Mehling, preside over a public hearing Dec. 20 at Kelter Library.

quirement of the Colorado Department of Health & Environment (CDPHE), is in progress.

The projects are funded by grants through Arapahoe County and the Department of Local Affairs Economic Impact Assistance Fund, and an approximately \$1.5 million low-interest loan with 50% forgiveness through the Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority.

"The great thing is that, with all the grants and so forth, the district only has to come up with \$600,000 of this \$4.2 million project,

and so that's being done with no rate increases or anything," Roth said.

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT

Roth followed that good news with news of the opposite persuasion — the district was recently notified by the CDPHE that Byers is required to have a mechanical sewer plant in operation by Feb. 28, 2029.

"Sewer pond systems are being eliminated statewide to reduce nitrates put into the ground," Roth said. "We don't have too many years to get moving on that, and they have a strict

timeline of required engineering submittals to the state."

The estimated cost of the sewer plant is between \$6 million and \$7 million.

"At this time, for our approximately 520 existing customer accounts, that's around \$12,500 each," he added. "Hopefully, getting an early jump on it, we can get grant money to fund a lot of it."

Roth said having a mechanical sewer plant will enable the district to pass all required state testing. The facility will be ex-

**SEE BYERS WSD
PAGE 16**

Arapahoe County approves DT police services contract, stricter rules for open space

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — About a month after Deer Trail trustees approved the reduced-cost agreement, the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners' final business actions of 2024 included signing off on the 2025 sheriff's office service contract with the town.

The county commissioners also ratified stricter rules on county-owned open spaces, effective at the start of 2025.

DT LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

During the consent agenda of their final regularly scheduled business meeting of the year on Dec. 10, commissioners unanimously approved a similar level of law enforcement services for next year but at a cost of \$62,856.81, down about \$12,000 from 2024.

"The type of law enforcement services provided by the sheriff's office within the boundaries of Deer Trail are similar to the law enforcement services provided in unincorporated areas of the county ... and include law enforcement communication center services, but do not include enforcement of municipal ordi-

**SEE DT POLICING
PAGE 16**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Bennett Secondary vocal music teacher Allyse Brennan glances towards the bandstand as she leads a Christmas sing-along with students, family and friends during the school's secondary instrumental winter concert Dec. 11. The night included all four secondary instrumental groups — the Marching Tigers, sixth-grade beginning band, symphonic band and wind symphony. All groups are under the direction of band teacher Valerie White. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

COMMUNITY CORRAL

New operators wanted for Bennett Food Bank

BENNETT — The Bennett Community Food Bank recently shut down its distribution center at the Bennett Community Center after its director announced her retirement last month.

According to Flora Goodnight, who's served the food bank for 27 years, any people interested in restarting it must reestablish the 501(c)3 charitable foundation.

"None of our current volunteers wanted to take that part over, so we are still looking for someone that might be interested," Goodnight said.

Food assistance remains available through Adams (adcogov.org) and Arapahoe (arapahoeco.gov) counties.

ArapCo seeks volunteers for homelessness project

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County is seeking volunteers for its annual Point in Time Count of homeless people on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

An accurate count of the unhoused population helps to guide funding and critical resources to assist them.

From sunset on Jan. 27 through sunset Jan. 28, volunteers will be stationed at locations across the county to survey individuals experiencing homelessness.

The county seeks a minimum of four volunteers for its unincorporated area to cover three shifts over the course of the day: 7-10 a.m.; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 1-3 p.m.

To sign up or for more information, visit arapahoeco.gov.

ArapCo readies to swear-in its newly elected officials

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County will swear in its newly-elected officials at a special ceremony starting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9, CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora.

Commissioners Carrie Warren-Gully (District 1), Jeff Baker (District 3) and Rhonda Fields

CO Cattlemen plan yearly rendezvous

LAKEWOOD — Registration is now open for the Colorado Cattlemen's Association 2025 Mid-Winter Conference Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 20-21, at the Denver Marriott West Hotel in Golden.

The conference will open with CCA's Board of Directors meeting, as well as a board meeting for Colorado CattleWomen. That afternoon, CCA and Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust will host a Succession Planning Workshop. After the workshop, CCA will start the first round of steering committee meetings followed by the CCA President's Reception.

Jan. 21 will begin with CCA's remaining rounds of steering committee meetings in the morning, facilitating important discussions about topics affecting all aspects of Colorado's beef industry. During Tuesday's lunch, CCA will host its business meeting and recognize several award-winners.

On Tuesday afternoon, CCA will facilitate a legislative panel where members have the opportunity to engage directly with elected officials to discuss relevant industry priorities. Legislators are invited to a reception and banquet that evening.

To register, visit www.coloradocattle.org or call (303)431-6422. CCA also has a discounted room block at the Denver Marriott West Hotel.

(District 5) and 18th Judicial District Attorney Amy Padden will take their oaths of office.

To attend, RSVP by Jan. 3 at arapahoeco.gov/SwearingInCeremony.

New book relates history of CO state parks system

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife's first book chronicling the history of the Colorado parks system is on sale for 30% off through Jan. 5 at cpwshop.com and state park visitor centers.

"At Home in Nature, The History of Colorado's State Parks" explores the rich history of Colorado's state parks, from their inception to the present day, and is a must-read for anyone interested in the state's natural and cultural heritage. The story and its creation was recently featured on Parks & Wildlife's Colorado Outdoors podcast.

Adopt-A-Pole assistance sought for 2025 holidays

STRASBURG — With 2024 concluding, the Strasburg Lighting Crew is seeking donations for the 2025 Adopt-A-Pole program.

Anyone can adopt as many poles

as they like at \$20 each, with contributions to fund decorations for Christmas 2025.

Each year, volunteers donate time, talents and equipment to repair, rebuild and create new lighting and ground scenes to be placed on the first Saturday of December. The upgrades include replacement of old lights with LED bulbs.

Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 14, Strasburg, Colo. 80136 or dropped off at Western Hardware.

Mountain View Fellowship plans New Year's Day dash

STRASBURG — Mountain View Fellowship will offer a healthy way to kick off 2025 with its First Run 5K and 1-Mile Walk on the first day of the year.

Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. with the run starting at 2 p.m. on the MVF property, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg.

The event is free and walk-ins are welcome, but advanced registration is appreciated by the organizers.

On a first-come, first served basis, participants will get a cool sticker and a free beanie.

To register, visit mvfcolorado.com.

Ex-AdCo cop pleads guilty, is sentenced in training artifice

DENVER — A former Adams County Sheriff's Office division Chief pleaded guilty and was sentenced Dec. 20 for his role in a law enforcement training records fraud scheme and claiming credit for state-mandated training that he did not complete.

In a plea agreement with the Colorado Attorney General's Office, Michael Bethel pleaded guilty to one count felony forgery and two misdemeanor crimes of second-degree forgery and first-degree official misconduct. He received a 24-month deferred sentence on the felony forgery charge and a concurrent 24-month probation sentence on the misdemeanor charges. The judge also ordered \$1,000 in fines and 100 hours of community service.

As part of a plea agreement, Bethel will relinquish his state peace officer certification and will no longer be eligible to serve as a peace officer in Colorado. He must also write a letter of apology to the Adams County Sheriff's Office and to Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST).

"Law enforcement officers have an obligation to complete important training as a requirement of maintaining their certifications," said Attorney General Phil Weiser, who also serves as the chair of the Colorado POST Board. "For those who fail to do so, and who defraud the state about meeting those requirements, there must be consequences."

Colorado peace officers are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of annual in-service training, including at least 12 hours of perishable skills training in arrest control, driving and firearms. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for submitting truthful and accurate data to POST.

The other two defendants in the scheme, former Adams County Sheriff Rick Reigenborn and former Undersheriff Thomas McLallen, pleaded guilty and were sentenced earlier this year.

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Publisher & Editor
Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

Office Manager
LuAnne Stegner • lstegner@i-70scout.com

Managing Editor
Steven Vetter • svetter@i-70scout.com

Staff Writers
Kathy Smiley

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair,
Marilee Gillock, Bailey Sigg, Coral Oliveros

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2025

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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Santa Claus made a couple of last-minute visits to the I-70 Corridor Dec. 21. From left photo, Joseph Flores, 7, whispers his wish list during Breakfast With Santa at the Deer Trail Elks Lodge Saturday morning, and 8-year-old Natalie Wilton is all smiles during her visit at Byers Bright Christmas Night hosted by the Byers Park & Recreation District at the Quint Valley Quonset.

JEFF BAKER, COMMISSIONER, ARAPAHOE COUNTY DISTRICT 3

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with family and friends this holiday season.
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SPORTS



'Burg sweeps Bennett on Tiger hardwood



From left photo, Lady Indian Wynne Winter chases down a loose ball against Bennett's Shelby Stiers Dec. 17., and teammate Natalie Damron shoots over the Lady Tiger defense.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

Lady Indians lead most of way in 52-35 win

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After a two-season hiatus, Bennett and Strasburg renewed its hardwood rivalry Dec. 17 with the visiting red-and-black girls leading throughout on their way to a 52-35 victory.

After the hosts had early leads of 2-1 and 4-3, Strasburg seized the momentum with a 9-0 run and concluded the first eight minutes

with an 18-9 lead. The visiting red-and-black carried a 30-20 advantage into the locker rooms at halftime and kept the pressure on after intermission, outscoring the host Tigers 10-6 and 12-9 over the final two quarters.

"What a great atmosphere to play in, really loud and a lot of fun. Great to play them again in another great Corridor rivalry,"

SEE GB 'BURG @ BENNETT
PAGE 10

Indians victorious during 'Tiger Taming Week'

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — "Our motto all week was this was 'Tiger Taming Week' and, lo and behold, we dominated in both instances, so things came to fruition."

That was the sentiment of Strasburg boys head coach Kyle Bollers after his squad completed the final week of the pre-Christmas schedule with a pair of victories over orange-and-black opposition — 65-

35 at neighboring rival Bennett Dec. 17 and 70-53 against visiting Sterling Dec. 19.

For full coverage of the Indians' contest with Sterling, see the Dec. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

CORRIDOR RIVALRY

In front of one of the most raucous environments of recent note on Bennett's home court,

SEE BB 'BURG @ BENNETT
PAGE 10



Left photo, Strasburg's Nick Glatfelter shoots a fade-away over the outstretched arm of Tiger Jayden Ivory Dec. 17. Right, Cade Hemphill (4) of Strasburg falls to the ground with teammate Jayden Miller joining in on the action as Owen Stiers of Bennett tries to manufacture a shot.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

1-Tiger team rips up wrestling showdown

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

MONTROSE — Bennett's one-girl wrestling team made the most of its opportunities at the Western Slope Showdown hosted by Montrose and Delta high schools Dec. 13-14.

Freshman Emma Faczak pinned all three of her opponents in 38, 43 and 58 seconds en route to the

SEE W FACZAK
PAGE 8



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Emma Faczak, a member of the Bennett School wind symphony, addresses the audience at the school's secondary instrumental winter concert Dec. 11. Faczak is also the lone Lady Tiger wrestler this winter.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Deer Trail's Megan Donovan goes for a layup over a Liberty Tree Academy defender, with the assistance of teammate Kylie Bryant.

DT gals enter break at 4-0

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail Lady Eagles moved their pre-Christmas record to 4-0 with a 48-25 drubbing of Liberty Tree Academy at home Dec. 17.

Though the final score

looks like a blowout, the first half was not with the Eagles enjoying slim advantages of 11-8 and 19-14 after each of the first two quarters.

"Obviously the key was just the defensive pressure. We stepped up our

SEE GB DEER TRAIL
PAGE 8

'Dogs rally for OT victory

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

ELBERT — In a classic case of the only score that matters is the final, the Byers boys took extra time to escape with a 48-46 victory in the traditional annual battle of Bulldogs at Elbert Dec. 17.

Down 41-38 in the final minute of regulation, Byers' defense came up with a steal and, with 15 seconds left, head coach Jeremy Kerns started the process of dialing up the tying score.

"[Elbert] came out in zone after that time out and, with 5 seconds left, I called another one and I figured they would come out in man-to-man, so I stuck with the same play that I had originally worked up for the guys," Kerns said. "They did and we were able to get (junior) Quincy Eacret open for a three and he sunk it to get us into overtime."

The start of overtime was reminiscent of most of the game as Elbert ran out to an early 5-point advantage but Byers cut the lead late on a three-pointer from

sophomore James Maes with about 30 seconds left. And, again, Byers' defense stiffened and forced Elbert into another turnover.

"We got the ball underneath our bucket and set up a lob to (senior) Cameron Eastwood, who got the tip-in just before the buzzer," Kerns said. "That's the first time we led all night."

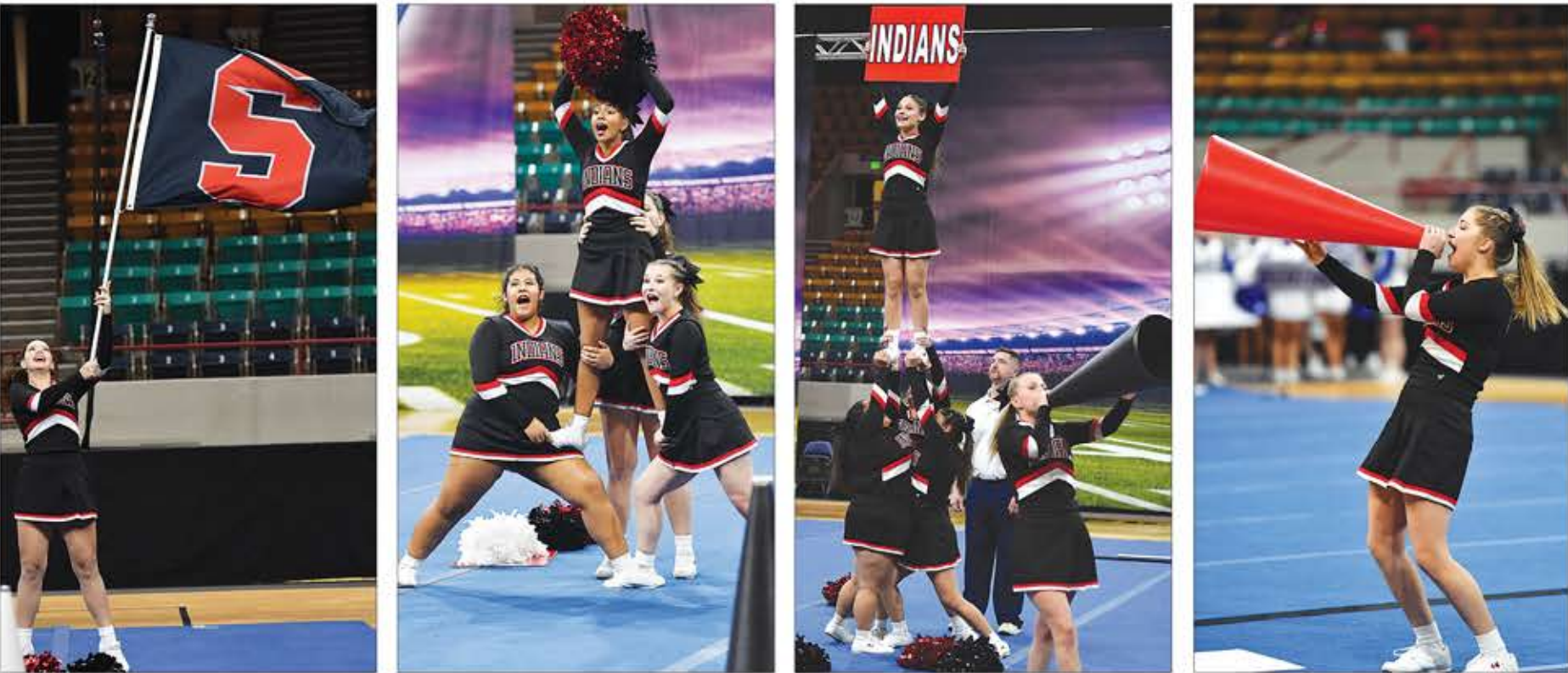
Elbert had a second or two put back on the clock but its Hail Mary wasn't answered.

"Pretty fortunate to get out of there with the win, but give credit to our kids for just hanging in there all night and never giving up," Kerns said.

After falling behind by 13 points early, Byers was down 20-9 after the first quarter but started its comeback effort with a 12-8 second quarter. Entering the fourth quarter, Kerns' troops were down 35-32 before Eacret's last-second heroics.

"I don't know what it is but they always play us tough and, this year, they are a really skilled team with three guards

SEE BB BYERS
PAGE 8



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

The Strasburg Indians cheer team brought the game-day experience to life during the first day of the Colorado State Spirit Championships Dec. 12 at the Denver Coliseum. From left photo, Liberty Rose waves her team flag; Elena Reyes, Jennifer Escobar, and Maddie Roberts perform a lift stunt; Jordan Garcia gets elevated by Lily Aldana Hernandez, Yamie Coronel Munoz and Jaddah Duhon, while Jordan Duhon exhorts fans with her megaphone; and Alyssa Schaffer yells into a megaphone. Strasburg finished 11th out of 34 teams in the 2A/3A Game Day Division.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

The Byers cheerleading team showed its school spirit during the preliminary round of the Colorado State Spirit Championships Dec. 12. The Bulldogs were part of the 34-team 2A/3A Game Day Division, but did not make it to Thursday night's championship round. From left photo, P.J. Dillingham holds up a sign with the Bulldog logo; Pamela Valle Luna provides a cue for fans; Princess Calma shouts to the crowd; and Callie Sharp gets lifted by teammates, including Adriane Dillingham, left, and Isabella Rains.

BB BYERS

FROM PAGE 7

that would probably start for most of the teams we play and they have a couple of decent post players that can finish,” said Kerns, who played his high school ball at Elbert. “Their issue is depth and our hope was to get them into foul trouble but that kind of went out the window with the referees not blowing the whistle much. I think the foul count was 5-2 at half-time and we had the five.”

Not only were Eacret and Eastwood the late-game heroes, they led the Bulldogs with 17 and 16 points for the game, respectively.

Kerns noted that Eastwood’s performance was particularly notable given the fact he was close to missing the game because of a doctor’s appointment earlier in the day to assess his broken nose, which he suffered the previous week.

“They wanted to re-break it and straighten it out that day but he said ‘No, I have a game tonight,’” Kerns said. “It turned out to be a good decision for us. He was pretty dynamic, especially at the end.”

Kerns also noted the efforts of senior Kaleb

Willoughby.

“Couldn’t ask for more tenacity and guts than we got from James on that shot in overtime and Kaleb was really strong for us, getting around his defender with the drive to the bucket several times,” Kerns said. “Overall, (we) just dug deep as a team.”

The victory moved Byers to 5-1. The Bulldogs concluded the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule with a 65-21 win at Kiowa Dec. 20.

For complete coverage, see the Dec. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

W FACZAK

FROM PAGE 7

tournament title at 105 pounds.

“Emma had an exciting weekend,” said Brittaney Hudson, Bennett’s girls wrestling coach. “She was a fast-attacking competitor. She did an amazing job setting up her offense and constantly pursuing

points.”

Hudson also noted that Faczak’s foes included Gunnison senior Isabella Crown, third-ranked in Class 4A wrestling.

“This has also been a really fun season so far,” said Hudson of both the girls and boys wrestlers.

“The team is bonding well, working hard, and excited to tackle tough moments. I’m excited to see what the future holds.”

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Moffat County 191
2. Alamosa 101
3. Olathe 93

4. Eagle Valley 82
5. Durango 78.5
6. Montezuma-Cortez 74
- 7-8. Gunnison, Ignacio 73
- 9-10. Meeker, North Fork 62
11. Bayfield 55
12. Monte Vista 54
13. Rifle 49
14. Holy Family 46.5
15. Soroco 42

16. West Grand 40
17. James Irwin 31.5
18. Basalt 29
19. Bennett 28
20. Coal Ridge 22

COMING UP

Jan. 3: Bennett Open Duals.

Jan. 4: Mark Purslow Memorial Tournament, Bennett.

GB DEER TRAIL

FROM PAGE 7

defense a little bit and then we start knocking shots down,” said Deer Trail head coach Phil Donovan. “With the defense stepping up, we forced some turnovers. We’re able to capitalize on the turnovers.”

The Eagles were paced by senior Allena Sanchez-Neal, who had a monster line of 21 points, 15 rebounds (nine offensive), and 11 steals.

Junior Megan Donovan was

close behind with 12 points, five rebounds, four assists, 12 steals and five blocked shots.

Junior Jeanette Rodriguez added 5 points, 10 rebounds (eight offensive); sophomore Vailini Sa-

mate, 6 points, four rebounds, four assists, and two steals; and sophomore Kylie Bryant, 4 points, five rebounds, and four steals.

Deer Trail’s season resumes at Wiley on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Tiger wrestlers pin their way to top Montrose finishes

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

MONTROSE — The Bennett wrestling teams brought home four place-winners from the Western Slope Showdown hosted by Montrose and Delta high schools Dec. 13-14.

In addition to freshman Emma Faczak's championship in the girls tournament (see page 7), juniors Daniel Jordan (106 pounds) and Ethan Jordan (175) took third place while their classmate Caycen Scholz (132) was fourth.

Daniel Jordan went 4-1 for the day, Ethan Jordan 6-1 and Scholz 4-2.

"We had all three of my state qualifiers from last year come into this tournament wrestling a 32-man bracket with a couple of different states involved," said Bennett head coach John Faczak. "And they all got themselves into placing rounds, into the third- and fourth-place matches. I think we might have left a little on the table with the losses that we had."

"We could have been, I think, finalists with all three of those, not just taking third."

The Bennett boys were 12th out of 39 teams at the event.

"It wasn't as good a finish as I think we could have done," Faczak said, "but I don't think there were any surprises for me either. We placed about half our team. Not bad for a 32-man bracketed tournament."

Tigers who won matches but did not place included junior Tommy Cearn, 3-2 at 157 pounds, and freshman Mormon Jordan, 2-2 at 150.

"I think we're a team that continues to get better. Last year we had a ton of woes. And we talked a lot about this group needing to mature and to become better as competitors," Faczak said. "And we were worried about getting them to the state tournament last year. They needed to find wins at the tournament. And, you know, they did everything that we needed to get done last year to put ourselves in a place where we are right now."

"We are really competitive in a couple of weights with, I think, all three of those guys having been ranked at some point in time of the year already. And I think that they're not just big competitors. I think that they are some of the top competitors in the state. And that's why we're going to tournaments like Delta."

Faczak added that the long drive to the Western Slope for the opportunity to compete against better competition was worth it.

"I think we walked in knowing we were going to get those guys on the podium. And that we were going to get into some dogfights," he said. "And we wanted to win some of those. And we did. And we lost a couple that I think we probably shouldn't have."

Faczak noted that Scholz lost 5-4 to eventual champion Alex Good of Eagle Valley in the last seven seconds because he hung on to win instead of going to overtime.

"We were winning the match 4-3. The kid hit a Granby roll that we rolled with him through, and then the kid sat up on us, and we

got caught in this weird monkey position, and the ref called a reversal pretty quick," Faczak continued. "You can give up 1 and go to overtime, and you've won [a] takedown already."

"We don't want to hang on for wins. We want to be able to win outright. And so he tried hanging on, and it cost him that match. And that hurt him real bad."

"I think that Caycen could have been in the finals, but he dropped that round."

Faczak also noted Ethan Jordan's loss was to a grappler from Buena Vista who he had defeated earlier this season, and that Daniel Jordan particularly wrestled well.

"I absolutely believe we were deserving of our finishes. And we competed well," Faczak said. "But gosh dang, you can make your life a lot easier if you just win a few more on the top side."

- TEAM STANDINGS**
1. Cedaredge 181
 2. North Fork 155
 3. Alamosa 154.5
 4. Palisade 149
 5. Mountain View 143
 6. Aztec 133.5
 7. Gunnison 105
 8. Holy Family 90.5
 9. Meeker 88
 10. Hayden 87.5
 11. Delta 86
 12. Bennett 84.5
 13. Grand Valley 83.5
 14. Monte Vista 76
 15. Valley 74
 16. Buena Vista 72.5
 17. Durango 67
 18. Mancos 62.5
 19. Eagle Valley 60
 20. Montrose 56
 21. Rifle 53.5

22. Dolores Huerta 48
 23. Ignacio 46.5
 24. Grand Junction 41
 25. Olathe 40
 - 26-27. Steamboat Springs, Bayfield 37
 28. Dove Creek 36.5
 29. Florence High School 30.5
 30. Moffat County 30
 31. Montezuma-Cortez 27.5
 - 32-33. Fruita Monument, Glenwood Springs 14.5
 34. Soroco 13.5
 - 35-36. James Irwin, Rangely 12
 37. Basalt 9.5
 38. Coal Ridge 9
 39. Nucla 4
- COMING UP**
- Jan. 3:** Bennett Open Duals.
- Jan. 4:** Mark Purslow Memorial Tournament, Bennett.
- Jan. 11:** @ Frederick Invitational.
- Jan. 17-18:** @ Mel Smith Invitational, Florence.

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PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

From left photo, Bennett's Austin Stiers puts up a floater over the Strasburg defense Dec. 17, and teammate Brody Hawes has his shot rejected by Indian Cam Manahan.

BB 'BURG @ BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

a close game early turned into a runaway victory for the visiting red-and-black. With the hosts up 9-8 midway through the first eight minutes, Strasburg senior standout Tyce Bollers hit a pair of three-pointers to give the Indians the lead for good. After ending the first quarter up 20-13, Strasburg extended its advantage to 37-19 at halftime. The visitors had matching 14-point quarters after intermission while Bennett could only muster 10 and 6, respectively.

"We know Bennett is a lot better, everybody's been talking about how much better they are, and, quite honestly, we were a little bit tired of hearing how much better they are," said coach Bollers about his undefeated squad. "Kind of like a lot of people forgot we're still a really good team, but the boys showed it."

"We just embraced that atmosphere as a group, stayed composed, never got frustrated, and just really played well together," added the younger Bollers, who's the head coach's son. "Really trusted each other and it paid off."

"It was a fun atmosphere, but they're really good and we got exposed a little bit and found out where we need to improve," said first-year Bennett head coach Wesley Burke. "I think our guys might have been a little bit over-amped, almost kind of psyched themselves out, but still a good measuring stick to see where we are at and what we need to work on."

The biggest disparity between the two squads occurred behind the three-point arc where Strasburg shot 50%, 12-of-24, while the hosts went only 2-of-18.

"Pretty much the story right there," Burke said of his squad's shooting woes. "[Strasburg is] a hard group to guard and we struggled to keep up with them."

"We locked them down, gave them no space. We knew they were a real physical team but we didn't back down," Kyle Bollers said. "They didn't shoot well but a lot of that was our lock-down defense and our great work on the boards."

Tyce Bollers was one of three Indians to reach double-digit points with 18. Junior Nick Glatfelter concluded the night with a 16-point, 11-rebound double-double and sophomore Brody Hopwood added 11 points and nine boards. Other Strasburg stats of note included sophomore guard Colton Holloway with 5 points and four assists; junior forward Cam Manahan six rebounds, five assists

and three steals; and senior Kam Gilbert with 6 points.

According to Glatfelter, his role with the Indians had to grow after losing a double-double performer from last year's regional final qualifying squad.

"Trying to take that step up, especially with rebounding," he said. "The scoring will come if we continue to work hard and keep sharing the ball as a team."

"Really good effort across the board," Kyle Bollers added.

Bennett concluded the night 11-of-46 from the field and were 11-of-14 from the free-throw line.

Tiger points leader senior Owen Stiers, who entered the contest averaging almost 24 points per game, still paced the Tigers but was held to 13 and classmate and second-leading scorer Jayden Ivory was held to 1. Senior Ethan Francis and junior Austin Stiers added 6 and 5 points, respectively.

Ivory recorded half of Bennett's 16 rebounds with eight. Senior Brody Hawes had a team-high in steals with four.

Burke said that, despite the lopsided loss, his 6-2 squad is much improved, noting that Bennett won its own Tiger Tip-Off for the first time since the 2015-16 season and its only other loss was 4 points to Lamar, ranked No. 6 for both MaxPreps and the 4A RPI standings.

"MaxPreps has us fifth in 4A and that's after they ended last season No. 27 in 3A," he said. "As a new coach, I don't know what more you can ask for. It's their best start in a long time and when you figure all eight games were in 11 or 12 days and we got out of it relatively healthy, minus Austin's (Stiers') ankle. 'We're in pretty good shape. Still a lot to work on, but heading in right direction.'"

Similar to the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule, the Tigers have a busy start after the holiday break, playing three games in four days and five in nine days. The 2025 calendar starts with a game against undefeated Frontier League rival The Pinnacle Jan. 7.

"Right now it's 10 days to recover, getting minds off of basketball and the boys coming back ready to hit it hard after break," Burke said, noting that his squad continues to develop chemistry with off-the-court activities. "We're just trying to grow together. In the end, it's more than just winning and losing, it's about building relationships. The ball is going to stop bouncing one day and you have to have those bonds to fall back on."

GB 'BURG @ BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames. "They played us really competitively, but we are starting to show some great strides after really struggling to start the season."

"Merci is a tremendous coach," said Bennett head coach Mike Rios of his colleague on the other bench. "She had them ready. They came to compete and we couldn't match their energy or physicality."

In particular, Bennett struggled with the Indian forward duo of senior Natalie Damron and junior Taryn LaForce, who had 22 and 12 points, respectively. In addition to her seven field goals, Damron went 8-of-11 from the free-throw line.

"We got outplayed in the paint, gave up 34 offensive rebounds," Rios lamented.

Junior Hannah Damron chipped in 9 points for the victors, while senior Peighton Marrero added 4 and sophomores Addi Kent and Wynne Winter had 3 and 2, respectively.

"We're getting better, starting to understand each other more as a team and where our strengths are against different teams," Ames said. "Playing with a little more confidence, but still have to be more consistent for four quarters."

For Bennett, senior Jessica Venneberg again led the scoring attack with 9, but she was well short of her 18-point average entering the contest. Classmates Elizabeth Westendorf and Olivia Schroeder both added 6 points, while seniors Raquel Thorpe and Brailyn Neade had 3 each and junior Mya Robledo 2. As a team, Bennett shot 32% from the field, including 5-of-21 from behind the arc, and went 2-of-10 from the free-throw line.

"Even if we're struggling, the one thing that we can normally rely on is defensive effort and we had that against Bennett," Ames said. "I thought we did a pretty good job against them, especially holding [Venneberg] down; she didn't get loose on us much."

"We had great shot selection against their zone, but we just couldn't hit anything but, still, hats off to them," Rios said. "Plus, they forced us into 31 turnovers — way too many."

The loss dropped Bennett to 2-5 entering the Christmas break.

STRASBURG START

The win over Bennett was Strasburg's second straight, evening its

record at 2-2.

After falling 46-19 to 2A defending state champion and No. 1-ranked Merino in their season-opener Dec. 6, the Lady Indians split a pair at the Simla Tournament — a 48-38 loss to Denver Christian Dec. 13 and a 61-21 domination over Crowley County for third place the following day.

"Compared to that first night, we've improved immensely, especially with our young guards," exclaimed Ames with one hand below her waist and the other one around chin level. "Starting to see some glimpses of really great play, but they are only glimpses, so now it's a matter of being a lot more consistent."

Against Crowley County, Natalie Damron again dominated inside, going 9-of-15 from the field and 5-of-6 at the free-throw line for 23 points. Hannah Damron and Marrero both added 10 points, while Kent and Winter had 8 and 6, respectively. Marrero dished out eight of the Indians' 15 assists and shared the team-high in steals with Kent with five apiece.

In the loss to Denver Christian, the older Damron again led the red-and-black attack but was held to 12 points, while Marrero added 9, Hannah Damron 8, and Kent 6. As a team, Strasburg shot 30% from the field, including 0-for-6 from the three-point line, and were 8-of-13 at the charity stripe. While the opposing Thunder shot only 27 field goals, it went 7-of-13 from long distance.

On opening night, Merino took little mercy on Ames' troops early, scoring the first 17 points and having a 19-3 first-quarter advantage. The host Rams continued their domination, especially on the defensive end, going into halftime up 33-5.

"We really have come along way from 42 turnovers that night," Ames said.

The Indians concluded pre-Christmas play with a victory over Sterling Dec. 19. For full coverage of the Strasburg victory, see the Dec. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP — BENNETT

Jan. 7: Pinnacle

Jan. 9: @ Alameda

COMING UP — STRASBURG

Jan. 7: @ St. Mary's Academy.

Jan. 9: Woodland Park.



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

From left photo, Bennett's Jessica Venneberg evades the elbow of Lady Indian Taryn LaForce on her way to the bucket Dec. 17, and Strasburg's Kent Addi puts up a contested layup over the outstretched arm of Lady Tiger Mattie Robledo.

'Burg, Byers wrestlers compete at Limon

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

LIMON — Teams from Strasburg and Byers struggled at the annual Limon Badger Invitational Wrestling Tournament Dec. 13-14.

Both teams came home with just one place-winner with the Indians placing 18th with 63 points and the Bulldogs 22nd with 29 points out of 30 teams.

Junior Ben Nuttall (4-2 for the tourney) took fourth place at 113 pounds for Strasburg while freshman Wes Butterfield (4-3) was sixth at 157 pounds for Byers.

Strasburg head coach Matt Croft was pleased with the improvement in his athletes.

"Most of the kids, compared to a week ago, wrestled much better," said Strasburg head coach Matt Croft. "We were losing matches by 1 point, 2 points quite often, compared to absolutely getting smoked the first week.

"So we made some adjustments last week, and I think they paid off. Now we just need to make those small tweaks."

Croft noted his team went a collective 10-19 the previous week at Akron but finished 18-18 this week.

"I will take that. I will go from a 33% win to a 50% win any day," he said.

Several Indians won matches but did not place. Sophomore Reagan Rosier went 4-2 at 138 pounds without placing.

"He's a young kid, he's super strong, and he's got pretty good technique," Croft said. "So maybe not this year, but I see some big things in the future for that kid."

Five others went 2-2: Freshman Uvaldo Lopez (106); sophomore Gavin Fischer (132); junior Kingston Rodriguez (165); sophomore Cadence Pearson (190); and junior Juan Fernandez (285).

"I think our next steps are winning the close matches, right?" Croft said. "It's time now that we

have the technique and we've got the right mentality, now it's just getting a little tougher and just winning those tight matches."

Bulldogs who won matches but did not place were sophomore Hunter West, 2-2 at 190, and senior Porter Snyder 1-2 at 126.

Byers head coach Brien Wood was satisfied with his team, particularly Butterfield.

"He keeps on improving," Wood said. "So I think he's coming along pretty good."

Other Bulldogs also showed improvement. Wood said many of them have the skill but aren't mentally prepared "so I have their head all the way in it."

Only one match featured wrestlers from both Byers and Strasburg, with Butterfield pinning Indian Nathan Priddy in 50 seconds.

The Bulldogs closed out their pre-holiday schedule at the Wray Invitational Dec. 21, while the Indians attended the Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament in Greeley Dec. 20-21. For coverage, see the Dec. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

TEAM STANDINGS

1. University 234.5
2. Burlington 208.5
3. West Grand 138
4. Yuma 131.5
5. Swink 124
6. Wiggins 121
7. Center 111.5
8. Merino 105
9. Dayspring Christian 103.5
10. Falcon 97
11. Trinidad 95.5
12. Holly 93.5
13. Colorado Springs Christian 91.5
14. Limon 90
15. Peyton 86
16. Akron 73.5
17. Custer County 71
18. Strasburg 63
19. County Line 55
20. Lyons 43
21. Calhan 33.5
22. Byers 29
23. Ellicott 28
24. Simla 27
25. Sargent 24.5
- 26-27. Baca County, Holyoke 24
28. Stratton 23
29. Rye 20.5

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The Bennett Schools secondary winter choral concert was held Dec. 18 with the middle school and of the Tiger Tones in a rendition of "DJ Play A Christmas Song." Clockwise from left photo, Isaiah Jimi solo; the middle school front row included, Kairi Fatuch, left, Harley Rummel, Jadynn Haring, Zyra Pa and Justin Wilson provide percussion accompaniment during the high school's performance of "Africa"



Bennett School District's secondary instrumental winter concert was held Dec. 11, and included the M under the direction of band teacher Valerie White. Clockwise from left photo, beginning band trombo are part of the symphonic band; symphonic band saxophonist Colton Taylor plays "Jingle Live;" and H

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and
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Permit for Utility Substation; 3. Condi
Storage System. The site is located w

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Parcel Numbers: 0173700000060, 0173

Legal Description:
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The East ½ of Section 8, Township 2 S
PARCEL 2: APN # 0173700000062 / R0
The East ½ of Section 17, Township 2
PARCEL 3: APN # 0173700000064 / R0
The East ½ of Section 20, Township 2

Adams County Case Manager: Brayan
Applicant: Vega Solar Energy Facility,
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Publication The J-70 Sheet on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

high school choirs both performing. For the finale, both groups were joined by fifth-grade members. Gomez leads off the Bennett High School Tenor/Bass Choir's performance of "A La Nanita Nana" with a dilla, Alondra Herrera Cabrera, and Marisol Cardenas Chavez; Angelia Castellija, left, Raelynn Moore, and Ian Noel; and the Bennett High School Treble Choir performs "Once Upon A December."



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Marching Tigers, sixth-grade beginning band, the symphonic band and wind symphony. All groups are performing. Musician Gavin Ewer participates in a trio playing "Dreidel;" Jon Negri, left Cecily Castillo, Jeppsymar Leon and Kimberly Granillo, left, Ever Flores, Angelia Castilleja and Castillo play "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

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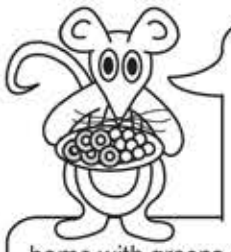
...homes for the holidays this year!

Kids: color stuff in!

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

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I have *such* a busy schedule for the holidays. This week I made little doughnuts and honey-covered puffs to take to my classmate's Hanukkah celebration. Next week, one of our teachers is going to tell us about the holiday season of Kwanzaa and some of his traditions. Then, I'm going to help Forest and Glade decorate their home with greens for Christmas. Chatter will bake cookies, breads and a Bûche de Noël – a delicious Christmas log cake – and I'll help! What are **you** and your family doing to celebrate the holidays?

Holiday Fun & Feasts

I've been very good this year.

Dear Santa, I've been good all year long!

Kwanzaa 12

Christmas 9

latkes

Nativity

Posadas

menorah

tamales

candles

decorate 8

Hanukkah 4

feast

I'm so tired!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword with holiday fun:

- Festival of Lights, an 8-day Jewish holiday, honoring the Maccabees' victory over their enemies and the miracle of a small amount of oil that kept burning for 8 days in their temple.
- Jewish families use this to arrange candles.
- Families find their recipes for sugared jelly doughnuts, honey-covered puffs and these delicious potato pancakes.
- Las _____ is a celebration in Mexico for 9 days before Christmas. People act out the journey of Joseph and Mary trying to find shelter.
- Families make these special treats from a corn dough and a spicy pork or beef filling, all wrapped in corn husks for cooking.
- Families set up these scenes in their homes: a stable for shelter, the figure of the Christ child in the center with Joseph and Mary looking on, three kings (the Magi), angels, shepherds and townspeople, and some animals.
- Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- On Christmas Eve, delivers gifts to good children; fills their stockings too!
- Families _____ their houses, mantels and halls with lights, greens and a tree.
- A 7-day festival celebrated by African-Americans; a time to think about their lives and families; how they can help to create strong communities.
- People decorate, set a nice table for a dinner, light _____ and give gifts.
- Peanut soup, sweet potatoes, rice or chicken dishes are made for a _____.

Favorite Family Films and Fun!

It's that time of year when there are many choices for family holiday fun and entertainment: movies, plays, television shows, cartoons, books, poetry, stories, and music. Here is a list of some family favorites. Match each title to its description:



1. **Lights: The Miracle of Chanukah**

2. **Just Enough is Plenty**

3. **The Legend of the Poinsettia**

4. **Miracle on 34th Street**

5. **The Nutcracker Ballet**

6. **A Charlie Brown Christmas**

7. **A Christmas Story**

8. **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**

9. **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**

10. **It's Kwanzaa Time!**

A. folktale by Tomie dePaola about a girl in Mexico whose gift to Baby Jesus turns into beautiful poinsettias

B. dance and musical performance based on storybook; music was written by a famous composer-Tchaikovsky; first shown in Russia

C. money is tight for the family in this Hanukkah tale; but when a stranger visits they share what little they have

D. movie that makes everyone want to write to Santa Claus

E. cartoon that shows the story of Hanukkah (Chanukah) and the family traditions of this holiday

F. story, song, TV show about reindeer whose bright red nose helps Santa find his way through bad weather to deliver gifts

G. TV special based on the comic strip *Peanuts*; Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and other characters talk about the meaning of Christmas


H. poem by Clement Clarke Moore describing Santa Claus' trip to deliver gifts; "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

I. movie about 9-year-old Ralphie who can only think about the Red Ryder air rifle he wants for Christmas

J. book by Linda and Clay Goss full of stories, songs, recipes, games and crafts for celebrating Kwanzaa

A Musical Note!

Holiday Pops! This is a concert of beautiful pieces of music like *The Nutcracker Suite* played during the holidays. Fun and sparkly musical pieces like *Oh, Chanukah, Oh, Chanukah!* or *Jingle Bells* will be enjoyed by the audience.



Color Key:
B = blue
G = gold (or yellow)

If you can hear the musical, magical sounds of the holidays in person, you may be at the...

Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2024

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 28, 2004
The Bennett Poms won the State Championship Spirit Competition Dec.11.

The competition consisted of eight of the top teams in the state competing for the same title. Terrie Caps, the Bennett Poms coach was fighting the tears as she explained how proud she was of the progress her team made this year. "They are a totally awesome group," Capps said. "They love to perform and they put in 110 percent — it shows."
The girls help cheer their school all year long by performing at many sporting events. "Their number-one goal is to build school spirit it's what they are there for," Capps said.

15 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 29, 2009
Between 8 and 12 inches of snow blanketed the I-70 Corridor between two storms sandwiched around Christmas Day.
A two-day blizzard that dropped the 6-10 inches Dec. 22-23 brought locals and those gassing through a mixed bag of Christmas cheer and holiday halt-humbug.
"Road conditions were just awful [Tuesday and Wednesday] and those traveling for the

holidays had some issues, especially with people getting stranded after their vehicles slid off the highways," said Colorado Department of Transportation spokesman Bob Wilson.

10 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 30, 2014
CENTENNIAL — An Arapahoe County District Courthouse judge has dismissed a lawsuit against the county filed by Riot Fest organizers.
The suit was filed after the Arapahoe County zoning administrator denied a temporary use permit for the three-day music festival planned at May Farms Sept. 19-21 — an action upheld by the Arapahoe County Board of Adjustment. Riot Fest Corp. maintained that both parties acted outside applicable law in denying the TUP and, therefore, the denial should have been invalidated.
The TUP application was made on May 8, 2014, by Riot Fest and May Farms owners Gary and Stacie May.
Following a public hearing on July 1, zoning administrator Tammy King denied the TUP. The appeal to the Board of Adjustment followed; a hearing was held Aug 6, and the denial was upheld. Riot Fest Corp. filed the suit Sept. 3.

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

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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 Thursday, Dec. 26, the 361st day of 2024. There are five days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Dec. 26, 2004, a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean triggered a tsunami with waves up to 100 feet (30 meters) high, killing an estimated 230,000 people.

ON THIS DATE
In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first Black boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1941, during World War II, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1966, Kwanzaa was first celebrated.

In 1990, Nancy Cruzan, a young woman in an irreversible vegetative state whose case led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the right to die, died at a Missouri hospital.

In 1991, the USSR was formally dissolved through a declaration by the Supreme Soviet.

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 93.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
"America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is 70. Humorist David Sedaris is 68. Rock musician Lars Ulrich (Metallica) is 61. Actor-musician Jared Leto is 53.
— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SCIENCE FICTION

ACROSS

1. Le Corbusier's art

5. "The Matrix" protagonist

8. Captures

12. Funkiness in the air

13. Vegetative state

14. Capital of Vietnam

15. Fairy tale villain

16. Beware of these in March

17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"

18. "Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"

20. The Beehive State

21. Burn with coffee, e.g.

22. Tire meas.

23. Sea nymph

26. Salad dressing option

30. "Pierre Boulle's Cornelius

31. Hoity-toity

34. Back arrow key

35. Covered with sphagnum

37. Tiny Tim's guitar

38. Allegro __, in music

39. Sign of escape

40. Apprehension

42. Emergency responder, acr.

43. Neuron junction

45. Sleeping sickness vector

47. "Katniss Everdeen's sister

48. Hammerin' Hank

50. Tennis "innings"

52. "2010 film starring DiCaprio

56. Meat of coconut

57. Desperate

58. Karl of politics

59. "1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver

60. Fail to mention

61. Bo Peep's females

62. "'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author

63. Was ahead

64. "Spock's are pointy

DOWN

1. Point of entry

2. Side of a ruler, e.g.

3. S or C follower, in business

4. Two-word threat

5. Relating to node

6. Make corrections

7. Kiln for hops

8. "Captain Nemo's submarine

9. Tolstoy's Karenina

10. This and that

11. Bro's sibling

13. Droning insect

14. Niger and Nigeria language

19. In an unfriendly manner

22. Parent org.

23. "He named __"

24. Strong adhesive

25. Pine juice

26. Original thought

27. Garment enlarger

28. "'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author

29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful __"

32. "Frank Herbert's famous novel

33. "I Like __" 1950s campaign slogan

36. "'Where no man has gone before" TV series

38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author

40. "It's no __"

41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.

44. South Korean port

46. Main dish

48. Japanese cartoon art

49. Like thick smoke

50. Solo, pl.

51. Long narrative poem

52. Worshipped one

53. Minnesota's southern neighbor

54. Last word on radio

55. Famed loch

56. Rogue or rascal

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HOROSCOPE

Mercury and Jupiter in the Ring on Boxing Day
The cosmic match is between Mercury, the minister of communication, and Jupiter, the big daddy of luck. The contestants face off, Mercury in the Sagittarian part of the ring and Jupiter in social Gemini. The omen distills to this: When people don't say what they mean, it's usually not out of malice or ill-intent. White lies buffer feelings and keep skimming along the surface.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A project you've put time and thought into is becoming something that only you can finish. Collaboration is ill-advised. Your personal power will surge as you take charge and sprint to the finish.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're giving the world is precious. Consider it a treasure. Treasures are hidden away for safekeeping or publicly shown under protective measures. How can you simultaneously give and preserve the brilliant value you offer the world?
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Any fool can pretend to know the answer when they don't. It takes a smart fool to pretend not to know the answer when they do. Tricking the mind to perceive beyond preconceptions will open life to a fuller range of options.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though it's fun to be good at something out of the gate — and being the sign of beginner's luck, this often happens for you — the gentle steady gains of the day will have more to teach you than any easy win could.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you see people get the things you are also wishing for, it makes you so happy. It gives you the feeling good fortune will soon visit you, too, and you're right about this. Open your hands and heart; it's coming.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your group is made up of individuals going at the pace that suits them. Your patience and support will be needed, and in large supply. Follow the "no one left behind" rule and eventually you'll all get to the same destination.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your eager-

ness endears you to leaders. Being up for anything, game to make the most of what's there and happy to hear any nugget that might contribute to your process is the attitude that will lead you to opportunities in a fresh new environment.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The thrill of competition will pale in comparison to the joy of cheering others on. So while winning will be fun, watching someone else win might be even more fun. However this goes, you really can't lose.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To truly know someone, see them in a variety of contexts. Each environment reveals a slightly different facet of who they are. The changes may be subtle, but you notice such things, and all will offer insights to deepen your understanding.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Each time you try, it counts for something, it changes your odds, it creates new probabilities. You'll be inspired to try often today, and those odds keep stacking up in your favor. Your luck will turn, but more importantly, your skills will sharpen.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "I'll think about it" is usually what you say as a nicety to buffer the social situation. Deliberation will be unnecessary today. You'll know immediately what you want, what you're interested in and what you'll pass on.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Unlike auto insurance, life doesn't give you a discount for being a safe driver. In fact, it may penalize you, as fortune quite often favors the bold. To risk with your heart is to risk more than money, but life rewards it.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 26). A year for doubling down on your talents. Watch them grow exponentially and in fast-motion. What you do to execute your responsibilities with style brings unexpected adventure, opportunity and bounty. More highlights: New modes of transportation, old friends make new relationships, and you'll discover resources that lift the group to the level of thriving. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 17, 21, 34 and 13.
— Horoscopes by Holiday

BYERS WSD

FROM PAGE 1

pandable, eliminate disease-causing bacteria, and have minimal odor emissions. Discharged water can be reused for landscaping, irrigation, and other non-potable uses — an essential for water conservation.

“Lot of benefits,” Roth said. “The state says we have to do it, so we’re already working on a request for proposals (RFP). That will be out there, I think, by the end of January.”

Roth added that design work could begin in the first quarter of 2025.

“So trying to get a good start on it — getting a lot of that preliminary stuff done, should make the state happy with us,” he said.

Grant opportunities should start popping up at the end of January.

“With the state coming down with all the new regulations, a lot of small towns are going to be scrambling,” Roth said. “Hopefully there will be money available because of the hardships they’re going to put on just about every small community.”

Inevitable rate increases, which haven’t occurred for a decade, will be determined by the state.

“The more money we get in grants and so forth, the less we have to come up with. ... But when you’re going to get the money and loan repayments, [the state] will do studies to determine what our rates have to be,” Roth said. “Some of this is out of our hands, but the rate increases will have to come to some degree.”

Roth added that the district’s aging infrastructure will also add maintenance costs in the coming months.

INCLUSION REQUEST

Concerning the inclusion request — the topic of the public hearing, Roth said that, to date, the only action the board has taken is to approve a letter confirming it will consider it. He emphasized that any expense the district incurs while considering the request will be paid by the developers.

“The board will need to review detailed plans for the park and a water sewer study prior to financial negotiations with the developers, and an approval and public comment will be considered throughout the process,” he said.

Roth added that, if the inclusion is approved, the developers must bring as much water into the district as they will require from the district. District wells tap into the Laramie Fox Hills aquifer and the developers will add water from the Arapahoe aquifer.

Jep Seman, the developers’ attorney, said that a water study will be completed as the project proceeds.

“But right now, based on our analysis of similarly sized resorts or parks, we think it’s probably about a 50-acre foot project, and it’s a seasonal use — April to October,” he said.

Roth emphasized that the RV park will be built whether or not the Byers Water & Sanitation District approves inclusion. The developers would move on with their plans and form their own Metro district — a costly option for the developers and a loss of potential income for the district.

“Something to keep in mind is that, if they’re brought into the district, they’d give their water rights for the proposed area to the district and pay their share of the new

district mechanical sewer plant and infrastructure, the cost of the lines, taps, valves and so on,” he said.

Director Annette Tarrantino said that the board is considering its options and wants to hear what the community has to say.

“If inclusion can be beneficial, we would definitely consider it,” she said. “We want to get everybody’s opinion on the issue. Does this district want to stay small and incur all the expense for the new sewer treatment plant because it will be on the 520 customers? Or do we want to possibly consider taking on some financial support with a little bit of growth? Those are the options that we have to weigh.”

When asked what effect the potential inclusion would have on the customer base if it goes through, Roth said the number of “customers” is based on Equivalent Residential Units (EQR), a standard measurement used by Colorado water districts for billing purposes. One EQR is water usage based on the average consumption of a single-family home. Businesses and larger residential properties are as-

signed an EQR value based on their anticipated water usage compared to a standard home.

“We haven’t seen a plan, but if the development is assigned 100 EQRs — the equivalent of 100 households, that would put our customer base up to 620, for example, and the cost of the sewer treatment plant would be shared by more customers,” Roth said.

Board members encouraged residents to attend their monthly board meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Water & Sanitation office, 421 S. Sherman St. The next meeting is Jan. 13.

The public hearing will reconvene at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15, with the location to be announced. The developers were asked to bring more information at that time, and Seman said they will provide what they can.

“Again, I think with the understanding and emphasis on the fact that it’s estimates and preliminary and much TBD (to be determined) if you will, yes, I think we can fill in a lot of the information that we’ve heard tonight from the audience,” he said.

DT POLICING

FROM PAGE 1

nances,” the sheriff’s office staff report said.

The sheriff’s office has provided police services to Deer Trail since 1977. This year’s contract amount was created using a law enforcement mill levy figure of approximately .005 mills on the town’s collective assessed property value.

During the Nov. 13 Deer Trail

Board of Trustees meeting, town officials indicated its the first time they can remember a year-to-year reduction, and they also noted that the level of law enforcement presence was visibly improved this year, compared to the 174 calls that resulted in reports between January 2022 and November 2023.

When the 2024 law enforcement

contract was agreed to, it was done under the caveat that the sheriff’s office deputies step up patrols throughout the year, particularly for speeding. All accounts from town officials are that law enforcement has been more visible and that communications and relationships between the two entities has significantly improved.

Despite the reduced contract amount, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies are more available to residents of Deer Trail and the surrounding area since they became the contracted law enforcement officers for the entire town of Bennett during the spring of this year. Last month Arapahoe County renewed its contract with the town of Bennett. It’s the first full-year Arapahoe County will provide law enforcement to the entire municipality.

The Deer Trail School District also has two officers that split up full-time school resource officer duties and are available to the town in the case of emergencies.

OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS

Also on the commissioners’ consent agenda were updated rules and regulations for county-owned and managed open spaces, including those located in eastern unincorporated areas.

County officials noted that park and trail regulations haven’t been reviewed or modified in about three decades.

“The previous rules and regulations were adopted in 1996 and predate the formation of the Open Spaces Department,” a county statement said. “There had been no updates to the adopted rules and regulations over the past 28

years despite the program’s significant growth — from 60 acres over two properties owned in 1996 to 5,466 acres across 28 properties in 2024 — and expanding operational and public safety needs.”

As of Jan. 1, additional visitor restrictions will include prohibitions on the release of animals; smoking; glass bottles; dumping of outside waste; use of flotation devices or flying objects unless otherwise posted; and non-permitted commercial activities. Dogs must be leashed and, while electric bikes and scooters will be allowed, a 15-mph speed limit must be adhered to on trails and paths.

Individuals can be fined up to \$100 per violation, which is set by state statute and cannot be modified by the county.

“Like many public places, Arapahoe County’s parks, trails and open spaces are not immune to damage caused by vandalism, dumping and other activities that degrade the places we love,” the county statement said. “After reviewing several well-developed Front Range local government rules and regulations, staff concluded that the current rules and regulations needed to be updated 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.”

Among the properties impacted by the new rules is Richmil Ranch near Deer Trail. Arapahoe County also has expansive acreages along Kiowa Creek south of Bennett and also in the Bijou Basin southwest of Byers, but those spaces remain in the planning process and are not yet open to the public.

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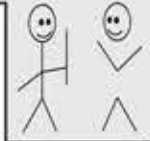
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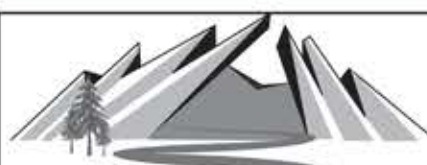
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Man who threatened
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DENVER — A Florida man who threatened violence against Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold pleaded guilty to four charges of interstate transmission of threatening communication, the U.S. Department of Justice announced late last month.

Richard Glen Kantwill of Tampa, a dentist, faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison for each count.

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

The threat was sent Feb. 9, the day the U.S. Supreme Court heard Donald J. Trump v. Norma Anderson, et. al., which concerned whether the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution disqualified Donald Trump from appearing on Colorado's Presidential Primary ballot because of his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Griswold was a defendant in the initial case.

Griswold has received more than 1,000 threats of violence since the case was filed in September 2023.

She received 64 death threats and more than 900 threats of abuse within three weeks of the filing.

On March 4, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states do not have the authority to remove federal candidates from a state ballot. Votes cast for Trump in the March 5 Presidential Primary counted.

Three other individuals have been convicted of threatening Griswold with violence.



Griswold

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DEC. 30
Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 2
Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

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

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Our community loves the fireworks show and we couldn't have done it without you! **Thank you to all for your generosity and support.**

Happy Holidays!

Thank You Friends!

On behalf of the Swim Family, we want to express our deepest gratitude to this wonderful community for the love and support you've shown us during this incredibly difficult time. Jeff's passing was a shock and has been devastating for our family. We miss him deeply every day.

Jeff will always be remembered for his infectious laugh, boundless energy, and kind heart. His love language was undoubtedly acts of service — he was always there for others, unconditionally and without hesitation. Jeff lived his life to the fullest: he worked hard, played hard, and loved hard.

As parents, the loss of a child is the most unimaginable pain. No matter the age of the child or the parent, it is a heartache that is impossible to put into words. Our parents have found comfort in the kind words, thoughts, and prayers that so many of you have shared with them and with our family.

We are especially grateful for the wonderful meals that were provided, the thoughtful cards and letters filled with heartfelt messages, and the many visits from friends. These acts of kindness reminded us how much Jeff was loved and how deeply this community cared for him and for our family.

We also want to thank the Byers American Legion, Elks and other businesses for their incredible efforts and contributions in hosting a beautiful meal in memory of Jeff. Your hard work and dedication were a testament to the kind of person Jeff was and the values this community embodies.

It is clear to us why Jeff made this community his home. Your compassion and support are a true testament to the kind of person Jeff was and the love he shared with all of you. Thank you for keeping his memory alive in your hearts.

With love and gratitude,
 The Swim Family



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CHUCK WAGON

Cheese Stuffed Manicotti

by Bobbie Keefer
For The Scout

This is a great Italian recipe to make for company.

My granddaughter, Shayla, adds fried Italian sausages on top of the stuffed manicottis, then spreads the marinara sauce over them. I use small curd cottage cheese in place of the ricotta.

You could use a spoon, but, the easiest way to stuff the manicotti is to pipe it in. This recipe takes a bit of time, but I promise it's worth it!

Serve with a Caesar salad, tangy Italian dressing, and croutons. Crusty garlic bread is a must! It even impressed my mother-in-law!



- CHEESE-STUFFED MANICOTTI
- INGREDIENTS
- 8 ounces manicotti
 - 24 ounces ricotta cheese
 - 3 cups mozzarella, shredded
 - 1 cup parmesan cheese, shredded
 - 2 eggs, beaten
 - 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
 - 6 cups marinara sauce
 - salt, pepper
- DIRECTIONS
- Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly spray an 11- by 13-inch baking dish with non-stick spray. Cook manicotti per package di-

rections. Drain and rinse in cold water.

In large bowl, combine ricotta cheese, half of the mozzarella and half of the parmesan cheese, eggs, parsley, salt, pepper. Spread 1 cup marinara sauce evenly across bottom of prepared dish. Pipe cheese stuffing mixture into all cooled manicotti pastas. Arrange in dish. Cover with remaining marinara sauce. Bake 20 minutes. Sprinkle remaining mozzarella and parmesan cheeses on top. Bake 5 minutes or until cheese melts. Allow to set 5 minutes.

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