



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 20 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, April 16, 2025

'Burg middle school personnel suspended

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Hemphill Middle School is without their top administrators and two coaches after the Strasburg School District put them

on paid leave last week pending an investigation into an alleged incident between students. “Upon becoming aware of a situation that warrants further investigation, we have placed the staff members involved on administrative leave

in accordance with district policy,” said first-year Strasburg Superintendent Kelle Bongard in an April 11 letter to school district families. “This necessary step allows us to conduct a thorough and fair investigation while maintaining a safe and supportive en-

vironment for all.” Earlier that afternoon, Bongard, her support staff, and Adams County Sheriff’s deputies escorted four of the five staff members off campus while
SEE HEMPHILL MS PAGE 12

Gun background checks signed into law by Polis

by **Jesse Bedayn**
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — People in Colorado will soon have to pass a background check and complete a state-sanctioned safety course to buy most semi-automatic guns with detachable magazines under a bill signed into law by Democratic Gov. Jared Polis April 10.



Colorado, which has seen some of the country’s worst mass shootings — including the 2022 killings at the LGBTQ+ nightspot Club Q in Colorado Springs and the 1999 Columbine High School massacre — joins nearly a dozen other states in requiring some

level of safety training or an exam to purchase a firearm. One of the most restrictive gun control measures to be passed in the state as part of a long-running Democratic campaign to curtail gun violence, the law takes full effect in August 2026.

“We can’t afford not to do all we can to change the continuing impact of gun violence,” said bill sponsor and state Sen. Tom Sullivan, whose son, Alex, was killed in a 2013 shooting at a theater

SEE GUN LAW PAGE 24



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Children participate in Easter egg hunts in Strasburg April 12. Left photo, Owen Bloom looks through his eggs for prizes at Lyons Park. Right, Adalee Johnson reaches for an egg in a tree at Mountain View Fellowship.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Sky’s the limit. Spaceport chief touts CASP’s potential



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Jeff Kloska, director of Colorado Air & Space Port at Watkins, addresses the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce March 19.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

WATKINS — In addition to boasting the tallest air traffic control tower in the U.S. for the past two decades, the I-70 Corridor’s contributor to the aviation and aeronautics industries is planning for bigger and better things in the future.

After starting as a small plane and cargo airport in 1984 northeast of Watkins, Front Range Airport (FTG) formally converted to Colorado Air & Space Port (CASP) in 2018. CASP was the 11th commercial aerospace site approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

After spending its first 35 years as a general aviation facility with hangar facilities, fueling stations, and other customer services that grew to 500 site-based aircraft and 126,000 operations last year,

the past seven years has seen CASP expand to an FAA-licensed Horizontal Launch Spaceport, particularly the development of Concept X dual-propulsion vehicles.

“Colorado is the second per-capita state for aerospace — 180 companies, 2,000 workers in the state — and we are a part of that,” said CASP Director Jeff Kloska during the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce’s monthly meeting March 19 at May Farms. “We are able to handle 24-hour operations and we are among the backups for other (similar) bases.”

According to the Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study for 2023, CASP generated \$213 million in total business revenues, supported over 1,000 jobs and contributed \$130.4 million toward the state’s economy. According to Kloska, \$187.1 million of CASP’s revenues

two years ago stemmed from on-airport activities, including aerospace manufacturing, flight training, aircraft maintenance, and corporate travel. Visitor spending added another \$25.9 million.

Kloska said efforts to expand CASP’s impact to local, state, U.S. and international aerospace economies is ongoing, including facility and utility studies planned over the next year to 18 months.

As aerospace travel becomes more advanced, CASP is expected to keep pace but, to do so, modifications will likely be required.

“No other vehicles allowed unless we get an amended (FAA) license,” said Kloska, referring to the fact that Concept X dual propulsion is the only space travel vehicle currently allowed on site. “But we know it’s important to add

SEE CASP PAGE 16

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Bennett Performing Arts Club seeks contributions of shoes

BENNETT — The Bennett Performing Arts Booster Club is accepting donations gently worn, used and new shoes.

Collection boxes will be located at Bennett High School, outside the front office and by the Performing Arts classrooms.

The booster club will accept shoes of all styles and sizes until Thursday, May 1.

The shoes must not be torn. Donated shoes go to those in need, not to landfills.

For more information, visit www.bennettpabc.com or contact Shannon Booth at booth3333@gmail.com or text to (702)806-8906.

April 24 presentation slated to compare old, new 'Burg

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg will host “All New Strasburg: Then and Now” from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, April 24, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

The presentation by Museum Curator Cliff Smith will feature photographs and stories about the history of Strasburg in a “Then and Now” format. New items have been added as well as stories to accompany the photographs.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for light snacks and conversations.

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

For more information, call (303)622-4322.

TBK Bank is located at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Bennett blood drive planned by student health care group

DENVER —Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) will sponsor a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, May 8, at the Bennett High School auditorium.

Donors should bring a photo ID, their blood donor card, or two other forms of identification.

They can also save up to 15 minutes

ArapCo seeks input on wireless facility regs

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County is seeking public feedback on proposed changes regulating wireless communication facilities within its unincorporated areas to its Land Development Code.

The proposed amendments will rename the Commercial Mobile Radio Service regulations to a more modern title, Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF). They are designed to meet Federal Communications Commission regulations, which include:

- incorporating potential technological advances across all types of wireless communications, including Commercial Mobile Radio Service;
- delineating criteria for “eligible facilities;” and
- promoting the collaborative use of both new and existing WCF Locations.

The draft code outlines a structured administrative process and establishes standards for the location, design, maintenance and removal of wireless communication facilities. It also emphasizes that the applicant must demonstrate that other sites are not feasible for new towers.

Once public comment ends, the proposed amendments could be revised based on feedback. Public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners will occur later this year.

To comment, -visit www.arapahoeco.gov by Wednesday, April 30.

by using RapidPass. For more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

For an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: BennettCO. 5/2

Businesses owned by vets key to Arapahoe Co. event

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County Veterans Services will host an entrepreneurial education and training day for parties who wish to start or grow a veteran-owned business.

The Small Business Administration Boots to Business Reboot runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 18, at CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora.

Boots to Business Reboot provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Veterans of all eras, active-duty service members, and spouses are eligible to participate.

For more information, call (719)310-7262 or e-mail to CHundley@mtcar-melcenter.org.

Ancient rock paintings topic of free presentation by MCC

BENNETT — Morgan Community

College will offer a free lecture, entitled “Back in Time in Bennett,” on ancient history and the significance of rock painting in America and Central America from 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, in the community room at Bennett Town Hall.

After the presentation by Dr. Marlon Escamilla, who has a doctorate’s degree in archeology with a master’s in cultural anthropology, participants can tell their own stories by crafting a unique cave painting.

The evening will end by celebrating early man’s discovery of fire — with s’mores.

Watkins firm earns \$809K during fiscal 2nd quarter

WATKINS — Pure Cycle Corp. (PCYO) on April 9 reported net income of \$809,000 in its fiscal second quarter.

The Watkins-based company said it had net income of 3 cents per share.

The water and wastewater services company posted revenue of \$4 million in the period. 1x

Bennett Health Day intended to connect public, providers

BENNETT — The town of Bennett, UCHealth, and the Adams and Arapa-

hoe county health departments plan a day centered on health.

Bennett Health Day will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 E. Colfax Ave.

Residents can take part in free health screenings and receive educational resources. The event is designed to help the public connect with local health providers and prioritize their well-being.

Bennett Watkins Lions slate golden anniversary occasion

BENNETT — The Bennett Watkins Lions Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an open house from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, April 27, at the Bennett Community Center.

The event will highlight the club’s 50 years of service to Bennett, Watkins, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate. Visitors can learn about the Lions Camp in Woodland Park, observe how donated glasses are sorted and screened, use the Kidsight camera, view Peace Poster contest artworks, and look through pictures from previous years.

Refreshments will be served.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Input wanted for Arapahoe update

CENTENNIAL — Arapahoe County is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan and is asking residents and stakeholders to provide feedback through a short survey.

The plan analyzes the county’s vulnerabilities to natural and human-caused hazards and identifies mitigation actions to take to minimize property damage and reduce the loss of life by lessening the impacts of disasters. The document is updated every five years in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The deadline to complete the survey by Sunday, April 20.

For more information and a link to the survey, visit www.arapahoeco.gov.

The update is occurring in cooperation with Arapahoe County’s cities and towns, Denver Water, and South Metro Fire.

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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

EASTER

‘Passion of Christ’ viewings slated for Strasburg location

STRASBURG — In the spirit of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Holy Spirit Livin’ ...On the Corridor will host two free viewings of “The Passion of the Christ.”

Presentations of the Mel Gibson film depicting the final hours of Jesus Christ will start at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at the Holy Spirit Livin’ office, 1506 Main St., Strasburg. Doors open 30 minutes prior to each showing. Seating is limited.

Communion will be offered at the end of the movie.

For more information, call (303)622-4648.

Easter Egg Hunt scheduled at DT Jockey Club grounds

DEER TRAIL — The town of Deer Trail and the Deer Trail Rodeo Jockeyettes plan an Easter Egg Hunt at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 19, at the Jockey Club grounds.

The event is open to all kids with hunting sections based on ages 4 and under, 5-7 years old, 8-10, and 11 and over.

Participants should come early to find their hunting ground. Open-toed shoes are not advised.

Easter activities announced by Byers Community Church

BYERS — The community is invited to join Byers Community Church for planned its Holy Week events.

Activities start at:

- 7 p.m., communion service, Maundy Thursday, April 17;
 - 7 p.m., joint worship with Saron Lutheran Church of Strasburg and Strasburg Presbyterian at Saron Lutheran, Good Friday, April 18; and
 - 8:30 a.m., pancake breakfast followed by worship at 9:30 a.m., Easter Sunday, April 20.
- Byers Community Church is located at 135 S. Sherman St.

Easter week worship planned at Strasburg Lutheran Church

STRASBURG — Saron Lutheran Church in Strasburg will host its Easter Week Services from April 13-20.

Worship will start at:


- 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday, April 17.
- 7 p.m., Good Friday, April 18, joint service with Byers Community and Strasburg Presbyterian churches.
- 8:30 a.m., Easter Sunday, April 20, followed by potluck brunch.

ArapCo Sheriff’s Office plans Community Easter Egg Hunt

CENTENNIAL — The Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office Back the Blue K-9 Force and Caregiver Network will present a free community Easter egg hunt from 9-11 a.m, Saturday, April 19, at Dove Valley Regional Park.

The event will include K-9 demonstrations, food trucks, kid activities, and special prizes.


Participants should bring their own bags.



Strasburg Veterinary Clinic Equine Vaccination Clinics

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Attend a fun class on creating container gardens, **April 26, 12–1 p.m.** at Hudson Gardens. Learn the secrets of building stunning pots and planters full of beautiful blooms.



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WEEK OF APRIL 14

Industrial 'hoods: 5 toxics regulated to battle bad air

by **Jenni Shearston**
Associated Press

The Globeville, Elyria-Swansea and Commerce City communities in metro Denver are choked by air pollution from nearby highways, an oil refinery, and a Superfund site.

While these neighborhoods have long suffered from air pollution, they're not the only ones in Colorado.

Now Colorado is taking a major step to protect people from air pollutants that cause cancer or other major health problems, called "air toxics." For the first time, the state is developing its own state-level air toxic health standards.

In January, Colorado identified five air toxics as "priority" chemicals: benzene, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, hexavalent chromium compounds, and hydrogen sulfide.

The state is in the process of setting health-based standards that will limit the amount of each chemical allowed in the air. Importantly, the standards will be designed to protect people exposed to the chemicals long term, such as those living near emission sources. Exposure to even low amounts of some chemicals, such as benzene, may lead to cancer.

As a researcher studying chemical exposure and health, I measure and evaluate the impact of air pollution on people's well-being.

Colorado's new regulations will draw on expert knowledge and community input to protect people's health.

COMMUNITIES KNOW WHAT NEEDS REGULATION

In your own community, is there a highway that runs near your house or a factory with a bad odor? Maybe a gas station right around the corner? You likely already know many of the places that release air pollution near you.

When state or local regulators work with community members to find out what air pollution sources communities are worried about, the partnership can lead to a system that better serves the public and reduces injustice.

For example, partnerships between community advocates, scientists and regulators in heavily polluted and marginalized neighborhoods in New York and Boston have had big benefits. These partnerships resulted in both better scientific knowledge about how air pollution is connected to asthma and the placement of air monitors in neighborhoods impacted the most.

In Colorado, the process to choose the five pri-

ority air toxics included consulting with multiple stakeholders. A technical working group provided input on which five chemicals should be prioritized from the larger list of 477 toxic air contaminants.

The working group includes academics, members of nongovernmental organizations such as the Environmental Defense Fund — local government and regulated industries, such as the American Petroleum Institute.

Community participation was encouraged during public meetings.

At public hearings, community groups like GreenLatinos argued that formaldehyde, instead of acrolein, should be one of the prioritized air toxics because it can cause cancer.

Additionally, formaldehyde is emitted in some communities that are predominantly people of color, according to advocates for those communities. These communities are already disproportionately impacted by high rates of respiratory disease and cancer.

Other community members weighed in.

"One of my patients is a 16-year-old boy who tried to get a summer job working outside, but had to quit because air pollution made his asthma so bad that he could barely breathe," wrote Logan Harper, a Denver-area family physician and advocate for Healthy Air & Water Colorado.

HOW IS AIR QUALITY PROTECTED?

At the national level, the Clean Air Act requires that six common air pollutants, such as ozone and carbon monoxide, are kept below specific levels. The act also regulates 188 hazardous air pollutants.

Individual states are free to develop their own regulations, and several, including California and Minnesota, already have. States can set standards that are more health-protective than those in place nationally.

Four of five chemicals prioritized by Colorado are regulated federally. The fifth chemical, hydrogen sulfide, is not included on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous air pollutant list, but Colorado has decided to regulate it as an air toxic.

State-level regulation is important because states can focus on air toxics specific to their state to make sure that the communities most exposed to air pollution are protected. One way to do this is to place air pollution monitors in the communities experiencing the worst air pollution.

For example, Colorado is placing six new air quality monitors in locations around the state to measure concentrations of the five priority air toxics. It

will also use an existing monitor in Grand Junction to measure air toxics. Two of the new monitors, in Commerce City and La Salle, began operating in January 2024. The remainder will go online by July.

When Colorado chose the sites, it prioritized communities that are overly impacted by social and environmental hazards. Officials used indexes like the Colorado EnviroScreen, which combines information about pollution, health and economic factors to identify communities that are overly burdened by hazards.

The Commerce City monitor is located in Adams City, a neighborhood with some of the worst pollution in the state. The site has air toxics emissions that are worse than 95% of communities in Colorado.

AIR TOXICS AND HEALTH

The five air toxics that Colorado selected all have negative impacts on health. Four are known to cause cancer.

Benzene, perhaps the most well-known because of its ability to cause blood cancer, is one. But it also has a number of other health impacts, such as dampening the ability of the immune system and impacting the reproductive system by decreasing sperm count. Benzene is found in combustion-powered vehicle exhaust and is emitted during oil and gas production and refinement.

Ethylene oxide can cause cancer and irritates the nervous and respiratory systems. Symptoms of long-term exposure can include headaches, sore throat, shortness of breath and others. Ethylene oxide is used to sterilize medical equipment and, as of 2024, it was used by four facilities in Colorado.

Formaldehyde is also a cancer-causing agent, and exposure is associated with asthma in children. This air toxic is used in the manufacture of a number of products like household cleaners and building materials. It is also emitted by oil and gas sources, including during fracking.

Hexavalent chromium compounds can cause several types of cancer, as well as skin and lung diseases such as asthma and rhinitis. A major source of hexavalent chromium is coal-fired power plants — Colorado has six in operation, though these plants are scheduled to close in the next five years. Other sources of hexavalent chromium include chemical and other manufacturing.

Finally, long-term exposure to hydrogen sulfide can cause low blood pressure, headaches and other symptoms, and has been associated with neurological impacts such as psychological disorders.



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CO artist denies deliberately distorting Trump’s painting



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP Photo

The plaque that marked the placement of a portrait of President Donald Trump is all that remains after the picture — part of a display of all of the country’s chief executives, was removed from the wall of the rotunda in the State Capitol March 25.

by Mead Gruver
Associated Press

A Colorado artist denies trying to distort Donald Trump’s likeness in a portrait that hung until recently in the state Capitol and says the president’s criticisms are hurting her business. She also disputed that the work drew many complaints before Trump weighed in. Trump called the portrait by Colo-

rado Springs painter Sarah Boardman “purposefully distorted” in a March 23 post on Truth Social. Trump added that Boardman, 63, “must have lost her talent as she got older” and posted that he preferred having no portrait in the Colorado Capitol to that one. Legislative leaders announced the next day that they would remove the portrait. It was gone from a wall of past presidents’ portraits the next morning and relegated to storage.

In an e-mailed statement April 5, Boardman denied intentionally distorting Trump. While Trump posted that “many people” from Colorado had complained about the portrait, Boardman wrote she “got overwhelmingly positive reviews and feedback” over the six years it hung in the Capitol. That has changed for the worse

SEE TRUMP PORTRAIT
PAGE 6

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Members of the Silver Spike Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and officials from Agate and Strasburg schools pose for a photo Feb. 19 after the DAR representatives delivered “Freedom Sacks” to the schools in celebration of the nation’s 250th birthday in 2026. A Freedom Sack (valued at \$125) is a canvas bag with 10 books written at a fifth-grade level about the founding of the nation. Pictured are, left photo from left, Terry Unruh, Silver Spike regent; Teresa Roy, media specialist at Strasburg Elementary; Carol Williams, Silver Spike chaplain; and Jalee Kitzman, Strasburg Elementary principal; and, center photo, Stevie Koehn, Agate fifth- and sixth-grade teacher; Unruh; Williams; and Melinda Walls, Agate School superintendent. A few of the books appear at right.



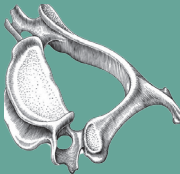
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TRUMP’S PORTRAIT

since Trump’s comments, Boardman wrote.

“President Trump is entitled to comment freely, as we all are, but the additional allegations that I ‘purposefully distorted’ the portrait, and that I ‘must have lost my talent as I got older’ are now directly and negatively impacting my business of over 41 years, which now is in danger of not recovering.”

A Colorado Capitol advisory committee commissioned the portrait, approved the reference photo for the portrait, and approved her work in progress, Boardman wrote. “I completed the portrait accurately, without ‘purposeful distortion,’ political bias, or any attempt to caricature the sub-

FROM PAGE 5

ject, actual or implied. I fulfilled the task per my contract.”

She added that she would not comment further.

Boardman also painted the portraits of former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama in the state Capitol. Trump posted that Obama “looks wonderful” in his portrait but that his own painting — paid for with \$10,000 raised by Colorado Republicans — is “truly the worst.”

Colorado Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen, a Republican, has said that the Trump portrait should be replaced with one “that depicts his contemporary likeness.” The process of commissioning a replacement had not begun as of April 13.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Byers High School students considering careers in auto repair tour LKQ, an auto salvage operation on U.S. Highway 36 west of Bennett and south of Colorado Air & Space Port March 11. The field trip was one of several job awareness field trips arranged by the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership (REAP). Employees at LKQ’s 132,000 square foot facility buy, unload, tag, inventory, disassemble and rack approximately 15 cars a day. They also fulfill orders and ship 400 auto parts to regional car and auto body shops daily. Above, LKQ manager Quinton Johnsrud, left, poses with students Maddison Markowitz, Jaxen Egger, Wyatt Borders, Dylan Poll, Adam Coronel, Jon Hise, Brodie Fisbek and Brent West. LKQ stands for “like kind quality.”

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SPORTS



Byers, Strasburg excel at April 5 invitationals

Bulldog boys place first, girls second at Limon Indians boys double score of 2nd-place Holyoke

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

LIMON — The Bulldogs and Badgers track teams largely dominated the annual Warren Mitchell Invitational Track Meet at Limon April 5.

Byers won the boys competition with Limon and Thomas Maclaren tying for second while the Lady Badgers placed first with the Lady Bulldogs taking second.

The Byers boys and girls each won five events with both squads placing first in the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relays. In addition, sophomore Ben McPherson took the 400-meter dash and long jump while senior Cameron Eastwood topped the competition in the 110-meter hurdles for the boys.

On the girls side, sophomore Reese West won the 800- and 1,600-meter runs while senior Hope Linnebur placed first in the 300-meter hurdles.

Deer Trail also participated in the meet, with junior Megan Donovan winning the 100-meter dash.

BYERS GIRLS

100-meter dash: Fr. Grace Shelley, 14.61, 15th; so. Allison Foose, 14.75, 18th; fr. Kaci Harris, 16.82, 24th.

200-meter dash: Fr. Karley Linnebur, 30.61, 14th; Foose, 30.74, 15th; fr. Grace Thomas, 35.15, 33rd.

400-meter dash: Jr. Michaela Casey, 1:02.95, fourth; fr. Sydney Smith, 1:07.35, sixth; fr. Ainsley Sauer, 1:10.50, 10th.

800-meter run: So. Reese West, 2:35.79; first; fr. Olivia Eastwood, 3:10.44, 12th; fr. Brianna Mendoza, 3:12.18, 15th.

1,600-meter run: West, 5:29.95, first; fr. Caroline Casey, 6:22.69, seventh.

100-meter hurdles: Sr. Hope Linnebur, 16.96, second; fr. Kiera Hilbert, 22.82, 11th.

300-meter hurdles: H. Linnebur, 50.56, first; jr. Danica Lancaster, 58.84, fourth.

4x100-meter relay: 1:00.32, 10th.

4x200-meter relay: 1:51.11, fourth.

4x800-meter relay: 11:48.67, fourth.

High jump: Sauer, 4-4, fifth; Shelley, 4-0, seventh.

Long jump: K. Linnebur, 13-10.5, fifth.

Triple jump: Shelley, 9-11.5, sixth.

Discus: Harris, 49-6, 22nd; Hilbert, 48-10, 25th; jr. Isabella Rains, 20-11, 34th.

Shot put: Hilbert, 4-9.5, 13th; Harris 24-4, 16th; Rains, 18-0.5, 29th.

BOYS

100-meter dash: Fr. Hayden Riemen-schneider, 13.43, 29th.

200-meter dash: Fr. Eli Cary, 26.83, 23rd; Riemenschneider, 27.26, 30th.

400-meter dash: So. Ben McPherson, 52.91,

SEE TF LIMON PAGE 8

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

WIGGINS — The Strasburg boys took first place by an overwhelming margin at the Wiggins Invitational Track Meet April 5, while the girls placed second, just 14.5 points behind the hosts.

The Indians won nine events and scored 248 points, exactly double the amount for second-place Holyoke, which had 124.

In addition to a sweep of the four relays — 4x100, 200, 400 and 800 meters — junior Dawit James took the 1,600 meters; junior Israel James won the 3,200 meters; senior Daniel Handy the 110-meter hurdles; junior Will Hauser the 300-meter hurdles; sophomore Brody Hopwood the high jump; and junior Jorge Parra the triple jump, in which Strasburg athletes were the top four place-winners.

The Lady Indians were champs in three events: Senior Peighton Marro in the 100-meter dash; freshman Calleygh Hougland in the 400-meter dash; and freshman Laci Zimmerman in the high jump.

BOYS

100-meter dash: Jr. Nate Grow, 11.99, fifth;

sr. Damien Garcia and so. Samuel Gasca, 12.03, sixth (tie); so. Hiro Hendler, 12.10, eighth; fr. Emilia Espino, 12.12, ninth; so. Emery Waggoner, 12.40, 14th.

200-meter dash: Jr. Konner Casebeer, 23.87, second; jr. Cade Hemphill, 24.31, third; Waggoner, 25.43, eighth; sr. Nathan Kraft, 25.53, ninth; so. Colton Holloway, 25.59, 10th.

400-meter dash: So. Ayden Dodge, 55.73, fourth; Espino, 55.99, fifth; Holloway, 56.90, sixth; jr. Cameron Manahan, 1:02.23, 13th.

800-meter run: Jr. Jeremiah Redd, 2:08.66, second; so. Noah Dobransky , 2:14.99, third; jr. Dawit James, 2:19.02, seventh; fr. Eli Tapparo, 2:30.90, ninth.

1,600-meter run: D. James, 4:55.42, first; Dobransky, 5:08.49, seventh.

3,200-meter run: Jr. Israel James, 11:09.36, second.

110-meter hurdles: Sr. Daniel Handy, 17.93, first; jr. Will Hauser, 18.18, second; Garcia, 19.55, fourth; Manahan, 21.60, seventh.

300-meter hurdles: Hauser, 44.32, first; Handy, 46.51, second; Garcia, 48.26, fifth; Manahan, 51.35, eighth; so. Brody Hopwood, 51.61, ninth; Tapparo, 52.34, 10th.

4x100-meter relay: 46.06, first.

4x200-meter relay: 1:34.46, first.

4x400-meter relay: 3:46.92, first.

4x800-meter relay: 8:53.38, first.

SEE TF STRASBURG PAGE 8

Bennett Lady Tigers enter soccer postseason picture

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In addition to winning three consecutive contests and four of five between April 1-9, the Bennett girls have climbed into contention for the 3A girls soccer playoffs.

The orange-and-black's 2-0 home victory over Frontier League rival The Pinnacle last Wednesday bumped the troops of head coach Mike Rinner to 4-3 overall, 3-1 in conference play, and up to No. 28 in the playoff seeding index from the Colorado High School Activities Association. The top 32 teams qualify for the postseason. Bennett rose almost 15 spots from the previous week.

"The girls continue to play a lot better with each other," Rinner said. "Defense has been pretty good all season. Offensively, continuing to gel and learn about each other."

Against the Timberwolves, Bennett took the lead about 14 minutes into the contest when freshman Emma Faczak dug out a loose ball about 15 yards in front of the opposing net and pushed it towards the left side of the goal mouth where classmate Meagan Green looped a left-footed shot over The Pinnacle goalkeeper.

The score remained 1-0 until about 4 minutes left when freshman Paloma Rodriguez put her foot into a corner kick from the southeast end of Paul Read Field that rode the strong northerly wind and ricocheted off of senior teammate Marayha Munoz into

SEE SOCCER PAGE 10



Bennett's Emma Faczak, left, kicks the ball down the Paul Read soccer pitch against The Pinnacle April 9, and Natalie Galdamez prepares for collisions with the ball and a Timberwolve player.



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout



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GALLON

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Bennett Tiger track teams participate in meet at Fort Collins

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

FORT COLLINS — Track athletes from Bennett traveled to the Fort Collins for the Altitude Running Invitational April 5.

The girls team placed 14th with 16 points. Senior Jessica Venneberg was the highest place-winner for either Bennett squad, taking second in the triple jump and third in the high jump.

The boys team did not score.

GIRLS

100-meter dash: Jr. Tayla Counce, 13.78, 27th; so. Jasmine Soriano Wilson, 15.53, 57th; fr. Analicia Villa, 15.55, 58th.
200-meter dash: Sr. Vivi Cranwill, 28.08, 19th; so. Addyson Travis, 32.19, 49th.
1,600-meter run: Fr. Ashley Roman Silva, 7:42.50, 49th.

100-meter hurdles: Sr. Kyra Turner, 19.02, 22nd.
4x100-meter relay: 52.34, 10th.
4x200-meter relay: 1:50.72, seventh.
High jump: Sr. Jessica Venneberg, 5-1, third.
Long jump: Jr. Kaurlie Voorhies, 14-9, 17th.
Triple jump: Venneberg, 33-10.5, second.
Discus: Cranwill, 79-0, 15th; sr. Rosemary Smith, 63-6, 27th; jr. Audrey Harrell, 53-11, 36th.
Shot put: Villa, 21-5.75, 42nd.

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Timnath 93
- 2. Rocky Mountain 92.5
- 3. Windsor 88
- 4. Fossil Ridge 87
- 5. Fort Collins 50
- 6. Poudre 35
- 7. Cheyenne (Wyo.) Central 33
- 8. Mead 31.5
- 9. Thompson Valley 29.5
- 10. Mountain View 25

- 11. Chaparral 21
- 12. Berthoud 19
- 13. Laramie (Wyo.) 17.5
- 14-15. Bennett, Heritage Christian 16
- 16. Silver Creek 16
- 17. Wellington 10
- 18. Loveland 7
- 19. Severance 5
- 20. Liberty Common 2
- 21-22. Resurrection Christian, Saratoga (Wyo.) 1

BOYS

100-meter dash: Fr. Kamri Lomri, 12.19, 40th; jr. Lane Davis, 12.32, 44th; jr. Isaac Adams, 15.42, 63rd.
200-meter dash: Davis, 24.30, 34th; so. Jacoby Badolato, 26.36, 58th; Adams, 27.73, 61st.
1,600-meter run: Jr. Manolo Williams, 6:37.04, 51st.
110-meter hurdles: Lomri, 22.63, 39th.
4x400-meter relay: 3:46.80, 16th.
Triple jump: Lomri, 37-9, 14th.

BOYS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Fort Collins 105
- 2. Thompson Valley 82
- 3. Loveland 81
- 4. Berthoud 60
- 5. Fossil Ridge 57.5
- 6. Rocky Mountain 44.5
- 7. Laramie (Wyo.) 41.5
- 8. Resurrection Christian 28
- 9-10. Prairie View, Silver Creek 26
- 11. Cheyenne (Wyo.) Central 25
- 12-13. Severance, Timnath 24.5
- 14. Windsor 22.5
- 15. Liberty Common 15
- 16. Mead 14
- 17. Chaparral 11
- 18. Poudre 10
- 19. Wellington 3
- 20. Heritage Christian 1

COMING UP

April 19: @ Randall Hess Roughrider Invite, Roosevelt High School, Johnstown.
May 3: Doherty Invitational, Colo. Springs.

TF LIMON

FROM PAGE 7

first; sr. Jake Anderson, 53.71, third; jr. Quincy Eacret, 53.73, fourth.
800-meter run: Jr. Ben Gerhardt, 2:23.87, third; fr. Matthew Wardall, 2:36.01, 10th; sr. Jon Hise, 2:53.09, 17th.
1,600-meter run: Gerhardt 5:23.99, eighth; Hise, 6:22.98, 19th.
110-meter hurdles: Sr. Cameron Eastwood, 16.11, first; so. Caleb Eastwood, 17.34, third.
4x100-meter relay: 46.94, first.
4x200-meter relay: 1:34.05, first.
4x800-meter relay: 10:04.07, seventh.
High jump: Caleb Eastwood, 5-6, third; so. Gus Malcolm 5-0, 10th.
Long jump: McPherson, 19-8.75, first; Cam Eastwood, 19-3, third.
Triple jump: Cam Eastwood, 38-11, third; so. Samuel Linnebur, 35-7.5, 11th; Riemenschneider, 32-5.5, 15th.
Discus: So. Liam Hilbert, 90-1, 16th; Gerhardt 72-4, 29th; so. Bryce Brewer, 62-8, 35th.
Shot put: Hilbert, 29-9, 18th; Brewer, 28-9.5, 23rd.

DEER TRAIL

GIRLS

100-meter dash: Jr. Megan Donovan, 13.12, first; sr. Alena Sanchez-Neal, 13.75, sixth; so. Gracie Guh, 16.17, 29th.
200-meter dash: Donovan, 27.75, second; fr. Fatima Hussein, 31.31, 19th; fr. Kyann Kitzman, 32.74, 25th.
400-meter dash: fr. Madison Nielsen, 1:16.37, 17th; sr. Rylye Smith, 1:18.05, 18th.
4x100-meter relay: 58.67, eighth.
4x200-meter relay: 2:00.11, fourth.

Long jump: Sr. Rylee Guhl, 12-5.25, ninth; Kitzman, 11-11.5, 14th; so. Gracie McGough, 9-5, 19th.
Triple jump: McGough, 23-1, 14th.

BOYS

100-meter dash: Jr. Nevin Musser, 13.02, 22nd; sr. Joseph Humbert, 14.63, 42nd; jr. Jackson Burdick, 15.63, 45th.
200-meter dash: Musser, 26.91, 25th; jr. Jayden Mingee, 28.02, 33rd.
400-meter dash: Mingee, 1:03.33, 20th.
1,600-meter run: Mingee, 5:30.03, 11th.
Long jump: Musser, 13-9.5, 27th.
Discus: Jr. Alfonso Quezada, 102-6, eighth; so. Sebastian Anguiano, 81-4, 22nd; Burdick, 61-8, 37th.
Shot put: Humbert, 31-0.5, 14th; Quezada, 30-11, 16th; Anguiano, 29-5, 20th.

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Limon 82
- 2. Byers 78.5
- 3. Thomas McLaren 74
- 4. Eads 52
- 5. Miami-Yoder 50
- 6. Lamar 48
- 7-8. Idalia, Otis 37
- 9. Kiowa 33.5
- 10. Pikes Peak Christian 31
- 11. Deer Trail 27
- 12. Custer County 26
- 13. Evangelical Christian 22
- 14. Gilpin County 15

- 15. Cheraw 13
- 16. Atlas Prep 9
- 17. Arickaree-Woodlin 8
- 18. Genoa-Hugo 7
- 19. Kim/Branson 5
- 20. Kit Carson 4

BOYS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Byers 94
- 2-3. Limon, Thomas McLaren 78
- 4. Idalia 76
- 5. Custer County 63
- 6. Lamar 45
- 7. Pikes Peak Christian 36
- 8. Otis 35
- 9. Genoa-Hugo 28
- 10. Gilpin County 25
- 11-12. Arickaree-Woodlin, Atlas Prep 24
- 13. Kim/Branson 18
- 14-15. Cheraw, Kiowa 16
- 16. Eads 10
- 17. Miami-Yoder 9
- 18. Kit Carson 4
- 19. Deer Trail 1

BYERS SCHEDULE

April 16: @ Norseman Invitational, Thornton.
April 19: @ Denver Christian Invitational, Littleton.

DEER TRAIL SCHEDULE

April 19: @ Dave Spiller Invitational, Strasburg.
April 25: @ Cougar Classic, Colorado Springs.

TF STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 7

High jump: Hopwood, 5-8, first; so. Jayden Miller, 5-4, fourth; Manahan, 5-0, fifth.
Long jump: Hemphill, 18-5, fourth; jr. Jorge Parra, 18-2, fifth; Miller, 18-0, seventh; Grow, 17-5.75, ninth.
Triple jump: Parra, 39-7.5, first; Handy, 39-3, second; Hauser, 38-4, third; Hopwood, 37-7.5, fourth.
Discus: So. Mason Dickens, 121-11, third; sr. Preston Mace, 115-3, eighth; jr. Jearemie Nonic, 68-9, 23rd; so. Michael Kramer, 65-3, 26th.
Shot put: Mace, 43-0.25; second; Dickens, 40-11, fourth; Nonic, 33-6, 10th; Kramer, 28-5.5, 22nd.

BOYS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Strasburg 248
- 2. Holyoke 124
- 3. Greeley West 90
- 4. Wiggins 77
- 5. Merino 53
- 6. Akron 27
- 7. Fleming 23

- 8. Briggsdale 18
- 9. Weldon Valley 8
- 10. Caliche 1

GIRLS

100-meter dash: Sr. Peighton Marrero, 13.01, first; so. Addison Kent, 13.35, third; so. Wynne Winter, 14.27, seventh; sr. Dakota Strasser, 12th; fr. Kaelyn Bailey, 14.82, 14th.
200-meter dash: Winter, 30.22, ninth; fr. Laci Zimmerman, 30.24, 10th; fr. Calleygh Houglan, 31.01, 12th; so. Analeah Loya, 31.38, 13th; fr. Abbygail Ryan, 31.43, 14th; so. Hailey Hawkins, 31.64, 15th.
400-meter dash: Houglan, 1:05.52, first; Zimmerman, 1:10.52, eighth; Ryan, 1:10.98, ninth; Loya, 1:11.04, 10th; Hawkins, 1:11.97, 11th.
800-meter run: sr. Madelynne Phillips, 2:53.43, fifth; so. Tatijana Rojahn, 2:58.04, sixth; fr. Sarah Larsen, 3:11.02, ninth; so. Rafaelle Alcide, 3:12.50, 10th;

so. Naomi Redd, 3:15.64, 11th; jr. Kasiana Christiansan, 3:19.41, 13th.
1,600-meter run: Larsen, 7:01.16, fifth; Alcide, 7:13.51, sixth; Christiansan, 7:46.63, eighth; jr. Autumn Kulpa, 7:52.68, ninth.
3,200-meter run: Redd, 15:11.30, third; jr. Mikayla Friedrich, 17:58.45, fourth.
100-meter hurdles: Bailey, 21.31, seventh.
300-meter hurdles: Kent, 52.72, third; Strasser, 1:00.50, sixth.
4x100-meter relay: 56.02, third.
4x200-meter relay: 1:51.93, second.
4x400-meter relay: 4:29.86, second.
4x800-meter relay: 12:02.89, second.
High jump: Zimmerman, 5-0, first.
Long jump: Strasser, 12-2.5, 13th; jr. Elizabeth Zobell, 11-11.5, 17th.
Triple jump: Zobell, 25-2.75, seventh.
Discus: Sr. Elizabeth Hightower, 116-7, second; jr. Taryn LaForce, 99-6, fifth; jr. Miah Klump, 97-6, sixth; jr. Parker Shuck, 73-5, 11th.
Shot put: Taryn LaForce, 33-2, fourth; Hightower, 31-4.75, sixth; Klump, 27-9,

ninth; Shuck, 24-0.5, 16th.

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Wiggins 149.5
- 2. Strasburg 135
- 3. Greeley West 91
- 4. Merino 90.5
- 5. Akron 73
- 6. Holyoke 51
- 7. Caliche 44
- 8. Fleming 18
- 9. Weldon Valley 6
- 10. Briggsdale 1

COMING UP

April 16: @ Norseman Invitational, North Stadium.
April 19: Dave Spiller Invitational, Winter Field, Strasburg.
April 26: @ Cowboy Invitational, All City Stadium.
May 1 & 3: @ Patriot League Championship, Greeley.
May 10: @ Maxine Erhmann Invitational.



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2025 I-70 Corridor High School Graduation Schedule:
Agate, May 16; **Prairie Creeks**, May 17; **Strasburg & Byers**, May 18;
Bennett, May 23; & **Deer Trail**, May 24.





Graduation

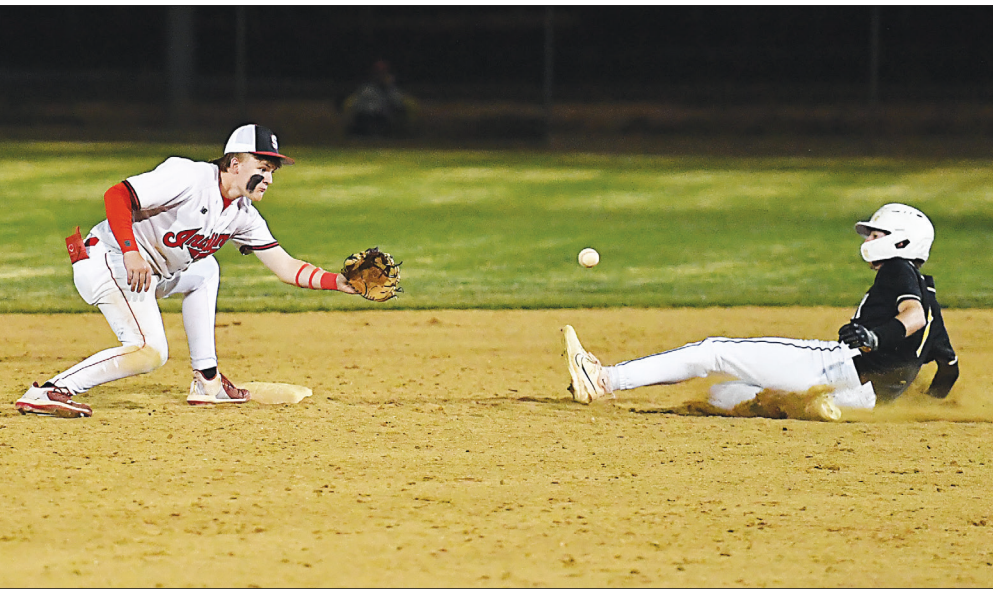
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The I-70 Scout will print its special graduation sections on Wednesdays, May 14 and May 21. Deadline is Friday, May 2.

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg shortstop Aiden Bongard, left, and second baseman Houston Broskie receive throws from catcher Gavin Welch as Valley baserunners steal second base April 8.

'Burg 9 sinks Valley, lose at Platte Valley to open league play

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

The Strasburg Indians' diamond home-opener this spring was a 6-2 victory over Valley to commence Patriot League play April 8, but the red-and-black's momentum didn't last long as they lost 12-2 at conference foe Platte Valley in Kersey two days later.

VALLEY

After the visiting Vikings jumped up 1-0 during their first at-bats, Strasburg responded with back-to-back RBI singles from juniors Aiden Bongard and Erik Alamillo to go up 2-1 after the first frame.

In the bottom of the third, junior R.J. Weaver opened the attack with a double, advanced to third on a Bongard ground out, and scored on a Viking defensive miscue.

After Valley pulled the score within 3-2 in the top of the fifth, the Indians responded immediately with 3 runs in the bottom of the frame. Alamillo drove in 2 runs with a double and a ground out off the bat of senior Jose Lopez drove in the third run of the inning.

Valley didn't threaten the rest of the way, going three-up-three-down in the sixth, and striking out three consecutive times after a single to open up the top of the seventh.

Indian senior Jared Flamini was strong on the mound, throwing a complete game with 2 earned runs on three hits while walking one, hitting one, and striking out nine Viking hitters.

The hosts nine-hit attack was led by Welch with three and Alamillo and Weaver with two apiece; all three had a double. The Indians walked once, had a hit batsman and struck out five times.

Defensively, Strasburg had one of its cleanest games in the early season, committing one error.

@ PLATTE VALLEY

Strasburg scored a run each over the first two frames on the Broncos' home diamond Thursday afternoon but the hosts stayed ahead most of the game, scoring 2 in the first, 4 in the second, 2 in the



Indian starting pitcher Jared Flamini, left, catches an infield fly against Valley April 8

third, 1 in the fourth, 2 in the fifth and a final run in the sixth to end the game an inning early.

The Indians were out-hit 11-2 with the lone base knocks being a Lopez single and an RBI double by junior Cam Manahan. Five Indians walked and 10 struck out compared to Platte Valley's eight free passes and five Ks.

The Strasburg defense also committed a pair of errors that helped lead to three unearned runs for the hosts.

The Indians entered this week 4-4 overall and No. 38 in the state rankings to determine 3A post-



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

season berths. The top 32 teams qualify for the playoffs.

COMING UP

- April 18: @ Resurrection Christian.
- April 19: Elizabeth.
- April 22: Liberty Common
- April 24: @ Fort Morgan.
- April 26: Bennett.
- April 29: Byers (Senior Appreciation.)
- April 30: Brush.
- May 2: @ Eaton.
- May 6: Sterling,

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

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

Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit 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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

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

MONDAY, APRIL 21

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

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

Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the

Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at townofbennett.colorado.gov for information.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Senior citizen game day. 1-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.

Bennett Board of Trustees. Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit townofbennett.colorado.gov.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

SOCCER

FROM PAGE 7

the opposition's goal.

The victors recorded 19 shots on goal compared to 11 from The Pinnacle. Faczak fired a team-high five shots on goal with Green adding four; junior Natalie Galdamez, three; and seniors Marelin Vasquez and Raquel Thorpe and freshman Kamila Sauce-do, two apiece.

In addition to freshman Whitney Torgerson pitching the shutout, the Bennett defense recorded 25 steals, including Munoz and Thorpe with six apiece, Faczak and Rodriguez three each, and Vasquez, Green and senior Elizabeth Westendorf all with a pair.

This week's conference home games with Arrupe Jesuit (April 14) and Middle Park (April 16) were expected to be key to Bennett's effort to reach the playoffs for the second consecutive year after missing out the previous decade.



ALYSSA STEMIO/For The Scout

Bennett's Meagan Green works against The Pinnacle defense April 9.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bennett School District students nominated for the 2025 Adams County Mayor and Commissioners Youth Award Program were honored with a certificate gift bag during the April 8 Bennett Board of Trustees meeting. Receiving their awards from Mayor Whitney Oakley are middle-schoolers Carter Faczak, Kaydince Berndt, Violet Teachout, Maddox Wells, and high-schooler Khadija Diop. Not pictured is middle-schooler Marisol Cardenas Chavez. The county commissioners will host an awards banquet for overall program winners during an April 23 banquet in Westminster.

Bennett board honors student leaders, OK well contract

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In addition to recognizing local youth for their perseverance over personal strife, Bennett trustees heard a proposal for a new food bank, approved a contract for a new water well, and received word about a likely delay in Civic Center Park construction during their April 8 meeting.

Each year the board honors youth from grades 6-12 nominated by the Bennett School District for the Adams County Mayor and Commissioners Youth Award (ACMCYA), which recognizes the positive influence students have had on their schools, families and community.

Bennett Middle School’s 2025 award nominees are Kaydince Berndt, Marisol Cardenas Chavez, Carter Faczak, Violet Teachout and Maddox Wells. Bennett High School’s nominee is Khadija Diop.

Adams County will honor all award recipients from across the county during a banquet at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, at the Westminster City Park Recreation Center.

NEW LOCAL FOOD BANK

A new corridor-wide food bank based in Bennett and sponsored by Cornerstone Fellowship could replace Bennett and Strasburg locations, which have closed. David Thomas of Bennett and Alex Rivera of Strasburg

approached the board during the public comment portion of the meeting to announce their intention and seek partnership with the town.

Thomas is also on the board of Street Reach Ministries.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The board approved a construction contract for the Muegge Farms Well 14 Campus with CPC Constructors.

Daniel Pershing, CIP and Utilities Director, reviewed proposals from CPC Constructors, Timber Wolf Excavating, LLC, and a cost opinion by MSK Engineers. The parcel was rezoned earlier this year as public land, and the two wells already on the property will be made functional with the inclusion of necessary equipment including pumps. The property will also feature a small collection lagoon.

Timber Wolf’s bid was roughly \$300,000 more than the CPC Constructors proposal, prompting an engineering cost opinion to determine need. The MSK opinion came in within \$20,000 of the CPC Constructors bid, prompting the final choice.

A Tuff Shed to go on the site appeared in Timber Wolf’s estimate for \$255,000, likely an error in notation that led to CPC Constructors winning the bid.

Delays in state approval of bathroom building permits could push the Civic Center Park grand opening celebration to spring 2026. Public Works Director Robin Price presented the

update and the board approved the change order.

The town is considering bids to complete two baseball fields at the park with a backstop, benches, dugouts, bases, resilient blue grass sod, and poles that can support future lighting. The project is currently within the budget of its Adams County Open Space grant with another \$70,000 remaining for unexpected issues. Additional funding will be sought in the future to finish installation of field lights.

The board also approved a resolution for a final development Plan for Bennett Crossing Filing No. 5. The site is 90 acres north of Pearl Street to be developed as mixed use, with medium- and high-density residential. The subdivision will contain trails, open spaces and two small parks. The western-most park will include a picnic shelter, tables, play structures, swings, bike racks, benches, a dog station, BBQ grills, concrete walks and attractive landscaping. The eastern-most park will include many of the same amenities; however, rather than a dog station, residents will find horseshoe and bocce ball courts, playfields and additional walking paths.

Construction at the site was delayed after contractors uncovered an old, previously unaccounted for dry natural gas well, which will be developed as a green space landscaped with native seed and trees rather than the two single family homes originally

planned for the location.

FINANCIAL UPDDATE

“The town is in a very strong financial position with strong fund balances across the board as predicted,” assured Town Finance Manager Danny Pennington and Town Treasurer Danette Ruvalcaba during a presentation of the fourth quarter 2024 finance report.

Built-in contingencies for expenditures and an increase in tax revenue leaves Bennett with a comfortable budget. Finishing at 103% of budget, the general fund concluded last year with a balance increase of \$581,104. The policing reserve will see \$79,684 of the increase. The Bennett’s Arts & Culture Fund exceeded expectations by \$18,228, leaving a balance of \$69,341 at the end of last year. Expenditures included costs associated with staffing changes and professional services including approval of an asphalt crushing contract.

“We are proceeding with caution. We are aware of the current economic situation so we will remain conservative and keep an eye on it,” said Danette Ruvalcaba adding, “We have good fund balances. We have weathered other economic downturns as well. We are committed to paying attention to that and being cautious as we move forward with capital projects and those types of items.”

SEE BENNETT BOT
PAGE 12

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taking their keys and telling them to stay away from school facilities. The fifth was out of the area but was contacted via phone and informed of the situation.

“It sounds like there was some sort of incident involving some of the students after a track practice,” an Adams County Sheriff’s spokesman said,

indicating the situation occurred earlier in the week. “The superintendent had the principal and other staff put on leave.”

Another sheriff’s office spokesperson said that deputies made no arrests and were there to “keep the peace only” and “make sure things went smoothly.”

The student incident is under investigation by the Adams County Sheriff’s Office.

“Allegations were made and have to be looked into,” the sheriff’s office said. “Plus, involving juveniles, makes it more difficult. No names out there until we have the facts.”

The original incident report was not made public by the sheriff’s office.

students and staff receive the support and attention they need to thrive in the remaining weeks of the school year. At this time, there are no vacancies to fill as it relates to the investigation, and we have taken steps to ensure continuity of operations.”

She added that the remaining middle school spring track schedule will continue as planned.

At the beginning of last week, other district personnel issues were unveiled as a list of employees not returning for 2025-26 eclipsed the 20-name mark. That list was part of the school board’s consent agenda during its April 7 meeting. The board also approved the list of renewals for next school year, which totaled 122 — 65 teachers and other certified staff and 57 classified employees. The renewals included three of the five staff members currently suspended.

Bongard said there are currently no special school board gatherings slated before its regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, May 12, at the Central Services Building.

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044
www.corlcms.org

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • mttaborbyers.org

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

II Timothy 2:24 The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men.

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BYERS, CO

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2722 S. County Rd 173; Byers, CO
In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.
LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org
719-659-8848

Strasburg Orthodox Mission
Every Sunday:
• Lauds at 10AM •
Strasburg American Legion (56423 Westview Ave.)
Tuesday, 7PM:
• Vespers & Study •
Saron Lutheran Church (1656 Main St.)
Info: strasburgorthodox.org

Mountain View FELLOWSHIP
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303.622.9600

❖ **Easter Weekend Services** ❖
Good Friday, April 18: 7pm
Easter Sunday: 8, 9:30, and 11am
Servicios en español a las 9:30 y 11h
❖ **Regular Sunday Services** ❖
8:30 & 10:15am
Servicio dominical regular a las 10:15
❖ **Sunday Service Livestream** ❖
mvfcolorado.online.church
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"
mvfcolorado.com

Strasburg Church of Christ
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Sunday Service 8:30 a.m.
American Legion Hall
56423 Westview Ave., Strasburg, CO
Please visit our web site to learn more...
<http://StrasburgCOC.org>

Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church
Pastor: Fr. Jeff Wilborn
186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103
Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889
Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551
www.ourladyoftheplains.org

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• Sunday 9:00 am
11:30 am en español
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Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm
Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
Or by Appointment
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Live-streamed @ calvarybennett.org
Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave
303.261.8853
info@calvarybennett.org
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BENNETT BOT

FROM PAGE 11

Sales tax revenue ended 9% over budget at \$4,793,657 in 2024, compared to projections of \$4,296,506, representing an increase of \$395,756. The town consistently estimates 3% annual growth in sales tax, and considers the overage a “significant indicator of a stable, healthy and growing economy within the town” per its website.

A \$30,000 Wastewater Reclamation and Recovery Facility Expansion bond made up a majority of a \$30,382,592 increase in wastewater revenue. Road & Bridge Fund revenues also exceeded the budget at 129% due to increases in population, traffic and associated taxes which provided an additional \$165,379. A Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund revenue overage of \$964,515 will help with large roadwork projects expected over the next three to five years.

Discrepancies in the budget were generally related to projects delayed to 2025, including Pearl Street development, pressure system transition, and the Muegge Well Site Grant. The town received less revenue from passport fees than expected because the service was not available until April; however, interest in the service remains consistent and 2025 brought a passport fee increase.

pacting both the individual and their community. The proclamation also emphasizes protective factors such as parental resilience, social connection, community support and education.

The proclamation recognizes CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Adams and Broomfield Counties, for ensuring children who have experienced abuse and neglect have a voice in court and access to resources they need to heal and thrive. A free Light of Hope luncheon at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield on April 25th is open to the community for those who would like to engage with CASA.

The community can show its support by engaging in mutual aid efforts to support neighboring parents, wearing blue, displaying blue ribbons, and planting pinwheels in their gardens.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The board approved changes to the Panda Express Final Development Plan after the business identified wanted adjustments, which include adding a street light and widening the proposed drive through lane to accommodate larger pickup trucks.
- “Any plans to pave the rest of 38th Avenue?” asked Bennett resident Dale Stone during public comment, “Numerous trucks out there, cement trucks, gravel trucks.” He asked which agency was responsible for the unpaved portion.
- The next town board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 22, with a study session at 5:45 p.m. and a regular meeting at 7 p.m.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROCLAMATION

The Town proclaimed April 2025 Child Abuse Prevention Month, while acknowledging that child abuse and neglect can cause lasting harm to a person’s well-being and significantly increase the risk of future challenges with mental health, substance use, and related systemic barriers im-

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

T	U	T	T	I		E	T	A			D	E	V	A	
O	V	E	R	S		L	S	D		A	I	D	E	R	
R	E	M	U	S		S	P	Y		M	O	D	E	M	
C	A	P	S	U	L	E			T	H	E	R	A	P	Y
			S	E	E		D	A	U	B					
S	I	P			R	A	S	E		B	I	O	P	S	Y
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M	I	L	E		T	O	P	I	C		A	R	E	A	
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O	N	Y	X				N	E	E		L	E	A	S	E

Churches and other nonprofits!
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activities for publicity and coverage!
— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Gaming Club: Kids ages 10 and up can play a variety of video and competitive games after school. 3:30-6 p.m., Thursday, April 17.

The Bennett Movie Club: Adults will watch a classic movie followed by optional discussion. Voting for the next month’s movie will occur at the end of each program. Popcorn and candy provided. 1-4 p.m., Friday, April 18.

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. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 19.

Art Supply Exchange: Adult artists and aspiring artists of the Corridor Creative Arts League will share and swap art supplies. 1:30-2 p.m., Saturday, April 19.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League for a presentation on the fundamentals of color theory and the benefits of limited palettes. The challenge will be to create a piece inspired by the circus or a carnival. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 19.

Adult book club: 6-7 p.m., Monday, April 21.

DIY Roll-On Perfume: Kids ages 7-14 will create their own custom fragrance at the do-it-yourself class. They can choose from a wide range of essential oils and combine favorites into a roll on-perfume to take home. 4:30-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 23.

Spa Day: Library fans of all ages can enjoy a relaxing staycation as they sip on refreshing cucumber water and listen to soothing music. Expert Isaura Cardenas will teach do-it-yourself manicures, and participants can make their own scented bath salts or natural clay face mask. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, April 26.

Cannabis for ailments, pain relief: Adults can learn about cannabis med-

icines from Leaf411, the nation’s first cannabis nurse hotline and guidance service. During the presentation, a Leaf411 licensed professional will provide an overview of cannabis-based medicines.

The presentation is a valuable opportunity to learn more about the potential benefits of cannabis-based medicines and get questions answered by a professional. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 2-3 p.m., Saturday, April 26.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Toddler Play & Learn: Each Play & Learn session features a professional, such as a child behavior specialist, music teacher, nutritionist, or speech therapist, to answer questions in an informal setting. Meanwhile, toddlers can explore their interests and play with peers. Play & Learn is planned from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Fridays, April 18 and 25.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their care-givers can drop in for Easter and spring-themed activities and take home a free goody bag to continue the learning at home. Crafts and toddler-friendly snacks provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, April 18.

Teen resume workshop: Teens ages 12-18 can build their first resume at this hands-on workshop, which will cover content, formatting, references and more. 3-4 p.m., Friday, April 18.

Book Buddies: Kids ages 5-8 will celebrate their favorite characters from “The Timekeeper” trilogy through art and games. No need to have read the book. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Adult book club: “Malibu Rising” by Taylor Jenkins Reid. 6-7 p.m., Monday, April 21.

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FISHING IN BENNETT!



Our annual kids fishing event will take place in June! Stay tuned for more information!

RULES FOR THE BRPOS FISHING POND

- 2 trout limit - per day/person
- Catch and release required for all sunfish and catfish
- All baits are allowed
- Anyone 16 and older must have a valid fishing license
- Open daily - fishing hours are 7a.m. - 7 p.m.

*The fishing pond is located in the Antelope Hills neighborhood.

All rules and additional information can be found online -

bennettco.gov

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"Hoppy" Easter!

I enjoy delivering Easter baskets. People say that I am as quick as....well...a bunny! I have strong back legs that allow me to jump as high as three feet and as far as nine feet. See if you can read the clues below to fill in this week's puzzle about me and a couple of other favorite "Easter" animals. Hop to it!

1. The Easter Bunny is a young _____.

2. No one is sure how the Easter Bunny started his work, but it is thought that he "hopped" across the ocean with the people who came to America from _____.

3. It is believed that the first bunny-shaped treats were made out of pastry and _____.

4. Today, milk, dark or white _____ bunnies are a favorite treat at Easter.

5. Many families hard-boil, dye and decorate _____ to eat or to hunt at Easter.

6. The Easter Bunny delivers _____ full of treats to children for Easter morning.

7. Easter baskets began with children leaving their hats or _____ to be filled with treats by the Easter Bunny.

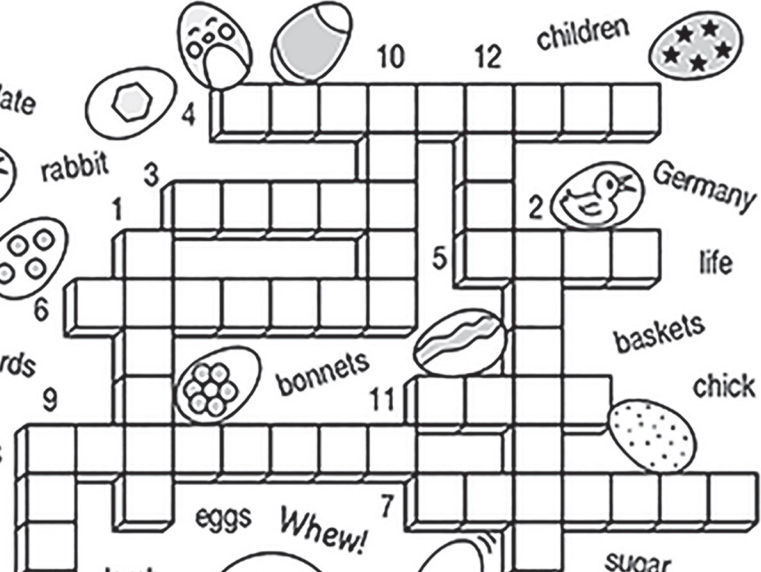
8. The Easter Bunny hides colored eggs for _____ to hunt!

9. Another popular Easter animal is the soft, yellow, peeping _____.


10. On _____ they are often shown popping out of eggs or sitting in baskets.

11. A woolly, soft, white baby _____ or kid is often shown as a cake.

12. Baby animals are signs of new _____ in the springtime.



clues: chocolate, rabbit, cards, bonnets, eggs, lamb, Whew!, sugar, chick, baskets, life, Germany, children



Gosh! I don't like to complain, but shouldn't we be the ones who get to deliver the eggs?

Yay! I get to help with the eggs this year.


There are four sets of eggs that are exactly the same. Can you find and circle the 2 identical eggs in each set?

Have You Ever Seen?

In Australia, some families are choosing this chocolate animal for Easter celebrations rather than a chocolate rabbit. This animal is native to Australia whereas the rabbit is not. Wild rabbits were brought to Australia by settlers for food. Rabbits have grown in large numbers and compete with this animal for food. About the size of a rabbit, this animal carries its young in its pouch. What is it?

libyb

What on Earth is that? Hey, it's me in chocolate!



A Basket Full of Fun and Surprises!

What kinds of treats might the Easter Bunny put in baskets to delight children on Easter morning? Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.

1. _____ and coloring book r s c y a o n

2. small toy car or _____ k c r t u

3. _____ tickets m e v o i

4. _____ book m o c c i

5. story _____ o o b k

6. box of _____ c a h k l

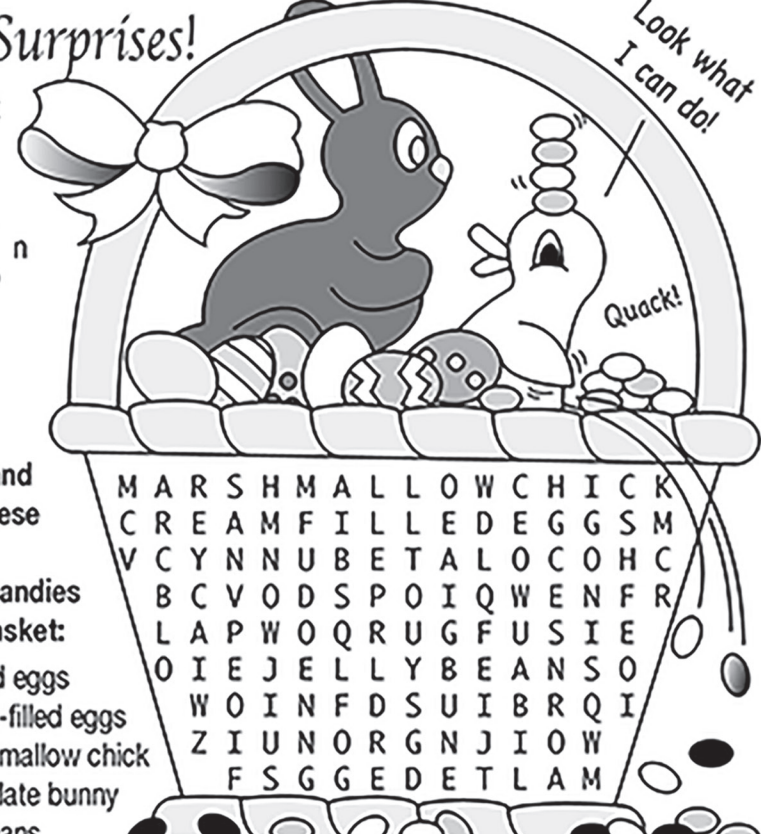
7. stuffed _____ n a i l a m

8. rubber _____ b l l a

9. jump _____ o r p e

Find and circle these favorite Easter candies in the basket:

1. malted eggs
2. cream-filled eggs
3. marshmallow chick
4. chocolate bunny
5. jellybeans




Look what I can do!

Quack!

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

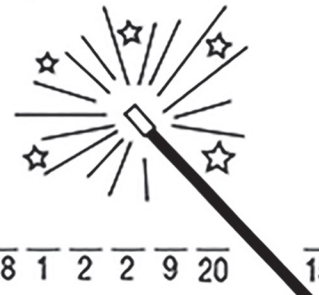
A Magical Job!

Gee, I delivered all the baskets and hid all the eggs! I'm pretty tired...



Uh-oh, what is Bunny worried about? After Easter, his magician friend wants Bunny to join his magic show. Bunny knows that the magician's favorite trick is to:

Follow the alphabet code to "see."



16 21 12 12 1 18 1 2 2 9 20 15 21 20

15 6 8 9 19 8 1 20

Alphabet key for secret message:

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Not-So Dusty Pages

20 YEARS AGO
APRIL 19, 2005

The Strasburg School Board met April 12 to hear the elementary reports, the junior and senior high reports, and to make personnel recommendations.

Strasburg Elementary Principal Deborah Lemmer reported that the weather has been wreaking havoc with CSAP testing.

“CSAPs have been a nightmare,” she said.

Lemmer also said that the common writing rubrics the school has been utilizing for the past four years has been successful.

“Because we’ve been doing this for four years, we’re now able to get into it and really discuss it. We’re now at a place we feel we’re doing it. We’re really into it now. It’s part of us now,” she said.

The elementary school outlines two separate rubrics — one for grade K-2 and one for grades 3-6 — that provide common language and expectation for students learning to write and teachers learning to grade.

The rubrics have helped the students improve their writing greatly, Lemmer said.

Junior and Senior High School Principal Jeff Rasp addressed his efforts to shore up the weakness in the curriculum.

Rasp said that the curriculum is weak in the sciences and in social studies and that he has been working to address that.

15 YEARS AGO
APRIL 20, 2010

BENNETT — An existing board member and two new trustees were sworn in and extended town hall hours were announced during the April 13 Bennett town board meeting.

Incumbent Kurt Eanes and planning commissioners Grider Lee and John Small all took the oath of trustee for four-year

terms Tuesday. Eanes was the top vote-getter from the April 6 election with 127 votes, while Lee and Small received 107 and 99, respectively. Former Bennett mayor Alfred “Pete” Pedro was defeated with 70 votes.

Of the 1,008 registered voters in Bennett, 174 cast ballots. Small and Lee replace term-limited Dave Dummar and Carol Small.

“I would like to thank the board for sharing this opportunity to represent the town with me,” Carol Small said. “I’m going to miss all of you guys on Tuesday nights.”

“I would like thank the residents of Bennett for allowing me the opportunity to help them turn our town into a place where we all can enjoy life on the plains. I’ve seen many changes take place; mainly good things,” said Dummar, also a former mayor.

With John Small and Lee both on the board, the number of Planning & Zoning vacancies grew to three, but Carol Small was appointed to the commission for a term expiring in 2012.

10 YEARS AGO
APRIL 21, 2015

STRASBURG — In addition to introducing its new superintendent April 15, the Strasburg School Board unanimously approved keeping next year’s graduation day on Sunday and heard a request for a stricter, zero-tolerant bullying policy.

Directors unanimously approved the 2015-16 contract for Monica Johnson, who will take over for outgoing Superintendent Ed VanderTook July 6. Johnson has been superintendent at Kim since 2011.

Johnson was one 14 application for the position. VanderTook, who has led Strasburg Schools since July 2009, is retiring.

Today In History

Today is Wednesday, April 16, the 106th day of 2025. There are 259 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On April 16, 2007, Seung-hui Cho, a 23-year-old Virginia Tech student, killed 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus before taking his own life. It remains

the deadliest school history in US history.

ON THIS DATE

In 1945, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed the ship MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers. As many as 7,000 people died as

the ship broke apart and sank minutes after being struck.

In 1963, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests. King defended his tactics, writing, “Injustice

anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off for the moon with astronauts John Young, Charles Duke and Ken Mattingly on board.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

Singer Bobby Vinton is 90. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Ab-

dul-Jabbar is 78. Football coach Bill Belichick is 73. Actor Ellen Barkin is 71. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 62. Actor Jon Cryer is 60. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 60. Actor Peter Billingsley is 54. Actor Lukas Haas is 49. Actor-singer Kelli O’Hara is 49. Rapper Chance the Rapper is 32.

— *Associated Press*

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: DOCTOR’S ORDERS

- ACROSS
- 1. Little Richard’s “___ Frutti”
 - 6. Arrival time, acr.
 - 9. Deity, in Sanskrit
 - 13. ___-under, pl.
 - 14. Lysergic acid diethylamide
 - 15. Support person
 - 16. Fictional professor Lupin’s first name
 - 17. Snoop
 - 18. Computer accessory
 - 19. *Pill alternative
 - 21. *Medical care
 - 23. Use eyes
 - 24. Slap on
 - 25. Hot beverage amount
 - 28. Tear down
 - 30. *Tissue testing
 - 35. Smell
 - 37. Gardener’s storage
 - 39. Shipping box
 - 40. Eight furlongs
 - 41. Subject matter
 - 43. Square footage
 - 44. Like some towelettes
 - 46. Russian ruler, once
 - 47. Pasturelands
 - 48. Acted
 - 50. Enthusiasm
 - 52. “Silent Spring” subject
 - 53. Popular PBS science show
 - 55. Letters of distress
 - 57. *Stitches
 - 61. *Perpetual illness
 - 65. Offer two cents
 - 66. *___ Hot, pain relief patch
 - 68. Branch of economics
 - 69. Sega hedgehog
 - 70. Bubble maker
 - 71. Be of use
 - 72. December stone
 - 73. Born, in society pages
 - 74. Rental agreement
- DOWN
- 1. Rigid necklace
 - 2. Eye’s middle layer
 - 3. Short-term employee
 - 4. *Hernia support
 - 5. Surgeon General, in relation to warning on smoking
 - 6. Other than what’s implied
 - 7. *5 cc, for short
 - 8. Adytum, pl.
 - 9. Mendelsohn on “The New Look”
 - 10. Cocoyam
 - 11. Julia Louis-Dreyfus’ HBO role
 - 12. Major employer
 - 15. Pertaining to amoebae

CROSSWORD

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- 20. Minimum
- 22. Busy airport
- 24. ___ blue ___, to Baby Beluga
- 25. French WWI battle site
- 26. Expression
- 27. *Disease once alleviated with iron lung
- 29. *Tdap/DTaP, e.g.
- 31. *Type of thermometer
- 32. Peeled and cut, as in pear
- 33. Lieu
- 34. Leavening agent
- 36. *Bed ___
- 38. Obsolescent phone feature
- 42. Violent collision
- 45. Hedgehog-like Madagascar native
- 49. Anonymous John
- 51. *Like 97 to 99 degrees
- 54. “Peace” with fingers (2 words)
- 56. Wine from Verona
- 57. Average
- 58. Fairytale’s second word?
- 59. Like Elton John’s Dancer
- 60. Type of operating system
- 61. Inflorescence
- 62. March Madness org.
- 63. Part of #2 Down
- 64. His was a merry old soul
- 67. Pool tool

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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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 12

HOROSCOPE

Mercurial Shape-Shifting

Have you ever imagined another version of yourself that is so different from the one you wear on the regular, it could very well be another person entirely? This person looks, sounds and acts different, but more to the point, being this person makes the whole world feel different. That’s the offering of this Mercury change to fiery Aries — an invite to invent yourself anew.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Regardless of the weather outside, you’re a force of nature inside, buzzing with excitement about what you’ll whip up. Remember, a goal isn’t a goal until it has a deadline. Get clarity around your timeline and you’ll be golden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Risking your heart might seem dangerous if you were fully aware of it, but life has a way of tricking you into giving it freely. Only later do you realize that someone else is holding your most precious treasure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you desire most might be the one thing you can’t have — or, you *could* have it, but deep down, you know it won’t be good for you or anyone else. This is one of those moments when resisting temptation is the wisest choice.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As abundant as information may be, it is but a small mound of facts next to the infinity of unknown things. The importance of continuous inquiry will be emphasized today. Practical answers bring a sense of satisfaction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today’s revelation: Things don’t have to be perfect to create incredible opportunities. In fact, the raw, messy, imperfect things often spark the most connection and growth. People don’t just want polished — they want real.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you have an abundance of nerve to apply to your life, your stories will be glorious. However, if you don’t, you can still be the hero because you don’t need courage to do brave things — you just need to act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Boredom may be uncomfortable, but it’s also the spark before your next great, purposeful creation.

Give yourself the time and space to be profoundly bored. You’ll be amazed at what brilliant ideas rise from the emptiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Opinions and feelings get passed around — sometimes you inherit them, and sometimes you set them in motion. But what you feel now is yours alone, not borrowed or handed down. It’s an original invention, shaped by your own experience, for you and you alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When we don’t agree but still need to interact, a bridge must be built, and in working together to create that bridge, real connection begins. Today sets the stage for building lasting, meaningful friendships based on true understanding, not surface-level niceties.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can’t control anyone but yourself. You’ll realize some people are content staying the same, and that’s their journey. This week, your path is one of noticing where others are and accepting that. You’ll even find a way of working with it or enjoying it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Today’s existential mood is brought on by the vastness of the unknown. But you don’t have to know everything about your scene, the problem or the other people involved. You can move forward on nothing but instinct, which is on point right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To honor your feelings is to let them move at their own pace — they will anyway. There’s nothing you can do to rush emotions along, but you can certainly lift your resistance to them, and they will obey their natural flow.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (April. 16). The year brings a creative surge, fueling passions and powering breakthroughs. More highlights: Success comes from calculated risks, and your ability to pivot will turn challenges into triumphs. You’ll launch a project that surpasses expectations, and it’s a financial game changer. Personal relationships hit a high note as you find your people. Sagittarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 2, 14 and 6.

— *Horoscopes by Holiday*



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CASP

FROM PAGE 1

capacity, expand the type of operations.”

The campus itself will also require improvements.

“What additional areas do we need to develop. Plan for the future — a pre-development phase before entering into a master development phase,” he said. “And that’s here and all around the space port.”

Among the most pressing obstacles is the development of additional water resources.

“Do we look outside of Aurora for water?” Kloska asked, noting that CASP pays a 300% charge for water currently provided by the municipality. “What are our other potential water options? That’s one of the things we have to look into.”

When asked last month about the poor conditions of roadways surrounding the Adams County property, Kloska again mentioned Aurora, which has jurisdiction of 48th Avenue and Imboden and Manila roads in the immediate area.

“We consistently hound Aurora,” he said. “Hopefully we can be the squeaky wheel that can get greased.”

Improving current and developing additional infrastructure will not only benefit CASP itself but is expected to expedite neighboring commercial development, particularly intermodal hubs with national and international trade ties.

“No residential, strictly commercial and industrial. We don’t want to end up like Centennial or Boulder,” said Kloska, noting that Rocky Mountain Rail Park has already gone vertical with its first building and that a lum-

ber processing facility is expected in the near future. “It’s not just talk anymore, things are in process. We’ve even heard interest from Fortune 50 companies.”

SPURRING YOUTH INTEREST

In addition to expanding operations, Kloska said efforts are underway to spur interest in aviation and aerospace career paths, including an upcoming youth event at the space port campus.

“Basically a small research and development project with kids,” said Kloska, referring to Go For Launch! Denver to be held April 26-27 on the space port campus. “Great opportunity to learn from astronauts and other aeronautical experts.”

Students from eighth to 12th grades will spend time with aerospace professionals and STEM experts working on hands-on projects that could literally be launched into space, with the International Space Station one possible destination.

According to event documentation, the education team will include Capt. Wendy Lawrence, a retired naval aviator and NASA astronaut, and former NASA astronaut instructor Michelle Lucas.

Lucas founded and is CEO of the organization in charge of the Go For Launch! series.

Participants must attend both days of activities.

Registration costs \$50 but financial assistance is available on a case-by-case basis.

To register or for more information, visit www.higherorbits.org.

Larry Toft

Larry C. Toft, 93, of Bennett, Colo., departed this earth on April 8, 2025. He was born on March 22, 1932, to Merle and Fred Toft in Bennett, Colo., and left us from his beloved farm in Bennett. Larry grew up on the farm northeast of Bennett on the Kiowa Creek, where he lived until his dying day.

He graduated from Bennett High School in 1950. Larry married the love of his life, Helen Riggs Toft, of Bennett on Aug. 9, 1953. He loved being on his farm. He loved cows about as much as his family. He loved farming, but not the break downs. He enjoyed reading documentaries and loved the newspaper. Dad loved attending Bennett School activities. He was a strong supporter of Bennett athletics and was ready to go to battle over the Bennett Tigers. Someone teased him at one time, by asking him if he bled orange when he was cut. He was the first to stand for the National Anthem and the Bennett School Song. He then became a big fan of the Hugo Pirates watching his grandsons play ball. Dad loved talking and visiting with everyone. The statement “he knew no stranger” very much applied to him. Larry loved America and what it stood for. He taught his family to always appreciate their rights and the people who fought to protect those rights.

Larry was on the Bennett School Board for 16 years with a majority of those years as president. He was a volunteer fireman for many years and was president of the Bennett Fire Board for eight years. Larry was president of the Bennett Community Club, president of the Colorado Milking Shorthorn Association, an officer of the Denver Milk Producers, and was the first president of the Bennett basketball youth league. Larry was at one time a member of the Masonic Lodge. He was instrumental in bringing in the Bennett Community Center. Larry survived the flood of 1935 with his other five siblings and was afraid of the Kiowa Creek up until his dying day. Larry loved milking cows, hard work, but he loved it. He loved cows period and never got over not having a cow on the farm. One of his saddest days was when all the cows left. He had had cows since before he was 5 years old.

Larry and Helen had three children: Douglas Toft, Stephanie Toft (Jeff) Wilson of Bennett, and Dale (Brenda) Toft of Hugo. They had seven grandchildren: Porter (Maria) Wilson of Bennett, Chase (Lynnae) Toft of Hugo, Dalton (Anna) Toft of Parker, Seth (Taylin) Toft of Granada, Brandi Wilson, Mason Toft of Bennett, and Alison (Jaedyn) Toft of Bennett. He is survived by four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Larry has one sister, Rebecca Weber of Grand Island, Neb.

Larry is preceded in death by his precious granddaughter Brandi Wilson; son Doug Toft; parents Fred and Merle Toft; his siblings, Norman Toft, Howard Toft, Pete Toft, Barbara Toft Sherwin, and Charles Toft.

A funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 16, at Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg, with interment to follow at Mount View Cemetery, 3800 Highway 79, Bennett.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Bennett Athletics Basketball program, Attn: Kristy Llanes, 610 7th St., Bennett, CO 80102, or a charity of your choice.

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BRIGHTON — The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Monday, May 19, at the Adams County Justice Center to select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the 17th Judicial District.

The new seat opens July 1.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 17th Judicial District at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The annual salary is \$198,798. The initial term of office is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if retained by the voters, has a term of six years.

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Tuesday, April 22: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans.
Wednesday, April 23: Biscuits and gravy, sausage, hash browns.

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Thursday, April 24: Meatball sub, coleslaw, oranges.

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CO ag dept adjusts pesticide categories

BURLINGTON — The Colorado Department of Agriculture has announced new license categories for pesticide applicators who put on restricted-use pesticides.

Pesticide applicators who must renew or obtain licenses in these new categories can do so by registering with the state at metroinstitute.com.

The next step is to arrange for testing at a proctored testing centers. Colorado testing sites are located in Broomfield, Burlington, Cortez, Grand Junction, Lamar and Julesburg. Testing sites can be found at Metroinstitute.com.

New license categories include: structural fumigation, aerial pest control, government-sponsored public health pest control, and three soil fumigation categories. The structural fumigation license (303) allows applicators to apply fumigation to enclosures including grain storage. Fumigation licenses are required for both commercial and private pesticide applicators who want to fumigate grain using restricted-use pesticides.

Aerial applicators have a new license category (114) that is required for the application of pesticides by fixed or rotary winged aircraft as well as unmanned aerial aircraft (drones).

Government-sponsored public health pest control (110G) includes the application of restricted-use pesticides in government-sponsored public health programs with medical importance.

Last, the soil fumigation categories include soil fumigation pest control (309A) and non-soil fumigation pest control (309B). Applicators who take the 309 exam will be licensed in both 309 A and B. The 309A exam allows applicators to apply fumigants that control insects, weeds or diseases in soils. Category 309B allows applicators to apply fumigants to control borrowing rodents, or prairie dogs.

These categories are administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. For more information, e-mail to pesticidesprogram@state.co.us.

Myrtle spurge a scourge in E. Colo.


CENTENNIAL — Spring-like weather has arrived, and the villainous myrtle spurge is lurking in the shadows.

Have no fear, because Arapahoe County Weed Control Specialist Russell Johnson has helpful tips on what to look for and safety precautions to save one from a trip to the emergency room.

“This is a highly invasive weed and it takes persistence to eradicate it,” Johnson said. “Take the necessary precautions when handling it, because the white sap can be quite irritating to the skin.”

With snowmelt a thing of the past, the noxious weed is already actively growing. Myrtle spurge is an introduced ornamental from the same family as other noxious weeds like leafy spurge and cypress spurge. It is a “List A” noxious weed species that the state requires to be eradicated wherever found. It may look harmless, but myrtle spurge is quite poisonous.

In Colorado, myrtle spurge is commonly found in landscape plantings and flower gardens. Mature plants grow to heights of 4-6 inches with clusters of small yellowish-green flowers at the top of the plant. Its tri-



angle-shaped leaves are bluish-green in color. A key identification characteristic of this plant is a milky white latex sap that oozes from any part that is broken off.

Johnson said hand-pulling the weeds before the plants produce seeds is most effective. As much of the root system should be removed as possible and the process should be repeated over several years to fully eradicate the plant.

While handling the weed, gloves and sleeves should be worn as the white sap can cause skin rashes, blisters and swelling to the eyes, nose or mouth if it makes contact. Wash hands thoroughly after handling.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Left to right, Rafiki narrators Idaaly Botello and Elijah Arnold speak before the iconic musical number “Circle of Life,” during the Bennett Tiger Tones performance of “The Lion King Kids” March 27; Lillie Filkin and Harley-Ann Lehmkuhl, as Mufasa and Young Simba, survey the Pridelands together; and Scar, played by Daleza Ibarra, holds a mouse during a cave speech.

Robert Stephen Peacher

Robert Stephen Peacher

Robert Stephen Peacher

3/9/1949 - 4/5/2025

In Loving Memory of Steve Peacher, who was a devoted husband, loving father, cherished family member, and a true leader. Steve passed away surrounded by his loved ones, leaving behind a legacy of service and strength that will forever inspire those who knew him.

Steve dedicated 42 years to serving his country with honor and distinction. His bravery, commitment, and leadership earned him the respect and admiration of all who served alongside him. He was not only a protector of his nation but a mentor who shaped the lives of countless individuals through his guidance and wisdom.

Steve is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Diane Peacher; children, Kim (Greg) Siemer, Becky (Juan) Jacobo, Dawn (Jon) Malaj, Debi Rief, and Brian (Dany) Peacher; 10 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; sister, Debby (Chuck) Haynes; brother, Kevin (Maggie) Peacher; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Though words cannot fully capture the depth of loss we feel, Steve’s spirit will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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Hearty Beef Lasagna

Winter on the ranch presents challenges and tasks that require much hard work and plenty of resilience. With the ground often frozen and covered in snow, ranchers brave the cold to care for livestock, ensuring animals have adequate food and water.

Whether spending the days with activities such as breaking ice on water troughs, feeding hay to cattle, and preparing for the upcoming calving season, this lasagna will replenish your energy and prepare you to do it all again tomorrow.

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Organizations like the Eastern Plains Cowbelles support Colorado's strong, and vibrant cattle industry by educating and promoting the ranching and beef industries. They also support the small communities they live in by raising funds for families in need.

Hearty Beef Lasagna, shared by the Eastern Plains Cowbelles and the Loutzenhiser Ranch at Flagler, blends Italian traditions with cowboy flair straight from the ranch, using many locally sourced ingredients.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds Colorado Proud ground beef
- 2 tablespoon High Plains Spice Company Italian Seasoning
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 24-ounce jar of roasted garlic and herb marinara sauce
- 14-ounce can of diced tomatoes or one jar of Disanti Farms canned tomatoes
- 24 ounces mozzarella cheese,

grated

- 1½ cups of cottage cheese
- ½ cup parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 1 box lasagna noodles
- fresh parsley, chopped
- salt, pepper, garlic salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

PREPARE SAUCE

1. In a large skillet, brown the ground beef over medium heat.
2. Stir in the Italian seasoning, minced garlic, and diced onion.
3. Season to taste with salt, pepper and garlic salt.
4. Add the marinara sauce and diced tomatoes. Simmer the mixture for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

ASSEMBLE LASAGNA

1. Begin by spreading a thin layer of the liquid portion of the meat sauce over the bottom of a 9- by 13-inch deep baking dish.
2. Add layer of lasagna noodles.
3. Add layer of meat sauce.
4. Sprinkle layer of Parmesan cheese on top.
5. Add a generous layer of mozzarella cheese.
6. Spread a layer of cottage cheese.
7. Repeat steps 2 through 6 until the dish is full, ensuring that the final layer is mozzarella cheese on the top.

BAKE

1. Cover baking dish with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
2. Remove cover and bake for additional 15 minutes, allowing the cheese to become golden and bubbly.

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WATKINS VOLLEYBALL

Watkins Volleyball programming offers coed adult leagues, tournaments, and private training sessions for players of all levels.

Beach Juniors Training Program and Club starts Monday, April 28.

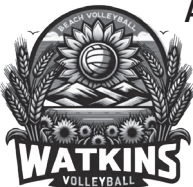
Adult Skills Clinics start Thursday, May 1.

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

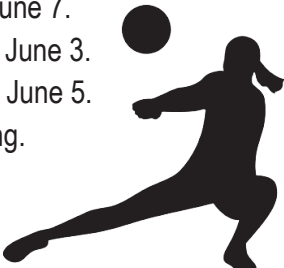
Adult Coed 4x4 League starts Tuesday, June 3.

Adult Coed 6x6 League starts Thursday, June 5.

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Half of states ban devices that turn pistols into machine guns

by David A. Lieb
Associated Press

In New Mexico, police and prosecutors backed an effort to outlaw devices that convert pistols into machine guns. In Alabama, the governor made it a priority.

Lawmakers in both states — one led by Democrats, the other by Republicans — responded this year with new laws making so-called Glock switches illegal.

At least half of U.S. states now have similar laws prohibiting the possession of such devices, a list that has grown over the past decade as law enforcement officers find more of the tiny yet powerful devices attached to guns.

States are mimicking federal law, which for decades has generally prohibited machine guns and any parts that can make semiautomatic weapons automatic.

WHAT DOES FEDERAL LAW SAY?

U.S. law defines a machine gun as a weapon that automatically fires more than one shot with a single pull of a trigger. The definition also includes any parts designed to convert a weapon into a machine gun.

Federal law prohibits possessing machine guns made after 1986, with some exceptions for law enforcement, the military, and certain licensed dealers. Nearly all conversion devices are illegal because they were made more recently.

People convicted of possessing machine guns and conversion devices can face up to 10 years in prison.

WHAT IS A GLOCK SWITCH?

A Glock switch is one type of a machine gun conversion device. The metal or plastic piece, about the size of a coin, attaches to the back of Glock pistol, a brand that is popular with both police and criminals. The switch interferes with a gun’s internal trigger components so that it fires continuously when the trigger is pulled and



ALEX BRANDON/AP Photo

A semi-automatic pistol with a conversion device installed making it fully automatic is fired as four empty shell casings fly out of the weapon in 2023 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives National Services Center in Martinsburg, W.Va.

held.

A gun outfitted with a switch can fire dozens of bullets in mere seconds, similar to a factory-made machine gun.

Other brands of pistols that mimic Glocks also can be converted to machine guns. So can some semiautomatic rifles. Such conversion devices also are referred to as auto sears, selector switches or chips.

WHAT DOES THE DATA INDICATE?

The use of auto sears spiked in the past decade, partly because they can be made inexpensively with 3D printers.

From 2012-16, just 814 machine gun conversion parts were taken into custody by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. That swelled to 5,454 from 2017-21.

In January, former President Joe Biden’s administration said 12,360 suspected machine gun conversion devices had been recovered in the United States and submitted to the ATF during a roughly 34-month period ending in October 2024.

Five states including Florida, Illinois, Texas, Montana and North Da-

kota accounted for nearly half that total.

WHAT HAVE STATES BEEN DOING?

Alabama is the latest state to outlaw Glock switches. A law signed this month by Republican Gov. Kay Ivey makes possessing parts designed to convert pistols into machine guns a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The bipartisan push in Alabama came after police said they believed conversion devices had been used in fatal shootings, including one in September that killed four and injured 17 people outside a Birmingham lounge.

Democratic New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a law in February making possession of a weapon conversion device a felony punishable by up to three years in prison.

Similar legislation recently passed the New Jersey General Assembly and now heads to the Senate. Bills also are pending in other states.

Republican Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed a law last year making auto sears illegal. But Youngkin recently vetoed legislation that would

have broadened an existing ban on “trigger activators” to cover additional devices that increase firing rates of semiautomatic weapons.

WHAT DO GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES WANT?

Groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety say state laws provide a sometimes easier alternative to federal prosecution for possessing Glock switches.

But they want to go further. Everytown for Gun Safety is backing legislation in California, Maryland and New York that would make it illegal to sell pistols that could be transformed into machine guns.

“That really puts the pressure where it belongs — on the manufactures that are making money off of guns that they know can be readily turned into machine guns,” said Nick Suplina, senior vice president for law and policy at Everytown for Gun Safety.

Several cities and states including Baltimore, Chicago, Minnesota and New Jersey have sued Glock for making pistols that can be converted by others to automatic weapons.

WHAT DO GUN-RIGHTS GROUPS SAY?

The National Rifle Association notes U.S. attorneys already can prosecute people for misusing gun conversion devices without the need for state laws.

Gun Owners of America, another gun-rights group, contends people should have a Second Amendment right to own machine guns. State laws against machine gun conversation devices are “duplicative” and “pure virtue signaling,” said Aidan Johnston, federal affairs director for Gun Owners of America.

He said guns converted to fire automatically can have practical uses like eliminating large groups of feral hogs that are destroying land.

“Just because you put that on your firearm doesn’t mean that you are a violent criminal or that you necessarily are a dangerous person,” Johnston said.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION POLLING PLACE

\$1-13.5-502, C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Byers Water & Sanitation
District of Arapahoe County, Colorado:

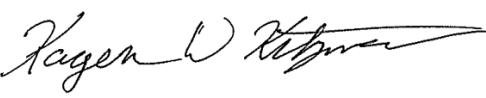
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District have designated the following polling places: (specify the location of each polling place)

421 S. Sherman St. Byers, CO 80103

At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Directors to serve the following terms of office on the Board of Directors of the District.

The names of persons nominated as Director for a Four-Year Term (3 Available)

- Annette Tarantino
- Heath Epperson
- Lindsay Cox
- Kelly Morrissey
- Janet Herman



/s/ Kagen Kitzman
Designated Election Official

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GUN LAW

FROM PAGE 1

in Aurora. Speaking at the bill signing, he added that the measure is “just the next step we have undertaken on that effort.”

Republicans and other opponents contend that the measure violates the Second Amendment, and at least one organization, Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, was considering a legal challenge.

The several layers of hurdles that the law requires to purchase these guns, and the accompanying costs and potential backlogs, make “it a more or less administrative ban,” said Ian Escalante, executive director of the gun rights group.

Previous attempts at securing an all-out ban on certain semiautomatic guns, as has been done in deeply Democratic states including New York and

California, floundered in more purple Colorado where many, including the governor, have something of a libertarian streak.

“I really think this bill will make Colorado communities safer and prevent both accidents as well as reduce gun violence, and ultimately that means saving lives while protecting our Second Amendment rights,” Polis said.

The proposal was watered down from a flat ban on sale of most semiautomatics with detachable magazines, including rifles and some pistols. Proponents argued that allowing only permanently attached magazines would force a would-be shooter to reload bullet by bullet.

The final bill as signed is a concession to Polis and other Democrats wary of going too far.

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