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The I-70 Scout

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

Thursday, August 1, 2024

ArapCo sheriff stripped of fiscal duties

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — As the Arapahoe County commissioners struggle to mitigate an impending county-wide fiscal spiral, the board

recently took over financial oversight of its largest departmental budget after the sheriff overspent last year. The board also stripped the sheriff's office of all fiscal signing responsibilities after uncovering

an unaccounted transfer of funds earlier this summer. On the 12-item consent agenda of their July 9 board meeting, commissioners voted 4-0, including stripping Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown of fiscal controls in

his office and turning them over to the county's finance department. The resolution includes removing "all billing and collection of funds from cities, towns, school districts, **SEE ARAPCO SHERIFF** **PAGE 14**



Myra Lopez, 10, is all smiles despite losing her balance inside one of the inflatable bubbles provided by Anythink Bennett library during its Human Hamster event at Trupp Park July 16.

Staggered schedules miff Bennett School families

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett School Board July 18 appointed a new finance director and gave her access to the district's bank accounts, but not before hearing from parents about schedule changes for the 2024-25 academic year. In an e-mail sent out earlier that day, parents were informed that proposed start and dismissal times for students will be staggered to alleviate traffic in and around the school campus. If the schedule is

adopted, children in kindergarten through the fifth grade will attend from 7:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. while classes for middle and high school students will run from 8:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During public comment, parent Julie Bavoset said that a two-week notice of the change is inadequate since parents must revise child care arrangements, consider transportation issues, and request work schedule changes. "I think that everybody **SEE BENNETT BOE** **PAGE 24**

'Burg Rec, museum merger done

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Earlier this summer the acquisition of Strasburg's museum by the local recreation district was completed and the first notable difference will be when the annual Hometown Days historical presentation takes place on Thursday, Aug. 8. During the mid-June board meeting of the Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District, Administrator Angie Graf reported that the deed for the Comanche Crossing Museum had been filed with Adams County and that the two-acre property, complete with the museum and other historical structures has been added to the rec district's insurance. "The museum is truly a community treasure and we are so excited to work with the Comanche Crossing Historical Society to partner on events ... and ensure that the museum stays open and operational," Graf said. During their March 18 meeting, recreation district

directors unanimously approved the acquisition of the museum property on the west edge of town. Under the arrangement, the historical society will lease the property back for a minimal fee. Graf reiterated that primary operations of the museum will remain with curator Cliff Smith and their group of volunteers.

SEE STRASBURG PRD
PAGE 12



Dax Engelsman, 5, sits in suds with a makeshift pirate hat during the annual Strasburg Parks & Recreation District and Strasburg Fire Protection District Foam Day at Community Park July 20.

Hometown Days grand marshals named

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Hometown Days parade grand marshals have called Strasburg their hometown for decades. Cheryl and Ed Humbert each grew up in Strasburg and both graduated from Strasburg High School — Ed in 1976 and Cheryl in 1980. They raised their three children in the town and have owned and operated Strasburg Auto Parts for years. In a July 22 conversation with *The I-70 Scout* at their Strasburg home, the Humberts discussed their Eastern Colorado roots that extend deeper than a generation. Cheryl's father was the first owner of the auto parts store in Strasburg. Harvey and Eileen Crandall and their three daughters moved to Strasburg in 1972 when Cheryl was in fourth grade. Harvey and Eileen built and opened Crandall Auto Parts and the Strasburg Self Serv gas station in 1976. They later expanded the business to include the car wash and Harv's Repair. Cheryl grew up about a mile down the road from their current home on Arapahoe County Road 153. Her parents bought a lot in Strasburg and moved in with Cheryl's grandfather in Watkins while her father earned money for two years by digging basements for new houses, including their own. She attended Bennett school for half a year during that time. "Then, after we moved into the Stras-



Cheryl and Ed Humbert are the Grand Marshals of the Strasburg Hometown Days Parade Aug. 10. burg house, my father had enough money to start the auto parts store," she said. Ed came to Strasburg with his mom and siblings in July 1974, but the move was a homecoming for his mother. His grandparents, Beaula and Orie Barrois, homesteaded in the Living Springs area north of town. Beaula taught at Living Springs School, which is now an exhibit at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg. Ed's parents both attended Strasburg High School and graduated in 1954. They married and moved around for a few **SEE HUMBERTS** **PAGE 6**

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Impersonation of deputies occurring via phone scams

CENTENNIAL — Reports of scammers impersonating Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office deputies while reaching out to residents about subpoenas or warrants. Ultimately the caller will mention a fine that must be paid.

Such professional scammers might have a surprising amount of real information about the resident, as well as the sheriff’s office, gathered from public sources.

The sheriff’s office will never request a payment over the phone, according to a release. Residents are advised to be wary of phone calls from unrecognized numbers and, if a call is received from someone claiming to be an Arapahoe County deputy, to call (303)795-4711 to report the incident.

For more information, call the Community Resources Division at (720)874-3750.

Pop-top donations wanted for Ronald McDonald House

BENNETT — Folks who drink from cans are asked to donate the pop tops to the Bennett-Watkins Lions Club.

The club is collecting pop tops to give to the Ronald McDonald House. All Lions Clubs are participating in the project against childhood cancer.

Pop tops can be dropped off at the Lions Club booths at Strasburg Hometown Days Aug. 10 and at Bennett Days Sept. 7. For pick-up, call Diane Moler at (303)644-3717.

Job fair for veterans slated for Arapahoe County locale

AURORA — VetConnections, a job fair for service members and veterans in Arapahoe and Adams counties, will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 10, at Arapahoe County CentrePoint Plaza.

More than 40 vendors and organizations that provide veteran-specific services on-site will attend, and the event will also

Colorado bird flu cases increase to 10

DENVER — Three cases of avian flu in humans were confirmed July 25 by the state health department at a second farm in Weld County.

Public health officials first reported news of the virus at a second Weld County location July 20.

Last week’s update brings Colorado’s total number of confirmed avian flu cases in humans to 10 — nine cases at two poultry farms and one case at a dairy farm.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment recently launched a data table to track cases of avian flu in humans.

The table will be updated on the CDPHE website by 4 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

The biweekly update will include the number of presumptive positive human cases, number of confirmed human cases, approximate number of people tested, and a link to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for the number of impacted dairy and poultry farms.

provide resources from Boots to Books, Salute Colorado, American Red Cross, and Freedom Service Dogs. Workshops, covering topics from Medicare to business start-up, will also take place.

Employers will be available to discuss about open positions. Attendees should bring copies of their resumes and wearing business attire is advised.

To volunteer, visit arapahoegov.com.

CentrePoint Plaza is located at 14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora.

Pure Cycle: Watkins outfit earns 12¢ per share in Q3

WATKINS — Pure Cycle Corp. (PCYO) July 10 reported net income of \$2.8 million in its fiscal third quarter.

On a per-share basis, the Watkins-based company said it had profit of 12 cents.

The water and wastewater services company posted revenue of \$7.6 million in the period.

Ag dept plans presentation of rural mental health film

BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Department of Agriculture will present its short documentary, “Legacy,” from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Elbert County Fairgrounds in Kiowa.

The film attests to a deep love for

agriculture that can be rewarding, joyful, and at times, painful. The producers and filmmakers aim to de-stigmatize mental health in rural Colorado by connecting with communities and highlighting the resources available in the state.

The occasion will include dinner and beverages. Tickets are free and doors open at 5 p.m.

The Elbert County Fairgrounds are located at 95 Ute Ave., Kiowa.

’Burg museum, its bldgs key to history discussion

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society in Strasburg is inviting the public to the third of three evenings of history.

Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg, will present “The Comanche Crossing Museum 1969-2024” from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave., Strasburg. A reception with a light snack is planned from 5:30-6 p.m.

The program will address the establishment and operation of the Comanche Crossing Museum. It will include the stories of each building and the special artifacts contained within each.

Free will offerings will benefit the Comanche Crossing Historical Society and museum. Organizers prefer adults only.

Kroger and Albertsons pause mega-merger while CO suit proceeds

by Dee-Ann Durbin
AP Business Writer

Supermarket chains Kroger and Albertsons July 25 agreed to temporarily halt their proposed merger in Colorado until a judge has considered the state’s objections.

Kroger and Albertsons announced their planned merger in October 2022. The companies say they would be better able to compete with rivals like Walmart and Costco if merged.

But Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser sued to block the merger earlier this year, saying it would harm shoppers and workers by eliminating the competition that now exists between the 148 Kroger-owned groceries and 105 Albertsons-owned groceries in the state.

A judge in Denver District Court was scheduled for Aug. 12 to consider a preliminary injunction that would temporarily block the merger. But, on July 25, Judge Andrew Luxen said all parties in the case had agreed that Kroger and Albertsons would temporarily halt their plans until after the court rules in the state’s case.

Luxen will consider the state’s argument that the merger should be permanently blocked during a trial scheduled to begin Sept. 30. The case is one of several challenging the \$24.6 billion merger.

In February, the Federal Trade Commission sued to block the merger in federal court. That lawsuit, which will proceed in Oregon, was joined by eight states and the District of Columbia. The judge in that case is scheduled to consider the FTC’s request for a preliminary injunction Aug. 26.

“This is great news for shoppers, workers, farmers and other suppliers, who can rest assured that this mega-merger will not go into effect during harvest season and while kids are headed back to school,” Weiser said.

The trial is set to begin Sept. 30.

The state of Washington has also sued to block the merger.

Eastern Colorado News

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Earlier this month, the intersection of Highway 79 and Greg's Place in Bennett was shut down and a highway detour put into place as construction crews started to install infrastructure on the south edge of the Bennett Ranch subdivision. The wrap-around is expected to remain in place until after the Bennett Schools' school year commences in early August. The above pictures were taken July 17, a few days after the work commenced. There is also construction occurring on the northeast corner of the development, resulting in alternating one-way traffic on both sides on Highway 79 at 26th Avenue.

Bennett funds safety building, awards \$40K in grants

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BENNETT — The town of Bennett's new safety building is taking shape, and the Bennett Board of Trustees approved two expenditures for the construction July 23.

The trustees approved three change orders for additional costs of remodeling the old public works facility for its new purpose. In a staff report on the issue, Town Manager Trish Stiles provided background, noting that, in January,

the board approved a contract with KTK General Contracting for the remodel in the amount of \$911,116. Staff budgeted a 10% project contingency — \$91,111.

"We expected possible other issues or needs to arise as the building construction took place and, boy, have we found some things," she said, adding that change orders to date have totaled \$53,353. The board also previously approved re-sheeting and re-roofing the building at a cost of \$165,740. The three remaining change orders totaling \$62,578 will cover drywall cost

increases; delays for asbestos testing, permit release, and additional scope; and additional electrical costs.

Security enhancements for the safety building were also approved. In her staff report, Communications & IT Director Alison Belcher asked the board to waive the request for proposal requirement and authorize a contract with Paladin Technologies for the building's security upgrades.

SEE BENNETT
PAGE 4



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The recipients of two of the town of Bennett’s seven Bennett Gives Back grants attend the Board of Trustees meeting July 23 to receive their certificates. Members and coaches from the Bennett Wrestling Club and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue Board President Royce Pindell accepted the congratulations of the Bennett Board of Trustees. Pictured, from left, are Trustee Kevin Barden, John Faczak, Jeremy Scholz, Brittany Hudson, Madison Gitke, Trustee Larry Vittum, Vivian Gitke, Trustee Steve Dambroski, Kate Faczak, Carter Faczak, Caycen Sholz, Dublin Sholz, Trustee Denice Smith, Trustee Donna Sus, Mayor Whitney Oakley, Pindell, Kathy Rita, Bennett Town Manager Trish Stiles, and Bennett Finance Director Danette Ruvalcaba.

BENNETT

FROM PAGE 3

The company previously installed security cameras in town parks and also won the bid to install and monitor access control systems at the new public works facility.

Paladin also upgraded the access control and surveillance equipment at both the town hall and the community center.

“One of the IT Department’s main goals is to get all of our town facilities on the same system as far as security and access control, so that way when we’re managing things, we’re not dealing with 17 different systems and logging in here to check this and that,” Belcher said.

The enhancements at the safety building will include the installation of card readers, electrified door hardware, motion sensors, glass break sensors and indoor and outdoor cameras.

“The equipment being installed also includes everything necessary

to secure an office for the Arapahoe County Sheriff,” Belcher said.

2023 AUDIT

In a study session before the regular business meeting, the board heard a report on the 2023 audit from auditor James Rae of Rae & Co. CPAs LLC. This year was Rae’s first year as auditor for the town of Bennett.

Rae provided a comprehensive report including a number of recommendations for the town’s financial department. He noted that no disagreements with management occurred and the town did not feel the need to consult with another CPA firm or auditor to get a second opinion.

Rae noted the town’s fiscal health is good, and that 2023 was a good year financially.

“The [Government Finance Officers Association] recommends a minimum fund balance of 180 days of expenditures,” he said.

“In your fund balances, Wastewater has almost 1,200 days, Water has almost 1,000, and the General Fund has almost 300, so your major funds are well funded and have good fund balances.”

Rae said that the town required just one audit for the first time in five years, which includes audits of the financial statements and the town’s compliance with federal program requirements.

“We had no findings in the single audit related to how the grant was operated and administered,” he said.

Rae complimented the town for its system for handling credit cards.

“That’s something that we look at. Normally, we don’t find good systems, but we believe what Bennett has would meet the muster of the Internal Revenue Service for documentation,” he said.

Rae added that some entities he audits are “afraid of grants.”

“They believe they’re too difficult to manage, and they just don’t leverage those funds,” he said. “Bennett doesn’t have that issue, and you expended more than \$2.6 million in federal and state and local grants (in 2023).”

In its regular meeting after the study session, the board unanimously passed a resolution accepting the 2023 town of Bennett audit.

BENNETT GIVES BACK

The recipients of the seven grants totaling \$40,000 funded through the 2024 Bennett Gives Back program were celebrated at the meeting and those who could attend were recognized with certificates.

The awardees were:

- Bennett Career Technical Education program, \$10,000 toward school district safety communications.
- Bennett CTE program, \$6,000 toward a Certified Nursing Assistant training course;
- Bennett School District, \$7,000 toward auditorium audio/visual updates;
- Bennett Wrestling Club, \$6,000 for transportation and singlets;
- Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue, \$5,000 toward its phase two fleet facility road base replacement;
- Hearts, Hands & Hope Foundation, \$5,000 for daily operations; and
- Bennett School District, \$1,000 for graduation fireworks (previously awarded).

Bennett Gives Back grant applications are accepted yearly from eligible organizations and special districts to obtain additional resources to help supplement services or resources provided to the residents of Bennett.



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PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

Officials and residents gather for the annual Bennett State of the Town Address July 19 at the Bennett Community Center. Pictured are, clockwise from top left, Public Safety Bureau Chief Ken McKlem and Property Crimes Investigations Lt. Wayne Pennington, both with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office, Lori Pindell, and Town of Bennett Trustees Royce Pindell, Donna Sus and Denise Smith; Charlie Kerr and Morgyn Daniel with I-70 Corridor Communities that Care Teens for Change; Colorado Air & Space Port Deputy Director William Flowers and Adams County Fleet & Facilities Director Ameer Faqui; EMS Battalion Chief Josie Fisher and Fire Marshal Victoria Flamini, both with Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue; Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy John Bartmann, Undersheriff Mark Nicastle, Deputy Jason Presley and Deputy Riley Nolan; and Bennett Mayor Whitney Oakley and Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker and Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez.

Panel review scheduled in Yuma on Bovine Animal Traceability Rule

WRAY — A panel-style meeting to discuss the changes and implementation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Bovine Animal Traceability Rule will run from 12-2 p.m., Monday, Aug. 12, at the Yuma County Fairgrounds.

The rule changes, effective Nov. 5, include new requirements for

official identification ear tags to be both visually and electronically readable for interstate movement of certain cattle and bison.

The changes additionally clarify record requirements related to cattle movement. They apply to all sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months and older, all dairy

cattle, cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, recreation, shows or exhibition. The changes update the 2013 USDA rule on official ID and documentation for interstate movement of livestock.

The panel will include individuals from the Colorado Brand Board, USDA, and Colorado De-

partment of Agriculture State Veterinarian’s Office.

The Yuma County Cattlemen’s Association is hosting the event with CSU Golden Plains Area Extension. To RSVP, call the Yuma County CSU Extension office at (970)332-4151 or e-mail to travis.taylor@colostate.edu.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

SATURDAY, AUG. 3
Bennett Community Food Bank. 8-10 a.m., Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.
Caffeine & Chrome car show. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Strasburg Community Church, 56155 Sunset Ave. Call (303)622-4600 for information.

MONDAY, AUG. 5
Strasburg High School Athletic Booster Club. 6 p.m., high school library.
Bingo. 7 p.m., Byers Legion Hall.
Deer Trail School Board. 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.

TUESDAY, AUG. 6
Adams County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)405-3298. Appointments available at Anythink libraries for one-on-one discussion using the library’s computer link. Space limited.
Arapahoe County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)739-6630. Appointments available at Aurora Main Library for one-on-one discussion using the library’s computer link. Space limited.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7
Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7

p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

THURSDAY, AUG. 8
Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.

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

EVERY THURSDAY
Play & Learn for ages 1-3 and their families. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.
Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies

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

EVERY THURSDAY
Gaming Club: Patrons ages 7 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

EVERY FRIDAY
Storytime: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com. Click on “virtual events.”

HUMBERTS

FROM PAGE 1

years, including when his father served in the military. In 1973, his parents divorced and his mom, Ed and his siblings moved back to Strasburg.

Ed and Cheryl weren't acquainted with each other in high school, but each had noticed the other with very different reactions.

"I was in eighth grade, and I just looked at him as a stupid senior," Cheryl said. "I couldn't have cared less about him at school."

Cheryl might have been oblivious, but Ed had taken note of her.

"I remember the first time I saw her," he said. "I was in the principal's secretary's office with a friend of mine," he said, quickly adding, "but we weren't in trouble."

He said that Cheryl came in to deliver some papers and caught his eye.

Ed saw Cheryl other times when she was working at her father's gas station.

"It was in a building just to the west of the auto parts store — it's not a gas station anymore," Cheryl said. "It was us kids' job to run the gas station in the summer."

Their first date was "interesting," as Cheryl put it.

"My dad went fishing in Canada, so mom and us girls were running the shop and the store," she said. "Ed came in one day and got gas and asked me if I would want to go to the drag races at Bandimere."

She was 14 at the time, and her dad had a rule that his girls couldn't date until they were 16. But he was in Canada, and Cheryl thought maybe her mom would allow it.

"We asked Mom and, of course, because she was wrapped around this one's finger because he was so sweet, she said it would be OK," Cheryl said.

As first dates go, it was a little awkward.

"I spent about half the race with smeared glasses because he tried to kiss me and I turned away," Cheryl said. "But then after that we just kept dating — off and on for awhile."

Ed had worked in various jobs after he graduated high school, but then he was laid off when the recession hit.

"Dad offered to give him a job until he found another one," Cheryl said. "After a month or two, Ed did land a new job, but Dad kind of liked having him around, so he asked what it would take to keep him at the store. He's been there ever since — since 1979."

Ed worked for Harvey until 1995, and he and Cheryl bought the store when Harvey retired in 1996. They ran the store together until 2006, when they decided they both needed a break and sold the business.

Ed worked around his home for several months, took a job painting with a friend in Denver, then he got a job selling parts at the John Deere dealership in Strasburg.

Cheryl said that, in 2006, the couple attended the annual car show sponsored by the auto parts store — an annual event the Humberts had started. Cheryl said that, after the show, Ed asked, "Would we be crazy to buy this place back?"

Cheryl said, yes, probably, but they decided to do it anyway.

The car show had always been an important event for the store. The Humberts started it in 2001 when, simply by word of mouth, more than 60 cars were shown. It had grown into a large event with 100 to 200 cars on display, prizes, vendors, kids activities, food, and even a tricycle race.

They reacquired the business in October 2012. The car shows continued until 2018. In its final years, it outgrew the lot at the store and moved to the school.

Cheryl said that the venture became too risky legally, and insurance coverage increased so much the cost was untenable. Nonprofits can hold such events with less liability.

"And that's why we called the churches and encouraged them to take it over," she said. "So that's when we stopped doing the car show. It was a lot of work, and we weren't getting any younger either."

Since they bought back the business, Ed works on site and Cheryl handles the bookkeeping and other tasks from home.

"I think Ed and I have a pretty good partnership," she said. "I do everything I can for the store without being there physically, and he does everything I can't do here at home on his days off. We complement each other."

Cheryl added that she knows Ed missed the store "like crazy" during those years away.

"That store over there is his passion," she said. "He loves cars. And he's the best parts guy in the country as far as I'm concerned."

Ed and Cheryl have three adult children, Lisa, Chris and Craig, and five grandchildren. Their three kids all participated in sports while growing up, including baseball, softball, basketball and bowl-

ing.

"We loved going to those games, even when we were going in, like, 15 different directions," Cheryl said. "We're proud of the fact that we only got the right kid to the wrong field once. I think of those years as some of the best of our lives. Oh, we kept them busy so hopefully they wouldn't get in trouble. They still managed to, but at least we knew where they were. Yeah. It was awesome."

Cheryl added that bowling and softball scholarships paid for almost the first year of college for their children.

Both Ed and Cheryl coached baseball and softball and Ed coached bowling. Cheryl played softball herself from age 12 until her knee gave out in 1999.

"(My sisters and I) played Blue Lightning softball and took state in '79, '80, and '81," she said.

Ed is a bowler and coached his kids in the sport.

"They were all really good," Cheryl said. "Chris bowled 300."

Bowling and softball have been a part of the couple's equation since before they were married.

"That's how we started things together," Cheryl said. "Ed was the bowler; I was the ballplayer, so, when we got married it was agreed that I'd bowl with him on his mixed doubles league and he'd play on my softball teams when we needed another guy."

These days, the Humberts are staying as busy as they've ever been.

Cheryl loves gardening and decorating; her yard is an expanse of perfectly manicured bluegrass punctuated with islands of whimsical displays and flowers. Add in the huge playset and adorable Hemingway cats and their grandkids must think they are in wonderland.

Cheryl loves country music and she goes to concerts with Ed or groups of friends, where they enjoy tailgating. The living room walls are covered with photos of family members with country artists and sports personalities they have met over the years. She and a friend won a radio contest for the more elaborately decorated tailgating vehicle and got meet Kenny Chesney in person in 2022. How she wrangled meetups with the other celebrities wasn't shared.

"I'd love to meet Reba McEntire or George Strait," she said. "I've met just about everybody else."

The family made a project out of restoring a 1967 Mustang, which took six years. Ed is now working on the restoration of a 1940 Chevy pickup when he has spare time. Their children also know their way around cars.

The kids always bring their vehicles out when they need work, and they're always right out there working, too," Cheryl said. "The best thing I ever did was put a lift in the shop so now the kids really come out because they can just push the button and can work on their cars."

Ed and Cheryl Humbert embody the spirit of hometown communities and are perfectly suited to preside over the Strasburg Hometown Days parade.

Give them a wave as they pass by.

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STRASBURG

HometownDays

*Fee associated with event

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

5:30pm **NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (Legion Hall):** Enjoy an enjoyable presentation of Strasburg history. Light refreshments provided. Donations for the Comanche Crossing Museum will be accepted. *SPONSOR: F&C Realty*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

HOMETOWN DAYS KICK-OFF (Community Park): Enjoy food, music, fun, and fireworks! **BRING YOUR CAMP CHAIRS** – no coolers please. Hosted by Strasburg Parks & Rec District, Strasburg Arts Council, and Strasburg Fire Protection District

4:00pm **FOOD TRUCKS* (10+ options this year) and ACTIVITIES** – Giveaways, Sand Volleyball, Cornhole, Sidewalk Chalk, and **ROCK PAINTING** with the Strasburg Arts Council. *SPONOSR: Jim Needham Heating, AC, and Plumbing*

5:00pm (NEW!) **COMMUNITY ART PROJECT** by Adams County Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts with Brandon Vargas
BEER GARDEN* – All proceeds benefit youth scholarships and event fireworks! Choose from LPB’s 4 flagship beers (21 & over). *SPONSOR: Launch Pad Brewery; F&M Bank (coming soon to Bennett)*

5:30pm **STREET DANCE** with DJ James Shelley. *SPONSOR: Crandall Drilling & Pump Service*

6:00pm (NEW!) **CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT** – FREE Registration on-site (16 & over); Prizes for winners! *SPONSOR: Smoke Show Meat*

9:00pm **FIREWORKS** by Strasburg Fire Protection District #8 (weather permitting)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

7:00am* **RUN TO THE RAILS 5K* (MVF):** Check-in at 7am (begins 7:30am). Register online by 8/6/24. Race day registration also available – prizes by age & gender. Hosted by SHS Cross Country Team. *SPONSOR: Adams County Health Dept.*

9:00am–3:00pm **ART & CRAFTS – INDOORS (SHS):** *SPONSOR: D&D Water Service; Action Signs & Graphics*

9:00am–3:00pm **OUTDOOR VENDOR FAIR (SHS):** *SPONSOR: U.S. Mechanical Company; Magik Mirror Metaphysical*

9:00am **TRAP SHOOT (MVF):** Hosted by Mountain View Fellowship Ironworks

10:00am **PARADE** (route online): “Throwdown for your Hometown” – *SPONSOR: The Gift Shop; CORE Electric*

11:30am–1:30pm **FREE COMMUNITY BBQ (SHS):** Hosted by Strasburg School District 31J. Entertainment by High Plains Music Ensemble. Bring camp chairs and umbrellas. *SPONSORS: Independent Financial (Food); TBK Bank and Western Hardware (Drinks); I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News and BlueSky Party Rentals (Entertainment)*

11:30am–3:30pm **KID’S OBSTACLE COURSE* (SHS):** Fundraiser for Twisters Gymnastics and Cheer. *SPONSOR: Crandall Drilling & Pump*

11:30am–4:00pm **HAY RIDES** (route online): *SPONSOR: Strasburg Vet Clinic; 21st Century Equipment*

12:00–4:00pm **COMANCHE CROSSING MUSEUM:** Enjoy a Root Beer Float* and support your hometown museum. Activities: museum tour, cow milking for kids, and model train displays. Hosted by Comanche Crossing Historical Society

1:00–3:00pm (NEW!) **FACE PAINTING & FACILITY TOUR (Legion Hall):** FREE popsicles & face painting. Hosted by Small Beginnings Childcare

2:00pm **TEXTING CONTEST (Museum):** Hosted by Hometown Kids Daycare. *SPONSOR: High Plains Sanitation*

3:00–6:00pm **CARNIVAL (Journey Church):** Fun, games, and entertainment for the whole family. Hosted by Journey Church

4:00–6:00pm (NEW!) **AFTERNOON FUN (SHS):** Check-out the Petting Zoo and Barrel Train! Chili cook-off contest and FREE Watermelon. Hosted by SHS Unified Bowling. Entertainment by Golden Eagles Concert Band. *SPONSOR: Byers General Store*

5:00–8:00pm **DINNER & SQUARE DANCE (MVF):** FREE Dinner 5-6pm, Dancing 6-8pm. Hosted by Mountain View Fellowship

Dusk (8:30pm-ish) **OUTDOOR MOVIE (NBF):** Movie: SHREK, concessions available. *SPONSOR: Bijou Telephone Co-op*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

7:30–10:00am **BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER* (HMS):** Hosted by SHS FBLA; \$7 for adults, \$5 kids 12 & under. Biscuits & gravy or pancakes with sausage, and drink. *SPONSOR: Claussen Chiropractic; Bijou Telephone Co-op*

9:00am–2:00pm **CAR SHOW* (Strasburg Community Church):** Roll-in time: 9am – judging categories: Off-Road, Modern, Classic, and Best of Show. Enjoy food trucks, bounce house, music, and family fun. Entrance fee donation to “Wheel-O-Rama” fundraiser. Hosted by Strasburg Community Church. *SPONSOR: Denver East Strasburg KOA; Premiere Portables*

9:30am **MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT* (WCR West):** Youth (6th-12th) and Adult Divisions. Check-in at 9:30am. Register online by 8/5/24. Concessions provided by SHS Cheer Team. Hosted by SHS Athletic Booster Club. *SPONSOR: Matt Brinkhoff – Coldwell Banker Realty; 7 Leguas Mexican Grille*

10:00am **COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE (HMS):** *SPONSOR: Crandall Drilling & Pump Service*

11:00am **COW PLOP FUNDRAISER* (Legion Hall):** Fundraiser for American Legion Post #183. Guess where the cow will “plop” for your chance to win. To purchase a ticket or for more info, call 720-840-0411.

12:00–4:00pm **COMANCHE CROSSING MUSEUM:** Enjoy a Root Beer Float* and support your hometown museum. Activities: museum tour, cow milking for kids, and model train displays. Hosted by Comanche Crossing Historical Society

HOMETOWN DAYS FUNDING PROVIDED BY: LOCOMOTIVE SPONSORS: 21st Century Equipment; 7 Leguas Mexican Grille; Action Signs & Graphics; Adams County Health Department; BlueSky Party Rentals; BTC Telephone Co-op; Byers General Store; Claussen Chiropractic; CORE Electric; Crandall Drilling & Pump Service; D&D Water Service; Denver East Strasburg KOA; High Plains Sanitation; I-70 Scout & ECN; Independent Financial; Magik Mirror Metaphysical; Matt Brinkhoff - Coldwell Banker Realty; Premier Portables; Strasburg Vet Clinic; TBK Bank; The Gift Shop; U.S. Mechanical Company; Western Hardware; BOXCAR SPONSORS: Barnyard Boutique; Burchfield Farms; Country Gardens MH & RV Park; Cutting Edge Ag and Turf; Dulce Espresso Bakery & Coffee; F&C Realty; F&M Bank; Hometown Kids Daycare; Jerry’s Mobile Automotive; Jim Needham Heating, AC, & Plumbing; Launch Pad Brewery; One Street Insurance Group; Plains Heating & AC; Prairie Creeks Living Center; Christina Pastori - Real Estate Connection; Smoke Show Meat; Strasburg Conoco; Strasburg Family BBQ; Weller Insurance; Westward Fence; CABOOSE SPONSORS: Hilltop Creations; Residents of Prairie Creeks; PARTNERS: Adams County; American Legion Post #183; Comanche Crossing Historical Society; Journey Church; Mountain View Fellowship; Strasburg Arts Council; Strasburg Community Church; Strasburg Fire District 8; SHS Athletic Booster Club; Strasburg Parks & Rec District; Strasburg School District 31J

EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: Strasburg Hometown Days Committee • **FACEBOOK:** Strasburg Hometown Days • www.strasburgparks.org/htd/
Please adhere to the rules and regulations of each event location. Participation is at your own risk. Committee and Sponsors are not responsible for bodily injuries or property damage.

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Virtual writers workshop: Adults can share their work with other aspiring writers in a fun, supportive online workshop. Participants will learn to write better and hone their skills through creative exercises. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. A Zoom link will be provided in advance. To share work, sign up by Friday, July 26. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 3.

Mystery at the Campground: Kids ages 7-12 will go off on a camping excursion with Adams Mystery Playhouse and they're sure to have a blast. The camp director has provided initial instructions and the campers have packed their gear and coolers.

Then suddenly the camp director's canteen is missing, and it holds valuable secrets! Was it stolen? Who has it? Participants will help the detective solve the baffling crime. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit anythinklibraries.org. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can apply to serve on the new Teen Advisory Board at Bennett library. They can take an active leadership role in planning and implementing programs and big events and use their voices to promote and advocate for youth ser-

vices. The board will meet monthly. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org. 4:15-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Aug. 13 and 27.

Art Supply Exchange: Adult artists and aspiring artists of the Corridor Creative Arts League will share and swap art supplies. 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 17.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League for a scratchboard presentation and demonstration with artist Sarah Bennett. The challenge for the month will be to create a piece inspired by the circus or a carnival. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 17.

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

'Tea at 2': Adults are invited to "Tea at 2" every first Wednesday of the month. The library will provide tea and activities, such as playing cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Summer Movie Night: The community is invited to an outdoor screening of "Encanto" (2021, rated PG, 1 hour 41 minutes). 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8.

Dinosaur Ridge: Adults are invited to learn about dinosaurs from a Dinosaur Ridge paleontologist, who will discuss current discoveries in Colorado. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 21.



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Wednesday, July 31

Free concert featuring Nate Smith with Kassi Ashton, presented by Your Front Range Toyota Stores, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1

Senior Day, 10 a.m.
Professional Bull Riding, 5 p.m.
Concert featuring Craig Morgan with Jon Langston presented by Brannan Aggregate, 8 p.m. \$4 from each ticket will be donated to the Adams County 4-H scholarship program.

Friday, Aug. 2

Kids Day, 10 a.m.
Demolition Derby presented by JFW Corp., 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 3

Cornhole Competition, 10 a.m.
NSPA Truck Pull presented by Guzman Energy, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 4 – Dia de La Familia

Charreada, 5 p.m.
Concert featuring Banda Los Sebastianes, 8 p.m.
MC Magic with Lil Rob, 8 p.m. (free concert)

Free Off-Site Shuttle Service and Parking

A free shuttle service to and from the fair is offered Wednesday-Sunday at the following locations:

- Prairie View High School, 12909 E. 120th Ave., Henderson
- Shadow Ridge Middle School, 12551 Holly St., Thornton
- Riverdale Ridge High School, 13380 Yosemite St., Thornton
- Sunday: 12 p.m.-12 a.m.
- Wednesday: 5-11 p.m.
- Thursday: 3 p.m.-12 a.m.
- Friday: 3 p.m.-12 a.m.
- Saturday: 12 p.m.-12 a.m.

Scan the QR code for more details.



STAY CONNECTED:

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Public Agencies /AdamsCountyCo
Adcogov.org

FSA plans live meeting in Limon

DENVER — The Colorado Farm Service Agency plans a meeting for producers from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 13, at the Limon Community Center, 477 D Ave.

The following topics are planned:

Livestock programs: The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock.

The Livestock Indemnity Program offers benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible

loss conditions.

Conservation programs: Voluntary conservation programs to help producers protect and conserve natural resources, supporting healthy soil, cleaner air and water, and conserving wildlife habitats while helping mitigate the impacts of climate change.

USDA Electronic Processing: USDA is upgrading its systems and working towards full digitalization. The discussion will address changes for producers such as signing documents through Box/OneSpan and operating Farmers.gov.

Church Directory

LIVING SPRINGS COWBOY CHURCH
BYERS, CO
Sundays at 10:00 AM
2722 S. County Rd 173 Byers, CO
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719-659-8848

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Foundation Youth Group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Tuesday
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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

Mountain View FELLOWSHIP
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Servicio en Español a las 10:15am
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Sunday Service Livestream at https://www.mvfcolorado.online.church
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"
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Missouri Synod
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Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
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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
Nehemiah 4:14 Be not ye afraid of them; remember the Lord, which is great and terrible.

Strasburg Presbyterian Church
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO
www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325
• Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
• Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Church Directory ads start at \$13.50/week



SPORTS



Indian alum on a college football mission

Former 'Burg linebacker looks to follow-up All-American season with deep postseason run

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

OTTAWA, Kan. — After being named one of the top small college football players in the country last season, a former I-70 Corridor standout hopes to lead his squad to an even deeper playoff run in his senior year.

A.J. Hemphill, a 2021 Strasburg graduate, was named to the First Team Defense of the 2023 American Football Coaches' Association's NAIA All America Team after propelling the Ottawa (Kan.) University Braves to a Kansas Collegiate Athletic Association championship and an NAIA playoff berth in 2023.

Hemphill, a middle linebacker, recorded 136 tackles, including 56 solo stops, 2.5 sacks, three pass break-ups, and one fumble recovery during last season's 6-6 campaign, which included a 4-1 record in the KCAC and a first-round playoff



Former Strasburg standout A.J. Hemphill (47) celebrates a tackle during his NAIA All-American season in 2023 for Ottawa (Kan.) University.

loss.

"After a pretty tough (and disappointing) nonconference schedule, every game was like a must win. With everything being so meaningful, that helped me focus better," said Hemphill

of last season. "We got hot at the right time over conference play. Very rewarding in the end because we did make the playoffs, which was the first time for Ottawa in a while."

Hemphill, a multi-sport

athlete in high school, said last year's KCAC championship game against Kansas Wesleyan, the alma mater of Strasburg High School basketball coach Kyle Bollers, was especially rewarding. Ottawa won the

game 27-24 in overtime.

"[Coach] Bollers was chirping pretty good at me before the Wesleyan game," Hemphill recounted. "It was a tough overtime game and I tried to help anyway I could and it worked. I called [Bollers] right after the game with a [celebratory] cigar in my mouth."

Hemphill's amount of action at the collegiate level has escalated significantly since his freshman season in 2021 where he saw significant special teams play while recording 37 tackles, 4.5 tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks, and a pair of fumble recoveries.

In his sophomore year as a first-year starter, Hemphill was named Second Team All-KCAC, recording a team-high 120 tackles, including 51 unassisted, along with nine tackles for loss. 1.5 sacks, four pass break-ups, two fumble recoveries, and one

SEE HEMPHILL
PAGE 12

Watch for Upcoming Summer Auctions

More information to come on website soon!



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Visit www.linneburauctions.com for details, information & pics!!

STRASBURG PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT
1932 Burton Street - (303) 622-4260 - StrasburgParks.org

- ◆ Pee wee Flag Football (PK-K) - Deadline August 4th
- ◆ Mud Volleyball: Youth & Adult Divisions (August 11th) - Deadline August 5th
- ◆ Run the Rails 5K (August 10th) - Deadline August 6th
- ◆ Pee wee Baseball (2-4 years old) - Deadline August 6th
- ◆ Night at the Museum Presentation - August 8th, 5:30pm at the Legion Hall
- ◆ Hometown Days Kick-off: Beer Garden, Food Trucks, & More! - August 9th
- ◆ Outdoor Movie: Shrek - August 10th, North Baseball Field; starts at dusk
- ◆ Fall Softball & Baseball - Deadline August 10th (www.bybsa.net)

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE NO LDC24-005 Land Development Code Amendment
Retail Marijuana Store and Marijuana Production
at DEA-Authorized Facilities

PROPOSAL: Amendment to the Land Development Code to allow the production of marijuana products at facilities approved and licensed by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for use at DEA licensed research facilities and to allow retail marijuana stores to relocate within the same building.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 20, 2024, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial, CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described amendments to the Land Development Code, Case Number, LDC24-005. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, and in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024.

BYERS

Elementary & Jr/Sr High School

Important Dates:

Back to School Night:
5-6:30 p.m., Monday, August 12

First Day of School:
Wednesday, August 14

Elementary Registration:

- New elementary students can register with Nichole Mohatt beginning **Monday, August 5**, from **8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
- Immunization records, a copy of your child's birth certificate, and proof of residency are necessary to register.
- School supply lists will be available in the elementary office or on our website at byers32j.k12.co.us.

Junior/Senior High Registration:

- New Junior/Senior High students can register with Michelle Forbis beginning **Thursday, August 1**, in the High School office from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Immunization records, a copy of your child's birth certificate, and proof residency are necessary to register.

*Please remember to update any immunizations that your child may need prior to school starting!

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AUGUST 9, 10 & 11, 2024



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STRASBURG PRD

FROM PAGE 1

“The historical society will continue to run the everyday operations,” she said. “But it does give us some flexibility to possibly host some events on the museum property. Seems like a win-win for both sides.”

When the agreement was first approved, Graf said that insurance was the primary impetus behind acquiring the museum lot.

“That hail storm last year, really did a number on them in more ways than one,” Graf said, adding that insurance premiums for the museum district were anticipated to have more than tripled.

One of the first changes residents will notice is that the historical district’s annual Night at the Museum history lesson the Thursday night of Hometown Days weekend will be hosted at 5:30 p.m. at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, which is also owned and operated by the rec district. In previous years, the annual Meeting of the Rails presentation was held in the museum itself.

50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

In September, the recreation district will celebrate 50 years of serving the community.

According to Graf, plans include highlighting the district’s achievements with photos dating back to its formation in 1974; launch of a new logo and website; a Strasburg Scavenger Hunt with prizes; and the dedication of the new Wolf Creek Run West Field.

OTHER BUSINESS

- According to Parks & Recreation Manager Nick Dickens, renovations of the Wolf Creek field have been completed and the facility is in use on a daily basis. An easement with developer Forestar for maintenance on the field has also been finalized.
- At the Legion Hall, asphalt installation to add more parking on the east side has been completed; two sheds have been relocated to the district’s Wagner Street lot; and a contractor has been selected to address drainage issues on the northeast and southwest corners and to cap the current hydrant there.
- On the north baseball field, a new culvert pipe and hard surface was completed at the entryway to the parking lot; more asphalt millings have been installed in the bull pens and fence lines to mitigate mud; and a new scoreboard and mound are awaiting approval.
- At the site of the pending Community Park East project, Graf said engineering submittals, a change-in-use permit, and a pond easement are all still in process. Graf hopes to have a bid on the project by the end of August.
- The board next meets at 6 p.m., Monday, Aug. 19, at the TBK meeting room.

HEMPHILL

FROM PAGE 11

forced fumble.


Hemphill attributes much of his success in the collegiate ranks to his high school career and the Braves’ previous starting linebacker Colby Johnson.

“I came from a very professional high school program in Strasburg, very detailed. It didn’t feel like there was as big of a learning curve as you might hear from others entering college. That helped my transition into college,” Hemphill said. “It was also a very good situation coming in under a three-time All American. He mentored me that first year and that helped me immensely when I finally got my opportunity.”

When asked whether the collegiate transfer portal or implementation of name, image and likeness (NIL) were considered entering his senior year, Hemphill said no.

“I made a commitment to Ottawa, so I’m sticking to that,” he said.

When it comes to the upcoming season, Ottawa is expected to



Hemphill

again be at the top of its conference.

“The whole defense is coming back,” Hemphill said. “A few question marks on offense, but most everyone is back on that side of the ball too.”

Hemphill hopes to get some snaps on offense.

“I’m waiting for the moment when they call on me to go in on offense,” he said.

After an Aug. 22 scrimmage at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kan., Hemphill and the Braves will start the regular season with a 6 p.m. home kickoff against Southwestern College from Widefield, Kan., on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Hemphill is the son of Karla and Strasburg alum and longtime teacher and Indian coach Kevin.

A.J., an education major, hopes to follow in both parents’ footsteps.

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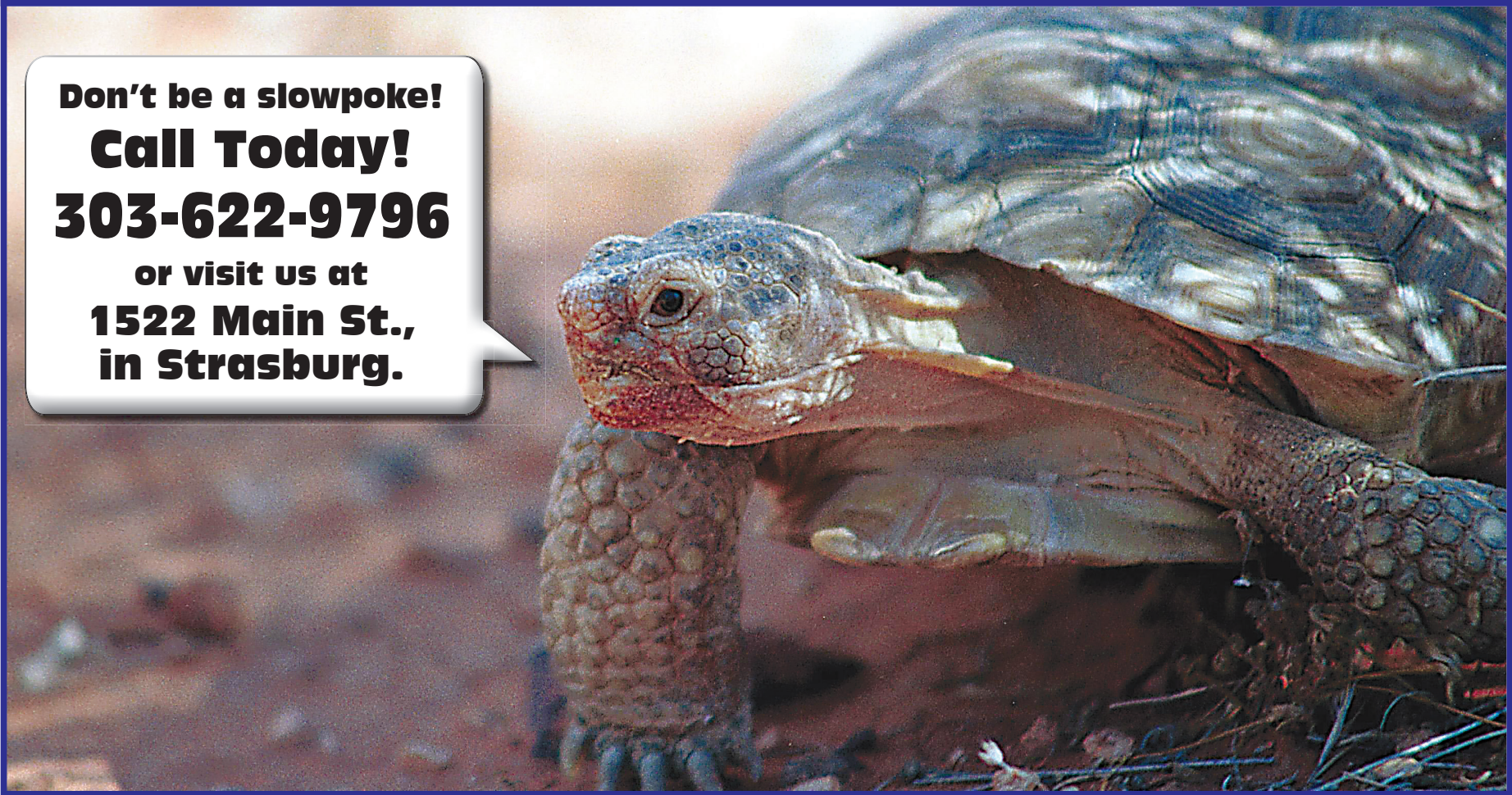
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ARAPCO SHERIFF

FROM PAGE 1

special districts, and other community partners for contracted law enforcement services” from the sheriff’s office.

The resolution further orders, “the sheriff’s office shall not be permitted to exceed line-item expenditures within the sheriff’s office budget.”

Commissioner Bill Holen made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Jessica Campbell. District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker was absent.

According to a commissioners office summary, “[In January 2024] the board learned the sheriff’s office had overspent its 2023 budget by nearly \$1 million, which is not allowed under state statute.”

As a result, five new fiscal controls over the sheriff’s office budget were implemented:

- monthly meetings with all budget managers;
- quarterly reviews with the county’s executive budget committee;
- budget, financial accounting and finance practices training through the county’s finance department;
- monthly meetings with the county finance department; and
- development of compensation plans for overspent areas.

But additional fiscal misconduct was uncovered early this summer.

“As part of the county’s established budget process, the board in June discovered the sheriff’s office diverted \$380,000 in taxpayer funds owed to Arapahoe County to a nonprofit organization. This diversion of funds was inconsistent with state statutes and approved fiscal policies and procedures, circumventing the board’s statutory responsibilities over county financial matters,” the commissioners summary added.

As a result, the board approved taking away most of the sheriff’s office’s fiscal control.

“The board expects these supplemental controls will ensure expenditures of the sheriff’s office remain within their approved annual budget appropriations for 2024 as knowingly exceeding such appropriations has statutory and budgetary consequences,” the commissioners statement concluded.

A second board resolution targeting the sheriff’s office stripped all but six signature authorities from the department. The items that the sheriff’s office can still sign off on include ambulance licenses; mutual aid agreements that carry no monetary tie to the county; emergency wildfire mutual aid agreements; media access to dispatch communications; and SWAT training release of liability agreements.

“These changes will require the sheriff’s office to submit certain documents to the board’s consent agenda for approval and signa-

ture,” the board summary said.

SHERIFF RESPONDS

In a press statement first released to media outlets on the west end of the county July 15 but not sent to *The I-70 Scout* until two weeks later, Brown said, “regarding the nearly \$1 million of overspent budget from the 2023 budget year, the Sheriff’s Office has been an active participant in every quarterly budget review and provided a significant amount of information to the Arapahoe County Finance Department informing them of our projections.



Brown

“The Sheriff’s Office has, and always will, place the safety of our citizens as our highest priority. We understand there are significant challenges regarding current and future budgets in Arapahoe County. Our profession has faced very difficult challenges in recent years and, as a Triple Crown Accredited organization, the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office has nonetheless come through as a shining example of a professional law enforcement organization despite cultural and budgetary concerns.”

Concerning the transfer of funds earlier this summer, Brown said Cherry Creek School District provided a \$500,000 donation to Arapahoe County designated to “solely be used to enhance the ability of the sheriff’s office to provide law enforcement services and all hazards crisis response for, but not limited to, CCSD staff, students and facilities.”

According to the sheriff’s office, for the 2023-24 budget year, the sheriff’s office allocated \$310,000 of donation, leaving the remaining \$190,000 unaccounted for. According to county officials, the balance of the donation is still not accounted for, but Brown says the remaining funds are available.

“The \$190,000 from 2023 has been accounted for through the Foundation and the \$190,000 from 2024 has now been placed with the County so that the entire amount can be managed by the County Finance Department and allocated for its intended purpose,” the sheriff’s office statement said. “There was no intent to circumvent any county processes, only an attempt to make sure the money was accounted for and able to be utilized to provide resources to the men and women who work to ensure the safety of students and the citizens of Arapahoe County.”

According to Arapahoe County Treasurer Michael Westerberg, efforts to improve the day-to-day communication between the county’s financial department and the sheriff’s office are ongoing and improving.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
AUG. 3, 2004

WATKINS — Voters approved the home rule charter for the town of Watkins July 16. Of 96 votes cast, 73 favored the home rule charter, and 19 opposed it.

The town government will include the mayor, who will be a nonvoting member, two trustees from Adams County, two trustees from Arapahoe County, and one at-large, trustee.

A nine-member election commission composed the town charter after voters approved incorporation June 8.

Home rule passed 174-82, with 256 votes cast. Watkins voters chose to be a home-rule by charter town, rather than a statutory town, which functions under state statutes.

15 YEARS AGO
AUG. 4, 2009

BENNETT — Bennett trustees unanimously approved the addition of a Love’s Travel Stop on the northwest corner of the I-70/Highway 79 interchange following a July 28 public hearing.

“Welcome to Bennett,” trustee David Dummar told Love’s officials and project engineers after the 6-0 vote. Mayor Sue Horn was absent.

The 11-plus acre site will host a 10,800 square-foot retail building that will house a Love’s convenience store, McDonald’s, and Chester’s Fried Chicken. In

addition, a 1,200 square-foot outbuilding for tire repairs and tire storage will be constructed.

Sixteen automobile gas pumps are planned and another eight diesel stations for semi-truck traffic.

10 YEARS AGO
AUG. 5, 2014

LIMON — The suspect in a July 31 Limon bank robbery turned I-70 vehicle chase remains on the loose after abandoning the rental truck he was driving near Watkins.

According to the Limon Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation, a 5’6” to 5’8” Hispanic man with a mustache entered the Limon branch of the First National Bank of Hugo at approximately 4:05 p.m., presented a demand note to a teller saying he was armed, received money and fled the scene in a U-Haul truck.

The vehicle got on eastbound I-70 and a chase ensued with the number of law enforcement vehicles involved reaching almost double digits.

The chase ended near milepost 295 near the Watkins interchange.

“When I was driving home from work at about 5:50 p.m., there were four police cars facing east on the right side of the interstate about 1½ miles from the Watkins exit,” said a Bennett resident. “I saw five more police vehicles with lights on heading west toward that area by the time I got to the Bennett interchange.”

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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 17

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Aug. 1, the 214th day of 2024. There are 152 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On August 1, 1981, MTV began its American broadcast; the first music video aired on the new cable TV network was “Video Killed the Radio

Star,” by The Buggles.

ON THIS DATE

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state in the Union, less than a month after the US Centennial.

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf

Hitler.

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense

Command (NORAD).

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 74. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 65. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 60. Football Hall of Famer Edgerrin James is 46. Actor Jason Momoa is 45.

— Associated Press

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THEME: THINGS WITH BUTTONS

ACROSS

1. Genoa or storm jib

5. Pouch

8. Support for #1 Across

12. Gaelic language

13. Big-ticket ____

14. Flowerbed cover

15. Western Samoan money

16. Agrippina's slayer

17. Literature class homework

18. *The Curious Case of ____ Button"

20. God of thunder

21. Tight or rigid

22. Blunder

23. * ____ control

26. *Alarm clock delay

29. Edible tuber

30. Racecourses

33. Crew propellers

35. Often follows dark or back

37. ____-Town, or Chicago

38. Friend, south of the border

39. Singular of #25 Down

40. Containing uranium

42. Rip off

43. Sleeping sickness vector

45. Che Guevara's hat, pl.

47. Roman road

48. "And Then ____ Were None"

50. Hillside, in Scotland

52. *Home ringer

55. Raccoon's South American cousin

56. Debate side

57. Spring in a mattress

59. Ar, atomic number 18

60. Black-tie occasion

61. Golfer's aim

62. Group with pressure

63. Stallone

64. Semiprecious variety of agate

DOWN

1. Collector's goal

2. Kuwaiti, e.g.

3. ____ of Man

4. Shanty

5. Flower trunks

6. American Eagle's intimates brand

7. "Oh, ' ____!"

8. *Edible button

9. "The Sun ____ Rises"

10. "The Lion King" villain

11. Olden day "your"

13. More asinine

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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14. City area

19. Bulwark

22. Ems follower

23. Aimless walk

24. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.

25. Pall ____ and ____ of America

26. Largest organ of human body

27. Mobutu Sese Seko's nation

28. Cereal killer

31. Land measure

32. ____-cha-cha

34. Wails

36. *Tall building people-mover

38. Of sour taste

40. All 50 states

41. Spanish airline

44. Make a logical connection (2 words)

46. Repeat an echo

48. Opposite of atonal

49. In a heated manner

50. Dull one

51. Angry display

52. Entertainingly eccentric people, Down Under

53. "On Golden Pond" bird

54. ____ of the valley

55. *A baseball one has a button on top

58. Lexington airport code

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

Summertime Part 2

The halfway mark between the summer solstice and the autumnal equinox has been celebrated since ancient times in the Celtic holiday Lammas. Festivals honoring the light are echoed in the carnivals that ride through many towns this time of year, with games and rides that light up the evening hours with a blurring, whirling promise of fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You’ll be an objective witness to your own behavior. This is advanced human behavior, and it takes maturity. To clearly understand your motivations and patterns, and make changes where needed, will allow you to evolve in the way you wish to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The logic you once followed suddenly seems faulty, but you can’t quite put your finger on why. Until you figure it out, try to navigate with something different. An innate knowing rises up in you — use it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You’ll make someone’s tough day a lot brighter with your generosity. You’ll give your last dollar, share your fries, do whatever it takes to get to that smile. Your sweetness is matched only by your strength.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The whole universe breathes with you. Anytime you want to remember this truth, just bring your attention to the pulsing ground, the sway of trees, and the vibrant force that fills your lungs and invigorates your spirit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shortcuts might get you somewhere fast, but you still won’t be able to skip anything life wants to teach you. These lessons insist on being learned, if not now, then tomorrow or next month.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Wishing for what you want doesn’t make you entitled. The entitled are the ones who expect that wishing is enough to bring things to hand, which is, of course, childish. Aligned aims, efforts and strategy will win the game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Study the routines of your admired crew. Observe

how they structure their day, manage their time and tackle their tasks. Don’t hesitate to ask them directly for the steps they follow and the best practices they adhere to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you’re so used to hard work, it feels passive to sit back and gather inspiration. But absorbing ideas and experiences is crucial to producing your next round of quality work. Seek out books, art, music and conversations.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People feel safe with you. Because of this, the truth will move in where mysteries and manipulation once existed. It’s your warmth that inspires others to let down their guard or give up the ruse.

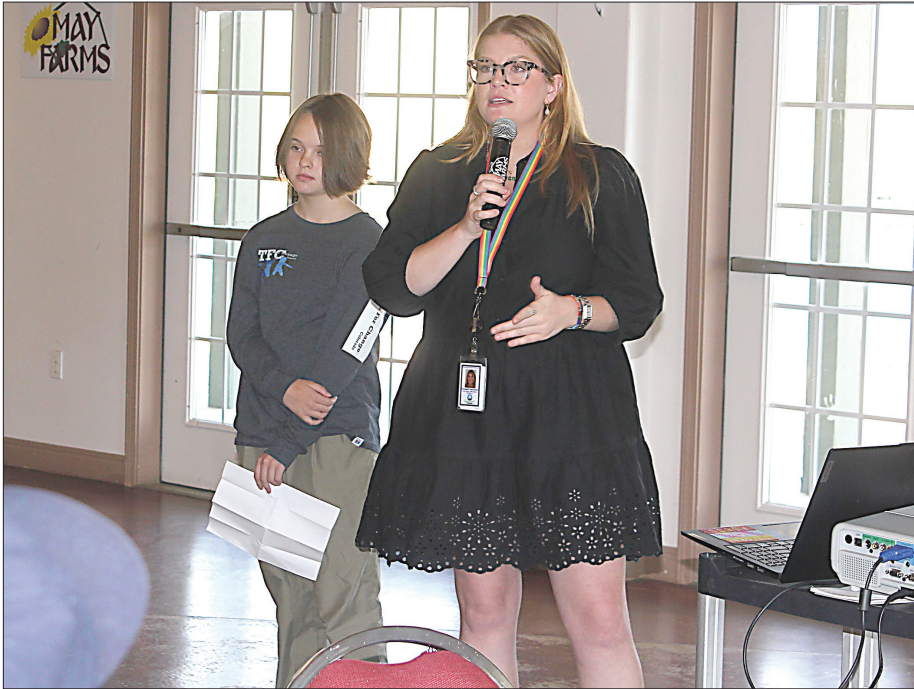
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trust in the timing. Pauses just mean that matters outside the frame are being solved. Ultimately, even the lulls work in your favor. Hunger makes the meal sweeter. The reward, long-awaited, will be worth it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Feelings heat up. Channel your creative impulses into making something tangible. This process can provide a sense of release and offer a new perspective on your experiences.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don’t have to be perfect to be loved, liked or included. Perfection would be intimidating and tends to drive people away. People are drawn to your relatability, which is based in knowledge of your strengths and flaws alike.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 1). It feels so right to take charge of your own experience. This lucky feeling meets you on the regular this year and is often your constant companion. The world is responsive to your needs and wants. More highlights: You’ll be part of an excellent team and you’ll also root for winning teams. Education pays off big-time. A magical process brings kindred souls together. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 3, 39 and 18.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



PHOTOS BY KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Nichole Harrell, left photo, discusses I-70 Corridor Communities That Care (CTC) at the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn meeting at May Farms July 17. The CTC coalition is comprised of residents, business owners, and other professionals along the Corridor who are vested in assuring local youth have a safe, inviting, healthy environment to live, work and grow in. The group aims to address the underlying causes of youth health problems and increase positive outcomes by targeting shared risk and protective factors. Right photo, Charlie Kerr, 13, and sponsor Libby Harrington from the Adams County Health Department discuss current projects of the group Teens for Change, which is affiliated with CTC. Teens for Change involves young people in events, projects and outreach to improve youth health, equity and safety.

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Self-Nomination and Acceptance forms are available and can be obtained from Jennifer S. Henry, Designated Election Official, c/o McGeady Becher P.C., 450 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 592-4380.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN pursuant to Section 1-13.5-1002, C.R.S., that applications for and return of absentee voters’ ballots may be filed with the Designated Election Official of the proposed District, c/o Jennifer S. Henry at McGeady Becher P.C., 450 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado 80203, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., until the close of business on the Tuesday immediately preceding the election (Tuesday, October 29, 2024).

PROPOSED WOLF CREEK RUN WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

By: /s/ Jennifer S. Henry
Designated Election Official

#2943
Published In *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024.

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56175 Sunset Ave., Strasburg.
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CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Byers Water & Sanitation District
PO Box 301
Byers, CO 80103

Separate sealed bids for Water System Improvements generally consisting of two Schedules of Work including: **Schedule 1** - 4,370 lineal feet (LF) of 12" C900 DR18 PVC water mains; 3,092 LF of 8" C900 DR18 PVC water mains; 2,150 LF of 6" C900 DR18 PVC water mains; 112 LF of 4" C900 DR18 PVC water mains; 880 LF of 24" steel bore and jack with 12" C900 DR18 PVC carrier pipe; 80 LF of 12" steel bore and jack with 6" C900 DR18 PVC carrier pipe; 200 LF of 12" high density polyethylene utilizing directional drilling methods; 5 – 12", 6 – 8", 21 – 6" and 7 – 4" valves and riser boxes; 9 fire hydrant assemblies; 27 connections to existing water mains ranging in size from 8" to 4"; 9 – 6" and 3 – 4" cut-in valves with riser boxes into existing water mains; 23 – ¾" water service taps on new 8" PVC water mains; 350 LF of ¾" Type K copper service line; 20 LF of flowable fill installed around new water mains; 2 each (EA) flowable fill installed around existing storm sewer to the spring line of the pipe; 157 square feet (SF) of 6" thick concrete replacement on top of 3" thick aggregate base course (ABC); 67 LF concrete curb and gutter on top of 3" thick ABC; 1,540 square yards (SY) of 4" thick hot mix asphalt pavement in two lifts on top of 3" thick ABC; 1,060 LF of 4" wide solid white pavement paint markings; 19 locking mini tracer wire test boxes; 11 carsonite marker posts; non-irrigated grass seeding; Well No. 2 Improvements consisting of installing a new sand separator, internal piping modifications, fittings and appurtenances; **Schedule 2** - Tank No. 1 (50,000 Gallon) Improvements include: remove and replace tank vent, remove and dispose of interior ladder, interior surface preparation and painting; Tank No. 2 (100,000 Gallon) Improvements include: remove and dispose of interior ladder, interior surface preparation and painting; and Tank No. 3 (150,000 Gallon) Improvements include: remove and replace tank vent; together with appurtenances and incidentals of construction until 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time on the 28th day of August, 2024, at GMS, Inc., 611 N. Weber Street, Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Byers Water & Sanitation District, 421 S. Sherman Street, Byers, CO 80103
GMS, Inc., 611 N. Weber Street, Ste 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Dodge Data & Analytics, 2860 S. State Hwy. 161, Suite 160 #501, Grand Prairie, TX 75052-7361

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of GMS, Inc. located at 611 N. Weber Street, Ste 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 upon payment of \$250.00 for each hard copy set or \$100.00 for an electronic set.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the Byers Water and Sanitation District (Owner) negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total Bid shall be submitted with the Bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project, and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Bidders shall note that funding for this project is being made available through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund and Arapahoe County ARPA federal stimulus funds. The requirements associated with this funding source include, but are not limited to, provisions for Davis-Bacon wages that set forth the minimum salaries and wages within the contract documents that must be paid on the project. The current applicable Davis-Bacon Wage Decision is the Heavy Decision Number CO20240002 07/05/2024, Modification No. 2, dated 07/05/2024.

Any planholder returning the hard copy of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS in good condition within 30 days of bid opening will be refunded \$40.00. There is no refund for the electronic set.

Dates of Advertisement (The I-70 Scout): July 25, 2024
August 1, 2024
August 8, 2024

July 18, 2024 _____ /s/ Kagen Kitzman, District Manager
Date

GARAGE SALES

Retired Mechanic's Hand Tool Sale & More
Rollaway Tool Boxes (2) • Several Sets of Hand Tools • Garden Hand Tools • 2-Horse Air Compressor • Ryobi Table Saw • Numerous Boxes of Hardware • Chop Saw • Battery Charger • Homelite Chain Saw • Skill Saw • Various Carpenter Tools • 49-Horse Massey Ferguson Tractor (220 hours) • Many More Items. CASH ONLY!
607 E. Thomas Ave., Byers, CO
4- 8 p.m., Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 1-2
8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat., Aug. 3



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The third annual May Farms Car Show was held June 29. From top right photo, a young lady enjoys some cotton candy, and Chris Savaglio, left, receives the Best of Show trophy from Grant May and Hollee Swain.

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Evergreen Cemetery of Deer Trail, Colorado, gives notice of intent to reclaim the following abandoned burial plots pursuant to Colorado revised statutes, Title 30, Article 20, Part 8, 30-20-808:
Jim Nordloh, plots 5-8, Sec. 15, Lot 5; **Omar Forhand**, plots 1-4, Sec. 6, Lot 6; **Joe Rico**, plots 1-7, Sec. 10, Lot 3; **Jim Sprague**, plots 5-7, Sec.14, Lot 2; **Agnes Thomas**, plots 3 & 4, Sec. 11, Lot 1; **M. Clinkenbeard**, plots 1-3 & 5-8, Sec. 14, Lot 21; **J. H. Frahm**, plots 1-4, Sec. 9, Lot 2; **Mr. Hinkle**, plots 5-8, Sec. 9, Lot 2; **Harmon Rossiter**, plots 1-7, Sec. 7, Lot1.
The owner, or person with legitimate claim to these plots must, within 60 days, notify Evergreen Cemetery, in writing, of their intent to retain ownership of the burial rights to these plots by sending a letter to Evergreen Cemetery, P.O. Box 191, Deer Trail, CO 80105.

VEHICLES FOR SALE
Gravel dump truck, 1965 Ford F-600, single axle, runs. 4-yd. box, hydraulic works. (303)909-3361. 8/8

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

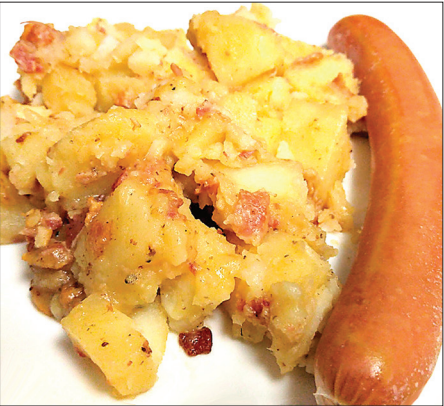
I-70 Corridor youth celebrate the traditions of the Old West during Pioneer School, which meets every week in July each year at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg. On July 19, schoolteacher Laura Nelson, left, prepares an old-fashioned hand churn for making ice cream. Right, guest speaker Stacy May of Byers shows off an old potholder from her collection.

CHUCK WAGON

Southern German Potato Salad

by **Bobbie Keefer**
For The Scout

This warm potato salad is my German mom’s recipe. In southern Germany, warm potato salad with vinegar is popular. In northern Germany, cold potato salad with mayonnaise is favored. My aunt still lives in Germany. When she came overseas to visit, my family had a luncheon and served potato salad with grilled brats and sauerkraut. She didn’t know what mayonnaise was. Mayo in Germany is made with vinegar, lemon juice and egg yolks. Here in America, it is made with vegetable oil and whole eggs. Both are creamy and delicious but have different colors, flavors, and textures. The birth of potato salad can be traced back to Germany. When potato salad made its way from Europe to the United States, it transformed into the mayo version. The vinegar taste was not favored by most in this country. My daughter hates sauerkraut! How could she possibly be German descent?



- 1½ cups chopped onions
- ⅔ cup cider vinegar
- 1½ tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon pepper

DIRECTIONS
Boil potatoes in salted water until tender. Do not overcook. Drain, peel, cut in chunks. Meanwhile, cut bacon in pieces and crisp fry in skillet. Remove to paper towels. Spoon 6 tablespoons of bacon drippings in large saucepan. Add onions. Cook until softened. Stir in vinegar, brown sugar, pepper. Bring to boil. Fold in bacon and potato slices. Cover and remove from heat. Set aside for 15 minutes to allow potatoes to absorb the vinegar dressing. Serve warm with Bratwurst and hot mustard.

SOUTHERN GERMAN POTATO SALAD
INGREDIENTS

- 6 potatoes, unpeeled
- 12 slices bacon

CLAUSSEN

CHIROPRACTIC



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Strasburg, CO
(303) 622-4200

Have a Happy & Safe Strasburg Hometown Days, Aug. 8-11.

Office Will Be Closed Aug. 5-12.
Will Reopen Tuesday, Aug. 13.



HOURS
Monday: By Appointment
Tues./Wed./Fri.: 9:00am-5:30pm
Thursday: 9:00am-1:30pm
Open First Saturday of Each Month



COMING SOON!

New Town of Bennett Website



Stay tuned!

Our new site will launch in August!



Shooters
Bar & Grill

HOURS:
Sunday 8am - 9pm
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8am - 10pm
Tuesday 11am - 10pm
Friday & Saturday 8am - 11pm

STARTING JUNE 2 BREAKFAST HOURS ARE 7am-11am
*Excluding Tuesdays

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Arapahoe County Fair took place last week, July 25-28, and among its opening night events was the annual Boots Not Suits kickoff hosted by the Arapahoe County commissioners and sponsored by Civitas. Left photo, Bill Holen enjoys his last fair as an Arapahoe County Commissioner. Holen is term limited from running for reelection this year. Right, Kevin Austin provides the country music entertainment for the capacity crowd of VIPs.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Thursday night's closing act on the main stage at the Arapahoe County Fair, held July 25-28, was recent cover start-up band SteeleHorse — The Legend of Bon Jovi.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Members of the Hudson-based female riding group Colorado Stars & Stripes entertain the rodeo crowd during the Saturday night performance at the Arapahoe County Fair July 27. The synchronization performance included all six flags of American military branches.

WESTERN HARDWARE

Will be OPEN Noon to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10th



"Enjoy" Strasburg's Hometown Days!

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D&D WATER SERVICE



IN MEMORY OF DORIS N. MARTIN

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

Visitation @ 2 p.m.; Funeral @ 3 p.m.

Mountain View Fellowship, Strasburg

Interment to follow @ Byers Cemetery

Memorial contributions can be made to:
The Denver Hospice
8289 E. Lowry Blvd., Denver, CO 80230, or
Strasburg Community Church Youth Ministry
56155 Sunset, Ave., Strasburg, CO 80136

BENNETT BOE

FROM PAGE 1

has the right to at least a five-day opportunity to get this information and be here to voice their concerns about this change,” Tawny Gregory added.

Bavoset noted that the start and stop times will be problematic for families with students in multiple schools.

“Since older siblings often transport younger siblings, the different schedule results in older students waiting at least 30 minutes for classes to start and younger siblings waiting over an hour to be picked up,” she said. “This unsupervised time is a safety issue which could lead to students engaging in unwanted activities.”

Sara Keyser, who has kids in three schools, noted that the wait to pick up children will be even more pronounced this school year.

“Even last year I was here for 45 minutes, sitting and waiting for all of them to be released, and I watched several parents every single day do the same thing as I do, waiting for those different grade levels,” Keyser said. “We follow each other like caterpillars through the box.”

A reduction in recess time to 20 minutes daily for students in grades K-5 was also addressed.

“Recess serves as a vital part of the school day for them,” Bavoset said. “Only allocating 20 minutes a day for recess in the elementary and intermediate school doesn’t support our children’s well-being.

“Remember, they are kids, not robots. Let them be kids.”

The integration of bus routes, which have not been released, into the new schedule also surfaced.

“My kids now, if they were to ride the bus, it would take them an hour to get home,” Sarah said. “We live seven minutes from here, but on the bus it’s an hour.”

The school board did receive support for the schedule through an e-mail to superintendent Robin Purdy from Marlena Hill, who has had two sons in Bennett Schools since 2015 and another who starts kindergarten this year. Hill approved of the offset of start and stop times to help with traffic.

“I just want you to know this is smart and one of the only ways to deal with all the growth the town of Bennett has allowed, especially since we can’t get the school bond measures to pass,” Hill wrote.

BUSINESS ITEMS

The board approved Karla Stratton as treasurer to the board and chief financial officer to replace Keith Yaich, who recently resigned because of health issues.

It also OK’d the addition of a fiscal services specialist and a director of finance and purchasing to the 2024-25 salary schedule. Both will work on 220-day contracts.

All votes were unanimous.

The next meeting starts at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 20, at the high school library and via Zoom.