

Volume 30, Number 40

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

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Arapahoe County seeks TABOR relief

Commissioners opt to place 'de-Brucing' question on November ballot with Baker in opposition

by Kathy Smiley

Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County will refer a "de-Brucing" ballot payers Bill of Rights (TABOR) money. measure to voters in November.

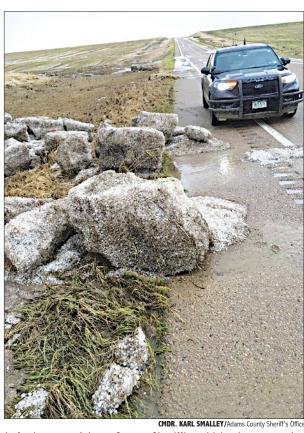
sioners passed a resolution Aug. representative Douglas Bruce and government revenues and spend-The Arapahoe County Commis- constitution authored by former increases and limits the growth of

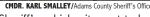
20 to ask residents to release the passed by Colorado voters in 1992 ing and requires any revenue gencounty from the revenue and that limits how the state and local erated over the set limit, which is spending restrictions of the Tax- governments can raise and spend calculated each year based on in-

- the amendment to the state It requires voter approval for tax

flation and population growth, to

SEE ARAPCO PAGE 3







Left photo, an Adams County Sheriff's vehicle sits next to boulders of melting ice following a major hailstorm near Highway 36 and Winview Road Aug. 19. Right, multiple bolts of lightning viewed from Strasburg and moving east towards Deer Trail strike violently at approximately 9 p.m. Aug. 23.

Severe August weather clobbers Agate and Deer Trail

by Kathy Smiley

Staff Writer

DEER TRAIL — The far eastern portion of the I-70 Corridor seems to be the bullseye of this month's severe weather so far.

On Aug. 13, straight-line winds quarter and tennis-ball sized hail afternoon – one just west of Sham-Highway 40 by the old dog track. National Weather Service severe 10 miles northeast of Deer Trail Deer Trail and Byers were without weather reports. The largest re- in Arapahoe County. The storm power for several hours.

thunderstorms brought between Two tornadoes touched down that

ripped down power poles along to the Eastern Plains, according to rock in Adams County and one ported hail was 2 inches in diam- caused 721 delayed flights and 21 On Monday, Aug. 19, severe eter in Ramah, in El Paso County.

SEE STORMS

PAGE 10

Blaze devastates Deer Trail home: family members seek help



A fireman examines the damage to the home at 314 First Ave., Deer Trail.

by Kathy Smiley Staff Writer

DEER TRAIL — An early morning fire Aug. 23 destroyed a home in Deer Trail and displaced its three residents.

An Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office post on X at 8:44 a.m. that day laid out the facts: "Sheriff Deputies are on scene of a house fire in Deer Trail. The fire broke out around 5:20 a.m. and three residents in their 80s were able to exit safely without injuries. It happened in the 300 block of First Street. The home was fully engulfed and is completely destroyed. The damage was confined to one house and no neighboring homes were damaged. Multiple fire and rescue agencies responded including Deer Trail Fire, Byers Fire, Bennett-Watkins Fire, Strasburg Fire, Sable-Altura Fire, and the Adams County Sheriff's Office. No word yet on the cause; the investigation is ongoing. Arapa-



SEE DIXONS Everything in the room where Richard Dixon was sleeping was **PAGE 13** destroyed, including his library of books.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Pop-top donations wanted at 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 booth at Bennett Days Sept. 7.

For pick-up, call Diane Moler at (303)644-3717.

Adams County reports its 1st WNV infection of 2024

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Health Department re- resentatives said in a joint stateported its first human case of the ment. "High quality facilities like year of West Nile Virus Aug. 21, Aurora IPC are esand the agency is reminding the sential in keeping public that high season for WNV is underway.

August and September are the two months with the highest number of WNV infections from mosquito bites.

In 2023, Colorado had 634 reported human cases, with 45 in Adams County, and 51 deaths.

is now distributing free cans of insect repellent containing picaridin at its Westminster Clinic, 1401 W. 122nd Ave., No. 200, Westminster, and Broadway Clinic, 7000 Broadway, Suite 400, Denver.

For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov.

Reps. Boebert, Lopez back illegal immigration center

AURORA — U.S. Reps. Greg Lopez (4th Congressional District) and Lauren Boebert (3rd District) showed their approval of the Aurora Immigration Processing Center after an Aug. 20 visit.

the professionalism displayed at the Aurora IPC and believe the Aurora IPC is doing a great job enare taken off our streets," the rep- children.

Students occupy DT modular classrooms



A trio of modular classrooms, shown in July soon after they were placed, received their temporary certificates of occupancy Monday, and the fourth-through sixth-grade classes moved in Monday afternoon. The units were donated by the Cherry Creek School District.

our communities safe and ensure that these illegal aliens do not stir up even more heartbreaking and avoidable criminal activity."

Approximately 400 people are The county health department employed at the Aurora IPC, which is owned and operated by GEO Group on behalf of Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE). It houses roughly 1,200 detainees.

Fall birding fest slated for Barr Lake State Park

BRIGHTON - Guided bird tours and visits at a bird banding station will take flight at the Barr Lake State Park Fall Birding Festival from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14, at the park's Nature Center.

Attendees will see birds up close and personal and learn about banding at educational booths "Our teams were impressed with with live birds on the glove, a chance to dress up in a favorite bird costume, and seven simple actions to help birds. Crafts and suring that criminal illegal aliens other activities will be available for

Barr Lake State Park is located at 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton. Park entrance requires a \$10 per vehicle fee or a State Parks Pass. The occasion is otherwise free.

For more information, call (303)655-1495.

MCC representatives plan visit to I-70 biz meeting

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its next Lunch & Learn from create a safer environment for all 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 18, at May Farms in Byers.

Speakers will be representatives creator. from Morgan Community College, which will also sponsor lunch.

RSVPs to (720)731-1954 or officei7occoc@gmail.com are requested by Friday, Sept. 13.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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2nd Amendment Caucus: Ex-'Burg minister helps start new pro-gun org

DENVER - A former Strasburg minister and a fellow Colorado state representative Aug. 13 introduced the Colorado Second Amendment Caucus to promote and protect the right to keep and bear firearms in the state.

Reps. Scott Bottoms, R-Colorado Springs, and Ryan Armagost, R-Berthoud, are forming the new caucus. Bottoms served as minister at Journey Church in Strasburg for several years.

"Firearm safety and education should not be a partisan issue," Bottoms said. "Our goal is to ensure that all Coloradoans are knowledgeable and safe when it comes to firearm ownership. The Colorado Second Amendment Caucus will serve as a platform for collaboration and understanding, transcending party lines to achieve this."

The mission of caucus revolves around three core principles: crafting thoughtful policies that uphold the Second Amendment; maintaining a bipartisan commitment to defending these rights; and educating the public on firearms and firearm safety. By working across party lines, the caucus aims to Colorado residents while also protecting the rights bestowed by our

This caucus was formed in response to growing concerns from constituents and business owners about firearm legislation and the need for a balanced approach that respects constitutional rights while addressing safety.

"The bipartisan nature of our caucus is a testament to the importance of this issue," Armagost said. "We believe that only by working together can we create policies that reflect the values and needs of all Coloradoans."

According to a release, the Colorado Second Amendment Caucus is set to be a transformative force in the state legislature, fostering collaboration and understanding while remaining steadfast in defending the Second Amendment.

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Published weekly by the I-70 Publishing Company, Inc.

P.O. Box 829 • 1522 Main St., Strasburg, Colo. 80136 e-mail: dclaussen@i-70scout.com • www.i-70scout.com (303)622-9796 • Fax: (303)622-9794

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ARAPCO FROM P1

be returned to taxpayers unless they vote to allow the government to keep it.

Over the years, voters have loosened TABOR restrictions on most local governments —including 51 of Colorado's 64 counties.

Arapahoe County is one of Colorado's fastest-growing counties and is expected to add 120,000 individuals by 2030, making it the most populous county in the state. According to county officials, the cost to meet increased demand from residents has outpaced revenue growth.

"The \$384 received in property taxes on an average residential property does not generate sufficient resources to provide the essential and mandated services residents rely on," said Michelle Halstead, director of the county commissioner's office. "The county has not applied its full mill levy since 2015, resulting in the county receiving 29% less in property tax revenues than it otherwise would have been able to collect in 2024."

Arapahoe County will have a budget deficit in 2025 and will need to make \$35 million in cuts to essential services next year including road maintenance and public safety if a solution is not reached. County financial staff also estimates \$316.6 million of deferred maintenance and transportation needs will go unaddressed.

"2025 does not purport to be a rosy year from a budgetary perspective," Halstead said, adding that, since February, commissioners and other Arapahoe County officials hosted more than 110 events for residents and stakeholders and created a special website (acbudget.com) to highlight the challenges.

Three solutions were proposed: making \$35 million in budget cuts; asking voters to approve a new sales tax; and asking voters for the TABOR workaround.

"More than 4,800 residents responded to two community surveys," Halstead added. "Communications about the budget were viewed by residents more than 6.5 million times, and 1,500 comments and thoughts were submitted for consideration."

Approximately 60% of residents noted that they support keeping property tax revenue above TA-BOR limits.

"This is not an increase to the county's tax rate or an adoption of the new tax; it is a retention of what we could collect and, last year, that was approximately \$74 million," Halstead said. funding would address essential county services and needs such as repairing, maintaining and improving county roads, bridges and transportation systems; crime prevention and response by the sheriff's office; ... homelessness prevention and response; (and) protective services for vulnerable children, youth and older adults."

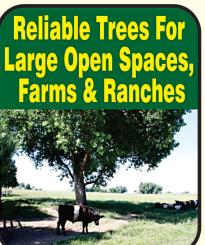
The spending would be reported in an annual audit and reviewed by a resident advisory committee.

During a public hearing on the issue, the majority of speakers supported the measure, including officials representing the League of Women Voters, Gateway domestic



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JUNIPER- Green Column... 31/2-41 #5 cont._ 2 FOR \$170 2 FOR \$170 JUNIPER- Wichita Blue...3-4' #5 cont.. COTTONWOOD- Narrowleaf...8'x 1" #7 cont 2 FOR \$200 CRAB- Spring Snow...6' #5 cont. 2 FOR \$200 LILAC- James Mcfarlane/Pink... 3-4' 10gal. Grow Bag. 2 FOR \$200 OAK- Bur...6' #5 cont. 2 FOR \$200 SPRUCE- Colo/Blue/Glacier Blue... 30-36' #6 cont.. JUNIPER- Colorado Green... 4-5' #8 cont... PINE- Scotch...#10 cont. CRAB- Pink Spire...6-8' x 1" #7 Cont. 2 FOR \$270 2 FOR \$270 CRAB- Spring Snow Fruitless... 7-8' x 1" #10 cont. CHERRY- Canada Red/Clump...+/-6' clump #10 cont._ 2 FOR \$280 PINE- Austrian...3-4' 10 Gal. Grow Bag. 2 FOR \$300 WILLOW- Weeping Golden 'Niobe'... 8-10x 1 1/4" #15 cont._ 2 FOR \$300 CHERRY- Canada Red Flowering... 10-12 x 11/4" #15 cont. 2 FOR \$400 CRAB- Profusion...10-12'x 1 1/2" #15 cont... 2 FOR \$400 CATALPA- Northern...9-10' x 1 3/4"#20 cont. 2 FOR \$450 COTTONWOOD- Plains Straight...10'x 1 3/4" #20 cont... SPRUCE- Colorado...4-5' B&B 2 FOR \$450 PINE- Pinon...5' BB Machine Dug.



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Sensation Boxelder Maple



Height: 50-60 ft. Spread: 50-60 Ft. (30 years)

Niobe Weeping Willow



3 Year Old Trees WIL-NIO5C Reg. \$169.50

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Robusta Cottonless Cottonwood



Year Old Trees

COT-ROB10C

Height: 50-60 ft. Spread: 50-60 Ft. (30 years)

Heritage Oak



OAK-HER10C100

Height: 40-50 ft. Spread: 30-40 Ft. (30 years)

Ponderosa Pine



PIN-PON10B Reg. \$349.50

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 20-30 Ft. (30 years)

Canada Red Cherry



Height: 20-30 ft. Spread15-20 Ft. (20 years)

Kentucky Coffeetree



Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 25-30 ft. (30 years)

Hot Wings Maple



Reg. \$419.50

Height: 20-25 ft. Spread: 20-25 Ft. (20 years)

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violence services, and Family Tree health and health care and child — an organization that addresses homelessness, domestic violence said. and child abuse.

Director for the Aurora Mental Health & Recovery Center and former state representative, said the center served more than 19,000 individuals last year, 85% of whom were Arapahoe County residents.

"If we don't step up to the plate and do something (to correct the budget deficit) now, we are truly going to have unintended consequences that are going to increase impact us in crime and behavioral

welfare many other areas," she

Former commissioner Nancy Debbie Stafford, the Legislative Jackson also spoke in support of the measure.

> "Arapahoe County is not just underfunded, but (it) really has some of the lowest property taxes in the state for the size of it," she said. "Everybody thinks that Arapahoe County is wealthy... but the truth is that Arapahoe County has had severe budgets shortfalls for a number of years. Taxes are the primary way that Arapahoe County gets its funding.'

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hoe County budget is closely monitored, and all departments work to keep expenses down. "The budget is always balanced and, lately, just by the skin of our

teeth, with very, very little left over for any kind of emergency or special projects," she said.

Jackson noted that the county employees deserve to be paid a decent wage and that the costs of insurance and supplies are rising, "and yet the county's budget is fairly flat."

She said that one of the few things about TABOR she respects is the fact that tax increases must be approved by voters.

"You all are not making the decision for the county today but are referring it to the ballot so that all of us can actually make that decision. I highly support that," she concluded.

Opposing viewpoints came from Joshua Lallement, the Libertarian candidate for District 1 Commissioner, and Natalie Minton, the board director of the TABOR foundation - a nonprofit volunteer group promoting and defending the amendment.

"I oppose this measure because I will always support the economy of the people and the consent of the people, which is what TABOR is about, over the economy of the government, and ... government power," Lallement said.

Minton said that the correct and honest ballot language is "shall taxes be increased and revenue that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers be retained by the county ... be forfeited forever.

Following the public comment, commissioners' questions and comments were taken.

Commissioner Jessica Campbell asked Finance Director Todd Weaver to explain how TABOR refunds are given to Arapahoe Coun- on the ballot.

Jackson added that the Arapa- ty residents, given the concerns that have been heard.

"I would like to know how our TABOR refunds work in Arapahoe County to make sure that we are not, you know, pulling money from our residents," she said.

Weaver noted that the county's authorized levy is 15.821 mills. The can either collect the full amount and, if determination is made that it exceeds the TABOR revenue limit, issue refund checks to residents for the over-collection amount; or grant credit on the levy before it is paid. Arapahoe County does the latter, calculating the allowable TABOR amount and levying for it. This year it was 11.206 mills.

"That difference between 15.821 and 11.206 is a temporary credit ... given in advance of that over-collection," he said.

District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker, who represents the I-70 Corridor portion of the county, said that, whether individuals believe that the ballot measure is a tax increase or not, voters will decide in November.

"I've heard the phrase we've left \$74 million on the table, but I do believe that instead, we've left that \$74 million in the pockets of the taxpayers," he said. "While our polling and surveys of voters in Arapahoe County show that a majority are in favor of asking the voters for permission to keep what we collect, the bypassing of TA-BOR is something the majority of folks in my district, the more rural part of the county, do not want me to support. I believe strongly in representative government, and even though I have an opinion on whether I believe the ballot measure should pass or not, I will be an advocate for the voters in my district by voting no on this resolution.

The 4-1 vote to put the measure

Bijou Basin planning process opens

ty is reaching out to the communi- held by the Colorado Cattleman's ty for input on the development of Agricultural Land Trust. the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan.

The 2,800-acre open space is about five miles south of Byers at the junction of Quincy Avenue and Bradbury Road and includes a

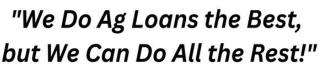
LITTLETON — Arapahoe Coun- 1,470-acre conservation easement

The county is offering three opportunities to gather feedback from residents:

- a survey at www.arapahoeco. gov through Sept. 30;
- a booth at Bennett Days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at Trupp Park; and
- the project's first public open house from 4:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11, at Kelver Library, 585 S. Main St., Byers.

Once completed, the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan will guide future management of the property, which features beautiful views and vistas unique to the Eastern Plains of Arapahoe County and Colorado.

The goal is to open the property for low-impact public recreation, allowing visitors to experience the expansive and beautiful native prairie landscapes of Eastern Colorado, while maintaining and celebrating the property's active agricultural uses such as dryland farming and cattle grazing. Future amenities could include a trailhead with parking, picnic area, restroom, and multi-use trail sys-









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Storage facility opens



The Walls family — Kayle, Jojo, Wyatt and Heather — enjoys the ribbon-cutting at its new business, Walls Storage, in Bennett June 20. The event was hosted by the town of Bennett and the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce.

Adams County Human Services Center slashes vacancy rate of unfilled jobs

impressive 5.8%, far below the national average of 15% for the Hu- mental health of the staff. man Services field.

The reduction from a 25% vacancy rate five years ago and 20% as recently as January 2023 highlights the department's dedication to creating a supportive and effective work environment.

Key strategies to accomplish the goal follow.

Improved hiring practices: Implementing an internship program, fast-tracking project-designated employees into regular positions and allowing educational waivers streamlined the hiring process and attracted qualified candidates.

Family and individual-focused services: A shift toward more personalized Human Services practices has improved the quality of care provided to the community.

Team connectivity and support: Ensuring team members feel conpriority, fostering a positive work environment.

approximately 10% of Adams board chair.

WESTMINSTER - The Adams County Human Services employ-County Human Services Depart- ees received services from Reachment is proud to announce a sig- ing Hope, a specialized agency nificant achievement in reducing in trauma care. Both telehealth its employee vacancy rate to an and in-person sessions have been well-received, supporting

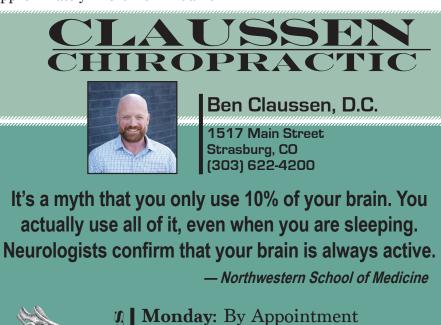
Workforce engagement initiative: This initiative allows team members to create and lead projects that directly impact department culture and the community, while also providing mentorship opportunities with senior leadership.

Remote work options: Job responsibilities have been reviewed to increase the frequency of remote work, offering flexibility to employees.

Updated job descriptions: Ensuring team members are appropriately classified and compensated has been crucial in maintaining a motivated workforce.

Learning and development: Opportunities that foster connection and peer support have been enhanced, contributing to a more cohesive

"The achievements of the Adams nected and supported has been a County Human Services Department are a testament to the power of teamwork and dedication," Mental health support: In 2023, said Commissioner Emma Pinter,



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAFECO Insurance accused of fraud

Dear Editor:

How many of your readers are they doing this to?

On or about Nov. 22, 2022, SAFECO fraudulently reported a vehicle accident to my consumer report with LexisNexis. On or about May 10, 2023, SAFECO fraudulently reported hail damage as a vehicle accident and at-fault to my consumer report with LexisNexis. And then again, on May 11, 2023, what was actually storm damage on a vehicle was fraudulently reported by SAFECO as a vehicle accident and at-fault to my consumer report with LexisNexis.

The accident from 2022 was caught during a review of the claim. I reached out to my agent at the time who did not respond. I then reached out to SAFE-CO and requested that they correct the error, I was told that it was.

I was unaware of the other two fraudulent reports until I spoke with a fellow veteran at USAA who explained to me the existence of LexisNexis, she told me that SAFECO will need to contact LexisNexis through their account and correct the errors.

I have made every feasible attempt to have SAFECO correct the fraudulent reports and I have been treated with hostility by agents of SAFECO or ignored by their leadership.

In one call with an agent of SAFECO, I was told there was nothing they can do, she had worked for SAFECO for 10 years and she was unaware of how a correction with LexisNexis would occur, I explained to her someone in her company must know, she told me not to tell her how to do her job. I asked to speak to her supervisor and was told "no." Another agent gave me a link (incorrect) link for LexisNexis.

What is the cost? A 280% increase in my auto insurance. I am a 50-year-old retired Command Sergeants Major with no tickets or accidents, I should not pay \$8,000 a year for two vehicles.

Who is regulating these people, from the agent who should know what must be done or the insurance company that knows what they have done but concretely believe no one will realize what has been done wrong to them?



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for its fraudulent actions. Also attached is a copy of their own promise to customers whereas they state they will correct the errors.

We need actual regulation of agents, insurance companies and all their employees. If you are a part of an organization who takes funds from customers for services they legally are required to possess, we should strictly regulate these organizations and anyone who received funds as part of the service.

SAFECO did provide me with a memorandum, which took no responsibility

The question as to SAFECO's motivation — keep me as a customer as, when you reach out for a new quote for insurance, you are floored to what other companies want to charge. You don't understand why until someone tells you what SAFECO has been doing with your consumer report.

I appreciate all of your time and look forward to any and all comments or conversations in respect to further regulation as mentioned herein.

– Stuart Williams, Strasburg

Pork producers praise Rep. Yadira Caraveo

Dear Editor:

In May, on behalf of Colorado pork producers, I encouraged Rep. Yadira Caraveo to vote for the 2024 Farm Bill in the House Agriculture Committee. I'm pleased to report that her 'yes' vote helped the bill pass.

She was one of only four committee Democrats who voted in favor of the legislation, which includes several vital programs to help farmers pass down their business to future generations.

As a Colorado pork producer and one of Rep. Caraveo's constituents, I'm pleased with what's in the House Farm Bill, including a provision that addresses a mound of problems created by California's Proposition 12.

That 2018 ballot initiative bans the sale of pork from hogs born to sows raised anywhere in the country — including Colorado — in housing that does not meet California's arbitrary and unscientific standards. If not stopped, California will dictate to the rest of the United States how pigs should be raised.

Proposition 12 will increase the cost of raising pigs for me and other farmers, and not just farmers will lose if Proposition 12 stands; consumers are already seeing increased grocery store pork prices in the Golden State. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the cost of bacon in California has risen 16% since Proposition 12 took effect, and ribs and loins have increased 17% and 41%, respectively.

Those stark prices hikes will likely spread to the rest of the nation. At a time when grocery store prices are sky high, Coloradans do not need this added burden when trying to feed their families.

The Farm Bill that Caraveo voted to approve will fix Proposition 12 and support our nation's farmers. She deserves to be applauded for her decision, and we encourage her to continue to support Colorado agriculture as the Farm Bill moves closer toward completion.

- Joyce Kelly, Executive Director, Colorado Pork Producers Council



Bad air quality: Tips for breathing easier

by Eric Galatas

Public News Service

Wildfires are becoming bigger and more frequent in Colorado and across the Mountain West, and health experts are offering tips to breathe easy even during bad air-quality days.

Dr. Anuj Mehta, pulmonary and critical-care physician at Denver Health said pregnant women, infants, children, older adults and people with heart or lung disease are most at risk.

Wildfire smoke has a lot of particulate matter. So really, really small microscopic particles that around your body," Mehta said.

Exposure to smoke from wildfires has been linked to an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, lung cancer, and a decline in cognitive function. Using air purifiers with HEPA filters and high MERV-rated air conditioning filters can improve indoor air qualialso a good idea because, when the plan."

breathing rate goes up, more particulates are inhaled.

Workers and others who must be outdoors can get air-quality updates on particulate matter and ozone pollution levels at colorado. gov/airquality. Mehta says N-95 masks and respirators can also help, if worn correctly.

"If you can be indoors, that's going to be really good. If you have to be outdoors, and you are somebody with underlying breathing problems, wearing the mask actually can reduce the amount of particulate matter that you are going to breathe in," Mehta continued.

Colorado has already seen six can cause inflammation in the wildfires that have burned more lungs. Just breathing in that par- than 1,000 acres or more each ticulate matter, that inflammation since May and, as humans conmay not just stay in your lungs. tinue to burn fossil fuels, wildfire It can really cause inflammation risks are widely expected to increase in the foreseeable future. Mehta said the risks must be understood.

"So every summer we're going to be dealing with bad air quality days," Mehta continued. "And so people, especially people with underlying health concerns, should be discussing with their medity. Limiting strenuous activities is cal teams about a bad air-quality



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Thursday, August 29, 2024 The I-70 Scout • 7

Hay fires frequent this summer season in Eastern Colorado

by Scott Stinnett

Colorado State University Extension

In the past month, multiple fires have involved stacks of baled hay across Eastern Colorado.

Several took several days to extinguish due to the nature of hay fires. Thousands of dollars of valuable feed were lost, and hours of labor were spent by producers and firefighters to resolve matters. Visiting with local firefighters, these blazes could easily be prevented with a little attention to the hay.

Hay fires occur from either external ignition, such as welding sparks, a lightning strike, carelessness with a cigarette, or internal spontaneous combustion. Spontaneous combustion is the result of a biochemical reaction that advances into fire from the excessive heat.

As strange as it may seem, high moisture "wet" hay is the most likely to spontaneously combust. High moisture levels and the air trapped in a haystack create the right conditions for microorganisms to multiply. Warm temperature bacteria are present on forage crops and, as they grow and multiply, they can release heat in the bales, raising temperatures up to 130 to 140 degrees. This increase is normal for higher moisture bales. Eventually the bales will cool after the bacteria are expended.

When bales are stacked, though, they insulate this heating process. The elevated temperatures can then provide the proper environment for heat-loving bacteria. The organisms multiply and produce heat that can raise the interior bale temperature to 170 degrees.

The higher temperatures along with elevated moisture cause forage to break down. The degraded form of the forage is more susceptible to fire ignition.

Prevention starts during baling. Bale heating can be observed in forage at a 15% moisture level or higher. For large square or round bales, forage moisture should not exceed 18%. Small squares should not be baled above 20% moisture. If forage is baled at or near these moisture levels, bales should be spread out and allowed to go through the heating associated with the mesophilic, or warm temperature, bacteria and to cool before stacking.

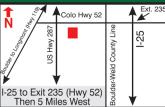
High moisture hay bales that have been already stacked should be monitored for heating twice a day for six weeks after harvest. A temperature probe can easily be used to monitor the internal temperature of the stack with a piece of lightweight tubing such as 3/4-inch electrical conduit and a thermometer on a wire or string. The tubing should be approximately 10 feet in length with one end crimped to make it easier to drive into the center of the stack. Eight to 10 holes $3/_{16}$ to $1/_4$ inch should be drilled just above the crimp to allow airflow into the pipe for more accurate temperature readings. Once the tube is inserted into the stack, lower the thermometer into the tube using the wire or string.





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Ag leadership application deadline nears

Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program is Sunday, Sept. 1.

Applications can be found at coloagleaders.org or by contacting the CALP office at (303)547-5963 or dani@coloagleaders. org. Applicants from all agricultural backgrounds, age groups, and geographical locations in Colorado are urged to apply.

years, fellows attend 10 seminars with 41 days of intense

CORTEZ — The deadline to training. They will listen to more apply for participation in the than 135 speakers, work with leaders in agriculture; participate in on-site visits, receptions and discussions; produce the Colorado Ag Forum twice; and enjoy a network of over 330 alumni. CALP travels around the state, to Washington D.C., to another state and internationally to study agriculture issues, political processes, development of Over the course of the two leadership skills, team building, fundraising and communications.





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CSU breeders develop new wheat types

by R.F. Meyer

Golden Plains Area Agronomist

will market two new wheat varieties this year, a hard red winter wheat named Sheridan and a hard white winter wheat called Tellu-

"These two new varieties shower yields and improved agronomprogram," said Brad Erker, executive director for Colorado Wheat Research Foundation.

PlainsGold varieties Langin, Avery and Byrd, which accounted for 27 percent of the planted acres in Colorado last fall. Sheridan offers excellent stripe rust resistance and a good test weight. The variety also has good protein deviation compared to similar types and has a long coleoptile, meaning Sheridan is more ideal for deep planting.

tion in testing trials, especially at der its PlainsGold brand.

the Sheridan Lake location.

Telluride, a hard white winter wheat, is higher yielding than FORT COLLINS - PlainsGold Snowmass 2.0 and Breck, the dominant hard white wheat varieties in Colorado, with excellent performance under dryland and irrigated conditions. Telluride has excellent straw strength and protein deviation. It will be included case the continuing push for high- in the CWRF/Ardent Mills Ultra-Grain Premium Program. Howics coming out of the [Colorado ever, the grain will be a non-ex-State University] wheat breeding clusive variety, meaning growers can market it to other companies besides Ardent Mills.

"I welcome wheat farmers in Sheridan has higher yields than Colorado and neighboring states to lean on me when considering these new varieties for their farm,' said Tyler Benninghoven, Plains-Gold seed and trait specialist.

> Benninghoven added that, with proper guidance, the new options will increase the wheat acre return on investment on the High Plains.

These varieties were developed by the CSU Wheat Breeding & Ge-The name Sheridan is short for netics Program. Ownership has Sheridan Lake, a tiny town north- been transferred to the Coloraeast of Lamar near the Kansas bor- do Wheat Research Foundation, der. It has shown strong adapta- which will market the varieties un-

HAY FIRES

FROM PAGE 7

Leave the thermometer in the tube present in the stack. Other signs of the temperature.

Temperatures below 130 degrees are relatively safe. Monitoring should continue for the rest vapor or visible smoke. of the six-week period. Temperatures from 130-140 degrees indi- be called immediately. Bales cate a normal rise and fall associated with bacteria but should be rechecked every few hours.

Concern begins if temperatures as they indicate thermophilic bacmay continue to rise. Rechecking every two hours is advised.

200 degrees, a fire is most likely a fire is imminent.

for 10-15 minutes and make note might include bales that are hot to the touch, have a caramel color to the forage, a burning or strong musty smell, and the presence of

The local fire department should should not be separated as that will introduce fresh oxygen and create immediate ignition.

Hay fires can cause devastating of 150 degrees or more are found losses to feed and facilities. Testing the moisture at baling or when teria active and the temperature delivered is recommended so producers can make proper storage decisions. Monitoring tempera-If temperatures are 175 degrees tures on stored, high-moisture hay or above, a fire is imminent. At can help prevent fire or indicate if



LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Teen hangout: Kids ages 11-18 will learn the basics of needle felting. Supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Scratchboard art: Artists age 16 ing vision boards. 4-5:30 p.m., and up will make scratchboard Wednesday, Sept. 11.

masterpieces at a Corridor Creative Arts League class led by Sarah Bennett. Registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org. 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 31.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Vision boards: Teens will kick off the school year with good vibes and a positive outlook by creat-

Church Directory



Sundays at 10:00 AM 2722 S. County Rd 173 Byers, CO

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Living Springs Cowboy Church Byers.org

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



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Sunday Services

8:30am & 10:15am Servicio en Español a las 10:15am

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Sunday Service Livestream at https://www.mvfcolorado.online.church

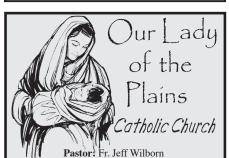
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado

mvfcolorado.com 303.622.9600



Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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- 303-622-4325
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

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1st Irec 2nd Tree

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Both for

Both for SPRUCE- Bonny Blue...5-6'#20cont. PottedBall SPRUCE- Fat Albert Blue...5-5 1/2' #20F PottedBall

1st Tree 2nd Tree Both for PINE- Pinon...5' BB Machine Dug PINE- Ponderosa...5-6' 20 gal Grow Bag \$529.50 50¢ \$**530**

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JUNIPER- Medora Upright...5-6' #7 cont. Monrovia

LOCUST- Purple Robe...8-10' x1" #15 cont.

MAPLE- Biglooth 'Rocky Mth. Glow'...#7 cont.

PINE- Mugho/Tannenbaum...3-4' B&B

SPRUCE- Black Hills...3-4' #10 cont.

1st Tree

CHERRY- Canada Red...10-12'x 1 1/4"#10 cont.

1st Tree

Both for

JUNIPER- Taylor...± 5' #10 cont.

LILAC- Ivory Silk/Clump...5-6' clump #10 cont.

MAGNOLIA- Dr. Merrill...8-10' x 11/4' "Free #10 cont.

MOUNTAIN ASH- European...8-10' x 1 1/4' #10 Cont.

SPRUCE- Columnar Blue...3-4' B&B hand dug ball

SPRUCE- Fat Albert Blue...3-4' B&B

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COFFEETREE- Kentucky...8-10'x 1" #10 cont LOCUST- Twisty Baby...8-10'x 1" #15 cont. OAK- Bur/Cobblestone...8-10'x 1" #10 cont.

PINE- Limber/Vanderwolf Pyramid...4-5' B&B

2nd Tree

1st Tree 2nd Tree

MAPLE- Sugar/Apollo...5-6' x 1" #7 cont.

MAPLE- Sugar 'Flashfire'...6-8' x 1" #7 cont.

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Lightning dissects storm cloud Aug. 23.

STORMS FROM P1

cancellations at Denver International Airport as of 7 p.m. United Airlines reported the most delays at 231, followed by Southwest Airlines with 220. Delays for arriving flights averaged one hour.

Reports of 3-5 inches of rain within 30 to 45 minutes were reported in Deer Trail and Agate Aug. 19, resulting in local flooding.

More severe weather hit Agate Aug. 22 in the form of hail. According to HailTrace, an estimated 70 properties in the Agate area got 1-inch or larger hail and 39 properties were hit by 1.75-inch hailstones.

Another report noted that at 5:19 p.m. that day, pea- to dime-sized hail covered the ground completely, and, at 5:41 p.m., 63 mph winds were measured.

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

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-onone discussion with a volunteer attorney 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 offered at Aurora Main Library for discussion with an attorney on the library's computer link. Space limited.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5

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

Comanche Crossing Horsemen's Association online meeting. General meeting at 6:30 p.m., board follows at 7 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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."

EVERY SATURDAY

Deer Trail Pioneer Museum, Second and Fir Street open 2-4 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

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





SPORTS









In their win over Alameda Aug 20, senior Marayha Munoz (5) tags out a runner at third base; and senior Liz Westendorf watches her game-winning home run cross the fence as she rounds first base.

Tiger softball team wins for 1st time ever

by Isaac Manaugh **Editorial Assistant**

softball team picked up the first dorf in the last inning. win in program history with a 7-6 defeat of Alameda Aug. 20.

"Very proud with the way they

home opener, which the Tigers to have Westendorf come up at and 4 RBIs; junior Colby Robiwon in fashion on a walk-off home that point in the bottom of the sev-chaud, who went two-for-four at The new Bennett Lady Tigers run by senior Elizabeth Westen- enth. ... So I was like, "This could the plate and pitched 41/3 innings, be the winner.'

> Key players in the victory were have been playing," said Bennett Westendorf, who was three-for-

The game was also Bennett's head coach Joe Ortiz. "It was good four with a double, a home run, allowing three runs and striking

SEE SB BENNETT

Elizabeth beats Lady Indian 9 with 2 late home runs

by Douglas Claussen

Publisher & Editor

ELIZABETH - A pair of home runs in the last inning left the ley Rushman, had a good day oth- remained at 2-2 until the seventh Strasburg Lady Indians on the wrong end of a 5-3 defeat Aug. 20 at Elizabeth.

Strasburg had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the seventh on a run-scoring single by junior center-fielder Rachel Rupple. But Cardinal junior Brynley Twiss erased the advantage a one-run shot in the bottom of the frame. Her big hit was followed soon thereafter by a two-run, two-out, walk-off blast to left field by junior pitcher Faith Carlson to account for the fi-

Wes Madrill of the pitches leading Cardinal junior Braelyn Allison drill concluded. to the two homers.

er than the seventh inning. She inning. yielded five runs, four earned, on four walks.

"Rushman wasn't throwing bad," Madrill said. "She kind of went to sleep or something in the bats with 3 RBIs to lead Elizabeth. seventh inning.'

while striking out seven and walk- just one. ing two.

The game was close from beginning to end. A two-run homer to left field by sophomore Phebe "How about a waist high over the Johnson put the Indians on the middle and it was out of there," board in the top of the first. In the

said Strasburg head softball coach second, with the Indians up 2-1, laid down a sacrifice bunt to help Strasburg's junior pitcher, Kai- Elizabeth tie the game. The game **COMING UP**

Rushman doubled and Anna Sept 5: Eaton. seven hits with five strikeouts and Vetter, Addison Kent and Savanah Bradley all had base hits for Stras-

Carlson had three hits in four at-

Defensively, the game was clean-Carlson, Elizabeth's hurler, sur- ly played. Elizabeth had no fielding rendered six hits and three runs errors and the Indians committed

"I'd like to play them again," Ma-

Aug. 30-31: Strasburg Triangular w/ Gunnison & Rocky Ford

Sept. 6-7: NCS Tournament @ Gree-

Sept. 10: @ Resurrection Christian.

Sept. 12: The Academy.

Sept. 14: @ Vista PEAK. Sept. 17: @ Weld Central.

Sept. 19: Sterling.

Sept. 21: Forge Christian.

Sept. 23: @ Limon.

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Left photo, junior Kayla Barela beats the throw to second base. Juniors Vivienne Gitke, center, and Colby Robichaud, right, make contact.

FROM PAGE 11 **SB BENNETT**

ble; and senior Hadasa Burgos and junior Vivienne Gitke with one base hit each.

Junior Audrey Harrell threw the final 23/3 innings while giving up 3 earned runs and striking out three.

Bennett also lost games at Weld Central Aug. 16 and at Fort Lupton Aug. 22 in its first week

The Lady Rebels, who benefited from eight fielding errors and nine walks by Bennett, beat the Tigers 19-9.

Bennett led 3-0 after its half of the first inning, but Weld Central rallied for 8 runs in its half of the frame and never trailed again. The Tigers kept fighting, eventually cutting the deficit to 11-8 after 3½ innings, but the Rebels losing 18-3. Westendorf would account for

scores in the fifth.

Westendorf had a three-for-three day with two home runs, a triple, and 7 RBIs. Gitke singled twice and junior Kayla Barela added one

Pitching duties were again shared by Robichaud and Harrell. Robichaud tossed two innings, giving up 11 runs on three hits with three strikeouts and eight walks. Harrell went 2²/₃ innings, yielding 8 runs on eight hits.

"All I wanna do is be able to start competing, even if we lose, I'll be happy. ... that just shows the improvement throughout the whole season from the girls," said head coach Joe Ortiz.

The Tigers played at Fort Lupton Aug. 22,

out seven; senior Marayha Munoz with a dou- put the game away by the 10-run rule with 6 two of three runs, and she also drove in junior Colby Robichaud on a sacrifice. Senior Josilen Zamarripa singled for Bennett's only hit.

Through three games Westendorf was batting .667 with 12 RBIs and three home runs and junior Vivienne Gitke is hitting is .429.

"I just want to see how we look from game one to game 23 and see the improvement, and so far it is looking good," Ortiz concluded.

COMING UP

Aug. 31: @ @ Basalt (DH).

Sept. 5: @ Centaurus.

Sept. 10: Englewood.

Sept. 12: Arvada.

Sept. 13-14: @ Rumble on the Range, Northridge (Greeley).

Big-cat hunting issue makes ballot

EDGEFIELD, S.C. — The Colorado Secretary of State's Office announced July 31 that the animal rights organization behind a proposed ban on big-cat hunting has gathered enough signatures to place the measure on the Novem-

The measure puts the future of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx hunting in Colorado in the hands of voters.

But much more is at stake, according to the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project.

Lynx are protected by both state and federal law and no hunting or trapping is allowed. Despite the protections, the initiative would unnecessarily codify a ban, contradicting current statutory language.

State law mandates that Colorado Parks & Wildlife "shall utilize hunting, trapping and fishing as the primary methods of effecting necessary wildlife harvests."

The initiative's language defines methods such as trophy hunting inhumane, serves no socially acceptable or ecologically beneficial purpose, and fails to further public safety. The measure would outlaw any hunting or trapping of big cats, except for cases involving threats to humans, livestock or property.

"This initiative is troubling for many reasons, said Patt Dorsey, director of conservation operations in the West for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "Hunters and conservationists in Colorado and across the country should be concerned about the use of the ambiguous and misleading term 'trophy hunting' and the attempt to define it in law. Defining hunting of any species as trophy hunting opens the door to simply add new species and iteratively erode hunting opportunities."

Mountain lion and bobcat hunt-



ing are heavily regulated for sustainable populations. Parks & Wildlife wants hunters to prepare big game, including mountain lions, for human consumption. Sportsmen are also required to present harvested mountain lions and bobcats for mandatory checks.

Wildlife professionals and conservationists are raising alarms that the hunting ban would fundamentally shift wildlife management from a science-based approach to one driven by public opinion.

The Wildlife Conservation Projand asks voters to agree that it is ect, the NWTF and other wildlife organizations argue that removing the CPW's authority to manage predator populations through regulated hunting could disrupt established wildlife management practices, leading to unintended ecological consequences.

> "North America's wildlife success story is not the result of an accident," Dorsey said. "It is the result of a wildlife management system and has restored species across the country."

> Beyond potential damage to wildlife management, the proposal could also have economic repercussions.

> The Colorado Wildlife Council reports that hunting and fishing contribute more than \$3.25 billion yearly to the state economy and support more than 25,000 fulltime jobs.

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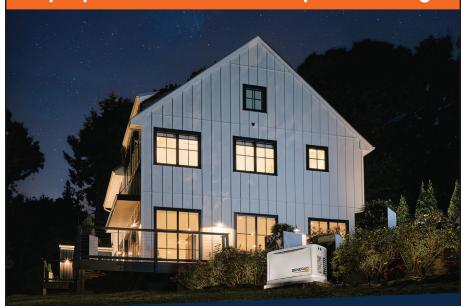






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DIXONS FROM P1

hoe County Sheriff's Office Victim's Assistance is working with the three elderly residents who are now displaced.

The longer story was graciously shared Aug. 25 by the three people living through the tragedy – Richard, Donna and Julia Dixon after the Sunday service at their church in Agate.

Richard and Donna Dixon lived in the home on First Street in Deer Trail for 12 years. Before that, they lived in Alaska for 40 years before moving to Montana when Donna's mother needed home care. Julia Dixon, Richard's sister-in-law, came to live with them when Richard's brother died, moving from Helena, Mont.

Richard taught high school in Alaska - English, literature, and drama. He is an author; he wrote and self-published several books over the years. Donna was an RN who held nursing jobs in Alaska and the "lower 48."

"Now she's my nurse," Richard said, with a half-smile.

Julia was an electronic tech involving fiberoptics.

"My husband and I traveled together installing telephones in offices," she said.

Richard acknowledged Julia's electronic know-how.

She's very smart in electronics," he said, adding that she set up the new television they had just bought four days ago — and lost in the fire two days later.

Richard was the first to experience the fire.

"I was half-sleeping in my recliner chair, and I felt heat on my right-hand side," he said. "I looked down and some hair on my arms was burning. It took me about a minute to get over the fact that it was burning. Then I saw the flames. I bailed out real fast and went for [Donna and Julia] to tell them to get out.'

They went outside to their porch and called 911.

"We got out pretty fast," Donna said. "We were lucky to get out. We could have been overwhelmed by smoke. I tried to go back in to grab my purse, but the smoke was too bad. They found it afterwards; it was water soaked and covered in ashes. But I got my ID and cards."

The Deer Trail Fire Department arrived within minutes.

"The response was fantastic," Julia said. "One of the nice firemen rushed me across the porch and almost carried me down the stairs."

Richard got their car out of the garage.

"Julia also has a car," Julie said. "We had those to get into and we sat and watched the firemen do their thing. They were busy."

Other jurisdictions arrived.

"Trucks were lined up clear down the road," Donna said. "It took them a couple of hours to get the fire out and then the local crew stayed to take care of hot spots."

Neighbors stopped by.

"Talk about good people... those firemen, and our neighbors," Donna said, mentioning several neighbors by name. "And one neighbor we'd never met before came down the street with a bag of food and a cooler with drinks she gave it to

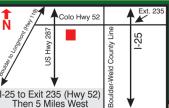
SEE DIXONS

PAGE 14



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Donna, left, Julia and Richard Dixon pose for a photo at Agate Community Church Aug. 25. The church is collecting donations for the Dixons, who lost their home in a fire Aug. 23.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Sc

Richard and Donna Dixon had lived in the home for 12 years after moving to Deer Trail from

DIXON FROM PAGE 13

us. They all were really a blessing." Richard said everything in the room in which he was sitting was destroyed, including electronics

and, more importantly to him, his library of books.

"Hundreds of dollars of books mostly novels, some non-fiction," he said. "Also, some copies of my books."

He added that he had been working on another book but it is lost, too, along with his computer.

"It's OK. I'm 81; I don't need to write more. This old brain isn't what it once was," he said with a wry smile.

They also lost paintings by artist William Chen who was married to Richard's mother. They reminisced for a moment about the paintings and which ones were particularly enjoyed by various family members. Then Julie mentioned another picture and took er-in-law a gentle dig.

"You know that picture I gave nose." you that Christmas that you told me, 'That's not art," she asked Richard. "Well, you don't have to worry about that anymore!"

Other losses include glasses,

hearing aids, a CPAP machine, medications and Richard's Rollator — a four-wheeled walker with a seat.

"I need it for balancing," Richard said, adding that Julia gave him hers to use. "It's pink, but I'll do well. I'm man enough for that."

Julia, whose apartment was built onto the home, said that some of her things might be salvageable, including pots and pans. They hadn't spent any time searching for items in the burnt-out wreckage at that point.

"Yesterday when we went into the house, everything you had to step through was waterlogged and there's a big hold in the roof," Donna said. "I was fine until I got in the bedroom and then I just lost ard said. "She was hiding under a it. Everything is gone."

Sadly, the biggest loss was one of their three dogs, Kelly.

"She was a sweetheart," Richard the opportunity to give her broth-said. "She trained met to pet her. I'd give her hugs and kisses on the

> Since they are unsure where they will be living in the near future, they will experience more loss they'll need to find homes for their other two much-loved dogs, Bes

Donations requested

AGATE — Agate Community Church is collecting donations for the Dixons.

Contributions can be delivered to:

Agate Community Church c/o Donna Curtis 7071 S. County Road 213 Deer Trail, Colo. 80105

black retriever.

Luckily, Julia's house cat survived.

"They found her hiding under Donna said. the bed," she said.

"That's how we lost Kelly," Richchair."

After the fire, the Red Cross arrived and gave the family a debit card. They spent Friday night at a hotel in Limon that would take pets.

The Dixons suspect the fire was caused by an electrical fault in the wall. The house is insured, but it will take a while to determine the extent of their losses.

"We hope to rebuild, but we this. We'll be fine."

don't know how that will work or what will happen," Donna said.

Richard and Donna have a son, Jeb, daughter-in law, Stephanie, and three grandchildren living in Centennial.

"Our daughter-in-law has been really helpful setting things up for us and I think she's finding a temporary residence," Donna said.

Richard brought up another recent tragedy in their family.

"We lost our daughter a year ago sie a cattle dog mix, and Raven, a in a car accident," he said. "Our granddaughter Isa was with her and was also injured."

"It's been a tough two years,"

Isa is now living with Jeb and Stephanie and their two children.

Richard, Donna and Julia, who by now had shown they don't dwell on the negative, spoke about each member of their Centennial family's accomplishments in work or school with obvious pride and love. They also reiterated gratitude for the support they've received from their church, their neighbors, and the Tri-Valley Seniors group.

"Everyone has been fabulous," Donna said. "We'll come out of



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20 YEARS AGO AUG. 31, 2004

BENNETT — Bennett residents will be asked for a \$115,000 tax increase Nov. 2 for improved public safety service in the town.

Approved by the Bennett Board of Trustees Aug. 24, Ballot Issue 2A will ask voters whether taxes should be increased \$115,000 in 2005, with the imposition of a mill levy up to 6.5 mills annually. The money collected would be earmarked for public safety, police protection services, improvements, personnel vehicles and equipment.

Initially the board seeks to maintain its current level of service and to contract with Adams and Arapahoe counties for additional sheriff's coverage. Within the next three years, the town hopes to begin the transition towards a Bennett police department.

The board passed a separate resolution supporting the tax increase and providing its justification for referring the measure to the voters.

15 YEARS AGO AUG. 25, 2009

Damage to power lines, homes and automobiles was reported during an Aug. 17 storm that dumped at least 2 inches of moisture along most of the I-70 Corridor, including 5-6 inches of hail in some areas.

We lost the line out at the Bennett substation that feeds Antelope Hills and going a little east and going then on south," said Intermountain REA

Strasburg branch manager Mike LeClair. "We had an arm fail during that storm. The structure caught on fire but power didn't cut out until about 4 a.m. We had part of it back and working by 7 o'clock and the rest about 9:30 or 10 o'clock.'

A couple of smaller outages occurred earlier on Monday, but LeClair said they were easy fixes.

10 YEARS AGO AUG. 26, 2014

The chief underground water source for irrigating the agriculture-rich High Plains is depleting at a pace that some fear will exhaust it far more quickly than anticipated.

Records show the Ogallala Aquifer has dropped about 325 billions gallons every year for at least the past four decades, meaning the 40-foot decline in the water supply amounts to about a foot each year.

The aquifer covers part of eight states from the Dakotas to Texas, holds almost 3 billion acre-feet of water and could run out in 50 years. An acre-foot of water the equivalent of 1 acre of surface area covered by water 1 foot deep 325,853 gallons.

"When anybody tells me it's going to last for 50 years, I just laugh," Lucia Barbato, associate director at the Center for Geospatial Technology at Texas Tech University, told the Lubbock Avalanche Journal.

"How long the aquifer lasts depends on where you are."



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 2**

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Aug. 29, the 242nd day of 2024. There are 124 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast near Buras-Triand spurring floods that devcostliest storm in U.S. history, Katrina caused nearly 1,400 deaths and an estimated \$200 billion in damage.

In 1814, during the War of umph, La., breaching levees 1812, Alexandria, Virginia,

cupied the city until Septem-

ing the Brazilian War of Inde-

gan operations at the United States Treasury.

In 1944, 15,000 American In 1825, the Treaty of Rio de troops of the 28th Infantry Janeiro was signed by Portu- Division marched down the the French capital contin-

Academy opened in Colorado Springs, Colo.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Olympic gold medal long

Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: THE 1930S

ACROSS

- 1. Door frame part
- *The Swing Era or _ Band Era 8. T-cell killer, acr.
- 11. Arabian chieftain
- 12. Actress Sorvino
- 13. Excessively fat
- 15. Chore list
- 16. Second word in fairytale?
- 17. Doled out cards
- 18. *1933 movie monster (2 words)
- 20. Eveball 21. Golf aid
- 22. French vineyard
- 23. *Larry or Curly or Moe 26. Between delta and zeta
- B vaccine
- 31. Ciphering machine
- 34. Kind
- 35. Black and white cookies
- _ chi 38. Fender bender consequences
- 39. Light beige 40. *First white chocolate manu-
- facturer 42. Grasp
- 43. Elbow room, to a ship (2
- words) 45. Teenagers' emotions
- 47. Belly
- 48. East Indian pepper
- 50. Buzzing pest
- 52. *Prairie crisis (2 words) 55. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
- 56. "If all ____ fails..." 57. Solomon-like
- 59. Boatload 60. Lab gel
- 61. Enthusiasm
- 62. Finale
- 63. Grazing land
- 64. Blood vessel network

DOWN

- 1. Blue Angel 2. In a frenzy
- 3. Calf-length skirt
- 4. Ford option
- 5. Two-footed mortar support 6. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
- 7. *Al Capone's Chicago Outfit, e.g. 8. Mend, healthwise
- 9. Small island
- 10. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 12. *Shenyang (China) in 1931
- 13. O in B.O., pl.
- 14. *Cole Porter's "Begin the __

ON THIS DATE

formally surrendered to Brit- Engraving and Printing be-

astated New Orleans. The ish military forces, which ocber 3.

pendence.

In 1862, the Bureau of from the Nazis.

In 1958, the U.S. Air Force

gal and Brazil, officially end- Champs Elysees in Paris as jumper Bob Beamon is 78. Animal behaviorist and autism ued to celebrate its liberation educator Temple Grandin is

HOROSCOPE

Heed the Venus Change

In the jostle of a Venus change, there's no need to wonder or ponder to pick the perfect moment to act. It's now -- always now. The question is which action. Maybe the action is doing planning or research. Maybe the action is listening for clues and cues. Maybe it's "go time" for the main event, but it's always going on now, which is the only actionable time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The beauty that appears to be out in the world is actually happening in a small network of electric impulses sparking inside you. Don't diminish your role. To love and celebrate beauty is, in some ways, to create it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Change is exciting. The very hope of it will bring a beginning burst of progress. When obstacles test your commitment and determination, it only strengthens your resolve. Push through. You're unstoppable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes occurs to you more like an at titude than a feeling. You slip into a smile regardless of whether the scene seems to call for it, and reasons to smile will then alight to your realm like a flutter of friendly butterflies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You like figuring out what makes people happy, and if it's not too much of an ask, you're glad to deliver on it and you don't need anything in return. But if someone is a habitual taker and never gives back, it's wise to take note.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You like to respond to texts as soon as possible, but the rules change for someone who is too powerful in your mind. It's uncomfortable, this imbalance. So you may opt to restore some equilibrium by playing it cool and taking your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). "No regrets" is a motto you'll apply multiple ways. You won't do anything you might regret. You'll also give yourself plenty of grace with whatever you do end up choosing because once it's done, the winning move is to see it as good and build from there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Stick to what you love, and if it's not here yet, wait for

it. Skip anything you merely like because it's better to have a space there for what you love to drop into. Your tastes are rapidly changing. What you like now, you might not like tomorrow. But if you love it, it will remain.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to change your whole life to do the thing you want to do or be who you want to be. When you do the action in some small way, you're already embodying the role. Think in terms of verbs. When you dance, vou're a dancer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll think better without visual distraction. Simplify your surroundings to create a clearer, more focused environment. This will enhance your productivity and bring peace to your space. It will also impress the surprise visitor of the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you consider information to be neutral, you'll have an easier time of knowing what to do with it. Besides being a good strategy, it's also the truth. The very essence of facts is that they simply are, and all connotations and judgments are add-ons.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a day to stay light-hearted, as pondering the deeper matters will be better on a day when what's deeper matters. Right now it's all on the surface, waiting to be recognized and appreciated for how it reflects the light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Try to remember that the judge inside is not an impartial ruler, nor is it an omniscient force, clued into what will actually make us happy. Opening to other perspectives is opening to other potential sources of joy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 29). Love in many forms makes this a year of connection and purpose. You'll bring a sweet and healing energy to relationships. You will move people with your gift for acknowledging life's truths courageously seeking the heart of the matter. More highlights: A location and/or vocational shift. Air travel and unusual investments with surprising results. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. - . are: 5, 13, 3, 30 and 17.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



- 19. Dashboard windows 22. Accounting title
- 23. Oxfords and loafers
- 24. 9 a.m. prayer 25. *George Ğershwin's "Porgy and Bess" 26. Discharge
- 27. Ding-a-___, pl. 28. Eightsome
- 29. Egg holders
- 32. Big-ticket _
- 33. Tank filler 36. *a.k.a. The Little Rascals (2 words)
- 38. Brightest star in Cygnus
- 40. 1990s negation
- 41. Second of two 44. Beat the Joneses
- 46. Angry stare 48. Battle of the _, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive
- 49. Test format 50. *Bureau of Investigation agent, to "Machine Gun"

Kellv

- 51. Smart but awkward one 52. *FDR's New
- E. Covote
- 54. Law school test acronym
- 55. Expert 58. Compass point between NE and E
- **ANSWERS ON PAGE 22**







Left photo, Carrie Veatch reacts as a soda geyser erupts, symbolizing the waters from the deep, during vacation Bible school at Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bennett June 3-7. Center, Alexander Heinsohn and Tenleigh Peabody defend their flags from the other team during a game of capture the flag. Right, Diane Moler tosses a cornhole bag backwards.

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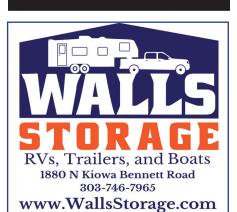


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HELP WANTED

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Monday - Friday This is a full-time position with benefits.

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Thursday, Sept. 5: Shredded pork, mashed potatoes.

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Wednesday, Sept. 4: Beef and potato wrap, green beans, applesauce.

Thursday, Sept. 5: Sesame popcorn chicken, oriental rice and vegetables, fruit cocktail, fortune cookie.

BYERS

Friday, Aug. 30: Cheese pizza, garden salad, watermelon.

Tuesday, Sept. 3: Macaroni & cheese, roll, steamed carrots, grapes. Wednesday, Sept. 4: Chili, cinna-

mon roll, tomatoes, applesauce. Thursday, Sept. 5: Ravioli, cheesy roll, garden salad, orange wedges.

STRASBURG

Friday, Aug. 30: Corn dogs. Tuesday, Sept. 3: Chicken nuggets. Wednesday, Sept. 4: Walking tacos. Thursday, Sept. 5: Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes.

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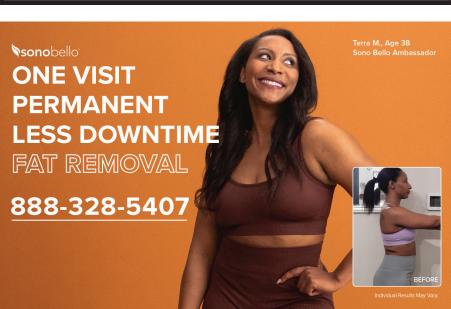
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Bacon Jalapeno Cheese Bread

by Bobbie Keefer

For The Scout

There's something irresistible about this pizza bread, which is a copy of a fast-food favorite. You DIRECTIONS can make one large stuffed bread and slice it into pieces.

Use canned French bread dough or refrigerated pizza dough. Pizza dough is springy so use your fingers to stretch it into shape. Experiment and stuff it with your favorite pizza ingredients and cheeses.

I like marinara for dipping because it is Italian, but picante sauce, ranch dressing and Alfredo are also good sauces.

BACON JALAPENO CHEESE BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- 6 strips bacon
- 2 cups shredded cheese blend
- ½ cup chopped nacho peppers
- 2 tablespoons Italian season-
- 1 refrigerated bread dough

- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 cup finely crushed corn chips
- 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese
- marinara sauce for dipping

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Crisp fry bacon in skillet. Crumble and put in bowl.

Add cheese blend, peppers,1 tablespoon of Italian seasoning. Mix to combine.

Unroll the dough. Slice and pat it into four 6- by 3-inch rectangles. Brush with half of melted butter.

Sprinkle with corn chips. Spread bacon mixture across center of each. Fold burrito style. Press edges to seal.

Brush with remaining melted butter. Sprinkle with Parmesan and remaining Italian seasoning. Arrange seam side down on baking mat. Flatten each rectangle. Cut shallow slits across top.

Bake 25 minutes until golden brown. Serve with marinara.







Offices Closed

Arapahoe County Offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Visit arapahoeco.gov/calendar

#END OVERDOSE

Help expand awareness of drug abuse and overdose International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held **Aug. 31** that aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends by remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose. Visit overdoseday.com

We want you!

Arapahoe County Elections is hiring for the General Election!

We offer competitive pay, various scheduling options and a fun workplace.

Go to bit.ly/ACElectionJudge or scan the QR code to apply.

The future is on your ballot.

ArapahoeVotes.gov



ARAPAHOE VOTES.GOV

Share your passion-Get involved today! Apply now to serve on the Justice **Coordinating Committee**

Visit arapahoeco.gov/getinvolved



Time to hit the trails!

Lace up your sneakers for the Arapahoe County 5K Trail Run, Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6–8 p.m. along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail in Centennial. Registration includes a t-shirt, dinner, craft beer or sports drink, and live music at the finish line. Walkers and all ages welcome! Funds support trail maintenance and Arapahoe County Open Spaces.

Learn more and register at arapahoecountyeventcenter.com/5ktrailrun

arapahoeco.gov week of Aujc. 26



Wednesday, September 4

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Free BBQ Lunch at Independent Financial Bank

Friday, September 6

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Cops and Bobbers at the BRPOS fishing pond with the **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Bennett Board of Trustees** - This is a unique opportunity for residents to fish alongside members of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office! The event will feature giveaways and a complimentary breakfast from Flippin' Flapjacks for all attendees sponsored by the **Board of Trustees**.

Saturday, September 7

	Trupp Park					
10:00 AM	"Harvesting Traditions" Parade Participants line up at 8:30 a.m. Must be in line by 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration is not required but recommended online at bennettco.gov.					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Vendor Street Fair hosted by the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce \$					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Town Booth Enter to win a bike! Must be 18 and under.					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Board of Trustees Booth Spin the wheel for a chance to win prizes! Donate \$10 to the Holiday Help Program for an extra spin.					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Town Projects Booth Come engage with Town Staff to learn about current projects and give your feedback on what is planned for the future in Bennett.					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Family Fun Zone sponsored by Charles Abbott & Associates and Filanc All children MUST be accompanied by an adult. Play at your own risk.					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Nerf Wars sponsored by McDonald's					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Volleyball sponsored by SSL, Christian Brothers Automotive, Davis Construction and Weller Insurance					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Face Painting sponsored by Dan's Custom Construction and Caricatures sponsored by Moore Lumber/Ace Hardware					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Bennett Days Car Show hosted by Kost Racing 1st Street and Washington Avenue					
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Bennett Arts Council Art Show & Art Project Design your own bandana! Vote for your favorite entry. Select artwork also available for sale. \$					
11:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Beer Garden hosted by F&M Bank & Launch Pad Brewery \$					
11:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Food Truck Rally sponsored by Lennar, Richmond Homes and Dream Finder Homes \$					
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	High Plains Music Ensemble at the Republic Services Grandstand					
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Bennett High School Pep Band at the Republic Services Grandstand					
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Animal Farms Chrildren's Concert sponsored by Arapahoe County at the Republic Services Grandstand					
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Quint Valley Dogs Demonstration at the Republic Services Grandstand					
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Foam Party with the Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue					
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Bull Riding hosted by No Credit Productions sponsored by KTK General Contracting					
8:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Fireworks sponsored by Terramax					
8:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Headline concert featuring El Loco Fandango: Colorado's Tribute to ZZ Top sponsored by the Aqua Engineering					
	Conden Contember 0					

Sunday, September 8

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Sunday Service in the Park with Cornerstone Fellowship

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cookout hosted by **Cornerstone Fellowship**

\$ Indicates event has an associated cost. Prices for each event varies.

