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# The I-70 Scout

Volume 30, Number 44

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

Thursday, September 26, 2024

## Big sewer fee hike slated for Strasburg

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Like it or not, wastewater customers in and around Strasburg will see a hike in their sewer bills after a local util-

ity company's board of directors meets at the end of the month.

While the public notice about the Eastern Adams County Metropolitan District's Sept. 30 hearing on its 2025 Budget and 2024 Budget Amendment says the district

"may fix, adjust or increase fees, rates, toll, penalties or charges ...," a district official recently indicated a significant wastewater increase is inevitable.

"I 100% acknowledge this is a large increase and one that no

one wants and that I don't want to present," said Eastern Adams representative Ryan Stachelski of the planned \$10 per month increase per residential equivalent (EQR)

**SEE 'BURG SEWER RATES**

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

I-70 Corridor residents are in the mood for fall as indicated by this photo recently taken in the Comanche Crossing subdivision southwest of the Strasburg interchange at I-70.

## Adams leadership shaken up

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

Six weeks after receiving a resignation letter from its former county manager, Adams County announced last week a temporary replacement for the position.

In its Sept. 18 announcement, the county announced David Fraser will serve as interim county manager until a permanent replacement for Noel Bernal is determined.

Officials indicated they wanted the county's new lead administrator to be hired by the newly seated board of county commissioners, which will be determined during the upcoming November general election. Three commissioner seats are up for grabs, including District 5 that covers approximately the eastern two-thirds of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Fraser, above, was recently named Adams County interim manager replacing Noel Bernard.

the county.

In last week's statement, the county called Fraser a distinguished leader with three decades of experience in local government that will guide Adams County as interim county manager

**SEE ADCO MGR**

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## Bennett School begins rebuilding bus routes

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After several weeks of running no bus routes or alternating them every other day, Bennett School District reinstated all five on a daily basis, but officials cautioned that interruptions might still occur.

During the Sept. 17 school board meeting, Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy and new Transportation Director Nick Ophaug said that district families would receive an e-mail communication by the end of last week saying the district's handful of bus routes would be fully reinstated but asked parents and guardians to be aware of last-minute changes.

"Beginning Monday, Sept. 23, all five of our current bus routes will begin running everyday again," Ophaug's memo said. "We are still short drivers and have no subs, so there is a possibility a route will have to be canceled in the event of a driver being out sick. We will work very diligently to notify families quickly if a bus route has to be canceled and we will work as hard as possible to not cancel any routes."

During the board meeting, Ophaug, who has been high school assistant principal, said he is in the process of deciding between three vendors of transportation software and a phone app to expedite communication between himself or staff and parents and students.

"A lot of these apps are a notification via text

message," he said, noting a process similar to an all-call system.

Efforts to grow the bus driver roster continue, but Ophaug, who himself is a licensed bus driver and serves as a sixth driver when needed, said that it is at least a three-week process before interested people receive adequate CDL training and can pass their driving test.

"We've hired two candidates," he said. "But it takes about 93 hours for enough training to pass the test. And conversely, it could take a little bit more than three weeks."

In addition to the bus routes, Ophaug has been juggling athletic and activity trips, including a recent high school football jaunt to Lamar in southeast Colorado.

"Plus we have a couple overnight trips that are coming up and you have to consider our focus of getting all students that need a bus back on theirs and getting them back-and-forth to school on a daily basis," he said. "We're especially focusing on that and preparing for October count. We need every student we can get transported here."

Purdy reiterated that daily transportation services are for students outside the city limits or on the farthest outskirts of the district and urged families to peruse Policy EEAA for bus-ing specifics.

Until last week's decision, the previous cou-

**SEE BENNETT BOE**

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CARL STEITZ/The I-70 Scout

A car appears under a harvest moon as seen Sept. 18 from the rebuilt Texas crossing on County Road 2 between Byers and Strasburg.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Strasburg Lutherans plan 'blessing of the animals'

STRASBURG — A "blessing of the animals" service will begin at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 6, at Saron Lutheran Church, 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

The public is invited to bring pets for a special blessing at an outdoor service.

A brief history of St. Francis, who is associated with patronage of animals and the environment, will be shared. Pets must be leashed or caged. Photos of pets are also acceptable.

'Burg FBLA asks for shoes for donation to Funds2Org

STRASBURG — Strasburg High School Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) chapter is partnering with Funds2Org to collect lightly worn shoes.

All donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners.

Shoes can be dropped off through Monday, Sept. 30, at all Strasburg Schools, TBK Bank, the Bennett Recreation Center, and Mountain View Fellowship.

For more information, call Kim Harris at (303)622-9211, ext. 814.

Childbirth classes offered by Adams Co. Health Dept

The Adams County Health Department (ACHD) is now offering free childbirth classes from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursdays through Nov. 7, in the basement of the department's Commerce City location, 7190 Colorado Blvd.

The classes are for expectant parents who want to learn more about the birthing process, breastfeeding, how to prepare for a baby, and how to ask for additional resources.

Child care will be provided. Attendees must be Adams County residents, fewer than 32 weeks pregnant, and earn less than \$75,000 per year.

A support person who will be

present at the birth is also encouraged to attend.

To register, call Heather Baumgarten at (720)375-3710.

'Cat in the Hat' production slated for park in Bennett

BENNETT — The Bennett Arts Council will host a free performance by Vintage Theatre of Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" starting at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, at Trupp Park.

The story centers on a tall anthropomorphic cat in a red and white striped top hat and a red bow tie who shows up at the house of Sally and her brother one rainy day when their mother is away. The story proceeds from there.

For more information, visit [www.bennettco.gov](http://www.bennettco.gov).

Transportation safety plan at heart of Bennett survey

BENNETT — The town of Bennett is asking residents to take a brief survey to assess the its transportation network for safety improvements in a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

The study, funded by a U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant. The goal is to support local initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injury on roads and streets.

The team has moved into the next phase of plan development — data analysis.

To access the survey, visit [www.bennettco.gov](http://www.bennettco.gov).

Butter-making one activity at 17 Mile House dairy day

CENTENNIAL — History buffs can learn about dairy history from 1880-1950 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at the 17 Mile House Farm Park, 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial.

Visitors can see the milking parlor in the barn, the milk house, and a butter churn display. They will also get the opportunity to make and taste their own butter.

Small-group tours of the historic 17 Mile House and barn will also be offered.

The events are free but registration is required because of capacity limitations. To sign up, visit [www.arapahoeco.gov](http://www.arapahoeco.gov).

Pediatric patient housing: Quilt-making effort opens

BENNETT — The Bennett-Watkins Lions Club is making quilts for donation to Brent's Place, which provides 32 fully furnished apartments for pediatric patients and their families, on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

The club will give the quilts to the children who are patients. It has already donated eight quilts and is working on more.

Tops should be approximately 40-46 inches by 65-70 inches. Quilters who want to use up scrap material can go ahead and make the top.

For more information, call Diane Moler at (303)644-3717.

Byers Catholic church plans faith formation gatherings

BYERS — Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church is now hosting faith formation sessions for ages 13 and up starting at 7:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday at the church's parish house, 234 W. Bijou Ave., Byers.

The group is intended for people who are depressed, grieving, confused or suffering in some other manner.

Free babysitting will be available.

For additional information, call (720)226-8561.

History seminar planned on U.S. legislative branch

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society will host a discussion on the legislative branch of government from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17, at the TBK Bank Community Room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum will detail the provisions of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution. Discussion will center on the constitutional provisions for Congress and its apportionment into 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 100 seats in the Senate.

A reception will open the event at 6 p.m., and the program will run from 6:30-8 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society.

Another history seminar is planned for Thursday, Nov. 21, also at TBK Bank.

Deer Trail alumni reunion: Registration commences

Registration is underway for the annual Deer Trail alumni reunion honoring all Deer Trail classes from 1974 to 1999 on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Deer Trail School Auditorium, 130 S. Second Ave.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with a reception for visiting with classmates and friends. A buffet will start at 5 p.m. followed by a program at 6:30 p.m.

Cost if \$14 per adult, \$10 per child, and \$18 without an RSVP.

To RSVP, contact Nora Weisensee by calling (303)769-4756 or 303-885-1800; e-mailing to [deertrailalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:deertrailalumni@yahoo.com); or mailing to 85243 E. County Road 10, Deer Trail, Colo. 80105.

Knights of Columbus plan Fourth Degree Octoberfest

BYERS — The Father Freudenstein Assembly 3193 of the Knights of Columbus will host a 4th Degree Octoberfest from 4-8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Byers American Legion Hall, 278 W. Front St.

The fundraiser will include a meal of sausage, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, dinner roll, tossed salad, cookie and one bar drink ticket for \$25 per adult and \$10 per child under 12.

Assembly 3193 of the KCs is affiliated with Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church in Byers.

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- Preparing and presenting claims and applications to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
- Advocating for benefits
- Finding resources
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**Oct. 16** Drop-in times available from **1–4:30 p.m.**  
American Legion Post 160 | 278 W. Front St., Byers

Unable to attend? Call **303-738-8045** for other appointments.

# arapahoeco.gov

WEEK OF SEPT. 23

# Call volume keeps rising in Bennett-Watkins FPD

by Kathy Smiley  
Staff Writer

**BENNETT** — Call volume is trending up for Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue.

Chief Earl Cumley told the Bennett Fire Protection District Board Sept. 12 that calls are “on an accelerating trend,” with 150 total dispatches in August.

“We actually got busier in August than we were in July,” he said, adding that, as of the meeting date, 1,023 calls were taken by the department in 2024 compared to 961 in the same period in 2023 — a 6.1% increase.

“So pretty significant uptick,” Cumley said. “It’s still a majority of EMS, but in August we had 15 fires compared to the 25 in July, and that’s still quite a few.”

Eighty-five rescue and EMS calls were taken in August. Rounding out the numbers were 10 hazardous conditions other than fires, eight service calls, nine false alarms, and 23 “good intent” incidents. A “good intent” call, according to the National Fire Incident Reporting System, occurs when the fire department is dispatched to a scene but, upon arrival and investigation, the scene is not the incident type reported and is no threat or problem.

“We are averaging four calls per day,” Cumley concluded.

A public hearing on a request for exclusion from the district was continued until the October meeting. The request concerns a currently vacant property that was annexed into Aurora years ago.

The property owner is asking to be excluded from the Bennett Fire Protection District because they are also taxed for fire service from Aurora.

The board and fire personnel questioned whether Aurora would, in fact, respond to the property after its exclusion from Bennett. Cumley said that the last time an exclusion request was processed, the district reached out to Aurora Fire to ask that question.

“They’ve got to cover it technically but is that something they would be willing to do?” he asked.

Board president Royce Pindell said a small part of the district is within Aurora’s boundaries.

“We have square miles of the district that are technically within Aurora,” he said, adding the two districts have a good line of communication going between them.

The district’s attorney Kathryn Winn said the petitioner should be present for the discussion.

“You’re asking some really good questions and it’s a bit challenging without having the property owner or their representatives here,”

she said. “We can certainly share your questions with them and suggest that they come to help the dialogue.”

When asked if time was an issue, Winn said no.

“Right now, when it is vacant property, a response is very different than when they develop it,” she said. “I think we have time for those conversations.”

Winn added that a statutory process exists for the property owner if Bennett Fire does not choose to exclude.

“Aurora can essentially force the exclusion through a court process,” she said. “So that would be the other option for the property owner to pursue.”

Fire Marshal Victoria Flamini reported on the department’s participation in Bennett Days, which included foam day and a fireworks show.

“We got great feedback on the fireworks and had some good interactions with community members,” she said.

Flamini said the department is finalizing its work in the F&M Bank building.

“As far as the fire department goes, we’re fairly well finished,” she said. “It will be exciting once they’re able to get open. It’s an absolutely beautiful building and will be a really nice asset to the community.”



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DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP Photos

From left photo, shoppers consider rug samples on display in a furniture store June 2 in Lone Tree; a long row of unsold 2024 Atlas utility vehicles sits at a Volkswagen dealership in Denver July 28; and a buyer peruses cheese offerings at a Target store in October 2023 in Sheridan.

# Americans’ refusal pay higher prices tames inflation

by Christopher Rugaber  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The great inflation spike of the past three years is nearly spent — and economists credit American consumers for helping slay it. Some of America’s largest companies, from Amazon to Disney to Yum Brands, say their customers are increasingly seeking cheaper alternative products and services, searching for bargains or just avoiding items they deem too expensive. Consumers aren’t cutting back enough to cause

an economic downturn. Rather, economists say, they appear to be returning to pre-pandemic norms, when most companies felt they couldn’t raise prices without losing business. “While inflation is down, prices are still high, and I think consumers have gotten to the point where they’re just not accepting it,” said Tom Barkin, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va., at a recent conference of business economists. “And that’s what you want: The solution to high prices is high prices.” A more price-sensitive

consumer helps explain why inflation has appeared to steadily fall toward the Federal Reserve’s 2% target, ending a period of painfully high prices that strained many people’s budgets and darkened their outlooks on the economy. It also assumed a central place in the presidential election, with inflation leading many Americans to sour on the Biden-Harris administration’s handling of the economy. The reluctance of consumers to keep paying more has forced companies to slow their price increases — or even to cut them.

The result is a cooling of inflation pressures. On Aug. 12, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported that Americans’ expectations of how much they’ll spend in the next 12 months has declined — and so has their outlook for inflation. Consumers expect their spending to grow 4.9% in the coming year, according to a survey by the New York Fed — the lowest such reading since April 2021, when inflation was beginning to surge. And they expect inflation to average just 2.3% over the next three years, the survey found, the lowest

such figure since the survey began in 2013. Consumer expectations for inflation can be self-fulfilling: When households expect low inflation, they tend to delay some purchases in the expectation that prices won’t rise much in the near future — and might even decline in some cases. This trend can keep price pressures down. Other factors to tame inflation include the healing of supply chains, which has boosted the availability of cars, trucks, meats and furniture, and the high inter-  
**SEE INFLATION**  
**PAGE 6**

## Notice of Hearing on Petition

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 32-1-304, C.R.S., that there was filed in the District Court in and for the County of Adams, State of Colorado, on September 5, 2024, a Petition entitled “**In Re the Organization of Wolf Creek Run West Metropolitan District**”, County of Adams, State of Colorado, which Petition requests the organization of the Wolf Creek Run West Metropolitan District (the “**Proposed District**”), pursuant to the provisions of Section 32-1-301, et seq., C.R.S. Notice is further given that a Service Plan for the Proposed District and a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Adams County approving the Service Plan, were also filed with the Court in this matter as required by law. Said documents are now on file at the office of the Clerk of the District Court of Adams County, Colorado, and are available for public inspection.

The purposes of the Proposed District are to provide: fire protection improvements, mosquito control improvements, parks and recreation improvements, traffic safety protection improvements, sanitation improvements, stormwater improvements, solid waste disposal, facilities or collection and transportation of solid waste, street improvements, television relay and translation improvements, water improvements, security services, covenant enforcement, and all other improvements or services permitted by Article 1, Title 32, C.R.S., except as specifically limited in the District’s Service Plan.

The Proposed District’s initial boundaries encompass approximately 29.2 acres, which are located in unincorporated Adams County, State of Colorado, and more particularly described as follows:

A TRACT OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 62 WEST OF THE SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

**BASIS OF BEARINGS:** THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 29 IS ASSUMED TO BEAR SOUTH 89°22’32” WEST AND BEING MONUMENTED ON THE EAST AND WEST BY A 3.25” ALUMINUM CAP STAMPING ILLEGIBLE.

**COMMENCING** AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29, THENCE SOUTH 89°22’32” WEST 959.51 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE NORTH 00°37’23” WEST 70.00 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**;

THENCE SOUTH 89°22’32” WEST 1260.62 FEET, 70.00 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL TO SAID SOUTH LINE;

THENCE NORTH 00°37’55” WEST 376.16 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 135.85 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 00°37’55” WEST 554.50 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 110.00 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 00°37’55” WEST 99.50 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 10.50 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 00°37’55” WEST 125.00 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 260.59 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 79°39’23” EAST 97.81 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3, BLOCK 5, WOLF CREEK RUN WEST FILING NO. 1 RECORDED AT RECEPTION NO. 2020000102832 IN THE ADAMS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER’S OFFICE;

THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY AND WESTERLY LINES OF SAID WOLF CREEK RUN WEST FILING NO. 1 THE FOLLOWING SIXTEEN (16) COURSES:

1. THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 177.00 FEET
2. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 131.00 FEET;
3. THENCE SOUTH 44°22’05” WEST 21.21 FEET;
4. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 27.00 FEET;
5. THENCE NORTH 89°22’05” EAST 490.50 FEET;
6. THENCE SOUTH 45°37’55” EAST 21.21 FEET;
7. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 270.00 FEET;
8. THENCE SOUTH 44°22’05” WEST 21.21 FEET;
9. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’45” EAST 27.00 FEET;
10. THENCE SOUTH 45°37’55” EAST 21.22 FEET;
11. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 270.00 FEET;
12. THENCE SOUTH 44°22’05” WEST 21.21 FEET;
13. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 27.00 FEET;
14. THENCE SOUTH 45°37’55” EAST 21.21 FEET;
15. THENCE SOUTH 00°37’55” EAST 309.60 FEET;
16. THENCE SOUTH 44°21’44” WEST 28.61 FEET TO THE **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 1,272,721 SQUARE FEET OR 29.2177 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that any time after the filing of the Petition for Organization of the Proposed District in the District Court for the County of Adams, but no later than ten (10) days before the day fixed for the hearing thereon, the owner of any real property within the Proposed District may file a petition with the Court stating reasons why said property should not be included in the Proposed District and requesting that said real property be excluded therefrom. Such petition shall be duly verified and shall describe the property sought to be excluded. The Court shall hear said petition and all objections thereto at the time of the Hearing on the Petition for Organization and shall determine whether, in the best public interest, said property should be excluded or included in the proposed special district.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that by an Order of the District Court in and for the County of Adams, a Public Hearing on said Petition for Organization will be held on October 15, 2024 at 8:30 a.m., via WEBEX, access information below, in Division A, Adams County District Court, 1100 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton, Colorado 80601, at which time and place any parties or persons in interest may appear if they so desire, within the limitations provided by law.

To join via WEBEX: <https://judicial.webex.com/meet/d17-brgt-diva>  
ACCESS BY PHONE: 720-650-7664 ACCESS CODE: 2597-658-5121 #

/s/ Alana Percy  
Clerk of Courts, 17th Judicial District  
Adams County, State of Colorado

## INFLATION

FROM PAGE 5

est rates engineered by the Fed, which slowed sales of homes, cars and appliances and other interest rate-sensitive purchases.

Still, a key question is whether shoppers will pull back so much as to put the economy at risk. Consumer spending makes up more than two-thirds of economic activity. With evidence emerging that the job market is cooling, a drop in spending could derail the economy. Such fears caused stock prices to plummet a while back, though markets have since rebounded.

Many businesses have noticed.

"We're seeing lower average selling prices ... right now because customers continue to trade down on price when they can," said Andrew Jassy, Amazon CEO.

David Gibbs, CEO of Yum Brands, an owner of Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut, said a more cost-conscious consumer has slowed its sales, which slipped 1% in the second quarter at stores open for at least a year.

"Ensuring we provide consumers affordable options," Gibbs said, "has been an area of greater focus for us since last year."

Other companies are cutting prices outright. Dormify, an online retailer that sells dorm supplies, is offering comforters starting at \$69, down from \$99 a year ago.

According to the Fed's "Beige Book," an anecdotal collection of business reports from around the country that is released eight times a year, companies in nearly all 12 Fed districts have described similar experiences.

"Almost every district-mentioned retailers discounting items or price-sensitive consumers only purchasing essentials, trading down

in quality, buying fewer items, or shopping around for the best deals," the Beige Book said in July.

Most economists say consumers are still spending enough to sustain the economy consistently. Barkin said most businesses in his district — which covers Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and North and South Carolina — report that demand remains solid, at least at the right price.

"The way I'd put it is, consumers are still spending, but they're choosing," Barkin said.

In a recent speech, Jared Bernstein, who leads the Biden administration's Council of Economic Advisers, mentioned consumer caution as a reason why inflation is nearing the end of a "round trip" back to the Fed's 2% target level.

Emerging from the pandemic, Bernstein noted, consumers were flush with cash after receiving several rounds of stimulus checks and having slashed their spending on in-person services. Their improved finances "gave certain firms the ability to flex a pricing power that was much less prevalent pre-pandemic."

After COVID, consumers were "less responsive to price increases," Bernstein said.

As a result, "the old adage that the cure for high prices is high prices (was) temporarily disengaged," Bernstein said.

Some companies raised prices even more than was needed to cover higher input costs, thereby boosting their profits. Limited competition in some industries, Bernstein added, made it easier for companies to charge more.

Barkin noted that, before the pandemic, in-

flation remained low as online shopping, which makes price comparisons easy, became increasingly prevalent. Major retailers also held down costs, and increased U.S. oil production brought down gas prices.

"A price increase was so rare," Barkin said, "that if someone came to you with a 5% or 10% price increase, you almost just threw them out, like, 'How could you possibly do it?'"

That changed in 2021.

"There are labor shortages," Barkin said. "Supply chain shortages. And the price increases are coming to you from everywhere. Your gardener is raising your prices, and you don't have the capacity to do anything other than accept them."

The economist Isabella Weber at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst dubbed the phenomenon "sellers' inflation" in 2023. In a paper, she wrote that "publicly reported supply chain bottlenecks" can "create legitimacy for price hikes" and "create acceptance on the part of consumers to pay higher prices."

Consumers are no longer so accepting, Barkin said.

"People have a little bit more time to stop and say, 'How do I feel about paying \$9.89 for a 12-pack of Diet Coke when I used to pay \$5.99?' They don't like it that much, and so people are making choices."

Barkin said he expects this trend to continue to slow price increases and cool inflation.

"I'm actually pretty optimistic that, over the next few months, we're going to see good readings on the inflation side," he said. "All the elements of inflation seem to be settling down."

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CASE NO. LDC23-005, OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS  
AMENDMENTS / LAND DEVELOPMENT  
CODE AMENDMENT

PROPOSAL: Arapahoe County Public Works and Development is proposing to amend the Oil and Gas Regulations in Chapter 5, Section 5-3.6, of the Arapahoe County Land Development Code.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 15, 2024, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing starting at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter, at 5334 S. Prince St, Littleton, Colorado, in the East Hearing Room, Littleton, CO 80120, at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LDC23-005, Oil and Gas Regulation Amendments / Land Development Code Amendment. 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. Please be advised that pressing \*3 more than once will remove you from the queue.

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 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing [planning@arapahoe.gov](mailto:planning@arapahoe.gov) during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

Vernon Werner



Vernon A. Werner, 87, of Flagler, Colo., departed this life on Sept. 7, 2024. Vernon was known for his kindness, humor, generosity, musicianship and dedication to his faith, family and community.

Born on Feb. 3, 1937, in Plainville, Kan., he married his beloved wife, Nancy, on July 18, 1959. They moved to Colorado in 1962. Vernon and Nancy were married for 51 years, and anyone who knew them now celebrate their long-awaited reunion.

Vernon served honorably in the US Army from 1957 to 1959. He joined the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in 1964, where he dedicated 36 years, retiring as a Lieutenant in charge of the Eastern District, serving the small towns, ranchers, and farmers of the area, a role he cherished and executed with distinction.

In 2000, Vernon and Nancy retired to the small community of Flagler, Colo. They quickly became cherished members of the community. Having grown up on a farm, Vernon began helping local farmers during harvest time, and spent time serving as a town commissioner. His connection to the land and community was evident in his dedication to these roles.

Vernon was also deeply involved in his local parish, St. Mary's in Flagler, where he was a regular attendee. His faith was an important aspect of his life, providing him with strength and comfort, especially after Nancy passed away in 2010.

Vernon and Nancy were able to travel all across the United States, to several countries in Europe, and to the Caribbean on Grand Ol' Opry cruises. Vern's hobbies included playing guitar and singing with his band, Barbwire Connection, gardening, and caring for all the critters that made his yard their home, including his much-loved cat, Cat. These activities brought him great joy and peace, particularly in his later years.

Vernon was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy; his parents, Joe and Nettie Werner; brothers Joseph, Richard, Leonard, Donald, and Ronald; and his cat, Cat. He is survived by his children, Glen, Russell (Kathy), and Keri; grandchildren, Chelsea (Chuck) Tague, Jesse (Alex) Vittale, Ryan Werner, Kurtis Werner, and Robby Payne; great-grandchildren, Arthur and Inez Vittale; and his sister, Mary Lee (Ed) Schmidtberger.

Vernon will be remembered for his strong sense of duty, commitment to his community, and loving heart. We hope his legacy will continue to influence those who knew him to be faithful and generous. He will be greatly missed.

Vernon was remembered during a Sept. 12 Rosary at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Flagler and a Sept. 13 Mass at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church in Byers, before being laid to rest at Flagler Cemetery Friday afternoon.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to any local charity providing music and arts to children.



SPORTS



Indian harriers place 2nd at Liberty Bell

by Isaac Manaugh  
Editorial Assistant

LITTLETON — Not one, two or three, but four different states had participating teams in the Liberty Bell Invitational Cross Country Meet Sept. 14 in Littleton.

Wyoming, New Mexico and Nebraska joined many Colorado schools for a total of 97 teams and 18 different races during the day.

Strasburg had 15 participants run in the meet with 13 setting a new season or personal best time.

BOYS RACE

The Strasburg boys had a meet to remember, taking second place out of 14 teams in the highly respected Division 3.

On top of a great team performance, junior Dawit James had his 10th sub-17 minute race, finishing seventh out of 152 runners with a time of 16:45.80. James not only set a season-best for himself, but he is also the only runner in Strasburg High School history to beat 17 minutes.

Junior Israel James ran a season-best 17:36.80, taking 16th; sophomore Noah Dobransky finished 23rd with an 18:04; junior Jeremiah Redd had a time of 18:23.90, taking 30th; and senior Daniel Handy had his season best

run of 18:56.80 to finish 40th. “Our team crushed the Liberty Bell Invitational,” head coach Mike James said.

DIVISION 3 BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

- 1. Prospect Ridge Academy 62
- 2. Strasburg 92
- 3. Clear Creek 124
- 4. Battle Mountain 129
- 5. Lamar 134
- 6. Colorado Academy 164
- 7. Wellington 166
- 8. Peyton 172
- 9. Heritage Christian Academy 247
- 10. Monument Academy 258
- 11. Platte Canyon 268
- 12. STEM 295
- 13. Kent Denver 297
- 14. Skyview 353

GIRLS RACE

The Lady Indians took 11th out of 14 teams.

The five times taken for the team score were: sophomore Maura Kramer with a 23:58.20 (47th); junior Megan Lay, 24:23.10 (62nd); sophomore Naomi Redd, 25:41.30 (75th); junior Kasianna Christianson 26:12.10, (79th); and sophomore Kyla Bauer 27:19.60, (92nd).

“Every lady runner set either a new personal record or had a season-best effort,” James said.

The Indians are now in the backstretch of the season with three more meets before the League



The Strasburg boys cross country team shows off its second-place trophy from the Liberty Bell Invitational in Littleton Sept. 14. Pictured are, front row from left, Lamburg Ly, Israel James, Daniel Handy and Dawit James and, back row, Jeremiah Redd, Will Hauser and Noah Dobransky.

Championship on Friday Oct. 11.

DIVISION 3 GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS

- 1. Heritage Christian 22
- 2. Prospect Ridge 65
- 3. Banning Lewis Prep 66
- 4. St. Mary's Academy 93
- 5. Wellington 138
- 6. Kent Denver 149
- 7. Colorado Academy 209
- 8. Golden View Classical 240
- 9. Clear Creek 249

- 10. Peyton 278
- 11. Strasburg 295
- 12. Skyview 320
- 13. Pueblo Centennial 357
- 14. St. Mary's 391

COMING UP

Sept. 27: @ Long's Peak Invitational, Lake Estes Golf Course.  
Oct. 5: @ Mead Stampede, Mead.  
Oct. 11: @ Patriot League Championships, Kersey.

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*Lenny Pelc*

Lenny Dean Pelc, of Strasburg, Colo., passed away Sept. 2, 2024, at the age of 63. He was born on June 19, 1961, in Lynch, Neb., and spent his childhood on the family farm before graduating from Howells High School, in Howells, Neb., in 1979.

After graduation, Lenny took on various jobs until enlisting in the United States Army in 1983, where he served for 12 years, until 1995. During that time, Lenny married Deborah Nachbaur on March 21, 1985, in Wahiawa, Hawaii. Together, they built a loving family. They decided to settle in Colorado, and Lenny worked as a data analyst for Northrop Grumman for 20 years. Upon retirement, Lenny fully embraced his passion for life, dedicating his time to RVing and fishing across the country, activities that brought him great joy. An avid fan of the Nebraska Cornhuskers, Lenny took pride in his roots and enjoyed sharing that passion with his loved ones.

Lenny's legacy continues through his wife, Deborah, of Strasburg, Colo.; sons, Jacob (Ashley) Pelc of Aurora, Colo., Jeremy Pelc (Lauryn Adams) of Aurora, Colo., and Jordan (Megan) Pelc of Strasburg, Colo.; eight grandchildren: Jaydon, Urijah, Addison, Silas, Carson, Liam, Grayson, and Tristan; brothers, Philip (Linda) Pelc of Apache Junction, Ariz., and Randal (Jodi) Pelc of Columbus, Neb; and stepmother, Darlene Krafka.

Lenny is preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Shirley (Walth) Pelc of Spencer, Neb.; brother, Steven Pelc of Fayetteville, Pa.; and son, Joshua Pelc.

Lenny was laid to rest Sept. 16 at Fort Logan Cemetery in Denver following a memorial service earlier in the day at Journey Church in Strasburg.

*Delores Elenor Davis*

In loving memory, the Davis family would like to announce the passing of Delores E. Davis on Aug. 7, 2024, at the age of 91 years old. Delores was born on Nov. 1, 1932, in Columbiana, Ohio, to Evan and Clare Beatty. She survived her only sibling, older brother Robert E. Beatty. She is survived by her children, Michael W. Beatty, Denise L. Carter, Thomas J. Ogurcak and Paul R. Davis. Delores' daughter DeAnne M. Ogurcak passed in 2023.

Delores has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She lived most of her childhood and younger years in the Ohio – Pennsylvania area. Delores and her second husband Paul R. Davis moved from to the Aurora, Colo., area in 1975, and subsequently moved to Deer Trail, Colo. While living on Second Street in Deer Trail, they opened and ran the only restaurant in town. They retired due to health reasons and continued to live in Deer Trail until the death of Paul in 2010.

After living by herself in Deer Trail for a few months, she moved to Katy, Texas, to live with her daughter Denise. Delores enjoyed many years in good health with her daughter until her decline and death in 2024. Delores passed peacefully, dying of natural causes.

Please join us in wishing the best condolences to all the surviving family of Delores Davis.

*Wanda Headley*

Wanda (Becton) Headley went to her heavenly home on Sept. 1, 2024 in Lone Tree, Colo. She was born June 19, 1951, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to Arlis and Lucille Becton and was the middle child between two sisters and two brothers. Wanda married Donn Headley of Ottumwa, Iowa, on June 1, 1968. Together, they had four children and shared 56 happy years of marriage.

Wanda loved Jesus, her husband, her great-grandchildren, her grandchildren, and her children...in that order. She could beat anyone in a game of Trivial Pursuit, loved old movies and music, and was always ready to hear or tell a good joke. We will never forget her smile and her infectious laugh. Wanda was a prolific score and stats keeper for her children's softball and baseball games for years, often handing out more errors than her kids felt they deserved, but she was always their biggest fan. She loved the Houston Astros and instilled that love in her children.

Wanda was preceded in death by son, Sean; parents Arlis and Lucille; sisters, Linda and Cheryl; and grandson, Paden. She is survived by husband Donn Headley; sons, Donn Jr. (Angie) and Denny (Katurah); daughter, Rachel; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Arlis and William Becton; and numerous nieces and nephews. Though we will miss her on this side of Heaven, we look forward to seeing her again.

A Celebration of Life is planned for 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11, at Mountain View Fellowship in Strasburg. Wanda did not want a sad service so feel free to wear colorful clothes, dress casually, and come prepared with your best stories to share.

# Strasburg 9 keeps rolling with wins over Rebels, Tigers

by Douglas Claussen  
Publisher & Editor

The Lady Indians softball team ran its winning streak to six games last week with easy wins at Weld Central and at home against Sterling.

Through Sept. 20, Strasburg had scored 96 runs over its last seven games as it gears up for its stretch run for the playoffs in the coming weeks.

"In seven games, that's great," said Indians head coach Wes Madrill.

Strasburg also defeated Forge Christian 7-0 Sept. 21 to extend its scoring binge to 103 runs over eight games. For complete coverage, watch for the Sept. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

## @ WELD CENTRAL

A lightning delay may have contributed to a slow start by the Indians in a 12-2 win at Keenesburg Sept. 17.

After the game finally started around 6 p.m., Weld Central held the Indians scoreless for the first three innings before taking a 1-0 edge in the bottom of the third.

Then Strasburg's bats started to heat up, and the Indians scored 1 run on a passed ball and sophomore Wynne Winter hit a 2-run single to put the Indians up for good.

Madrill noted the Rebel pitcher was leaving the ball up in the zone and that the Strasburg artillery began to thrive.

"Then we started hitting the ball and started moving people around and [we] scored every inning after that," Madrill said.

The Indians added 4 runs in the fifth, 1 in the sixth, and 4 in the seventh, and Weld Central tacked on its final score in the bottom of the seventh.

Strasburg senior hurler Kailey Rushman was the star of the victory over the Lady Rebels. She struck out 12 batters and yielded just two unearned runs and one walk and scattering 10 hits over seven innings of work. She also helped her own cause at the plate, hitting two singles and a double in four at-bats.

Other leaders at the plate included Winter, who drove in 3 runs on two singles; sophomore Addi Kent, a single, a double and 2 RBIs; ju-

nior Rachel Ruppel with two singles and 2 RBIs; senior Anna Vetter, a triple, a single and 1 RBI; and sophomore Phoebe Johnson, one base hit and 1 RBI.

"We just you know when one's not hitting the ball, somebody else is hitting the ball and moving runners," Madrill said of the Indians' offensive prowess.

Strasburg also had a season-high in stolen bases with five. Sophomore Madi Olsen had two steals and Kent, Vetter and freshman Jordan Finley taking one apiece.

The Indians showed patience at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game led by junior Savannah Bradley with three.

While three fielding errors did not hurt the Indians, Madrill emphasized the importance of eliminating such mistakes.

## STERLING

Strasburg scored early, often and continuously in easily dispatching Sterling Tigers Sept. 19 by a score of 18-6.

The Indians scored 7 and 6 over the first two innings for a 13-0 advantage, but Strasburg had a "hiccup," according to Madrill, in the

top of the third inning that allowed the Lady Tigers to pull within 13-4. The Indians added 5 in their half of the third for an 18-4 advantage, but Sterling could only muster 2 runs in the top of the fourth and Strasburg won by the mercy rule.

At the plate, Vetter went four-for-four with a double and 5 RBIs. Olsen added a 2-run homer plus a single for 3 RBIs followed by a run-scoring triple by senior Averie Eymann; three base hits and 2 RBIs by Kent; one single and 2 RBIs each Ruppel and Winter; and two hits and 1 RBI by Bradley.

The Indians again showed good patience by receiving seven walks.

Vetter earned the win for Strasburg. She allowed eight hits and six runs, three earned, over four innings while striking out four and walking none.

"The girls came through. They hit the ball. We had a good outing," Madrill concluded. "I want to start peaking probably right about now."

## COMING UP

Sept. 28: Brush.

Oct. 3: @ Lyons.

Oct. 8: Platte Valley.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Against Sterling Sept. 19, Lady Indian senior Averie Eymann, left photo, whom head coach Wes Madrill describes as his best bunter, misses an outside pitch. Center, sophomore Addi Kent connects for one of her three singles. Right, junior catcher Savannah Bradley makes the play on a pop foul ball as sophomore first baseman Phebe Johnson backs her up.



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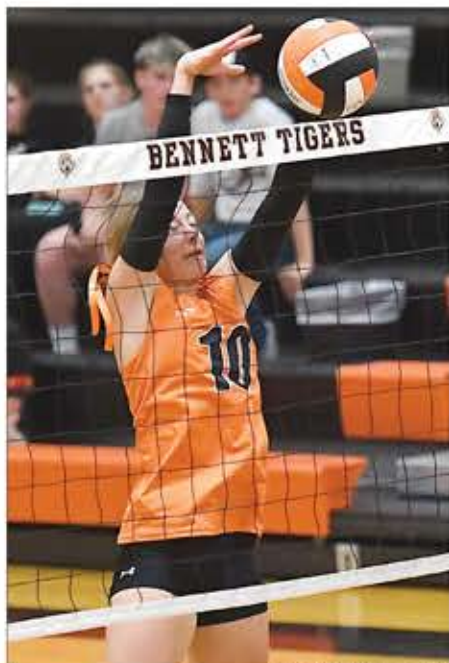
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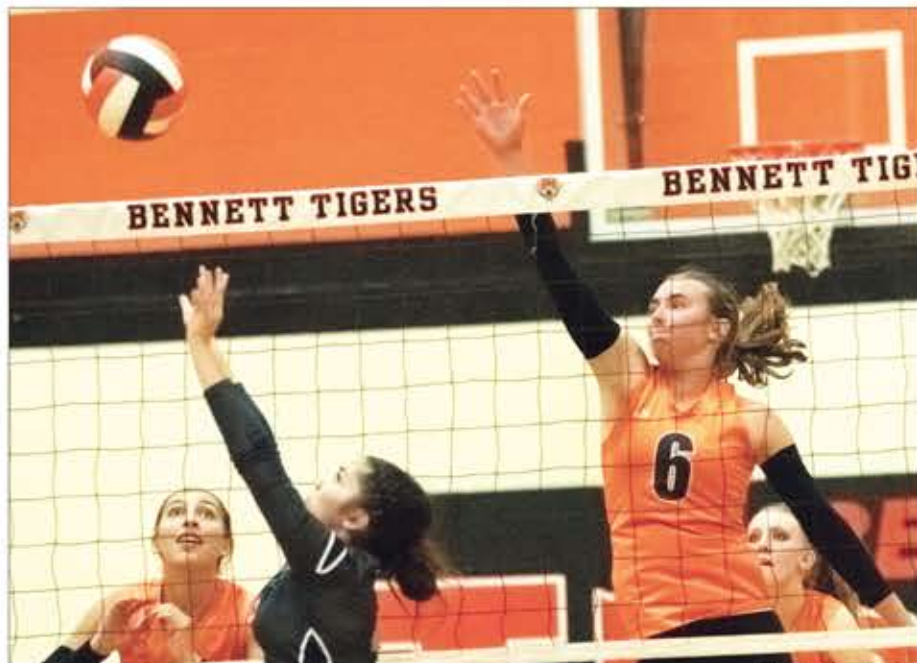
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Left photo, Bennett setter Raquel Thorpe (19) sets a teammate and, center photo, Lady Tiger Kaurlie Voorhies gets her hands in front of a Peak to Peak kill effort during Bennett's annual tournament Sept. 14. Right, Bennett's Elizabeth Westendorf hits over the top a defender from The Pinnacle during the schools' Frontier League season-opener Sept. 9.

## Bennett gains momentum during early season contests

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

After a 10-day hiatus following their season-opening loss with Strasburg in late August, the Bennett Lady Tigers had a busy, but successful, second week of September, earning a pair of runner-up finishes at weekend tournaments and a dominant victory in its conference opener sandwiched in the middle.

The orange-and-black went 3-1 on its way to a championship match appearance and a sec-

ond-place finish at the D'Evelyn Premier Classic Sept. 7 and also won two of three matches at its own Tiger Invitational Sept. 14. In between the two Saturday tournaments, the troops of Bennett head coach Corissa Thornton dominated Frontier League rival The Pinnacle in three sets Sept. 9.

"A couple of hiccups in matches we've probably should have won but let get away but, overall, my girls have been on fire and playing really well," Thornton said during the Ben-

nett tournament. "Always something to work on, but the girls have really come together and working hard to improve. I'm really excited for the rest of the season."

**@ D'EVELYN TOURNAMENT**  
VAIL CHRISTIAN

The Tigers' inaugural win of the season occurred in three sets over Vail Christian in the opening morning match at D'Evelyn. After winning game one 25-22, Bennett struggled to maintain its momentum, falling in set two 25-19;

however, Thornton's group righted the ship to take the third game 15-6. The tournament utilized best-of-three matches.

"A little disappointed in our second game, but really proud of how we bounced back to play much better and handled game three fairly easily," Thornton said.

While both teams were around 20 kills and 10 service aces each, Bennett recorded only nine attacking errors compared to the Lady Saints' 15. The Tigers also scrambled more on

defense, recording 48 digs compared to 34 for Vail Christian.

Senior Jessica Venneberg had a match-high nine kills and added a pair of service aces five digs. Seniors Raquel Thorpe and Brailyn Neade tied for the team high in aces with three apiece. Thorpe and sophomore Emilee Venneberg shared facilitating duties, recording 10 and seven assists, respectively. Jessica Venneberg led in digs with 11, followed by Thorpe and

**SEE VB BENNETT**  
**PAGE 10**



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Town of Bennett (303) 644-3249  
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**Third Wednesday of the month**  
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[www.i70ccoc.com](http://www.i70ccoc.com)  
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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The Scout

At the annual Bennett Invitational Volleyball Tournament Sept. 14, from left photo, Kaurlie Voorhies (10), goes up for a kill off of the quick-set from Mady Bavouset as Abigail Thornton looks on from behind; Kaylonnie McLaury receives a Peak to Peak serve between teammates Jessica Venneberg (4) and Elizabeth Westendorf; and Venneberg (4) takes a Peak to Peak serve in front of coach Corissa Thornton.

## VB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 9

senior Olivia Schroeder with nine each.

At the net, Jessica Venneberg, seniors Elizabeth Westendorf and Ava Black, and junior Kaurlie Voorhies combined efforts for four blocks.

### DSST: COLLEGE VIEW

Bennett's second match of the day was a quick 25-13, 25-12 sweep over the Lady Wolves.

The orange-and-black again reached the 20-kill mark, led by Jessica Venneberg with seven and Thorpe with five. The Venneberg sisters combined for all but four of 17 assists — Emilee with nine and Jessica four. At the service line, Bennett had seven aces, including three with two apiece — Emilee Venneberg, Neade, and sophomore Kaylonnie McLaury.

Defensively, Black recorded the Tigers lone block, while Neade had a team-high five digs, followed by Thorpe, Westendorf and Emilee Venneberg four apiece.

### ASPEN

The Rocky Mountain-based Skiers presented a tougher test, but the Tigers were still able to pull out their second consecutive sweep of the day, 25-22 and 25-23.

"Part of it's persevering through adversity and tight spots," Thornton said. "I think the girls are starting to realize what it takes to do that and continue to play winning volleyball."

Offensive leaders included Jessica Venneberg and Westendorf with seven and five kills, respectively; Emilee Venneberg with 10 assists and 3 service aces; and Thorpe with six assists, three kills and two aces.

Defensively, Bennett had eight blocks, including a solo stuff by Jessica Venneberg. Schroeder had a team-high eight digs, Jessica Venneberg seven, Thorpe six, and Westendorf five.

GUNNISON

In what turned out to be the title tilt, Bennett took the first set 25-13 before the Cowboys rebounded to dominate game two 25-12 and take the final set 15-10.

"[Gunnison] began tipping more and we struggled adjusting our defense," Thornton said.

Bennett had the match's two most prolific attackers as Jessica Venneberg recorded 10 kills and senior Olivia Schroeder added seven. The older Venneberg also recorded three aces to lead the Tigers. Emilee Venneberg led with 10 assists with Thorpe adding nine.

Defensively, Schroeder had a match-high 15 digs, followed by Neade with 11 and Thorpe with nine.

"Overall, it was a really good weekend," Thornton said. "We were able to play teams that we hadn't seen before and adjust to what was needed come out with wins more times than not. We looked good for only playing a few short matches."

### CONFERENCE OPENER @ HOME

The orange-and-black was not very hospitable to The Pinnacle Lady Timberwolves as the hosts dominated their way to a 25-12, 25-9, 25-15 in their first match of the Frontier League schedule. A dozen Lady Tigers were rotated throughout the match.

"Pretty excited for that first league game at home and all the girls took care of business," Thornton said. "Got a lot of girls their first extended varsity time."

In a rare feat, Bennett had matching kill and service ace totals with 24 each. Jessica Venneberg led in kills with 11, while Thorpe toed the service line for nine aces, followed by Westendorf with five, Jessica Venneberg four, and Schroeder with three. Thorpe also led in assists with 11, followed by Emilee Venneberg with eight.

The Tiger defense wasn't too

taxed by the Pinnacle offense, recording two blocks, including a solo stuff by Westendorf, and 28 digs, led by Neade with six and Westendorf and Emilee Venneberg with five apiece.

### HOME TOURNAMENT

#### SKYVIEW

Bennett opened its home court invitational with a dominant 25-9, 25-14 sweep against the Lady Wolverines.

The hosts were led by Jessica Venneberg and Westendorf with four kills each, and Thorpe with five of Bennett's 11 service aces and nine assists.

#### PEAK TO PEAK

The level of competition matched up exponentially in match two as Bennett faced Peak to Peak but the Tigers appeared to be up for the test early before a mid-match collapse occurred. The orange-and-black raced to a 25-18 win in the first set and were up 7-1 in game two, before the taller Lady Pumas won 24 of the next 30 points for a 25-13 victory. In the deciding game, Bennett rallied from several five-point deficits to get within 13-12 and 14-13, but a service error gave Peak to Peak the 15-13 win.

"That was a heartbreaker, one we probably want back, but I still think we're playing pretty hot volleyball and that was against one of the taller teams we'll see," Thornton said.

While Bennett recorded 20 kills to Peak to Peak's 15, the orange-and-black committed double the hitting errors, 13-6, as they had issues dealing with the net presence of 6'5" Puma senior Alexandra Eschmeyer and classmate Sydney Lewis. While both Puma blockers were credited with only one block, they frequently forced Tiger hitters to modify their swings.

"Why can't we have that kind of height? I can't remember the last time that's been something we've seen around here," Thornton said. "But, good to learn how to adjust to that kind of blocking now."

Jessica Venneberg tied for the match-high in kills with eight, while Westendorf and Thorpe added five apiece. Thorpe also led in assists with seven, followed by Emilee Venneberg with five.

Both teams hovered between 85% and 87% at the service line, but Peak to Peak recorded 11 aces to six for the hosts, including

Westendorf and Thorpe with two each.

Defensively, Bennett recorded four blocks, including two solo stuffs from Jessica Venneberg, and dug up 37 balls, led by Thorpe with eight, Westendorf six, and sophomore Abigail Thornton and both Vennebergs with five apiece.

#### FORGE CHRISTIAN

In a bit of revenge dating back to the past two postseasons, Bennett closed out its day in front of the home crowd with a come-from-behind, three-set victory over Forge Christian. After losing the first set 25-16, the Lady Tigers turned the tables and won by the same in game two. In the deciding frame, the hosts got down 11-6 but rallied to take a 13-12 lead. With the score tied at 14, a service error and a back row hitting miscue by the Fury gave Bennett the victory.

"We're starting learn how to get through and win those tough games," Thornton said. "Should be a real confidence booster, especially coming against that group."

Forge Christian and its previous iteration as Faith Christian swept Bennett in the regional level of 3A playoffs the past two seasons.

Jessica Venneberg and Westendorf accounted for about three-quarters of Bennett's kills with 11 and six, respectively, while Emilee Venneberg led in assists with 10 and Thorpe added eight.

At the service line, Bennett was 93%, led by Thorpe with five of the Tigers' eight aces. Forge Christian served only 86% with seven service errors, while the orange-and-black had only four service-line miscues.

Defensively, Bennett had four blocks, including two solo stuffs from Jessica Venneberg and one from Thornton. Neade had a team-high 12 digs; as a team, the Tigers recoded 39 digs compared to 28 for the visitors.

Thornton's troops entered last week 6-2 overall with the one conference victory. Between Sept. 16-19, the orange-and-black went 2-1, including a victory at Byers on Thursday. For complete coverage, see the Sept. 27 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

#### COMING UP

Oct. 1: Limon.

Oct. 3: Middle Park.

Oct. 10: Platte Canyon.

Oct. 12: @ Lake County.

Oct. 17 & 19: Frontier League Tourney.

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PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMOFOR The Scout

Through last weekend, the inaugural cast of Bennett softball is 5-13 overall, 2-5 in conference play. The last three orange-and-black victories occurred over a seven-game stretch between Sept. 14-21, including a double-header sweep against visiting Mitchell last Saturday. Among the other highlights this season was a 35-13 road victory earlier this year. Unfortunately for the Tigers, the roster of many first-year players has been victimized by that inexperience, especially defensively. Ten of the Tigers losses have been via the mercy rule and in a recent 26-24 loss to Platte Canyon, the orange-and-black allowed the Huskies to score 20 runs in an inning, including 17 with two outs. “We do want to go out there and win every game but, right now, the bigger focus is making sure our girls are working hard to learn the game and improving so we’re playing our best come the end of the season,” said Tiger head coach Joe Ortiz. After a Sept. 25 trip to Middle Park (Granby), Bennett hosts Montrose for a doubleheader Sept. 28 with the Frontier League Tournament scheduled Oct. 1-2 at Fort Lupton. From left photo, Tiger Colby Robichaud slides into third in an 18-0 loss at Centaurus Sept. 5, and Elizabeth Westendorf puts a charge into an Englewood pitch during a hard-fought 10-8 home defeat Sept. 10. For season coverage through last week, see the Sept. 27 *Eastern Colorado News*.

# Indian golfer takes 16th at Longmont Invitational

by Isaac Manaugh  
Editorial Assistant

LONGMONT — Strasburg golf head coach Eric Gilbert added one last regular season meet to the schedule, the Sept. 17 Longmont Invitational at Twin Peaks Golf Course.

Strasburg senior Kameron Gilbert shot a 5-over-par round of 75 on the day to put him in an eight-way tie for 16th place out of 117 individuals, many from 4A and 5A schools.

This last meet officially marked the closing of the regular season and the opening of league, regional and state golf for the Indians.

“We look forward to the remaining tournaments. ... It will be a great opportunity for our team to have a chance to qualify for state,” said coach Gilbert.

The Indians finished 21st out of 30 teams with junior Brayden Lorenz shooting a 93 for 94th place and senior Brent West taking 103rd place with a stroke total of 97.

The younger Gilbert finished the 2024 regular season with one invitational win and six top 10 finishes through nine tournaments.

“Kameron had a very a very solid solid round and it’s been made a great tuneup tournament going into the Patriot League Championship,” said Eric Gilbert, who is also Kameron’s father.

The Sept. 17 competition would be the team’s last regular season meet of the year before the Sept. 24 Patriot League Championship Tournament at Boomerang Golf Links in Greeley.

After this week, Strasburg will host the 18-team 2A Region 3 state qualifying tournament at Murphy Creek in Aurora Sept. 30. The top two teams and other top 13 individual golfers will qualify for the 2A State Tournament Oct. 7-8 at The Club at Rolling Hills, Golden.

“We as a school community are excited to host a regional. ... We invite the community members that would like to come to support our boys so close to home,” Eric Gilbert said.

Tee times will begin at 9 a.m., Monday, Sept. 30.

### TEAM STANDINGS

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## Special Olympics: AdCo cops plan 5K Torch Run

BRIGHTON — The 2024 Adams County Law Enforcement Torch Run benefiting Special Olympics Colorado will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28.

The 5K run begins at the Brighton Police Department, 3401 E. Bromley Lane, and ends at the Adams County Jail, 150 N. 19th Ave., Brighton. Food trucks and fun activities will be at the finish line.

The Adams County Sheriff’s Of-

fice, Brighton Police Department, and Commerce City Police Department are collaborating to raise \$5,000 and awareness for 23,000 Special Olympics Colorado athletes.

Registration is required to participate in the run. Donations are considered registration.

To register, visit specialolympicsco.org. For information, e-mail to events@specialolympicsco.org.

## CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- MONDAY, SEPT. 30**  
Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 1**  
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 with an attorney using the library’s computer link.  
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 with an attorney using the library’s computer link.
- WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2**  
Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 3**  
Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
Play & Learn for ages 1-3 and families. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.  
Family story time. 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.  
Coffee, Cookies & Chat for seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.

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Brothers Four Neighborhood - 300 Bennett Avenue

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Roll off dumpsters will be available until they are full.





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# LIBRARY NEWS

## DAVIES LIBRARY

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

**'Graveyard Games':** Teens can enjoy Halloween goodies and games and make their own mini graveyard using pudding and treats. All supplies provided. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9.

## ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

**Quilling:** The Corridor Creative Arts League will host artist Kit Taylor to help visitors ages 16 and up quill their own pieces in a unique workshop. Appropriate for ages 16 and older. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28.

**Little Learners:** Little ones up to age 6 and their caregivers will learn school readiness skills at this workshop facilitated by Lidia Kobza with Autism West Behavior Partners. The workshop strives to increase a child's ability to tolerate, enjoy and function more independently in a small group environment, allowing for increased

"learning on their own" within a larger group setting. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1.

**Trivia Night:** Adults are invited to register teams of up to 6 participants. Prizes will be given. Space is limited; registration required. Space limited; registration required. 6-7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 4.

## KELVER LIBRARY

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

**Pins Galore!** Teens ages 11-18 will make pins. All supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1.

**Learning on the Go:** Families can enjoy stories, songs and play with their little ones, then leave with books and fun activities for learning at home. All family members are invited. The program is geared to ages 18 months to 5 years, but younger children are welcome. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2.

**Tea at 2:** Adults are invited to Tea at 2 on the first Wednesday of every month. The library will provide tea and activities, such as playing cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2.

# LUNCH MENUS

## AGATE

Monday Sept. 30: Chicken tenders.  
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Walking beef taco.  
Wednesday, Oct. 2: Spaghetti with meat sauce, dinner roll.  
Thursday, Oct. 3: Corn dogs, chips.

## BYERS

Monday, Sept. 30: Walking taco, Spanish rice, green beans, mixed fruit.  
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Tostadas, Spanish rice, green beans, tropical fruit.

## STRASBURG

Friday, Sept. 27: Hot dogs.

## BENNETT

Monday Sept. 30: Tuscan chicken sandwich, pinto beans, coleslaw, fruit.

# ARAPAHOE COUNTY

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### CASE NO. LDC21-001, LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-1.3, LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING, SECTION 7-2 DEFINITIONS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION MANUAL

**PROPOSAL:** To amend the landscape regulations in the Arapahoe County Land Development Code. The proposed amendments are to assist in addressing water and environmental changes, implementing current landscape technology and techniques, and simplifying the code to be easily understood. The Development Application Manual is also being amended to reflect the changes proposed in the Land Development Code.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on October 15, 2024, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described case number, Land Development Code Amendment – Landscape and Screening and Definitions and Development Application Manual. 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 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing [planning@arapahoe.gov](mailto:planning@arapahoe.gov) during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

A Strasburg High School graduate returns to the big screen in a movie called "Strange Kind of Woman."

James Poston, a 1980 graduate of Strasburg High School, plays a feature role as a villainous landlord. The movie also stars Audra Winn, of Rocky's Auto fame, and KBPI radio personality Uncle Nasty.

"It's a romantic comedy with kind of a surreal edge to it," said director Ray Mahoney. "It's a boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl in the end kind of a story."

Boston plays DeGrossmant, a landlord who provides a secondary love interest for Winn.

"I'm the big dumb maintenance man, you might say," Poston said.

Poston and Mahoney first worked together on a film called "Bacon Head," which played in 1998.

15 YEARS AGO  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

BENNETT — Colorado's first death from West Nile virus this year was an I-70 Corridor resident.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, in its Sept. 21 disease incidence report, reported one death from West Nile in Adams County but did not confirm the location of the deceased; however, family of lifelong Bennett resident Richard Meyer, 68, confirmed he died Sept. 18 from

rare West Nile complications. Meyer suffered from acute flaccid paralysis and organ shutdown.

"We were told that, once he contracted the disease, there was no treatment," said wife Kathy Meyer. "He was here with me and about three weeks later he is gone, all because of a little mosquito, even smaller than the ones you normally see."

10 YEARS AGO  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

STRASBURG — John Mundell can recite, from memory, all of the Strasburg High School athletic teams and individuals who went to state tournaments by year starting in 1985.

If he proudly names off all the stellar seasons as if they were his own victories, it's because they are — Mundell was the athletic director for 30 years.

Mundell retired this year after 35 years in total with the Strasburg School District.

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail school football field has a new name after being dedicated in honor of a now retired educator and coach who spent almost four decades roaming the hallways and sidelines.

Mark Dille Field was unveiled during Sept. 12 homecoming festivities.

Dille retired at the end of the 2013-14 school year after 38 years of teaching and coaching at Deer Trail.

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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 22**

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Sept. 26, the 270th day of 2024. There are 96 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Sept. 26, 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F.

Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

ON THIS DATE

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1954, the Japanese com-

mercial ferry Toya Maru sank during a typhoon in the Tsugaru Strait, claiming more than 1,150 lives.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Ariz., called Biosphere 2; they emerged on this date

in 1993.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Country singer David Frizzell is 83. Actor Linda Hamilton is 68. Actor Melissa Sue Anderson is 62. Actor Jim Caviezel is 56. Tennis player Serena Williams is 43.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THEME: NBA

- ACROSS
- Port city in Japan
  - "Team ride
  - Nordic native
  - Equipped with feathers
  - Cigarette deposit
  - "Arena, e.g.
  - Not odds
  - Hawaiian welcome wreath
  - Bone hollows
  - "NBA headquarters location
  - "Bill \_\_\_ NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award
  - "Roses \_\_\_ red \_\_\_"
  - "NBA centers typically have long ones
  - Tarzan the \_\_\_ Man
  - Cry like a baby
  - 3.26 light-years
  - "Off The Wall" shoe
  - Living quarters
  - Shop \_\_\_ slogan
  - "I'm \_\_\_ you!"
  - Got some shuteye
  - Comme ci, comme Aa
  - Brandish
  - Ski hill ride
  - Contractor's work order
  - "Basketball blocking move
  - Swedish shag rugs
  - Member of a "benevolent and protective order"
  - Kind of cola
  - Thrice-repeated dance step
  - "Power \_\_\_ position
  - "NBA team with most championships
  - Deprive of armor
  - Genetic acronym
  - Plural of ostium
  - Junk yard stuff
  - Geisha's sash
  - "Nickname for 61 Across
  - Ooze
  - "NBA Sixth \_\_\_ of the Year Award
  - Type of leaf cabbage, pl.
- DOWN
- Bun baker
  - "\_\_\_ me a seat"
  - From square one
  - Tanzania's northern neighbor
  - Not absorb, nor repel
  - Refuse to comply
  - Wear and tear
  - Bake an egg
  - Sunglasses "glass"
  - Cassino chip
  - Not knit
  - Church sound

CROSSWORD

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13					14			15			
16					17			18			
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- Inferior goods
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- Away from port
- Much ado
- One time
- Like pink steak
- Sandwich alternative
- Abel's big brother
- It will
- Give a ticket
- Fresh talk
- "Commissioned by Adam Silver

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

HOROSCOPE

Mercury's Leap to Libra

As humans, we agree on what a word means, and then we go rogue, twisting and breaking those agreements according to our own agendas, and elevating communication to a level of complexity befitting our cultural and personal aims. Mercury's leap into Libra lends itself to the sophisticated sort of elocution that means nothing and everything at the same time.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Today features many good offerings. If you only take one, your life will be better than if you agreed to more. One will focus your interest, let you go deep into a subject and double your joy.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** With financial and obligatory considerations in play, you can't exactly limit your pursuits to only the ones that excite you. Nonetheless, winning attitudes are made by finding or inventing reasons to be excited, instead of expecting life to serve it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** To try a thing once won't bring you nearly enough satisfaction or information. You'll only start to make headway after 10 times. If you decide to take it further, you could master the motion after doing it once a day for the next four weeks.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your easygoing hospitality does more good in the world than you could possibly know. Warmth and compassion ward away the shadows. The overworked and underappreciated will see you as a soft place to land.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Everyone wants to be completely right all of the time, and none will come close! To settle for being more or less correct some of the time is one thing. The truly wise give up the quest altogether and embrace three words: I don't know.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Like all the world's creatures, you are only trying to survive and thrive by whatever means seems most accessible to you. Today you'll find new points of leverage and power and, in doing so, gain a greater sense of control over your domain.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** To avoid un-

necessary drama, you'll reveal your feelings only when it's relevant to the interaction. Until then, you'll keep your insides on the inside. This discreet approach puts your personal life in a comfortable place of quiet thriving.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'll choose your words carefully because you understand their power to shape both your inner self and the world around you. Acknowledge the work you've done to get to this place of seamless alignment of thought, word and deed.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Remember when you made a request of someone and they made themselves scarce? Use the tactic on those who are more present to you than you'd prefer. Lean into them and they just may lean out, affording you some relief.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** This time, adventure's call comes from your inner world. Methods of introspection like journaling and meditation will bring you into the new dream. Dreaming is the broad strokes of planning.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Matching your message to the audience is an art. If you don't get it right, make an adjustment and try again. One tweak at a time works best because if you do too many at once, you won't know which ones worked.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Every shiny new plan, item or person you add to your life requires that you subtract something from another area. You'd rather settle costs consciously than make a mindless move you have to figure out later.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26).** For some, love is an intangible mystery. For you, it's a practical and apparent reality with hard evidence everywhere you look this year. What you give and do in the name of love will stand monumental, and you'll receive the same sort of substantial proof of the affections of others. More highlights: a journey over water, an induction to a family of sorts and a trophy for your team. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 17, 30, 27 and 14.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

ADCO MGR

FROM PAGE 1

'BURG SEWER RATES

FROM PAGE 1

through a transitional period until next spring.

Fraser joins Adams County with an impressive background, having served in management roles across Colorado, Nevada, Kansas and Michigan. His notable positions include executive director of the Nevada League of Cities and the Wyoming Association of Municipalities. He has been an active contributor to many boards and committees, such as the National League of Cities Board of Directors and the International City/County Managers Association Government Affairs & Policy Committee.

"David Fraser's extensive experience and dedication to public service will provide invaluable leadership during this transitional period," said Emma Pinter, chair of the Board of County Commissioners. "His deep commitment to community development and efficient government operations makes him an excellent fit for Adams County."

Fraser, a Colorado native currently residing in Cheyenne, Wyo., holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University. He is also a certified economic development finance professional.

"My aim is to provide stable and effective leadership as we navigate this period of transition and build a strong foundation for the future," Fraser said.

Fraser will join Senior Deputy County Manager Alisha Reis. The county is adding two more deputy county manager positions, restoring a previous administrative setup from a few years ago.

Bernal, who had been with the county just over two years, resigned Aug. 6 and, later that same day, the board of county commissioners notified county staff that a transition process would start immediately. Bernal formally left the county last month.

"This decision is one that will allow for both a career pivot and evaluation of options to best contribute to public service in a new capacity," Bernal's letter to said. "It also comes at a time where my family demands have taken priority."

"We sincerely appreciate the hard work, professionalism and vision Noel brought to the role," the board's reply said. "His contributions have enhanced the operations and effectiveness of our county government while also positively impacting the lives of our residents."

during the Sept. 17 Strasburg Sanitation & Water District Board of Directors meeting. "(But) costs are out of control. We're about \$200,000 over budget for this year. Rates have not been keeping up with even the rate of inflation over the life of the district."

Under the anticipated jump, rates will bump to either \$42.77 or \$56 per EQR depending on whether a customer is considered "preferred" or "non-preferred," respectively. Preferred customers are those grandfathered in when Eastern Adams took over wastewater collection, while non-preferred have purchased taps since the merger. An EQR is based on tap size with a 3/4-inch tap accounting for one. Most residential properties in the community are at the smallest tap, but commercial and public entities, like the school and recreation districts, are multiple EQRs.

Stachelski added the plan also incorporates a 3% annual hike in subsequent years.

After receiving numerous complaints from the Strasburg board and in an effort to help lessen the immediate financial burden from the fee hike, Stachelski said he would propose to the Eastern Adams board an original bump of \$6.50 followed by a 4.25% annual inflation rate. Neither option was deemed palatable to Strasburg water board directors, who had no say in the issue.

"I learned about this today," exclaimed Strasburg board member Thom Winter at Tuesday's meeting. "The issue I have is with us and our residents, our customers, not having any voice or part in the decision-making. We're being told this is what you get, so it's a pretty hard-to-swallow pill."

Strasburg water board president Sheila Cooper added that this increase is the latest of multiple forced rate or fee hikes since the community had to, under Adams County and state mandate, decommission its sewer lagoons on the north edge of the community and merge wastewater services with Eastern Adams about 20 years ago.

"They've broke the original (intergovernmental) agreement at least three times as much as I can tell," she said. "Increases were supposed to be tied to the cost of water originally, but that's since been blown out of the water."

Stachelski, who has been with Eastern Adams for about 18 months, admitted a lack of quality planning over the life of the approximately 25-year-old district.

"Lot of homes built and taps sold (early)," Stachelski said. "More focus on cash-on-hand versus stability down the road. Year-to-year instead of a long-term approach. Not in so bad of shape for this year, even maybe next, but not so good two to three years down the road. Don't want to make the same mistakes of the past."

Strasburg water district administrator Tracy Griffin asked why Eastern Adams' shortfalls are being partially funded by Strasburg customers, especially "these little old ladies that don't have the money because they are on a fixed income?" She added that the district hasn't raised water rates or fees in an effort to balance out the severe wastewater hikes.

Stachelski didn't answer Griffin's question except to say that, down the road, new wastewater cells will be funded by developers bringing new subdivisions into the area. According to Stachelski, the metro district collects approximately 175,000 gallons of wastewater daily with about 75,000 gallons coming from Strasburg.

Eastern Adams services multiple subdivisions on the outskirts of the community.

While saying he still hated delivering the news, Stachelski said that the Strasburg increase was "reasonable," noting that the pending increase is "only 38% of the 42% of wastewater [from] Strasburg."

The Eastern Adams public hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30, at 100 Saint Paul St., Suite 300, Denver. Stachelski said the meeting will be available online but the link wasn't available at press time. For additional information, visit [easternadamscountymd.com](http://easternadamscountymd.com).

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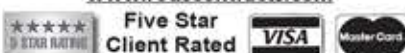
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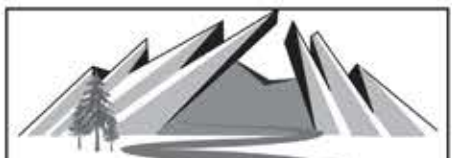
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**LIFE SAVERS** — At its Sept. 17 meeting, the Bennett School Board presented five staff members with certificates of appreciation for their efforts that saved the life of a teacher. On Aug. 27, the teacher suffered a major medical crisis in an isolated area near the cafeteria. Two custodial staff and three food service employees collaborated to assist the teacher and contact school officials and emergency responders.

"Had it not been for these staff members, both (middle school principal Sal) Conca and myself are convinced the outcome of this incident would have been far worse for the teacher," Strasburg Fire Chief Pat Conroy said in a letter to Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy.

Pictured are, front row from left, are honorees Amanda McConnell, Melissa Escobar, Shasta L'Heureux, Brandelia Cardenas and Yadira Esparza and, back row, board members Andrew Thornton, Brennan Westendorf, Kyle Meyer, Darvin Harrell and Alyssa Pae.

## BENNETT BOE

## FROM PAGE 1

ple of weeks saw three of the five routes run on Monday and Wednesday and the other two on Tuesday and Thursday. Ophaug said that schedule combined with the staggered release schedule has been detrimental towards older student attendance, especially later in the day.

"High school students are missing some time because parents coming to pick up younger students and signing their older kids out early," he said. "Certainly not ideal."

Ophaug was shifted to transportation director duties earlier in the month, replacing Bridgette Cumley, who will serve as transportation assistant and remain a route driver.

In other transportation-related action, Purdy said efforts are underway to increase transportation pay on the salary schedule. Under the new plan, route drivers with 1-4 years of experience would get \$148 per a five-hour route; \$165 for 5-10 years experience; and \$175 for drivers with more than a decade of driving. Pay hikes are also projected for substitute drivers, small vehicle, bus trainer and activity trips.

Despite projections that the pay raises might raise busing salaries \$50,000 to \$60,000, Purdy is confident the increase won't unnecessarily stress the district budget.

"We budgeted for eight drivers and only sending out five, so have a little bit of leeway already," she said. "Plus we can move some money in the budget and then we get our October count, so we should be in good shape."

October count is expected to confirm projections of a significant jump in enrollment, meaning a bump in funding.

When asked if the new transportation salary schedule was on the

top end of the I-70 Corridor, Purdy said yes compared to all East Central BOCES schools.

"From neighbors to the west all the way to the state line, I think," she said. "We're more than Brighton."

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Purdy said the district is still working to remedy the 911 communication situation on campus. The district must invest another \$15,000 to install an additional antenna to integrate its SchoolSafe system with Arapahoe County, whose communication towers are too far south for the current antenna. Purdy is set to meet with town of Bennett trustees Oct. 8 to request funding assistance.
- According to Food Service Director Amy Kirkwood, the district provided 5,615 lunches and 2,000 breakfasts over the first month of school, an average of about 550 meals per day.
- Purdy announced that two recent hires have resulted in a full maintenance staff for the first time since the conclusion of last school year.
- Purdy said metro area school advocate Kwame Spearman, who has developed a teacher housing fund through the Colorado Housing & Finance Authority, will visit the school on Oct. 17 to determine whether the district has a suitable site for housing units for teachers.
- The \$3.16 million roofing project across multiple buildings is almost complete.
- Early school year issues with mice have been remedied.
- The board approved spending up to \$95,000 for a 10-plus-2 bus to also assist in transporting special education students.

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by **Bobbie Keefer**  
For The Scout

Golden oven-fried catfish is  
crispy and loaded with flavor with-  
out all the extra mess that comes  
with frying.

My mom used to make an ov-  
en-baked version of chicken with  
cornflakes, I decided to try it on  
catfish. She used fresh herbs and  
spice mixes. I had a jar of creole  
seasoning so decided to use it for a  
spicy Cajun flavor.

If you don't have buttermilk  
on hand, it is easy to make. Mix  
together 1 cup of milk with 1 ta-  
blespoon of white vinegar. I like  
pan-fried catfish but sometimes it  
comes out soggy. Baking is easier.  
The coating adds great crunch and  
punch!

### CRISPY BAKED CATFISH

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 catfish fillets
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 cups cornflakes, crushed
- Creole seasoning

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.  
Spray baking pan with cooking  
spray or line with parchment pa-  
per. Rinse and dry catfish with pa-  
per towel.

Pour buttermilk in shallow bowl.  
Put cornflakes in another shallow  
bowl. Dredge catfish in buttermilk  
and then coat with cornflakes,  
pressing to adhere.

Repeat so the fillets have lots  
of coating, which makes it extra  
crispy. Shake off excess crumbs.

Arrange in prepared baking pan.  
Bake 20-25 minutes, flipping once,  
until golden brown and flakes eas-  
ily with a fork.

Sprinkle with Creole seasoning  
to taste. Serve immediately.

## Extension offices announce seminar on meal planning

The Arapahoe and Jefferson  
county extension offices will host  
an online forum called Meal Plan-  
ning with Confidence from 7-8:30  
p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Participants will explore the  
many benefits of meal planning in  
saving time and money while ben-  
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- review the basic steps for cre-  
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- use a meal planning template  
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The class includes printable  
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templates, and five master reci-  
pe guides for pasta, frittata, soup,  
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The cost is \$5 plus an Eventbrite  
fee. For more information and to  
register, visit [arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu](http://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu).

## Bird-banding observation offered at Barr Lake park

BRIGHTON — The public can  
witness live bird banding at a sta-  
tion at Barr Lake State Park this  
fall for an up close and personal  
experience with birds.

The banding station is open  
through Oct. 23. One-hour pro-  
grams are offered from 7:30-8:30  
a.m., Tuesday through Friday, and  
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Visitors will observe a wildlife  
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I-70 concert band show slated for Brush

FORT MORGAN — The Morgan Community College Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) is sponsoring a special performance by the High Plains Music Ensemble at the Brush Oktoberfest.

The free concert will run from 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at the main attraction stage at the intersection of Clayton Avenue and Emerson Street in downtown Brush. Seating will surround the stage.

The High Plains Music Ensemble, based in Strasburg, is known

for its energetic and “foot-stomping” performances that engage audiences of all ages. Attendees can expect an exciting musical experience filled with lively rhythms and a mix of traditional and contemporary sounds.

“The High Plains Music Ensemble offers a unique blend of talent and energy, making them the perfect addition to Brush Oktoberfest,” said CACE Coordinator Suzanna Spears.

For more information, contact Spears at (970)542-3180 or [Suzanna.Spears@MorganCC.edu](mailto:Suzanna.Spears@MorganCC.edu).

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

In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.

[LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org](http://LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org)

719-659-8848



**CORNERSTONE  
FELLOWSHIP**

Worship with us!  
Sundays at 10 a.m.  
In-person and online:  
[www.cornerstonebennett.com](http://www.cornerstonebennett.com)

303-644-3450 | 460 3rd St., Bennett



**Strasburg  
Church of Christ**

Serving Christ and His children on  
the High Plains  
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**  
Bible-Based • Nondenominational

Sunday Services  
8:30am & 10:15am  
Servicio en Español a las 10:15am  
1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg

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](http://mvfcolorado.com)  
303.622.9600

**Saron Lutheran Church**

1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | [saronstrasburg.org](http://saronstrasburg.org)  
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



**Christ Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.


275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044  
[www.corlcms.org](http://www.corlcms.org)



**calvary  
bennett**


Teaching God's Word  
verse-by-verse

Sundays 10:45 AM  
Meeting @VFW in Bennett  
115 Palmer Ave



Live-streamed @ [calvarybennett.org](http://calvarybennett.org)

Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave  
303.261.8853  
[info@calvarybennett.org](mailto:info@calvarybennett.org)

Download our app: 



**Our Lady  
of the  
Plains  
Catholic Church**

Pastor: Fr. Jeff Wilborn  
186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103  
Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889  
Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551  
[www.ourladyoftheplains.org](http://www.ourladyoftheplains.org)

**MASS TIMES**

- Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri & every 1st Saturday 8:30 am
- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 9:00 am
- 11:30 am en español

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**  
Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm  
Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am  
Or by Appointment

OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS



**Mt. Tabor  
Baptist Church**  
278 S. Sherman St., Byers  
303-822-9366 • [mttaborbayers.org](http://mttaborbayers.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

**Strasburg Presbyterian Church**  
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO  
[www.spcusa.us](http://www.spcusa.us)  
303-622-4325


- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

**Joel 2:32** That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered.

**Church Directory ads  
start at \$13.50/week**



ADAMS COUNTY  
COLORADO





**2024  
COMMUNITY  
REPORT**

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

As we progress through 2024, your Adams County Board of Commissioners reflects on our many accomplishments, the ongoing work we are dedicated to, and our aspirations for the future. The past year has been a transformative one for our county, and we are pleased to present this report highlighting the strides we've made to serve you better.

View the full 2024 Adams County Community Report by scanning the QR Code below.





**4-H  
OPEN HOUSE**

Discover the exciting world of  
Adams County 4-H at their open house on  
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 5-8 p.m., at the Exhibit Hall  
at Riverdale Regional Park. This is the perfect  
chance to explore what 4-H is all about, explore  
hands-on activities, meet some furry or scaly  
friends up close, and savor tasty treats  
while you mingle!

STAY CONNECTED:

4430 S. Adams County Pkwy, Brighton, CO 80601

 /AdamsCountyGov  @AdamsCountyGov

 Public Agencies  /AdamsCountyCo

[Adcogov.org](http://Adcogov.org)



**WOLF CREEK**  
*fresh*

*Farm2Table:*  
**Freezer Meals**

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Class fee: \$45.



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[info@honeydofixitdenver.com](mailto:info@honeydofixitdenver.com)



**Maverick**  
Mercantile

**NEW FALL HOURS:**  
Mon—Sat 8am til 6pm  
Sun 9am til 5pm

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SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 31







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COOL COMMAND SUMMIT

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OCTOBER 1-DECEMBER 31, 2024



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45 N. Main Circle Byers, CO 303-822-5625

**Copeland Precast East PRC2024-00007**


Planning Commission Hearing Date: 10/10/2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: 11/05/2024 at 9:30 a.m.  
Hearing Location: 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy., Brighton, CO 80601

**Requests:** 1. Conditional Use Permit application to allow accessory outdoor storage in excess of 100% of the building area within the Industrial-1 zone district;  
2. Conditional Use Permit for Outdoor Storage above screen fence height

**Site Location:** 35582 E 56th Avenue  
**Parcel Number:** 0181700000018

**Case Manager:** Greg Barnes  
**Applicant:** Bart Copeland, 904 S Lipan St., Denver, CO 80223  
**Owner:** Copeland Holding, LLC, 6397 W Prentice Ave., Littleton, CO 80123

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Thursday, Sept. 26, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Sept. 27.



**ADAMS COUNTY**  
COLORADO

**CLAUSSEN**  
**CHIROPRACTIC**



**Ben Claussen, D.C.**  
1517 Main Street  
Strasburg, CO  
(303) 622-4200

**Wishing Everyone a Happy Fall!**  
**Office Will Be Closed Friday, Sept. 27.**



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

**RECYCLE**  
**Adams County**



**ADAMS COUNTY**  
COLORADO



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[www.adcogov.org/recycle](http://www.adcogov.org/recycle)  
#recycleadamscounty



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