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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 22

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

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Spaceport welcomes jet engine developer

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — The I-70 Corridor's contributor to the aerospace industry didn't have to wait long to welcome a new tenant to one of its recently vacated facilities.

During its April 22 public hearing, the Adams County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a lease agreement allowing Centennial-based Boom Technology to rent an existing aerospace testing facility at Colorado Air & Space Port (CASP) northeast of Watkins.

Boom takes over 600 Spitfire Loop, which was previously occupied by UK-based Reaction Engines, who ceased seven years of operations in December and terminated its lease agreement with the county this past

March.

"Boom requires a location to develop and test new jet engine technologies to ultimately develop a new type off jet engine which will be called the Symphony Engine to power the Overture aircraft," the county staff report said. "Boom Technologies would like to lease this property for its current facilities and to develop additional facilities to perform aerospace and jet engine testing/development."

The approved lease agreement, effective April 22, is for an initial five-year term with five one-year renewal options.

Options to extend past 10 years are also available. Monetary terms of the agreement are:

- annual rate of 40 cents per
- SEE BOOM
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adams County Commissioners on April 22 approved a new lease with Front Range aerospace engine developer Boom Technologies for an existing testing and development site at the Colorado Air & Space Port. The company is expected to invest \$3 million to \$5 million the rest of 2025 to help develop its Symphony supersonic jet engine. Company representatives are pictured above with commissioners and CASP representatives during Tuesday's public hearing.

Lone Tree resident dies in wreck near Watkins

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

WATKINS — A deadly three-day stretch in and around Watkins last week had Colorado State Patrol and other emergency response agencies reiterating to local commuters to drive safely.

"It goes without much saying, but be safe out there," a Colorado State Patrol spokesman said after two Colorado men were killed and a third seriously injured in a pair of crashes in or near Watkins April 22-24. "It takes just as much vigilance on the roadways out there as it does in the higher-traffic, metro areas. And, with quickly changing spring weather, you must be prepared for anything."

Last Thursday morning's single-vehicle crash near mile marker 294 claimed the 52-year-old male driver and lone occupant from Lone Tree, who was pronounced dead on scene.

"At approximately 3:20 a.m. on April 24 a Chevy Silverado was traveling westbound on I-70 when the driver drove onto the right shoulder and slid into the guard rail end cap," the State Patrol said. "It continued westbound on the shoulder side of the guard rail, went airborne off an embankment, bounced off the bottom of a gully, rotated counter-clockwise striking several boulders, and went airborne again when it overturned at least one-half time coming to rest on its roof facing south."

Causal factors and the decedent's name was unavailable at press time.

TUESDAY UPDATE

While the Adams County Coroner's Office was waiting on next of kin notification to release the name of Thursday's crash victim, it did announce that the deceased party in last Tuesday's two-vehicle collision at the main intersection in Watkins was 27-year-old Nicolas Sebastian Cabello Mavila of Aurora

At about 5:45 p.m. April 22, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue and the Colorado State Patrol were dispatched to the intersection of Highway 36 and Watkins Road and, upon arrival, found a pair of heavily damaged vehicles were found about 200

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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Among the annual rites of spring is the multiplication of various wildlife species. Above, a mama red fox appears to give a proper scolding to one of her five kits during the evening hours of Jan. 21 in the Comanche Crossing subdivision in Strasburg.

Fee enforcement focus for Bennett School Board

by Shylo Bockenfeld
Editorial Assistant

BENNETT — With fiscal concerns continuing to rear their ugly heads, student fees at Bennett Schools will be more strictly enforced starting next school year.

During a work-study preceding its April 15 regular monthly meeting, the Bennett School Board received word that standardized student fees will be strictly collected for the 2025-26 school year. Some fees have been waived in previous years, but with a tight budget and uncertainty about state and federal funding, school officials see a need for their strict enforcement.

Families without the ability to pay are encouraged to apply for free and reduced assistance through the school. According to superintendent Robin Purdy, reporting of free and reduced needs

dropped drastically in 2020 because the nationwide free meal program opened to everyone after the COVID outbreak in 2020.

Previously, Purdy estimated between 50% and 60% of students' families in the district applied and qualified for assistance. The applications serve as a census at the state level to project the funding assistance needed by schools and families. Schools cannot require the reporting.

The highest fee schedule for next year is the senior class, approximately \$180 per student, and would go toward parking, lab classes, prom and other student activities, including athletics and performing arts, whether or not students intend to participate. The current policy includes fees for musical instrument rental, science lab and parking, but the school has waived each in recent years.

**SEE BENNETT BOE
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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Bennett Health Day intended to connect public, providers

BENNETT — The town of Bennett, UCHHealth, and the Adams and Arapahoe county health departments plan a day centered on health.

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

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

Clay shoot planned to raise funding for pro firefighters

BENNETT — Registration has opened for the sixth annual Sporting Clay Shoot fundraiser to benefit the Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Foundation starting at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 19, at the Kiowa Creek Sporting Club.

Spots are limited, so interested parties should start forming their shooting teams now. Solo shooters are also welcome.

The cost is \$115 per person or \$460 per team. For more information and to register, visit <https://bennettfirefighters.org>.

The CPFF Foundation helps support Colorado firefighters and their families who are the victims of a tragedy. The fundraiser is hosted by Bennett Firefighters Local 5090.

The Kiowa Creek Sporting Club is located at 46700 E. County Road 30, Bennett.

Garage sale fundraiser slated to aid church youth excursion

BYERS — Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church will host a garage sale and food sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, at the TBK Bank parking lot in Strasburg.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the church's youth pilgrimage. In addition to attending the sale, others can participate by making a cash or check donation, or donating items or food items to be sold. Call Karla at

Wines, chalk drawings highlight ArapCo event

LITTLETON — Chalk Lines & Vines featuring Colorado wines, artists, artisans and local bands, including Extreme Strings, Asha Blaine and Ninety2K, returns for its fifth anniversary.

Chalk artists will create one-of-a-kind pieces.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 3, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 4, in the Exhibition Hall at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora.

Chalk Lines & Vines is reserved for ages 21 and over. General admission tickets start at \$40 online for Saturday/\$30 for Sunday or

\$50 at the door Saturday/\$40 for Sunday. It includes a souvenir wine glass and tote.

Limited VIP tickets are available for \$75. They include heavy hors d'oeuvres, VIP lounge and parking admission, and full pours of wine.

The event will be attended by at least 15 Colorado wineries, 15 chalk artists, and 20 local vendors, including food trucks. A Sip and Create event will allow visitors to make friendship bracelets, painted wine glass, boho pots and fire tiles, and guests can also participate in a selfie tour called Sip n' Snap.

For more information, visit www.arapahoecountyeventcenter.com.

(720)226-8720 to arrange drop-off or pick-up.

Bennett blood drive planned by student health care group

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

Donors should bring a photo ID, their blood donor card, or two other forms of identification. They can also save up to 15 minutes by using RapidPass. For more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

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

Registration deadline May 7 for RMFU Leadership Camps

DENVER — Registration is open for four-day Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Leadership Camps in mid-July.

The Junior Camp for grades 2-6 runs from Friday through Monday, July 11-14, with the Senior Camp for grades 7-12 following from Monday through Thursday, July 14-17, both at the YMCA of the Rockies at Estes Park. The cost ranges from \$240 to \$350 depending on RMFU membership.

For more than 75 years, youth have

developed self-confidence, leadership and life skills at the camp, according to a release, while enjoying hiking, swimming, dancing and crafting.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, May 7. To sign up, visit rmfu.org/summer-camp. For more information, e-mail to bri.sorensen@rmfu.org or call (720)408-4091.

Byers Cemetery closure set for maintenance, upgrades

BYERS — Maintenance and improvements are scheduled at Byers Community Cemetery from May 9-16, making it inaccessible for that period.

The upgrades are possible through community donations.

The cemetery serves Byers and Strasburg. Donations can be mailed to the Byers Community Cemetery Association (BCCA) at P.O. Box 733, Byers, Colo. 80103.

For more information, call (303)917-5413.

Health professionals slated for local business luncheon

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, at May Farms in Byers.

Representatives from the Lincoln Health Byers Clinic will speak and sponsor lunch.

To RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday, May 16. Space is limited.

AdCo families with IDD kids asked to event at local park

NORTHGLENN — Families with children in special education are invited to a picnic hosted by Arc of Adams County starting at 11 a.m., Friday, May 9, at Trupp Park, 105 Palmer Ave., Bennett.

The event will include food, activities, and resources related to special education.

To RSVP, e-mail to gvarela@arcadams.org by Wednesday, April 30.

The Arc of Adams County is an independent advocacy organization that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Strasburg Community Church creates cancer support group

STRASBURG — A support group for people afflicted with cancer is forming in Strasburg.

Meetings are planned at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning in May (May 6 and 20) at Strasburg Community Church, 56155 Sunset Ave.

Attendees will meet in small groups for discussion and support.

For additional information, call (720)375-1140 or e-mail to contact@strasburgcommunitychurch.com.

Mediterranean food topic of CSU Extension webinar

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Extension offices in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties are planning an virtual seminar entitled "Mediterranean Diet on a Budget" from 7-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 7.

Participants will review the health benefits and key characteristics of the Mediterranean diet and lifestyle and will receive printable meal planning and shopping list templates, samples of a Mediterranean menu, a Colorado fresh produce calendar and more.

The online class is free but registration is required. To sign up, visit arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu.

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The I-70 Scout

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

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

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

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

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

Staff Writers
Kathy Smiley

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

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

Special district elections set for May 6

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

As May 6 quickly approaches, only a few I-70 Corridor special districts will host polling place elections from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Among the special districts along the I-70 Corridor that canceled elections because too few candidates were running are the Byers and Bennett fire districts, the Strasburg and Bennett recreation districts, and the Strasburg Water & Sanitation District.

STRASBURG FIRE DISTRICT

While the three Strasburg Fire Protection District Board of Directors incumbents — Jeff Thain, Tim Phillips and Barrett Barney — will be automatically reelected for lack of additional candidates, residents within the district are being asked to waive the district's property tax spending limit, often referred to as "de-Bruc-ing."

An affirmative vote would remove the district's revenue cap required by Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights

(TABOR). Ballots can be cast at the Strasburg Community Center (aka American Legion Hall), 56423 Westview Ave., Strasburg.

BYERS REC & WATER BOARDS

Six candidates are vying for three four-year terms and a two-year term on the Byers Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors.

In addition to four incumbents — Willard Elliott, Wendy Hise, Janet Herman and JaLee Kitzman — Lindsay Cox and Andy Cox are running.

The Byers Recreation District's election will be held at the American Legion Post 160, 278 W. Front St., Byers.

The Byers Water & Sanitation District also has five candidates running for three four-year terms.

Contenders for the water board seats are Annette Tarantino, Heath Epperson, Lindsay Cox, Kelly Morrissey and Janet Herman.

The water board election will occur at the district office, 421 S. Sherman St., Byers.

LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their care-givers can drop in for frog-themed activities and take home a free goody bag to continue learning at home. Crafts and toddler-friendly snacks provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, May 2.

Learning On The Go: Learning on the Go is geared to ages 18 months to 5 years, but all are welcome to enjoy stories and songs and play with their little ones. At the end, free books and activities will be provided to contin-

ue the learning at home. 10:30-11:30, a.m., Wednesday, May 7.

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, May 7.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Friday, May 2.

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Deer Trail School is rounding up our 2025-2026 KINDERGARTNERS!

Please join us for Kindergarten Roundup

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH

8:00AM-4:30PM

Deer Trail School
130 S. 2nd Ave
Deer Trail, CO 80105

Your student must be 5 by October 1st, 2025

No appointment necessary!

Estamos redondeando nuestro 2025-2026 NIÑOS DE KINDERGARTEN!!

Acompáñenos en el Kindergarten Roundup

JUEVES 8 DE MAYO

8:00AM-4:30PM

Escuela de Deer Trail
130 S. 2nd Ave
Deer Trail, CO 80105

El estudiante debe tener 5 años antes del 1 de octubre de 2025

Sin cita previa!



EMS Division Chief MacKenzie Schledorn-Rudden hands Darren Friess a badge to pin on his son's uniform, signifying firefighter/EMT Nickolas Friess' addition to department staff. EMS Division Chief MacKenzie Schledorn-Rudden hands StacyAnne Fredrickson a badge to pin on her husband's uniform, signifying firefighter Brian Fredrickson's promotion to lieutenant.



PHOTOS BY KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Byers Fire/Rescue fully staffed with two new members

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — The April 21 Byers Fire Protection District Board meeting included a ceremony recognizing two new members of the fire/rescue staff and the promotion of another staff member to officer.

Newly-hired firefighter/EMT Nickolas Friess and firefighter/paramedic Dorsey Guffy were sworn in by board chairman James Shelley along with firefighter Brian Fredrickson, who was recently promoted to lieutenant.

Chief Mike Disher noted that the department is fully staffed for the first time since it went on a 48/96 (two days on, four days off) shift schedule.

Business items on the meeting agenda included the monthly financial report, which was tabled because administrative tasks are transitioning following the April 11 retirement of Connie Shields, secretary for the board of directors. A special meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 5, to approve the report and the payment of the month's checks.

The special meeting will also be an

appropriation hearing to address a \$130,324 budget shortfall in 2024 due to new vehicle purchases. Two used vehicles were purchased last year to replace older models — a 2019 Chevy Tahoe in use as a command vehicle and a 2010 Ford F-550 commercial 4x4 brush truck.

"We missed our budget by the cost of the two trucks and some of the overhead to get the trucks into here," said board treasurer Shawn Palmer. "If we hadn't had those, we would have met the budget right off the ground."

The hearing will be properly published in the Eastern Colorado News.

Chief Mike Disher said an open house is planned to officially introduce the two new vehicles to residents.

Disher has been working on a move to direct payroll for staff; a company has been employed to handle the payroll and taxes starting the next pay period. Disher, along with EMS Division Chief MacKenzie Schledorn-Rudden and Lt. Tanisha Anderson, will facilitate the change.

"It's kind of a check and balance system where (board treasurer) Sean



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Capt. Dillon Sketers, left, congratulates newly-hired firefighter/paramedic Dorsey Guffy.

(Palmer) is a final default," Disher said. "I approve the hours and input them in the system, and it's taken care of from there. It's going to be a real nice setup here down the road."

Palmer noted that the next step for the district's financial record keeping

is to get the district's QuickBooks records stored on the cloud, which will cost around \$250 a month.

Disher said 91 calls were responded to in March — four fires, 68 medical, one hazardous materials, four service calls, and 14 canceled en route.

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Barbra Solberg

Barbra Jean Solberg, 85, of Goessel, Kan., passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025, at her home surrounded by family. She was born on April 15, 1940, in Fort Collins, Colo., to Donald E. and Florence L. (Jones) Nash.

She spent the first 14 years of her life in Center, Colo., and then moved to Steamboat Springs, Colo., where she graduated from high school. Barbra later attended Colorado State University and met Ralph M. Solberg on a blind date at a college dance. They were married on March 12, 1960.

Together they welcomed their first daughter, Kirsten, in October 1963 and moved to Bennett, Colo., and eventually settled on 28 acres outside of Bennett. In March of 1967, they welcomed their second daughter, Karen. Barbara and Ralph lived on their farm for 28 years.

The happiest times of her life in Colorado were filled with teaching Sunday school, Good News club, directing the church choir, being involved in Missions and hosting missionary families; as well being a devoted farmer's wife. She became a Kansas resident in 1993 when her and Ralph moved to Admire, KS. Barbra moved to Goessel in 2010. She was a para-educator at the Goessel Elementary for eight years and loved helping the kids. Over the years she switched her allegiance from the Denver Bronco's to become an avid Kansas City Chief's fan. Barbra loved meeting people, helping her daughter plant flowers and flowers in general.

Barbra is survived by her daughters, Kirsten Solberg of Goessel, and Karen (Andrew) Finan of Basehor, Kan.; granddaughter, Jess Finan of Basehor; sister, Cyndi (Roger) Dewey of Westminster, Colo.; and four nieces and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and sister, Carolyn (Victor) Weyers.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Goessel Church. Private burial will be held at the Goessel Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Bethesda Home (to be used for maintenance on the memorial garden), Goessel Church, or Missionary Aviation Fellowship in care of Miller-Ott Funeral Home, P.O. Box 96, Goessel, KS 67053.

CRASHES

FROM PAGE 1

feet west of the intersection — a Ford F-150 facing north on the south side of the highway and a crumpled Lexus ES was facing southeast on the north side of the roadway.

Cabello Mavila, who was driving the Lexus, was declared deceased on scene, while the pickup driver, a 26-year-old male from Log Lane Village, was transported to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. As of April 25, the State Patrol said the pickup driver's health status had not changed.

According to the original accident report, both vehicles were in the west-bound lane of Highway 36 when the crash occurred.

"The Lexus was stopped at the intersection to turn left (south onto Watkins Road). The Ford failed to stop and collided with the rear of the Lexus," a State Patrol spokesman said. "Both vehicles remained in contact going westbound until they separated and both rotating clockwise."

The at-fault party remains unknown. Both lanes of Highway 36 through town were closed until just before 12 a.m.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 1

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

Bennett fifth-grade concert. 6 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

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

MONDAY, MAY 5

Strasburg High School Athletic Booster Club. 6 p.m., high school library.

Deer Trail School Board. 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Adams County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m.

by phone. To sign up, call (303)405-3298. Appointments available at Anythink libraries for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library's computer link. Space limited.

Arapahoe County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)739-6630. Appointments available at Aurora Main Library for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library's computer link. Space limited.

Bennett Wind Symphony, Jazz Band and Bennett High Singers Concert. 7 p.m., auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

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

Microsoft founder ponders revolutionary 50-year-old computer code

by Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

Even as he grows older, Microsoft founder Bill Gates still fondly remembers the catalytic computer code he wrote 50 years ago that opened up a new frontier in technology.

Although the code that Gates printed out on a teletype machine may look crude compared to what's powering today's artificial intelligence platforms, it played a critical role in creating Microsoft in April 1975 — a golden anniversary that the Redmond, Wash., company celebrated April 4.

Gates, 69, set the stage for that jubilee with a blog post reminiscing on how he and his old high school friend — the late Paul Allen — scrambled to create the world's first "software factory" after reading an article in the January 1975 issue of *Popular Electronics* magazine about the Altair 8800, a mini-computer that would be powered by a tiny chip made by the then-obscure company Intel.

The article inspired Gates, who was a freshman at Harvard University, and Allen to call Altair's maker, Micro Instrumentation & Telemetry Systems, and promise the company's CEO Ed Roberts they had developed software that would enable consumers to control the hardware.

There was just one hitch: Gates and Allen hadn't yet created the code.

Gates and Allen latched onto the BASIC computer language that had been developed in 1964 at Dartmouth College, but they still had to figure out a way to make the technology compatible with the forthcoming Altair computer, even though they didn't even have a prototype of the machine.

After two months working on the program with little sleep, Gates finished the code that became the basis for the Altair's first operating system.

"That code remains the coolest I've ever written," Gates wrote in his blog post, which includes an option to download the original program.

The code would go on to provide the foundation for a business that would make personal computers a household staple, with a suite of software that include the Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs, as well as the Windows operating system that still powers most PCs today.

"That was the revolution," Gates said of the code in a video accompanying his post. "That was the thing that ushered in personal computing."

Gates' recollection of the code is part of a nostalgic kick that he has been on this year as he prepares to turn 70 in October.

The trip down memory lane included the February release of a memoir exploring his early years as an often-misunderstood child with few friends, and a hailing of the 25th anniversary of the philanthropic foundation he created after stepping down as Microsoft's CEO in 2000.

The tech giant initially stumbled after Gates' departure but has been thriving under CEO Satya Nadella, amassing a market value of about \$2.8 trillion.

In his memoir, Gates also reflected on his tempestuous relationship with fellow PC pioneer, the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, whose company will be celebrating its golden anniversary next year.

"Fifty years is a long time," said Gates, whose personal fortune is estimated at \$108 billion. "It's crazy that the dream came true."



IAN ALLEN/Gates Ventures via AP
This recent photo provided by Gates Ventures shows Microsoft founder Bill Gates holding a printout of the computer coding that launched the software maker in April 1975.

CBS Colorado: Adams County's commitment to trauma-informed care featured in story

BRIGHTON — Adams County's efforts to support children and families impacted by trauma were recently featured by CBS Colorado, spotlighting the county's ongoing collaboration with Raise the Future and the implementation of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practices.

TBRI is a trauma-informed model that gives caregivers, professionals, and community members tools to better connect with and support children who have experienced significant adversity. Through the continued partnership with Raise the Future, Adams County Human Services has expanded its use of the approach across departments to improve outcomes for youth and families.

"This is not a new initiative; it's a deepening of our commitment to doing things differently for children in our care," said Commissioner Lynn Baca, board chair. "We know building trust and healing relationships are at the heart of long-term success."

In the CBS feature, Ashley Oliver, who leads the county's therapeutic foster care program, shared success stories that demonstrate TBRI's impact.

"We definitely need more foster

homes," Oliver said. "But I've seen great successes. One of the young people we work with had to move seven times, but now she's been in the same placement for a whole year — that's incredible!"

Adams County staff were first introduced to TBRI through Raise the Future's events. Since then, the approach has steadily taken root, not only in how staff work with children and families, but also in how they support each other.

"This work is emotionally intense, and TBRI has given our team a shared language and strategy for navigating it with compassion," said Katie McDougal, director of Human Services for Adams County. "It's helped us re-frame how we think about trauma, regulation and relationships with our families and ourselves."

Adams County continues to collaborate with Raise the Future to train staff and embed trauma-informed care across Human Services. The CBS story is part of its ongoing partnership with Raise the Future, which aired April 16 as part of A Day for Wednesday's Child, a day of awareness and fundraising for children in foster care waiting to be adopted.

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KINDERGARTEN



REGISTRATION IS COMING! Byers Kindergarten Roundup

The Byers Elementary Kindergarten Roundup/Registration will be **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**, for students new to Byers School District. If your child was enrolled in Byers Preschool Program you do not need to attend the roundup. Please call **Byers Elementary @ (303) 822-5292, ext. 1140**, to make an appointment.

On roundup day you will need to bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency (something with your name and physical address), and your child! Kindergarten students must be **5 years of age by June 1, 2025**.

Eleanor Lois Shoemaker

Eleanor Lois (nee May) Shoemaker, long time resident of Bennett, passed away on April 21, 2025, at Shalom Park Care Center surrounded by her family. Eleanor was born Nov. 6, 1933, to Dorthea and Walter May in Artesian, S.D. She was the youngest daughter of seven children.

On Jan. 3, 1953, Eleanor married Richard "Dick" Dean Shoemaker, also of Artesian. To the marriage came five children — Patricia, Jeff, Gwen, Mark and Christy. With Dick's job in construction, the family moved around North and South Dakota, Wyoming and finally settling in Bennett. Eleanor worked in and around Bennett as a waitress, convenience store clerk, school custodian and performing janitorial services for the Town of Bennett, finally retiring at 78 years of age.

Eleanor was an avid gardener and enjoyed cooking, sewing, playing cards, chatting with neighbors and volunteering at the food bank in Bennett. Eleanor also loved spending time with her kids, 18 grand kids and 35 great grand kids.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; parents Dorthea and Walter May; six siblings and spouses: Gladys Clyde, Walter May, Jr., Dolores Burns, Dorothy Medley, Ruby Pinkston and Alvin May; son-in-law Dale Kilwein of Dickinson, N.D.; and grandsons Steven Shoemaker of Washburn, N.D. and Bruce Ray Shoemaker of Bennett, Colo.

Eleanor is survived by her five children: Pat Kilwein, Jeff (Trudy) Shoemaker, Gwen (John) Long, Mark Shoemaker and Christy (David) O'Dell; 16 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Burial date will be determined in Artesian, S.D.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Property tax deadline approaching!
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3 parties nominated for 17th JD vacancy

DENVER — The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated three candidates for a district court judgeship effective June 7. Nominees Todd Everet Bluth and Stephanie Rachel Perkins, both of Brighton, and Michal Anne Lord-Blegen of Denver were selected by the commission April 21. Under the state Constitution, the governor has 15 days from April 22 to appoint one nominee as district court judge for the 17th Judicial District (Adams and Broomfield counties). Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via e-mail to the governor at gov_judicialappointments@state.co.us. The vacancy was created by the retirement of the Hon. Rayna Gokli.

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www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325

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Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook

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www.corlms.org

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303-822-9366 • mttaborbysers.org

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Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
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Info: strasburgorthodox.org

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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



SPORTS



CHSAA delays private school enrollment change

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

PARKER — Efforts to help level the playing field, court and mat between public high schools and private and other “selective enrollment” education institutions were postponed, but the state powers that be still say the proposal or a revision will likely come forward this summer.

When the Colorado High School Activities Association’s Legislative Council (CLOC) met April 22 at Douglas County’s Legacy Campus for its annual spring meeting, the group did not have a chance to vote on proposal ADM-3 to mandate schools with managed or restricted enrollments to multiply its student count by 1.5 and likely bump up at least one size classification in sports and other extracurricular activities.

During an April 15 special board meeting, CHSAA’s Board of Directors voted to remove the policy change from the CLOC agenda, citing the issue has been rushed through the policy process.

“While we recognize the importance of the issues addressed in this proposal, the board ultimately felt that the current verbiage did not fully capture its intended purpose or potential impact,” said CHSAA Commissioner Mike Krueger in the board’s April 15 statement. “Pressing pause at this point gives us the chance to rework the proposal with greater clarity, rather than setting a concerning precedent by trying to adjust language after possible adoption.”

The CHSAA statement added that it plans “to reintroduce a revised proposal. In the next few months, with the goal of finalizing and implementing an updated version of ADM-3 that will still allow for implementation for the 2026-28.”

The delay in bringing forward the “Multiplier schools” language has not set well with numerous

smaller, non-metro area school district officials who have consistently argued private and many charter schools benefit from the ability to “re-cruit” or be “intensely selective” when it comes to students, particularly athletes, they allow to roam their hallways.

“We’re being told by board members and the big schools that this has been too rushed and unfair to the programs that might bump up a class or two, but they are the ones dominating smaller schools that don’t have the same resources they do,” an Eastern Colorado high school athletic director told *The I-70 Scout*. “In my mind, this is the kind of proposal that is behind the times by 20-30 years.”

The original ADM-3 proposal said, “A member school shall have its three-year enrollment average multiplied by a factor of 1.5 if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

(a) The school has a selective admission process for enrollment (e.g., application/admission process, lottery-based enrollment)

(b) The school has enrollment controls or restrictions (e.g., ability to deny enrollment, set enrollment caps)

(c) The school has a tuition cost and/or need-based aid availability (e.g., tuition-based enrollment, or need-based aid)”

What a revised version of ADM-3 might look like is uncertain.

“A lot of us just hope it’s not a watered-down version with no teeth or accountability for the schools that currently take gross advantage of the current set-up,” another Eastern Colorado AD said. “When [the board] said they want something to ‘reflect the true intent of the proposal,’ that’s a concern. The original intent is pretty clear and cut and dry.”

APPROVED CHANGES

Among the changes approved by the CLOC’s 76

voting members for the 2026-28 cycle are:

- Tackle Football: 3A will align its regular season and postseason structure with 4A and 5A; 2A will conclude its regular season after the ninth week and have a 24-team playoff; and schools that receive a forfeit will be allowed to schedule a replacement game.
- Wrestling: A state duals tournament will be implemented starting with the 2026-27 season, but logistics of the new event still have to be worked out. In 3A, regional tournaments will include 16 teams rather than 12.
- Schools will voluntarily be able to play up one or more classifications; schools that have been dominating in a classification can be placed up; and schools placed down a classification may participate in the postseason.
- Classification data will be presented in the fall of odd numbered years preceding the beginning of the two-year classification cycle with a process outlined for schools that don’t report their enrollment to the Colorado Department of Education.
- An amended formalized process and guidelines set around transfers due to military reassignment, legal change of guardianship, and administrative transfers.
- Additional clarification around amateur status and Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) rules.

CLOC also approved a handful of new board of director members, including Trent Kerr from Wiggins in District 3 and Dan Melendrez from Genoa-Hugo as the Colorado Association of School Executives appointee. Deer Trail Superintendent/Athletic Director Mike Jobman, representing District 10, will also remain on the board of directors through the next two-year cycle. Niwot Athletic Director Joe Brown replaces Regis Jesuit’s Ryan West as the board’s president.



Freshman Meagan Green (15) fires off one of her seven goals in Bennett’s 9-0 shutout of Sheridan during Senior Night at Paul Read Field April 23.

Bennett girls rout Rams in home finale; in fight for playoff lives

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

A recent 1-2 stretch against Frontier League foes has the Bennett girls soccer team fighting for their postseason lives entering the final three games of the regular season.

The Lady Tigers won their home finale and senior night in 9-0 shutout fashion over Sheridan April 23 but lost 5-1 at home to Middle Park April 16 and 3-1 at Lake County in Leadville April 25.

The orange-and-black entered this week 6-5-1 overall, 5-3 in conference play, and dropped about 10 spots to

No. 32 in the Colorado High School Activities Association’s playoff seeding index. The top 32 teams will qualify for the 3A bracket. Two of the Tigers’ final three contests are against teams ranked in the top 32 of the 3A seeding index.

SHERIDAN

Against the winless Rams, Bennett finally scratched the scoreboard about halfway through the first 40 minutes and reached halftime with a 4-0 advantage. The hosts continued to dominate with five more tallies

SEE S BENNETT
PAGE 8

Strasburg 9 falters in three straight Patriot League tilts

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

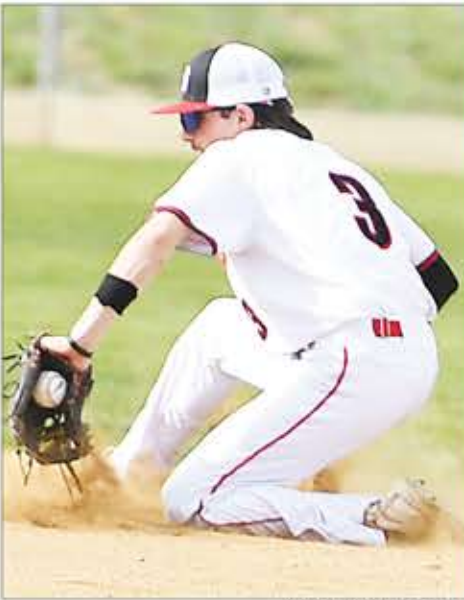
A three-game skid against Patriot League foes last week dropped the Strasburg Indians to a pair of games under .500 and on the outside looking in at the 3A baseball playoff picture.

After a 10-0 loss at perennial power Resurrection Christian April 21, the red-and-black fell 12-5 at home to Liberty Common the following day and, on April 24, the troops of head coach Riley Blagg gave up a late lead to fall 5-4 at conference newcomer Fort Morgan.

The Indians entered their April 26 home rivalry matchup with Bennett 5-7 overall, 2-4 in league play, and hovering around No. 40 in the 3A rankings to determine the 32 playoff berths. Bennett won Saturday’s matchup in an 11-10 nail biter. For full coverage, see the May 2 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Against Resurrection Christian, the 3A top 5-ranked Cougars took a 2-0 lead after the opening inning and tacked on 2 more runs in the third, 5 in the fourth, and the game-ending tally in the sixth while holding Strasburg scoreless on only three hits. The Indians walked four times but recorded nine Ks.

In addition to eight hits, the hosts walked eight times, had one hit batsmen, and benefitted from four Strasburg defensive miscues.



Strasburg shortstop Jared Flamini makes a slicking backhand stop on a groundball against Liberty Common April 22.

Senior Jared Flamini got the mound start for Strasburg, allowing 8 runs, 6 earned, on seven hits while walking five and striking out three in 3 1/3 innings. Junior R.J. Weaver threw the final 1 2/3 innings, allowing 2 unearned runs on one hit while walking three and striking out one.

Tuesday’s home game saw Liberty Common jump up 2-0 after opening at-bats and extend its advantage to 6-0 after the top of the second, but Strasburg responded with 4 of its own in the bottom of the frame.

SEE 'BURG 9
PAGE 8

Tigers dominate on home diamond

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett Tigers advanced to 9-8 overall on the baseball diamond, 7-1 in Frontier League play, after an easy 17-0 win against conference foe Arrupe Jesuit April 13. The contest got out of hand in the first inning as the orange-and-black tallied eight singles and a double, had three free passes, and took advantage of four General defensive miscues to take a 15-0 lead. Single tallies in the second and third innings helped conclude the game after Arrupe's top of the fourth.

Senior Brody Hawes and soph-

omore Evan Garner combined for the no-hit victory for Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz. Hawes got the start and struck out two over the first two frames; Garner walked one and struck out five over the last two innings.

Of Bennett's 11 base hits, Hawes and senior Dane Ortiz both had two. Senior leadoff hitter Rafael Ibarra reached base three times — one hit, one walk, one hit by pitch — and crossed home plate all three times.

The orange-and-black remained No. 21 in the 3A state playoff seedings.

COMING UP
May 1: Lamar.
May 5: @ Mitchell.
May 7: Wellington.



A Liberty Common baserunner sneaks his hand into home plate just ahead of the tag of Strasburg catcher Gavin Welch during the schools' April 22 Patriot League matchup.

'BURG 9

FROM PAGE 7



Lady Tiger Marelin Vazquez (33) races past the Sheridan goalkeeper en route to an empty-net goal.

S BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

after intermission.

Shots on goal were more lopsided than the final score as Bennett peppered the Rams goalkeeper 28 times compared to Tiger senior goalkeeper Ava Black, who faced only two shots, rejecting both. Tiger freshman Meagan Green led the attack with 12 shots, scoring on seven, while senior Marelin Vazquez added two tallies on six shots. Senior Marayha Munoz also provided heavy pressure on the opposition's net with five shots on goal. Senior Hadasa Burgos assisted on two goals with Vasquez, senior Raquel Thorpe and freshman Paloma Rodriguez each with one.

On defense, Bennett recorded 16 steals, led by Green with four, Thorpe and senior Marayha Munoz with three each, and Rodriguez and junior

Angela Lopez, two apiece.

PAIR OF LOSSES

Against Middle Park, Bennett was behind 3-0 at halftime and 5-0 late in the second half when Rodriguez tallied the hosts' lone goal on a penalty kick with 7:45 left in the game.

Total shots were in favor of the visiting Panthers, 38-4.

Tiger freshman goalkeeper Whitney Torgerson recorded 19 saves.

Against Lake County, all four goals were scored after halftime. Statistics were unavailable at press time.

The Tigers started this final week of the regular season at Englewood on April 28 and at Arvada in a make-up game April 29.

COMING UP
May 1: @ Lamar.

After a walk to junior Cam Manahan, a single by senior Jose Lopez, and a walk to sophomore Houston Broskie loaded the bases, a walk to senior Taylor Lasecke forced Strasburg's first run across home. After Lopez was tagged out trying to take home, a sacrifice fly by senior Kam Gilbert scored Broskie. An Eagle error on a ground ball by junior Gabe Smith scored Lasecke and another defensive miscue on a ground ball by Flamini allowed Smith to round the bases.

From there, Liberty Common scored 2 runs each in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings while Strasburg could only muster 1 in the fifth when Lopez singled, advanced to second on a Lasecke ground out, stole third, and scored on another Eagle error.

Both teams recorded eight hits, and six strikeouts while struggling defensively — five errors for the Indians and four for the visitors. Liberty Common received six walks and had one hit batsman while the Indians had three walks and three hit batters. Flamini and Lopez both had two hits.

On the mound, senior Chase Gilbert got the start, allowing 8 runs, only 2 earned, on four hits while walking three and striking out five over three innings. Junior Camden Hess threw the next three innings, allowing 4 earned runs on four hits while walking three and striking out one. Junior Erik Alamillo threw the seventh, forcing the visitors into three consecutive pop outs.

Against the host Mustangs on Thursday, Strasburg appeared prime for its third conference victory after an Alamillo RBI single and a 2-run double by Lopez put the red-and-black up 3-0 in the first inning and an RBI single by Lopez extended the lead to 4-0 after three. But the visitors were unable to muster another run while allowing Fort Morgan 1 each in the fourth and fifth and a 3-spot in the bottom of the sixth.

Both teams recorded seven hits and were not tagged with any errors.



Indian outfielder Cam Manahan records an out on a Liberty Common pop fly.

Strasburg struck out seven times while walking only once and had one hit batsman, while the hosts received eight free passes and struck out five times. The Indians left 14 base runners stranded.

Lopez had another two-hit game as did Broskie.

Flamini toed the pitching rubber for the first 3 1/3 innings, giving up an earned run on four hits while walking two and striking out two. Weaver threw the final 2 2/3 innings, giving up 4 earned runs on three hits while walking six and striking out three.

Strasburg's April 19 home game against Elizabeth was postponed until May 12 because of inclement weather.

COMING UP
April 30: Brush.
May 2: @ Eaton.
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KEVIN ROZMIAREK/CU Boulder

Left photo, a drone is launched into the air to collect air samples for the isotopic analysis at EastGRIP, Greenland. Center and right, drones come to a stop with the collected data on the snowy surface.

Drone experiment unveils changes in Greenland ice sheet

by Yvaine Ye
CU Boulder Today

BOULDER — For the first time, researchers at the University of Colorado have collected detailed measurements of water vapor high above the surface of the Greenland ice sheet.

Their research, aided by a custom-designed drone, could help scientists improve ice loss calculations in rapidly warming polar regions.

“We will be able to understand how water moves in and out of Greenland in the next few years,” said Kevin Rozmiarek, a doctoral student at the Institute of Arctic & Alpine Research at CU Boulder. “As a major freshwater reservoir, we need to understand how Greenland’s environment is going to change in the future.”

According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Greenland lost about 55 gigatons of ice and snow between fall 2023 and fall 2024. The island is shedding ice for the 28th year in a row, and scientists estimate that it has lost more than 5 trillion tons of ice since 1992.

The Greenland ice sheet contains about 8% of the planet’s freshwater, and its meltwater could contribute significantly to rising sea levels, changing ocean circulation, and ecosystems worldwide.

The majority of ice loss comes from large ice chunks breaking off from glaciers and the melting of surface ice and snow. Sublimation, the process of solids turning into gases without becoming liquids first, may also play a role. Prior studies have

suggested that, in some parts of Greenland, about 30% of summer surface snow could sublimate to water vapor.

TRACKING WATER IN THE SKY

Where the water vapor goes is unclear, Rozmiarek said. Some might fall back down as snow or re-condense on the surface later, but some could leave Greenland’s water system entirely.

Collecting air samples in the Arctic is expensive and technically challenging because it traditionally involves flying a plane to the middle of an ice sheet in harsh weather and carrying air samples back to the laboratory.

Rozmiarek and his team overcame the challenges by loading air sampling equipment on a large drone with a 10-foot wingspan.

Throughout the summer of 2022, the team flew the drone 104 times from the East Greenland Ice-Core Project camp — managed by the University of Copenhagen — in the island’s interior. The drone collected air samples at different heights of up to nearly 5,000 feet above the ground.

The team aimed to look into the type of hydrogen and oxygen atoms in the air’s water vapor. Water molecules from different sources contain distinct combinations of hydrogen and oxygen. Scientists call these variations in isotopes.

“Isotopes are water’s fingerprints. By following these fingerprints, we can trace back to the source

SEE GREENLAND
PAGE 10



MGM ONLINE

The Greenland ice sheet as it appears in this undated satellite image.

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO. LE24-002, KIOWA CREEK OPEN SPACE REGIONAL PARK / LOCATION AND EXTENT

PROPOSAL: Arapahoe County Open Spaces is proposing the construction of a regional park. This project will be located at 1001 N County Road 137, south of Interstate Highway I-70, west of North Kiowa-Bennett Road (Parcel ID 1981-00-0-00-255).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 20, 2025 the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial, CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be allowed to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LE24-002, Kiowa Creek Open Spaces Regional Park / Location and Extent. 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 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 Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Byers Elementary Preschool Roundup

will be on **Monday, May 19, 2025**. Please call **Byers Elementary @ (303) 822-5292, ext. 1140**, to make an appointment for the roundup. This year our Roundup/Registration will be held in the lobby of the elementary office.

Registration packets can be picked up in the elementary office prior to or the day of.

On the day of Roundup/Registration, you will need to bring your child and all the appropriate paperwork — child’s birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency (something with your name and physical address). Paperwork must be completed for your child to register and be added to a class list. Preschool students must be **3 and 4 years old on or before June 1, 2025**.



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GREENLAND

FROM PAGE 9

where the water vapor came from,” Rozmiarek said.

Scientists have collected high-quality data on the source of water in Greenland, including water that flows from the tropics, and the sink, which is the surface snow on the Greenland ice sheet.

“But we don’t know much about the isotopic composition of water in motion, which is the vapor between the source and sink,” Rozmiarek added.

When the team compared its drone-based measurements with an existing computer simulation that models the Arctic water cycle, they found the simulation underestimated the amount of precipitation that fell on Greenland. By incorporating the isotopic data observed in the simulation, the model rendered an accurate prediction of how water moves over Greenland.

“It’s really important to be able to predict what’s going to happen to Greenland in the warming world as accurately as possible,” Rozmiarek said. “We demonstrated how useful water vapor isotope data is by successfully improving an existing model.”

MELTING ICE SHEET

About 125,000 years ago, when Earth was warmer than preindustrial levels, Greenland was covered by a significantly smaller ice sheet, and the sea level was as much as 19 feet higher than today. As the planet continues to warm, the Greenland ice sheet could see dramatic changes and even shrink to its size back then, Rozmiarek said.

The Greenland ice sheet contains a massive amount of freshwater, and that water, if leaving the system, could lead to significant increases in global sea level. The United Nations estimated that rising sea levels caused by climate change currently impact 1 billion people worldwide.

Rozmiarek hopes to return to Greenland to conduct more flights and gather additional data.

“It’s like we just figured out how to discover fingerprints at a crime scene. This is a concrete step forward in understanding where water is going and where it is coming from in this important system at a time when we need it most,” he said.

The findings were published in the March *JGR Atmospheres*.

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BENNETT BOE

FROM PAGE 1

End-of-year celebrations such as fireworks for graduation can be pricey. From costs the school roughly \$10,000 every year, though fundraisers and ticket sales help. This year's venue cost \$8,000, up \$2,000 from last year, a reasonable disc jockey charges \$1,400, decoration can add expense and security staff has its own fees.

Purdy examined performing arts costs as an example during the work session because middle school students are sometimes placed in performing arts classes that align with their schedules rather than by choice. She said that, over two years, the cost of travel for the performing arts programs totaled \$24,000, benefit stipends were \$23,000, instrument repairs cost nearly \$8,000, band music and supplies cost \$18,000, registration fees totaled \$14,250, and copying fees for sheet music cost \$4,462. Around \$5,000 in repair fees carried over from last year and the school has instruments still waiting on repairs which will total around \$10,000.

Other programs such as agriculture and athletics have their own costs. Athletic fees at other schools range from \$100-255, according to Purdy. Football is one of the more expensive sports because it requires regular helmet reconditioning costing from \$2,500 to \$5,000; however, this year the Denver Broncos donated some new helmets.

Budget calculations are not yet finalized due to changes in averaging measures at the state legislature, but Purdy estimates a total of 1,754 students over all buildings on campus for the coming year.

She is looking at creative adjustments to maintain current staff, but hiring at the district is on hold. Elective class options also must wait until May

During an April 24 special meeting, the board voted 4-0 in favor of the new student fee schedule with Alyssa Pae absent.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

High school construction students have been building small structures, including storage sheds, greenhouses and a trailer-mounted tiny home. Additionally, graduates from the EMT program provided emergency ser-

vices when a student needed care at a recent track meet.

CTE programs are proving popular at Bennett with full enrollment. This year's approved programs included plant and animal sciences, construction and welding, EMT, CNA, wildland fire science, and business. Students can earn certifications through most of the programs validating their experience for future employers.

All existing CTE programs at Bennett have been renewed. In coming years, programs should be less costly on an annual basis as they convert from a two- or three-year approval cycle to five years.

The town's Bennett Gives Back program provided a \$6,000 grant to the CNA program this year for equipment. The town also provided \$10,000 to upgrade radio systems and ensure that dispatch reaches Arapahoe County rather than Adams County after the security contract transition. A concurrent enrollment grant supporting a partnership with Northeastern Junior College in Sterling to provide college credit opportunities also provided \$23,000 for CNA, EMT and wildfire programs.

A \$17,000 Nathan Yip grant supported welding and wildfire programs and a one-time statewide innovation grant provided \$112,000 to the EMT program this year, which funded an ambulance remount and additional equipment. Bennett was one of the only districts with enough growth and innovative ideas to apply for and achieve the grant two years in a row. The Home Builders Institute provided a free curriculum to certify the students for OSHA 10 and awarded the school a \$45,000 grant this year for materials.

The district hopes to expand CTE course offerings to include early childhood development and hospitality. Fire districts in the surrounding area support the program and the school hopes to build a closer partnership with the Bennett Fire District.

TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology Director Jeff Bain said some emotional good-byes to the board as he prepares to retire. His support kept the schools

SEE BENNETT BOE
PAGE 12

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Time: 2-4 pm

Where: Tri-Valley VFW, 115 Palmer Ave, Bennett, CO 80102

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RSVP: Cindy Seiler 303-587-4973 or Colleen Wallace 303-358-2511

Bennett Health Day

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Saturday May 3rd, 2025

The Bennett Community Center 1100 East Colfax Ave.

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Financial Wellness

Personal Protection

Educational Resources

Mental Wellness

Drug Prevention

bennettco.gov

uchealth

Bennett welcome neighbors.

KING Soopers

I-76: CDOT begins repairs near Wiggins and Roggen

MORGAN COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation began I-76 bridge repair work east of Wiggins April 28.

Drivers should expect single lane closures on I-76 over Bijou Creek (mile point 67.11). Traffic will be reduced to one lane each way 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for several months while repairs are made.

Similar work is planned on I-76 east of Roggen over Lost Creek (MP 48.87) this summer. This project enhances safety for travelers, providing a smoother driving surface, and increasing the longevity of the highway.

Minor delays are expected near both work zones. A reduced speed limit of 55 mph and an oversized vehicle width restriction of 10 feet is in place at each location as needed.

Completion is expected in the fall. Work will mostly be performed during daylight hours on weekdays.

For information, call (970)776-5580 or e-mail to pr@workzone.info.



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running during COVID, has taken steps to prevent interference with Zoom meetings, and has spent the past two years working with Purdy to ensure a smooth transition for Matthew Crater, who will replace him next school year.

The district is considering a package through Vivacity, including next generation Chromebooks, an inventory management system, a four-year warranty on all devices, screen protectors and protective cases. The package adds \$100 to the cost of the computers, now about \$280, and would allow the IT department to save cost by retiring its current inventory management system.

New fee proposals estimate tech fees for high school students will be a flat \$75. Students previously were not charged a flat fee for tech but paid per repair. Presently computer repairs cost students \$100 for screens, \$250 for a total loss, and \$50 for all other damaged components or missing keys. Purdy notes most students end up paying between \$50 and \$100 on repairs, which will no longer be assessed individually.

The package would credit the IT department for repairing items at the school, and an additional credit is available if students are taught to repair the devices. Vivacity offers classes and technician certifications for students who want to learn the repairs. Bain assures the tech industry values "real world repair experience."

The estimated need from Vivacity is approximately 300 devices amounting to roughly \$105,000. IT staff estimated at least a five-year life span for

each new machine and requested additional charging cabinets with locking storage so they are not exposed to damage while charging.

The district prefers Chromebooks, which do not need operating system updates as frequently as Windows. Presently, many of the devices available to middle school students are old laptops converted to Chromebook software, and they are not always fully functional. The machines will be past their useful life for the schools when they can no longer support standardized testing software.

TRANSPORTATION

The school is considering joining other districts in installing a card reader on buses to charge small per-ride fees in the wake of costly repairs caused by the wear and tear to buses by dirt roads. School buses should be able to withstand 300,000 miles during 20 years of service, but most of the district's buses are 12 years old with about 130,000 miles on them, requiring more repairs than buses typically would in that time.

Three different buses have been down for weeks at a time due to electrical and transmission issues attributed to rattling on rough roads. The schools have shortened routes in areas with rough roads to mitigate the need for repairs but long-term solutions will require more consistent and forward thinking road maintenance from Arapahoe and Adams counties.

Earlier in March, the East Otero School District in La Junta had a bus break down near Bennett and staff stepped in to transport the strand-

ed students to Bennett Intermediate School for temporary accommodations while another bus came from La Junta.

FOOD SERVICE

In her final board meeting, retiring Food Service Director Amy Kirkwood announced that, by year's end, the schools will have served over 100,000 meals, pointing out 90% of those meals were cooked by Nina Calhoun in the elementary school kitchen. The school is seeking to replace Nina as she transitions to other roles and Kirkwood is bringing her own replacement up to speed.

"We do need to ensure that the one kitchen that can cook all of those meals is well equipped," advised Kirkwood with an eye to future budgeting needs.

The elementary school kitchen built in 1992 is the powerhouse of Bennett Schools' food service program. The dishwasher was replaced two years ago but most everything is original. Last year the freezer stopped working, which required the inner workings to be replaced in their entirety. A few pieces of equipment, including an oven, are slated for maintenance and repairs. Some replacements will cost a modest \$5,000 while one piece of equipment will cost \$30,000.

"We are not sure where that will ever fall in the budget," Kirkwood said.

Even equipment that seems minor in a home kitchen would be pricey in an industrial kitchen where cans of peaches can weigh over 6 pounds compared to a standard 10 ounce can. When Kirkwood learned in January the middle school kitchen was opening each can by hand, she approached Purdy, who advised the board that replacing the industrial electric can opener cost \$750.

Kirkwood cautions that changes

in the state governance in the next four years could mean changes to the funding of food programs. She urged the board to prepare families who have only known the free lunch program for changes at the state level that could revert to paid lunches.

Kirkwood will be replaced by Melissa Camacho, who was approved as 2025-26 Food Service Director during the April 15 meeting.

NEXT YEAR'S START/END TIMES

After several months of debate and a recent survey to parents — 286 responses with 63% in favor of the current schedule — the board approved to maintain the same class day start and end times as last year with a few modifications:

- High school and middle school: first bell at 7:45 a.m. with the tardy bell at 7:50 a.m.;
- Primary and intermediate schools: class day of 8 a.m. through 3:40 p.m., but with a soft start at 7:30 a.m. to allow parents to drop off kids for breakfast and other projects depending on the classroom; and
- Preschool: 8:15-11:45 a.m. for the morning session and 12:30-3 p.m. for afternoon session. A full-day preschool class also remains available.

OTHER BUSINESS

- During the April 24 special meeting, the board heard the 2023-24 audit presentation and approved the audit, which had been delayed multiple months because of a transition in district finance staff.
- The board next meets in regular session at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, at the high school library, 610 Seventh St. The meeting is also available at <https://ecboceres.zoom.us/j/3036444622>.

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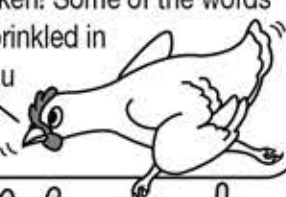
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We use words when we speak or write. We use them in songs, stories, poems, letters and speeches! We use words to tell others what we are thinking, how we are feeling or how things work. We use words for fun too! We love to "play" on words in jokes and riddles, and in other ways.

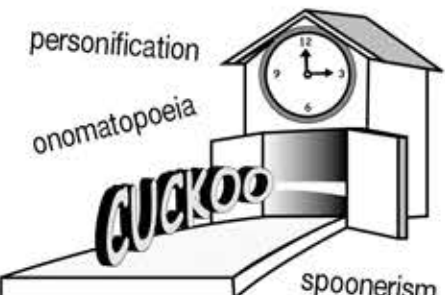


Don't be chicken! Some of the words are long, but I sprinkled in letters to help you fit them into the crossword!



personification

onomatopoeia



spoonerism

Play On Words

Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle with different kinds of word play that we have fun with:

1. a _____ word shrinks a word, making it easier to say; airplane = plane

2. word that is spelled the same backwards and forwards; kayak

3. series of words with the same starting sound; big bad boy

4. words with the same letters, but moved around; cat - act

5. words that resemble the sound they are talking about; whiz, bang

6. set of "opposite" words; jumbo shrimp, small crowd

7. swapping of letters or syllables in words; bunny rabbit = runny babbit

8. a tongue _____ puts together words that are hard to say in a row; Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers

9. an exaggerated statement; I died laughing

10. putting two words together to make a new word; squeeze + crunch = scrunch


11. words that have the same ending sound; very cherry

12. a humor-filled story or trick; knock, knock!


13. giving human-like abilities to something non-human; the wind howled, time marches on

14. a word named after a real person; teddy bear (Theodore Roosevelt)

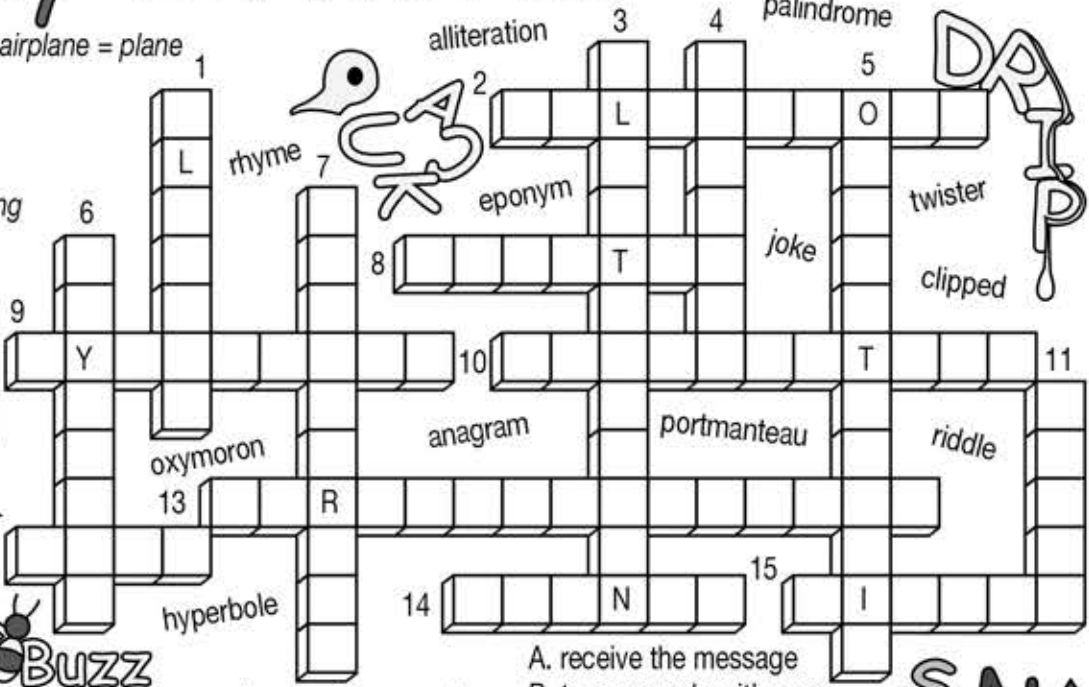
15. a clever question that needs thought to be answered; What loses its head each morning, and gets it back in the evening? A pillow!



I have a bill in my bill to pay my bill.



ZZUBBUZZ



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

alliteration 3 4 palindrome 5 DA

rhyme 7 8 eponym 9 Y 10 T 11

oxymoron 13 R 14 N 15 I

hyperbole 12

joke 10

twister 11

clipped 11

anagram 10

portmanteau 10

riddle 11

Match each expression to its meaning:

1. man of few words

2. man of his word

3. get the word

4. play on words

5. mum is the word


A. receive the message

B. to use words with more than one meaning in a joke

C. to keep quiet, secret

D. keeps his promise

E. doesn't talk very much



S N A P

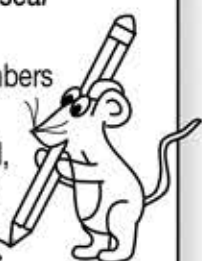
Dear Forest,

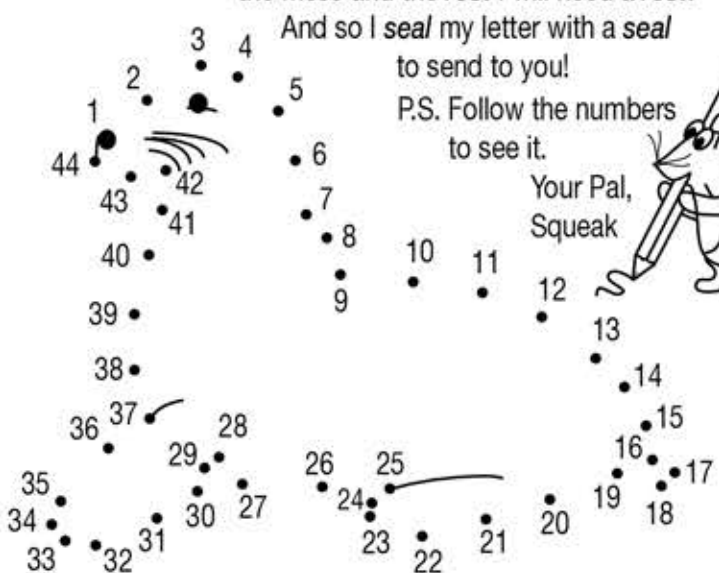
At the picnic today, a fast *pitch* from the baseball *pitcher* broke a *pitcher*, and the pieces flew into a warm *pitch* patch that sealed a hole in the walkway! A bowl of *squash* skidded off the table and *squashed* tomatoes in a basket. After I clean the mess and the *rest* I will need a *rest*!

And so I *seal* my letter with a *seal* to send to you!


P.S. Follow the numbers to see it.

Your Pal, Squeak





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44



Word Ex-Change!

You can make a play on words just by exchanging letters in words. After you finish the activity below, try to write one of your own and share it with a friend.

1. Change the "sn" to "tr" and see the "goo".

snail

2. Add an "n" to this word and you'll know what the cow said and what she jumped over.

moo

3. Change the first letter to "b" and you'll know what happened to my car.


fender

4. Change the "k" to "t" and you'll see what a dog gave me as I was riding by.

bike

5. Change the "ch" to "cl" and it will close your snack bag.

chip



Potato Chips

Too Hot to Hoot!

A 'palindrome' is a word that can be read forward and backward. Sometimes a person thinks up a sentence that can be read forward and backward too! Read these words and sentences, then find them in the puzzle!

mom noon

dad deed level sees

pop peep racecar kayak

did toot madam radar

eve

dud

nun

eye

bob


tot

Step on no pets.

Was it a rat I saw?


No lemon, no melon.

Too hot to hoot!



Whew!

It really is.



T G R M A D A M Y X U C X W D E E D F I G F P N T S

T O O H O T T O H O O T V L J S W K W F H R L O O P

K S T A E R W X K R P O P F O B R F V J Y A L O O E

U K B A B T S I K A Y A K O N O B W A A D D E N T E

P R E O S F W P H Y E R A C E C A R J N A A V N D P

U S C E B A D U N D I D L C O C H T Y F D R E E U B

N E E C P U E W A S I T A R A T I S A W Z A L M T N

V S Y O D N O L E M O N N O M E L O N M J M O M I W

O U P E V E S T E P O N N O P E T S P O N G Z Y B M

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
APRIL 26, 2005

Avis McCoy runs her classroom like a boot camp. Students caught shirking their classwork don't find themselves in detention. Instead, they find themselves dropping down and doing 20 — push ups that is.

That's because McCoy isn't just a teacher. She's also an Army reservist who spent nearly a year overseas in Iraq.

When McCoy joined the Army Reserves on August 11, 1997, fresh out of college, she didn't even consider the possibility that she would end up in the middle of a war. While some reservists would they singed up in order to serve their country, McCoy was being more pragmatic — she joined the reserves to repay stunted loans.

"Ten grand sounded pretty good then," McCoy said.

In exchange for \$10,000 toward her student loan debt, McCoy thought she was giving one weekend a month and two weeks of the summer to her country for eight years. Instead, she ended up in the middle of the war in Iraq.

McCoy said there were quite a few adjutants she had to make when she first arrived in Iraq. She was deployed during the summer when temperatures reached 142 degrees, she said.

15 YEARS AGO
APRIL 27, 2010

AGATE — The key to Agate's School's survival past the 2010-11 school year might be a short-term mill levy increase.

The Agate School Board considered initiating action to raise or override the district's mill levy at its April 28 meeting, but no decision was made. The district, one of the smallest in Colorado, could become a casualty of state budget cuts,

which have already caused districts to reduce expenses by around 10 percent and will likely increase in 2011-12.

Superintendent/principal Kendra Ewing and business manager Vic Craven presented facts gathered by board president Lyndon Burnett, who was absent. Burnett asked for discussion on a mill override or consideration of raising the mill levy for five years to generate money to increase operating funds and stabilize the school through the economic downturn.

10 YEARS AGO
APRIL 28, 2015

DENVER — Colorado school districts with Native American mascots, including Strasburg, received a temporary reprieve when a proposed bill mandating new mascots was tossed at the committee level of the Colorado Senate April 29.

The Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee voted 3-2 to postpone HB 15-1165 indefinitely with Republicans Ray Scott, Jerry Sonnenberg and Owen Hill outnumbering Democrats Matt Jones and Jessie Ulibarri. The Senate Committee vote followed last month's 33-32 full House vote count in favor of the bill with party lines followed except by San Luis Valley Democrat Ed Vigil, who voted against it.

If approved the legislation would have penalized school districts \$25,000 every month they continue to use an Indian mascot that isn't approved by a designated subcommittee. An amended version of the bill, passed by the House Appropriation Committee last money, removed language for a \$200,000 fund to assist schools cover transitions costs for a new mascot.

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

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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 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, April 30, the 120th day of 2025. There are 245 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as South Vietnam's capital, Saigon, fell to Communist forces.

ON THIS DATE

In 1789, George Washington took

the oath of office at Federal Hall in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States completed its purchase of the 828,000 square mile (2,140,000 square km) Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million; the acquisition roughly doubled the size of the United States.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, staying at the controls to slow his passenger train before it struck a stalled train near an approaching station; Jones was the only fatality of the accident.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf

Hitler took his own life, as did Eva Braun, whom Hitler married the previous day.

In 1973, as the Watergate scandal deepened, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean (though Dean was actually fired by Nixon).

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Filmmaker Jane Campion is 71. Filmmaker Lars von Trier is 69. Actor Johnny Galecki is 50. Actor Sam Heughan is 45. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 44. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 43. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 43. Actor Gal Gadot is 40. Actor Dianna Agron is 39. Actor Ana de Armas is 37. Rapper-producer Travis Scott is 34.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MOTHER'S DAY

ACROSS

1. T. Rockwell's "How to Eat Fried ____"

6. Pro football org.

9. Tea servings

13. Relating to axis

14. Gershwin or Levin

15. Break of day

16. Repeat, in music

17. Red Cross bed

18. Arm bones

19. "Mother ____," personification of physical world

21. "Mother ____," fictional dog owner

23. Opposite of hence

24. Sleeveless garment

25. Money source

28. Golfer's destination

30. Pass, as time

35. "Metamorphoses" poet

37. "The Beatles: "Mother ____ comes to me"

39. "The Goldbergs" sibling

40. Unacceptable, to a baby

41. Alpine singing

43. Resembling wings

44. Fill with optimism

46. Fill to satisfaction

47. Orion's ____

48. Like funereal atmosphere

50. Lice eggs

52. Morse code dash

53. Remainder of a cigarette

55. Before skip and a jump

57. "Mother of ____," a.k.a. Daenerys Targaryen

61. "Mother ____," Missionaries of Charity founder

64. Passé

65. Stir or fuss

67. Add together

69. Anomie, alt. sp.

70. Decompose

71. Very angry

72. Puppy sounds

73. "____ no evil, hear no evil"

74. Tennis-affected joint

DOWN

1. Took place

2. Yoked team

3. Capital of Latvia

4. Kind of ray

5. Cast-off skin

6. French Riviera city

7. "To" follower

8. Wood turning device

9. Tulip starter

10. Leo's Karenina

11. ____ gum, food additive

12. Put metal to the pedal, pt.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

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15. Difficult to detect

20. With ample space

22. Employ

24. Green and lush, as in trees

25. "Mother ____," investigative journalism nonprofit

26. Convex molding

27. Twofold

29. Cambodia's neighbor

31. A in UAE

32. Heaped

33. Famous Teatro alla ____

34. "Mother ____," personification of planet

36. Shower with affection

38. Abominable snowman

42. River in Hades

45. Personify

49. "Mother Superior is the head one at the convent

51. Foray

54. Former Russian leaders

56. "Mother of ____," a.k.a. nacre

57. June 6, 1944

58. Raja's wife

59. On the surface

60. Emeralds and rubies

61. Carrying bag

62. Hunk of something

63. Lowest female singing voice

66. Female forest ruminant

68. Archery bow wood

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

HOROSCOPE

Happiness and the Venus Change-up

The Venus change reminds us that happiness isn't a one-size-fits-all experience — it shifts depending on context and needs. Among the different ways happiness can manifest today: a room full of people you love (because connections are a source of joy), a room full of people you don't know yet (because potential encounters are exciting) or a room full of just you (because there's nothing like the glorious solitude of commanding your own space and time).

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the hard-boiled pragmatist you know will soften and bend to your whimsical charms — because, bottom line, you're fun. Life's just more interesting when you let that carefree part of yourself take the lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter how well you think you know someone, there's always more to discover. New people entering the scene will act as catalysts, revealing different sides of those you thought you knew well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not ready to tackle the problem just yet — at least, not in action. But in thought, you're making major strides. This is a crucial stage! Your strategic brainstorming and inspired notions will be nothing short of brilliant.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll find yourself in a position to give intuitive service — a spontaneous, unplanned act of attention that makes a difference. Caring about a person's preferences and how they need things done suggests deep presence, empathy and a rare kind of generosity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll find yourself in a position to give intuitive service — a spontaneous, unplanned act of attention that makes a difference. Caring about a person's preferences and how they need things done suggests deep presence, empathy and a rare kind of generosity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Problems don't have to drain you. It's the approach that makes all the difference. Curiosity gives you energy, but the trick is to be just interested enough to keep things light so you don't get overwhelmed. Drama is optional — who needs it?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You look at the same view as everyone, but what it means to you is entirely different. And that difference? Gold. If you stay silent, an essential voice goes missing. Speak up. Let them shift to meet the truth only you can offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You find life exciting without needing any adrenaline-fueled add-ons. Your curious mind naturally gravitates toward subjects of deep fascination — and what you discover might just leave you awe-struck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your knowledge of cause and effect includes the understanding that not every result is immediate, visible, typical or even logical. By articulating a need, you will also come to know its cost a bit better. This may lead to you changing what you ask for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a day to avoid micromanagement. Many assessments aren't necessary for things to proceed well. Relax and observe, resisting the need to judge every detail, which would be an unnecessary energy expenditure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). All creations have their own lives outside of their creators. You'll never know the whole of what happens as a direct or indirect effect of your contribution because the ripple goes so wide, it will still be resonating years from now.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). With all you're balancing, intentional breaks could be the key to sustaining your momentum. Even short ones, like a quiet walk, a day to recharge or a moment of solitude, could make a huge difference.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 30). Whether internal or external, any existing blocks to the flow of love and goodness will lift this year. You will freely accept all bounty, compliments, tenderness and support from the world in full knowledge that you either deserve it or will. More highlights: One you admire takes notice and offers you something priceless. A creative endeavor blooms in unexpected ways, and a lucrative career shift will have rewards beyond financial. Romantic sparks fly. Taurus and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 22, 1 and 30.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



The Adams County Commissioners and officials from Colorado Air & Space Port as well as AltitudeX Aviation Group posed for a photo after announcing their new partnership.

CASP also partners with aerospace finance firm

WATKINS — Adams County and AltitudeX Aviation Group recently announced a new partnership to position Colorado Air & Space Port as a premier nexus for aviation and aerospace growth and innovation.

AltitudeX specializes in private equity and infrastructure investments across aviation and aerospace.

"This partnership is another example of Colorado's leadership in aerospace and will pave the way for thousands of new jobs in this booming industry," said Gov. Jared Polis.

Leveraging its proximity to downtown Denver and Denver International Airport, the transformative collaboration aims to drive economic growth, create a skilled workforce pipeline, and establish CASP as a Space Center of Excellence and platform for aviation operators.

"This is a game-changer for Adams County and the entire region," said Commissioner Lynn Baca, chair of the Adams County Board of Commissioners. "By leveraging our strategic location and investing in the future of aviation and aerospace, we are creating opportunities for businesses, workers and communities to thrive."

Negotiations with Adams County began last summer and culminated in an agreement signed by the Board of County Commissioners in February. The agreement starts the next col-

laborative phase of work to conduct critical studies, secure tenant commitments, refine a comprehensive business plan, and ultimately finalize negotiations for a master development agreement.

"By aligning our resources and expertise with AltitudeX, we are creating an unprecedented opportunity for growth and innovation in aviation and aerospace," said Jeff Kloska, CASP director.

CASP boasts an exceptional location for aviation, aerospace and intermodal innovation with 3,400 acres, including 960 acres ready for development. Its aviation infrastructure includes two 8,000-foot runways and a new FAA tower. Additionally, CASP benefits from the adjacent Union Pacific rail line and neighboring industrial developments.

"This visionary endeavor will drive economic growth creating jobs, supporting workforce development, and strengthening ties with local businesses and educational institutions," said Jon Roitman, chief executive Officer of AltitudeX.

The CASP development vision includes establishing a Space Center of Excellence, bringing together the best in research and development, testing, manufacturing and innovation supported by robust university partnerships, according to a release.

BOOM

FROM PAGE 1

square-foot on 11,000 square-feet of existing improvements;

- an initial annual unimproved rate of 16 cents per square-foot on the sites total square footage of 130,900 square-feet;
- prorated rent for the rest of 2025 of \$4,224; and
- first full year rent of \$25,344 is due Jan. 1, 2026.

"We can confirm that Boom is assuming a lease on the Colorado Air & Space Port property," a company spokesperson said April 23. "We are planning to share more details about Boom's plans for the site soon."

While specifics from Boom itself were hard to come by, county and spaceport officials both indicated the company will invest \$3 million to \$5 million into the site the rest of this year for testing of the 12-foot long, four-foot diameter Symphony Engine core.

"Boom's investment in our community puts us at the forefront of the aerospace industry and reflects our shared commitment to advancing next-generation transportation technologies," said County Board Chair

and District 5 Commissioner Lynn Baca.

Symphony is the first jet engine developed independently for supersonic commercial flight and is designed to enable "Boomless Cruise" — supersonic speeds without a ground-detectable sonic boom.

"Symphony is rapidly advancing from concept to reality. By leveraging an existing site, Boom will have the first independently-owned supersonic engine test facility for less than it would have cost to rent a government facility," said Boom Founder and CEO Blake Scholl via an April 25 statement released by the county. "By vertically integrating propulsion, we are able to accelerate development, reduce costs, and custom-tailor an engine for Overture — unlocking capabilities like Boomless Cruise."

Boom's Overture aircraft currently has 130 orders and pre-orders from major carriers including United, American, and Japan airlines. While CASP will be the hub for engine innovation and testing, Symphony production will take place at StandardAero in San Antonio.



Study: Airports add \$68.9B yearly to CO economy

WATKINS — The Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics recently announced the results of a comprehensive study to quantify the economic contributions of airports across the state, updating a previous analysis conducted in 2020.

"The aeronautics industry in Colorado creates jobs, boosts economic growth, and contributes to the success of our agricultural and trade partnerships," said Gov. Jared Polis. "International and domestic air travel in Colorado has contributed to aeronautical business retention within our state and opened up job opportunities that have fostered a skilled-workforce here in Colorado."

The 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study evaluates the economic impact of on-airport activities and visitor spending at each participating airport. It also explores the critical role of airports in facilitating air cargo operations, driving economic growth, and supporting agriculture. It also examines tax revenues generated by aviation-related activities and highlights the significant economic contribution of Denver International Airport.

The study assessed the annual economic impact of 66 public-use airports in Colorado, measuring their contributions in terms of employment, payroll, value added, and total business revenue. The findings revealed that these airports collectively generate \$68.9 billion in annual business revenue, support 348,500 jobs with a total payroll of \$23.5 billion, and contribute \$40.3 billion in added value. While employment levels remained relatively steady, the study highlighted a significant 42% increase in annual business revenue associated with Colorado airports from 2020-25.

"This crucial study underscores the vital importance of airports and air travel for communities large and small throughout Colorado," said Colorado Aeronautical Board Chair Kent Holsinger.

"Since opening 30 years ago ..., DEN's exponential passenger growth and emergence as a central hub in the global aviation market has contributed to it being a multi-billion-dollar economic engine for the Denver metro area, Colorado and the entire Rocky Mountain region," said Phil Washington, CEO at DIA.

Dale Gaudot



Dale E. Gaudot was born on March 2, 1942, in Denver, Colo., to Jean and Leatha Gaudot. He passed away in his home on April 20, we believe of a broken heart. He spent his early childhood years working and growing up on his family farm south of Byers, Colo. Graduating from Byers High School in 1960, he began working for Calhoun Ranch at the age of 16 where he dedicated 18 years to farming and ranching. On July 6, 1972, he married Sharon Morrisette and brought into this marriage two daughters, Carrie and Shellie. In their union, they had a son, Dean. In 1976, he went to work for Raymond Behrens in the oil field and purchased the company in 1977, changing the name to Custom Cleaning and Painting. With his business, he traveled to the upper Midwest states to work in the oil fields. The business dissolved due to the economic breakdown of the '80s. He then returned to work for the Calhoun Ranch for a few years ranching and farming. Dale then went to work for Wayne Pipkin and Tink Rector Construction running the sand pit north of Byers and the gravel pit near Deer Trail, until the passing of Wayne in 2003. After this, he started Plains Aqua Well Service (PAWS) where he serviced and repaired house and livestock water wells until his passing.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed fishing, camping, and teaching anyone who wanted to learn how to water ski. He also enjoyed playing cribbage with family members. In the summer months, you could find him either taking care of his garden or out checking his cattle during his free time. In the past few years, he dedicated a lot of his time taking care of his lovely wife of 53 years until Sharon's passing on Feb. 14, 2025.

Dale is survived by his son, Dean (Becky) Gaudot and daughters, Carrie (Joe) Kalcevic and Shellie (Steve) Cook, all of Byers; grandchildren, Gretchen (Eric) Little of West Bloomfield Mich., Sarah Kalcevic of Bennett, Colo., Kaitlyn (Chad) Hickman of Keenesburg, Colo., Carl (Shelby) Cook of Denver, Colo., and Carson and Preston Gaudot of Byers, Colo.; and seven great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Nadine Gaudot of Bennett, Colo.; brother, Jean (Julia) Gaudot of Windsor, Colo.; sister-in-law and her husband Carolyn and Jerry Hankins of Byers, Colo.; three nephews; one niece; and other family members and dear friends.

Dale is preceded in death by his parents Jean and Leatha and his wife Sharon.

A Celebration of Life will be held 1-4 p.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the American Legion in Byers, CO 80103.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Byers Fire Protection District, PO Box 85, Byers, CO 80103.

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AGATE
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Monday, May 5: Mini corn dogs, baked
beans.
Tuesday, May 6: Cheezy spaghetti, roll.
Wednesday, May 7: Chicken strips, po-
tato.

BENNETT
Thursday, May 1: Sausage, egg and
cheese biscuit, country potatoes, grapes.
Monday, May 5: Hamburger gravy,
mashed potatoes, salad, Texas toast.
Tuesday, May 6: Hot dogs, French fries,
broccoli, fruit cup.
Wednesday, May 7: Meatballs with cur-
ry gravy, carrots, seasoned rick, peaches.

BYERS
Thursday, May 1: Chicken ranch wrap,
Sun Chips, broccoli with ranch, oranges.
Friday, May 2: Cheese pizzas, garden
salad, pears.
Monday, May 5: Tacos, cornbread, baby
carrots with ranch, mixed fruit.
Tuesday, May 6: Hot ham and cheese,
tomato soup, green beans, tropical fruit.
Wednesday, May 7: Cheesy bread sticks
with marinara, garden salad, peaches.

STRASBURG
Thursday, May 1: Chicken noodle soup.
Friday, May 2: Fish sandwiches.
Tuesday, May 6: Walking tacos.
Wednesday, May 7: Meatball subs.

DEER TRAIL
Thursday, May 1: Homemade ramen
noodles with chicken, carrots, cabbage
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4	3	9	8	5	7	6	2	1
5	2	7	4	6	1	9	3	8
7	5	3	1	9	2	8	6	4
9	4	2	5	8	6	1	7	3
6	8	1	7	4	3	2	9	5
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8	9	5	3	2	4	7	1	6
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EASTER HOPPENINGS — Clockwise from top left, daughter Zadera Clemens and father, Matthew, navigates a Lyons Park play structure during the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District's Egg-Stravaganza April 12; Iram Tapia runs the track portion of the Deer Trail Jockey Club Rodeo Grounds to grab eggs with his Mario Bros.-themed bucket April 19; two-year-old Elisa Garcia seems a little wary about searching for eggs at Byers Centennial Park April 12; sisters Annabelle (8) and Anastasia Jensen (5) are all smiles as they pose for a picture with the Easter Bunny in Deer Trail; Delaney Lang, 10, of Byers, inspects the contents of her eggs following the Byers Park & Recreation District activities; and Forrest Tiedeman goes to the hard-to-reach areas under the Deer Trail Rodeo grandstands to find his eggs.

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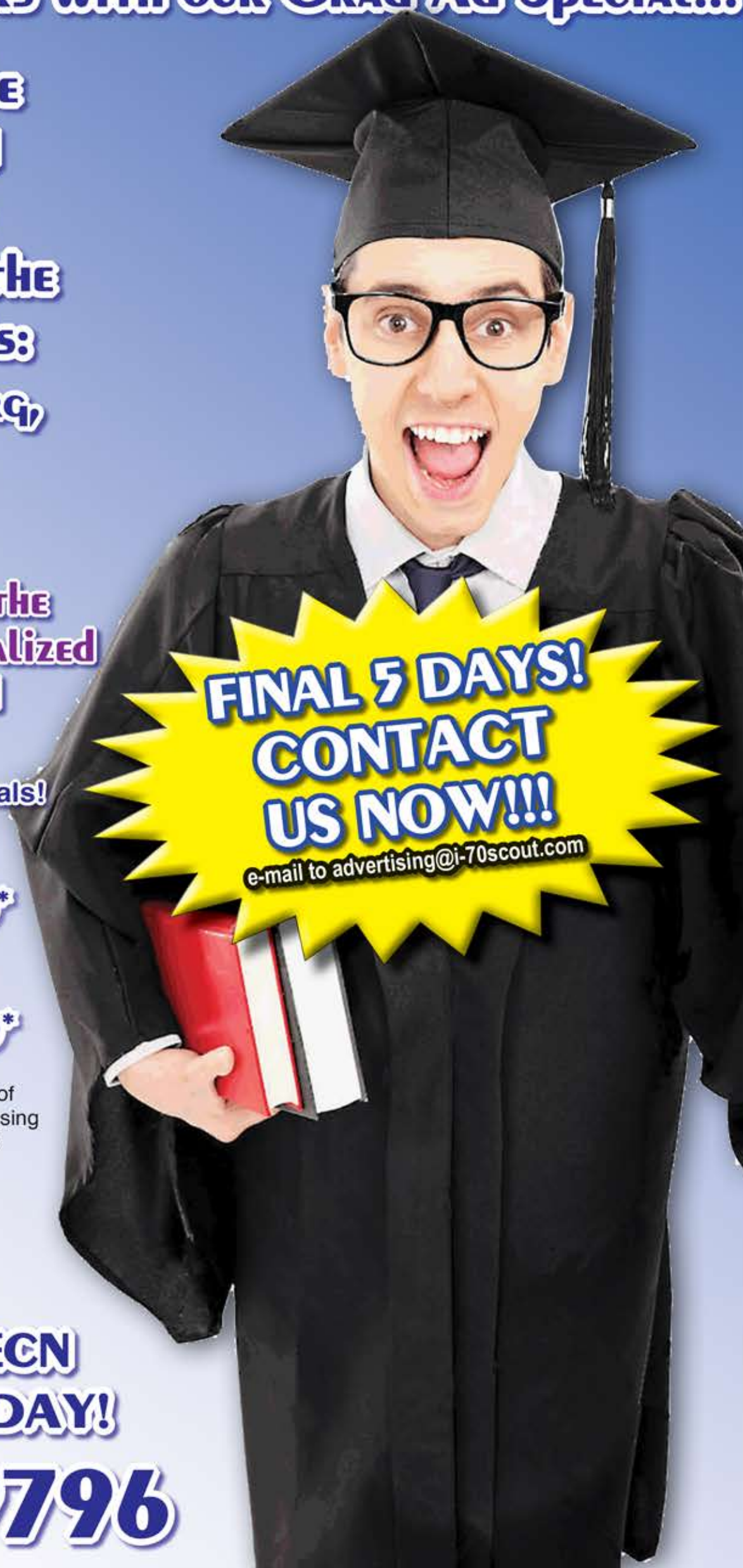
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Bennett HS performs 'Legally Blonde The Musical'



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Legally Blonde The Musical was presented by the Bennett High School drama department April 17-18. From top photo, Emmett Forest, played by Damien Wise, is astonished to see the name of Elle Woods, played by Adeline Cranwill on Thursday night, on the final list of legal interns to help on a high-profile murder case; Paulette, played by Jordyn Teachout stops love interest Kyle, played by Mickey Hogan, in his tracks; and Elle, played by Kate Russo Friday night, is escorted down the sorority house's steps by boyfriend Warner, played by Vivi Cranwill, before he unceremoniously dumps her before leaving for Harvard Law School.



Herbert Ray Demoney

February 7, 1936 — March 16, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Herbert Ray Demoney, a man of unwavering strength, deep kindness, and a cowboy spirit that never faded. He passed away peacefully on March 16, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. Herb was a devoted husband, a loving Dad, a proud Grandpa and Great Grand-dad (Papa). He lived his life with honor, integrity, and a quiet strength that touched everyone who knew him. A dedicated soldier, retiring from the US Navy, he bravely served his country as part of the VO-67 Ghost Squadron in Vietnam, earning recognition as a decorated veteran. His sense of duty and sacrifice never wavered, and he carried the discipline and pride of a soldier throughout his life.

But beyond his military service, Herb was a true cowboy — rugged, hardworking, and always true to his word. He had an adventurous spirit and a deep love for the outdoors. He found joy in traveling, exploring new places, fishing, boating, horses and his favorite, hunting in the mountains of Colorado. Herb felt most at home in the great outdoors. He also had a passion for Cajun culture, filling his home with the lively sounds of Cajun music and the rich flavors of good Cajun cooking. He believed food was meant to be shared, just like laughter and good times.

Herb was a devoted family man who cherished his loved ones. He leaves behind his son Michael Demoney (Debbie McGinley); daughters Colleen (James) Perry, Barbara Lucas, and Michelle (Mitch) Peterson. He was a proud grandfather to Michael, Robert, Chris, Justin, Kole, Tony, Nick, Ashley, Katelyn, Rachel, and many great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Norma Demoney; his parents, Raymond and Hazel Demoney; his brothers, Stanley, Walter and Kenneth Demoney; and his sisters, Fern Chriswiser, Helen Lemieux and Shirley Montgomery.

Herbert Ray Demoney will be laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery on June 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

A soldier and a cowboy to the very end, Herb's legacy of love, loyalty, and resilience will forever ride on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Ride high, cowboy. Your trail here may have ended, but your hard charging spirit rides on.

