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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 28

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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

ArapCo: Flood warning system holds water



PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

Arapahoe County's new flood-warning system, shown looking north, left photo, and south, worked correctly during heavy rains over the Memorial Day weekend.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

Almost two years after an eastern Arapahoe County resident lost her life when rushing floodwaters swept her car away south of Watkins, the county installed a new local flood-warning system just before the monsoon season ratcheted up.

About a week after several inches of water accumulated along the area of Watkins Road and Sixth Avenue over the Memorial Day weekend, Arapahoe County announced that a recently installed high-water notification system appeared to be operating correctly. The system monitors local water levels and,

when the potential for roadway flooding is high, lighted signs flash to advise motorists of the potential for hydroplaning and other travel concerns. County staff will also receive notification of high-water levels for response purposes, including possible road closure.

"The system was installed (in April) and is solar/battery-operated and senses the depth of flow, triggering notifications," said a June 2 statement from the county. "After the initial setup, the county is now working with (the) Mile High Flood District to finalize the warning system trigger level. Water levels tripped the system at 5 p.m. on May 25 and the storm presented an opportunity to adjust the trig-

ger level to ensure the success of the project."

In addition to 3-4 inches of rain falling in the immediate area May 24-25, additional runoff coming from similar precipitation amounts in Elbert County — especially between Elizabeth and Kiowa — over the same period likely stressed area creek beds and roadway ditches.

Similar weather circumstances occurred in June 2023 when rushing floodwaters pushed several vehicles off of Watkins Road, including one that ended up submerged underneath the roadway with a single female occupant, who died inside.

**SEE FLOOD WARNING
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AdCo undersheriff suspended as investigation over incident at his Bennett home proceeds

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — The Adams County undersheriff, who lives north of Bennett, has been on paid leave since late May while under investigation.

"An incident occurred at Undersheriff Paul Gregory's personal residence," a sheriff's office spokesman confirmed with *The I-70 Scout* via e-mail June 2.



But the date of occurrence and specifics of the incident have not been released. In addition, the investigation has been taken over by the Boulder County Sheriff's Office. "Our agency requested that an outside agency complete an investigation to protect the individual(s) involved, our staff, and the integrity of the sheriff's office," said Sgt. Adam Sherman, public information officer. "The Adams County Sheriff's Office takes all incidents involving our employees seriously and will fully cooperate with the

**SEE UNDERSHERIFF
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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Rob Pavletic, left, and his son Chatan of Watkins turn on a green laser after assembling the pieces with hot glue at a Deconstruct & Create Summer Tech Art event June 6 at Anythink Bennett library. Guests took apart different technological objects and created their own piece of artwork to take home.

Bennett School struggles with monetary ambivalence

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — While the Colorado State Legislature last month provided a road map for funding that school districts across the state can expect next school year, uncertainty still evolves around several revenue streams.

During the first of two May Bennett School Board meetings on May 13, Superintendent Robin Purdy said the primary campus in town is expected to receive between \$14 million and \$15 million.

"With the Long Bill done, we can probably expect around \$22 million, but Sky Ranch will get between \$7.5 million and \$8 million," Purdy said. "Hopefully will have more concrete numbers in the next few weeks."

The biggest revenue uncertainty surrounds federal title funds, which help cover expenses, particularly salaries, with special education and other specialized programs. Recent efforts from President Donald Trump to take away title funding from certain education institutions led to the Colorado state education commissioner not signing the normal federal funding

agreement for title funds; however, because Colorado is a local control state, a large number of Colorado school districts, including Bennett, signed the agreement.

But Purdy expressed fears that title funding could be pulled midstream and, as a result, that revenue has not been added to the 2025-26 budget and that SPED salaries and associated costs are budgeted for next year with "other appropriate cuts made."

Purdy is hopeful that partial reimbursement of off-site SPED programs, including the likes of the Joshua School and Firefly in the metro

area, will still be received next school year via funding through Colorado's Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA).

"Last year (2023-24) was about \$1.5 million and we got about \$600,000 back," she said. "This year, we spent closer to \$2 million and waiting to see what we get back. Again, more of a struggle with the uncertainty of what numbers might be."

During a May 21 special meeting, the board approved a final preliminary budget of \$24,770,181 of which

**SEE BENNETT BOE
PAGE 8**

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Bible school music camp set for Byers Community Church

BYERS — Kindergartners through sixth-graders can spend four days engaged in singing, making music, crafting instruments, playing games and moving to the beat as the King’s Kids Music Camp returns to Byers. The camp will run from 9-11 a.m., Monday through Wednesday, June 23-25, and from 9-11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 26, at Byers Community Church, 135 S. Sherman St. Participation is free but space is limited. For more information or to register, visit the Byers Community Church Facebook page or send an e-mail to byerschurch@gmail.com with Music Camp in the subject line.

Agriculture artifacts the topic for tour of Strasburg museum

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society will host an informational tour of its museum grounds starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 19, at the Comanche Crossing Museum. During his presentation, Comanche Crossing Historical Society board member Drew Yoder will describe and explain the significance of the various farming items on the grounds and in various buildings. Snacks will be provided. The museum is located at 56060 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Strasburg museum readies for annual Pioneer School

STRASBURG — Registration is underway for the Pioneer School for children ages 6-12 with four week-long sessions during July. Each class runs for one week, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday-Friday, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, and July 28 to Aug. 1, at the Comanche Crossing Museum. Children play pioneer games, learn pioneer history, take lessons on a slate, do pioneer chores, make pioneer crafts, and are welcome to dress in pioneer-era clothes. In-person registration will occur at the museum in Strasburg from 1-4 p.m. daily. The cost is \$50 per child.

AdCo sheriff adopts Blue Envelope program

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Sheriff’s Office and Thornton police and fire departments have officially adopted a community-focused initiative designed to improve interactions between first responders and drivers with autism and other neurodiverse conditions. The Blue Envelope Program launches May 23. It aims to promote understanding, reduce stress, and foster safer communication during contacts. The Blue Envelope is a tool that community members can use to notify law enforcement and fire rescue personnel that they may need additional time or accommodations during an event. Inside the envelope is information for both the person contacted and law enforcement or fire rescue personnel, providing

guidance and promoting a calm, informed interaction. A video introducing the program is available on Youtube. “This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to providing professional service that protects and serves the community equally,” said Adams County Sheriff Gene Claps. “It is one more way we are building trust and improving safety for everyone in our community.” The Blue Envelopes are now available at the:

- Strasburg Substation, 2550 Strasburg Road;
- Commerce City Substation, 4201 E. 72nd Ave., Commerce City; and
- Sheriff’s Office Headquarters, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton.

Class sizes are limited. Registration is complete once the fee is paid in full and all forms are returned. No reservations can be made without the fee and forms.

Master Gardener plans talk on support for pollinators

AURORA — Colorado State University Master Gardeners will host an informative talk on creating a habitat for pollinators in a yard from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, June 26, at Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway. At a seminar entitled “Creating Pollinator Habitat,” CSU Master Gardener Ron Hogan will discuss pollinators, their needs to survive, and the plants that attract them so that participants can help support pollinators and ecosystem health in their own backyards. For more information and to register, visit <https://auroraco.libnet.info>.

Historians plan presentation on 17 Mile House background

CENTENNIAL — History buffs can get a closer look at the beginnings of the 17 Mile House and other historic locations along Cherry Creek. Local historians Lee and Jane Whiteley will conduct the presenta-

tion from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, June 14, at the historic farm house, 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial. Participants will make a lavender sachet to take home. The event is free but requires registration due to capacity limits. For more information and to register, visit www.arapahoeco.gov/17milehouse.

Youth organizations 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, June 18, at May Farms in Byers. Guest speakers are representatives of Corridor Communities that Care and Teens for Change. The lunch sponsor is Blue Sky Party Rentals. For more information and to RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday, June 13. Space is limited.

Byers Clean-up Day planned by area senior citizen groups

BYERS — The Tri Valley and Silver & Gold Seniors are inviting neighbors to help with their second annual Byers Clean-up Day starting at 10:30

a.m., Saturday, June 21. Volunteers are urged to show up at the Byers American Legion Post 160, 278 W. Front St., with rakes and mowers in tow to help beautify the entire town in advance of the community’s annual Fourth of July festivities. Trash bags will be provided.

Live country music booked for party at park in Bennett

BENNETT — The Eric Golden Band will be the featured artist at a Party in the Park in Bennett. The party runs from 4-8 p.m., Friday, June 13, at Trupp Park, with the live music commencing at 6 p.m. It will also include an I-70 Corridor Creative Arts League art show and artisan market, a health and safety fair, and a Teens for Change youth art show. Teens for Change and the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will man information booths.

’Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan monthly potluck June 17

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association’s next potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 17, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave. A presentation on senior banking scams is planned. The group, which provides a social outlet for area seniors, meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Mary Humphrey at (303)622-4695.

Worship in the Park planned by Byers Community Church

BYERS — Byers Community Church will host Worship in the Park at 10 a.m. every third Sunday from June through Sept at the Byers Park. Worshippers can bring a lawn chair or sit at the picnic tables under the pavilion as the congregation gathers to reflect on God’s word and enjoy his amazing creation. Specific Worship in the Park dates, weather permitting, are June 15, July 20, Aug. 17 and Sept. 21. Byers Community Church belongs to the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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Arapahoe County conditionally OKs 35-acre oil and gas facility

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County has issued conditional approval to Civitas for its application for the State Sunlight Long oil and gas facility, a 35.21-acre pad approximately 1.46 miles north of County Line Road and 1.61 miles east of South Powhatan Road in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

The pad will support the drilling and operation of up to 32 wells.

The county Public Works & Development department evaluated the application based on oil and gas regulations in Arapahoe County’s Land Development Code.

In 2023 and 2024, the county amended the LDC with additional rules regarding setbacks and air and water quality monitoring. The amendments, the result of years of feedback from experts, residents and other stakeholders, make Arapahoe County’s oil and gas regulations the strictest in the state.

After a thorough review, Public Works determined that the proposed State Sunlight Long facility meets — and in many areas exceeds — the county’s criteria or has qualified for a waiver.

As a result, Public Works & Development Director Bryan Weimer gave conditional approval for the well pad application.

The conditional approval is based upon final approval of an Oil & Gas Development Plan for the site through the Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Commission.

Additional conditions state that:

- the applicant must have county building permits for electrical work and site construction;
- the facility shall be constructed and operated in compliance with the application, plans and other exhibits, and shall comply with all stated best management practices;
- construction plans for the access road and grading erosion, as well as the sediment control plan, must be approved by the city of Aurora, CDPHE, and Bennett-Watkins Fire District, along with Public Works & Development;
- all pipelines proposed for fresh water, as well as produced water, oil and gas, must be approved, constructed, and require final acceptance prior to any construction;
- the applicant will be required to mitigate any adverse impacts to wildlife in high-priority habitat areas;
- the applicant agrees to enter a Stormwater Facility Inspection & Maintenance Agreement prior to the county approval; and
- per Energy & Carbon Management Commission condition of approval on the associated Oil & Gas Development Plan, the site must utilize electrification at all steps in the process.

A complete list of conditions may be found in the approval letter.

Arapahoe County considered all concerns expressed by the public about health, safety, welfare and the environment in its decision, according to a release. A summary of comment themes and discussion is available for review.

“We are committed to balancing these important concerns with responsible development,” Weimer

Fees feedback sought for new oil and gas inspections program

LITTLETON — As part of recently adopted oil and gas regulations, the Arapahoe County is working on launching a new oil and gas inspections program.

This program will start later this year and is intended to provide further protection of public health, safety, welfare and the environment and avoid and mitigate adverse impacts of energy development.

First, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the fees associated with the inspection program. The proposed cost per pad is \$3,000 per pad while the suggested price per well is \$1,500 per year.

As part of the adoption process, the county wants feedback on the fees.

To provide input, visit www.arapahoeco.gov. Feedback will be accepted through Monday, June 16.

The goal of the inspections program will be to visit each well, including closed wells within unincorporated Arapahoe County twice yearly.

Most producing wells within the county are located within 10 miles of Gun Club Road. The county will prioritize the inspections based on the proximity of the wells to residents.

said. “The team evaluated this application, as it will all future applications, through this lens with full confidence in the established protective regulations.”

Mineral rights are property rights protected by Colorado law and take precedence over surface rights, meaning that mineral rights owners have a legal right to enter and use the surface of a property that is reasonable and necessary to extract minerals.



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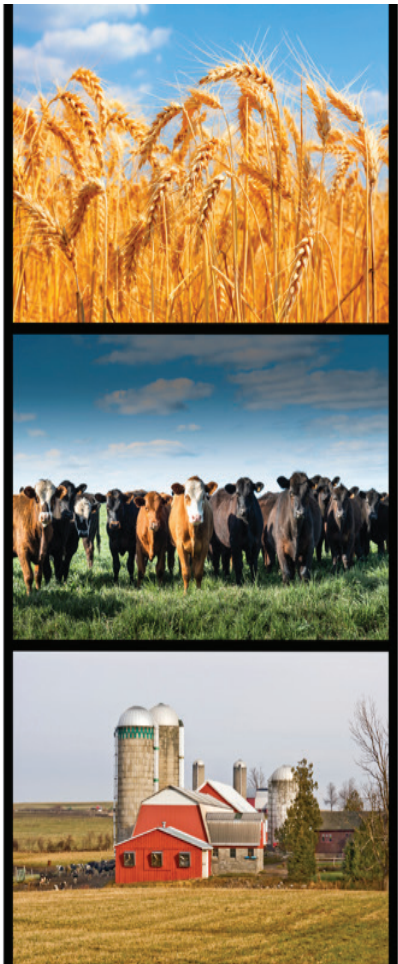
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ARAPAHOE COUNTY

JUNETEENTH

County offices closed

In observance of the State’s Juneteenth holiday, all Arapahoe County offices will be closed **Thursday, June 19.**


Ace your ride

Bike to Work Day



Bike to Work Day is June 25

Arapahoe County is participating in two bike stations. We’ll be at Arapahoe Road Trailhead and the Mary Carter Greenway from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Be sure to stop by for breakfast and a trail map. Commuters and recreational riders are welcome! Details at arapahoeco.gov/biketowork





Fee Change

New State Law Changes Recording Fees

Starting July 1, document recording fees will change to a flat fee of \$43. Per-page fees will no longer be charged, regardless of document length.

For more details about the new fee structure, visit arapahoeco.gov/recording.





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WEEK OF JUNE 9

DRCOG elects '25 board officers

DENVER — Jeff Baker, county commissioner for all of eastern Arapahoe County, was elected chair of the Denver Regional Council of Governments Feb. 19 to serve a one-year term effective immediately.

In addition, Mayor Colleen Whitlow of Mead was elected vice chair; Councilman Richard Kondo of Northglenn, secretary; Mayor Pro Tem Jeslin Shahrezaei of Lakewood, treasurer; and Mayor Steve Conklin of Edgewater, immediate past chair.

“The regional collaboration that DRCOG cultivates is key to many of the issues facing our area, including transportation, our aging population, the environment and housing challenges,” Baker said.

Douglas W. Rex, DRCOG’s executive director, expressed his appreciation to the officers for their willingness to serve.

“We have some real opportunities to make life better for area residents, but it will require strong leadership to achieve them,” he said.

The DRCOG board of directors meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. In addition to its monthly meeting, board work sessions are held at 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Audio, video and presentations from both the meeting and work sessions are posted each month.

DRCOG currently has 59 participating member governments. In addition, the governor appoints three non-voting representatives to the board, and RTD has a non-voting representative.

For more information, visit drcog.org or call (303)455-1000.



Baker



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Denver Regional Council of Government Executive Director Douglas Rex, left, welcomes new board members Richard Kondo, secretary; Colleen Whitlow, vice chair; Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker, chair; Jeslin Shahrezaei, treasurer; and Steve Conklin, past chair.

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/Eastern Colorado News

Recent efforts with the town-wide Byers water improvement project have included underground boring under the railroad tracks and I-70 along the southbound side of Highway 36. Left photo was taken May 31 on the southwest corner of the main Highway 36 intersection in town, while the right photo was taken from the pullout area on the southwest corner of the I-70 interchange.

Rabies found in Arapahoe County bat

AURORA — A bat found in Englewood near Dartmouth Avenue and Santa Fe Drive tested positive for rabies May 29, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment.

The bat was not found in a public area. While this Arapahoe County animal is the first to test positive this year, three creatures have tested positive for rabies in Colorado so far. That number is likely to grow as the summer progresses.

One person exposed to the bat has been contacted to begin treatment to prevent infection and illness.

While Arapahoe County Public Health does not believe anyone else was exposed to this particular bat, they encourage anyone or their pet who recently came into direct contact with a bat to immediately reach out to their health care provider and Arapahoe County Public Health at (303)795-4584 to evaluate risk and any need for treatment.

Rabies is often found in wildlife, particularly in bats and skunks, even in urban areas. Infection is usually fatal in humans and animals once symptoms appear. The disease is transmitted mainly from the bite or scratch of a rabid animal or through exposure to infected saliva. Any mammal can be infected with rabies.

All Arapahoe County residents, regardless of location or proximity to this case, should follow these steps to prevent the spread of disease:

- Do not feed or touch wild animals, including baby animals. Do not bring them into your home. If you do come into direct physical contact with an animal or its saliva, wash the affected area immedi-

ately with soap and water.

- Have conversations with children about avoiding wildlife and notifying an adult immediately if they do encounter an animal.
- If you see an animal that is injured, needs help, looks sick, or is behaving strangely (e.g., a nocturnal animal active during the day, an animal appearing wobbly or disoriented or one exhibiting no fear of humans), contact animal control immediately.
- Ensure pets are up to date on rabies vaccinations and keep them away from any wildlife, dead or alive.
- Do not allow pets to roam free or off-leash and monitor them as much as possible when they are outside in an enclosed yard.
- Contact animal control immediately if an animal gets trapped indoors, as this scenario can pose a significant health risk to the individuals living or visiting that space. In unincorporated Arapahoe County, call (720)874-6750, ext. 4.

If a pet is bitten or scratched by a rabid animal, its owner should:

- notify a veterinarian and Arapahoe County Public Health immediately.
- wash the wound immediately with soap and water, but ensure they cover all exposed skin with gloves, a face mask, and, if possible, glasses or goggles.
- err on the side of caution. Bat bites are tiny and extremely hard to see, and skunk bites can also be small and difficult to identify. If your pet has been around a bat, act as if it was exposed.

CLAUSSEN CHIROPRACTIC



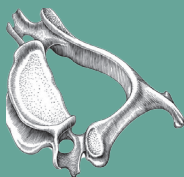
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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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Pop-Up Studio: Library lovers of all ages can experience an event that showcases The Studio, Anythink Libraries’ makerspace, where ideas can be brought to life. A mix of demonstrations and activities are planned. 2-6 p.m., Thursday, June 12.

Build Your Own Electro-Acoustic Instrument: Teens ages 12-18 can use springs, boxes, contact microphones, and more to build an electro-acoustic instrument. They will also learn to pair it with guitar pedals and recording tools to create wild, expressive sounds. 1-2:30 p.m., Friday, June 13.

Paint, Play, Express: Babies and children up to age 6 years old can get creative with early childhood expert Lauren Fine. In this fun, engaging class, little artists will explore self-expression through storytelling, color and hands-on art. Using paint, collage and sensory materials, children will create their own mini masterpieces inspired by feelings, imagination and the world.

Through a playful mix of art, movement, and interactive storytelling, the class encourages creativity, confidence, and self-discovery — all in a fun, supportive environment. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, June 17.

Create a Dreamy Cloud Lantern: Children ages 7-12 can build a dreamy, cloud-shaped nightlight using Grasshopper Kids. They will add their

unique touch and take home a glowing creation to add a cozy vibe to their space. Supplies are limited. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 18.

Petting zoo: Babies and children up to age 6 can meet adorable farm animals from Two by Two, a local petting zoo. The animal will include goats, bunnies, and more in a gentle, hands-on animal experience designed especially for young children.

Participants should gear up for an outdoor day of animal fun with closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10 a.m., to 12 p.m., Tuesday, June 24.

Build (and Beat) the Lava Challenge! Children ages 7-12 can create their own live-action platform game and put their skills to the test. They can guild a course with climbing obstacles, then challenge their friends to see who can master it. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 25.

Create Shark-tastic Memories: How have sharks adapted to rule the ocean? Curious young minds ages 9-11 will dive into this fin-tastic session with the Downtown Aquarium in Denver to uncover the secrets behind these powerful predators. Through dynamic demos and interactive exploration, children will discover shark anatomy and behavior and learn why sharks are essential to keeping ocean ecosystems in balance. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10-10:45 a.m., Thursday, June 26.

Stitch by Stitch – Learn to Knit: Teens

ages 12-18 will learn the fundamentals of knitting in a hands-on class with local expert Denise Brokaw.

Whether a participant is brand new or just needs a refresher, they’ll leave with the skills needed to keep stitching on their own. 2-3:30 p.m., Friday, June 27.

Create with Color – Stained Glass Workshop: Adults can learn the fundamentals of stained glass and create a vibrant sun catcher in this hands-on workshop with Little Glass Art. They will leave with a one-of-a-kind piece to let the light shine through the window. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, June 27.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Tummy time & social hour: Babies can explore while parents and caregivers socialize and share. Early childhood professionals will be on hand, and quilts, toys and books will be provided. 10-11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 12.

Family bingo: Bring the whole family for a fun-filled evening of bingo and prizes at Family Bingo Night. Everyone is welcome, from first timers to bingo pros. Free refreshments will be provided. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Monday, June 16.

Beekkeeping: Adults are invited to a presentation from a local beekeeper on the importance of bees and hive maintenance. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, June 18.

Full Steam Ahead: Children ages 0-5 will explore shapes, sizes, colors, patterns and art and take home a free book, while supplies last. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 25.

Zumba class: Adults of all fitness levels will get moving with a fun, high-energy Zumba class. Instructor Caitlin Phillips will present an easy-to-follow dance fitness program set to Latin and international beats. No dance experience needed. 10-11 a.m., Friday, June 27.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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Friday matinee: All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of “Ron’s Gone Wrong” (2001, rated PG, 1 hour, 46 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, June 13.

Adult book club: “All the Children Are Home” by Patry Francis. 6-7 p.m., Monday, June 16.

Super Forces & Structures: Tweens ages 9-12 will explore basic physics concepts through interactive activities. They can experiment with gyroscopes, build their own block bridges, and more to step into the shoes of a junior architect or engineer with the assistance of Mad Science of Colorado. 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, June 18.

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Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



“What a disappointment! That title is totally misleading!”

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.

MONDAY, JUNE 16
East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Board. 6 p.m., TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave. Call (303)622-4260 for information.
Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.
Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at townofbennett.colorado.gov for information.
Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.
Bennett School Board. 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit bsd29j.com for a Zoom link.

EVERY THURSDAY
Coffee, Cookies & Chat for all I-70 Corridor seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.
Gaming Club: Patrons ages 10 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

EVERY FRIDAY
Preschool story time: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com.
Preschool story time: Children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and other fun activities. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

EVERY SUNDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. in Byers For more information, call (303)903-6734.

EVERY MONDAY
Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.
High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For information, contact Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hpmemusicedirector@gmail.com.

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Sky Ranch accounts for about \$7.5 million. The school district also receives a 5% administrative fee from the charter school.

The charter school is adding a freshman class into the middle school for the upcoming school year and will start construction of a high school this summer; the high school is expected to be operational for the 2026-27 school year.

Purdy added that district administration is working with Sky Ranch officials to make sure that district graduation policies are followed in the new high school. National Heritage Academies, Sky Ranch's umbrella organization, has only a couple of high schools in Michigan and, according to Purdy, "their graduation requirements back there are much different than Colorado's."

According to Finance Director Karla Stratton, the budget for the main campus is based on a conservative student count of 1,150. The last October student count was 1,215 but Purdy reminded the board that this year's senior class of approximately 110 students is being replaced by a current incoming kindergarten class of around 70 kids.

Stratton added that about 72% of budgeted expenses are made up of salaries and benefits. Another \$1.2 million in out-of-district expenses, particularly for special education and other off-campus programs, has been estimated for next year.

OTHER FINANCIAL STUFF

Purdy indicated that the district's cash in lieu balance of roughly \$1.6 million was recently reduced to \$471,000 after closing on the purchase of property next to the Bennett Community Center on the west side of town. The remaining balance can be used on other district needs and is not tied to the memorandum of understanding with the town of Bennett. Later in the May 13 meeting, the board unanimously approved allowing \$100,000 of spending discretion to Purdy for purchase of equipment to address snow removal and other campus maintenance. That money can be spend out of the cash in lieu budget.

Purdy added that the district is currently in line to receive another approximately \$925,000 of cash in lieu from the town that hasn't been allocated yet.

"Things popping up all over the place, so could continue to see that accumulate," she said.

"Cash in lieu" is money the school district receives from developers instead of property for new schools.

The board unanimously approved an updated bus maintenance contract with Sherer's Automotive for the 2025-26 school year. The \$98,000 base for the upcoming year is \$10,000 more than the previous contract, which hadn't changed over the previous five years.

TOWN RELATIONSHIP

School Board President Kyle Meyer said May 13 that the district's strained relationship with the town appears to be improving, starting with efforts to provide non-potable "purple pipe" water to the school's outdoor sporting areas.

Meyer said the south baseball and north baseball/softball fields are first on the itinerary with the practice field above Paul Read Field to follow.

"Hopefully we have the football field itself online by July so we don't lose the grass when it starts to really heat up in July," Meyer said. "Been trying to find hookups at the south field, digging things out, finding some valves and that kind of fun stuff."

In general, Meyer said a meeting with town officials earlier in the month resulted in "several things on the agenda getting addressed."

He added, "I guess it looks like those relationships are being mended a little bit. Another reminder that our little town is growing up."

Tensions between the school district and town have circulated around the imbalance between the development boom throughout Bennett and the amount of funding to help the school keep up with the resulting enrollment jump and the loss of a school resource officer and other legal services when the town switched from the Adams County Sheriff's Office to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office last year.

The board next meets in regular session Wednesday, June 18.

Byers CTE program featured on KUSA



A photojournalist from KUSA channel 9 visited Byers for a feature story on the school's Career & Technical Education (CTE) program May 14. Left photo, the class pauses for a photo with photojournalist Byron Reed. Pictured are instructor Tiffeny O'Dell, Maci Olsen, Reed, Meadow Robinson, Addison Anderson, Adriane Dillingham and Zoey Linnebur. Right, Superintendent Tom Turrell talks medical CTE with Reed in the Byers High School classroom.

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KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Shatzie Wardall, wearing a handmade dress, demonstrates spinning wool at Colonial Days hosted by Wardall's Family Consumer Science classes May 2. Fifth-graders learned about colonial history through the textiles, food, fashion, medical practices of the day, and more. Groups of kids researched a topic and taught the content to small groups of elementary students moving through a series of stations.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., FORD MOTOR CO., AND GENERAL MOTORS/via AP

These used pickups — a Toyota Tacoma mid-size, a Honda Ridgeline mid-size, a Ford F-150 full-size, and a Chevy Silverado full-size are all available for \$25,000 or less.

Edmunds presents best used trucks for under \$25,000

by **Josh Jacquot**
Edmunds Press

Americans love trucks and not just for towing and hauling. As go-to family vehicles we use them for everything from commuting to moving to adventuring. Fortunately, for \$25,000 or less, you can find excellent options in the used market that balance performance, features, utility and durability. Edmunds editors selected five standout trucks in different sizes and personalities and with different strengths. There’s something here for everyone who needs a truck.

2015-2022 CHEVROLET COLORADO

The second-generation Colorado’s three engine options make it a highly utilitarian midsize truck.

Two gas engines — a 200-horsepower four-cylinder and a 300-plus horsepower V6 – are most commonly found. But, starting in 2016, Chevy also offered the Colorado with a fuel-efficient diesel engine. The diesel variant stands out with a towing capacity of up to 7,700 pounds. The diesel available in extended- and crew-cab configurations plus multiple bed lengths. The Z71 off-road trim offers more ground clearance and a very capable suspension that uses unique dampers. Inside, the Colorado features an intuitive infotainment system, with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone integration available in models from 2016 onward.

Colorado pricing: \$18,000 to \$25,000

2014-2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500

The Chevy Silverado 1500 has long been a staple

in the full-size truck market. With an engine lineup of a 4.3-liter V6 and 5.3-liter and 6.2-liter V8 engines, this generation Silverado provides robust towing and hauling capabilities. The V8 can be paired with either a six-speed or eight-speed automatic transmission, depending on the year. These Silverados max out towing at up to 12,500 pounds, depending on configuration, and came in three cab configurations and two bed lengths. In addition to its workhorse reputation, the Silverado is surprisingly comfortable, with higher trims offering premium touches like leather seats and advanced infotainment options. Certain trims from 2016 onward benefit from an 8-inch touchscreen and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity.

**SEE USED TRUCKS
PAGE 10**

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Wednesday, July 2nd
6:00pm - 9:00pm - Byers Annual Rodeo - Tickets \$5 per person
- Event Hosted by BPRD @ Quint Valley Fairgrounds

Thursday, July 3rd
5:00pm - 8:00pm - Byers Fire District Spaghetti Dinner
- (Donation per Meal)
- Event Hosted by Byers Fire Department @ Fire House

Friday July 4th
7:30am - 9:30am - Community Breakfast - Tickets \$5.00 per meal
Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- Event Hosted by Knights of Columbus @ Byers American Legion Hall

10:00am - Annual Parade (Free Event)
-Event Hosted by BPRD @ Front Street in Byers

10:45 - 3:00pm - Street and Vendor Fair Celebration (Free Event)
- Event Hosted by community businesses and BPRD @ Byers community Park

Saturday July 5th
5:00pm - 9:00pm - Community/Family Team Tournaments (Free Event)
Softball-Volleyball-Kickball Tournaments
-Event Hosted by BPRD @ Quint Valley ball fields / Arena

9:00pm - BPRD Firework Display (Free Event)
- Quint Valley Fair Grounds in Byers

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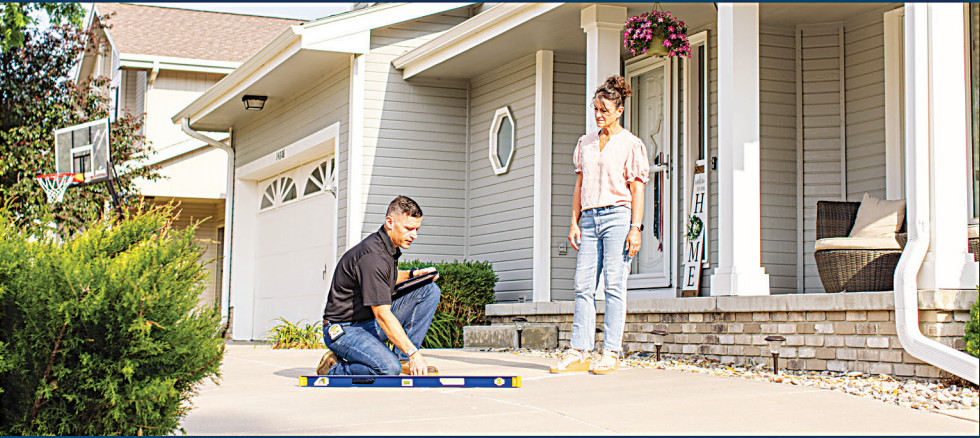


NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET AGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT #300 FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Notice is hereby given that the proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of Agate School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and has been filed in the superintendent's office where it is available for inspection. The proposed budget was approved for adoption at a regular board meeting of the Board of Education at 41032 2nd Ave. in the Agate school cafeteria on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Any person paying school taxes in said district may at any time, prior to the final adoption of the budget, file or register their objections thereof.

Board of Education
Agate School District #300
Dated: May 22, 2025
Shelia Tart, Office Clerk

Published in the Eastern Colorado News on Friday, June 6, 2025 and The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.



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AdCo official wins Trailblazer Award

BRIGHTON — A high-ranking Adams County official has been awarded the distinguished Trailblazer Award by the Colorado City & County Management Association.



According to a release, Senior Deputy Adams County Manager Alisha Reis has consistently broken barriers in a profession where women continue to be under-represented. She has helped shape a more inclusive, equitable

Reis culture within county government, mentoring emerging leaders, championing inclusive hiring and promotion practices, and expanding opportunities for women and other historically marginalized groups.

Reis has remained stagnant at just 13% for more than three decades. Reis has been a powerful force in reversing that trend, not only by rising to top leadership herself but by fostering environments where others can follow, the release continues.

“Alisha’s career is marked by purpose, integrity and advocacy,” said Interim County Manager David Fraser. “She exemplifies the kind of leadership we need in public service — leaders who care deeply about the people they serve and the people they lead. Adams County is stronger because of her.”

Reis was nominated by several peers, including Deputy County Manager Kristin Sullivan, who credited Reis with helping shape her own professional journey.

“Alisha devotes time and care to developing others,” Sullivan said. “She leads with compassion, helps others reflect on their growth, and works to remove barriers to success.”

The Trailblazer Award is presented to individuals and entities that demonstrate exceptional leadership in advancing the role of women in local government.

Reis has also served town manager in Monte Vista, Nederland and Georgetown.

USED TRUCKS FROM PAGE 9

Silverado 1500 pricing: \$15,000 to \$25,000

2015-20 FORD F-150
The 2015-2020 F-150 stands out for its use of lightweight aluminum construction, which aimed to improve fuel efficiency as well as towing and hauling capacities. Depending on the model year, a broad range of engines are available. They include the popular 5.0-liter V8 and a 3.3-liter V6, two turbocharged gas V6s in three output levels, and a turbodiesel V6. Three cab styles are offered, and three bed lengths are available depending on the cab choice.

The F-150’s towing capacity ranges from 7,600 pounds to 13,200 pounds depending on configuration. Inside, higher trims in these model years offer an upscale experience with features like heated and ventilated leather seats and adaptive cruise control.

Ford F-150 pricing: \$16,000 to \$25,000

2017-2022 HONDA RIDGELINE
The Honda Ridgeline, known for its car-like ride quality and innovative features, is a standout in the midsize truck category. Unlike traditional body-on-frame trucks, the Ridgeline uses unibody construction to deliver better on-road handling and ride quality than a traditional truck.

The Ridgeline’s in-bed trunk and dual-action tailgate aren’t found on other midsize trucks. Its V6 engine provides 280 horsepower, which is enough for most buyers.

Additionally, Ridgelines in these

model years are available with advanced driver aids like adaptive cruise control and lane-keeping assistance, which are rare in older trucks.

While the Ridgeline’s towing capacity maxes out at 5,000 pounds — lower than some competitors — it’s perfect for buyers prioritizing comfort, practicality and efficiency over towing or off-road talents.

Ridgeline pricing: \$18,000 to \$25,000

2016-2023 TOYOTA TACOMA
The Toyota Tacoma has earned a cult following for its legendary reliability and off-road prowess. These Tacomas from the truck’s third generation come with either a 2.7-liter four-cylinder or a 3.5-liter V6 engine. Two cab styles and two bed lengths are offered.

With its robust V6 engine and standard features like a composite bed that resists dents and rust, the Tacoma is built to last. Upper trims during these years came with useful driver assist features like blind-spot warning with rear cross-traffic alert and rear parking sensors.

For off-road enthusiasts, the TRD Off-Road trim is the variant to have. It offers Bilstein shocks, a lockable rear differential and advanced traction control tuned for off-road use.

Tacoma pricing: \$16,000 to \$25,000

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HANDS

FROM PAGE 11

hands to move around – such as by climbing trees – as well as to grasp and manipulate objects, a requirement for making tools.

“They were likely walking on two feet and using their hands to manipulate objects or tools, but also spent time climbing and hanging,” perhaps on trees or cliffs, said study co-author and paleoanthropologist Samar Syeda of the American Museum of Natural History.

The findings show there was no simple “evolution in hand function where you start off with more ‘ape-

like’ and end up more ‘human-like,’” said Smithsonian paleoanthropologist Rick Potts.

Complete fossil hands are relatively rare, but the specimens in the study provided the chance to understand the relative forces on each finger, said Chatham University paleontologist Erin Marie Williams-Hatala, who was also not involved in the study.

“Hands are one of the primary ways we engage with world around us,” she said.

The research was published May 14 in *Science Advances*.

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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

Risk of herbicide carryover greater in Eastern Colorado

by **Lovreet Shergille**
Colorado State University; Bayer Company

Herbicide persistence in soils means how long a herbicide stays active in a field after application.

Ideally, the herbicide will control the weeds and then break down. But some herbicides are made to last longer so they keep working through the season. In areas like Eastern Colorado, where soils often contain low organic matter, exhibit high pH, and receive limited rainfall, the risk of herbicide carryover can be elevated.

These conditions slow the breakdown of several herbicide groups, making it essential for producers to understand and manage persistence risks. When herbicides persist in soils, they can negatively impact subsequent crops. Therefore understanding when a herbicide may carryover into the next growing season is important.

Herbicides are grouped according to their active ingredients. Different crops vary in their sensitivity to herbicide residues, and even low concentrations of certain herbicides can lead to crop injury. Herbicide groups, based on their mode of action, help categorize products and predict their environmental behavior and risk potential. Understanding the conditions that promote herbicide or its group to carry over can help reduce crop production risks. This is especially important when rotating to sensitive crops or those with low tolerance to certain herbicide groups.

HERBICIDE GROUPS AND THEIR CARRYOVER POTENTIAL

Factors influencing herbicide carryover include the herbicide chemistry (some carryover while others do not), soil type, and environmental conditions. Knowing the herbicide group numbers will aid in assessing carryover risks. Herbicides in group 9,10, and 22 (EPSPS, GS-inhibitor, and PSI-inhibitor) are generally are not associated with carryover risk.

However, herbicides in several other groups are known to persist and may carryover from year to

year. Group 9 is glyphosate, Group 10 is glufosinate, and Group 22 is paraquat. These herbicides are not known to persist in soils over the long term. Group 4 herbicides, which includes auxin inhibitors (2,4-D and dicamba), may persist in soils, though typically for a short duration. Sensitive crops, such as soybean or sunflower, are more likely to be affected.

One should note that some Group 4 herbicides are also notorious for drifting due to volatility. These herbicides can vaporize and travel to other fields, even after application, particularly under temperature inversion conditions, when cooler air is trapped near the ground. This allows the vapor to move sideways, potentially injuring nearby sensitive crops like soybeans or sunflowers.

Herbicide groups known to persist in soils include groups 2, 5, 14 and 27. Group 2 herbicides (ALS inhibitors), such as imazethapyr and some others, are known for their high persistence due to their low water solubility and slow microbial degradation, especially in dry or alkaline soils. Other groups may also persist, but many of them have shorter half-lives and therefore pose a lower risk of long-term carryover. Herbicides in group 5 are widely used and known to carryover in certain conditions. This group includes herbicides such as atrazine and metribuzin among others.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOIL FACTORS INFLUENCE PERSISTENCE

Herbicide carryover is influenced by environmental conditions, soil type, and the herbicide itself. Climate is important because dry soil conditions during the growing season can extend the activity of a herbicide. Soil moisture promotes microbial activity, which helps break down certain herbicides. Therefore, a wet year can accelerate herbicide degradation, reducing the risk of carryover.

Soil temperature also plays a key role, as microbial activity generally increases under warmer conditions, promoting herbicide degradation. Additionally, herbicide formulations can vary in their persistence, and microencapsulated forms may

release the active ingredient more slowly than water-soluble ones.

Soil organic matter and pH are two additional factors that influence herbicide activity and persistence in the environment. Typically, soils in Eastern Colorado contain organic matter levels of less than 1.5% and pH levels above 7. Some eroded hilltops recorded pH levels near 8, which is highly alkaline. Both soil characteristics can increase the risk of herbicide carryover with some herbicide groups. As discussed above, there are known herbicide groups that have a history of herbicide persistence in our soils.

TESTING OPTIONS FOR SUSPECTED HERBICIDE CARRYOVER

When herbicide persistence is suspected, two common methods for testing soil for herbicide residues can be used.

Lab tests can be performed with high herbicide accuracy; however, there is a cost involved with this method. Depending on the herbicide and laboratory, costs may range from \$300 to \$600 per sample and can detect levels as low as parts per million.



Another option is the “can” test. This test can be performed by anyone at a lower cost. To perform the test, simply collect soil from several locations within a suspect field at depths of 0–6 in. Mix the soil sample thoroughly and place it into a small container.

Then, plant tomato seeds. Water the container regularly, place the container in direct sunlight, and observe it over 7-10 days. If tomato plants emerge and grow normally, the risk of herbicide carryover is minimal.

Although the ‘can’ test offers a cost-effective alternative, it has limitations. Not all herbicides affect tomatoes equally, and the test may not detect the residues of herbicides with crop-specific injury profiles.


For more accurate results, indicator plants relevant to the planned rotational crop should be used. Knowing whether a herbicide is active will greatly reduce the risk of losing a newly planted crop.

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Things to do...
...to celebrate.

With Dad:

- swim
- relax
- movie
- picnic
- long talk
- hike; stroll
- go-kart rides
- miniature golf
- do something new
- wash, wax, buff car

For Dad:

- welcome him when he comes home from work
- chip in for cool sunglasses
- coffee, quiet, newspaper
- make a card or cake
- clean and wash car
- breakfast in bed
- hang hammock
- clean playroom
- take out trash

Father's Day is a special day. It is a time to show Dads everywhere how much we care about them. Here is a list of things to help you think about something special that you can do to celebrate Father's Day. Read the list. Could these surprises also be done on another day to treat your father?

C'mon...stop playing video games long enough to at least make Dad a nice Father's Day card!

Happy Father's Day and we're not kidding!

W_rld's B_st D_d!

Fill in the spaces with vowels to spell out how we feel about our Dads. My Dad likes to cook outside. He is the K_ng of the Gr_ll!

Just like my Dad, I can see well at night and have excellent hearing.

Father's Day:

- is held on the third Sunday in _____ in the USA, but may be on a different date in other countries.
- is a day to honor our _____ and grandfathers.
- is celebrated in many countries around the _____.
- in _____ is full of fun runs, pot-luck lunches and presents or hand-made artwork for dads.
- is a newer idea in _____. Children may give cards or flowers to their dads. Families may eat out at a restaurant or go to a movie together.
- in _____ (Chichi no hi) may include gifts of fancy beef (like Kobe beef) or eel for dads. Children may make an origami paper item with a message or put a little gift inside it.
- in South _____ is celebrated by people going fishing during the day and having a seafood feast at dinnertime.
- in _____ is sometimes celebrated by families hanging a skeleton outside of their homes to represent "Padre Esqueleto" or "Father Skeleton."

Hot dog! It's Father's Day!

Africa

India

fathers

Japan

Uruguay

June

Mexico

world

hardworking
handsome
listening
helpful
strong
loving
caring
gentle
there
kind
firm
fun

My Dad wears more than one hat. He teaches fire safety and is a volunteer fireman too!

Can you find and circle all of these words that tell about Dads?

Getting to the Top of Things!

HARDWORKING
FYISOUYFEOUT
HEWFOPOMCARING
EHMIMOYRWSTUSN
LISTENINGPSIPI
PUTRDCVEINTELV
FUNIHBNITEIASO
ULGOUTHEREMUQL
LNOILKAORTNVWS
IKYEUTEPAQESNR

A Dad is a...

Every dad does things differently. Each has his own style. When you finish this puzzle you will have a list that tells about Dads.

1. Study each picture. Write the beginning letter of each picture in the box.

2. Next, unscramble the words (they begin with the letter in the box).

3. One word in each group does not tell anything about fathers. Cross out that word. The first one is done for you.

fair

fin

twicae

mdnola

estesa

wgit

sleph

khon

engeercit

lef

dsaer

trboo

Who is This Great Guy?

Who is...
older than Dad,
a great guy too,
likes to have lots
of fun with you?

Use crayons, pencils
or markers to color in
this puzzle to find out
who this great guy is:

Color Key:
B = Blue
Y = Yellow

Who is This Great Guy?

Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2024

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JUNE 14, 2005

The area that once contained approximately 138 million gallons of industrial waste is now entering the final stages of cleanup. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a public hearing, addressing the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site June 8 at the Aurora Public Library.

Bonnie Lavelle, remedial project manager, explained although there were few citizens that attended the hearing it is the EPA’s responsibility to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed plan.

What was once a major hazard is now considered a contained site after the efforts of the EPA.

Through out 1980s, millions of tires were brought to the site. The site tires were laid on top go the waste that had been placed in three separate pits. The pits were 20-30 feet deep. This is why the area is named the former Tire Pile Area Waste Pits. The site accepted both industrial waste and municipal solid waste to dispose there.

15 YEARS AGO
JUNE 15, 2010

Corridor residents are asking if they did something to tick off Mother Nature after hail pummeled Byers, Deer Trail and surrounding areas June 10 and Strasburg and areas north of I-70 the following evening.

Thursday’s evening’s storm dropped baseball-size hail that punched holes in roofs, shattered windows and windshield, and dented car bodies.

“That had to be the biggest I’ve ever seen and boy did it come down hard. It sounded like a shotgun when it hit any hard surface,” said Deer Trail resident Gerald Mergel. “It wasn’t a lot of hail overall, but what did fall was sure destructive.

Reports from gas station attendants indicated that several cars on I-70 were forced to pull into Deer Trail after windshields were broken or busted.

10 YEARS AGO
JUNE 16, 2015

DENVER — Three suburban Denver cities are suing Adams County to stop it from collecting taxes from recreational marijuana businesses already being taxed by the cities and the state.

The lawsuit filed the last week of May argues Adams County shouldn’t get tax revenue because it doesn’t have a regulatory system for recreational pot sales like the cities that are suing. The lawsuit also contends Adams County lacks legal authority to impose the tax, which voters approved in November.

Aurora, Commerce City, and Northglenn filed the lawsuit. Commerce City is in Adams County, and portions of Aurora and Northglenn areas as well.

The lawsuit filed in Adams District Court says the cities and their marijuana businesses “will be harmed by imposing on customers an unauthorized special marijuana sales tax.” It also says the tax puts businesses at a competitive disadvantage with municipalities that don’t have an additional tax.

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

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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 23

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2025. There are 203 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On June 11, 1963, the University of Alabama was desegregated as Vivian Malone and James Hood became the first two Black students allowed to enroll in

classes; Alabama segregationist and Gov. George Wallace initially blocked the doorway to the auditorium where course registration was taking place, delivering a speech before deferring to National Guard orders to move.

ON THIS DATE

In 1776, the Second Continental

Congress appointed the Committee of Five (composed of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman) to draft a declaration of independence from Great Britain, to be completed in the subsequent 17 days.

1955, in motor racing’s worst disaster, more than 80 people

were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, Frank Morris, Clarence Anglin and John Anglin, prisoners at Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay, staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft. They were never

found or heard from again.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 80. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 76. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 75. Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 69. Actor Hugh Laurie is 66.

— Associated Press

HOROSCOPE

The Sweet Strawberry Moon

The universe is expanding at somewhere shy of 50 miles a second, and we’re moving right along with it — the sun, the moon, and you, as much a part of the expansion as any element in the universe. And yet, with all the commotion, somehow there’s still only one moment, and that moment is always now. The Strawberry Moon offers “now” at peak sweetness — ours to savor, not to save. Bite in!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your curiosity is naturally self-reinforcing, so your learning has momentum. The more you know, the more you want to know. Because you pursue your interest deeply and consistently, it will evolve into mastery, then wealth.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stronger move is often the softer one. It takes real fortitude to forgive, and true confidence to show compassion. Those who feel weak may lash out, but you see the fear beneath that. You see your own, too, and step forward anyway.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You respect the complexity of a situation and tune into social nuance. All you witness is alive with narrative and motive. Your curious mind will rush to fill in blanks and leap to predict people’s next moves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Anger can motivate a mission, or it can explode and burn a bridge. Fear can keep you safe and sound, or it can shut down an opportunity to grow. Feelings aren’t inherently good or bad. It’s what you do with them that matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You’re bursting with creativity, which can make it challenging to focus on mundane work. The charge of creativity is so powerful, it seems as though small projects could be blown up by the wattage. And you could be right about that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There’s nothing wrong with wanting ease. You’re allowed to leave something not because it’s unbearable but because it’s not right. You deserve a context — a person, a path, a place — where you feel like yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Reminis-

cence is the theme. You’ll be driven to compare and contrast what’s going on now with the past. Generating good feelings is all about giving stories a spin you can feel good about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don’t let fear, scarcity or your past identity impose limits. Make decisions from a place of abundance, not because you have endless resources but because you have what’s even more powerful: hope and clarity of vision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everyone is a mystery, but some of the people around you hold mysteries that are better left unexplored. Where should you aim your curious mind today? Focus it inside yourself. Put your energy into understanding and constructing your own story.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If one minute you’re calm and the next you’re overwhelmed, chalk it up to memories, instincts, unmet needs and chemical shifts — all spontaneous emotion that’s bypassed the rational gatekeeper. It erupts. It reveals. And today it just happens.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not every goal is one you have to climb to. There are some goals you can coast to. They might be treasures you missed when you were rushing to the top. Point your nose down the path and let the momentum roll you to the gold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don’t waste time wishing emotions away. Use them. They’re not just feelings — they’re currents you can channel into something productive or meaningful. Emotion is energy, and energy is power.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (June. 11). Life has a cinematic quality. Sharp instincts are the secret talent that has you choosing well across the board — friends who delight and fortify you, love that enriches you, work that makes you strong and useful. Progress toward your goal is swift. More highlights: Treasure hunting, events that stoke family pride, and being happily released from an outdated rulebook — enthralling new games ensue. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 13, 8 and 30.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: SUMMER VIBES

ACROSS

ACROSS

1. Baking ingredient

5. Accounting pro

8. Depletes

12. ___ reflection

13. Painter Chagall

14. Feeling of resentment

15. Member of Germany’s NSDAP

16. ___ lily

17. Light shade of blue

18. *Summer thirst quencher

20. Same as tsar

21. Subside

22. Tierra ___ Fuego

23. Taken without consent

26. Even greener, as in fruit

30. Dot follower

31. Largest hot dessert

34. Australian palm

35. Evian, backwards

37. A in FANBOYS

38. *Like a lightning bug

39. Prima donna

40. *Midsummer’s maypole dance, e.g.

42. *William Blake’s “To Summer,” e.g.

43. Any voting citizen

45. *Sun to ice cream

47. Feeling of veneration

48. Two-door

50. *Beach bag, usually

52. *Summer rays

55. Rock bottom

56. Altar location

57. Milk ___, candy

59. Small stream

60. Turned to the right, like a horse

61. Starchy tuber

62. *It’s knee-high by the 4th of July

63. Ctrl and Delete partner

64. Type of tide

DOWN

1. * ___-kissed

2. Birthstone after sapphire

3. Nod off

4. Kind of instinct

5. Diamond weight unit

6. Bluenose

7. Climber’s destination

8. *Intensely hot

9. Greenish blue

10. Make like a cat

11. “Monkey ___, monkey do”

13. Sometime in the future

CROSSWORD

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
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55						56			57			58
59						60			61			
62						63				64		

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14. Indianapolis basketball player

19. With BMI over 30

22. Piece of evidence, acr.

23. Type of probe

24. *Summer hiking path

25. Nose of a missile

26. Pakistani tongue

27. Sitcom trial

28. Lyric poem

29. Less experienced

32. *Boat ___, don’t care!

33. *Uninvited picnic guest

36. *Break from summer routine

38. First in Hebrew alphabet

40. Fish eggs

41. Entertained

44. Twist plus jerk

46. City in Netherlands

48. Precious metal extraction cup

49. Early stages

50. #61 Across cousin

51. ___-Eaters

52. Literary genre

53. In the buff

54. Collection of Norse mythology

55. Oldest of the “Big Three” TV networks

58. Dip into liquid

ANSWERS ON PAGE 23



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout
Maurice Kadinger, left, and Damien Garcia celebrate during Strasburg’s graduation ceremony May 18.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
Byers seniors Jon Hise, left, and Shadra Mikita were part of commencement ceremonies May 18.



ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout
Ernesto Herrera Marquez receives his diploma during commencement ceremonies for Prairie Creeks High School in the Strasburg High School big gym May 17.



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout
Mahamud Hussein is tossed into the air by fellow Deer Trail graduates May 24.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
Clockwise from above left, Bennett graduate Veronica Mota Garcia waves to members of the crowd after receiving her diploma May 23; Wyatt Farley holds onto his mortar board while playing the drums to conclude his high school music career; and graduation front row members Vivi Cranwill, left, Wesley Conklin, Angelia Castilleja, and Kanyah Brown try to stay warm during the cool, brisk conditions.



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ArapCo jail: New kitchen, laundry upgrades complete, focus shifts to medical, mental health improvements

CENTENNIAL – The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has reached a significant milestone in its multi-phase expansion of its detention facility with the completion of a state-of-the-art kitchen and laundry facility.

The upgrade will support the growing inmate population by improving daily operations and enhancing the standard of care within the facility.

By relocating kitchen and laundry services, the county is paving the way for one of the most significant elements of the expansion: the addition of 43 new medical and behavioral health beds. Once completed, the number of specialized care beds will increase to 64, providing more capacity for treatment, evaluation and rehabilitation.

"The completion of the kitchen and laundry was a critical first step," said Sheriff Tyler Brown. "But now our focus shifts to expanding medical and

Troopers present 5 habits to reduce distracted driving

GOLDEN — Small changes can make a big difference.

Colorado state troopers want drivers to adopt a new behavior to reduce distractions. Last year, state troopers issued 13,252 citations for improper, reckless or careless driving and investigated 268 fatal and serious injury crashes involving a distracted driver.

"When we conduct crash investigations caused by distracted drivers, often it is a small thing that steals the drivers' focus from the most important thing at that moment — driving," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol chief. "We may drive the same roads daily, but nothing is ever 'routine.' Other drivers, pedestrians, animals and weather can require us to react quickly or adjust our speed."

In 2024, investigators identified the most common human factors in the 268 fatal and serious injury crashes involving distracted driving. They found that interior distractions (such as insects and non-food objects on the floor and within the vehicle, not including distractions by a passenger) topped the list, accounting for more than a third of the crashes. The top five human factors are:

- interior distraction: 36.5% (98 crashes);
 - exterior distraction: 21.6% (58 crashes);
 - sleepiness or fatigue: 21% (57 crashes);
 - distraction by another occupant: 9.7% (26 crashes); and
 - eating/drinking distraction: 3.7% (10 crashes).
- Becoming a less distracted driver can be done by changing one's mindset and driving habits.
- The Colorado State Patrol advises drivers to start with these five habits:
- adjust navigation, music and car settings before leaving;
 - use the "Do Not Disturb" mode on phones and deliberately keep electronics out of reach.
 - make sure children and pets are properly secured before driving.
 - make a rule to never eat or drink in the vehicle; and
 - if drowsy, pull off the road and take a quick nap.

behavioral health services. Increasing the number of medical and behavioral health beds will allow our staff to better meet the growing mental health needs of individuals in our care."

Initially constructed in 1986 to house fewer than 400 inmates, the jail now regularly holds more than double that number and sometimes has close to 1,000 inmates. The expansion responds to a growing need for enhanced infrastructure and services brought on by population growth and increased demand for mental health support in correctional settings.

The entire expansion was funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds, with completion of the construction on the medical and behavioral health wing expected in April 2026. The initiative underscores the county's commitment to improving public safety, inmate care, and long-term community well-being, according to a release.

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There will be a 90-day probationary period in which the person selected will serve under the General Supervision of the Manager Kagen Kitzman, before being hired full-time. Persons must be at least 21 years of age, with a high school diploma or equivalent, possess a valid drivers license and maintain a driving record acceptable to Byers Water & Sanitation District insurance provider, applicant must be able to pass a background check, pass a drug screening, and be able to be insured and bonded, prior to job offer.

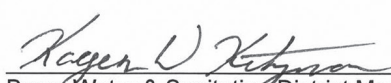
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Please submit resumes to Byers Water & Sanitation District – P.O Box 301 Byers, CO 80103 by mail, in person at 421 S. Sherman St. Byers, CO 80103, or by email to bh2os@netecin.net.

Resumes Must be Submitted by: June 16th, 2025 by 5:00pm.



Byers Water & Sanitation District Manager

Published in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, May 23 and 30, and June 6 and 13, 2025, and *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, May 28, and June 4 and 11, 2025.



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2nd Annual Byers Cleanup Day
10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 21
Meet at the American Legion
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Trash bags provided!

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Free, free, free. Pick up of autos, farm equipment, batteries, all nonferrous metal types. Also available for a minimal fee, pick up of appliances, TVs, piles, etc. Call Blaine today at (303)819-7659. 6/11c

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P	R	O	D		A	R	Y	A		E	D	U	C	E	
R	O	S	A		G	E	A	R		N	A	T	A	L	
	G	E	P	P	E	T	T	O			D	R	E	G	
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M	A	S	S	E	D			M	I	N	I	B	A	R	
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2	7	8	6	5	4	3	1	9
6	1	4	8	9	3	7	2	5
9	5	3	7	1	2	8	4	6
8	9	1	2	4	6	5	7	3
4	2	7	9	3	5	6	8	1
3	6	5	1	7	8	2	9	4
5	8	9	3	2	1	4	6	7
1	4	2	5	6	7	9	3	8
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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
While not running as heavily as it did on Memorial Day, the rebuilt Bijou Creek low-water crossing on County Road 2 between Strasburg and Byers was still flowing on June 7.

FLOOD WARNING FROM PAGE 1

“The loss of one resident is too many, and this new system, which worked just as designed over the weekend, is one step in hopefully preventing it from ever happening again,” said District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker in the county’s June 2 statement.

Last week’s heavy rains in the area did not lead to re-triggering of the notification system.

“Just heard from Public Works and there has been no trigger warning since the end of May,” a county spokeswoman said June 8.

Between June 2-6, much of the I-70 Corridor from Watkins through Agate received another 2-3 inches; however, many of those areas were inundated with isolated, but severe, cloudbursts.

Most notably was at least 1.5 inches of rain that reportedly fell in and around Deer Trail Friday.

“Almost had to pull over because we couldn’t hardly see when we were driving through Deer Trail,” said Colorado Wheat Executive Director Brad Erker, who was driving from Burlington to Roggen in between wheat field days midafternoon June 6. “It was really coming down hard.”

“Emptied out my rain gauge with 1.7 inches just from that time alone,” added Deer Trail resident Spencer Bell, who added that the storm appeared to sit directly over town with-

out much movement for an extended period of time.

Patrick Duff, another Deer Trail resident, said, “My wife was heading into a Rockies game and, when she left, it was pouring here but she said by the time she got to the (Richmil) Open Space (about a mile west of town), there was nothing.”

Areas south and west of Deer Trail in Elbert County were among the hardest hit areas Friday night, with double-digit reporters on the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network recording 0.6 inches or more of precipitation.

On June 5, a handful of CoCo-RAHS reporters also reported over an inch of precipitation around Bennett, Watkins and south again into Elbert County, including 1.82 inches 2-4 miles north Elizabeth. An Adams County report less than two miles north of Watkins showed 1.27 inches.

While not running as heavily as it was on Memorial Day, the rebuilt Bijou Creek low-water crossing on County Road 2 between Strasburg and Byers was still flowing through June 7.

Most other creek drainages, most notably Kiowa Creek near Bennett and Box Elder between Manila Road and Watkins, are also running heavier than normal.

UNDERSHERIFF FROM PAGE 1

investigation. In the meantime, Undersheriff Gregory has been placed on paid administrative leave, which is standard procedure. After the ongoing outside investigation, the Adams County Sheriff’s Office will conduct an internal investigation to determine if any internal policy violations occurred during the incident.”

A spokesperson with the 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, which includes Adams County, said last week the office had not received any information on the situation.

Sherman confirmed June 6 that Gregory remained on paid leave.

Gregory has been with the sheriff’s office since 1999 and was promoted from division chief to undersheriff in March 2022 under previous Sheriff Rick Reigenborn. Gene Claps is the current Adams County Sheriff.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Adams County Sheriff’s Office officials celebrate National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 17 with its dispatch team at the Adams County Communications Center (ADCOM). The occasion recognized the vital contributions of 911 dispatchers who serve as the critical link between the public and emergency services — police, fire and EMS. They handle emergency calls, dispatch responders, provide life-saving instructions over the phone, and stay calm under pressure to help others during their most stressful moments. Pictured are dispatcher Kristina Kenaston, foreground, Undersheriff Paul Gregory, left, Capt. Alex Kondos, and Cmdr. John Bitterman, who works in eastern Adams County.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
While drainage improvements have not been entirely completed at the interchange of Highway 36 (Colfax Avenue) and Kiowa-Bennett Road, intermittent traffic backups on both roadways came to an end in late May. The project includes installation of a new concrete culvert and widened drainage channels along the northbound side of Kiowa-Bennett Road and the eastbound side of Highway 36.



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