



The I-70 Scoult

Volume 31, Number 29

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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Sources: 2 Strasburg School staff fired

Supt. cites policy violations in sex assault case response but doesn't confirm releases

by Steven Vetter

Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Two of the five fate this week. Strasburg School District personnel suspended April 11 in relation to a the top two middle school adminstudents versus student gang sexual istrators were told of their release violated at least one district policy;

Sources close to the situation said report.

assault in Hemphill Middle School a during June 12 meetings with Super- due to confidentiality requirements, couple days earlier have apparently intendent Kelle Bongard and another we will not share further details rebeen fired and a third one awaits their executive level staff member; howev- garding personnel status," Bongard er, Bongard did not fully confirm the said in a June 13 e-mail reply to The

"Two employees were found to have

I-70 Scout. "Two employees have

SEE STRASBURG SCHOOL



JaLee Kitzman clashes cymbals during the "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue" concert hosted by the High Plains Music Ensemble June 7 at the Bennett School auditorium. SEE PAGE 13.

Options for new Bennett-Watkins fire station remain under review

by Steven Vetter Managing Editor

end of the Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection District continues to add more development, the push for a new firehouse remains strong, but option is proving difficult.

board meeting, Bennett-Wat- station. kins Assistant Fire Chief Caa metal building to serve as mates might indicate.

"We talked with Morton (Buildings), and while they not their bread and butter and it would require a lot of piece-mealing," Connor a new high school is planned said. "The number off the bat for Sky Ranch. sounds good - less than \$2.5million — but that's just the **OTHER BUSINESS** shell. A lot of third-party work

to be done on-site, (including) responses totaled 127 in May the things out, [the expense] goes back up to \$4.5 million quickly. It wasn't quite what we hoped what it was."

Connor indicated that comfinding a more cost-effective mand staff will continue to work with Allred & Associates During the June 13 fire to develop plans for a the new

During its April 10 meeting, leb Connor told directors that the fire board approved a letter of engagement and design the new firehouse in the Sky services contract not to ex-Ranch subdivision isn't as ceed \$30,000 with Allred for cost-effective as original esti- three projects, including another Bennett station and administrative office expansion.

"Really comfortable with could meet our needs, it's their 30 years of specializing in fire houses," Connor said.

In addition to more homes,

Connor reported that call research fee.

all the concrete. You figure and that, through June 12, \$1 million in civil (engineer- the 634 year-to-date total was BENNETT — As the west ing) and subbing the rest of 22 ahead of last year's record

> "Averaging right around four calls per day, so staying fairly busy," Connor said. "Still think it's mostly a matter of the area continuing to grow in population."

> Among the bills paid in May was \$15,000 to the vendor of the annual Bennett Days fireworks show. The town of Bennett will reimburse the fire district at least \$4,000 of that expense.

> The board OK'd the engagement letter with The Adams Group for the upcoming audit. The motion included a not-to-exceed amount of \$17,675. Last year's audit cost \$17,100.

> Amendments to the district's public records policy were unanimously approved, including a new \$41 per hour

Corridor crashes aplenty June 8-12; no fatalities reported

by Steven Vetter Managing Editor

A handful of crashes dotted the Corridor last week, especially in and around Bennett, but none of them involved life-threatening or fatal injuries.

Sunday morning commuters getting off on the I-70 crunched grey sedan was on the off-ramp. the wrong side of the eastbound off-ramp guard rail. THREE IN UNDER 10 HOURS The vehicle went off the left area before hitting and bending the east-to-west portion of the guard rail.

According to Capt. Clint Rushing with the Colorado

State Patrol's Troop 3D Office from Limon, the crash occurred at 3:41 a.m.

"The vehicle was driven by 24-year-old Jonatan Rodriguez of Brighton," Rushing said. "Rodriguez was not injured in the crash and was cited for careless driving."

No road closures were reported but drivers of pass-Bennett interchange June ing-by vehicles had to avoid 8 saw a strange sight as a debris that was strewn about

Law enforcement and emerside of the off-ramp, took out gency responders had a busy signage, and ran up the berm late afternoon and overnight stretch June 11-12.

A little after 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, state troopers

SEE CRASHES



An early morning crash at the Bennett interchange showed both the vehicle and the eastbound off-ramp guard rail both PAGE 22 worse for wear June 8. No injuries were reported but the driver was charged with careless driving.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

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.

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 additional information and to register, visit https://auroraco.libnet.

DT Pioneer Museum is open every Saturday thru August will be accepted to help fund youth

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail Pioneer Museum will again be open from 2-4 p.m. every Saturday in June, July and August this summer.

The museum is located at Second and Fir streets next to the town park. Admission is free. Donations are

For more information, call (303)884-8365.

appreciated.

Showing of 'The Sand Lot' set for 6/20 in Strasburg

STRASBURG — In celebration of softball and baseball season, the Center, 1932 Burton St. Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a viewing of "The Sand Lot"

Lemonade stand earns \$360 for Byers firefighters



Members of the Byers 10-and-under youth baseball team showed off their salesmanship skills May 31 by selling lemonade at Highways 36 and 40 and Main Street in Byers. The kids, led by Dusty Wamsley, sold \$360 worth of lemonade with all proceeds going to the Byers Fire Department. Local responders visited the stand themselves and posed for a photo with the young philanthropists. Pictured are, from left, Byers cadet Makayla Friedrich, Byers firefighter Brandon Rowley and baby daughter Rosalie, Dalton Stark, Wamsley, Mavrick Duff, and Byers firefighter Dorsey Guffey; and front row, Jen Roque from Strasburg Fire Rescue, Tanisha Anderson with Byers Fire Rescue, Clara Stark and Haylynn Duff.

on a huge 24-foot movie screen.

dusk on Friday, June 20, at the North Baseball Field, 56401 Sunset Ave. or South Softball Field, 1932 Burton St., both in Strasburg.

Admission is free, but donations programs and scholarships.

Viewers should bring chairs and blankets. Concessions will be available for an additional charge.

Early registration ends soon for gymnastics, cheer season

STRASBURG — The early bird deadline to register for Quarter 3 of Twisters Gymnastics & Cheer is Friday, June 20.

Monday, June 30, through Tuesday,

Registration after Thursday, June annual Fourth of July festivities. 26, costs an additional \$25.

Participants can choose from recre-Seating will open one hour before ational gymnastics, cheer classes, or competitive team programs for ages 2 and up.

> Each class is carefully constructed to motivate the children in a fun and progressive environment with the primary emphasis on safety and proper training methods for injury prevention and physical growth.

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 season runs 12 weeks from the Byers American Legion Post 160, 278 W. Front St., with rakes and mow-Sept. 30, at the Strasburg Recreaton ers in tow to help beautify the entire town in advance of the community's

Trash bags will be provided.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Morgan Community College centers closed in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. No classes scheduled. All locations reopen June 20.

Strasburg American Legion Post 183. 6:30 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit Board of Education at byers32j.k12.co.us for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.

Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Pancake breakfast. 8-10:30 a.m., Deer Trail Elks Lodge, 664 Second Ave. \$10 per plate while supplies last.

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.

Free Foam Day. 1-3 p.m., Strasburg Community Park, 1867 Wagner St. Children should bring a towel, sandals and goggles. The foam is nontoxic and similar to soap.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoeconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Senior citizen game day. 1-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.

Bennett Board of Trustees. Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit townofbennett.colorado.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	7	8	6	5	4	3	1	9
6	1	4	8		3	7	2	5
9	5	3		1	2	8	4	6
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5	8	9	3	2	1	4	6	7
1	4	2	5	6	7	9	3	8
7	3	6	4	8	9	1	5	2

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate addresses: \$30/year

Out-of-area within CO: \$44/year* Outside Colorado: \$48/vear* *All subscribers outside the I-70 Corridor also receive The I-70 Scout at no extra charge.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

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

DEADLINE FOR NEWS, **CLASSIFIEDS** & DISPLAY **ADVERTISING:** 5 P.M. FRIDAY



Publisher & Editor

Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

Office Manager

LuAnne Stegner • Istegner@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, Baylee Sigg, Coral Oliveros Wednesday, June 18, 2025 The I-70 Scout • 3



An American Airlines jetliner that caught fire after landing the previous day at Denver International Airport sits near a hangar at the airport, March 14, 2025, in Denver.

NTSB: Fuel leak, improperly installed engine parts cited in March plane fire

by Josh FunkAssociated Press

A fuel leak and several improperly installed parts were found inside the engine of an American Airlines plane that caught fire after the plane landed in Denver in March, according to a report released June 5.

The National Transportation Safety Board said one part inside the right engine of the Boeing 737-800 was loose and had been installed in the wrong direction and that fuel was leaking from the fitting of another part that was also fastened incorrectly.

The preliminary findings don't identify the cause of the fire because the NTSB won't reach that conclusion until after it completes its investigation likely sometime next year.

But former NTSB and FAA investigator Jeff Guzzetti said the problems investigators found in the engine appear to be the source of the fuel that caught fire.

"To me, it looks like improper the engine and caught fire. maintenance in the right engine The American Airlines leading to a fuel leak," Guzzetti said after reading the NTSB report.

The American Airlines left Colorado Springs Air was bound for Dallas-Fo

Photos and videos posted online wher showed billowing smoke and passengers standing on the plane's wing gine after it taxied to a gate at Denver International Airport. Twelve people were taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

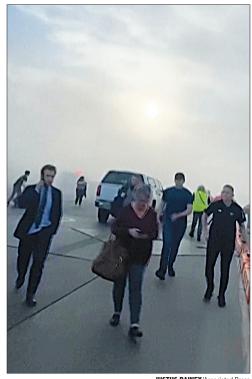
Passengers and videos posted online where the passengers are under the plane's wing gine gate.

The plane carried 172 passengers and six crew. The NTSB said gate workers extinguished the fire within a minute even before firefighters arrived and doused lingering hot spots on the plane.

American Airlines said in a statement that "the safety of our customers and team members is our top priority, and we are cooperating with the National Transportation Safety Board in its investigation."

Pictures included in the NTSB report show streaks on the outside of the engine from the leaking fuel, and airport video showed a trail of fluid leaking from under the right engine as the airplane taxied to the gate.

Guzzetti said he believes those The streaks were probably made while man the plane was flying. After it landed, tion.



JUSTUS RAINEY/Associated

Passengers move away from a plane as smoke surrounded the aircraft, in Denver, March 13.

he said, the fuel likely pooled inside the engine and caught fire.

The American Airlines flight had left Colorado Springs Airport and was bound for Dallas-Fort Worth when it diverted to Denver on March 13 after the crew reported high engine vibrations. The plane's right engine caught fire after it arrived at the gate

Passengers started yelling "fire" and "smoke" shortly after the plane pulled up to the gate, and flight attendants saw smoke beginning to fill the cabin, according to the NTSB report.

The flight attendants tried calling the flight crew and knocking on the cockpit door, but got no answer. So, the report said, the flight attendants initiated the evacuation.

Passengers were able to use the jetway at the front left door and the escape slide at the right rear door as well as the left over-wing doors to evacuate. But the left rear door wouldn't open, and maintenance personnel discovered afterward that the escape slide had jammed in the door.

The faulty slide was sent to the manufacturer for further investigation.





ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

JULY 24-27 2025

Enter Your Best Work Public Competitions

In-Person Exhibit Entry: July 20–21

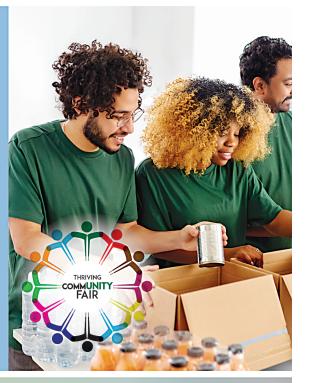
Entries Displayed: July 24–27

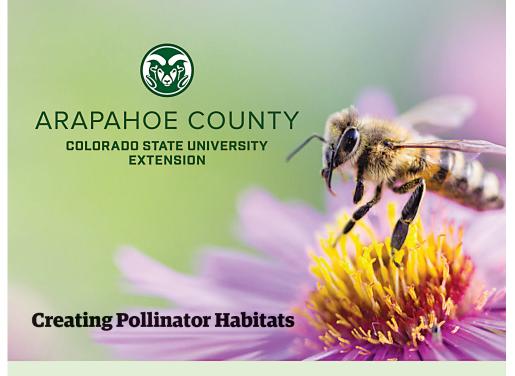
arapahoecountyfair.com/publiccompetitions



Thriving CommUNITY Fair

JULY 12, 2025 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Town Center at Aurora 14200 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora





June 26, 4-5 p.m. at the Aurora Central Library

Join us for a free informative talk covering how to create a habitat for pollinators in your own backyard. Master Gardener Ron Hogan will discuss everything you need to know about our pollinators, what they need to survive and what plants they are attracted to.

Register now at https://bit.ly/CSUPollinators



arapahoeco.gov

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Left photo, the Arapahoe County Commissioners — Carrie Warren-Gully, Jessica Campbell, Jeff Baker, Leslie Summey and Rhonda Fields — speak at the State of the County June 10 in Aurora. This year's State of the County address drew more than 300 attendees from local municipalities and neighboring counties.

Investing in ArapCo:' Path forward key to county-wide address

by Isabel Guzman

Colorado Community Media

"Investing in Arapahoe County."

missioners as they spoke on achievements from the this year. past year and a vision forward for the county.

most from their local government, the message was clear — invest in the essential programs and services that make our community thrive," said District 4 Commissioner Leslie Summey.

More than 300 people attended the address at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds Event Center in county's budget is from the federal government. Aurora June 10.

Commissioner Rhonda Fields of District 5 said the county has spent the past year working to make neighborhoods safe and strengthening infrastructure and services through the passage of 1A — the county's ballot initiative to avoid spending limits imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) - to invest in the community.

"We were blown away by the response. More than 70% of voters said yes and with that vote, our community chose to invest in some of the most important things in our community," said District 2 Commissioner Jessica Campbell. "The real work started this year and it couldn't be happening at a **SUCCESSES** more crucial time."

This address was very different than last year's, when the county discussed a steep budget shortfall as American Rescue Plan Act funds from the COVID-19 pandemic ran out. During the 2024 address, the commissioners said that they were considering cutting services, raising taxes, or voting to repeal spending caps implemented by TABOR.

Ultimately, the county put measure 1A on the ballot and it passed in November, which allowed Arapahoe County to hold on to the extra funds.

While the TABOR funds have helped the coun-This theme for the Arapahoe County State of the ty, Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully of District CHALLENGES County address was reflected by the county com- 1 said federal funding has become a major concern

"Government funding is always tricky, but this "When we asked residents what they wanted year, it's a moving target due to all the uncertainty at the federal and state level," she said. "Federal funding is up in the air, making it a little difficult to determine which program could be at risk. ... It absolutely changes on a daily basis.

"This is important because almost 17% of the Add to that the fact that the state is also in a budget crisis and you can see why we're a little bit worried."

The State of Colorado has reported a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall, the Colorado Financial Institute says.

"Despite that doom and gloom, we believe the road ahead is both urgent and promising," Warren-Gully said.

Commissioners pinted to the county's progress, driven by the overwhelming public support for measure 1A and guided by the updated comprehensive Arapahoe Forward Strategic Plan.

- · Launched a Resident Advisory Committee to guide and oversee 1A investments.
- · Expanded apprenticeship programs in Arapahoe/Douglas Works, seeing a 66% increase in in-person visits and a 9% jump in service use.
- Regained \$12.2 million in benefits for veterans.
- · Added 192 new housing units, funded in Aurora and Littleton.

- Created a new EV Action Plan.
- Transferred 45 miles of the High Line Canal to county stewardship.

- State and federal funding instability threatens core services.
- Housing affordability remains a major hurdle – rents have increased by 35% to 40% over the past four years.
- Mental and behavioral health demands are growing and jail populations exceed design capacity. Both require major infrastructure and care investments.
- Accessibility compliance from HB21-1110 and digital equity efforts require many resources, yet are vital for an inclusive government.

THE FUTURE

- The commissioners also discussed the Arapahoe Forward Strategic Plan, which is intended to guide decisions across departments. It includes four key areas: safety, economy, infrastructure and workforce.
- Measure 1A funds will continue to aid the county in expanding emergency responses, affordable housing and mental health services.
- Major infrastructure upgrades at the detention center are paving the way for expanded medical and behavioral health treatment areas.
- New regional partnerships, like the National Women's Soccer League headquarters and Meadowood Village co-op support, show how local investment drives prosperity.
- Open Spaces expansion and sustainable landscaping projects are laying the groundwork for long-term environmental stewardship.





Call TODAY for an appointment or more info.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8 am to 6 pm Saturday: 8 a.m. to 2 pm Closed Wednesdays and Sundays

550 E Colfax Ave, Unit A, in Bennett 303-644-4MVP

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Bennett board pulls ads over article about school sex assau

by Jeffrey A. Roberts

CFOIC Executive Director

municipal advertising from two weekly newspapers on the Eastern Plains because board members did not like an article about a sexual assault that allegedly happened in the locker room of a middle school.

The trustees voted May 13 to stop running ads in The I-70 Scout and Eastern Colorado News, both of which are owned and published by Douglas Claussen. They also discussed whether they could find another newspaper in which to run required public notices.

"I would like for this board not to spend any more money with his (Claussen's) papers, and if it's possible, find a different way to post our legal briefings," Trustee Royce Pindell said during the meeting. "I don't want to support him and his paper anymore with any ads or anything that

Claussen's May 7 front-page article in *The I-70 Scout* included some graphic details from a redacted incident report obtained from the Adams County Sheriff's Office. In the story, Claussen reported that the suspension of five employees from a Strasburg middle school was the result of a sexual assault of one boy by six other boys after track practice.

tim did not want to press charges," the article also says.

The next week, Claussen published tices in. an apology for providing "too many

have used the term 'shockingly' in The town of Bennett is pulling its reference to the mother's decision that is how I felt, and it crept into the story."

> "For these two issues, I hereby apologize to the family in particular and the public as a whole for my recklessness," his published letter says.

> The board of trustees' vote happened the evening before Claussen's apology ran in the Scout.

> Pindell said Claussen's newspapers "have concerned me for most of the years I've lived out here, but this is by far the worst I've ever seen him do to anyone. And to victimize a little guy again in his paper is just beyond the pale."

> Mayor Whitney Oakley called the article "extremely distasteful" and asked town attorney Scotty Krob if the board had the authority to halt town advertising in *The I-70 Scout*.

> "I think that the board could direct staff not to expend any advertising dollars with that particular paper until further direction from the board," Krob responded.

He said the "difficulty" of publishing the town's public notices elsewhere is that statutes require publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. "As near as we can tell so far, *The I-70 Scout* is the only newspaper of general circulation within the town of Bennett. But if we can find another "Shockingly, the mother of the vic-newspaper, it would certainly be up to the board to decide which newspaper of general circulation" to publish no-

The town attorney also told board details of the crime" that were "un- members they had a "free speech"

right to take out a full-page ad in The Local Legal Initiative attorney in He also wrote that he "should not *I-70 Scout* condemning the article, as one trustee suggested, if they decided to do that.

> But the board did not discuss whether its decision to pull advertising from the newspapers might have First Amendment implications.

> In 2022, the Wet Mountain Tribune settled a federal lawsuit that accused Custer County commissioners of violating the newspaper's First Amendment rights when they revoked its status as the county's paper of record and instead gave the county's legal notices contract to a rival newspaper. The lawsuit alleged the commissioners retaliated against the *Tribune* for publishing "a series of news reports that accurately exposed resume fraud by a county official and otherwise were critical of county government administration."

> It is clearly established law "that government officials cannot while acting under color of state law, retaliate against a person for exercising the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech," the lawsuit added.

> Under the settlement agreement, Custer County made the *Tribune* the county's paper of record for the next four years and paid the newspaper \$50,000, according to the *Inside the* News in Colorado newsletter.

on Claussen's newspapers.

"The right to make editorial deciers," said Rachael Johnson, RCFP's positive."

Colorado, in a statement sent to the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition (CFOIC). "Attempts by the government to chill reporting cross a dangerous line."

During the May 13 Bennett town board meeting, the town manager said Bennett does not have an advertising contract with Claussen's newspapers. But Claussen showed CFOIC a contract, signed in 2015, that automatically renews "for successive terms of 52 weeks unless either party provides notice of termination at least thirty days prior to the end of the current term."

Claussen said the town's display ads, including those for the annual "Bennett Days" festival and other events, bring in \$9,000 a year. The town's legal notices amount to another \$1,600 a year for the newspaper.

Losing the revenue "doesn't put me out of business but it hurts," he said. "And there are principles here that are bigger than this article." Among those principles: "We can't have the government censoring the media. You have to have an independent media in order to have objectivity when it comes to government reporting, and the government needs to leave that ability alone."

As he wrote in his apology let-The Reporters Committee for Free- ter, Claussen said he regrets how he dom of the Press is looking into the worded the May 7 article. "I tripped Bennett trustees' vote and its impact and fell," he told CFOIC. "It happens when you're a small operation.'

He added: "I've been covering the sions about what to cover and how is town of Bennett for 30 years and the a fundamental right of news publish- coverage has been overwhelmingly

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader demands trustee's resignation

Dear Editor:

It's come to my attention that a comment was made at a May 13 public meeting by Bennett Trustee Royce Pindell saying that he's concerned about the reporting by Douglas Claussen, the owner of the two local newspapers, and that he wants the town of Bennett to stop advertising with him, along with advising others to do the same.

If we stop and think about it, there should indeed be a lot of concern for the people on the board.

- 1. There appears to be an extreme conflict of interest where Royce Pindell is
- 2. A government entity trying to punish or intimidate a newspaper for reporting the news is a serious infringement of 1st Amendment rights.
- 3. It's my understanding that a contract does indeed exist between the town of Bennett and the newspaper.

Since these violations of trust have occurred and could lead to a large expense for the taxpayers of Bennett, I'm asking Royce Pindell to resign from his position with the town and, for the rest of the people leading our town, to do so with humility and integrity.

Thank you for doing what's right.

— Ben Williams, Bennett







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The Denver-based Playground Ensemble performed during Anythink Bennett's Turn Art into Music performance as part of the library district's mySummer program June 7. From left photo, Carlos Buchholz is all excited as he waits to hear his final masterpiece of electronic music that Ryan Fiegl is creating with beats and other sounds that Carlos selected, and Sofia Nehama (right) plays her cello as fast as she can while Mark Harris (left) plays his alto saxophone.

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

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 the window. Space limited; registration required. a.m., Friday, June 27.

ages 9-11 will dive into this fin-tastic session with Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10 a.m. to the Downtown Aquarium in Denver to uncover the 12:30 p.m., Friday, June 27. 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

KELVER LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Book Buddies: Kids ages 5-8 can celebrate their favorite book characters through art, games and more. This month's inspiration is the "Orris and Timble" series by Kate DiCamillo. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 24.

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

ESTATE/CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

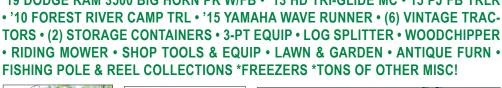


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Wednesday, June 18, 2025 The I-70 Scout • 7







Anythink Bennett library hosted a Kickoff Party for its mySummer reading program May 31. The event featured several indoor and outdoor learning, crafting and musical opportunities. From top row, Brie Lawrence, 5, left, selects her favorite journal type and Sara Stocco, 13, works on an ornament; and Shoshana Oakley, 6, eagerly awaits the filling of her fairy jar with a bevy of the mythical characters.

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Sunday Worship 10 a.m.



Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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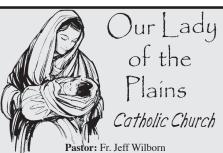


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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 8 • The I-70 Scout



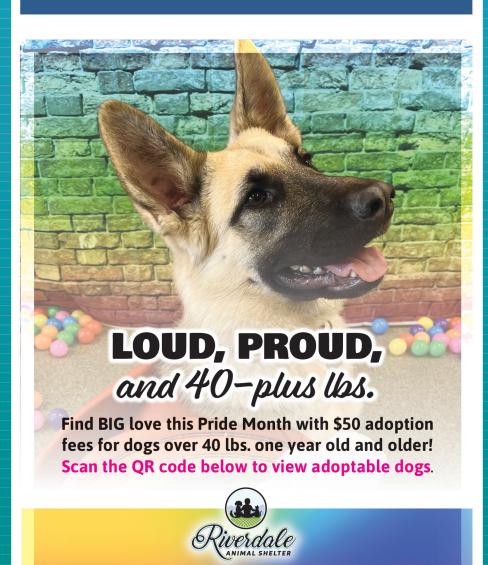












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The I-70 Scout • 9 Wednesday, June 18, 2025





SPORTS





Lady Indian earns prominent Steinmark honor

The Colorado High School Coaches Association concluded May naming its two 2025 Freddie Steimark Award recipients, including Strasburg's Peighton Marrero on the female side.

Considered Colorado's most prestigious recognition for a high school student-athlete, the Steinmark honors a high school senior who exemplifies the qualities of legendary Wheat Ridge student-athlete Freddie Steinmark – excellence in athletics, academics, leadership, and community service.

CHSCA officials reached Marrero with the news, she was enjoying a family trip to Mexico, but she still took time to respond to receiving the honor.

"Oh my goodness, this is so crazy. I am so honored," she said, according to a CHSCA

The award is named for Wheat Ridge High School's Freddie Steinmark, a football, basketball, and baseball standout who later helped the University of Texas win the 1969 national football championship before losing his life to cancer at age 22. Marrero is the first student from Strasthis honor.

and standout scholar, Marrero's resume includes:

Volleyball — multiple All-

800 kills for her career.

- **Basketball** All-State recognition her senior year, including 260 career steals on the defensive end of the court.
- Track & Field two-time 400-meter state champion, anchor leg of a two-time state champion 2A medley relay, and a four-event state placer in her first three years of high school. She capped off her senior year with the 3A 400-meter title in 56.65 seconds and a silver medal in the 300-meter

While her athletic accolades are extensive, CHSCA officials said Marrero's drive to lead and serve others was a major factor in separating her from the other seven female final-

"Peighton is not only one of the most athletically talented students in our school, but she continues to be the hardest-working and most humble," said Strasburg girls basketball head coach Merci Ames. "She leads with humility, guided by empathy and strong principles. I've watched her mentor younger teammates, serve our school burg High School ever to earn through multiple organizations, and give her time gen-A three-sport varsity athlete erously to community causes. She stands up for what is right even when it's hard."



Strasburg's Peigton Marrero, left, wins the 3A girls 400-meter dash finals at the Colorado State Track & Field Championships May 17 ahead of second-place Michelle Headley of Brush, left, and James Irwin's Jessi Huber, Marrero was recently named the girls winner of the Freddie Steinmark Award presented annually by the Colorado High School Coaches Association.

graduating class, and earned sports clinics, served meals at communication, her effort, for both state and national three young children. competitions in areas rang-National Honor Society.

Marrero also started the Academically, Marrero has and has served as its presi-

Academic All-State honors in an assisted living center, and and her values. She raises the both volleyball and basket- acted as a buddy to special standard for everyone around ball. She served as a student needs athletes in an adaptive her." council class representative, baseball league. She helped led Strasburg's Future Busi- launch a website for a local ness Leaders of America chap-roofing business and worked added, "Anyone can talk ter as President, and qualified each summer as a nanny for about her incredible athletic

ing from sports management has worked closely with Martion that make her truly elite. to healthcare administration. rero throughout her athlet- She's dripping with confi-She's also a member of the ic career, emphasized her dence and always believes in unique ability to connect.

"Peighton brings energy, just herself." school's Fellowship of Chris- empathy, and encouragetian Athletes chapter in 2022 ment to every team she's a earned the 2025 John Munpart of," Forster said. "Her dell Award and scholarship State and All-Conference been a fixture on Strasburg dent ever since. She's volunteammates trust her because given to a Strasburg senior honors, finishing with High School's Red Honor teered for the Make-A-Wish she is consistent, not just in over 2,000 assists and Roll, was valedictorian of her Foundation, coached youth her performance, but in her

Strasburg head volleyball coach Larry Deffenbaugh ability, but it's her belief in Coach John Forster, who her team and her determinathe success of her team, not

This year, Marrero also

SEE MARRERO

CSU senior throws way to NCAA women's shot put title



OLIVIA ALLEN/CSU Athlietics

Colorado State University senior Mya Lesnar stands with the title trophy after winning the women's shot put title at the NCAA Track & Field Championships in Eugene, Ore., June 12.

by Mike Brohard

CSU RamWire

EUGENE, Ore. - Introductions weren't necessary. But just in case anybody needed a reminder who was in the field, Colorado State University senior Mya Lesnar provided one immediately.

out of the gates with a throw of 62'41/2" at Hayward final three throws. Field. She nestled the ball into her neck, sat down in her squat and pushed her left arm out straight, a little finger waggle right before launching into her place in history.

It was the best mark at the time, a standing which would never change as she was never threatened in adding the 2025 outdoor national championship to her resume. She becomes the first Ram thrower to win an indoor and an outdoor national championship in program history and joins Mostafa Hassan and Bryan Berryhill as the program's only two-time national champions.

Dream scenario. Dream result.

"Heck yeah it was. It was pretty awesome," Lesnar said. "Obviously throws like that don't happen often, and to do it on my first one was pretty cool. I just went calm, hit my cues. Bedard and I have tons of trust, and that's exactly what we did.

sponded. It was awesome."

By the end of the competition, Lesnar would re-

cord the two best throws on the day, her second-best effort a 61'11," which came at the end of the preliminary flight, with both flights running concurrently. Only runner-up Abria Smith of Illinois would come close to that mark, hitting 61'101/4".

There was a delay as Michigan's Elizabeth Tapper protested the measurement of her final throw The 2024 NCAA indoor national champion in in the flights, and she was allowed to throw in the the shot put and the national leader heading into finals just in case. It was stoppage which Bedard the June 12 outdoor shot put field used a bullhorn felt flattened out the competition heading into the

Even better that she started as the front runner.

"I still think she missed the big one today because in training we've been seeing throws in the 19.30-meter range, so she didn't quite put it together," Bedard said. "She probably had a B-plus day for her, but when a training is going so well to have a big margin that she can maybe not hit her best and win it is awesome.

"It was a great start for her. We've been working on the mental game and trying to have some joy when she competes and really simplify some technical cues and managing excitement levels and all that, and I thought she did that today. When she came up and talked to me between throws, she had a really good awareness of what she was doing in the throw and what she was feeling. I just loved her mindset today. It was mature."

She felt the same as her coach, as she kept waiting "I think it had more of an effect for me. It meant for something bigger and better. Down the road, it more for me to do it on the first one, to start off will be something she considers when she goes back the competition strong. A lot of the other ladies re- to work, but it was a fact which was rather easy to

SEE LESNAR PAGE 10

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STEINMARK AWARD

who has competed in three sports all cess, and a deep love for one's comfour years of high school.

attending the United States Naval Academy, where she will continue her track career while preparing to serve around me. her country.

a symbol of purpose," Marrero told the face of adversity, humility in suc- committed to the Naval Academy.'

munity. It embodies the values I've Marrero's next chapter includes tried to uphold both on and off the field and the track — integrity, hard work, and a desire to lift up those









Roggen Office: (303) 849-5506

Marrero is the 53rd winner of the mit, Addison McEvers of Evergreen, girls Steinmark Award since it was first presented to girls in 1974. The first female recipient was Anne Vento of Pueblo Centennial in 1974.

School, and, currently, the lead radio broadcaster for the Denver Broncos, KOA radio sports talk show host and a high school football coach, was the first boys winner in 1972.

The other 2025 girls finalists were Abigail Dille of Revere High School (Sedgwick County), Kamiree Fuller of Denver Christian, Ella Hagen of Sum- Ridge.

Brooklyn Stewart from Pine Creek, Saylor Swanson of Arvada West, and Lauryn Uyemura from Platte Valley.

This year's boys winner is Simon Dave Logan of Wheat Ridge High Lunsford of Green Mountain High School.

> Other boys finalists were Shane Curry from Thomas Jefferson, Anderson Filla of Akron, Samuel Meisner of Wray, Marcus Mozer from Fossil Ridge, Matthew Napiekowski of Holy Family, Joseph Probst from West Grand, and Benjamin Simon of Coal

LESNAR

FROM PAGE 9

FROM PAGE 9

accept as she stood with the national completely out of whack showing championship trophy.

She becomes the second woman at Colorado State to win an outdoor national championship, joining Loree Smith who won the hammer throw in 2005.

Lesnar now has four first-team All-American honors to her credit after placing fifth in the shot outdoors a year ago and placing fifth indoor this season.

Lesnar is the fourth Ram to win a national championship in the throws under Bedard — six titles in total the final five in his tenure as the program's head coach. The first was Casey Malone in 1998 when he was an assistant as the head throws coach.

Every path has been different, making each unique.

'The journey is different. The athlete and circumstances are different," Bedard said. "I got a little more nervous on this one head into finals. I felt a challenge was going to come, but it never happened.

"You'd hope all the athletes would have some sort of experience like that where they kind of learn from some failures and grow from it and improve. It doesn't always happen that way. She's really had to dig into some areas to work on to get better, whether it is technical stuff or maintaining the mental side of things, really learn to enjoy the sport.

"Just to see her personal growth is amazing. That's just her maturing and really taking a hard look at what she's doing. If she wants to continue in this sport, we're trying to teach her to have joy in what she's doing. It can be fun, and you can still be very competitive and intense in what you're doing."

After she finished her warmup tosstrack and talked to her coach. They discussed technique and cues, but the again the last chance she had. last thing he said to her was to have fun.

her, carrying a reputation as an ultra-intense competitor. Not on this day. She felt good entering the day, and when Bedard suggested she interact with her personal fanbase, she obliged.

the less mature Mya" would have felt Ram.

such emotion. Nor did the pressure of knowing this would be her final collegiate performance.

Instead of being overwhelmed by emotions, she fed into them and thrived.

'It was awesome. Sometimes I get a little too serious," she said. "There's a time and place for that. I think I decided today my last collegiate meet I was going to have fun, trust the process and get it done."

Trusting the advice came easy considering the source from which the idea came. It took no time at all for her to build that feeling with Bedard after transferring to CSU three years ago, and she will trust him forever more.

She held the trophy firmly but considered it to be shared ownership. Not just this title, or even the first. But the journey they took together which put her in the spotlight.

"I don't think it's set in yet. I am very, very happy with the progress I've made at CSU," she said. "Honestly, I would not be where I am without Brian Bedard. Obviously, family and teammates, but 100 percent this goes to my coach and a lot of ups and downs we've had together and worked through together. We have the best relationship."

She has consistently thrust herself into the spotlight while at Colorado State, claiming multiple conference championships to go with the national ones. Being in the spotlight comes with taking the top step on the podium, but the bright lights are not her favorite part.

She prefers the work and the competition. It wouldn't matter if no one were there to record the history, she es, she came over to the edge of the would gladly do it in anonymity. She was thankful she got a chance to do it

"There was a ton of emotions. won before indoor. It's taken awhile That hasn't always been easy for to get back to No. 1 again," Lesnar said. "A lot of emotions; very happy, a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication. A lot of trust with my coach, and then just executing, and not thinking; not overthinking and doing too much."

Allowing her to make her intentions Which felt great, and a bit of a clear and concise from the start in a breakthrough. She said the "old Mya, sonic boom of a final statement as a



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CO funeral home owner sentenced for body mishandling



Miles Harford appears in court to hear the charges against him on March 8, 2024, in Denver.

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado funeral home owner who pleaded guilty to leaving a woman's corpse in the back of a hearse for over a year and improperly stashing the cremated remains of at least 30 people was recently sentenced to 18 months in prison, the Denver District Attorney's Office announced.

Miles Harford, 34, pleaded guilty in April to one felony count of abuse of a corpse and one misdemeanor count of theft. He faced other counts, including forgery and theft, that were dismissed as part of his plea agreement.

His 18-month sentence is the maximum sentence under Colorado law for the charges.

"Nothing will ever undo the terri- months. Authorities said he had proble pain that Miles Harford caused so many families, but it is our hope that this sentence will provide the family and friends of the deceased with some measure of justice," Denver District Attorney John Walsh said in a statement June 9. "Harford systematically and shockingly violated his professional and moral obligations, and, for that, he is now being held accountable."

Harford was arrested last year after the body of a woman named Christina Rosales, who died of Alzheimer's at age 63, was found in the back of his hearse, covered in blankets. Her remains had been there for about 18

vided the Rosales family with the cremated remains of a different person that he misrepresented as Rosales.

Police also found the cremated remains of other people stashed in boxes throughout Harford's rental property, including in the crawlspace.

Prosecutors said he treated the bodies and remains "in a way that would outrage normal family sensibilities."

Harford's sentencing follows years of other gruesome funeral home cases in Colorado, including one where the owners were accused of storing nearly 200 bodies in a decrepit building and giving families fake cremated remains.

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June 20: Sand Lot

⇒ **June 30:** Bug Safari

⇒ July 14: Web World

July 11: Lilo & Stitch

September 5: Twister

Outdoor Movies - Seating opens 1 hour before Dusk;

Location: North Baseball or South Softball Field; Free

August 9 (Hometown Days): Minecraft

Butterfly Pavilion Summer Programs - Time: 11am-

12pm; Ages: K-12th; Location: Strasburg Legion; Fee: \$10

Big D's Warriors Adaptive Baseball - Date: Begins

July 13 (Sun. for 5 weeks); Time: 5:30-6:30pm; Grades: K-

12; Location: South Field; Fee: Free; DEADLINE: 6/15/25

Foam Day— June 21, 1-3pm; Location: Strasburg Com-

Peewee T-ball - September 3-24 (Wed. for 4 weeks);

Coed Slow Pitch Softball - Ages: Adults 18+; Dates:

Peewee Sports Camp - Date: July 23, 30, Aug. 6, & 20;

Tues. & Thurs. beginning July 8, Time: starts 6pm; Fee:

Time: 5:30-6:30pm; Ages: 2-4 years; Location: Varies;

Twisters Gymnastics & Cheer Deadline: 6/26/25

munity Park; Ages: All Ages; Fee: Free Event

Ages: 2-4 yrs; Fee: \$45; DEADLINE: 8/3/25

\$350 per team; DEADLINE: 6/22/25

Fee: \$45; DEADLINE: 6/22/25





June 26: Black Hawk Casino; Fee: \$20

July 31: George Town Loop Train; Fee: \$45

August 28: Cherokee Ranch Castle; Fee: \$34 September 25: New Belgium Brewery; Fee: \$25

Cyanotype Art Class— June 28, Time: 1-3:30pm; Ages: 10+; Location: Strasburg Legion; DEADLINE: 6/26/25

Summer Acting Workshop - Wed. & Thurs July 9-31; Ages: 3rd-12th Grade; Fee: \$100; DEADLINE: 7/6/25

Nerf "War" - July 12, 12-2:30pm; Ages: 5 & up; Location: Lyons Park; Fee: \$20; DEADLINE: 7/7/25

Tackle Football - Grades: 3rd– 6th; Dates: Games begin Sept. 6 (6 wks + playoffs); Fee: \$115; DEADINE: 7/20/25 Flag Football (1st-3rd grade) - Dates: Sept. 6-Oct. 11; Fee: \$60; DEADLINE: 7/20/25

Youth Volleyball - Grades: 3rd-6th; Dates: Games begin Sept. 7; Fee: \$70; DEADLINE: 7/20/25

Flag Football (PK - K) - Dates: Sept. 6-27 (no end of season tournament); Fee: \$45; DEADLINE: 8/3/25 Fall Softball - Dates: Sept. 6-Oct. 12; Ages: 6-14 yrs; Fee: \$150; EB DEADLINE: 7/20/25

SHS Youth Sports Camps-

⇒ Boys Basketball: TBD July

⇒ Volleyball: July 29-31

⇒ Softball Camp: TBD Late July/August

1932 Burton Street - (303) 622-4260 - StrasburgParks.org See website for more information

State Senate: Simpson named minority leader

by Sara Wilson

Colorado Newsline

Colorado Senate Republicans unanimously chose Sen. Cleave Simpson

as their new minority leader June 12.

Simpson, an Alamosa Republican who was first elected in 2020, will replace former Sen. Paul Lundeen, who resigned on June 9 to lead the

Simpson American Excellence Foundation. He will lead the 12-member Republican caucus in the cham-

ber. "I look forward to continue what we've been working on. The challenges are pretty immense and steep, and Colorado deserves a strong voice from our perspective," he said. "I think we are poised as a group to make a significant [impact] going forward."

Democrats, with 23 members, hold a majority in the Senate.

Simpson was the assistant minority leader. The caucus unanimously chose Sen. Lisa Frizell, a Castle Rock Republican, to replace him in that position.

A vacancy committee meeting has not yet been scheduled to fill Lundeen's Senate seat.

The Legislature is not in session and will reconvene in January, unless a special session is called.







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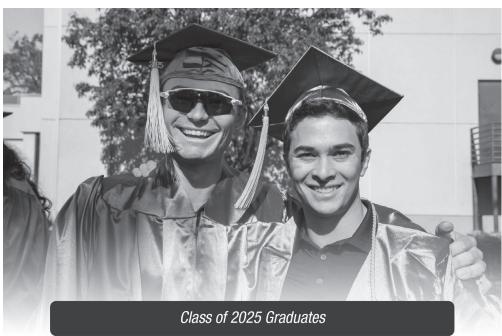




The High Plains Music Ensemble hosted its "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue" Concert June 7 at the Bennett School auditorium. Clockwise from above left, Rawley Godsey plays the oboe; euphonium player Diana Malacalza plays her part of Gustav Holst's "First Suite in E-flat for Military Band;" Mary Obertz, left, and Danny Bertram play their flutes; Jonah Lang, left, showed off his post-secondary schooling in music composition as he composed three pieces — "Villain," "Blue Tea," and "Flaming Soul" — for a jazz quartet of himself, younger brother, Aidan, right, conductor Kurt Elliott and current Hemphill Middle School Interim Principal JaLee Kitzman; and quest pianist Stacie May performs "Dizzy Fingers" by Zez Confrey as an encore.









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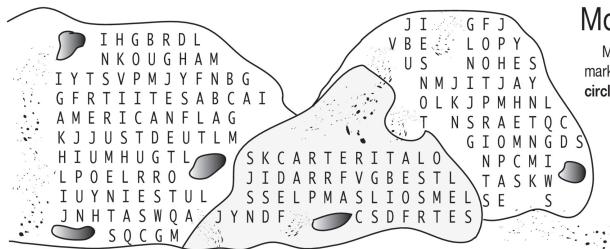












Moonscape - Give and Take

Mankind has stepped on the moon and has left its mark. We have also taken items away to study. Find and circle these items taken from or left on the Moon:

rocks
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American flag
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 2005

Running a marathon is hard work — but it's nothing compared to what cancer patients go through during the course of their illnesses. That's what Strasburg High School alumna Desiree Shone is discovering as she laces up her running shoes everyday while training for the Nike Women's Marathon, which will take place October 23 in San Francisco.

Shone is running the marathon as part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training program which helps raise funds to battle leukemia, lym- Trail native Chris Roth.

phoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

"I'm doing it just because I think it's important. It's to raise money to care the patients with blood cancer,' Shone Said."I always wanted to run a marathon and this gives me a way to accomplish this goal while helping other people."

15 YEARS AGO JUNE 21, 2010

STRASBURG — Books are piled in the middle of classrooms, computers are shoved against walls, and huge air ing along Lone Tree Creek, Crow Creek and Pawnee Rivconditioners are running at Strasburg Elementary School er basins just south of the Colorado/Wyoming state line, after is sustained considerable hail damage in a powerful and by Tuesday, the rainfall had averaged about 6.25 storm June 11.

Strasburg maintenance director Phil Redgate said June were battered, with the elementary and high schools getting pounded mostly severely.

ony had patched a drove of roof holes at the elementary unusually high for Eastern Colorado.

school by June 14 and was set to begin re-roofing.

Regate reported that roof damages total about \$230,000, but said that estimate could increase as the strict continues its evaluation.

The school's car fleet also took a sever beating. Carpet may need to replaced at the elementary school, after 3/4 inch of standing water left its mark.

10 YEARS AGO JUNE 22, 2015

"I can't believe it has been 50 years," marveled Deer

It seems fitting that this unusually wet summer marks the 50-year anniversary of the 1965 Deer Trial flood, which at the time was by the Eastern Colorado News, "the worst local catastrophe in half century."

Chris is now a mother of three and a grandmother of five, and she and her husband, Randy, have made a home southwest of Byers. But to Roth, it does not seem so long ago when she was on 11-year-old girl, listening to the faint roar of the flood water grow louder and louder in the distance.

On Monday, June 14, 1965, storm clouds began brewinches in the area.

By Wednesday, June 16, significant amounts of 14 that the roofs at all three Strasburg school buildings low-level pressure along with strong influx of moisture cause unstable atmospheric conditions. Air movements from the Gulf of Mexico contributed to the moisture in Commerce City-based roofing company Douglass Col- the area, making dew points in the 60s and high 50s,



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. **SOLUTION ON PAGE 2**

Today In History

Today is Wednesday, June 18, the 169th day of 2025. There are 196 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On June 18, 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress OK'd, and President James Madison signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

ON THIS DATE

In 1778, American forces entered Philadelphia as the British withdrew during the Revolutionary War.

te was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French

In 1979, President Jimmy lenger on a six-day mission. Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limita-

In 1986, 25 people were killed when a twin-engine plane and helicopter carrying sightseers collided over the Grand Canyon.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme became America's first woman Court, in Georgia v. McCollum,

their trials.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Musician Paul McCartney is 83.

Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: FOURTH OF JULY

ACROSS

ACROSS

Croat, e.g.
 Reverential respect mixed with

wonder 8. Island near Java

12. From where to eternity?

13. *"Land of the ____

14. Rowed

15. Diabolical

16. Mideast bigwig 17. Unleashes

18. *Star-spangled banner (2 words)

20. Type of ski lift

21. *Ďay before Independence Day

22. Quilting party 23. Sherlock Holmes' confidant

26. Formal dinner

30. U.N. working-conditions agency

31. Sextet plus one

34. Cancel

35. Holey confection 37. Electric swimmer

38. Frame job 39. Comparison word

40. Type of deodorant 42. Skater's field

43. *Like "America the Beautiful" skies

45. Covered with a ceiling 47. Tennis do-over

48. Surfer's stops

50. Not guilty, e.g. 52. *Yankee Doodle's feather *"To Freedom!", e.g.

56. Tel , Israel 57. BÈbÈ's mother

59. Pseudonym

60. *Cup at a picnic

61. Do like exhaust pipe

62. Late George Wendt on "Cheers"

63. Give it a go 64. *Betsy of #18 Across-related fame

1. "He said, _ __ said"

2. Russian left

3. Pomegranate seed 4. South African grasslands

5. Knight's protection

6. Odd and unusual 7. Like ghostly howls

8. *July 4th cúlinary tradition

_ 51 in Nevada´ 10. Lecherous look

11. Dog tags

13. Felidae family member

14. As a rule

In 1815, Napoleon Bonapar-Imperial Army in Belgium.

tion treaty in Vienna.

In 1983, astronaut Sally Ride in space as she and four other NASA astronauts blasted off aboard the space shuttle Chal-

ruled that criminal defendants could not use race as a basis for excluding potential jurors from

Actor Carol Kane is 73. Actor Isabella Rossellini is 73. Actor Alana de la Garza is 49. Country musician Blake Shelton is 49. Football Hall of Famer Antonio Gates is 45.

HOROSCOPE

Cosmic Call for Kindness

Between the lunacy of the lunar aspects and the heavy tension hanging on the Jupiter-Neptune square, we need the kindness that compounds. To bring someone water before they ask, to say the tender thing, the minor fix, the major laugh ... Gestures that lower stress and lighten the mood ripple out with gentle but ever-wider impact to signif-

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Hit pause. It will allow for truth to surface. A rest in the action will invite clarity, trust and connection that activity would only have disrupted. Not knowing what to do next means you're ready to listen to the universe and get on board with a grand plan.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You need the group support for something today, and you will get it, creating just the thing that will have everyone leaning in. Your boldness works first, and subtlety will work later when attention has already been secured.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A stress-free life isn't the goal. Some stress is fuel. You're facing hard work, but it's doable, and you're fully capable. Remember, you have choices. You're not stuck. You can pivot, pause or try another way whenever you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When your mind feels overloaded, getting everything onto paper helps you see what's really there. It might feel chaotic at first, but you can declutter your thoughts by writing them down. Once it's visible, it's manageable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your emotional intelligence is evident in the way you handle relationships. You never stop building trust or being engaged at a meaningful level. Keep asking better questions, reflect and give the answers time to form.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How things should be does matter, but what you can do about it matters more. It's too soon to tell though. Keep studying and seeking a deep understanding of how things are. The move is "no move." Instead, watch and listen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To keep from falling into patterns of communication

that verge on lazy or boring, just remember, there are hundreds of ways to relate to the people in your life, and as long as you're coming from love, all will be well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Finishing will be harder than starting. You've got rhythm, focus and a strange kind of support on your side. Someone's odd way of caring will land just right. The best way to give back is just to complete the mission.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Learning isn't just about accumulation — it's about timing. You'll hear something today that only clicks months later, when life gives it context. Forcing comprehension too early can distort or flatten the insight. But letting it simmer? That's how meaning deepens.

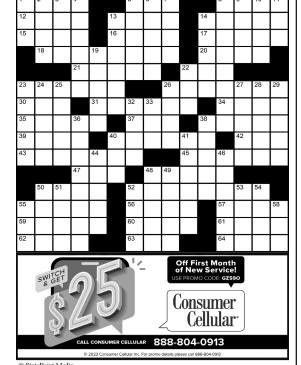
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Partnership opens doors and balances your strengths. You're especially good at meeting others halfway — negotiating with grace, staying curious and finding solutions that feel fair to everyone. People feel seen around and that makes good things happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in a mirror maze of sorts today, performing to your own reflection, inviting people to see what you want seen while controlling the angles. Even vulnerability may seem stylized, and it's entirely your call. You'll drop the guard when good and ready.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't worry about doing the logical thing. It's fascinating when you don't make sense. People will never totally understand or know everything about you. How could they? That's the beauty of it - be the mystery.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 18). Accomplishments run the gamut this year because your passion is at times a blazing fire, and other times a focused beam. More highlights: You thrive in groups and teams. Shared goals energize you, turning collective effort into success for all. You'll also experience the return of someone dear, large checks and the steady rise of your creative power. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 6, 21, 18 and 30.

— Horoscopes by Holiday



19. Casper, e.g.

22. Cricket club

23. Measurement 24. Hello, to Mr. Hand

25. Opposite of atonal 26. *Philadelphia's Liberty

__ death do us part'

28. Draw out a conclusion 29. Drank too much

32. Lowly laborer 33. What lintel and mantel have in common

36. *Personification of the U.S. (2 words)

38. Show contempt 40. Decompose

41. In eighth, book format 44. "The Second Coming" poet

46. Chemical cousin 48. Relish

49. In an unfriendly manner

50. Horseback sport

51. Bear's hang-out 52. Sail holder

53. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" captain 54. Part of an eye

55. Sun kiss 58. "The Extra-Terrestrial"-inspired toys

ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

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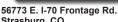


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Soil from the moon's far side suggests drier conditions than side facing Earth

by Marcia Dunn

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) -Soil and rocks returned from the moon's mysterious far side suggest it may be drier than the side constantly facing Earth, Chinese scientists re- Nature. ported recently.

are needed for a clearer picture.

A better understanding of the abundance of water in the lunar mantle can help explain how the moon evolved, the researchers noted. But it could also be all the more reason for astronauts to stick close to the near side of the moon as currently planned.

China became the first country to land on the moon's far side last year. The Chang'e 6 spacecraft scooped up the volcanic rock and dirt from the ancient, sprawling South Pole-Aitken basin, one of the largest impact craters in the solar system.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences' Sen Hu said he and his team received 5 grams of soil samples, then selected 578 particles for detailed analysis using electron microscopes.

They estimated the water abundance at less than 1.5 micrograms per Measurements on samples from the astronaut moon landing by 2030.

near side have ranged between 1 microgram and 200 micrograms per gram.

Given the limited sampling, it's uncertain how widespread this dry condition might be, the scientists noted in their study published in the journal

"More far side samples are required But they cautioned more samples for testing and further unraveling" how much water there is, Hu said in an e-mail.

It's possible the impact that created the basin may have blasted water elements to the near side, leaving the far side depleted. Another possibility is that the vertical distribution of water could be different between the two hemispheres.

Even if confirmed, the findings shouldn't drastically alter NASA's plans to send astronauts to the moon's south polar region, where permanently shadowed craters are believed to hold massive amounts of ice. This frozen water could be used for drinking, cooking and making rocket fuel.

NASA aims to send four astronauts around the moon next year under its Artemis program, the successor to Apollo, which put 12 men on the moon from 1969-72. That would be gram, on the dry end of what's been followed by a landing near the lunar found in samples gathered over past south pole by astronauts no earlier decades from the moon's near side. than 2027. China is seeking its own



This China National Space Administration (CNSA) handout image released by Xinhua News Agency shows the lander-ascender combination of Chang'e-6 probe taken by a mini rover after it landed on the moon surface last June.

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Byers School District 32-J

is now accepting applications for:

Secondary Counselor/Director of Postsecondary & Student Success

Candidate should have, or be working towards, a Master's Degree in School Counseling and have a Colorado Special Services License — Counselor. Position includes individual and small group counseling with particular emphasis on the social and emotional development of junior high students, setting up college and military recruiter visits, setting up State SAT and other assessments, new student scheduling, schedule changes, DSS referrals, college admission advisement, master schedule development, career planning, ICAP, and other duties as assigned. Infinite Campus knowledge is a plus. Benefits include health, dental, and vision insurance.

Certified applications can be found at www.byers32j.k12.co.us under the Human Resources tab on the District page. Applications should be submitted to:

Byers School District, Attn: Stacy Sondburg, 444 E. Front Street, Byers, CO 80103.

Applications may also be emailed to: sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us or faxed to: 303-822-9592.

For additional information, please call: Kelly Boren at (303) 822-5292 x1115.

BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J*

IS CURRENTLY SEEKING: 2025-26 District Food Service Director

For information or to apply, contact Ramie Dillingham 720-500-1495 X 8202; ramied@bsd29j.com; www.bsd29j.com.
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IS CURRENTLY HIRING FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR:

Middle School

• SPED Teacher

High School

- SPED Teacher
- Math Teacher

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Large yard sale. Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1597 Monroe St., Strasburg. 6/18

Annual Basement Sale 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday June 20-21

St. Isidore Catholic Church 32100 E. Colfax Service Road Watkins, Colo.

ERMCES

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NOTICES

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

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73 N. Dutch Valley Road, Bennett: 18+ acres; 3BR, 2BA fenced & cross-fenced with shop/barn, \$834,000. 52900 E. 88th Ave., Strasburg: 39+ acres; 4BR, 4BA + attached 1BR, 1BA apartment, \$1,149,000. 4820 County Road 149, Bennett: 35+ acres; 5 BR, 4BA + outbuilding/shop, \$1,149,000. COMING SOON: 41020 US HWY 36/Colfax, Bennett: 4 acres; 3BR, 2BA home & 40x80 steel frame shop, \$845,000.

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THANK YOU

The county is working on Yulle Road to make better to travel on. When doing this, our culvert was covered in dirt and mud and, with the rain, the water was running down our driveway. talked to the plow driver and told him the problem. He called for help and they dug out the culvert that day!

These two gentlemen went above and beyond to make sure I was taken care of. It was much appreciated.

> Thank you, Robin Huggins, Strasburg

BOATS & RVs

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CRASHES

and Bennett-Watkins firefighters and paramedics responded to the area of Lady Bird Hill between Bennett and Strasburg on report of a vehicle rollover but, upon arrival, they found a multiple vehicle crash - a Chevy Tahoe, Kia Optima and unknown model of Infiniti - that resulted in one occupant transported to a Denver area hospital.

Specifics of what led up the crash were unavailable at press time but a State Patrol spokeswoman said that one driver was charged with careless driving causing injury.

The scene was cleared in about two hours with the intersection of Highway 36 and Colfax Avenue reopened at 6:35 p.m.

A little after 9 p.m., firefighters and state troopers were dispatched near mile marker 323 near the old dog track exit on westbound I-70 after a 1997 Purple Peterbilt semi pulling a trailer caught fire.

Both lanes blocked while fire was going but left lane reopened shortly after it was extinguished," the State Patrol said. "No injuries and no citation issued. Sounds like mechanical malfunction.'

A few hours later, about 1:45 a.m., responders were dispatched to Highway 79 about five miles north of Bennett on report of a collision between semis.

They hit head-on near 64th Avenue," a State Patrol spokesman said. "Both drivers injured but extent of injuries unknown. At least one transported to hospital," a State Patrol spokesman said.

Both directions of the roadway were closed for about 5 hours with the scene fully cleared between 7-8 a.m.

"Took some time to clean up because of debris and leaked fuel that made the road slick," the State Patrol spokesman said. "One driver was cit-

FROM PAGE 1

The 24-year-old male driver of a gray car took out signage before crashing into the guard rail on the eastbound off-ramp of the Bennett interchange

ed for careless causing injury."

UNREPORTED CRASH IN ELCO

As last week came to an end, questions about a rolled vehicle found June 10 along Ridge Road near the Chaparral subdivision in Elbert County remained unanswered.

According to Elbert County Sheriff Tim Norton, a June 11 e-mail inquiry from The I-70 Scout, including a photo of the tipped pickup from Tuesday morning, was the first time law enforcement was made aware and deputies were sent to the scene.

The neighbor that took the photo while driving by the crash site said the accident likely occurred overnight Monday into Tuesday morning and that she was surprised no one called 911.

"It's not too far from a house, probably a quarter-mile or less," she said. "Pretty much in plain sight too, so pretty odd it wasn't called in by some-

FROM PAGE 1

STRASBURG SCHOOL

The outcome concerning the remaining employee is still in process."

The fifth staff member involved expected to hear from Bongard this week. Two of the originally suspended employees were part of the list of 20-plus people not returning for the 2025-26 school year, which was approved by the school board during its a male middle school student was April 7 meeting.

last week that staff was not direct- confrontation between the victim and ly involved in the original incidents another student occurred. No charges between students but were under in- have been filed. vestigation regarding their response when made aware of the situation.

"There are two separate investigations: one regarding employees and one regarding students," she added in her June 13 e-mail to The Scout. "Both investigations are being conducted by independent investigators to ensure impartiality and fairness for all parties involved.'

During the May 12 school board meeting, Bongard said that Title IX, a federal regulation including an investigatory arm for sex-based harassment and sexual violence in school, precludes disciplinary action until the entire investigation is wrapped up. But, in her April 11 announcement of staff suspensions, there was no mention of Title IX.

"Upon becoming aware of a situa-

been cleared of any policy violations. in accordance with district policy," said the first-year superintendent in her original letter to school district families. "This necessary step allows us to conduct a thorough and fair investigation while maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all."

According to the Adams County Sheriff's Office investigation report, sexually assaulted by multiple assail-Bongard also told *The Denver Post* ants April 9, a day after a one-on-one

According to Bongard, a special board meeting to address the personnel issues will occur later this summer but, as of June 13, a specific date and time was unknown.

"Regarding the off-cycle board meeting, ... as soon as arrangements are finalized, the details will be publicly posted in accordance with district protocols," she said.

HIGH SCHOOL BULLYING ALLEGED

During the June 9 school board meeting, three days before suspended staff heard their fate, a 2025 Strasburg senior and father told school board directors that bullying is also rampant throughout the high school and that, many times, staff turns a blind-eye.

"After the last four years, I'm glad tion that warrants further investiga- to have this school in my rear-view tion, we have placed the staff mem- mirror," said the recent graduate, citbers involved on administrative leave ing a pattern of rampant physical and

verbal abuse, including at least three instances of sexual harassment and inappropriate touching. "Most of my junior and senior years, I did what I could to avoid being in the building. My struggle as a tormented student has ended.'

"Blatant disregard for student abuse by faculty members, does not build trust," the former student's father added. "Does that lack of trust matter to you? You must accept and want to hear from parents. Must be an effort to restore the school the previous safe environment it has provided."

Because the comments were made during public comment, board members and administration did not respond.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

During 2025-26 budget discussion, an enrollment drop is anticipated across the district but the decrease is expected closer to eight students instead of an original projection of 25, but state funding revenue to the district should see an increase.

per student," said Finance Director Nancy Taylor. "Budget up around 4.28%."

In other enrollment discussion, Taylor said that of the approximately 200 out-of-district transfers the past three cycles, about half have left for metro-area school districts and approximately 25% each for online schools and neighboring districts is a four-year grant.

Staff salaries will go up about 2.5%. In an effort to help mitigate a 52% jump in health insurance premiums, Taylor reiterated the district has moved to a program that allows employees to select their own plan and be reimbursed for their expenses.

During discussion of the 2025-26 school year calendar, Bongard reminded the board that it approved a three-year calendar cycle last summer and that the first day of classes will be Aug. 7.

campus-wide Back-to-School Night Extravaganza is planned from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Among the four policy updates was one regarding paid staff leave. It had to be changed to take into account the school's new four-day school week, which was implemented this past school year.

immunizations policy was amended to take into account guideline changes from the state health department.

Bongard also announced the district "Per-pupil funding is up about \$800 is among the recipients of a Counselor Corps Grant through the Colorado Department of Education. Strasburg will receive \$30,000 next school year for vocational opportunities and lifeafter-high-school preparation for students and, in two years, will add two counselors with the focus on mental health and workforce readiness.

The CDE Counselor Corps program

along the I-70 Corridor.

The I-70 Scout • 23 Wednesday, June 18, 2025

CHUCK WAGON

Cajun Pork Spareribs

by Katie Workman

Associated Press

When it's time to think about a special Father's Day meal, my mind immediately goes to ribs. My late father, Peter Workman, loved ribs more than anyone I've ever known. If given a choice between a Michelin-starred restaurant and a pile of sticky, saucy ribs, the man would have picked ribs every time.

This was one of the recipes I developed for my rib-aficionado dad.

I am a fan of St. Louis-style spareribs, which are simply trimmed spareribs, with nice meatiness and fat marbling. Marinated overnight with a Cajun rub, the spareribs are first baked in the oven, cooked fairly low and fairly slow until they are basically cooked through. Then you baste them with a super flavorful barbecue sauce, and you have the option of finishing them in the oven or moving outdoors and finishing them on the grill.

If you choose the oven, you can give them even a bit more browning or caramelization once they're done by running them under the broiler for a sharp knife to peel the membrane a minute or two, watching carefully that they don't burn.

If you prefer to finish them on the grill, you can make them ahead up to the point of grilling, which is nice for a party or if you want to get a head start on dinner. Keep them in the fridge until you are ready to complete the final cooking stage, and bring to room temperature before continuing.

Before the ribs are finished with the first stage of baking (or when you are nearing the dinner hour), preheat a gas grill to low, or prepare a charcoal grill for indirect grilling.

The hardest part of all is waiting for a few minutes after the ribs are done cooking before slicing them.

I suggest serving the ribs with Cajun dirty rice, coleslaw and, if you're going for the whole Southern meal situation, maybe some homemade mac and cheese. A pie for dessert would be the ultimate celebration.

CAJUN PORK SPARERIBS

INGREDIENTS

• 2 (3-pound) racks St. Louis-style pork spareribs

RUB

- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

BASTING SAUCE

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 scallions, trimmed and chopped, white and green parts
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter ribs for serving.



- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Tabasco or other hot
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse or kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

Remove the membranes from the bone side of all the racks of ribs, using off. In a small bowl, mix together the paprika, salt, thyme, garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Rub the seasoning all over the ribs. Place the ribs in a container or a bowl, loosely covered, and refrigerate for four to 24 hours.

Before you're ready to cook the ribs, make the basting sauce. In a medium saucepan, combine the garlic, scallions, ketchup, molasses, butter, vinegar, mustard or hot sauce and stir over medium heat until the butter is melted. Let simmer for another 15 minutes or so, stirring occasionally. You can make this ahead of time, store in the fridge for up to a week and reheat.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with aluminum foil. Place the ribs bone side down in the pans and pour 1 cup of water into each pan. Cover the pans with foil and bake until the meat is tender and starts to pull away from the bones, about two hours.

Remove the pans from the oven and drain off any remaining water. Baste the ribs on all sides with the sauce. Bake uncovered for another 1/2 hour in the oven, bone side down, basting occasionally until the glaze is caramelized and sticky.

Or, brush the ribs generously with he sauce and place them on a gas grill preheated to low or charcoal grill prepared for indirect grilling. Continue to baste and grill, turning every five minutes or so for another half an hour, until the meat is very tender and the glaze is shiny. Watch carefully that the sauce doesn't start to burn, adjusting the heat as needed.

Let the rib racks sit for 10 minutes before cutting them into individual





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24 • The I-70 Scout Wednesday, June 18, 2025









PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Colorado Air & Space Port near Watkins hosted a spring Fly-In and Open House May 31. Guests had the opportunity to get up close and personal with old vintage aircrafts while also witnessing multiple fly-bys by various aircraft. Attendees were also able to grab a bite to eat with pancakes and sausage handed out during the event. Clockwise from top left, a rare Legend Airways aircraft sits ready to take flight as guests were able to sit and relax in the back; Mike Gommel enjoys the warm sunny morning as he prepares to gas up his show plane; the Kuykendall family enjoys a day at the airstrip while brothers Koa, front, and Hukley and father, Kyle, stand on the stair case to see inside a military aircraft on display; and cook Doug Fischer hands Ida Dunning a portion of pancakes while Ruby Bilbro prepares to drop more hot cakes on the griddle.



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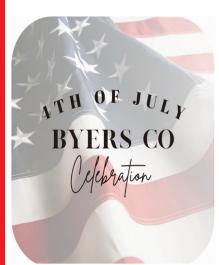


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2025 4th of July Celebration "Small Town Freedom"

Sunday, June 29th
11:00am - 2:00pm - 3rd Annual Car
Show @ May Farms
-Event Hosted by May Farms

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

<u>Friday July 4th</u>

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

For more information to register for events visit our website at:

Byersparkandrec.com or

email: 4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com