



Happy Fourth of July!

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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 31      Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate      Wednesday, July 2, 2025

## Metro street racers make run to Bennett

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

**BENNETT** — The eastern migration of metro-area street racers to the I-70 Corridor appears to be in full swing as the calendar flips to the summer, and the number of incidents could increase down

the road — no pun intended. Approximately 200 cars were reported racing each other and blocking other commuters along I-70 between 1-2:30 a.m. June 22. “I was at McDonald’s when they all of a sudden showed up at the King Soopers parking lot,” said one Deer Trail resident about his drive home Sunday morning. “Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies were across the street with their lights a going and blocking the road that direction.” Officials with the sheriff’s office and Colorado State Patrol said both agencies were aware of the

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**STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout**  
New Strasburg Fire Chief Scott Smith, right, and Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Pat Conroy discuss business during the June 26 fire board meeting.

## 'Burg tornado siren restored

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

**STRASBURG** — In addition to the repair of their emergency siren, the Strasburg Fire Protection District and Strasburg Fire Department continue the transition between their outgoing and new fire chiefs. Scott Smith, who officially

took over reins as fire chief in early June, told directors during the June 26 board meeting that among his first priorities is recruitment and retention of qualified staff and developing a district wildfire protocol. “Two from fire academy have passed their Fire 1 and

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**ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout**  
Firefighter Eugene Miller appears to have as much fun as the kids during the annual Foam Day co-hosted by the Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District and the Strasburg Fire Protection District June 21 at Strasburg’s Community Park West. In the direct line of foamy fire is local youngster Lailah Zamora. **SEE PAGE 8.**

## Byers Fourth Grand Marshal lives life of faith, service

by Kathy Smiley  
Staff Writer

**BYERS** — Jerry Mosbrucker’s longtime commitment to his community makes him the perfect choice to serve as the Grand Marshal of the 2025 Byers Fourth of July parade. Jerry has lived in Byers for more than five decades and, through his passion for service and his numerous talents, he has enhanced the town and served its residents in numerous ways. Jerry is a widower and has two daughters, Tanya and Tara. He is the grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of three. He has loved watching his grandchildren grow and has always supported them by attending their basketball, football, tennis, track and field, and volleyball events. His family and the



**KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout**  
Jerry Mosbrucker of Byers is the Grand Marshal of Byers’ 2025 Fourth of July Parade.

**SEE MOSBRUCKER**  
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## Local phone companies merge

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

**STRASBURG** — The longstanding setup of the two largest neighboring communities along the I-70 Corridor with separate telephone service providers is about to change. In mid-April, Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association entered into an agreement to purchase and take over TDS Telecommunications’ Stras-

burg phone network and office. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) officially granted the application for the transfer of control of the Strasburg office to Eastern Slope May 27. The arrangement expands Eastern Slope’s Corridor service area to both Bennett and Strasburg. “As the local cooperative broadband

**SEE PHONE MERGER**  
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**STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout**  
The transfer of TDS Telecom’s Strasburg phone operations to Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association was approved by the Federal Communications Commission in late May.



# COMMUNITY CORRAL

## Country western concert set to aid anti-opioid foundation

STRASBURG — A pair of up and coming country music singers will perform locally at a free benefit concert for the Small Town Strong Foundation this weekend.

Natasha Lynn and Joe Wren will take the stage from 5-8 p.m., Friday, July 4, at the Denver East/Strasburg KOA, 1812 Monroe St.

Admission is free. Visitors should bring their own chairs and blankets. Food will be available for purchase.

Lynn was named Amateur Newcomer of the Year by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame in 2022.

Wren has been nominated by the Hall of Fame for Newcomer of the Year in 2024 and Single Artist of the Year in 2025.

They were also nominated for Best Duo of the Year in 2025 and have been finalists for Celebrity Side Kick Guests on KOA radio.

## Walking tour of old Strasburg planned by historical society

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society will host a walking tour of old Strasburg starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, July 17, at the Comanche Crossing Museum at Lion’s Park.

Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum, will lead participants through the areas where Strasburg began, where significant locations were, and what is on these places today. Water will be provided.

Lyons Park is located at 1409 Railroad Ave., Strasburg.

## ArapCo Extension office plans seminar on pollinator habitat

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County will host a class on pollinators with a tour of the agency’s pollinator garden

“Creating Pollinator Habitat Class and Lima Pollinator Garden Tour” will run from 5-6:30 p.m., Monday, July 21, at the Arapahoe County Extension Office, 6934 S. Lima St., Suite B, Centennial.

Master Gardeners Sandi Pevac and

Nina Mbengue will discuss the survival needs of Colorado pollinators and the plants that attract them. Residents can help support pollinators and ecosystem health in their own backyards.

To register, visit The County Line newsletter page at [arapahoeco.gov](http://arapahoeco.gov).

## DT Pioneer Museum is open every Saturday thru August

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 appreciated.

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

## Spaghetti dinner scheduled to benefit Byers firefighters

BYERS — Byers Fire Protection District 9 will host its ninth annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 4:30-8 p.m., Thursday, July 3, at the Byers Firehouse, 100 N. Main St.

The meal will consist of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drinks.

Meals can be pre-ordered to eat-in or take out at [byersfire.org](http://byersfire.org).

Cost is \$8 per adult; \$7 per senior ages 65 and up; and \$6 per child.

## Cottage food safety focus of CSU Extension courses

LITTLETON — Starting a home-made food business can bring in extra income and inject one’s favorite recipes into the world.

By finishing a Colorado State University Extension online cottage food safety training, home cooks will earn food safety certification and gain the knowledge needed to successfully launch a home-based food business.

A Cottage Food Safety Statewide Online Training course will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, July 11. The \$50 courses are three to four hours long and can be completed online.

The event is sponsored by CSU Extension offices in Arapahoe and

Jefferson counties. For more information, visit [arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu](http://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu). 7/9

## 1 John conversation, potluck planned at Lutheran church

STRASBURG — A five-star and five-chapter discussion on the First Epistle of John will start with a potluck at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, July 9 and 23, at Saron Lutheran Church, 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

Evening prayer and Bible study will follow dinner with discussion centered on 1 John, which is thought to be a “sermon” about love, joy, and truth versus deception, harshness and the idea of the anti-christ. The basis of all – God is love.

Conversation on 2-3 John is also planned.

For more information, visit [www.SaronStrasburg.org](http://www.SaronStrasburg.org).

## Rain barrel class participants offered free installation kit

LITTLETON — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce and Arapahoe County will host a rain barrel workshop from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, July 19, at Kelter Library, 585 S. Main St., Byers.

Participation, which is limited to 30 people, includes a do-it-yourself rain barrel installation kit with diverter, hoses and spigots with seals, hole saw kit, and winter cover for diverter.

According to a release, rain barrels help save money as a free water source; lessen runoff pollution; prevent soil erosion; reduce reliance on drinking water water supplies; and control moisture around foundations.

For more information or to register, visit [www.coloradoraincatcher.com](http://www.coloradoraincatcher.com).

## ArapCo CommUNITY Fair links struggling people with basics

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County Human Services will host its biannual Thriving CommUNITY Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at Town Center at Aurora.

The fair connects underrepresented Arapahoe County families with local organizations and services that support basic needs.

Services in addition to the county resources are offered by AllHealth Network, BenefitsinAction, The Butterfly Foundation, The Center on Colfax, Show & Tell and Urban Sanctuary.

The Thriving CommUNITY Resource Fair will also feature live music, food trucks, and family-friendly activities.

Town Center at Aurora is located at 14200 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora.

## Fireworks part of Deer Trail Independence Day festivities

DEER TRAIL — The annual Deer Trail Residents Potluck & Fireworks will start with the meal at 4 p.m., Thursday, July 3, at the Deer Trail Rodeo Grounds.

Fireworks at dusk will follow the meal.

The town will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, fixin’s and drinks.

Residents are asked to bring a dessert or side dish.

## ArapCo Commissioner Baker special guest at biz meeting

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, at May Farms in Byers.

Arapahoe County Commissioners Jeff Baker will speak. The Chamber of Commerce and Arapahoe County will sponsor lunch.

To RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to [officei70ccoc@gmail.com](mailto:officei70ccoc@gmail.com) by Friday, July 11. Space is limited.

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HAWTHORNE- Washington/Clump...3' Clump #5C	Reg. Price <del>\$139.95</del>	Now <b>\$99.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>	REDBUD- Eastern...6-8' 1" #10 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$439.95</del>	Now <b>\$329.99</b>	Save <b>25%</b>
HONEYLOCUST- Skyline...10-12'x1 1/2" 20Gal GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$519.95</del>	Now <b>\$369.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>	ROSE OF SHARON- Ardens/Tree...#7 cont. Patio Tree	Reg. Price <del>\$229.95</del>	Now <b>\$169.99</b>	Save <b>26%</b>
HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst...10-12'x1 1/4" 25Gal. GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$629.95</del>	Now <b>\$449.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>	ROSE OF SHARON- Tahiti/Patio Tre...#5c Tree Form	Reg. Price <del>\$239.95</del>	Now <b>\$169.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>
HYDRANGEA- Limelight/Patio Tree...+/-6' #7 cont. Tree Form	Reg. Price <del>\$339.95</del>	Now <b>\$219.99</b>	Save <b>35%</b>	SPRUCE- Alberta Dwarf...4-5' 10gal. GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$269.95</del>	Now <b>\$159.99</b>	Save <b>41%</b>
HYDRANGEA- Vanilla Strawberry/Pt...6-8' #7 cont. Tree Form	Reg. Price <del>\$339.95</del>	Now <b>\$239.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>	SPRUCE- Bonny Blue...5B&B hand dug (20gal)	Reg. Price <del>\$559.95</del>	Now <b>\$389.99</b>	Save <b>30%</b>
JUNIPER- Blue Arrow...3 1/2-4 ft. #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$169.95</del>	Now <b>\$129.99</b>	Save <b>24%</b>	SPRUCE- Colo/Blue/Glacier Blue...#2 cont. 24"	Reg. Price <del>\$119.95</del>	Now <b>\$79.99</b>	Save <b>33%</b>
JUNIPER- Blue Arrow...#15 cont. 5-6'	Reg. Price <del>\$529.95</del>	Now <b>\$399.99</b>	Save <b>25%</b>	SPRUCE- Columnar Blue...#5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$219.95</del>	Now <b>\$175.96</b>	Save <b>20%</b>
JUNIPER- Green Column...42" #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$169.95</del>	Now <b>\$129.99</b>	Save <b>24%</b>	SPRUCE- Fat Albert Blue...3' #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$239.95</del>	Now <b>\$159.99</b>	Save <b>33%</b>
JUNIPER- Green Column...5-6' #7 cont. Monrovia	Reg. Price <del>\$349.95</del>	Now <b>\$249.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>	SPRUCE- Fat Albert Blue...4' #10 cont. Monrovia	Reg. Price <del>\$449.95</del>	Now <b>\$319.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>
JUNIPER- Medora...6.5-7.5'BB WireBasket	Reg. Price <del>\$599.95</del>	Now <b>\$399.99</b>	Save <b>33%</b>	SPRUCE- Globe Blue/Low Graft/Dwf...#2 Low Graft	Reg. Price <del>\$129.95</del>	Now <b>\$99.99</b>	Save <b>23%</b>
JUNIPER- Moonglow...8' 15 gal. Grow Bag	Reg. Price <del>\$489.95</del>	Now <b>\$339.99</b>	Save <b>31%</b>	VIBURNUM- Korean Spice...#7 cont. Shrub	Reg. Price <del>\$149.95</del>	Now <b>\$99.99</b>	Save <b>33%</b>
JUNIPER- Spartan...#5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$169.95</del>	Now <b>\$129.99</b>	Save <b>24%</b>	WILLOW- Weeping Golden 'Niobe'...10-12'x1 1/2" #15 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$299.95</del>	Now <b>\$199.99</b>	Save <b>33%</b>
JUNIPER- Spartan...+/-6'10gal. GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$479.95</del>	Now <b>\$329.99</b>	Save <b>31%</b>	YEW- H.M. Eddie...#2 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$89.95</del>	Now <b>\$69.99</b>	Save <b>22%</b>
JUNIPER- Woodward...+ 6' #15cont.PottedBall	Reg. Price <del>\$429.95</del>	Now <b>\$329.99</b>	Save <b>23%</b>	YEW- Hicks...3-4' 10 gal. GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$299.95</del>	Now <b>\$239.96</b>	Save <b>20%</b>
LILAC- Chinese/Saugeana/Purple...#5 cont. Shrub	Reg. Price <del>\$89.95</del>	Now <b>\$67.46</b>	Save <b>25%</b>				
LILAC- Common Purple...#3 cont. Shrub	Reg. Price <del>\$89.95</del>	Now <b>\$67.46</b>	Save <b>25%</b>				
LILAC- Ivory Silk/Clump...5-6' clump #10 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$379.95</del>	Now <b>\$279.99</b>	Save <b>26%</b>				
LILAC- Japanese Tree Clump...10-12'clump #25 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$749.95</del>	Now <b>\$559.99</b>	Save <b>25%</b>				
LINDEN- American/Sentry...10-12'x 2" 20Gal GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$619.95</del>	Now <b>\$439.99</b>	Save <b>29%</b>				
LINDEN- Glenleven...10-12'x2" 20Gal GrowBag	Reg. Price <del>\$619.95</del>	Now <b>\$399.99</b>	Save <b>35%</b>				
LINDEN- Greenspire...6-8' #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$219.95</del>	Now <b>\$149.99</b>	Save <b>32%</b>				
LINDEN- Greenspire...8-10'x1.75' 15Gal.	Reg. Price <del>\$499.95</del>	Now <b>\$349.99</b>	Save <b>30%</b>				
MAPLE- Armstrong...8-10'x1" #7 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$359.95</del>	Now <b>\$219.99</b>	Save <b>39%</b>				
MAPLE- Autumn Blaze...6-8' #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$189.95</del>	Now <b>\$129.99</b>	Save <b>32%</b>				
MAPLE- Autumn Blaze...7-8' x 1" #5 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$199.95</del>	Now <b>\$139.99</b>	Save <b>30%</b>				
MAPLE- Autumn Blaze...8-10'x 1" #7 cont.	Reg. Price <del>\$269.95</del>	Now <b>\$199.99</b>	Save <b>26%</b>				

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# ARAPAHOE COUNTY



**Offices Closed**  
Arapahoe County Offices will be closed **Friday, July 4**  
in observance of Independence Day.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

JULY 24-27 2025

Cheers to a hoppin' good time!



## Pours on the Plains

A craft beer event at the Arapahoe County Fair

Friday, July 25 | 6:30–9:30 p.m. | Exhibition Hall

PARTICIPATING BREWERIES (subject to change)





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**Unified system for those seeking support**  
Starting July 1, the Colorado Crisis Services Line will redirect to the 988 Colorado Mental Health Line. This change aims to improve service coordination, raise awareness, and promote the use of 988 as a trusted national crisis support resource. Visit **988Lifeline.org**



**Feeling Crafty? Plan Your Entries Now**  
Public Competitions at the Arapahoe County Fair

In-Person Exhibit Entry: July 20–21

Entries Displayed: July 24–27

arapahoecountyfair.com/publiccompetitions





ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Bennett Anythink library hosted a summer painting and sewing event June 21. Attendees received one-on-one help learning how to sew as well as creating a piece of relief print art that could be transferred to their final fabric bag project. Above, Alexis Pocock, left, and instructor Giuliana Maresca share a laugh.

## LIBRARY NEWS

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

**Adult book club:** “The Coast Road” by Alan Murrin. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, July 8.

**Colorado ghost towns:** Adults can hear a presentation on Colorado ghost towns by photographer Ron Ruhoff. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, July 16.

**Super Forces & Structures:** Tweens ages 9-12 can explore basic physics concepts through fun, interactive activities to step into the shoes of a junior architect or engineer. They will experiment with gyroscopes, toy racetracks and more presented by Mad Science of Colorado. 2-4 p.m., Thursday, July 17.

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

**Full STEAM Ahead:** Parents of children ages 0-5 can spark their child’s curiosity with hands-on activities exploring shapes, sizes, colors, patterns and art at Full STEAM Ahead: Math and Art. Attendees will take home a free book while supplies last. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, July 10.

**Game-apolooza:** Teens ages 12-18 can participate in an afternoon of board games and mixed reality games on Meta Quest 3S headsets. Free snacks provided. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 9.

## Maximize your energy efficiency this summer!

Learn smart ways to boost your home’s efficiency and cut down on your monthly bills.



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**Wheat Harvest Approaches!**

Byers farmer Mark Linnebur, foreground, listens intently to results of Colorado State University wheat variety trials during an annual Colorado Wheat-sponsored field day at Cooksey Farms near Roggen June 6. Standing alongside Linnebur is retired CSU wheat breeder Scott Haley. Linnebur and other I-70 Corridor farmers indicated last week that area wheat harvest should start the week. The wet-ter-than-normal late spring and early summer have been offset by recent temperature hikes past 90 degrees, leading to projections of a near normal wheat harvest around the Fourth of July. The 10-day forecast dated June 27 also projected temperatures at least in the high 80s with little chance for rain. Colorado harvest was approximately 1% complete at the end of last week, starting in the southeast corner. Commuters are reminded to be patient and safe as combines and other harvesting equipment navigate local roadways.

Artists asked to create ArapCo ‘I Voted’ stickers

LITTLETON — The Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder’s Office wants local artists to submit their creative designs for the county’s 2025-26 “I Voted” election stickers. New this year are three expanded, distinct categories designed to engage artists across all age groups and skill levels:

- Hand-drawn “I Voted” stickers, open to all ages.
- Digitally designed “I Voted” stickers, open to all ages.
- “First-Time Voter” stickers (hand-drawn or digital), exclusive to residents ages 5-18.

Artists must submit their entries by July 31 at [arapahoevotes.gov](http://arapahoevotes.gov), where complete contest rules and entry packets are available. Winning designs will appear on stickers distributed to in-person voters during the 2025 and 2026 elections, as well as at community events throughout the election season. “Voters love getting their stickers, but the fact that the images are created by our own residents are a source of pride for our residents, voters and the County,” said Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez. Winners from previous years have been featured in local news coverage and highlighted across Arapahoe County’s social media channels. This year’s contest represents a significant expansion from previous competitions, which were limited to

students within the county. The competition now welcomes submissions from residents of all ages. For complete rules, submission details, and design specifications, visit [arapahoevotes.gov](http://arapahoevotes.gov).



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# Church Directory

**Strasburg Presbyterian Church**  
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO  
www.spcusa.us  
**303-622-4325**  
• Sunday Worship 10 a.m.



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



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**Mt. Tabor Baptist Church**  
278 S. Sherman St., Byers  
303-822-9366 • mttaborbyers.org

Sat., 6:00 p.m. ....	Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. ....	Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. ....	Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. .... Church
Awana .....No meetings until restarting on Aug. 26	

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Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm  
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm  
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"  
**mvfcolorado.com**  
303.622.9600

**Strasburg Orthodox Mission**  
Tuesday, 7 p.m. & Saturday, 7 p.m.:  
• Vespers & Study •  
Saron Lutheran Church (1656 Main St.)  
No Sunday Services Over Summer  
Info: strasburgorthodox.org






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Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am  
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

# MCC honors employee milestones

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College recognized the dedication of its employees at its annual appreciation luncheon May 12.

The event honored employees who exemplify MCC's core values.

The college presented the annual Guiding Principles Award to Director of Purchasing Chloe Hirschfeld to honor her exceptional demonstration of the college's core values: Integrity, Respect, Open and Honest Communication and Collaboration.

Known for her high energy, strong ethics, and transparent decision-making, Hirschfeld fosters unity through open communication and leads with purpose.

Her work with internal and external stakeholders consistently reflects the heart of MCC's mission.

Brad Parker, Automotive Technology faculty member, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to MCC as he marked his retirement.

Parker's dedication to student success, commitment to excellence in automotive education, and years of service have left a lasting impact on the college community.

The luncheon also highlighted milestone years of service.

**25 years:** Carol Kuper, Mathematics Faculty & Director of GT Pathways and April Amack, Director of Learning Resources, were commended for their long-standing commitment and invaluable contributions to the college community.

**20 years:** Honored for 20 years of service, Debra Wacker, Enrollment Specialist, and Maria Cardenas, Director of Admissions & Advising, were recognized for two decades of outstanding dedication to MCC.

**15 years:** Reaching 15 years of service, Jane Fries, Assistant to the President and Annette Lebsock, Accounting Technician II were celebrated for



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chloe Hirschfeld received Morgan Community College's Guiding Principles Award at the school's annual appreciation luncheon May 12.

their continued service and leadership.

**10 years:** Connie Mitchell, Math Lead Faculty & Division Chair of General Education; Jennifer Thistle, Dean of Health Sciences; and Rashar Jackson, Custodian I were recognized for their commitment to MCC and their positive impact over the past decade.

**Five years:** Employees honored for five years of service included Renee Sperry, Nursing Faculty; Amanda Czuprynski, Communications Faculty; Tyler Wunsch, Welding Faculty; Brooke Hosier, Media Design, Marketing, & Advertising Faculty; Mo Darar, Multicultural Entrepreneurial Business Faculty; and Michael Bidwell, Coordinator of the Regional Center at Limon.

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Deer Trail Rodeo Royalty — Queen Amelia Prouse and Lady In Waiting Hannah Chambers — hosted numerous other rodeo queens, ladies in waiting and princesses during a Las Vegas-themed game night fundraiser at the Strasburg American Legion Hall June 20. Above, Prouse and Chambers, front row in red shirts, are joined by their esteemed fellow royalty for a group photo. Right, Elbert County Jr. Princess Ava Cleveland celebrates her dart-throwing prowess after popping a balloon. This summer's edition of The World's First Rodeo is July 11-12 at the Deer Trail Jockey Club Rodeo Grounds.

## GOOD LUCK, DEER TRAIL RODEO CONTESTANTS



## \$40K OK'd for '25 Bennett grants

**BENNETT** — The Board of Trustees June 24 approved \$40,000 in funding for seven recipients of the 2025 Bennett Gives Back Grant. The program provides financial support to eligible organizations and special districts that serve Bennett residents by enhancing local programs, services, and resources. Recipients and projects include:

- \$5,000 to the Hearts, Hands and Hope Foundation for scholarships, event materials, and office supplies;
- \$4,000 to the Corridor Creative Arts League for interactive arts programming and professional

- guest speakers;
- \$9,000 to the Bennett Wrestling Club for purchase of a new competition mat;
- \$6,400 to Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue for enhancements to fire prevention software;
- \$6,200 to the Bennett Elementary PTSA for installation of a Flowwater dispenser and water purification system for the intermediate school; and
- \$9,400 to the Bennett Performing Arts Booster Club for upgrades for the marching and concert bands, including uniforms, flags, and instruments

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The joint Foam Day effort by the Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District and Strasburg Fire Protection District at Community Park West June 21 proved a welcome relief to the recent stretch of 90-degree-plus days. From left photo, Joselyn Blaine, 4, tries to keep her balance as she collides with the sidewall of the popular inflatable water slike; Rowan Murphy, 3, lays down to play with the foam; and Dawson Jones, 7, closes his eyes as he prepares to slide into the water pit at the bottom of the slide.

## CORRIDOR CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, JULY 3

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

### MONDAY, JULY 7

**Rebuilding Liberty** (Part 2 of 4). This video-based course grounded in the Declaration of Independence presents eight building blocks of liberty and a 12-step program of action. 6-8 p.m., Holy Spirit Livin,' 1506 Main St., Strasburg. To register, call (303)622-4648.

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

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

### TUESDAY, JULY 8

**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.gov.

**Deer Trail Town Board.** Work session 6:30 p.m., regular meeting 7 p.m., Town Hall, 555 Second Ave.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

**Livin' in the Spirit ladies group potluck.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Holy Spirit Livin,' 1506 Main St., Strasburg. (303)622-4648.

**Deer Trail Conservation District Board.** 1 p.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

**Strasburg Sanitation & Water Board.** 7 p.m., TBK Bank conference room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

### THURSDAY, JULY 10

**Bennett Fire Protection District Board.** 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.

### EVERY THURSDAY

**Play & Learn** for ages 1-3 and their families. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.

**Family story time.** 10:30 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

**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. Click on "virtual events."

**Preschool story time:** Children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and other fun activities. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout  
Shooters Bar & Grill in Byers hosted its inaugural car show June 7. Above, GERALYNN LOWELL is all smiles after receiving first place for her 1984 Jeep CJ-7. Below, cover band Halfway to Headlight performs.



## Passport services coming to Aurora

LITTLETON — The Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder’s Aurora office is now offering passport services. Customers applying for new passports can book appointments. The office does not process passport renewals, which can be completed online. Soon international travelers in eastern Arapahoe County won’t have to drive all the way to Littleton to apply for a passport. On July 7, the Aurora Clerk & Recorder’s Office began processing new passport applications. The office only processes new passport applications. Renewals can be

completed on the State Department’s website. Appointments for passports book up to two weeks in advance, and they go quickly. Clerk Joan Lopez advises customers to check the appointment scheduling tool early in the morning for the best opportunity to find an ideal time. Travelers can also go to the U.S. Postal Service’s website for more options. For a list of requirements and to book an appointment for the Aurora or Littleton office, visit [arapahoeco.gov/passports](http://arapahoeco.gov/passports).

## USNORTHCOM beefs up security at installations

COLORADO SPRINGS, — Based on world events, U.S. Northern Command has directed additional security measures at all military installations in the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility, which includes the continental United States and Alaska. Employees and visitors to military installations should plan for increased security measures on the installation and longer wait times to access the installation. Increased Force Protection Condition (FPCON) measures will be maintained as long as necessary. Specific threats to installations have not been found. U.S. Northern Command establishes policies and procedures to protect Department of Defense personnel, their families, installations, facilities and information from terrorist acts. Strong partnerships strengthen our

ability to identify threats and mitigate the potential for attacks. Installation commanders have the authority and responsibility to implement and enforce FPCON and security measures to ensure the protection of their assigned Department of Defense elements and personnel and, when applicable, tenant organizations on installations. A commander may declare an increased FPCON level, add mandatory FPCON measures from higher FPCON levels, or add supplemental FPCON measures over those FPCON measures USNORTHCOM declares based on a perceived threat to their installation, separate facility, or operating area. USNORTHCOM partners with federal, tribal, state, local and U.S. government agencies to defeat terrorism.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO ADAMS COUNTY  
PROPERTY OWNERS FILING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION  
APPEALS WITH THE  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that starting on August 1, 2025, the Adams County Board of Equalization shall sit at the Adams County Government Center, 4430 South Adams County Parkway, Brighton, Colorado, to hear contests of property tax exemption denials by an authorized independent referee.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the deadline for filing appeals with the Board of Equalization for Property Tax Exemption Appeal is August 15, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOSH ZYGIELBAUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

ADAMS COUNTY  
COLORADO

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, July 4, 2025.

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**Weekend Activity • Police Reports**



# Closure of 60 U.S. Kroger stores in 18 months slated to up profits

by Dee-Ann Durbin  
AP Business Writer

Kroger plans to close around 60 U.S. grocery stores over the next 18 months to improve efficiency. The company, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, announced the plan during a corporate earnings call June 20. The company hasn't said which stores it plans to shutter, but said the closures will happen around the country. It also said employees at impacted stores will be offered jobs at other locations.

"We see this as an opportunity to move these closed store sales to other stores, and we think that should improve profitability," Kroger's interim Chairman and CEO Ronald Sargent said during the call.

Sargent also said Kroger plans to open at least 30 stores this year and will accelerate its store openings in "high-growth geographies" next year.

A message seeking details of the company's plans was left June 18 with

Kroger.

Kroger is the nation's largest super-market chain, with 2,731 stores in 35 states and the District of Columbia. It operates stores under multiple brand names, including Smith's, Ralphs, King Soopers and Fred Meyer.

Sargent said Kroger usually evaluates the performance of individual stores on an annual basis but it deferred any store closings during its two-year effort to merge with rival Albertsons. The two companies announced the \$24.6 billion merger plan in 2022 but the deal fell apart late last year after two judges blocked it due to concerns about competition.

Kroger's plan to close stores comes as the company is facing labor unrest over issues including chronic under-staffing at stores, according to the United Food & Commercial Workers union. Union members in southern California began picketing at a Los Angeles Ralphs recently. Workers at King Soopers stores in Colorado also went on strike earlier this year.



The King Soopers store in Bennett belongs to the Kroger network.



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MOSBRUCKER

FROM PAGE 1

extended family of his siblings and their children and grandchildren give him great joy.

“One of my granddaughters is getting married in August,” he told The I-70 Scout June 24. “Of course I’ll be there!”

Jerry is a skilled woodworker — a craft he learned from his father and older brother. From his home workshop he has built furniture and other custom items for family, friends and community groups. His handiwork includes podiums for the Knights of Columbus, the Byers American Legion, and Byers High School. He built his own house on North Fetzer Street and, with the help of his brother and brother-in-law, created a two-story playhouse that became a favorite spot for his children and grandchildren. One of his more visible community contributions is the “Welcome to Byers” sign on the west edge of town along Highway 40.

Jerry volunteered as a member of the Byers Fire Department for several years. These days he spends countless summer hours on his riding lawnmower sprucing up community property. He mows around the highway off- and on-ramps, along Highway 36 near Byers General Store, and along Front Street near the school and grain elevators. He took over the volunteer job after the previous volunteer, Kristine Reed, retired several years ago.

“I love doing it,” he said. “To me it’s like therapy — sitting on my zero-turn mower. I call it my rock crusher and woodchipper because it does those things.”

As a devoted member of the Knights

of Columbus Council in Byers, Jerry is committed to charity and faith-based service. His faith, work ethic, and sense of community are rooted in his upbringing. He was one of 11 children raised on a farm in North Dakota. The siblings included three sets of twins — including him and his sister.

He remembers his family traveling two miles to the closest Catholic church in a horse-drawn sleigh during the winters.

“There would be a bunch of teams of horses lined up with the sleighs in front of the church on those days,” he said. “There was too much snow to drive and, back in those days, they didn’t have much in the way of snow removal. I remember back in the ’50s we had so much snow the Army Corp of Engineers or somebody came in and opened up our country roads from the main highway. We had about five feet of snow on some of those roads.”

Jerry attended a one-room elementary school and a Catholic high school affiliated with Assumption Abby, a monastery in Richardton, N.D. After graduating high school in 1963, he joined the monastery, where he stayed for five years.

“I was a Benedictine monk,” he said. “All we did was work and pray.”

Jerry enjoyed the work, and his time at the monastery served as a training ground for his future endeavors.

“I worked in the carpentry shop, the print shop, and the library there,” he said. “I even butchered a cow for myself. I also learned beekeeping there when I helped another brother with the bees. They probably had 15 hives. They were set up for processing honey

and would sell it to the locals.”

Jerry’s last six months at the monastery were spent living on a nearby Indian reservation helping residents.

“I liked working with the Indians,” he said. “I hauled grain and cattle, helped with home repairs, and picked up people to bring them to a little church there affiliated with the monastery.”

After five years, Jerry decided to leave the monastery and look for a job in the outside world. He noted he had “no idea of money” — no one received a salary at the monastery.

“I remember going to the print shop of a daily newspaper to ask for a job, and I told them I had some experience in printing,” he said. “The owner asked how much I’d be expected to be paid. I said maybe a dollar and a quarter. The guy said he’d probably pay me more than that.”

Jerry went on to work for two daily newspapers in North Dakota — the Bismark Tribune and Dickenson Press. He met his late wife at that time and, when they were both laid off from their printing jobs in 1972, they moved to Byers, where they had family ties.

“We went to the (typographical) union in Denver and we both got jobs right away,” Jerry said. “My wife worked for the Rocky Mountain News and I worked at Hirschfeld Press, a commercial print shop.”

Typesetting in the 1970s was done with linotype machines.

“We had linotypes and drawers of lettering that we could lay out,” Jerry said.

Printing processes changed, but Jerry found other work that he found equally fulfilling. In the late ’70s, he was hired by Arapahoe County, where he worked in the road and bridge department for 23 years as a heavy equipment operator and supervisor. His skills and leadership earned him the distinction of Employee of the Year during that time.

Jerry also worked for Schmidt Ready Mix, now defunct, at Strasburg for 12 years, continuing his commitment to hands-on, skilled labor that contributed to the development of the region.

“I loved working in the gravel pits,” he said, adding that sand was dug out from the banks of Bijou Creek. “I’d

haul the sand; another guy would wash the sand; then I’d haul it about a mile to Ready Mix.”

The sand was used to make concrete. Jerry said that one job that he didn’t particularly love was driving a cement truck.

“I always thanked the Lord when I got back to the plant every night with that truck,” he said.

Jerry said he has been fascinated with bees ever since he helped the beekeeper in the monastery in his youth.

“I’ve been beekeeping in Colorado since 1975,” he noted, adding that he and others founded the Eastern Colorado Beekeepers Association in 2016. He enjoys mentoring aspiring beekeepers.

He currently has 10 beehives and sells honey out of his home. He often gets calls to collect swarms of bees. Some he boxes and keeps, others are installed with other beekeepers.

“I’ve always been set up to extract honey,” he said. “In 1975 I went to Montgomery Ward on South Broadway in Denver and bought my first honey extractor equipment, which I still use to this day. Those days you could buy just about anything in that store.”

Jerry’s many passions include his 1969 Chevelle Super Sport 396. He is the original owner.

“I don’t want to let it go,” he said. “Some stuff you just never want to part with.”

At 81, Jerry is thankful that he’s able to continue to work, serve and enjoy life.

“I’ve been blessed, and I like to help others,” he said. “These days, though, I work hard one day, and I’ve got to rest the next.”

A prostate cancer survivor, Jerry has been cancer-free for more than four years.

“It’s funny, when I was told by the doctor I had prostrate cancer, I didn’t even get upset. I just put my hand in the Lord’s; he took care of it, and here I am. There’s a lot of stuff we fret about, but faith will get you a long ways.”

Jerry lives his life with heart, humility and a deep commitment to serving others. His quiet dedication is making a powerful and lasting difference in his family, church and community.

4TH OF JULY

BYERS CO

Celebration

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

7:00pm - 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

- Event Hosted by Byers Fire Department @ Fire House - (Donation per Meal)

Friday July 4th

7:30am - 9:30am - Knights of Columbus Breakfast Community Breakfast - Tickets \$5.00 per meal

- 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 - Independence Festival - (Free Event)

Quilt Show / Car Display / Kids Activities / Street and Vendor Fair Celebration

- Live Bands - Eric Golden Band and Paul and Amie Hart

- Event Hosted by community businesses and BPRD @ Byers community Park

Saturday July 5th

5:00pm - 9:00pm - Community/Family Team Tournaments (Free Event)

-Event Hosted by BPRD @ Quint Valley ball fields / Arena Softball-Volleyball-Kickball Tournaments

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

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William "Bill" Van Matre

William (Bill) Eugene Van Matre was born October 24, 1922 in Denver, Colo., to Isa Colborn and Edgar Eugene Van Matre. He passed away peacefully on June 18, 2025 in Limon, Colo. He was 102 years old.

Bill was raised along with his sister, Jesse, on the family farm his parents purchased in 1916 southeast of Byers.

He attended school in Deer Trail and graduated in 1942. In elementary school he rode his horse to the Johnson Place near Peoria to catch an old truck which served as a school bus.

In 1945 Bill married Andree Deter. They lived in a house in Deer Trail for about a year then built a small house on his parents' farm in 1946 when he returned from the army. He served in the Army toward the end of WWII.

In 1955, when his parents retired, Bill and Andree moved their family to the farm in Byers. They milked cows as did many of the families in eastern Colorado. They also ran a cow/calf operation and farmed irrigated land where they grew corn for silage and alfalfa hay. He lived on the farm until he retired and moved to Windsor Gardens in Denver, Colo., in 1998.

He was a charter member of the Deer Trail Jockey Club and instrumental in forming the Elks Club in Deer Trail. He was a member of the Deer Trail Old Timers and for many years he won the box of candy for being the oldest man born in the area.

He had a lifelong love of horses and always had several on the farm. He also raised and raced thoroughbred horses. He would always like to sit and talk about some mare or colt that he especially liked. His photo album was full of his race horse pictures and spent many hours looking at them. He could remember when they were all born, where they raced and how many races they won.

He married Kathrynne Cutright. They owned and operated Lulu's Inn in Watkins, Colo., for several years. In 2021, after Kathrynne passed away, the country life he loved called him back to Deer Trail. He celebrated his 100th birthday in 2022, a milestone he was proud of. With a little bit of help from his daughters he was able to live by himself until August 2024 when he moved to Aspen Leaf Assisted Living Center in Limon, Colo.

Bill is survived by his three daughters, Cheryl (Rod) Ross of Byers, Susan (Zeb) Eldringhoff and Kathy (Steve) Carter both of Deer Trail. Four grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

**Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 26, at Byers Cemetery.**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Deer Trail Cemetery, PO Box 191, Deer Trail, CO 80105.





The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Summer on the Farm at May Farms June 21. In addition to touring agricultural-based attractions, guests were greeted by multiple vendors and other food and activities. From top photo, youngsters, and a couple of parents, hold on tight while taking a tour in the popular barrel train; in attendance and fresh food; mother-and-son duo Lindy and Brendan Kolibaba show off Brendan's craft work; and a group of youngsters find the bouncy-house more their speed. For more information about the chamber, visit online at [www.i70ccoc.com](http://www.i70ccoc.com).



A group of four students are jumping on a large, brown, rectangular trampoline. A boy in a blue t-shirt and black shorts is in the air, reaching up with his right arm. A girl in a purple t-shirt and light blue shorts is also jumping, smiling. Two other girls are on the trampoline, one in a white t-shirt and black shorts, and another in a teal t-shirt and black shorts. The background shows a blue sky and green trees.

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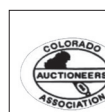
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...and then watching fantastic fireworks!

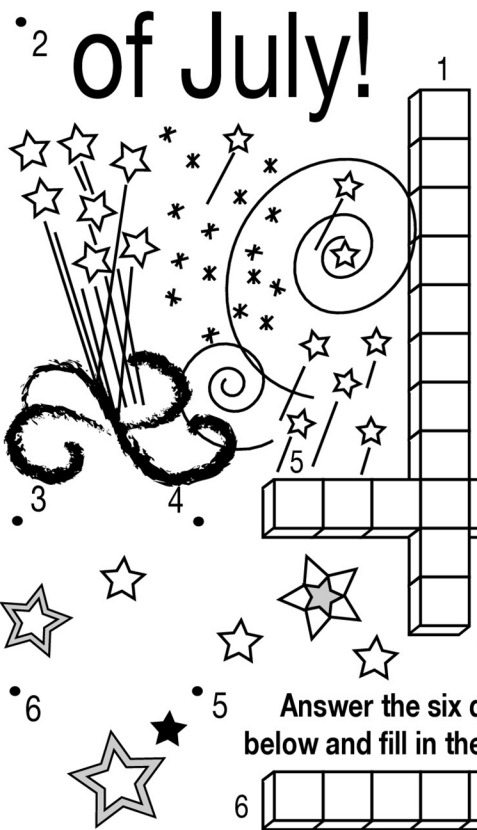
Kids: color stuff in!

# Happy 12<sup>th</sup> of July!



Follow this color key to see how many stars are in our nation's flag:  
● = Blue    + = Red

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	●	●	●	+	+	+	+	+
+	●	+	+	+	●	+	●	+
+	●	●	+	+	●	+	●	+
+	+	+	●	+	●	+	●	+
+	●	●	+	+	●	+	+	+



Answer the six questions below and fill in the puzzle.

I love to wave my flag at parades and at the fireworks. I'm very proud of my country. Do you know how many stars are on our nation's flag? There is one for each state in the union. **Color in the squares.**

The Declaration of Independence is the document that told the world that the 13 colonies were united as one country - the United States of America. It told that all ties to England were broken. The people wished to have a voice in their own government.

Independence Day

Philadelphia

July 4, 1776

Liberty Bell

The Spirit of '76

George Washington

1. What was rung to call people to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence?
2. In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed?
3. A painting was done for America's 100th birthday. It shows a boy, a father and a grandfather marching off to war to fight for freedom. What is the painting called?
4. Upon what date was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
5. What is the name of the holiday celebrating our nation's birthday?
6. What is the name of the General who became our first President?

## All Told!

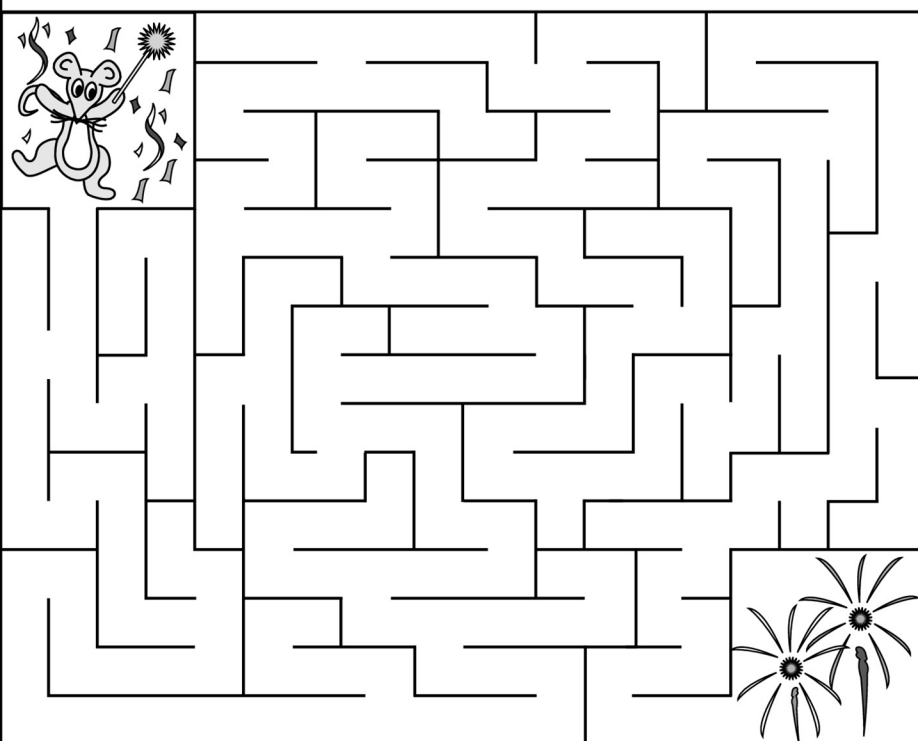
I am a symbol of freedom. I called people to meetings that rang of liberty. I announced the first time that the Declaration of Independence would be read to the crowds on July 8, 1776. **Can you follow the dots to see me?** Put my name on the blanks:

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

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## Fireworks Fun!

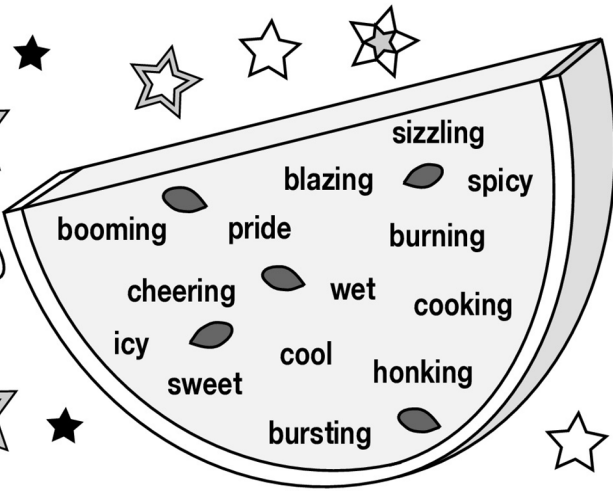
Little Mouse is jumping for joy! He can barely wait to get to the fair and fireworks. **Can you help him?**



## Fun at the Fireworks!

Don't you love going to the fireworks at night? It's a great way to join in the fun on Independence Day. You experience fireworks with all of your senses. **Can you fill in the blanks with what you might see, hear, taste, smell and feel during the celebration?**

- I can **see** colors \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky and bonfires \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can **hear** fireworks \_\_\_\_\_ and car horns \_\_\_\_\_ and people \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can **taste** watermelon \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, a hotdog, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can **smell** sulfur \_\_\_\_\_ and food \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can **feel** the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ grass under my feet and \_\_\_\_\_ for my country in my heart!





ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Not-So Dusty Pages

20 YEARS AGO  
JULY 5, 2005

The Chinese call their country “Zhongguo,” the middle kingdom, a land between heaven and hell, sky and underworld. Strasburg pastor Scott Bottoms found himself in this middle kingdom when he joined a mission trip that provided medical care to the Chinese for three weeks in early June.

Bottoms, who is the pastor at the High Plains Christian Center, joined the trip because he is finishing his master’s degree at Denver Seminary in intercultural leadership. He is writing about his experiences in China as part of his practicum, but it wasn’t just educational purposes that led him to the far East. Rather, Bottoms traveled to China to minister to both the Chinese’s bodies and souls.

“I obviously had other motives for going. I really wanted to connect with the Chinese people,” Bottoms said.

The mission trip was sponsored by the Medical Missions Network and Timberline Church in Fort Collins.

Bottoms has been closely associated with the church for several years, he said, and when they told him about the trip, he jumped at the chance to join them.

15 YEARS AGO  
JULY 6, 2010

The high occurrence of rabid wildlife continues to concern state official and calls for vaccinating pets and other livestock are being reiterated.

As of June 29, 70 animals, including 46 skunks, have tested positive for the disease in 2010. In addition, four foxes, a horse, a mule deer, a domestic cat, and one muskrat tested positive for rabies, most likely the skin strain of the disease.

Elbery County has had the most positive with 19 sounds, 2

foxes and a deer. Arapahoe County has had four skins and a horse near Deer Trail confirmed positive, while Adams County had one skin. Other countries of not are Douglas with seven rabid skins, Otero with six sounds, and El Paso with three sounds and three foxes.

“This is by far the most rabies in sounds and other animals that we’ve ever seen and it is definitely a cancer,” said assistant state veterinarian Dr. Nick Striegel June 30. “It’s a matter that the disease is certainly out there and prevention, including vaccination, is crucial.

10 YEARS AGO  
JULY 7, 2015

BENNETT — Two Democratic state senators held a town hall meeting in Bennet June 27 to answer questions, hear concerns and review the legislative session that wrapped up in May.

Mary Hodge, who represent the Adams County portion of the I-70 Corridor, and Morgan Carroll, who represents the Arapahoe County side, met with constituents at the Bennett Recreation Center.

Hodge, who served as chair of the of Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Joint Budget and Water Resources Review committees, said she spent most of the session working on water issues.

“Not all of them successfully,” she said, nothing HB15-038, which dies in the Senate.

The bill would have created a more flexible change-in-use system for irrigation water. Currently, water court proceedings governing an application to change the beneficial use of an irrigation water right require the applicant to designate a septic alternative beneficial use identified at the time of the application.

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

SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

Today In History

Today is Wednesday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2024. There are 182 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress prohibiting discrimination and segregation

based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

ON THIS DATE

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.”

In 1881, President James A.

Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September.

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Ill., as white mobs attacked black residents; at least 50 and as many as 200 people, most of them black, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1962, the first Walmart store opened in Rogers, Ark.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme

Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 that the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS**

Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 76. Actor Margot Robbie is 35.

— *Associated Press*

HOROSCOPE

Lunar Tests of Character

The lunar squares emphasize the need to lead with integrity. That means doing it the same alone as you would when people are watching. Also, even when it feels like no one’s noticing, they are. In fact, someone’s watching you to figure out how to behave, so whatever you do, they will also do. Does that change your agenda?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You’ll thrive in the thrust of the challenge because you love the game. You’re good at it. You have range. You can play with tone, break the rules, depart, fly and stick the landing. You’re magnetic when you’re in your zone.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You’re more emotionally fluent than most today. You’ll sense the feeling under the conversation — the thing no one’s naming. What should you do with the information? Let it guide your tone, not your agenda, and the rest will come to you along the way.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You’ve seen enough to know that weird can be wonderful. Something that doesn’t make sense at first will turn out to be exactly right. Trust your fascination. It comes from a part of you that is guided by forces beyond logic.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There are those who want you to do things the same way they would, but that’s not going to work. Be polite, be blithe and be moving right along. Even if you’re not sure where you’re going, you’ll get there in your own way. Keep walking.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** There are those who act nice because they have excellent manners, or because it’s the most expedient way to carry out business. You act nice because you are nice. Everyone feels it and wants to be around you because of it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your emotional frequency — your style of thinking, feeling, creating — isn’t common, but there are still plenty of others out there on a similar wavelength. Hold out for the kind of belonging that doesn’t require shrinking or explaining, just recognizing.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** An urge to declutter is about more than the stuff. You’re

clearing space to think, breathe, feel — and be bored for a second, too, which is part of it. Boredom can be fertile. In a wide-open moment, new ideas will float in.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Dealing with anxiety head-on probably won’t make it go away. You’re well-aware that the internal dialogue is just thoughts, but they live in your body and can be released through movement. Today, you can effectively walk/run/hug/dance it off.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** “Let’s proceed with mischief,” said an anonymous fairy in Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Today, it might mean doing one thing out loud that you’d usually keep private. A bold compliment. A strange idea. A confession. Pick someone fun to deliver it to.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It’s senseless to ask for permission in situations where no one is in charge. That would be like riding into the Wild West and asking to see the town ordinances. You’ll magnetize opportunity by acting as if you already belong.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If something excites you, claim it. Don’t try to impress — try to connect. If you can make someone feel like the most important person in the world while you’re with them, you’re operating at a high level of humanity.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Feelings, when accepted, tend to pass. When repressed or argued with, they linger and distort. Let it move through. Acknowledge it without judgment. Let the feeling exist and it won’t bother you for long.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 2).** Purposefulness and effectiveness will be your hallmarks this year. You’ll tackle whatever task life tosses you. Your style of work and care will take on just the shape that’s most needed, be it solid, tender, impressive, comforting, tender or instructive. More highlights: You’ll get to choose your company. Reciprocation and mutuality are the vibes you most often get. You’ll be swept into a quest. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 1, 15, 20 and 50.

— *Horoscopes by Holiday*

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FLOWERS

ACROSS

1. Straw man’s “victim”

5. Protestant denom.

8. Large edible mushroom

11. Mischievous Norse deity

12. \*Thumbelina emerges from a flower in a fairy \_\_\_\_

13. Brick and mortar destination

15. Garner wages

16. Guinness and such

17. \*Poison: “Every Rose Has Its \_\_\_\_”

18. \*If you go to San \_\_\_\_, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair”

20. Electric one and moray one

21. Killer whales

22. p in mpg

23. Fatwa, alt. sp.

26. Spain’s neighbor, across Strait of Gibraltar

30. “Back To The Future” actress

31. Leaked, as in ship

34. Miso bean

35. Operatic solos

37. H+, e.g.

38. Is dressed in

39. Leave a Hancock

40. Cast-off skin

42. Egyptian boy king

43. Clearance, as under a bridge

45. Neglectful in duty

47. \*\*“Dandelion Wine” author \_\_\_\_ Bradbury

48. Dear one

50. Black cat, to some

52. \*\*“Build Me Up \_\_\_\_”

56. Adult

57. \_\_\_\_ bowl, frozen dish

58. Poetic “through”

59. Latin dance

60. “Buffalo \_\_\_\_, won’t you come out tonight...”

61. Kids’ building block

62. Altitude, abbreviated

63. Like a fox

64. Water carrier

DOWN

1. Staff symbol

2. Zoo sound

3. Gumbo pod

4. Separate grain from chaff

5. Model-building wood

6. Smart ones?

7. 100 centavos

8. Refrigerate

9. Commits a faux pas

10. Mont Blanc, e.g.

12. a.k.a. meditation in motion (2 words)

13. Ranch grazer

CROSSWORD

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14. \*Bette Midler’s 1981 Grammy winning song (2 words)

19. Dungeness one and snow one

22. \*Poppy’s seed container

23. Banned camera setting, in a museum

24. Falcon’s home

25. Boreal forest, in Russia

26. Ma tre d’s list

27. Raccoon’s South American cousin

28. \*2024 Grammy winner for “Flowers”

29. Hop-drying kilns

32. \*Lis in fleur-de-lis

33. \* \_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls of “Gutterflower” fame

36. \*\*Flowers in the Attic” author V.C. \_\_\_\_

38. One of journalism’s Ws

40. Declare

41. Costing nothing

44. Want to

46. \_\_\_\_ Beach, SC

48. Belonging to duke

49. Miuccia Prada’s homeland

50. Like traditional storytelling

51. Lose skin

52. Tea servings

53. Tobacco

54. Strong desire

55. Standard’s partner

56. Govt. property org.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2



PHONE MERGER

FROM PAGE 1

STRASBURG FPD

FROM PAGE 1

service provider in surrounding areas, this purchase allows us to expand our reach into the Strasburg community and provide the same excellent service that we provide to our current members,” said Eastern Slope CEO Bradley Welp in an April press release. “We are excited for the opportunity to improve broadband services for our neighbors in the Strasburg area, expanding opportunities for education, health care, remote work compatibility, entertainment, e-commerce, and business operations.”

TDS has owned the Strasburg office and network since 1991.

“We are confident there will be a seamless transition of operations,” said TDS Telecom President and CEO Jim Butman in April.

Eastern Slope has been operating for seven-plus decades and serves multiple other Eastern Colorado communities — Arriba, Eads, Flagler, Genoa, Haswell, Hugo, Karval, Kit Carson and Woodrow. Eastern Slope’s home office is in Hugo.

Completion of the purchase was originally expected during the second quarter of 2025.

While completion of the agreement was uncertain as of June 26, at least one long-awaited service to Strasburg has already been restored.

After a series of tests were conducted June 25, Strasburg’s emergency siren was deemed operational and will sound off during certain emergencies, particularly tornadoes, nearby wildfires, and other weather-based issues. In addition to two siren buttons at the firehouse, another one is located near



DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

Eastern Slope Rural Telephone’s presence along the I-70 Corridor will almost double when its purchase of TDS Telecom’s Strasburg phone network is completed. The cooperative currently has an ESTech office in the Bennett Marketplace development along with a shop/equipment yard in Bennett.

the Strasburg phone office.

“They’ve been great to work with and got us back up and running after a lot of years without it,” said Strasburg Fire Protection District Board President Jeff Thain during the June 26 board meeting. “It’s not a cure-all, but it’s sure nice to have it available.”

Whether the siren will blare every-day at noon like it used to is uncertain.

graduation is on Aug. 10, so that should be a help,” Smith said. “With the help of Capt. [Evan] Hickey, we are developing a [Standard Operating Procedure] for wildland fire deployments. Trying to put together some engine boss kits as well.”

Smith also reported that a grant request has been submitted for wildland fire personal protective equipment (PPE).

“Elizabeth Fire is overseeing a larger grant and our \$5,000 request is already in,” he said. “It’s first come, first served, so hopefully we are in early enough.”

Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Pat Conroy, who served as chief the past couple of years, added that a couple of staff have already completed full hazmat operations training and will not have to participate in that section of fire academy.

During the announcement of the repair of the emergency siren, Board President Jeff Thain reiterated that one long siren of 3-5 minutes signifies a tornado warning with two consecutive short blasts, meaning the threat is no longer.

“It’s two cycles of the horn back-to-back and that’s the ‘all clear,’” he said. “We’ll also try to blast it for any wildfires nearby or if something else severe happens.”

While board members and staff said they are glad to have the air horn available again, it doesn’t have extensive reach out of Strasburg proper and residents are urged to utilize other notification options.

“This is only one avenue of warning.

Sign up with CodeRed and/or the National Weather Service notifications,” Thain said. “There are a lot of other options out there that target individuals directly.”

The board also gave direction to district staff to continue efforts to subscribe to the CodeRed notification service to allow it to send out reverse 911 notifications to district residents when emergencies occur. Smith said he plans to meet with Strasburg School Superintendent Kelle Bongard to see whether the two entities might jointly subscribe to the CodeRed service, which costs about \$1,800 per year. Other partners in and around Strasburg are also sought.

OTHER BUSINESS

Conroy reported that May call responses were flat but that in-district responses remain ahead of last year.

Overall, year-to-date responses through May were 468, compared to 458 last year and 472 in 2023 but, within Strasburg’s district, that figure was 302, up from 279 last year and 277 two years ago.

Conroy noted that the wet spring and summer has resulted in a slow start to outdoor fire season.

“Responded only to one fire in May — a small vegetation fire — and nothing since,” he said. “Last year by now, we had already responded to 20ish. This weather might last a little bit longer but who knows what that might mean for the fall.”

The board approved two more firehouse improvement projects — parking and storage shed improvements and remodeling of the station’s interior — with the expenditures to not exceed \$110,000.

The long-awaited crew quarters project was completed earlier this year.

New development within district boundaries has picked up recently with Pulte Homes making permit request for eight new homes in Wolf Creek Run West and the developer recently submitting initial review packets for another 40 lots in the same subdivision. Conroy also added that several “housing starts” are occurring on the Arapahoe County side of the district, which should “bode well for ongoing impact fee revenue.”

On the issue of impact fees, Controy indicated he has made a legal inquiry concerning what kind of projects can be funded by impact fees. The board expressed interest in installing a new emergency siren in the area of the Wolf Creek Run developments but whether that is among the type of projects covered by impact fee revenue is uncertain.

EMS Division Chief Mackenzie Schledorn-Rudden said she is continuing to finalize the list of providers for the inaugural Strasburg Hometown Days Health Care Fair. In addition to representatives of University of Colorado Health and the Adams County Health Department, Schledorn-Rudden is hopeful local providers will also be part of this year’s event.

In other Hometown Days discussion, board members reiterated that 2025 is likely the last year that the fire district and department put on the annual fireworks show; however, they also appeared to leave open the possibility of continuing the annual Friday night light show if additional sponsors or partners show interest and can assist in fundraising.

Hometown Days is Aug. 7-10.



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**GOLDEN** — Warmer weather often increases traffic as people spend more time away from home and road trips become more frequent.

“The temptation to speed is a real issue for some drivers, whether it is time pressure, an adrenaline rush, or a lack of awareness of the risks toward others,” said Col. Mathew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol chief. “Yet, controlling this urge is the responsibility of every license holder.”

Speed limits are set based on road design and traffic volume. Exceeding these limits is risky. By understanding the dangers associated with speeding, drivers can all work for safer roadways and preventing unnecessary accidents.

**Increased rollover accidents:** Higher speeds make

**Compromised safety features:** Safety features are less effective at higher speeds, leading to more serious injuries.

**Greater impact force:** Higher speeds result in more forceful impacts, causing more severe damage and injuries.

In Colorado, points and penalties for traffic violations increase based on the severity of the violation. Troopers are taking a low-tolerance approach to the top fatal crash factors, including lane violations and speeding while launching a three-month campaign called “Stop Speeding.”

The campaign wants every driver to break the myth that speeding is a “victimless crime” and to drive like a trooper is riding with them.

<b>Colorado speeding violation</b>	<b>Penalties under 42-4-1701 (4)(a)(i)(L) C.R.S. and 42-2-127 (5)(f), C.R.S.</b>
1 to 4 mph over the reasonable and prudent speed, or more than the maximum lawful speed of 75 mph 42-4-1101(1) or (8)(b) C.R.S.	Class A traffic infraction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30 plus a \$6 surcharge</li> </ul>
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20 to 24 mph over the reasonable and prudent speed, or more than the maximum lawful speed of 75 mph 42-4-1101(1) or (8)(b) C.R.S.	Class A traffic infraction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$200 plus a \$32 surcharge, and</li> <li>6 DMV points</li> </ul>

## FROM PAGE 1

“A few tickets for various traffic violations but not much else,” a sheriff’s office spokesman said. “Sounds like they were only out there about 10-15 minutes before it broke up.”

“Several phone calls from people driving along I-70 near Aurora and farther east, but nobody was able to respond in time,” a State Patrol spokesman added.

Arapahoe County Sheriff's officers reported that the group of car enthu-

siasts began its Saturday night/Sunday morning escapade with a “meet” at the Bally’s Arapahoe Park horse racing park on Quincy Avenue about two miles east of Gun Club Road and, after a cease and desist order was enforced, they moved south to the Castle Rock area before turning around and making their way to Bennett.

Law enforcement officers that patrol eastern Adams and Arapahoe counties indicated that the frequency of street racing meets traveling to the I-70 Corridor, particularly Bennett,

could increase significantly as metro agencies, especially the Aurora Police Department, pick up their enforcement of the illegal activity. Since his hiring last summer, Aurora Police Chief Todd Chamberlain has implemented multiple crime crackdown programs, including a street racing task force made up of 10-20 officers.

“The APD Street Racing Task Force is dedicated to investigating and disrupting illegal street racing — because it’s not just reckless, it’s dangerous,” the agency said in a published report in May. “We’ll continue to take action and hold offenders accountable.”

West metro agencies have also indicated they are cracking down on late summer night racing activities too.

"We've been out on the freeways and there's been anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 cars shutting the freeway down and it's extremely dangerous for the citizens," said Westminster Police Officer William Kesler.

Police said that, although they have been doing such enforcement for

the past few summers, they have not made much of an impact.

“Realistically, there’s not much impact. ... they’ll have close to 500 to 2,000 cars meet up on these weekends, so it’s really hard for us to combat that,” Kesler added.

The extra presence of police in the metro area is making the I-70 Corridor a more attractive destination.

Law enforcement asks commuters to be mindful of the signs of illegal street racing, including:

- large gatherings in public areas — parking lots and warehouses;
- traveling in large groups on roadways at high rates of speed; and
- squealing of tires, revving of engines, and loud exhaust heard from miles away.

The Adams and Arapahoe county sheriff's offices and the Colorado State Patrol are part of a 40 agency-plus metro/Front Range street racing task force. In addition to calling 911, illegal street racing can be reported online at <https://reportstreetracing.com>.

**Come Celebrate  
Our Country's  
Independence In  
Byers July 2-5!**

**Byers Independence  
CPRA July 2nd Rodeo**

**Rodeo Performance Starts @ 7pm - July 2nd**

Slack @ 9am

Contact Jennifer Miller 303-622-9745 or text 303-594-7716  
[WWW.coloradoprorodeo.com](http://WWW.coloradoprorodeo.com)

Extra Activities, Mutton Bustin', Sheep Scramble,  
Boot Scramble. Enter kid contestants at the rodeo.

Visit our website for more information: [www.byersparkandrec.com](http://www.byersparkandrec.com)



# Byers 4th of July

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL



**A Celebration of Community and Freedom**

Join us for an unforgettable day filled with live music, games, food, quilt show and fun as we celebrate our nation's independence!

Come out for a family-friendly event that has something for everyone.

**Date:** July 4th  
**Time:** 10:30AM - 3:00 PM  
**Location:** Byers Centennial Park  
**Admission:** Free!  
**Parking:** Free parking available on-site.

**Live Music All Day Long!**

**Eric Golden Honky Tonk Band:** Get your boots tapping to the lively sounds of this local favorite.

**Paul and Amie Hart:** Enjoy beautiful, heartfelt melodies perfect for a relaxing afternoon.

**Quilt Show**

Experience the artistry and tradition of quilting at our quilt show, where beautifully crafted quilts tell stories of heritage, creativity, and community. Don't miss this stunning display of talent and craftsmanship!

**Outdoor Games & Activities for Kids**

- Bounce houses, relay races, face painting, carnival games, and more fun-filled activities!

**Delicious Food from Local Food Trucks & Vendors**

- Satisfy your cravings with a variety of tasty treats and mouth watering meals.
- Explore our local vendors offering unique products and handmade treasures.

**Car Display**

- As part of the Independence Festival, we're excited to showcase a classic car display, featuring vintage automobiles that embody the spirit of Americana and celebrate our nation's rich history.



**Bring your friends, family, and neighbors!**

This is a community event you won't want to miss

Let's celebrate the 4th of July together in the best way possible!







**INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY BALL TOURNAMENTS**

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

**Saturday, July 5th, 2025**

**5:00pm - 9:00pm @ Quint Valley Fairgrounds: Free Event**

**Food Trucks available for Food and Drinks**

Gather your team and join the fun! We're calling church groups, businesses, and families to compete in our Community Ball Tournament, featuring softball, kickball, and volleyball. Battle it out for the coveted Top Ball Trophy and year-long bragging rights. Get creative with custom team shirts and enjoy an exciting afternoon and evening of competition, food trucks, vendors, and community spirit. The tournament culminates with our spectacular fireworks display, making it the ultimate ball game event of the year!

To register, e-mail: [4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com](mailto:4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com)

**Free Firework Display Starts at 9:00pm**

**Open to Public: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., July 4**

*Byers 4th of July Festival*

**QUILT SHOW**

**Byers American Legion Hall, 278 W. Front St.**

**Quilt Show Theme: "Something Borrowed, Something Blue, Something Old, Something New"!**

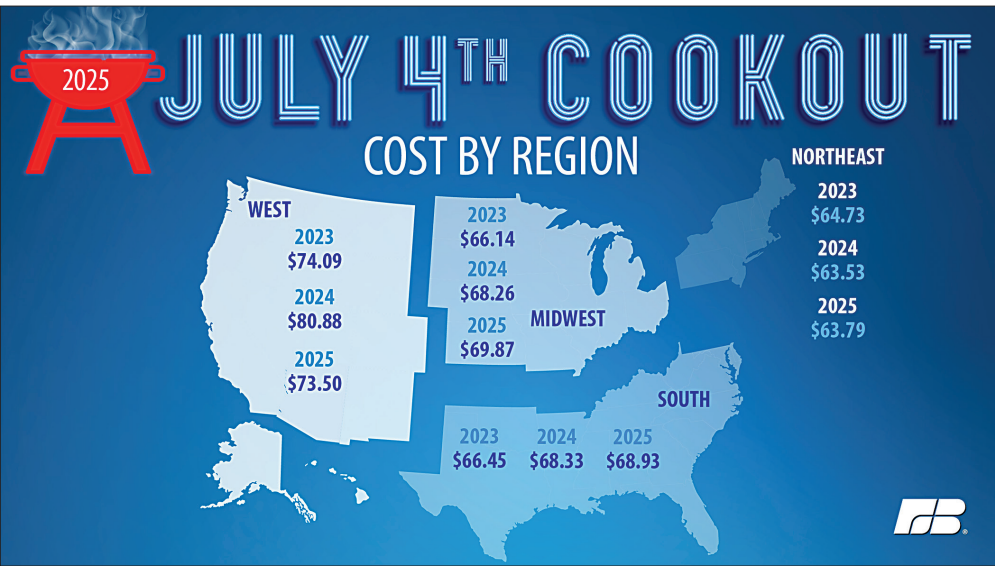
To enter: E-mail to [4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com](mailto:4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com)

**A non-juried event; all levels of talent welcome.**

**Vote for your favorite quilt — 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes awarded.**

**Hang quilts from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 3**





## Farm Bureau releases '25 results of July 4 Summer Cookout Survey

CENTENNIAL — Families celebrating the Fourth of July will continue to find stubbornly high prices at the grocery store.

An Independence Day cookout will cost, on average, \$70.92 for 10 guests this year, based on the 2025 American Farm Bureau Federation annual marketbasket survey, which is roughly 30 cents less than 2024.

The national average cost of this year’s cookout for 10 is \$70.92, down from 2024’s record-high \$71.22. At \$7.09 per person, 2025 will be the second-highest cost since Farm Bureau began the survey in 2013.

The national average retail price for 2 pounds of ground beef increased 4.4% to \$13.33. Pork and beans will cost \$2.69, up 20 cents from 2024. Potato salad is up 6.6% to \$3.54.

Several factors influence the increases, reflecting the sort of challenges farmers regularly face. Fewer cattle are available for processing, which is affecting beef supplies; steel and aluminum tariffs mean increased prices on canned goods; and the cost of eggs — used in potato salad — remains elevated, although they are much lower than record highs earlier this year as egg-laying chicken populations recover from avian influenza.

“Inflation and lower availability of some food items continue to keep prices stubbornly high for America’s families,” said AFBF Associate Economist Samantha Ayoub. “High prices don’t mean more money for farmers, however. Farmers are price-takers, not price-makers. Their share of the food retail dollar is just 15%. The cost of running their farm is up, from labor and transportation to taxes.”

In the Northeast, Midwest and South, the average ranges from

\$63.79 to \$69.87 for 10 guests, which has increased since 2024. In the West, the average is \$80.88, which is \$7.38 less than 2024.

The July 4th cookout survey is part of the Farm Bureau marketbasket series, which includes the annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey of common food staples Americans use to prepare a holiday meal at home.

### 2025 AFBF SUMMER COOKOUT SURVEY

Individual prices in Colorado, compared to national averages.

Food item	Colorado	National average
2 pounds of ground beef	\$14.41	\$13.33
2 pounds of chicken breasts	\$6.32	\$7.79
3 pounds of pork chops	\$18.33	\$14.13
1 pound of cheese	\$3.52	\$3.54
1 package of hamburger buns	\$1.87	\$2.35
2½ pounds of homemade potato salad	\$4.67	\$3.54
32 ounces of pork and beans	\$2.65	\$2.69
16 ounces of potato chips	\$5.66	\$4.80
13-ounce package of chocolate chip cookies	\$3.69	\$4.00
½ gallon of ice cream	\$7.00	\$5.69
2 pints of strawberries	\$4.36	\$4.69
2½ quarts of lemonade	\$3.94	\$4.37

### PUBLIC NOTICE TO ADAMS COUNTY REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS FILING APPEALS WITH THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that commencing September 15, 2025, the Adams County Board of Equalization shall sit at the Adams County Government Center, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton, Colorado, to review the assessment roll of all taxable real and personal property located in the County, as prepared by the Assessor, and to hear appeals from determinations of the Assessor, sitting by itself or by authorized independent referees.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, the deadline for filing appeals with the Board of Equalization for real and personal property is September 15, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOSH ZYGIELBAUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD



Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, July 4, 2025.

# Chicken fettucine alfredo sold at Kroger and Walmart stores tied to deadly listeria outbreak

by Jonel Aleccia  
Associated Press

A listeria food poisoning outbreak that has killed three people and led to one pregnancy loss is linked to newly recalled heat-and-eat chicken fettucine alfredo products sold at Kroger and Walmart stores, federal health officials said last month.

The outbreak, which includes at least 17 people in 13 states, began last July, officials said. At least 16 people have been hospitalized.

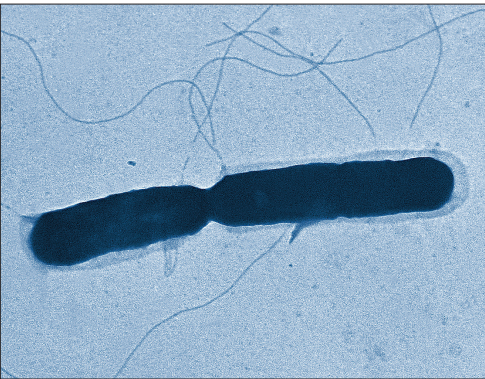
FreshRealm, a large food producer with sites in California, Georgia and Indiana, is recalling products made before June 17. The recall includes these products, which were sold in the refrigerated sections of retail stores:

- 32.8-ounce trays of Marketside Grilled Chicken Alfredo with Fettucine Tender Pasta with Creamy Alfredo Sauce, White Meat Chicken and Shaved Parmesan Cheese with best-by dates of June 27 or earlier.
- 12.3-ounce trays of Marketside Grilled Chicken Alfredo with Fettucine Tender Pasta with Creamy Alfredo Sauce, White Meat Chicken, Broccoli and Shaved Parmesan Cheese with best-by dates of June 26 or earlier.
- 12.5-ounce trays of Home Chef Heat & Eat Chicken Fettucine Alfredo with Pasta, Grilled White Meat Chicken and Parmesan Cheese, with best-by dates of June 19 or earlier.

The strain of listeria bacteria that made people sick was found in a sample of chicken fettucine alfredo during a routine inspection in March, U.S. Agriculture Department officials said. That product was destroyed and never sent to stores.

Officials said they have not identified the specific source of the contamination. Cases have been identified through retail shopper records and interviews with sick people.

The listeria strain tied to the outbreak has been detected in people who fell ill between July 24 and May 10,



GRAHAM HEID/CDC via AP

This 1966 transmission electron microscope image provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention shows a *Listeria* bacterium with its flagella in the process of cell division.

the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported. The deaths were in Illinois, Michigan and Texas. Cases have been reported in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

The number of sick people is likely higher than now known and cases may be detected in additional states. Officials are continuing to receive reports of illnesses linked to the product and “are concerned that contamination is still occurring,” the CDC said.

Consumers shouldn’t eat the products, which may be in their refrigerators or freezers. They should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Listeria infections can cause serious illness, particularly in older adults, people with weakened immune systems and those who are pregnant or their newborns. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions.

About 1,600 people get sick each year from listeria infections and about 260 die, the CDC said.

Federal officials in December said they were revamping protocols to prevent listeria infections after several high-profile outbreaks, including one linked to Boar’s Head deli meats that led to 10 deaths and more than 60 illnesses last year.

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It’s not just a generator.

It’s a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\*  
- valued at \$535.

Call 720-770-0083  
to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC®

\*Terms and Conditions apply.





**SATURDAY TICKETS:**  
**ADULT \$20**  
**CHILD (5-12) \$5**  
**4 & UNDER FREE**  
**TICKET INCLUDES RODEO & CONCERT**

REGISTER ON SITE - NO PRE-ENTRIES, ENTER AT 3:30

**JR BARRELS (8 AND UNDER, 9 TO 16 - ENTER AT 3:30 ON SITE)**

W/ SPECIAL GUEST WOODIE PROCELL ACOUSTIC



TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT: CHERYL ROSS - 303.822.5377

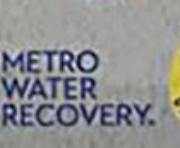
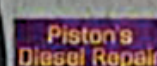
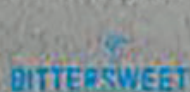
(OR REGISTER ON SITE BY 12:30 AT 2ND & ASPEN)

JR BARRELS (8 AND UNDER, 9 TO 16 - ENTER AT 3:30 ON SITE)

REGISTER ON SITE - NO PRE-ENTRIES. ENTER AT 3:30

9:00 - CONCERT - **COUNTRY & MUSIC**  
W/ SPECIAL GUEST JAZZ JO PROJECT

W/ SPECIAL GUEST LIZA JO



DEER TRAIL RODEO - HOME OF THE WORLD'S FIRST RODEO - FOLLOW US FOR ALL OUR UPDATED INFORMATION!

*From the staff of The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News,*

happy 4th  of july

## INDEPENDENCE DAY