



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 34 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, July 23, 2025

AdCo reports first two WNV cases in state

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — In addition to being the first two reported cases in Adams County this summer, last week's an-

nouncement of two confirmed West Nile virus infections in humans were the first two confirmed reports in Colorado this year. "Likely contracted from infected mosquitoes, in late

June," said a July 17 statement from the Adams County Health Department. "Although [we have] not found the virus in mosquitoes in Adams County so far this year, neighboring counties have re-

ported positive mosquitoes." Further specifics of the two infected residents and location of where the illnesses were detected is unavailable. "Due to patient confidentiality, we are unable to provide

more information about specific areas where people came into contact with WNV," replied Adams County Health when asked if the infections **SEE WEST NILE PAGE 24**

Byers water line project nears end

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Byers Water & Sanitation District's water system upgrade and extension project is nearing completion. A new 12-inch water main from the water department north to Byers General Store is being installed. The project, funded by grants and a low-interest loan, will increase system capacity to support future residential and commercial growth. The \$4.2 million water system improvement project has two main components — installing the water line north of the railroad tracks and improving and re-coating the interior of water storage tanks. The tank work is complete. The project is managed by consulting engineers GMS, Inc. Principal Engineer Samuel Wood gave a project update at the Byers Water & Sanitation District regular board meeting July 14. The water line installation included boring under both I-70 and the railroad tracks.

SEE WATER PROJECT PAGE 8



In what has become a longtime annual tradition, the Deer Trail Jockeyettes again concluded Saturday's parade of Deer Trail Rodeo weekend, which occurred July 11-12. This year's parade theme was "Vegas Lights, Country Nights." **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Wheat harvest reaches western parts of I-70 Corridor



by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

As Colorado's 2025 wheat harvest reached the three-quarters pole or eclipsed it last week, projections for a bumper crop compared to last year continue to improve. For the week ended July 14, wheat progress reports showed just short of 50% of Colorado's harvest complete, but that figure was expected to jump significantly after last week's combine activity that kept moving farther west and north of I-70. Many estimates had the state's harvest between 75% to 80% complete through last Friday, July 18, with most projections including a completion date before the end of the month. "Filling up pretty quickly around here, which is a matter of not only more fields being cut, but the fact that yields are quite a bit better than previous years," a local elevator operator said. "Starting to get done with the afternoon storms that were pretty much a daily interruption for about 10 days." While concerns about the invasive wheat stem sawfly permeated much of the pre-harvest scuttlebutt between farmers and state wheat industry representatives, **SEE WHEAT HARVEST PAGE 20**

The swarm of combines across the state finally hit the more northwestern reaches of Colorado wheat territory last week, including the above harvesters who were busy collecting grain on the west edge of Bennett, between Highway 36 and the railroad tracks, July 18.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

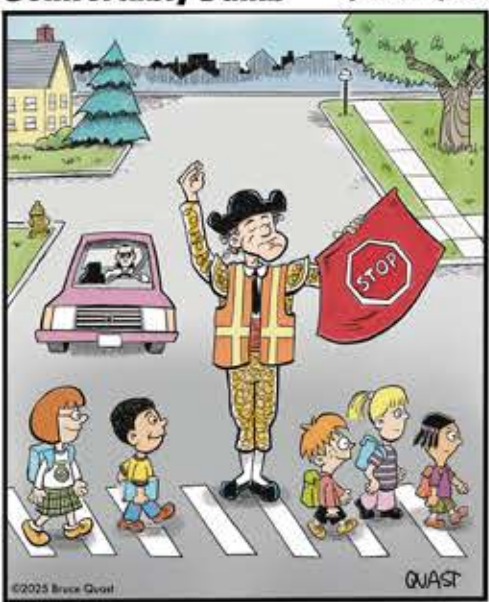
Rep. Carlos Barron announced as CO House GOP caucus whip

DENVER — Rep. Carlos Barron of Fort Lupton has been elected by his colleagues to serve as the new House Republican Caucus Whip. Barron immigrated from Mexico as a child and now represents House District 48. With a background in business and leadership in the oil and gas industry, Barron brings a strong work ethic and conservative values to the role of caucus whip. Barron worked with Rep. Ryan Armagost, R-Berthoud, last session as an assistant whip. “[Barron] brings a steady, solutions-focused approach that will serve our members and all Coloradans well,” said House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese. Barron previously served on the Fort Lupton Planning Commission and currently sits on the City Council. In the legislature, he champions energy independence, parental rights, and the Second Amendment.

Georgetown Loop Railroad: Senior excursion scheduled

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a senior excursion for a ride on the Georgetown Loop Railroad. The trip will leave promptly at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 31, from the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932

Comfortably Dumb



Kitten Rescue with a Twist!

On July 14, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue responders and Bennett Community Service Officers responded to the call of a curious kitten who got its head stuck in the underside hole of a toilet below the tank. Thanks to quick teamwork and gentle hammer work, the kitten was rescued without injury.

Burton St. Transportation is included, but advanced reservations are required due to limited seating. The fee is \$45; lunch is not included. To RSVP, call (303)622-4260.

New Strasburg then-and-now discussion set for Legion Hall

STRASBURG — Photographs and stories about the history of Strasburg will be presented in a then-and-now format beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave. New items have been added as well as stories to accompany the photographs at the presentation hosted by the Comanche Crossing Historical Society. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

Big address signs offered at cost by Strasburg FPD

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Fire Protection District is offering address signs at cost. The price is \$40 for each reflective 6- by 30-inch sign. The signs are available in green or blue with 4-inch

white numbers. According to a release, the signs significantly help the emergency crews find an address in a faster and safer manner, especially at night when the addresses on the front of a house are not lit. To have a sign made, contact the Strasburg Fire Protection District at (303)622-4444, ext. 1. Credit cards are not accepted.

State Wildlife Action Plan: Last input period ends 8/8

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife is seeking public feedback on the conservation priorities for species in the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan. State Wildlife Action Plans guide the conservation of a state’s most vulnerable species and their habitats. An updated SWAP is required every 10 years for federal funding eligibility. The plans have eight required elements that remain the same since the program’s inception 25 years ago. Parks & Wildlife is working closely with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program on the development of the SWAP, and the draft version is due to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in

September. Input will be taken at engagecpw.org through Aug. 8.

Live line dancing lessons set for MVF Hometown Days feast

STRASBURG — A Hometown Days family dinner with live line dance lessons will start with the meal at 5 p.m. followed by the lessons at 6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9, at Mountain View Fellowship. The dinner will feature pulled pork. Two Live Boots will facilitate the line dancing. Admission is free. Mountain View Fellowship is located at 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg.

Walk-in sports physicals set for Bennett Schools July 30

BENNETT — Bennett School will host walk-in sports physicals from 12-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, at the high school, 610 Seventh St. The physicals are open to kids in any school district. No appointment is necessary. The cost is \$40 per student. For more information, call (720)491-2152.

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SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

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

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

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

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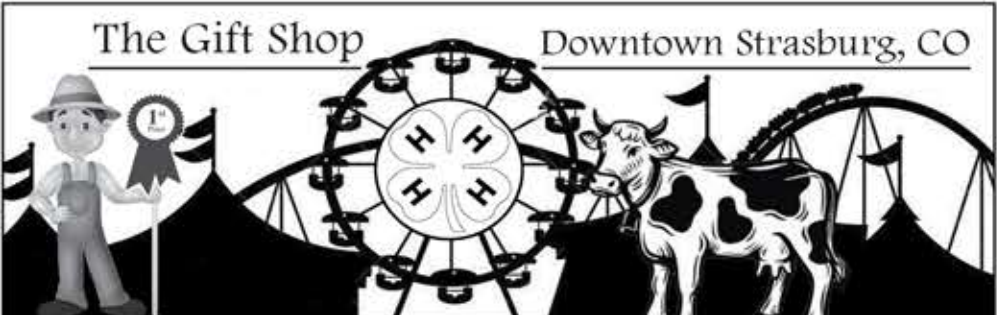
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5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7

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1st Day of School — Monday, Aug. 11

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WEEK OF JULY 21



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Anythink Bennett library hosted Swirling Spiral Paintings as part of its annual mySummer program of activities July 9. Local youngsters combined pendulums and paint to create their own masterpieces. From left photo, the event was a family affair, and Reagan Hill, 6, mixes her paint colors just right.

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Theresa Lewis

Theresa Lynn Middlemist Lewis was the fourth child born to Garold and Geraldine Middlemist on January 8, 1962, and passed away July 10, 2025. She grew up on the family farm, east of Deer Trail and attended Deer Trail School all twelve years. Following her graduation, she attended business school. Her love for the farm and all things livestock never left her heart and the dream of once again having her own herd was always there.

She was a quick study, never afraid to learn to operate anything with a motor and wheels. She worked for Amoco, Clean Harbors Hazardous Waste facility and also operated her own residential/construction cleaning business, Mops & Brooms.

She married Jesse Lewis and together they had a son, Sam, who was the absolute light of her life.

Theresa had a zest for life that was unmatched, and she loved hard. She made friends wherever she went and never knew a stranger. Even as she struggled with her many health issues, she kept all her medical providers on their toes with her constant banter and teasing. Though always pushing the envelope, she fought hard to overcome each crisis, and her resilience and tenacity amazed us all. We are forever grateful to the Lord for his grace and mercy on her life.

Theresa is survived by her son Sam (Tayler); grand babies Slayte and ElliAnna; her mother, Geraldine; and her siblings Greg (Debbie), Kathy, Elizabeth (Steve); sister-in-law Kim; and many nieces/nephews, great and great-great nieces/nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father, Garold; husband, Jesse; and brother, Andy.

A memorial service was held July 21 at the Deer Trail School with interment following at Evergreen Cemetery in Deer Trail.

Agate School District

Home of the Longhorns!

Back To School Night

4-6 p.m.; Thurs., Aug. 7

First Day of School, Wed., Aug. 13

For registration:

(719)764-2741, ext. 1202 or melindaw@agateschools.net



Anythink Bennett library hosted a Creative Cupcake lab July 11. Guests decorated multiple cupcakes with the help of professionals from Cake Crafts Denver. The theme for the designs was summer. Above, Rose Buchholz dips part of her cupcake into blue colored sprinkles to give it a beach front look.

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Musical Theater Magic: Kids ages 6-10 can shine on and off the stage. In this energetic musical theater workshop, they will explore singing, dancing, acting and stage movement. Conductors from the Colorado Children's Chorale will lead fun, interactive activities designed to help young performers build creativity, confidence and teamwork. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. Register each child individually. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, July 24.

Adult book club: "The Naked Consumer: How Our Private Lives Become Public Commodities" by Erik Larson. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, July 25.

Cultivate Your Own Fungi: Adults will uncover the wonders of mycology and learn to grow mushrooms at home with a free mushroom kit. 10-11 a.m., Saturday, July 26.

A Magical Goodbye: Readers of all ages can step into a world of wonder and celebrate the grand finale of the mySummer reading program with an extraordinary, interactive magic show

by Erica Sodos — magician, mentalist and master of enchantment. Through dazzling illusions, playful storytelling and bursts of laughter, this all-ages performance will spark imaginations and stir the magic within. 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, July 30.

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

Byers community chat: Community members can have a conversation about values, concerns and aspirations. The conversation will be facilitated by experienced staff members. A light dinner will be provided. 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 29.


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

Deer Trail Community Chat: Community members can have a conversation about values, concerns and aspirations. The conversation will be facilitated by experienced staff members. A light dinner will be provided. 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 30.



The Musketeers Veterinary Practice

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Good Luck I-70 Corridor Exhibitors this Fair Season!

Arapahoe County, July 24-27
Elbert County, July 26 — Aug.3
Adams County, July 30 — Aug. 3

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Lead Valley Range

Lead Valley Range is starting a shooting league which will be open to the public.

The League will start on July 30th and shoots will be every Wednesday evening for 10 weeks. Registration starts at 6:00pm and shooting starts at 6:30pm. The cost is \$15 per week. There will be different shooting disciplines each week to include pistols, rifles, and shotguns.

Details for each week's shoot will be on our website.

Website: www.leadvalleyrange.com / Phone: 303-769-4377
(Located east of Byers on Hwy 36 between mile markers 118 & 119)

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044
www.corlcms.org

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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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

AdCo names new county mgr

Diane Stroter selected following competitive nat'l search

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Board of Commissioners has promoted its interim county manager to county manager.

Dionne Stroter's appointment, which was effective July 1, has served as since June 14 and previously held the role of deputy county manager.

Following a competitive, nationwide search, Stroter was chosen for her extensive experience in public administration, strong leadership record, and deep dedication to advancing equity and opportunity for all county residents.

"Dionne emerged as the clear choice in our national search because of her strategic vision, deep understanding of county operations, and unwavering commitment to serving our community," said Lynn Baca, chair of the Board of County Commissioners. "We are confident her leadership will continue to guide Adams County forward in meaningful and innovative ways."

A Colorado native with over 20 years of experience in public service, Stroter joined Adams County in 2024 as deputy county manager. Previously, she was as deputy executive director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, which received more than \$1.5 billion in federal stimulus funds to support statewide pandemic recovery programs. She also led initiatives to enhance communications and digital accessibility across government.



Stroter

"It's an honor to be selected as the next county manager of Adams County," Stroter said. "This is a community filled with resilient people, incredible diversity, and tremendous potential."

Stroter's background also includes stints as executive director of Denver's Office of Children's Affairs, where she expanded Head Start services, piloted innovative youth transportation programs, and increased funding for child care and after-school services. She has also held leadership roles in Denver's departments of finance, public works, parks and recreation, and general services.

"Dionne is a strong, visionary leader who understands the unique needs of our diverse and growing community," said Vice Chair Julie Duran Mullica. "Her ability to bring people together, navigate complex challenges, and lead with integrity makes her the right choice to move Adams County forward."

A fierce community advocate, Stroter has worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for underserved communities. She has been actively involved in numerous community initiatives, including serving as chair of the Aurora Cultural Affairs Commission. As a lifelong musician, writer and artist, she is a strong supporter of cultural arts and education, particularly for families and young learners.

As county manager, Stroter will lead day-to-day operations, overseeing a budget of more than \$800 million and managing more than 2,500 employees across all departments.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District and Strasburg Fire Protection District hosted their annual joint Foam Day at Community Park June 21. Kids were able to play with non-toxic foam and slide down a giant inflatable water slide in an effort to battle against the high 90-degree weather. Above, Adriana Long, 5, splashes down at the bottom of the slide.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 24
Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Call Diane, (303)644-3717, for meeting ID.

MONDAY, JULY 28
West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoeconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.
Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY
Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.
High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hpmemusicdirector@gmail.com or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.
AA open meeting. 7 p.m., white historic Victorian schoolhouse at Ace Hardware parking lot, 21761 U.S. Highway 40, Limon. Call Sara at (828)243-7681.

EVERY SATURDAY
Deer Trail Pioneer Museum open from 2-4 p.m. through August.

EVERY SUNDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. in Byers For

more information, call (303)903-6734.

EVERY TUESDAY
Toddler Time: Children ages 2-3 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that are just right for active toddlers. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.
Family story time. 10:30-11 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Livin' in the Spirit ladies group. All ages welcome. 10 a.m. @ Holy Spirit Livin', 1506 Main St., Strasburg. (303)622-4648
Young at Heart Seniors in Bennett. 12-4 p.m., Bennett Community Center.

EVERY THURSDAY
Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing, dance and learn to play musical instruments. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett.
Preschool Storytime: Children up to ages 3-6 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that promote early literacy. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.
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.

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- 10:30 – 11:30 AM – Colorado Air & Space Port (Watkins)
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM – Rookies of Strasburg (Strasburg)
- 12:30 – 1:30 PM – Shooters Bar and Grill (Byers)
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM – Deer Trail Elk's Lodge (Deer Trail)
- 2:30 – 6:00 PM – May Farms (Byers)



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CHUCK WAGON



Strawberry Hemp Heart Ice Cream

As we roll into July, we're serving up something cool, creamy, and a little unexpected: Strawberry Hemp Ice Cream. This dairy-free delight blends luscious strawberries with nutrient-rich hemp milk and hemp hearts—easy to find at your local grocery or health food store. But this isn't just a tasty treat. It's a nod to a plant with deep roots in American history.

This Fourth of July, as you celebrate with friends, fireworks, and a scoop of something special, take a moment to appreciate the enduring legacy—and exciting future—of hemp. Because here in Colorado, we don't just celebrate history. We grow it.

Hemp has been part of our story since the earliest days of the country. Long before Colorado became a leader in the modern hemp movement, this strong, sustainable crop was grown by early Americans and used for everything from rope to paper. In fact, Betsy Ross's American flag was made of hemp, which was more durable than cotton and less likely to fade or tear, making it an ideal fabric for a battle flag. Hemp was also an important symbol of the colonies' economic independence.

Today, Colorado is once again at the forefront — thanks to forward-thinking policies and a passionate community of growers, makers, and entrepreneurs. While CBD got much of the early attention, hemp is now being used for so much more: fiber, grain, textiles, bioplastics — even building materials.

Why hemp? It uses less water, improves soil health, and opens up new opportunities for farmers—from large-scale producers to small family farms. Companies like Colorado Hemp Works, the first commercial hemp grain processor in the U.S., and

Global Fiber Processing are helping make local, high-quality hemp ingredients easy to access.

So when you enjoy this sweet scoop, you're also supporting sustainability, innovation, and local agriculture.

STRAWBERRY HEMP HEART ICE CREAM EQUIPMENT

Ice Cream Machine

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup hemp hearts, hulled hemp seeds
- 3½ cups hemp milk, or nondairy milk of choice
- 2 cups strawberries, hulled
- ½ cup pure maple syrup, see options in notes
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Sweetest Bean vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon fine sea salt

DIRECTIONS

Place the frozen freezer bowl into your ice cream machine.

In a covered container, combine the hemp hearts and hemp milk. Refrigerate for at least 8 hours (do not drain). Once the hemp hearts have soaked in the hemp milk, combine them in a blender with the strawberries, maple syrup, lemon juice, vanilla and salt. Blend until smooth. Chill the mixture for at least 2 hours. Pour the mixture into your ice cream maker, and follow your manufacturer's instructions (about 20-30 minutes to churn).

You can eat the ice cream soft-serve, or freeze it in an airtight container for 3-4 hours to thicken it up slightly. For best results, allow the ice cream to sit at room temperature for about 5-10 minutes to soften before serving.

— Colorado Department of Agriculture Staff

20- & 30-YARD TRASH ROLL-OFFS

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D&D WATER SERVICE

GOOD LUCK FAIR EXHIBITORS!

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BYERS

Elementary & Jr/Sr High School Important Dates:

Back to School Night:

5-6:30 p.m., Monday, August 11

First Day of School:

Wednesday, August 13

Elementary Registration:

- New elementary students can register in the elementary office with Nichole Mohatt beginning Monday, Aug. 4, from **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** weekdays.
- Immunization records, a copy of your child's birth certificate, and proof of residency are necessary to register.
- School supply lists will be available in the elementary office.

Junior/Senior High Registration:

- New Junior/Senior High students can register with Michelle Forbis beginning Wednesday, July 30, in the high school office from **8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on weekdays.
- Immunization records, a copy of your child's birth certificate, and proof residency are necessary to register.

*Please remember to update any immunizations that your child may need prior to school starting!





PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Construction crews have been busy the past few months installing a new water line throughout Byers in an effort to provide more consistent pressure between the south and north parts of the community.



WATER PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

The water line installation included boring under both I-70 and the railroad tracks to lay pipe, Wood said. "Contractor Global Underground has completed all necessary bores and work is now occurring on pipe installation on the north side of town and across to the connection at the Sinclair station. Insertion valves are also installed system-wide.

"We're getting close to being done here," Wood said.

Several change orders have occurred that increased the contracted costs during the construction process, and Wood said another will be coming.

"We'll probably have one final change order here (for board approval) next month," he said, adding that traffic control on Main Street cost around \$200,000. "It's pretty expensive to shut down one lane."

Wood added that one more connection — at Cedar Street — will require a

lane closure.

"That should be about the last of any real work in the roadway itself," he said.

Another big expense is a third-party inspector required by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

"We didn't plan for that, and the contractor hasn't really ever dealt with having that stipulation," Wood said. "We're looking at trying to split that cost with [CDOT]. But it's still a fairly significant cost."

Wood said savings elsewhere will help offset some of the increase.

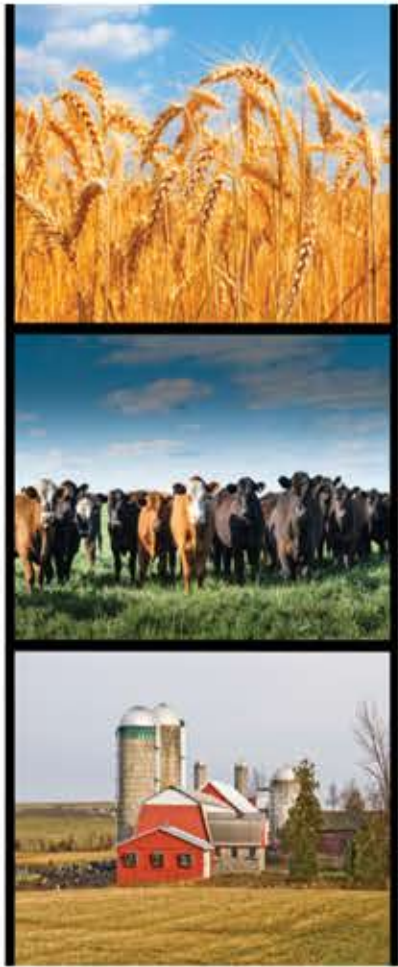
"We've shortened the whole length of pipeline to where we're connecting there on the north end and [work was completed outside] the asphalt for quite a way north of Bijou and Main Street, so we'll have those savings coming back to the project."

The board also continued recent discussions on the need for water and sewer rate increases to offset the rising costs the district is facing — notwithstanding the current project or the fact that the state is requiring water districts to upgrade to mechanical sewer plants by 2029. The district hasn't raised rates since 2015, but its electricity, gas and supply expenses are steadily increasing.

The district will notify customers of a rate increase after the board decides on specifics at its August meeting. In the meantime, board members will individually review water and rate increase options and district manager Kagen Kitzman will gather information on the rates of other I-70 Corridor municipalities.

In other discussion, Kitzman reported problems with the chlorinator and board president Shannon Roth noted the district should consider transitioning to a sodium hypochlorite chlorination system. Roth and Kitzman will discuss costs and options with district water operator Wayne Ramay.

District water usage for June was 4,347,700 gallons — a decrease of 103,200 gallons from usage in May.



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STILL RELEVANT! — “I surveyed visitors as they came to the Chamber’s Summer on the Farm event, and the number one response on how they learned about the event was, ‘It was in the paper.’ Several also pointed out the colorful ad. The next highest response (and far down in numbers) was ‘I/my family saw it on Facebook.’ ... We are grateful to *The Scout*.”

— Robbin Schincke,
President Pro Tempore
I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce

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Hyundais and Kias comprise
a big chunk of CO auto thefts

LAKEWOOD — The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) is warning owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles of would-be car thieves.

Vehicles using a physical key for operation continue to be largely targeted by car thieves across the Denver area. The stolen cars are then used to commit other crimes across the Front Range. From dangerous driving to business burglaries and beyond, auto theft prevention saves more than just a car; it makes the entire state safer.

The CATPA-Metropolitan Auto Theft Taskforce (C-MATT) continues to combat and investigate the thefts of Hyundais and Kias in relation to organized crime in Colorado. This multi-agency task force is a grant program of CATPA, which investigates patterned crime related to auto theft, specifically those crimes that involve the deliberate criminal enterprise of stolen motor vehicles. C-MATT and CATPA continue to ask owners of all vehicles to think when parking their vehicles and take action to prevent auto theft.

All vehicles in Colorado can benefit from following these theft prevention steps, but they are a must for Hyundai and Kia owners. Hyundai and Kia represent nearly one out of every five

stolen cars in Colorado year to date. While auto theft continues declining in the Denver area and across the state, owning a vehicle in the “Top 10 Most Stolen Cars” puts your car at greater risk of theft.

Drivers should:

1. Lock the car.
2. Take the keys out of the car (Never leave a car running unattended).
3. Park smart (in a garage or a secure lot or, when out and about, in an area under constant supervision.) Well-lit is great, but parking under a light isn’t everything. Make sure the car is visible.
4. Keep the car clean and uncluttered. Thieves hate clean cars; anything left unsecured in a vehicle can incentivize a thief to target that car instead of a clean one.
5. Hyundai and Kia owners should check with a local manufacturer’s service center to determine if the vehicle qualifies for a security software update.
6. Do More. Options include steering wheel locks, GPS tags, parking boots, gear shift and pedal locks, and aftermarket alarms and immobilization devices.

Other auto theft prevention tips can be found at lockdownyourcar.org.

MAKE/MODEL	TOP THEFT YEAR	TOTAL THEFTS
CHEVROLET SILVERADO	2006 (129)	1071
HYUNDAI ELANTRA	2013 (197)	969
HYUNDAI SONATA	2004 (72)	620
CHEVROLET SIERRA	2005 (70)	575
FORD F-250	2004 (72)	563
FORD F-150	2018 (57)	539
KIA OPTIMA	2015 (94)	500
KIA SOUL	2016 (106)	479
HONDA CIVIC	2000 (58)	470
KIA SPORTAGE	2017 (90)	443

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'Burg fall youth athletics start soon

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District has announced the deadlines for several youth sports programs.

All grade levels are based on the 2025-26 school year

FLAG FOOTBALL (GRADES PK-K)

Teams will practice 1-2 times per week starting Monday, Aug. 11, in each squad's hometown as determined by the coach with games on Saturdays at Wolf Creek Run West.

Games will be played Sept. 6-27 with no end-of-season tournament.

The fee is \$45 for in-district players and \$50 out-of-district. It includes a jersey. Flags are provided.

The deadline is Sunday, Aug. 3.

FALL SOFTBALL

Practice for softball for youth ages 6-14 (as of Aug. 31) will start in mid-August at a time and location of the coach's choice.

Two games through the Indian Peaks Girls Softball Association will be played each Saturday from Sept.

6 through an end-of-season tournament on Oct. 12.

All games will occur along the northern Front Range.

The early bird deadline is Sunday, July 20. The early bird fee, which includes jersey and socks, is \$150.

The final deadline is Sunday, Aug. 3 with a fee of \$200.

PEEWEE T-BALL

Peewee T-ball is open to ages 2-4. Games will start at 5 p.m. every Wednesday from Sept. 3-24 at the North T-Ball Field. No practices will be held and game time is strictly fun time.

All teams are coed. The \$45 registration fee includes a T-shirt and award.

The deadline is Sunday, Aug. 3.

MUD VOLLEYBALL

Teams for the Mud Volleyball Tournament during Hometown Days must register by Sunday, Aug. 3.

Check-in for the tournament is at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 10.

Byers volleyball camp, league on fall sports docket

BYERS — Sign-ups for the fall Byers Volleyball Youth Camp and Youth League are underway.

The Byers Youth Volleyball Camp for grades 1-6 runs from Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 5-7, at the Byers High School gym.

The cost is \$30 per player. The registration deadline is Wednesday, July 30.

The Byers Youth Volleyball League

for grades 3-6 begins practice the week of Aug. 18 with games on Sundays beginning Sept. 7.

The cost is \$75 per player, which includes a jersey. The registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 8.

For a registration form for either event, or if interested in coaching a team this fall, send an e-mail to coach Jessica Fournier at fournier.jessica@byers.k12.co.us.

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Aug. 5 - 9

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- \$1 Off/Lb. Chuck Tender

BYERS 4TH OF JULY RODEO RESULTS

- BAREBACK BRONC RIDING**
 1. Dalton Williams, 80.
 2. Tyler Ferguson and Tucker Jacobson, 72.
- STEER WRESTLING**
 1. Camdon Whiteford, 4.7.
 2. Cody Mumma, 5.2.
 3. Casen Pridemore, 5.3.
 4. Ghatt Hughes, 5.7.
 5. Talon Sterkel and Tuff Ramsey, 6.0
- TIE DOWN ROPING**
 1. Ross McAdow, 9.2.
 2. Cash Chamberlain, 9.9.
 3. Kyle Dickens, 10.1.
 4. Kyle Belew, 10.6.
 5. Brandon Kammerzell, 11.3.
- BREAKAWAY ROPING**
 1. Alyssa Bigon, 2.4.
 2. Taya McAdow and Olivia Cullen, 2.5.
 4. K.L. Collmorgen, 2.6.
 5. Corenna Broussard, 2.8.
 6. Jessie Miller, 2.9.
- SADDIE BRONC**
 1. Denton Ward, 77.
 1. Colby Smith, 77.
 3. Colton Williams, 72.5.

4. Brady Irvine, 71.**MIXED TEAM ROPING**
 1. Jessie Miller, 7.8.
 2. Taya McAdow, 9.0.
 3. Sabrina Kreutzer, 9.4.
 4. Bailee Hagler, 10.3.**TEAM ROPING HEADER**
 1. Brendan Hermes, 7.4.
 2. Rowdy Weil, 7.5.
 3. Jake Pancost, 7.9.
 4. Tuff Ramsey, 8.1.
 5. Diego Meraz, 8.4.**TEAM ROPING HEELER**
 1. Derek Hermes, 7.4.
 2. Roan Weil, 7.5.
 3. Jason Devore, 7.9.
 4. Joe Roderick, 8.1.
 5. Aaron Rodriguez, 8.4.**BARREL RACING**
 1. Laura Lambert, 17.51.
 2. Lauryn Motley, 17.58.
 3. Mackenzie McCuiston, 17.91.
 4. Quincy Sullivan, 17.92.
 5. Rayanne Griffin, 17.99.
 6. Marina Neese, 18.09.

DEER TRAIL RODEO RESULTS

- BAREBACK RIDING**
 1. Tyler Ferguson, 76.
 2. W.J. Ellerman, 71.
- STEER WRESTLING**
 1. Walker Polhamus, 4.0.
 2. Kaden Alcorn, 4.2.
 3. Rick Peterson, 5.0.
 4. Kyle Broce, 5.1.
- TIE DOWN ROPING**
 1. Bar White, 8.9.
 2. Boedy Lambert, 9.5.
 3. Gavin Liggett, 10.9.
 4. Cody Redden, 11.9.
 5. Luke Meier, 12.0.
- BREAKWAY ROPING**
 1. K.L. Collmorgen, 2.1.
 2. Randi Ratkovitch and Dana Mildenberger, 3.0.
 4. Tana Johnston and Cara Liggett, 3.2.
 6. Colee Cox, 3.4.
- SADDLE BRONC**
 1. Cody Angland, 78.
 2. Quirt Carroll, 77.

3. Jack Kissel, 74.**MIXED TEAM ROPING**
 1. Peyton Crowder, 8.1.
 2. Jayla Reed, 11.3.
 3. Corenna Broussard, 15.0.
 4. Sissy Rieken, 15.2.**TEAM ROPING HEADER**
 1. Austin Crist, 5.3.
 2. Tucker McClain, 6.1.
 3. Brendan Hermes, 11.5.
 4. Wade Kreutzer, 12.0.**TEAM ROPING HEELER**
 1. J.W. Borrego, 5.3.
 2. Luke Meier, 6.1.
 3. Derek Hermes, 11.5.
 4. Jesse Jolly, 12.0.**BARREL RACING**
 1. Lauryn Motley, 17.93.
 2. Mercedes Bradfield, 17.98.
 3. Rachel Huerkamp, 18.04.
 4. Sage Wheatley, 18.06.
 5. Sara Redden, 18.09.

High School Registration @ Deer Trail School



Wednesday, July 30
9th & 10th Graders @ 2 p.m.
Juniors @ 4 p.m.
Seniors @ 5 p.m.

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PHOTOS CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Clockwise from above left, hometown cowgirl Katie Jolly throws her rope during the breakaway roping during Saturday morning's slack performance in Deer Trail; Corridor cowboy Tyler Ferguson wins the bareback bronc riding with a 76-point ride Saturday night; and Agate's Jesse Jolly preps to throw his heeling rope during the open team roping performance Saturday evening. Jolly and his heading partner Wade Kreutzer finished fourth of 22 teams.



Saturday afternoon's rodeo parade saw participants and onlookers alike trying to beat the heat before Amelia Prouse and Lady in Waiting Hannah Chambers are joined by Yuma County Fair & Rodeo Queen Jalyson combo enjoy the parade route from horse back; Koda Ranch's flamingo-themed parade entry won to



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PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

heavy rain and wind hit the area later in the evening. Clockwise from above left, Deer Trail Rodeo Queen n Archer; Grand Marsals Donna and Raymond (Dude) Morris wave from their convertible chariot; a father/ op float; and Deer Trail Custom Cuts took top overall parade entry honors.



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Clockwise from above left, Byers' Jenah Bequette circles a barrel Saturday morning; Daniel Dalton of Strasburg tries to stay aboard his mount in the bull riding; Bennett's Jessica Miller applies the reins to her horse during Saturday morning; and a youngster hits the dirt during Friday's mutton bustin'.



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10301	X-TRA HEAVY DUTY GREASE SOLD IN 10-PACKS ONLY	14.5 OZ	\$55 cs
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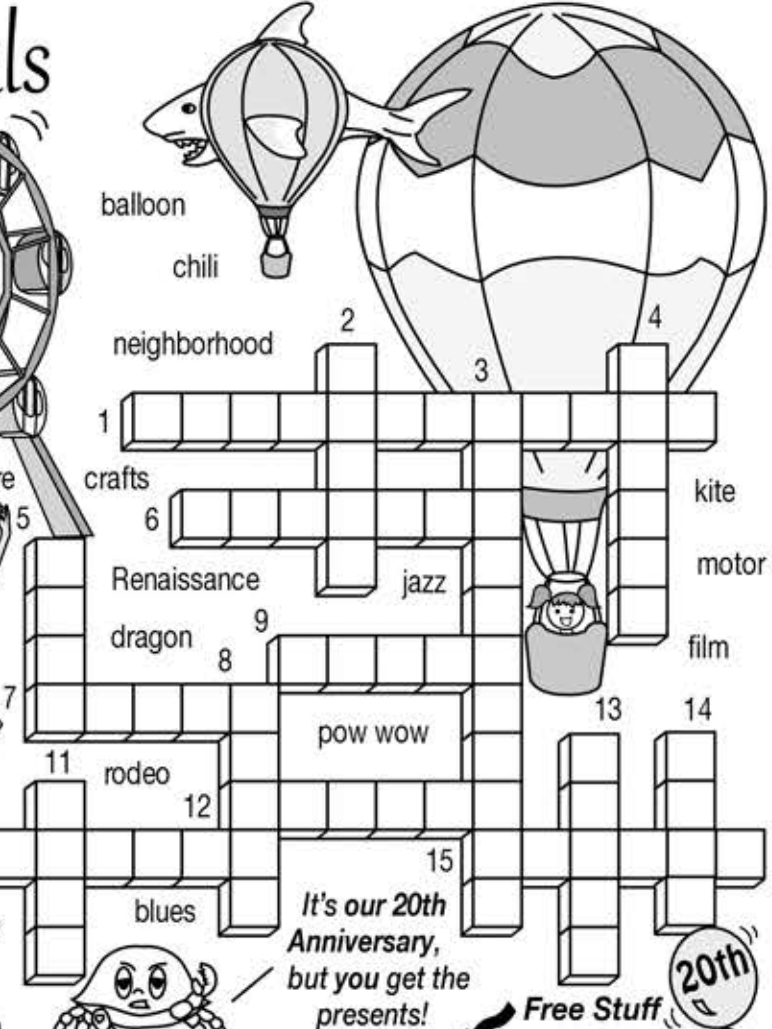
1st Winner First Place

A Time for...Fairs & Festivals


Late summer is a big time for exciting fairs and festivals. The weather is nice and people are back from vacations and traveling. I competed in the 4-H competition at our state's fair. I don't like to brag, but I did win first place – and a purple ribbon!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword with the names of fairs, festivals and other exciting events!

- street closed off; people get together to grill, share potluck dinner, fun
- spicy food cook-off; taste a few and vote for your favorite
- relives medieval times; dress in costumes; watch knights joust
- celebrates Native American history and culture; enjoy music, stories, dance
- shows movies made by students or small creative companies
- hot air _____ festival, picnic; people take to the sky using wicker basket
- _____ sports festival; engines rev; shiny chrome; speedy races
- cowboys show off their riding and roping skills; skilled clowns protect riders
- _____ and BBQ festivals bring together food and music from Mississippi Delta, TX, NC and TN (Memphis) style
- teaches us about animals, plants in our environment
- celebrates the smoky music played with trumpets, pianos, saxophones and guitars
- _____ Boat and Asian festivals have races with crews in long boats decorated to look like fire-breathing creatures
- this fair covers larger area of towns and cities; rides, games, concerts, treats, fireworks, contests, crafts
- hundreds of custom canvases fly on strings; turns sky into sea of colors
- artists sell their creative ideas turned into items: baskets, hand painted clothing

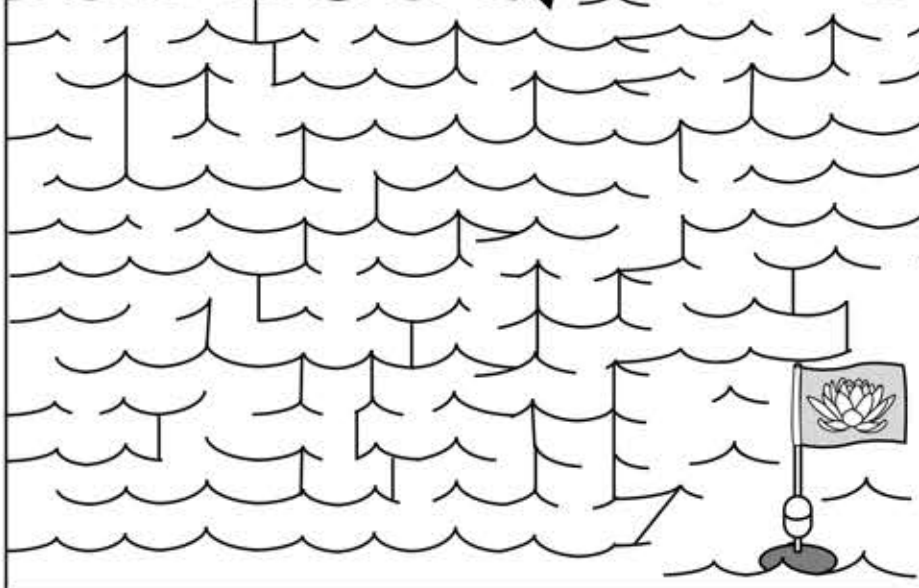


balloon
chili
neighborhood
crafts
nature
Renaissance
dragon
jazz
kite
motor
film
pow wow
rodeo
state
blues
It's our 20th Anniversary, but you get the presents!
Free Stuff
20th



Dragon Boat Race

Dragon boat teams have paddlers, a drummer and a flag catcher. Help this team find its way to grab the flag at the Finish Line.



Taste
spicy chili
salty pretzels
sour lemonade

Sight
colorful crafts
giant pumpkins
juggling clowns

Smell
cookies **baking**
charcoal **burning**
flowers **blooming**

Touch
sticky cotton candy
soft baby animals
cold safety rails

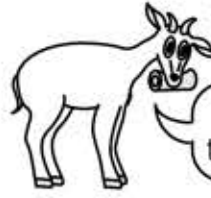
Hearing
goats **bleating**
engines **roaring**
children **laughing**



All Around Us at the Fair



We use our senses to experience what's around us. **Can you find and circle all of the items in bold print in the puzzle below ?**

U	M	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	S	U	Q	G	K	H	Y
Q	L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	Y	C	V	B	Y	W	Z
F	Z	N	X	A	S	V	H	H	X	C	O	Z	E	C	R
T	J	A	W	O	R	O	A	U	L	O	C	L	U	J	W
H	R	D	B	Y	T	L	W	T	X	O	Z	V	D	U	K
A	O	J	A	B	L	O	O	M	I	N	G	Z	C	G	S
I	A	Y	K	G								G	G	B	G
G	R	F	I	I								P	R	G	L
X	I	D	N	A								E	Y	R	I
S	N	S	G	N								G	S	J	N
L	G	S	T	T	B	S	I	K	M	N	O	A	E	G	X
A	A	P	R	I	B	Z	K	T	I	S	V	L	U	C	S
T	N	I	T	M	C	H	C	T	T	I	G	T	D	N	O
I	D	C	S	G	Z	K	A	E	E	K	Z	Y	J	K	F
N	X	Y	X	I	U	E	Y	Z	I	L	K	G	C	T	T
X	K	X	M	M	L	B	D	O	U	E	Q	M	O	W	L
Q	E	A	V	B	I	I	C	O	L	O	R	F	U	L	V



What's Cooking? Fair Favorites!

I'll eat just about anything at the fair. What treat would I be trying if it was made with:



- chocolate, nuts, flour, hot oil?
- heavy cream, butter, vanilla, eggs?
- flour or corn, cheese, salsa?
- rice, beans, ground beef, spices?
- poultry, brown sugar, ketchup, smoke?

- chili
- BBQ chicken
- fried candy bar
- cream puff
- nachos

- powdered sugar, eggs, milk, flour?
- corn, pork or beef, wooden stick, flour?
- fruit, flour, butter, cinnamon, sugar?
- stick, fruit, nuts, cream, brown sugar, vanilla?
- condensed milk, nuts, butter, sugar, chocolate?

- funnel cake
- apple pie
- caramel apple
- corn dog
- chocolate fudge

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JULY 26, 2005
A fire that broke out 15 miles east of Kiowa July 20 charred 1,100 acres before it was contained.
The fire broke out at approximately 11 a.m. in grasslands used by ranchers for pasture when lightning struck.
Firefighters from 11 different departments in Elbert, Arapahoe and El Paso counties battled the blaze for 13 hours before managing to contain it.
Firefighting efforts were thwarted by 40 mph winds. To make matters worse, the direction of the winds kept shifting.
“We had pretty strong winds and the biggest problem for us, especially in the early stages, was the wind kept switching directions. It was erratic and that made it hard to get in front of it,” Kiowa Fire Department chief Brad Wade said.
Authorities traveled door-to-door to evacuate approximately 50 homes in the path of the blaze.
According to Wade, no structural damage occurred to any homes or buildings in use. One abandoned home burnt down during the fire, he added.
“We’re going to be doing more mapping to get complete details,” Wade said.

15 YEARS AGO
JULY 27, 2010
BENNETT — Issues from the 2010 legislative session were discussed July 20 at the Bennett Board of Trustees work-study session.
“The last session we looked at over 200 bills,” said Kevin Bommer with the Colorado Municipal League. “We followed them actively and took positions on several of them.” The state budget also dominated the session.

“We paid attention to that because, while looking at the municipal level, we are largely disconnected from the state budget,” Bommer said. “Decisions they make obviously affect local governments.”
Keeping a close eye on the budget will be key.
“There’s more to come on the budget,” Bommer said.
“Hopefully
We’ll also see an improvement in the economy.”
The session also covered medical.
Municipalities opting out before July 1, 2011, and what local licensing will look like then, are two issues Bommer is focusing on.

10 YEARS AGO
JULY 28, 2015
DEER TRAIL — Beginning this week, 1-70 commuters will likely sat experiencing significant slowdowns between Agate and Deer Trail as extensive road construction takes place through the end of the year and next spring/summer.
According to state transportation sources, residents will be inferred of the project’s entire scope in an upcoming meeting in Deer Trail.
The approximately 11-month project will span approximately 12 miles — from milepost 329 just south of Deer Trail to milepost 341 immediately south of Agate — and include rehabilitation of eight bridges, including hydro-demolition, concrete milling, and concrete overlay installation.
According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, surveying operation and median detour construction start this week, creating one-lane closures on both sides of the interstate, and will likely continue the next three weeks.

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

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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 21

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, July 23, the 204th day of 2025. There are 161 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On July 23, 1967, the first of five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation

with local residents, escalating into violence that spread into other parts of the city and resulting in 43 deaths.

ON THIS DATE
In 1903, the Ford Motor Company sold its first car, a Model A, for \$850.
In 1958, Britain's Queen Eliz-

abeth II named the first four women to peerage in the House of Lords.
In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene

for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.)
In 1990, President George H.W. Bush announced his choice of Judge David Souter of New Hampshire to succeed the retiring Justice William J. Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Rock singer David Essex is 78. Actor Woody Harrelson is 64. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 64. Actor & director Eriq LaSalle is 63. Rock musician Slash is 60. Country singer Alison Krauss is 54. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 52.
—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

1. Basilica feature
5. Cameron, to friends
8. ___ and flow
11. One of the Bridges
12. Have the blues
13. Op-ed piece
15. Blondie's hit "___ Me"
16. Certain something
17. *Granny Smith
18. *Broth-making container
20. Big name in mapmaking
21. Inexperienced
22. *Group of dishes or pots
23. Deprived of ovaries
26. Medusae
30. Got an Oscar, e.g.
31. Kind of license
34. Crescent
35. Description for twins
37. "___ the season!"
38. Orthodox Judaism adherent
39. Class roster item
40. Between lights and action
42. Source of pork
43. *Shredding devices
45. Bear-like
47. Florida key
48. French farewell
50. Physicist Niels ___
52. *Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
55. Holey confection
56. Track event
57. ___ of the trade, sing.
59. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
60. Charlie Parker's nickname
61. Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
62. Word of compliance
63. Actor Stallone
64. *Spice ___ or pot ___

DOWN

1. Beginning of the alphabet
2. *Often go with carrots
3. *NaCl
4. Speech at a funeral
5. *Flute alternative
6. *Cook's garb
7. *Veal or venison, e.g.
8. Sport spectator's TV acronym
9. Like white-headed eagle
10. "Farewell" to Birdie
12. Manage (2 words)
13. Like cornstalks
14. *Flat-edged utensil

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13	14	
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59				60			61		
62				63			64		

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

HOROSCOPE

Love of the Lionhearted
The first full day of Leo season brings strife between Venus and Mars — a cosmic flare-up that calls on our lion-hearted nature. The most profound love asks for no transaction, no performance, no proof. Do you feel worthy of that kind of love? Worthiness isn't a feeling — it's a state. Do you feel capable of offering it? Ability begins with intention.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're vivid, honest, complex in a way that's rare. You bring your whole self to the day — your wit, your pain, your joy, your power — and that kind of presence is magnetic, calling something real out of others.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The qualities you prize will be present around you — people with humor, enthusiasm and initiative are in your midst and easily spotted. Reach out because there's a team here just waiting to be formed. Any small gesture will start the process.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Something clicks into place when you prioritize your needs. You'll get real about what matters, not in theory but in how you spend your energy. You'll say exactly what needs saying. You'll feel heard, and more importantly, seen.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In love or art or work, you're drawn to what has heat, even if it's messy. You'll meet a match that fires your instincts. What follows won't be simple, but it will be raw, real and affecting, altering your thinking and making you wiser.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your natural elegance includes knowing when not to speak. Someone else stumbles, and you make the powerful choice to let them keep their dignity. It's a quiet gesture that makes you unforgettable.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Risk is relative. What looks bold, reckless or daring to one person might be the only logical move for someone else depending on their circumstances, resources or urgency. So, before jumping in, learn where everyone is starting from.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be offered a shortcut, but you might actually pre-

fer the longer route. It allows more interaction, more observation, more of life. You're collecting details — the color of the sky, the story behind someone's look. The whole day is a keepsake.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe the world will gently tilt toward you and you'll know what you have to do, but if not, that's OK, too. Just act. One thing will lead to another, and then it will be as though the decision makes itself through your actions.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's something beautiful about unfinished business — the way it invites you back but never in the same way. You'll revisit a person, place or project with fresh eyes and be inspired to make the move you weren't ready for until now.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't need a big reason to do something interesting. Your curiosity is reason enough. A detour today brings strange delight and an encounter you'll think about for weeks, possibly longer.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The song that lit you up yesterday falls flat today. The meal that once hit the spot leaves you wanting something else. You've changed — maybe just a little, but enough to need new inputs, new flavors, new sparks.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). The energy moves differently today — more sideways than forward, more inward than out. Don't think of this as a stall. Think of it as a reorientation. It's a chance to check your tools, glance at the map, re-knot your laces. The work ahead needs this kind of care, and so do you.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 23). This year reveals your mythic side. You rise through challenges with the focus of a hero and the fire of a muse. The company you keep will shimmer with intrigue and lift you higher. More highlights: a ceremony that has you laughing through tears of pride, a disagreement that turns into a breakthrough, and a reinvention that beautifies your everyday. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 14, 33, 7 and 25.
—Horoscopes by Holiday

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Volume 110, Number 40

Serving Eastern Colorado since 1916

DT citizens question 1st summer sewer bill

Geothermal heating: CASP awarded \$51,000 for air traffic control tower

By Jennifer Cramer
Reporter & Editor



Colorado Air & Spaceport will receive \$51,000 for geothermal heating at the air traffic control tower through Adams County's Clean Air Spaceport (CASP) program.

The geothermal heating system will be installed in the tower, which is a major renovation project. The system will use geothermal energy from the area's natural resources to heat the tower, reducing the need for fossil fuels and lowering the carbon footprint of the airport.

The CASP program is a joint effort between Adams County and the Colorado Air & Spaceport. It aims to promote sustainable development and reduce the environmental impact of the airport's operations.

The tower is a critical part of the airport's infrastructure, and the new heating system will ensure it remains operational and comfortable for pilots and passengers alike.

Nebraska to U.S. Supreme Court: Colorado in violation of water pact

By Steven Foster
Managing Editor



LINCOLN, NEB. — Former author Mark Twain was once quoted as saying, "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting." And that's exactly what's happening in the West, where the battle for water rights is heating up.

Nebraska has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. Supreme Court, claiming that Colorado is in violation of a 1922 water pact. The pact, known as the Colorado River Compact, was a landmark agreement that allocated water rights among the seven states of the Colorado River basin.

Nebraska argues that Colorado has been using more water than its allocated share, which has caused a significant drop in water levels in the river. This has led to a crisis for Nebraska, which relies on the river for irrigation and drinking water.

The Supreme Court case is expected to have a major impact on water rights in the West. It could set a precedent for how water is allocated and used in the future.

CHSAA unveils new logo, brand standards guide

By Jennifer Cramer
Reporter & Editor



ATLANTA — The Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) has unveiled its new logo and brand standards guide. The new branding is designed to be more modern and professional, reflecting the organization's commitment to excellence in high school sports.

The new logo features a stylized mountain peak and the letters "CHSAA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The brand standards guide outlines the proper use of the logo, colors, and typography across all CHSAA communications.

The CHSAA is the governing body for high school sports in Colorado. It oversees a wide range of sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, and more. The organization is dedicated to promoting fair play, sportsmanship, and the overall well-being of its athletes.

Ex-Burg 'backer wins NAIA defensive award

By Jennifer Cramer
Reporter & Editor



ALLIANCE — A 2024 graduate of Alliance High School, Luke Smith, has won the NAIA defensive award. Smith was a standout player for the Alliance Bulldogs, leading the team in tackles and interceptions.

The NAIA award is one of the highest honors in college football. It is given to the best defensive player in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Smith's performance throughout the season was exceptional, earning him this prestigious award.

Smith is a senior at Alliance High School and is expected to continue his football career at the college level. He is a versatile player, capable of playing multiple positions on the defense.

Tiger grad plans IA college career

By Jennifer Cramer
Reporter & Editor



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WHEAT HARVEST

actual damage from the destructive critters appears to be less than originally feared.

“Heard some lodging occurred but a lot of it was in the fields that didn’t get as much rain and plants were stressed by the drier conditions,” the elevator source said. “Still a concern, but not hearing about it as much since harvest actually got started.”

The sawfly embeds its larvae into plants and, when the insects mature, they reside in the stem and can cut the plant, forcing the heads to drop to the ground before they can be combined.

A proper balance of wet, but non-destructive, weather much of this past spring and early summer along with the absence of significant damage from other pests and diseases have final Colorado harvest projections significantly better than last year and previous estimates for this year.

“Overall, yields for Colorado’s 2025 wheat harvest appear to be better than initially expected,” Colorado Wheat said. “Rain and cooler-than-average

Genetically modified wheat trait approved

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) technology wheat for production in the United States.

The approved trait is HB 4, a drought tolerant transgenic gene found in sunflower. Along with drought tolerance, heat tolerance is also expected to accompany the trait.

In addition, wheat varieties may also carry herbicide tolerance. Since the trait is transgenic and GMO, the Environmental Protection Agency and Food & Drug Administration must review the application.

Both agencies are expected to follow USDA and approve the GMO wheat.

The HB 4 trait was developed by an Argentine Company, Bioceres.

This trait, when fully approved for U.S. production, will be integrated into already released wheat varieties. From that point, local production testing will occur on Colorado farms. Released GMO wheat varieties are expected to be generally available in 3-5 years.

GMO wheat does not currently exist in the commercial market in the United States, but has been developed and is being tested in some regions. There are no genetically modified wheat products available for purchase in the U.S.

FROM PAGE 1

temperatures in mid-May and early June gave a much-needed boost.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s most recent crop production report show an estimate of 74 million bushels to be harvested across Colorado this summer, up from 64.4 million bushels collected last year and at least 5.5 million bushels more than June projections. Most recent estimates were based on 40 bushels per acre yields, but multiple reports throughout the state indicate average yields could be 3-5 bushels more per acre when harvest is finished.

This year’s projected harvested acres of 1.85 million is about 10,000 more than last year statewide. Last year’s average yield across the state was 35 bushels per acre.

Through last week, the far southeastern corner of the state reported almost 100% of harvest complete with most uncut fields in the state being reported in counties north of I-70 — Adams, Weld, Larimer and northern portions of Morgan and Washington.

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3	8	9	6	1	2	7	5	4
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4	6	2	7	3	5	8	1	9
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Eymann.machaela@byers.k12.co.us

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Full- & Part-Time Teacher Assistants: Applicants must have, or be willing to work toward, a degree in Early Childhood or related field, or be early childhood teacher qualified. Must be eligible to work in a childcare center and pass a background check. Full-time Benefits package includes sick, vacation, and personal leave, 401K option, and health insurance. Pay range \$15.85 – \$16.62 depending on experience and education.

Come join a quality team that cares about the development of children and families in our community! Please **pick up an application** at 1741 9th St. or e-mail limon-headstart@gmail.com and return your application to the center. **Positions open until filled.** If questions, call Autumn (719) 775-0222. EOE

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

East Central BOCES, along with our 20 member school districts; Agate, Arickaree, Arriba/Flagler, Bennett, Bethune, Burlington, Byers, Cheyenne Wells, Deer Trail, Genoa/Hugo, Hi-Plains, Idalia, Karval, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Liberty, Limon, Strasburg, Stratton, and Woodlin does not unlawfully discriminate against otherwise qualified students, employees, applicants for employment, or members of the public on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, or the need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information, and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited in accordance with state and/or federal law. The East Central BOCES including its member districts does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator.

East Central BOCES
Jason Westfall, Executive Director
820 2nd Street
Limon, Colorado 80828
(719) 775-2342

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, July 25, 2025.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Byers School District will provide breakfast and lunch at no cost for all students.

The district is pleased to announce its participation in the Community Eligibility Provision. Byers School will offer no-cost breakfast and lunch to all students during the 2025-26 school year. Research shows students who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost, we better support their learning.

These breakfasts and lunches follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. Families can feel secure knowing the meals they eat at school meet rigorous federal and state nutrition standards. School cafeterias always offer fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat or fat free milk. School meals also meet limits on calories, sodium and unhealthy fats.

We encourage all families to choose school meals. This increases funding for our schools and creates a strong school community around meal-times. It also saves time and money, which families can use for what's most important to them.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

The East Central BOCES Member School Districts keep records on each student to use in the instruction and guidance of each student. The records contain information about the student and his/her education, including attendance, achievement, aptitude, description, assessment and progress. Parents of students under 18 and eligible students have the right to review these records.

Student records are kept in the school building the student attends. If records are not kept in the school the student attends, this will be noted by the person in charge of records in the building. The principal is responsible for maintenance of student records in each building.

To review a student's records, the parent(s) of students under 18 or the eligible student should contact the records custodian. The records will be shown to you as soon as possible and in no case more than three days after the request. If you desire a copy of the educational record, a charge of 10 cents per copy may be charged, unless this fee prohibits your access. The records will be explained to you at your request.

Parents of eligible students may question the content of the records. Any other access to student records will only be allowed if written consent is obtained, upon court order or by any legally issued subpoena.

Student records are reviewed and inappropriate material removed periodically. Those records not of permanent importance must be destroyed at the parents request after graduation or when the student stops attending permanently. Parents of students with disabilities or eligible students will be notified before any personally identifiable information is removed from a record and destroyed. A record of those persons reviewing the records will be kept by the records custodian and can be reviewed by the parent or eligible student.

A school official may release directory type information to the public. To prevent the public release of such information, a parent or eligible student must file a written objection with the records custodian within ten days after receiving this notice. For more detailed information about records, procedures and policies or to file a complaint, contact the local school district administrator, the East Central BOCES Executive Director or the Special Education Director. Letters may be addressed to: Jason Westfall, Executive Director, East Central BOCES, P. O. Box 910, Limon, CO 80828. Unresolved complaints can be appealed using the established appeals process.

The East Central BOCES member schools are: Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail, Agate, Woodlin, Arickaree, Limon, Genoa-Hugo, Karval, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Cheyenne Wells, Arriba-Flagler, Hi-Plains, Stratton, Bethune, Burlington, Idalia, & Liberty.

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, July 25, 2025.

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IRS filing: Clerics who advocate for politicians from pulpit shouldn't lose tax-exempt status

by **Fatima Hussein**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The IRS says pastors who endorse political candidates from the pulpit should not have to risk losing their tax-exempt status.

The move effectively calls for a carve out for religious organizations from the rarely used IRS rule called the Johnson Amendment, put in place in 1954 and named after then-Sen. Lyndon Johnson.

In a joint court filing intended to end an ongoing case against the IRS, the tax collection agency and the National Religious Broadcasters Association — an evangelical media consortium — and other plaintiffs have asked a federal court in Texas to stop the government from enforcing the Johnson Amendment against the plaintiffs.

The Johnson Amendment is a 1954 amendment to the U.S. tax code that prohibits tax-exempt organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates.

The Christian media group and others filed suit against the IRS in August 2024, stating that the amendment violates their First Amendment rights to the freedom of speech and free exercise of religion, among other legal protections. In May, the IRS and plaintiffs wrote that the Johnson Amendment should be interpreted "so that it does not reach communications from a house of worship to its congregation in connection with religious services through its usual chan-



A sign marks the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, D.C.

nels of communication on matters of faith."

The New York Times was first to report the news of the court filing.

The IRS has generally not enforced the Johnson Amendment against houses of worship for speech related to electoral politics.

President Donald Trump has said he wanted to get rid of the Johnson Amendment and signed an executive order in 2017 directing Treasury to disregard the rule.

"I will get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution," Trump said in 2017 at a National Prayer Breakfast, a high-profile event bringing together faith leaders, politicians and dignitaries.

Representatives from the IRS and the National Religious Broadcasters Association did not respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

Earlier this year, Republican lawmakers introduced legislation to remove the Johnson Amendment.



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The Culex variety of mosquitoes are the biting versions of the pests that can transmit West Nile virus.

WEST NILE

FROM PAGE 1

are in residents east or west of E-470. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, neither infection required hospitalization and one of the two people complained of neurologic symptoms. “The virus is transmitted through mosquito bites,” said Adams County Health Executive Director Dr. Kelly Weidenbach. “To protect against it, we suggest using effective insect repellents, wearing protective clothing to minimize exposed skin, or opt to

stay indoors during peak mosquito activity.”

County health representatives said that mosquito population surveillance and testing for West Nile has been ongoing since early June and will continue through mid-September when a decline in the numbers, particularly in the Culex species, comes to fruition. The first month-and-a-half of the surveillance program has shown above average mosquito activity on the western side of the county.

“Mosquito surveillance traps in the eastern part of unincorporated Adams County are set on a complaint basis,” the county health department said. “However, we have not received any complaints in that part of the county so far this year.”

Residents with mosquito complaints can call (303)428-5908.

According to the state health department, through July 18, Larimer County has been the only county to confirm West Nile infections in mosquitoes with double-digit, almost half of, collections testing positive over the first half of July. Other counties with negative tests are Boulder, Arapahoe, Jefferson and La Plata.

Last year, Colorado reported 76 confirmed human cases of the disease with no deaths and 24 hospitalizations; Adams County reported five human cases in 2024 while Arapahoe County had eight.

Two years ago was the state’s second highest recorded number of human West Nile infections with 634, including Adams County with 45, Arapahoe 56, and three in Elbert.

The record for confirmed human cases in Colorado was 2003, the first year the disease was surveilled, when 2,948 Colorado residents contracted the malady, including 232 in Adams, 138 in Arapahoe and eight in Elbert.

The two Adams County cases pushed the nationwide count of West Nile infections over 50 so far this year. Through July 15, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention said 49 cases were reported across 15 states, led by Arizona with 15 and Louisiana with 7.

Most people infected with West Nile virus don’t have symptoms. About 20% of infected people will have flu-like symptoms, and fewer than 1% develop a serious, potentially deadly illness. People 60 years of age and older and those with certain medical conditions are at greater risk of serious illness. People that develop severe headaches or begin experiencing confusion should contact their doctor.

Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol products provide the best protection against biting mosquitoes. Limiting outdoor activities at dusk and dawn and wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks in mosquito-infested areas is also suggested.

Adams County Health is distributing free insect repellent containing picaridin at its Westminster clinic — 1401 W. 122nd Ave., #200, Westminster — and at various other community outreach events throughout the summer or until supplies last.

For more information, visit adamscountyhealthdepartment.org.

Residents are also urged to “mosquito-proof” their properties, including emptying standing water from collection areas and ensuring screens on windows and doors are intact.

For additional information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov.

2025 STRASBURG HOMETOWN DAYS



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**Fee Associated with Event*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7: NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (Legion Hall) at 5:30pm: Enjoy an informative presentation of “Strasburg Then & Now”. Light refreshments provided. Donations for the Museum will be accepted. **SPONSOR:** F&C Realty

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

HOMETOWN DAYS KICK-OFF (REC): Enjoy food, live music, fun, and fireworks! **BRING YOUR CAMP CHAIRS — no coolers please.** Hosted by Strasburg Parks & Rec District, Strasburg Arts Council, and Strasburg Fire Protection District

4:00pm **FOOD TRUCKS* and FUN** — Giveaways, Sand Volleyball, Sidewalk Chalk, FREE Snow Cones from Real Estate Connection and ROCK PAINTING with the Strasburg Arts Council. **SPONSOR:** Crandall Drilling & Pump Service, CORE Electric

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT by Adams County Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts with Melody Epperson. Discover new ways of art making and reconnect with the land and environment.

4:30pm (NEW!) **NINJA COURSE** — Challenging and fun obstacle course for kids 5 & over (weather permitting). **SPONSOR:** CDE Vaping Prevention

5:00pm **F&M BANK BEER GARDEN*** — Choose from LPB’s 4 flagship beers (21 & over). All proceeds benefit youth programs. **SPONSOR:** Launch Pad Brewery; F&M Bank

6:00pm (NEW!) **CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT*** — On-site Registration (16 & over); Prizes for winners! All proceeds benefit SHS Wrestling Team

6:30pm (NEW!) **STREET DANCE** with Halfway to Headlight: Enjoy some LIVE music in the park with our favorite hometown band. **SPONSOR:** U.S. Mechanical Company, Strasburg Veterinary Clinic

9:00pm **FIREWORKS** by Strasburg Fire Protection District #8 (weather permitting)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

7:00am **RUN TO THE RAILS 5K* (MVF):** Check-in at 7am (race begins 7:30am). Register online by 8/7/25. Race day registration is also available — prizes by age & gender. Proceeds benefit SHS Cross Country Team. **SPONSOR:** Double R Hardscapes, Inc.

9:00am–3:00pm **ART & CRAFTS — INDOORS (SHS):** **SPONSOR:** D&D Water Service; CLAUSSEN CHIROPRACTIC

9:00am–3:00pm **OUTDOOR VENDOR FAIR (SHS):** **SPONSOR:** Premier Portables, Denver East Strasburg KOA, Tallgrass

9:00am **TRAP SHOOT (MVF):** Hosted by Mountain View Fellowship Ironworks

10:00am **PARADE (route online):** “Hometown Icons” **SPONSOR:** CORE Electric, Strasburg Conoco

11:00am (NEW!) **TREE CARVING (Lyons Park):** Watch Matt ‘O Chainsaw, award-winning chainsaw sculptor, as he creates a beautiful piece of art out of a tree in the park (ongoing throughout the weekend).

11:30am–1:30pm **FREE COMMUNITY BBQ (SHS):** Hosted by Strasburg School District 31J. Entertainment by Golden Eagle Concert Band. Bring camp chairs and umbrellas. **SPONSORS:** (Food); South State Bank, Smokeshow Meat (Drinks); TBK Bank (Entertainment); I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News; BlueSky Party Rentals; Action Signs & Graphics

11:30am–3:30pm **KID’S OBSTACLE COURSE* (SHS):** Fundraiser for Twisters Gymnastics. **SPONSOR:** Crandall Drilling & Pump Service

11:30am–4:00pm **HAY RIDES (route online):** **SPONSOR:** Strasburg Veterinary Clinic; 21st Century Equipment

12:00–4:00pm **COMANCHE CROSSING MUSEUM:** Enjoy a Root Beer Float* and support your hometown museum. Activities: museum tour, cow milking for kids, and model train displays. Hosted by Comanche Crossing Historical Society

2:00pm **TEXTING CONTEST (Museum):** Hosted by Hometown Kids Daycare. **SPONSOR:** United Rentals

3:00–5:00pm **CHILI COOK-OFF (SHS):** Check-out the Petting ZOO and vote on the best Chili in town. Cook-off contest and FREE Watermelon, hosted by SHS Unified Bowling. Entertainment by High Plains Music Ensemble. **SPONSOR:** Byers General Store, The Gift Shop, Clark Sales and Rentals, Growth and Wealth Financial

5–8:00pm (NEW!) **DINNER & LINE DANCING (MVF):** FREE pulled pork dinner and line dancing lessons by Two Left Boots. Hosted by MVF

Dusk (8:30pm-ish) **OUTDOOR MOVIE (REC):** Watch “The Minecraft Movie” under the stars. Concessions available. **SPONSOR:** ISI Inspection Specialties

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

7:00am (NEW!) **‘BURG 5K* (REC):** Check-in at 7am (race begins 7:30am). Register online by 8/7/25 — race day registration available. Runners, walkers, strollers welcome. Pancake breakfast INCLUDED! Proceeds benefit SHS Track & Field. **SPONSOR:** BTC Telephone Co-op

7:30–10:00am **BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER* (HMS):** Hosted by SHS FBLA; \$7 for adults, \$5 kids 12 & under. Biscuits & gravy or pancakes with sausage, and drink. **SPONSOR:** Comfort Home Inspections LLC

9:00am–2:00pm **CAR SHOW* (Strasburg Community Church):** Roll-in time: 9am — judging categories: Off-Road, Modern, Classic, and Best of Show. Enjoy food trucks, bounce house, music, and family fun. Entrance fee donation to “Wheel-O-Rama” fundraiser. Hosted by Strasburg Community Church. **SPONSOR:** High Plains Sanitation Service, U.S. Mechanical Company

9:30am **MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT* (WCR West):** Youth (6th-12th) and Adult Divisions. Check-in at 9:30am. Register online by 8/1/25. Concessions provided by SHS Cheer Team. Hosted by SHS Athletic Booster Club. **SPONSOR:** Matt Brinkhoff — Coldwell Banker Realty, Eastern Slope Technologies

10:00am **COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE (HMS):** **SPONSOR:** Crandall Drilling & Pump Service

11:00am **COW PLOP FUNDRAISER* (Legion Hall):** Fundraiser for American Legion Post #183. Guess where the cow will “plop” for your chance to win. To purchase a ticket or for more info, call 720-840-0411.

12:00–4:00pm **COMANCHE CROSSING MUSEUM:** Enjoy a Root Beer Float* and support your hometown museum.

5:30pm (NEW!) **BIG D’S ADAPTIVE BASEBALL GAME (REC):** Cheer on the Big D’s Warriors as they wrap-up their baseball season with Dinger from the Colorado Rockies! **SPONSOR:** Cancer Fighters to the Rescue, Action Signs & Graphics

EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: Hometown Days Committee • **FACEBOOK:** Strasburg Hometown Days • www.strasburgparks.org/htd/
Please adhere to the rules and regulations at each event location. Participation is at your own risk. Committee and Sponsors are not responsible for bodily injuries or property damage.

