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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 32

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

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

## 3 die, 1 injured in crash near Cedar Point

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

CEDAR POINT — Three members of a Montana family, including two children, were killed and another member seriously injured when their SUV collided with a semi and trailer mid-afternoon July 2.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol and emergency responders were dispatched near mile marker 348 in the area of the Cedar Point exit on eastbound I-70 on re-

**SEE CRASHES  
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Rescue workers clear the wreckage from an accident near Cedar Point July 2. The crash claimed the lives of three of four Montanans riding in an SUV that struck the rear of a semi tractor-trailer.



PHOTO COURTESY CBS NEWS



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Wes Butterfield of Byers competes in the steer wrestling at the rodeo hosted by the Byers Park & Recreation District as part of Byers' Independence Day festivities on July 2. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

## Water valve issues continue to flood Bennett town gov't

by Shylo Bockenfeld  
Steven Vetter  
The I-70 Scout

BENNETT — The breadth of the negative residential impacts from the town of Bennett's ongoing effort to convert its water system to a single pressure zone continue to grow.

During the June 24 board of trustees meeting, Capital Projects & Utilities Director Daniel Pershing said that the town's ongoing Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Program would affect 882 homes.

Town officials have repeatedly suggested the plumbing upgrades are standard on new homes and that PRV upgrades would only be required on older homes; however, Pershing's estimate indicates that most homes built on the Adams County side of Bennett before the past few years could be impacted.

**SEE WATER VALVE FIASCO  
PAGE 16**

## Area roots run deep for DT Rodeo parade Grand Marshals

by Kathy Smiley  
Staff Writer

DEER TRAIL — if you're seeking the quintessential candidates for the Grand Marshals of the Deer Trail Rodeo, look no further than Raymond and Donna Morris.

Raymond's great-grandfather came to Eastern Colorado in the 1860s — early enough to conceivably have been present at the first Deer Trail Rodeo in 1869. Raymond grew up near Deer Trail where his family ranch and farmed for generations. His memories of Deer Trail rodeos stretch back to the late 1940s.

Raymond and Donna are rodeo enthusiasts and travel to several rodeos each year. In short, they tick all the boxes for the title of Grand Marshals and the honors the title bestows.

Raymond's great-grandfather, Alex Benham, arrived in Colorado from New York in 1860. He lived

in Julesburg and was the proprietor of a stagecoach and pony express station on the Smoky Hill Trail.

"During much of the 1860s and '70s he worked various routes in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota," Raymond told The I-70 Scout July 4. "In 1880 Alex and his son — my grandfather Jay Benham — began cattle and sheep ranching north of Deer Trail. Family members have ranch and farmed in the same area since."

Jay Benham established a desert claim on land located 18 miles northeast of Byers in 1886. (The Desert Land Act of 1887 amended the Homestead Act and encouraged development of arid and semi-arid public lands in certain Western states.)

"The family ranch has always been in the Leader area, but Leader wasn't there until 1909," Raymond noted.

Jay Benham and his wife Louise had four chil-

**SEE DT GRAND MARSHALS  
PAGE 5**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donna and Raymond Morris are the Grand Marshals of the 2025 Deer Trail Rodeo.



COMMUNITY CORRAL

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 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.

Showing of ‘Lilo & Stitch’ slated for ‘Burg ball field

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a free outdoor family movie night featuring a 24-foot movie screen.

Seating for “Lilo & Stitch” opens one hour before dusk, Friday, July 11, at the district’s North Baseball Field, 56401 Sunset Ave.

Attendees should bring chairs and



SouthState Bank's Strasburg branch recently donated \$4,000 for the annual Saturday hamburger fry during Strasburg Hometown Days Aug. 7-10. SouthState bought Independent Financial earlier this year, including its Bennett, Byers and Strasburg branches. Pictured, from left, are SouthState Strasburg employees Melissa Monarez, Celia Ramos, Sarah DeWindt, Gail King and Jordyn Joyce.

blankets. Concessions will be available for a charge.

Admission is free, but donations to help fund youth programs and scholarships will be accepted.

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.

Butterfly Pavilion program on spiders slated at ‘Burg

STRASBURG — A Butterfly Pavilion summer program on spiders is planned from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, July 14, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Web World will explore the reasons why spiders are found in great num-

bers all over the world, including in our houses. At the fun and interactive program, participants will meet several spider friends and explore the secrets put them among the most successful creatures ever.

The program is open to all ages. The cost is \$10 with parents admitted at no charge. The registration deadline is Wednesday, July 9.

‘Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan monthly potluck July 15

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association's next potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, July 15, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

A presentation on senior banking scams is planned.

The group, which provides a social outlet for area seniors, meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, call Mary Humphrey at (303)622-4695.

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).

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.

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 hosted by CSU Extension offices in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties. For more information, visit [arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu](http://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu).

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COTTONWOOD- Silver...8-10' x 1" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$259.95	Now \$179.99	Save 31%	PINE- Austrian...3' #5 cont.	Reg. Price \$159.95	Now \$119.99	Save 25%
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# ARAPAHOE COUNTY



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES

## Thriving CommUNITY Fair

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





## ARAPAHOE VOTES.GOV Sticker Contest

**Enter the Arapahoe County “I Voted” or “First Time Voter” Sticker Contest**

The contest is open to all ages, there are three categories:

- 1. Digital Design
- 2. Hand-drawn Design
- 3. First Time Voter children’s sticker contest

Go to [arapahoecountyvotes.gov](https://arapahoecountyvotes.gov) for details and to enter or ask for an entry packet at the Clerk and Recorder greeter desk.



## Join our team

### Road Maintenance Technician I

The Arapahoe County Road and Bridge Division is seeking highly motivated individuals to join our team. You'll get the best training in the business and the support of an awesome team. You will work for a high-performing organization in which employees are encouraged to grow through professional development and increased responsibility.



The anticipated hiring range is \$23.60–\$25.02 based on final qualifications and experience.

Visit [arapahoecounty.gov/jobs](https://arapahoecounty.gov/jobs) or scan the QR code to apply.

# Arapahoe Co conditionally OKs application for oil, gas pad near Quincy, Watkins Road

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County has conditionally approved an application for the State La Plata South oil and gas facility to support up to 17 wells plus two existing wells for a total of 19 wells.

The site is a 10.5-acre pad (23 acres total disturbed area) located approximately 1.5 miles south of East Quincy Avenue and one-half mile west of Watkins Road in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Public Works & Development evaluated the application based on oil and gas regulations in Arapahoe County’s Land Development Code (LDC). In 2023 and 2024, the county amended the LDC with additional rules crafted with health, safety, welfare and the environment at the forefront of consideration.

These rules include rigorous air/water quality testing requirements, financial assurances for cleanup, and the most protective setbacks in Colorado.

After a thorough review and in consultation with multiple departments and outside agencies, Public Works & Development determined that the proposed State La Plata South facility meets — and in many areas exceeds — the county’s criteria or has qualified for a waiver.

Mineral rights are property rights protected by Colorado law and take precedence over surface rights, meaning that mineral rights owners have a legal right to enter and use the surface of a property in a reasonable and necessary manner to extract minerals. As the applicant met or exceeded all required criteria, Public Works & Development Director Bryan Weimer approved the well pad application with the following conditions:

- The applicant must obtain final approval of an Oil & Gas Development Plan for the State La Plata South pad site through the Energy Carbon Management Commission (ECMC).
- Building permits are required for the proposed facility for all electrical work and site construction. Building permits must be obtained from the Building Division prior to the start of any site construction.
- All pipelines proposed for fresh water, produced water, oil and gas must be approved, constructed and be closed out of permits prior to construction on the well pad.
- The applicant must mitigate any adverse impacts to wildlife in high priority habitat areas.
- Per ECMC condition of approval on the associated Lowry Ranch CAP, the site must utilize electrification at all steps in the process. A note has been added for this requirement in the plan set sheet. The well pad, rig and facilities will be electrified.
- The operator will drill and complete all wells during its one-time occupation of the site.
- The applicant is required to pay the county an Oil & Gas Transportation Impact Fee of \$1,301 per pad, plus \$22,714 per well, for a total of \$387,439 for 17 wells assuming pipelines are used for fresh water and produced oil and gas (trucking for produced water). A complete list of conditions can be found in the approval letter.

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

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dren including two daughters — Delight Church, Raymond's aunt, and Blanche Morris, his mother. The two women and their families remained on their Deer Trail area ranches their whole lives.  
Along with ranching, rodeo is in Raymond's DNA.  
"My grandfather owned a

special saddle bronc horse that they took around to various rodeos to see if someone could ride it. It was called the J Anchor horse for the brand," Raymond said. "My father was a small guy and back in the early 1900s when he was a kid he was a jockey, a saddle bronc rider, and did

that Roman riding where they stood on two horses and rode around."  
Raymond remembers the Deer Trail rodeo grounds almost from their construction in 1943. Before that, the rodeo was held annually at the Deer Trail stockyards.  
"As a little kid I remember

the grandstands were new," he said. "1949 was probably the beginning of my memory."  
Donna noted that her husband loves rodeo.  
"He knows many people who are rodeo enthusiasts and he believes in supporting rodeos and promoting the

sport," she said.  
The couple attends the Deer Trail Rodeo every year and also travels to other rodeos, mainly in Colorado. They go to the national steer-roping finals as often as possible. Raymond is especially fond  
**SEE DT GRAND MARSHALS**  
**PAGE 6**

JULY 11 & 12, 2025

DEER TRAIL RODEO

HOME OF THE WORLD'S FIRST RODEO

FRIDAY, JULY 11

4:30 - KID'S MUTTON BUSTIN' & STEER RIDING  
REGISTER ON SITE - NO PRE-ENTRIES, ENTER AT 3:30

6:00PM - RODEO PERFORMANCE FOLLOWED BY:  
JR BARRELS (8 AND UNDER, 9 TO 16 - ENTER AT 3:30 ON SITE)

CONCERT - UNION GRAY  
W/ SPECIAL GUEST WOODIE PROCELL ACOUSTIC

SATURDAY, JULY 12

1:00 - PARADE: VEGAS LIGHTS & COUNTRY NIGHTS  
TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT: CHERYL ROSS - 303.822.5377  
(OR REGISTER ON SITE BY 12:30 AT 2ND & ASPEN)

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

4:30 - KID'S MUTTON BUSTIN' & STEER RIDING  
REGISTER ON SITE - NO PRE-ENTRIES, ENTER AT 3:30

6:00 - RODEO PERFORMANCE

9:00 - CONCERT - THE COUNTRY MUSIC PROJECT  
W/ SPECIAL GUEST LIZA JO

FRIDAY TICKETS:  
ADULTS \$15  
CHILD (5-12) \$5  
4 & UNDER FREE  
TICKET INCLUDES RODEO & CONCERT

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

DEER TRAIL COLORADO

HOME OF THE WORLD'S FIRST RODEO

LADY-IN-WAITING - HANNAH CHAMBERS

QUEEN - AMELIA PROUSE

GRAND MARSHAL - RAYMOND & DONNA MORRIS

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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CASE NO. UASI25-001, CANYON PEAK POWER STATION /**  
**USE BY SPECIAL REVIEW**

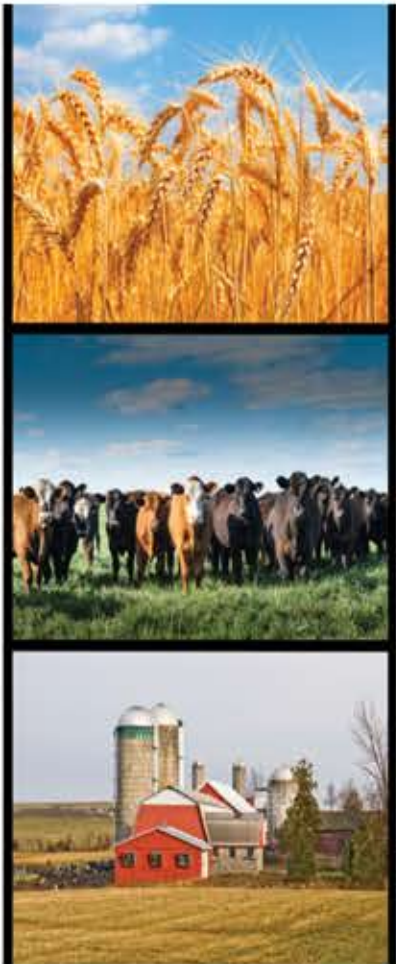
**PROPOSAL:** The applicant, Canyon Peak Power LLC (an affiliate of Kindle Energy LLC), on behalf of the property owner, CORE Electric Cooperative, is seeking approval of a Use by Special Review on a 20.009-acre parcel to build a natural gas simple-cycle combustible power generation facility and 3.9 miles of natural gas pipeline. The pipeline will provide natural gas from an existing Colorado Interstate Gas pipeline to the gas facility. The natural gas will be converted into electricity that will then be transferred to the existing Brick Center Substation, also located on the subject property.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on July 22, 2025 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. UASI25-001, Canyon Peak Power Station / Use by Special Review. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton, CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to or speak at the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press \*3 on the telephone keypad.

More information about this proposal is available at the offices of the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 by calling 720-874-6650 or by emailing [planning@arapahoe.gov](mailto:planning@arapahoe.gov) during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in the Eastern Colorado News on Friday, July 4, 2025, and The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, July 9, 2025.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Three registered cattle brands are owned by Raymond Morris — all from his family ranches over the years.

**DT GRAND MARSHALS**

**FROM PAGE 5**

of timed-event slack sessions that take place outside the regular rodeo performance.

"I often go to those because it's a good time just to visit with people about ranching and horses and things. It is an important time for rodeo," he said.

Raymond is a graduate of Deer Trail High School and Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He did graduate study at CSU and the University of Wyoming. Over the years he has served on numerous boards and committees including the Deer Trail School Board, Arapahoe Library District Board, and East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (ECBOCES).

He represented Deer Trail on the Bijou Telephone Co-op Board and the Adams County Weed Board. He is an avid supporter of high school and college sports and served on Colorado High School Activities & Athletics (CHSAA) committees.

"He's gone to more sporting events for Deer Trail schools than almost anybody alive, I would bet," Donna said, adding that they have also been CSU football season ticket holders and were University of Utah football season ticket holders when they lived there.

Donna grew up in Denver. She attended East High School until her senior year when her family moved to Tribune, Kan., where she completed high school. She graduated from Fort Hays State University and earned her master's degree at Emporia State University, both in Kansas.

She worked in libraries in Kansas for several years. From 1985 to 2004, she was the director of Arkansas Valley Regional Library Services where she worked with 330 libraries in southeast Colorado. She was the State Librarian of Utah from 2004-18 when she retired.

She has served on numerous boards and committees mostly associat-

ed with libraries. She was the chair of state humanities councils in both Kansas and Colorado, and she served on the Pueblo Commission of Health & Human Services.

Donna said a highlight of her library career was when she was the chairman of the committee that established the Colorado Library Card program, which allows library patrons across the state to borrow materials from any library.

The committee included the directors of all the biggest libraries in the state.

"I can remember some of them saying the program would never work," she said. "But we got to work and, with a bunch of compromising, people came together."

"The Colorado Library Card is one of the things I'm most proud of doing because it brought together all the libraries in Colorado and opened their doors to people across the state. That's a fantastic thing," she said.

With both Donna and Raymond so active with board and committee work, it's no surprise that they met at a meeting.

"We met when I was on the Arapahoe Library District board and Donna was the president of the Colorado Association of Libraries," Raymond said.

Donna and Raymond have been married for 33 years. They moved to their home northeast of Byers in 2019. Their son, daughter-in-law and 8-year-old grandson farm near Colby, Kan.

Back to the subject of rodeos, the Morriszes own three registered livestock brands that collectively symbolize the family's ranching history in the area. The J Anchor brand represented Raymond's grandparents' ranch and was first registered in the 1880s. A brand featuring a bar and a V was designed by Blanche Morris in the 1930s.

"She wanted a nice, simple brand that would go on easily, so she made that up and got it registered at that time," Raymond said.

A triangle bar X was the brand belonging to his uncle and aunt — Harold and Delight Church.

"They didn't have any children and were like second parents to me," Raymond said.

Raymond and Donna Morris' special brand would symbolize their love and service to family, community and the rodeo. The 2025 Grand Marshals are very grand, indeed.

**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 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.







Royalty representatives for the 2025 Deer Trail Rodeo are Queen Amelia Prouse, left, and Lady-in-Waiting Hannah Chambers.

DT Rodeo queen, lady-in-waiting ready for festivities

DEER TRAIL — The 2025 Deer Trail Rodeo will be presided over by Miss Deer Trail Rodeo Amelia Prouse and Lady-in-Waiting Hannah Chambers.

Prouse, 20, is a sophomore in college in Wyoming, where she is pursuing a degree in pediatric speech-language pathology.

She also actively competes in Versatility Ranch Horse competitions with her horse, Razor.

Prouse takes great pride in representing the sport of rodeo and our Western heritage at the upcoming 2025 Deer Trail Rodeo, known as the “Home of the World’s First Rodeo.”

Guided by her life verse, Corinthians 16:14, “Let all that you do, be done in love”

Prouse believes that, with determination and faith in oneself, any dream can be achieved.

Hannah, 18, is from Roggen, where she lives with her mom, Kara, and younger brother, Hayden. She is a competitive gymnast and shows Arabian horses.

Hannah is currently attending Colorado State University to earn her degree in equine science with an emphasis on pre-veterinary medicine. After she graduates, she plans to attend veterinary school.

Arapahoe County Fair opens July 24

LITTLETON — Tickets to the 119th annual Arapahoe County Fair are now available at [arapahoecountyfair.com](http://arapahoecountyfair.com).

This cherished rite of summer returns from Thursday through Sunday, July 24-27, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds & Park. It showcases the county’s agricultural and Western heritage through 4-H programming, traditional farming and educational activities, and family entertainment.

Additions this year include a silent disco, a BMX showcase, Polynesian fire dancers, axe-throwing, a trampoline show, and Gel Blasters (like paintball but for younger kids).

Pours on the Plains, the county’s special ticketed craft brew festival for ages 21 and over returns this year. It runs from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday, July 25. The event features at least 15 local breweries, a golf simulator and other games, and live music. Pours on the Plains is a separate ticketed event and is not included in the general Fair admission.

“Each year brings something new and exciting to the fair,” said Commissioner Leslie Summey. “From line

dancing with Two Left Boots to the always popular canine stunt show, we invite everyone to come out and enjoy a full day of wholesome fun for an incredible price.”

Tickets cost \$25 and kids under 36 inches tall receive free admission. Tickets include event parking, unlimited carnival rides, Colorado Pro Rodeo Association events, fireworks (weather and fire restrictions permitting), live entertainment, truck & tractor pulls, Canine Stars Stunt Dog Show, mutton bustin,’ public competitions, a petting farm, 4-H livestock shows, and the Kids Corral. Food and beverages will be available for purchase and vendors are located throughout the fairgrounds.

Fair hours are:

- 4 p.m. to midnight, Thursday, July 24;
- 11 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday, July 25-26; and
- 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Sunday, July 27.

The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds & Park are located at 25690 E. Quincy Ave. Aurora.

Solutions for July 2 edition

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

C	R	O	W		B	A	P		C	E	P			
L	O	K	I		T	A	L	E		S	T	O	R	E
E	A	R	N		A	L	E	S		T	H	O	R	N
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	O	M	E	N		B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P
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A	L	T			S	L	Y				E	W	E	R

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

# CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

Church Directory

**Strasburg Presbyterian Church**  
56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO  
[www.spcusa.us](http://www.spcusa.us)  
**303-622-4325**  
• Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044  
[www.corlms.org](http://www.corlms.org)

**Mt. Tabor Baptist Church**  
278 S. Sherman St., Byers  
303-822-9366 • [mttaborbysers.org](http://mttaborbysers.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

**Philippians 4:11** I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

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**LIVING SPRINGS COWBOY CHURCH**  
BYERS, CO

Sundays at 10:00 AM  
2722 S. County Rd 173; Byers, CO

In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.  
[LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org](http://LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org)  
719-659-8848

**Mountain View FELLOWSHIP**  
Bible-Based • Nondenominational

**Sunday Services**  
8:30am & 10:15am  
**Servicio en Español a las 10:15am**  
1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg

**Sunday Service Livestream at**  
<https://www.mvcolorado.online.church>

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

[mvcolorado.com](http://mvcolorado.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](http://strasburgorthodox.org)

**calvary bennett**  
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115 Palmer Ave

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Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave  
303.261.8853  
[info@calvarybennett.org](mailto:info@calvarybennett.org)

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**Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church**

Pastor: Fr. Jeff Wilborn  
186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103  
Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889  
Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551  
[www.ourladyoftheplains.org](http://www.ourladyoftheplains.org)

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• Sunday 9:00 am  
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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**  
Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm  
Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am  
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



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anythinklibraries.org

**Swirling Spiral Paintings:** Children ages 7-12 will make mesmerizing spiral designs with pendulums and paint. They will explore the intersection of art, motion and math through hands-on play. Supplies limited. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 9.

**Creative Cupcake Lab:** Youth ages 13-19 will learn to decorate cupcakes like a pro with expert decorators from Cake Crafts Denver. They will explore piping techniques, frosting tips and creative tricks to make the cupcakes pop with summer style. Each participant will get a set of cupcakes to decorate and take home. All supplies provided. Space limited; registration required. Visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. Register each child individually.

Parents should be advised that the cupcakes and decorations may contain common allergens, including wheat, milk, eggs and soy and were produced in a facility that also processes tree nuts and peanuts. 1-2:30 p.m., Friday, July 11.

**Center & Create Calm:** Adults can join Sacred Science Collective for an introductory and immersive breathing and meditation workshop. They will learn calming techniques to help one focus, recenter and bring greater clarity and calm into their everyday life. Space limited; registration required. Visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, July 12.

**Musical Memories:** Babies and children up to 6 years old can wiggle, play and explore the joy of live music with Inside the Orchestra. The hands-on musical experience is designed especially for little ones and their parents. A trio of talented musicians will bring music to life through movement, storytelling and pretend play. After the

performance, the children can get up close with real instruments in an "instrument petting zoo," where touching is encouraged and curiosity is key. Space limited; registration required. Visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. Register each child individually. 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, July 15.

**Cardboard Masterpieces:** Children ages 7-12 can think of your best invention and build it with cardboard. They can work solo or team up to construct the biggest or most complex creation imaginable. They will use real tools designed for cardboard engineering to give the invention a clean and sturdy finish. Supplies limited. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 16.

**Candy Wonders:** Youth ages 12-18 can sample unique and surprising candies from around the world — then dive into making an awe-inspiring candy creation. Supplies limited. 1-2:30 p.m., Friday, July 18.

**Explore & Make Fermented Foods:** Adults can learn the basics of making simple countertop-fermented foods like sourdough, sauerkraut, kombucha and even hot sauce with local expert Scott Noble. The hands-on workshop will help unlock the secrets of good bacteria and bold flavors. To take home a SCOBY to start your own Kombucha, each participant should bring a water-tight container. Space limited; registration required. Visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, July 19.

**Create an Herb Patch:** Readers of all ages can dig into the joys of gardening with Chef Andrea Condes in a hands-on, family-friendly workshop. They will learn to start a windowsill herb garden using easy-to-grow plants like mint, oregano and basil — perfect for small spaces and big flavor. Condes, founder of Four Directions Cuisine, blends her indigenous heritage with culinary expertise to share plant

knowledge rooted in sustainability and tradition. Participants will discover how herbs elevate cooking and health, then plant their own seeds to take home and grow.

Visitors should bring a small, recycled container — an egg carton, plastic salad or takeout container, or cardboard tube. As a thank-you, the participant will receive a complimentary Ute blue cornmeal sugar cookie. Space limited; registration required. Visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. 1-2 p.m., Saturday, July 19.

**Artist meetup:** The Corridor Creative Arts League will host a Spotlight Artist Talk for adults with local artist Ed Hansen. They will discover the journey of this self-taught realist painter as he shares his process, inspiration and experiences working primarily in oil. This month's challenge is to create a piece that combines photography with another medium. 3:30-5 p.m., Saturday, July 19.

**Birdwatching Adventure:** Children ages 7-12 will learn the basics of birding and make a beginner's birding journal with guidance from the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. They will explore the wonders of local wildlife and sharpen their nature observation skills. Supplies limited. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 23.

**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](http://anythinklibraries.org) to sign up. Register each child individually. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, July 24.

**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](http://www.arapahoelibraries.org)

**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 via fun, interactive activities to step into the shoes of a junior architect or engineer. They will experiment with gyroscopes and toy race-tracks 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](http://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.

**Friday matinee:** All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of "The Secret Garden" (2020, rated PG, 1 hour, 39 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, July 11.

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# Lawmakers press wildlife chiefs on troubled wolf reintro

## Program expenses have far exceeded initial estimate presented to Colorado voters

by Sara Wilson  
Colorado Newsline

The head of Colorado Parks & Wildlife told lawmakers June 30 that the department's "preference" is to release more wolves into the state next year, despite calls to pause the reintroduction program.

"I don't have the right answer to whether or not a pause is the right thing to do, or get the last 15 (wolves) out and move on to the management piece," said CPW Director Jeff Davis. "Every time we release more animals, it's more emotional and difficult for us to pull off that operation, and it's also challenging for the (livestock) producers at the same time."

Davis appeared in front of the Colorado Legislature's Water Resources & Agriculture Review Committee to give an update on the state's wolf reintroduction plan, which voters approved in 2020. Wildlife officials have released 25 wolves since December 2023 from Oregon and Canada.

The initial goal was to release 10-15 per year for three to five years, beginning in 2023, to reach a stable population of at least 50 wolves in the state.

Davis said the department's preference is to sign a new agreement with British Columbia to relocate more wolves from Canada.

But the program is highly controversial, especially among rural Colorado farmers and ranchers who decry wolves killing their livestock. Between April 2024 and April 2025, wolves killed at least 25 cattle and sheep, according to the recently released annual report on the reintroduction effort.

The Copper Creek pack was responsible for many livestock deaths in Grand County in 2023, prompting Parks & Wildlife to capture the six wolves September and release them alongside the Canadian wolves in a different part of the state earlier this year. That decision, producers said June 30, led to an erosion of trust in



A relocated gray wolf stands outside of its crate for a brief moment at an undisclosed release site in January.

CPW. "A depredating pack was known to have depredated in Oregon before they put them in Middle Park. They had a serious impact there. They packaged them up, put them away for a while, and then they put them back out right in my backyard," said Tom Harrington, a cattle producer in the Roaring Fork Valley.

A September 2024 petition filed by a coalition of livestock associations requested a pause in CPW's reintroduction plans until the agency could implement strategies to stop depredations. The Parks & Wildlife commission rejected the petition in January.

"I believe that we need no more new releases until plans are in place and the basics are working," Harrington said. "We need metrics to measure the success of what this program is. I believe we can — and here comes that word that I really don't like — coexist with the wolves that choose to not prey on our livestock."

CPW has worked through some seven points of the petition, includ-

ing defining "chronic depredation" as three or more depredations by the same wolf or wolves within 30 days. The division has also outlined a lethal removal approach that starts by killing one or two wolves, evaluating the pack's behavior and its effect on depredation, then considering additional lethal removals. Parks & Wildlife also started a range rider program to deploy riders in areas with high wolf conflict to "proactively haze predators using non-lethal techniques," according to the annual report.

CPW killed a wolf for the first time in May in Pitkin County.

"The idea of a pause continues to make sense to me, if it creates more time for more robust implementation and completion of those seven items, and maybe now beyond those seven," said House Speaker Julie McCluskie, a Dillon Democrat. "But I think the entire reintroduction and restoration is at risk if we can't get our legs underneath us and be in a position to do this the way we need to."

CPW officials also told lawmakers June 30 that the cost of the reintroduction has reached about \$3 million. In 2020, voters received an estimate of \$800,000 for the program.

"I understand a lot of this money is going to ranchers and producers to help to compensate them," said Sen. Dylan Roberts, a Frisco Democrat. "That's money hopefully being well spent, but that's also money in the state of Colorado right now — in the budget situation we're in — that is not going to fixing potholes in roads. It's not going to classrooms across the state. It's not going to people who are losing their health care and many who are about to lose their health care. This seems out of control."

Davis said many factors go into realizing the reintroduction plan that were not considered in the ballot cost estimate, such as the state's decision to compensate for livestock weight loss and fewer pregnancies due to wolf presence and the high cost of beef.

*This story was made available via the Colorado News Collaborative. Learn more at <https://colabnews.co>.*



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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strong winds overnight July 5-6 reached gusts up to 50 mph across many areas of the I-70 Corridor. While widespread damage wasn't reported as of press time, part of Arapahoe County Road 34 about 1½ miles east of Xmore Road was partially blocked by a fallen tree Sunday morning after it was snapped at its base.

# CORRIDOR CALENDAR

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

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

## SATURDAY, JULY 12

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

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

**Spaghetti dinner.** 6-10 p.m., North Central Fire Protection District firehouse, 40144 Ridge Road, Deer Trail.

## MONDAY, JULY 14

**Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry.** 9-11 a.m., Kelter Library parking lot, 585 S. Main St., Byers.

**Rebuilding Liberty** (Part 3 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 School Board.** 6 p.m., Strasburg High School Central Services building. Visit [strasburg31j.com](http://strasburg31j.com) for link.

**Comanche Crossing Historical Society.** 6:30 p.m., museum office, Strasburg.

**Bingo.** 7 p.m., Byers American Legion.

**Byers Water & Sanitation District Board.** 7 p.m., District Office, 421 S. Sherman St.

**Deer Trail Fire Protection District Board.** 7 p.m., Deer Trail Firehouse.

## TUESDAY, JULY 15

**Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon.** 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

**Bennett Arts Council.** 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.

**Eastern Colorado Beekeepers.** 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail [info@easterncoloradobees.com](mailto:info@easterncoloradobees.com) or visit [easterncoloradobees.com](http://easterncoloradobees.com) for link and location.

**Bennett School Board.** 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit [bsd29j.com](http://bsd29j.com) for a Zoom link.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

**I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn.** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.

## THURSDAY, JULY 17

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

**Byers School Board.** 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit [byers32j.k12.co.us](http://byers32j.k12.co.us) for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.

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



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Wheat harvest along the I-70 Corridor got started in the far eastern reaches of the region July 3 with combine activity ratcheting up closer to Deer Trail and Byers closer to the end of the Fourth of July weekend. The harvest crew pictured made quick work of fields on the east side of Winview Road a couple of miles north of Highway 36 Friday afternoon. Above, a combine runs in front of the nearby Clean Harbors waste disposal facility.



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# Rec district readies for fall youth sports

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District has established Sunday, July 20, as the deadline for five youth sports programs.

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

### 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 fee includes jersey and socks, is \$150.

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

### TACKLE FOOTBALL

Strasburg Youth Football for grades 3-6 competes in the Colorado Prairie League. Each player must provide pads, black pants, a white helmet and cleats.

Practice begins Aug. 4 with Saturday games following for six weeks starting Sept. 6. Play-offs start Oct. 18 with the championship game on Nov. 1.

Practice will occur in Strasburg as determined by the coach with games played in Strasburg, Byers, Limon, Calhan, Simla, Bennett and Peyton.

The in-district cost is \$115, which includes one jersey.

### FLAG FOOTBALL

The league for first- through third-graders involves one to two practices per week at a time and location of the coach's choice starting the week of Aug. 11.

Games will be played on Saturdays from Sept. 6 through Oct. 11 at Wolf Creek Run West in Strasburg. Player must provide a soft shell helmet.

The cost is \$60 for district resi-

## Hoops camp coming soon

STRASBURG —The Strasburg High School boys basketball coaching staff will host its 2025 youth hoops camp for incoming kindergartners through eighth-graders again this summer.

The camp for both boys and girls will run from Tuesday through Thursday, July 15-17, at the Hemphill Middle School gym.

Kindergartners through second-graders will play from 4-4:45 p.m.; third- through fifth-graders from 5-6 p.m., and sixth- through eighth-graders from 6-7:30 p.m.

The \$50 fee includes an official Strasburg Basketball drawstring bag.

The registration deadline is Sunday, July 13. To sign up, visit [strasburgparks.org](http://strasburgparks.org). For more information, e-mail to [strasburgbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:strasburgbasketball@gmail.com).

dents, \$65 for out-of-district players. The fee includes a jersey. Flags are provided.

### YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Strasburg Youth Volleyball for grades 3-6 competes in the Colorado Youth Volleyball League.

Practice starts in Strasburg the week of Aug. 11. Games begin Sunday, Sept. 7, with an end-of-season tournament on Oct. 12. Games are played in Strasburg, Byers, Limon, Calhan, Kiowa, Bennett and Peyton on Sundays. Each player must provide knee pads and black shorts.

The in-district cost is \$70, which includes one jersey.

### YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

A volleyball camp for grades 3-6 is planned from 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, July 29-31, at the Strasburg High School gym.

The cost is \$50, which includes camp shirt, or \$30 if the player is also registered for the volleyball league.



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# Byers celebrates Fourth of July with full week of activities



The annual Byers Fourth of July Rodeo hosted by the Byers Park & Recreation District was moved to the night of July 2 at Quint Valley. From left photo, Baylynn Jo Fickbohm sings the National Anthem; cowboys and bullfighters say a prayer during the presentation of the American Flag; local cowboy Tyler Ferguson scores 72 points during his bareback bronc ride; Strasburg's Kacie Arnold-Hruska rounds the final obstacle during her barrel race run; and Byers high-schooler Brody Fisbeck tries to stay atop Miller Rodeo Company bull Cross the Line. The bulls went undefeated in 10 matchups on the evening.

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Friday's Fourth of July festivities in Byers were highlighted by the annual parade with this year's theme "Small Town Freedom!" From left photo, first place float went to Living Springs Cowboy Church; first-place car was a '56 Chevy 210 Rumble Bee owned by Robert and Dene Fisk; and Grand Marshal Jerry Mosbrucker is taken down the Front Street parade route in a 1976 Cadillac convertible owned by Dan Dunning. For more coverage, see the July 11 *Eastern Colorado News*.

This year's quilt show was moved to Friday morning in the Byers American Legion Hall. First place went to Rae Johnson with this wild duck entry.

The annual Byers Fourth of July Street Fair included a number of youth games and activities in Centennial Park. From left photo, Larkin Young, 10, left, tries to stay hydrated while Kamden Reed, 9, does the bowling ball roll; and Emil Martinez, 5, eagerly awaits her caricature being drawn by Brad Jackson from Wowzers.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

**20 YEARS AGO**  
**JULY 12, 2005**  
John Pedote, a former wheat buyer, was arrested in Henderson, Nev., June 29 on 39 felony counts, including 28 for thefts amounting to \$2.5 million.  
According to Adams County District Attorney Don Quick, Pedote allegedly stole approximately \$1 million from 10 wheat farmers and \$1.5 million from ConAgra, who has filed a lien against Pedote.  
Pedote is accused of taking wheat from area farmers and not paying them their share after selling it.  
Moreover, he was also accused of scamming his buyers, ConAgra, by not delivering the bushels he was paid for.  
“It’s a case where he was stealing from the bottom and stealing from the top,” Quick said. “These farmers are already having to deal with so many issues from the drought to the economy to the agricultural market that they don’t need this.”  
Pedote is also charged with nine forgery counts on bills of lading and one count for trading in commodities when his license was expired. Quick alleges Pedote forged nine bills of sale that said he delivered the wheat to ConAgra in Brighton.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
**JULY 13, 2010**  
KIOWA — The Elbert County Sheriff’s Office continues to search for answers regarding the remains of a Kiowa man found near country roads 194 and 53 June 14.  
Randy Wilson, 52, was found lying in a field, fully clothed, with a plastic bag wrapped around his head and his hands bound behind his back, authorities said.

“We are treating this as a homicide investigation,” said Lt. Joseph Winkle at a July 8 press conference. “[It’s] based on what we found in the investigation at the scene and the events that took place thereafter.”  
Wilson taught math and science at Kiowa High School and had five sons.  
A motorist reported Wilson’s body to a 911 dispatcher at 12:50 p.m. June 14.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
**JULY 14, 2015**  
BENNETT — Discrepancies between projected costs of a proposed joint Bennett municipal building, including a fire station, has local emergency officials reviewing plans and determining other cost-saving measures.  
According to information at the July 9 Bennett Fire Protection District Board meeting, Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. Engineering has estimated the cost of the shared-use facility with the town of Bennett at approximately \$7 million; however, Pinkard Construction estimates the cost closer to \$11 million. Concerned about taxpayer dollars, Bennett Fire Chief Earl Cumley believes the bond for the facility should not exceed \$10 million. As a result, the fire district has cut a bay and second-floor patio from its portion of the design, bringing the projected cost down to \$9.4 million.  
But this cost does not include furnishings or the bill from Short Elliot Hendrickson, Pinkard, or George K. Baum consulting. With those costs added on, the facility is back up to about \$10.4 million. Bennett Fire will continue to look for cost-saving solutions and keep the public informed.

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**SOLUTION ON PAGE 7**

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, July 9, the 190th day of 2025. There are 175 days left in the year.

**TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT**  
On July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, granting citizenship and “equal protection under the laws” to anyone “born or naturalized in the United States,” including formerly

enslaved people.

**ON THIS DATE**  
In 1850, President Zachary Taylor died of gastrointestinal illness after consuming a large amount of cherries and iced milk on a hot day five days earlier; Vice President Millard Fillmore was sworn in as president the following day.  
In 1896, William Jennings Bry-

ant delivered his famous “Cross of Gold” speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.  
In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tenn., in the deadliest U.S. rail disaster in history.  
In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox’s storage facility in Little Ferry, N.J., destroyed most of the studio’s silent films.

In 1943, during World War II, the Allies launched Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily.  
In 1944, during World War II, American forces secured Saipan as the last Japanese defenses fell.  
In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, La., shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people

on the ground.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS**  
Actor Chris Cooper is 74. Musician and TV personality John Tesh is 73. Singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 71. Actor Jimmy Smits is 70. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham is 70. Actor Tom Hanks is 69. Actor Kelly McGillis is 68. Actor-director Fred Savage is 49.  
—Associated Press

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**  
**THEME: FICTIONAL FELINES**

**ACROSS**

- A long way off
- Basketball org.
- “Dr. Seuss’ cat headgear
- Elbow-wrist connection
- Showing signs of use
- Legal excuse
- “The \_\_\_ Show” (1976-1980)
- Black and white cookie
- Pall \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ of America
- “Halle Berry’s 2004 role
- Small island
- In advance
- Santa \_\_\_ winds
- “Bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy one
- Orbital extremes
- Half and half
- Casual top
- Clerk’s call
- Fortuneteller’s props
- Pub offering
- “Berlioz, Toulouse and \_\_\_ of “Aristocats”
- \_\_\_ perspirant
- Silo contents
- Philosophical system
- More zestful
- Army’s offensives
- Blast maker, acr.
- “\_\_\_ Line Is It Anyway?”
- Long, long time
- “Lewis Carroll’s smiley \_\_\_ Cat
- Star Wars attacker
- First rate (2 words)
- Foolish
- Jaws of Life manufacturer
- “Cereal-praising tiger
- Lake north of Cleveland
- Comedian Schumer
- Health resort
- Communists, slangily

**DOWN**

- Summer mo.
- Flocculant, for short
- Actress Kendrick
- Riffraff
- \_\_\_ Jean Baker
- Certain pudding ingredient
- Happening soon, old fashioned
- Ant construction
- Competent
- \_\_\_ the season!
- Suitors
- Type of acid
- “Garfield’s favorite food

**CROSSWORD**

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Buck Moon Premonition

We’re in the beginning of a Uranus transit, the middle of a solar journey and on the cusp of the full moon. Like the deer growing new antlers — velvety, tender and quickly branching — life has a potent, rising energy. Something is taking shape, even if it’s still soft and unfinished. What’s your Buck Moon premonition? Maybe it’s not a full vision, but a feeling you can almost name — sharp at the edges, still warm in the center.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There’s a scene you don’t want to play out again. Start there. Eliminate the unwanted and let what remains inspire a new kind of moment — honest, strange, beautiful or maybe all three. You deserve this loveliness.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You’ll get further by letting your instincts lead. Instead of weighing every decision, simply move where you’re needed. Focused generosity brings out your signature flair without forcing a single style choice.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** What looks like simplicity is actually an intricate feat of alignment. Pause to marvel at how many unseen elements had to cooperate for things to go smoothly. That awareness changes how you walk through the day.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Telling your story to a new audience unlocks a surprising twist. You’ll see your own life differently through their eyes, and the themes that rise up will point you to your next project, your next truth.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You’re on a roll. Ideas keep bubbling. Don’t worry about the duds — they’ll fall away as you tend to the obvious winners. You don’t settle, and that’s what elevates you. Keep refining until it shines.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** It starts with one clear sentence, maybe two. You say what needs saying, and it unlocks the next development. Others have been thinking the same but weren’t brave enough to voice it. You’re transforming the atmosphere with your talk.

HOROSCOPE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your time is sacred. You knew this when you signed up to help, but this thing snowballed into more than expected. Still, you’ve learned something vital: you get to renegotiate. In drawing a boundary, there’s no shame — only wisdom.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** That wild spark inside doesn’t need a reason. Sometimes, rebellion is its own reward. Change the vibe, break a rule, wear something that screams. You’re rewriting your aesthetic — and it’s working. Your world takes on new heat.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** A feeling you couldn’t quite name is starting to take shape. Now that it has edges, you can do something with it — turn it into art, a conversation or your new rules. The moment you act, clarity flows in — after, not before.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You’ve learned when to push and when to pause, and you have your finger on the button today. Guided by excellent inner timing, one tap starts a chain reaction. Trust yourself and let momentum carry you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You’ll notice what’s not being said — and it matters more than what is. There’s an opening here to ask a question no one else is asking. Your curiosity makes others feel seen and shifts the whole mood.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** There are those who give you just enough to keep your antennae up, tuned to the station of them. They send a familiar signal, faint but undeniably present. The chances of connection are real enough for you to wonder and slim enough to keep you spinning.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (July 9).** You’re tapped into the magic of timing this year. You’ll walk into the right place at the right moment on a regular basis, at least once a week. More highlights: Relationships deepen, even those you thought had reached their limit. You’ll be trusted with something sacred, and your care will be remembered. Your unusual work that’s been hard to place now gets the spotlight and the.

—Horoscopes by Holiday



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# MCC names new exec development chief

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College June 6 announced the appointment of a new executive director of development.

An MCC alumnus, Makyle Mares brings a strong connection to the college, along with a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, business development, and community engagement to the job.

Mares previously served as executive director and Main Street manager for the Brush Area Chamber of Commerce, foundation, and Main Street Program, where he led numerous initiatives to support local business growth and community vitality. He has also worked at Double R Embroidery as a project manager and engraving technician and is the owner of BOSS Marketing, a company focused on strategic communications and brand development.



Mares will oversee fundraising efforts, donor relations, and community outreach supporting the MCC Foundation's mission to provide life-changing support to students. His combined background in local leadership and business strategy will help further the MCC's efforts to expand scholarships, enhance academic programs, and improve student access to higher education.

"[MaKyle's] combined experience and community knowledge will do a lot to further the mission of both the college and foundation in the future, and he will be an asset to the students served," said Dr. Curt Freed, MCC president.

Through private giving and donor engagement, the MCC Foundation helps remove financial barriers for students. Mares' addition reflects MCC's continued commitment to building a stronger future for its students and the communities it serves.

For more information, visit [MorganCC.edu](http://MorganCC.edu).

WATER VALVE FIASCO

FROM PAGE 1

According to data from the last U.S. Census, conducted in 2020, Bennett had 1,047 housing units but that the number on the Adams County side was short of 800.

The Antelope Hills subdivision is part of Bennett, but is located in Arapahoe County and not subject to the town's PRV mandate.

The impact on individual families is not small.

The town itself estimates homeowners will need to find an additional \$1,000 to \$1,100 within the next year to set aside for the upgrade, with about half to be refunded as a reimbursement if proper rebate protocol is followed.

Impacted residents have argued that taking that expense out of their family's budget takes away much of their safety net for unexpected expenses and that they are already paying for other shortcomings from the town — car repairs because of crumbling streets and overzealous code enforcement among them.

In addition, local plumbers have indicated that some Bennett homeowners will incur even greater expense to install an auxiliary or additional water tank to accommodate the extra water pressure.

Pershing acknowledged the "unforeseen cost of the additional expansion valve or expansion tank for homeowners."

"Putting us on one pressure zone reduces the amount of maintenance cost because otherwise we would be increasing the number of system-wide PRVs, which is both a hard cost to install them as well as a maintenance cost to upkeep them to protect these homes that are on the second pressure system now," Pershing further explained.

Town officials previously stated they considered regulating the water pressure on the municipal pipes, but determined the cost associated with the complicated upgrades to be too onerous.

"I wish there was a simpler process to get all of the system in one pressure area, but this seems to be a good path, although it costs those who weren't anticipating changing their plumbing to do this," said Trustee Royce Pindell.

"The water tower just next to town hall is only able to fill up so much before causing pressure issues and this increase will help us with the system from that standpoint," Pershing added.

The town approved an increase in the rebate to \$550 to be allocated from the reserve in the water fund and extended the deadline to Sept. 30, 2026. Residents are also encouraged to access Bennett's REVIVE grant program to help with the repair expense.



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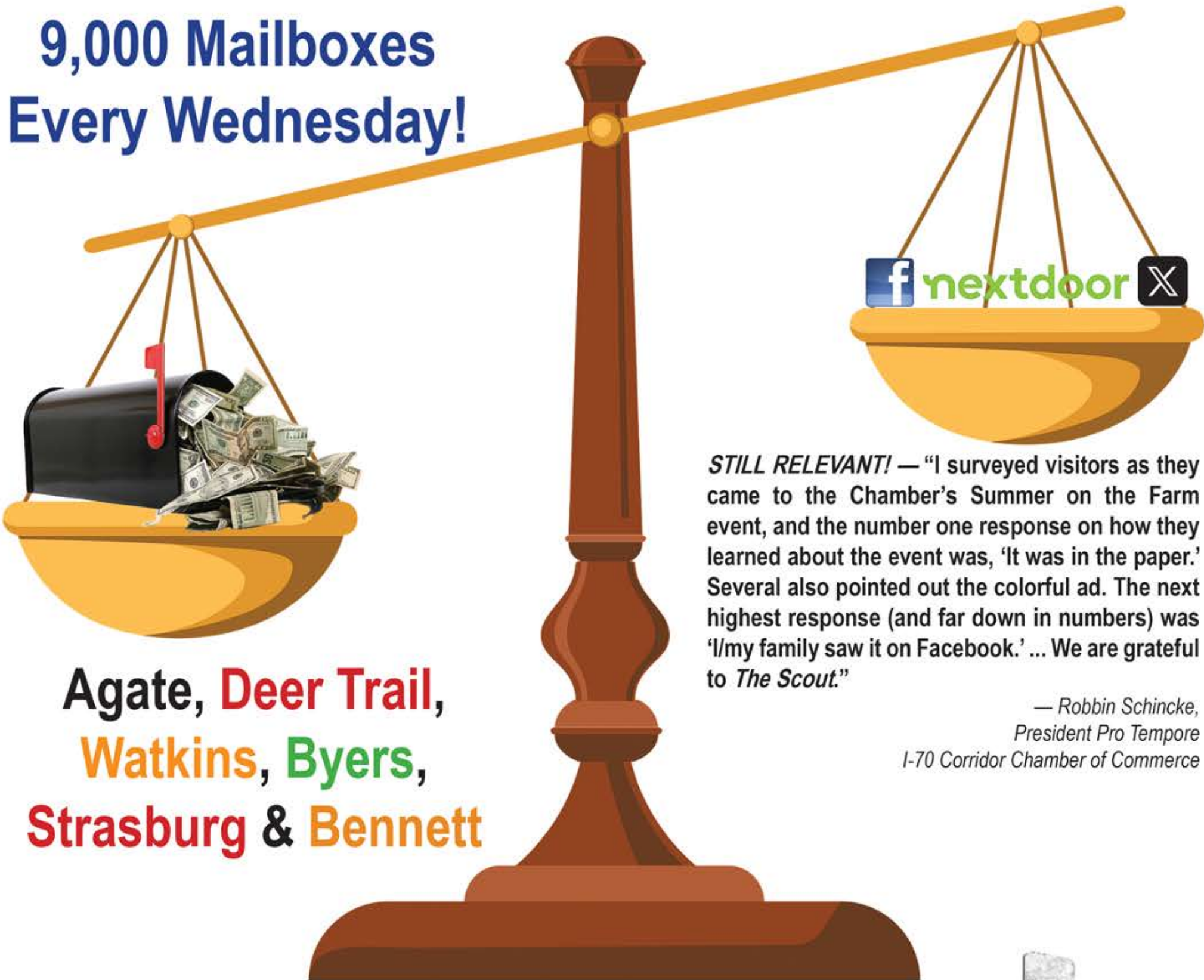


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# CHUCK WAGON



## Curried Chicken Fried Rice

by Christopher Kimball  
Christopher Kimball's Milk Street

Nigerian fried rice, seasoned with curry powder, dried thyme, and a handful of aromatics, inspired this easy weeknight meal-in-a-skillet. Beef liver and an assortment of vegetables are classic ingredients but, in this recipe from "Milk Street 365: The All-Purpose Cookbook for Every Day of the Year," we opted for chicken thighs and fresh green beans. Seeded, thinly-sliced jalapeño or Fresno chilies bring a pleasant heat, while curry powder adds depth, warmth and a golden hue.

Instead of using just-cooked rice, which results in a softer texture in the finished dish, we start with plain cooked rice that's been chilled and dried, a process that allows the starches to recrystallize so the grains "fry" up light and fluffy.

Fragrant basmati is especially good, but any variety of long-grain white rice works.

Fresh rice needs two hours minimum to chill adequately, but it can be prepared up to three days in advance and kept refrigerated. To chill the rice, fluff with a fork, then spread on the baking sheet. Let cool, then cover and refrigerate until cold.

Don't be afraid to really scrape up the browned bits from the surface of the skillet after you've added the broth. The caramelization gives the fried rice great depth of flavor. Serve sprinkled with scallion greens and additional sliced chili.

### CURRIED CHICKEN FRIED RICE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons neutral oil or refined coconut oil, divided
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chick-

en thighs, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces

- 2 teaspoons curry powder, divided
- kosher salt, ground black pepper
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced, whites and greens reserved separately
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 4 ounces green beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 Fresno or jalapeño chili, stemmed, seeded and thinly sliced
- 4 cups cooked and chilled long-grain white rice, preferably basmati
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth

### DIRECTIONS

In a 12-inch skillet over medium-high, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil until barely smoking. Add the chicken and sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of the curry powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until evenly browned, 4-6 minutes.

Push the chicken to the perimeter of the pan. To the center, add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil, scallion whites and ginger; cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 1 1/2 minutes.

Into the scallion mixture, stir the beans, thyme, half of the chili, the remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons curry powder and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Stir the chicken into the bean mixture; cook, stirring occasionally, until the beans are bright green, about 2 minutes. Stir in the rice, then add the broth and scrape up any browned bits.

Cook, stirring, until the liquid is absorbed, 3-5 minutes.

Off heat, taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve sprinkled with the scallion greens and remaining chili.

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CRASHES

FROM PAGE 1

ports of a collision between an SUV and a semi.

Upon arrival, troopers and firefighters/EMTs discovered a demolished Subaru Forester overturned in the center median with a semi and a damaged trailer blocking half of the right lane and shoulder. Debris was strewn between the two.

“The Subaru was in the right lane with the semi going at a slow speed ahead of them with its hazard lights on and straddling the line between the right lane and the shoulder,” a State Patrol spokesman said. “The Subaru struck the left rear of the trailer, removing a portion of the Forester’s passenger side. The Subaru spun out of control and rolled one-half-time, coming to rest on its roof in the median.”

In addition to finding the body of the 47-year-old female front-seat passenger lying alongside the wrecked SUV, eyewitnesses and responders also found a 13-year-old girl and 10-year-old boy in the back seat deceased.

The 62-year-old male driver suffered serious but not life-threatening injuries.

“When the side of the Subaru was ripped apart it severed the front passenger’s seat belt causing her to be ejected,” the State Patrol preliminary accident report said. “All seat belts were in use.”

The semi driver was uninjured and able to negotiate the rig to a controlled stop, partially blocking the right lane.

A witness to the crash told metro TV stations that the Subaru’s driver escaped the wreckage and asked for

help but that the other three occupants were already deceased. The witness, who said it looked like the top of the Subaru had also been sheared, reported that the injured man said he and his family, all from Montana, were traveling to Arkansas for his mother’s funeral.

“I feel bad for the gentleman, you know, he lost his family, as we pulled up to the car, instantly I noticed that they — well, they didn’t survive it,” said John Andazola. “He couldn’t comprehend, you know, clearly there was trauma to him as well, and we ended up pulling him to the side so he didn’t have to see his family members.”

The investigation remains ongoing and the State Patrol said it could take up to six months before a full determination of events leading up to the collision are revealed.

Eastbound I-70 was shutdown between Byers and Exit 348 for approximately five hours with traffic forced to take Highway 36 to the intersection with Highway 71 at Last Chance and south back into Limon.

The detour added about 30 miles and an extra half-hour to the normal 45-mile drive between Byers and Limon.

**4TH OF JULY SEMI CRASHES**

Local troopers and fire department personnel found themselves busy from 12:30-7 a.m. on the Fourth of July as a pair of semi crashes dotted the interstate between Deer Trail and Bennett.

The State Patrol and Deer Trail and



A tow truck prepares to put a semi tractor-trailer back on its wheels after it tipped over east of exit 306 on eastbound I-70 July 4.

Byers fire departments got the first call about 12:30 a.m. near mile marker 326 of westbound I-70 on report of two semis involved in a crash.

Upon arrival only one of the two semis was occupied.

“One westbound semi driver collided with the other semi that was parked on the highway,” the State Patrol said.

Whether the 26-year-old male driver from Washington state was going to be charged was uncertain at press time.

The collision resulted in the moving semi overturning and losing its load of frozen chicken, which took about six hours to fully clean up. One lane of westbound traffic was reopened about 3:30 a.m. with the scene fully cleared around 6:30 a.m.

Just before 7 p.m., responders were dispatched to mile marker 306 immediately east of the Lady Bird Hill overpass after an eastbound semi went off the right side of the road, crawled up the embankment, and tipped onto the driver’s side. The trailer also tipped and was split open, spilling much of the boxed or bottled chicken stock it was hauling.

The driver, a 32-year-old male from Ohio, reported injury but refused transport. Whether charges would be filed was unknown at press time.

Both lanes of eastbound I-70 were reopened about 9 a.m.

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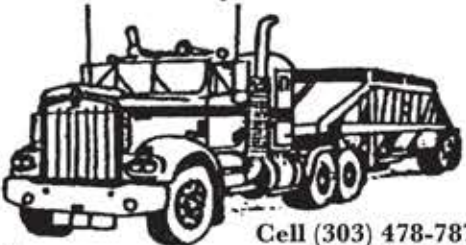
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