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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 39

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

‘... egregiously unconstitutional’

Lawyer’s letter describes Bennett Town Board’s 1st Amendment violation against *The I-70 Scout*

by **Jeffrey A. Roberts**
CFOIC Executive Director

A lawyer’s letter urges the Bennett trustees to rescind their “egregiously unconstitutional” decision to pull the town’s advertising from *The I-70*

Scout because they didn’t like an article about a sexual assault that allegedly happened at a middle school.

Sent Aug. 7 by Rachael Johnson, a Colorado-based attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the letter says *The I-70 Scout*,

the *Eastern Colorado News*, and publisher Douglas Claussen are “fully prepared to litigate these issues, if necessary.”

“The Board’s actions go far beyond failure to abide by its contractual obligations,” Johnson wrote. “Rather, in

deciding to terminate its advertisement relationship solely based on the content of *The I-70 Scout*’s reporting — specifically, an article from May 7, 2025, that truthfully reported on a po-

SEE 1ST AMENDMENT PAGE 20



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Exhausted Bennett preschool and kindergarten teachers catnap Aug. 25 to end a long first week of school. Pictured are Taylor Harrison, front row, and, back row, Mayra Cortez, left, Kristin Spietz, Maira Ramirez Martinez, Kristie Baldwin and Monica Galvan.

Mill levy override proposal OK’d by Byers School board

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — No tax increase is being sought, but Byers School District will place a measure on the Nov. 4 ballot asking voters to extend a mill levy override that has been in effect for the past five years.

The Byers School Board certified the ballot question Aug. 21. Superintendent Tom Turrell noted that district voters approved two previous overrides in 2015 and 2020.

In 2015 district voters approved a five-year mill levy override to cover the costs of replacing one school bus and one or two small vehicles per year, increasing property taxes by \$150,000 annually through 2020. In 2020, voters narrowly approved a measure extending the 2015 override and increasing school

district taxes up to \$90,000 annually to raise a match for the CDE Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant the district was awarded. Funds from the BEST grant and district match were used for heating, ventilation and air conditioning replacement for the elementary and secondary schools, security upgrades including outside door and window replacement, and a welding ventilation system for the vocational-agricultural shop.

“Our (2020) mill levy override sunsets this year and we are asking to extend that, with the notation that it’s not an increase in taxes. It’s just maintaining what we’ve been doing the past five years,” Turrell said.

If approved, the funds will **SEE BYERS BOE PAGE 24**



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

A competitor dives in as a teammate looks on at the mud volleyball tournament hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Aug. 10 as part of Hometown Days. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Byers HS Health Sciences Club plans 5K Fun Run fundraiser

BYERS — The Byers High School Health Sciences Club is teaming up with the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce for a 5K Fun Run fundraiser.

The event will occur from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 28, at Byers High School, 444 E. Front St.

Participants taking part in the run or walk will pay a \$15 fee if they register prior to the event. The fee is \$20 on the day of the Fun Run. Bottled water will be handed out during the event along with prizes.

Vendor fees are \$35 for members or \$55 for non-members. Vendors should bring a table, chairs and giveaways.

Most proceeds benefit the Byers High School Health Sciences Club with the remainder going to the Chamber of Commerce.

Rural energy program starts taking grant requests Oct. 1

DENVER — U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will open the first grant application window for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Rural Energy for America Program on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The program is aimed at increasing renewable energy access and reducing energy costs for rural communities. It provides funding for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement to agricultural producers and rural small business owners.

For more information, contact Paul

DRCOG: Civic Academy applicants sought

DENVER — Applications are now open for the fall session of the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Civic Academy.

The free, seven-week course of study, which begins Tuesday, Sept. 30, allows Front Range residents to learn more about regional issues — transportation, economic vitality, affordable housing, planning and development. Sessions range from interactive workshops to field trips.

"I've enjoyed planning the sessions, and I'm excited that we're once again offering Spanish interpretation for attendees," said Angie Shelbourn, who was hired in March as DRCOG's new public engagement planner. "This will be a great opportunity for residents to learn more about their communities and further inspire them to get involved."

Gengler at paul.gengler@usda.gov or (720)544-2925 or Robert McElroy at robert.mcelroy@usda.gov or (720) 544-2916.

Wednesday after-school hour set for local Lutheran church

BENNETT — Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bennett is inviting K-5 students to its free after-school program from 5-6 p.m., every Wednesday beginning Sept. 10.

C-WOW (Christ's Word on Wednesdays) will be an engaging hour of worship, music and Bible lessons in a fun, nurturing environment.

Space limited; registration required. Sign up at CORLCMS.org.

Gymnastics, cheer program now registering participants

STRASBURG — The early bird deadline for the fourth quarter of the Twisters Gymnastics & Cheer program is Friday, Sept. 12, at the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St.

The fourth quarter lasts 12 weeks from Sept. 22 to Dec. 20. Registration opens Aug. 18 with a final deadline of Thursday, Sept. 18. Early bird registration costs \$25 less.

At the end of Civic Academy, students create an action plan for continuing public engagement. Alumni have gone on to hold responsible positions in public agencies and nonprofit organizations, directly shaping Colorado's future. Many have assumed leadership roles as elected officials, while others have used the experience to drive improvements in their neighborhoods, advocate for local needs, and strengthen community ties through active participation.

The Civic Academy (formerly Citizens' Academy) began in 2007 as a program of the nonprofit corporation, Transit Alliance. Since 2018, DRCOG has hosted the academy.

Applications close Wednesday, Sept. 3. For more information and to apply, visit drcog.org.

For more information, visit strasburgparks.org or call (303)622-4260.

Bennett veterans group sets Sept. 6 parking lot fundraiser

BENNETT — The Bennett VFW is seeking vendors to participate during its parking lot flea market fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Set-up runs from 7-8 a.m. with the event scheduled to run most of the day. Vendor spaces can be reserved for \$20 each.

For more information, contact Flora at (303)549-2589 or Dan at (303)548-7931.

A beer garden and food will be available throughout the day. The event is not in coordination with Bennett Days. All proceeds benefit the VFW.

Lecture series on Civil War slated by 'Burg historians

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host a presentation entitled Introduction and Basics of America in Civil War from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum curator Cliff Smith will present several topics over the course

of four lectures. A light snack will be served from 6-6:30 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum in Strasburg. Doors open at 6 p.m. for light snacks and conversations.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society. For more information, call (303)622-4322.

TBK Bank is located at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Phone scam scofflaws pose as CBI cyber crime personnel

DENVER — The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has received reports of a scam where its members are impersonated over the phone.

The callers pose as CBI Cyber Crimes Special Agents and provide an unlikely story about a cyber crime. They ask the victim to provide substantial personal information regarding financial accounts and remote access to their computer.

The caller provides a call-back phone number that does not belong to the CBI.

The scammers are professional and might have a surprising amount of information about the victim and the CBI from public information.

To report a suspected scam involving the CBI, call 1-855-443-3489.

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"I'm sorry, the head honcho is not available. I'm the associate honcho. May I help you?"

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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Hudson: ICE jail reportedly slated for vacant prison

by Sara Wilson
Colorado Newsline

Up to three new immigrant detention centers in Colorado run by federal authorities could be built by the end of the year, tripling the state's existing detention capacity, according to documents published Aug. 22 by *The Washington Post*.

An internal U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement planning document, which was obtained by the *Post* and last updated on July 30, includes proposed detention sites in Walsenburg, Hudson and Ignacio. The three new facilities would expand ICE's Colorado footprint by a total of 2,560 additional beds.

Colorado is currently home to one ICE detention facility, an Aurora processing center operated by private prison company The GEO Group. Under ICE's reported expansion plans, that facility would expand from 1,360 beds to a maximum capacity of 1,530. The Aurora facility has long been the target of criticism from activists over allegations of inhumane conditions and dehumanizing treatment.

SEE ICE FACILITY PAGE 4

Man, 41, charged with aiming laser at airborne planes

COMMERCE CITY — An adult male was arrested at the end of last month after being suspected of pointing a laser at an aircraft flying over the Denver metro area.

At 9:15 p.m. July 31, the Colorado State Patrol Aircraft Unit, while conducting traffic operations, overheard multiple commercial airplane pilots reporting a green laser being directed into the cockpits of their aircraft.

The suspect was located on East 64th Avenue and Monaco Street in Commerce City. During surveillance efforts, the suspect reportedly pointed the laser at the aircraft multiple times. The aircraft crew was then able to direct ground troopers to the suspect as he was attempting to drive to a new location.

Jose Alonzo Duarte-Campos, 41, was arrested and faces multiple charges, including felony unlawfully aiming a laser device at an aircraft and misdemeanor DUI and possession of methamphetamine.

"Laser strikes on aircraft are a serious federal offense and pose a significant risk to pilots, passengers, and the public," a State Patrol statement said. "Anyone witnessing such activity is encouraged to report it to local law enforcement immediately."

The State Patrol also said Duarte-Campos had a previous misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear. Duarte-Campos' first scheduled date in court for most recent infractions was Aug. 6 in Adams County District Court but subsequent dates were unavailable.



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MIX OR MATCH SHADE TREES #5 CONT.
GET 2 FOR \$200



Hot Wings Maple Imperial Honeylocust Greenspire Linden Swamp White Oak Scarlet Letter Oak

CHOOSE FROM!
1st Tree \$199.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$200

- ASPEN- Swedish Columnar... 6-8' #5 cont.
- CHERRY- Canada Red... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- CRAB- April Showers... #5 cont.
- CRAB- Prairie/Red... 6-8' #5 cont.
- CRAB- Spring Snow Fruitless... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Imperial... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Shademaster... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Skyline... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- LINDEN- Greenspire... 8' x 1' #5 cont.
- MAPLE- Hot Wings... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- MAPLE- Sierra Glen... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- MOUNTAIN ASH- European... 7-8' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Bur... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Crimson Spire... 5-6' #5 cont.
- OAK- Red... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- Regal Prince Columnar... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- Scarlet Letter... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Swamp White... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- White... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- PEAR- Chanticleer... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- YELLOWWOOD TREE- American... #5 cont.

MIX OR MATCH FLOWERING TREES #5 CONT.
GET 2 FOR \$200



April Showers Canada Red Flowering Cherry Prairie Fire Flowering Crabapple European Mountain Ash Chanticleer Flowering Pear

Ponderosa Pine



5 Year Old Trees
4 1/2-5 Ft. 10 Gal. Grow Bag
sku# PIN-PON10B
Reg. \$349.50

Now 2 For \$350

Height: 30-40 Ft. Spread: 20-30 Ft. (30 years)

Bonny Blue Colorado Spruce



6 Year Old Trees
5-6' B&B Potted Ball
sku# SPR-BON17F5
Reg. \$599.50

Now 2 For \$600

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 15-20 Ft. (30 years)

Autumn Blaze Maple



4 Year Old Trees
8-10' Tall x 1 1/2' #7 cont.
sku# MAP-AUT7C100
Reg. \$269.50

Now 2 For \$270

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 25-30 Ft. (30 years)

Taylor Upright Juniper



4 Foot Tall Trees
#5 Cont.
sku# JUN-TAYS
Reg. \$169.50

Now 2 For \$170

Height: 15-20 Ft. Spread: 3-4 Ft. (15 years)

Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce



5 Year Old Trees
#7 cont.
sku# SPR-GLO7CUG
Reg. \$239.50

Now 2 For \$240

Height: 4-5 ft. Spread: 4-5 Ft. (20 years)

Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple



4 Year Old Trees
8-10' Tall x 1 1/2' #7 cont.
sku# MAP-FIE7C125
Reg. \$349.50

Now 2 For \$350

Height: 30-40 Ft. Spread: 25-30 Ft. (30 years)

Spring Snow Fruitless Flowering Crabapple



4 Year Old Trees
7-8 Ft. Tall x 1 1/2' #7 cont.
sku# CRA-SPR7C100
Reg. \$269.50

Now 2 For \$270

Height: 20-25 ft. Spread: 20-25 Ft. (30 years)

Quaking Aspen Clump



4 Year Old Trees
8 Ft. Tall Clump #10 cont.
sku# ASP-QCL10C8
Reg. \$359.50

Now 2 For \$360

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 15-20 Ft. (30 years)

Crimson Spire Columnar Oak



5 Year Old Trees
8-10' Tall x 1 1/2' #7 cont.
sku# OAK-CRI10C100
Reg. \$549.50

Now 2 For \$560

Height: 35-40 ft. Spread: 8-12 Ft. (30 years)

**1st Tree \$149.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$150**

- PLUM- Cistena... 3' shrub #7 cont.
- SPRUCE- Black Hills... #5 cont.
- VIBURNUM- Korean Spice... #7 cont. Shrub

**1st Tree \$169.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$170**

- ASPEN- Quaking... 6' clump #5 cont.
- CHERRY- Canada Red/Clump... 3-4' clump #5 cont.
- COTTONWOOD- Plains Straight... 4-6' #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Blue Arrow... 3 1/2-4' #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Colorado Green... 36" #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Green Column... 42" #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Skyrocket... 3-4' #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Skyrocket... 3-4' #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Spartan... #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Taylor... 4-5' #5 cont.
- JUNIPER- Wichita Blue... #5 cont. 36-42"
- JUNIPER- Wichita Blue... #5 squat cont. 42"
- PINE- Austrian... 30-36" #6 cont.
- PLUM- Cistena... 3-4' Shrub #10 cont.
- SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance... 3-4' Clump #5 cont.
- SPRUCE- Alberta Dwarf... #9 cont.

2 for \$200 Continued

- CHERRY- Canada Red... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- CRAB- Prairie/Red... 6-8' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Imperial... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Shademaster... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Skyline... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- LINDEN- Greenspire... 8' x 1' #5 cont.
- MAPLE- Hot Wings... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- MAPLE- Sierra Glen... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- MOUNTAIN ASH- European... 7-8' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Bur... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Crimson Spire... 5-6' #5 cont.
- OAK- Red... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- Regal Prince Columnar... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- Scarlet Letter... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- OAK- Swamp White... 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK- White... 8-10' x 1' #5 cont.
- PEAR- Chanticleer... 8-10x1' #5 cont.
- SPRUCE- Colorado Blue/Glacier Blue... 30-36" #6 cont.
- VIBURNUM- Chicago Lustre... 10gal Shrub GrowBag

**1st Tree \$249.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$250**

- BUCKTHORN- Fine Line... 4-5' Shrub 10 Gal. Grow Bag
- COTTONWOOD- Narrowleaf... 8-10' x 1' #10 cont.
- LILAC- Sensation/Purple W/White... 3-4' #10 cont.
- NINEBARK- Summer Wine... Shrub 15 Gal. Grow Bag
- PINE- Mugho/Big Turn... #5 cont.
- PINE- Southwestern White... 4-5' 10 Gal. Grow Bag

**1st Tree \$299.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$300**

- COTTONWOOD- Lanceleaf... 8-10x1 1/2' #15 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst... 6-8' #7 cont.
- JUNIPER- Spokes... 4-5' #7 cont.
- JUNIPER- Tofessor's Weeping... 5' #5 cont.
- PINE- Mugho/Big Turn... 21" B&B
- PINE- Southwestern White... 6-8' 10 Gal. Grow Bag
- PRIVET- Cheyenne... 4-5' Heavy branched #20c
- REDBUD- Eastern... 6-7' #7c Single Stem
- SERVICEBERRY- Allegheny Clump... 4-5' clump #15 cont.
- SPRUCE- Colo/Blue/Glacier Blue... 3' #10 cont.
- WILLOW- Weeping Golden Niobe... 10x1 1/2' #15 cont.

**1st Tree \$399.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$400**

- CHERRY- Canada Red... 10-12x1 1/2' #10 cont.
- CHERRY- Canada Red... 10-12x1 1/2' #15 cont.
- COFFEETREE- Espresso... 8' x 1' #10 cont.
- COTTONWOOD- Plains Straight... 10-12' x 1 1/2' #20 cont.
- COTTONWOOD- Robusta... 10-12' #30 cont.
- CRAB- Gladiator... 8-10' x 1 1/4' #15 cont.
- CRAB- Indian Magic/Pink... 10-12' x 1 1/2' #15 cont.
- CRAB- Radiant/Pink... 8-10x1 1/2' #15 cont.
- CRAB- Royal Raindrops... 8-10x1 1/2' #10 cont.
- CRAB- Ruby Tears Weeping... 6-8x1 1/4' #10 cont.
- CRAB- Spring Snow... 7-8' x 1 1/4' #10 cont.
- HAWTHORNE- Russian... 8-10' x 1 1/4' #15 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST- Skyline... 10-12' x 1' #10 cont.
- JUNIPER- Blue Arrow... 4-5' #10 cont. Monrovia
- MAPLE- Silver... 10-12x1 1/4' #15 cont.
- PEAR- Chanticleer... 8-10x1 1/4' #10c
- PINE- Aust/Arnold's Sentinel... 4-5' B&B
- PINE- Limber/Vanderwolf Pyramid... 4-5' B&B hand dug ball
- PINE- Ponderosa... 5-6' 10gal Grow Bag
- SPRUCE- Globe Blue/Hi Graft/Dwf... 30-36" #10C 16 Gal
- SPRUCE- Globe Blue/Low Graft/Dwf... 30-36" #10C LowGraft

Free Professional Loading!

**1st Tree \$349.50
2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$350**

- CATALPA- Northern... 8-10' x 1 1/4' #15 cont.
- FIR- Douglas/Rocky Mountain... 5-6' 10 Gal. Grow Bag
- JUNIPER- Green Column... 5-6' #7 cont. Monrovia
- JUNIPER- Moorflow... 4-5' #7 cont. Monrovia
- MAPLE- Hot Wings... 8' #7 cont.
- MAPLE- Sugar Fall Fiesta... 8-10' x 1 1/4' #7 cont.
- PINE- Aust/Arnold's Sentinel... 3-4' B&B hand dug ball
- PINE- Aust/Winter Jade... 3-4' B&B
- PINE- Limber/Vanderwolf Pyramid... 4-5' 10 Gal. Grow Bag
- PINE- Ponderosa... 4-5' 10 gal. GrowBag
- SPRUCE- Serbian... 3-4' 10Gal Grow Bag

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ICE FACILITY

FROM PAGE 3

ICE is trying to expand its detention and deportation efforts, bolstered by \$45 billion in the Republican federal spending and tax cut law approved last month. If the planned expansion detailed by the *Post* goes through, Colorado would have the sixth most immigration detention beds out of about 107,000 beds nationwide by next year.

The dormant Walsenburg facility, formally the Huerfano County Correctional Center, is owned by CoreCivic. The Hudson Correctional Facility was previously operated by The

GEO Group and closed in 2014. The GEO Group is ICE's largest contractor, followed by CoreCivic.

Both locations were among six potential ICE facility sites revealed earlier this year through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and ACLU of Colorado.

The Southern Ute Indian Adult Detention Center in Ignacio is a tribal facility.

Steve Kotecki, a Denver-based ICE spokesman, did not immediately respond to a request for comment



The Immigration & Customs Enforcement detention center in Aurora, operated by private prison firm GEO Group, is pictured on Jan. 30.

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
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.corlcms.org

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • 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 ... Meetings restart Aug. 26 (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)

Habakkuk 1:5 I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

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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
303.622.9600

Strasburg Orthodox Mission
Tuesday, 7 p.m. & Saturday, 7 p.m.:
• Vespers & Study •
Saron Lutheran Church (1656 Main St.)
No Services Aug. 25 thru Sept. 6
Info: strasburgorthodox.org

calvary bennett
Teaching God's Word verse-by-verse
Sundays 10:45 AM Meeting @VFW in Bennett 115 Palmer Ave
Live-streamed @ calvarybennett.org
Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave 303.261.8853 info@calvarybennett.org
Download our app: [QR Code]

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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

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• Saturday 5:00 pm
• Sunday 9:00 am
11:30 am en español
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm
Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
Or by Appointment
OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS

Churches and other nonprofits! Please keep us informed of your activities for publicity and coverage! — Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

The Musketeers Veterinary Practice
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ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE NO. LE25-002, BOX ELDER DISCHARGE PIPELINE/ LOCATION & EXTENT
PROPOSAL: Pure Cycle Corporation on behalf of Rangeview Metropolitan District is requesting approval of a Location and Extent application for a new reclaimed water pipeline and discharge outfall from the Sky Ranch Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF). This line will extend from existing reclaimed lines in the Sky Ranch Development east to Box Elder Creek. The proposed pipeline alignment will be constructed within a mix of private easements and Arapahoe County right-of-way (ROW). Generally, the alignment runs north along the Hayesmount Road ROW, follows an existing northwest-southeast oil and gas corridor, then proceeds north along the Imboden Road ROW. From there, it continues east through the 6th Avenue ROW until intersecting with Box Elder Creek. The construction of this line is needed to allow for operational flexibility of the reclaimed water produced by the Sky Ranch WRF as the community grows.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 16, 2025, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described LE25-002, Box Elder Discharge Pipeline/ Location and Extent. 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 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing planning@arapahogov.com 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 I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025.

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Megan Burttt Live + Workshop: The whole family will enjoy an afternoon of live music and creativity with a special performance by singer/songwriter Megan Burttt presented by Colorado nonprofit Athena Project. After the show, participants can join a hands-on songwriting workshop designed for ages 14 and older. Attendees can bring their instrument but should let library staff know what it is at sign-up. Space limited; registration required for the workshop only. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28.

Introduction to Sketching: Adults and young adults 16 and up can explore portraits and learn playful caricature techniques to bring sketches to life in a fun, hands-on workshop with illustrator Frank Pryor. The event is hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 1-3:30 p.m., Aug. 30.

Teen Advisory Board: Participants ages 12-17 can attend monthly meetings for an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They will use their voices to promote and advocate for youth services. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Draw your fave: Participants of all ages will pick a favorite character and learn to draw it in the style of four popular artists: Eiichiro Oda (One Piece), Kohei Hirokoshi (My Hero Academia), Hiromu Arakawa (Fullmetal Alchemist), and Naoko Takeuchi (Sailor Moon). 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: The Little Makers Club for ages 0-5 will feature a camping theme. Children and their par-

ents can drop in for camping-themed activities to help prepare them for school and beyond. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and goody bags provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 29.

Learning on the Go: The first "Learning on the Go" event next month will include storytime, songs, and interactive play between families and their children. Free books and activities to take home will also be provided. Geared for ages 18 months to 5 years of age, but all are welcome. To save your spot, visit arapahoelibraries.org. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

DIY keychains: Kids ages 9-12 will create custom keychains using charms, Perler beads and other supplies for a personalized touch to backpacks or keyrings. All supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Aging Mastery: Arapahoe County CSU Extension and Arapahoe County Health will host a series of Aging Mastery Program classes to provide useful information to older adults. The classes will focus on community, exercise, fall prevention, finance, healthy relationships, medication management and sleep. Participants are encouraged to attend at least seven sessions. Light refreshments will be provided. 1-3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 9 through Oct. 9.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Tie-dye party: Kids ages 12-18 can create colorful, tie-dyed accessories. The library will provide supplies like baseball caps, scarves, socks, scrunchies and headbands, or the participants can bring their own items. Snacks provided. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10.



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High Line Canal Trail Improvements Meeting

Come learn about the canal resurfacing project, and improvements to the trail between Quebec Street and Parker Road, accessibility, amenities, vegetation management, trail closures, detours and project schedule.

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 | 5–6 p.m. on Zoom



Register to attend the virtual meeting at bit.ly/HLC_Meet.

Visit the project webpage at bit.ly/HLC_Q2P.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

The Bennett Lady Tigers kick off their 2025-26 season opener on their home diamond against the Weld Central Rebels Aug. 15. Left photo, senior Jagoda Gutowska, an exchange student from Poland, makes a throw from third base. Right, senior Colby Robichaud slides safely into second.

Softball: Bennett Lady Tigers win 2 of first 3

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The softball season for the Bennett Lady Tigers got off to an optimistic start with two wins by blowout over Fort Lupton and Alameda and a spanking at the hands of Weld Central.

"Our pitching has been phenomenal," said Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz. "We were telling them to throw strikes, let your defense work, and we've been making plays on defensive side."

Ortiz was also impressed with the Tiger defense. The team committed just four errors over the three contests.

"We've been making all the plays we needed to make," Ortiz added.

WELD CENTRAL

The 18-7 loss to the Lady Rebels at home to open the season Aug. 15

was the most competitive game of the three. Weld Central battered the Tigers with 13 runs in the first two innings.

"I had to feel a lot of that was just first game jitters sure because we came back," said Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz.

The Tigers scored 4 runs in the first, 2 in the fourth, and 1 in the fifth before the Rebels rallied in top of the sixth to end the game by the 10-run rule.

Ortiz was not unhappy with senior hurlers Colby Robichaud and Audrey Harrell and freshman Macy Meyer.

"We threw strikes," he added. "Weld Central came out and hit really well. They were hitting in gaps, too, which was killing us."

He also noted that his team mostly shut down the Rebels through the middle innings.

Robichaud, who started, yielded 13 earned runs on 11 hits with three strikeouts and four walks in two in-

nings. She was relieved by Harrell, a slower but more consistent thrower.

"She can throw more strikes," Ortiz said. "So we caught them off balance with that."

Harrell went three innings, allowing 4 earned runs on five hits with two strikeouts and five walks.

Meyer tossed one inning, allowing 1 earned run on two hits while fanning one and walking one.

On offense, Bennett scored its 7 runs on nine hits with two doubles. Senior Tori Dishong had three hits and an RBI; and Robichaud and freshman Adelyn Westendorf both added two hits, a double and an RBI.

@ ALAMEDA

Bennett's 19-0 road victory over Alameda Aug. 19 was a laugher as the Tigers rolled to 5 runs in the first inning, 6 in the second, 3 in the third, and 5 in the fourth to win by the mercy rule.

Robichaud and Meyer combined for 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ scoreless, hitless innings. Robichaud went two innings with two strikeouts and two walks while Meyer fanned three Lady Pirates in 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

At the plate, the Tigers were paced by senior Natalee Kalcevic with two doubles and 5 RBIs followed by Robichaud with two triples, a single, and four runs scored; senior Jagoda Gutowska with two base hits, a double, 2 RBIs, and two stolen bases; senior Kayla Barela, two singles, a double, and 2 RBIs; and Meyer with two singles and two RBIs. Westendorf and seniors Mea Dunn and Tori Dishong both singled twice.

FORT LUPTON

Bennett thumped the Lady Bluedevils 18-3 in four innings at home Aug. 21.

SEE BENNETT SB
PAGE 8

Arapahoe Co. grant helps feed declining resident of Byers

A \$10,000 grant from Arapahoe County Community Resources is helping the Tri-Valley Senior Citizens Association provide food to older adults in need.

On Aug. 4, Tri-Valley president Robert Maestas presented a \$300 gift certificate to Byers General Store to Byers resident Nancy Hollingsworth, who went downhill after losing her husband in 2020. She was homebound, then spent 2024 in hospice. She was released in 2025 but bedridden again soon after. She was looked after by her daughter and grandchildren.

Nancy made ends meet with help of Medicare and a local food bank.

Sadly, Nancy was sent to the hospital Aug. 11. She passed away soon after.



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Two meets for the 'Burg boys golf

by Douglas Claussen
 Publisher & Editor

Strasburg's boys golf team competed at the Liberty Common and Eaton invitational golf tournaments.

At the event hosted by the Liberty Common Eagles in Fort Collins Aug. 20, the Indians placed ninth with 284 strokes. Senior Brayden Lorenz with 93 strokes took 27th out of 47 players to lead the team.

Freshman Treyton Graf (94) was 29th; sophomore Cooper Klausner (97) 33rd; and junior Grant Wells (102) 40th.

Head coach Eric Gilbert said the course at the Southside Golf Course was a challenging.

"It's a fairly closed-in course and you can't overplay it or it can get you in trouble pretty quickly," he said.

At Eaton, Strasburg recorded 269 strokes to finish 20th. Wells took 56th at 102 strokes out of 109 golfers to pace the Indians.

He was followed by Graf (74th, 90), Lorenz (80th, 92); and Klausner (94th, 99).

Gilbert also noted the Eaton Country Club course.

"Its challenging greens are always something to contend with," he said. "However, it was great to see our team rebound."

TEAM SCORING

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1. Resurrection Christian 219 (+6)
 2. Timnath 241 (+28)
 3. Sterling 243 (+30)
 4. Liberty Common 245 (+32)
 5. Fort Morgan 254 (+41)
 6. Brush 255 (+42)

7. Wellington 269 (+56)
8. Windsor Charter 281 (+68)
9. Strasburg 284 (+71)
10. Frontier Academy 286 (+73)
11. Liberty Common JV, (+78)
12. Sedgwick County 299 (+86)

@ EATON

1. Resurrection Christian 225 (+12)
2. Timnath 222 (+9)
3. Fossil Ridge 223 (+10)
4. Niwot 228 (+15)
5. Fort Collins (+18)
6. Windsor 233 (+20)
7. Frontier Academy 233 (+20)
8. Eaton 234 (+21)
9. Fort Morgan 236 (+23)
10. Sterling 238 (+25)
11. Poudre 238 (+25)
12. Loveland 241 (+28)
13. Brush 243 (+30)
14. Holy Family 245 (+32)
15. Berthoud 250 (+37)
16. Rocky Mountain 253 (+40)
17. Northridge 255 (+42)
18. Liberty Common 257 (+44)
19. Wellington 263 (+50)
20. Strasburg 267 (+54)
21. Windsor Charter 267 (+54)
22. Severance 269 (+56)
23. Roosevelt 272 (+59)
24. Yuma 278 (+65)
25. Greeley Central 282 (+69)
26. Eaton JV 282 (+69)
27. Greeley West 290 (+77)

COMING UP

- Sept. 3:** @ Frontier Academy Invitational, Boomerang Golf Links, Greeley.
Sept. 5: @ Sterling Invitational, Sky Ranch/Riverview.
Sept. 11: @ Brush Invitational, Pettey's Park Golf Club.
Sept. 15: @ Fort Morgan Invitational, Quail Dunes Golf Course.
Sept. 17: Strasburg Invitational, Murphy Creek Golf Club.

BENNETT SB FROM PAGE 7

The Tigers erupted for 7 runs in both the first and fourth innings for another win by the mercy rule. Scores were 7-0 after one innings, 8-1 after two, and 11-1 after three.

Ortiz was pleased to see his team's improved discipline at the plate. Against Alameda, the Tigers struck out seven times; against Fort Lupton, that number fell to two. They walked six times against the Eagles but nine against the Bluedevils.

"Our at-bats are getting a lot better," Ortiz noted. "I've been really working on understanding which pitches you need to go after and which times — zero strikes, one strike."

Bennett's best hitter was Meyer with a double, a triple, and 5 RBIs. Westendorf had the hit of the game with an

inside-the-park home run. She added a single and 3 RBIs.

Other top contributors were Gutowska (three base hits, three runs scored); Kalcevic with a single, a double, and 2 RBIs; and Dishong, a single with 2 RBIs.

Meyer started for Bennett, going three innings and yielding 3 runs on five hits with three strikeouts and three walks. Barela tossed the fourth, striking out one.

COMING UP

- Aug. 26:** Jefferson.
Aug. 28: Forge Christian.
Aug. 30: Basalt (DH).
Sept. 4: Centaurus.
Sept. 9: @ Englewood.
Sept. 11: @ Arvada.

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CO has \$2B in unclaimed property; Could some of it be yours?

by **Bente Birkeland**
Colorado Public Radio

DENVER — Inside the State Capitol, tucked away in a non-distinct office, is a reinforced door worthy of a bank vault, the only entrance to a relatively small storage room lined with white cardboard boxes on either side.

This rather unassuming space is packed with lost treasures belonging to generations of Coloradans. Some might even be yours.

There are small gold bars worth \$45,000 each and an antique 6.4-carat yellow gold diamond ring, a Lou Gehrig baseball card and lots of gold coins. But the vast majority of the \$2 billion in unclaimed property held by the state isn't old treasures — it's usually things like abandoned bank accounts and unclaimed tax refunds.

Unlike some of the things it contains, Colorado's Unclaimed Property Fund isn't actually all that old. Lawmakers set it up in the late 1980s as a consumer protection effort. The idea is the state takes custody of dormant assets, but it can't just take them. It has to try to give them back to their rightful owners.

Critics say Colorado could be doing more on that front. And with such a large amount of money in state custody, the fund has become an increasingly attractive target for cash-strapped state lawmakers, as they try to shore up a tight budget and pay for services they view as critical and in danger of being cut or underfunded.

CONVINCING PEOPLE IT'S NOT A SCAM

Every state has something like the Unclaimed Property Fund, which in Colorado also goes by the nickname "The Great Colorado Payback." The website missingmoney.com allows people to look for lost assets in any state they may have lived. But one of the first hurdles these funds have is convincing people it's all legit.

"In this day and age of identity theft and fraud and everything, I understand why people kind of wonder. And then it's really our job by statute to make sure that we are getting this to the rightful owner," said Colorado Treasurer Dave Young.

For actual physical items, they'll send letters to possible owners. But for every hundred the office mails out, the state said they only get a handful of responses.

"Maybe 10 if we're lucky, that will come back to try to claim it. So it's a little bit frustrating, but it's rewarding for those who we can get back," said Unclaimed Property Trust Fund Director Bianca Gardelli.

For a more proactive approach, people can search their name in a database at the Treasurer's website and get exact dollar amounts for claims under \$250 (larger amounts are just listed as being over \$250). The process of getting a hold of that money can take minutes or months or years, depending on the claim.

"Sometimes it can be a social security number or some other personal information that verifies that they are the actual owner, but you can understand why people would go ... 'I'm not going to give you information,'" Young said.

The state returned 86,000 claims last year, valued at a total of \$79.9 million, according to the Treasurer's Office, 12,000 more than the year before. Young says over the years, the claims process has improved significantly, using updated technology to



Colorado Treasurer Dave Young, right, and Bianca Gardelli, manager of the treasury's unclaimed property program, pose for a photo in a vault in their office at the state Capitol July 16.

reach people and process information.

"I think sometimes people say, 'well, you're not getting this money back,' but we're really always looking for novel and effective ways to get money and property back to people," Young added.

But for not-so-simple claims, it can be an arduous process.

"My husband passed away, it's going on eight years, and there was something in a bank account that was actually a joint account. And so I went in and filed a claim," said Nissa Oldefest, 74.

The Denver resident spent roughly a year trying to prove her claim to the \$800. She said it's money she could really use.

But Oldefest said she just kept going back and forth with the state treasurer's office. She sent tax information, probate will, and social security documents.

"They wanted a scan thing of my Colorado driver's license, which I sent to them. And then they wanted proof that I lived where we lived before we got married. And it was a townhouse that I owned 30-some odd years before."

She managed to track that down, but then the state said her estranged adult son would have to sign a form because he is listed on one of the accounts. Unable to get that, her claim was denied. Oldefest said she's decided to give up on recovering any of the money.

"I figured there's nothing that I can give them that's going to prove (my claim). They're always going to come

up with something that I don't have access to, she said. "I'm fairly, for my age, fairly computer savvy, and so I was able to find stuff, but if it was somebody who didn't really know how to access things, then they probably given up a long time before."

The treasurer's office said the average claim takes 11 days to resolve but more complex ones — like business claims involving multiple parties — may require significant staff research and additional documentation. The office said those represent about 5 percent of claims.

REFORM EFFORTS

For the most part, getting property

back from the state is the responsibility of the claimant. But critics say it doesn't have to be that way.

Ron Lizzi, an unclaimed property reform advocate based in Connecticut, has worked with a number of states to try and improve their return rates. He said in a lot of cases, the states already have the individual's information and could return the funds proactively, without them needing to file a claim.

"In my view, all states should be returning this money automatically," said Lizzi. "What that would entail is using data that they have on their citizens, their businesses, nonprofits... to return what they reasonably can."

He said one barrier is the lack of data-sharing among state agencies, out of privacy reasons. He points to Wisconsin, which tried to address that problem by moving the state's unclaimed property fund into the Department of Revenue.

"So if you have unclaimed property, they look you up in their tax data to see if you paid taxes within the past year, and if you did and you owe back taxes, they take your money. If you don't owe back taxes, they send you a check, and that's the way it ought to work," Lizzi said.

The treasurer's office said they are also working to expand the number of automatic returns and sent out 264,000 proactive claim last year notices via checks and emails.

"Our ability to expand proactive checks depends on additional funding from the legislature to cover increased

SEE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PAGE 10

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UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

FROM PAGE 9

mailing expenditure," the office said in an email to CPR News. "We are also exploring alternative solutions, such as direct deposits, for easily verifiable claims."

Lizzi would also like to see states move away from overly burdensome requirements for reclaiming funds, such as requiring notarization on forms.

The courts are also being asked to weigh in on whether Colorado should be doing more to get people's money back to them.

In 2022, two men from Fremont and El Paso counties filed a lawsuit arguing Colorado didn't do enough to notify them before taking possession

of their property and that it's too quick to designate property as unclaimed. The lawsuit also claims that the state's practice of, at times, auctioning off physical assets and holding the proceeds in trust for claimants is an unconstitutional taking.

The suit is still working its way through the courts, with the plaintiffs seeking class action status to cover everyone with property in Colorado's fund.

The state notes that the two men successfully searched for their property on the website, even if they didn't get a proactive notice about it, and that if they would just use the established claims process, it would all

work smoothly.

Colorado isn't the only state where these questions are coming up. A federal lawsuit in Ohio seeks to block a plan to take ownership of certain unclaimed property to the tune of \$1.7 billion and earmark it for a stadium renovation for the Cleveland Browns. The federal constitutional claims in that case could have impact on how funds operate in Colorado and states across the country.

EYES ON COLORADO'S FUND

Colorado's unclaimed property fund has been an attractive target for lawmakers. In the last twenty years, the state has used more than \$600 million from the fund to pay for programs, according to the treasurer's office.

This spring, the legislature weighed several proposals to dip into the fund in different ways.

"That money's been there for years and it's just sitting there and collecting interest rates," said Democratic Rep. Junie Joseph, who had a bill that would have borrowed \$50 million for energy efficiency measures. "And all we were doing is borrowing some of it so that we can further our decarbonization goals and we're going to return that money back to the Unclaimed Property Trust fund."

That bill failed, in part because Treasurer Young pushed back. He's skeptical of giving lawmakers a loan.

"So the dilemma we get into is the legislature really serious about paying

the money back or is this just kind of a facade to get over a tough funding situation? And in fact, maybe it never gets paid back," he said.

One effort that did pass last session was a bipartisan proposal to borrow some of the interest earned by the fund's investments to help shore up safety net healthcare providers. Democratic Sen. Kyle Mullica was one of the sponsors.

"I think when you're in difficult positions and budgetary positions, that you do have to make decisions and you have to make sure that we're doing all that we can to take care of the people of Colorado," said Mullica.

The treasurer expects even more attempts to use money from the fund next session. And he understands the temptation.

When Young was a state lawmaker, before winning his current position, he too voted for bills that transferred money from the unclaimed property trust fund.

But his office said his knowledge of the fund evolved over the years, and now he understands it comes with legal and financial risk and isn't a stable revenue source.

State economists project significant budget shortfalls due to growing state expenses and a major revenue hit from the federal tax cuts and spending bill. That said, Young reiterates that doesn't want lawmakers to see the unclaimed property fund as a solution. As he notes, this is not free money; it does belong to someone.



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Bennett Parks & Recreation District (303)644-5040
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Browning Blades (303)547-6790
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Country Home Inspections (303)697-1616
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Color Street/Nails by Lisa (303)250-9916
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CORE (303)622-9231
Corridor Comfort (720)680-9022
Dana M Arvin Esq (303)328-7565
ES Tech (ESRTA) (888)999-3778
F & M Bank Colorado (303)644-3266
FNB Bank (303)644-5100
Front Range RV Storage LLC (303)644-5800
Gateway Realty I-70 LLC (970)380-0078
Grothe Financial Services, PC (303)644-4600
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PsychedIN (303)380-1858
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Talkgrass (720)951-1216
The Ag & Food Lab (720)620-0337
Town of Bennett (303) 644-3249
U.S. Mechanical Company, Inc. (303)622-2447
The Viewfinders Galleries (720)384-6933

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Lunch and Learn/Member Meeting
Third Wednesday of the month
See website for details



PHOTOS BY KEVIN J. BEATTY/Deverite

Left photo, a few high-end valuables, above, and a Purple Heart, below, are among the many items stored in the state's unclaimed property vault in Colorado Treasurer Dave Young's Capitol office.





ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST
CLERK & RECORDER

CLERK & RECORDER

Arpahoe County Deputy Director of Recording Juan Guzman shows off his Centennial Heritage Award.

Arapahoe County deputy recorder honored by clerks

LITTLETON — The Colorado County Clerks Association awarded Arapahoe County's deputy recording director of with its inaugural Centennial Heritage Award for "advancing office operations, delivering outstanding customer service, (and) championing new ideas."

Deputy Director of Recording Juan Guzman, who began his career with the Clerk & Recorder's Office in 2019, has implemented several improvements in his time, adding a free Property Alert notification service to protect residents from title fraud; spearheading a statewide project to modernize and streamline recording fees; implementing a queuing solution that helped reduce customer wait times to under 5 minutes; expanding marriage license and passport services; and improving workplace culture and staff training.

"Employee growth, training opportunities, and morale have never been higher," wrote Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez in Guzman's nomination letter. "His blend of realism, strategic thinking, and heartfelt care makes him a role model for public service leadership."

Guzman also managed another years-long project, now coming to fruition, is the digitization of all Clerk & Recorder public records dating back to 1861.

As of May, all real estate records have been scanned and are now available at arapahoeco.gov, providing convenience for residents and security for historical records, many of which were handwritten in century-old, paper ledgers.

Guzman secured state grants to cover most of the project's \$1.5 million cost.

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 - Scarlet Letter Oak- 8-10' #5 cont. **Now 2 For \$200**
 - Scalet Letter Oak- 9-10 x 1 1/2' #7 cont. **Now 2 For \$350**
 - Sentry American Linden- 8-10 x 1 1/2' #7 cont. **Now 2 For \$320**
 - Ivory Silk Lilac Tree- #7 cont. **Now For \$300**
 - Buckthorn Tallhedge- #3 cont. **Now 2 For \$80**
 - Buckthorn Tallhedge- 5' #10 cont. **Now 2 For \$220**
 - Cheyenne Privet Hedge- 18-24' Shrub #5 cont. **Now 2 For \$75**
 - Tinkerbell Lilac Tree- 8 x 1 1/2' #10 cont. **Now 2 For \$500**
 - Standing Ovation Serviceberry- 3' Shrub #5 cont. **Now 2 For \$130**
 - Coralburst Crabapple- 6-8 x 1' #7 cont. **Now 2 For \$300**
 - Apollo Sugar Maple- 6-7 x 1' #7 cont. **Now 2 For \$370**
 - Armstrong Maple- 10-12 x 1 1/2' #10 cont. **Now 2 For \$500**
 - Pink Spire Crabapple- 6-8 x 1' #7 cont. **Now 2 For \$270**
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Swedish Aspen

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Height: 20-25 Ft. Spread: 20-25 Ft. (20 years)

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Now 2 For \$250

Height: 15-25 Ft. Spread: 15-20 Ft. (20 years)

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sku# CRA-GLA15C
Reg. \$399.50

Now 2 For \$400

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Dwarf Alberta Spruce

5 Year Old Trees
4-5 Ft. Tall 10 Gal. Grow Bag
sku# SPR-ALB10B
Reg. \$269.50

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Now 2 For \$270

Height: 5-7 Ft. Spread: 2-3 Ft. (20 years)

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6 Year Old Trees
5' Tall #15 cont. Potted Ball
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Reg. \$439.50

Now 2 For \$440

Height: 25-30 Ft. Spread: 6-8 Ft. (30 years)

Blue Arrow Juniper

4 Year Old Trees
3 1/2-4 Ft. Tall #5 cont.
sku# JUN-ARR5C42
Reg. \$169.50

Now 2 For \$170

Height: 15-20 Ft. Spread: 2-3 Ft. (20 years)

Taylor Juniper

4 Year Old Trees
4' Tall #6 cont.
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Reg. \$169.50

Now 2 For \$170

Height: 15-20 Ft. Spread: 3-4 Ft. (20 years)

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Celebrating Strasburg Hometown Days Events



SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout

Above row, Sunday festivities of Strasburg Hometown Days Aug. 10 included the longstanding tradition of mud flying everywhere during the annual Strasburg Parks & Recreation District's mud volleyball tournament at the Wolf Creek Run West subdivision. Below from left, the recreation district also hosted a 5k run through the community Sunday morning, which was a family affair for many of the entrants; 2-year-old Lainey Frick receives assistance on the bouncy house slide at Saturday's hamburger fry in the outdoor commons area of Strasburg High School Aug. 9; and another Sunday staple the past several years has been the car show and family festival at Strasburg Community Church.



SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER /The I-70 Scout



SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout

ONLINE ONLY — CARDIN FARM DISPERSAL AUCTION

Closing @ 6 p.m., Tues., Sept. 2, 2025
41460 Hwy 36, Bennett



SELLER: John Cardin

This is an online auction only. Anyone wanting to preview items can do so by calling the seller to set up an appointment. Auction lots will close in order starting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 2.

Check website for more info concerning Auction Registration/Bidding, Terms/Conditions, Payment & Pick Up Dates/Times.

OFFERING INCLUDES: TRACTORS: JD 8630; JD 4020; MONTANA 5740; MONTANA 4340; MF TO 30. COMBINES: (2) JD 6600; (2) DEUTZ-ALLIS R70 GLEANER. FARM EQUIP: WINDROWERS; STACK WAGONS; HAY BALERS; HAY RAKES; MOWERS; GRAIN DRILLS; CULTIVATORS; DISKS; PLOW; TOOL BARS; PHD; SPRAYERS; FORKS; ONE-WAYS; COMBINE HEADS; BLADES; RUNNING GEAR. TRUCKS & PK: (4) CHEVY GRAIN TKS; FORD F-250 PK. TRAILERS: (6) FLATBED TRLS (GN & BUMPER-PULL). MISC ITEMS: ARCTIC CAT ATV; CEMENT MIXERS; LOG SPLITTER; SHEET METAL & SIDING; LANDSCAPE ROCK; GENERATORS; TANKS; SCAFFOLDING; TONS OF OTHER MISC & SCRAP IRON!



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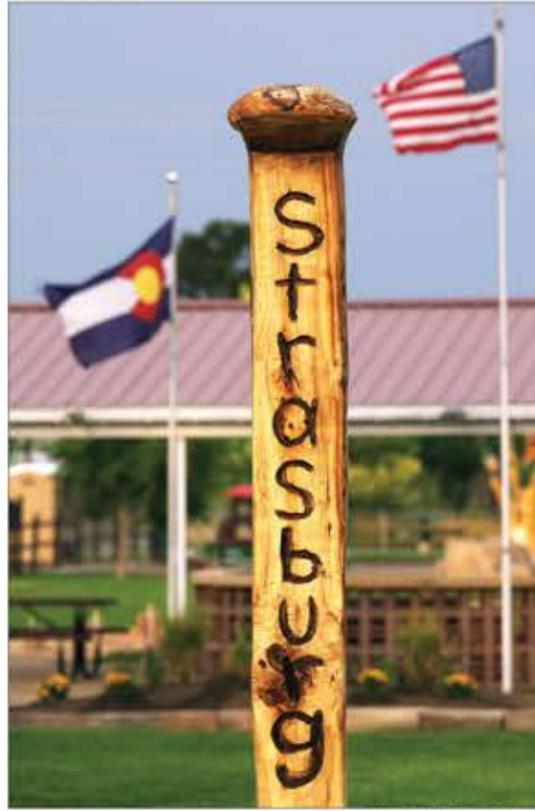
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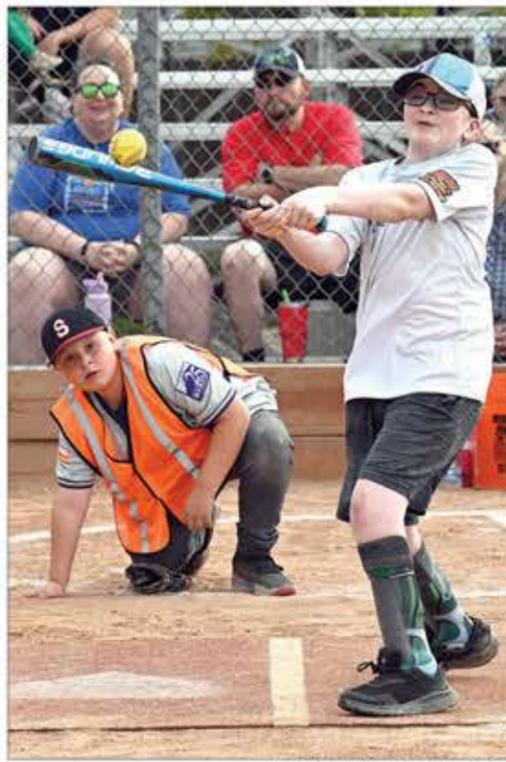
CARL STEITZ/For The Scout



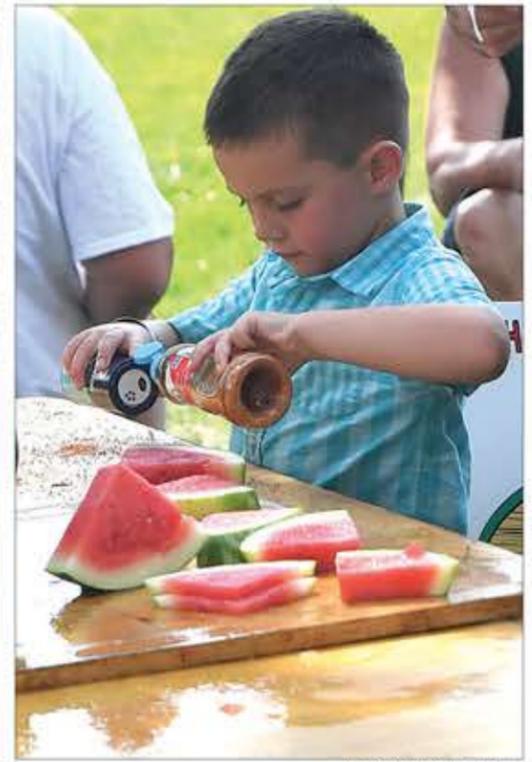
SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Comanche Crossing Museum hosted tours of its many exhibits on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons of Hometown Days and sold root beer floats as a fundraiser. Clockwise from top left, Elden Elpers pours some of the refreshing beverages on Saturday; sculptor Matt Ounsworth works his magic on a tree at Lyons Park; 5-year-old Samuel Archuleta season up his watermelon with salt and tain during the annual chili cook-off and watermelon feed at the high school Saturday afternoon; and three members of the Big D's Warriors adaptive baseball team compete in their season finale to end Hometown Days Sunday evening.

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY ARAPAHOE COUNTY EXTENSION
ARAPAHOE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Research says eggs less likely to crack when dropped on side

by ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Eggs are less likely to crack when they fall on their side, according to experiments with over 200 eggs.

What does this mean for the best way to crack an egg for breakfast? Not much, since a break around the middle is the best way to get the golden yolk and runny whites to ooze out.

But scientists said it could help with hard-boiling eggs in a pot: Dropping eggs in horizontally may be less likely to cause a stray crack that unleashes the insides in a puffy, cloudy mess.

It's thought that eggs are strongest at their ends — after all, it's how they're packaged in the carton. The thinking is that the arc-shaped bottom of an egg redirects the force and softens the blow of impact. But when scientists squeezed eggs in both directions during a compression test, they cracked under the same amount of force.

"The fun started when we thought we would get one result and then we saw another," said Hudson Borja da Rocha with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The researchers also ran simulations and dropped eggs horizontally and vertically from three short heights up to 0.4 inches (10 millimeters).

The egg result? The ones dropped horizontally cracked less.

"The common sense is that the egg



A hen stands on eggs inside her coop at a farm in Glenview, Ill., in February.

in the vertical direction is stronger than if you lay the egg down. But they proved that's not the case," said materials scientist Marc Meyers with the University of California at San Diego who did not participate in the study.

Scientists found that the egg's equator was more flexible and absorbed more of the energy of the fall before cracking.

Eggs are also usually nestled top-down into homemade contraptions for egg drop challenges as part of school STEM projects, which partially inspired the new study. It's not yet clear whether the new results will help protect these vulnerable eggs, which are dropped at much loftier heights.

It's a bit counterintuitive that the oblong side of an egg could hold up better against a tumble, said study co-author Tal Cohen with Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Countless broken eggs show "the courage to go and challenge these very common, accepted notions," he said.

Can farmers save wheat seed?

by R.F. Meyer
Golden Plains Area Extension Office

Through the ages, farmers have planted seeds saved from their previous crops. When making seed decisions, they selected the best quality seed from the highest yielding varieties. Choosing varieties based on yield and quality continues, but now decisions include a new consideration.

With the advent of hybrid crops like corn, farmers discovered that they did not get the advantage of hybrid vigor when they saved their hybrid seed. The ensuing crop was not uniform and yields were poor. To maximize yields, they quickly learned to buy new hybrid corn seed each year. This annual purchase commercialized the corn seed business and resulted in enormous investment into research and development for improved corn hybrids. Consequently, technology in corn has benefited farmers with increased yield potential.

But what about a non-hybrid crop like wheat?

With the passage of the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) in 1970, Congress urged private investment from crop users into development of new plant varieties, including wheat. That investment is now paying off in the form of new and improved wheat genetics. However, an important component of the act was the farmer's right to save seed from certain varieties. Section 113 of the act states, "It shall not infringe any right hereunder for a person to save seed produced by the person from seed obtained, or descended from seed obtained, by authority of the owner of the variety for seeding purposes and use such saved seed in the production of a crop for use on the farm. ..."

Simply stated, if a farmer purchases ordinary certified wheat seed that is plant-variety protected, they may keep seed grown from that variety for planting on their farm. However, keep in mind that certified seed only varieties are exempt from this law. When planting certified seed only varieties, new seed must be purchased yearly.

In addition, if a farmer buys non-certified wheat seed of a PVPA-protected variety from someone else, not only is the purchase of that seed likely in violation of the act, but

saving seed of subsequent production is also a violation. Wheat varieties that are PVPA-protected must be purchased from permitted and licensed seed dealers only.

The most recent restrictions to saving seed are those imposed by patented traits and sales contracts. In most cases, farmers are prohibited by patent laws from saving seed of varieties with patented traits like Roundup resistance in soybean and Clearfield in wheat. This restriction is usually reinforced through a contract signed at the point of purchase. Even if traits are not patented, saving seed may be prohibited as part of the sales contract. Certified Seed Only (CSO) varieties must be purchased every season.

Current CSO varieties are: AP18AX, Amplify SF, LCS Atomic AX, Brawl Cl plus, Byrd Cl plus, Crescent AX, KS Helix AX, KS Homesteader CL+, Kivari AX, SY Sunrise, Snowmass, Snowmass 2.0, KS Bill Snyder, KS Territory, WB4792, WB 4347, WB 4422, WB 4444, WB 4595, WB 4733 CL+, Windom SF. Other varieties may be added to this list as they are released, and older varieties may be sunset. Varieties not on the Certified Seed Only list can be saved and replanted every season without purchasing new seed.

The consequences of planting illegal seed can be substantial. The owner of the variety could go as far as filing a lawsuit asking for the destruction of the crop. There could also be monetary awards and attorney fees. If state or federal officials get involved, fines could be levied per occurrence.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. As a best management practice, farmers should know what variety they are planting and follow its protocol. If one did purchase certified seed, one should read the label and sales contracts to see if any restrictions on saving seed apply. The label and sales contract will state planting limitations.

As a result of the new rules, new revenues that benefit wheat growers directly are being generated. Fees from planting patented varieties are reinvested directly toward wheat research, mostly in the form of new wheat variety development. The new varieties have traits that improve yield and quality, making the fees a positive investment for wheat producers.

A special **THANKS** to the Hometown Days Committee and **ALL** other volunteers who made Hometown Days 2025 in Strasburg a super celebration of the Joining Of The Rails!



— Allen & Donna Holcomb

TOWN OF DEER TRAIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT (REZONING) OF 515 3rd AVENUE, DEER TRAIL, COLORADO

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Deer Trail Planning Commission and Board of Trustees, respectively, shall hold public hearings concerning an amendment (rezoning) of the zoning for the property located at 515 3rd Avenue, Deer Trail, CO 80105 (EXHIBIT A), and generally located at Cedar Street and 3rd Avenue, pursuant to the Town of Deer Trail Zoning Ordinance Section 5-90(c)(1). The proposed amendment will change the zoning of the property from Residential to Main Street Mixed Use.

The public hearing shall be held before the Planning Commission on Saturday, September 13th, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m., or as soon as possible thereafter as the agenda of the Planning Commission permits. The hearing will take place at 555 2ND Avenue, Deer Trail, Colorado 80105, or at a place otherwise specified by the Town Clerk.

The Board of Trustees hearing shall be held on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter as the agenda of the Town Board permits. The hearing will take place at 555 2ND Avenue, Deer Trail, Colorado 80105, or at a place otherwise specified by the Town Clerk.

Further information is available by calling (303) 769-4464.

EXHIBIT A – LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LOT 8 BLOCK 11 OF TOWN OF DEER TRAIL ORIGINAL

TOWN OF DEER TRAIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Deer Trail Planning Commission and Board of Trustees, respectively, shall hold public hearings concerning text amendments to the zoning ordinance (Ord. 279) pursuant to the Town of Deer Trail Zoning Ordinance Section 5-90(c)(4). The proposed text amendments will address uses allowed by Special Review in the Main Street Mixed Use district and allowable structures for the conduct of home occupations.

The public hearing shall be held before the Planning Commission on Saturday, September 6, 2025, @ 10 a.m., or as soon as possible thereafter as the agenda of the Planning Commission permits. The hearing will take place at 555 2nd Avenue, Deer Trail, CO 80105, or at a place otherwise specified by the Town Clerk.

The Board of Trustees meeting shall be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, @ 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter as the agenda of the Town Board permits. The hearing will take place at 555 2nd Avenue, Deer Trail, CO 80105, or at a place otherwise specified by the Town Clerk.

Further information is available by calling (303)769-4464.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO AUG. 30, 2005

A suspect was arrested in an apparent double homicide in Bennett Aug. 26.

Jason William Bondurant, 25, is in custody at the Arapahoe County Detention Center and faces charges of first-degree murder, first-degree burglary, second-degree kidnapping and felony menacing in a shooting that killed Christopher Hawkins, 31, and Corey Reed, 18.

At approximately 5 p.m. Aug. 26, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office received a report of an active shooter from resident Fred Hawkins at 748 West Fork Way, Bennett, south of I-70 and west of Manila Road.

Hawkins reported that two people had been shot, and he and six others were inside the residence. The shooter was attempting to gain entrance to the home.

A sheriff's communications technician encouraged Hawkins to seek a more secure location within the home. Hawkins and daughters Sarah and Jennifer Cole took four children in the home and locked themselves in the basement.

Arapahoe and Adams county deputies arrived at the home at 5:15 p.m. and confronted the suspect, who was armed.

"He was in front of the residence armed with a semiautomatic pistol," said Arapahoe County Under sheriff Mark Campbell.

Deputies ordered Bondurant to drop his weapon. He complied and was taken into custody.

15 YEARS AGO AUG. 31, 2010

LIMON — Construction has begun on a 139 turbine wind farm near Limon, bringing a new economic engine to the area and providing more renewable energy to the state.

The Cedar Point Wind Project turbines will be located in eastern Elbert County and western Lincoln County, spread across about 20,000 acres of private property. The private land is leased by project owner Enbridge Inc. for the placement of

the turbines and facilities, including two on-site project substations and an operations and maintenance building. The project will generate 252 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power approximately 68,000 Colorado homes. Once constructed, Cedar Point Wind will be the second largest wind project in Colorado.

The project was developed and will be constructed by Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas), a Broomfield-based company. The V90-1.8 megawatt turbines will be made by Vestas in Colorado. RES officials estimate the project will create up to 250 construction jobs and up to 12 permanent jobs when completed in late 2011.

10 YEARS AGO SEPT. 1, 2015

BYERS — A Byers High School teacher was recognized in July at the 2015 Boettcher Foundation Teacher Recognition Awards program.

Jeremy Kerns, in his 12th year at Byers, was honored by the program which gives Boettcher scholars a chance to recognize the teachers who made an impact on their lives and helped foster their success. Byers graduate and 2015 Boettcher scholarship winner Andrea Poliakon nominated Kerns as a teacher who made a significant contribution to her growth and education.

The award ceremony took place July 30 at the Denver Botanic Gardens and included teachers nominated by each of this year's 42 Boettcher scholars.

In her speech at the event, Poliakon told Kerns that "some teachers revolutionize lives, inspire, motivate and implement valuable life lessons that shape character and are used every single day of their students lives. You are undoubtedly one of those teachers." As a Boettcher Scholar, Poliakon receives a full-ride to any four-year Colorado university. She is enrolled in the pre-med program at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and anticipates becoming a pediatrician or doctor of sports medicine.

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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 2

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 27, the 239th day of 2025. There are 126 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Aug. 27, 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa erupted with a series of cataclysmic explosions. The explosions (which could be heard 3,000 miles away) and resulting tsunamis in Indonesia's Sunda Strait claimed some 36,000 lives in

Java and Sumatra.

ON THIS DATE

In 1894, Congress passed the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act, which contained a provision for a graduated income tax that was later struck down by the Supreme Court.

In 1964, the film "Mary Poppins" had its world premiere in Los Angeles, California.

In 1979, British war hero Lord

Louis Mountbatten and three other people, including his 14-year-old grandson Nicholas, were killed off the coast of Ireland in a boat explosion claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

In 1982, Rickey Henderson of the Oakland A's stole his 119th base of the season, breaking Lou Brock's single-season stolen base record. (Henderson would finish the season with a still-unmatched 130 stolen bases.)

In 1990, blues musician Stevie Ray Vaughn and four others were killed in a helicopter crash near East Troy, Wisconsin.

In 2001, Israeli helicopters fired a pair of rockets through office windows, killing senior PLO leader Mustafa Zibri.

In 2005, coastal residents jammed freeways and gas stations as they rushed to avoid Hurricane Katrina, which was headed toward New Orleans.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Author William Least Heat-Moon is 86. Actor Tuesday Weld is 82. Actor G.W. Bailey is 81. Rock musician Alex Lifeson (Rush) is 72. Rock musician Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols) is 68. Fashion designer and filmmaker Tom Ford is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Thome is 55. Actor Patrick J. Adams (TV: "Suits") is 44.

—Associated Press

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 - Part of spch
 - Popular Latin dance
 - Influencer's creation
 - Hula dancer's flowers
 - Birdlike
 - "Meet me here, under the arch"
 - "Meet me at the Top of the Rock"
 - Comic book expression for alarm
 - Press backward arrow key
 - "Hand" with claws
 - Spreadsheet software command
 - Day off, backwards
 - Bug-eyed
 - "Cheers" regular
 - Coupe alternative
 - Be dependent
 - Damage one's reputation
 - Slightly (2 words)
 - Prefix for below
 - Shade of beige
 - Java neighbor
 - War mounts
 - Rope fiber
 - "___ Now or Never"
 - Leave at the altar
 - Flapper's feathers
 - "Meet me at the London Bridge"
 - "The Black Eyed Peas: 'Meet Me ___'"
 - "Meet me in ___ Mara, Kenya"
 - Undergarment
 - "Meet me in Australia to see this bear"
 - Done to printer cartridge
 - Corn unit
 - Poet W. H. ___ of "Funeral Blues" fame
 - Infamous Nazi villain
 - Strong solution of sodium
 - Like gelled hair
- DOWN**
- Parts of a play
 - Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"
 - Cain's victim
 - Paddler's vessel
 - Endows or empowers
 - "Buffalo ___, won't you come out tonight..."
 - Keats' poem
 - Jinn or genie
 - Guinea pig or capybara
 - Mixture
 - Russian monarch
 - What Titanic did
 - Went to bid farewell (2 words)

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- "Meet me in Orthodox church to see these"
 - "Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968"
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 - "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom ___
 - "Meet me by the Trevi Fountain"
 - Adipose tissue
 - "Meet me at the Burj Khalifa"
 - Like the Tower of Pisa
 - Bigfoot's cousins
 - Swirling vortex
 - Filly's mother
 - Popular Cuban dance
 - Be next to, as in rooms
 - Fall from grace
 - The Kenosha Kickers' songs
 - Sticker on a jar
 - Run ___ of the law
 - Same as ayah
 - Respiratory rattling
 - Osiris' sister and wife
 - Opposite of zigs
 - Tortoise's opponent
 - Do like fly fishermen
 - Sheltered, nautically
 - Pull
 - Everybody loved him on TV

ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

HOROSCOPE

Venus in a Mood

As soon as Venus pounced into Leo, she got to work on an agenda even she may not fully grasp. The realms of love, beauty and desire follow their own mysterious rules — rules that exist well beyond the cramped walls of logic. Now, with Venus tugging at Pluto in a profound opposition, trying to make sense of love's logic is about as futile as herding cats.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You aren't chasing adventure, but it finds you on this day offering delightful and unexpected fun. Your intention, style and presence turn a regular task into a mini-quest. It's a little twist of fate that makes your day feel enchanted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've accumulated a lot: connections, tasks, passions, stuff. Some of it happened gradually, some all at once, but now it's clear that you're carrying more than is sustainable. Reassess. What's worth it?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll trade control for expansion. Good for you. It's a power move indeed. Defining something too soon can box it in or shrink its potential, while leaving space for mystery allows things to grow in unexpected and possibly amazing ways.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You show up the way you said you would. You expect others to do the same. You value follow-through, and you get it because you don't tolerate flakiness. Once is forgiven. Twice is a pattern. Three strikes, they're out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The tendency to go into debt isn't limited to finance. The debt between people? That's the most interesting kind. That's where values are truly subjective, which makes for some inspired, creative and, in today's case, astoundingly nonsensical arrangements that feel, nonetheless, so right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't fix what's not broken. You may think something is showing signs of wear, but until it's really showing you a problem, it's going to be more trouble to improve it than it's worth. Let working things work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Moving your body through physical effort will do more

than just improve your fitness. It will create a stronger internal link between your thoughts, instincts and actions. Your body starts listening more closely to your mind's focus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll encounter something in wonky form. To make this appealing or useful, work must go in, like new thought, adjustment or negotiation. Your job isn't to accept it as is, but get in there and turn it into what works for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You hold your own standards and stay curious about people who live differently. Being firm in yourself but open with others is a balance that allows for less conflict and better relationships. It's emotional maturity in action.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've an aim today, and you feel good about going after it. As for friction, it still exists, but you don't pick it up. Focus on it, and your refusal to entertain it or engage with it makes your choices flow in a clear progression to the goal.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Questions come, but you're under no obligation to answer them, especially the ones you feel weird about. Or even if you just want to withhold information out of a sense of strategy, it's your prerogative. Keep some mystery. It suits you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Past challenges gave you skills. You'll find yourself in a situation where you can offer an example drawn from your own experience with hardship. Since you've been through it, you're uniquely knowledgeable about how to move forward.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 27). Take the ordinary, add you voila! You get extraordinary. This year, you're a machine of originality. At work, you're a professional who's been to the edge and back with this work thousands of times and will go thousands more. In your personal life, you're giving that X factor that makes you a fan favorite. More highlights: a lucky spin for a bundle of money, a success in the public eye, and a healing love. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 22, 19, 40 and 6.

—Horoscopes by Holiday



PHOTOS BY RYAN ERICKSON

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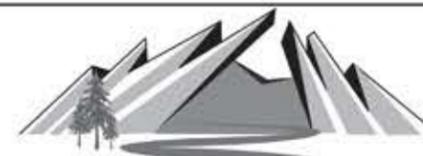


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1ST AMENDMENT

FROM PAGE 1

lice investigation into a sexual assault that took place in a ... school locker room — the Board violated The I-70 Scout's First Amendment rights."

Johnson added that "a long line of cases has recognized that this exact type of decision — withdrawal of government ads — is unconstitutional when it is made in retaliation for First Amendment-protected expression."

The trustees' May 13 vote to withdraw display ads from the newspapers followed a May 7 front-page article by Claussen in the *Scout* that included some graphic details from a redacted incident report obtained from the Adams County Sheriff's Office. In the story, Claussen reported that the suspension of five employees from a Strasburg middle school was the result of a sexual assault of one boy by six other boys after track practice. "Shockingly, the mother of the victim did not want to press charges," the article also says.

The next week, Claussen published an apology for providing "too many details of the crime" that were "unnecessary." He also wrote that he "should not have used the term 'shockingly' in reference to the mother's decision — that is how I felt, and it crept into the story."

The evening before the apology ran, Trustee Royce Pindell called on his fellow board members to stop spending any more of the town's money with *The I-70 Scout* and the *Eastern Colorado News*. He said Claussen's newspapers "have concerned me for most of the years I've lived out here, but this is by far the worst I've ever seen him do to anyone."

Mayor Whitney Oakley called the article "extremely distasteful."

"I'm willing to cut off the advertisement if that's what needs to be done," added Trustee Denise Smith. "You just can't say something like that about a family."

Because the board's decision "was openly motivated by retaliation for *The I-70 Scout's* editorial decision-making, the withdrawal of advertising was egregiously unconstitutional," Johnson's letter alleges.

Under the terms of an ongoing contract, she noted, the town had agreed to buy a minimum amount of advertising in Claussen's publications, "though, in practice, the town purchased significantly larger amounts of advertising space to promote particular events, such as the annual Bennett Days celebrations."

"As a result of the Bennett Board's

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blatantly unconstitutional actions on May 13, *The I-70 Scout* has lost hundreds of dollars in revenue and stands to lose thousands more," the letter adds.

Rulings cited by Johnson include two orders from the U.S. District Court in Colorado holding that the government cannot revoke advertising from a newspaper based on its content.

One case concerned allegations by the *Greeley Tribune* that the Weld County Public Trustee withheld legal ads from the newspaper in retaliation for news coverage and a critical editorial. The other involved allegations the town of Frisco pulled ads from a weekly newspaper because it published news stories and editorials that criticized the town's government.

"Those who hold transient power over the public purse cannot abuse it to suppress the speech of their political or public critics," wrote Judge Richard Matsch in the Frisco ruling.

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

Johnson asked the Bennett trustees to reconsider their decision "in the hope that we can resolve this matter without litigation."

On Aug. 11, the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition e-mailed a request for comment to Bennett's mayor, town attorney and town manager. On Aug. 13, Alison Belcher, the town's communications director, wrote to CFOIC that "at this time, the Town is unable to provide comments regarding ongoing legal proceedings."

The agenda for the Aug. 12 meeting of the town board showed an executive session for the trustees "to confer with the town attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions related to a notice of claim received from the newspaper."

The town attorney later told Johnson in an e-mail that "[t]he matter has been referred to the Town's insurance carrier.")

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CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED



Byers School District 32-J
is now accepting applications for:

Substitute Teachers
\$150/day

Classified applications can be found at www.byers32j.k12.co.us under the Human Resources tab on the District page.

Applications can be sent to:

Byers School District 32J
444 E. Front Street
Byers CO, 80103
(303) 822-5292 x1139
(303) 822-9592 fax
sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us

Come Join Our Team!



Byers School District 32-J
is now accepting applications for a:

Part-Time Evening Custodian

Monday — Friday
25-30 hours per week

Classified Applications are available on the Human Resources page of website, www.byers32j.k12.co.us, under the District tab or at the District office. Position open until filled. Questions can be directed to Tim Barber at: (303)822-5292, x1138.



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BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J*

IS CURRENTLY HIRING FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR:

Elementary Para Professional

District Maintenance Technician

The District Maintenance Technician maintains electrical, HVAC, grounds, and the physical appearance and operational efficiency of all buildings and related components ensuring a safe, comfortable, and secure learning environment for students, staff, and the public.

Starting at \$22/hr BOE.

For information or to apply, contact Ramie Dillingham
720-500-1495 X 8202;
ramied@bsd29j.com;
www.bsd29j.com.

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- Michelle Keenan (970)270-2035

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C	U	B	A	N	A	D	J	S	A	L	S
T	R	E	N	D	L	E	I	A	V	I	A
S	T	L	O	U	I	S	N	E	W	Y	O
				E	E	K	U	N	D	O	
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A	L	I	G	N	E	A	R	A	U	D	E
H	E	S	S	L	Y	E	S	L	E	E	K



TOWN OF DEER TRAIL

is seeking nominations to fill

TRUSTEE VACANCY

Accepting letters of interest until position is filled.

Contact Town Clerk at Town Hall, 555 Second Ave., for more information. A letter of intent may be dropped off at Town Hall or e-mailed to clerk@townofdeertrail.org. The Deer Trail Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m., at Town Hall.



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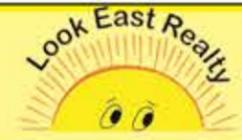
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CLASSIFIED ADS

HOMES & LAND

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(303) 644-4444
310 Colfax Ave., Bennett
LookEastRealty.net

502 Antelope Dr. E., Bennett; \$240,000

This 2+ acre corner lot in Antelope Hills is available for building a new home. The property is conveniently located within walking distance of a fishing pond, picnic area, and scenic walking trails. The lot has been surveyed with corners marked, and power is already on site. The seller has completed soil reports and can share them, along with existing house plans (additional fees may apply).



4055 S. County Road 193, Bennett • \$299,000

Build your dream home on this 39.55-acre property located east of Byers, which includes pasture land suitable for grazing. The views will take your breath away! The parcel is fenced and equipped with a well, septic system, and power, providing essential infrastructure. A house that previously stood on the site was destroyed by fire last year; cleanup has been completed, though some infrastructure repairs are needed. Prospective buyers and their agents should conduct thorough due diligence and verify the requirements for connecting utilities with the relevant authorities before planning any construction.



Call for your autumn showing!
(303)726-7779 or (720)717-3217!

Colorado Land Realty

- 394 Acres grass 5 miles SE of Deer Trail \$2,000/Ac
- 13.92 Acres 2 irrig wells, adjacent to Strasburg Schools \$700k
- 7.25 acre investment 1 mi E of Watkins (Colfax & Imboden) \$450,000
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Thinking of Buying or Selling?
 Top Dollar. Quick Closings.

Mortgage rates are holding steady near 10-month lows, giving buyers a bit more breathing room.

BUILDER NEWS: Toll Brothers says tariffs haven't hit them hard, and they don't expect a major impact this fiscal year. A rare plot twist in housing.

Zillow just changed their tune. Instead of predicting falling prices, they now see home values rising +0.4% over the next year. A small number, but a big shift in sentiment.

BRIGHT SIDE: U.S. existing home sales rose 2% in July to an annual rate of about 4.01 million—thanks to easing prices, more inventory, and lower mortgage rates. Buyers are slowly gaining leverage again.

NATIONAL AVERAGE RATES - Powered by MND

Conventional Loans:
 30-Yr Fixed: 6.62%
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Other Loan Types:
 Jumbo 30-Yr Fixed: 6.67%
 FHA 30-Yr Fixed: 6.22%
 VA 30-Yr Fixed: 6.23%
 Prime Rate (HELOC): 7.50%

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MARY ZIMMERMAN



MLS gatewayrealtyi70 gatewayrealtyi70,lc gatewayrealtyi-70.com

Home in Deer Trail. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2-car garage, patio, corner fenced lot. Large kitchen with new vinyl plank flooring, lots of counter space and cabinets. Possible 5th bedroom in large loft on the 2nd level. \$370K. Call Gail Tobin at RE/MAX Real Estate Group, (719)330-0540. 9/10

FREE

Free, free, free. Pick up of autos, farm equipment, batteries, all nonferrous metal types. Also available for a minimal fee, pick up of appliances, TVs, piles, etc. Call Blaine today at (303)819-7659. 9/3c

FOR RENT

OFFICE FOR RENT
 Approximately 400 sq. ft. Office with reception/2nd office in front. Approximately 1850 sq. ft. warehouse with overhead door. 1 Bathroom. Yard space available. Nice! Located in commercial office/warehouse building in Strasburg.
303-361-9100 x 21

MOBILE HOME IN BENNETT
 2 large bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry, off-street parking, centrally located. Background & credit check required.
 \$1,550
303-854-8829 (No Texts)

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We buy junk cars and trucks!
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Basement for Rent. \$1,700, month-to-month lease. Country home near Strasburg with 2.5 bedrooms and 2 baths. Large living room and office. Separate entrance. Shared laundry and garage. E-mail sailinginlife@netzero.net for more information. 9/10

Bennett. Large 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo. Washer/dryer, air conditioner. Sorry, no pets. \$1,700/month. Call or text (303)638-8703. 8/27

4-bed, 2-bath one side of duplex for rent. Please message and apply through zillow! https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/490-Washington-Ave-APT-A-Bennett-CO-80102/2067127104_zpid/?view=public. 9/17

FOR SALE

Siamese seal point snowshoe kittens for adoption. Small adoption fee. (720)557-9118. 9/17

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE
 Thursday, Aug. 28: Cheesy beef steak, dinner roll.
 Tuesday, Sept. 2: Tacos.
 Wednesday, Sept. 3: Popcorn chicken, chips.

BENNETT
 Thursday, Aug. 28: Waffles, sausage, choice of broccoli, cucumbers, carrots, apples or frozen cup.

BYERS
 Thursday, Aug. 28: Ham hoagie, baby carrots, peaches.
 Friday, Aug. 29: Cheese pizza, garden salad, watermelon.
 Tuesday, Sept. 2: Turkey hoagie, Sun Chips, broccoli and carrots with ranch.
 Wednesday, Sept. 3: Cheesy Italian dunkers, garden salad, grapes.
 Thursday, Sept. 4: Macho nacho, corn bread, applesauce.

STRASBURG
 Thursday, Aug. 28: Chicken drumsticks, mashed potatoes.
 Friday, Aug. 29: Corn dogs.
 Tuesday, Sept. 2: Chicken nuggets.
 Wednesday, Sept. 3: Walking tacos.
 Thursday, Sept. 4: Hamburger with mashed potatoes and gravy.

DEER TRAIL
 Thursday, Aug. 28: Chili beans, cinnamon rolls.
 Tuesday, Sept. 2: Chicken and waffles.
 Wednesday, Sept. 3: Happy Nachos.

PERSONALS

Nice guy looking for nice girl for dinner and fun around Colorado.
 Evergreen • concerts • comedy • plays
 Let's start as friends!
 I am retired.
Message me at
outeast09@gmail.com.
 Will respond with pics and my info.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Doug Claussen from Robert Maestas, Tri-Valley Senior Citizens Association president, for assistance with our Arapahoe County grant notice. Thanks again, Bob. 8/27



CHUCK WAGON



Zesty Meatball Sandwiches

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 onion, cut into thin strips
- 1/2 green bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1 1/4 cups prepared spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 4 rolls hoagie rolls, split
- 1/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

minced onion, garlic, salt and pepper in large bowl. Mix lightly but thoroughly. Shape into 12 2-inch meatballs. Place on rack in broiler pan. Bake in 350-degree oven 25-30 minutes.

Heat 2 tablespoons water in large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add onion strips and bell pepper; cook and stir 4 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Add spaghetti sauce, basil and meatballs; heat through, stirring occasionally.

Serve in rolls; sprinkle with cheese. **Cook's tip:** Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees. Color is not a reliable indicator of doneness.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine ground beef, bread crumbs, egg,

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ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO



10 YEARS CLEAR THE SHELTERS

Pick Your Price Adoption Special

AUG. 1-31

Dogs one year old and older. (From Aug. 24-31, the special will include all pets one year old and older. Some exclusions apply)



DIABETES

New

CLASSES STARTING THIS FALL

The Diabetes Team at the Adams County Health Department has a new round of classes starting in August!

Scan the QR code below to view offerings or sign up for a class.



STAY CONNECTED:

4430 S. Adams County Pkwy, Brighton, CO 80601

/AdamsCountyGov @AdamsCountyGov

Public Agencies /AdamsCountyCo

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BYERS BOE

FROM PAGE 1



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

New student school board members are seniors Henry Romero Salazar, left, and Krayton Ebert and sophomores Pachelles Rojas and Peyton Dilligham. A fifth member, Abigail Cummings, is not pictured.

be used to update the district's fire alarm and life safety systems.

"The fire alarm system's motherboard and panel are antiquated," Turrell said, adding that fire alarm company inspectors indicated that if the system goes down, parts will not be available. A new system would likely cost up to \$400,000.

The district also wants to install a life safety communication system in every classroom, the gym, and all other facilities throughout the district.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD

In December 2023, four Byers high school students and several board members attended the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) annual convention. The students and their sponsor, Amy Burns, participated in a student strand of the conference focused on student involvement with the school board — representing the students as leaders within the

school. Following that experience, secondary principal Kelly Boren met with the staff and student council and started a practice of having a group of students at each board meeting serve as non-voting resources to provide perspective on topics affecting the student body. A different two or three students were given the opportunity each month.

The procedure was followed from January 2024 through June 2025 and, at the end of the last school year, Turrell suggested that a permanent student board might be more productive because students attending their first and only board meeting are unprepared to participate fully.

Last spring, all high school students were given the opportunity to apply for a permanent student leadership role on the board. The applications were reviewed and five student board members were named: seniors Henry Romero Salazar and Krayton Ebert and sophomores Pachelles Rojas, Peyton Dilligham and Abigail Cummings.

Krayton, as a sophomore, was one of the students who attended the CASB conference in 2023.

Turrell said that the students' names will be added to the board member roll call in subsequent meetings. He also noted that he understands that they might not be present every month.

"I know you're students and you're busy," he told them, "so we'll make sure to get the thoughts and the voices of those of you who are in the room."

Turrell said he has been pleased with the new staff and will invite them to next month's meeting to meet the board.

"We hired some great new teachers," he said. "I've been just tickled to death, both at the elementary and secondary, just seeing what's going on in those classrooms. So, fantastic hires."

**Rockies Express Pipeline LLC,
FERC Docket No. CP25-539-000
Critical Energy Reliability Link Project
Notification of Application**

On August 15, 2025, Rockies Express Pipeline LLC ("REX") filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") under Docket No. CP25-539-000 to construct, own, operate, and maintain the Critical Energy Reliability Link Project ("Project").

REX, a subsidiary of Tallgrass Energy, LP, is a "natural gas company" as defined under the Natural Gas Act that is developing the Project in order to provide firm natural gas transportation service and no-notice service to new delivery points to meet the growing demand for natural gas.

The Project includes the construction of an approximately 152.7-mile, 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (the "Lateral"), an approximately 7.0-mile, 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (the "Horizon Spur"), an approximately 6,195-horsepower compressor station (the "LaSalle CS"), an approximately 0.3-mile, 24-inch-diameter natural gas interconnect piping (the "Cheyenne Connector Interconnect Piping") connecting the existing Cheyenne Connector Pipeline to the proposed LaSalle CS, and associated metering and appurtenant facilities located in Weld, Adams, Arapahoe, Elbert, El Paso, and Lincoln counties, Colorado. The Project is an expansion of REX's existing FERC-jurisdictional natural gas transmission system, which will enable REX to provide up to 100,000 dekatherms per day ("Dth/d") of firm natural gas transportation service and 50,000 Dth/d of no-notice service to Colorado Springs Utilities in Colorado Springs, Colorado. To meet market demand, REX's planned ready-for service date for the Project facilities will be in the second Quarter of 2028.

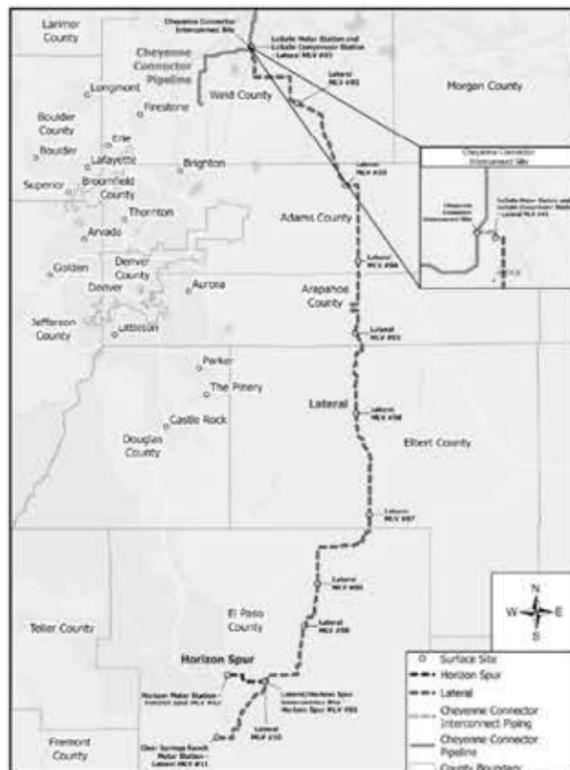
A general map of the proposed Project is included with this notice. During the FERC review and permitting process and prior to construction, REX will be in communication with landowners to discuss and hopefully obtain an easement and/or other necessary land rights to construct the Project.

A copy of the application has been posted on the project website at <https://www.criticalenergyreliabilitylink.com/> and can also be viewed at the public libraries provided in the table below. In addition, the FERC "Notice of Application" will be mailed to affected landowners and governmental entities within three business days following issuance by the FERC.

County	Town	Library Name	Address
Weld	Hudson	Hudson Public Library	100 Beech St. Hudson, CO 80642
Adams	Bennett	Anythink Bennett	495 7th St. Bennett, CO 80102
Arapahoe	Byers	Keiver Library	585 S. Main St. Byers, CO 80103
Elbert	Kiowa	Kiowa Library of Pines & Plains Libraries	331 Comanche St. Kiowa, CO 80117
El Paso	Calhan	Calhan Library	600 Bank St. Calhan, CO 80808
El Paso	Fountain	Fountain Library	230 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817
Lincoln	Limon	Limon Memorial Library	205 E. Ave. Limon, Co 80828

REX is committed to open and informative communications with all landowners and stakeholders throughout the Project area. REX invites landowners and stakeholders to visit <https://www.criticalenergyreliabilitylink.com/> for more information about the Project. General project or landowner inquiries may be submitted by email to coloradolandowners@tallgrass.com or by phone at 1 (866) 307-8630. For right-of-way or easement specific questions, please contact Lindsay Jarrell, Senior Manager, Land and Right-of-Way at (303) 763-3327 or lindsay.jarrell@tallgrass.com.

In addition, FERC provides information that explains the Commission's certificate process and addresses the basic concerns of landowners, including a pamphlet entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on my Land? What Do I Need to Know?," through its website at www.ferc.gov/landowner-topics-interest. Landowners and stakeholders may also contact FERC directly through FERC's Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov, or by visiting www.ferc.gov/OPP.



Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, August 20 and 27, 2025, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, August 22 and 29, 2025.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 28
Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Call Diane, (303)644-3717, for meeting ID.

MONDAY, SEPT. 1??
Strasburg High School Athletic Booster Club. 6 p.m., high school library.
Deer Trail School Board. 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2
Adams County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)405-3298. Appointments available at Anythink libraries for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library's computer link. Space limited.
Arapahoe County free legal clinic. 2-3:30 p.m. by phone. To sign up, call (303)739-6630. Appointments available at Aurora Main Library for one-on-one discussion with a volunteer attorney using the library's computer link. Space limited.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3
Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

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

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

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