



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 42

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Bennett lawsuit against Claps to proceed

Judge dismisses AdCo Sheriff's motion to dismiss, sets hearing date for next month

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — While both parties remain tight-lipped, the town of Bennett's approximately \$250,000 lawsuit against Adams County Sheriff Gene Claps for blatant disregard and violation of governmental protocols is proceeding.

During its late August meeting, the Bennett Board of Trustees went into executive session to confer with town attorney Scotty Krob for legal advice "in connection with claims against the Adams County Sheriff by the town of Bennett in connection with law enforcement services in 2024 and the court's recent order denying the sheriff's motion to dismiss the town's

complaint."

While a transcript of an Aug. 19 hearing is unavailable from Adams County District Court, a formal listing of hearing and actions from Judge Patrick Pugh's Division C Courtroom shows a ruling on the defendant's motion to dismiss was made that day and that Claps' counsel replied Sept. 2 and a pre-trial order for the case to

proceed next month announced the following day.

"The only information I can provide at this time is, after the court denied the dismissal, the case will now move forward," said a recent e-mail statement from the Division C court clerk.

A deputy court clerk's statement **SEE BENNETT V. CLAPS**
PAGE 20

DT School officials: '24-25 testing snafu won't happen again

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — While results from last spring's state-mandated testing indicated progress by several groups of Deer Trail School students, a series of missteps by the district's previous assessment administrator resulted in an uncomfortable discussion with the Colorado Department of Education over the summer.

"There turned out to be a number of concerning issues — zeroes that lowered our results, non-participation not accounted for, student biographical data that was not cleaned up, and three test booklets that never got scored because they were not sent in," longtime teacher but first-year District Assessment Coordinator Krista Rector told the Deer Trail School Board Sept. 8 about last spring's Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing. "I found those in a box that was put into my room with all the test information."

SEE DEER TRAIL BOE
PAGE 24



Corridor Celebrates Bennett Days

ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

A young aspiring trick roper shows off his talents as part of the Paula Sotelo entry during Saturday morning's parade, which was part of the annual Bennett Days festivities Sept. 5-7. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

An early afternoon fifth-wheel camper fire stymied eastbound I-70 traffic near Lady Bird Hill for several hours Sept. 11. No injuries were reported and no specifics were available from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at press time.

Local youth services group provides help Corridor-wide

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — A local organization is working to assure that youth and residents have a safe, inviting and healthy environment to live, work, and grow in.

I-70 Corridor Communities that Care and Teens for Change is a grant-funded program that fosters healthier, more resilient communities by identifying risk and protective factors within the Corridor communities. The coalition office is in the Bennett Recreation Center.

Community Mobilizer Nichole Harrell spoke about the program Aug. 19 at the Comanche VIP Seniors lun-

cheon at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

"We're funded the state of Colorado by a grant paid for by marijuana funds," Harrell said, adding that the funds are leveraged through the Adams County Health Department. "The grant covers Watkins through Deer Trail."

Harrell said the coalition is made up of both adults and youth.

"We have business owners that are part of the coalition. We have community members that are part of the coalition and health department employees that are part of the coalition," she said. "We come together and we assess

SEE YOUTH SERVICES
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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., Sunday, 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 swag.

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

Blessing of Animals planned at Strasburg Lutheran church

STRASBURG — Saron Lutheran Church will host an outdoor service with a special blessing for pets starting at 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at the church, 1656 Main St, Strasburg.

A brief history of St. Francis, patronage saint of animals and the environment, will be shared.

Pets must be leashed or caged. Photos of pets can also be blessed.

Refreshments will follow.

Senior Safety Day scheduled for Arapahoe Co. residents

CENTENNIAL — Four entities within Arapahoe County will host Senior Safety Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Arapahoe Community College.

The event, hosted by the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, South Metro Fire Rescue, and South Metro Safety Foundation, is tailored for older adults in Arapahoe County.

Participants will learn about consumer fraud and exploitation protection, emergency preparedness, and personal safety and security.

Doors open at 8 a.m. A \$10 registration fee is required and lunch will be

ArapCo offers tours of election facility

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County Elections will host three public tours of its facility to give voters an inside look at every step of the mail ballot process.

Tours explain processes to maintain election integrity. Visitors can watch election judges process ballots and elections staff will answer questions starting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28; 12 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, and 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 31, at 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton.

"Seeing all the checks and balances built into the process is the best way to understand why Colorado

elections are secure and accurate," said Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez. "Even the more skeptical folks we've hosted have come away with respect — and gratitude — for our elections system."

Tour attendees will witness how ballots are received from drop boxes, mail centers, and voting centers; ballot opening and sorting; signature verification; ballot tabulation; and adjudication.

Tours are limited to 20 people. Security measures will be in place to safeguard attendees and staff. To register, visit www.arapahoeco.gov.

provided.

Arapahoe Community College is located at 5900 S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton. For more information, e-mail tojsorrells@coda18.gov.

Fall-planted flowers seminar scheduled at library in Aurora

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County plans a seminar on planting floral bulbs during autumn from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Aurora Central Library, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

CSU Arapahoe County Master Gardener Ron Hogan will teach participants to make their yards harbinger of spring with colorful blooms from bulbs planted in the fall.

To register, visit The County Line newsletter page at arapahoeco.gov.

Cottage food safety focus of CSU Extension courses

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

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

Cottage Food Safety Statewide Online Training courses will be held

from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fridays, Sept. 19 and Oct. 3. The \$50 courses are three to four hours long and can be completed online.

The event is sponsored by CSU Extension offices in Arapahoe and Jefferson counties. For more information and to register, visit arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu.

Golf tournament fundraiser slated by local family center

BYERS — The Family Resources Center of the Eastern Plains will host a golf tournament benefit starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Quint Valley Golf Course in Byers.

The cost per team of two is \$150. Warm ups start at 8 a.m., with tee off set for 9 a.m.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. For more information and to register, visit www.FamilyResourceByers.org.

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.

Senior excursion planned to New Belgium Brewery

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a senior excursion to a tour of the New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins.

The bus will leave promptly at 10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 25, from the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St. Transportation is included, but advanced reservations are required due to limited seating. The fee is \$25; lunch is not included.

To RSVP, call (303)622-4260.

Donations sought for upkeep at Byers Community Cemetery

BYERS — The Byers Community Cemetery Association is seeking donations to defray seasonal maintenance costs.

Contributions of any amount are appreciated.

Gifts can be sent to BCCA, P.O. Box 733, Byers, Colo. 80103.

Call (303)917-5413 for additional information.

Conservation crews schedule cheatgrass management class

BENNETT — The Deer Trail, East Adams, and West Adams conservation districts will host a Cheatgrass Management Workshop starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Valhalla Hunt Club & Kennels, 450 County Road 133, Bennett.

Attendees will learn to identify cheatgrass and the importance of its management. Derek Sebastian with Envu Vegetation Management will present research findings of Rejuvra herbicide treatments and trials.

Registration is free. To RSVP, contact Jennifer at westadamsconservation@gmail.com or Tiffany at Deertraileastadams@cocds.org.

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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 every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)

Proverbs 20:17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

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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 Sunday services thru September

Info: strasburgorthodox.org

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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

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Wednesday, Sept. 24 | 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Arapahoe Community College

Visit: bit.ly/WFSummit25

In partnership with:






4-H EXTRAVAGANZA
Saturday, Sept. 27 | 10 a.m.–1 p.m.




Attention families! Looking for fun and educational activities that will help your kids grow?

Join us **Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**, at the 17 Mile House Farm Park, and learn more about 4-H membership.

This is a free event, but registration is strongly encouraged.

Register now at arapahoeco.gov/17milehouse



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Strasburg School District 31J

Invites District Residents & Voters to
Meet the School Board Candidates
6 - 7:15 p.m., Monday, Sept. 29
Hemphill Middle School Cafeteria

Come meet and ask questions of the
three candidates running for two
Strasburg School Board seats:

S

Courtney Vance

Gema Gomez

Venessia Jimenez

S

To submit questions
prior to the meet-and-
greet, scan the QR code
for a link to the proper
form.

Q&A session will be
monitored by Steven
Vetter, Managing Editor,
The I-70 Scout & Eastern
Colorado News.

SCAN ME



KATHY SMILEY/I-70Scout

Strasburg Comanche VIP Seniors members Pat Robbins, left, and Mary Humphrey look through previous meeting minutes during the group's regular monthly meeting Aug. 19 at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

YOUTH SERVICES
FROM PAGE 1

the risk factors that are going on along the Corridor.”

Risk factors are things individuals have in their lives that negatively affect their daily living. Risk factors can arise at home, in the neighborhood or in the greater community.

“Some risk factors include substance misuse — which is our primary focus — mental health issues, and getting into trouble with a lack of things to do,” Harrell said.

The group gathers data to identify risk factors specific to the Corridor, reaching out to Corridor schools and the town of Bennett municipal court for information on what they are seeing currently. Identified risk factors include limited economic opportunity and limited parental supervision.

“Then we look at what protective factors can we put in place to offset those risks,” Harrell said, adding that a protective factor in this case is providing more opportunities for families to be together in social settings.

“So, right now our youth coalition — Teens for Change — is focused on developing or organizing family friendly events,” she said. “(They discuss) what they can do to get the teens there and off the street even for a few hours, because that’s a few hours that they’re not out there doing drugs or street racing or tagging somewhere.”

The group’s most recent event was a free bowling night in Strasburg.

“The grant paid for the teens that came and bowled, and a parent offered to provide concessions for all the teens. It was great, because that’s what we’re trying to do, is build that community where we’re working together to keep these youth active and be part of it in a positive manner.”

The group is now planning a backyard game and open mic night at Trupp Park in Bennett from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19.

“We’re hoping to have a good turnout there,” Harrell said.



KATHY SMILEY/I-70Scout

Nichole Harrell, Community Mobilizer for I-70 Corridor Communities that Care and Teens for Change, speaks at the Comanche VIP Seniors group Aug. 19.

The underlying focus of such events is substance use prevention.

“Prevention is stopping it before it happens,” Harrell said. “We want to catch these kids before they are trying out any of these substances.”

Harrell said the group does not conduct interventions or rehabilitation.

“We’re not treatment. We are not any of us licensed counselors for substance misuse,” she said. “So we have the privilege of identifying what can we put in place to keep someone from falling into substance misuse and help them build up this community and thrive here, live here, and raise their kids here to be healthy. That’s our main focus.”

The I-70 Corridor Communities that Care coalition is always looking for volunteers.

“We need your ideas, energy and involvement to make a difference in our I-70 Corridor community,” Harrell said.

For more information, visit www.i70cctc.com or call Harrell at (303)644-5049.

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Construction standards adjustments: ArapCo seeks input on new proposals

LITTLETON — Proposals have been for changes to Arapahoe County's Infrastructure Design & Construction Standards (IDCS).

The changes incorporate previously made comments that were not included in the June update.

The public can comment on the newest round of proposed changes through Friday, Oct. 10, by filling out a form at www.arapahoeco.gov.

The comprehensive guide for roadway analysis and design applies to all subdivisions, re-subdivisions, planned unit developments, and any other proposed construction submitted for approval in unincorporated Arapahoe County. The IDCS was previously updated in 2007, 2019 and, following a Board of County Commissioners public hearing, on March 11.

A major component of the proposed changes is pavement restoration requirements for street cut permits. Any work that requires street pavement to be dug up will now require lane-to-lane restoration. This work would include water, sewer and utilities. The county hopes the new requirement will reduce potholes that develop from single-lane restoration.

The proposal also:

- adds abbreviations and acronyms, a statement regarding design professionals, licensed engineers and surveyors, and a signage example for private roads;
- defines the relationship and administration between the county and the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority;
- modifies pavement design to composite sections;
- includes a pipe abandonment statement;
- reestablishes survey control requirements;
- updates collateral amounts establishment and as-built and digital file requirements;
- clarifies Subsurface Underground Engineering Requirements for Utility Construction Plans; and
- further defines clear sight distances for intersections and horizontal curves.

The proposed changes will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption following a public hearing in the coming months. The draft and additional information are available at www.arapahoeco.gov.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Sept. 18: Bean and cheese burrito.

Monday, Sept. 22: Hamburger, potato.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Beef fingers.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Chicken patty sandwich.

BENNETT

Thursday, Sept. 18: Waffle, sausage, hash browns.

Monday, Sept. 22: Seasoned black beans, carrots, cucumber, lettuces diced tomatoes, red delicious apples, canned mixed fruit.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Cheese or pepperoni pizza, marinara, carrots, roasted broccoli, celery, cucumber, grapes, Zee Zee.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Cherry blossom chicken, Asian rice, sweet and spicy edamame, cucumber, carrots, roasted cauliflower, oranges

BYERS

Thursday, Sept. 18: Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, steamed carrots.

Friday, Sept. 19: French toast with syrup, sausage links, hash browns, orange juice.

Monday, Sept. 22: Chicken tenders, biscuit, orange wedges.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Ham and cheese croissant, Sun Chips, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Buffalo chicken pocket, baked beans, peaches.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Sept. 18: Nachos with taco meat.

Friday, Sept. 19: Grilled cheese, tomato soup.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Chicken and waffles.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Ham and cheese croissant sandwich.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Sept. 18: Bosco sticks.

Monday, Sept. 22: Crispy chicken drumsticks.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Pizza.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Breakfast for lunch.



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Byers School District 32J
MEET THE CANDIDATES for BYERS SCHOOL BOARD
 Thursday, Sept. 25
 6 p.m. @ School Cafeteria
 Come meet candidates:
 Jennifer Borders, Kres Ebert,
 Logan MacLennan & Jerry Sauer.



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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.
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anythinklibraries.org

Aging Mastery Program: Arapahoe County CSU Extension and Arapahoe County Health will present the Aging Mastery series to older adults and care partners every Tuesday and Thursday to create a guidebook for aging well. The series will offer useful information on community, exercise, falls prevention, finance, healthy relationships, medication management and sleep. Participants are encouraged to attend at least seven sessions. Light refreshments provided. 1-3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 18, 23, 25, 30 and Oct. 2 and 7.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League to learn helpful photography skills from local photographer Carl Steitz. Participants should bring cameras. 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Comanche Crossing Museum, 56060 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Tarot club: Adults can learn about the tarot and do readings for other participants to practice their skills in a beginner-friendly workshop. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20.

Mini horses: Attendees of all ages can meet and learn all about mini horses. They will see up close how to take care of the adorable animals from Veronica Cobian and her family at Five Star Minis Farm. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27.

After-School Drop-In Crafting: Children ages 7 and up can stop by after school to relax and craft. Supplies provided with a variety of projects like friendship bracelets, crochet, paint-on canvas, slime and more. Participants can come in anytime during program hours to find something fun to make and take home. 3:30-6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Library for All Halloween Haunts: Adults are welcome for an afternoon of Halloween-themed stories, crafts and games with prizes. "Library for All" programs are developed with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in mind. The ses-

sion is open to all adults. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in activities with shapes and colors to help prepare for school. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a take-home goody bag will be provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 19.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Candlemaking: Just in time for spooky season, teens are invited to make candles in a variety of scents, shapes and colors. Free snacks. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Noted national speaker visit to Bennett School announced

BENNETT — Bennett School District 29J will host an educational public speaking event with a nationally known speaker from 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Bennett School auditorium, 610 Seventh St.

Wimmer is passionate about addiction education and sobriety advocacy. He works with schools, health departments, and organizations nationwide to connect with youth, create safe places, and raise awareness about the danger of big vape and other predatory industries.

A Community Resource Fair where families can access valuable local resources through is also planned.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Business Education Event: Leadership in Action. 9-11 a.m., 6954 S. Lima St., Centennial. To register, visit www.adworks.org.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

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

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Innovation Summit. 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 5900

S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton. To register, visit www.adworks.org.

Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY MONDAY

Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hpmemusicdirector@gmail.com or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

1st Annual Constitution Week on the I-70 Corridor!

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September 15th – 21st, 1506 Main St., Strasburg

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Unless stated otherwise, all events are at Holy Spirit Livin'- For God, Family and Country

Wednesday – 1:30 p.m. Patriotic Concert by Hemphill Middle School

▲▲▲ Please come support our Local Youth ▲▲▲

6:00 p.m. Community Potluck

6:30 p.m. Presentation of Patriot Academy's "Constitution Alive!"

Thursday – 6:00 p.m. Appetizers provided and followed by –

6:30 p.m. Pastor Zac Sanger of Living Springs Cowboy Church speaking on God and Country

Friday – 4:00 p.m. Francine Wilson of Peyton, CO,

speaking on God's Covenant with America

6:00 p.m. Community Potluck followed by –

6:30 p.m. Kirk Cameron's documentary on the founding of our nation, "Monumental"

Saturday – 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck followed by

Patriotic sing-a-longs and a time of fellowship.

Sunday – 10:00 a.m. Cowboy Church, 2722 SCR 173, Byers, if you'd like to hear more from Pastor Zac

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Fellowship, Snacks and Open House at Holy Spirit Livin' – For God, Family and Country

Save the date, October 7th, 6-8 p.m.:

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

From left photo, Lady Bulldog Abi Green dives for a dig, and Lady Indian Ellen Middlemist looks to hit over or through a double-block during Byers' three-set victory Sept. 11.

Lady Bulldogs beat 'Burg for 1st time since '19

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BYERS — For the first time since before the pandemic season, Byers recorded a win over Strasburg in their annual Corridor volleyball rivalry; the host Bulldogs swept the visiting red-and-black 25-22, 25-13, 25-19 Sept. 11.

"We haven't beaten Strasburg in a few years, but we came into the match with a focus on outworking them and having fun rather than feeling the pressure to win," said Byers head coach Jessica Fournier, noting that Thursday's victory was the first over Strasburg since 2019 and followed up a five-set thriller over visiting Gilpin County Sept. 9. "I am really proud of the girls — what a fun match it was and a great week overall."

With the score 7-7 in the first set, the host green-and-black won the next 4 points and held a 2- to 6-point advantage throughout the rest of the set. With the score 24-20, Strasburg held off two game points, but a deep push into the far corner of the Indian defense completed the win.

In set two, Byers won 7 of the first 10 points and never looked back. The game was put out of reach on a 5-point Byers run that extended the advantage from 11-7 to 16-7.

In game three, the Bulldogs trailed 3-0 before scoring 11 of the next 15 points and growing their advantage to 23-14. With the score 24-16, Strasburg fought off three match points before a service

error into the net finished the evening. "Winning volleyball matches is really based on who can win the serve and pass game [and] we served aggressively and our passing is improving every day," Fournier said. "I thought we pressured Strasburg well the entire match and didn't let any balls drop without effort."

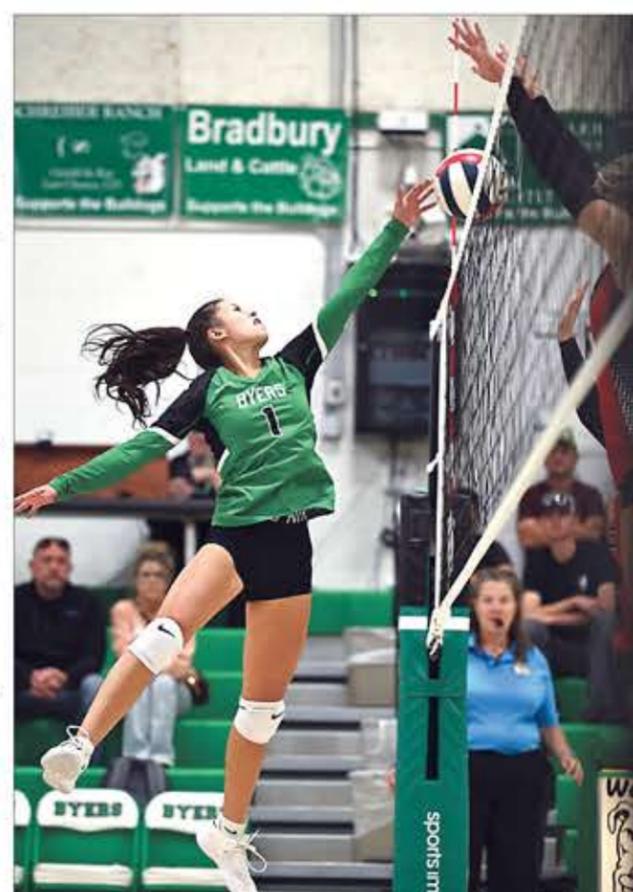
"I'm not saying they were due, but Jessica and her staff had the Byers girls ready and they outplayed us in every facet of the game," said Strasburg head coach Larry Deffenbaugh, who coached Fournier during her playing days at Strasburg in the 2000s. "Not disappointed with the losing but disappointed with the effort and the attitude between the girls. We stood around flat-footed, no energy, not a lot of spirit. We can lose but not like this."

The Byers offensive attack was again dominated by a sophomore trio as Karley Linnebur and Joclynn Rector both slammed nine kills apiece and Leyla Sayler recorded 22 assists.

From the service line, the Bulldogs recorded double-digit aces, led by Linnebur with six.

Defensively, junior Taiya Eymann had a pair of Bulldog blocks, while Sayler and senior Kiera Egl-off dug up a team-high seven digs and Rector and senior Abi Green added five apiece.

"A great all-around effort," Fournier said. "Hopefully that confidence-builder we need moving forward."



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Byers' Joclynn Rector jousts with Lady Indian blockers Sept. 11.

SEE VB B'BURG @ BYERS
PAGE 10

Strasburg boys pace Corridor harriers with two team titles

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Strasburg Indian boys stand with the first-place trophy after winning the team title at the Golddigger Dash hosted by Clear Creek Sept. 8. Team members are Isaac James, left, Nick Jimenez, Jacob Breiding, Dawit James, Will Hauser, Jeremiah Redd and Noah Dobransky.

The Strasburg boys cross country team won the Fort Morgan Mustang Invitational Cross County Meet Sept. 5, and the girls finished fifth.

The Indians boys scored 65 team points, placing first out of 13 teams, and the girls totaled 132, taking fifth out of eight.

Byers also attended the event but had too few participants to qualify for the team scoring, which was tallied on five runners and the Bulldogs had just four boys and one girl in attendance.

"This is the first time we have attended the cross country race in Fort Morgan," said Byers head coach Kelci Crispe. "We thought it was a great, fast course and were very pleased with our times."

The Indians and Bulldogs also participated in the Golddigger Dash at Clear Creek High School in Evergreen Sept. 8.

"Our team is in a great place at this

point of the season. Amazingly, our boys varsity won on a flat/fast course on Friday at Fort Morgan and then came back with a mountain course win against mountain teams at the Golddigger Dash," which is at 7,500 feet elevation, said Indian head coach Mike James.

At Fort Morgan, the top five runners counted toward the total team points. At Evergreen, the top four were scored.

MUSTANG INVITATIONAL STRASBURG

Scoring harriers for the boys were senior Dawit James, who placed second with a time of 17:07.51.

In addition, junior Noah Dobransky (fifth, 17:46.78) and seniors Jeremiah Redd (eighth, 17:56.86), Israel James (17th, 18:46.15), and Will Hauser (33rd, 19:49.86) all contributed to the winning team score.

"Our varsity boys ran a great race by
SEE CROSS COUNTRY
PAGE 8

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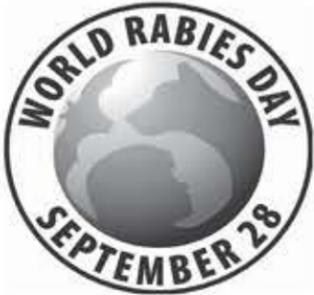
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CROSS COUNTRY FROM PAGE 7

running in pairs for most of the race," Mike James said.

The Indian girls were paced by junior Maura Kramer, who took seventh with a time of 21:58.66. James noted that her time put her at No. 10 on the Strasburg Hall of Fame list of fastest times and "a great spot to challenge for making the state championship as an individual."

Senior Megan Lay (30th, 24:28.38), junior Naomi Redd (41st, 25:21.76), sophomore Sarah Larsen (48th, 26:26.54, personal record), and senior Kasianna Christiansan (55th, 27:28.50) also scored team points for the Indians. In addition, personal records were established by senior Elle Alcid (27:36.62) and freshman Lacey Dittenhauser (28:47.29).

"Every girl had either an overall PR or a season-best performance," James added.

Byers competed Sept. 12 at the Lamar Invitational and Strasburg at the Liberty bell Invitations in Littleton Sept. 13.

BYERS

Senior Michaela Casey, the only Lady Bulldog in attendance, was top finisher for either Byers squad with 17th place and a time of 22:59.39.

"She was able to produce a great time against good competition," Crispe said.

Senior Ben Gerhardt led the Bulldog boys in 28th place with a time of (19:17.28). Other participants were senior Torin Wardall (69th, 21:38.40), junior Skyler Walters, (103rd, 23:54.93), and sophomore Matthew Wardall, (106th, 24:11.39).

"Our boys team worked together to beat or come close to their [personal records]," Crispe added.

BOYS TEAM SCORES

1. Strasburg 65
2. University 86
3. Northridge 113
4. Wiggins 121
5. Peyton 167
6. Mountain View 170
7. Yuma 192
8. Brush 195
9. Fort Morgan 209
10. Platte Valley 222
11. Fleming 233
12. Sterling 255
13. Burlington 287

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

1. Mountain View 28
2. University 71
3. Eaton 97
4. Fort Morgan 122
5. Strasburg 132
6. Cheyenne South 159
7. Merino 160
8. Platte Valley 180
9. Wiggins 224

GOLDDIGGER DASH

STRASBURG

The Strasburg boys also won the Golddigger Dash, and this time their star athlete, Dawit James, won the event, and he was one of three Indians to make the top 10.

James posted a time of 18:45.90. His brother, Israel James, placed sixth with a time of 20:44.50 followed by Redd in eighth at 21:13.50, Hauser (24:13.4) 36th and freshman Jacob Breiding (24:54.8) took 44th to round out Strasburg's 48 team points.

Coach James described the event as a "brutal hill course" that featured a particular hill nicknamed Mr. Hill by the home team

"Most of the boys and girls competitors walked on part of the hill," he said. "The majority of our team ran

the hill."

Specifically, Israel James, Redd and Breiding each passed six competitors on MR Hill.

Dawit James missed breaking the meet record by 6 seconds and took first by a margin of 34 seconds.

"He made 15 seconds of the margin on MR Hill alone - completely attacking it," the coach said.

The Indian girls took fifth as a team with 109 points. Kramer was again the team's leader, running a 27:19.20 for 12th place. Lay (30:40.90) was 34th, Redd (30:59.00) 35th, Dittenhauser (34:23.70) 45th, and Christiansan (35:25.10) 48th.

"The team is responding well to the alternate training plan we are using this year to prepare for a flat/fast course for regionals in Colorado Springs on Oct. 23," James concluded.

BYERS

Crispe likes the Golddigger course and concurred with coach James on its geography.

"The Clear Creek race is one of our favorites to attend each year," she said. "The hills are very challenging and not something we are able to see much of [on the Eastern Plains]."

Neither Byers team met the minimum five athletes to qualify for the team scoring, but Crispe was pleased with the Bulldogs who were available.

Casey placed 14th with a time of 27:34.20.

"We were still fighting some injuries with the girls team," Crispe said. "Michaela Casey ran a great race and continues to improve on her time each week."

Gerhardt (27th, 23:12.8), Torin Wardall (52nd, 26:00.20), Walters (62nd, 27:40.90), and Matthew Wardall (70th, 29:50.90) also competed.

"The runners did a great job of using the course as a strong training run," Crispe concluded. "The boys all pushed themselves to their limits, and, while they did not produce their best times, they fought hard every minute."

BOYS TEAM SCORES

1. Strasburg 48
- 2-3. Evergreen, Twin Peaks Charter Academy 65
4. Brighton 73
5. Middle Park 86
6. Platte Canyon 87
7. Clear Creek 113
8. Stargate 134
9. Denver Academy 138
10. Bear Creek 143
11. Eagle Ridge Academy 195
12. Byers 197

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

1. Evergreen 12
2. Middle Park 29
3. Brighton 71
4. Twin Peaks Charter Academy 89
5. Strasburg 109
6. Eagle Ridge Academy 124
7. Bear Creek 134
- 8-9. Clear Creek, Stargate 136

STRASBURG SCHEDULE

Sept. 20: @ St. Vrain Invitational, Lyons.
Sept. 26: @ Legacy Lightning Invitational, Broomfield.

BYERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 19: @ Arvada West Invitational.
Sept. 23: @ Runners Roost Invitational, Adams County Fairgrounds.

BENNETT SCHEDULE

Sept. 19: @ Wizards Invitational, Windsor.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The TNT Explosions competitive gymnastics team from the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District's Twisters Gymnastics, Dance and Cheer program had a successful state meet in late July with 21 of 23 qualifiers placing in individual events and in all-around competition. From left, members of the squad's Level 3, Optional 1S and Optional 2S teams, all which placed at the state meet, stand with their medals.

Local gymnasts celebrate successful state meet

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

WESTMINSTER — Even with a change in qualifying protocols this year, the Strasburg-based TNT Explosions competitive gymnastics team recently concluded a successful summer with 23 of 24 girls qualifying for the Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics State Meet July 26-27 at Hyland Hills Sports Center, Westminster.

According to Tina Connelly, coordinator for the Strasburg Park & Recreation District's Twisters Gymnastics, Cheer & Dance, the 2025 summer season included an additional level of qualification — regional meets held July 19-20.

“We have not had a regional qualifying competition since COVID [because] of low numbers across the state,” Connelly said. “With teams returning to CARA, we were back at 1,000 competitors so, in order to narrow down the state championships to the best of the best, we had to have regionals to bring the state meet down to 20 participants in each age group. To make it to state, our girls had to place in the top six in an individual event or in the all-around. All but one girl qualified for state, so it was a very good season.”

At the state meet, the Explosions more than held their own, recording two event ti-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Left photo, 10 of 12 Level 2 members of the Strasburg-based TNT Explosions competitive gymnastics team placed during the Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics State Meet in late July. Right photo, Briar Burck was the first Explosions member to compete at state in the Optional 3 division.

ties; a handful of second-place winners; six of the top-10 all-around finishers in Level 2; three of the top 10 in the all-around at Level 3; a third-place all-around finish in the all-around in the Optional 2S Division; and the program's first-ever state qualifier and place-winner in an Optional 3 event.

“It was a great season and we are already working for the next season in 2026,” Connelly said.

Coaches for the TNT Explosions competitive squad are Shay Zuther, Bethany Simpkins, Jenelle Weaver, Delilah Sanderson and Alyvia Hart.

STATE MEET RESULTS

Twisters results from the state meet follow:

LEVEL 2

Makenna Egloff — 5th on floor exercise and 3rd in the all-around.

Josie Garcia — 4th on beam and 10th in the all-around.

Aryana Marrero — 12th on bars and beam.

Maci Hasenbalg — 15th on floor and 16th in the all-around.

Ivory Simpson — 1st on vault, 4th on bars, 5th on beam and 4th in the all-around.

Isabella Frankl — 2nd on vault, 5th on beam, 4th on floor and 5th in the all-around.

Lily Stough — 6th on bars, 3rd

on beam and 6th in the all-around.

Sadie Lusser — 6th on vault, 7th on bar, 8th on beam and 9th in the all-around.

Sydney Rummel — 9th on beam and 2nd on floor.

Kaylee Wisser — 15th on the floor.

LEVEL 3

Yareli Tarango — 2nd on vault, 7th on floor and 8th in the all-around.

Aspen Sir — 6th on bars and 2nd on floor.

Daphne Sanderson — 2nd on vault, 3rd on floor and 10th in the all-around.

McKenna Ward — 6th on bars,

1st in beam, 7th on floor and 3rd in the all-around.

OPTIONAL 1S

Sadie Hart — 8th on beam, 2nd on floor and 10th all-around.

Emmy Garcia — 10th on beam.

McClain Burck — 11th on vault and beam.

OPTIONAL 2S

Lovea Nelson — 6th on beam.

Emelie Cardenas — 1st on vault, 2nd on bars, 11th on floor, 6th on beam and 3rd all-around.

McKenna Garcia — 9th on bars and 15th on floor.

OPTIONAL 3

Briar Burck — 11th in vault.

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VB 'BURG @ BYERS

FROM PAGE 7

For Strasburg, Deffenbaugh played a dozen girls, trying numerous combinations to try and find a spark but to no avail.

"Did you see how I was substituting to find an answer?" Deffenbaugh retorted. "I know the potential is there to play good volleyball, I've seen it, but not right now and we have to figure things out."

Ten Indians recorded at least one kill with senior Victoria Nuttall and freshman Ellen Middlemist tying for the team-high with four kills, sophomore Laci Zimmerman with three, and seniors Hannah Damron and Parker Shuck and junior Tatijana Rojahn, two each. Freshman Camryn Forbis recorded 10 of Strasburg's 17 assists.

At the service line, Strasburg had a sub-par 78.6% success rate with 12 errors and only three aces. Conversely, the Indians' serve-serve was also suspect with seven mishandled Bulldog serves. Defensively, the visitors had one combo block on the evening and recorded 46 digs, led by junior libero Jenna Echer with 11, Damron with nine and Nuttall with eight.

Thursday night's result moved both teams to a game under .500 — Byers' second consecutive win after losing its first three matches and Strasburg falling for the fourth time after winning its first three contests.

GILPIN COUNTY @ BYERS

Byers started last week with a yo-yo-like performance on Tuesday, outlasting the visiting Eagles from Black Hawk 25-17, 19-25, 25-14, 21-25, 15-7.

After flip-flopping wins over the first four sets, the deciding game was tied 3-3 when Fournier's troops went on a 3-point run and won 5-of-6 rallies to take an 8-4 lead. With the score 8-7, Byers didn't lose a point the rest of the way; after a side-out made the score 9-7, Green toed the service line for the final 6 points.

"I was glad we pulled out that win. We served really, really well and our scrappiness was much improved," Fournier said, adding that current Gilpin head coach and former Strasburg coach Topher Rouse complimented



Lady Bulldog Kiera Egloff, left, returns serve and Strasburg's Parker Shuck smacks the ball back during Byers' three-set sweep during the annual Corridor rivalry Sept. 11



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

his team's defensive effort. "Topher told me after the match how annoying we were because we wouldn't let any balls touch the floor, which is a great compliment from a fellow coach."

In game one, an 8-point run turned a 9-9 tie into a 17-9 advantage for the Bulldogs, who didn't let Gilpin County get any closer than 4 points the rest of the way.

The second set saw the visitors turn around a 9-6 deficit with their own 9-point run to take a 15-9 lead and extended their advantage to 23-13. With the score 24-16, Byers fought off a trio of set points before falling.

In game three, Byers appeared to set the tone, scoring the first 3 points and 7 of the first 10. But, midway through the set the score was tied at 12, the home team took control, going on a 10-0 run and scoring 13 of the final 15 points of the set.

But the Bulldogs were unable to maintain the momentum in the last half of game four. With the score 11-11, Gilpin won 8 of the next 11 points

to go up 19-14. The closest Byers got was 23-21 before yielding the final 2 points.

"We were a bit of a roller coaster with Gilpin, which is something we've been talking about improving on," Fournier said. "The girls acknowledge this and are really working on keeping level heads and emotions no matter who we play."

Nowhere was the Jekyll-and-Hyde nature of Byers' play more evident than at the service line where the Bulldogs recorded a whopping 28 aces but also committed 19 errors, dropping their service percentage to 81%. Saylor, Linnebur and Rector led the service attack with nine, eight and six aces, respectively.

When the visitors got into their attack, they were strong with 41 kills, led by Linnebur with 14, Rector 12, and Green nine. Saylor was again the primary facilitator with 30 of the visitors' 34 assists.

On defense, Byers committed only seven errors on 72 opportunities,

while blocking three Eagle attacks and accumulating 31 digs. Sophomore Olivia Eastwood recorded Byers' lone solo block while Rector, Eymann and Eastwood combined for the other two. Saylor and senior Jenah Bequette tied for the team high in digs with nine apiece while Rector added six and Green five.

The Lady Bulldogs look to extend their win streak to three when they travel 12 miles west Sept. 18 to take on Corridor rival Bennett.

STERLING @ STRASBURG

The Lady Indians' third setback in their four-match skid was a 25-14, 25-18, 25-18 sweep at the hands of visiting Patriot League foe and 3A top 10-ranked Sterling Sept. 9.

"I thought we played a little bit better against Sterling than we did two days later, but still just not playing Strasburg volleyball, especially what I'm accustomed to," Deffenbaugh said. "Just a lot of struggles, especially on serve-serve and serving ourselves. Not getting what we need to from our seniors and our other best players."

The Indians recorded 23 kills, led by Nuttall with eight, Damron six, and Zimmerman five. Forbis had 17 of the hosts' 19 assists.

At the service line, Strasburg was under 80% with three aces — one each for Victoria Nuttall, junior Brooke Nuttall, and freshman Ava McKenner.

Defensively, Zimmerman recorded one block while Brooke Nuttall had a team-high in digs with 10, followed by Damron with nine, Echer six, and Forbis and Victoria Nuttall with five apiece.

The Patriot League gauntlet for Deffenbaugh's troops continued this week, starting with their Sept. 16 trip to Greeley to face 4A top 10-ranked University. Results were unavailable at press time.

BYERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 19: Burlington.
Sept. 23: @ Flagler
Sept. 27: Byers Bulldog Tournament.
Sept. 30: @ Genoa-Hugo.
Oct. 2: Deer Trail.
Oct. 7: Elbert.

Lady Indians struggle in 1-2 weekend against tough Denver Christian tournament field

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

LAKESWOOD — The Lady Indians endured a difficult day Sept. 6 as they dropped two of three matches at the Denver Christian Tournament in Lakewood.

Strasburg defeated Fountain Valley 25-11, 25-14 and 26-24 but lost to Ignacio 25-19, 25-13, 25-18 and to Denver Christian 25-20, 25-19, 25-23. The Lady Indians overall record dropped to 3-2.

"We just gotta keep working on our consistency," said head coach Larry Deffenbaugh. "And keep trying to improve our attack and attack a little smarter and improve our defense."

Deffenbaugh also noted the team's rotation includes three freshmen and a sophomore.

"We're asking a lot from our younger players and I think they'll be fine down the road. I really do," Deffenbaugh said.

On a brighter note, Strasburg's junior varsity team won its own tournament on Saturday. The mini-Lady Indians beat both Byers and Eagle Ridge Academy in three sets and The Academy and Kiowa in two.

The final score with Byers was 25-22, 19-25, 15-8.

FOUNTAIN VALLEY

Strasburg basically dominated the Lady Danes the first two sets of the Indians first tournament contest, but Deffenbaugh noted "slippage" in the third set as Fountain Valley forced the Indians into

extra points.

Team leaders were senior Vic Nuttall with five kills, seven digs, and nine serve-receives; senior Hannah Damron, four kills, three aces, one block, nine digs, and 12 serve-receives; junior Brooke Nuttall, three aces, six digs, and 10 serve-receives; and junior Jenna Echer, two aces, eight digs, and eight serve-receives.

Sophomore Laci Zimmerman, freshman Ellen Middlemist, and junior Tatijana Rojahn posted seven, six and four kills, respectively, and freshman Camryn Forbes recorded 25 assists and one ace.

DENVER CHRISTIAN

Strasburg continued its good play against the Lady Thunder and its trio of powerful hitters. Thunder junior Amina Weber had 18 kills followed by seniors Addison Ruter and Natalie Gohannon with eight and seven, respectively.

"They're well coached," Deffenbaugh said. "And we played them pretty close. We just made too many unforced errors. And we're still working on trying to get our attack better."

"They're trying. They're working hard," Deffenbaugh said of his players. "So I was OK with the performance against Denver Christian."

Top Strasburg "killers" were Middlemist with nine, Vic Nuttall with seven, and Damron with six.

The biggest diggers were Echer with 13, Vic Nuttall 11, Brooke Nuttall 10 and Damron nine.

Best receivers were Echer with 18, Damron 15, and Vic Nuttall 12.

In addition, Echer had two aces; Forbis led in as-

sists with 19 and had one ace; and Damron tacked on one block.

IGNACIO

The game with the Lady Bobcats immediately followed the Denver Christian contest and it showed.

"We just have to understand that the mind goes before the body," Deffenbaugh said. "We just got to be mentally tougher."

He noted that Ignacio took Denver Christian to four sets.

"But I felt like we looked tired and didn't play with the energy we needed to play with," Deffenbaugh continued. "So we're working at that. They just got to understand when to do a better job of being smart. Be aggressive and be smart."

Strasburg's three-ball passing wasn't sharp and missed serves also hurt.

"I would say that's a match we probably maybe had a chance to win," Deffenbaugh said. "I mean, they're good. Ignacio's a good team. So we just take the loss and learn from it and move forward."

STRASBURG SCHEDULE

Sept. 18: Windsor Charter.
Sept. 23: @ Weld Central.
Sept. 25: Brush
Oct. 2: @ Eaton.
Oct. 7: Simla.
Oct. 9: @ Platte Valley.
Oct. 14: Resurrection Christian.
Oct. 16: @ Frontier Academy.
Oct. 21: @ Wiggins

DT girls overcome absences for second straight sweep

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail Lady Eagles recorded their second consecutive win via sweep and, in the process, likely found lineup depth for the rest of the season.

The shorthanded red-and-white downed the visiting War Eagles of Liberty Tree Academy 25-23, 25-19, 25-20 Sept. 9.

The hosts were without sophomore Landree Cox and junior Kylie Bryant, but head coach Amy Cox found the right combinations off the bench to help secure the victory.

“I wasn’t sure how the girls would handle being down a setter and a solid server, but they took it in stride and went to work,” coach Cox said. “Everyone served well that night and our other setter stepped up and did a good job doing it all versus the 6-2 (offense) we usually run. They stayed upbeat and it was a fun game for them.”

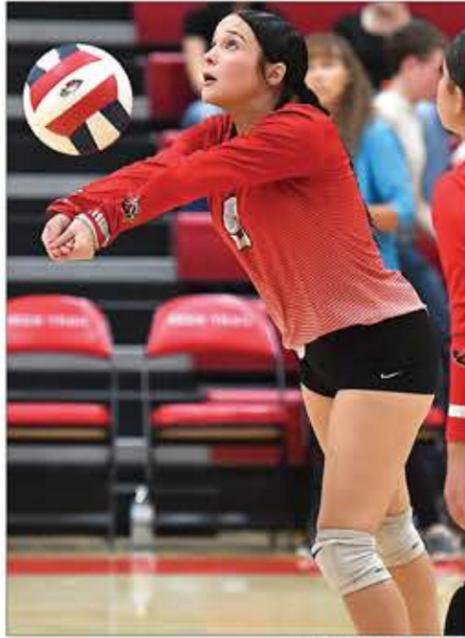
In game one, a 6-point run put the host Eagles up 10-4 and, while Liberty Tree stayed within shouting distance and got within 21-20, Deer Trail won four of the final six rallies.

Midway through set two, Deer Trail found itself down 15-13, but won 6 consecutive points to take the lead and never look back. The visitors pulled within 21-19 but Deer Trail won the final 4 points of the set.

The victors led wire-to-wire in set three, including a 3-0 start, and grew the advantage to as many as 7.

Offensively, junior Vailini Samate led Deer Trail in multiple stat categories with a team-high six kills and four assists; she also tied for the team-high in service aces with sophomore Gracie McGough with three.

Defensively, senior Megan Donovan recorded the Eagles’ lone solo stuff, while Samate hit the floor for 15 digs, followed by sophomore Fatuma Hussein and freshman Ruby Ramirez with



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Sophomore Gracie McGough returns a Liberty Tree Academy serve during Deer Trail’s three-set home victory Sept. 9.

six apiece and Donovan and senior Jeanette Rodriguez with five each. Other underclassmen that stepped up included sophomore KyAnn Kitzman and freshman Addisyn Martinez.

“I am seeing improvement each week in our play,” Cox added. “I feel the younger girls are getting more comfortable on the court and getting used to the pace of varsity volleyball. With what I’m seeing out of the younger girls, there’s some good potential for the years to come.”

The red-and-white extended its win streak to three and improved the overall record to 3-5 with another sweep at Bethune Sept. 9, but specifics of the victory were unavailable at press time. For complete coverage, see the Sept. 19 edition the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP

- Sept. 18: @ Limon.
- Sept. 19: Branson/Kim.
- Sept. 20: Elbert



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'Bennett In Bloom' during annual community celebration



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The three category winners during Saturday's Bennett Days parade from the Bennett School campus to Trupp Park on the west edge of town are, from left, the Freedom Fighters 4-H Club for Best Youth Float; Paula Sotelo for Best Craftmanship, and Living Springs Veterinary Care Best Use of Theme.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Willy and Annie Copeland and cousin, Sylvia, throw candy to parade-goers while the VW float entry of aunt and sister Emma Copeland, who has a local housecleaning company; a young lady from the Krieger's Commercial & Fleet Services float throws out bags of potato chips; mother Sophia Myers raises 15-month-old son Dawson's hand during Saturday's concert by Denver-based Animal Farm, which included drummer Eric Low and guitarist/vocalist David "Farmer Dave" Ladon.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, a young aspiring artist picks her favorite paint brush at one of the artist's booth around Trupp Park Saturday; a young man tries to hide in the foam sprayed by Bennett-Watkins firefighters; Blake Parich, 4, gets his legs taken out by the arm of a machine swinging an inflatable swinging arm; Haydin Hackett looks down for support as she climbs a rock wall; and Hyland Beery, 9, lays out to grab a ball while being pulled back by a bungee cord attached to her back.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, face painting was a popular attraction at Trupp Park Saturday; Annalisa Millholland, left, fudges the rules just a bit as she manually pushes the target to plunge friend Monica Madera into the dunk tank; and the first-year of a car show included a variety of vehicle occupants, including this well-behaved K-9 passenger.

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- CRAB - Prairie Fire/Red, 6-8' #5 cont.
- CRAB - Spring Snow Fruitless
- HONEYLOCUST - Imperial, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST - Shademaster, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST - Skyline, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST - Sunburst, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- INDEN - Greenspire, 4-7' x 1" #5 cont.
- MAPLE - High Mound, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- MAPLE - Sienna Glen, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- MOUNTAIN ASH - European, 7-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- OAK - Bur, 8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- OAK - Crimson Spire, 3-6' #5 cont.
- OAK - Red, 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK - Royal 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, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- YELLOWWOOD TREE - American, #5 cont.

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- HONEYLOCUST Skyline, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST Sunburst, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- LINDEN Greenspire, 4-7' x 1" #5 cont.
- MAPLE High Mound, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- MAPLE Sienna Glen, 8-10x11' #5 cont.
- MOUNTAIN ASH European, 7-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- OAK Bur, 8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- OAK Crimson Spire, 3-6' #5 cont.
- OAK Red, 6-8' #5 cont.
- OAK Royal 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.
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- COTTONWOOD - Robusta, 10-12' x 1 1/2" #30 cont.
- CRAB - Gaillardia, 8-10' x 1 1/2" #15 cont.
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- CRAB - Ruby Tears Weeping, 8-10' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.
- CRAB - Spring Snow, 7-8' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.
- HAWTHORNE - Russian, 8-10' x 1 1/2" #15 cont.
- HONEYLOCUST - Skyline, 10-12' x 1" #10 cont.
- JUNIPER Blue Arrow, 4-5' #10 cont. Moravia
- MAPLE - Silver, 10-12x11' 1 1/2" #10 cont.
- PEAR - Chanticleer, 8-10x11' 1 1/2" #10 cont.
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Lady Tigers .500 after D'Evelyn tourney, league opener

by Douglas Claussen
 Publisher & Editor

The Bennett volleyball team went 3-2 over its past five games, defeating The Pinnacle Sept. 8 and going 2-2 at the D'Evelyn Tournament Sept. 6.

At the tournament, the Lady Tigers topped STEM Highlands Ranch and DSST College View but lost to Gunnison and D'Evelyn.

"There's just a few things that we need to work on defensively and then putting the ball down and finding the floor," said Bennett head coach Corissa Thornton. "And those are things that are going come as their confidence gets up and they continue to

work together as a team."

Thornton said she urged her players to serve well, and the team responded with a serving percentage that exceeded 90% for the tournament. She added that, unlike years past, the Lady Tigers do not have a dominating player.

"Everybody equally contributes and I have to have everybody do their part to win," she said. "They have a really good team dynamic. It's just getting their skills to all jibe together all at the same time."

"It's like an orchestra. Everyone really just does their part."

The Tigers now stand at 3-3. They hosted the Bennett Invitational Tour-

namment Sept. 13 and Arvada Sept. 15. Results were not available at press time.

@ D'EVELYN TOURNAMENT

DSST: College View, STEM Highlands Ranch and Gunnison, as well as Bennett and the hosts, competed against each other all day long.

STEM: HIGHLANDS RANCH

Bennett's most competitive contest was against Highlands Ranch in the schools' first match of the day.

The Lady Tigers won 25-19, 25-18.

"I really wanted [the Lady Tigers] to get a win under their belt, get their confidence up a little bit," Thornton said. "So that was a good school to play to do that. Everybody played really well."

Bennett's service was outstanding with one error in 49 serve attempts. Juniors Emilee Venneberg and Abigail Thornton had three aces each. Juniors Nancy Jordan and Kaylonnie Mclaury had one apiece.

Venneberg and senior Jordan Ladd led in attacks with four kills each and in assists with nine and five, respectively. Sophomore Josie Ladd added three kills

DSST: COLLEGE VIEW

Bennett's most competitive contest was against College View. The Tigers won in three sets, 25-27, 25-16, 15-8.

Team leaders were junior Thornton with 12 kills and eight digs; Venneberg with three aces, seven digs and 22 assists; Mclaury 17 digs, 14 serve-receives; Ladd five kills; senior Mya Robledo eight digs; Bavouset one ace, six digs; and senior Kaurlie Voorhies one ace.

D'EVELYN

Errors contributed to the 25-14, 25-8 loss to the Lady Jaguars.

Thornton said D'Evelyn played at a fast pace.

"So we really needed to make sure that we were moving and playing, but we quite weren't there," she said. "I think we could have done better than what it had shown."

Bennett leaders in kills were Voorhies (4) and Jordan Ladd (2); digs, Mclaury (11) and Venneberg (5); assists Venneberg (6); and serve-re-

ceives Bavouset (9), Thornton (8), Mclaury (6) and Josie Ladd (5).

Venneberg added one ace and Voorhies had a block.

GUNNISON

The Tigers made many errors in a loss to the Lady Cowboys 25-16, 25-12.

Thornton spoke well of Gunnison, which finished 23-4 last year.

"They're a really good team, very solid," she said. "We were having a better game than when we played against Devlin, but it just wasn't enough because [the Cowboys are] so dynamic."

Top Tigers were Jordan Ladd paced the Tigers with four kills followed by Josie Ladd and Thornton with three apiece. Venneberg led the passing attack with 12 assists and tacked on six digs defensively. Bavouset added eight digs and Mclaury had seven. Thornton, Mclaury and Bavouset recorded 13, eight and seven serve-receives, respectively.

Sophomore Meagan Green had Bennett's only ace.

@ THE PINNACLE

Bennett opened up Frontier League play, defeating conference rival The Pinnacle in Federal Heights 25-15, 25-14, 25-21.

"They weren't a really good team for serve-serve, so that definitely helped us," Thornton said.

The Tigers feasted with 14 aces — four by Venneberg, three by Mclaury, and two by Jordan Ladd, Thornton and Green.

Venneberg also had 23 assists, five kills, and three digs while Mclaury posted eight digs and 13 serve-receives. Other key contributors were Jordan Ladd with nine kills; Thornton with eight kills and four digs; Josie Ladd with five kills; and three digs by Bavouset.

"Everybody played really well," Thornton concluded. "It was a fairly successful, easy night for us coming out of a long weekend with the tournament."

COMING UP

- Sept. 18: Byers.
- Sept. 25: @ Arrupe Jesuit.
- Sept. 30: @ Limon.
- Oct. 3: @ Middle Park.
- Oct. 7: Lake County.
- Oct. 14: @ Platte Canyon.
- Oct. 18: Frontier League Tournament Round Robin.
- Oct. 21: @ Weld Central.
- Oct. 25: Frontier League Tournament Championship Day.

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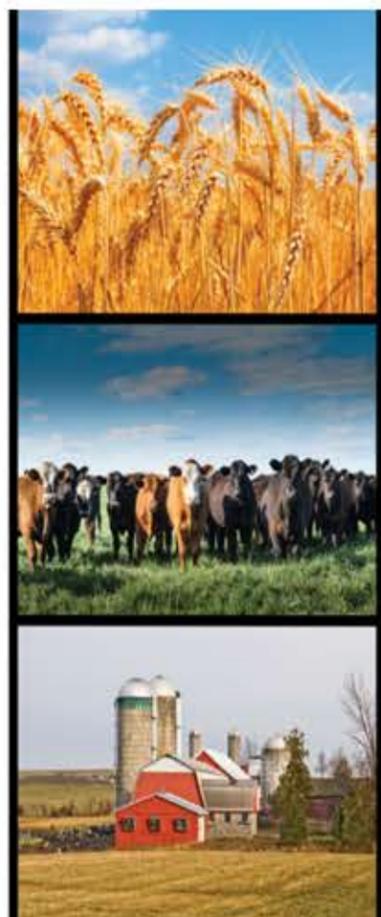
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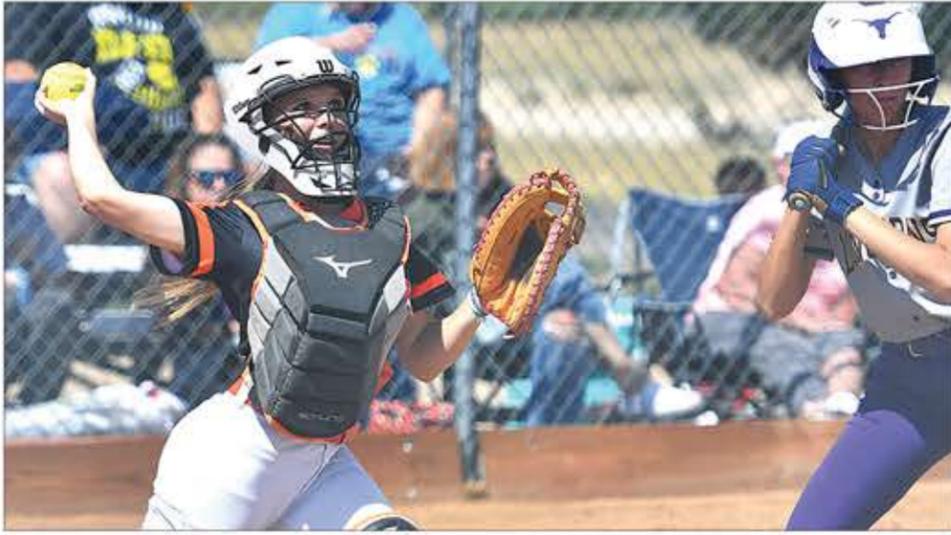


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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

In addition to being one of Bennett's primary catchers, Polish exchange student Jagoda Gutowska is the Tigers' leading hitter so far this softball season.

Lady Tigers hit rough stretch following fifth softball victory

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

After a 13-3 victory at Englewood Sept. 9 moved them to 5-3 overall, the Bennett Lady Tigers have struggled mightily on the softball diamond, losing four consecutive games by a combined score of 80-14 Sept. 11-13.

FIFTH WIN

In its last victory, the orange-and-black led from the start as freshman Macy Meyer not only hit a 2-run double but stole home to put her squad up 3-0. Englewood responded with 2 in the bottom of the opening frame but Bennett senior Natalee Kalcevic stole home to extend Bennett's advantage to 4-2 in the second.

A 5-run top of the third put Bennett in firm control. Among the key plays in the frame was a leadoff, inside-the-park home run by Polish exchange student Jagoda Gutowska, an RBI single by junior Calli Mott, and steals of home by Meyer, Mott and freshman Adelyn Westendorf. The host Pirates scored their final run in the bottom of the third with Bennett tacking on 2 each in the fifth and sixth frames to conclude the contest an inning early. The Tigers' aggressive base running continued late into the contest as seniors Tori Dishong and Kayla Barela and freshman Grace Mathis all stole home, while Gutowska had an RBI hit in the fifth.

Bennett hitters peppered Englewood pitching to the tune of 14 base knocks, led by Gutowska with three hits, two RBIs and two runs scored, and Meyer, Mott and junior Sophia Wilson with two hits apiece.

On the base paths, Bennett took advantage of the Pirate catcher with 32 steals, led by Meyer with five and Mott and Wilson with four apiece.

In the circle, senior Colby Robichaud threw the opening two innings, allowing 2 earned runs on a hit while walking three and striking out four. In relief, Meyer allowed an earned run on two hits while walking four and striking out eight over the final four frames.

"A little shaky coming off the bus, but settled down and played better," said head coach Joe Ortiz. "Aggressive on the base paths and I think that helped the girls relax."

RECENT SETBACKS

After falling 24-3 at Frontier League foe Arvada Sept. 11, Bennett lost all three contests at the Rumble on the Range hosted by Northridge High School in Greeley Sept. 12-13 — 15-0



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Through the Lady Tigers' first dozen softball games, freshman Macy Meyer is the squad's top pitching prospect as well as its second-leading hitter.

to Brush on Friday and 19-3 to Northfield and 22-8 to Eagle Valley on Saturday.

In what was the most competitive game of the stretch, Bennett scored all 8 runs against Eagle Valley in the bottom of the opening frame, but found itself down 11-8. The Lady Devils added 3 runs in the second and 8 in the third while holding the orange-and-black scoreless the rest of the way. All eight Tiger runs occurred without a base hit — seven walks, two hit batters, and an Eagle Valley error in the top of the first; Bennett's lone hit was off the bat of Gutowska in the third inning.

Through the first 12 games, Gutowska and Meyer have proven to be key additions to the second-year program. Gutowska leads the orange-and-black with a .645 batting average and an on-base percentage of .711 and, of her 20 base hits, she has two triples and two home runs. Gutowska has also split defensive duties between catcher and shortstop. Meyer has an average of .609 with a double and three triples among her 14 hits. Meyer has also led in the circle with 23-plus innings pitched with 30 strikeouts, while Robichaud has thrown 17-plus innings with 23 Ks.

After hosting Holyoke for a double-header Sept. 16, the Tigers get back on the road at Platte Canyon in Bailey for a single game Sept. 18 and go to Mitchell in Colorado Springs for a double-header Sept. 20.

COMING UP

Sept. 25: Middle Park.
Sept. 27: @ Montrose (DH).
Oct. 2: League Tournament @ Fort Lupton

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20 YEARS AGO SEPT. 20, 2005

The recent application for a radioactive waste materials license by the Clean Harbor Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility on Highway 36 in Eastern Colorado has the Adams County Boards of Commissioners in an uproar.

"There was a promise made to the public by Adams County and the state of Colorado regarding the prohibition of disposal of radioactive material at this facility," said Commission Chairman Larry W. Pace.

The commissioners have hired the law firm Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP, to oppose the permit application for disposal of radioactive waste at the site. Adams County approved the use of the facility for hazardous waste in 1983 but only on the condition that it prohibit radioactive waste.

In addition to the draft radioactive for disposal or radioactive waste at the site. Adams County approved the use of the facility for hazardous waste in 1983 but only on the condition that it prohibit radioactive waste.

Clean Harbors Environmental Series owns the hazards waste disposal facility located northeast of Deer Trail and 7 miles west of Last Chance on U.S. Highway 36 in the south-easter corner of Adams County.

15 YEARS AGO SEPT. 21, 2010

STRASBURG — Serving others is in the heart of one Strasburg resident.

Joan Turner recently spent two months in Zimbabwe, Africa, working with orphans at the Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care Center. Approximately 500 orphans receive nutritional, health, educational and spiritual care.

"The mission defiantly interested me and [it was close] to my heart," Turner said in a Sept. 14 interview. "My favorite thing was just being able to actually see what it was doing. It was a pretty neat experience."

Turner spend June 2 to July 31 in Murex, a small town approximately 150 miles northeast of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. She also spent time with other missionary workers from the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership.

The association is affiliated with a group of seven or eight Presbyterian churches in the Rocky Mountain region. Together they help meet needs of orphans in the Murex District of Zimbabwe.

10 YEARS AGO SEPT. 22, 2015

AURORA — Watching area developers who recently indicated their desire to become part of Aurora have had their annexation petitions preliminarily approved by the Aurora City Council but the process will likely be slow.

Aurora trustees unanimously voted in favor of a series of resolutions asking to find 10 annexation petitions accounting for 3,046 acres, or 4.75 square miles — between Imboden Road to the east and Hayes-mount Road to the west and Alameda Avenue to the south — eligible for annexation into the city. Aurora staff said that Monday's approval was necessary under state law which mandate a municipality be made aware of and take the first action on annexation petitions within 60 days of filing. The annexation petitions under question were filed during the first half of August with city staff.

"Tonight, it is a matter of whether these petitions are eligible," said city planner Nancy Bailey to city council members. "It's not a matter of determining the merits of the annexation request right now. That will be during the third step of the process."

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 2025. There are 105 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia.

ON THIS DATE

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam in Maryland.

In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer,

at Fort Myer, Va., just outside Washington, D.C. The pilot, Orville Wright, was seriously injured but survived.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands.

In 1978, after 12 days of meet-

ings at the U.S. presidential retreat of Camp David, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Camp David Accords, a framework for a peace treaty.

In 2001, six days after 9/11, stock prices nosedived but stopped short of collapse in an

emotional, flag-waving reopening of Wall Street.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira") is 74. Singer BeBe Winans is 63. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 59. NFL quarterback Patrick Mahomes is 30.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: AUTUMN VIBES

- ACROSS
- "Maze plant
 - Wharton degree, acr.
 - Special effects in "Avatar," acr.
 - Dwarf buffalo
 - "On Golden Pond" bird
 - Isolated
 - Atomizer output
 - Enthusiasm
 - Pueblo people, pl.
 - "Pre-game party (2 words)
 - Doomsayer's sign
 - Perfume bottles
 - Tombstone acronym
 - Construction binder
 - "___: The Movie," 2002 slapstick comedy
 - Genetic info carrier, acr.
 - Dorsa, sing.
 - "He's Just Not That ___ You"
 - "Like some sweaters
 - Earth Day mo.
 - Opposite of cation
 - "Que Sera ___"
 - Approved
 - Denotes middle
 - Assess pro rata
 - Lorraine's neighbor
 - Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 - Temporary stay
 - Chicago's Navy ___, tourist destination
 - "Popular fall spectator sport
 - Hutu's opponents, 1994
 - Quinceanera or bat mitzvah
 - Biblical captain
 - Rocky ridge
 - Having wings
 - Russian parliament
 - Diamond or ruby
 - An affirmative
 - Dog command
- DOWN
- Cameron, to friends
 - The Fonz: "Sit ___!"
 - Civil rights icon Parks
 - Richard Wright's "___ Son"
 - Relating to mole
 - Whatever rocks them!
 - "Green Gables" protagonist
 - Walking helper
 - Smiley face
 - "___ Now or Never"
 - Smooth, in music
 - Before appearance of life, geology
 - "Patch purchase
 - ___ Hop dance
 - Ewe's mate
 - "Like air in fall
 - Keyboard key
 - Introduction to economics
 - Twelve angry men, e.g.
 - Carl Jung's inner self
 - Indifferent to emotions
 - Type of probe
 - "Leaf collector
 - R&R stop
 - "Bushels of apples, e.g.
 - Impromptu
 - Over the top, in text
 - Time for an egg hunt
 - Falcon's home
 - Uses two feet
 - Bridal veil fabric
 - Smidgins
 - Unadulterated
 - Individual unit
 - Brawl
 - Clod
 - Tibetan priest
 - Chasing game
 - "Cushion on a fall ride

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HOROSCOPE

Mercury's Mini Adventure

Mercury opposes Saturn just before skipping into a new sign. The omen points to that rare treasure in life known as the "one-off." A single, out-of-the-ordinary experience is a valuable gift. You can enjoy without "signing up," subscribing or committing to a responsibility. Savor the thrill, tell the story, and live the confidence boost. It's your reward for being open to life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll connect easily because you're genuinely curious. Asking questions leads to surprising admissions, little gems people hand over gladly. That exchange builds loyalty. Relationships deepen when people feel you're really paying attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've been gathering resources, often unconsciously, through stray conversations, encounters and experiences. Today, something clicks, and you realize you're more prepared than you thought. You have exactly what you need to keep it pushing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're exciting because you entertain risky ideas. It's not about doing them all. It's the creative playfulness that captivates. Someone is drawn in by the possibilities you generate and wants to be part of your orbit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even if you feel mentally and emotionally all over the place, it's working for you. Your imagination, memories and hopes will all feel vivid at once, and yet you'll still manage to stay in the present moment and function well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The journey is the fun part, so why would you want to rush it? Remember to enjoy preparation. Give yourself plenty of time to dress well, slip into the mindset, and cultivate the vibes that make all the difference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Instinct rises in newness. Your first impressions have a kind of subliminal power. The moment you meet people or observe fresh places will give you key information you won't get further down the line. Note it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This situation isn't forever because nothing ever is. Life keeps shifting. You keep growing and people around you do, too. Your projects evolve, your days move you into new terrains, and today you're feeling at peace with the movement. Let go.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your curiosity will reveal something about you — and them, too. If someone reacts defensively, they may have something to protect, conceal or control. Those who value openness and transparency will take your curiosity as respect and interest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Anxious people will always find something to worry about, but you don't have to join them. Keep your focus on what's real and present. Do what can be done today, and celebrate what's already good in this moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The world tends to pay attention to flashiness, but the true star is the one who shows up again and again with loyalty, stamina and heart. Consistency is its own brilliance. Those who keep building create legacies that dazzle long after the sparkles fade.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's OK if you don't feel totally, powerfully in control at all times. Here's a mantra you can keep in your pocket for other moods: "I've handled worse. I'm safe now. I have love, talent and support. I can do this."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You take your struggles and strengths and alchemize them into something useful for others. The work you do to process your emotions becomes fuel, encouragement and courage for the people who witness it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 17). Welcome to your Year of Fulfillment. It's not the gifts life brings that make your heart glad, it's knowing you earned them. You are unshakably resourceful, endlessly creative and powered by a charisma that makes people lean closer. Progress is measured in commitment and continuation, not speed. More highlights: a triumph and trophy, a reunion, an investment that triples. Aquarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 25, 11, 6, 35 and 5.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

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BENNETT V. CLAPS

added, "The next court date is a judge's review [Oct. 21]."

A timeline for a likely jury trial remains uncertain. The original complaint, filed Jan. 28, included a request for a jury to hear arguments and rule on the case.

According to the filed complaint, when the town of Bennett declined to sign a services contract with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 2024 "Claps unilaterally drafted without any discussion or negotiation with the town and attempted to force the town to sign at the 11th hour or risk exposing the Bennett community, including its school children, to a reduction of police protection."

"During the final month of 2023, with time running out, [Claps] repeatedly applied increasing pressure to force the town to accept his 'non-negotiable' terms or risk being without law enforcement protection.

"[Claps] gave the town three days, until Dec. 31, 2023, to capitulate to his demands. The town declined to do so, and the 2023 IGA expired."

The town claims that state statute makes it eligible to receive "three times the \$81,653.78 [that] Sheriff Claps unlawfully extracted or sought to unlawfully extract from the town."

Claps' office sent a \$40,826.89 bill for service to the town in January 2024 even though no contract had been signed. Bennett trustees reluctantly paid the bill but balked when the same amount was billed for February. In a Feb. 20, 2024, letter to Claps, then mayor and current trustee Royce Pindell demanded a refund of the January bill and noted that, even

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9	6	8	5	3	4	1	2	7
7	1	2	8	9	6	3	5	4
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I	T	C	H	Y	A	P	R	A	N	I	O	N
S	E	R	A	O	K	A	Y	E	D	M	I	D
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G	E	M	Y	E	S	S	T	A	Y			

FROM PAGE 1

in absence of a contract, Adams County is statutorily obligated to provide law enforcement services to in-county areas of town.

"You have already been paid for them through Bennett residents paying Adams County taxes to fund your department," Pindell's letter said.

A refund for January 2024 was never received.

The final decision to change the town's law enforcement provider from Adams County to Arapahoe County of police services in Bennett was OK'd by the town board on Jan. 9, 2024. Claps' 2024 contract proposal was \$489,922.64 — up nearly \$100,000 from 2023. Bennett staff said they had budgeted a 6% increase for 2024 based on the reported 6% increase reported in calls for service during the third quarter of 2023. A 26% increase was deemed untenable by trustees, who added that Claps was unwilling to negotiate.

The town formalized new law enforcement arrangements with Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown a few months later.

The intergovernmental agreement with Arapahoe County that took effect May 1, 2024, included start-up costs and called for an annual base rate in excess of \$500,000, including two full-time deputies' and part-time investigator's salaries and benefits, plus equipment and other direct and indirect costs. The contract includes providing services for both the Adams and Arapahoe county sides of the municipality. Arapahoe County previously served the Antelope Hills subdivision only.

Since changing law enforcement jurisdiction to Arapahoe County, the town has also allowed deputies patrolling the community to set up an office in the Public Safety building along Palmer Avenue.

The town also alleges numerous procedural and policy missteps made by Claps when providing his proposed 2024 legal services contract, including:

- Failure to reply to a July 25, 2023, e-mail to commence the negotiating process for 2024 legal services. According to the town filing, that e-mail was well ahead of the Aug. 31 notification deadline set in the previous year's intergovernmental agreement;
- failure to reply to a second e-mail dated Nov. 2, 2023;
- an unannounced appearance by Claps at the town's Nov. 14, 2023, study session where he allegedly "handed the board a proposed 2024 IGA generated solely by his office, with no input or discussion with the town" and "clearly indicated to the board that these were his terms and that his IGA was non-negotiable;"
- forewarning that the town could expect to pay "three or four times the amount set forth in his 2024 IGA;" and
- failure to provide an explanation of services provided for the \$40,826.89 bills for January and February of 2024.

The time frame for a jury trial and what next month's pre-trial hearing will entail were both uncertain at press time.

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Among the first-year events during Bennett Days Sept. 5-7 was Friday night's Ultimate Bullfighting Bennett Invitational held on the west edge of Trupp Park. The inaugural event included 10 professional bullfighters from across the United States, Canada and Brazil. From top photo, participants included current No. 1-ranked Cache Dunn of Waurika, Okla.; two-time world champion Aaron Mercer from Canada; and Texas' Chance Mooreman, who walked away from a collision with his draw.

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by Bennett School District 29j, Adams County and Arapahoe County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, there were not more candidates than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on November 4, 2025, is hereby canceled pursuant to C.R.S. § 1-5-208(1.5).

The following candidates are hereby declared elected by acclamation.

<u>Nancy Barden</u> Name	Bennett School District 29j (4-Year Term)	Until November, 2029 (4-Year Term)
<u>Hazel Statkiewicz</u> Name	Bennett School District 29j (4-Year Term)	Until November, 2029 (4-Year Term)


(Signature of the Designated Election Official)
Kristina Starman
(DEO's Printed Name)

Contact Person for the District: Tina Starman
Telephone Number of the District: 720-263-7675
Address of the District: 805 Washington Way, Bennett, CO 80102
District Facsimile Number: N/A
District Email: tstarman@bsd29j.com

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My grandparents, who came to the U.S. from Panama, teach me about the people and culture there through stories, songs and cooking. I share with them all the cool things I learn here in school and from my friends.

1. A celebration of Hispanic _____ starts in mid-September and lasts a month.
2. The first day is based upon the _____ Day anniversary of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
3. The U.S. Hispanic population comes from about 20 countries that shared a cultural heritage with the once-ruling European country of _____.
4. About one-third of Hispanic Americans _____ to the U.S., meaning about two-thirds were born here.
5. Hispanic people in the U.S. make up about one-fifth of the _____.
6. Florida, _____, and Texas have the largest Hispanic populations in the U.S.
7. The state of Florida in 1822 elected Joseph Marion Hernández to be the first Hispanic American _____.
8. In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor, (whose parents came from Puerto Rico), became the first Hispanic person appointed to the U.S. _____ Court.
9. Millions of Hispanic people in America speak _____ and because their families originally came from places once ruled by Spain (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, etc.), Hispanics speak many Spanish dialects too.
10. Hispanics' buying power may be more than 2.5 trillion _____ a year.
11. Giant mobile device _____ Brightstar (now Likewize) was founded by Hispanic American Marcelo Claure.
12. Founded in 1936, Goya Foods is the largest Hispanic owned _____ company in America.
13. Everyone loves Hispanic dishes! Some of the most popular may include beans, rice, beef, chicken and hot or spicy _____.
14. The American experience is one of different peoples and cultures. Celebrate our nation's _____ and enjoy everything Hispanic culture offers!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle and... **Learn About Hispanic Heritage**

Clues for crossword puzzle:
 1. English
 2. California
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. Independence
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 11. Yum, flan de calabaza!
 12. _____
 13. Spain
 14. _____



I like school, baseball and video games!

Check out your favorite library for these two good books by Pam Muñoz Ryan: **Esperanza Rising** and **The Dreamer**.

My grandfather came from Cuba and now owns a restaurant. He likes to cook many dishes including some from his homeland. One of the most popular is **ajico**, a stew made with pork and different kinds of root vegetables...yum! He also makes delicious "fries" using **yucca**, a root vegetable that can be used much like a potato.

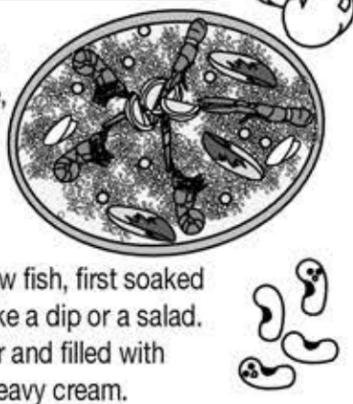


Delicious Dishes!

Read the clues to learn about 4 delicious dishes. Then fill in the crossword!

Clues for crossword puzzle:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____ sope
 4. _____ paella ceviche baleadas

1. A dish originating in Mexico. It is a small circle of fried maize (corn) soaked in lime, then topped with refried beans, cheese, lettuce, onions, salsa and sometimes pork and chicken.
2. A dish from Spain, uses simmered rice, chicken, chorizo (Spanish sausage), scallops, shrimp, tomatoes, green beans and other vegetables and spices.
3. This dish can be found in Mexico, Panama and Peru. It is raw fish, first soaked in lime juice, oranges, sliced onions and garlic. It is eaten like a dip or a salad.
4. This is a Honduran dish. It is a deep fried tortilla, folded over and filled with refried beans and a special blend of sour cream, salt, and heavy cream.



Food in English or Spanish

Explorers who sailed for the Kings and Queens of this country claimed the lands they reached by ship and brought the Spanish language. Can you fill in the missing consonants to complete the name of the country? _____ ai _____

Here are some popular ingredients in Hispanic cooking. Can you match the English word to its Spanish name?

1. Rice		1. Pollo	
2. Bean		2. Naranjas	
3. Cheese		3. Tomate	
4. Lettuce		4. Haba	
5. Onion		5. Queso	
6. Pork		6. Cebolla	
7. Chicken		7. Cal	
8. Fish		8. Pescado	
9. Cream		9. Cerdo	
10. Tomato		10. Lechuga	
11. Lime		11. Arroz	
12. Oranges		12. Crema	



My family came to the U.S. from Mexico. I am learning English!

- Chile Panama Honduras Argentina El Salvador Nicaragua Costa Rica Mexico

I'm from Puerto Rico. I speak in English and in Spanish.



- Colombia Ecuador Belize Guatemala

The native people of these countries already had their own languages, but Spanish was used too, so they often blended Spanish and their own language together. Today, there are many different dialects of Spanish spoken by people who have come to live in the United States: South American Spanish, Caribbean Spanish and North American Spanish, just to name a few.

Many Languages From Many Countries

Fill in the blanks with the missing consonants to spell the names of countries that some of our Hispanic population has come from:

1. _ E _ I _ O
2. _ E _ I _ E
3. _ O _ _ A _ _ I _ A
4. _ L _ A _ _ A _ O _
5. _ U A _ E _ A _ A
6. _ O _ _ U _ A _
7. _ I _ A _ A _ U A
8. _ A _ A _ A
9. A _ _ E _ _ I _ A
10. _ _ I _ E
11. _ O _ O _ _ I A
12. E _ U A _ O _

DEER TRAIL BOE

FROM PAGE 1

“That was a fun call to CDE,” she said facetiously. Rector was named the district’s new assessment coordinator in June following the resignation of the previous staff member in charge of that duty. “[These errors] cannot happen again and won’t happen again. Every test, every student and every piece of data matters,” she said. “With the help of our consultant, we now have a solid instructional planning framework in place. Part of it is knowing how to do this and now it’s a matter of turning that knowing into doing.” While Rector is working to rebuild the district’s assessment structure, she was quick to point out last spring’s successes and reported that students appeared enthusiastic when taking preliminary assessments to start the current school year. “Definitely some wins that we have to highlight,” she said. “Now that we

have our ducks in a row, hopefully things stay in that row.” Among last spring’s results are:

- a mean score of 734 in 11th grade science, ahead of the state’s mean score of 729, plus a participation rate of 93% compared to 51% statewide;
- Deer Trail’s PSAT9 mean score went from 770 to 815 but, conversely, the PSAT10 mean score dropped from 815 to 741;
- the district’s mean SAT score rose from 850 to 863 last year; and
- across the board growth was noted in English/language arts.

Even with the growth in many categories, student participation remains an area requiring improvement. “We were in the [80th percentile] for participation but we need to get into the 90s,” Rector said. “The CDE threshold is 95%.” Unlike much larger school districts

where a double-digit improvement in participation would be a lot more difficult to overcome, board members said they thought significant participation was within reach. “Basically, we’re talking about 15-18 kids that need to be focused on,” said board president Patrick Duff. Rector and Superintendent Mike Jobman both indicated that recent conversations with CDE have provided direction for ways to increase testing participation and that incentives for taking tests will likely be addressed later this school year. “It’s something we are really working on,” Rector said. Rector added that state assessments are no longer paper tests and are administered solely via the computer.

FACILITIES UPDATE
After board members last month expressed significant disappointment

in the fact that the expansion project of three modular classrooms and a new concession stand/restroom facility was still incomplete, Jobman said last week that the contractor has actively worked on resolving punch list items and getting the emergency fire systems fully operational. “He’s done a lot since the last conversation you had with him during the August board meeting,” Jobman said. “For the most part, things are completed, but still not quite 100% done, which has been frustrating. But making progress.” Among the most pressing issue involving the new individual detached classrooms are ground-faults that trigger the fire alarm panel in the administrative offices of the primary school building. According to administrative personnel, the alarm is triggered multiple times per day. Additional maintenance projects include new sod and landscaping around the football stadium, particularly near the new concession stand area; concrete repairs around the new modular classrooms; receiving an updated elevator inspection; and remedying ongoing power surges with the outdoor lighting over the football field. According to Jobman, multiple banks of lights can go out at the same time, limiting visibility on the football field. Jobman expects the situation to be remedied in the near future but added that if the lights aren’t repaired by Friday, Sept. 26, the homecoming football game would be moved to the afternoon instead of the usual 7 p.m. kickoff time. “Our goal is to get the lights up and working by then,” Jobman said. “But the last thing we need is our kids and the other team to play in unsafe conditions.” During his Superintendent Report, Jobman also noted that the district has 305 students in K-12. The next regular school board meeting is set for 6:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6, in the Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room of Davies Library.

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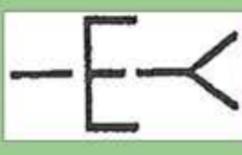







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