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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 46

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

DT fire district asks for mill levy increase

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Citing that its resources are becoming woefully out of date and stretched too thin, an I-70 Corridor fire district is asking residents to vote in favor of additional funding on Election Day Nov. 4. “The district has not ever asked the community for a mill levy increase. Over the past 30 years, inflation has driven costs higher in all industries — including fire protection. For example, the cost of a fire truck has doubled over the past few years alone. Much of our gear and fleet is outdat-

ed, and that puts both responders and resident at risk,” said a statement from the Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District about Ballot Issue 7B, asking residents to approve a 5-mill increase to their property tax assessment for emergency services. “Over the past 10 years, 911 call volume has doubled with last year’s total coming to 316 emergency calls. We simply can’t keep up with growing emergency needs without increased funding.”

According to the ballot question’s verbiage, residents within the fire district are asked to approve a mill levy

SEE DT FIRE MILL LEVY PAGE 4

FISCAL INFORMATION	
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2025 (estimated)	\$409,225
2024 (actual)	\$397,742
2023 (actual)	\$384,478
2022 (actual)	\$385,218
2021 (actual)	\$359,306
Overall percentage change from 2021 to 2025:	13.89%
Overall dollar change from 2021 to 2025:	\$49,919
Proposed District Tax Increase:	
Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:	\$269,811
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	\$490,024

ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF ELECTION

Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District Ballot Issue 7B asks residents within the district to approve a 5-mill bump in property tax assessment to help cover increased costs to provide emergency services. If approved, the tax increase would go into effect Jan. 1.



ALYSSA STEMPO/For The Scout

STRONG ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK ... AND A TUTU! — Bennett Schools celebrated homecoming Oct. 7-11. Above, coach Caycen Scholz (24) talks strategy with freshmen and seniors during Thursday’s Powder Puff flag football game.

DT Schools on state accountability clock

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — While student performance has shown gains over the past couple of years, state education officials have determined that Deer Trail Schools must remain on a turnaround plan through this school year.

During the Oct. 6 Deer Trail School Board meeting, Colorado Department of Education Liaison Dr. Sam Schneider said that last year’s state-approved assessments showed student achievement had improved to the second level of state requirements, but that a lack of participation knocked the district and both

the elementary and secondary schools down one rung on the state framework.

“All frameworks experienced improvement from 2024 to 2025. Most improvement came in academic growth at the elementary and middle school levels,” Schneider’s presentation said. “But, all 2025 frameworks are at the ‘priority improvement level of performance. [after being] ‘decreased due to participation. This also occurred in 2023, but was improved in 2024.”

According to CDE, all three performance scores were 40% or higher last year with

SEE DEER TRAIL BOE PAGE 4

Bennett residents, officials at odds over water system

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Last week’s water line breach in one of Bennett’s four oldest neighborhoods appears to be another example of unrest between residents and town officials.

Mid-morning Oct. 8, residents at or near the intersection of Centennial Drive and Coolidge Court reported water spewing from a fire hydrant.

“You could hear the gushing and things flooded pretty quickly,” a neighbor reported. “Probably saw a town vehicle show up in about a half-hour.”

A town spokeswoman said that the issue was the result of repair work between a nearby house’s meter pit and the town’s main line going awry.

“The contractor initially tried to complete the repair without shutting off water but was unable to do so,” said Bennett Communications Director Alison Belcher. “They then requested assistance from our utilities team, who coordinated the necessary shut-

SEE BENNETT WATER WARS PAGE 6



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A water main break at the intersection of Centennial Drive and Coolidge Court in Bennett’s Centennial subdivision Oct. 8 resulted in about a two-hour shutdown of water service to the neighborhood. Town of Bennett officials said the breach was the result of a contractor trying to repair an active line at a home in the area.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

'Thoughts' theme of study at Byers Community Church

BYERS — The community is invited to join a six-week Bible study on Max Lucado's new book "Tame Your Thoughts" at a Byers church.

The book provides three biblical, practical tools to interrupt poisonous thought threads, think like Jesus, and take thoughts captive.

The discussions will run from 6:30-8 p.m. every Wednesday through Nov. 5 at Byers Community Church, 135 S. Sherman St.

To purchase a book, which is not required, send an e-mail to ByersChurch@gmail.com. The e-book can also be downloaded.

'Burg museum lecture slated on major Civil War encounters

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host an Overview of Major Battles and Engagements of the Civil War Years from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum curator Cliff Smith will discuss several important battles and engagements of the war as well as challenges for the Home Front and ordinary Union and Confederate soldiers.

A light snack will be served from 6-6:30 p.m.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for light snacks and conversations.

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society.

For more information, call (303)622-4322.

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

Dormant season garden care seminar set for Aurora library

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Master Gardeners will present "Fall and Winter Landscape Care" from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at Aurora Central Library, 15151 E.

Alameda Parkway.

The class will help residents put their gardens to bed for the winter. Master Gardener Nina Mbengue will provide tips, including pruning and watering guidelines, for the dormant season from October through February.

Arts org announces staging of 'James & the Giant Peach'

BENNETT — The Bennett Arts Council will host a free performance of "James and the Giant Peach!" at 1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave.

Vintage Theatre will present a wild adventure with Roald Dahl's classic tale turned family-friendly musical! When James discovers a magical peach, he and a band of quirky insect friends set off on a larger-than-life journey full of danger, laughter and heart.

The show features a delightful score by Pasek & Paul, making it a "masterpeach" of a show perfect for all ages.

Calvary Chapel Bennett plans fall fest on Halloween night

BENNETT — Calvary Chapel Bennett will host a wholesome, family-friendly Fall Festival from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, at the Bennett VFW Hall, 115 Palmer Ave.

The evening will include face-painting, pumpkin bowling, a photo booth, and games and activities for all ages, and free hot dogs.

New Colorado Poet Laureate: Nominations open thru 10-27

DENVER — Nominations have opened for the next Poet Laureate of Colorado.

The Poet Laureate serves a two-year term as Colorado's ambassador for poetry, engaging with communities across the state through readings and workshops.

Nominations will be accepted until Monday, Oct. 27. Individuals can self-nominate, and any organization or individual can nominate a poet for consideration at coloradohumanities.org.

Nominators should work closely with their poets to submit the nomination form and information requested.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate poets who demonstrate exceptional poetic talent, a commitment to community engagement, and a desire to foster the appreciation of poetry.

Big Halloween event slated for Arapahoe 'Scaregrounds'

AURORA — Kids can enjoy a safe day of trick-or-treating and spook-tacular family fun from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18-19, at Treat Street at the Arapahoe County "Scaregrounds," 25690 E. Quincy Ave.

Highlights include an Interactive Magic Show with Inspector Magic; "Doc Snooker to the Moon," a family-friendly Halloween stage show; the Spooky Sprint obstacle course; a petting farm, gold panning, a haunted maze; and Touch-a-Tractor hosted by Arapahoe County Open Space.

The day will also feature a costume contest at 3 p.m. both days, a pumpkin decorating contest, booths hosted by 40+ local businesses, and lunch options provided by food trucks.

Advance tickets cost \$10 each. At the gate or online, tickets are \$12 apiece.

For additional information and to register for certain events, visit www.arapahoecountyeventcenter.com.

Trap shooting event slated by Elks Lodge in Deer Trail

DEER TRAIL — The annual Deer Trail Elks Lodge 2307 Turkey Shoot is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25-26, at the Deer Trail Rodeo Grounds.

A barbecue dinner will follow the competition at 6 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$15 per plate.

For more information, e-mail to DeerTrail2307.com or call Rob Byg at (303)563-9623.

Elementary age kids invited to 'Sculpting Monster Buds'

STRASBURG — In honor of Halloween, the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a creative arts class for kids called "Sculpting Monster Buddies."

Participants will delve into a variety of mediums, from painting to clay, in an inspiring environment.

The class will meet twice monthly on Mondays through December from 10-10:45 a.m. for kindergartners through second-graders and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for third- through fifth-graders at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Meeting dates are Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and 17, and Dec. 1 and 15.

The cost is \$10 per child.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Oct. 16.

Rec district plans senior trip for candle-making at brewery

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a senior excursion for candle-making at Monolith Brewing in Denver.

The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, from the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St.

The cost is \$42. To RSVP, call the rec center at (303)622-4260. Admission charges vary by location; lunch is an additional charge.

Road construction underway at Arapahoe and Parker roads

ENGLEWOOD — Construction for safety and traffic flow improvements at Arapahoe Road east of South Parker Road has begun.

The project will improve medians and extend turn lanes to South Buckley Road.

Construction should cause minimal impact to motorists traveling in the area as crews will work from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Completion of the \$895,000 project, which started construction Oct. 8, is anticipated to take 75-90 days.

The Arapahoe Road eastbound turn lanes will be extended for motorists turning left to northbound South Buckley Road to alleviate congestion for eastbound Arapahoe Road motorists.

When completed, drivers will be able to access the turn lanes earlier.

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'Blue Envelope' launched in ArapCo

CENTENNIAL — The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Oct. 1 officially launched its Blue Envelope Program with a press conference at headquarters in Centennial.

The initiative is a county-wide collaboration among law enforcement agencies aimed at enhancing communication and safety during interactions with drivers who might have autism, sensory sensitivities, or other health conditions that impact communication.

"The Blue Envelope Program is about trust, dignity, and safety," said Sheriff Tyler Brown. "It doesn't

change the outcome of enforcement, but it does help ensure that officers and community members can communicate with empathy and clarity in stressful moments."

Unlike many programs, the Blue Envelope requires no enrollment, no disclosure of personal information, and no record-keeping by law enforcement. Anyone can request materials, making the program simple, private and accessible.

The press conference featured Brown, police chiefs, and representatives from agencies across the county, including Special Olympics Colorado.

Arapahoe County gives conditional approval to oil, gas facility near Watkins Road, Quincy

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County has issued conditional approval for the Crestone Peak Resources Operating LLC (dba Civitas) application for the State Harvard-Yale facility on State Land Board property approximately south of East Quincy Avenue and east of Watkins Road.

The oil and gas facility consists of a 26.39-acre site disturbance area to support the drilling and operation of up to 18 wells.

The Public Works & Development department evaluated the application based on oil and gas regulations in Arapahoe County's Land Development Code. In 2023 and 2024, the county amended the code with additional rules crafted with health, safety, welfare and the environment at the forefront of consideration, which included rigorous air and water quality testing, financial assurances for cleanup, and the most protective setbacks in the state of Colorado. The amendments, the result of years of feedback from industry and stakeholders, made Arapahoe County's oil and gas regulations the strictest in the state.

Public Works determined that the State Harvard-Yale facility meets

— and in many areas exceeds — the county's criteria or has qualified for a waiver. Because mineral rights are property rights protected by law, and the applicant met the criteria, Public Works Director Bryan Weimer was obligated to approve the application with conditions.

- The conditions specify that:
- construction of access roads and driveways must be completed and approved before any drilling begins;
 - oil and gas must be moved through pipelines to eliminate truck traffic and reduce road impacts and emissions;
 - Swift fox surveys and other wildlife safeguards with oversight from Colorado Parks & Wildlife are required before construction;
 - drilling rigs and facilities must run on electricity rather than diesel generators, cutting down on noise and air pollution; and
 - all wells must be drilled and completed during a single site occupation to limit repeated disruptions.

A complete list of conditions can be found in the approval letter. A summary of comment themes and discussion is also available for review.

MCC named No. 1 community college in NE Colorado by *The Colorado Sun*

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College was recently recognized as the No. 1 Community College in Northeast Colorado by *The Colorado Sun*.

The recognition is part of the *Sun's* annual "Best of" campaign, which invites readers to nominate and vote for the top businesses, institutions, and services across the state. MCC received more than 25,000 votes, reflecting strong community support and widespread acknowledgment of the college's commitment to student success and positive regional impact.

"This recognition is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students," said Ariella Gonzales-Vondy, MCC Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment. "It highlights the invaluable role MCC plays in supporting education, workforce development, and community engagement across the region."

MCC, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), serves northeastern Colorado and beyond

with physical locations in Fort Morgan, Burlington, Limon and Wray. MCC offers a broad range of academic programs, including bachelor's and associate degrees, professional certifications, and workforce training designed to meet the needs of students and local employers. Beyond academics, MCC is invested in community initiatives, hosting events, workshops and outreach programs that strengthen the college's ties to the region and provide meaningful opportunities for students and residents, according to a release.

"At MCC, our mission has always been to serve the people of Northeast Colorado with excellence, compassion and opportunity," said Dr. Curt Freed, MCC president. "Being named the No. 1 community college in the region is a reflection of the unwavering dedication of our incredible faculty and staff, who go above and beyond every day to support student success. This recognition belongs to them, and to the communities we proudly serve."

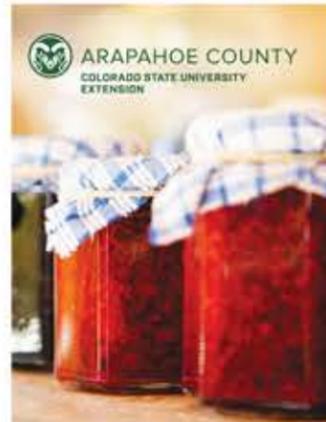


OCTOBER IS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

Learn more at arapahoeco.gov/gethelp or visit ncadv.org

You're in for a treat!
Come to the Arapahoe County Scaregrounds Oct. 18 & 19 for a weekend of trick-or-treating and spooktacular family fun. Enjoy costume contests, haunted maze, spooky sprints, food trucks, live entertainment, and more!

Visit arapahoecountyeventcenter.com/treatstreet



Cottage Food Safety

Learn food safety guidelines and the specifics of operating a cottage food business from home. Upon completion of the webinar and passing the accompanying exam, receive a 3-year food safety certificate. The next online class is **Nov. 7, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Register now at bit.ly/CSUCottageFoods



Veteran resources expanding

Arapahoe County is proud to expand resources for the veterans in Adams and Arapahoe County. Join us for an open house at the Aurora location to see what's new.

Nov. 13, 3–6 p.m.
15400 E. 14th Pl., Aurora 80011

To learn more about Arapahoe County Veteran Services, visit arapahoeco.gov/veterans.



DT FIRE MILL LEVY

FROM PAGE 1

bump of 5,000 mills, which would bring the fire district's total property tax rate to 12.032 mills. The initiative also asks residents to "waive the 5.25% property tax limit for all future property tax years as allowed in Section 29-1-1704 [of Colorado Revised Statutes]."

State statute allows for the property tax waiver "for the purposes of providing fire protection, ambulance, emergency medical response, rescue, safety and support services."

Specifically, the Deer Trail fire district is looking to:

- advance its EMR program;
- enhance wildland fire and prevention efforts;
- fleet improvements, particularly fire trucks and response vehicles;
- fire fighting equipment upgrades; and
- expansion based on local growth.

According to stats released from Arapahoe County Elections, if the initiative passes, the fire district is estimated to collect an additional \$269,811 per year starting in 2026. Next year's spending without the mill levy increase is estimated at \$490,024. Total spending for 2025 has been estimated at \$409,225, which is about 14% higher than 2021 levels.

When given the opportunity to comment for or against the proposal for the Arapahoe County blue book,

district officials and residents only wrote in favor of the proposal.

"Fire trucks, ambulances, and safety equipment all have lifespans. We're overdue for critical repairs and replacements," one comment in favor said. "This mill levy gives us the means to modernize before breakdowns impact lives. This mill levy is not a luxury — it's a necessity to fill the gap and maintain emergency services."

"Without new funding, we face the real possibility of slower response times and decreased coverage," a resident of the district added. "This is about keeping our families, homes, and first responders safe."

If approved, the new mill levy rate would take effect for 2026.

Current mill levies of neighboring fire districts include 13.279 mills for Bennett-Watkins, 12.614 in Strasburg, 10.462 for Rattlesnake, 9.774 in Byers; and 8.000 at Agate.

Distribution of mail ballots statewide commenced Oct. 10 and residents have until Nov. 4 to mail, drive to drop off boxes or visit voting/polling centers. If mailing, ballots must be received by county election offices on or before Nov. 4; postmarks prior to Nov. 4 will not guarantee votes are counted if ballots are received after Election Day.

For more information about the fire district's ballot question, residents can call (303)619-7898.

DEER TRAIL BOE

FROM PAGE 1

the elementary improving 3.3% from 2024 to 2025; 4.1% for the junior and senior high school; and 4.7% for the district as a whole. But Schneider said the number of non-opt-out absences during state-mandated assessment windows forced the elementary to second year on the state's "accountability clock," while the secondary school and district as a whole moved to their third-year under that scrutiny.

"Your district is 1.5% from being off the clock, elementary about 3.5% and secondary about 0.9% away," Schneider said. "It's a drop of one category when less than 95% participation."

School board members voiced their frustration, noting that at both the elementary and secondary levels, student growth should supersede the participation stats.

"We're basically talking one or two students," stated board member Reagan Hahn.

When asked by board member and school resource officer Richard Haight if there is any possibility of having the participation requirement waived because of the small size of the district, Schneider replied with a strong "no."

"Even a smaller [school], no fudging the system," Schneider said.

After five years of being "on the clock," districts go under direct CDE supervision, but Schneider also said that two consecutive school years of "improvement" or "performance" framework levels remove schools off the accountability time frame.

After five years on the clock, districts can face one of six possible management options but, Schneider said that closure of or conversion to a charter school are unlikely for Deer Trail, if push comes to shove.

"The most popular and successful option has been full or partial management by a public/private entity," he said. "But, again, a lot of things point up on the performance of both the elementary and secondary schools. We are seeing some good environmental things across the district — a lot of green flags."

Plus, Schneider said that while a fifth year "on the clock" sounds like failure, it shouldn't be considered the end of the school.

"We don't consider year-five action as much of a punitive action as it is a funneling of more resources to dis-

trict that need it the most," he said, noting that additional grant funding becomes available. "After five years, 59% of schools stay off the clock."

Schneider said he has already visited the district multiple times since last month and is confident how teachers and staff are moving both schools forward academically.

OCTOBER COUNT

Superintendent Mike Jobman said that the Oct. 1 student count showed 6-7 students fewer than the same time last year, but that the district's per-pupil funding from CDE won't be as heavily impacted because of the state's enrollment averaging formula.

"About 300 kids K-12, so not as big as we've hoped," he said. "But should still be able to make do with what we have coming in."

OTHER BUSINESS

The board unanimously approved holiday bonuses for staff.

"With the student growth we've seen from CDE reports this year, I don't necessarily say it's more deserved, but, at the same time, our teachers and support staff deserve recognition for their hard work," said board president Patrick Duff. "Obviously, still a lot of work to do, but I'm pretty excited with the direction we appear to be heading."

Secondary principal Riley Williams indicated that while absenteeism appears to be down from previous years, tardiness has increased recently.

"Tardies are on an upward trend but that has been around homecoming," Williams said, noting that late shows are being seen during first hour and the first class after lunch break. "Some minor discipline. But, overall, seeing better attendance."

Williams added that participation during homecoming week — Sept. 29 through Oct. 3 — was better than previous years, including 38 high-schoolers attending Friday night's dance.

The next school board meeting has been changed to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, when the new board will be sworn in. Duff and Hahn will serve another four-year term each as will former board member Mike Cowell, who will replace Haight. The district canceled this year's board election for lack of candidates.

**SECTION 00 11 16
INVITATION TO BID**

**STRASBURG SANITATION AND WATER DISTRICT
ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK REFURBISHMENT**

Sealed bids for the Elevated Water Storage Tank Refurbishment will be received by the **OWNER, Strasburg Sanitation and Water District** located at 56829 Colorado Ave, Strasburg, CO 80136 until **10:00 AM local time on Wednesday, November 5, 2025**, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the same location. Bids may be hand-delivered or mailed to the above address on or in advance of the bid opening date/time. Bids may be emailed to strasburgwater@gmail.com (while copied to douglas.schwenke@respec.com and tammy.lake@respec.com).

A **MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING** is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM on the project site at 56829 Colorado Ave, Strasburg, CO 80136**, during which time Strasburg Sanitation and Water District will provide lift access to the tower ladder for a tower climb (if desired) and inspection of the asset and grounds (see Instructions to Bidders.) A prospective bidder may send a representative to attend the pre-bid meeting provided that person is authorized to act on the bidder's behalf in all manners required.

The **last day for submission of questions will be Monday, October 27, 2025** and the **last addendum will be issued on or before Thursday, October 30, 2025**. Questions should be submitted in writing and directed to Tammy Lake at tammy.lake@respec.com.

Copies of the contract documents, consisting of a Project Manual and Drawings, may be obtained as electronic documents on-line. Only firms obtaining documents by this method will be placed on the Planholders' List. Documents cannot be downloaded or printed without purchasing. To purchase and download the project documents in PDF format, click "Download Project PDF" and sign on to QuestCDN.com or join for a free membership. Plan documents can be downloaded for a fee of \$22.00. Please contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or email info@questcdn.com for assistance in the free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital plans room. The **Quest CDN project number for this bid is # 9906777. Plans will be available beginning Friday, October 10, 2025.**

WORK to be performed generally includes the overall rehabilitation of an existing 75,000 gallon double ellipsoidal multi-leg steel tank, including but not limited to: design, fabrication/furnishing, and installation of the following upgrades: new shell-to-roof ladder, leg ladder extension, fall arrest system, new hatch guardrail, and new catwalk guardrail; replacement of vent and overflow piping; replacement of frost jacket and associated insulation; interior and exterior surface preparation; full-containment blasting using additive for heavy metal abatement; painting; disposal of spent abrasive; and tank disinfection.

Qualifications of the **BIDDERS** and/or **BIDDER's** subcontractor(s) should include experience in painting of potable water storage tanks as stated in the Specifications, the ability to post performance and payment bonds, and the ability to deliver the work in conformance within the contract time.

The successful **BIDDER** will be required to furnish Payment and Performance Bonds and comply with the insurance provision as specified by the Contract Documents. A 5% Bid Bond will be required. Bids shall remain open for sixty (60) days and the Owner reserves the right to reward a contract until the end of this sixty-day period.

Basis of award will be the lowest responsive and responsible Bid as determined by the **OWNER**.

The **OWNER** reserves the right to waive any irregularities or to waive any technical defects in the bidding process as the best interest of the **OWNER** may be served. The **OWNER** also reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

#3127
Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, October 8, 15, and 22 and in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, October 10, 17, and 24.

**DEER TRAIL ELKS
TURKEY SHOOT**

Attention, Shooting Enthusiasts!
Prepare for an adrenaline-pumping experience like no other as we invite you to our annual Deer Trail Elks Turkey shoot! \$5 per round. no buybacks on Saturday.

**OCTOBER 25TH & 26TH @9AM
DEER TRAIL RODEO GROUNDS**

Join us for a BBQ dinner following Saturday night's Turkey Shoot! October 25th at the Elks Lodge, 6pm. \$15 per plate.



For questions or comments reach out via email to DeerTrail2307@gmail.com or Rob Byg at 303-563-9623

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Artist meet-up: Adults can learn to reuse canvas and salvage those “experimental” paintings. with Jamie Zerr-Lockwood of the Corridor Creative Arts League.

The class will involve creative ways to recycle and restart, making regular canvas into more interesting items and learning to re-stretch it. Participants are encouraged to bring in art to share. This month’s challenge: Decorated sugar skulls, art inspired by sugar skulls, or Halloween-inspired art. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18.

Scratchboard Art: Adults will learn about scratchboard art with Corridor Creative Arts League board member Sarah Bennett. They will discover the basics of the high-contrast medium and create their own scratchboard. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25.

Teen Advisory Board: Halloween Party: The library’s Teen Advisory Board’s will host its inaugural Halloween bash for teens ages 12-17. A variety of spooking activities are planned, including a costume contest and enjoy a variety of spooky activities. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 6-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24.

Adult book club: “Sacrificial Animals” by Kailee Pederson. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Exhibit with Museo De Las Americas: Museo de las Americas will present “Rhythm and Dance,” a traveling art exhibit titled exploring the rich history and contemporary practices of music and dance in Latin America. The exhibit features masks, musical instruments and artwork for all ages. The exhibit can be viewed during regular business hours through Jan. 5. To reserve a spot, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)822-9392.

‘Dolls of the Uncanny Valley’: Adults can attend a spooky presentation by the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys. They will journey to the Uncanny Valley to explore the reasons why dolls and clowns can give people the creeps. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15.

‘Haunted Gingerbread Houses’ workshop: Tweens and teens can participate in a haunted gingerbread house workshop. They will turn sweet treats into monster mansions using frosting, candy and the imagination! All

supplies provided. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in for autumn-themed activities. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag to take home will be provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 17.

Toddler ‘Play & Learn’: Parents and caregivers can chat with an early childhood professional (such as a child behavior specialist, music teacher, nutritionist or speech therapist) in a fun and informal setting, while toddlers ages 1-3 play and explore. Drop-ins welcome on a space-available basis. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 17.

‘Dia De Los Muertos’ Art Workshop: Museo de las Americas will present an art workshop for all ages to celebrate Día de los Muertos. Participants will decorate sugar skulls and create paper marigolds and papel picado while learning how the holiday honors the dead and celebrates life. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 3:45-4:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21.

In addition, a traveling art exhibit from Museo de las Americas is on view at the library through Jan. 5. “Rhythm and Dance” explores the rich history and contemporary practices of music and dance in Latin America using artwork, masks and musical instruments.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in activities with harvest and pumpkin themes. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag to take home will be provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 24.

Toddler ‘Play & Learn’: Parents and caregivers can chat with an early childhood professional (such as a child behavior specialist, music teacher, nutritionist or speech therapist) in a fun and informal setting, while toddlers ages 1-3 play and explore. Drop-ins welcome on a space-available basis. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 24.

Books & Beyond: Kids ages 5-12 will celebrate their favorite book characters while discovering new reads through themed games and crafts. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28.

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‘Scribble & Giggle’: Children ages 2-5 and their caregivers are invited to bring their little ones for play-based activities to strengthen pre-writing skills. Children starting to scribble should have lots of fun. Drop-ins welcome on a space-available basis. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 20.

Adult book club: “We Solve Murders” by Richard Osman. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20.

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Church Directory

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod
 Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044
 www.corlcms.org

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

Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
 Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
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Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
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Churches and other nonprofits! Please keep us informed of your activities for publicity and coverage! — Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

BENNETT WATER WARS

FROM PAGE 1

off so the work could be completed safely. Water service was restored in under two hours.”

According to Centennial residents that reported the flooded intersection to *The I-70 Scout*, the neighborhood has experienced at least three line breaches over the past month to six weeks; however, town officials took exception to that count, saying the last break they responded to was almost two months ago.

“The last water main leak our utilities team addressed was at the end of July, and that was due to older infrastructure in the Old Town area,” Belcher said.

Disgruntled residents from the four oldest communities — Centennial, Brothers Four, Cordella and Old Town (north of the train tracks) — allege that town officials have unfairly forced significant hardships on them because of efforts to shift the municipality’s water system to a single pressure zone.

In addition to residents in most of the town’s oldest 880 homes being forced to install pressure reducing valves because of no fault of their own, they claim the transition will unfairly force more costly maintenance or repairs on them.

“Whatever happens with the water, we are the ones that are paying. How fair is that when it’s the town that is responsible — they keep adding more homes and capacity without the proper safeguards in place to protect existing homes,” said a Centennial resident, noting that the town’s PRV rebate program falls short of instilling confidence in both trustees and staff. “Pretty sure it’s going to get worse before it gets better and that’s pretty scary for folks in the older parts of town. How many on the board or in town hall are impacted and do they even care?”

The town’s PRV rebate program is capped at \$550 per residence.

According to Belcher, the town’s work to improve water infrastructure is not at fault for recent issues but said that future repairs should instill future confidence in the system.

“The town of Bennett has not yet transitioned to the single pressure zone system, so that is not a factor in this or any other recent issues,” Belcher said. “However, moving to a single pressure zone system will actually help our utilities team minimize service disruptions in situations like [Oct. 8 in Centennial] moving forward.

“We have several infrastructure repairs planned in our 2026 budget for Old Town, most notably along Third Street, to replace those lines and help prevent future leaks and water service disruptions.

The town’s new single-pressure water system is currently scheduled to go online September 2026.

UTILITIES BILLING SNAFU

Over the first weekend of the month, residents of Bennett received an erroneous e-mail notification about their water utility bills.

“An incomplete version of the Xpress Bill Pay statements was accidentally uploaded before individual automatic billings were finalized,” said a town statement about the error. “As a result, residents received an e-mail showing only the water portion of their bill.”

The town added that, as of Oct. 6, residents should see their full bill — water, sewer and stormwater — when accessing the Xpress Bill Pay system.

“We understand this may have caused some confusion and apologize for the error,” the town statement said.

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AdCo recognizes top employees

BRIGHTON —The Adams County Board of Commissioners Sept. 10 announced its Employee of ALL Seasons at its annual Employee Recognition Luncheon.

The recipient, Angel Ruiz, began her career with Adams County in January 2013 in the Human Services Department. She is currently a Case Services Aide V.

Ruiz was nominated and chosen as the 2024 Summer Employee of the Season winner in the Success in Practice category, which honors individuals for playing an integral role in successful interventions, problem resolution, and improvement with a customer county or process.

“Angel has been working with a client for the past year and successfully helped the mother reunite with her children,” Ruiz’s nomination reads in part. “... The client now has her children at home and, without the guidance of Angel, it would not have happened so smoothly.”

Ruiz was acknowledged for her hard work, dedication, and commitment to Adams County and its residents.

“Adams County has hundreds of employees who are all doing incredible work day in and day out to serve



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adams County Human Services worker Angel Ruiz shows off her Employee of ALL Seasons Award.

our residents,” said Lynn Baca, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

The county has approximately 2,900 employees who serve roughly 540,000 residents.

Employee of ALL Seasons honorees are nominated and voted on by their colleagues, the Recognition Committee, and residents.

Adams County, Anythink Libraries name county’s 2nd poet laureate

BRIGHTON — Adams County and Anythink Libraries Sept. 19 announced the second Adams County poet laureate.

The two-year residency of the new poet laureate, Aerik Francis, will aim to connect communities through poetry and host events at locations across the county, inviting the public to learn the craft of writing and performing poetry.

To mark the occasion, the community can attend a reception honoring Francis from 5-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Adams County Government Center,

Francis 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton. Attendees can meet Francis. The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments and appetizers provided. To RSVP, visit <https://adamscountycogov>.

According to a release, Francis is a celebrated poet, teaching artist, and literary organizer who brings a deep appreciation for language and poetry and a strong commitment to community engagement. Francis has published multiple chapbooks and spoken word albums and has received poetry fellowships with SAFTA, the Chrysalis Institute, CantoMundo, and The Watering Hole.

Francis is also deeply connected to Colorado’s literary arts community, leading youth programming at Lighthouse Writers Workshop, serving as event coordinator for local poetry collective Slam Nuba, and hosting events around Colorado including open mics at RedLine Contemporary Art Center, UNTITLED at the Denver Art Museum, and others.

As Adams County poet laureate, Francis will serve as an idea ambassador for the county, enriching its art practice and the community at large.

Programming will begin in early 2026 and will be rooted in “Conver-

sations,” curating intentional spaces for community members to gather for discussion and dialogue.

“Poetry is more than words on a page — it’s alchemy; it’s a catalyst for action,” Francis said. “It’s a way of making meanings, building bridges, offering permissions, expressing identities, and celebrating the human experience.”

The Adams County poet laureate program is a collaboration between Adams County and Anythink Libraries designed to promote and advocate for literary arts and to celebrate the role of poetry in building community and fostering creativity.

“The poet laureate program reflects Adams County’s and Anythink’s shared belief in the power of the arts to spark imagination and dialogue,” said Mark Fink, executive director of Anythink Libraries.

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**NOTICE OF ELECTION
STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31J
ADAMS & ARAPAHOE COUNTIES, COLORADO
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025
MAIL BALLOT ELECTION**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to law and requisite action of the Board of Education of Strasburg School District 31J, (the "School District"), in the Counties of Adams & Arapahoe, State of Colorado, a Regular Biennial School Election will be held in the School District on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

The election will be conducted (by mail ballot) as part of the coordinated election to be conducted by the County Clerk and Recorder in Adams & Arapahoe Counties. Information about the walk-in locations for delivery of mail ballots and receipt of replacement ballots is available by contacting the appropriate County Clerk and Recorder in Adams or Arapahoe County.

At the election, the eligible electors of the School District shall vote for members of the Board of Education. Candidates for the position of the Director of the Board of Education are:

- Strasburg School District 31J
School Director at Large [Four-Year Term]
(Vote for Two)
- Courtney Vance**
Gema Gomez
Venessia Jimenez

This official election notice incorporates by reference the election notice by the County Clerk and Recorder concerning the location for application and the return of absentee ballots and notice about the locations and times for early voting. Information is available by contacting the appropriate County Clerk and Recorder in Adams or Arapahoe County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Education of Strasburg School District No. 31J, in the Counties of Adams & Arapahoe, and State of Colorado, has caused this notice to be given as required by law on the 8th day of September 2025.



TINA SUTTON/For The Scout

Byers School District educated elementary students about bus safety last month. Above, bus driver Wendy Hise shows Raelyn Post the proper way to exit during an emergency.

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SPORTS



Regional softball: 'Burg, Bennett game likely

Orange-and-black headed to playoffs in program's second season of existence

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Despite finishing the regular season under .500, including three straight losses and a 2-5 record over their last seven games, the Bennett Lady Tigers appeared to be playoff bound this coming weekend.

A 13-1 loss against visiting Florence Oct. 8, ended the orange-and-black's regular season with an 11-12 record overall; however, the Colorado High School Activities Association's Selection & Seeding Index to determine the 3A 32-team state bracket had head coach Joe Ortiz's troops at No. 25 last weekend.

"Qualifying for regionals in just our second year just goes to show how hard the girls worked in the offseason and in the summer when we had our non-mandatory practices," he said. "I'm really proud of them."

This year's regular-season record was an improvement over last year's 8-15 campaign.

While the state playoff pairings weren't announced until after press time on Oct. 13, the final seeding index released Oct. 12 indicated that there was a strong likelihood the Tigers will play in Region 8 in Strasburg and that the two local squads would face each other in the opening round.

"That would be pretty cool to play regionals in Strasburg," Ortiz said.

The other two schools most likely to play in the other first-round playoff game at Strasburg were The Classical Academy (No. 8, 17-6 record) and



ALYSSA STEMBO/For The Scout

Bennett freshman first baseman Adelyn Westendorf corrals a throw for an out against Florence in the Lady Tigers' regular-season finale Oct. 8.

Rocky Ford (No. 24, 5-18)

For confirmation of state playoff pairings, visit www.i-70scout.com and watch for the Oct. 17 *Eastern Colorado News*.

In the final game of the regular season, Bennett struggled at the plate, recording only one hit — an RBI triple off the bat of senior Polish exchange student Jagoda Gutowska in the third inning that scored fellow senior Colby Robichaud, who had walked the previous at bat. The game was still in doubt after three innings with

SEE SB BENNETT PAGE 10



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg third baseman Wynne Winter applies a tag to a University base runner to complete an unconventional double-play in the second inning Oct. 9.

Lady Indians hold on for one of 8 host sites

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — The Lady Indians secured the eighth seed in the 3A softball regionals and will host a playoff game after clobbering Platte Valley in the seventh inning in a 16-9 road victory Saturday.

They also gave University, the No. 2 team in 3A, a run for its money in a 9-2 loss Thursday. Strasburg is just one of five teams to hold the Lady Bulldogs under double-digits this season.

"We stayed right with them," said Strasburg coach Wes Madrill. "We had them worried until the fourth inning."

At press time, University was 19-4, 9-0 in the Patriot League, while Strasburg stood at 15-8 and 5-4, respectively. Regional games will be played

SEE SB STRASBURG PAGE 10



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Indians center fielder Rachel Ruppel makes a diving catch in front of right fielder Paisley Selle during the third inning against University Oct. 9.

Lady Tigers split two league net matches

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

Bennett lost a war with Middle Park at Granby in five sets Oct. 3 but rebounded to clobber Lake County of Leadville in an Oct. 7 homecoming contest for the Lady Tigers.

The Tigers concluded their Frontier League schedule Tuesday at Platte Canyon in Bailey. Results were not available at press time.

"That's our last league game, so we need to win that one," Thornton said.

The Frontier League spreads its conference tournament over two Saturdays with a round-robin event Oct. 18, which determines seeding for the bracketed tournament Oct. 25 to determine the conference championship.

According to Bennett Athletic Director C.J. Stemo, the winner of Tuesday's match determined if Bennett or Platte Canyon hosts on Saturday. For updated schedule information, see www.i-70scout.com and the Oct. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

"It's really going to come



ALYSSA STEMBO/For The Scout

Bennett libero Kaylonnie Mclaury receives a Lake County serve as teammate Mya Robledo looks on during the Lady Tigers' homecoming victory Oct. 7.

down to who wins the league tournament to advance to regionals," Thornton said. "It's been a roller coaster."

The Tigers close the regular season with non-league games at Weld Central Oct. 21 and Kent Denver at home Oct. 28.

@ MIDDLE PARK

Although a loss for Bennett, the Middle Park match was

by far the more entertaining of the two games.

"It was a huge battle," Thornton said. "It was very intense."

At press time, Middle Park stood at 10-5 overall and 6-1 in Frontier League play. In contrast, Bennett was 6-10 and 3-3, but the Tigers almost pulled off the upset,

SEE VB BENNETT PAGE 12



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Eagle Vailini Samate goes horizontal to keep a Cripple Creek-Victor kill attempt from hitting the floor Oct. 7.

DT girls sweep Pioneers

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Their 25-21, 25-10, 25-13 victory over visiting Cripple Creek-Victor Oct. 7 was the sixth time in their seven wins that the Deer Trail Lady Eagles swept an opponent in three sets.

Despite getting the brooms out Tuesday night, the first game saw the host red-and-white have to hold off a late Pioneer rally that pulled them within 22-21; the Eagles won the next three points.

Games two and three were more cut-and-dry. With the second set tied 3-3, Deer Trail won 12 of the next 15 rallies and never looked back. In the final set, Deer Trail was up 7-6 when it scored 13 of the next 15 points to pull away.

"Stretches of the first set got away from us a little. It was definitely closer than it should have been," said Deer Trail head coach Amy Cox. "The girls regained their focus and took care of business the

SEE VB DEER TRAIL PAGE 12

Tigers get homecoming victory; improve postseason prospects

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

BENNETT — The Tigers boosted their overall record on the soccer pitch to 7-4-2 and 4-2-2 in the Frontier League with a 4-2 homecoming victory over Englewood Oct. 8.

Bennett head coach Ashley Torgerson said he reviewed team records back to 2009 and confirmed that the Tigers have never had such a good mark during that time.

With games remaining against Arvada (1-9-1) Oct. 13 and Lake County (0-10) Oct. 20, Bennett's preseason aspiration to reach the Class 2A playoffs — set by the boys themselves — is becoming a reality.

As of Oct. 12, Bennett is ranked 13th in the state seeding index. In 2A soccer, the top 24 teams qualify for the playoffs.

Englewood (4-7-1) scored first in the first half, but the Tigers tied it going into halftime before rattling off two straight in the second half and an insurance goal after the Pirates cut it to 3-2.

Senior Jesus Santoyo scored three times on five shots on goal to lead the Tigers.

"Really he was the player of the match," Torgerson said.

Junior Nathan Ramirez scored a goal on his only shot, and senior Blake Gonzalez and junior Houston Broski both had three shots on goal.

Torgerson also praised the defensive performance of sophomore Uvaldo Lopez, who had four steals and two shots on goal.

Gonzalez and junior Hayden Kirby each had five steals, and Kirby tacked



Hayden Kirby directs the ball with his noggin during the Tigers' homecoming victory over Englewood Oct. 8.

on two shots of his own.

Junior Izaac Hernandez played all 80 minutes in goal, allowing both Englewood goals and making 10 saves.

"I thought that we did a much better job passing the ball," Torgerson said. "We did a better job communicating and we're hoping to hoping [the boys] carry that through the last two games."



Payton Weaver slides safely into home to score one of Strasburg's two first-inning runs against University in Patriot League action Oct. 9.

SB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 9

Saturday, Oct. 18.

The game with the Lady Broncos had been suspended for darkness Oct. 7 after 6 1/3 innings with Strasburg leading 9-9. When it resumed Oct. 11, the Indians tacked on 3 insurance runs, and the Lady Broncos had no response.

Further information on the Platte Valley contest was not available at press time. For complete coverage and updated postseason information, see the Oct. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

UNIVERSITY

The Indians were actually ahead 2-1 through three innings, but errors, walks and a wild pitch helped the Lady Bulldogs to score 6 runs in the top of the fourth to lead for good.

"We had three errors and two of them cost us quite a few runs," said Strasburg head coach Wes Madrill.

University tacked on insurance runs in the fifth and seventh to account for the 9-2 final score.

"We had runners on in the second and third and then we couldn't push across anymore," said Strasburg head coach Wes Madrill. "We had basically the bottom of the lineup up, and I can't remember what they did, but they didn't put the ball to play."

The Bulldogs did not hit Strasburg especially hard with just three ex-

tra-base knocks. They were otherwise hitting short, so Madrill started playing them short in the outfield.

"They dinked us to death," he said. "They never hit anything over our heads after that. And we caught our share of fly balls."

Madrill noted that many balls went right over the heads of the infield.

"Nothing powerful. If the girls would have timed it right a little bit better, they would have caught those balls," he continued. "It's tough to have timing on a lazy pop — not pop-up — but kind of a blooper."

Outfielders Rachel Ruppel, a senior, and Paisley Selle, a sophomore, had five putouts between them, and The Indian defense turned two double plays.

Junior Phebe Johnson pitched for the Indians, yielding 7 earned runs on 12 hits and five walks. She struck out two.

"She threw a good ball game," Madrill said.

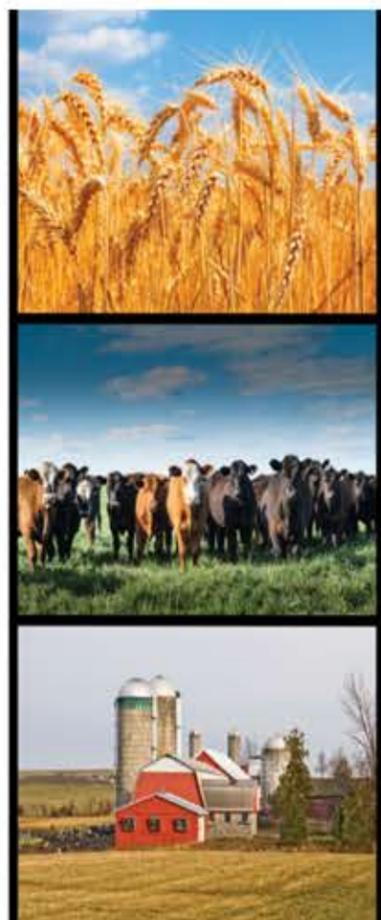
Junior Madi Olsen drove in both of Strasburg's runs with a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the first.

Johnson singled twice in the game, and Ruppel, junior Addi Kent, and Selle all singled once.

"It was a good game. The girls had a lot of fun," Madrill said. "When we left, I told them we didn't lose."

"We learned."

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Bennett right fielder Rylie Reza gets in front of a fly ball against Florence Oct. 8.

SB BENNETT

FROM P9

Bennett down 3-1, but the visiting Huskies tacked on 5 runs each in the fourth and fifth innings to salt away the victory. Florence finished the game with 14 hits. The Tiger pitching trio of Robichaud, senior Audrey Harrell and freshman Macy Meyer gave up 12 earned runs while walking four and striking out seven.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Bulldogs Joclynn Rector, left, and Ainsley Sauer converge on a Flatirons Academy serve during nonconference play Oct. 9.

1-1 stretch keep Lady Bulldogs in volleyball playoff discussion

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BYERS — A split of nonconference home matches last week kept the Byers Lady Bulldogs a game under .500, and the green-and-white's strength of schedule still has it in state postseason contention.

The troops of Byers head coach Jessica Fournier overcame a slow start to dispatch of visiting Elbert 17-25, 25-21, 25-19, 25-11 Oct. 7, but struggled with consistency in a 25-20, 25-18, 25-13 loss to Flatirons Academy Oct. 9.

"Elbert was a fun match to watch and be a part of," Fournier said. "We were flat the first set but the girls stepped up and dominated sets 2-4. Elbert is a scrappy team with a great libero and I was proud of the team for accepting the challenge and taking charge."

In Tuesday's battle of Bulldogs, Byers won the hitting battle, 37 kills to 24 for the visitors. Sophomore Karley Linnebur dominated much of the Byers offense with 18 kills, while classmate Joclynn Rector added and senior Abi Green and sophomore Ainsley Sauer with four apiece. The recently discovered setting duo of sophomore Layla Sayler and freshman Zoie Murphy accounted for 18 and 13 assists, respectively.

It was another Jekyll-and-Hyde night at the service line for the hosts who had 16 aces but also recorded 14 errors for a sub-85% success rate. Linnebur led with four aces, followed by Green with three and Rector, Sayler, Murphy, and Sauer with two apiece.

Defensively, the victors were credited with eight blocks including Sauer with a pair of solo stuffs. Byers scrambled its way to 72 digs, led by Linnebur and Rector with 16 apiece and senior Jenah Bequette with 10. On serve-serve, the green-and-white committed four errors in 68 opportunities.

"When we are aggressive, confident, and scrappy and don't dwell on our mistakes, we take it to the next level," Fournier said.

FLATIRONS ACADEMY

Against the 15-1 and top 5-ranked 1A Bison, Byers gave up 5-point runs that proved to be killers in both the first two sets. In game two, the Bulldogs rallied to tie the score at 16 but, after a timeout by the Flatirons coach, the Bison went on a 5-1 run. In the final set, Byers got down seven points



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Byers' Karley Linnebur tries to find a hole in a Flatirons Academy double-block Oct. 9.

off the bat and couldn't recover.

"Flatirons is a very good team and I thought they played even better than their game film indicated," Fournier said. "We worked hard the first two sets but missed serves at key moments and in the third set faltered and struggled to get over the hump of our mistakes."

While Linnebur again led in kills with seven, she was well below her output from several previous matches. Rector added six kills and sophomore Olivia Eastwood with five. Murphy took team-high honors in assists with 11.

Defensively, Sauer recorded two blocks and Bequette had six digs to lead the Bulldogs.

POSTSEASON PROSPECTS

Leading up to its Oct. 11 road trip to Yuma, Byers was 7-8 overall and ranked No. 25 in the Colorado High School Activities Association's Selection & Seeding Index for the 32-team postseason bracket in 2A.

Despite the sub-.500 record, Byers resume is helped by a strong schedule — three current top 5-ranked 2A schools, including a win over No. 2 Lyons; the fourth and sixth-ranked teams in 1A; and 3A Strasburg and Bennett.

There are two weeks left in the regular season with the dozen regional tournament pairings to be announced Nov. 3. The winner of all 12 three-team round-robins Nov. 7-8 will advance to the state tournament Nov. 13-15 at the Denver Coliseum.

For coverage of Saturday's match at Yuma, see the Oct. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Oct. 16: Holyoke.
Oct. 21: Peyton.



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Lady Eagles Kylie Bryant, left, and Landree Cox receive serves during Deer Trail's three-game sweep over Cripple Creek-Victor Oct. 7.

VB DEER TRAIL FROM PAGE 9

second and third sets. Missing serves still plague us as we missed 8, so we need to get a handle on that.”

The Eagles recorded 23 kills, including sophomore Fatuma Hussein with a team-high seven, followed by senior Megan Donovan with six, sophomore Landree Cox five, and four for junior Vailini Samate. Samate and Cox shared facilitating duties with nine and seven assists apiece.

The Eagles had an 89% serve percentage with four aces, lead by junior Kylie Bryant with two.

Defensively, the victors had 46 digs, led by Hussein and Donovan with 11

apiece.

The win jumped Deer Trail to 7-9 overall, but the red-and-white still remains out of postseason contention as they are No. 41 in the current playoff selection rankings. In 1A volleyball, 24 teams make the playoffs.

The Eagles traveled to the Arkansas Valley to take on Manzanola Oct. 10 and got the win in four sets, but specifics were unavailable at press time. For full coverage, see the Oct. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMING UP
Oct. 21: Genoa-Hugo.

VB BENNETT FROM PAGE 9

losing the first two sets, winning the next two in extra points, and eventually succumbing in the fifth. The final score was 25-13, 25-22, 27-29, 27-25, 15-7.

Thornton said there were many points where her girls battled back when the chips were down.

“The fact that the girls kept playing and they were running around digging balls up, it was crazy. Like, they were playing with no fear and they just went out and worked their tail ends off and that’s how we came out ahead on those sets three and four,” she said. “I’ve been waiting for this all season, so I think that if they play like that all the time, the sky’s the limit for them.”

Thornton particularly noted her team’s performance against Middle Park’s senior outside hitter, Peyton Sossa.

“She’s really good and she got a lot of good kills on us, but our girls did so [well] digging and we got hands on blocks and we were hitting, and we frustrated them and that’s how we won two out of the five sets and they were all very close,” she said.



Emilee Venneberg sets to a teammate during Bennett's Homecoming victory Oct. 7.

Senior Kaurlie Voorhies notched 16 kills and one ace for Bennett and junior Abigail Thornton added 13 kills.

On defense, Junior Kaylonnie McLaury recorded nine digs and 23 serve-receives, senior Mya Robledo had eight digs and 11 serve-receives, and sophomore Josie Ladd added eight and 17, respectively.

Junior Mady Bavouset had two aces and junior Emilee Venneberg dished out 26 assists to lead the Tigers in those categories.

easy homecoming triumph with a three-set sweep, 25-6, 25-12, 25-17.

Thornton said no real excitement occurred during the match, “but we did make our own energy. It was our homecoming night, so we tried to make the best of it. I got to play everybody, so that was good.”

Thornton led Bennett with 13 kills followed by sophomore Meagan Green with five and Voorhies and Ladd with four each.

Voorhies had the most aces with four, while Bavouset and senior Rose Smith recorded three each, Venneberg had two to go with 21 assists, and Ladd added one to pair with six digs and McLaury had one ace and six serve-receives.

LAKE COUNTY
Lake County handed Bennett an



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The first of the I-70 Corridor homecoming celebrations this fall occurred at Deer Trail Sept. 29 through Oct. 3. Left photo, the sophomore class took top poster honors for its artistic prognostication of the Eagles' Friday night volleyball and football games against the Miami-Yoder Buffaloes; in both cases Deer Trail won handily. The Class of 2028 also took top honors for the week's worth of activities between grade levels. Right photo, senior members of the Homecoming Court are Jeanette Rodriguez, left, Mason Burdick, Megan Donovan and Ayden Martinez. Donovan and Martinez were named Queen and King. For additional coverage, see the Oct. 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Thursday night homecoming activities in Deer Trail included the Home & School Association's first Carnival Night. The event preceded the annual bonfire. From left, Deer Trail Rodeo 2026 Lady In Waiting Mya Noe mans a booth; town trustees Emily Richardson and Robert Rhodes await participants to bob for apples; and kindergartner Charlotte Thwaits Bannock is excited to try her hand at bobbing for apples.



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From left photo, Strasburg's Camryn Forbis (2) sets to a teammate and Ellen Middlemist hits over a blocker against Simla Oct. 7.

'Burg girls struggle during VB gauntlet

by Douglas Claussen
 Publisher & Editor

Growing pains continued to haunt the Strasburg volleyball team in a recent trio of losses — at 4A Fort Morgan Sept. 30 in four sets in their most competitive match of the three; a sweep at Eaton Oct. 2; and in three sets at home against Simla Oct. 7.

After losing to Fort Morgan, 6-11 at press time, they ran into buzz saws in the form of 14-1 Eaton, the No. 2 team in Class 3A, and 14-2 Simla, No. 2 in 2A.

"I think our kids play really hard. The kids are not giving up," said Larry Deffenbaugh, head coach of the Lady Indians. "We have had a ton of adversity. We're young and we're learning and we're growing. And I'm proud of my team."

The Indians also lost to Platte Valley in three sets Oct. 9 to drop their record to 3-12. Watch the *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.

"We're just going to keep persevering and maybe we'll sneak a win or two here and there," Deffenbaugh added.

@ FORT MORGAN
 Strasburg was defeated by the Lady

Mustangs 22-25, 25-16, 25-18, 25-21 "We won the first set and we just couldn't maintain our consistency," Deffenbaugh said. "But we were in three of the four sets. So keep on keeping on."

The Indians were paced by sophomore Laci Zimmerman with 14 kills and the team's only block. Freshman Ellen Middlemist, junior Tatijana Rojahn, and senior Vic Nuttall added six, five and four kills respectively.

At the line, junior Jenna Echer had five aces followed by junior Brooke Nuttall and freshman Camryn Forbis with one each.

Top diggers were Rojahn with 20, Echer with 19, and Vic Nuttall 15.

Forbis dished out 15 assists and freshman McKenna Garcia added seven.

Top receivers were Echer with 20, Rojahn with 16, Brooke Nuttall 14, and Vic Nuttall 13.

@ EATON
 The Lady Reds beat Strasburg 25-5, 25-10, 25-15.

"Eaton's really good," Deffenbaugh said. "They got two power hitters and they cover the floor well. Sometimes I'll just say this: scores don't indicate our quality of play."

Vic Nuttall had two kills and Zimmerman one. Vic and Brooke Nuttall both had six digs and Rojahn added four, and Vic Nuttall added 10 serve-receives and Echer had eight.

SIMLA
 Deffenbaugh said he'll be surprised if Simla doesn't win the 2A state title following his team's 25-11, 25-9, 25-5 loss to the Lady Cubs.

"They're stacked," he added. "I think Simla could play with Eaton and University. That's how good they are."

Zimmerman paced the Indians with six kills while Rojahn had three. Each girls had a block apiece.

Echer led the team with five digs followed by Rojahn, Vic Nuttall and Forbis with four each. Forbis also had 11 assists.

Echer recorded 20 serve-receives, Vic Nuttall had 18, Brooke Nuttall 10 and Rojahn nine.

"I felt like, against Simla, we played hard and together and, of course, [losing] bothers them," Deffenbaugh concluded. "Just like it bothers me."

COMING UP
 Oct. 16: @ Frontier Academy.
 Oct. 21: @ Wiggins
 Oct. 23: Valley.
 Oct. 28: Liberty Common.
 Nov. 2: Strasburg Tournament.

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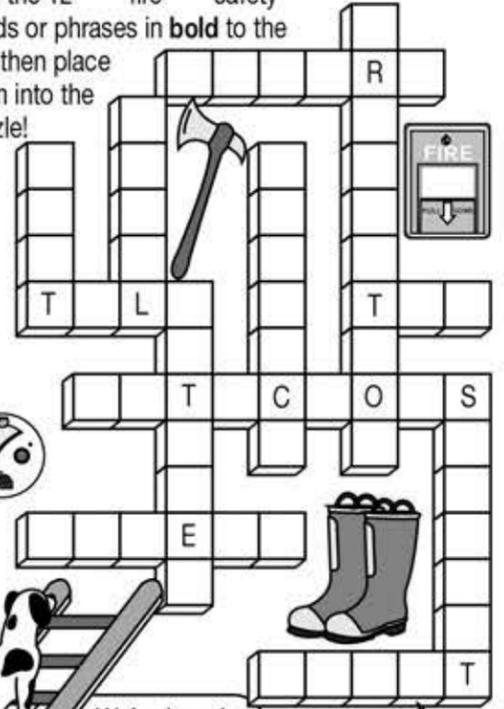
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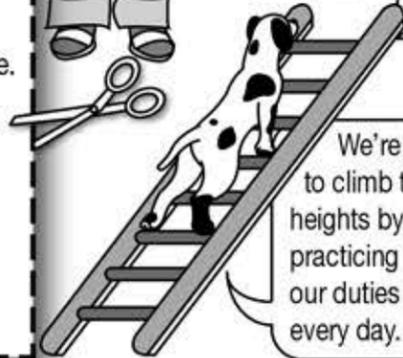
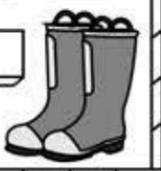


Find the 12 "fire safety" words or phrases in **bold** to the left, then place them into the puzzle!



Family Fire Safety Checklist

- Only cook in the **kitchen** when an adult is helping you.
- Don't touch matches, lighters or candles. They are for **adult** use only.
- Do you have smoke **detectors** on every level of your home? Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Do you know **two** or more ways out of the house?
- Never use elevators (**stairs** are much safer) if there is a fire.
- Smoke rises, so if there is a fire, stay low: **crawl** under the smoke.
- Have you picked a place to **meet** the rest of your family once you are all out of the house?
- Once you are out of the house, **stay out** of the house.



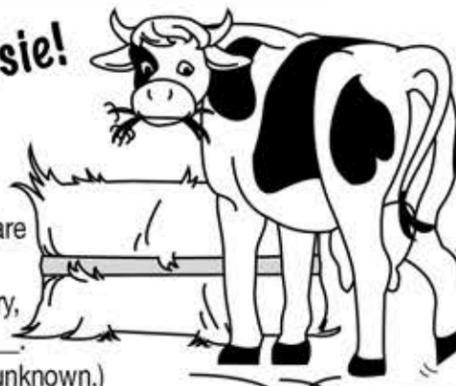
We're learning to climb to new heights by practicing our duties every day.

The Great Chicago Fire (And the Lessons We Learned)

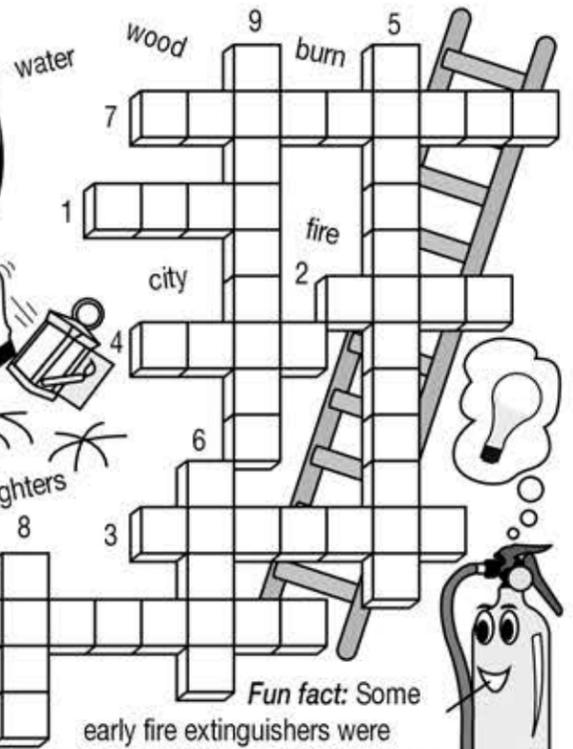
Read about the fire to fill in the crossword puzzle:

1. Have you ever heard of the Great Chicago _____ (1871)?
2. It was a fire so big and out of control that it burned almost 4 square miles of the _____ and even jumped across the Chicago River!
3. One story says that it started when a woman, named Mrs. O'Leary, went to her barn to milk a cow and the cow kicked over her _____ (The story was made up by a reporter; what started of the fire is unknown.)
4. The buildings in the city were mostly made of _____ and were built very close together, so it was easy for the fire to spread.
5. It is said that people didn't react right away and that the _____ were tired from fighting a different fire the day before and made some mistakes.
6. The blaze grew so big that it destroyed the pumps for the waterworks (the place that supplied the water to fight the fire) and the _____ was cut off.
7. Finally, after two days, the fire burned itself out, after destroying over 17,000 _____, killing hundreds of people and leaving about 90,000 others homeless.
8. Oddly, one of the buildings that didn't _____ was the waterworks tower. It is still there today!
9. Today, we space buildings in the city farther apart and use more _____ materials like metals.
10. Firefighters today are better trained and have _____ that helps them fight fires more quickly.

Whoopsie!



buildings
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equipment
lantern
firefighters

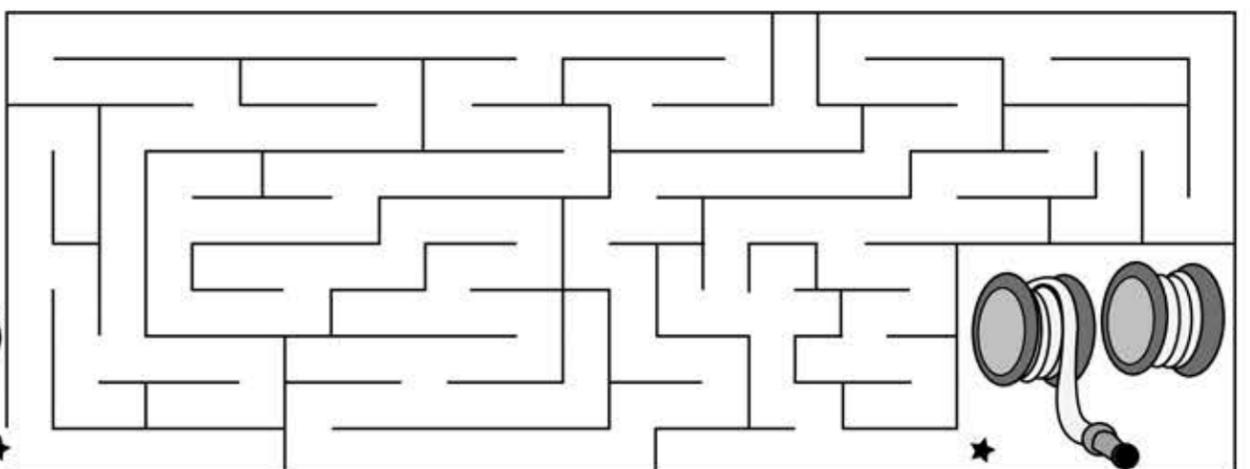


Fun fact: Some early fire extinguishers were like lightbulbs filled with powdered chemicals; people would throw them into the fires.

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At the end of the long day, the equipment is being cleaned and stored. Can you help the firefighter put the equipment away?



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO OCT. 18, 2005

A California man was taken into custody by Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies Oct. 13 between Byers and Strasburg on I-70 after he drove away from the Deer Trail Texaco without paying for gas that he pumped into a car he allegedly stole.

Jacob Andrew Dilley, 26, of Canyon Country, Calif., fled westbound on I-70 and evaded sheriff's deputies' efforts to stop him at milepost 313. Dilley finally stopped the white 1991 Ford Probe he was driving at milepost 312, two miles east of Strasburg. Dilley was apprehended without incident, according to Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson. No drugs or alcohol were reportedly involved.

During the pursuit, sheriff's officials were made aware that the car Dilley was driving was reported stolen during a carjacking incident in Shawnee, Kan.

Dilley was taken to the Arapahoe County Detentions Facility on a \$50,000 bond.

He was charged with fuel piracy, a class 3 misdemeanor that carries a possible sentence of a \$50 fine and up to six months in county jail; no proof of insurance, a class 1 traffic misdemeanor that could result in a fine of up to \$100 and jail time of 10 days to one year; eluding a peace officer, a class 2 traffic misdemeanor with possible punishment of a \$10 to \$300 fine and 10 to 90 days in jail; and speeding, a class A traffic infraction punishable by a fine between \$15-300.

15 YEARS AGO OCT. 19, 2010

STRASBURG — A waiver form requesting a variance to a 100-mile travel limit for student activities was discussed Oct. 13 at the Strasburg School Board meeting.

"One of the things that the board addressed last time was to develop a form or a waiver if a sponsor or a coach wanted to get an exemption from our 100-mile radius, which was passed at the last meeting," said superintendent Ed Vandertook. "I

can already tell you from the first request that it needs to be amended."

The five-page request was from speech coach Ginia Gutierrez, asking the board to allow 11 speech students to attend a meet in Alamosa Nov. 12-13.

Board president Don Gerstenberger suggested adding a one-page limit on the number of attachments the applicant can submit.

10 YEARS AGO OCT. 20, 2015

STRASBURG — A Strasburg High School senior and her superintendent have been lauded for their proactive efforts in communicating with Native American tribes to both preserve the school's Indian mascot and promote a culture of cooperation for future history curriculum.

High school superintendent Jeff Rasp and senior Lindsey Nichols updated the Strasburg School Board about their efforts Oct. 14. Nichols' senior project includes new designs for the schools' uniform lettering and Indian motifs, initiating contact with the Arapaho and Cheyenne nations for better school relations, and promoting a feeling of goodwill with state legislations in favor of abolishing Indian and Native American mascots.

"We are deeply interested in establishing a partnership with local tribes, educating our students and community on the history and culture of Native Americans, and providing more background as to why we chose the Indian to represent our school — with the utmost respect and honor in mind," Rasp said.

As far as curriculum is concerned, Rasp indicated more Native American issues will likely be part of future U.S. history classes but that, for the current school year, most information will likely be part of school assemblies.

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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, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2025. There are 77 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 15, 2017, actor and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a sta-

tus. Within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced a decade earlier by social activist Tarana Burke).

ON THIS DATE

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed French emper-

or, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5½ years of his life in exile.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering fatally poisoned himself hours before he

was to have been executed.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for about 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1976, the first debate of its kind took place between vice-presidential nominees.

Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 80. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 66. Chef Emeril Lagasse is 66.

—Associated Press

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- ACROSS
1. Awestruck
 5. Paid player
 8. Precedes pedia
 12. Oxen connector
 13. Sonic sound
 14. ___ Dondarrion, "Game of Thrones" Lord of Blackhaven
 15. Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
 16. "2025 Pete Davidson horror flick, "The ___"
 17. Wear away
 18. "Movie director of "Knock at the Cabin" fame
 20. Manage without help
 21. Subway coin
 22. Boar's mate
 23. "Jordan Peele's directorial debut (2017, 2 words)
 26. Richard Gere in 1980 movie, pl.
 30. Bit of binary code
 31. A way to steal gas
 34. "It's ___" (1974)
 35. Estrogen producer
 37. Have a bug
 38. Glue on, e.g.
 39. Comme ci, comme ça
 40. Nice to look at
 42. Opposite of WSW
 43. Opposite of #40 Across
 45. Cordwood units
 47. The night before
 48. Warm down-slope wind
 50. Blood component
 52. "Trip to Sweden gone wrong (2019)
 56. Like certain radiant energy
 57. Pakistani tongue
 58. "Ill at ___"
 59. Not together
 60. Ooze
 61. Bulgarian, e.g.
 62. Like certain grape beverage
 63. Get it wrong
 64. Shakira's don't lie?



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 3. Thumbs-up
 4. Italian frozen dessert
 5. Southern England's coastal town
 6. "___ Polanski, director of "Rosemary's Baby"
 7. "The story of Damien Thorn, with The (1976)
 8. "Americans' attacker in London (1981)
 9. Pump it!
 10. Pirate Captain ___
 11. Frozen H₂O
 13. Devotional worship, in Hinduism
 14. Haze over
 19. Timid
 22. Envy, biblically-speaking
 23. Duck follower
 24. Diplomat on a mission
 25. Badger or bug
 26. Happy Gilmore's game
 27. Forever prisoner
 28. Sheep-like
 29. Movie "Battle of the ___"
 32. Pay as you earn, acr.
 33. Step on it
 36. "Mia Farrow in Roman Polanski's movie (1967)
 38. Poetic although
 40. Before of yore
 41. Depletes (2 words)
 44. Manifest
 46. Catch in a net
 48. Firearm shooter
 49. More eccentric
 50. Shoshonean people
 51. Panache
 52. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.
 53. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor
 54. Hurry up, acronym
 55. RPMs
 56. "James Wan's directorial debut (2004)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

Drama Moon

A story needs three things: character, conflict and change. The dramatic Leo moon at odds with Mercury and Mars promises all three, including the conflict. Without the conflict, many theorists (from Aristotle through modern screenwriting gurus like Robert McKee) would argue it's not a story at all — it's an anecdote, a vignette. Maybe a slice of life, but not a story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are some people you love so much, when they make a mess of things, it's like art to you. You even frame it, metaphorically at least. And you can count yourself in that group of zany artists. There's a fine line between "mess" and "abstraction."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Strengthening your core isn't just about doing sit-ups. It's spiritual. Life can be like going through the car wash without a car. We're not built for it. A strong core keeps us upright, or it helps us turn back and go the other way before we get knocked around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be revered for your spontaneity, and rightly so. To achieve this level of playfulness with life, you have to trust yourself, trust others or trust life's process -- ideally, all three.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have big feelings — the gift that sometimes feels like a curse because the highs are as extreme as the lows. There's great power here. Learning what to do with these big feelings is like taming lightning, but it will be worth it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Tasks take twice as long as you predict? Then your misestimation is in line with most people's. Minutes can be like jelly beans in a contest jar — hard to guess the exact number, and the bigger the jar, the harder it gets.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Beauty isn't hiding in the commonplace. You don't have to use your imagination to see it, you only have to be awake. Today, you'll be reminded of the divine present everywhere, accessible in every speck of creation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No need to justify your choices. You just choose. You don't audition for approval, you show up and do your thing. All the validation you need is already in your own pocket. Who has time to prove yourself when you're this busy being yourself?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's possible to feel joy that is untethered from whatever is happening in your life and relationships. Maybe situations aren't ideal, but your emotional independence from circumstance is something to celebrate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are part scientist, part dreamer today as you gather the data needed to correctly assess what you're up against, what is yours to leverage and what you still need. Then you imagine your way through the rest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Comparing your trouble to someone else's doesn't make it smaller. It just makes you harsher on yourself, which isn't necessary now. Heed the signals that your body gives you about the rest or activity that you need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not a machine on a deadline. You're a cat on a sun-warmed windowsill. Rest isn't laziness; it's elegance. The world can wait while you purr. Tonight, trade one to-do for a long stretch.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Replay a moment in your head the way you wish it had gone. See yourself saying the right words and making the right moves. Your fantasy is like a practice run that lets the mind rehearse success. Reality will echo.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 8). Welcome to the Year of Your Heart's Music. You make the little moments sing, and the whole symphony of your life rises in harmony. There's poetry in unexpected things, like sports, math, logistics and more. You'll attract people who are a perfect fit for projects and plans and achieve milestones together. More highlights: teaching, profits you invest and turn into passive income, and big fun tickets. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 29, 21, 17 and 18.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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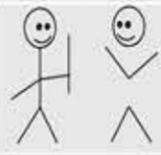
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Public Works Director Brian Staley, left, Commissioner Steve O'Doriso, Deputy County Manager Dionne Stroter, Commissioners Lynn Baca and Kathy Henson, and Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Director Byron Fanning, cut the ribbon on Adams County's new outdoor mural on 58th Avenue.

Adams Co. marks completion of 58th Avenue project, mural

BRIGHTON — Adams County Aug. 23 celebrated the completion of the 58th Avenue project and a public art installation.

The full corridor reconstruction from Washington to York streets widened 58th Avenue to four lanes, including a center turn lane; added curb, gutter, sidewalk and bike lanes; created a safe and passable corridor for traffic and pedestrians alike; re-located major water and sewer lines; added a signal to the Franklin Street intersection; and constructed a retaining wall.

The project began Aug. 1, 2022. Now completed, it has transformed the vital portion of East 58th Avenue into a dynamic urban corridor. Total cost was \$26.8 million — an investment, which will improve the community for years to come, according to a release.

The county is committed to bringing public art to its residents through the Percentage for the Arts Program, which dedicates 2% of construction costs of eligible capital projects to arts and culture.

As part of the 58th Avenue project, the county Parks, Open Space & Cul-

tural Arts Department engaged local artists Jolt & CoCo of Guerilla Garden to complete a sprawling 308-foot mural alongside the improvements to East 58th.

The artists worked with eight youth from the Keystone Leadership Program at the Suncor Boys & Girls Club for a six-week series of workshops to design and install the mural.

Letters for the Better uses graffiti writing to spread positive energy into the community with words like "Familia," "Unity" and "Heritage" depicting various styles of graffiti letter-writing.

"By embracing graffiti art through this powerful mural, we are honoring heritage and celebrating culture, all while creating a safer, stronger corridor for the businesses, families, and neighborhoods that call the area home," said Commissioner Lynn Baca, board chair.

At the ribbon-cutting, members of the Board of County Commissioners and county staff celebrated the completion of the project with representatives from Jolt & CoCo, Suncor Boys & Girls Club in Commerce City, and local businesses.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

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.

An honest conversation about the economy with Arapahoe County District 5 Commissioner Rhonda Fields and special guests from Arapahoe/Douglas Works! 5-6:30 p.m., CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Drive, **Aurora**

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

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

MONDAY, OCT. 20

East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.

Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission.

6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at bennettco.gov for information.

Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers School boardroom.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

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

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

Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

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

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

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

OCTOBER 24-25 & OCTOBER 31

Town of Deer Trail Halloween Maze of Ter-

ror. \$5 per person or \$25 for six people. 6 p.m. until crowds are gone at corner of South Fourth Avenue & South Fourth Court.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Young at Heart Seniors in Bennett. 12-4 p.m., Bennett Community Center.

EVERY THURSDAY

Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing, dance and learn to play musical instruments. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library. No class on Aug. 21.

Preschool Storytime: Children up to ages 3-6 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that promote early literacy. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

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

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

Coffee, Cookies & Chat for all I-70 Corridor seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.

Gaming Club: Patrons ages 10 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

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

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Nacho Beef Dip

NACHO BEEF DIP

- INGREDIENTS**
- 1 pound ground beef (93% lean or leaner)
 - 1 (15- to 16-ounce) jar cheese dip with salsa (salsa con queso) or other cheese dip
 - 1/2 cup thick-and-chunky mild or medium salsa

- TOPPINGS**
- blue, yellow or white corn tortilla chips
 - diced red bell pepper, thinly sliced green onions, sliced ripe olives

DIRECTIONS
Heat nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add ground beef; cook 8-10 minutes, breaking into 3/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Add cheese dip and salsa; cook and stir about 3 minutes or until mixture is heated through. Pour beef mixture into shallow serving dish. Serve with tortilla chips for dipping. Garnish with toppings, if desired.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE
Thursday, Oct. 16: Chicken patty sandwich.
Monday, Oct. 20: Hamburger.
Tuesday, Oct. 21: Alfredo chicken.
Wednesday, Oct. 22: Spaghetti, roll.

BYERS
Thursday, Oct. 16: Taco pizza, cucumber rings.
Friday, Oct. 17: Cheeseburger, baked beans.
Monday, Oct. 20: Chicken nuggets, dinner roll.
Tuesday, Oct. 21: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans.
Wednesday, Oct. 22: Chili cheese fries, corn bread.

DEER TRAIL
Thursday, Oct. 16: Chicken nachos, pinto beans.
Monday, Oct. 20: Corn dogs, fruit.
Tuesday, Oct. 21: Crispy chicken sandwich, mixed salad.
Wednesday, Oct. 22: Turkey and cheese sandwich, chicken noodle soup.

STRASBURG
Thursday, Oct. 16: Spaghetti, garlic bread.
Friday, Oct. 17: Bean and cheese burritos.
Tuesday, Oct. 21: Pizza.
Wednesday, Oct. 22: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies.

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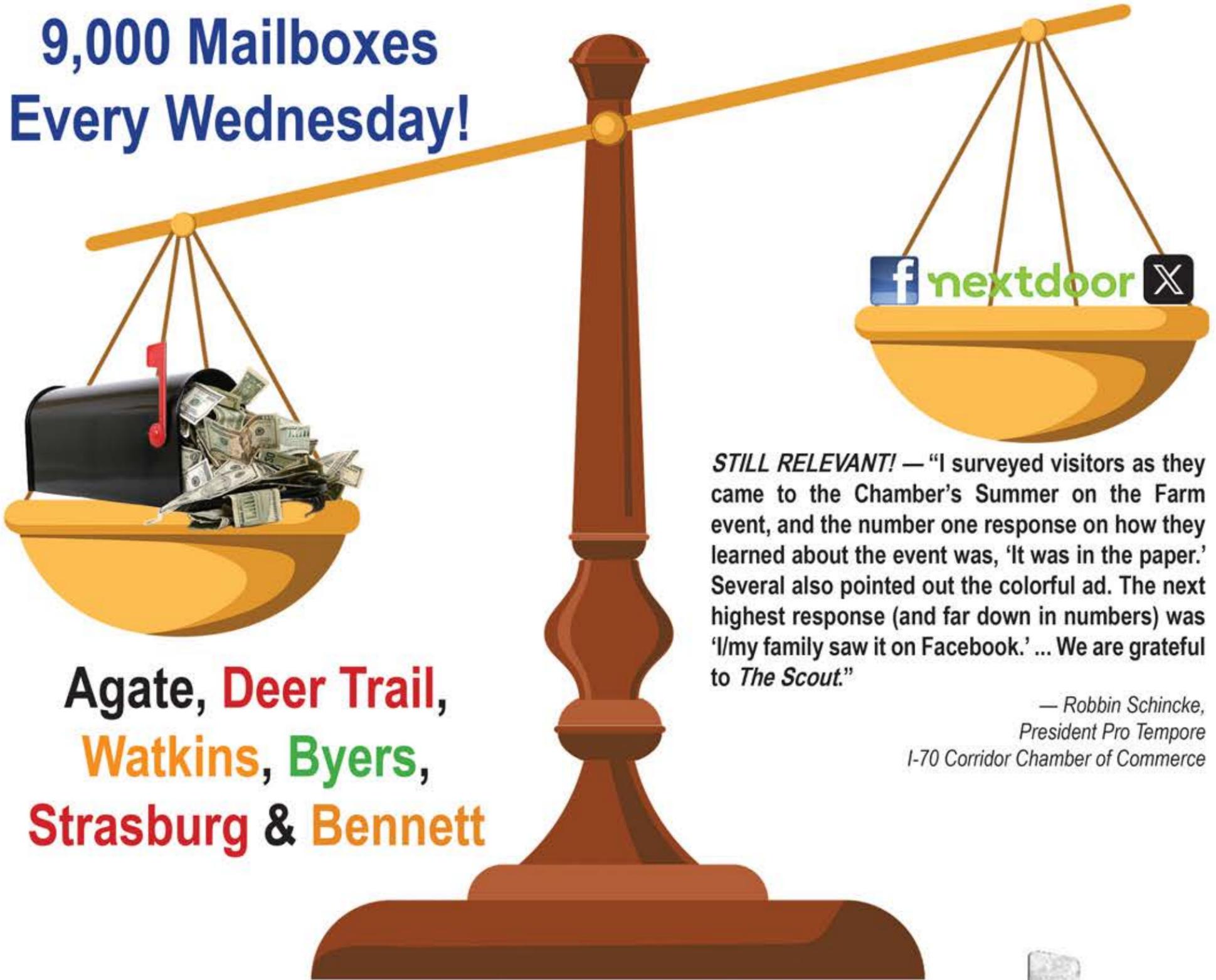
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STILL RELEVANT! — “I surveyed visitors as they came to the Chamber’s Summer on the Farm event, and the number one response on how they learned about the event was, ‘It was in the paper.’ Several also pointed out the colorful ad. The next highest response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

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

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Celebrating Two Decades!

2005-2025



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Mountain View Fellowship celebrated its 20th anniversary during a daylong celebration at its Strasburg chapel Oct. 5. In addition to two morning services, festivities included a live band, outdoor family activities and food that included brisket nachos with the meat from Buc-ee's. From top photos, Pastor Donn Headley is all smiles along with wife, Angie; Paisley Reed, 3, learns strategy at an early age while playing an outdoor version of Connect 4; and Asher Oliver and Ella Roybal, both 9, leap off one of the inflatable obstacle courses.