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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 50

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

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Bennett approves another 2,100+ homes

Trustees OK Prairie Grass annexations; residents can expect 4% wastewater bill increase in '26

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — By a vote of 5-2 last week, the Bennett Board of Trustees approved additional growth on the west edge of town, including more than 2,100 homes.

The board was also informed by town staff of a wastewater rate hike for residents in 2026.

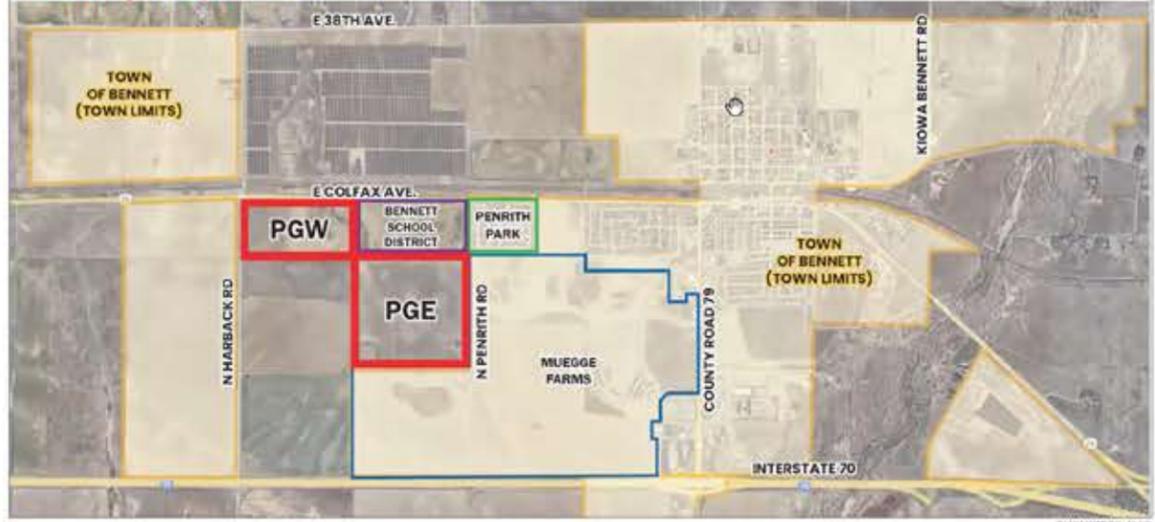
During an approximately 3½-hour special board meeting Nov. 4, five of the seven trustees OK'd the developer's request to annex the Prairie Grass East and Prairie Grass West subdivisions. Dissenting votes were cast by Larry Vittum and Denice Smith

while Mayor Whitney Oakley, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Barden and trustees Steve Dambroski, Donna Sus and Royce Pindell voter in favor of the developer's request.

During its presentation, the applicant group called the pair of developments an "extension of the Muegge Farms properties," with the 80-acre Prairie Grass West site located near Colfax Avenue and Harback Road and the 160-acre East property being located on an extension of Civic Center Drive west of town hall. The developer group, Prairie Grass Land Investments, LLC, is also responsible

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vicinity map - prairie grass west PGW & prairie grass east PGE



Last week's Bennett Board of Trustees voted to annex two Prairie Grass subdivisions on the west edge of town means that up to 680 homes are possible in the west (PGW) development and another 1,501 residential units are planned at full buildout of the east (PGE) parcel.

A Vamping Good Time!



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left, the Dark Sisters played by Naomi Redd, Lacey Dittenhauser and Brielle Barnes take a bite out of Coachman (Henry Gray) during Strasburg High School's rendition of Stephen Hotchner's "Dracula" Nov. 7 at the Bennett High School auditorium.

Vote counts rise, results unchanged

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

While votes continued to be counted late last week, the outcome of local school board races and property tax questions had not changed since preliminary results were announced on Election Night last Tuesday.

BYERS SCHOOL MILL LEVY EXTENDED

The vote count through last Friday, Nov. 7, showed 470 (58.24%) of Byers School District electors voted to extend the district's request for another five-year extension of its current mill levy rate compared to 337 (41.76%) who dissented. The number of votes in the affirmative grew by 86 between the preliminary count released Election Night and close of business Friday while no votes jumped

up by 76.

"Now we can proceed with a lot of safety projects we've been deferring on for a long time," said Byers Superintendent Tom Turrell of the additional five years of current tax assessments, which were first overridden by voters in 2015. "The majority of voters have spoken and they agree appear to agree with our priorities — providing a safety net and protective learning environment for our students. It's the biggest margin we've ever seen to pass the extension — it was 10 votes dating back to 2015."

In the more populated Arapahoe County portion of the district 384 voters approved the extension while 261 voted against. In Adams County, the

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DAVID MAGDANZ/The I-70 Scout

About 1:15 p.m. Nov. 8, Corridor firefighters and Arapahoe and Adams county sheriff's deputies were dispatched to County Road 157 about three miles south of Strasburg on a report of a grass fire. While the blaze charred about 100 acres and threatened multiple structures on the west side of the roadway, no loss of home or life was reported as of Saturday afternoon. For complete coverage, see the Nov. 14 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Turkey giveaway announced by I-70 St. Reach Food Bank

BENNETT — The I-70 Street Reach Food Bank, Cornerstone Fellowship Church, and The Salvation Army are giving away 200 Thanksgiving turkeys with all the fixings this year.

Distribution will take place from 1-3 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24, at the Cornerstone Fellowship, 460 Third St., Bennett.

The I-70 Street Reach Food Bank distributes food every second and fourth Saturday of the month in the parking lot of Cornerstone Fellowship Church.

Friendsgiving Dinner planned at Bennett Community Center

STRASBURG — Journey Church is inviting the public to a Friendsgiving Dinner hosted by Odessa and Amanda.

The open house will run from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14, at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave., Bennett.

The evening will feature a homemade meal, engaging conversations, and the opportunity to make new friends.

Trap shoot, gun raffle slated for yearly Byers Turkey Shoot

BYERS — Byers American Legion Post 160 will host its 77th annual Turkey Shoot fundraiser Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15-16.

Trap shooting will run from 8 a.m. to dark both days at Quint Valley. Bingo and Pickles will run both days starting at 1 p.m. at the Byers American Legion Hall, 278 W. Front St.

Additional activities are planned at the Legion Hall Nov. 15.

In conjunction with Turkey Shoot, a gun raffle will occur to raise money for Byers Fire. Ticket prices are one for \$5, five for \$20, or 25 for \$100.

The drawing will take place at 12 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Byers American Legion Hall.

Tickets can be purchased through

Venmo @byers-fire. In the comment section, buyers should put their name, phone number, and the name of the firefighter who sold the tickets.

ArapCo commissioner Baker plans conversation at Byers

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker will host "Conversation with the Commissioner" a community engagement event for District 3 constituents.

The conversation will run from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2, at American Legion Post 160, 278 W. Front St., Byers.

Guest speakers will include county Road & Bridge Division Manager Eric McKinnon, Capt. Kevin Heaton from the sheriff's office, and a representative from animal services.

Focusing on Road and Bridge projects, Animal Services, and law enforcement updates.

Building code updates topic of public hearing at Bennett

BENNETT — The Bennett Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing for the second reading of an ordinance adopting the 2024 International Building Codes and related state-required updates.

The hearing takes place at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Bennett Town Hall.

The ordinance includes adoption of the 2024 ICC code cycle, the Colorado Model Electric & Solar Ready Code, and the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code.

The update maintains sprinkler requirements for townhomes while exempting one- and two-family dwellings.

For more information, call (303)644-3249 or visit www.bennettco.gov.

'Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan monthly potluck Nov. 18

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Strasburg Community Center, 56423 Westview Ave.

Orlando Lopez will discuss changes

to Medicare in 2026.

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

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

ArapCo Vets Office schedules open house at Aurora locale

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County veteran service office has expanded resources and will soon host an open house to share them.

Visitors can see the new healing space and mural and meet personnel from the Healing Warriors team, Vet Center, and Adams County from 3-6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, at 15400 E. 14th Place, Aurora.

For more information, visit arapahoeco.gov.

Wreath sponsors needed for vets' graves in Byers

BYERS — The Byers Community Cemetery Association is again participating in National Wreaths Across America Day this year.

The groups are asking people to sponsor wreaths at \$17 each to ensure all 134 veterans interred at Byers Cemetery are honored.

To make an online donation, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/COBYRS. To send a check, e-mail to Cimarronka@gmail.com for mailing details.

The organization will also host a short service to honor veterans at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at Byers Cemetery.

Battle of Gettysburg the topic of Strasburg museum lecture

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host a presentation on the Battle of Gettysburg from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum curator Cliff Smith's discussion will conclude with Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and its significance today.

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.

Watercolors with T-Day motif planned at 'Burg Legion Hall

STRASBURG — Watercolor Thanksgiving Painting, a creative art class is planned by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District.

The class will run from 10-10:45 a.m. for kindergartners through second-graders and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for third- through fifth-graders, Monday, Nov. 17, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

The cost is \$10. The registration deadline is Thursday, Nov. 13.

Residents invited to compete in wreath decoration contest

STRASBURG — The seventh Annual Decorate-a-Wreath Contest hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District begins soon.

Participants can pick up a wreath at the Strasburg Recreation Center beginning Monday, Nov. 3, decorate it, and return it no later than Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Community members can vote for their favorite wreath at Christmas in the Park on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Participation is free. Awards for the best business and best individual wreaths will follow the event.

The Strasburg Recreation Center is located at 1932 Burton St.

Christmas season suppers slated at Lutheran church

STRASBURG — In recognition of the Advent and Christmas season, Sharon Lutheran Church will host soup suppers with short studies from the Book of Matthew and evening prayers during December.

The soup suppers will begin at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at the church at 1656 Main St., Strasburg. The studies will follow at 7:15 p.m.

In addition, a candlelight Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24.

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\$100K copper pipe theft occurs in ArapCo

CENTENNIAL — Arapahoe County Sheriff investigators are seeking the public's help in identifying three burglary suspects who caused more than \$100,000 in damage to a restaurant after cutting out copper pipes from its refrigeration system.

The burglary happened at Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, in the 9300 block of East Dry Creek Road, Centennial, around 4:30 a.m. Sept. 7.

Investigators say three males entered the back patio, removed the copper pipes from several cooling units, stuffed them into suitcases, and

fled the scene. If caught, the suspects are facing charges of theft and criminal mischief.

Surveillance video from a nearby RTD Light Rail Station shows the suspects are white males wearing blue jeans and black hoodies. One suspect was wearing a red baseball cap, another wore a blue plaid cap, and the third a black cap covered by a hoodie.

Parties with information about the crime and suspects are asked to call the sheriff's Investigations Tipline at (720)874-8477. Callers can remain anonymous.

MCC announces staffing changes

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College recently announced an internal transition and the addition of a new professional to its team, each bringing valuable experience and a strong commitment to the college's mission and the communities it serves.

Sheila Roth, serving as the College Store Assistant since 2023, was transitioned into the role of Instructional Coordinator effective Oct. 1. Roth is an MCC alumna with an associate's degree and brings more than 30 years of experience in the medical field.

Her background includes coordinating schedules for multiple providers, onboarding and training new employees, managing compliance with private insurance and state programs, and overseeing office operations.

With her expertise and longstanding dedication to MCC, Roth will serve students and faculty well in her new position.

Hayley Bell-Harris joined the Instructional Office team as an Instructional Coordinator Oct. 1. An alumna of MCC, Bell-Harris earned her associate's degree before continuing her studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Professionally, she has been a pro tutor at MCC since 2022 and most recently completed an internship in the Psychological Sciences Academic Advising Department at MSU. Her academic achievements and experience supporting students make her a strong addition to the college's instructional support team.



Roth



Bell-Harris

Scholarship fund beneficiary of Stocking Stuffer e-auction

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host its holiday season Stocking Stuffer Online Auction starting at 6 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, and ending at 10 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 23.

Participants can bid on gift cards, merchandise, and event certificates. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Strasburg Rec youth scholarship program.

For more information, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

Local accountant scheduled for biz luncheon appearance

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19, at May Farms in Byers.

Speaker and lunch sponsor is Lance Grothe of Grothe Financial Services, who will discuss the new administration's tax changes. Board member elections will also occur.

For more information, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70c-coc@gmail.com by Friday, Nov. 14.



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Health Care Connect: Career & Resource Fair

The Adams County Workforce & Business Center (WBC) is teaming up with the Adams County Thriving Communities Collective to provide a career and resource fair for those in the health care industry.

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Human Services Center, Apple Conference Rooms
 11860 Pecos St., Westminster



Scan the QR code to learn more.




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BENNETT BOT **FROM PAGE 1**

ble for multiple other Bennett communities over the past nine years, including Penrith Park, Muegge Farms, Brunner Subdivision and Mundell Farms.

According to the developer, the western parcel will include enough residential property with the capacity to hold up to 680 homes, while the east section has a buildout capacity of 1,501 residential units.

Developer representatives added that plans are in place for parks and trails that go beyond town and statutory requirements and that there is a 25-acre school site, which will likely be occupied by a charter school. Discussion during last week's town board meeting indicated that Bennett School officials, including Superintendent Robin Purdy, have met with representatives of both the developer's group and the Excel Academy charter school group.

"The experience they had with the Watkins charter school wasn't a very positive one," said Prairie Grass Land principal Jim Marshall, who indicated recent meetings with school district leaders were productive. "We've assured [Purdy] this is a different developer. ... They understand her concerns and their No.1 goal is to cooperate with the school district."

During public comment, resident Landan Wright, who said he lives in a neighborhood to be directly impacted by the two new developments, stated stern opposition to the proposal.

"The numbers don't always give an accurate picture," Wright said, adding he thought this was a case "expansion over community and numbers over neighbors."

During board debate, Vittum said it's his opinion that a vast majority of residents currently in the town did not anticipate living in "Junior Aurora," while Smith appeared to be most skeptical of there being adequate infrastructure to accommodate both new developments.

"We're talking a substantially greater number of people than the current population of the town. If this goes through, it will totally transform this town," said Vittum, noting that an average of 3.5 people per household would mean 7,600-plus residents in the Prairie Grass developments. "I moved here in 2007, we moved out

from Aurora. My motivation to be on the board was Bennett was the best place I had ever been to. Moving forward with this, you are saying we know longer want to be a rural town anymore. Is the town focused on benefiting the citizens that currently live in the town — what their needs are what their values are — or focused on people that might come here and live in the future?"

"It's great for Bennett to grow and grow responsibly, but not great when, one, we are still working on our sewage, our wastewater plant. That's an additional how many gallons of water?" Smith asked. "We don't have our water authority issues finished and taken care of. When [we] first started this, town staff told us we had enough water supply for what we had accepted and what we were already building. This is in addition to that."

Smith, also a Bennett Schools bus driver, was adamant that certain traffic flows be maintained through both new subdivisions. In response, Marshall said plans are in place for four-lane roads through both developments but that they must stay within parameters dictated by the Colorado Department of Transportation, especially for access of state highways, in this case highways 36 and 79.

"Our roads suck, there are no smooth roads in the town of Bennett," she reiterated. "That's a relationship with CDOT that we have to fix."

Smith added that she is repeatedly asked by residents at the grocery store or when out in public "how much more building are we going to have. What about the water, what about the wastewater, what about the roads."

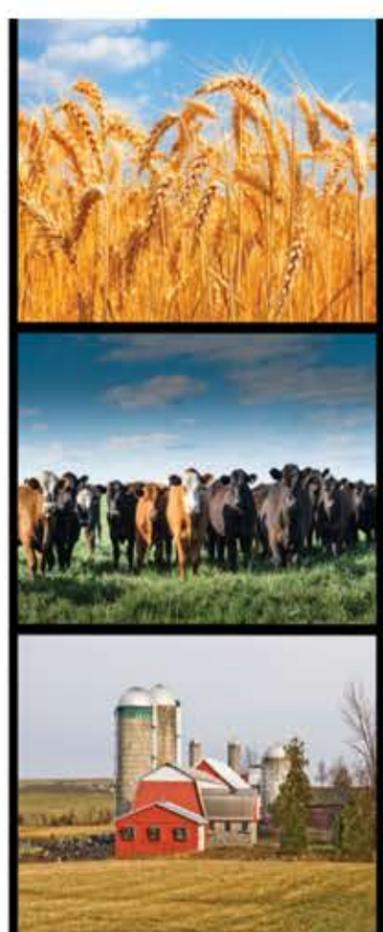
Town administrator Trish Stiles replied to Smith that specific water demands from both Prairie Grass developments have not been researched or addressed and will be determined through later development processes.

Oakley replied that it's likely growth where the Prairie Grass developments are located is going to happen regardless and that the annexation agreement includes benefits to town residents that they would not likely see or feel otherwise.

Other board of trustee members indicated that they wouldn't put it past Aurora to further spread its tentacles to include areas further east, including neighboring communities to Bennett.

"There is nothing so certain as change," Sus added.

"We know Aurora can take big bites whenever they want," added Pindell, adding that he feels comfortable the Prairie Grass development team is putting together a set of responsible subdivisions.



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WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE

Earlier Tuesday evening during a work-study session, Bennett Finance Manager Danette Ruvalcaba reported that a 4% bump to wastewater rates was needed to keep up with additional expenses to the wastewater system, which is currently being expanded.

As of this time, water rate increases are not anticipated for 2026; however, Stiles said that an annual cash flow review of both water and wastewater fee schedules occur annually to see if rate hikes are necessary the following year.

Stiles also indicated that she foresees additional rate hikes in coming years, if for nothing else, to compensate for additional costs with providing power to utility systems.

Gifts wanted for yearly Christmas Toy Shop

BYERS — The annual Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church Christmas Toy Drive is underway through Sunday, Nov. 30.

The event helps families in financial need with gifts for infants to children age 14. Donations of new or gently used toys can be taken to the Bennett Recreation Center; Maverick Mercantile in Byers; Byers General Store; Open & Affordable Dental, Bennett; and SouthState Bank, Strasburg.

The drive will culminate with the annual Christmas Toy Shop from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church, 186 N. McDonnell St., Byers.

Families in the Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate areas should register their children at tinyurl.com/OLPtoyshop.

For additional information, call Jane Benz at (303)621-2981. Para español llamar a Karla, (720)226-8720.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

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

MONDAY, NOV. 17

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

Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Board. 6 p.m., TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave. Call (303)622-4260 for information.

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, NOV. 18

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, NOV. 19

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

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.

AA open meeting. 7 p.m., white historic Victorian schoolhouse at Ace Hardware parking lot, 21761 U.S. Highway 40, Limon. Call Sara at (828)243-7681.

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DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

Last week's Beaver Moon was clearly visible along the I-70 Corridor Nov. 5.

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Friday November 21

4-8pm

Drink Specials/Food Truck Friday

Saturday November 22

9am-12pm

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ELECTION 2025

FROM PAGE 1

difference between yes and no votes was only 18, 78-60.

Throughout the election process, Turrell reiterated numerous times that the question was not for any new

tax assessments.

"It's just extending what's currently in place," he said of the tax, which was first re-authorized in 2020. "It's not additional dollars."

This extension is also for another five years and is earmarked for "big-ticket safety items," including fire alarms and wiring, in-classroom security and other upgrades. Other needs noted by Turrell are a backup generator to keep the school's freezer up and running and additional campus-wide lighting.



Watch for Upcoming Auctions in 2026!

More information to come on website soon!

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DEER TRAIL FIRE MILL LEVY FAILS

Last Friday's updated vote totals showed that both sides of the Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District's request for an additional 5.000 mills to its property tax rate increased by about 40 votes, meaning the question soundly failed about 60% to 40%.

The proposal would have brought the district's total property tax rate to 12.032 mills. The initiative also asked 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]."

As of the end of last week, there were 432 votes cast with 259 "no"s and 173 saying "yes."

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

Throughout the election process, the fire district reiterated that it has not previously asked resident for a mill levy increase and that, over the past 10 years, emergency call volumes have doubled, including 316 calls to 911 in 2024.

BYERS, 'BURG SCHOOL BOARD RACES

In addition to the mill-levy extension, Byers School voters had choose from four candidates for three board vacancies.

Through last Friday, incumbents Kres Ebert and Jennifer Borders had received 526 and 367 votes, respectively, while newcomer Logan MacLennan had 508 votes. Former two-term board member Jerry Sauer was the fourth vote-getter with 367 ballots cast for him.

"I don't think we had a bad candidate running this year," Turrell said. "Excited to continue moving forward with the new board."

Strasburg School District also had a board race with three candidates vying for two spots. Courtney Vance ran away as the top vote-getter; as of Nov. 7, she had accumulated 1,171 votes (49.8%), 518 more than second-place Gema Gomez, who is currently on the board after being appointed after a late 2024 resignation. Vennessia Jimenez received 527 votes through last Friday.

KIOWA SCHOOL BOND FAILS

In another mill levy battle that was waged in a neighboring school district to the south, Kiowa School voters again voted down a bond question to help build a new school campus.

Ballot Issue 4A in Elbert County saw voters deny a \$9.995 million bond question 51.8% to 48.2%, according to vote tallies the day after Election Day. Vote totals of 750 against and 698 in favor were not updated after last Wednesday.

The bond amount would have served as the "district match" for a new \$70 million campus, including a 96,000 square-foot main building. The remaining \$60.68 million for construction would come from the Colorado Department of Education's Building Excellent; however, that money was dependent upon district "matching funds" from a successful election.

Similar bond questions have been on the Elbert County ballot since 2022 and, in all three instances, voters panned the school district's request.

Last year, residents voted 52% to 48% against a \$13.45 million bond question. The final vote count showed 1,082 school district residents against the question while 996 were in favor. Last year's question was for 20% matching funds to get \$55.5 million in BEST grant funding.

This year's BEST application from the school district included revisions from the previous year, including options for either a single-level or two-story main building at the proposed new campus.

VOTER TURNOUT

As is usually the case in off-year elections with few races or questions, voter turnout out was lower but was widely varied among the three counties along the I-70 Corridor.

Elbert County saw the biggest voter turnout percentage-wise with 11,250 of 24,759 total voters, almost 45.5%, casting ballots.

Arapahoe County, who included a number of west-side school board and municipal races, showed a turnout of almost 40% with 173,708 of 435,877 registered voters filling out their ballots.

Adams County's updated turnout figure last Friday was just under 32% with 105,057 ballots cast out of 331,223 total registered voters.

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Joy Cooper

Dr. Joy E. Cooper, a beloved member of the Strasburg community, passed away at the age of 79 on Oct. 27, 2025, in Strasburg. She was born on Oct. 16, 1946, in Lyons, Kan., to Tom and Betty (Smith) Edwards, who preceded her in death.

Joy's educational journey began at Gunnison High School and continued at the University of Wyoming. She then attended CU Medical School and completed her studies at Cleveland Chiropractic College. For 30 years, she devoted her life to serving others as a chiropractor, positively impacting the health and well-being of countless individuals in Strasburg.

On Sept. 3, 1985, Joy married Harold "Butch" Cooper, in Denver, Colo. Together, they built a loving home filled with warmth and joy. Joy's family continued to grow, and she cherished her role as a mother and grandmother. She is survived by her son, Tom (Renee) Walker of Sheridan, Wyo.; her step-daughter, Heather Brandon of Denver, Colo.; and her grandchildren, Matt Walker of Hawaii, and Ellie and Madison Walker of Sheridan, Wyo. Joy also leaves behind her sister, Lyle Jane (Walter) Gould of Cheney, Kan., along with six nieces and nephews, each of whom held a special place in her heart.

Throughout her life, Joy found joy and fulfillment in various hobbies and interests. She had a profound love for reading the Bible and engaging in Bible studies with her friends. Joy expressed her creativity through sewing, needlepoint, counter cross stitch, quilting, painting, and working lovingly in her yard and flower garden.

Dr. Joy E. Cooper has gone home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, dedication, and love. Her contributions to both her profession and her community will never be forgotten, and she will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

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SMART RURAL COMMUNITY

Arapaho records back to 1861 now digitized

LITTLETON — After a multi-year effort, the Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder's Office has successfully digitized all county records dating back to the county's founding in 1861, creating a comprehensive database that preserves more than a century and a half of local history.

The ambitious digitization project ensures that irreplaceable historical documents — from the earliest homestead records to modern filings — are permanently protected from deterioration, natural disasters, and human error while making them easily

accessible to residents, researchers and future generations. Digitizing county records also means the public can search for records at their convenience, 24 hours a day.

"This digital transformation not only safeguards these invaluable records for posterity but also makes them more accessible than ever before," said Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez.

The project was done at minimal cost to taxpayers through with the majority of expenses paid by the Electronic Recording Technology Board.



Thanksgiving

All County offices will be closed **Thursday, Nov. 27** and **Friday, Nov. 28** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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www.spcusa.us
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Saron Lutheran Church
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303-822-9366 • mttaborbysers.org
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Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 2.



SPORTS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

From left photo, Indian Ayden Dodge (8) looks in a pass in the end zone to close the Basalt lead to 17-14 early in the fourth quarter of Saturday's 2A first-round playoff game, and defenders Juan Fernandez (70) and Konner Casebeer (11) chase after the Longhorn quarterback. Top-seeded Strasburg avoided the upset and advanced to the quarterfinals, scoring the go-ahead and winning touchdown with 2:16 left in the game. The Indians travel to Eaton for the quarterfinals at 1 p.m. Saturday. For full first-round coverage and updated postseason information, see the Nov. 14 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

'Burg avoids upset bid en route to 2nd round

2A State Football Playoffs

(Higher Seeds Host Round 1 & Semis; Quarterfinal Seeds — Team With Fewer Home Games or The Higher Seed)



by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The undefeated and top-seeded Strasburg Indians had to come up with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to escape the first-round of the 2A football playoffs with a 21-17 victory over visiting No. 16-seeded Basalt Nov. 8.

The West Slope-based Longhorns had a 17-7 halftime lead and that remained the score entering the final 12 minutes. Going with the strong wind at Winter Field, a touchdown pass between juniors Brody Hopwood and Ayden Dodge and the PAT kick by classmate Hayden Kirby pulled the Indians within 17-14 in the opening minute of the fourth. With 2:16 left in the game, Hopwood found senior Cade Hemphill in the front east corner of the south end zone from about 20 yards out for the go ahead score; Kirby's PAT kick put the hosts up by four, meaning Basalt was forced to score a touchdown. After getting down to the Strasburg 30-yard line in three plays, Basalt ran the ball up the middle but a fumble was recovered by the Indians with 1:08 left in the game.

A few plays later, Hemphill salted

the game away with a run for the first down.

With the victory, Strasburg will travel to No. 9 Eaton Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff in the quarterfinals. The Reds recorded the lone first-round upset by seed when they defeated No. 8 La Junta 27-13. Strasburg is the lone better-seeded team traveling because of the Colorado High School Activities Association's 2A rule that the team with fewer home playoff games hosts the second round.

The winners of the Strasburg-Eaton game and No. 5 Brush at fourth-seeded Elizabeth will face each other in the Nov. 22 semifinals.

All three playoff qualifiers from the 2A East Conference, which Strasburg won, advanced to the second round. Elizabeth defeated Pagosa Springs 44-38 while No. 6 Kent Denver dominated Lamar 48-14. Kent Denver plays third-seeded and last year's state champion The Classical Academy on the bottom side of the bracket; the other contest is No. 2 Wellington hosting seventh-seeded Resurrection Christian.

For more first-round coverage and playoff updates, see the Nov. 14 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Strasburg bowler rolls fifth perfect game at local lanes



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — A Strasburg man became the fifth person to roll a perfect game in the town's longstanding bowling alley late last month.

During a league get-together Oct. 23 at Lucky Strike Lanes, Jason Russell, who's previous high score was a 278, threw a perfect 300 score on his third and final game of the night.

"If I'm doing well, it's usually up to the ninth frame and that's when something usually happens to derail things," said Russell while volunteering to help score the Strasburg High School unified bowling team Oct. 27. "Felt like I hit a pretty good groove and once I got through the ninth, I felt really good. It was pretty exciting at the end, but really stayed fairly cool up until then."

When asked if other bowlers on lane 8 avoided him or acted differently towards the end of the perfect game, Russell said he wouldn't let them.

"I just was trying to act as close to the same as every other night," he said. "Really didn't want to

get out of my normal routine and I think it worked out for the best.

"When things started to be quite a bit different was when I got home and it finally started to sink in as to what happened. I was happy it happened on my third game, because wouldn't have wanted to ruin the night with a poor follow-up game."

Russell, a 25-year resident of the area, said that, following a long layoff from the game to raise kids, he picked the game back up in 2013 and has been involved in local leagues the past dozen years.

"It's gone from one night a week when I started back, to now it's three times a week," he said. "It's the routine developed over that time that probably helped [that] night."

According to Lucky Strike co-owner Charlotte Winklepleck, Russell's name will be the fourth name to go on the wall of honor for high score's but said that there are five perfect games known to have occurred in the establishment.

"Had one 300 game before we started naming them all," she said. "A lot of 298s and 299s up there too. Pretty exciting that night."

Jason Russell of Strasburg is all smiles Oct. 27, several days following his 300 game at Lucky Strike Lanes Oct. 23.

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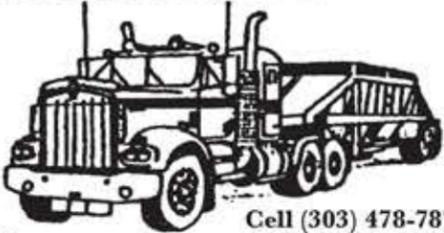
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ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Bennett's Houston Broskie gets his feet tied up with a Forge Christian player during the second round of the 2A soccer playoffs Nov. 5.

Tigers' historic soccer season ends in 2nd round of playoffs

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

ARVADA — The Bennett Tigers' history-making season came to an end with a 5-0 loss to Forge Christian in the second round of the 2A state playoffs Nov. 5.

The Tigers hung with the Fury early, yielding just one goal with roughly 17 minutes remaining the first half; 15 minutes into the second half, Bennett trailed just 2-0 before Forge Christian pulled away.

"It is what it is. Just got beat by a better opponent," said Bennett head coach Ashley Torgerson. "Things get out of hand sometimes. The boys probably got into their own head a little bit. Some stuff started sliding the wrong way. You compound that with being frustrated. The fact of the matter is, they hadn't been there before. Now we have. Now we know what we need to take care of for next year."

Senior Jesus Santoyo led the Tigers in shots on goal with four, followed by junior Houston Broskie with two and senior Blake Gonzalez, junior Nathan Ramirez, and freshman Eric Machado with one apiece.

Top thieves were Ramirez, Machado, seniors Jesus Villescascas and Juan Santoyo, and sophomore Uvaldo Lopez with four steals each. Gonzalez



ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Bennett's Hayden Kirby heads the ball during the second round of postseason action at Forge Christian Nov. 5.

and Broskie each had three followed by Jesus Santoyo and senior Nathan Priddy with two each and freshman Logan Lind with one.

Senior Aidan Perez also played for the Tigers.

Torgerson expressed appreciation for the six players he will lose to graduation.

"We're definitely going to miss them on the team," he said. "(I) wish them well in all their future endeavors, especially our captain, Blake Gonzalez."



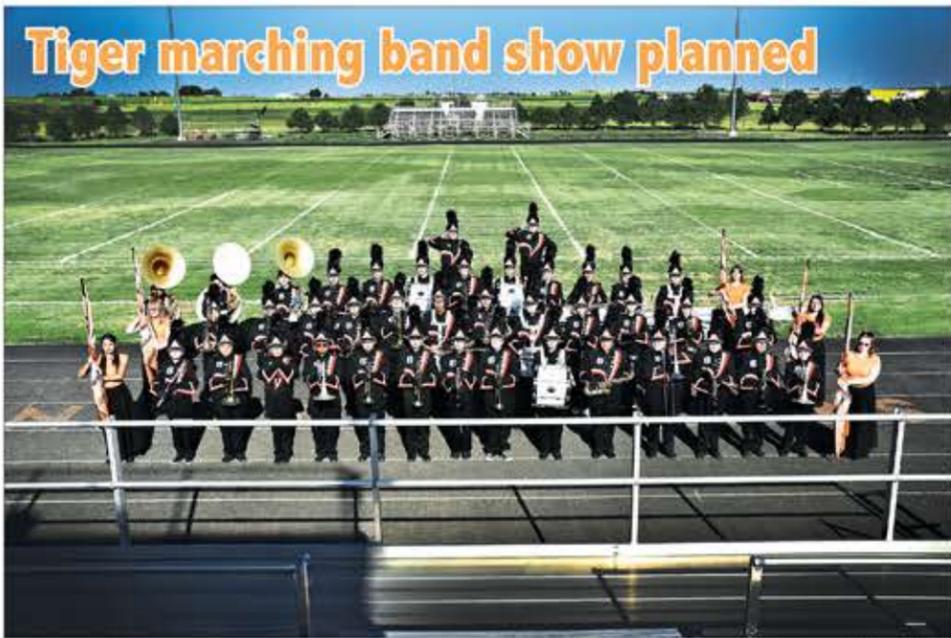
ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Tiger Eric Machado tries to keep the ball away from a Forge Christian defender.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Byers High School cheerleaders concluded their week-long mini Bulldog cheer camp with a rousing halftime performance during the green-and-white's home football finale Oct. 31.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 46-member Bennett High School marching band, above, placed fifth in Class 1A at the state marching band competition in Grand Junction Oct. 27, and now the public is invited to its last show of 2025 at 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 13, at Paul Read Field. The Tigers competed five competitions this year, taking fourth place at the Englewood Friendship Cup; third plus the Best Colorguard Award in Class 1A at the Eaton Friendship Cup Sept. 27; first in Class 1A at the Big Cat Marching Festival in Arvada Oct. 4; second at the Class 1A Colorado Bandmasters Association Northern Regional Marching Band Competition Oct. 13 at Centaurus High School in Lafayette; and second in Class 1A and third overall at the Adams City Friendship Cup Oct. 18.

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- NAPA Auto Parts, Strasburg
- Latinas Salon II (992 S. Abilene St., Aurora)
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GHOULISH BEHAVIOR: BUSY HALLOWEEN FRIDAY CELEBRATED CORRIDOR-WIDE



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Mountain View Fellowship's annual Trunk or Treat festivities took place Halloween night at the Hemphill Middle School parking lot in Strasburg. Clockwise from above, one of the featured trick-or-treat spaces was a combination of dog and cowboy themes; Man Walker, 2, attempts to squeeze the silly spray bottle dressed as Spider-Man; and Gezabel (left) and Orion Cazares (right) show off their costumes.



DAVID MAGDANZ/The I-70 Scout

Among the bevy of Halloween afternoon/night activity was the annual Trunk or Treat celebration hosted in the parking lot of Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bennett Oct. 31. Clockwise from above left, sisters Aralielea and Athena Bosma show off their scarecrow and Mermaid Ariel costumes, respectively; dinosaur rider Kace Kinnamon traipses across the parking lot; Plankton from Spongebob, aka 2-year-old Dakota Rafanan, can't help but let out the biggest smile as she makes her way around the parking lot for more candy; Scarlett Ramirez, 6, is all smiles in her witch outfit; Vina Welp takes a break on the cornhole game; and cowboy Logan Winkhofer watches the Lego train circulate throughout the Magdanz family's trunk.



DAVID MAGDANZ/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

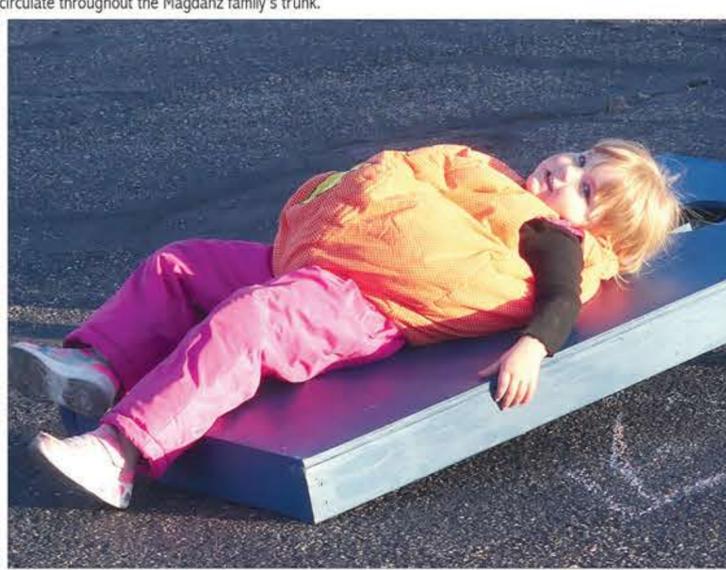


PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Halloween night activity in Byers was two-pronged Oct. 31 as the Byers Parks & Recreation District hosted Trunk or Treat and a haunted walkway at Community Park and Byers School District hosted Track or Treat leading up to the Bulldogs final football game of the regular season. Clockwise from above, Kaci Harris, in her breaded costume, and Joclynn Rector bundle up on a chilly Friday night before the Byers football game; Michael Hildebrandt dresses up as Pennywise, and Byers Fire Chief Mike Disher gets into the mix with his horror-movie costume.



DAVID MAGDANZ/The I-70 Scout



DAVID MAGDANZ/The I-70 Scout



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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Rae Nix with Wild Child Hair Salon passes out treats to youngsters during the town of Bennett's annual Trunk or Treat event at town hall Oct. 30.

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Colorado Congressional District 4 Rep. Lauren Boebert, right, was recently criticized for her choice in costume during a Halloween party in Windsor.

Rep. Lauren Boebert's Halloween costume fuels backlash for mocking Mexican culture

by Caitlyn Kim
Colorado Public Radio

Rep. Lauren Boebert's Halloween costume is drawing boos — and not the scary ones.

Boebert attended a Halloween event in a costume meant to depict a Mexican woman, wearing a sombrero and carrying a sign that read "Mexican Word of the Day: JUICY." The sign went on to mock Spanish accents with the line, "Tell Me If Juicy ICE coming." Her companion was dressed as an ICE agent.

A photo of Boebert, who is no stranger to controversy, in the costume quickly made the rounds on social media Halloween weekend.

"It's a Halloween costume. Tell our senators to vote for the CR and open the government. They are choosing to let millions of American families suffer," Boebert said in a statement to CPR News, referring to Colorado's senators' votes against advancing a House passed short-term funding bill.

But some Latino groups in Colorado see it as more than a costume.

"It's racist," said Alex Sanchez, president and CEO of Voces Unidas, a nonpartisan organization that mobilizes Latino voters. "It is unbecoming of an elected official. And she is failing to recognize the trauma, the hurt, that she, her party and this Trump Administration has done to thousands and thousands of Coloradans."

Sanchez pointed to families that had been separated or immigrants who had not committed any crimes being taken off the streets without any judicial warrant.

Sanchez said he wasn't surprised by Boebert's costume choice.

Sonny Subia, state director of the League of United Latin American Citizens or LULAC, said he was dis-

appointed, not just by Boebert's costume, but those who defended or supported it.

"It's just disappointing to see that you have elected officials that are laughing at people that are separated and their traumas and kids. I mean, come on," Subia said.

Subia said his concern isn't with Boebert's clothing, adding he's proud of the heritage and that on the weekend of Día de los Muertos, "a lot of people were celebrating the Latino culture with dress."

It was her sign and the man she was with, dressed as an ICE agent, that bothers him. "I was offended. It's just childish."

For years, Republicans have been trying to make headway electorally with Hispanic voters. While Trump didn't win the Latino vote in 2024, he did much better than in his earlier attempts, coming within 3 points of Democrat Kamala Harris' share of that demographic.

However, it's uncertain if that support is permanent. A new poll from UnidosUS found that 64 percent of Latinos disapprove of the president, with 13 percent of his past supporters saying they would not vote for him if given another chance.

Sanchez said the data suggest Latinos are displeased with Republican leadership in Washington, D.C., thus far.

Subia said the main reason many Latinos moved the dial towards Republicans in 2024 was the economy.

"Those kitchen table issues haven't gotten any better, and they've gotten worse," Subia said. "And that they make fun of our culture, and for Boebert to do that, they're showing their colors now. And I'll tell you, it's going to be hard for them to get the Latino community back on their court."



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THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO NOV. 15, 2005

Conservation Services Inc. (CSI), an industrial waste landfill north of Bennett, could become the second facility in Adams County to accept what is considered to be low-level radioactive waste on a routine basis.

The waste, containing "background" levels of radioactivity, has been accepted by CSI on a case-by-base basis in previous years.

The state health department is currently evaluating CSI's proposal, as well as an application by Clean Harbors hazardous waste facility, located in Eastern Adams County, for a radioactive waste materials license. Such a license would enable Clean Harbors to accept waste of a much higher radioactivity concentration.

Drinking water regulations have become more stringent recently, increasing the level of radioactivity in waste produced by water treatment facilities. Allowing CSI to accept the extremely low-grade radioactive waste routinely would be desirable for those who generate the waste, because they would have a known location for waste disposal at a known cost, state health department radiation management unit leader Steve Tarlton said. It would also streamline the waste disposal process for the state health department.

15 YEARS AGO NOV. 16, 2010

LIMON - Realizing the differences between rural and urban districts and crafting individual instruction with more limited resources were the primary messages recently sent from Eastern Colorado school administrators to a newly formed state education commission.

Members of the Colorado Department of Education's Expanded Learning Opportunities Commission met with leaders from East Central BOCES schools Nov. 8 to determine the best direction to expand education.

The consensus from rural educators is that their districts

have different obstacles to overcome than metro schools and that they can't manage their students in a manner similar to their metro counterparts.

Primary constraints include extensive bus routes; limited elective course opportunities; already long academic days, especially at schools with four-day weeks; and limited funding for bringing in outside resources.

"The problem is that schools in Colorado are being managed as one size fits all and that's certainly not the case," said Genoa-Hugo principal Dave Finley. "It's a matter that schools, even in this area, are different from each other and have to be managed differently. If that's the case out here, you can imagine the variation between us and [metro districts]."

10 YEARS AGO NOV. 17, 2015

AURORA — The Deer Trail, East Adams and West Arapahoe conservation districts hosted their joint annual banquet Oct. 27 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds.

In addition to the presentation of several end-of-year awards, guests heard a message about water erosion prevention.

One of the ongoing issues facing farmers and ranchers is water cutting through pastures and fields but, according to professor emeritus Gary Peterson from the Colorado State University Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, the situation must be addressed well before those circumstances are seen.

Peterson said that erosion occurs at the time a raindrop impacts the soil aggregate and that the accumulation of such pounding wears away the top soil.

"A raindrop is 20 times heavier than the average soil aggregate," he said. "You put on top of that speed it's coming down at, it's more than substantial to rupture that soil aggregate. It's the splash of that impact that creates a crust afterwards, which results in less infiltration of the water into the soil and also results in runoff."

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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 18

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2025. There are 49 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 12, 1954, Ellis Island officially closed as an immigration station and detention center. More than 12 million immigrants arrived in the United States via Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954.

ON THIS DATE

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., and gave the green light to traffic.

In 1948, Japanese general and former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal; he was executed in December 1948.

In 1970, the Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The deadliest tropical cyclone on record claimed the lives of an estimated 300,000-500,000 people.

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, en route to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

In 2019, Venice saw its worst flooding in more than 50 years, with the water reaching 6.14 feet (1.87 meters) above average sea

level; damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Sportscaster Al Michaels is 81. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 80. Author Tracy Kidder is 80. Actor Megan Mullally is 67. Actor Ryan Gosling is 45. Actor Anne Hathaway is 43. NBA point guard Russell Westbrook is 37.

—Associated Press

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- ACROSS
- Fresh Prince: "___ ya later!"
 - Say "no"
 - "Nana" author ... mile ___
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - The home of the brave, acr.
 - Increase rpms (2 words)
 - Like yesteryear
 - Rejuvenating spot
 - Like a solder at attention
 - *Pumpkin pie or pecan pie, e.g.
 - *Plymouth ___
 - Seek damages
 - Light on one's feet
 - Like The Beatles
 - Certain blast's origins
 - *What tom said
 - Iranian money
 - Precedes GPT
 - Water nymph
 - Wisconsin's western neighbor
 - One tenth
 - Mountain, in Germany
 - The Statue of Liberty island
 - Cat sound
 - Instinctive motive
 - 1970s dance clubs
 - Do like buffaloes
 - Distress acronym
 - Opposite of genuine
 - Bow or bolo
 - *Moisturizing kitchen tool
 - *Turkey prepared certain way
 - Bottom line
 - Pub offering
 - Alley cat, e.g.
 - Extreme suffering
 - International help, e.g.
 - Bullwinkle J. ___
 - Fitness facilities
 - July-August sign of Zodiac
 - More so than #12 Down

- DOWN
- Not barefoot
 - Gender checkbox
 - Peters out
 - Loamy deposit
 - Form a queue (2 words)
 - Head and shoulders sculpture
 - Venomous snake
 - Civil rights organization, acr.
 - Whole number between -1 and 1
 - *Biscuit baker
 - *She took away the football from Charlie Brown
 - Mentally quick, e.g.
 - Put trust in (2 words)

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 - *Deep ____, turkey prepared certain way
 - White condiment
 - Sheds tears
 - *Mayflower
 - Hindi courtesy title
 - Coffin holders
 - One of Florida Keys
 - Ruler sides, e.g.
 - Not of the cloth
 - Through, to a poet
 - Muse of love poetry
 - "Killing Me ___ with His Song"
 - Fraternity letters
 - Unwholesome atmosphere
 - Cattle enclosure in African village
 - Bar, legally
 - Unidentified aircraft
 - Niels Bohr's study object
 - Without, † Paris
 - Overhaul
 - *Turkey ____, 5K run
 - "At ___" military command
 - Indigo user
 - "You're it" game
 - Rest in state

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

Mercury and Mars Conjunction

Life is like an airport. You're responsible for your own bags. It's risky to leave them unattended and even riskier to tend to anyone else's stuff. The lighter you travel, the easier it is to keep track of your own baggage and to avoid getting mixed up in anything sketchy. The conjunction of Mercury and Mars suggests it's a great day to follow all the rules.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The only person who can make your mark is you. Others have stood on the stones where you stand, but not one could do what you will. There's a decision in the balance. Your options will come into vivid focus.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Think ahead to upcoming events. How can you reduce the stress around them? What can you do proactively to ready yourself? Future you will appreciate the planning and effort you put in today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To consciously select what (and whom) you follow is a freedom that most people throughout human history didn't have. Stay aware and in control of your own attention, and don't let anyone manipulate it away from your desired investment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You say no to something that doesn't feel right, and that frees up availability for something wonderful — work, or a relationship that's an excellent match for you. Your energy attracts compatible people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your message will make a difference, but only if it's truly heard. Everyone around listens better when that's modeled by a "leader." Small groups where people will have to compete for your focus are advantageous.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your sincere desire is to help humanity at large, and today you'll find small ways to do it. Empathy, curiosity and beauty are the tools you use to make ties in the net that connects all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're trying to make something work, but it's uphill. Take a break. The moment you admit "this isn't

it," someone new steps in with exactly what you needed. Letting go isn't giving up; it's clearing space.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being misunderstood doesn't always mean you're doing something wrong. Today, it means you're ahead of the curve. You are thinking in a new way, and there literally isn't a shared vocabulary yet, so people can't quite "get it." Later they will.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be open to how others see you, especially new people. The people who know you best all share a similar picture of who you are, but it takes an outsider to show you a fresh version of yourself. A collaboration or encounter will be wonderful for your self-image.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you wonder whether you have grown, just look at what you are attracted to now. It's different from what you wanted before. You no longer need something, and that's because you're able to provide it for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Dreams come true every day for someone — why not you? The secret today is to aim high and accept whatever comes. Even if it's not ideal, you can probably find a way to leverage it into your next amazing opportunity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You regularly do something that's good for you, and it's easy, too. For others it would be difficult. Give yourself props. Long ago you put in the effort to forge the habit. You earned this, so enjoy it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 12). Welcome to your Year of the Beautiful Pivot. You'll change direction because you see a better one, and you'll execute the moves with grace and freedom, attracting your perfect audience. Each season affirms it — your instincts are golden. More highlights: A special connection sparkles up daily life. You'll trade stress for curiosity, make money by helping people, and collect memories instead of stuff. Capricorn and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 39, 23, 31 and 44.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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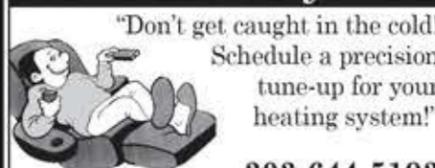
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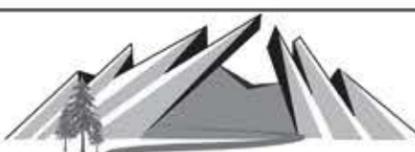


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Executive Director – East Central BOCES
 East Central BOCES is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director, beginning July 1, 2026, on a 231-day contract.
 Application Deadline: January 1, 2026

Preferred Qualifications:

- Successful educational administrative experience
- Valid Colorado Administrator License
- Knowledge and/or experience with BOCES operations
- Understanding of Special Education and Administrative Units
- Familiarity with Federal Programs (Titles I-IV, Perkins)
- Demonstrated ability to build and sustain cooperative relationships

Key Skills:

- BOCES operations and rural education policy knowledge
- Strong written and verbal communication
- Team-building and staff development
- Budget management (\$17 million)
- Effective leadership of boards and superintendent groups
- Legislative advocacy for rural districts
- Willingness to serve on local and state committees

Residency Requirement: Must live in or be willing to relocate within the E.C. BOCES service area.

Application Instructions:
 To apply visit: www.ecboces.org
 Do not contact BOCES district administrators or board members directly.

Required Application Materials:

- Letter of Interest
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- Three Letters of Recommendation
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Jason Westfall, Executive Director, ECBOCES
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 Submit applications to:
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Geek Out art competition underway at local libraries

CENTENNIAL — Arapahoe Libraries is hosting its 12th annual Geek Out Creative Contest during November.

Teens ages 11-18 can submit original art in any medium to celebrate a fandom or passion. They can enter art, cosplay, music and writing. Inspiration can come from books, comics, games, movies, music, sports or others.

Submissions will be accepted through Nov. 30 at any Arapahoe Libraries location or arapahoelibraries.org.

Winners will receive Visa gift cards with a \$400 grand prize and will be notified Dec. 11. All participants and their families are invited to the Geek Out party on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Cir., Centennial.

For contest rules, patrons can visit arapahoelibraries.org or call Davies Library in Deer Trail at (303) 769-4310 or Kelper Library in Byers at (303) 822-9392.

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 Veterans Day-related activities activities. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 14.

Adult book club: "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Propagating Plants: Adults can learn to propagate houseplants. Each attendees will receive a plant to take home. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Cornhusk Doll Craft Workshop: Kids ages 5-12 might enjoy a hands-on workshop presented by the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys. They will learn to make a traditional cornhusk doll, then use the imagination to make it uniquely their own. All supplies provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Friday matinee: All ages are invited to an afternoon showing of "A Mine-craft Movie" (2025, rated PG, 1 hour, 41 minutes). 1-3 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14.

Adult book club: "The Accidental Tourist" by Anne Tyler. 6-7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 17.

Bedazzled Book Covers: Tweens and teens will craft bedazzled book covers. Each participant should bring a copy of their favorite book — all other

supplies provided. For those without a book, the library will offer materials to create a bedazzled journal instead. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Come Write In: Authors of all ages can drop in for activities, food, music and information about library resources. 9-10 a.m., Saturdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and 3:30-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 11 and 18.

Rummikub, Refreshments and More: Adults are welcome to drink coffee, eat snacks and play Rummikub. Other card and board games available. 10:30 a.m., to 12 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14.

Let's Get Metaphysical: Adults can learn the basics of astrology from instructor Mauricio Ramirez. The discussion will include the symbols and meanings of the signs and how to their interpretation. Space limited; registration required. 11 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League to make an autumn-inspired centerpiece. The challenge for the month will be to A piece inspired by a strong emotion. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15.

Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can attend regular meetings to take an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services in Bennett. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Nov. 13: Chicken wrap.
 Monday, Nov. 17: Sloppy joe, chips.
 Tuesday, Nov. 18: Orange chicken.
 Wednesday, Nov. 19: Cheesy ravioli.
 Thursday, Nov. 20: Beef and potato wrap.

BYERS

Thursday, Nov. 13: Chicken alfredo, bread sticks, green beans, peaches.
 Friday, Nov. 14: Cheese pizza, cucumber rings.
 Monday, Nov. 17: Boneless buffalo wings, biscuit, orange wedges.
 Tuesday, Nov. 18: Cheeseburger, french fries.
 Wednesday, Nov. 19: Fajitas, corn bread.
 Thursday, Nov. 20: Chicken Caesar wrap, steamed carrots, pears.
 Friday, Nov. 21: Turkey and cheese ba-

gel, Tater Tots, baby carrots, mixed fruits.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Nov. 13: Cheeseburger, French fries, apples.
 Monday, Nov. 17: Chicken tenders, carrots and celery, mixed fruit.
 Tuesday, Nov. 18: Pizza, salad, apples or oranges.
 Wednesday, Nov. 19: Sloppy joes, Tater Tots, bananas.
 Thursday, Nov. 20: Nachos, corn, mandarin oranges.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Nov. 13: Waffles, sausage.
 Friday, Nov. 14: Grilled cheese, tomato soup.
 Tuesday, Nov. 18: Chicken fajitas.
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MEDITERRANEAN BEEF PINWHEELS

BEEF MARINADE INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons dried oregano leaves

FILLING INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup olive tapenade
- 1 cup frozen chopped spinach, thawed, squeezed dry
- 1/4 cup crumbled low-fat feta cheese

VEGETABLES INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups grape or cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

Place steak between two pieces of plastic wrap. Using smooth side of meat mallet, pound steak to 1/2-inch thickness.

Place steak in large food-safe plastic bag or large baking dish. Combine marinade ingredients in small bowl.

Pour marinade over steak; turn to coat. Close bag securely or cover dish and marinate in refrigerator 4 hours or as long as overnight, turning occasionally.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line shallow baking pan with parchment paper. Remove steak from marinade. Reserve remaining marinade; cover and refrigerate.

Place steak on cutting board so grain runs top to bottom. Spread tapenade on steak. Arrange spinach evenly on tapenade and sprinkle with feta.

Starting from side closest to you, roll the steak tightly to form a log. Using six, 8-inch long pieces of kitchen string, tie log in even intervals.

Cut log between string into six equal pieces, leaving string in place. Place pieces, cut-side up, on baking pan.

In a medium bowl, combine reserved marinade and tomatoes, toss to coat. Arrange tomato mixture around pinwheels. Roast at 425 degrees for 25-35 minutes until instant read temperature inserted horizontally into center registers 165 degrees.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

As part of their annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run in the southeastern corner of the state near Eads, members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming visited Strasburg School District Oct. 24. The festivities included a joint unity run between members of the Arapaho Tribe and the Strasburg Northern Arapaho Partnership (SNAP) Council from the east edge of town to the flagpole in the outdoor courtyard area of Strasburg High School. A condensed version of a traditional powwow, including dances and songs, occurred later in the day in Mundell Gymnasium. Above from left, Wind River Reservation resident and Strasburg High School cross country team and SNAP members run down Colfax Avenue on their way to the high school flagpole and Strasburg High School Principal Scott Andrews and Arapaho Elder and liaison with the school district Gail Ridgely take a moment to discuss the partnership between their two organizations. Below, runners are greeted at the high school flagpole with a welcoming committee, including traditionally attired tribal dancers and drummers. The agreement between the school district and tribe is the primary reason Strasburg can maintain its "Indians" name and mascot.



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