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The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 51

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

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Bennett adopts state zoning mandates

Trustees reluctantly approve accessory dwelling language; ArapCo Sheriff's compact OK'd

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The same night the Bennett Board of Trustees voted 5-2 in favor of 2,100-plus new homes with the annexation of the Prairie Grass subdivisions, the same split occurred when approving updated language allowing easier processes for accessory dwelling units.

During its Nov. 4 special meeting, the board ap-

proved an ordinance updating town zoning code to comply with House Bill 24-1152, which requires municipalities to allow one ADU on lots with single-unit detached homes. The revisions also allow local standards for ADU size, placement and utilities while staying within state parameters.

The two dissenting votes were again 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

voted in the affirmative.

During his statement of opposition, Vittum restated his longstanding opposition to any outside influence to local governance by the state, while Smith added that she isn't a fan of backyard residences, noting she is a neighbor to such structures.

"In my opinion, the state of Colorado has become the most liberal state in the United States, more

SEE BENNETT BOT
PAGE 4



Thank You Veterans!

JACLYN PELTON/For The Scout

Corridor veteran Alyssa Egloff receives a hug from daughter Makenna during Byers Elementary's Veterans Day assembly Nov. 11 as fellow vet Robert Rhodes smiles from the neighboring chair. For more Veterans Day coverage, **SEE PAGES 11-13.**



STEVEN VETTER/For The Scout

Patrick Duff, left, Mike Cowell and Reagan Hahn take the oath of Deer Trail School District director Nov. 6 as board member Steven Musser, seated, looks on.

DT walking bridge slated for spring

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — A newly seated Deer Trail School Board received word earlier this month that construction of a new walking bridge between the south side of campus and neighboring housing subdivision will commence next spring.

During the Nov. 6 school board

meeting, which included swearing in of two sitting members and one former director, Superintendent Mike Jobman said that installation of the long-awaited walking bridge between Bijou Estates and the south side of the school is expected to start May 1.

"Completion of the bridge structure itself is expected around April 29 but I

SEE DEER TRAIL BOE
PAGE 8

'Burg School District foresees 10% jump in property values

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — During a meeting dominated by discussion of fall activities and holiday preparations, the Strasburg School Board received word that property values across both counties in the district are on the rise.

During the Nov. 10 regular meeting of Strasburg School directors, Finance Director Nancy Taylor said that preliminary reports from both Arapahoe and Adams county assessor offices show district-wide property valuations are increasing by 10%.

The projection for next

month's 2025 assessed valuation is \$144,358,161, compared to the 2024 actual figure of \$130,921,375. In addition, property tax abatements are anticipated to jump from \$1,309 last year to \$15,758 this cycle.

The amount of property tax to be realized in the school district's general fund is expected to be more than \$5.563 million, compared to \$5.336 million-plus last year. The mill levy to be assessed to property owners across the district is expected at 38.539 mills, more than 2 points down from the previous rate

SEE STRASBURG BOE
PAGE 6



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Widespread atmospheric instability resulted in several days of spectacular presentations of northern lights, aka Aurora Borealis, last week. Above, the bright colors associated with the phenomena are at peak brilliance between 6-7 p.m. Nov. 11 as a plane flies over Fort Morgan.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Nonprofit that uses animals for therapy plans fall benefit

WATKINS — A nonprofit organization that educates, celebrates and shares ranching experiences using farm animals to assist in developing important social and emotional skills in kids will soon host its fall benefit.

The Fall Fun Fundraiser for Spurs Academy will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, at Big Iron Ranch, 34910 E. Alameda Ave., Watkins.

The event will feature Brunch with the Farm Animals and include a petting zoo, horse-powered reading, a turkey craft, book and bake sales, a barnyard sale, silent auction, roping for kids and a kids stick horse rodeo.

Admission costs \$15 per adult, \$10 for kids ages 6-17, and \$5 for kids age 5 and under.

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.

Strasburg Christmas in Park festivities commence Dec. 6

STRASBURG — The annual Christmas in the Park celebration will kick off the "most wonderful time of the year" from 4-7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at Lyons Park, 1409 Railroad St., Strasburg.

The fun-filled event, hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District, will feature Santa Claus and his reindeer, local entertainment, roasted marshmallows, a self-guided walk through the illuminated park, a

ArapCo delays hearings on short-term rentals

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County has paused the process to consider new regulations for short-term rentals in unincorporated areas.

The decision follows extensive public feedback received during the fall. In response, county staff is revising the proposed regulations to better reflect community input.

The first reading of the ordinance originally scheduled for Nov. 18 and the public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners slated for

Dec. 9 have both been canceled.

The proposed initiative aims to ensure that short-term rentals are well-managed and safe, while also protecting the quality of life for nearby residents in unincorporated areas of the county.

At the same time, it provides property owners with the opportunity to earn income by renting their homes responsibly.

For more information, visit www.arapahoeco.gov/LDCamendments.

wreath contest, and the lighting of the community Christmas tree.

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

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.

Toy collection commences for yearly Christmas Shop

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

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

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

Community Hymn Sing set for Strasburg Presbyterian

STRASBURG — A Community Hymn Sing will start at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, at Strasburg Presbyterian Church, 56635 E. Iowa Ave.

Pianist Stacy May will accompany participants on many classic Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and "We Three Kings."

Pastor Walt Bedford will read from Luke 2, the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

For more information, call Denise Brokaw at (720)519-7193.

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.

Scholarship fund beneficiary of Stacking Stuffer e-auction

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a Stacking 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.

Thanksgiving service slated for local Presbyterian church

STRASBURG — A Thanksgiving Eve service will begin at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Strasburg Presbyterian Church.

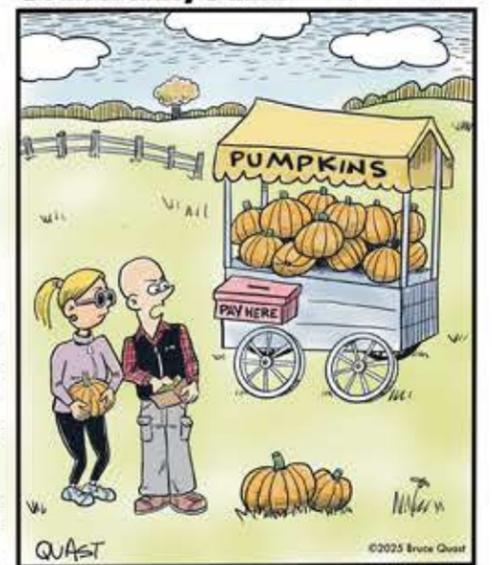
Special music is planned and the offering will benefit the Little Free Pantry. The service will be followed by a pie and fellowship social.

The service is co-hosted by Saron Lutheran Church in Strasburg and Byers Community Church.

Strasburg Presbyterian is located at 56635 E. Iowa Ave.



Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"Unbelievable! Self-checkout is everywhere!"

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Winter Fun Zones, bands, 5K run, shopping scheduled for big Arapahoe Christmas event

LITTLETON — Christmas fans can get into the holiday spirit at a magical winter wonderland celebration that will bring joy, wonder and festive cheer to families throughout the holiday season.

The Visit the Village Holiday Extravaganza features a merry marketplace of local artisans, festive live music, the spirited Yeti Set Go! 5K Fun Run, delicious seasonal treats from food trucks, and snow-filled activities to delight children of all ages.

The enchanting event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds Event Center, 25690 E. Quincy Ave. Aurora.

Winter Fun Zones — an indoor snowball toss for frosty fun and thrilling inflatable tubing hill — are new this year, and the Yeti Set Go! 5K Fun Run starts at 11:30 a.m.

The Main Stage will feature the **SEE VILLAGE PAGE 4**



Thanksgiving

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



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.corlems.org

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • mttabortbyers.org
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Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana — Meetings every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)
I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

THANK YOU! **ARAPAHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES**
November is National Adoption Month
Arapahoe County would like to send a big thank you to all the families who have opened up their hearts and homes to adoption. You can thank them too! Offer a kind word of support, a simple note to say thank you, a small gesture to show how much you appreciate the adoptive families in your community.

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719-659-8848



Get in the holiday spirit!
Celebrate the holiday season at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds Saturday, **Dec. 13, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.** There's something for everyone, from a holiday shopping village to Santa Meet-and-Greet, holiday music, food trucks, games, and more. For double the fun, join us at 11:30 a.m. for the Yeti Set Go! 5K Fun Run.
Visit arapahoecountyeventcenter.com/visitthevillage

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1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg
Sunday Service Livestream at
<https://www.mvcolorado.online.church>
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvcolorado"
mvcolorado.com
303.622.9600

Strasburg Orthodox Mission
WEEKLY Vespers
Tuesday, 7 p.m. & Saturday, 7 p.m.
Saron Lutheran Church (1656 Main St.)
Info: strasburgorthodox.org

ARAPAHOE COUNTY CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMISSIONERS
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Commissioner District 3

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Join District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker and special guests from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and Public Works and Development Department for a community discussion about issues facing residents in Eastern Arapahoe County. Baker will also lead an informal conversation about County initiatives and answer questions from residents.
Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 | 6:30–8 p.m.
American Legion: 278 W. Front St, Byers, CO 80103

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BENNETT BOT FROM P1

liberal than California. People that assemble in the Capitol building do not want people in little towns like our group here voting on things. So they are going to take control of the circumstances that go on inside of our town and prohibit the town of Bennett from making those decisions. This is a classic example (of that). I would sooner rather gargle with battery acid than vote for this thing. If you think this is where it's going to end — the state is going to back off — you're delusional."

While the rest of the trustees stated their dislike with the government oversight, they said the prospect of losing future state funding wasn't worth the risk. According to town administrator Trish Stiles, it is likely that "any and all state funding" could be on the chopping block for municipalities that don't adopt resolutions to comply with Colorado statute.

"I do not like government oversight to this degree either, but I don't know if this is worth the risk," Oakley said, noting that ADUs are allowed in most areas of town already. "Is this the stake we want to die on?"

ARAPCO SHERIFF'S CONTRACT

During adoption of the consent agenda, trustees approved an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office for 2026 law enforcement services.

Next year's agreement will include costs for additional traffic enforcement, which was added this year.

According to staff, the 2026 arrangement is the last year-to-year contract. It will change to 3-5 years starting in 2027.

The relationship between the Adams County Sheriff and Bennett was officially severed in late-February 2024 after the town balked at a reported increase in the law enforcement contract of approximately \$100,000 from the previous year.

Bennett filed a lawsuit against Adams County Sheriff Gene Claps in late January 2024 citing blatant disregard of a standing IGA between the two entities. The suit remains under litigation.



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VILLAGE FROM P3

Denver Concert Band Show & Tell at 12 p.m. and the fabulous Denver Dolls at 2 p.m.; and little elves can build festive creations and decorate delicious holiday cookies at Santa's Workshop. Attractions also include the Holiday Shopping Village; Rudolph's Reindeer Games; a Gingerbread House Competition; a Model Train Exhibit; a petting farm; food trucks; and photos with Santa.

Admission costs \$10 in advance or \$12 day of event (online or onsite), and children under 2 enter free. Tickets to Visit the Village are now on sale at www.arapahoecountyeventcenter.com.

One free admission per household is available if a new, unwrapped gift is donated in support of Arapahoe County Human Services' Partnering for the Holidays program. Visit arapahoeco.gov/partnering for gift suggestions.

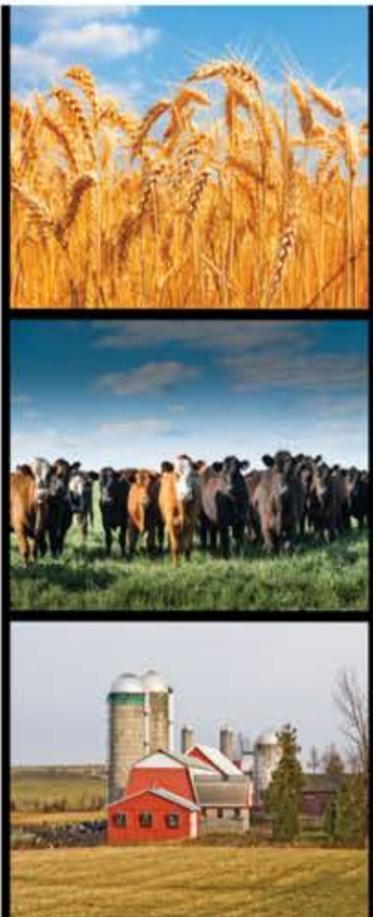
The gift admission offer does not apply to Yeti Set Go! 5K Fun Run tickets, which cost \$25 and include admission and a free T-shirt. The footrace starts at 11:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for the most festive costumes.

For more information, visit www.arapahoecountyeventcenter.com.

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MATT SLOCUM/AP Photo

U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach stands behind a penny press at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia Nov. 12, the last day of penny production.

PENNY SPENT

Production of 1-cent coin ends after 230 years

by Maryclaire Dale
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The U.S. ended production of the penny Nov. 12, abandoning the 1-cent coins that were embedded in American culture for more than 230 years but became nearly worthless.

When introduced in 1793, a penny could buy a biscuit, a candle or a piece of candy. Now most of them are cast aside to sit in jars or junk drawers, and each one costs nearly 4 cents to make.

“God bless America, and we’re going to save the taxpayers \$56 million,” Treasurer Brandon Beach said at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia before hitting a button to strike the final penny. The coins were then carefully placed on a tray for journalists to see. The last few pennies will be auctioned off.

Billions of pennies are still in circulation and will remain legal tender, but new ones will no longer be made.

The last U.S. coin to be discontinued was the half-cent in 1857, Beach said.

Most penny production ended over the summer, officials said. During the final pressing, workers at the mint stood quietly on the factory floor as if bidding farewell to an old friend. When the last coins emerged, the men and women broke into applause and cheered one another.

“It’s an emotional day,” said Clayton Crotty, who has worked at the mint for 15 years. “But it’s not unexpected.”

President Donald Trump ordered the penny’s demise as costs climbed and the 1-cent valuation became virtually obsolete.

“For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents,” Trump wrote in an online post in February. “This is so wasteful!”

Still, many Americans have a nostalgia for them, seeing pennies as lucky or fun to collect. And some retailers voiced concerns in recent weeks as supplies ran low and the end of production drew near. They said the phaseout was abrupt and came with no government guidance on how to handle transactions.

Some businesses rounded prices down to avoid shortchanging shoppers. Others pleaded with custom-



MATT SLOCUM/AP Photo

Beach holds one of the last pennies pressed.

ers to bring exact change. The more creative among them gave out prizes, such as a free drink, in exchange for a pile of pennies.

“We have been advocating abolition of the penny for 30 years. But this is not the way we wanted it to go,” said Jeff Lenard of the National Association of Convenience Stores last month.

Proponents of eliminating the coin cited cost savings, speedier checkouts at cash registers, and the fact that some countries have already eliminated their 1-cent coins. Canada, for instance, stopped minting its penny in 2012.

Some banks began rationing supplies, a somewhat paradoxical result of the effort to address what many see as a glut of the coins. Over the last century, about half the coins made at mints in Philadelphia and Denver have been pennies.

But they cost far less to produce than the nickel, which costs nearly 14 cents to make. The diminutive dime, by comparison, costs less than 6 cents to produce, and the quarter nearly 15 cents.

No matter their face value, collectors and historians consider them an important historical record. Frank Holt, an emeritus professor at the University of Houston who has studied the history of coins, laments the loss.

“We put mottoes on them and self-identifiers, and we decide — in the case of the United States — which dead persons are most important to us and should be commemorated,” he said. “They reflect our politics, our religion, our art, our sense of ourselves, our ideals, our aspirations.”

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The holidays are approaching, and for many families in our community, this season is a struggle. Our local food bank is seeing a significant increase in demand and needs your financial support to continue providing essential groceries and meals.

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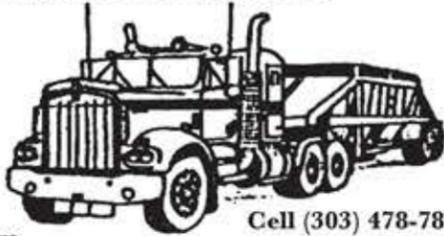


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Friday, Dec. 12:
 Christmas (Dec. 17) &
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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Nov. 10 Strasburg School Board meeting included recognition of three seniors for academic excellence. Left photo, Katie Larsen and Will Hauser stand next to high school principal Scott Andrews after being honored for high scores in the National Merit Scholarship Award qualifying test. Right photo, Israel James received recognition for being an Advanced Placement Scholar.

STRASBURG BOE

FROM PAGE 1

of 40.758 mills. Despite awaiting final valuations and mill levy assessments from both county assessors, the board agreed to allow Taylor and Superintendent Kelle Bongard to sign off on the final documentation when received.

BUILDING UPDATES

During her report, Hemphill Middle School Principal JaLee Kitzman reported that a recent in-service for teachers and staff focused on consistent discipline throughout the building.

"Really focusing on [managing] behavior and consistency between teachers," said Kitzman, who took over at the middle school last April after student bullying resulted in lost jobs and students suspended or expelled. "Ripped the Band-Aid off for a lot of our staff and administration." Kitzman also said the preparations are underway with students and staff for remote learning if circumstances dictate that action.

"Just in case," she emphasized, noting that winter weather is expected soon. "Never know when a snow day might happen or something else pops up to cancel classes."

Bongard also reiterated that remote learning would be "just in case." Efforts to increase participation in the arts in the middle school appear to be working as 27 kids are enrolled in choir, including seven that participated in the recent Eastern Colorado Honor Choir for schools within the East Central BOCES boundaries.

Prairie Creeks Principal Thom Winter reported that 32 of 36 spots in the alternative high school are filled with three openings for Strasburg and one for Deer Trail. He expects a full roster of students once the first semester concludes.

High School Principal Scott Andrews announced that, under the tutelage of art teacher Amanda Fisher, students recently completed their first school newspaper and that a monthly report of events across the district is expected to continue.

Seniors Katie Larsen and Will Hauser were recognized as Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program, while classmate Israel James was lauded for receiving the Advanced Placement Scholar Award from the College Board.

Larsen and Hauser took the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

"These students' impressive performance placed them among the top scorers nationwide," Bongard said. "While they will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, being named a Commended Student is a significant national hon-

or — earned by only about 30,000 — 50,000 students across the country each year."

Advanced Placement courses are college-level classes offered in high school that allow students to explore subjects in greater, more rigorous depth and earn college credit based on their performance on AP exams administered by the College Board.

"Israel's performance reflects strong academic preparation and a commitment to challenging coursework," Bongard said. "We are proud of him for this accomplishment and for representing our school with excellence."

Elementary School Principal Cameron Schiller said recent Halloween activities are an example of how full his building is with students.

"Classes are so big that each one of them is wider than the stage," he said regarding the recent costume parade that was held in the cafeteria. "Looking for alternate places to hold it."

Part of the elementary enrollment boom includes a handful of kindergarten classes.

Bongard pointed out that Schiller was selected to present to a recent Colorado Association of School Executives' Principals Symposium where he talked about his building's House Program. Strasburg Elementary students and staff are part of one of four houses — Bear, Stag, Bison and Eagle — which represent an important character trait to promote a strong overall school community.

STUDENT, STAFF HEALTH

District Social Worker Marisa Clifton and School Nurse Nicole Hawkins said plans are in place to implement new health curriculum starting at an earlier age and improve the staff wellness policy.

Currently, student health curriculum starts in fifth grade and both Hawkins and Clifton hope to get certain topics — particularly smoking and vaping education — implemented in the younger elementary classes.

"Need to focus on meeting more of younger kids' needs," Hawkins said. "We're missing a portion of our students."

Clifton noted that Red Ribbon Week was Oct. 21-24 and that efforts across campus included activities on staying healthy and making safe choices for kindergarten through second-grade students and lessons about the harmful effects of vaping and nicotine in the rest of the classrooms.

Concerning the district wellness policy, Hawkins said focus needs to be put on preventing and addressing teacher burnout.

"Certainly an issue that needs addressed," she said. "Hopefully that would improve teacher retention."

Boebert helps force House vote on full release of Epstein files

by Caitlyn Kim
Colorado Public Radio



Despite a last minute push from President Donald Trump, GOP Rep. Lauren Boebert kept her name on the discharge petition that demands the full release of investigative files around convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Boebert met with Trump Administration officials at the White House Nov. 12 over her support for using a process that goes around GOP leadership to force a vote on releasing the files.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt confirmed Boebert's meeting at a press conference that afternoon, saying it was about transparency.

"Doesn't it show transparency that members of the Trump administration are willing to brief members of Congress, whenever they please?" Leavitt told an ABC reporter who asked whether the administration was meeting with Boebert to push her to take her name off the petition. "Doesn't that show the level of transparency when we are willing to sit down with members of Congress and address their concerns?"

Boebert pushed back that night on the idea that the White House was trying to get her to remove her name from the petition, saying she did not feel any pressure.

"I love the White House," Boebert told CPR News. "Adults are allowed to have conversations."

Boebert said she had wanted more information and that she received more information.

"I want to honor President Trump's legacy of transparency," Boebert said. "I was assured today that this is an administration who's going to continue to be transparent and honest and we will see what comes of it. But there was no pressure and I mean, everybody was great."

Boebert is one of four Republicans who signed the bipartisan discharge petition led by GOP Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna of California to force the Justice Department to release all

the files.

Boebert, Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina, and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia all signed onto the petition Sept. 2.

It remained one vote short until Nov. 12 when Democratic Rep. Adelita Grijalva of New Mexico was sworn in and added her name.

Massie and Khanna sat together during the swearing in and stood up and clapped when it was announced she'd be the 218th signature. Two Epstein victims were in the gallery watching.

Once a petition reaches 218 votes, it is frozen and no names can be added or removed.

Earlier in the day, Trump lashed out on social media at Republicans that supported the petition, writing Democrats are doing this to deflect from their failures.

"Only a very bad, or stupid, Republican would fall into that trap," the president wrote on Truth Social. "There should be no deflections to Epstein or anything else, and Republicans involved should be focused only on opening up our country and fixing the massive damage caused by the Democrats!"

On the evening of Nov. 12, Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters he will bring the bill to the floor this week for a vote.

If the bill passes the House, there's no guarantee that the Senate would take it up and pass it there.

But, if it does, it would still have to be signed into law by Trump, who has referred to the effort as the "Epstein Hoax."

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

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DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

A great horned owl gives the camera and photographer a scrutinizing stare while perched upon a wooden gateway in the Comanche Crossing subdivision on the south side of the Strasburg interchange late last month.

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DEER TRAIL BOE FROM PAGE 1

told them not to come onto the property until May 1," Jobman said, noting that the district has scheduled a home middle school track meet in April and doesn't want the construction to interfere with it. "It's going to go in the area where our discus pit is right now anyway, so we want to get the meet done before anything else happens there and they have to rip it out."

The bridge, which has been a topic of discussion since the current school was built more than five years ago, will allow students and residents to access campus — particularly the football field and track — from neighboring homes to the south without using Highway 40, where speeding traffic can be problematic, or walking through a ditch.

"Really a big safety improvement once it gets in," Jobman said. The project will not cost the school

district anything but the construction company will be allowed to utilize an unused room in the outdoor modulars as a temporary office. The company has also agreed to allow students to watch the process and learn about the construction industry.

"A good opportunity for our kids to be exposed to one of the industries or trades out there following graduation," said board president Patrick Duff.

The bridge is being built in Greeley, meaning that transportation to the campus will be completed within a day. Jobman said that the arrangement between the Colorado Department of Transportation and Meyers Construction is for a 34-day construction contract to install the bridge.

"Certainly will be done before the next school year," he concluded.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other facilities news, Jobman indicated that the final punch-list items and emergency system repairs to the trio of modular classrooms had been completed and that the final inspection from Arapahoe County was expected to occur Nov. 14.

"All the wiring was re-done," Jobman said. "We don't have the beeping sound going off in the office throughout the day. Definitely steps in the right direction."

The modular project to accommodate enrollment overflow since the 2024-25 school year, has been ongoing for two-plus years.

Duff, Reagan Hahn and Mike Cowell all took the oath for four-year director terms after the biannual school board election was canceled this fall for lack of applicants for three seats.

Duff and Hahn have sat on the board the previous four years while Cowell returns after he was termed out a couple years ago. During board elections, Duff retained his presidency while Steven Musser kept his office of vice president. Cowell was voted in as treasurer. Gale Bell's board seat was not up for reelection.

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Colo., 14 other states create new public health alliance

by John Daley
Colorado Capitol News Alliance

Colorado is taking another major step away from the federal government when it comes to public health.

The governor announced last month that the state is forming a new alliance with more than a dozen other states led by Democratic governors.

Gov. Jared Polis said Colorado is a founding member in the Governors Public Health Alliance, the GPHA, described as a non-partisan coalition of governors collaborating on data sharing, best practices for threats and other violence, emergency preparedness and public health policy coordination across state lines

Earlier this year, Colorado passed a law along party lines allowing it to now follow the guidance on vaccines of national medical groups, in addition to a federal vaccine advisory committee.

“With all the uncertainty in Washington, including both the shutdown as well as the major cuts to CDC (the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention), states really need to step into the void,” Polis told Colorado Public Radio. “And rather than doing it all ourselves, Colorado can benefit from working



Gov. Jared Polis hands a pen to Rep. Jenny Willford, D-Northglenn, second from right, after signing a bill at the Governor's Mansion in Denver June.

with other states, more than a third of the country, on basic public health.”

The alliance will be “a coordinating hub” for governors and their public health officials and a “unified, cross-state liaison with the global health community,” according to a statement from the governor's office.

Polis said the alliance is not a rebuke of the health-related decisions made by the Trump administration.

“It's about capacity,” he said, noting agencies are

closed due to the shutdown, many have been gutted, and the United States has withdrawn from the World Health Organization.

Polis said that has pushed responsibility for public health to the states and the governors.

“There's a lot of benefit in working together because otherwise Colorado has to do it all ourselves,” he said.

Jake Williams, CEO of health advocacy group Healthier Colorado, applauded the move.

“I feel safer as a Coloradan as a result of this action. Coloradans need accurate health information and access to health care, and this alliance is going to help us get it,” he said.

RFK'S TENURE

The move comes 10 months after Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was sworn in as secretary leading U.S. health agencies. During his chaotic tenure, he upended parts of America's health and science foundation and shared debunked

conspiracy theories. Former CDC officials have called him out for endangering public health.

He defended his leadership as being in the best interest of the American people in a recent contentious Senate hearing.

“They deserve the truth, and that's what we're gonna give them for the first time in the history of that agency,” Kennedy said.

MULTI-STATE PACT

Other members of the alliance are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington and Guam. All are led by Democrats.

The governor's office and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment will share lessons about efforts to lower health costs, improve behavioral-health access, and expand preventive-care initiatives, according to the statement from Polis.

Polis said the group is set up as a donor-supported non-profit.

Vaccines are a key point in the emerging divide. Ken-

SEE HEALTH ALLIANCE PAGE 10

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HEALTH ALLIANCE

FROM PAGE 9

dy fired all the members of a federal advisory committee, replacing them with a group that's aligned with his vaccine skepticism.

The new alliance will work on technical and regulatory issues like vaccine policy.

"I think this is the first priority to see if they can collaborate well together, to distribute vaccines, get information out," said Cathy Bradley, Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. "These states do not want to see a bad winter, so the timing is not an accident."

POSITIVE RESPONSE LOCALLY

Others also supported the Polis' decision to form and join the alliance.

"This makes sense. I can certainly see the need for sharing of data, best practices, interventions as situations arrive," said Dr. Jon Samet, who helped lead Colorado's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While the need for such an interstate organization is not ideal, its founding should be comforting to clinicians, public health workers, and researchers alike here in Colorado," said Dr. Tamaan K. Osbourne-Roberts, a family physician and former president of the Colorado Medical Society, who works in Aurora.

"As the federal government continues to cut jobs and funding from what traditionally has been the 'crown jewel' of public health systems worldwide, states will need to step in, to continue operations and to restore public confidence in public health at a time when both are being undermined," he said.

HHS, REPUBLICANS FIRE BACK

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services spokesman Andrew Nixon accused Democratic governors of "eroding public trust" with support

for school closures and mask mandates. In an e-mailed comment, he said the Trump administration and Kennedy are rebuilding that trust by "grounding every policy in rigorous evidence and Gold Standard Science — not the failed politics of the pandemic."

Of the Republicans in the state's Congressional delegation, Third District Rep. Jeff Hurd declined to comment; other offices did not respond.

"If the governor truly cares about health care, he should start by fixing the crisis he helped create," said state Rep. Jarvis Caldwell of Monument, the Colorado House minority leader. "There have been over 500 regulations placed just on hospitals in the last eight years. This has driven up costs and forced rural hospitals to close."

"Instead of joining yet another alliance made up entirely of Democrat-led states, the governor should focus on keeping hospitals open, reducing red tape, and restoring access to care for Coloradans," Caldwell said in an e-mail. "Real leadership means solving real problems, not signing onto political coalitions that do nothing for patients."

ALLIANCE BACKERS

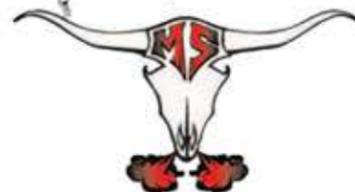
The CDC director under former President Joe Biden, Dr. Mandy Cohen, is part of a bipartisan group of advisers to the new alliance.

"The CDC did provide an important backstop for expertise and support," Cohen told NPR. "And I think now, with some of that gone, it's important for states to make sure that they are sharing best practices and that they are coordinating because the problems have not gone away. The health threats have not gone away."

GovAct, a nonprofit, nonpartisan donor-funded initiative, is backing the alliance.

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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District hosted its annual Veterans Day spaghetti dinner Nov. 8 at the Strasburg Community Center. Left photo, a "Missing Man Table" honors prisoners of war or soldiers missing in action. Right, veteran and Jess-Yaich Legion Commander Maurice Mertens Jr. shows off one of the many door prizes.

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Hugh Johnson

Hugh Edward Johnson, a devoted husband, father, and esteemed Heavy Highway Civil Superintendent, passed away on Nov. 10, 2025, at the age of 91 in Deer Trail, Colo. Born on July 23, 1934, in Byers, Colo., to James F. Johnson and Tressie E. Murphy, his legacy is one of hard work, love for family, and a passion for nature.

Hugh's career as a Heavy Highway Civil Superintendent showcased his dedication to his profession and his unwavering commitment to the infrastructure of his community. He served honorably in the Army, embodying the values of service and duty that characterized his life.

Married to Deanna Simmons on June 18, 1959, Hugh built a life filled with love and family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Deanna Simmons Johnson of Deer Trail, and his children: son, Hugh (Patty) Johnson of Littleton, Colo.; daughter, Mellany (Sergio) Cisneros of Aurora, Colo.; son, Charles Johnson of Albuquerque, N.M.; and son, Carl (Shawna) Johnson of Albuquerque. His family continues to cherish his memory through his 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, who brought him immense joy.

Hugh was known for his passion for gardening and his enthusiasm as a rock hound, dedicating time to cutting and polishing stones. He was affectionately referred to as the "Rock Hound," a testament to his keen interest in the natural world. Additionally, he was a proud member of Elks BPOE 2307 and Deer Trail Legion 121, where he contributed to his community and formed lasting friendships.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandchild, along with eight siblings. Hugh Edward Johnson leaves behind a legacy of love, diligence, and a deep appreciation for family and nature, remembered fondly by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Hugh's name to Elks BPOE 2307, P.O. Box 177, Deer Trail, CO 80105; or Byers American Legion #160, 278 W. Front St., Byers, CO 80103.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE NO. LR25-001, BYERS SUBAREA PLAN ADOPTION

PROPOSAL: The Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, applicant, has drafted an update to the existing 2003 Byers Sub-Area Plan. The updated plan identifies a vision for the future of Byers and serves as the official guiding document to direct growth, investment, and improvements for approximately the next 20 years. Once adopted, the Byers Subarea Plan will be a part of the Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 9, 2025, at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LR25-001, Byers Subarea Plan Adoption. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

More information about this proposal is available at the offices of the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, Planning Division, 6924 S Lima St., Centennial CO 80112 (please call ahead to schedule an appointment if you plan to walk-in), by calling 720-874-6650, or by emailing planning@arapahoegov.com during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Nov. 21, 2025.

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Corridor schools honor service men, women on Veterans Day!



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Art teacher Karlee Wamsley leads students in a rendition of "Thank You, Soldiers," during Agate School's "Honoring All Who Served!" Veterans Day program Nov. 11.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg Elementary School hosted the first Veterans Day program amongst the I-70 Corridor school districts with an early morning assembly Nov. 11 in the cafeteria. All six branches of the military, including the U.S. Space Force founded in December 2019. Clockwise from top left, Army veteran and Indian wrestling coach Matt Croft and Navy veteran James Gibson stand at attention next to their respective branches' flags as fifth-grader David Murillo Tolico reads the history of the Navy; Air Force service member Matthew Bartfai and his son, August, listen intently to "Wild Blue Yonder;" Coast Guard veteran Theodore Gutierrez and a granddaughter stand alongside Space Force representative Dominic Navarro and daughter Dilynn; and Marine Corps veteran Rudy Serna stands at attention next to his nephew, Angelo.



JACLYN PELTON/The I-70 Scout

Elementary music instructor Holly Brooks leads a bevy of students in song during the Byers School Veterans Day program Nov. 11. In addition to voicing their appreciation, students also hand-delivered handmade thank-you notes to many veterans in attendance.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
Deer Trail School hosted its annual Veterans Day assembly Nov. 11. Left, freshman Abby Reed plays "Taps" in memoriam of fallen soldiers. Below, the first-grade class of Courtney Garner performs "Thank You Veterans."

THANK YOU VETERANS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A student-made mural adorns a Bennett School hallway for Veterans Day Nov. 11. Multiple buildings celebrated with assemblies throughout the day.

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<p>Dwarf Alberta Spruce</p> <p>4-5' Tall 10 Gal. Grow Bag sku# SPR-ALB10B</p> <p>Reg. Price \$269.95 Sale Was \$135</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$109.99 Each</p>	<p>Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir</p> <p>5-6' Tall 15 Gal. Grow Bag sku# FIR-DOU15B</p> <p>Reg. Price \$369.95 Sale Was \$165</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$159.99 Each</p>
<p>Ponderosa Pine</p> <p>5-6' Tall 15 Gal. Grow Bag sku# PIN-PON15B</p> <p>Reg. Price \$399.95 Sale Was \$200</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$179.99 Each</p>	<p>Austrian Pine</p> <p>4-5' Tall 10 Gal. Grow Bag sku# PIN-AUS10B</p> <p>Reg. Price \$349.95 Sale Was \$175</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$149.99 Each</p>
<p>Colorado Spruce</p> <p>3-4' Tall #12 Cont. sku# SPR-COL12C</p> <p>Reg. Price \$279.95 Sale Was \$169</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$129.99 Each</p>	<p>Perfect For Table Top Decoration!</p> <p>Dwarf Alberta Spruce</p> <p>3' 5 Gal. Grow Bag sku# SPR-ALB5B</p> <p>Reg. Price \$139.95 Sale Was \$99</p> <p>Special Holiday Price Now Only \$59.99 Each</p>

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KURT HUBERT/For The Scout

Byers High School was represented by a handful of Knowledge Bowl team members during a Nov. 1 taping of Rocky Mountain Quiz Kids at the TV studios of SOCO CW and FOX21 in Colorado Springs. According to social studies and speech teacher and Knowledge Bowl coach Scott Thomas, Byers participated in the televised quiz bowl series for the third year. "It is a contest among schools mainly in Southern Colorado but, because we asked to compete, they were excited to let us compete," he said. The Byers versus Thomas McLaren matchup will be televised on SOCO CW at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, and at 11:30 p.m. the same day on FOX 21. For additional information, visit www.fox21news.com. Pictured during filming are Byers freshman Jake Zufall, sophomore Ian Foose, FOX21 Storm Team Chief Meteorologist and show host Matt Meister, freshman Ethan Temple, and seniors Torin Wardall and Krayton Ebert. Not pictured is senior Ben Gerhardt, who ran in the 2A Colorado Cross Country State Championships in Colorado Springs that day.

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TINA SUTTON/For The Scout

Among the fall semester activities at Byers Elementary School was "Battle of the Books," where fourth through sixth were split up into teams to answer questions about the books they read over the summer. Former longtime elementary principal Gloria Mitchell was on hand to facilitate the battle. Above, Mitchell, second from right, is joined by Sydney Rummel, left, Tynlee Fickbohm, Austin Carroll, Xitlaly Quezada Garcia, and Allison Martinez. Below, longtime preschool teacher Bart "Mr. Bart" Mosbarger oversees debate from, front row from left, Evelyn Stoll, Julee Price and Noah McPherson and back row, Brynlee Fournier, Sophie Smith, Noel McKnight

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Calvary Chapel in Bennett hosted its annual Halloween-themed Fall Festival Oct. 31 at the Bennett VFW Hall. From left, Story Singleton dresses up as a futuristic bounty hunter; Woodrow Cowley, 5, traipses around in his skeleton costume; Carol Cowley, 9, flings a toy onto a bottle for candy; and a young Cleopatra, Eliana, 10, tosses a penny for a candy reward.



PHOTOS COURTESY STRASBURG FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Fire trucks and ambulances were replaced by a bevy of families with kids and pumpkins during a carving festival hosted by Strasburg Fire Protection District in the town firehouse Oct. 25. Participants used their artistic abilities on at least 100 of the traditional large fall gourds.

Karen Scott



Karen Irene Scott, a radiant soul whose creativity, curiosity, and compassion illuminated every life she touched, passed away on Oct. 24, 2025, in Virginia. Born on April 16, 1940, in Denver, Colorado, to William Herbert (Herb) and Ethel Reed (Cockerill) of Byers, Colo., Karen's life was a masterpiece of color, kindness, and lifelong learning.

From her earliest days, Karen approached the world with a boundless sense of wonder and a steadfast belief in the power of education. After graduating with honors from Byers High School in 1958, she attended Colorado State College, earning her degree in Education in 1962. Never one to stop learning, she went on to receive a Master's degree in Gifted and Talented Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1984.

For over four decades, Karen devoted her heart and talent to teaching in the Byers School District. She was a passionate advocate for children and education, inspiring generations of students to think creatively, question deeply, and believe in themselves.

Karen supported her community in countless ways — volunteering with the Performing Arts Center, sewing costumes for local productions, and sharing her musical talent as a pianist at community events. She elevated others naturally and generously, always going the extra mile for her students, her neighbors, and anyone who needed a hand.

Karen's public contributions were many, but her greatest joys were found at home. She married John Ernest Scott, the love of her life, on August 5, 1961, at the Presbyterian Church in Byers. Together, they shared 38 beautiful years raising two sons and helping with the family farm. Karen was deeply devoted to her family, cherishing every moment spent with those she loved most.

Beyond her home and classroom, Karen's spirit for adventure and love of the natural world carried her far and wide. She traveled to every continent, casting lines in new waters and finding beauty in every landscape. Whether fishing, hunting, or simply exploring, she embraced each experience with enthusiasm and gratitude.

Karen is survived by her sister Kristine Reed of Virginia; her sons Carroll W (CW) Scott and wife Melissa of Fort Morgan, and John Glen (Colonel) Scott of Castle Pines; her two beloved grandchildren, Casey and Demri; and many brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Herbert (Herb) and Ethel Reed, her husband John Ernest Scott, and her granddaughter Samantha Kaye Scott.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, at Mountain View Fellowship in Strasburg, followed by a graveside service at Byers Cemetery and reception at the Byers American Legion Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Karen's name to the Gifted and Talented Program at Byers High School — a cause close to her heart and a fitting tribute to her lifelong dedication to education.

Karen's legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched — in her family, her students, and all who were inspired by her zest for life, generous heart, and belief in the power of learning.

Jerry Gustafson



IN MEMORY OF JERRY GUSTAFSON

Jerome "Jerry" Harry Gustafson was born on Dec. 6, 1946, to Harry and Thyra (Olson) Gustafson in Clear Lake, S.D. He grew up on a farm/ranch operation helping his dad raise purebred Hereford cattle. During high school, he was the official school photographer and also helped out the *Clear Lake Courier* and the Sheriff Department when they needed a photographer.

In 1964, Jerry started college at Brookings, S.D., and was also the bass player and back up singer for a Rock and Roll band, "Danny and the Diamonds." In 1965, the band played at a party where Emily "Emmy" Torberson was going to school. It was at this party that Jerry and Emmy met; they later married in September of 1966. Jerry decided that college was not for him. He worked for a short time for Terrace Park Dairy in Marshall, Minn., and from there, he went to St. Paul, Minn., where he worked for 3M Company in their photo lab. By 1969, Jerry was freelancing, taking pictures of weddings, horse shows and portraits, but knew that wasn't his niche. Rodeo was calling his name, so he and Emmy bought a pickup, a travel trailer, a couple of cameras and lenses, and hit the road full time. Jerry started out shooting college, high school and Little Britches rodeos, but soon included PRCA rodeos where the cowboys and the stock were the world's best, providing Jerry with the opportunity to get better action pictures. The couple traveled to every state west of the Mississippi, loving the larger winter rodeos like Denver, Ft. Worth, San Antonio and Houston where they could stay in one place for up to two weeks at a time.

On April 1, 1972, their first baby arrived, a boy named Shawn, who traveled every mile on the rodeo trail with his parents. On March 1, 1976, their second baby arrived, another boy named Scott, and by this time they decided to settle down and enroll Shawn in school. Jerry got a job in Aurora, Colo., managing a camera store, but by 1982, rodeo was calling his name again, and he went back on the road full time. The boys took turns traveling with Jerry in the 80's providing great company while going down the road.

One item on Jerry's bucket list was to publish a coffee table style book of his pictures. He ended up having enough photos to fill two books: "Through the Lens of Jerry Gustafson - Rodeo Photography 1970 - 1976" and "Through the Lens of Jerry Gustafson - Bares, Broncs and Bulls 1982 - 1988". These books were a labor of love, with both his sons helping bring them to life.

In 2019, Jerry was inducted into the Bull Riding Hall of Fame in the Legend Category. In 2020, the Bull Riders Hall of Fame again honored Jerry when he was the Legacy Award recipient. In 2024 he was inducted into the Bull Fights of Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in the Legend Category. Being recognized in this capacity meant so much to Jerry. As well, Jerry took great pleasure in posting rodeo action pictures of cowboys on their birthdays on Facebook and the cowboys loved the recognition, too.

Having re-entered the rodeo world, Jerry felt the photography bug again. He began shooting high school rodeos and futurity bucking events. In early 2025, Jerry decided to hang his camera up for good. His body was telling him he had to slow down. This was one of the hardest decisions he made.

Jerry will be remembered as a kind, humble, generous and faithful man. He was a devoted husband of 59 years, a loving father and an adoring grandpa and trusted friend. Jerry and Emmy called Byers home for 50 years.

Jerry is missed by his wife, Emmy Gustafson; son, Shawn Gustafson, and his wife, Meg Kendel; his son, Scott Gustafson, and his wife, Crystal Smith; his granddaughter, Conner Gustafson; his 4-year-old great grandson, Teddy; his sister-in-law, Peg (Torberson) Steinfadt; his sister- and brother-in-law, Dorothy (Torberson) and David Fossum; his nieces and nephew; a host of cousins; and many, many friends in the rodeo arena of life. Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Thyra (Olson) Gustafson; his father and mother-in-law, Lester and Eunice (Chaon) Torberson; sister-in-law, LaVonne (Torberson) Hook; and brother-in-law, Doug Steinfadt.

Memorial services are at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Saron Lutheran Church, 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO NOV. 22, 2005

A proposed water pipeline from rural northeastern Colorado to Parker and Castle Rock could impact far eastern Adams County and the eastern and southern borders of Arapahoe County. But planning officials commissioners from both counties have not been brought up to speed on the issue.

The approximately \$1 billion, 140 mile project would divert water from the South Platte River near the small town of Iliff to the Reuter-Hess Reservoir currently under construction between Parker and Castle Rock.

Under the proposal, farmers would be paid to idle 20 percent of their fields on a rotating basis to provide water for up to 260,000 urban residential sites. According to water officials with both Douglas County municipalities, the plan would allow nonrenewable groundwater supplies to be replaced by river water, which can be renewed annually by snow melt from the mountains.

Originally, Reuter-Hess was planned to hold up to 16,200 acre-feet.

Currently, plans are in place to expand the holding capacity to approximately 70,000 acre-feet, according to the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD). The reservoir is set for completion in 2011.

15 YEARS AGO NOV. 23, 2010

AGATE — While avoiding a severe direct economic hit after a rural health care plan recently announced bankruptcy, the Agate School District could be impacted by lawsuits over the issue.

During their Nov. 18 meeting, school board members were informed that the recent bankruptcy claim by Rural Health Plan Initiative would likely result in the district paying off an unpaid

insurance claim of just over \$250.

Board members recommended not paying the bill to Health One until issues throughout the East Central BOCES were remedied.

Sources indicated the BOCES has over \$100,000 in unpaid claims through RHPI and that at least one other BOCES-member district has between \$200,000 and \$300,000 outstanding to providers.

"I just wonder if we are pulling the rug out from underneath our BOCES and [neighboring districts] if we pay this right now," said Agate board member Kevin Stocking. "I'm sure we are liable for it and will have to pay it, but I think we need more information on what's going on."

10 YEARS AGO NOV. 24, 2015

BRIGHTON - An Adams County jury took little time to recently rule guilty in the murder of a former Byers woman.

It took less than two hours Nov. 19 to come back with a verdict of guilty of first-degree murder against Joshua Thomas Bohl, 34, in the homicide of girlfriend Jayme (Behrendt) Hosier late last year. Bohl will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, in Division F of Adams County District Court.

Adams County Sheriff's deputies found Hosier at the Crestline Motel, 7330 Brighton Blvd., on Nov. 4, 2014, and arrested Bohl on murder charges Dec. 12.

Evidence presented at trial indicated that Bohl left Hosier's body in the apartment while he stayed with an ex-girlfriend in Fort Lupton. Bohl reportedly called police to report Hosier's death, claiming she was killed when a television fell on her face.

The Adams County Coroner's Office concluded that Hosier died of asphyxia from blunt force trauma to her neck.

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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. 19, the 323rd day of 2025. There are 42 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second crewed landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1998, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr testified before the House Judiciary Committee during impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton. (The full House approved two articles of impeachment against Clinton that De-

ember; Clinton was later acquitted in a Senate trial).

In 2017, Charles Manson, the cult leader behind the murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at the age of 83 after nearly a half-century in prison.

In 2022, five people were killed and 25 injured when a shooter opened fire at an LGBTQ+ nightclub

in Colorado Springs, Colo.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Talk show host Dick Cavett is 89. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 83. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 69. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 69. Actor Allison Janney is 66. Actor Meg Ryan is 64. Actor-filmmaker Jodie Foster is 63.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: NURSERY RHYMES

- ACROSS
- Type of haircut, pl.
 - Tiny helper
 - "What rain does in famous nursery rhyme
 - What accomplices do
 - Ring like a bell
 - Sign of life
 - Lascivious look
 - Pretentiously artistic
 - Tiny island
 - "Bring her back! (2 words)
 - Nicholas II of Russia, e.g.
 - Inmate with life sentence
 - "One for Sorrow (Two for ___)
 - Melville's "Pequod," e.g.
 - More fancy
 - Request for tailor
 - Encoded message
 - Land measure
 - Omit
 - "Hush-a-bye, baby, ___ still"
 - Take a base
 - Hokkaido native
 - Veal serving
 - Beehive State native
 - What Cupid did (2 words)
 - "Tip me over!
 - Lt.'s inferior
 - Plant louse
 - "Pay as you earn" tax system
 - "How do your ears wobble? (3 words)
 - Sacha Cohen's middle name
 - Render speechless
 - Medley
 - Apathetic
 - Not tanned
 - Nearly
 - Bird's groomer
 - It's open to interpretation
 - #57 Down, pl.
- DOWN
- It's soothing
 - Do as directed
 - British Broadcasting Corporation, colloquially
 - Take a leisurely walk
 - Chill-inducing
 - Procrastinator's word
 - "What the old lady swallowed
 - "She's been to London to visit the Queen
 - Paella pot
 - ___-friendly
 - Expose to moisture

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- One way to cook fish
- Mountain climber's spike
- Brother's daughter
- "Who stole the cookie from the cookie ___?"
- Semolina source
- Sunny prefix
- Kind of acid
- Perceive by touch
- Frost over (2 words)
- One of the Muses
- Find new tenant
- "What Jack Horner pulled out
- Not miss
- "___ of ___, he had ten thousand men
- Beer garden mug
- Post-Soviet Union alliance, acr.
- C₂H₆, flammable gas
- With regard to, archaic
- Software plug-ins
- Rose oil
- Young chicken
- Window glass
- Geometric calculation
- Buy and resell
- Baltic capital
- Sounds of amazement
- Baby's apron
- Self-care resort

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

In the Shadow of a Scorpio New Moon

The moon disappears into Scorpio's beautiful shadow and uncertainty settles like fog. Enjoy the mystery of these conditions. They are rare, after all. That's why fog machines were invented -- because there's something cool in the illusion created by this shadowy mist moving through. What we know is finite. What we don't know is infinite.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not too much to ask life to impress you, especially if you ask it to yourself, or send it to the heavens, or write it in your journal. After all, you regularly give more than what's expected of you. And others might, too, if they sense the challenge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're awakening to how uneven emotional labor can be. Don't confuse serving with loving. True partnership is mutual tending. Step back from one-way giving; step toward those who offer warmth back. Balance restores dignity and real joy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been accused of stubbornness, but there's an upside to it -- and in your case it's an up and up and up side. Tenacity got you here and tenacity will get you to the next place, too. Keep it pushing, eyes ahead, never stop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To want more from someone is to overlook who they already are. Love's rare grace is to stop improving, fixing or expecting, and simply witness. Let them be, and they'll rise naturally into the truest version of themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you chase a floating ball in water, your own motion pushes it away. The same goes for goals and people. Consider approaching indirectly, from the side or under the surface. Don't make waves. Let it drift closer to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even if you're capable of doing something on your own, accepting help is still valuable, just not for the obvious reason. The "help" isn't really the point; what matters is what you learn through the exchange.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes the fastest way forward is to pause, check your bearings, and confirm your orientation, because you don't want to go fast in the wrong direction. A brief moment of awareness now will save hours later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People ask of you what they will. But you can't oblige every ask. People who respect you will stay in dialogue even when they don't get what they want. People who only want the "yes" will fade away when they hear "no."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Love can witness without fixing. Kindness can be warm and steady without falling into the gravity of another person's need. Take care of yourself first. It's not selfish; it's the correct order.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may have wonky tools or a clumsy setup today, and that's actually perfect. When things are tricky, it wakes up your inventiveness, forcing you to move differently, think sharper and invent. And you're so brilliant when you improvise!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Kindness isn't a contract. Your generosity doesn't obligate you to the comfort of others. Protect your energy. Give because it delights you, not because it's expected. And if you're just not sure, hold off until you have a stronger feeling about what to do next.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You sense the ache of the world even on bright days. Still, it's not betrayal to feel good. When joy visits, take it in. And someone must remember what hope feels like. Why shouldn't that someone be you?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 19). Welcome to your Year of Wonder Work. You'll create something that makes you proud to wake up early. The mix of joy and diligence turns ordinary efforts into legacy-making magic. More highlights: Romance finds you in motion -- on a journey, in a workshop, mid-song. You'll refine your tastes, elevate your surroundings, and collect experiences that feel cinematic. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 39, 26, 14 and 13.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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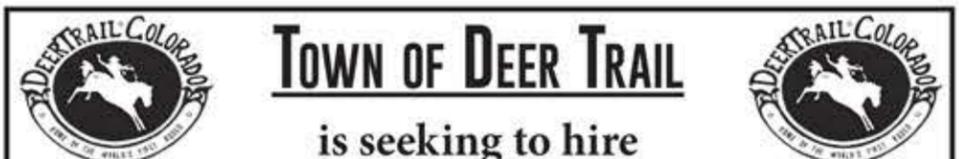
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Welcome Quinton Kopang to our team!
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Photos from The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News are available for purchase in color or black and white. 4x6 \$6; 5x7 \$8; 8½x11 \$12. (303)622-9796. 8/8c

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 Kelter Library in Byers at (303)822-9392.

New Colo. Nat'l Guard boss takes charge

CENTENNIAL — The Colorado National Guard welcomed its 45th adjutant general and bid farewell to its 44th during a change of change of command ceremony Oct. 18 in Centennial.

Adjutant General of Colorado Army Maj. Gen. Laura Clellan relinquished command to Army Maj. Gen. Robert Davis.

"I approach this role with humility and a firm commitment to building upon the strong foundation laid by Maj. Gen. Clellan," Davis said. "I share her commitment to the soldiers and airmen of the Colorado National Guard."

Davis, who will earn \$230,000 per year, is serving in the governor's cabinet as executive director of the Colorado Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the 45th adjutant general of Colorado after his appointment by

Gov. Jared Polis.

Most recently, Davis served as deputy director, U.S. Army National Guard, Arlington, Va.

The Adjutant General of Colorado also leads the state employees of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the Civil Air Patrol.



Davis

Clellan commissioned in 1989 through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Rio Grande College in Ohio. She served in various assignments in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve before transferring to the Colorado Army National Guard in 1998. She was appointed adjutant general of Colorado in July 2020.

The ceremonies took place at Wings Over the Rockies in Centennial.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

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.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

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

Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Senior citizen game day. 1-3 p.m., Stras-

burg American Legion Hall.

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing, dance and play musical instruments. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

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., Kelter Library, Byers.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY

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

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.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in Thanksgiving-themed activities activities. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 21.

Books & Beyond: Kids ages 5-12 can celebrate their favorite book characters through book-related games and crafts. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Open Create with CCAL: Adult artists can collaborate at a gathering hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League (CCAL). They can bring their own projects and supplies or choose from a variety provided by the library. 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Adult book club: "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21.

Beneficial Bug Baler Project begins

by **Scott Stinnett**
 Colorado State University Extension

BURLINGTON — Estimated wheat losses from the Wheat Stem Sawfly now top more than \$33 million per year in Colorado.

Colorado State University is actively engaged in pest control strategies for the insect. Semi-solid stemmed wheat varieties have been released, which limit yield losses for Colorado wheat producers. Varieties such as Amplify SF along with private strains varieties limit losses from this pest.

Natural enemy predators also have been discovered. These predators lay eggs on sawfly larvae and control them; however, Colorado has low populations of sawfly predators.

To increase natural enemies of

wheat stem sawfly, CSU researchers are importing predators from other areas. The Beneficial Bug Baler Project is designed to import beneficial insects to help mitigate the pest.

Wheat straw containing beneficial insects is being baled and transported to the CSU research station in Akron. Bales are rolled out and beneficial insects are allowed to reproduce on test plots at this location.

The hope is that the beneficial insects will thrive and the population can then be relocated to high sawfly infestation areas in northeast Colorado. The pest management tool, along with semi-solid stemmed wheat varieties is expected to greatly reduce the wheat stem sawfly threat to wheat producers without applying insecticides.

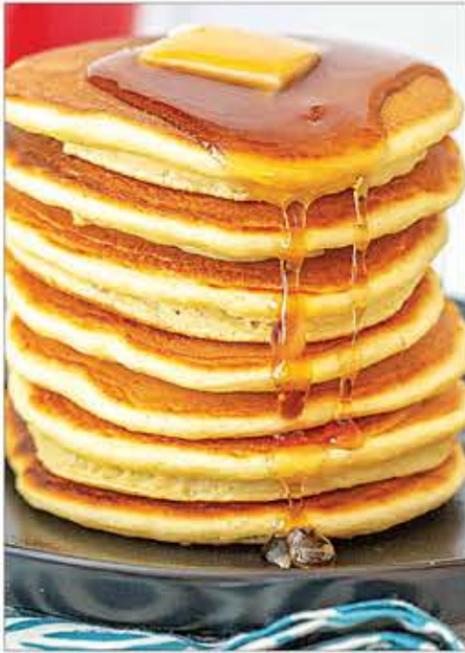
CHUCK WAGON

Colorado Applesauce Pancakes

Enjoy a stack of fluffy applesauce pancakes and know you're tasting a piece of Colorado's deep agricultural past.

According to the Boulder Apple Tree Project, Colorado was a national apple powerhouse in the late 1800s, with hundreds of varieties thriving from the Front Range to Grand Junction. Though disease, drought and prohibition later slowed the industry, a remarkable legacy remains: hardy, resilient trees that contribute to the unique flavor and crispness of modern Colorado apples like Fuji, Gala and Honeycrisp.

This recipe honors that heritage by transforming the season's bounty, picked fresh from farm stands or U-pick orchards, into a warm meal ideal for a crisp autumn morning. Top with a drizzle of maple syrup and toasted pecans for a meal that offers a nutritious start and tangible connection to Colorado agriculture.



and let stand to create buttermilk.

Stir pancake mix and cinnamon together in a large bowl.

Add the eggs, applesauce and milk with lemon juice.

Stir until smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled pan or griddle over medium heat.

Pour or scoop 1/4 cup batter onto the pan or griddle.

Cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry.

Flip and cook until browned on the other side.

Repeat with the remaining batter.

— Recipe courtesy

University of Colorado at Boulder Health & Well Being

COLORADO APPLESAUCE PANCAKES

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 cups dry pancake mix (Honeyville, Taste of the Rockies, or your own)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup applesauce
- oil for frying

DIRECTIONS

Add the lemon juice into the milk

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO. GDP25-001, MAY FARMS RV RESORT AND SANCTUARY / GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PROPOSAL: John Paul Seman Jr. (applicant) on behalf of May Farms RV Resort and Sanctuary at Byers LLC (owner) is requesting approval of a General Development Plan (GDP) application for a 150-acre parcel located south of E. Colfax Avenue, west of Highway 36, in Byers. The application includes a mixed-use development comprised of a Recreational Vehicle (RV) resort that includes commercial and residential recreational development, offering camping accommodations, and age-restricted housing, along with supporting uses such as a water park, hiking, and equestrian trails, general store, a clubhouse, and restaurant. The applicant is proposing two access points. The applicant will dedicate adequate right-of-way providing access from the south of the site connecting the site to US Highway 36. Secondary access is proposed with a rural road connecting to East 15th Avenue/East Colfax Avenue.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 9, 2025 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. GDP25-001, May Farms RV Resort and Sanctuary / General Development Plan. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

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EMBER SEWARD-SORENSEN/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Fall milo harvest along the I-70 Corridor finally started to ramp up last week as indicated by harvesters and grain haulers dotting Exmoor Road (CR 181) and Ridge Road south of Byers Nov. 12-13.

Fall harvest picks up; crop reports follow suit after shutdown

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

While both the local harvest of fall crops, particularly milo and corn, and updated state and national grain production numbers have been delayed this fall, the reasons are vastly different.

The normal harvest range for both

milo, also known as grain sorghum, and field corn is typically September and October but, this fall, significant combine activity along the I-70 Corridor was only reported last week.

In the case of milo, a significant freeze event, which promotes drying of the crop to an acceptable level of moisture prior to storage, was significantly later than normal and, in some

cases, farmers said they will have to try to dry the grain outside of the field.

“A little wet but with what sounds like a strong storm maybe coming through next week (Nov. 19-21), better to get it cut and brought inside,” said a Byers farmer Nov. 14, noting that it’s probably a matter of the crop drying another 10% before it reaches the proper storage level of 12% moisture. “Should still be manageable without damaging a lot of the crop. Hopefully, better safe than sorry.”

At this time of year, the threat of shatter loss and lodging from wind and storms increase.

The usually limited Corridor corn harvest is later than normal because of a combination of a delayed and wet summer, causing slower dry-down, and an unusually wet late summer and fall.

CROP REPORTS RESTARTED

While Mother Nature had her say in the later-than-normal fall crop harvest, the recently resolved 43-day federal government shutdown kept producers and commodity brokers in the dark about where state and national farm production stood.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released ag production and demand reports Nov. 14, the first update since Sept. 12.

“For the most part, a little disappointing,” a commodity consultant told *The I-70 Scout*. “But, probably going to take another month to really assess what exactly went on throughout the shutdown. Also need to measure what recent tariff announcements might mean for ag production.”

A significant jump in Colorado’s grain sorghum production was immediately evident in last week’s crop

production report.

According to stats collected through Nov. 1, Colorado milo production was estimated to be 24.5 million bushels, up from last year’s 13.8 million bushels harvested. In addition to 30,000 more acres planted — 490,000 from 460,000 in 2024 — average yields are anticipated at 50 bushels per acre, compared to 30 bushels per acre last year.

Nationally, sorghum production is forecast at 428 million bushels, up 7% from early September projections and a jump of 25% from last year. As of Nov. 1, national yield projections are at 75 bushels per acre, almost 14 bushels more than 2024. Total U.S. acreage is up 2% to 5.72 million acres from 2024.

For corn production, Colorado remains the 15th state with 1.22 million acres projected to produce an average of 130 bushels per acre for total production of 158.6 million bushels, up almost 20 million bushels from 2024. This year’s projected harvested acres is up 40,000 from 2024 with the average projected yields this fall about 14 bushels per acre more than last year.

While production projections for field crops were released by USDA, current conditions for pasture and range lands across the country had still not been updated as well as harvest progress for fall crops.

Immediately upcoming federal ag reports of local note include the Livestock Slaughter Report scheduled for release at 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20; the Weekly Export Sales Report at 8:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 21; and the Cattle on Feed, Chickens and Eggs, and Milk Production NASS reports, all at 3 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21.

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- Salinas Restaurant, Strasburg
- NAPA Auto Parts, Strasburg
- Latinas Salon II
- (992 S. Abilene St., Aurora)
- Maverick Mercantile, Byers
- Magnolia Salon & Spa, Strasburg
- Dulce Espresso & Bakery
- Strasburg Firehouse
- Outlets at Castle Rock
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Happy Thanksgiving!

The Office will be open Nov. 24-26;

closed Nov. 27 — Dec. 1; & reopen Dec. 2.

HOURS

Monday: By Appointment

Tues./Wed./Fri.: 9:00am-5:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am-1:30pm

Open First Saturday of Each Month