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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 3

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

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Bennett settles First Amendment rift

by Jeffrey A. Roberts
CFOIC Executive Director

Bennett trustees voted this week to settle a First Amendment claim brought by a weekly newspaper that lost

town advertising last spring because the board didn't like an article about a sexual assault that allegedly happened in the locker room of a middle school.

Under an agreement ap-

proved by the trustees Tuesday night, the I-70 Scout will receive \$15,000 from a municipal insurance pool and a three-year advertising contract, excluding legal notices, for \$15,000 per year. The

board directed outside counsel to prepare a draft contract for review at its January meeting.

BENNETT TOWN COUNCIL

The Bennett town trustees'

Dec. 9 meeting.

During the meeting, town attorney Scotty Krob called the settlement terms "a compromise, sort of balancing the

SEE 1ST AMENDMENT

PAGE 26



Corridor Christmas Cheer!

PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The entire I-70 Corridor got into the holiday spirit during a bevy of Christmas and other seasonal activities Dec. 6. Left photo, Anthony Cotes, 5, and sister Natalie, 1, are a little leery to share what they would like for Christmas with Santa during the town of Bennett's Breakfast with Santa at the Bennett Community Center. Right photo, Wade Jones shares a little father-daughter marshmallow roast with 4-year-old Jules at Christmas Night in Strasburg at Lyons Park. SEE PAGES 13-16.

ArapCo board OKs Byers development plan, RV resort proposal

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — In a meeting that was dominated by issues in the eastern reaches of the county, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Dec. 9 approved both an updated Byers subarea plan and the preliminary plan for an RV resort/seasonal housing development north of the community.

The second of the items involving Byers turned out to be the most contentious as commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of the general development plan (GDP) for the May Farms RV Resort & Sanctuary. The lone dissenting vote was Jessica Campbell, while the other four board members, including District 3 representative Jeff Baker voted to let the

project move forward.

County staff and commissioners both reiterated that the overall planned use development (PUD) process for the project is only in its first of three phases and that more detailed specifics will come later. The commissioners' vote followed a unanimous recommendation in favor of the project during the planning commission's Nov. 18 meeting.

"The GDP is only the first step — the big picture about what could happen, [particularly] the allowed uses on the property," said Arapahoe County Senior Planner Kat Hammer. "Not everything could make it through to the site-specific plan."

The development area consists of a total of 150 acres split into two separate planning areas. Planning area 1 consists of 100 acres to house an estimated 800-space RV resort and support services

and structures, including a water park amenity. The second planning area of 50 acres is designated for "age-restricted, deed-restricted housing for residents aged 55 and over;" throughout the hearing, the proposed 400 housing units were referred to as "casitas."

Public Works & Development staff said that the project area's mixed use-entertainment land use designation now fits parameters of the Byers Sub-Area Plan, which was approved by the planning commission last month and formally amended earlier during the commissioners' Dec. 9 meeting.

"Gary May (part of the ownership group for this application) was a member of the Advisory Committee, and he was also involved in the planning

SEE BYERS PROJECTS

PAGE 4

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Strasburg Rec District offers to post letters to Santa Claus

STRASBURG — Local children are invited to send letters to Santa from Strasburg through Dec. 18.

All letters will be forwarded to the North Pole. No postage is necessary. Santa has promised to respond with a personalized letter.

All letters must include the child's first and last name along with a return address.

Mailboxes will be available until Dec. 18.

Look for the red mailboxes at the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St.; Strasburg Post Office, 56691 E. Colfax Ave.; and Dulce Espresso & Bakery, 56551 E. Colfax Ave.

Appearance by Santa Skeeter set for Byers Cowboy Church

BYERS — Santa Skeeter will make an appearance starting at 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, after the service at visit Living Springs Cowboy Church, 2722 S. County Road 173, Byers.

Skeeter will visit with children and share the reason for the season. A potluck is included and kids will receive a gift about the true meaning of Christmas.

The church is located about 3.5 miles south of Highway 36 and South Bradbury Road.

2 Christmas events planned at Mountain View Fellowship

STRASBURG — Mountain View Fellowship plans two events in celebration of the Christmas season.

The church will host a Christmas Experience for residents of the I-70 Corridor from 5-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19, at the church at 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg.

Many family-oriented activities are planned, including a scavenger hunt that will lead participants around the building to experience firsthand a journey to Bethlehem and the Christmas story.

Dinner will be offered and photo ops will be offered at a petting zoo and live nativity scene. Craft-making and cookie decoration are also part of the



Fifth-graders learn about shadows and the sun through various challenges at Byers Elementary School Dec. 10.

evening.

The church's special Christmas Eve-Eve Services begin at 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23.

'Finding Joy in Weary World' focus of Byers church service

BYERS — Christmas will be celebrated with a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Byers Community Church.

Attendees will continue the congregation's theme, "Finding Joy in a Weary World," as it celebrates the birth of Jesus with traditional hymns, readings and songs of joy and hope.

The church is located at 135 S. Sherman St., Byers. For more information, call (303)822-5717.

New Mexico returns gray wolf that wandered from Colorado

DENVER — On, 2025, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Dec. 11 re-released a gray wolf in Grand County after it was captured by the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.

"Gray wolf 2403 has been returned to Colorado and released in a location where it can best contribute to CPW's efforts to establish a self-sustaining wolf population while concurrently attempting to minimize potential wolf-related livestock conflicts," said Acting CPW Director Laura Clellan.

When relocating the wolf, Parks & Wildlife staff considered many factors

regarding the release location in this unusual instance: proximity to an unpaired female gray wolf; nearby natural prey populations; and distance from livestock.

CPW did not relocate the wolf to address a depredation situation, but because its counterparts at N.M. Game & Fish captured and returned it to protect the Mexican wolf population.

Soup suppers, Yule services set at 'Burg Lutheran church

STRASBURG — Strasburg Saron Lutheran Church has announced its Advent and Christmas events open to the community.

On Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, the church will host its Advent soup suppers beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed

LUNCH MENUS

BYERS

Thursday, Dec. 18: Turkey and cheese sandwich, Tater Tots, green beans.
Friday, Dec. 19: No lunch.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Dec. 18: Chicken sandwich, Tater Tots, grapes.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Dec. 18: Chicken and waffles.
Friday, Dec. 19: Chimichanga.

AGATE

Thursday, Dec. 18: Chicken tenders.

at 7:15 p.m. by evening prayer and a meditation on the book of Matthew.

A candlelight services will begin at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Visit from Santa Claus slated for Deer Trail Christmas event

DEER TRAIL — Santa is coming to Deer Trail for a night of fun.

The occasion begins with a parade starting at 5:30 p.m. with Santa arriving around 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Deer Trail Firehouse, 488 First Ave.

Hot chocolate and photos with Santa are free, and gifts will be provided for all the kids.

The event is hosted by the Town of Deer Trail, Deer Trail Volunteer Fire Department, and the Deer Trail Home & School Association.

Big address signs offered at cost by Strasburg FPD

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Fire Protection District is offering address signs at cost.

The price is \$40 for each reflective 6- by 30-inch sign. The signs are available in green or blue with 4-inch white numbers.

According to a release, the signs help the emergency crews find an address in a faster and safer manner, especially at night when the addresses on the front of a house are not lit.

To purchase a sign, contact the Strasburg Fire Protection District at (303)622-4444, ext. 1.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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A	G	A	V	E	I	O	N	I	N	F	E
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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Adams County Sheriff's Office Unit 115 sits out front of the Strasburg substation and under flags at half-staff while shrouded with a flag, flowers and other items in memory of District 5 Cmdr. and longtime Eastern Plains officer Karl Smalley, who died suddenly and unexpectedly while on duty near Watkins Dec. 8. As of press time, the cause of death and memorial service specifics were unavailable, but Olinger Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery - Highland is in charge of arrangements. For updated information, visit www.dignitymemorial.com. Residents are urged to drop off flowers or other mementos at the substation in honor of Smalley. The above photo was taken Dec. 13. Additional information is available in the Dec. 12 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Happy Holidays

All County offices will be closed **Wednesday, Dec. 24** and **Thursday, Dec. 25** in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Volunteers Needed

Help a Neighbor in Need this Winter

For individuals in need of extra assistance, snowy walkways and driveways create a safety hazard and can even be life-threatening. This program is one of the County's most requested for volunteers and your help will have a big impact on your immediate community. Volunteers are especially needed in Aurora, Greenwood Village, and Centennial.

Learn more and sign up at arapahoeco.gov/digout.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!
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Happy Holidays

Bennett Parks & Recreation District
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Jennifer Tucker

Jennifer Leigh Tucker, 54 of Byers, passed away Dec. 7, 2025, surrounded by her family and endless love. Jennifer was born Sept. 15, 1971, to Rick Keiser and Jaqueline Mintling in Nebraska. After high school, Jennifer went on to have five children who were her entire world. She spent her life raising them and being a homemaker. Jennifer and her children relocated to Colorado in 2007, where she met her husband, Robert Tucker. Robert and Jennifer were married July 19, 2016. They settled in Byers as a family. Jennifer is survived by her husband, Robert Tucker, of Byers; her children, Ethan Willenberg (Tanya), Joel Willenberg, Samuel Willenberg (Emily), Kate Willenberg (Jose), and Evan Keiser all of Byers; her sister, Krista Keiser; and nephews, Austin and Tucker Keiser all of Gordon, Neb. She was also blessed with four beautiful grandchildren: Olivah, Weston, Adalyne and Matthew. She is preceded in death by her father and mother, Rick and Jaqueline Keiser. Services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, at Journey Church, in Strasburg, with graveside services at the Byers Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Byers American Legion. The family is accepting flowers, or in lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Boys Town, Omaha, Neb., a charity very dear to her.

BYERS PROJECTS FROM PAGE 1

process for the original Byers Sub-Area Plan. While the 2003 Subarea Plan designated this area as RSF-1 [for] Residential Single Family, the advisory committee recommended that this property be designed as Mixed Use - Entertainment in the updated Byers Sub-Area Plan," the county staff report stated. "The Mixed Use - Entertainment land use designation in the updated Byers Sub-Area Plan allows for a wide variety of land uses, including commercial, residential, hospitality and entertainment venues. The proposed [RV resort] GDP is in alignment with the Mixed Use - Entertainment land use designation."

During public comment, neighbors to the proposed project area questioned whether the development, which developers have compared to the Jellystone RV Resort in Larkspur, fits the current small town, rural environment in and around Byers.

"A possible increase in population of 50%? That's not keeping things rural," said Connie Moos, referring to the sub-area plan's stated mission of keeping the small community feel. "This is not what the people of Byers want."

Moos' husband, David, added, "My major concern is the density — 400 units on 50 acres. It's just too clustered [and] that contradicts the sub-area plan. There's more room to spread out than that."

Byers resident Chris Rino asked commissioners to focus on other pressing issues in the area before moving forward with another project.

"Please don't forget what we have been asking for before this," he pleaded, noting the need for sidewalks and trails throughout the community and area to allow families with kids and elderly pedestrians the opportunity to walk safely. "Where's the open space money for Byers? It feels like you've forgotten about Byers. Let's get our kids, these elderly folks, addressed first and then move forward."

Developer representatives called the RV park proposal a "game-changing project for Byers — an economic driver that builds on the local character [of town]." Economic impact estimates include that for every \$1 spent by people at the resort, another \$2.50 will be spent in or around Byers. The RV resort is also expected to result in 20-30 full-time jobs, mostly May through October, but some staff is expected on site all the time.

Plans are also in place to engage the Byers School District for vocational educational opportunities, predomi-

nantly in the hospitality industry. When asked about the strain the project would put on local water resources, developer representative John Paul "Jep" Seman said, water rights have already been transferred to the Byers Water & Sanitation District and the project will pay for water and wastewater services as a new in-district customer.

Seman said that previously stated concerns about accessory dwelling units (ADUs) being allowed on site have been addressed.

"[Only] manufactured housing as mandated by county and state code," he said. "Once you figure in setbacks, ADUs aren't an option."

Road improvements, including turn lanes along Highway 36 will also be required.

The overall development would be phased in with the resort side and a small portion of the controlled housing to come first.

While acknowledging the proposal appears to have economic upside, Campbell prefaced her no vote by questioning the project's compatibility.

"Not convinced that this fits the surrounding land uses," she said. "The Byers sub-area plans honors the town's residents' wishes, but this project does increase densities."

BYERS SUB-AREA PLAN

During the first Byers topic, County Long Range Planning Manager Loretta Daniel said the original 2003 sub-area plan was first revised in 2018 and that this year's amendments followed a public-input process that started in 2023.

"Our 2020 projection for a population of 5,000 in Byers has not come to fruition," she said. "As a result, the decision was made for some comprehensive plan changes."

In addition to expanding the mixed-use land designation, Daniel said recent revisions included adding commercial areas along Main and Front streets in the town center category. Numerous misinterpretations of the land-use map were addressed, which should allow the document to be better understood.

When asked why it took two years to formally amend the sub-area plan, Daniel said the development of a new enterprise zone in the eastern part of the county took priority as did the re-designation process for the county's 16 total enterprise zones.

The board unanimously OK'd the revised plan.

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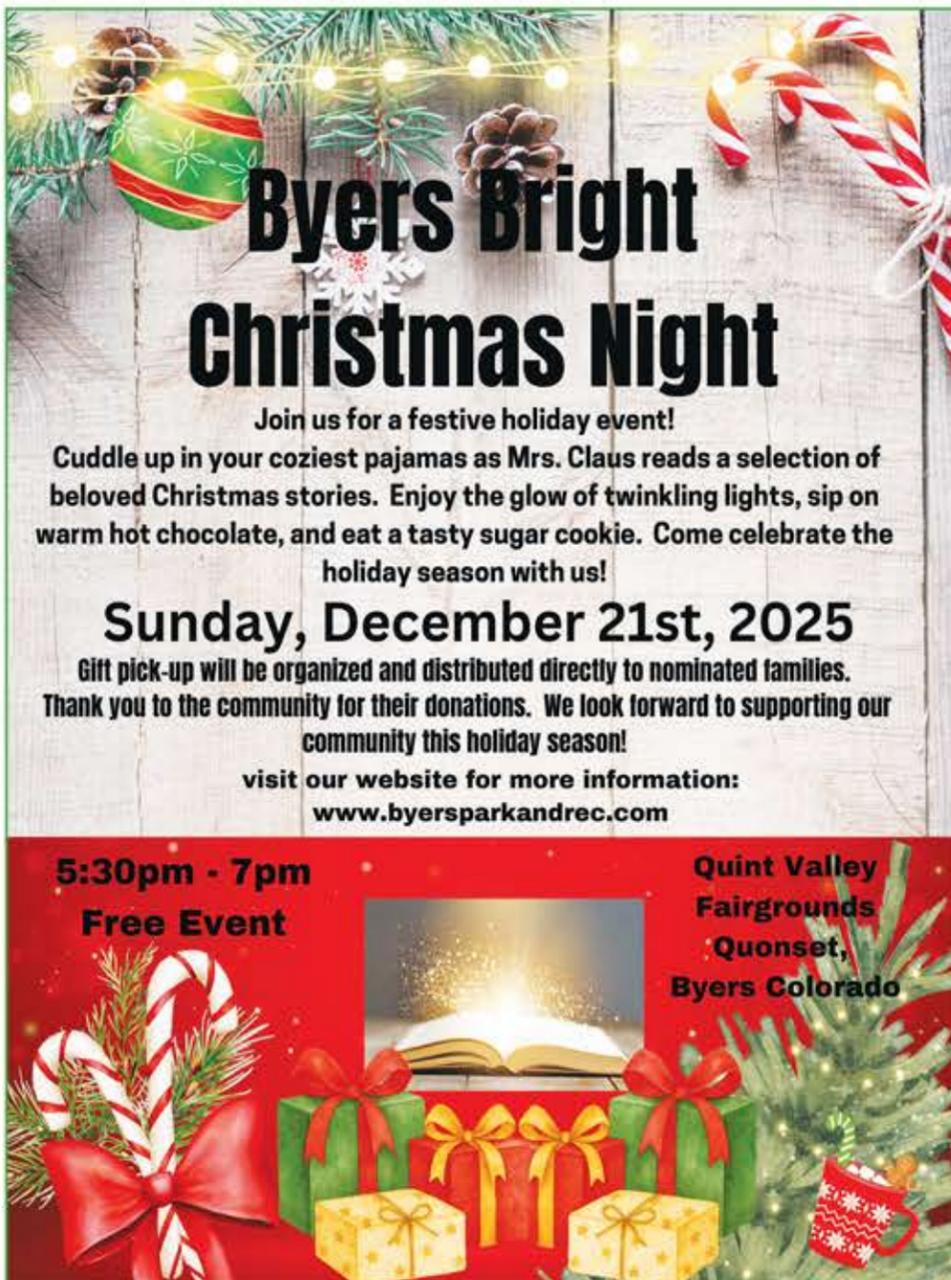


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Byers Bright Christmas Night

Join us for a festive holiday event!
Cuddle up in your coziest pajamas as Mrs. Claus reads a selection of beloved Christmas stories. Enjoy the glow of twinkling lights, sip on warm hot chocolate, and eat a tasty sugar cookie. Come celebrate the holiday season with us!

Sunday, December 21st, 2025
Gift pick-up will be organized and distributed directly to nominated families. Thank you to the community for their donations. We look forward to supporting our community this holiday season!
visit our website for more information:
www.byersparkandrec.com

5:30pm - 7pm
Free Event

Quint Valley Fairgrounds
Quonset,
Byers Colorado



Byers Bright Christmas Gift Donations

Help Bring Holiday Joy to Families in Need!
The Byers Park and Recreation District is collecting gifts for local families who need a little extra cheer this holiday season.

Your generous donations will help make the holidays brighter for those in our community.

Gift Donation Details:

- Deadline for donations: December 20th
- Where to donate: Byers Country General Store

Gift Distribution: Donated gifts will be handed out to families on December 21st, at the Quint Valley Fair Grounds. Together, we can make this season special for everyone. Thank you for your generosity and support!



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PHOTO BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Small Business Saturday was celebrated nationwide, including throughout the I-70 Corridor, Nov. 29. Among the local festivities was the daylong vendor fair and silent auction hosted by the Bennett Park & Recreation District. From left photo, Hayden Jeffries, 3, is ready for the holiday season as he looks at a Christmas-themed tractor, and Tucker Welch, 3, laughs as mom, Stephanie, tosses his new toy in the air.



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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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anythinklibraries.org

Adult book club: "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League for a festive holiday potluck. Participants should bring a piece of their art or an art-related present for a gift exchange. Group craft planned. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will make winter and keepsake ornaments. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 19.

Grab & Go: Kids and teens ages 5-12 will attempt to capture the magic of the Northern Lights with a fun, online art project. Registration for the craft kit runs through Monday, Dec. 29, at anythinklibraries.org. Locals can pick up their supplies at Kelter Library. The online workshop runs from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 5.

Grab & Go: Adults can bring the beauty of the season indoors with a mason jar oil lamp. Registration for the craft kit runs through Monday, Dec. 29, at anythinklibraries.org. Locals can pick up their supplies at Kelter Library. The online workshop runs from 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Penguin painting workshop: Kids and tweens are invited to a whimsical penguin painting workshop. They'll follow easy, step-by-step instructions to create a wintery canvas to take home and display. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Arapahoe Libraries plans seasonal e-programming

Arapahoe Libraries will host a series of online programs to spark curiosity and fuel the holiday spirit over winter break.

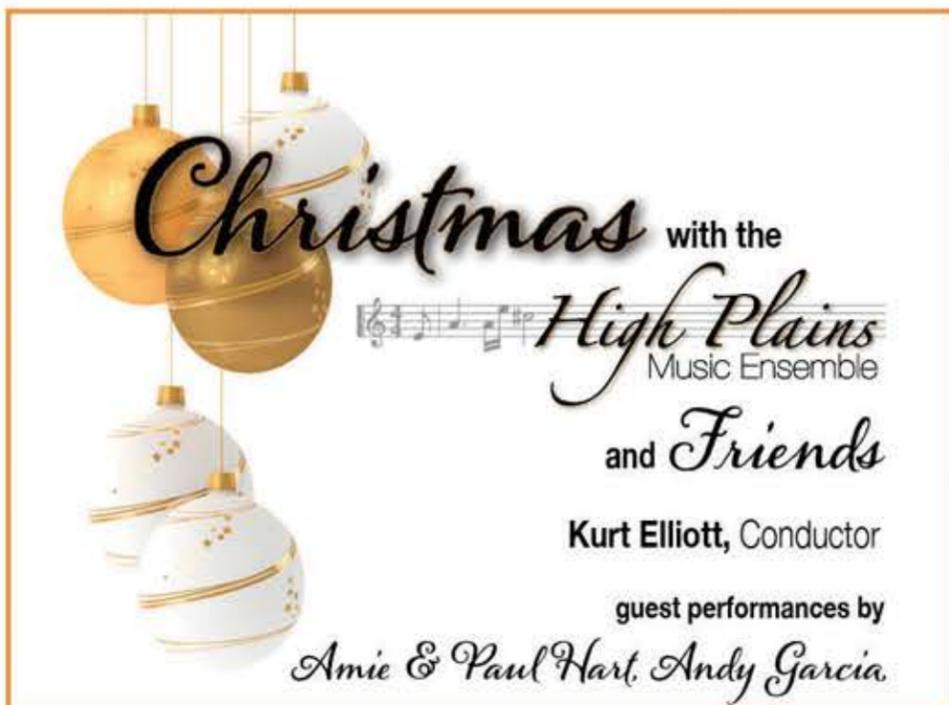
To learn more and to register, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call (303)542-7279.

Festival of light: Kids ages 5-12 can explore the role of light in traditional Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali and Kwanzaa celebrations in a by The Jewish Museum in New York. 11-11:45 a.m., Monday, Dec. 22.

Illuminated Manuscripts: Kids ages 9-12 will learn how books were made before the printing press in this live Zoom presentation by the Morgan Library & Museum. Participants will trace the history of books and see some of the finest surviving manuscripts from the Medieval Era and the Renaissance. 1-2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Introduction to Origami: Kids ages 9-12 will learn the art of folding paper with an instructor from the Japanese Culture Center. Each participant should bring four or five sheets of paper. 1-2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Balto: A History of Humans, Huskies and Health in Alaska. Children ages 5-12 will discover the story of Balto, the heroic husky who raced to save the town of Nome, Alaska, during a diphtheria outbreak in 1925 in this live Zoom presentation by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The kids will see real gear and learn what it takes to race the Iditarod today. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, Jan. 5.



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SPORTS



Byers boys, girls get sweep on Tigers' court

Bulldogs still undefeated after battle of new-look squads

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In an I-70 Corridor rivalry game between relatively new-look squads, the Byers Bulldogs slight advantage in experience proved fruitful in a 74-59 victory at Bennett Dec. 9.

The host Tigers — playing with no starters from last year's 4A Sweet 16 squad after an injury to senior Austin Stiers during the previous weekend tournament in Lamar — had the home court mojo early, taking an 18-16 lead after the first eight minutes and carrying a 2- to 5-point advantage until 2½ minutes left before halftime. Byers took the lead, 28-27, with 2:02 on the second-quarter clock and never looked back, scoring 14 of the next 16 points to go up 42-29 at intermission.

"Didn't play great in the first quarter, quarter-and-a-half, for sure, but give Bennett credit for coming out early with their energy and hustle," said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns. "They did a great job coming out and breaking our press and pushed the tempo and we struggled to keep up; offensively, we started not very together, too much 'my-turn' kind of offense if you ask me. We emphasized between quarters making things go by pushing the ball ahead, sharing the ball, which we did well and got a good lead at half."

"First quarter, we played aggressive defense, contested a lot of shots and got the rebounds, which allowed us opportunities to push the ball the other direction," said Bennett head coach Andrew Thornton. "Kind of lost our way with turnovers in that second quarter and it snowballed on us."

Out of the locker rooms, the visiting Bulldogs main-



Byers newcomer Conrad Cichos splits Bennett defenders Juan Santoyo (10) and Carter Jarman (4) on his way to the basket during the Dec. 9 rivalry matchup on the Tigers' home hardwood.

tained their double-digit lead until 2 minutes left on the third-quarter clock and entering the fourth quarter, the Tigers were within 57-50.

"We talked at halftime about coming out and getting a few more buckets and stops to really put the game in our advantage but, instead, we committed fouls, had to sit our bigs and that allowed them to get back within 5-7," said Kerns, who lost double-digit players from last year's 2A Elite Eight squad. "But still had the lead and, while it got close, I didn't feel really too scared when we had everyone coming back in the fourth."

"Proud of how we came out after halftime and was able to make a run and get ourselves a fighting chance going in the fourth," Thornton added.

But, within the first 1:00 of the final period, Byers went on a 7-0 run and never looked back. The Byers lead got as

big as 69-52 midway through the fourth and the closest the hosts could get back to was trailing by a dozen.

"We especially did a better job of sharing the ball in that second half," Kerns said. "Probably a half that should help us down the road."

"We're still a work in progress, trying to figure out what best, especially how to get the best out of the kids offensively," Thornton said, of his inexperienced group. "But, right now, if we're getting better than the game before, we're heading in the right direction and I certainly think we can say that."

For the victors, sophomore transfer from now-defunct Machebeuf Conrad Cichos recorded a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds while also recording the team high in steals with six. Returning senior starting guard and top scorer Quincy Eacret

SEE BB BYERS @ BENNETT
PAGE 10



Lady Bulldog Madi Olsen escapes the fray with the ball ahead of Lady Tigers Emilee Venneberg and Mattie Robledo during Byers' 12-point win Dec. 9.

La'D'y 'Dogs stifle hosts last 3 quarters

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — In a game that saw the defenses combine hold the opposition to single-digit points 50% of the time by quarters, the Byers Lady Bulldogs utilized its three double-digit periods to escape Bennett's gym with a 47-35 victory Dec. 9.

The hosts held a 13-7 lead after the first eight minutes but the green-and-white turned the tide over the final three periods, outscoring the Tigers 13-6, 13-7 and 14-9.

"We came out on top, which is what the objective is. We were a little rough in the first half, especially first quarter, not being able to finish around the bucket," said Byers head coach Chris Cary. "But came out in the second half and played well. We got behind early like the Strasburg foundation game but continued to fight back and find the extra energy at the end."

"Against Byers, just played with no energy most of the night," said Bennett head coach Mike Rios. "I don't know if it was the three games in three days at Lamar the prior weekend, but we are also a really young team right now, starting three sophomores and only one senior that has played much previously. Definitely further along defensively than on offense, but we need to figure the scoring thing out pretty quickly."

Byers shot 31% from the field while the hosts were 27%, but the Lady Bulldogs took more advantage at the charity stripe, making 15-of-20 free throws compared to 8-of-16 for Bennett. Both teams struggled with turnovers — Byers committing 25 and Bennett 22. The most lopsided state between the teams turned out to be

SEE GB BYERS @ BENNETT
PAGE 8

Indians start season with blowout, nail-biting victories



Indian Brody Hopwood scores 2 of his 18 points in Strasburg's season-opening victory over Merino Dec. 5.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Strasburg Indian boys effort to make their second consecutive 3A title game and, this time, hopes for coming out on top got off to a good start after a pair of victories.

After clobbering visiting Merino, 80-31, in its Dec. 5 season-opener, the red-and-black troops of head coach Kyle Bollers held off 4A No. 8-ranked Prospect Ridge Academy, 76-72, in Broomfield Dec. 9.

"Had both ends of the spectrum to start the season — really dominant in our first game and then had some controversy at the end of our second game but played through it and pulled it out against a 4A Elite Eight team

from last year," Bollers said. "Overall, a good start to the season."

@ PROSPECT RIDGE

To say the Indians escaped with the narrow victory at Prospect Ridge is not hyperbole as the end of the game was left in the hands of a Miner free-throw shooter.

Strasburg was up 74-71 with the ball underneath the hosts' bucket with five seconds left when the Indians turned the ball over on a court-length in-bounds pass and, on a long three-point Hail Mary, an official said Strasburg senior Cameron Manahan fouled the Miners' shooter. But Prospect Ridge sophomore Josiah Bote missed the first free throw and, after making the second, was called for a lane viola-

tion when trying to intentionally miss the third attempt. An intentional foul called on Prospect Ridge with 0.5 second left sent Strasburg junior Colton Holloway to the line where he made two free throws to salt away the victory.

"Played through a lot of adversity but we kept our composure pretty well, which should bode well for us as we continue through the season," Bollers said. "What an atmosphere for an early season game, but it was between two good teams. Their gym was packed. Their kids were very ready to take us on."

The game was tied at 18 after the first eight minutes, but Strasburg took

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 12

GB BYERS @ BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

rebounding — Byers with 35 compared to Bennett's 24. "Defensively, we really battled and a lot better rebounding than the previous weekend (at the Cheraw tournament)," Cary said. "It's tough to go into a road contest with someone you know pretty well. Definitely room for improvement, but overall, thought we did alright. They played man the whole time and not afraid to be up in our faces all night, so we have to focus on looking for the next best shot in a lot of those cases."

"Definitely need to find a way to secure ourselves more possessions and scoring opportunities but still working on developing a lot of the girls who had no varsity time last year and are being asked to start or step up their game with more playing time," Rios said.

While seven Lady Bulldogs scored, sophomore Leyla Saylor led the way with 19 points, followed senior Danica Lancaster with 8, seniors Abi Green and Cossette Kerns with 6 each, and three others with 2 or 4 points.

From her point guard position, Byers junior Madi Olsen had game-highs of nine rebounds, seven assists and five steals.

For Bennett, junior Emilee Venneberg, the top returnee from last season, led in points with 12 while the Robledo sister tandem of sophomore Mattie and senior Mya chipped in 8 apiece. Junior Madelyn Bavouset collected six rebounds to pace the Tigers.

Byers' record improved to 2-1 while Bennett fell to 2-2.

BYERS @ CHERAW TOURNAMENT

The opening weekend of the 2025-26 campaign saw the Lady Bulldogs travel to the Arkansas Valley and go 1-1 for third place at the Wolverine Invitational at Cheraw Dec. 5-6.

After a disappointing 48-32 loss to Evangel Christian Academy to open the season Friday night, the green-and-white bounced back for a dominating 63-28 victory over Sierra Grande in Saturday's third-place game. ECA ended up winning the tournament with a 46-40 championship win over the host school. Cheraw defeated Sierra Grande 60-18 in Thursday's first round.

THIRD-PLACE GAME

Cary's troops found them-



The Byers Lady Bulldogs overcame a first-quarter deficit to defeat Corridor rival Bennett by a dozen points Dec. 9. From left photo, Lady Tiger Mady Bavouset spins away from the Byers double-team of Leyla Saylor and Taiya Eymann; Saylor looks for an opening to shoot over Tiger Mya Robledo; and Lady Tiger Mattie Robledo hoists up a three-point effort.



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

selves up 18-4 after one and 38-12 at halftime over an out-matched group of Panthers from the San Luis Valley. After falling in the third quarter 13-11, Byers regained their dominance, winning the final eight minutes 14-3.

"After losing [sophomores] Joclynn Rector and Ainsley Sauer to their knee injuries before the season, we're trying to figure out who is going to be fitting in, especially at those eighth and ninth player spots," Cary said. "A lot of playing girls to see who we can rely on. Especially in the second and third quarters, it was a little bit of grasping at straws to figure that out."

Nine Bulldogs scratched the scoring column with Olsen tallying a team-high 16 and four others chipping in 8 apiece — Green, Kerns, junior Taiya Eymann and sophomore Sydnee Smith.

While the green-and-white shot 45% from the field, including 5-of-17 from behind the arc, it struggled at the free-throw line, going 7-of-15. "One of those things where I'd rather see the whole group with 8-9 points apiece instead of one with all of them," Cary said. "Much more pleased with shot selection than the previous night. Finally found some times where we were much more selective and making that extra pass to the open teammate."

But Cary was still concerned with his squads 29 turnovers. "Still needing to make better decisions with better, more crisp passing," he said.

ECA ON OPENING NIGHT

Friday night against the 1A top 1-ranked Lady Eagles,

Byers had a 13-12 lead with about two minutes left in the first quarter, but by the end of the period, ECA had taken an 18-13 lead and extended the advantage to 26-14 at halftime. By the end of the third period, Byers was down 39-19 and couldn't muster enough of a rally.

"Basically didn't score for two straight quarters and you're not winning many games struggling like that," Cary said. "A lot of standing still and not finishing lay-ups or making good passes. Doesn't matter how good our defense is, if we aren't scoring, you're not winning."

The Bulldogs made only 12 field goals, shooting only 21%, including 2-of-19 from behind the arc, and were 6-of-12 from the free-throw line.

"More than half our threes were forced or rushed," Cary said. "Their defense dictated things we shouldn't have been doing on offense but were doing anyway."

BENNETT @ LAMAR TOURNAMENT

The Lady Tigers started their 2025-26 campaign with a 2-1 weekend and fifth-place finish at the second annual Thunder Throwdown in Lamar Dec. 4-6.

After falling to Dumas, Texas, 45-24 on opening night, the orange-and-black dominated Rocky Ford 47-8 in the consolation semifinals and defeated Rye, 44-25, in Saturday's fifth-place contest.

While the start of the weekend marked Bennett's first games of the season, Dumas had already played six games and it showed, especially offensively. Rios's troops were down 12-6, 20-10 and 33-13

over the first three quarters. Bennett finally tallied double-digits in the fourth with 11 but Dumas added another dozen.

"First game with basically a new bunch, so took some time to get into any rhythm or sync with each other," Rios said of his squad's first contest of the season.

Five Tigers scored with sophomore Josie Ladd having the team-high in points with 8. Mya Robledo and Bavouset added 5 each.

On Friday morning, the Tigers took out their frustration from the previous day as they held the outmanned Lady Meloneers scoreless in both the first and third quarters while scoring 19 and 18, respectively. But Bennett's scoring slowed in the second and fourth periods with 5 points each but Rocky Ford only had 2 and 6, respectively.

"Pretty much took care of business but got our defense in a little bit better gear," Rios said.

Shooting was still a struggle as the Tigers went 16-of-51 from two-point range, 3-of-14 from behind the arc, and 5-of-10 from the free-throw line.

Bennett committed 17 turnovers while collecting 23 steals of their own, led by Mattie Robledo with eight and Ladd with six.

Venneberg led the seven-girl scoring attack with 13 points, followed by sophomore Aileen Duran with 8, Bavouset 7, Mclaury 6, and Mattie Robledo and Ladd with 5 apiece.

In Saturday's consolation championship, the Bennett defense was again stellar, especially at the start of both

halves en route to a 19-point victory over the Thunderbolts.

After taking a 9-2 lead after the first quarter, Bennett's lead was 21-13 at halftime; however, another stout 2-point defensive effort coming out of the locker room, put the Tigers up 35-15 entering the final period. Rye took the fourth period 10-9.

"Played really well for the most part and finally had a game where we had a team make the adjustments against our stuff that was working, but then we'd make the adjustments to jump our lead," Rios said. "That was a game that was frustrating because we missed so many lay-ups and wide open shots around the basket."

The Tigers shot 12-of-40 from two-point range, 4-of-18 behind the arc, and 8-of-13 from the foul line.

Venneberg, Ladd and Bavouset combined to score all but three of Bennett's points — 22, 12 and 7, respectively.

Rios' troops still committed 26 turnovers but forced the Thunderbolts into 40 of their own.

"Again, defense ahead of the offense, so if we get our points to follow, we should be OK," he said.

Bennett hosted its own Tiger Tip-Off last weekend. For full results, see the Dec. 19 edition of the Eastern Colorado News.

COMING UP — BENNETT
Jan. 6: @ The Pinnacle

COMING UP — BYERS.
Dec. 19: Kiowa.
Jan. 6: @ Wiggins.

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Lady Indians Autumn Kulpa, left, and Charlie Kerr, take control of their opposition from Wiggins during Strasburg's own invitational tournament Dec. 6.

Lady Indian grapplers start season on upward trajectory

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

In its first week of the 2025-26 season Dec. 2-6, the Strasburg girls wrestling team is taking over where it left off last season.

Last February, the Lady Indians placed sixth at the 4A state wrestling tournament in Denver with two state championships. Those two titlists, senior Vivienne Gitke (140 pounds) and her sophomore sister Madilyn Gitke (155) return to Strasburg this season, and the early returns are positive with records of 13-0 and 13-1, respectively.

Madilyn Gitke had a "hiccup" at the Strasburg Girls Wrestling Invitational Dec. 6, said Strasburg head wrestling coach Matt Croft, when Malia Bornhoft of Severance defeated Madilyn in a 19-5 major decision.

"That's OK," Croft said. "I'd rather that happen in the beginning of the season."

A third standout has been senior Olivia Le Fors, now 13-2. She has recently competed at heavyweight but will drop to 190 pounds as the season progresses.

"Right now she's at a great weight disadvantage," Croft said. "And she's still coming out and wrestling very hard."

Through Dec. 6, with solid contributions from its other athletes, Strasburg enjoyed a 3-0-1 record in duals and competitive team finishes at invitationals at Greeley West Dec. 5 and Strasburg Dec. 6.

The Lady Indians also competed in duals at Sterling Dec. 10; at Olathe Dec. 11;



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg's Vivienne Gitke has started the 2025-26 wrestling season 13-0 after winning a 4A state title last season. Above, Gitke takes control of Severance's Evee Trevallee in the 140-pound title match at the Lady Indians' own invitational tournament Dec. 6.

@ WIGGINS

On paper, Strasburg fought the mighty Tigers of Wiggins to a 36-36 draw on the road Dec. 2. On the mat, the Indians won five of eight contested matches. Wiggins received 18 points on forfeits while Strasburg tallied only 6.

A notable match occurred when Madilyn Gitke moved up a weight to face Lady Tiger Bralynn Arroyo, the defending 4A state champion at 170 pounds. Gitke raced to a 17-6 lead before pinning Arroyo at the 5:29 mark of the third period. Croft called the victory the highlight of the week.

"Madilyn mopped the floor with her," Croft said. "That just shows where some of our girls are and where

the rest of the state champions are and I think our girls are probably one step ahead of a lot of them."

WIGGINS

- 100: Kaelyn Bailey (STRS) over Xzandriah Le Fever (WIGG) (Fall 1:27)
- 105: Kamila Saucedo (STRS) over Angelina Rodcay (WIGG) (Fall 5:03)
- 110: Skye Vigil (WIGG) over Kristin Croft (STRS) (Fall 2:46)
- 115: Sophia Garcia (WIGG) over (STRS) (For.)
- 120: Abigail Coar (WIGG) over Abby Alder (STRS) (Fall 1:47)
- 125: Meadow Carpino (WIGG) over (STRS) (For.)
- 130: Karmin Kammerer (WIGG) over Alexa Rogge (STRS) (Fall 1:26)
- 135: Autumn Kulpa (STRS) over (WIGG) (For.)
- 140: Vivienne Gitke (STRS) over Ekhine Torre (WIGG) (Fall 0:57)
- 145: Double Forfeit
- 155: Double Forfeit
- 170: Madilyn Gitke (STRS) over Bralynn Arroyo

- (WIGG) (Fall 5:29)
- 190: Soraya Diaz (WIGG) over (STRS) (For.)
- 235: Olivia Le Fors (STRS) over McKenzie Cuckow (WIGG) (Fall 2:27)

@ GREELEY WEST INVITATIONAL

The Indians placed eighth out of 26 teams at the Greeley West Girls Tournament, which always occurs early in the high school wrestling season, Dec. 5.

"It's always a wake-up, especially for a lot of the athletes coming from middle school," Croft said. "It's a good tournament to get the flow of wrestling and understand that there's some girls out there that are very fast and it gives them something to shoot for the end of the year, overall."

"I think our effort was fantastic. We won matches we were expected to win and lost matches we were expected to lose, so nothing to be disappointed about."

@ GREELEY WEST GIRLS TOURNAMENT

- 100: Champ. Round 1 - Addison Hovey (Roosevelt High School) over Kamila Saucedo (Strasburg) (Fall 0:19)
- 100: Cons. Round 1 - Lily Hart (Mead High School) over Kamila Saucedo (Strasburg) (TF 20-1 1:54)
- 105: Champ. Round 1 - Alisson Lara Zaragoza (Greeley West) over Kaelyn Bailey (Strasburg) (Fall 0:55)
- 105: Cons. Round 1 - Kaelyn Bailey (Strasburg) bye
- 105: Cons. Round 2 - Kaelyn Bailey (Strasburg) over Angelina Boles (Eaglecrest) (Dec 7-2)
- 105: Cons. Round 3 - Gabriella Borrego (Brush) over Kaelyn Bailey (Strasburg) (Fall 3:19)
- 110: Champ. Round 1 - Lexie Brickner (Poudre) over Kristin Croft (Strasburg) (Fall 2:44)
- 110: Cons. Round 1 - Kristin Croft (Strasburg) bye
- 110: Cons. Round 2 - Kendyll Harris (Eaglecrest) over Kristin Croft (Strasburg) (Fall 2:17)
- 120: Champ. Round 1 - Jael Kingsolver (Fort Lupton) over Abby Alder (Strasburg) (Fall 1:25)
- 120: Cons. Round 1 - Abby Alder (Strasburg) bye
- 120: Cons. Round 2 - Ivy Breslin (Mountain Vista) over Abby Alder (Strasburg) (Fall 1:33)
- 130: Champ. Round 1 - Autumn Kulpa (Strasburg) over Yazyihira Horn (Denver North) (Fall 3:11)
- 130: Quarterfinals - Kailani Speers (Eaglecrest) over Autumn Kulpa (Strasburg) (Dec 9-2)
- 130: Cons. Round 2 - Yazmin Lopez (Estes Park) over Autumn Kulpa (Strasburg) (Dec 3-0)
- 135: Champ. Round 1 - Alyssa Ornelas (Fort Lupton) over Alexa Rogge (Strasburg) (Fall 1:12)
- 135: Cons. Round 1 - Faith Engel (Gering Girls) over Alexa Rogge (Strasburg) (Fall 1:38)
- 140: Champ. Round 1 - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) bye
- 140: Quarterfinals - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) over Sage Maxwell (Poudre) (Fall 1:16)
- 140: Semifinals - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) over Kaaliyah Smith (Gering Girls) (Fall 1:00)
- 140: 1st Place Match - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) over Abri Renteria (Brighton) (Fall 1:31)
- 155: Champ. Round 1 - Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) over Elle Walker (University Schools) (Fall 0:57)
- 155: Quarterfinals - Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) over Zadia Diaz (Poudre) (Fall 0:20)
- 155: Semifinals - Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) over Graci Baker (Holy Family) (Fall 1:44)
- 155: 1st Place Match - Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) over Esperanza Rios (Greeley West) (Fall 1:58)
- 235: Champ. Round 1 - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) bye
- 235: Quarterfinals - Abrianna Torrez (Greeley West) over Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) (Fall 0:43)
- 235: Cons. Round 2 - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over Cadence Patterson (Fort Lupton) (Fall 3:15)
- 235: Cons. Round 3 - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over Aubrey Garcia (Denver North) (Fall 3:15)
- 235: Cons. Semis - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over Kaliyah Austin (Denver North) (Fall 2:10)

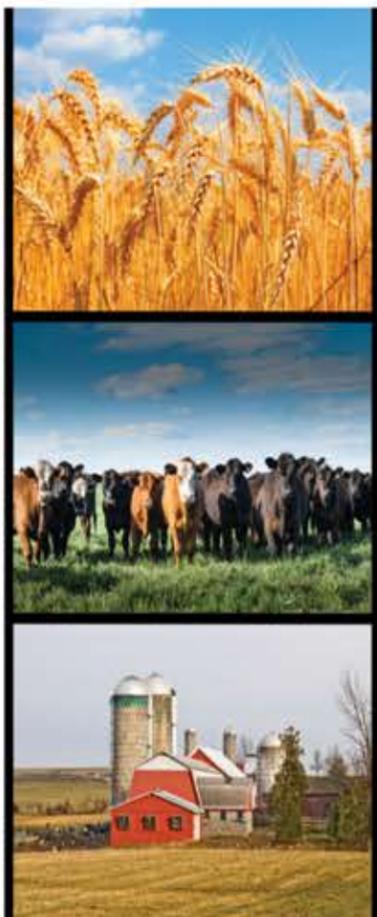
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PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMFO For The Scout

From left photo, Byers' Samuel Linnebur skies to the bucket over Bennett's Mac Froman during the annual Corridor rivalry Dec. 9; Bulldog Quincy Eacret dribbles out of trouble while being pressed by Tigers Elias Pulido and Owen Hawes; and Tiger Daniel Rodriguez hoists up a contested leaning jump shot.

BB BYERS @ BENNETT

FROM PAGE 7

chipped in 19 points, including a pair of three-pointers, while junior James Maes added 11 points and junior Samuel Linnebur added 9 in his first action of the season.

"Really good to get Samuel back with us — he had worked with us all summer and thought he was there to be our sixth or seventh guy and then got hurt just before the Cheraw tournament to start the season," Kerns said. "We're still overall a pretty young team that hasn't played with each other a ton except for the start of this season, but I think we're growing together pretty quickly."

As a team, Byers recorded 30 rebounds, 13 assists and 15 steals and went 6-of-25 from behind the arc and 18-of-27 from the free-throw line.

Eight Tigers scratched the scoring column with at least 4 points, led by junior Owen Hawes with 16, followed by senior Alfredo Duran with 9; junior post player Elias Pulido with 7; senior Juan Santoyo and juniors Mac Froman and Brayden Schmaltz 6 apiece; junior Ricardo Loya 5; and junior Daniel Rodriguez with 4. While the Tigers shot 50% from the field, including 17-of-31 from two-point range, they only shot 40 times total; the orange-and-black went 16-of-23 from the free-throw line.

"I'd rather have everyone across the board get 7 or 8 points each instead of just one getting most of them," Thornton said. "To have almost every player that hits the court getting a bucket or two, that ball movement, unselfish play and that's what we want to be seeing. But we also know that we aren't taking as good of care of the ball as we need to, which means a lot of squandered scoring opportunities."

Bennett committed 24 turnovers against the Bulldogs.

Byers improved its record to 3-0 while Bennett dropped to 1-3.

For coverage of Byers' Wolverine Invitational tournament championship run at Cheraw Dec. 5-6, see the

Dec. 12 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

BENNETT @ LAMAR TOURNEY

The Bennett Tigers went 1-2 on the opening weekend of the 2025-26 season and are waiting anxiously to see if their only returning starter from last year's 4A Sweet 16 squad will be able to continue later this season.

During the Thunder Throwdown in Lamar Dec. 4-6, the troops of first-year head coach Andrew Thornton lost 68-44 to Dumas, Texas, Thursday, before getting the offense healthy in a 71-29 first-round consolation victory over Mitchell of Colorado Springs on Friday. After running out to a 19-14 lead in the first quarter of Saturday's fifth-place contest against Rye, the Tigers were dealt a blow when Stiers, who had a combined 55 points the previous two days, went down about two minutes into the second quarter with an ankle injury. The Thunderbolts got the win, 57-45.

"Exactly what we wanted to avoid, but it's the unfortunate part of sports," said Thornton, adding that Stiers absence is expected to last about four weeks. "It's not as bad as we originally thought when it happened, so we're hoping maybe he can get back on the curt in January, but won't know anything until the images are taken."

According to Stiers, no surgery or repair procedure is necessary.

DUMAS

The orange-and-black were fighting an uphill battle in their season-opener as they faced a Texas-based group of Demons that had already played seven games before making the trip to Lamar. Dumas methodically extended their lead each quarter — 21-13 after one, 35-20 at halftime, and 54-32 entering the final eight minutes.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge with that many games under their belts and their kinks worked out and it being our first game without

even a scrimmage worked into our practice schedule," Thornton said. "We were just trying to find ourselves, especially in the first quarter, but we battled and fought the entire game, which was the impressive part."

While the Tigers shot 14-of-30 (47%) from two-point range, they were only 2-of-11 (18%) from behind the arc. Bennett went 10-of-17 from the free-throw line. The Tigers committed 27 turnovers.

"They came out aggressive defensively and full-court pressed us early. We didn't handle it the way I expected us to," Thornton said. "We. Need together more shots up, meaning that we struggled to maintain control of the ball. Defensively, I thought we played decent enough but not enough to maximize opportunities on offense."

Stiers led the Tigers with 24 points, including the only two three-pointers on the night. After Rodriguez's 8 points, six more Tigers ranged between 1-3 points apiece.

The Tigers mustered 21 rebounds, 11 assists, eight steals and three blocks.

MITCHELL

Against the Marauders on Friday, Bennett jumped out 21-12 after the first eight minutes and extended the advantage to 46-17 at half. Midway through a 17-9 third quarter, the mercy rule running clock took effect, which led to an 8-3 fourth quarter.

"Got to win the ones we are supposed to and we got that done pretty quickly," Thornton said. "Despite the loss, I think we calmed our nerves in that first game and played a lot better. Attacked the bucket more and finished off those high-percentage shot attempts."

While Stiers recorded 31 points and senior Duran had 10, nine other Tigers scratched the scoring column with 2-5 points.

"To have almost every player on the court get a bucket or two, that's ball

movement, unselfish play and that's what we want to be seeing"

While the Tigers were 65% from the field, including 24-of-33 from two-point range, they still struggled at the charity stripe, going 9-of-20. The orange-and-black also. Dished out 19 assists, led by Stiers and Rodriguez with four apiece and junior Owen Hawes with three.

RYE

After the Stiers injury, Rye took control of the game, taking a 31-26 lead into the halftime locker rooms and extending the advantage to 16, 46-30 entering the fourth quarter.

"Seeing one of your starters go down, you can't help but deflate at least a little bit," Thornton said. We kept fighting in the fourth and cut the lead a bit but too much to overcome."

The Tigers and Thunderbolts both recorded 17 made field goals, but Rye went 21-of-26 from the free-throw line while Bennett was 6-of-16. Rye junior Eli Guzman proved the difference in the game, going 17-of-19 from the free-throw line and scoring 28 points.

"He basically beat us by himself at the free-throw line," Thornton said. "Just couldn't keep from fouling him when he attacked the rim."

Bennett was led by senior Santoyo with 11 points, followed by Stiers with 9, Duran, 8; and Hawes and Rodriguez 6 each.

Rebounding again plagued the Tigers, who recorded 27 as a team, while the Rye duo of Guzman and junior Wyatt Scheid had 26 between them.

COMING UP - BENNETT

Jan. 6: @ Pinnacle
Jan. 8: Alameda
Jan. 9: Platte Valley

COMING UP - BYERS

Dec. 19: Kiowa
Jan. 6: @ Wiggins
Jan. 9: @ Simla

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left, Lady Indians Taryn LaForce, Tatijana Rojahn and Rylee Tiffany play defense in Strasburg's season-opener against Merino Dec. 5.

'Burg girls trounced by 2A powerhouse

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — The top-ranked team and defending state champion in Class 2A girls basketball laid a thorough beating on 3A Strasburg on its home court Dec. 5.

The Merino Lady Rams defeated Strasburg 61-22 after generating leads of 31-5, 51-9, 57-16 after each of the first three quarters.

"That is a very good team. They've got a strong tradition there and they are obviously going to make another run for another championship," said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames. "We're still young in terms of experience-wise and playing together. I think if you look at last year, it was a pretty similar score. I think we'll improve greatly."

Senior Taryn LaForce led the Lady Indians with 8 points and 10 rebounds. Junior Addi Kent chipped in with five boards, three steals and two blocks and junior Tatijana Rojahn added four steals.

"We have some bright spots, but we

still have a lot of work to do and a lot of learning to play together to do," Ames added.

She also noted that her guards have a great deal of potential.

"They just have to believe it," Ames said. "They don't believe it yet."

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
	1	2	3	4	F
Merino	31	20	6	4	61
Strasburg	5	4	7	6	22

STRASBURG LADY INDIANS				
	FG-A	FTs	3s	PTs
Addi Kent	1-9	0-0	0-3	2
Wynne Winter	2-9	0-2	0-2	4
Rylee Tiffany	0-3	2-4	0-0	2
Chloe Fields	2-2	0-0	0-0	4
Tatijana Rojahn	0-2	0-0	0-1	0
Mikayla Friedrich	0-2	0-2	0-0	0
Taryn LaForce	3-9	2-6	0-0	8
Paloma Rodriguez	0-0	2-4	0-0	2
Team Totals	8-36	6-18	0-6	22

Rebounds (26): LaForce 10; Kent 5; Fields 3; Winter, Tiffany, Rojahn 2 ea.; Friedrich, Rodriguez 1 ea.

Assists (4): Kent 3; Winter 1.

Steals (10): Rojahn 4; Kent 3; Winter 2; LaForce 1.

Blocks (4): Kent 2; Fields, LaForce 1 ea.

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Church Directory

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 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

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 8:30 & 10:15am
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- ❖ Sunday Service Livestream ❖
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 — Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



PHOTO BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Indian senior Nick Glatfelter reels in a rebound in Strasburg's season-opener against Merino Dec. 5, and classmate Cam Manahan attacks the bucket for a layup.

BB STRASBURG FROM PAGE 7

a 43-38 lead into the locker rooms at halftime. The hosts rallied out the locker room, outscoring Strasburg 20-12 in the third, and had a 58-55 advantage entering the final period.

"They were bigger than us, numerous guys 6'4" or 6'5" and a point guard that was tough for us to stay in front of defensively. I think they made a lot more shots made than we were anticipating and they had to play the best they could to hang with us and they did," Bollers said. "In the third quarter, it was a case of us shooting a lot poorer than we are used to."

Both teams shot 40% or better from the field and both teams tallied 24 made buckets, but how they got there was in stark contrast — Strasburg made 18 two-point buckets compared to 13 for the hosts, while Prospect Ridge went 11-of-39 from the three-point arc, compared to 6-of-22 by the Indians. At the free-throw line, Strasburg went 22-of-29 while the Miners were 13-of-19.

"Much better at the free-throw line that our first game and it paid off," Bollers said.

Senior forward Nick Glatfelter paced the victors with a 20-point, 11-rebound double-double, while adding a team-highs four assists and tying Manahan with the team lead in steals with three. Junior Jayden Miller came off the bench to add 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the field and Holloway, who went 6-of-8 at the free-throw line, added 14. Junior guard Brody Hopwood went 7-of-8 at the free-throw line en route to 9 points, while senior Cade Hemphill

added 8 points.

"[Miller] come off the bench when [Hopwood] got into foul trouble and was key for us," Bollers said. "Just a big lift off the bench."

Defensively, Bollers' crew forced 19 Miner turnovers, including nine steals.

MERINO

Against the 2A Rams to open the season, Strasburg got out and running early, taking a 20-4 lead after the first quarter and extending the advantage to 45-18 at halftime. Early in a 26-9 third quarter, the mercy-rule running clock took hold.

"We were really elite defensively and, offensively, shot well — 50% from three and making 11 threes," Bollers said. "Really pleased with our execution and how we controlled the boards. [Holloway] also played great defense on their best player."

Ten Indians scored with three reaching double-digit points — Glatfelter 22, Hopwood 18 and Holloway 10. Strasburg recorded 22 assists on 30 made field goals, led by Manahan with five, Hopwood four, and Glatfelter and Holloway with three apiece.

The 2-0 Indians played in the Simla Invitational tournament Dec. 12-13 and came home with the championship trophy, but specifics behind their two victories were unavailable at press time. For full coverage, see the Dec. 19 edition of the Eastern Colorado News.

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Bennett hosts Breakfast With Santa



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The first of numerous Santa sightings along the I-70 Corridor Dec. 6 occurred during the town of Bennett's annual Breakfast with Santa at the Bennett Community Center. From left photo, mother Isabella Crosley keeps a tight grip on excited daughter Maliyah, 2, as they make the approach to Santa, and Slayter Ross, 3, is a definition of joy with the biggest smile while he colors a snowflake decoration.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Brenton Lopez, 10, is all smiles as he awaits with his family to meet Santa.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left to right, Carter Ogburn, 3, can't help but make a funny face as he races towards Santa and his helpers, and Hayden is all dressed up in Bluey PJs as she meets Santa



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Holiday cheer abounds throughout Strasburg



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout
Corridor residents both walked the streets and took hay rides down Colfax Avenue during Christmas Night in Strasburg festivities Dec. 6.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/For The I-70 Scout
One of the highlight events of Dec. 6 holiday festivities along the I-70 Corridor was the Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District's Christmas Night in Strasburg with most activities occurring at Lyons Park. From left to right, Elee Martinez, 4, can't wait to dig into some freshly made popcorn; clad in her reindeer pajamas, Rosemary Brumage, 5, gives Santa an inquisitive look while rattling off her Christmas wish list; Chris McEachin holds 3-year-old daughter, Lila, who is infatuated with her new toy, a lit up clear ornament; and Ryan'jo Bell, 3, left, and sister Gracyn, 1, have their moment next to inflatable presents under the Christmas tree.

With our most sincere *Gratitude & Joy* we wish you

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 Dec. 25 - Closed All Day Christmas
 Dec. 31 - Close @ 3 p.m. New Year's Eve
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STEVEN VETTER/For The I-70 Scout

Strasburg street decoration volunteers were busy getting Colfax Avenue and other neighborhood streets ready for Christmas Night activities during the morning hours of Dec. 6. Clockwise from top photo, Dean Miller and Randy Taylor prepare to install a light pole decoration; Dan Ruppelle and Riley Blagg stand up a festive holiday lamp cutout; and Marc Crandall strings garland around a power pole.

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Santa concludes busy day in Byers



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Santa's busy day of travel along the I-70 Corridor Dec. 6 included an evening stop at Quint Valley sponsored by the Byers Parks & Recreation District. Above from left photo, David Osmera, 8, works to decorate a wooden train in the Santa's Workshop portion of the Quint Valley Quonset while 6-year-old sister, Riley, colors an ornament. Below, Alana Hoyer, 7, and brother Roman, 2, tell Santa their Christmas wish list.



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- Open First Saturday of Each Month



SUBMITTED GRAPHIC

Water from Brantner Gulch runs through Riverdale Regional Park into Mann-Nyholt Lake at Brighton in this artist's rendition of an aerial view of the area.

Water flows through Brantner Gulch

AdCo reaches major milestone at project's halfway point

BRIGHTON — Adams County Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Nov. 17 marked a major milestone by transitioning water flow into the new channel for the Brantner Gulch project at Riverdale Park near Brighton.

The long-planned improvements, more than 20 years in the making, are necessary to protect natural resources, wildlife and nearby residents and businesses.

A partnership with Mile High Flood District played a key role in advancing this work. The improvements are designed to reduce flood risk, protect property, and improve stormwater quality. The project also enhances the natural character of the surrounding golf course and park and replaces an aging concrete channel with a more resilient and visually appealing system.

The previous concrete channel was undersized and failing, requiring significant annual repairs to keep it functioning.

"Reaching this point in the Brantner Gulch project is a major accomplishment for our community," said



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The rehabilitated waterway flows through its new channel.

Commissioner Lynn Baca, chair of the Adams County Board of Commissioners. "By investing in this aging and undersized channel, we are protecting nearby homes and businesses while also restoring the natural character of the area."

With Brantner Gulch now flowing through its new channel, the project has reached 50% completion. Work will continue through next summer to naturalize the area surrounding the new channel, create more spaces to enjoy nature, and improve access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles within Riverdale Regional Park.



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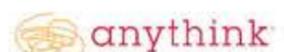


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Kids: color stuff in!



Robert Frost was a famous American poet. In *Birches*, he wrote about swinging on the branches of birch trees. He described the way an ice storm weighs branches down with a coating of ice. Hmm...**Frost** wrote about **ice** storms!

Read this aloud to hear the ice:

... Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.
Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells
Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust
Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away...

Ice Storm!

Geesshh! What horrible weather...I don't want to be out here either!



We're safe, snug and warm!

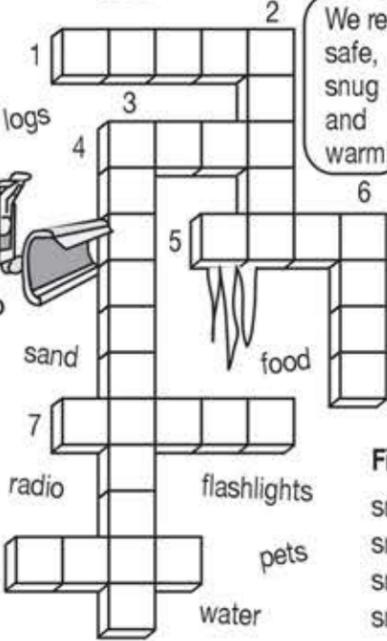
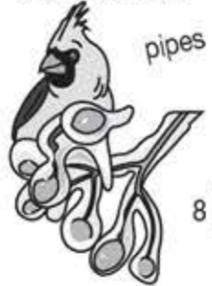
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I S K N E C E O J H F D M N U O G D
B L O T T C O M B D G K I O I U T R
T E N G I K H B D S I R S A T P O I
J I O U G C S I J E K F A O I H G D
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Getting ready for the ice storm:

1. have _____ stored in bottles
2. to listen to news and weather reports have a _____ with batteries
3. get plenty of fresh batteries for _____ and lanterns
4. store cans of _____ to eat
5. pile dry _____ for the fireplace
6. shovel _____ in buckets to spread later on ice
7. drain water from basement _____ so they won't freeze
8. kindly bring all _____ inside



Read the clues to fill in the puzzle!



Find and circle all of these stormy words:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------|---------|
| snowsuit | glittering | cold | icicles |
| snowblower | snowplow | ice | sand |
| snowbanks | winter | wind | frost |
| snow tires | shovel | gray | glaze |

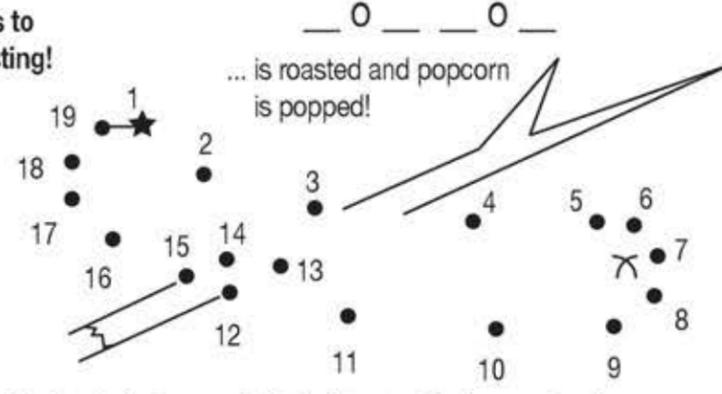


Sizzlin !

Outside, the frozen rain is pinging against the glass. Inside, the fire is snapping and crackling as a ...

Follow the dots to see what is roasting!

Next, follow the dots below to see what we are going to toast!



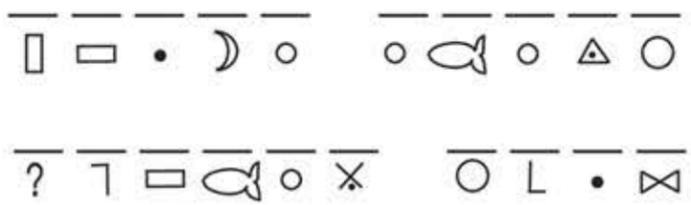
Find and circle words that rhyme with ice and storm :

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| a | b | c | d | e | slip | swarm | lice | slush | dorm |
| n | o | p | q | r | hail | icicle | price | icy | quilt |
| m | | | | | rice | dice | warm | norm | |
| l | k | j | i | h | nice | form | slice | mice | |

By Another Name...

The U.S. National Weather Service describes an ice storm as a storm that leaves at least .25 or 1/4 inch of ice on surfaces out in the open.

When freezing rain comes down and leaves an icy coating or glaze on trees, bushes and houses and the world is full of glitter in the sunshine, some people (in parts of the U.S. and in Canada) call it a:

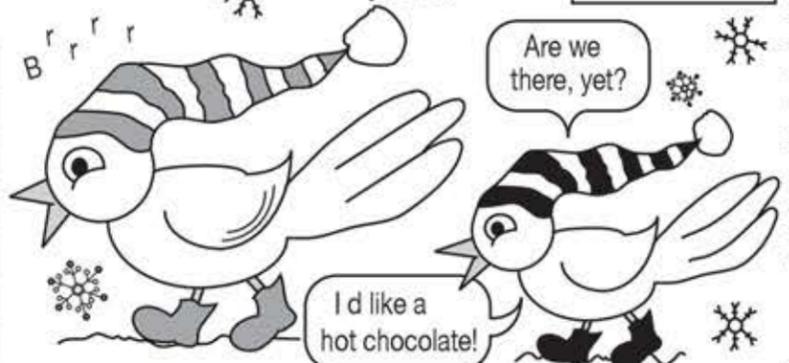
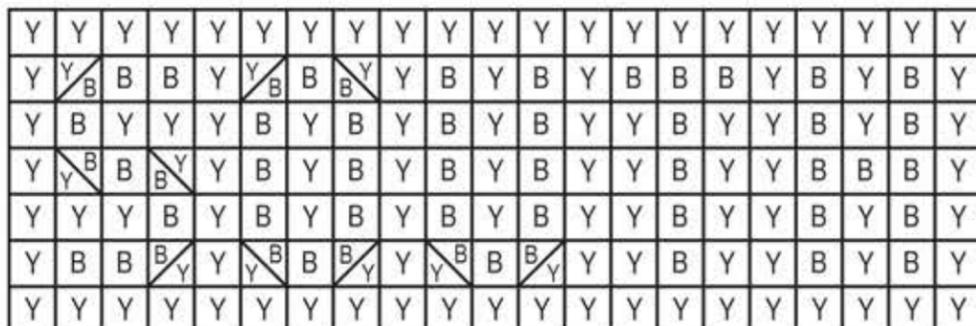


Snowbirds

Use this color key to fill in the puzzle.

Y = Yellow
B = Blue

Snowbirds are little birds that will hang around during the harshest winter weather. When we speak about human snowbirds we mean people who escape to warmer climates during the winter by traveling:





Semi breakdown closes southbound E-470
LAKEWOOD — Colorado State Patrol troopers responded to southbound E-470 Exit 20 in Aurora, which is the interchange with I-70 in Aurora at roughly 5 a.m. Dec. 13 on a report of a stalled semi blocking a lane of travel. Troopers determined that the semi was hauling drivetrain components for a windmill and that the components shifted, causing the trailer to break. The broken portion of the trailer dragged across the road, forcing the semi to a complete stop. The southbound lane of the highway was closed until about 3:30 p.m. after emergency crews worked to remove the semi from the road. No injuries were reported.



Talented Tigers!
Carson Follum, left, and Rowan Mayoral were among the talent that took part in the Bennett School District fall talent show at the end of October.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO DEC. 20, 2005

Byers Elementary principal Gloria Mitchell is doing her best to leave the education profession "better than she found it."

Mitchell was recently selected as a finalist for the Demont Award, a program established to recognize administrators who will "leave it better than they found it" in districts of 1,500 students or less. Although Mitchell presides over a small school district, her achievement is no small feat.

According to Jim Wilson, the award's founder and superintendent of the Salida School District, 119 of the 178 school districts in Colorado meet the criteria of 1,500 students or less.

Wilson started the program in 2002 in honor of his father, whose middle name was Demont.

"My father philosophy was to lead things better than you found it," Wilson said. "He was a farmer and he won the state conservation award. He definitely left things better than he found them."

Wilson said that as he looked at the awards being presented around the state, he noticed that the majority were being presented to individuals who worked in large school districts. Wilson, a 39-year veteran of education and the recipient of a rural school administrator of the year award during his tenure in Kansas, decided it was time to develop a similar award for Colorado.

15 YEARS AGO DEC. 21, 2010

BYERS — A gas well fire southeast of Byers was extinguished Dec. 15, four days after the well burst into flames.

A Houston-based hotshot team permanently capped the well about the next day with two cast iron plugs.

"It's no longer a live well," said Robert Newberry, spokesman with El Paso Corporation, the parent company of Colorado Interstate Gas, which owns wells at the Latigo Storage Field that flanks the south side of Arapahoe County Road 38 east of Xmore Road.

"We don't know yet what we are going to do in terms of possibly replacing the well or if we will. There are 30 wells out there, so it's not an immediate issue and there is no disruption of service."

At about 2:30 a.m. Dec. 12, Well No.

31 near the intersection of Arapahoe County Roads 38 and 193 ignited and started spewing gas and flames.

The fire shut down both directions of County Road 38 between Sunday morning and Thursday evening and, over that same time, a no-fly zone was implemented for a two-mile radius around the site. Residents of three neighboring homes were offered up paid accommodations if they wanted to evacuate the area during the fire but declined the offer.

The delay in extinguishing the blaze was the result of getting the necessary equipment manufactured and shipped in to the site.

10 YEARS AGO DEC. 22, 2015

STRASBURG - This holiday season could mark the gift of new homes for approximately six dozen dogs that were removed from overly-crowded conditions at a residence north of Strasburg Dec. 17.

But the owner of the canines maintains they were never mishandled or treated cruelly.

With court order in hand, Adams County Animal Control wrangled up 75 dogs under the watch of Robert Attleson at 9990 Defoe St. and transported them to area shelters. Attleson runs the nonprofit All Setter Rescue but the operation had its license revoked by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in March 2014 for violating physical facility standards under the agency's Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) program.

According to PACFA Director Nick Fisher, Attleson's facility fell short of the necessary space and equipment requirements to breed, board or shelter more than 15 animals. Over the past couple of years, the number of dogs at Attleson's shelter ranged between 86-96 with the highest number counted in October.

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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 22

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2025. There are 14 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright conducted the first successful manned, powered airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1777, France becomes one of the first nations to officially recognize the independence of the United States.

In 1933, the Chicago Bears beat the New York Giants 23-21 in the first NFL championship game.

In 1944, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Henry C. Pratt rescinded incarceration orders for people of Japanese

ancestry during World War II; more than 110,000 people, about two-thirds of them U.S. citizens, had been forced into camps after a February 1942 executive order by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Clean Air Act.

In 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was sentenced to life in prison for her attempt on the life of

President Gerald R. Ford in Sacramento, Calif.

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a Black insurance broker and former Marine, was beaten by police after leading them on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. McDuffie died four days later.

In 1989, "The Simpsons" debuts on Fox TV; it is the longest-running animated U.S. TV series.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Ernie Hudson is 80. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 80. Actor Wes Studi is 78. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 76. Actor Bill Pullman is 72. Filmmaker Peter Farrelly is 69. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 67. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 59. Filmmaker Rian Johnson is 52. Boxer Manny Pacquiao is 47.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

- ACROSS**
1. W.E.B. Du Bois' org.
 6. Rascal
 9. Ho-hum
 13. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
 14. Tropical constrictor
 15. Forgo
 16. Tequila source
 17. + or - atom
 18. Reason by deduction
 19. "Trade war" "weapon," pl.
 21. "2025 MLB World Series winners
 23. ___-tzu
 24. C&H crop
 25. Dunce
 28. Western necktie
 30. Catch in a snare
 35. Ginger cookie
 37. Master of his castle
 39. Use a razor
 40. British slang for donkey
 41. Arch and ball locations
 43. Winglike
 44. March celebrants
 46. * Arthur Sze, 2025 ___ Laureate
 47. Dam-like structure
 48. *Beyoncé's "Cowboy ___," 2025 Grammy winner
 50. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.
 52. Like a fox
 53. What Pinocchio did
 55. *Florida Panthers won this org.'s '25 championship
 57. * "Wicked: ___"
 61. *Late environmentalist and chimpanzee expert
 65. German submarine destroyer
 66. *2025 Ryder Cup loser
 68. Manuscript sheet
 69. Brazilian coins
 70. Roll-your-own one, for short
 71. To the left, on a boat
 72. Orpheus' instrument
 73. Geological time period
 74. They are cut by Federal Reserve
- DOWN**
1. At room temperature, bar order
 2. Algae, sing.
 3. Petri dish filler
 4. Raise trivial objections
 5. Ready to be assembled
 6. Avian wader
 7. Farm sound
 8. China's goodwill "___ diplomacy"
 9. Collision, onomatopoeically speaking
 10. *Taylor Swift's "The ___ of a Showgirl"
 11. Affirm solemnly
 12. Third-person possessive pronoun

CROSSWORD

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15. Makes broader
 20. Why do they fall in love?
 22. *Aryna Sabalenka's seed
 24. Auto contents
 25. Pertaining to osmium
 26. *2025 Academy Awards Best Picture winner
 27. Faquir, alt.spelling
 29. Pilot's stunt
 31. Spring event
 32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.
 33. Be of use
 34. *Blue Origin's 2025 singing passenger
 36. Boll weevil, e.g.
 38. * ___ Seek
 42. Shorthand typist, for short
 45. Serfs
 49. 2016 Olympics host, for short
 51. Ram's horn at a synagogue
 54. Draw a conclusion
 56. Parkinson's disease drug
 57. Roll up
 58. Heed
 59. Lion sound
 60. Dorothy's last name
 61. *Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"
 62. Tons (2 words)
 63. Lira, pl.
 64. Land parcels
 67. *Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2

HOROSCOPE

Joy Is a Pebble

It's double lunar water-sign trines today, rippling out with lovely symmetry and rhythm. This calm happiness comes from simply being tuned to joy. It's the perfect song for the moment. It's overheard laughter. It's a small dog acting big or a big dog acting small. It's those tiny moments dropped like a pebble into a glassy lake that connect us like an ever-expanding circle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are many things that can expand your sense of what's possible. Conversations, brilliant media, travel and even your own dreams. You're ready for an experience that broadens your mind, sharpens your perception and delights your spirit. Here it comes!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who signal superiority are usually showing insecurity instead. Try to meet it with patience. They need extra care, not confrontation. What looks like a problem could actually be an opportunity to build a meaningful and unexpected bond.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do enough people know what you do? Are they the ones who'll truly benefit from it? Today, you'll ask the right questions about your audience, make a few adjustments and see a real boost in what comes back to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Each person brings out a different side of you. Today, people will not do what you expect, and your reactions will surprise you. It's exciting to realize that each new person is a chance to know yourself more completely.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The destination mindset might work for a vacation or a game, but it doesn't work for the things that matter. Important things need a mindset of practice. Love, relationships, health — it's built over again every day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The way you show up becomes what people remember about you. Your mood reads, your kindness makes an impression, and your attitude changes the plot. It matters today because someone chooses a path based on an interaction with you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Knowledge, compliments and skin cream are all things that must be absorbed before they start to work for you. Today, you'll soak in your experiences, giving each moment a second to settle before you sprint ahead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Something in your world feels off. That's your aesthetic intuition talking. It's the part of you that cares about harmony, beauty and intention. Adjust what needs adjusting. You're the artist here. Make your world match your vision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're facing a high-quality dilemma. It's the kind of problem that only shows up when life has improved — all these quality options to choose from. Some might call it an embarrassment of riches. You'll sort it with gratitude in your heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The value you offer doesn't have to come only from you. Your network is a treasure you can share, too. Today, you'll connect people who need each other, helping expertise and opportunity flow in the right direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be careful who you involve at this tender point in the creative process. When your idea is brand-new, it's fragile, and you don't want it to be changed by someone else's doubts or enthusiasm. It's too early for outside influence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Having to be right all the time is exhausting and very boring. It keeps one living defensively and, in the past, scrambling for evidence to support stances and claims instead of living and learning in the moment. You'll liberate yourself.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 17). Welcome to your Year of Beautiful Audacity. You'll take calculated leaps that pay off spectacularly. There's nothing loud in your performance, just an inner certainty that makes rooms go silent when you speak. More highlights: Financial opportunities appear from unexpected corners. You'll have front-row seats to something extraordinary. A mentor will see your potential before you do. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 19, 20, 1 and 11.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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GW STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 9

235: 3rd Place Match - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over Charlie Smyth (Mountain Vista) (Fall 1:48)
100-105: Champ. Round 1 - Lola Arguello (Riverdale Ridge) over Charlie Kerr (Strasburg) (Fall 0:13)
100-105: Cons. Round 1 - Andrea Chavez (Adams City) over Charlie Kerr (Strasburg) (Fall 0:47)

(STRS) (Fall 2:29)
110: Kristin Croft (STRS) over (LJO) (For.)
115: Double Forfeit
120: Abby Alder (STRS) over (LJO) (For.)
125: Ren Richards (LJO) over (STRS) (For.)
130: Sky Richards (LJO) over Autumn Kulpa (STRS) (Dec 6-2)
135: Alexa Rogge (STRS) over Fiona Siverson-Merkel (LJO) (Fall 0:47)
140: Double Forfeit
145: Vivienne Gitke (STRS) over Lillian Kuberry (LJO) (Fall 0:00)
155: Madilyn Gitke (STRS) over Alivia Gonzales (SEVE) (LJO) (Fall 3:01)
170: Georgia Meyer (LJO) over (STRS) (For.)
190: Double Forfeit
235: Olivia Le Fors (STRS) over Laura Vallejo (LJO) (Fall 1:52)

GREELEY WEST TEAM SCORES

1. Gering, Neb. 153
2. Loveland 134.5
3. Brighton 127
4. Greeley West 126.5
5. Poudre 111.5
6. Fort Lupton 107
7. Arvada West 83
8. Strasburg 78
9. Holy Family 76.5
10. Eaglecrest 76
10. Mountain Vista 76
12. Denver North 67
13. Roosevelt High School 65.5
14. Mead High School 62
15. Riverdale Ridge 61
16. Adams City 41
17. Liberty Common 38
18. Platte Valley 27.5
19. Berthoud 27
20. Englewood High School 25
21. Sterling 23
22. University Schools 19
23. Standley Lake 16
24. Brush 7
25. Estes Park 5.5

WELD CENTRAL

145: Vivienne Gitke (STRS) over Amelia Nolf (WECE) (Fall 2:54)
155: Madilyn Gitke (STRS) over Charlotte Ellerman (WECE) (Fall 1:30)
170: Double Forfeit
190: Double Forfeit
235: Olivia Le Fors (STRS) over (WECE) (For.)
100: Hailey Morrell (WECE) over (STRS) (For.)
105: Charlie Kerr (STRS) over (WECE) (For.)
110: Kristin Croft (STRS) over Kya Stockham (WECE) (Dec 1-0)
115: Double Forfeit
120: Natalie Prince (WECE) over Abby Alder (STRS) (Fall 3:42)
125: Double Forfeit
130: Autumn Kulpa (STRS) over Roxanne Nelms (WECE) (Fall 1:22)
135: Jennisa Hale (WECE) over Alexa Rogge (STRS) (Fall 0:54)
140: Double Forfeit

BRACKETED TOURNAMENT

105: Semifinals - Angelina Rodcay (Wiggins School District) over Charlie Kerr (Strasburg) (Fall 3:13)
105: 3rd Place Match - Serenity Westerfer (Liberty (Joes)) over Charlie Kerr (Strasburg) (Fall 1:52)
110: Semifinals - Taytum Soppe-Cope (Palmer) over Kristin Croft (Strasburg) (Fall 0:53)
110: 3rd Place Match - Kya Stockham (Weld Central) over Kristin Croft (Strasburg) (Fall 2:34)
120: Semifinals - Kailey McGuire (Severance) over Abby Alder (Strasburg) (Fall 1:01)
120: 3rd Place Match - Natalie Prince (Weld Central) over Abby Alder (Strasburg) (M. For.)
130: Semifinals - Autumn Kulpa (Strasburg) over Karmin Kammerer (Wiggins School District) (Fall 1:12)
130: 1st Place Match - Eila Schultz (Severance) over Autumn Kulpa (Strasburg) (Fall 0:35)
135: Semifinals - Audrey Wakkinen (Severance) over Alexa Rogge (Strasburg) (Fall 1:24)
135: 3rd Place Match - Alexa Rogge (Strasburg) over Delaney Cornell (Wheat Ridge) (Fall 3:22)
140: Semifinals - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) over Abbey Mitchell (Severance) (M. For.)
140: 1st Place Match - Vivienne Gitke (Strasburg) over Evee Trevallee (Severance) (Fall 1:59)
155: Semifinals - Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) over Scarlett Potter (Palmer) (Fall 1:27)
155: 1st Place Match - Malia Bornhoft (Severance) over Madilyn Gitke (Strasburg) (MD 19-5)
235: Round 2 - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over Reese Rose (Severance) (Fall 0:38)
235: Round 3 - Olivia Le Fors (Strasburg) over McKenzie Cuckow (Wiggins School District) (Fall 0:17)

STRASBURG INVITATIONAL TEAM SCORES

1. Severance 199
2. Wiggins 102
3. Weld Central 83.5
4. Strasburg 78
5. Palmer 56
6. Liberty (Joes) 28
7. Wheat Ridge 23
8. Custer County 13

STRASBURG

Croft said the competition at Greeley West prepared his wrestlers for its home event Dec. 6, which featured a series of duals in two four-team pools followed by a bracketed tournament.

"Just in one day, the progression and the attitude of the girls changed," Croft said. "This is what wrestling is supposed to be like, and their aggression really leveled up."

The Strasburg tournament was the first for many of the visitors.

"So we were already a day ahead of them," Croft said.

In the duals, the Indians beat Custer County 42-29; Liberty (Joes) 36-27; and Weld Central 33-18. They placed fourth with 78 team points.

CUSTER COUNTY

145: Taylor Seely (CUCO) over (STRS) (For.)
155: Madilyn Gitke (STRS) over Brylee Shy (CUCO) (Fall 3:36)
170: Ali Tomassoni (CUCO) over (STRS) (For.)
190: Double Forfeit
235: Olivia Le Fors (STRS) over Aniyah Salinas (CUCO) (Fall 0:50)
100: Kaelyn Bailey (STRS) over (CUCO) (For.)
105: Xzandriah Le Fever (CUCO) over Charlie Kerr (STRS) (TF 23-6 6:00)
110: Kristin Croft (STRS) over Katie Boggan (CUCO) (Fall 2:32)
115: Double Forfeit
120: Abby Alder (STRS) over (CUCO) (For.)
125: Gabriela Gonzalez (SEVE) (CUCO) over (STRS) (For.)
130: Autumn Kulpa (STRS) over Alani Hawkes (SEVE) (CUCO) (Fall 3:39)
135: Nevaeh Odegaard (SEVE) (CUCO) over Alexa Rogge (STRS) (Fall 0:59)
140: Vivienne Gitke (STRS) over Abby Mitchell (SEVE) (CUCO) (Fall 1:46)

LIBERTY (JOES)

100: Kamila Saucedo (LJO) over (STRS) (For.)
105: Serenity Westerfer (LJO) over Charlie Kerr



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1ST AMENDMENT

FROM PAGE 1

town's support of the First Amendment and also recognition of the board's frustration with an article that was published by the paper."

Douglas Claussen, publisher of *The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News*, had threatened to sue the town in an August letter sent by his attorney, Rachael Johnson of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. The letter characterized the trustees' May 13 vote to pull the town's display advertising from the newspapers as "egregiously unconstitutional" because it was "openly motivated by retaliation for *The I-70 Scout's* editorial decision-making."

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

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

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

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

Johnson in her letter cited two orders from the U.S. District Court in Colorado holding that the government cannot revoke advertising from a newspaper based on its content. One case concerned allegations by the *Greeley Tribune* that the Weld County Public Trustee withheld legal ads from the newspaper in retaliation

for news coverage and a critical editorial. The other involved allegations the town of Frisco pulled ads from a weekly newspaper because it published news stories and editorials that criticized the town's government.

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

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

The town announced the settlement decision on its website Wednesday: "This decision was made because the Town strongly believes in the First Amendment and the importance of free speech in a healthy and thriving community."

"While the Town Board firmly believes that its previous actions were taken ethically and with the best interests of our Eastern Colorado community in mind, we recognize the importance of moving forward with a continued focus on transparency and community support. We remain committed to strengthening trust and communication with those we serve," the statement adds.

Claussen, in an e-mail to the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition, said he's "glad it's over. Now let's get back to the business of building a better community."

"The Bennett Board of Trustees had no right to interfere with the operation of my newspaper or my freedom of speech, and this agreement attests to that fact, no matter how hard they try to mask it under the thin veil of morality," he added.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 18
Strasburg American Legion Post 183. 6:30 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

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

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 20
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.

High Plains Music Ensemble concert. 7 p.m., Dec. 20, Bennett High School auditorium.

MONDAY, DEC. 22
West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23
Senior citizen game day. 1-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.

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

School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.
Bennett Board of Trustees. Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit bennettco.gov.

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

Preschool story time: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com. Click on "virtual events."

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.

CHUCK WAGON



Skillet Chili Mac

Enjoy the goodness of this fast and kid-friendly skillet meal combining ground beef, chili beans, salsa and fresh cilantro.

SKILLET CHILI MAC

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1 (15- to-16 ounce) can chili beans in chili sauce
- 1½ cups prepared thick-and-chunky salsa
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 cups cooked elbow macaroni,

warmed

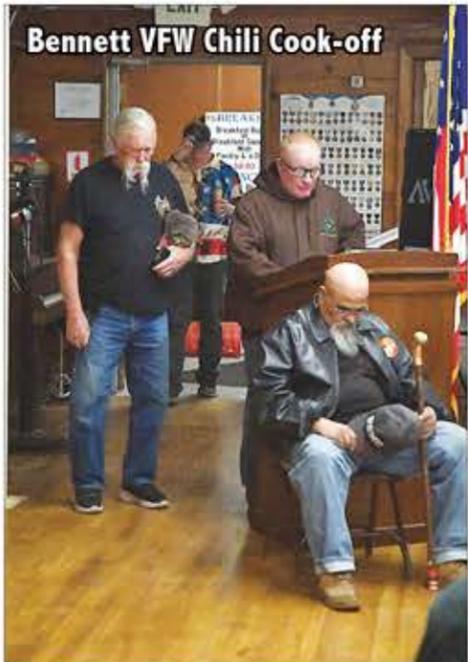
DIRECTIONS

Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add ground beef. Cook 8-10 minutes, breaking up into ¾-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Pour off drippings, as necessary.

Stir in beans, salsa and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 5 minutes or until slightly thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in cilantro.

Serve beef mixture over macaroni.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, Tri-Valley VFW Post 8449 Chaplain Robert Russo (at podium) leads a prayer during the post's Veterans Day chili cook-off Nov. 7 as Cmdr. Dan Goodnight, left, and other Corridor veterans bow their heads. Right, Patty Doyle dishes up a sample of chili.



LIVING SPRINGS

VETERINARY CARE
820 Sharis Ct. Bennett, CO • 303-644-3337
www.livingspringsvet.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM LIVING SPRINGS

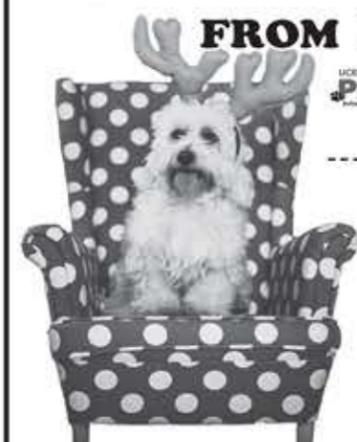


Next time you're away, your pet has a place to stay.

PET BOARDING & DAY CARE

- Professional Experienced Staff
- Clean Facility
- Walks & Outside Playtime
- Owner Directed Feeding
- Experienced in Administering Medication
- Baths Available for Additional Fee
- Pet Updates Available
- Full & Half Day Daycare Available
- Fully Insured

TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? SCHEDULE YOUR PET'S BOARDING TODAY!



AS SEEN ON ANIMAL PLANET



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from everyone at
Strasburg Auto Parts.
We thank you for your support and your business.

303-622-4211
1313 Monroe St. Strasburg, CO
7:30am - 6:00pm Mon. - Fri.
8:00am - 5:00pm Sat.
8:00am - 1:00pm Sun.

FILL-UP SPECIAL

GLOBAL PROPANE

(303) 660-9290
FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

VOLUME DISCOUNTS

\$1.79⁹

GALLON

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CAREGIVING

Assisting with all activities of daily living:

- Pet Care
- Transportation
- Total Care

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Toileting

- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Companionship

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COME CHECK OUT SHOOTER'S NEW PIZZA FOOD TRUCK!!!!

STUDENT DISCOUNT:
Enjoy 10% OFF All Food Truck Items From 11am-2pm

ALSO SERVING CALZONES!!

CALL AHEAD OR ORDER ONLINE

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www.shootersbargrill.com

Open 7 Days A Week
11am - 8pm

Located In Shooters North Parking Lot



CHRISTMAS AT MVF
JOIN US FOR
A Christmas Experience

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Friday, December 19th from 5:00-8:00pm

An Open House Event Featuring:

Dinner, a Scavenger Hunt, Cookie Decorating, a fun Craft,
a Petting Zoo, a Live Nativity, and a Photo Op!

-and-

Christmas Eve-Eve Services

Tues. December 23rd at 4:30, 6, & 7:30pm

Our Christmas Eve-Eve Services are contemplative and meaningful
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and his reason for coming.

We welcome the community to join, so please invite your
family, friends, and neighbors to come with you.

MVF is located at 1955 Headlight Rd in Strasburg
mvfcolorado.com

Regular Sunday Service Times: 8:30am & 10:15am