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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 1

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Strasburg teen killed in dirt bike accident



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg School and community members remember 16-year-old Gavin Fischer during a candlelight vigil in his memory at Winter Field Nov. 28. Fischer was killed after a dirt bike crash between Strasburg and Byers Nov. 26.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BYERS — A Strasburg teenager died from injuries suffered while riding a dirt bike between Strasburg and Byers the afternoon of Nov. 26.

At approximately 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the south side of the low-water crossing/wash-out area in the 65100 block of County Road 2 on a report of a dirt bike crash involving injuries.

"Upon arrival, deputies learned that a 16-year-old male had been riding a dirt bike with a friend in a creek bed on private property when he attempted a small jump," a sheriff's office spokesman said. "The front tire of the motorcycle he was operating dug into soft sand, causing him to be ejected forward."

After initial indications that the ejected rider was OK, his condition quickly took a turn for the worse.

**SEE DIRT BIKE FATALITY
PAGE 4**

Thanksgiving Eve fire guts home south of Strasburg

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — A family was displaced from its home south of Strasburg because of a residential fire the evening before Thanksgiving.

Last week's blaze was the second structure fire responded to by the Strasburg Fire Rescue south of town within an eight-

day period. In both instances, while buildings were lost, no injuries or deaths were reported.

Most recently, at about 7:45 p.m. Nov. 26, Corridor firefighters were dispatched to June's Country Gardens mobile home park about two miles south of Strasburg on County Road 157 on report of an active fire.

**SEE STRASBURG FIRES
PAGE 8**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A fire-ravaged home in the June's Country Gardens mobile home park south of Strasburg sits vacant the morning of Nov. 28, two days after a house fire gutted the structure.

Streak snapped: Denver's first snow 2nd latest ever on record

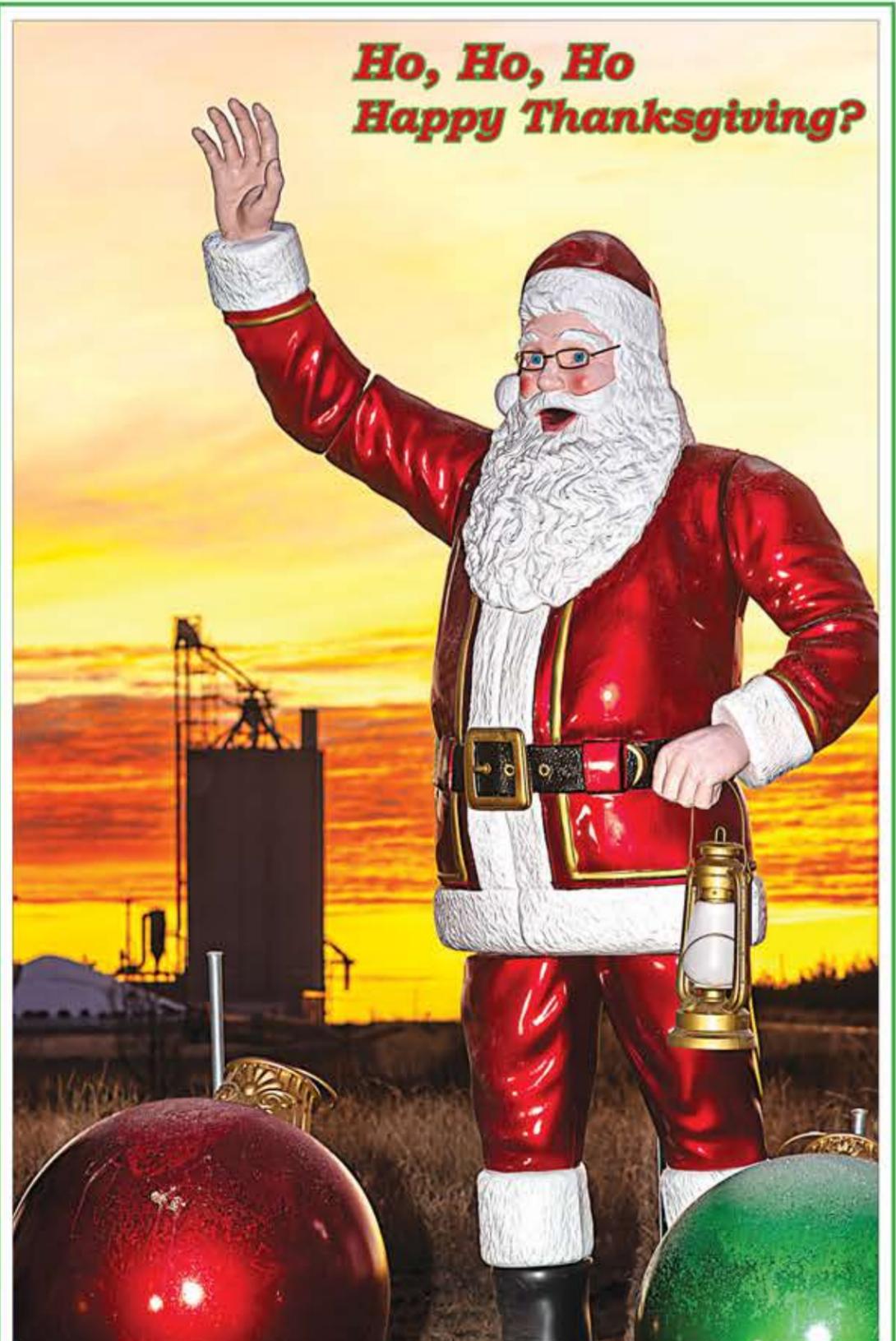
by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

While numerous I-70 Corridor reports indicated only a trace of snowfall overnight Nov. 28-29, Denver-based meteorologists reported that enough fell at the official weather reporting station to snap the area's second-longest snowless streak.

The National Weather Service's Boulder Office reported 0.2 inches of snow at DIA Saturday morning, which is double the minimum threshold of 0.1 inches for "measurable snowfall."

In addition, Denver officially snapped its snowless streak at 224 days, the fourth-longest such stretch on record. Prior to

**SEE FIRST SNOW
PAGE 10**



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The Byers Parks & Recreation District's Santa Claus figurine on the southeast corner of Highway 40 and Main Street intersection waves to commuters driving through town as the sun rises Thanksgiving morning.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Certified crops credits key to Extension clinic at Yuma

BURLINGTON — A two-day Colorado State University Crops Clinic will offer 12 Certified Crop Advisor credits and four Colorado Department of Agriculture credits.

Registration is underway for the clinic, which will take place both in-person and remotely Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8-9, with the live meeting at the Cobblestone Inn in Yuma.

One nutrient management, four soil and water, five pest management, and two crop management will be offered under the Certified Crop Advisor program.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com or call CSU Extension at (719)346-5571. Registration closes Dec. 4.

Community Hymn Sing set for Strasburg Presbyterian

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

Pianist Stacy May will accompany participants on many classic Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and "We Three Kings." Pastor Walt Bedford will read from Luke 2, the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

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

Lincoln's assassination topic of Strasburg history lecture

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host a presentation on Lincoln's Assassination and Impact of the War from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

Museum curator Cliff Smith's discussion will feature facts, photos and artifacts of the Lincoln's assassination as well as impact of the war for the nation then and today.

A light snack will be served from 6-6:30 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society & Museum in Strasburg.



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

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society. For more information, call (303)622-4322.

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

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.

Strasburg Christmas in Park festivities commence Dec. 6

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

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

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

Bible study at Byers church concentrated on finding joy

BYERS — How a weary world rejoices is the theme for the Advent season at a local church.

The Bible study of this topic will follow worship, which begins at 9:30 a.m., every Sunday from Nov. 30 through Dec. 21, at Byers Community Church, 135 S. Sherman St.

Study books are not required but can be purchased for \$12.

Town of Bennett readies for Breakfast with Santa

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett Board of Trustees will host its annual Breakfast with Santa from 8-11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Bennett Community Center.

Along with breakfast will be music and photo opportunities with Santa Claus.

Tickets cost \$5 per adult; \$3 per child; and free for children 3 and under.

Proceeds support the Bennett Holiday Help Program.

Christmas toy giveaway set by Cornerstone Fellowship

This holiday season Cornerstone Fellowship will be collecting new and gently used toys.

The toys will be offered at a "shopping experience" Saturday, Dec. 20, to provide for parents facing financial difficulties, allowing them to select gifts for their children.

New and gently used toys in good condition should be donated without wrapping.

Drop-off points are Cornerstone Fellowship and Les Schwab in Bennett; the Strasburg Recreation Center and Magnolia Salon in Strasburg; Los 3 Garcias in Byers; and Lulu's Inn and Sky Ranch Academy in Watkins.

Gov's Residence: Public tours offered of decorated mansion

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis is inviting Coloradans to join in the holiday cheer with public holiday tours of the Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13.

"I invite you to come tour the historic home adorned in trees, ornaments, and holiday cheer," said Gov. Jared Polis. "Free for all, these holiday tours are the best time of the year to visit Colorado's home."

The Governor's Residence is located at 400 E. Eighth Ave., Denver. Walk-ins are welcome.

Trip to see Denver Zoo Lights planned by Burg Parks & Rec

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, on a senior excursion to see the Denver Zoo Lights.

The cost is \$30. Lunch is additional. Advanced reservations are required due to limited seating.

To RSVP, call the rec center at (303)622-4260.

The bus will depart from the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St. The excursion is hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District and Mountain View Fellowship.

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MCC Foundation hosts donor luncheon

FORT MORGAN — The Morgan Community College Foundation hosted its annual Donor/Scholar Luncheon Oct. 20 at the Fort Morgan campus.

The event recognized the generosity of donors who make scholarships possible and provided an opportunity for student recipients to personally thank those who support their education.

The luncheon celebrated the vital role that scholarships play in helping students achieve their academic and career goals. Donors and students shared stories, built connections, and reflected on the lasting impact of the generosity in the MCC community.

“This event is one of the most meaningful gatherings we host each year,” said MCC Executive Director of De-

velopment MaKyle Mares. “It brings together those who give and those who benefit, reminding us that behind every scholarship is a student whose future is being changed for the better.”

Students expressed their gratitude to donors for investing in their success. Many shared how scholarships have eased financial burdens and allowed them to focus on their studies and personal growth. Scholarship recipients Concepcion Ochoa and Tonya Dory expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of donors and the positive impact the financial support has had on their lives.

In the 2024-25 academic year, the MCC Foundation awarded \$258,977 in scholarships to 342 students.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MCC Assistant Director of Financial Aid Isabel Lesama-Rodas, left, poses with scholarship winners Concepcion Ochoa and Tonya Dory.



A holiday-themed fun day

❄️ Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 ❄️

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

- 🍭 Santa Meet-and-Greet | Holiday Shopping Village
- 🎵 Live Holiday Music | Mechanical Reindeer Ride
- 🐾 Petting Farm | Snowball Toss

🎁 **Tickets: \$10** in advance / **\$12** day of event (kids 2 and under FREE) 

\$25 for Yeti Set Go! 5K Fun Run (includes Visit the Village admission, kids 2 and under Free)

arapahoecountyeventcenter.com

Share the season with neighbors in need! Donate a new, unwrapped gift for one free admission per household and support Arapahoe County Human Services' Partnering for the Holidays program.

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Strasburg Parks & Rec

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SANTA & REINDEER (4-7pm) * Hot Chocolate * Reindeer Food Craft * Wreath Contest * Hot Soup * Photo Booth * Cookie Decorating * Popcorn * Vendor Booths * And Much More!

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Coloring Contest, F&C Realty, 56321 E. Colfax
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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
All ages attended a candlelight vigil Nov. 28 at Winter Field in Strasburg to remember 16-year-old Gavin Fischer, who died two days earlier in a dirt bike accident between Strasburg and Byers.

DIRT BIKE FATALITY FROM PAGE 1

“He soon began experiencing severe difficulty breathing and became pale and unresponsive,” the sheriff’s spokesman said. “The friend contacted the juvenile’s father and then called 911.”

Personnel from Byers and Strasburg fire departments both responded. “Byers Fire Rescue and paramedics responded and transported the juve-

nile to a local hospital,” the sheriff’s spokesman added. “Despite lifesaving efforts, the 16-year-old was pronounced deceased.”

According to Strasburg Fire Chief Scott Smith, the transportation plan for the injured victim changed en route.

“Strasburg units responded emergent from the scene — after the patient [started to be] transported — to the helipad in Strasburg when it was thought that the patient might be transported by air but, due to patient’s condition and an updated response time for the helicopter, it was determined that ground transport was the better option.”

Friends and Strasburg School officials confirmed that the deceased is Gavin Fischer, a Strasburg High School junior.

Several hundred people, including Fischer’s parents, schoolmates and friends, participated in a candlelight vigil for the deceased at Winter Field Friday night.

Fischer was remembered as a “bright light within the school and community” and a “kind and genuine young man.”

As of the end of last week, the sheriff’s office was continuing the investigation surrounding the accident.

“I noticed in the (original deputy’s) report on the motorcycle accident that the kids were very adamant that there were no trespassing signs,” the sheriff’s spokesman said Friday morning. “The report has been sent to investigations but, obviously, because the holiday, has not been assigned to any investigators at this time.”

The scene of the crash is where June 2023 Bijou Creek floodwaters washed out the low-water crossing on County Road 2. The replacement of the concrete passage was finished in July 2024.

On Friday morning, “no trespassing” signs dotted every other fence post on the south side of the roadway.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
On Nov. 29, “no trespassing” signs are attached to every other fence post on property where a dirt bike fatality occurred three days prior.

More than 3 dozen infant botulism cases related to bad formula

by **Jonel Aleccia**
AP Health Writer

More than three dozen babies have been sickened in an infant botulism outbreak tied to contaminated formula, federal health officials say.

As of Nov. 26, the Food & Drug Administration reported 37 cases of confirmed or suspected illness in babies who consumed ByHeart formula since August. The most recent case was reported on Nov. 19.

No deaths have been reported in the outbreak, which was announced Nov. 8.

ByHeart, a New York-based manufacturer of organic infant formula, recalled all its products sold in the U.S. on Nov. 11. The company, which accounts for about 1% of the U.S. infant formula market, had been selling about 200,000 cans of the product each month.

It can take up to 30 days for symptoms of infantile botulism to develop, medical experts said.

Here's what to know about the outbreak and infant botulism.

THE OUTBREAK BEGINS

The outbreak has sickened babies aged about 2 weeks to about 9 months, the FDA said. All the infants were hospitalized after consuming ByHeart powdered formula.

California officials earlier confirmed that a sample from an open can of ByHeart baby formula fed to an infant who fell ill contained the type of bacteria that can lead to illness. And the company has said lab tests confirmed some samples were contaminated



CHEYANNE MUMPHREY/AP Photo

Stephen Dexter holds a container of ByHeart baby formula, which was recently recalled by ByHeart, in Flagstaff, Ariz., on Nov. 12.

with that bacteria.

FDA inspectors have been to the company's infant formula production plants in Allerton, Iowa; and Portland, Ore.

The FDA is investigating a rise in cases of infant botulism reported since August. "ByHeart brand formula is disproportionately represented among sick infants in this outbreak," the agency said.

Illnesses began between Aug. 9 and Nov. 19, federal officials said. Cases have been reported in Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington and Wis-

consin.

Families of babies treated for botulism after drinking ByHeart formula have sued the company. Lawsuits filed in federal courts allege that the formula they fed their children was defective and ByHeart was negligent in selling it. They seek financial payment for medical bills, emotional distress and other harm.

CAUSES OF INFANT BOTULISM

Infant botulism typically affects fewer than 200 babies in the U.S. each year. As of Sept. 20, 133 cases had been reported in the U.S. according to the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention records. There were 145 cases reported all of last year.

The infection is caused by a type of bacteria that produces a toxin in the large intestine. The bacterium is spread through hardy spores present

in the environment that can cause serious illness, including paralysis.

Infants are particularly vulnerable to infection because their gut microbiomes are not developed enough to prevent the spores from germinating and producing the toxin. They can be sickened after exposure to the spores in dust, dirt or water or by eating contaminated honey.

Symptoms can take weeks to develop and can include poor feeding, loss of head control, drooping eyelids and a flat facial expression. Babies may feel "floppy" and can have problems swallowing or breathing.

Baby formula has previously been linked to sporadic cases of illness, but no known outbreaks of infant botulism tied to powdered formula have previously been confirmed, according to research studies.

SEE INFANT BOTULISM PAGE 6

Stephen "Rowdy" Darnell



Stephen Ralph Darnell
February 23, 1962 — November 20, 2025

Stephen "Rowdy" Darnell, 63, of La Junta, Colo., formerly of Deer Trail, Colo., passed away on Nov. 20 unexpectedly of heart disease at his La Junta home.

He was born on Feb. 23, 1962, in Pueblo, Colo., to Norman Darnell & Laura Whitney. Stephen married Sandra "Sandi" Sack on Feb. 15, 1992.

Rowdy is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sandi Darnell; daughter, Nicole Darnell; step-mother Carolyn Darnell; step-brother, step-sisters, sister and brother-in-laws, and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Norman Darnell and Laura Whitney; brothers, Doug and Gary Darnell; and his beloved dog, Gon.it

A memorial service was held Nov. 28, 2025, at Peacock Memorial Chapel in La Junta with longtime friend, Kevin Sykes officiating.

Online condolences may be made at www.PeacockFH.com. Peacock-Larsen Funeral Home & Arkansas Valley Crematory was in charge of arrangements.

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WAYS TO HELP

- ◆ Donate an item or service to the silent auction (see list of ideas provided or scan Ideas QR code)
- ◆ Promote your business or service. All items are displayed Dec 2nd-11th
- ◆ Make a cash donation by scanning QR code or visiting F&M Bank - Bennett
- ◆ Bring family, friends and neighbors Dec. 2-11th to silent bid on all your favorites
- ◆ Bid on an item & enter to win additional prizes (One entry per day w/qualified bid)

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Proudly package and present your donation with advertisement for your business. Include a gift card to bring business right back to your own...it's a WIN-WIN (Deliver all donations to F&M Bank in Bennett on or before 11/26/25)

F&M BANK IN COLORADO WILL GIVE AWAY \$50 GIFT CARD TO OWNER OF THE DONATION RECEIVING THE HIGHEST BID AT END OF THE EVENING ON DECEMBER 11TH, WINNERS CHOICE.

Stop by daily beginning December 2nd for hot drinks and sweet treats while touring all the donations and bidding on your favorites. Make a bid and get an entry ticket (one/day) for more giveaways! Do all your gift shopping here while supporting this great cause!

Then join us for our fun filled **BIDS & BUBBLES** evening cocktail social.
Thursday, Dec. 11th 6:30-9 pm
(All bids final at 8 pm)

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All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Byers American Legion. F&M Bank in Colorado will provide a matching donation on funds raised, up to \$3,000.

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For Auction Ideas

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INFANT BOTULISM FROM PAGE 5

INFANT BOTULISM TREATMENT
 The only treatment is known as BabyBIG, an IV medication made from the pooled blood plasma of adults immunized against botulism. California's infant botulism program developed the product and is the sole source worldwide.

BabyBIG works to shorten hospital stays and decrease the severity of illness in babies with botulism. Because the infection can affect the ability to breathe, infants often need to be placed on ventilators.

IMPACT ON U.S. FORMULA SUPPLIES
 There is little danger of infant formula shortages because ByHeart represents a small share of the market. That's far different from the crises in late 2021 and 2022, when four infants were sickened by a different germ after consuming formula made by Abbott Nutrition. Two of the babies died. No direct link was found between the Abbott products and the infections caused by a different germ, *cronobacter sakazakii*, but FDA officials closed the company's Michigan plant after contamination and other problems were detected.

Abbott recalled top brands of infant formula, triggering a nationwide shortage that lasted months.

In 2022, ByHeart recalled five

batches of infant formula after a sample at the company's packaging plant tested positive for *cronobacter sakazakii*. In 2023, the FDA sent a warning letter to the company detailing "areas that still require corrective actions." A ByHeart plant in Reading, Pa., was shut down in 2023 just before FDA inspectors found problems with mold, water leaks and insects, inspection documents show.

REVIEWING INFANT FORMULA INGREDIENTS
 Federal health officials have vowed to overhaul the U.S. food supply and are taking a new look at infant formula.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has directed the FDA to review the nutrients and other ingredients in infant formula, which fills the bottles of millions of American babies.

The effort, dubbed "Operation Stork Speed," is the first deep look at the ingredients since 1998.

FDA officials are reviewing comments from industry, health experts and public to decide next steps.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 4
Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
Patriot meeting on U.S. history, the Constitution, and the rights of citizens. 10 a.m., Holy Spirit Livin,' 1506 Main St., Strasburg. (303)622-4648.

MONDAY, DEC. 8
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Kelter Library parking lot, 585 S. Main St., Byers. Optional pre-registration at newclient.link2feed.com.

Strasburg School Board. 6 p.m., Strasburg High School Central Services building board room. Zoom participation available. Visit strasburg31j.com for link.

Bingo. 7 p.m., Byers American Legion Hall.

Byers Water & Sanitation District Board. 7 p.m., District Office, 421 S. Sherman St.

Deer Trail Fire Protection District Board. 7

p.m., Deer Trail Firehouse.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.

Daughters of the American Revolution Silver Spike Chapter. 6:30 p.m., TBK Bank conference room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Bennett Board of Trustees. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit bennettco.gov.

Deer Trail Town Board. Work session 6:30 p.m., regular meeting 7 p.m., Town Hall, 555 Second Ave.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10
Deer Trail Conservation District Board. 1 p.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

Strasburg Sanitation & Water Board. 7 p.m., TBK Bank conference room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Bennett announces function for April town board election

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett will host a Potential Candidate Open House for the April 2026 Board of Trustees election starting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Town Hall, 207 Muegge Way.

Town Manager Trish Stiles and Mayor Whitney Oakley will share an overview of the typical responsibilities and time commitments of a town trustee and provide an overview of the board's work to shape Bennett's future. They will also provide more information about the three upcoming vacancies on the board, including eligibility, the general timeline for the election, and next steps for those considering a run for office. A board of trustees meeting follows at 7 p.m.

To register to vote, visit the motor vehicle office at 355 S. First St., Bennett, for Adams County or at 538 N. Highway 36, Byers, for Arapahoe County, or visit govotecolorado.com.

For more information, visit www.bennettco.gov.

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Neal Schlein from the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys in Lakewood demonstrates the traditional Native American way to make corn husk dolls during a craft event at Kelper Library in Byers Nov. 20.

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.
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anythinklibraries.org

Sewing Drop-In: A sewing teacher will help out participants of all ages with everyday projects. Sewing machines and some supplies provided. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4.

Frost Fest: Chill with family, friends, and neighbors for a fun night of winter-themed activities. Participants can sip hot drinks, take holiday photos with festive miniature horses from 5 Star Farms, and enjoy a live ice sculpture demonstration by Colorado Ice Works. 3:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4.

Let's Get Metaphysical: Adults can explore several transformative techniques for emotional healing and personal self-discovery with instructor Mauricio Ramirez. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Holiday crafts: Adults will create festive, decorative crafts and connect with other members of the Byers community. All supplies provided. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5

and their families will participate in activities related to gingerbread. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 5.

Adult book club: "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5.

Scribble and Giggle: Parents and caregivers can bring little ones ages 2-5 for play-based activities to strengthen pre-writing skills. If the child is starting to scribble, they'll have lots of fun. Drop-ins welcome as space allows. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Monday, Dec. 15.

Winter Crafts: Kids and tweens ages 5-12 can make a variety of winter and snow-themed crafts to join the spirit of the season. All supplies provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17.



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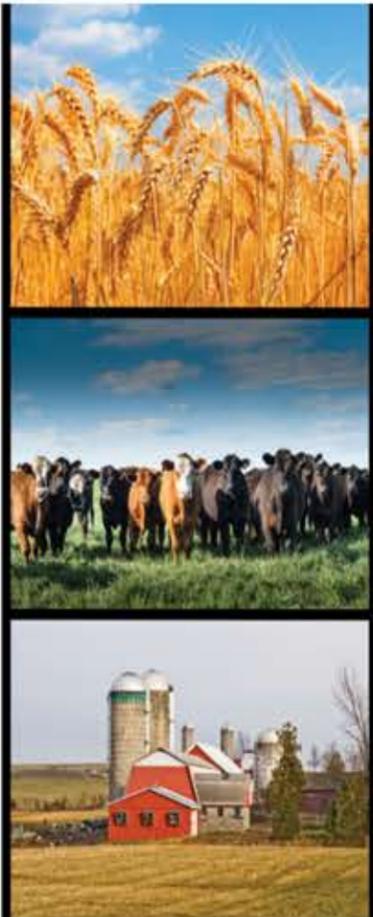
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SUBMITTED PHOTO
While a Nov. 18 structure fire destroyed a garage and its contents, including a vehicle, about 10 miles south of Strasburg, no one was injured.

STRASBURG FIRES

FROM PAGE 1

Upon arrival, firefighters worked quickly to not only extinguish the blaze on the southeast corner lot of the development's northern block but to ensure neighboring homes weren't damaged.

"While the fire was under control in less than an hour, a crew did remain on scene all night for fire watch," said Strasburg Fire Chief Scott Smith, adding that the scene required security before an investigator arrived the next morning when enough daylight was available.

Approximately two dozen fire apparatus from Sable Altura to Deer Trail fire departments responded.

"All apparatus on the initial dispatch responded, though some tenders were cleared soon after once the fire was under control," Smith said.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office also provided security and traffic patrol.

"We had two cars on scene," a sheriff's office spokesman said, "but nothing other than while they fought the fire."

The scene was cleared about 10:30 Thanksgiving morning.

As of the end of last week, the fire

investigation was ongoing.

LATE NIGHT GARAGE FIRE

A little after 10:30 p.m. Nov. 18, I-70 Corridor fire departments were dispatched to the 55900 block of East County Road 46 on report of an active structure fire.

Battalion Chief 91 from Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue arrived on scene first and discovered a 30- by 20-foot detached garage collapsed and fully enveloped in flame. A defensive strategy was implemented in an effort to protect the adjacent home.

The fire was considered under control within 15 minutes and, while the garage and a vehicle inside were a total loss, the neighboring house was not damaged.

Two attack water lines were established remotely along County Road 46. While 16 apparatus between Deer Trail and Buckley Spaceport fire departments were originally dispatched, about half were canceled en route. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office also responded.

Smith said the fire was accidental and caused by "improperly disposed rags used for refinishing a deck."



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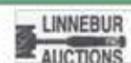



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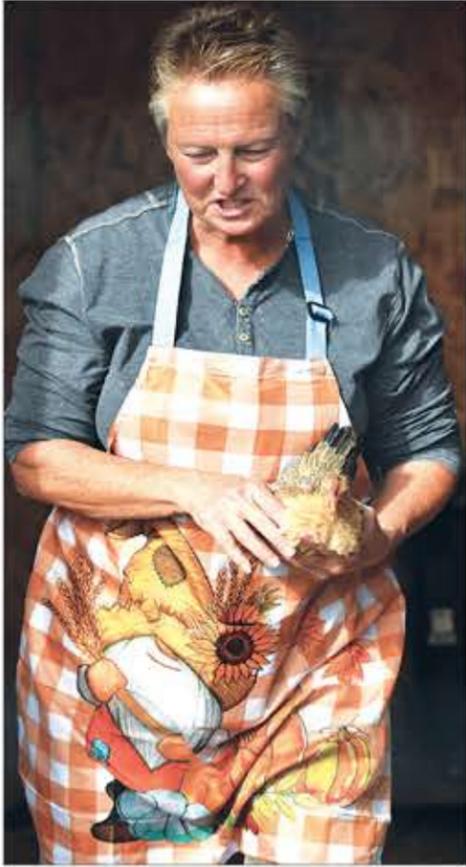
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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Rooster Sanctuary at Danzig's Roost hosted a fundraiser Nov. 1. The nonprofit organization primarily rescues fighting roosters that are about to be euthanized but accepts other types of animals as well. The sanctuary has over 100 roosters on the property. Above, Carson, 5, and Kristina Hunt feed a couple of the roosters during their visit to the facility.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, Lisa Angela brings out one of the smallest and lightest chickens in the world, weighing in at about half-a-pound. Right, Crystal Jessmer is all smiles as she bags popcorn for visitors to the fund-raiser.

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Churches and other nonprofits! Please keep us informed of your activities for publicity and coverage! — Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A light blanket of snow covered the Byers High School baseball field (above) and much of the I-70 Corridor for the first time this fall/winter season Nov. 29. While many local weather reporters indicated a trace or less of white stuff fell overnight Friday into Saturday morning, the reporting station at DIA reported 0.2 inches, which snapped a 224-day snowless streak and was Denver's second latest date on record for its first snow.

FIRST SNOW

FROM PAGE 1

Saturday, the last measurable snow recorded at DIA was back on April 18.

The longest recorded snowless stretch of 232 days was recorded between April 21 and Dec. 10 of 2021.

Formal weather records started being recorded in 1882.

The latest first measurable fall/winter snowfall on record for Denver and neighboring areas was when 0.3 inches fell Dec. 10, 2021.

The previous second-latest first snow date was during the Dust Bowl on Nov. 21, 1934, when one inch fell. The average first snow for the area normally occurs over the last week of October.

TEMPERATURES ALSO DROP

In addition to temperatures falling to a level allowing for snow to finally fall across much of the region, subse-

quent weather transitioned into hard overnight freezes and below-freezing conditions throughout the following days.

Overnight temperatures Nov. 29-30 fell to around 10 degrees with several communities reporting single digits; however, while those low temperatures are below the historical average of 22 degrees, they were still well above the record low for that day of minus-10 degrees in 1877.

Weather stations in Byers and Limon reported Saturday night temperatures that dropped to 11 and 8 degrees, respectively.

Further east, 5 degrees was reported.

"Thankfully, overnight winds have been mostly light, but wind chills below zero have still been seen," an NWS report said.

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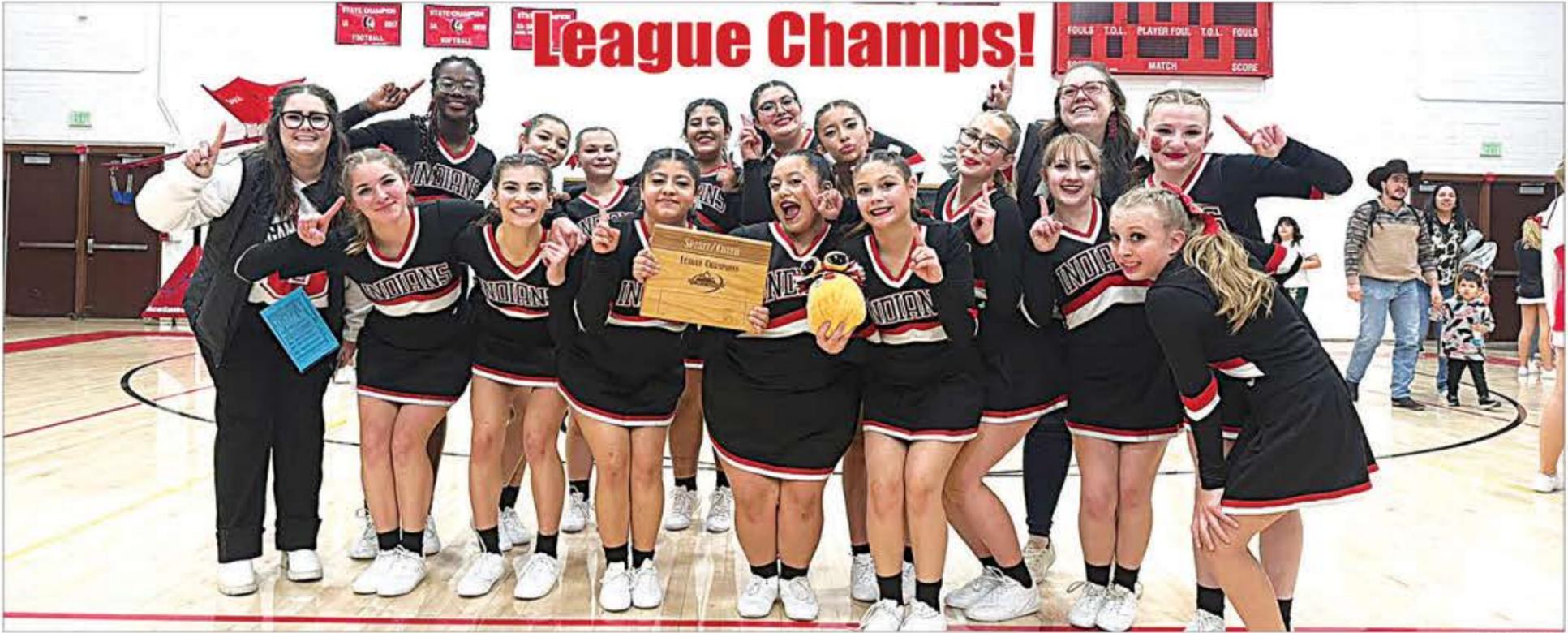
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PERMANENT FENCE

10', 12', 20', 24', 30'



SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In what has become a week-before-Thanksgiving tradition, Strasburg High School again hosted the Patriot League Spirit Championships in Mundell Gym Nov. 21. Sixteen cheer and pom squads from across the conference competed with the host Indians walking away with the Game Day Division title. This year's squad, led by head coach Stephanie Peabody and assistant coach Alaina Franklin, consists of Lily Aldana Hernandez, Jordan Garcia, Yamie Coronel Munoz, Aislynn Safe, Elena Reyes, Lea Sir-Vendewerken, Emmory Owens, Noemi Vendramin, Alyssa Schaffer, Maddie Roberts, Princess Enriquez Enriquez, Nele Rasmussen, Arlett Rojo, Aisha Mocniak, and Brianna Sutton. Clockwise from above, the entire squad celebrates around the championship trophy; Reyes, Coronel Munoz and Schaffer hoist up Enriquez Enriquez; Garcia exhorts the crowd on while in the hands of Aldana Hernandez, Rojo and Safe; and Sage starts an "S-H-S" chant. The red-and-black are among three I-70 Corridor cheer teams that will compete during the first day of competition at the Colorado State Spirit Championships Dec. 11-13 at the Denver Coliseum. Strasburg, Bennett and Byers will all participate in the 2A/3A Game Day competition Thursday. Preliminary performances for all three local schools are scheduled from 1-2:15 p.m. Thursday.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

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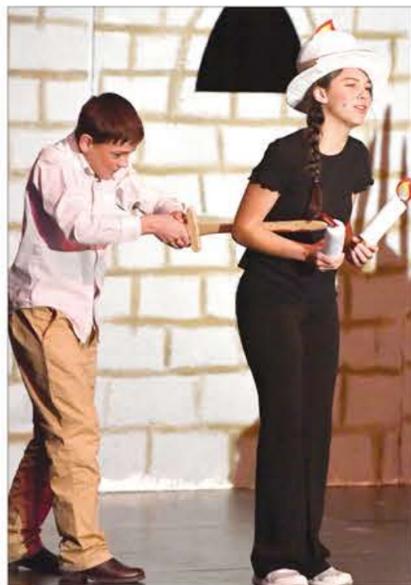
Bennett middle-schoolers act out last month!



Bennett Middle School students put on a show during their performance of the Shakespearean comedy/tragedy spoof *Game of Tiaras* by Don Zolidis Nov. 14. The two performances had students play different leading roles. Above, Belle (Camille Garrett), King (Archer Camm), and Smeagol (Shaelyn Krieger) appear during King's speech in the Cast A performance.



The French prince, played by John Westendorf, left, grabs his heart as he suddenly drops dead of a hearth attack at the end of the Cast B show, and Belle, played by Camille Garrett, is the last one alive after a massacre took place during the opening performance of the day.



Left photo, Prince Charming, played by Carter Fackzak, stabs the talking candle man, played by Deillah Kuh-Richardson, and, right, Dwarf, played by Madelyne Travis, kills Prince Charming with a bow and arrow.

Best wishes & stay safe this winter season!

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Corridor winter sports in full swing this week

The winter basketball and wrestling seasons for all Corridor high schools reach full gear this week.

A brief preview of winter season week one follows.

WRESTLING

After hitting the competitive mat for the first time at Wiggins on Tuesday, the Strasburg girls have a busy weekend, traveling to Greeley West for a dual on Friday and hosting their own invitational tournament on Saturday. The Indian boys travel to Golden on Saturday for an all-day invitational tournament.

For Bennett, the Tiger boys travel to Chaparral in Parker for a dual tonight before traveling to Buena Vista for the annual Demon Duals on Friday and Saturday. The Lady Tigers' one-girl gang will participate at the Pine Creek Invitational also on Friday and Saturday.

Byers travels to Akron on Saturday for the Chuck Annand Invitational.

BASKETBALL

The Strasburg girls and boys tip off the regular season at home on Friday against Merino.

For the second straight season, both Bennett hoops squads will travel to Lamar for the Thunder Invitational Dec. 4-6. Both squads will face Dumas, Texas, Thursday. The first of the area rivalry games take place Dec. 9 when Bennett hosts Byers.

The Bulldogs will lead up to their date with the orange-and-black with a pair of games at the Cheraw Tournament on Friday and Saturday. Other schools involved are Evangel Christian Academy, Sierra Grande and the hosts.

Deer Trail will host its annual Eagle Classic to tip off the season on Friday and Saturday. The hosts play Bethune on day one.

For winter team previews and coverage of the opening weekend of contests, see the Dec. 5 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

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- Bennett Parks & Rec
- Byers General Store
- 20/20 EyeVenue, Strasburg
- The Gift Shop, Strasburg
- Envy Salon, Byers
- Salinas Restaurant, Strasburg
- NAPA Auto Parts, Strasburg
- Latinas Salon II (992 S. Abilene St., Aurora)
- Maverick Mercantile, Byers
- Magnolia Salon & Spa, Strasburg
- Dulce Espresso & Bakery
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Gifts From The Heart

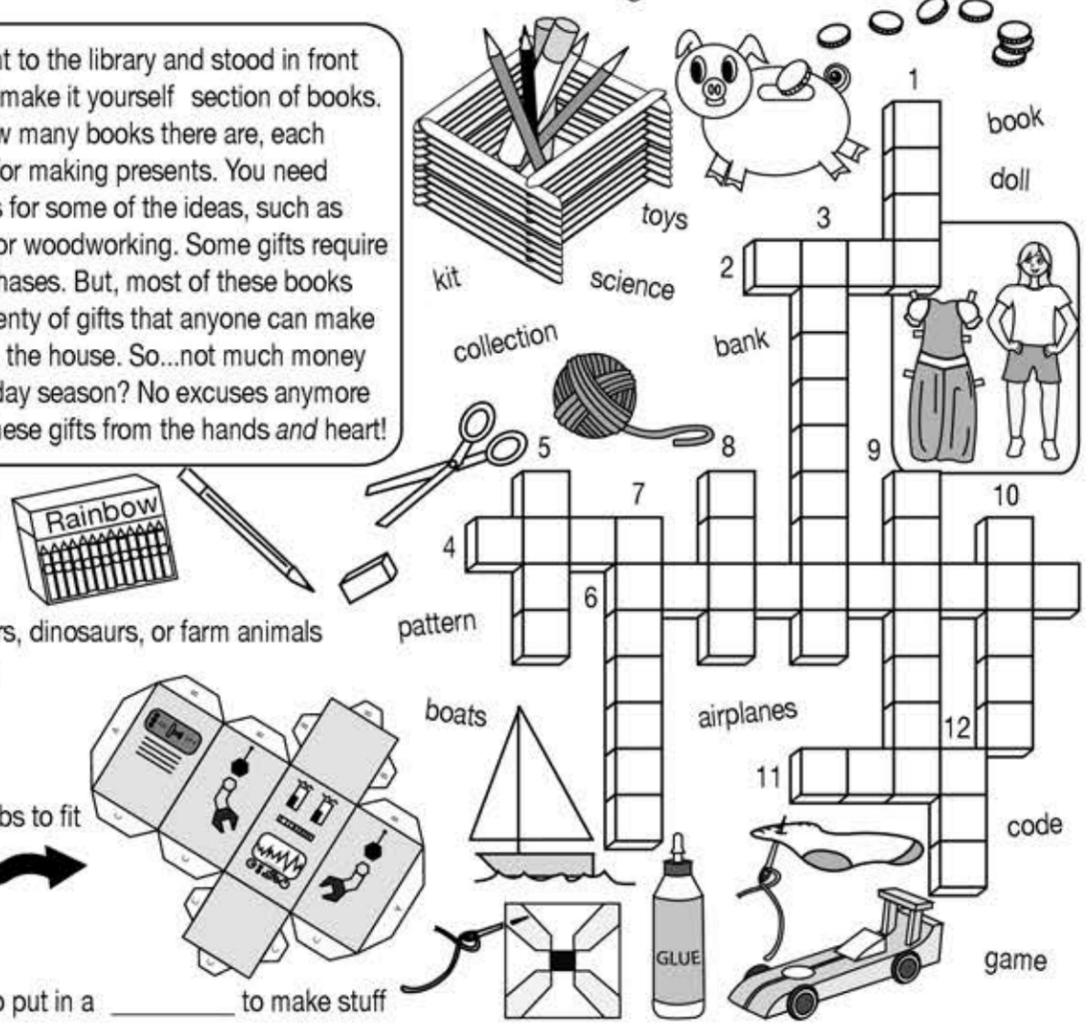
Holiday gifts for brothers, sisters and friends are easy and fun to make. Let your imagination soar!

Plan and make your gifts ahead so you won't get crushed in the holiday rush!

Wow! I went to the library and stood in front of the do it and make it yourself section of books. I had no idea how many books there are, each filled with ideas for making presents. You need some basic skills for some of the ideas, such as knitting, sewing or woodworking. Some gifts require a few small purchases. But, most of these books offer ideas for plenty of gifts that anyone can make with stuff around the house. So...not much money for gifts this holiday season? No excuses anymore get to work on these gifts from the hands and heart!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

1. write a mystery and create a secret _____ to solve it
2. design and make a board _____
3. cut, fold, decorate a set of paper _____ to fly
4. put together a box or basket with small _____ in it: cars, dinosaurs, or farm animals
5. cut and draw to make a flip _____ of moving images
6. start a _____: baseball cards, miniatures, badges
7. make a _____ box: a small magnifying glass, items to study yarn, leaf, a dust ball, a rock, a flower
8. draw and cut out a paper _____, make clothes with tabs to fit
9. use a ruler or computer to create a simple _____ that can be folded, made into a toy
10. turn milk cartons into paddle _____ that really float
11. make a _____ be a sport and put a few coins in it
12. gather buttons, old jewelry, ribbons, colored string, etc., to put in a _____ to make stuff



Gifts For Family and Friends

Match the activities in each set to the gifts that will be made.

1. printing, painting, coloring
2. measuring, mixing, baking
3. tying ribbons, gluing beads
4. covering with paper, foil separating sections inside
5. making your own pieces to play with on the board

- A. tic-tac-toe, checkers
- B. decorative hangers
- C. wrapping paper
- D. box to hold change, keys, watches
- E. favorite cookies, candy

1. rubber stamping, inking, gluing glitter
2. painting, personalizing, gluing felt to the bottom
3. writing, promising, helping
4. melting, coloring, scenting wax, dipping string
5. drawing 12 seasonal pictures of times with your family, dates, days

- A. brick book ends
- B. candles
- C. calendar
- D. pop-up cards, writing paper
- E. book with coupons that can be turned in to get extra help with chores



You can make most of these gifts yourself. But, a few require adult supervision... so ask first!

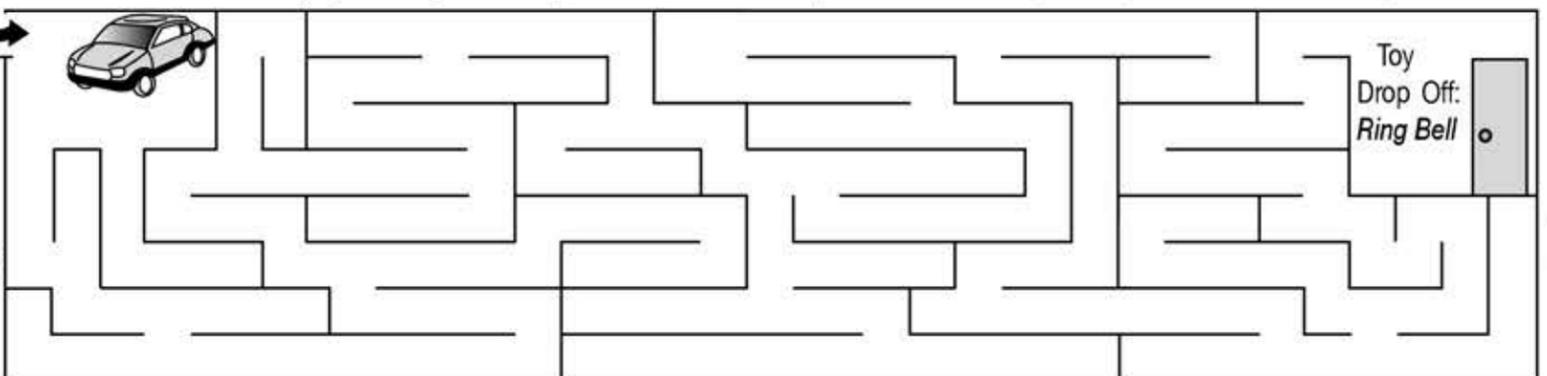
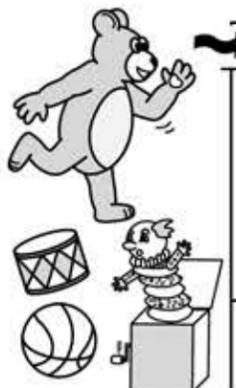


It's always fun to paint something. There are so many things that you can decorate! Fill in the list of items below with letters from the paint palette:

1. b _ rdh _ use
2. fo _ ts _ ool
3. lu _ ch ba _ s
4. gi _ t w _ ap
5. s _ ir _ s
6. _ _ ts
7. _ ode _ s
8. _ nea _ ers
9. s _ o _ es
10. to _ e ba _ s
11. a _ ro _ s
12. s _ hool bo _ es

Toys For Others

Forest and Glade went through their closets and found toys that are in very good shape, but that they do not often play with anymore. They want to donate the toys to a shelter. Can you help Glade deliver their toys?



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO DEC. 6, 2005

An uncharacteristically short Watkins Board of Trustees meeting Nov. 30 lasted all of 20 minutes and included just one resolution and an action item, but still ended with a bang.

Allegations of secret, closed door meetings and collusion between board members and land developers proved to be highly combustible elements, leading to a heated argument between Mayor Russell Corona and Trustee Bob Hastings.

"I would like to know who told our attorney to file motions to dismiss the petitions that the citizens put up, and why it was not put to a vote of the board," Hastings said in his trustee's report. "I definitely see a conflict here. We have no money, and all our fees are being utilized by developers, and it's to the developers' advantage."

"Landowners, Bob. Landowners," Corona corrected, adding that said petitions were considered by the board, which voted to pass the petitions on to town attorneys and recommended "due diligence."

15 YEARS AGO DEC. 7, 2010

BENNETT — A five-year financial plan was presented to trustees Nov. 30 at the Bennett Town Board work-study. Town treasurer Trish Stiles categorized all of the town's funds into five groups: the general fund, road and bridge, Mount View Cemetery, water, and wastewater.

"In 2011, we had a little over [a] 2% decrease in Adams

County property taxes," Stiles said. "We are expecting, in the worst case scenario down the road, a 10% reduction in Adams County for 2012. It would bring our revenues down significantly; however, we're hoping that Love's [Travel Stop] will be on the books at that point."

A 1% increase in property taxes is estimated for Arapahoe County in 2011.

"They kind of felt that residential would remain rather flat (in 2012)," Stiles said. "They think they've seen the worst of it on the Arapahoe County side; however, commercial property would probably take a large hit."

One aspect of the road and bridge fund is street maintenance. According to Stiles, the financial plan doesn't reflect a significant street maintenance program at this time.

10 YEARS AGO DEC. 8, 2015

October and November continued to add to the I-70 Corridor's above-average moisture year and even an abnormally dry December won't keep 2015 from being one of the wettest years in the area's history.

For the year, communities along the I-70 Corridor are between 33 percent and 75 percent of normal on annual moisture.

"I know in our CoCoRahs gauge, we are at 19.19 inches for they year, compared to the area's average of usually around 14 inches," said district conservationist Sammie Molinaro with the Byers office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
SOLUTION ON PAGE 18

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2025. There are 28 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 3, 1984, a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India, causing

an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 deaths and more than 500,000 injuries.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, led

by Dr. Christiaan Barnard, performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the donated organ from a 25-year-old woman who had died in a traffic accident.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where

the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1989, U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev concluded two days of positive bilateral discussions in Malta in a symbolic end to the Cold War.

In 1991, American hostage Alann Steen was freed by Shiite

Muslim extremists in Lebanon. Steen was kidnapped from Beirut University in January 1987.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Daryl Hannah is 65. Actor Julianne Moore is 65. Olympic figure skating gold medalist Katarina Witt is 60.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: DISNEY CHARACTERS

- ACROSS**
- Imperfections
 - Part of T.G.I.F.
 - Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
 - Kind of print, for short
 - Hula dancer's flowers
 - Kitchen tear-jerker
 - Viva voce
 - Draft beer container
 - Confused
 - Irreverent Disney nanny
 - Scar's older brother
 - Famous T-Rex
 - Gardening tool
 - Louisville Slugger
 - Stallion's mate
 - Famous ciphering machine
 - D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
 - Essence
 - Gloomy and drab
 - Containing limestone
 - Scrawny one
 - Purse to match a gown
 - Spot for boutonniere
 - John Oates' partner Daryl
 - Prepare for a rainy day
 - Catch in a snare
 - Rapper LL ___ J
 - ___ Aviv
 - Wholly engrossed
 - Call to Bo Peep
 - Shere Khan's sworn enemy
 - Marie's and Toulouse's younger brother
 - Beneficiary
 - Opposite of nothing
 - Pancho's last name
 - Weasel's aquatic cousin
 - "New" prefix
 - "Like Iago in "Alladin" or Laddy Kluck in "Robin Hood"
 - Karate blow
 - Not safe in baseball
 - Like salad greens

- DOWN**
- Part of an envelope
 - Nani Pelekai's little sister and new pet owner
 - At the summit of
 - Beats, slangily
 - Hypertension sufferer's dietary concern
 - Sorts
 - Driver's aid
 - Fraternity letter
 - Dwarf buffalo
 - Oil field structures
 - Moving meditation practice
 - "___ day now"

CROSSWORD

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70					71				72		73

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- Hurt or upset
- Some tides
- Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's strings
- Take back
- "Beast's love interest
- Bee-related
- Act like a siren
- Macaulay Culkin's "Richie ___"
- Wraths
- Gain access to (2 words)
- Shade of violet
- "a.k.a Little Mermaid
- Ogler
- Angel's headgear
- Geography class prop
- "___ than life"
- Chum
- Immature, as an undeveloped insect
- Baby grand
- Full of pep
- It's drawn to light
- "I'm ___ you!"
- Shed tears
- Soak some ink
- Hipbones
- "I am ___, and I like warm hugs"
- Goofy or silly
- "Leader of the seven dwarfs
- Romanian money

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

Feast of the Taurus Moon

This Taurus moon nudges several planets as she trips through her favorite pleasures -- appetite, touch, color, comfort and the kind of beauty you can taste. Use the energy of this day to dress the table, savor the music, and fall in love again with texture, taste or someone's voice. Even a little luxury feeds the spirit that's been doing so much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Trust your talent. Trust that your intelligence goes far beyond the factual. Trust that what you can talk about is but a sliver of what you really know. As you lean into your brilliance, a magical scene comes together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you stop trying to do it all yourself, the right people appear, each bringing a strength that fits perfectly with yours. You'll get help in ways you couldn't have planned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Like magicians, we all practice a little art of misdirection, drawing eyes toward our shine and away from our flaws. It's not deception. It's survival, and sometimes even generosity. Today, focus on the magic, not the mechanics.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). That buzzkill you know isn't trying to ruin your life. It's just that some people build their sense of virtue from denying themselves joy and policing other people's happiness. Performative morality isn't the same as genuine goodness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Normally, you wouldn't dream of letting someone with inferior skills handle the work you do so well. But how will they learn if they are never given the chance? Sooner or later, delegation will be necessary. Why not now?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You handled a situation in a dignified and mature way. Kudos. It's OK to do the "rage version" to vent, too. That's what private writing is for -- a place where the unsaid, unpretty, unfair parts can get oxygen so they don't rot inside you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Which is better:

when disinterested people say the right thing due to good manners and social intelligence, or when curious, caring and socially awkward people say the wrong thing? You'll give a pass to those with good intentions

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not chasing attention. You give attention, and you give it generously. Pointing out what's cool about the people around you is like a hobby to you. Funny thing is, the more you do that, the more you glow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Expectation will change the game today, especially in how you perceive and participate in a relationship. If you go in expecting delight, you'll notice more delight. If you go in expecting irritation, every quirk will feel like sandpaper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With a little more order, everyone has a better experience. That's part of why people love being near you. Your calm steadiness sets the tone. Keep tending your systems; they're what bring out your best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll answer a call of duty. The tasks required of you won't be difficult. The hardest part will be juggling these new elements in with what you've already got going on. This can work. And whatever gets dropped, you can come back to it later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Reminders: You're playing the long game. You're learning how things work. There are many moving parts in the venture. You're aware, and that's what counts. New awareness equals new possibilities.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3). Welcome to your Year of Brilliant Alignment. Your talent matches the job, and the pay matches the lifestyle you aspire to. The love relationship falls right in with mutual goals. More highlights: A chance encounter leads to a partnership that multiplies your influence and resources. More highlights: financial freedom through invention; home harmony; and laughter that heals. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 11, 28, 37 and 23.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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Executive Director – East Central BOCES

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

Preferred Qualifications:

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

Key Skills:

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

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

Application Instructions:

To apply visit: www.ecboces.org

Do not contact BOCES district administrators or board members directly.

Required Application Materials:

- Letter of Interest
- Completed Application
- Current Resume
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Unofficial College Transcript
- Copy of Current Administrator License

Jason Westfall, Executive Director, ECBOCES
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Come Join Our Team!

Byers School District 32-J

is now accepting applications for a:

Secondary Math Teacher/Math Interventionist

This position will be for Geometry and other math courses. The successful candidate will be expected to follow direction from a lead teacher and will report directly to the teacher with support from the principal. The successful candidate must be able to work effectively with other staff and administration. The position will require the candidate to collaborate with the lead teacher during planning time to develop and implement lesson plans. The candidate must be flexible on a day to day basis to best meet the needs of our students. The classroom structure may vary from day to day. This will include co-teaching, running small group sessions and at times instructing students in a separate setting with no direction. This position will address the needs of all levels of students from at-risk to talented and gifted.

Certified application can be found at www.byers32j.k12.co.us under the Human Resources tab on the District page.

Applications should be submitted to:
Byers School District, Attn: Stacy Sondburg,
444 E. Front Street, Byers, CO 80103.

Applications may also be emailed to:
sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us or faxed to 303-822-9592.
For additional information, contact Tom Turrell at
(303) 822-5292 x1111.



Byers School District 32-J
is now accepting
applications for:

**Substitute
Teachers**
\$150/day

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Byers School District 32-J
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- Elementary SPED Teacher •

Certified application is available on the Human Resources page of website, www.byers32j.k12.co.us, under the District tab.

Inquiries should be directed to
Machaela Eymann
at (303) 822-5292 x1113 or
eymann.machaela@byers.k12.co.us.

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Please call today if you have any questions.

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- UNDER CONTRACT** • 7.25 acre investment 1 mi E of Watkins \$450,000
- 470.05 Acres farm land 21 miles E of Byers 1 mi S Hwy 36 \$423,000

View all listings at: ColoradoLandRealty.com
Frank Linnebur, Broker • 303-748-7028 • 800 US Hwy. 36, Byers



PHOTOS BY TINA SUTTON/For The Scout

Fire Prevention Week occurred during early October and Byers Fire Rescue personnel presented fire safety measures to elementary students Oct. 5-11. Above photo Axel Froman from Melissa Hay's second-grade class tries on a firefighter helmet as classmates Zaylee Linnebur and Arya Logan get a chuckle. Below, paramedic/firefighter Brian Fredrickson, Fire Chief Mike Disher, and Lt. Michael Welk do a show-and-tell of firefighting apparatus and equipment for Tina Sutton's fifth-grade class.



TINA SUTTON/For The Scout

Byers elementary and junior high students combined efforts during recent science labs as the older kids demonstrated some various reactions, followed by some hand-on activities with the younger students. Above, Maylie MacLennan, left, Jett Bright, Mace MacLennan and Sydnee Behrens get their hands dirty. Below, Jayden Tirado and Alana Hoyer get directions from junior high students during a Halloween day activity.



TINA ZUFALL/For The Scout

CHUCK WAGON



Rocky Ford Melon Ginger Cocktail

Rocky Ford Melon Ginger Cocktail features refreshing, sweet, juicy cantaloupe grown in the famous Rocky Ford region. It pairs perfectly with zesty ginger, bright lime juice, and a favorite local vodka. A touch of raw honey from Bee Squared Apiaries brings just the right amount of sweetness, while fresh mint adds a cooling finish.

The cocktail is easy to whip up for backyard barbecues, sunset happy hours, or lazy weekend afternoons. Simply blend fresh cantaloupe into a silky puree, then shake it up with vodka, ginger, lime and honey over ice. Strain into a glass, garnish with mint and melon balls, and enjoy the taste of Colorado in every sip.

- Bee Squared Apiaries raw honey
- Cantaloupe puree
- ginger
- lime juice
- local fresh mint leaves (optional)
- Rocky Ford melon
- ice

DIRECTIONS

To make the cantaloupe puree, cut the cantaloupe into chunks and blend either in a food processor or blender until smooth.

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice cubes, then add in vodka and honey. Stir until the honey is dissolved, then add in cantaloupe puree, ginger, lime juice, mint, if using. Muddle the mint gently, add the lid, and shake to mix.

Strain the drink into a serving glass, garnish with mint and melon balls, then sip away.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Proud

ROCKY FORD MELON GINGER COCKTAIL

INGREDIENTS

- vodka

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Remaining Food & Care Cottage Items?

We still have food items from our recent food drive, as well as cozy hats and gloves for the winter months. If your family could use some extra support, please contact our district social worker, Marisa Clifton. She is here to help connect you with these resources.

mclifton@strasburg31j.com

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey

Every two years, the state conducts the important and anonymous Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) to better understand youth health and well-being. In 2023, our district participated with students in grades 6-12 and, this December, we'll be surveying only high school students December 9-12. The survey takes less than a school period to complete. If you'd prefer your child not participate, please contact the SHS front office for an opt-out form. For more information, join us at **6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4**, in the Central Services Building.



Holiday Assistance & Donations

For Children's Gifts:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCywLI_MckGHcRh302jPw75Y-Geq32e6I_ddZ0gynQGpiDrEw/viewform

To "Adopt A Family:"

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH--ckF0ptxFhjcox8VofL3Ne9IX-ZnVcjrIvaA_yUYCew6w/viewform

(Fillable Online Forms)

AS REQUIRED by state law (House bill 25-1250), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is making gun violence prevention material publicly available for educational providers to access and distribute to parents, guardians, and legal custodians of elementary or secondary school students.

Visit letstalkgunscolorado.com/gun-owners/safe-gun-storage-options/.

Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms

Colorado law requires firearm owners to report a lost or stolen firearm to a local law enforcement agency within five days of discovering the loss or theft. Reporting these incidents promptly gives law enforcement a head start (and may even help you recover your firearm). Read more at cbi.colorado.gov/sites/cbi/files/Firearm%20113.pdf.

The 988 Colorado Mental Health Line

If you or someone you know is struggling with an emotional, mental health, or substance use concern, call or text 988 or chat with 988 at 988colorado.com.

Data Highlights

49% of firearm deaths in youth ages 10-18 in Colorado are by suicide.

one in three Colorado middle and high school students report they can get a firearm, with many of them able to do so in under 10 min.

The 988 Colorado Mental Health Line is available for free, immediate, human support 24/7.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Extreme Risk Protection Orders are a legal tool that can help decrease firearm-related suicide and violence. Other tools include safe gun storage, voluntary out-of-home gun storage when someone is experiencing a crisis, and mental health and substance use treatment services. Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are issued by judges to temporarily limit access to firearms for individuals considered at risk of harming themselves or others. Learn more at letstalkgunscolorado.com/extreme-risk-protection-orders/.

Colorado Firearm Laws and Regulations

Both the federal government and Colorado have laws about who can legally get, own, or use firearms. These laws also help keep communities safe from firearm-related harm. Find more information on the laws currently in place in Colorado by visiting cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-gun-violence-prevention-resource-bank/colorado-firearm-laws-and-regulations and cbi.colorado.gov/sections/firearms-instatecheck-unit/firearm-legislation-rules-and-statutes.

December Dates of Note!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 HMS Basketball @ Academy of Charter Schools	4 DAC Mtg. 4:45 p.m. Central Services SHS Parent Night, 6 p.m., Central Services	5 SHS Girls & Boys BB Merino @ Home (6pk) SHS Girls Wrestling @ Greeley West	6 SHS Cheer @ James Irwin SHS Girls Wrestling @ Home SHS Boys Wrestling @ Golden
7	8 HMS Boys BB Home Tourney School Board Mtg. 6 pm, Central Services	9 HMS BB Agate @ Home SHS Boys BB @ Prospect Ridge Secondary Concert, 6 p.m., Mountain View	10 SHS Girls & Boys Wrestling Sterling @ Home	11 State Spirit HMS Boys BB Fitzsimmons @ Home SES Winter Concert, 6 p.m., Mountain View	12 SHS Wrestling @ Montrose SHS Basketball @ Simla Holiday Tournament	13 SHS Wrestling @ Montrose SHS Basketball @ Simla Tournament HMS BB @ Byers
14	15 HMS Boys Basketball @ Agate	16 HS Girls & Boys Basketball Bennett @ Home	17 SES Culture Night SHS Boys Wrestling @ Ft. Morgan	18 SHS Girls & Boys Basketball @ Sterling.	19 SHS Wrestling @ Christmas Tourney, Greeley SHS Girls BB @ Byers (C Team)	20 SHS Wrestling @ Christmas Tournament, Greeley
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
-----WINTER BREAK (NO SCHOOL THRU JAN. 5)-----						
28	29	30	31			
-----WINTER BREAK (NO SCHOOL THRU JAN. 5)-----						