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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 7

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

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Adult male shot, killed north of Strasburg

Three others wounded but alive following overnight, early Sunday morning incident



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Above, as of 4 p.m. Jan. 11, Adams County Sheriff's units remain on scene of a deadly shooting about 12 miles north of Strasburg about 2 a.m. that morning. Below, multiple areas of the property are marked off by crime tape.



by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — A quiet overnight for Strasburg residents and neighbors further north was abruptly interrupted by law enforcement vehicle sirens during a response to reports of an early morning shooting Jan. 11, which resulted in one dead and three others injured.

Just before 2 a.m. Sunday the Adams County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a shooting at a residence north of 96th Ave and Strasburg Road. Upon arrival in the 9700 block of South Defoe Street, deputies located one adult male with gunshot wounds. He was later pronounced deceased.

Three additional individuals with gunshot wounds were located and treated at local hospitals. The ages, gender and health status of the wounded trio was not updated by press time Sunday evening.

An Adams County Sheriff's spokesman said the deceased's identity won't be released until the Adams County Coroner's Office notifies next of kin. At press time, the sheriff's office was

also being tight-lipped surrounding the circumstances that led up to the shootings.

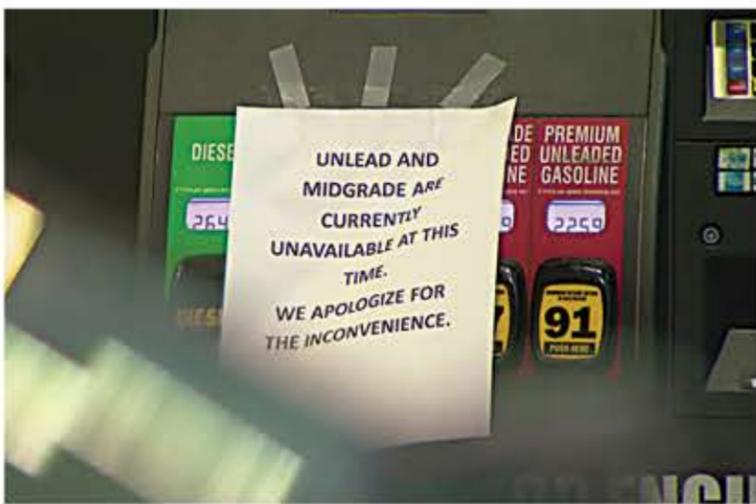
"Detectives are actively investigating the incident and interviewing witnesses," said Sgt. Shea Haney, the public information officer for the Adams County Sheriff's Office. "Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Adams County Sheriff's Office at (720)322-1313."

No suspects were reportedly in custody following the incident.

At approximately 4 p.m. Sunday, sheriff's vehicles and several areas cordoned off by crime tape were still visible at the scene.

A number of online social media posts claimed that up to 50 law enforcement or emergency vehicles blared their sirens en route. Eyewitness accounts from neighbors in the area said counting the number of units responding became too tedious of a task because there were so many.

"But the glare from the lights could be seen a couple miles away," one resident in the area said. "Really unnerving being awakened from a sound slumber."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jan. 8 signage informs gas customers at approximately 20 metro fueling stations, including the Bennett King Soopers, about diesel-contaminated gas that was inadvertently put into unleaded distribution tanks between 2 a.m. Jan. 6 and 6 a.m. the following morning.

Bennett grocery store among recipients of contaminated gas

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Last week's reports of approximately 20, or more, metro gas stations selling fuel contaminated with diesel included the most eastern location of Colorado King Soopers stores in Bennett.

While a specific list of impacted Costco and Murphy Express stores were not published by press time, King Soopers released a twice-edited list of 13 stores that received the contaminated gas from a Sinclair terminal in Hudson mostly between 2 p.m. Jan. 7 and 6 a.m. Jan. 8. Among the King Soopers stores impacted was the Bennett fuel station.

SEE CONTAMINATED GAS
PAGE 20



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Kelver Library in Byers hosted a Whimsical Penguins paint party Jan. 6 to kick off the new year of special youth craft programs. Deborah Burcham from Aurora-based Doodles & Hues provided the wintery canvas along with easy, step-by-step instructions on how to paint the voids in the aquatic, flightless birds. Above Gracelynn Hicks picks up more paint for her masterpiece. SEE PAGE 6.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

'Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan monthly potluck Jan. 20

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Strasburg Community Center, 56423 Westview Ave.

Angie Graff from the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will speak about new facilities within the district.

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

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

Family center's annual mtg, boutique planned in January

BYERS — The Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains will hold its annual board meeting starting at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at the center at 228 W. Front St., Byers.

The meeting is open to the public. Participation is encouraged.

The January monthly open boutique will run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24. Visitors should enter through the front door to register before they shop for their little ones from a selection of baby to size 6 clothing, shoes, coats, diapers and more.

For more information, call (303)822-9368.

Bennett meeting planned on road bond, annexation

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett will host a public meeting for input on the future of roads and growth from 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Bennett Community Center.

This meeting will center on a road bond proposal under consideration by the Board of Trustees in terms of maintenance and improvement of Bennett's transportation infrastructure.

Representatives from the Colorado Department of Transportation will attend to provide insight into regional transportation coordination and state-level considerations.

In addition, the town planners will

discuss the annexation process within the Town of Bennett and how annexations work under the Town's 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

Ag & Food Lab presentation slated for biz org luncheon

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at May Farms, Byers.

Representatives from the Ag & Food Lab in Denver will speak, and May Farms will sponsor lunch.

For more information and to RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday, Jan. 16. Space is limited.

Farm succession, retirement planning topic of workshop

FORT MORGAN — The Morgan County Conservation District will host a workshop on farm operation and succession planning from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, at Drover's Culinary Café, 28601 U.S. Highway 34, Brush.

Jeffrey Tranel, Agricultural & Business Management Specialist with Colorado State University Extension, will discuss the transfer of a farm business to the next generation, plans for retirement, and estate plans.

In his workshops, Tranel works with families to find solutions to their unique situations. He focuses on family communications, the four pillars of a lasting legacy, and goals for future generations.

The cost is \$25 per person. Dinner is included.

Registration is required by Tuesday, Jan. 20.

To RSVP, call Madeline at (970)427-3358 or (720)361-6418 or e-mail to morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com.

Senior excursion to U.S. Mint planned by Burg Parks & Rec

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, on a senior excursion to the U.S. Mint.

The cost is \$5. 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.

Indians Youth Cheer Clinic scheduled from Jan. 26-31

STRASBURG — The Strasburg High School Cheer Squad will host the Indians Youth Cheer Clinic for boys and girls age 4 through the sixth grade from Monday through Saturday, Jan. 26-31.

The clinic will run every weekday from 3:45-5:45 p.m. except Wednesday, Jan. 28. On Saturday, Jan. 31, the participants will perform at the Strasburg basketball games against Skyview.

The early registration fee is \$65 per participant or \$70 at the door.

For more information, contact Stephanie at speabody@strasburg31j.com.

Adopt-A-Pole assistance sought for 2026 holidays

STRASBURG — With 2025 concluding, the Strasburg Lighting Crew is seeking donations for the 2026 Adopt-A-Pole program.

Anyone can adopt as many poles as they like at \$20 each with contributions funding decorations for Christmas 2026.

Each year, volunteers donate time, talents and equipment to repair, rebuild and create lighting and ground scenes to be placed on the first Saturday of December. The improvements include replacement of old lights with LED bulbs.

Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 14, Strasburg, Colo. 80136 or dropped off at Western Hardware.

Golden Plains Extension sets seminar on calving, calf care

BURLINGTON — Golden Plains Area Extension will host a calving and calf care clinic from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Kit Carson

County Fairgrounds in Burlington.

Dr. Kathy Whitman, a Colorado State University Extension veterinarian, will lead the producer education program, which will cover dystocia management, neonatal calf health, epidurals, and colostrum and stressed calves.

Visitors will participate in hands-on activities involving calving simulators.

To register, visit goldenplains.extension.colostate.edu.

For more information, call Extension Specialist Scott Stinnett at (719)346-5571.

Wildlife agency opens roster for special mgmt bison hunts

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife is now accepting hunter registrations for the bison roster, a list that would be used if special management licenses are needed to manage wild bison that roam into the state.

Under Senate Bill 25-053, free-roaming, wild bison that naturally enter Colorado are managed as a big-game species by CPW.

While the agency is not proposing regular bison hunting seasons, it may issue special licenses on a case-by-case basis for time-sensitive needs, such as prevention of property or agricultural damage.

Hunters interested in the chance to receive one of these special licenses may sign up for the bison roster for 2026 through Jan. 31.

For information, call (303)297-1192.

To register, visit cpw.state.co.us.

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6	3	5	8	2	9	7	1	4
2	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	9
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1	9	6	2	5	3	4	8	7
3	7	2	4	9	8	5	6	1

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The I-70 Scout

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY



MLK DAY
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All County offices will be closed **Monday, Jan. 19** in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

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Cottage Foods Producers



ARAPAHOE COUNTY COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Cottage Food Safety
Learn food safety guidelines and specifics of operating a cottage food business from a home kitchen. The next online class will be held Jan. 23, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Register now at <https://bit.ly/CSUCottageFoods>



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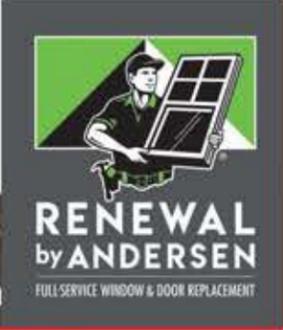
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Pesticide permit classes planned

BURLINGTON — In early 2024, the Colorado Department of Agriculture made a change for private pesticide licensing.

Private pesticide applicators required to take licensing tests or retests must now test at a proctored testing site. All seven credits needed to re-certify a private pesticide license will be offered at the events.

Registration for both commercial and private pesticide testing can be accomplished by accessing Metro Institute, a computer-based testing scheduler, at www.metroinstitute.com. Once the date and location are scheduled, arrive at the test site early and begin the check-in process.

The private pesticide test remains an open book exam, while commercial pesticide testing continues to be closed-book.

In addition, Colorado State University Extension is hosting Private Pesticide Recertification sessions at various locations in northeast Colorado. Anyone who purchases restricted-use pesticides must have a Private Pesticide Applicator license from the Colo-

rado Department of Agriculture. New licenses are active for three years before renewal is required. Renewal can be achieved by retaking the exam at a proctored site or attending a recertification session. The recertification sessions offer seven core credits that can be substituted for re-taking the exam and qualify for private pesticide license renewal.

CSU Extension will host various private pesticide license recertification meetings beginning Feb. 10 and continuing into March. Meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. each day:

- Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Julesburg. Contact Catie Green at (970)474-3479.
- Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Burlington. Contact Ron Meyer at (719)346-5571. Zoom option available at this site.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Akron. Contact Kat Caswell at (970)400-2095.

Preregistration is mandatory. Cost is \$60 per person plus fees. To RSVP, visit www.eventbrite.com.

King Soopers offers produce discounts to customers on government assistance

by Andrea Teres-Martinez
Sky-Hi-News

Kroger's new addition to its savings program offers discounts on fruits and vegetables for customers enrolled in various government assistance programs through Jan. 31.

The company's Verified Savings program is offering a 20% discount on fresh produce to recipients of federal aid programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, National School Lunch Program, Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, & the Women, Infants & Children program, according to a news release from Kroger.

Carlo Baldan, Kroger group vice president of fresh merchandising, said in the release that the purpose of the program is to expand access to fresh food through improved affordability — part of the company's "mission to end hunger."

To receive the discount, eligible



SUBMITTED PHOTO

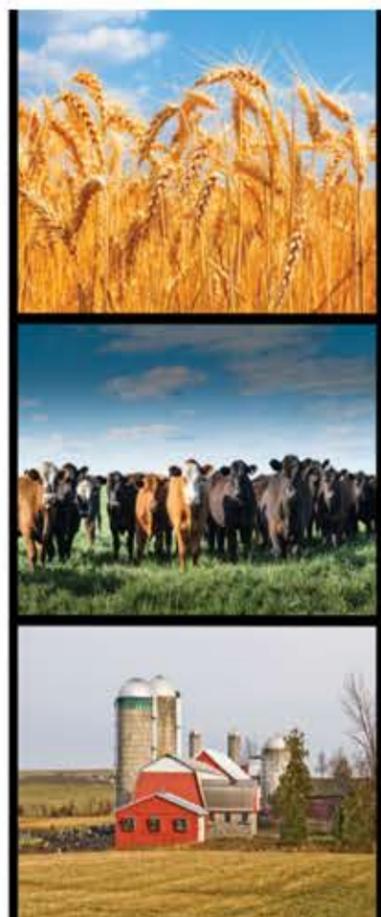
Kroger's new addition to its savings program offers discounts on fruits and vegetables for customers enrolled in government food assistance.

Kroger customers must sign up online using SheerID, a verification service. The verification must be renewed every five months.

The new discount is valid across all Kroger stores, including King Soopers and City Market, through the use of a Kroger digital account. Savings are valid on all fruit and vegetable purchases through Jan. 31, according to the release.

Kroger is the largest grocery store chain in Colorado, with over 150 locations statewide. The company's unsuccessful \$25 billion merger deal with Albertsons in 2024 put the grocery giant's pricing strategy under the limelight, which included charging more for groceries in several of Colorado's Western Slope locations.

Prior reporting by the *Vail Daily* found that customers in rural mountain towns with fewer grocery alternatives were charged more for the same Kroger products, which the company said was due to the higher fuel and labor costs required to transport groceries across the mountains.



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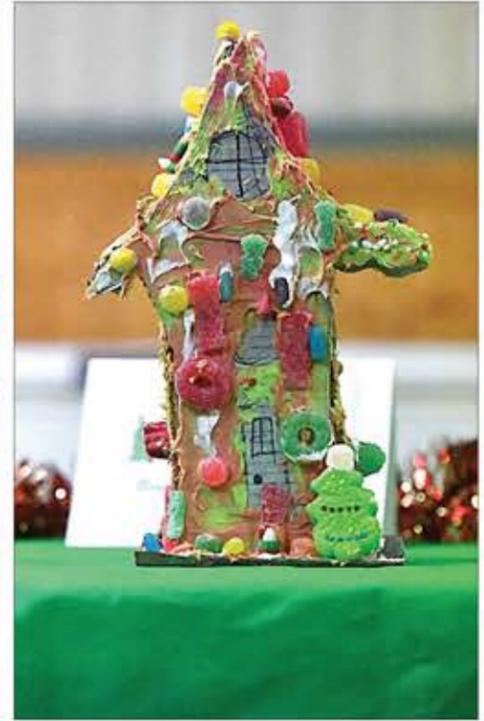
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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Christmas Night in Strasburg festivities Dec. 6 included a display of holiday gingerbread houses and other treats at the Denver East KOA campground that were made by various Strasburg Elementary classes. Visitors had the opportunity to vote for their favorite entries. Winners were unavailable.

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION
TOWN OF BENNETT, COLORADO**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Bennett, Colorado, has determined that the work on the Kiowa-Bennett TIP Trail Improvements Project (Contract No. 25-005), performed by HCG Construction LLC, 383 S. Inverness Parkway #100, Englewood, CO 80112, has been substantially completed.

The date of substantial completion is December 22, 2025.

Pursuant to §§ 24-91-103 and 38-26-107, C.R.S., all persons having claims for labor, materials, equipment, or other services furnished to HCG Construction LLC or its subcontractors in connection with the above-named project must file such claims with the Town of Bennett at the address below within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Claims not filed within this period shall be forever barred.

Claims shall be filed at:
Town of Bennett
Attn: Director of Finance
207 Muegge Way
Bennett, CO 80102

Final settlement will be made not sooner than sixty (60) days following the first publication of this Notice, and then only if no claims have been filed pursuant to law.

Dated this 26th day of December 2025.

TOWN OF BENNETT, COLORADO

By: _____
Title: Director of Finance

#3166
Published in the *Eastern Colorado News* on Fridays, Dec. 26, 2025, and Jan. 2, 9 and 16, 2026, and in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, Dec. 31, 2025, and Jan. 7, 14 and 21, 2026.

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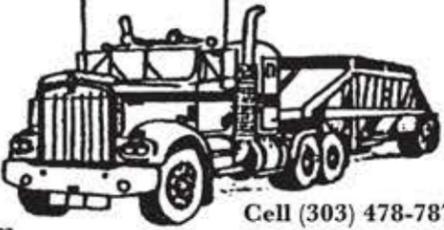
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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Kelver Library in Byers hosted a Whimsical Penguins paint party Jan. 6 to kick off the new year of special youth craft programs. Deborah Burcham from Aurora-based Doodles & Hues provided the wintery canvas along with easy, step-by-step instructions on how to paint the voids in the aquatic, flightless birds. Above, Burcham demonstrates techniques to fill in color without going outside the lines. Below, Rhiannon McKnight puts the finishing touches on one of her penguins.



CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, JAN. 15**
Bennett third-grade concert. 6 p.m., high school auditorium.
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.
- FRIDAY, JAN. 16**
Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.
Free lunch for military veterans, law enforcement officers, and senior citizens age 65 and older. 12 p.m., Bennett VFW.
- SATURDAY, JAN. 17**
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.
Bennett Arts Council Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m., Bennett Town Hall Community Room.
- MONDAY, JAN. 19**
East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.
Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers School boardroom.
- TUESDAY, JAN. 20**
Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21**
Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.
Bennett fourth-grade concert. 6 p.m., high school auditorium.

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Lavaughn Richter



Lavaughn G. Richter, age 88, of Strasburg, Colo., went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Dec. 14, 2025. Lavaughn was born to Gladys and Cecil Cook on Dec. 6, 1937 on the family farm just outside of Turpin, Okla. Years later they moved to Liberal, Kan., where her baby sister Fran was born. The family then moved to a farm southeast of Strasburg in 1950 when she was 12 years old. Lavaughn was a very conscientious and active student in elementary through high school, participating in a variety of activities including cheerleading, choir and student council. She graduated from Strasburg High School in 1955 and attended one year of college at Colorado University. She married the love of her life, Wm. Bruce Richter, on April 7, 1957. In the coming years, the Lord blessed them with 3 children, Annette, Jeffrey and Lynette. Lavaughn was also a dedicated church member serving in different capacities including choir director for the Jr. High group lovingly known as "The Steeple People." She loved music and was an accomplished pianist. Although Lavaughn held various jobs outside the home — secretary, dress shop manager and manager of the "Strasburg Thrift Store" for 17 years (now known as the Conoco station), her favorite and most important jobs were wife and Mom. As her children grew, the Richter home was often the gathering place for her children's activities and all their friends as many of them referred to her as their Second Mom. She also acquired the new title of "pastor's wife" as her husband Bruce began his calling as an ordained minister. She fit this job perfectly as she and Bruce loved on the residents of the nursing homes that Bruce preached at each week. As her children grew, married and began their own families, Lavaughn acquired a new job title that she adored... that of "Grandma." According to all her grandchildren, it was a job at which she excelled. And as one good turn deserves another and a new generation began arriving, she put the "Great" in Great Grandma as well.

Lavaughn's deep devotion to God and love for her family was evident every day of her life. Hers was a life spent focused on others — loving, uplifting, encouraging, supporting, sharing, accepting, inspiring — if you knew Lavaughn, you were blessed!

Lavaughn is survived by her sister, Fran Cline; sister-in-law, Marian Bryan; daughter, Annette Thurman; son, Jeff (Nancy) Richter; daughter, Lynette (Dean) Miller; grandchildren, Myranda (Michael) Maughan, Melyssa (Doug) Robinson, Meghynn Harrington, Whitney Richter (Sanford Hedger), Jared (Amber) Richter, Toryn (Luke) Greener, Elijah Miller, and Joshua Miller; great grandchildren Emily (Zach) Anguiano, Olivia Maughan, Camdyn Robinson, Gunnar Robinson, Ayden Harrington, Josephine Greener, Miriam Greener, Arch Greener, Maddox Duncan and Ava Miller.

Lavaughn was preceded in death by her cherished husband of 64 years, Bruce Richter; parents Cecil and Gladys Cook; in-laws Bill and Vera Richter; and son-in-law Rick Thurman.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Strasburg Community Church, 56155 Sunset Ave.

The family invites guests to wear red in memory of Lavaughn. This is not required, but a way to honor her love of this color and celebrate her life.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE NO. PF25-006, COPPERLEAF FILING NO. 32 / FINAL PLAT

PROPOSAL: Replat of Pads 4 and 5, Copperleaf Filing No 31, to create Pads 1 and 2, Block 1, Copperleaf Filing No. 32. The new pad sites will be 1.132 acres (Pad 1) and 0.600 acres (Pad 2) in size.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 3, 2026 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. PF25-006, Copperleaf Filing No. 32 / Final Plat. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026.

Shirley Howard



Shirley Ann Howard — beloved wife, mother, daughter, gram, sister, aunt and friend — passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family on Jan. 4 at the age of 83.

Shirley was born on Jan. 26, 1942, in Sydney, Mont., to William Homer and Dorothy Ann Goodwin. Her family moved to Evans, Colo., in 1959 and, soon after, settled in Bennett in 1968. Bennett would remain her lifelong home base even though she moved to Aurora, Colo., for a short time. She loved the small town feeling and never wanted anything more. Growing up,

she was the Step-in Mom for her siblings and cherished every moment watching her siblings grow and becoming good people.

Shirley met her husband, James, in 1958, and they were soon married in 1959 in beautiful Montana. Their love has stood the test of time and the loyalty they shared was unbreakable. They shared the love of children and living the best life they could. Watkins became their final home where they built a comfortable place with lots of open space for walks and peaceful nights. Shirley dedicated most of her career life to Aerospace with OEA Inc., managing the explosives division and space shuttle projects. She was loved and respected by all of her colleagues and met many interesting people from all over the world as well as learned of the foods from all of their cultures. She truly loved being a part of this ever so challenging industry and stayed with them until the end. She then moved on to the Auto Auction business and loved all of her coworkers as well as the exciting environment.

Family was everything to Shirley as she learned at a young age to care for siblings. She was the oldest of eleven siblings: Roger, Sharon, Bob, Quentin, Chopper, Scott, Gary, Lois and Donna. She was cherished by her entire family as the matriarch of the family, the caregiver, the one to turn to that was always there with a hug, a smile and the perfect words of encouragement. In 1960, she welcomed a daughter, Brenda, and then went on to add her two sons: Marty in 1961 and Guy in 1962. Her and James then adopted my sister Sandy and they became a loving family of 6. She and James shared a love of all things outside that provided many lake and camping trips with lots of boating and fishing. She also had an extraordinary talent for sewing and made many of the kid's clothing as well as blankets and pillows and barbie doll clothes. She loved planting flowers in the front yard for everyone to see and loved her front porch time with the grandchildren. She loved family time more than anything and cherished her shopping sprees with her girls and doing art work and board games with the grandsons. She is so loved and adored by her family.

Shirley was the Mrs. Claus to Santa for every joyous family Christmas and loved this as it was always one of her brothers in the Santa suit so they had lots of fun! She has collected angels, pins and crosses throughout her life and later took on crocheting blankets and scarves for everyone.

Her love for life, family, children, animals and Jesus Christ was beyond comparable. Her love for her beloved husband, James shines bright still today after 67 years. He was always the light of her life and the love in her heart. Shirley was the family rock, the caregiver, the foundation of the Goodwin and the Howard family and a safe place for all. She leaves behind a sincere and unwavering legacy rooted in love, patience and grace and will be forever deeply missed by all.

She is survived by her husband, James Howard; children Brenda, Marty and Guy; grandchildren Jamie, Lindsay, Brittany, Cody and Heidi; great grandchildren Lauren, Tristan, Karsten, Kayne, Kaveyan, Tyler, Aspen, Michelle, Bryonna, Abigail and Willow; three great great grandchildren John, Joseph and Layla. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Dorothy Goodwin; brothers Roger, Bob, Chopper; sisters, Sharon and Pat; daughter, Sandra Kay and granddaughter, Tonya.

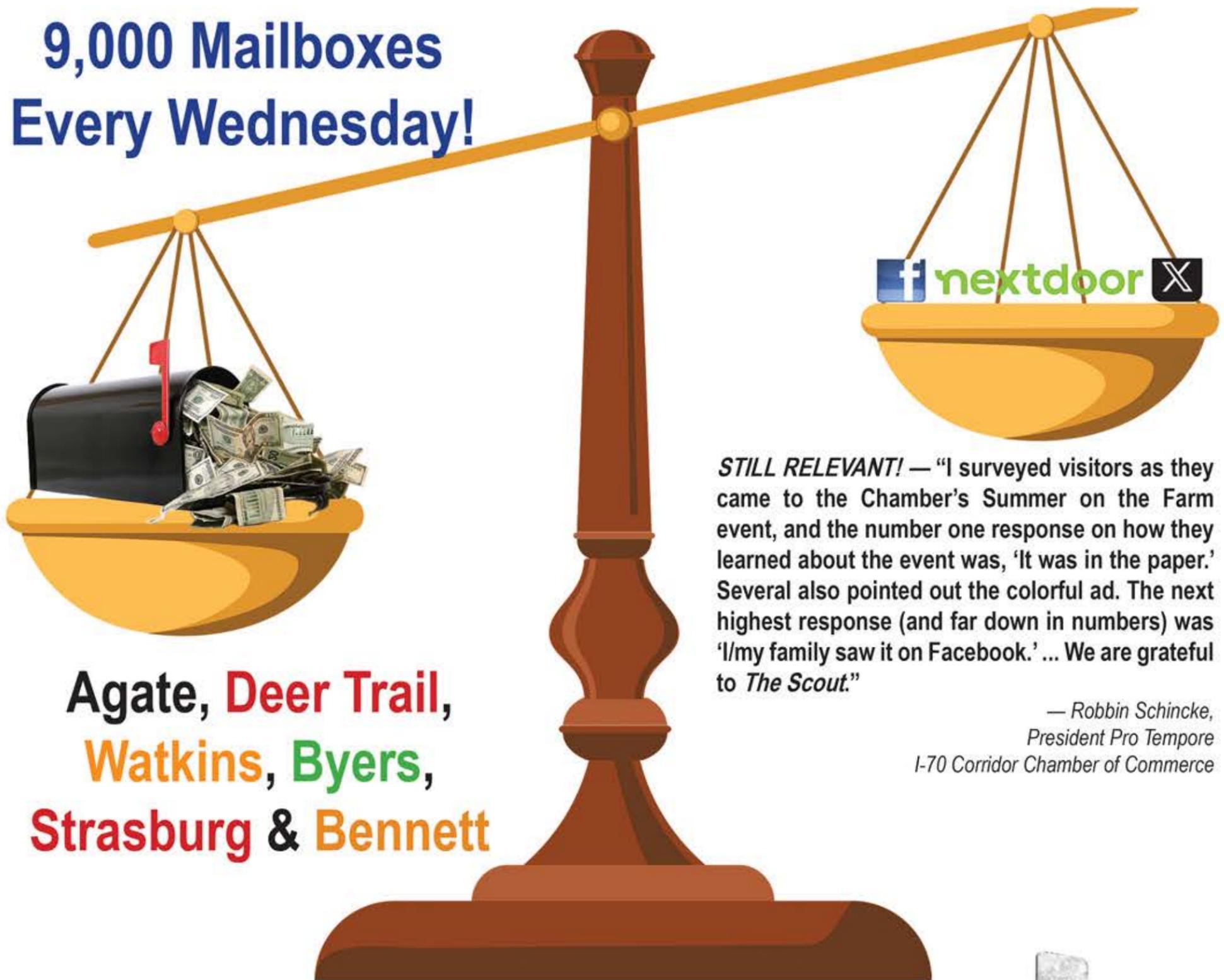
Shirley's favorite quotes were: "Don't worry, be happy." or "Nice day, probably rain." Sitting and holding hands with her husband was her favorite past time.

Services will be held Saturday, Jan. 17, at Mountain View Fellowship, 1955 Headlight Road, Strasburg. Viewing is at 10 a.m. with memorial service to follow at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions can be made to Rocky Mountain Cancer Center by making donations online to Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation.

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

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

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Gov seeks merger of higher education, labor departments

by **Jason Gonzales**
Chalkbeat Colorado

A plan from Colorado's governor would shut down Colorado's higher education department and create a new agency that would merge the functions of the state's higher education, labor and other departments in a bid to strengthen workforce development.

A report commissioned by Democratic Gov. Jared Polis and released Dec. 9 recommends that Colorado create a new Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development. The proposed department would take over certain programs and responsibilities from seven different state departments with the

goal to boost economic development and education beyond high school.

The merger is similar to what several Republican governors have done in their states. It would unite the higher education department, the state's workforce development council, the state apprenticeship agency, and adult education. At the federal level, President Donald Trump has moved some functions of the U.S. Department of Education dealing with career and technical education and K-12 to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The announcement, marked by a press event at the Colorado State University Spur, comes a week after Colorado Department of Higher Educa-

tion Executive Director Angie Paccione said she was leaving her post after seven years. Paccione, who attended the event, said family matters contributed to her decision to leave the position in January.

Polis, whose term as governor will end next year, said he wants lawmakers to file a bill in the upcoming legislative session to begin a process that he said will likely finish with the state's next governor in 2027. Lawmakers will need to approve the relocation of programs under the consolidated department's purview.

"This kind of consolidation drives better efficiency, better results, and is more consumer friendly to learners," Polis said.

Colorado House Speak-

er Julie McCluskie, a Dillon Democrat, said lawmakers will focus on how to build this new department.

"We want to make sure the folks that are the experts in running these programs and services, and certainly the leaders of these departments, have an opportunity to weigh in and how we move different pieces to a brand new department," McCluskie said.

Polis signed an executive order in May tasking various state agencies, including the higher education, education, labor and economic development departments, with producing the report that analyzes the current system of talent development and to find ways to improve Coloradans' access to employment,

education and training opportunities.

Polis has pushed for this type of change for years, and state lawmakers have commissioned other reports that say the state can do more to help residents get an education and then into the workforce.

Polis said the proposal crosses political boundaries and would help propel Colorado to the top in terms of economic competitiveness.

"I think that it's an idea that good governors from either side of the aisle can get behind working with their legislature," he said. "It's fundamentally about streamlining. It's about more efficiency."

SEE CDHE CLOSURE?
PAGE 10

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TOWN OF BENNETT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

TOWN OF BENNETT TO HOLD MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Town of Bennett will conduct an election on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. The 2026 Town Board election ballot will list the positions of three (3) Trustee seats. All available seats are for a four-year term.



Nomination Petitions will be available at the Town Clerk's office beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and must be returned to the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026. Petitions may be picked up during this time Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 207 Muegge Way. Only petitions obtained directly from the Town Clerk's office may be circulated. **Blank petition forms may not be copied for the purpose of obtaining additional signatures or to give to other candidates. Petition forms from the Town Clerk's office may NOT be disassembled.** Each candidate must turn in all of his/her petitions at one time.

Every registered elector 18 years of age or older may be a candidate for office, if he/she has resided within the Town for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. Residency within an area annexed to the Town shall count towards the residency requirements in the Town.

Nomination petitions require a minimum of 10 signatures. Each signer must be a registered elector residing within the Town limits. No registered elector shall sign more than one nomination petition for each separate office to be filled.

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming election and who have not registered to vote must do so on or before Election Day. Persons may register to vote, if living in Adams County at the Adams County Motor Vehicle Office, 355 South 1st Street in Bennett; and if living in Arapahoe County at the county offices at 5334 South Prince Street in Littleton or Arapahoe County Motor Vehicle Office, 538 N. Highway 36, Byers, CO 80103. Persons may also register to vote online at govotecolorado.com

If you have questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 303-644-3249 ext. 1001 or bennettco.gov

Christina Hart
Town Clerk

#3167

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and 21, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Jan. 16.

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Gov. Jared Polis speaks about a new report that recommends moving the higher education department and other workforce programs into a new department Dec. 10 at the CSU Spur campus in Denver.

Church Directory

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

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

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

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
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303-822-9366 • mttaborbyers.org

Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

CDHE CLOSURE? FROM PAGE 9

It's about driving better results for learners."

Several other states have taken similar approaches.

For example, South Carolina passed a state law in 2023 to develop a state-wide plan to get industry and education partners working under one set of standards to improve educational and workforce connections.

And Virginia created an Office of Education Economics in 2021 that seeks to use data to help improve educational programming, policy and workforce partnerships.

However, the Colorado report's recommendations are similar to what's occurred in Missouri, which began to merge its higher education and workforce development offices in 2018 into a Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development.

The Missouri department's Commissioner Bennett Boggs said the change helped employers and colleges and universities work together more comprehensively. But it also came with challenges, he said. State leaders must adjust traditional structures, like semester schedules, to be more flexible to employers' demands, he said.

"It's a healthier conversation in terms of economic development, workforce development, and helping Missourians," said Boggs, who previously worked as the higher education department's deputy executive director in Colorado. "Our mission is putting Missourians on a pathway to learn, work and prosper."

The report Polis released Dec. 9 says too few Coloradans are getting the education they need to get higher-paying jobs.

Currently, only half of all Colorado high school graduates make it to college, the report says. Even fewer graduate college or get the training they need for higher skilled jobs. Older adults have needed more help navigating training or retraining options.

The report says automation and artificial intelligence has driven the need for employees to gain new skills, and the state's workforce has started to age. These realities mean Colorado will need even more trained workers to fill key jobs. Over 73% of jobs require education after high school, and the report says Colorado is highly educated due to in-migration, but "can no longer rely on importing talent from other states."

The report says Colorado's education and workforce system lacks coordination, shared data and clear accountability. State agencies also have varying grants and inconsistent policies and procedures, the report says, which can create inefficiencies and confusion for administrators.

Educational options beyond a high school diploma are plentiful across the state, the report says. Coloradans can choose between over 300 apprenticeships and 4,500 training programs, as well as over 10,000 degree options.

However, residents have difficulty understanding which programs fit their goals because of the complexity of the system. Business leaders run into similar issues when navigating the system, the report says.

Polis said the confusing system was created over numerous years as the result of "inertia" as economic development offices, state agencies, universities and colleges have reacted to workforce trends. The new department would unify programs to also make the system easier for residents to understand, he said.

Jason Gonzales is a reporter covering higher education and the Colorado legislature. Chalkbeat Colorado partners with Open Campus on higher education coverage. Contact Jason at jgonzales@chalkbeat.org.

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

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SPORTS



Indians still undefeated after return from break

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

PEYTON — Strasburg's aspirations for its first ever 3A boys basketball title remain fully in front of the red-clad troops of head coach Kyle Bollers.

Last year's state runner-ups extended their season-opening win streak to seven games with a 76-54 win at 3A top 10-ranked Peyton in both schools first contest back from the Christmas break Jan. 6.

With the score tied at 14 about six minutes in, Strasburg scored the last six points of the first quarter and won

the second frame 25-12 to go into halftime up 45-26. In a tightly fought second half, Peyton cut the deficit by a point, 61-43, entering the final eight minutes, which Strasburg won 15-11.

"In my opinion the three best public schools in 3A are us, Yuma and Peyton. We had tremendous respect for them," said Bollers of the Panthers, whose only other loss was by three points to Colorado Springs Christian. "They have the exact same starting five they had last year and they were ranked No. 8 in the seeding index going into the game. We knew we were in for a fight."

While the victors stayed right around their season scoring average as a team on 51% shooting from the field and recorded 21 assists on 32 made buckets, Bollers said the game was won on the defensive side of the ball.

"We wanted to make their other guards aside from their outstanding point guard handle the ball. We pressured really well in full court and made them earn every inch offensively," Bollers said. "[Peyton has] two very physical interior players, so controlling the paint and the boards was a priority for us. Defensively it was one of our best efforts of the year. They were held

in the 40s until I subbed my normal rotation guys out, so I was pleased."

Peyton had averaged close to 60 points per game in its half-dozen contests before the holiday break.

On the offensive end, Strasburg shot 24-of-40 (60%) from two-point range and was 8-of-23 (35%) from behind the arc. The Indians were 4-of-6 at the free-throw line.

"We had quality offensive possessions all night and shot very well from the field," Bollers added. "We were also able to exploit their lack of depth in transition and wear them out with our speed."

Four Indians reached double-digit points — junior Brody Hopwood with 20 on 7-of-10 shooting inside the three-point line, 16 for senior Nick Glatfelter, and 10 apiece for seniors Cade Hemphill and Cam Manahan. Glatfelter concluded the evening with a double-double including 15 rebounds and led the Indians in assists with five.

Defensively, of Strasburg's 11 steals, Hopwood recorded a team-high four with juniors Ayden Dodge and Jayden Miller adding two apiece.

In most media/coaches polls — including Mile High

SEE BB STRASBURG PAGE 12

Tiger girls throttle Frontier foes

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Bennett Lady Tigers returned from winter break to outscore a pair of undermanned Frontier League squads by a combined 126-23 last week.

After a 57-11 road demolition at The Pinnacle on Jan. 6, the orange-clad troops of head coach Mike Rios sunk the visiting Lady Pirates of Alameda 59-12 Jan. 8.

Over both games, the Lady Tiger defense didn't surrender a double-digit quarter. The most points allowed over an eight-minute stretch was 5 in the second quarter at Pinnacle and the third quarter during Thursday's home contest.

Tuesday saw the Tigers jump up 20-1 after the first quarter and have a 36-6 lead at halftime. A 32-2 second quarter on Thursday resulted in Bennett having a 43-5 halftime advantage. The 35-point mercy-rule running clock occurred throughout the second halves of both nights.

Against Alameda, the Tiger defense held the opposition to 17% shooting from the field and the hosts 30 field goal attempts were only four more than Bennett's 26 made buckets.

The back court pair of junior Emilee Venneberg and sophomore Josie Ladd continued to lead Bennett's offense, recording 39 and 37 points, respectively, over the pair of

victories.

The victories bumped the Lady Tigers to 7-3 overall. In Frontier League play, Bennett is technically 1-0 in 4A division of the conference as The Pinnacle plays down a division in 3A. The 12-team Frontier League consists of one 2A school, five from 3A and six from 4A. The top finisher in the 4A part of the league receives an automatic berth to the 32-team state bracket.

Even after a 47-26 setback at 3A nonconference Platte Valley Jan. 9, the Lady Tigers found themselves No. 11 in the Colorado High School Activities Association Selection & Seeding Index for playoff determination. For coverage of Friday's loss, see the Jan. 16 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Bennett	20	16	12	9	57
The Pinnacle	1	5	3	2	11

BENNETT (57) @ THE PINNACLE (11)

Points: Josie Ladd 19; Emilee Venneberg 18; Aileen Duran, Martie Robledo, and Mady Bavouset 5; Kaylonnie Mclaury and Emma Jordan 2; and Mya Robledo 1.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Alameda	3	2	5	2	12
Bennett	11	32	10	6	59

ALAMEDA (12) @ BENNETT (59)

Points: Venneberg 21; Ladd 19; Duran 8; Ma Robledo, My Robledo and Bavouset 4.

COMING UP

Jan. 15: Jefferson



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMQ/For The Scout

Bennett's Aileen Duran, left, tips the ball away for a steal and teammate Kaylonnie Mclaury fires a pass against full-court defense in the Lady Tigers victory over Alameda Jan. 8.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg's Rylee Tiffany fights for possession against St. Mary's Academy Jan. 6.

Lady Indians open '26 with win

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — The Lady Indians picked up their second win of the season by outscoring St. Mary's Academy at home 47-36.

Basically Strasburg controlled the scoreboard with leads of 9-4, 21-10, and 32-26 after each of the first three quarters.

"Our kids came out and we were more confident, more aggressive, overall," said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames.

Senior Taryn LaForce dominated the contest with a rare 20-20 double-double — 21 points and 20 rebounds, 13 offensive — to go with four steals. Junior Tatiana Rojahn was top thief with six steals and junior Wynne Winter dished out three assists to lead the Indians in those departments.

Rojahn had a bit of a break-out game offensively with 6 points, Ames noted. She also saw improvement in the team coming off the holiday break.

"We were able to take care of the ball little bit better," she said. "We felt like we were able to press a little bit more effectively and our defense was a little bit better."

"It was a good start to the rest of the season and we look forward to building on that."

The Lady Indians are 2-5 after falling to Wray 54-50 on the road Saturday. Watch the *Eastern Colorado*



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Lady Indian Taryn LaForce gets one of her 20 rebounds and 2 of her 21 points on the same play against St. Mary's Academy Jan. 6.

News for complete coverage

They travel to Woodland Park today.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
St. Mary's Academy	4	6	16	10	36
Strasburg	9	12	11	15	47

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY @ STRASBURG

Points: LaForce 21; Kent 8; Fields 7; Rojahn 6; Friedrich 2; Garcia 2; Tiffany 1.
Rebounds: LaForce 20; Fields 9; Rojahn 7; Tiffany 6; Blaise 6; Kent 4; Winter 2.
Assists: Winter 3; Kent 2; Rojahn 1; Friedrich 1; Fields 1.
Steals: Rojahn 6; Winter 5; LaForce 4; Tiffany 3; Blaise 3; Fields 2; Kent 1; Friedrich 1.

COMING UP

Jan. 17: @ Woodland Park.
Jan. 20: @ Windsor Charter.
Jan. 23: @ Resurrection Christian.



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Bulldogs endure first defeat

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

WIGGINS — The Byers boys led 42-26 at halftime but Wiggins asserted itself in the second in a match-up of two highly regarded teams Jan. 9.

In the end, the Tigers pulled out a 67-64 victory over the Bulldogs. Through Jan. 11, Maxpreps ranked Wiggins fourth in Class 3A while Byers was No. 3 in 2A. Wiggins now stands at 8-1 while the Bulldogs are 6-1.

The game came down to the final seconds. Wiggins banked in a three-point shot with about 20 ticks left to tie the score at 63.

“Kids today, they don’t shoot to try to bank it, so that means it was off,” said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns. “It’s one of those things where you let a team get close enough then anything can happen — some lucky bounce of the ball or whatever.

Byers hit one-of-two free throws to lead 64-63, but Wiggins hit a basket with 9 seconds left and iced the game with a pair of free throws with almost no time left on the clock.

Wiggins entered the contest with several wins where the Tigers jumped on their opponents by 10-15 points in the first quarter. In that contest, Kerns said the Bulldogs had discussed the importance of getting a good start. Byers responded with six

three-pointers in the first half.

“We just shot the heck out of it,” he said.

At halftime, the Tigers adjusted their extended, aggressive 2-3 zone, backing it up a little on top and playing the gaps to defend the three-point line.

“They did a really good job of it,” Kerns said.

The Bulldogs made just two treys in the second half.

In combination with hesitancy on the part of the Bulldogs, Wiggins cut the halftime deficit to 53-45 entering the final frame.

“Slowly but surely, they got momentum,” Kerns noted.

Sophomore Conrad Cichos had a double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds, six offensive, to go with five steals — all team highs. Junior James Maes dished out six assists and freshman Matthew Cichos added two blocks.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Byers	20	22	11	11	64
Wiggins	10	16	19	22	67

@ Wiggins

Points (64): C. Cichos 20; Maes 18; Eacret 13; Linnebar 9; M. Cichos 3; Ebert 2; Price 1. Rebounds (33): C. Cichos 10; Maes 5; Price 5; Linnebar 4; Mullan 4; Ebert 3; Eacret 1; M. Cichos 1; Eastwood 1; Gerhardt 1. Assists (14): Maes 6; Price 3; Eacret 2; Mullan 2; Linnebar 1; Eastwood 1; M. Cichos 1; T. Steals (11): C. Cichos 5; Eacret 2; Maes 1; M. Cichos 1; Price 1; Ebert 1. Blocks (3): M. Cichos 2; C. Cichos 1.

BYERS SCHEDULE

Jan. 16: Genoa-Hugo.
Jan. 21: Ebert.
Jan. 23: @ Flagler.
Jan. 24: Cahlan.

BB STRASBURG

FROM PAGE 11

Prep Report and Colorado Preps — the Indians are ranked No. 1, but the Colorado High School Activities Association’s Selection & Seeding Index for postseason determination has Strasburg No. 2, behind undefeated Forge Christian. But Bollers was quick to point out his team’s early season resume.

“Through our 7-0 start that’s the fifth pre-season top 10-ranked team we’ve beaten this year,” he said. “I like that we’ve had a challenging schedule and we’ve stayed undefeated.”

The Indians went to 8-0 with a 75-49 victory over Patriot League foe Wray Jan. 10. Specifics from Saturday’s game were unavailable at press time. For full coverage, see the Jan. 16 issue of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Strasburg’s Jan. 8 contest at Woodland Park was postponed because of inclement weather and is rescheduled for this Saturday, Jan. 17. The Indians started this week with a conference home game against 3A No. 3-ranked Wiggins Jan. 13. The

gauntlet schedule that Strasburg has already faced gets stepped up even further next week in conference play when they host Windsor Charter Jan. 20 and travel to Loveland to take on last year’s 3A state champions from Resurrection Christian Jan. 23. The Indians went 1-1 against Windsor Charter with their victory coming in the state semifinals. Resurrection Christian went 3-0 against Strasburg last season, including in the 3A championship game. After the first set of games of the new year, Resurrection Christian is ranked fifth with a 5-1 record while Windsor Charter is 6-2 and eighth-ranked.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Strasburg	20	25	16	15	76
Peyton	14	12	17	11	54

@ PEYTON (54)

Points: Brody Hopwood 20; Nick Gattelher 16; Cade Hemphill and Cam Manahan 10; Gideon Miller 8; Jayden Miller 5; Colton Holloway 4; Dalton Welasco 3. Rebounds: Gattelher 15; Manahan 7; Hopwood and Hemphill 4; Welasco 3; Holloway Miller and Ayden Dodge 2; Miller and Levi Hart 1. Assists: Gattelher 5; Miller and Hemphill 4; Dodge and Hopwood 2; Manahan, Holloway Miller and Welasco 1. Steals: Hopwood 4; Dodge and Miller 2; Gattelher, Manahan and Miller 1. Blocks: Gattelher 3.



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PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMOFOR The Scout

From left photo, Tiger Carter Jarman pushes the ball up the court with a pass and Elias Pulido guards the perimeter against Alameda Jan. 8.

Tiger boys tip off Frontier League play with split

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Bennett Tiger boys split their opening pair of 4A Frontier League contests upon returning from the Christmas break last week.

After struggling in the first half in a 72-58 loss at The Pinnacle in Federal Heights Jan. 6, the orange-and-black troops of first-year head coach Andrew Thornton utilized an 18-2 fourth quarter to defeat visiting Alameda 61-45 Jan. 8.

ALAMEDA

With the score tied 43-43 after three quarters, Bennett scored the first 5 points of the fourth and, after Alameda made the score 48-45 with 6:30 remaining, the Tigers threw a 13-0 shutout the rest of the way.

“Really good job of extending our perimeter defense and having active hands that deflected a lot of balls and gave us a lot of good opportunities on the offensive end,” Thornton said. “Still have to work on starting games better and not digging out of big holes, but we have had our moments, especially in second halves.”

In the first half, Bennett found itself down 18-17 after the first quarter and was down 31-27 at halftime. A minute into the third quarter, Alameda surged to a 35-27 advantage, but that’s when Bennett started its comeback.

The Tigers shot 18-of-48 (38%) from inside the arc and were 4-of-12 (33%) from deep while making 13-of-21 free-throw attempts.

Senior point guard Austin Stiers, who returned last week from an ankle injury suffered over the first week-end of the season in early December, paced the Tigers with 23 points, followed by junior forward Brayden Schmaltz with 15 and junior wing Avant Dickens 14. The trio accounted for all but nine of Bennett’s points.

“Found the guys that were mismatches against [Alameda’s] defense, so that was good to see,” Thornton said. “Still looking for some others to step up and find their roles, but starting to come around.”

Aside for the leading scoring trio,



Austin Stiers (1), left, and Brayden Schmaltz score 2 against Alameda Jan. 8.

the rest of the Tigers roster hoisted up 18 of the team’s 60 field goal attempts.

Stiers, Dickens and Schmaltz tied for the team-high in assists with two apiece.

Defensively, six Tigers tallied seven steals, led by Stiers with two.

“Hopefully a second half, particularly a fourth quarter, we can look back to and build off of,” Thornton said.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Alameda	18	13	12	2	45
Bennett	17	10	16	18	61

ALAMEDA @ BENNETT

Points: Austin Stiers 23; Brayden Schmaltz 15; Avant Dickens 14; Elias Pulido 4; Alfredo Duran 3; Daniel Rodriguez 2.
Rebounds (39): Dickens 12; Stiers and Juan Santoyo 7; Elias Pulido 6; Schmaltz 4; Rodriguez 3.
Assists (8): Stiers, Dickens, Schmaltz 2; Carter Jarman and Santoyo 1.
Steals (7): Stiers 2; Dickens, Santoyo, Rodriguez, Duran and Pulido 1.

@ THE PINNACLE

Bennett’s first half in Tuesday’s league-opener was a forgettable one as the orange-and-black fell behind the host Timberwolves 17-4 after the first eight minutes and were down 35-13 at halftime. While Thornton’s troops outscored the hosts 24-19 in the third and 21-18 in the fourth, the Tigers were unable to get under a 15-point deficit until a put-back buck-



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMOFOR The Scout

opportunities, especially in the first half.”

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Bennett	4	9	24	21	58
The Pinnacle	17	18	19	18	72

BENNETT @ THE PINNACLE

Points: Dickens 24; Rodriguez and Schmaltz 8; Stiers 6; Pulido 4; Santoyo 3; Jarman and Duran 2; Owen Hawes 1.
Rebounds (36): Dickens 12; Rodriguez 7; Schmaltz and Stiers 5; Jarman 4; Hawes, Mac Froman and Duran 1.
Assists (12): Stiers 4; Jarman, Rodriguez and Schmaltz 2; Santoyo and Froman 1.
Steals (2): Stiers and Hawes 1.
Blocks (1): Dickens 1.

EARLY PLAYOFF OUTLOOK

The split of conference games left Bennett 4-6 overall, 1-1 in the Frontier League. Unlike on the girls side, The Pinnacle is a 4A school in boys basketball.

The Tigers, who dropped a 52-44 home decision to nonconference Platte Valley Jan. 9, hosted northern neighbor Weld Central Jan. 13 in out-of-league play. Particulars from both games were unavailable at press time. For coverage of the Platte Valley game, see the Jan.16 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*. Coverage of the Weld Central game and a Jan. 15 home conference contest against Jefferson will be available in the Jan. 21 edition of *The I-70 Scout*.

As of Jan. 11, the Tigers ranked No. 39 in the Colorado High School Activities Association’s Selection & Seeding Index for determining the 32 teams in the 4A playoffs. Whoever wins the 4A Patriot League championship receives an automatic postseason bid.

“Right now, Fort Lupton is the best in our league but Pinnacle is right behind them probably,” Thornton said. “We have to continue working to get better each game and put ourselves in the best position possible.”

Fort Lupton, 5-4 overall, is No. 14 in the CHSAA standings, while The Pinnacle, 6-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference, is 21st. Englewood, who defeated Pinnacle 39-38 Jan. 8 and is 6-5 overall and 1-0 in conference, is another Frontier team ahead of Bennett at No. 35.

COMING UP

Jan. 15: Jefferson
Jan. 20: @ Sheridan

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Deer Trail Eagles returned from Christmas break to host Caliche Jan. 6 and fell to the visiting Buffaloes 76-34. The loss dropped the red-and-white to 0-4 on the season. From left photo, Milkao Tossou looks for space to shoot over the outstretched arm of a Caliche defender; Tyson Haight drives to the bucket; and Chauncy Gudenkauf scores 2. After hosting Lone Star Jan. 10 and traveling to Flagler Jan. 13, the red-and-white finishes this week at Cheraw on Thursday and at Elbert Saturday.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The start of 2026 for the Deer Trail Lady Eagles did not start on the right foot as the red-and-white fell 75-12 to visiting Caliche Jan. 6. It was the first loss in four games for the Eagles. From left photo, Vailini Samate drives baseline against a Lady Buffalo defender and Jeanette Rodriguez goes parallel to the floor for a loose ball.

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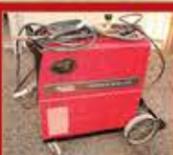
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Lady Bulldogs mauled at Wiggins

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

WIGGINS — The post-break portion of the 2025-26 basketball schedule for the Byers Lady Bulldogs tipped off inauspiciously as the green-and-white was dominated 60-17 at Wiggins Jan. 6.

The host Tigers utilized stiff defensive pressure to run out to a 17-6 lead after the first eight minutes and extend the lead to 34-6 at halftime. Wiggins recorded its third straight 17-point quarter to be up 51-13 entering the fourth.

Byers was on the short end of the stick in all statistical categories. While Wiggins shot 33% from the field compared to 30% for the Bulldogs, the victors made 22 baskets compared to 27 total shots for Byers. The Bulldogs committed 29 turnovers, more than double Wiggins' 13 foibles. On the glass, Wiggins recorded 45 rebounds, three times more than the Bulldogs' 15.

The loss to the 3A top 10-ranked Tigers dropped Byers to 4-3 overall.

The Bulldogs' Jan. 9 game at 2A No. 1 Simla was postponed because of inclement weather.

Another top 10-ranked squad awaited the Bulldogs when they hosted 3A No. 1 Denver Christian Jan. 13. For coverage, see the Jan. 16 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Byers tips off Union Pacific League play with a home game against Genoa-Hugo/Karval Friday and at Flagler Jan. 23.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Byers	6	0	7	4	17
Wiggins	17	17	17	9	60

@ WIGGINS

Points: Abi Green and Leyla Saylor 4; Cosette Kerrs 3; Maddi Olsen, Quincy Bowling and Sydney Smith 2

Rebounds (15): Kerrs 4; Olsen and Saylor 3; Danica Lancaster, Kaci Harris, Green, Smith and Taysa Eymann 1.

Assists (6): Olsen 3; Shelley Smith and Kerrs 1.

Steals (5): Olsen 2; Grace Shelley, Harris and Eymann 1.

Blocks (1): Kerrs.

BYERS SCHEDULE

Jan. 16: Genoa-Hugo.

Jan. 23: @ Flagler.

Jan. 24: Calhan.

Jan. 28: @ Simla.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO JAN. 17, 2006

A planned water pipeline from the northeastern plains of Colorado to an under-construction reservoir just outside Parker will come to fruition in 10 to 15 years and will include portions of Adams and Arapahoe counties, an official with Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWS) said.

Frank Jaeger, manager of PWS, told the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership Board of Directors Jan. 12 that the approximately 140-mile pipeline would run from the South Platte River in Logan County all the way to Reuter-Hess Reservoir, but the actual route of the pipeline has not yet been planned.

"We are still looking into the route," Jaeger said. "We could follow E-470 and some other main thoroughfares, go through Watkins, or some other route."

Jaeger was sure that the finished route would include parts of both Arapahoe and Adams counties.

"I'm visiting with both counties to get their thoughts [on the issue]," he said.

Originally, Reuter-Hess was going to have a one-time capacity of 16,200 acre-feet of water; however, plans have changed to expand the facility to hold 71,000 acre-feet. Jaeger said the increase in capacity necessitated him looking for non-metro water resources to fill and replenish that expanded capacity.

15 YEARS AGO JAN. 18, 2011

BENNETT — Because of ongoing delays with a temporary use permit, a retail center could be shut down if appropriate fire suppression equipment isn't installed soon.

"We first started this temporary permit Dec. 31, 2009," said district lawyer Bradley Hill, at the Jan. 13 Bennett Fire Protection District meeting. "We had discussions with the owners and granted them an extension until June 30, 2010. As you recall, we had several discussions after that and granted them another extension to Nov. 30 then another extension until Dec. 30."

"That time period has come and gone. Nothing has happened — they haven't put in the required 30,000 gallon cistern. Mr. T.J.

Holloway was here several times where we discussed reasons, he understood the reasons, said he was going to do something about it, and hasn't done anything."

The permit is for an underground water tank equaling 30,000-gallons to be located at Watkins Square for emergency fire use.

Board secretary Jim Woods asked if the tanks were ever purchased.

"The last I heard, (Holloway's) tank guy called briefly just to say that he contacted them and they would pursue an agreement," said fire inspector Caleb Connor. "Then he never called back."

The district is requiring the water tank to be installed because of significant health, safety and welfare issues.

10 YEARS AGO JAN. 19, 2016

STRASBURG — The Strasburg School Board was split on both a mid-year budget amendment vote and during preliminary debate about possibly arming school staff during its Jan. 13 meeting.

Directors voted 3-2 to approve a mid-year adjusted budget for 2015-16 with Keith Yaich and Bob Yaich dissenting against an approximately \$216,100 deficit between anticipated revenue of \$8,548,117 and \$8,764,232 in expenses. Nancy Taylor, John Sampson and Connie Lybarger all voted in favor of the amended budget.

According to Superintendent Monica Johnson, the deficit is about \$150,000 less than original projections. The original budget for this school year, which was written under the watch of previous Superintendent Ed VanderTook, would have dipped into the general fund for about \$366,000. Johnson's efforts to reduce the deficit was not enough for either Yaich.

"No offense (Mrs. Johnson), but I won't vote for an unbalanced budget," said Keith Yaich, who originally moved to accept the budget before voting against it.

Another approximately \$350,000 budget shortfall reportedly occurred during the 2014-15 school year, but record of a vote on it has not been found.

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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 2

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2026. There are 351 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 14, 2013, cyclist Lance Armstrong ended a decade of denial by confessing to Oprah Winfrey during a videotaped interview he'd used performance-enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France seven consecutive times. The interview was

aired as a two-part special later in the week.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1784, the United States ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War; Britain followed suit in April.

In 1858, Napoleon III survived an assassination attempt by an Italian revolutionary and accomplices who threw explosives at the emperor's carriage as he and wife Eugénie

headed to the opera in Paris. Though bystanders were killed, the emperor and empress were unharmed and the revolutionary was swiftly captured and later executed.

In 1943, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French Gen. Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as host.

In 1963, Democrat George C. Wal-

lace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with the pledge, "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever!" It was a view he later repudiated.

In 1967, the "Summer of Love" unofficially began with a "Human Be-In" involving tens of thousands of young people at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

In 1970, Diana Ross and the Supremes performed their last concert together, at the Frontier Hotel in Las

Vegas.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Faye Dunaway is 85. Actor Holland Taylor is 83. Guitarist-producer T-Bone Burnett is 78. Filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan is 77. Filmmaker Steven Soderbergh is 63. Actor Emily Watson is 59. Rapper-actor LL Cool J is 58. Actor Jason Bateman is 57. Rock musician Dave Grohl is 57. Actor Zach Gilford is 44. Actor Grant Gustin is 36. Singer Ryan Castro is 32.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: WINTER OLYMPICS

- ACROSS**
- Pinch to save
 - Brownie
 - Lady, in Madrid
 - Proprietor
 - Romanian money
 - Iraqi money
 - Coffee shop order
 - *Before 1998 only they played Olympic hockey
 - Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
 - *Most decorated country in Winter Olympics
 - * of Hamill Camel fame
 - *How Olympic Athletes from Russia were designated in 2018, acr.
 - Assistant
 - * of war
 - Sushi wrapped in nori
 - Oblong cream puff
 - Singles
 - Manure, e.g.
 - Soil for cultivation
 - Bon Jovi hit "Have a ___ day"
 - "Encore!"
 - Don't go
 - Bumpkin
 - Poet Pound's first name
 - Rodeo Drive tree
 - Sense of alienation and isolation
 - Similar
 - Toast option
 - *Misha, 1980 Russian Olympics Mascot was one
 - Samuel Butler: "Spare the ___ and spoil the child"
 - * Shiffrin, most decorated U.S. alpine skier
 - *Overall Olympic curling medal leader
 - Bikini ___ in the Marshall Islands
 - Zodiac sign
 - Pasture
 - Boundary lines
 - Government Printing Office
 - Rocky ridge
 - Singer Toni
 - Farm layer
 - *1964 and 1976 mountainous Olympic location

- DOWN**
- Honda CR-X del ___
 - *Michelle ___, most decorated U.S. figure skater
 - Enthusiastic about
 - Part of MGM
 - From the 1930s, e.g.
 - Abounding with certain trees
 - Bruce ___ of karate fame
 - Fundus, pl.
 - Aeneas' lover
 - "Don't bet ___!"
 - Lye formula

CROSSWORD

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- *Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)
- "For better or worse?"
- GEICO's mascot
- *Olympic toboggan
- Speech defect
- Place for worship
- *2026 Winter Olympics location
- Mother Goose creation
- Give an impression
- Michael Douglas' dad
- Nigerian money
- Slanderous statements
- Snake-like fish
- Dairy choice
- Frustration, in a comic book
- Grocery store section
- Cass Elliot, a.k.a. ___ Cass
- Big-ticket ___
- Japanese zither
- Saloon selections
- Colloquial "Follow me!"
- Widely hunted ruminant
- Kind of sax
- King Kong or Donkey Kong, e.g.
- Penn.'s neighbor

ANSWERS ON PAGE 23

HOROSCOPE

Venus and Jupiter Tango

Yesterday, Venus was in conjunction with the sun, and now Mars gets the attention. We're reminded that we don't always get to choose who we're around, which is why when we do have a choice, we should take advantage of it. Today, the company will be more important than the circumstance. Better to weather the storm with a friend than bask in the sunshine with an enemy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your vitality makes you courageous, and your courage fills you with vitality, so the cycle keeps looping until your head hits the pillow tonight. By then, you'll have a few stories to tell about this day, which is the happy consequence of your daring.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe you'll notice that you are the thing that is "not like the others" today, but that's a good thing. Everything that is different about you is an asset, not a liability. You'll elevate the scene you're in just by being you, with minimal filtering.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As spiritual awareness expands, the ego naturally contracts. Perspective grows and self-importance fades, replaced by curiosity, humility and connection. Today, there will be less of a need to prove, protect or perform, and yet you are more fully yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't waste time envying what a friend has when you can simply go out and get your own. It's when you see something in the world that is not accessible to you that the pangs persist and then turn into something else entirely -- motivation, then pure drive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A daily ritual is so much a part of feeling like yourself that if you were to skip it, all else would feel slightly askew. This is your ideal moment to level up the practice with a small improvement. It ripples out to the rest of your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you thought the gray areas were complex, wait until you get into the rest of the crayon box. But you're the artist of this life. You know that every color can have its place and use in the picture -- some you use a lot, some just a

dot. You can make this work.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's little to do but plenty to adjust to, which is the harder task. Flexibility is its own form of strength. Give yourself credit for your ability to adapt and settle in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just as nutritional needs vary from person to person, so do other needs such as novelty, social interaction, creative generation and physical exertion. So, don't go by anyone else's prescription. Only you know what feels right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Knowledge is as bright as sunbeams and just as tricky to deliver. You can't hand someone a sunbeam. When you organize your ideas around what lights you up, others come closer to absorb what you know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have an instinct about who you can trust, and it's not always the one who is the right pick on paper. How you feel around people is more important than how their profile reads.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In the echo chamber of the internet, with its crowd-sourced consensus and recycled takes, you have a chance to offer something that wasn't there before. People are hungry for what isn't being said. You're well positioned to say it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A well-supported idea in both therapy and relationship research is this: Psychological safety shows up as not having to perform your mood. In other words, the people who let you be you no matter what it looks like at the moment are treasures, and you really feel that today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14). This is your Year of Beauty Gone Wild in which you revel in the natural gifts around you. It manifests in enhanced vitality, in profoundly peaceful moments in travel, hobbies and habits. You were never more aware that you, too, are nature's child empowered to accept what grows and flows through your world. More highlights: You'll accomplish award-winning feats in a diverse team, you'll do business all over the globe, and a special relationship will glow up your days. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 21, 14 and 8.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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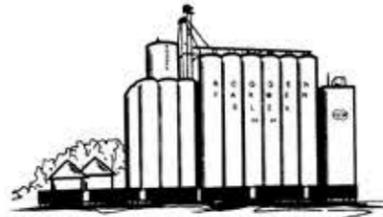
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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Fueling activity at the Bennett King Soopers was sporadic Jan. 10, a couple days after it received a shipment of diesel-contaminated unleaded gasoline.

CONTAMINATED GAS

FROM PAGE 1

While the number of customer complaints filed with gasoline vendors is uncertain, as of Jan. 10, officials with the Colorado Division of Oil & Public Safety indicated that more than 200 complaints had been received.

Cher Haavind, deputy director for Colorado's Department of Labor and Employment, said Jan. 9 that the state does not have a list of gas stations that were impacted, but said Sinclair is conducting its own investigation to identify the gas stations that received the diesel fuel. She added that affected pumps should have been pumping uncontaminated unleaded gas within 24-36 hours.

It is believed the contamination was limited to gas stations in the Denver metro area, but an alert about the contaminated regular and mid-grade unleaded fuels was distributed to about 3,000 gas stations across the state. Premium grade gasoline was reportedly not contaminated.

By 8:30 a.m. Jan. 9, Sinclair said it had contacted all of its distributors and was working on a process for receiving complaints from consumers.

"A consumer that did purchase fuel within the timeframes that we outlined would have seen issues with engine performance by now, as quickly as driving away from the retailer to very shortly thereafter, so it would have presented itself very close to the point of fueling," Haavind said.

"Carriers collect products from our terminal and deliver them to their respective customers and sites," a Friday-dated Sinclair statement said. "Because we do not maintain direct access to third-party customer lists, communication is being coordinated through established distribution channels to ensure timely outreach. We continue to work with our distributors to rectify the situation."

One I-70 Corridor resident who

purchased gas from the Bennett King Soopers within the published time frame said that grocery store officials are beginning to question plaintiffs.

"I filled up the evening of the 7th about 6:30 p.m. and, the next day on a trip into Denver, a lighted symbol came on and the car just shut off and wouldn't turn back on," a Byers man said. "The gas tank was checked and found to definitely had diesel in it. Now the Bennett King Soopers is saying they didn't receive the suspect shipment until the following day, but the fact is there's definitely diesel in the tank."

Anecdotal reports have indicated that damage to impacted vehicles has ranged widely from engine sputtering and choking several hours or the morning later to immediate smoking and breakdown upon leaving the pump. The extent of the damage is usually related to how much diesel fuel was dispensed into the tank. Mechanics indicated that an almost empty tank refilled with a large portion of diesel "won't likely run 100 or 200 feet before stalling."

Remediating the situation could be as simple as draining the gas tank, clearing fuel lines and replacing the fuel filter; however, if significant diesel fuel started to circulate through a gasoline engine, more extensive damage could occur, requiring more expense to repair or replace.

Anyone who believes they dispense contaminated gas can file a complaint with the state online at ops.colorado.gov or by calling (303)866-4967.

Last week's incident wasn't the only time the Bennett grocery store has had an issue with its gas pumps contaminated with diesel. On May 11, 2022, a tanker truck delivery driver inadvertently deposited his diesel cargo into the wrong underground tank at the fuel center.

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- SOLD • 394 Acres grass 5 miles SE of Deer Trail \$1,100/Ac
- 230 Acres farm land on Hwy 217 — 3 miles N of Deer Trail \$1,850/Ac
- 19 Acre Home Site 6 miles S of Strasburg \$195,000
- 13.92 Acres 2 irrig wells, adjacent to Strasburg Schools \$700k
- 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

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Teen Hangout: Kids ages 13-18 can hang out, play games, and enjoy snacks with your friends in the library. There will be gaming consoles, board games, crafts, and other fun activities available. 3:30-6 p.m., every Tuesday through January.

Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can take an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services in Bennett. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Craft Night: Adults can make winter-inspired candles. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit anythinklibraries.org. 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Cozy Cocoa & Mugs workshop: Tweens and teens can design their own mugs

and hot chocolate mix, then enjoy hot beverages. All supplies provided, including dairy-free, gluten-free and vegan options. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan 15.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in activities with a winter theme. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10-11:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 16.

DIY Stamp Making: Tweens can with make their own experimental stamp designs using acrylic blocks and adhesive craft foam, then stamp the image onto paper to create a greeting card, postcard or bookmark. All supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

DIY Stamp Making: Youth can design their own stamps using acrylic blocks and adhesive craft foam, then stamp their images onto paper to make a greeting card, postcard or bookmark. All supplies provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Sell It In Our Classifieds!

CLASSIFIED ADS APPEAR IN THE I-70 SCOUT AND ON-LINE AT WWW.I-70SCOUT.COM FOR ONE PRICE!

Something worth reading

**HELP WANTED • CLASSIFIED SERVICES • FOR RENT • FOR SALE • FARM & RANCH
• HOMES & LAND • WANTED • VEHICLES FOR SALE • NOTICES • FREE •
LOST 'N' FOUND • THANK YOU • GARAGE SALES • BOATS & RVs**

✂
Text:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: () - _____

Start Date: - - _____

End Date: - - _____

Number of weeks: (circle one)
 1 2 3 4

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Total Number of Words: _____

Classified Category: _____

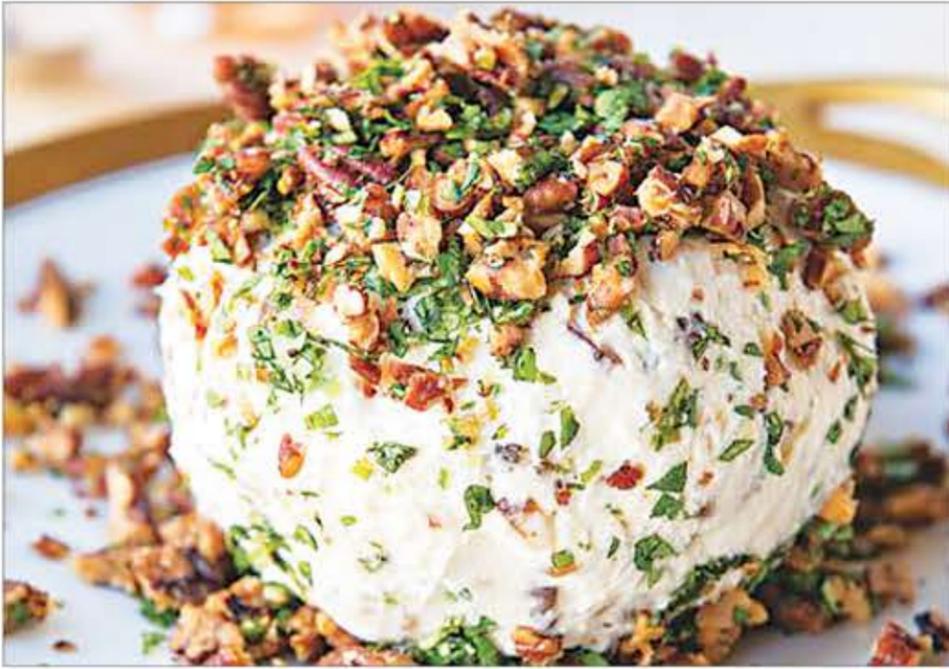
# OF WORDS	1 WEEK	2 WEEKS	3 WEEKS	4TH FREE!
1-15	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
16	\$12.25	\$22.50	\$30.75	\$30.75
17	\$12.50	\$23.00	\$31.50	\$31.50
18	\$12.75	\$23.50	\$32.25	\$32.25
19	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$33.00	\$33.00
20	\$13.25	\$24.50	\$33.75	\$33.75
21	\$13.50	\$25.00	\$34.50	\$34.50
22	\$13.75	\$25.50	\$35.25	\$35.25
23	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$36.00	\$36.00
24	\$14.25	\$26.50	\$36.75	\$36.75
25	\$14.50	\$27.00	\$37.50	\$37.50
26	\$14.75	\$27.50	\$38.25	\$38.25
27	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$39.00	\$39.00
28	\$15.25	\$28.50	\$39.75	\$39.75
29	\$15.50	\$29.00	\$40.50	\$40.50
30	\$15.75	\$29.50	\$41.25	\$41.25
31	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$42.00	\$42.00
32	\$16.25	\$30.50	\$42.75	\$42.75
33	\$16.50	\$31.00	\$43.50	\$43.50
34	\$16.75	\$31.50	\$44.25	\$44.25
35	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
36	\$17.25	\$32.50	\$45.75	\$45.75
37	\$17.50	\$33.00	\$46.50	\$46.50
38	\$17.75	\$33.50	\$47.25	\$47.25
39	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$48.00	\$48.00
40	\$18.25	\$34.50	\$48.75	\$48.75
41	\$18.50	\$35.00	\$49.50	\$49.50
42	\$18.75	\$35.50	\$50.25	\$50.25
43	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$51.00	\$51.00

Simply fill out this form and mail it with a check payable to The I-70 Scout at P.O. Box 829, Strasburg, CO 80136 or drop it off at our office located at 1522 Main Street, Strasburg (north of Plains Heating building). Ads must be received by Friday at 12:00 p.m. for publication in the following Wednesday's edition.

Please Note:

Ads are charged by the word. Please spell out all words. Any abbreviated words will be spelled out for publication. Abbreviated words, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and websites count as 1 word. Hyphenated words count as 2 words (i.e. part-time).

CHUCK WAGON



Cheese Ball

by Vivian Howard
Voracious

The cheese ball is a cliché. I believe, that, like the pig in a blanket and the baked potato, the cheese ball is so cliched it has actually become cool.

Socially acceptable or not, when this dish from my cookbook, "Deep Run Roots," is put out at a party of any kind, people hover over it like it's a crystal ball.

Once you get used to the idea of making a cheese ball, keep a few things in mind. Bring it out at least 30 minutes before serving. This forethought will make it spreadable and allow the complexity of its flavor to come through. Also, consider doubling the recipe. A fully formed cheese ball freezes and travels nicely. And, last, keep cracker choice simple. Sea salt or Plain Jane is the way to go here.

Note: Do not use pre-chopped dates from a bag. They are covered in sugar and taste like sweet cardboard. Use whole, dried dates and remove pits.

CHEESE BALL

Makes 1 large or 2 small cheese balls
INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup high-quality blue cheese (I like Maytag)
- ⅓ cup (5½ tablespoons) unsalted butter
- ¼ cup fresh goat cheese
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons cream cheese
- ¼ cup chopped dates
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped scallions (both white and green parts work)
- ½ teaspoon hot sauce
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup salt and butter-roasted pecans, (see below), roughly chopped, plain or toasted, pecans
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley

SALT AND BUTTER-ROASTED PECANS

- 2 cups pecan halves or pieces
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- ¾ teaspoon salt, divided

DIRECTIONS

Soften cheese: Take the blue cheese, butter, goat cheese and cream cheese out of refrigerator to soften 30 minutes before making the cheese ball mixture.

Roast pecans: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss pecans thoroughly with the melted butter and ½ teaspoon of the salt. Spread in a single layer on a baking sheet and slide sheet onto the middle rack. Roast for 11 minutes if using pecan halves and 10 minutes if using pieces.

Bring the slightly darkened and toasty-smelling pecans out of the oven and hit them with the remaining salt. Let cool. Extra pecans will keep for two weeks in an airtight container at room temperature.

Finish cheese ball: In bowl of mixer fitted with paddle, combine all ingredients except for pecans and parsley. Paddle until homogenous.

The mixture will be loose and sticky. Put bowl in refrigerator for 15 minutes. The cheese mix will firm up enough to mold it into a sphere.

Form the ball and roll it in the pecans, followed by parsley.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Jan. 15: Chicken tender wrap, baked beans.

Monday, Jan. 19: Chicken nuggets, chips.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Cheese quesadilla, corn.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Meatball sub, fries.

BYERS

Thursday, Jan. 15: Ham and cheese roll-up, white gravy.

Friday, Jan. 16: French toast with syrup, sausage links.

Monday, Jan. 19: No school.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Chicken tenders, biscuit.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Pulled pork sand-

wich, cucumber rings.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Chicken alfredo, bread sticks.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Jan 15: Cheeseburger with french fries.

Monday, Jan 19: Chicken nuggets, carrots and celery.

Tuesday, Jan 20: Pizza, salad.

Wednesday, Jan 21: Sloppy joe, Tater Tots.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Jan. 15: Sloppy joes, baked beans.

Friday, Jan. 16: Chicken sandwiches.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Taquitos.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Meatball subs.

SHOOTER'S PIZZA FOOD TRUCK

.....ALSO SERVING CALZONES!!

CALL AHEAD, ORDER ONLINE OR SCAN QR CODE
303-241-1125
www.shootersbargrill.com

NEW !! FAMILY MEAL DEAL
2 - 16" 2-Topping Pizzas
1 - 12" Cheese Bread
4 Sodas
\$45.00

NEW WINTER HOURS
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Sunday: 11am-8pm

Located In Shooters North Parking Lot

Best wishes & stay safe this winter season!

FNB Bank
A State Chartered Bank - Member FDIC

1076 South 1st Street
Bennett, CO 80102
(303)644-5100 • www.fnb.com

Lobby Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Drive Up Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Bennett School District 29J

Meet the Fleet of The Bennett Schools!

**FOR MORE INFO:
BSD29J.COM**

“YELLOW FLEET”

Our yellow fleet consists of two different types of yellow school buses, trip buses and route buses. Route buses are used to run daily school routes covering 292 square miles. Thankfully, these buses are tough, because they get beat up on our rural roads. All 6 of our bus routes leave the pavement daily and must travel on dirt roads in both Adams and Arapahoe counties spanning north to the Weld County line and south to the Elbert county line. The route bus fleet consists of 10 full size school buses and 1 wheelchair capable bus. While only 6 routes run daily, the extra buses allow us to ensure that when a bus experiences a mechanical breakdown or a safety feature becomes inoperable, we have enough buses to run all 6 routes every day.



Trip buses are used exclusively for transporting students to and from activities. Field trips, athletics and extra curricular activities require buses that are ready for long trips away from the district, often as far as somewhere like Grand Junction and Lake County. The 3 trip buses are always ready to hit the highway and never used for routes to ensure rough roads do not “beat them up.” They are also built with secondary braking systems such as VGT brakes or electro magnetic retarders. There are often days where 6 or 7 trips are occurring, in which case the long trips utilize the “trip buses” while closer activities will utilize our trip buses.

“WHITE FLEET” (small vehicles)

White fleet refers to the fleet that is typically white in color: sedans, suvs and activity buses. These are utilized by many of our groups for a variety of reasons, from athletics to FFA and everything in between, while also running routes for students that attend schools outside of our district. There are many instances in which every vehicle in the small vehicle fleet travel out of district for activities at the same time.



White 15 passenger activity buses are used by coaches and teachers, alike to transport up to 14 students. These vehicles are great for taking a whole track team to a meet or our FFA students to a leadership training. While great on the plains, these buses won't travel to the mountains because they do not have a secondary braking system like the trip school buses. These secondary braking systems are required by CDE to travel in the mountains for any type of bus.

SUVS and sedans meet the need for groups traveling in the mountains or our busiest weekends where all of our activity buses and SUVs must be used at the same time and also serve students that travel to specialized schools in the metro area. SUVs like our new Chevy Traverses are equipped with 4 wheel drive and allow safe transport to students in the mountains for activities and offer enough seating to be the backup to activity buses when they are all in use.

“SPECIALTY FLEET”

The specialty vehicles are used by our Career and Technical Education or CTE department and may be seen from time to time as well. These vehicles include pickups, fire trucks, ambulances and other specialized vehicles. Our CTE classes in the CTE department use these to train and certify students in many pathways and the majority of them have been purchased through grant programs and federal funding available to CTE, specifically. Doing so, ensures students get access to high quality training and equipment preparing them to enter the workforce.

SAFETY First

No matter the vehicle, safety and upkeep is a top priority. All vehicles meet CDE safety requirements and undergo annual inspection by approved CDE inspectors. Repairs are made promptly and if a vehicle does not meet safety standards, it is removed from service until it does. All vehicles all carry fire extinguishers, first aid kits, safety triangles and other safety equipment. Each vehicle is also equipped with a two way radio that connects each to the transportation director, no matter where they are, down the street or across the state!



Bennett 29J is extremely lucky and thankful for our many fleet options. Our students participate in a wide variety of activities and sports and we are able to continue their participation through our multiple modes of transportation!

ACROSS CAMPUS IN LATE JANUARY!

DISTRICT CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14: School Board Mtg, 6p.m., HS Library

BENNETT INTERMEDIATE

THURSDAY, JAN. 15: Third Grade Music Concert, 6 p.m., HS Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21: Fourth Grade Concert, 6 p.m., HS Auditorium

THURSDAY, JAN. 22: Fifth Grade Concert, 6 p.m., HS Auditorium

BENNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JAN. 20: Girls Basketball @ Brush, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22: Home Wrestling vs Platte Valley, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24: Girls Basketball @ Strasburg Tourney

MONDAY, JAN. 26: Home Basketball vs Limon, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 26: Wrestling @ Strasburg Tourney

THURSDAY, JAN. 29: Home Girls Basketball vs Wiggins, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 2: Home Girls Basketball vs Byers, 4:30 p.m.

BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14: Boys Wrestling @ Fort Lupton Tri

THURSDAY, JAN. 15: Home G & B Basketball, Jefferson, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17: G & B Wrestling @ Mountain Vista Survivor

TUESDAY, JAN. 20: Basketball @ Sheridan

THURSDAY, JAN. 22: Boys Wrestling @ Rocky Ford Tri

THURSDAY, JAN. 22: G & B Basketball @ Arrupe Jesuit
 FRI. & SAT., JAN. 23 -24: Girls Wrestling @ Douglas County
 SATURDAY, JAN. 24: Boys Wrestling @ Northglenn Invitational
 TUESDAY, JAN. 27: Home Basketball vs Englewood, 5:30 p.m.
 THURSDAY, JAN. 29: Basketball @ Middle Park (Granby)
 FRI. & SAT., JAN. 30-31: G & B Wrestling @ Garden City, Kan.

Thank You School Board!



January is School Board Appreciation Month. Join us in thanking board members Nancy Barden, left, Alyssa Pae, Brennan Westendorf, Hazel Statkiewicz and Darvin Harrell.