



Happy New Year!
2025 IN REVIEW P7-10

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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 5

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

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Agate School hallway revamp discontinued

Original plans to split 10-foot main corridor in half called premature and an increased safety hazard

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AGATE — The Agate School Board is interrupting plans for extensive hallway and access renovations after realizing its knee-jerk reaction to unfounded student safety allegations a couple months ago was premature.

During the Dec. 22 school board work-study session and business meeting that followed, directors indicated that events alleged to have occurred between secondary and elementary students did not happen and have decided that preliminary plans to split the elementary hallways into two narrower paths will not move forward.

"I wish I could go back and take back the decision last month, especially now that things turned out to be not true," said newly elected board vice president Chris Sonnleitner. "Pretty disappointed in that decision now."

Director Ray Martin also reiterated that reactions to parents' allegations of student impropriety during the Nov. 17 board meeting were premature.

"Disappointing that we reacted to something that, in the end, didn't really happen," Martin said.

During the November board meeting one elementary mother said a secondary student had inappropriately interacted with her kindergartner and that Superintendent/Principal Melinda Walls violated school policy and child welfare law with her handling of the situation. The mother vociferously demanded the board fire Walls immediately, a request that was not met.

In a follow-up interview with *The I-70 Scout* Dec. 4, Walls said that the allegations against the secondary student were false and that the request for her firing was in reaction and pay-back for a staff member recently fired for cause.

"The one thing I will say is that cameras don't lie," Wall said. "People do lie and, in this case, we have video that can prove it."

During the December meeting, board members decided to not move forward with an approximately

\$100,000 project to split the elementary hallways and reconfigure front office access. In addition to the false student interaction allegations, the board was informed that the project appeared to cause additional safety concerns and will probably not meet state building code.

"You're talking about changing up the hallway, splitting it up, but that's a serious safety situation," said Agate Fire Chief Larry Rector, noting that plans were to narrow the main elementary hallway from one 10-foot corridor to two 4-foot hallways. "If the school is at capacity and everyone is trying to escape [an emergen-

SEE AGATE BOE
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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Byers Park & Recreation District hosted a special holiday book reading by special guest Mrs. Claus at the Quint Valley Quonset Dec. 21.

Byers supt. contract moves to year-to-year after '26-27

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BYERS — At his own request, longtime Byers superintendent Tom Turrell will start the 2026-27 school year on what, in essence, is a one-year contract.

During the Dec. 18 Byers School Board meeting, Turrell reiterated his desire from two years ago to do away with the longstanding three-year rolling contract and go year to year.

"When I first started here, the goal of mine was to see my kids grow and hit graduation at one school, and that has happened and then some," said Turrell, who has been Byers superintendent for 20-plus years. "By no longer doing a rolling three-year contract, it doesn't hold the

board hostage. By not extending it now, I'll have one year remaining starting July 1 and then go year-by-year. I see it working OK for both sides."

The board is currently in the superintendent evaluation process.

During personnel discussion, Turrell said that plans to have the vacant secondary principal position mostly filled by high school math teacher Corey Green has been put on hold and that he will continue to perform many of those duties.

"At this stage, I think my best math teacher needs to be teaching math and reopen that position after this year," said Turrell, noting that a promising midyear math teacher/interventionist hire

SEE BYERS BOE
PAGE 20

AdCo officials' names used in scam

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Sheriff's Office is warning residents of a new scam where the perpetrators pose as Adams County officials — including Commissioner Lynn Baca.

Baca, 55, represents District 5, which encompasses all of eastern Adams County. Her name appeared on fake invoices sent to parties who have submitted permit applications to Adams County Community & Economic Development.

According to a sheriff's report, CED had been receiving

information about the false invoices, which requested a \$4,800 "application approval fee" related to clients' genuine permit applications, since approximately Aug. 12. The e-mail explains the fees, asks for payment by wire, and indicates that instructions would be sent when the recipient replied. The communication is signed "Lynn Baca, Chair," who is not authorized to send invoices.



Baca

The report continues that CED had had difficulty contacting all of its new applicants about the fraud but, on

Dec. 1, received a remittance by mail, which was given to a sheriff's deputy at the Adams County Government Center in Brighton. The victim, an Agate resident, had received an invoice from the "Adams County Planning Commission," an entity that does not send invoices.

How the suspects obtained the applicant information is unknown, but permit applications are public records on the county website. The fee amount requested was "outrageous," the report continues; the usual fees range from \$800 to \$1,000.

SEE ADCO SCAM
PAGE 20



SUBMITTED PHOTO

During the Dec. 18 Byers School Board meeting, members of Tiffeny O'Dell's environmental sciences class discuss their pollinator box project that is expected to come to fruition this spring along the walking trail on the south side of campus. The class received a \$500 grant award from the Butterfly Pavilion.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Free monthly lunch on tap for local veterans, seniors

BENNETT — Free lunches for I-70 Corridor military veterans and senior citizens age 65 and older will resume in January.

The next meal, served by a group of local volunteers, is scheduled at 12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16. Veterans and seniors from all along the I-70 Corridor are invited.

The meals are usually served on the second Friday of each month at the Bennett VFW Hall.

For more information, call Flora Goodnight at (303)549-2589.

Birth, death certificates price increases to \$25 on January 1

LITTLETON — The New Year will see a fee increase to residents seeking birth and death certificates in Arapahoe County and statewide.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's Vital Records Office has issued a new fee schedule. Effective Jan. 1, the cost of the certificates will rise to \$25 for the first copy and \$20 for each additional copy on the same order.

Certified birth and death certificates are legal documents printed on forgery-resistant safety paper with watermarks, raised engraving, background security patterns, and a unique certificate identification number.

Only certain individuals, with proof of eligibility, can be provided with these vital records.

Applications with the required documentation can be e-mailed to VitalRecords@arapahoegov.com. For more information, visit arapahoeco.gov/health or call (303)734-4300.

Byers Legion Post 160 seeks new members and new ideas

BYERS — American Legion Post 160 in Byers wants to expand its membership and its outreach into the community.

All military personnel are eligible for the American Legion. Sons, grandsons and great-grandsons can join the Sons of the Legion; the Auxiliary welcomes spouses, daughters and granddaughters.

The post is asking Legion members, active duty military, and retired veterans to provide feedback on building a productive post that supports veterans and the community in sustaining Byers' ideals and unique culture.

"We want to see our Legion Hall ... providing a locale where we can meet and foster the culture of our farm town culture," a release states.

For more information, call Cmdr. Dale Ness at (303)594-6501 or financial advisor Teresa Seggerman at (303)253-1475, or e-mail to Byers160@outlook.com.

23rd Judicial District Court: Lt. gov appoints new judge

DENVER — Pursuant to her authority as acting governor, Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera appointed a new judge to the 23rd Judicial District Court.

Shelby L. Fyles is an associate judge for the city of Aurora, a position she has held since 2023. Her docket consists of municipal matters.

Fyles earned her bachelor's degree from American University in 2006 and her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 2011.

From 2012-23, she served as Senior Lead Deputy District Attorney; Senior Deputy District Attorney, Child Victim Unit; Senior Deputy District Attorney, General Felony; and Deputy District Attorney in the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

The vacancy, effective Feb. 2, is occasioned by the retirement of Elizabeth B. Volz.

The 23rd Judicial District includes Elbert, Lincoln and Douglas counties.

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

Adams Co. Sheriff's K9 armored



Adams County Sheriff's K9 Khan will receive a bullet-proof vest through a nonprofit group.

BRIGHTON — A K9 belonging to the Adams County Sheriff's Office will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., a nonprofit organization, sponsored the vest for K9 Khan. It will be embroidered with a tribute to K9 Roam of Colorado Springs. Delivery is expected within 10 weeks.

The mission of Vested Interest in K9s, established in 2009, is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom-fitted, and certified by the National Institute of Justice. Since its inception, the organization has provided more than 6,225 vests valued at \$6.9 million to K9s in all 50 states.

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.

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.

Economic development group plans rural health care review

STRASBURG — The Regional Economic Advancement Partnership will meet from 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at CORE Electric, 1092 Cedar

St., Bennett.

Speakers will be Ginger Williams, Associate CSU Professor of Rural Health, Boettcher Foundation Fellowship; Dr. Kevin Stansbury, CEO Lincoln Health; Tisha Jackson, owner of Reflective Wellness Mind & Body in Aurora; and Jake Nemmers, representative for Sen. John Hickenlooper.

Lunch will be available beginning at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$18. To purchase lunch, RSVP by Friday, Jan. 2.

Big address signs offered at cost by Strasburg FPD

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

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

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

To obtain a sign, contact the Strasburg FPD at (303)622-4444, ext. 1. Credit cards are not accepted.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A pair of open space vehicles and equipment totaling \$120,000 were stolen from the maintenance building on the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds a little before 10 p.m. Dec. 23.

Thieves steal ArapCo Open Space pickups, tools from fairgrounds

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

AURORA — As of Dec. 28, Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies continued to be on the lookout for holiday hooligans that got away with about \$120,000 in vehicles and open space equipment from the county fairgrounds on Christmas Eve.

Between 9:45-10 p.m. Dec. 23, four masked burglars reportedly broke into a maintenance building and loaded up two Arapahoe County Open space vehicles with TVs and tools before driving away.

The stolen trucks are described as

a white Ford F250 and a white Ford ES250 with Colorado license plates AIP-025 and QTL-363, respectively. Both trucks have red Arapahoe County logos on the doors.

Not long after the burglary was reported, both vehicles were seen near Sixth Avenue and Potomac Street.

Anyone that has seen the vehicles or have information regarding the suspects are urged to contact the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office's Investigations Tipline at (720)874-8477. Tips can be reported anonymously.

If apprehended, the suspects could face charges of theft, burglary and criminal mischief.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bennett residents voices complaint about mail carrier

Dear Editor:

I have been living at the same address for 13 years and never had a problem with the Bennett Post Office until this year. Suddenly the mail carrier will not deliver my mail unless there is a clear 30 feet of space around my mailbox and there never seems to be 30 feet.

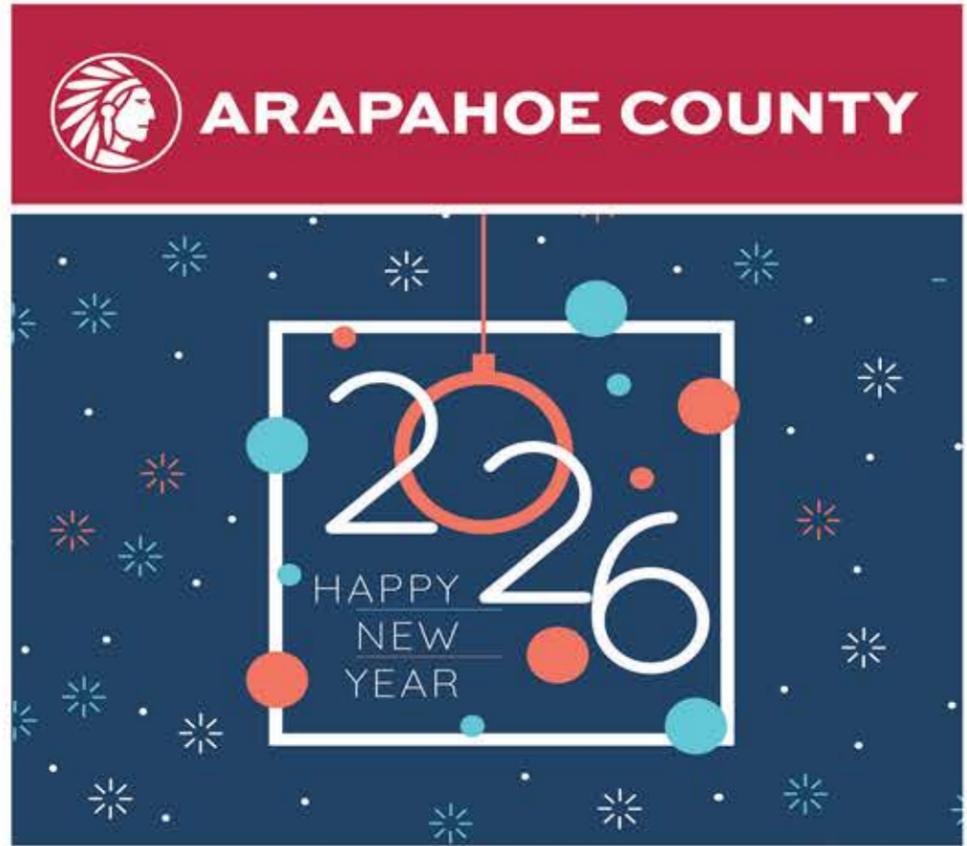
The problem is that I live on the corner of Washington Avenue and Fourth Street and the street is public parking for what used to be town hall, so it is not unusual for strangers to park in front of my house all day for meetings. I have spoken to the postmaster and he tells me that the mail carrier is "just following the rules" and that I need to keep people from parking for 30 feet (15 feet before my mail box and 15 feet after) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. so the mail truck can pull up to and away from my mailbox.

Recently I found out my mail has been held for the last two weeks with no notice or warning, supposedly because my mailbox was blocked for one day. According to the postmaster, the carrier was supposed to leave me a note that my mailbox was blocked and my mail was being held. But I didn't get any notice and, because I didn't pick up, they held the mail.

Lucky us, two weeks after they started holding the mail, we got a notice from a merchant that a package we ordered was being held "at our request" and, when I went to the post office, I was surprised to find two weeks worth of mail. When I complained to the postmaster and explained that I am not the one blocking the mailbox, that I am not home to police officers who park in front of my house and that, since it is a public street, I don't have the right to keep people from parking there. I was told to keep my mailbox clear or buy a P.O. Box.

I tried to talk to people at the town of Bennett. They said to talk to the post office. The post office says I should ask people not to park in front of my house. Apparently "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," but having to leave the vehicle will.

— Rebecca Robbins, Bennett



All County offices will be closed Wednesday, **Jan. 1, 2026** in observance of the New Year's holiday.



Three Ways to Find Help Meeting Basic Needs

When challenges arise—whether it's putting food on the table, getting help with child care or health care, or meeting other basic needs—it can feel difficult to know where to start. But there are resources that can help you get back on your feet.

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ISAAC MARAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Santa grabs his chin while hearing Christmas wish lists from Eira, 4, and Charlotte Sisneros, 6, at the Deer Trail Firehouse Dec. 21. Santa got a ride around town in a fire truck earlier in the evening.

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LIBRARY NEWS

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Wacky Wednesday: Kids and tweens can drop in for snacks, games, cool tech and creative crafts. New activity each month. Ages 8-18. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Wacky Wednesday: Teens can drop in for snacks, games, cool tech and creative crafts. New activity each month. Ages 12-18. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

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

Learning on the Go: Toddlers ages 18

months to 5 years old can enjoy stories and songs, then take home free books and activities to continue learning at home. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

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.

ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES ONLINE PROGRAMS

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

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

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 attend regular meetings to take an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Tech Takeaway: A new tech topic will be explored by adults each month in an ongoing series. This month tips and tricks to optimize your phone's performance will be addressed. The class will conclude with a question-and-answer session. Questions should be submitted in advance, if possible. Space is limited; registration encouraged for Q&A. 6-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8.

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BRITTANY PETERSON/AP Photo

A wastewater heat recovery system, left photo, operates Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, at the National Western Center in Denver, right photo.

Nat'l Western campus among sewer-powered HVAC sites

by **Isabella O'Malley**
Brittany Peterson
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — When a massive event center was being developed in Denver, planners had to contend with two existing 6-foot-wide sewer pipes that emptied into the river, creating an unsightly dilemma. Developers wanted to bury them. The utility said the wastewater needed to vent heat before entering the river.

There, a problem became a solution.

Thermal energy from the sewage now powers a system that heats and cools classrooms, an equestrian center and veterinary hospital at the National Western Center complex.

It's a recent example of how wastewater flushed down the drain can heat and cool buildings in a sustainable way. Climate experts say sewage is a largely untapped source of energy due to its stable tem-

perature of approximately 70 degrees (Fahrenheit). Wastewater heat recovery systems have already been installed in California, Washington, Colorado, New York and Canada. Pipes that transport sewage are already built, making it a low-cost and widely available resource that reduces the need for polluting energy sources.

There's no odor since the thermal energy transfer systems keep the wastewater separate from other components.

"Wastewater is the last frontier of sustainable energy," said Aaron Miller, the eastern regional manager for SHARC Energy, adding: "Even in this current environment where environmental stuff doesn't really sell, there's a financial benefit that we can sell to business owners."

While the technology works in a variety of locations, the Denver complex was uniquely positioned because it's close to major sewer lines in a

low-lying industrial zone. The vast majority of the center's heating and cooling comes from wastewater heat recovery. During extremely hot or cold weather, cooling towers and boilers are used to fill in the gaps.

"Every city on the planet has a place just like this," said Brad Buchanan, the center's CEO. "This is actually a value, a benefit that the bottoms have that the rest of the city doesn't have."

HOW HEAT FROM SEWAGE CAN WARM BUILDINGS

Extracting the thermal energy starts with the water from toilets, showers and sinks traveling down usual sewage lines before flowing into a tank that is part of the heat recovery system. Heavy solids are separated and the remaining fluid flows through a heat exchanger, a sealed device with stacks of metal plates that can take heat from one source and put it into another.

Thermal energy from the wastewater is transferred to a clean water loop without the liquids coming into contact. The clean water carrying the thermal energy is then sent into a heat pump that can heat or cool rooms, depending on the weather. It can also heat potable water. Once the thermal energy has been extracted, the wastewater flows back into the sewer system and eventually to a water treatment plant.

The heat from the sewage replaces the need for energy from other sources to heat and cool buildings, such as electricity from the grid. Electricity is only needed to run the heat exchanger and pumps that move the water, far more energy efficient than boilers and chillers used in traditional HVAC systems.

WHERE WASTEWATER HEATING IS BEING USED

Miller said the systems work best in buildings with centralized hot water pro-

duction, such as apartments, commercial laundromats, car washes and factories. In residential settings, Miller said the technology is best suited for buildings with 50 or more apartment units. The technology works in various climates around the country. Some buildings supplement with traditional HVAC components.

The technology utilizes existing city pipes, which reduces the need for construction compared to some types of renewable energy, said Ania Camargo Cortes, a thermal energy networks expert and board member of the non-profit HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team).

"If you can use wastewater, it's going to be an enormous savings ... its billions of kilowatts available to us to use," said Camargo Cortes.

According to 2005 data from the U.S. Department of Energy, the equivalent of 350

SEE SEWER HVAC PAGE 6

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BRITTANY PETERSON/AP Photo

A veterinarian works on an animal Dec. 2 in a building on the National Western Center campus in Denver that is heated and cooled by a wastewater heat recovery system.

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SEWER HVAC FROM PAGE 5

billion kilowatt-hours' worth of hot water is flushed down drains each year.

In Vancouver, Canada, a wastewater heat recovery system helps supply heat and hot water to 47 buildings served by the False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility. In 2025, 60% of the energy the utility generated came from sewage heat recovery, said Mark Schwark, director of water and utilities management at the City of Vancouver.

THE FUTURE OF WASTEWATER HEAT RECOVERY

Aaron Brown, associate professor of systems engineering at Colorado State University, said he believes use of the wastewater heat recovery systems will grow because it is an efficient, low-carbon system that is relatively easy to install.

Unlike solar or wind power that can vary by weather or time of day, thermal energy from sewage can be available whenever it's needed, Brown said.

"I think that to decarbonize, we have to think of some innovative solutions. And this is one that is not that complicated as far as the engineering technology, but it's very effective," said Brown.

Epic Cleantec, which makes water reuse systems for office and apartment buildings, is expanding into heat recovery after previously focusing on treating water for toilets and irrigation. The company recently installed a wastewater heat recovery system in a high-rise building in San Francisco.

Aaron Tartakovsky, co-founder and CEO of Epic Cleantec, said people have been conditioned to think that wastewater is dirty and should always be discarded, but his company recently launched two beers in collaboration with a brewer made from recycled shower and laundry water to illustrate novel ways to reuse it.

"I think wastewater recovery is going to be a continuously growing thing because it's something that we're not taking advantage of," said Tartakovsky.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO. LDC25-001, EV CHARGING STATIONS / LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT

PROPOSAL: Add electric vehicle charging station requirements to the existing Land Development Code.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 20, 2026, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LDC25-001, EV Charging Station / Land Development Code Amendment. 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, Dec. 31, 2025, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

The I-70 Scout 2025 Year In Review!

JANUARY 9

Boy, 17, rescued from old missile silo

WATKINS — A New Year's hike gone wrong. That was apparently the case when, for the second time in eight months, a teenager fell into abandoned I-70 Corridor missile silos Jan. 1.

At about 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue was originally dispatched to the 4500 block of South Imboden Road on the former Lowry Bombing & Gunnery Range owned by the Colorado State Land Board on request for a "confined space" rescue.

Upon arrival, rescuers from Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue and deputies from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office discovered that one teen had broken through the cover of a ventilation shaft of one of the four decommissioned Titan Missile silo locations on the property and fell approximately 30 feet. The teen was among three trespassers — two juveniles and an adult — who stumbled onto the defunct missile silo hatches.

The teen that fell landed in several feet of water that wasn't past his head but reportedly helped soften his landing and likely lessened the injuries he suffered.

Bennett-Watkins, the primary response agency under Battalion Chief Derek Nystrom and Assistant Chief Caleb Connor, received assistance from Sable Altura, South Metro and Deer Trail fire departments to extricate the juvenile. A pair of Sable Altura members were lowered into the shaft via a rope-and-pulley system and extricated the juvenile from the silo at roughly 5 p.m.

The injured party was transported non-emergent to a local hospital with minor injuries.



CHARLES BROSHOUS/S280Fire.com

Corridor firefighter Tyler Loveless, foreground, is pulled out ahead of Sable Altura Fire Chief Rich Solomon after the rescue of a 17-year-old boy who fell into an abandoned Titan I Missile silo shaft south of Watkins Jan. 1.

JANUARY 15

Unexpectedly powerful storm wreaks havoc locally

Last Thursday's snowstorm turned out more severe than prognosticators originally forecast, upsetting local commuters and parents of I-70 Corridor schoolchildren.

In the day or two leading up to Jan. 9, forecasters mostly predicted a trace to an inch of snow in and around the Denver-metro area; however, when all was said and done, areas south and east received at least 3 inches of snow with strong winds drifting snow several feet high.

In addition, below-freezing temperatures through much of Thursday morning had residents questioning most local school districts' decision to not delay or cancel classes for the day. Corridor school officials with Bennett, Strasburg, Byers and Deer Trail reiterated that the decision to move forward with classes was made before daylight when forecasts still indicated stormy conditions would dissipate quickly.

JANUARY 22

Tractor-trailer driver's life spared in crash with train

AURORA — A semi-truck driver somehow escaped serious or fatal injuries after a train struck his rig at a railroad crossing between Bennett and Manila Road Jan. 15.

At about 3:30 p.m., the Aurora Police Department, Adams County Sheriff's Office and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue were dispatched to the intersection of Highway 36 (Colflax Avenue) and Peterson Road and, upon arrival, found a bottom-dump trailer tipped on its side and lying on the railroad tracks.

"A semi-truck carrying large landscaping rocks attempted to cross in front of a locomotive train," an Aurora Police spokesperson said. "The driver suffered minor injuries and was cited for the incident."

The non-passenger train that included multiple tanker cars did not derail during the crash and no injuries were reported.

While cleanup of the site took a few hours, no significant road closures occurred.

Law enforcement and state highway officials urge commuters to stay aware

of their surroundings and to not cross railroad tracks when trains are nearby and quickly approaching.

JANUARY 29

Byers suffers second H₂O breach in 3 weeks

BYERS — For the second time since the new year started, Byers residents temporarily lost water service and were forced to boil water for consumption following a water main breach Jan. 22.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., crews working to install a new water line at Fourth Avenue and Sherman Street, in front of the Byers Water & Sanitation District office, found an unexpected surprise when they punctured a pipe running parallel with the one they knew about.

"We found out there were two mains running down Fourth and we only knew about one of them," said Byers Water & Sanitation District Administrator Kagen Kitzman. "They were digging easy and calculated, but caught the [unknown] main with a tooth of a bucket and popped it. We had no working valves in the immediate vicinity to isolate that area from everyone else, so had to shut things down all across town. Just no way around it."

But Kitzman added that the actual water shutdown was limited to about 2 hours, because valves were found close enough to the breach to allow workers to start repairs sooner than later.

FEBRUARY 5

Pedestrian seriously injured after struck by pickup in Bennett

BENNETT — As of this past weekend, a metro-Denver man is fighting for his life after he was struck by a pickup in Bennett Jan. 29.

At about 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, Colorado State Patrol troopers and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue personnel were dispatched to the intersection of Highway 79, aka South First Street, and Bennett Avenue on reports of a crash involving a vehicle and a pedestrian.

Upon arrival, a Toyota Tacoma pickup was found facing north parked in the northbound lane just north of the intersection, while an adult male was lying on the north edge of the intersection.

"The vehicle was traveling northbound just south of the intersection with Bennett Avenue and the pedestrian crossing west to east in the crosswalk on the south side of the intersection," a State Patrol spokesman said. "The vehicle's front bumper struck the pedestrian."

The pedestrian, a 34-year-old man from Lakewood, was transported to a Denver hospital with life-threatening injuries. At press time, his injury status was unchanged.

FEBRUARY 12

Construction of new 'Burg park delayed

STRASBURG — Efforts to make Strasburg's newest recreational jewel come to fruition have been delayed, but officials hope to be back on track for completion by the end of year.

During a special meeting Feb. 5, the Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors unanimously voted to reject all three final bids for Community Park East and provide District Manager Angie Graf the authority to proceed in finding a satisfactory resolution within the project's \$3.5 million budget.

Four companies submitted bids for the project with the board perusing the three finalists whose proposals met the scope of work and timeline requirement; however, all three bids were over the budgeted amount. Final bids were just under \$3.7 million from Taylor Kohrs LLC, just over \$3.96 million from Building by Design, and approximately \$4.15 million from ECI Site Construction.

FEBRUARY 19

Longtime area leader dead at 69

WATKINS — After his almost two-decade stint of political advocacy for the I-70 Corridor was cut short by a cancer diagnosis, former Arapahoe County Commissioner and Colorado House District 56 Representative Rod Bockenfeld, 69, succumbed to the disease late last week.

News of Bockenfeld's passing originally circulated the state Capitol Feb. 13, about 1½ years after he announced his diagnosis. On Friday morning, his death was formally acknowledged on the floor of the Colorado House, including messages from House Minority Leader Rose Puglise and the Republican Caucus and the tolling of the Capitol's bells in his honor.



Bockenfeld

FEBRUARY 26

Byers School expands teacher housing

BYERS — Byers School District increased its inventory of teacher housing options after the board of directors approved the purchase of a home Feb. 20.

The 1,369 square foot, three-bedroom, one-bath house located on South Owens Street sits on a 2.5-acre lot. The property also includes an outbuilding and a chicken coop.

Superintendent Tom Turrell said the acreage has additional water taps and could potentially be used for the agriculture department.

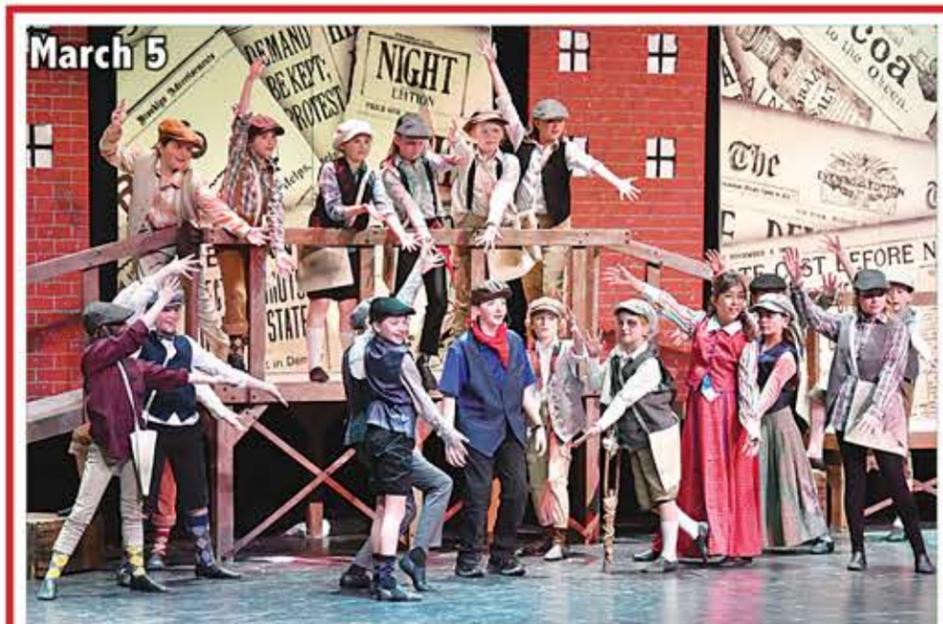
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The I-70 Scout 2025 Year In Review!

"That water source is a plus for what you could do in the future — possibly a location for other shop or ag activities or a barn housing small animals," he said.

After discussion, the school board unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the \$490,000 purchase from the general fund beginning fund balance. The resolution states that the district has identified a need for additional real estate to support its educational mission and that all necessary due diligence was conducted before the purchase was made. Turrell is authorized to execute all documents to complete the transaction.

The district now owns two houses and 10 apartments used as teacherages with low rent. A district policy outlines the specifics of the rent and other conditions.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Cast A of the Strasburg Singers performs the finale of "Newsies Jr." based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White Feb. 28 at the Bennett High School auditorium. Two casts staged four performances over two days.

MARCH 12

New Bennett School SRO cost? \$250K

BENNETT — As the Bennett School District continues to work on its transition of a school resource officer from Adams to Arapahoe County, schools in the community remain well prepared if they should need to lock down.

That was the message from Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy during the Feb. 26 school board meeting.

SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY

The district partnered with local law enforcement, including the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado State Patrol, to complete a successful lock-down drill with staff and students in February.

The drill was the first with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office participating as the school safety contractor. The Adams County Sheriff's Office was the previous SRO contractor but that changed when the town of Bennett shifted its law enforcement services contract last year.

"We are still working on an SRO for the district but that doesn't sound like it's going to come to fruition this year. It sounds like costs are still going to trend around that \$250,000," reported Purdy, who indicated plans to meet with the Arapahoe County Sheriff to discuss pricing.

The Bennett Board of Trustees is working on a grant for an additional law enforcement officer that would share traffic control and SRO responsibilities.

MARCH 19

DT, Byers lose electricity after pole burnt

While dropping between quarter- and a third-of-an-inch of precipitation along much of the I-70 Corridor, last Friday's quick-moving spring squall also included strong winds that knocked out power to a couple thousand residences between Byers and Deer Trail.

Just before 11 a.m. March 14, CORE Electric Cooperative received word of a power outage from both Byers and Deer Trail customers.

A search of the power grid found the breach to be just north of I-70 along Bradbury-Krebs Road between Strasburg and Byers.

Upon arrival, the top of a power pole was found burned, the brace dislodged and a power line sagging down towards a field of dry corn stalks below.

MARCH 26

Power outages last 23 hours over 3 days

What led to a series of at least three power outages along the western edge of the I-70 Corridor early last week remains mostly a mystery.

Residents west of Brick Center Road on the Arapahoe County side of I-70 and Penrith Road on the Adams County side first reported service interruption

from approximately 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 17 with a longer outage lasting from approximately 9 p.m. Tuesday until about 11 a.m. the following morning. A third outage reportedly lasted from about 2:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

An Xcel Energy spokesperson was vague on her replies when asked for explanations about the series of outages except to say that the middle interruption impacted about 1,200 customers in parts of the Denver, Aurora, Watkins and Bennett ZIP codes.

APRIL 2

Car bursts into flames on I-70

BENNETT — A fiery inferno along westbound I-70 between Bennett and Manila Road the evening of March 26 claimed one vehicle but no one was injured and other collateral damage minimized.

At about 7:15 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue were dispatched near mile marker 301 of westbound I-70 on report of a possible hit-and-run that left a silver Subaru Crosstrek disabled on the shoulder of the thoroughfare.

Upon arrival, the vehicle's front end was found engulfed in flames with the male driver, also the sole occupant, standing outside the wreckage uninjured.

In addition to quickly extinguishing the SUV, firefighters doused the surrounding foliage, limiting the burn area to a 50' x 100' area.

According to the State Patrol and Bennett-Watkins Fire officials, the driver of the SUV was unable to avoid a wayward wheel that originated from the other side of the thoroughfare



DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

A Subaru Crosstrek is engulfed in flames about halfway between Bennett and Manila Road on westbound I-70 March 26. Officials said the car caught fire when a loose wheel (see inset) from an unknown vehicle going east crossed the highway into the path of the Crosstrek and became lodged beneath it.

APRIL 23

Support plan created for 'Burg MS

STRASBURG — The Strasburg School Board discussed staffing needs, an academics intervention program at the middle school, legislative funding cuts, and the release of a survey for parents this spring during its April 7 meeting.

STAFFING UPDATE

Superintendent Kelle Bongard assured directors that the district is in the thick of hiring season for next school year and that she hopes to have all three buildings fully staffed by June 1.

She added that, despite the board approving a list of more than 20 staff not returning for 2025-26 that night, the district remains a desired home for educators.

HEMPHILL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Hemphill Middle School has begun a new program working with parents to create formal support plans for students struggling in one or more core subjects.

In some cases the solution will be a mandatory afterschool homework club with tutoring; in other cases, summer school or detention might be required.

The school calls the new program the Early Warning System because data shows gaps in subject matter expertise that start to show during middle school but often remain through high school.

STATE FUNDING UPDATES

With the legislative session wrapping up along with the school year, the School Finance Act seems to have taken center stage. The House Education Committee and Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) had hearings on the act and both the chair and co-chair of the Legislative Resolutions Committee testified on April 7.

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The I-70 Scout 2025 Year In Review!



May 7

KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Byers High School presented the hillbilly musical comedy "Fussin' an' A-Feudin,'" April 25. The play was set in the backwoods community of Lonesome Polecat, where two families continued a decades-long feud while big-city publishing companies vie for the rights to publish a book about them. Emmy Lou Tolliver (Shadra Mikita), Lee Roy Calhoun (Krayton Ebert) and Joe Martin (Aurdrina Solomen) are disappointed with Antiquity Wormwood's (Sharla Kontour) song and dance, "I Fergits," meaning she doesn't recall the reason the families are feuding.



May 27

Tornadoes demolish homes, solar farm near Bennett

At approximately 1 p.m. May 18, tornadoes touched down, wreaking havoc west of Bennett. While the first funnels reportedly touched down around Manila Road south of I-70, storm activity moved northeast with most of the preliminary damage occurring from Highway 36 and Harback Road west of town and moving in a northeasterly pattern to 88th Avenue east of Highway 79.

Valve plan soaks more Bennett residents

BENNETT — In addition to doubling up the number of residents impacted, those affected by the town of Bennett's Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) program will be forced to shell out about 25% more in expense than originally told.

During the May 13 Bennett Board of Trustees meeting, Royce Pindell, who was mayor when the PRV program was initiated, said the program will now

cost affected homeowners more than \$1,000, rather than the original estimate of \$800, and will also affect twice as many residents than previously declared.



July 2

ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Firefighter Eugene Miller appears to have as much fun as the kids during the annual Foam Day co-hosted by the Strasburg Metro Parks & Recreation District and the Strasburg Fire Protection District June 21 at Strasburg's Community Park West. In the direct line of foamy fire is local youngster Lailah Zamora.

JULY 9

3 die, 1 injured in crash near Cedar Point

CEDAR POINT — Three members of a Montana family, including two children, were killed and another member seriously injured when their SUV collided with a semi and trailer mid-afternoon July 2.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol and emergency responders were dispatched near mile marker 348 in the area of the Cedar Point exit on eastbound I-70 on reports of a collision between an SUV and a semi.

Upon arrival, troopers and firefighters/EMTs discovered a demolished Subaru Forester overturned in the center median with a semi and a damaged trailer blocking half of the right lane and shoulder. Debris was strewn between the two.



PHOTO COURTESY CBS NEWS

Rescue workers clear the wreckage from an accident near Cedar Point July 2. The crash claimed the lives of three of four Montanans riding in an SUV that struck the rear of a semi tractor-trailer.

AUGUST 13

Fire fears escalate; two blazes SE of Byers

After a relatively mundane fire season through June and July, the first week of August had I-70 Corridor firefighters chasing after a handful of wildfires, including a pair of calls on consecutive days within or in close proximity to last year's major conflagration that charred almost two sections of ground south-east of Byers.

LAST WEDNESDAY

Around 2:20 p.m. Aug. 6, firefighters and Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 2300 block of South County Road 193 on reports of heavy smoke and flames in close proximity to structures. According to the sheriff's office, Byers and Strasburg fire personnel had the flames already extinguished by the time deputies arrived.

Fire personnel indicated that it took about a half-hour to contain and mop-up the scene. The fire was first reported as "100' by 100' in size in medium to heavy fuels and progressing at a moderate rate of speed."

SEPTEMBER 10

Mom, daughter charged in local carjacking

More specifics have come out about last month's armed carjacking north of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The I-70 Scout 2025 Year In Review!

Bennett and Strasburg turned vehicle pursuit into east Denver, which resulted in mother-daughter suspects being arrested and facing numerous charges, including multiple felonies.

According to a Sept. 5 online docket search of the 17th Judicial District, Valentina Hahn, 53, of Denver, is scheduled for arraignment at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, and Brandi Hahn, 27, of Kittredge, has a preliminary hearing scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Monday, Nov. 10, for a handful of charges associated with the Aug. 10 incident. Both defendants will have their cases heard in Adams County Courtroom F.

Among the litany of charges are third-degree felony aggravated robbery with intent to kill/maim/wound with a weapon and fifth-degree felony vehicular eluding. The younger suspect also had a pair of outstanding warrants for her arrest from the Denver Marshal's Office.

SEPTEMBER 24

False alarm: Bennett HS intruder not found

BENNETT — Despite an intense hour-plus interruption and uncertainty concerning student and staff safety in the secondary building, the school day at Bennett Schools concluded as it started Sept. 18 — “business as usual.”

That was the sentiment of Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy after a high school student's original report of a suspicious person entering the building, possibly armed, turned into a case of mistaken identity with no one being hurt.

“A lot of vigilance and due diligence by both our students and staff,” Purdy said during the debriefing session with law enforcement officials afterwards. “Our [district] safety protocols kicked in and worked really well. Best result you could ask for, especially given recent events.”

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office received the original 911 call at 12:01 p.m. Thursday that a possible armed intruder entered the high school from an open door but, by 1:03 p.m., the “all clear” was declared and, at 1:15, the campus-wide lockdown was canceled.



OCTOBER 8

Attempted traffic stop ends in drug arrest

BENNETT — An attempted traffic stop near Bennett early Sept. 30 became a pursuit through town and a drug bust on the west edge of the community.

At about 4 a.m. Tuesday, an Adams County Sheriff's deputy attempted to stop an eastbound vehicle near mile marker 302 of I-70 but the driver sped away.

Another deputy in the area deployed stop sticks near mile marker 303 and, while the device proved effective in puncturing the tires, the vehicle continued east until exiting at Bennett and heading north on First Avenue (Highway 79). At Colfax Avenue (Highway 36), the vehicle headed west where it finally came to rest near the interchange with Schumaker Road.

“The vehicle lost control and went into an embankment,” the Adams County Sheriff's Public Information Office said. “A male suspect was taken into custody without incident.”

During a search of the vehicle, methamphetamine and fentanyl were both uncovered, as was paraphernalia, including a scale.

OCTOBER 29

Woman perishes in house fire in Box Elder

BENNETT — An adult woman was found deceased and another person was injured in a structure fire on the west edge of an unincorporated Arapahoe County subdivision between Bennett and Watkins late Oct. 19.

According to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, deputies and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue personnel were first dispatched to the 39900 block of Florida Drive just east of its intersection with South Indianfield Street at Box Elder Creek Ranches after 10 p.m. on reports of a house on fire.

The victim was identified Oct. 26 by family members and friends at the scene as homeowner Leellon Marie Baughman, 71.

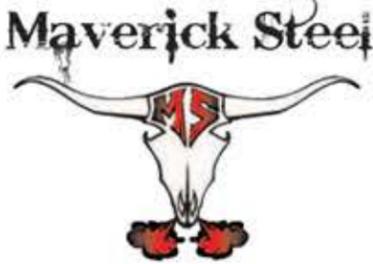
Another relative, Oliver Glenn Phillips, who lives on the property, said god wanted his angel back.



An Oct. 19 house fire on the west edge of the Box Elder Creek Ranches subdivision claimed the life of an adult female and sent a second occupant to the hospital.

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PLAYOFF GAME WINNER! — Bennett's Jesus Santoyo gets behind a Fountain Valley defender to bury a first-round playoff game-winning goal in double overtime while teammate Houston Broskie watches from his backside Nov. 1. For a preview of the Tiger's first-ever trip to the second round of postseason play.

DECEMBER 3

Strasburg teen killed in dirt bike accident

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

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

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

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

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

Personnel from Byers and Strasburg fire departments both responded.

“Byers Fire Rescue and paramedics responded and transported the juvenile to a local hospital,” the sheriff's spokesman added. “Despite lifesaving efforts, the 16-year-old was pronounced deceased.”



SPORTS



Strasburg XC runners compete at Nike meet

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

MESA, Ariz. — The boys cross country running team from Strasburg took fifth place as a team with one harrier placing fourth in the small school classification at the Nike Southwest Regional Championship Nov. 22 in Mesa, Ariz.

The Indians brought 10 athletes to the event. Senior Dawit James took fourth with a time of, a 28-second improvement from his previous personal record and a new school record.

“These 10 continued to train for three weeks after the season ended — not an easy thing to do with the time change (dark at 5) and the much colder weather,” James said. “Their efforts definitely paid off.”

All six boys in attendance recorded new personal records: In addition to Dawit James, seniors Israel James (38th, 16:53.25) and Jeremiah Redd (42nd, 16:56.79) improved by 14 and 58 seconds, respectively; junior Noah Dobransky (31st, 16:49.36) by 11 seconds; sophomore Miles Nelson (158th, 19:05.20) by 32 seconds;

and freshman Jacob Breiding (150th, 18:55.47) by nine seconds.

Four Lady Indians also made the trip. Junior Maura Kramer (128th, 21:15.01) set a new personal best for the course with an improvement of 1:33 over last year, and senior Kasianna Christiansan (349th, 27:01.30) and junior Naomi Redd (292nd, 24:17.88) both had season-best times. Megan Lay (279th, 23:58.28) also competed.

The self-funded trip occurred over four days. The team trained on the course at the high school Mike James attended in Albuquerque, N.M., and participated in a pre-meet run on the Mesa course. On the return trip, the Indians visited Petroglyphs National Monument in Rio Rancho, N.M.

HALL OF FAME

The 2025 cross country season ended with Strasburg School Hall of Fame honors.

Dawit James, Dobransky, Israel James and Redd reached numbers 1-4 in the Hall of Fame for the boys, Breiding ended in a tie at No. 16, and Nelson came in at 23rd. Kramer was named No. 6 for the girls.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Strasburg cross country team who attended the Nike Southwest Regional Championship Nov. 22 include, front row from left, Megan Lay, Kasianna Christiansan, Naomi Redd and Maura Kramer and, back row, Israel James, Miles Nelson, Jeremiah Redd, Noah Dobransky, Jacob Breiding and Dawit James.

Strength training methods: Which option is best for you?

by Stephen Wade
AP Sports Writer

When it comes to weight-resistance exercise, you can choose free weights such as dumbbells or barbells. Or weight machines, which are often driven by cables or levers. You can use resistance bands or tubes to build strength. Or try push-ups and pull-ups — old standbys that create muscle overload by using your own body weight.

These four basic options for strength training present fitness possibilities for young or old or beginners. And they offer flexibility for use in the gym, your home, or in a hotel room during travel.

You'll probably wind up using a combination of the four, and they all have their pros and cons. They are appropriate for all ages and can be augmented with aerobic exercises like walking or running — or even climbing stairs.

Let's let Dr. Rafael Escamilla, a biomechanist and physical therapist at Sacramento (Calif.) State University, and Dr. Michael Stone, a sports scientist at East Tennessee State University, walk us through the possibilities depending on your age, motivation and goals.

Both are internationally recognized experts, col-



MGN ONLINE

An older couple works out.

lege professors and former competitive weightlifters who still work out almost daily. Both suggest a medical check if you're just starting out and the guidance of a trainer at the beginning. Most suggest strength training two or three times per week.

DUMBBELLS AND BARBELLS

We're talking primarily about dumbbells, barbells, kettlebells and medicine balls.

“If you're relatively healthy, free weights are the way to go,” Stone told The Associated Press. “They have more carryover to daily life — to lifting things. It transfers better. In daily life you pick up your grandchildren, pick up the groceries.”

Free weights are also more versatile, accommodating natural movements that a machine will not allow. Free weights require the user to focus on balance, activating additional muscle groups than simply those targeted.

Stone reminded that you need not use much weight. Just a pound, or a kilo or two, will do it. Start slowly and increase the weight gradually.

“I would also strongly suggest that if you've never lifted weights before, go find somebody who knows something about it,” Stone added.

WEIGHT MACHINES

Weight machines are probably the least intimidating option for the beginner. The machines offer stability and a fixed pattern of movement that give beginners a chance to get familiar with the movements involved in strength training.

“Machines are a good way to start,” Escamilla

SEE TRAINING OPTIONS
PAGE 12



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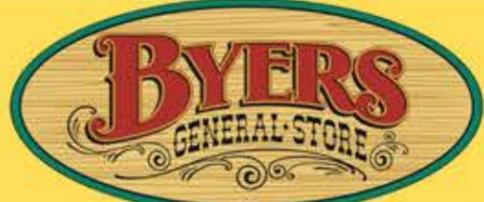
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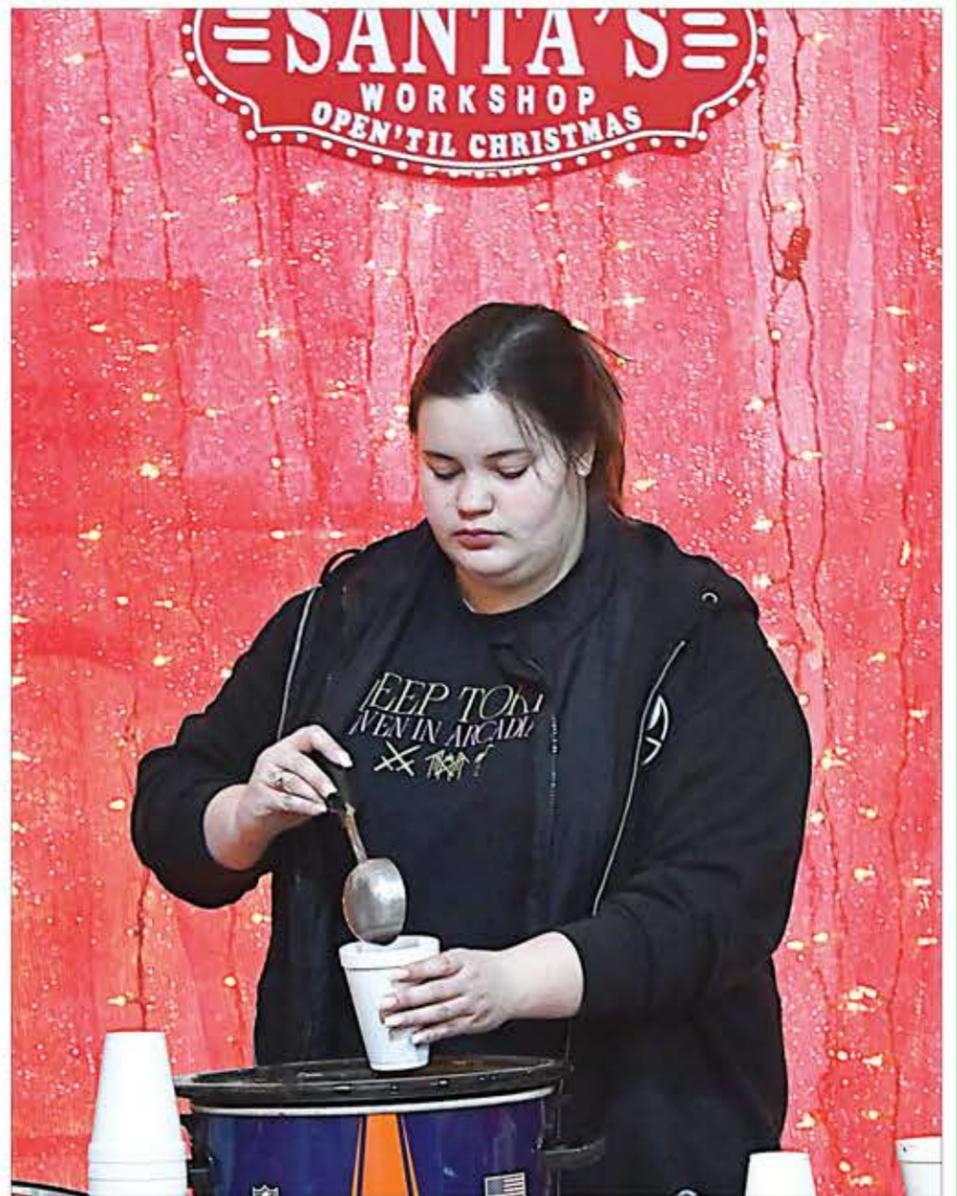
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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

In addition to hosting Mrs. Claus as a guest book reader at Quint Valley Dec. 21, visitors had a chance to enjoy gifts and some classic holiday beverages. From left photo, Alana Hoyer, 7, struggles to carry a full gift bag while Santa assistant Justina Herman helps from behind, and Katelynn Swallow pours a warm cup of hot cocoa.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

MONDAY, JAN. 5
Deer Trail School Board. 7 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7
Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Young at Heart Seniors in Bennett. 12-4 p.m., Bennett Community Center.
Mid-Week Service & Study with worship and Communion. All ages welcome. 6:30 p.m., Holy Spirit Livin,' 1506 Main St., Strasburg. (303)622-4648.

EVERY THURSDAY
Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing,

dance and learn to play musical instruments. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

Preschool Storytime: Children up to ages 3-6 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that promote early literacy. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

Play & Learn for ages 1-3 and their families. 10-11 a.m., Kelter Library, Byers.

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

Coffee, Cookies & Chat for all I-70 Corridor seniors. 11 a.m., Bennett Recreation Center.

Patriot meeting of like-minded individuals to learn about the nation's history, constitution and rights. 6 p.m., 1506 Main St., Strasburg (303)622-4648.

TRAINING OPTIONS

FROM PAGE 11

told The Associated Press. "They're safe and easy and you don't need a lot of technique or skill to do them."

Escamilla pointed out they also reduce the risk of injury, isolate muscles, and help build confidence as you're starting out. The machines also are more time-effective.

"Start here and then you can gravitate to free weight and other options," Escamilla said.

RESISTANCE BANDS

Resistance bands and tubes are the most portable options. They can help to build muscle, improve flexibility and balance, and avoid the need to

sign up for a gym membership. The bands or tubes are made of elastic and come in a variety of sizes and resistance levels — how far they stretch and how difficult it is to stretch them.

Bands also come in fabric models.

"They take up no room to pack and they're supercheap," Escamilla said. "You can take them with you as you travel — just throw them in your suitcase."

You can use them to work your legs, arms, back, chest and shoulders and other muscle groups. They can be used in many configurations and may be less intimidating than dumbbells or barbells.

"The bands won't cut it for a 300-pound football player," Escamilla added. "But they're good for your average person — your average adult."

BODYWEIGHT RESISTANCE

The idea with every weight-resistance exercise is to overload the muscles using your own body weight.

Exercises like push-ups, pull-ups, squats, lunges and planks and others fall into this category.

"Your body weight can be used as a form of resistance," Escamilla said. "You can get a good workout doing these and you need almost no equipment."

No matter the option, Stone emphasized the need to vary your exercises — both the types and the number of repetitions. You can also vary locations, perhaps choosing an outdoor gym for workouts.

Outdoor gyms are often found on beaches like the one at the popular Barceloneta beach in Barcelona, Spain.

"You can't do the same number of sets and repetitions all the time and expect to get better results," Stone said. "You get stale and monotony can set in."



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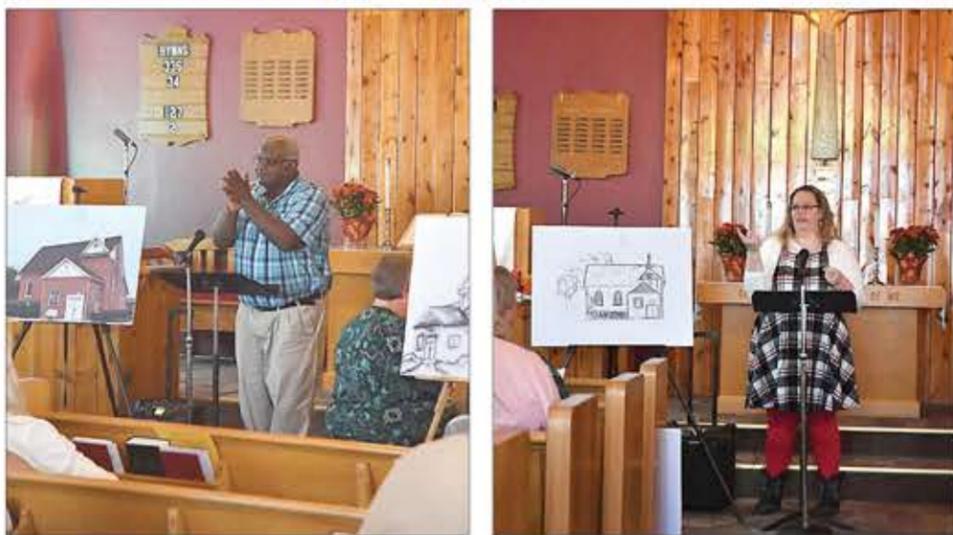


Byers church marks 115th year



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Byers Community Church at West Front and Sherman streets has its roots in the Byers Church Society, which was organized as the Byers Church Society in April 1908. Two years later First Presbyterian Church was founded with the Byers Church Society unanimously voting to transfer all property and interests to it. While the building was under construction, services occurred in an old hall situated in a grove of trees about a block west of the church building. The first services were held on March 10, 1910 and the building was dedicated on July 23, 1911. The name was changed from First Presbyterian Church to 1st United Presbyterian Church of Byers in 1959, then to Byers Community Church in 1972. In October 2025, it celebrated its 115th anniversary.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Members of Byers Community Church at West Front and Sherman streets participate in its 115th anniversary service Oct. 19. Pictured are, clockwise from top photo, Jeanne Harris, Latisha Tangeman and Brian Harris.

Happy New Year!
Watch for our next Online Auction:
Misc. Estates & Consignors
Closing starts @ 6 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 15

LINNEBUR AUCTIONS INC. 303-822-9298
 linneburauctions@hotmail.com
 Visit www.linneburauctions.com for details, information & pics!!

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
 God's work. Our hands.

Christ Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod
 Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

275 Ash Street, Bennett • 303-644-3044
www.corlms.org

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
 278 S. Sherman St., Byers
 303-822-9366 • mttaborybers.org

Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
 Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church Awana — Meetings every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)

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 Sundays at 10 a.m.
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 BYERS, CO

Sundays at 10:00 AM
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 In-person services every Sunday, but be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for up to date information.
LivingSpringsCowboyChurchByers.org
 719-659-8848

Mountain View Fellowship
 Bible-Based • Nondenominational
 1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg
 303.622.9600

- ❖ A Christmas Experience ❖
 Friday, Dec. 19: From 5-8pm
- ❖ Christmas Eve-Eve Services ❖
 Tuesday, Dec. 23: 4:30, 6:00, & 7:30pm
- ❖ Regular Sunday Services ❖
 8:30 & 10:15am
 Servicio dominical regular a las 10:15
- ❖ Sunday Service Livestream ❖
mvfcolorado.online.church

Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
 Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
 Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvfcolorado"
mvfcolorado.com

Strasburg Orthodox Mission

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

calvary bennett
 Teaching God's Word verse-by-verse

Sundays 10:45 AM
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Live-streamed @ calvarybennett.org

Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave
 303.261.8853
info@calvarybennett.org

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Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Jeff Wilborn
 186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103
 Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889
 Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551
www.ourladyoftheplains.org

MASS TIMES

- Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri & every 1st Saturday 8:30 am
- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 9:00 am
- 11:30 am en español

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
 Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm
 Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
 Or by Appointment
 OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS

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 — Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

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LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Monday, Jan. 5: Chicken patty, fries.
 Tuesday, Jan. 6: Beef tacos, refried beans.

BYERS

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Hamburgers, french fries, grapes.
 Wednesday, Jan. 7: Orange chicken, egg roll.

DEER TRAIL

Tuesday, Jan 6: Burritos with green chili, steamed corn, mixed fruit.
 Wednesday, Jan 7: Barbecue pork sandwich, broccoli and carrots.

STRASBURG

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Egg rolls, fried rice.
 Wednesday, Jan. 7: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes.

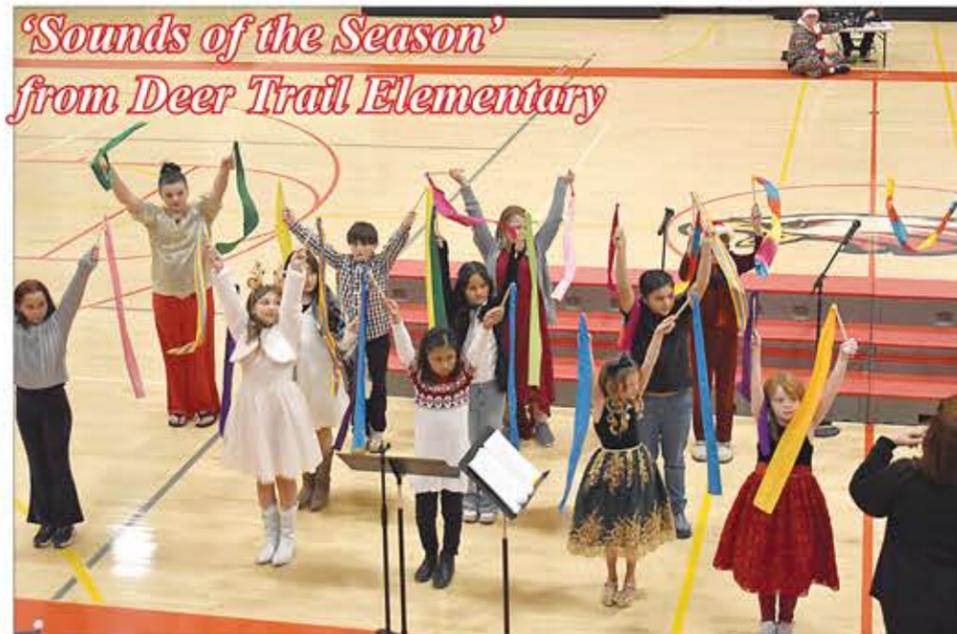
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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From top photo, third, fourth and fifth grades perform during Deer Trail Elementary's Sounds of the Season holiday concert Dec. 17. All groups were under the direction of music teacher Dawn Heck.

Submit your classified ad online @ I-70Scout.com

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I-70 Chamber of Commerce Members 2025

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 Adams County Health Dept. (720)532-7208
 AnT's Freeze Dried Treats (303)956-5959
 Anythink Library Bennett (303)405-3231
 Arapahoe County Government (303)795-4630
 Arapahoe Library District (303)542-7279
 Aurora Mental Health & Recovery (303)617-2300
 Barnyard Boutique (303)345-4460
 Beans Place (303)475-4086
 Bennett Parks & Recreation District (303)644-5040
 Bijou Telephone Co-op Assoc. (303)822-5400
 Blue Sky Party Rentals (303)622-6777
 Browning Blades (303)547-6790
 Claussen Chiropractic (303)622-4200
 Colorado Sod Company LLC (720)650-5137
 Comfort Home Inspections (303)697-1616
 Country Compass and Travel Services (720)320-0445
 Claws and Paws Pet Sitting (303)644-3332
 Coal Creek Heating, Air, Electric (970)786-6124
 Color Street/Nails by Lisa (303)250-9916
 Colorado Air and Space Port (720)523-7311
 Colorado Martial Arts Academy (714)926-4159
 Commercial Roofing Contractor (720)673-6563
 CORE (303)622-9231
 Corridor Comfort (720)680-9022
 Dana M Arvin Esq (303)328-7565
 ES Tech (ESRTA) (888)999-3778
 F & M Bank Colorado (303)644-3266
 FNB Bank (303)644-5100
 Front Range RV Storage LLC (303)644-5800
 Gateway Realty I-70 LLC (970)380-0078
 Grothe Financial Services, PC (303)644-4600
 Hagers Construction and Landscaping (303)503-9788
 High Plains Bank (303)644-4900
 High Plains Sanitation Services (303)622-4126
 I-70 Corridor Communities that Care (303)644-5049
 I-70 Publishing Company (303)622-9796

Lunch and Learn/Member Meeting
 Third Wednesday of the month

I-70 REAP (720)587-7501
 Infinity Roofing (303)946-6698
 Integrity Insurance (303)644-4872
 Less Baked For You (303)518-0113
 Kauffman Sales dba Clark's Equipment (303)622-4012
 Launch Pad Brewery (303)644-4599
 Law Office of Shelley Thompson, LLC (720)716-5677
 LaZyB Acres Alpacas (303)644-4110
 Lindy Cosgrove (303)257-5477
 Linnebur Auctions, Inc. (303)822-9298
 Luminous Imaging Solutions (303)503-3951
 Magik Mirror Metaphysical (720)324-4002
 Neal Mancuso (303)644-5191
 Matt Brinkhoff-Coldwell Banker Realty (303)324-0241
 May Farms LLC (303)822-5800
 Morgan Community College (719)775-8873
 Patricia Davis — Thirty-One Gifts (303)601-1321
 PsychedIN (303)380-1858
 Real Estate Connection, LLC (720)273-0783
 Relax and Create with Me (720)486-6119
 Resilient Physical Therapy & Performance (720)891-9728
 Scott's Sweaters (303)923-4964
 Smoke Show Meats (785)534-7412
 South Havana Motor Company (303)644-4221
 SouthState Bank (303)622-4201
 Stayin' Alive AED & CPR Training (918)497-8384
 Strasburg Parks & Recreation District (303)622-4260
 Sum Financial Services Group (720)613-6160
 Talex Solutions LLC (303)731-2089
 Tallgrass (720)951-1216
 The Ag & Food Lab (720)620-0337
 Town of Bennett (303) 644-3249
 Trinity Acres Pumpkin Patch (720)296-7896
 U.S. Mechanical Company, Inc. (303)622-2447
 The Viewfinders Galleries (720)384-6933

www.i70ccoc.com
 Phone: 720.731.1954
 Email: Officei70ccoc@gmail.com

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.

The Staff of
**The I-70 Scout &
Eastern Colorado News**

wishes
everyone
a safe and
**Happy
New Year!**

*~ Doug, LuAnne,
Steven, Ember, Marilee,
Linda, Baylee and Isaac*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JAN. 3, 2006

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) announced Dec. 21 that it will issue a Radioactive Materials License to the Clean Harbors Deer Trail Hazardous Waste Facility in eastern Adams County.

The license, which is the first of its kind granted in Colorado, will enable Clean Harbors to accept soil and debris contaminated with NORM (naturally occurring radioactive materials), and industrial by-products, such as residuals from the treatment of municipal water, that contain TENORM (technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials).

The facility will not be allowed to accept waste with a total radio-nuclide activity above 2000 pico Curies (pCi) per gram, which is considered low level.

Some citizens who reside near the facility lobbied against Clean Harbors' application, but one resident said she was not surprised with the health department's decision.

"It is very discouraging," said Pam Whelden, who lives on a ranch near the facility.

"It seems like the health department does not know how to say 'no' to a permit. It is no surprise, I think [the decision to approve the license] was made before we ever knew about it."

15 YEARS AGO
JAN. 4, 2011

BYERS — The 2010 Patrolman of the Year award was bestowed to a long-time Colorado State Patrol supervisor and Byers resident in mid-November.

Cpl. Larry Stormer received the prestigious honor at the 60th annual Mid-Winter Conference hosted by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Colorado CattleWomen in Colorado Springs.

"I was quite surprised," Stormer said in a Dec. 23 interview. "It's an honor to get that award and be recognized by the [Division of Brand Inspection] and the cattlemen's association. I do try real hard to keep livestock safe basically, it's an honor."

The award is given to law officers who demonstrate excellent performance in upholding livestock laws and preventing livestock theft.

According to Stormer, applicants must be active with the CCA and the Division of Brand Inspection to be nominated.

"That all plays into it," he added. "My supervisor put me in for the award. A committee then reviewed the applications and picked the recipient. This is one of livestock. I know most of the (ranchers and farmers) out here; I help with their cattle." Stormer will celebrate 25 years of service with the CSP in July.

He works mainly out of the Limon office, overseeing I-70 from Aurora to the Kansas border.

"It's a lot of miles this office covers," Stormer said. "I mainly oversee Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert counties. I am a supervisor, but I also assist the troopers."

10 YEARS AGO
JAN. 5, 2016

BRIGHTON - Expansion of a Strasburg subdivision is requiring installation of additional infrastructure on the northern edge of the community and county officials recently signed off on an agreement for that work.

Adams County commissioners Dec. 17 approved the subdivision improvement agreement with Pauls Development East for the Blackstone Ranch development.

Under the agreement, Pauls will provide improvements to Wagner and Main streets, 23rd and 24th avenues, and 23rd place north of the Strasburg School District campus. New infrastructure highlights include approximately 85,000 square feet of asphalt paving; about 4,600 linear feet of curb/gutter/sidewalk; 19 American with Disability Act compliant walk ramps; and 400 plus linear feet of 12-, 18-, and 24-inch storm and sewer lines.

Total cost of infrastructure work has been estimated at approximately \$638,000 but, under the agreement, Pauls is required to furnish a performance bond to the county in the amount of \$803,810.70.

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2025. This is New Year's Eve.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first demonstrated his electric incandescent lights for the public by illuminating some 100 bulbs in and around his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

In 1972, baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he chartered and was traveling on crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico while carrying relief supplies for earthquake-devastated Nicaragua.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six others were killed when fire broke out aboard a plane that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1995, the syndicated comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes," created by Bill Watterson, came to an end after a 10-year run.

In 1999, Russian President Boris Yeltsin resigned, making Prime Minister Vladimir Putin acting

president.

In 2019, the health commission in the central Chinese city of Wuhan announced that experts were investigating an outbreak of respiratory illness and that most of the victims had visited a seafood market in the city; the statement said 27 people had become ill with a strain of viral pneumonia, which would eventually be known as COVID-19.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Ben Kingsley is 82. Filmmaker Taylor Hackford is 81. Fashion designer Diane von Fürstenberg is 79. Actor Tim Matheson is 78. Actor Bebe Neuwirth is 67. Actor Gong Li is 60. Author Nicholas Sparks is 60. Businessman Donald Trump Jr. is 48. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Gabby Douglas is 30. Actor Hunter Schafer is 27.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: ON THE FARM

- ACROSS**
- Laura Ingalls' notebook
 - Boozer
 - Biblical pronoun
 - Sacred text, to some
 - "Fat chance!"
 - Afrikaners' ancestors
 - Cake spread
 - Chowed down
 - Clear the blackboard
 - *Barn chore
 - *John Deere, e.g.
 - Nirvana's "Come as You ___"
 - Spasm of pain
 - Broadband access overseer, acr.
 - Mark for omission
 - Recessed space
 - "___ and the Real Girl," movie
 - "Shoot!"
 - E in baseball box score
 - Oil org.
 - Intelligent
 - A mixture or medley
 - Children's respiratory disease
 - Foggy view?
 - Politicians, for short
 - In a sympathetic manner
 - Ski hill ride
 - Maiden name indicator
 - Bald eagle's nest
 - Repeated Latin dance step
 - *a.k.a. harvester
 - *Opposite of pasture
 - *Common varieties are yellow, red and white
 - Tall tale
 - Smooth, in manner
 - Audience's approval
 - "___ at ease"
 - Stomach sore
 - Caribou or moose
 - Soldier's bed
 - Harsh
- DOWN**
- *Separate cream from milk
 - Locus, pl.
 - Seed coat
 - Form of Japanese poetry
 - Encircle
 - Deep pile carpet
 - *Cereal grass
 - Sorority letter
 - Cleopatra's necklace
 - Thermostat option
 - Guessimate phrase (2 words)
 - Olympic cast-out, e.g.
 - Charles Darwin's vessel
 - Must-haves
 - Ribonucleic acid, acr.
 - Fine
 - *Group of chickens
 - Birthplace of Caprese
 - Oedipus' successor
 - *Baby sheep
 - "___ rotation"
 - Acrylic fiber
 - Bridal veil fabric
 - With a jagged margin
 - Gulf War missile
 - *Pasture-raised chicken's morsel
 - Vanish without this?
 - Lamentation
 - Japanese capital
 - Rh in Rh disease
 - Indiana Jones' find, e.g.
 - Not a minor
 - For boys and girls
 - Popular fairy-tale beginning
 - Stephen King's "The Green ___"
 - *Male pig
 - Abe Lincoln's hat material
 - Tatted cloth
 - Done
 - Seaside bird
 - UN labor grp.

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

HOROSCOPE

Auld Lang Stars

The lunar change from Taurus to Gemini casts a social and carefree glow over New Year's Eve. Everything good and bad that's happened over the last 12 months has brought us to this moment together. And whether we are in the same room or oceans away, we are all under the same stars — and that alone is something worth celebrating.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Out with tolerating chaos disguised as opportunity. Not everything demanding your attention deserves your attention. In with intentional commitments. Choose only the things that amplify your well-being and future vision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Out with ineffective coping mechanisms. Think of them as outdated, not shameful. In with gentler regulation. Break tasks down, ask for support and breathe intentionally. Let feeling slightly uncomfortable be OK without needing to squash your emotions or escape.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Out with self-doubt that masquerades as humility. It's not modest to belittle your own skills. In with grounded confidence. Name what you're good at, practice saying it out loud, and let that acknowledgment open doors you've avoided knocking on.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Out with thinking you must do everything alone. Independence is admirable, but isolation is exhausting. In with supported ambition. Let others help, teach, collaborate, cheer and lighten the burden. Receiving is as powerful as giving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Out with perfectionism. It's a trap dressed as ambition, keeping you frozen in place. In with steady progress. Small steps done imperfectly move mountains over time. Let yourself try things. Stop judging yourself for not being flawless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Out with saying yes out of habit or fear. Default "yes" has cost you too much. In with deliberate choices. Let "I need to think about it" be a complete sentence. Your time and energy are finite resources, not freebies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Out with guilt. It's the kind of emotion you only need the

tinest twinge of. You get the pang, you correct your behavior, done. In with self-celebration. You're doing so much that's right. Remind yourself every day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Out with shrinking yourself to keep the peace or stay unnoticed. That habit helped you once, but it's outdated. In with presence. Let your voice land, your ideas circulate, your personality take up space. You belong everywhere your feet already stand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Out with overthinking. That loop has cost you enough energy already. In with intuitive action, gentle, confident and grounded. Trust that you've learned enough to make decisions that support who you're becoming, not who you were afraid to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Out with comparing your journey to curated snapshots of others. That lens distorts everything. In with self-referenced metrics. If it matters to you, it matters period. Measure your life by how it feels, not how it looks from the outside.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Out with waiting for the perfect mood. That delay is expensive. Instead, just begin. In with starter energy. Do the smallest first step available. Let motion spark inspiration rather than demand inspiration before motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Out with rushing. That frantic pace burns the wiring. In with sustainable momentum. A calm, rhythmic approach gets you further, and your nervous system will finally feel like a partner instead of an enemy. Plus, you look cool.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). Welcome to your Year of the Unexpected Flex. Your competence shines in moments you never rehearsed for. You'll impress the right people, charm unintentionally and effortlessly deal in incredible complexity. More highlights: a financial win through negotiation, a romance that upgrades your daily life (not just your weekends) and an aesthetic glow-up prompted by a single impulsive purchase. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 11, 30, 44 and 7.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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BYERS BOE

FROM PAGE 1

fell through. "We'll continue with me spending much of the time down at that office."

A combination of Green and Student Services Director Amy Burns is expected to tag team student discipline issues when time allows.

The school board last semester bought out secondary principal Kelly Boren's contract, leading to the vacancy. The position will be posted towards the end of the school year.

The board also unanimously approved moving forward with a campus-wide classroom communication system, which will be paid for with funds coming from the district's mill levy extension, which voters approved in November.

Turrell also said that fire and emergency system upgrades will be addressed by Facilities Manager Tim Barber during the January board meeting. Those improvements will also be financed with the mill levy override funds.

Students from Tiffany O'Dell's environmental sciences class informed the board about its ongoing pollinator box project, which was well-received by the Butterfly Pavilion, who awarded the group with a \$500 grant. O'Dell said the 16-box, approximately \$3,400 project has received another \$1,500 in grant support as well.

"We're hoping it's a fully grant-funded project by the end," she said.

The planter/pollinator boxes will be located along the walking trail on the south side of campus. Each elementary class will have two boxes each while there will be one for the junior high.

Seeds — sunflowers, pumpkins and a variety of flowers — have been planted in the boxes, which are expected to be installed in late February and early March.

"By late March and April, we should be watering and monitoring growth," one of O'Dell's students said.

When it comes to providing water to all the various plant boxes, Turrell said that an additional water line will be added to the one for the school's greenhouse, which is currently under construction.

"We'll install a hydrant within 50 feet of the planter box locations," he said.

On the issue of the greenhouse, Turrell said that the geothermal heat unit for it has been installed and that the installation of the plumbing lines in the same location is in progress. He said current sticking points are that plumbing lines need to be 6 feet underground and inspectors are requiring back flow preventers be installed on all hydrants or valves.

The board next meets at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, in the secondary school lecture hall.

seeking various amounts. One wanted \$12,780; others sought \$4,900 or \$3,850.

On Dec. 9, copies of a suspicious e-mail and fake invoice were submitted to CED from 7 Leguas Mexican Grill in Strasburg.

Authorities stated that the e-mails should be ignored and that recipients can call (303)288-1535, if necessary.

ADCO SCAM

FROM PAGE 1

The fake bills were sent from various other entities including "Planning Commission Carver County" and "Adams County Development," some with Baca on the signature line, others with "Adams County Planning Commission" or "Jenni Hall, Director," who is the actual Community & Economic Development boss. They also come from different e-mail addresses

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

For the first time since 2008-09, Agate high schoolers took to the basketball court when the Longhorns' JV squad traveled to Manzanola last month. The troops of coaches Christina Martin and Angie Berhost put up a strong fight before falling by 3 points on a last-second shot. Manzanola travels to Agate for a game on Jan. 6.

AGATE BOE

FROM PAGE 1

cy] at the same time, that's a choke-point and that's a problem. Splitting the hallway just makes the situation worse — on top of the people, you are talking about our equipment and stuff trying to get down it.

“It's probably against state code. I'd be very surprised if the state let you do that.”

But the board did move forward with approval of replacement of doors to the VNET room and equipment room in the gym as well as starting the purchasing process for doors for all individual elementary classrooms.

“Three or four a year for steel doors,” said Walls, noting that the expense can be covered by Title IV monies. “Then probably go to the secondary school.”

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Walls was quick to laud praise on every student from Aaron Reeves' algebra class after the conclusion of midyear testing.

“That entire class met their expected growth from starting in the fall to the middle of the year (end of the first semester),” Walls said. “I can't tell you how good that is in that class. Really proud of everyone.”

Walls also said that Reeves applied for and received a grant to help with the school's bee program.

“Looking at having a bunch of beekeepers around,” she said.

In auto shop, seven of eight students successfully completed the course, where they rebuilt two engines.

HS BASKETBALL IS BACK

For the first time in more than a decade-and-a-half, Agate high-schoolers fielded a sports team when the Longhorns' junior varsity basketball team traveled to Manzanola before Christmas break.

The Longhorns lost to Manzanola by three points on a last-second shot but will have an opportunity for redemption when they host the Bobcats on Jan. 6.

“Still really exciting to see how we are progressing with things,” Walls said.

Agate's coaches are Christina Martin and Angie Berhost.

Prior to Agate's reduction to K-5 in 2011, Longhorn sports were basketball-dominated with the last season on record in 2008-09.

Since reinstating sixth through 12th grades for the 2018-19 school year, Agate has sent middle- and high-school students interested in playing sports to Deer Trail; however, Agate had its own middle school basketball schedule the past two winters.

According to the Colorado High School Activities Association website, Agate is not on its list of member schools and is also not one of the seven schools requesting probationary membership. CHSAA membership is required to participate in sanctioned varsity activities.

OTHER BUSINESS

During other discussion, Rector suggested that Walls and school officials contact Elbert County to make sure all possible impact fees due to the school district are being properly distributed.

“The county has had a lot of turnover so you might be getting missed on some projects,” said Rector, noting that the fire district is currently in the same situation.

According to Agate School Finance Director Keith Yaich, the school should receive \$2,079 per house for an impact fee.

Rector added that a 5,000-acre industrial park is on the horizon and that the impact fee for commercial is somewhere around \$1.75 per square foot.

During election of officers, Doug Purdy was retained as president while Sonnleitner was named vice president and Mike Bate secretary/treasurer. Martin, who is moving out of state in the near future, will remain on the board until he is officially no longer an Agate School District resident. When Martin formally resigns, the board will have two vacancies.

The next school board meeting is set for 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, in the school cafeteria.

CHUCK WAGON



Beef Tamale Bites

Latin inspired, mini 'tamale' bites are full of spicy beef, masa dough and topped with cool cilantro crema. These appetizers will wow your guests!

BEEF TAMALES BITES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 beef chuck arm roast (3-4 pounds)
- ¼ cup taco seasoning mix
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1½ cups beef stock
- 5 cloves
- 3 dried guajillo chiles, seeds removed
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 3 limes, juiced
- 1 orange, zested and juiced
- 1 tablespoon hot pepper sauce

MASA DOUGH

- 3 cups beef stock
- 1½ cups masa harina
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning

CILANTRO CREMA

- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons sliced green onions
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 lime, juiced
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- cilantro and lime wedges, optional

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat ¼ cup vegetable oil in Dutch oven over medium-high heat until hot. Sprinkle beef chuck arm roast with ¼ cup taco seasoning. Brown pot roast.

Add onion, garlic, beef stock, cloves, chiles, cilantro, lime juice, orange zest, orange juice and hot pepper sauce to Dutch oven. Cover tightly and cook 3 hours or until internal temperature reaches 200 degrees as measured by a meat thermometer. Remove roast from oven; let stand. Once cooled, shred beef with two forks.

For masa dough, combine 3 cups beef stock, masa, ¼ cup vegetable oil, and 2 tablespoons taco seasoning in large saucepan. Cook over medium heat 6-8 minutes or until mixture is smooth and thickened slightly. Coat 13- by 9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Pour masa mixture into prepared dish, spreading evenly. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour or until cool.

Invert masa dough onto cutting board. Cut into thirty-six 1-inch pieces. Spray large skillet with cook-

ing spray; heat over medium heat. Add masa pieces in skillet; cook 1-2 minutes or until warmed and lightly browned on each side. Top each piece with shredded beef.

For cilantro crema, in a medium sized bowl stir together sour cream, green onion, cilantro, lime juice, salt, pepper. Dollop bites with crema; top with cilantro and serve with lime wedges, if desired.

ALTERNATE COOKING METHOD

This recipe can be made in a 6-quart electric pressure cooker. Sprinkle beef with taco seasoning. In pressure cooker, sear beef on sauté setting using vegetable oil as needed. Add onion, garlic, beef stock, cloves, chiles, cilantro, lime juice, orange zest, orange juice, hot pepper sauce to pressure cooker. Close and lock pressure cooker lid. Use meat or high-pressure setting on pressure cooker; program 90 minutes on pressure cooker timer. Use quick-release feature to release pressure; carefully remove lid. Continue as directed in step 3.

This recipe variation was tested at high altitude. Cooking at an altitude of less than 3,000 feet may require slightly less cooking time. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council

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This achievement reflects our commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education and a nurturing learning environment for our youngest learners.



Amie Hart

A heart felt thank you to our Lead Teacher, Mrs. Hart, and our paraprofessional, Mrs. Portillo, whose passion, professionalism, and care for students made this accomplishment possible.



Betty Portillo

We are grateful for the continued support of our families and community and proud of the outstanding work happening every day at Agate School.

Excellence begins early at Agate School District!



Best wishes & stay safe this winter season!

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A Legacy of Service and Leadership



On behalf of the Adams County Sheriff's Office, we extend our deepest gratitude to our community for the outpouring of compassion, prayers, and support following the passing of Commander Karl Smalley. During this time of profound loss, your kindness has brought comfort and strength to his family, friends, and every member of our agency.

Commander Smalley served with distinction throughout his career, dedicating his life to public service and the safety of others. He was a trusted colleague, a respected leader, and a devoted friend whose integrity, humility, and commitment left a lasting impact on those who had the privilege to work alongside him.

We are honored to serve a community that stands with us in moments like these. Thank you for remembering Commander Smalley and for supporting the men and women of the Adams County Sheriff's Office as we honor his legacy and carry his example forward.

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