



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 12

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Bennett School lawman closer to fruition?

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Bennett School officials were recently assured there will be a school resource officer back on campus and, likely, without any cost

to the district; however, how quickly the new person will be on the job remains uncertain.

But recent development have raised hopes for a new SRO before the end of the current school year.

During the Feb. 11 school board

meeting, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Bureau Chief Ken McKlem said his department is in the process of providing the district with a new SRO, filling the void left about a year-and-a-half ago when the town of Bennett formally shifted its law en-

forcement.

"You guys need an SRO, we're going to get you an SRO," McKlem said. "Public safety is the responsibility of the sheriff's office, not the school dis-

SEE BENNETT SCHOOL SRO

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'The Good, the Bad, and the Silly of LOVE'



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Hempill Middle School choir and drama students performed a collection of songs, skits and poetry, including original creations, during their Feb. 12 tribute to Valentine's Day on a stage built in the middle school library. From left photo, Cupid, played by Julie Cardenas, preps her arrow during 'Cupid's Love Talk Show,' and Iris Heiter tosses her shoe at Abigail Nuno Villanueva in disbelief of Nuno Villanueva's interest in fictional movie superhero Megamind.

SUV incinerated in fatal crash

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

WATKINS — An overnight SUV crash and resulting fire killed one unidentified occupant near Watkins Feb. 2.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, a Toyota Land Cruiser was eastbound on I-70 near mile marker 293 about a mile east of town when the crash occurred.

"The Land Cruiser drove off the right shoulder and struck two delineator posts and went down an embankment before going airborne and striking the embankment's opposite side," the State Patrol's crash report said. "It went airborne a second time and began rolling, coming to rest at the bottom of a gully. It became engulfed in flames."

Neither the State Patrol nor Arapahoe County Coroner's office has released the name of the deceased.

"Still an unknown occupant," a State Patrol spokesman said last week.

The cause of the accident also remains under investigation.

Traffic along eastbound I-70 was slowed for a couple of hours.

State Patrol troopers remind drivers to remain vigilant when navigating roads, especially at night and during inclement weather.

They added the winter driving season still has at least another six weeks to go.

According to winter crash stats for November 2024 through March 2025, state troopers responded to 11,745 crashes, with the impacts ranging from property damage to death. The best way to minimize risk is to reduce your speed.

"The top causal factor of injury and fatal winter crashes is speeding," said Colorado State Patrol Chief Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. Drivers who fail to slow down are significantly more likely to lose control of their vehicles.

Bennett road bond question now set for April municipal election

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After trustees approved the second reading of Ordinance 809-26, Bennett residents will get their say if they want to allow town officials to procure bond funding for road construction throughout the municipality.

During its Feb. 10 business meeting, the Board of Trustees formally set the ballot title and ballot issue language for a proposed Road Bond question for the April 7, 2026 election. The ordinance satisfies TABOR and state law requirements by authorizing the question to be placed before town voters.

If approved by voters, the ballot measure would allow the town to issue up to \$20 million in debt without increasing existing taxes for transportation infrastructure projects.

The bond question language asks Bennett voters to

approve up to a \$20 million increase in debt to be earmarked for "the purpose of financing the construction, maintenance, repair, replacement, expansion, acquisition, rehabilitation and renovation of existing and planned streets and other street related capital improvements within the town as determined by the board of trustees, ..."

While a project schedule is not part of the ballot language, town officials have indicated that full reconstruction of the town's portion of Kiowa-Bennett Road and improvements to Marketplace Drive are likely to be among the top priorities if the bond question is passed. There is also a likelihood that any efforts to shore up the I-70 Exit 304 bridge will require the town to help cover part of project costs, which bond money could help meet.

During the ballot language setting process, town staff and trustees have reiterated

that no additional taxes will be assessed or collected, noting that Bennett's current 1% sales tax "already generates significant and consistent revenue that could be used to repay bonds."

Town stats indicate that annual sales tax revenue has ranged between \$1 million and \$1.6 million in recent years.

Bennett's early April election also carries a Bennett School District question asking voters to approve conveyance of the Joe Stemo Ball Field to the school for \$1,500.

The stated price is part of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the two entities dating back to 2011.

While the baseball diamond is currently owned by the town, many of the activities on it are school district activities. The school district has indicated a desire to take over the management and over-

SEE BENNETT BOT

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COMMUNITY CORRAL

Acrylic mtn landscapes class planned by 'Burg Rec District

STRASBURG — Kids in grades K-8 can participate in a mountain landscape paint-a-long in this step-by-step acrylic painting class hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District.

The class takes place on Monday, Feb. 23, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall from 10-10:45 a.m. from grades K-3 and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for grades 4-8.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Feb. 19. A \$10 fee is required. To sign up, visit strasburgparks.org.

Theme for Lent announced by Byers Community Church

BYERS — Byers Community Church will hold Lenten services beginning with the imposition of ashes at 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, followed by weekly worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

This year's focus for Lent is on the literal and spiritual practices of "Cultivating and Letting Go."

A Lenten Bible study will also be offered at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays from Feb. 25 through March 25.

Byers Community Church is located at the corner of Sherman and Front streets.

Culture of Life Dinner slated for Catholic church in Byers

BYERS — The Knight of Columbus Council 13221 at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church will host its annual Culture of Life dinner and auction starting at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Byers American Legion Hall.

Proceeds benefit the Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains and A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center of Northern Colorado.

Doors open at 1 p.m. for the silent auction. Food service begins at 2 p.m. Speakers and a live auction follow dinner.

The meal includes pulled chicken, pulled pork, beans, potato salad, coffee and lemonade. Prices start at \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

To donate items for the auction, call Jerry Mosbrucker at (303)929-0507.

Ticket sales for Colorado Ag Forum close soon

WESTMINSTER — Tickets are on sale for the annual Colorado Ag Forum.

Participants will hear discussion of many topics, network with industry leaders and policy-makers, and meet the fellows of Class 17 of the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program, which manages the event.

The forum opens with breakfast at 7 a.m. followed by welcoming remarks at 8 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Westin Hotel in Westminster.

More than 20 experts will discuss various topics with Xochitl Torres

Small serving as keynote speaker. She is an American attorney and politician who served as the 15th U.S. deputy secretary of agriculture from 2023-25.

Tickets include breakfast, lunch and a reception on the Colorado State University Spur campus at the National Western Stock Show in Denver on Wednesday, Feb. 25. Standard tickets cost \$210. Registration closes Feb. 25.

For tickets, visit coloradoagforum.com. For more information, e-mail to info@coloradoagforum.com.

For more information, call Mark Prieur at (303)810-4749.

The Byers American Legion Hall is located at 278 W. Front St.

State's population exceeds 6 million for first time ever

DENVER — Census Bureau vintage population estimates show that Colorado's population has exceeded 6 million for the first time ever, reaching 6,012,561 by July 1, 2025, according to a release from Gov. Jared Polis' office.

Combined with upwards revisions for prior years, this represents a .92% year-over-year increase relative to the previously published estimates for July 1, 2024 (5,957,493).

Census Bureau data from 2025 shows Colorado's total births at 65,380 between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, a 4.6% increase over the prior year and the highest amount since 2017.

Lenten fish and soup meals set for Byers Catholic church

BYERS — The Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church in Byers will host fish fries and soup suppers during Lent.

Knights of Columbus Council 13221 fish fries are slated for Fridays, Feb. 20, and March 6 and 20. The meal will consist of cod, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, Tater Tots, coffee and lemonade. Cost is \$7 for one piece of cod, \$10 for two

pieces, and \$25 per family.

Altar and Rosary soup suppers are planned for Fridays, Feb. 27, March 13, and March 27. The dinner will include a variety of soups, dessert, grilled cheese sandwiches, coffee and juice. Free will offerings will be accepted.

Meals will be served from 5-6:15 p.m., and Stations of the Cross will start at 6:30 p.m.

Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 5.

Local students offered chance at \$2,500 Funk Scholarships

BYERS — The application period for up to two local \$2,500 scholarships is now open online.

The Roy & Linda Funk Scholarship is open to current or former students of Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate high schools. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0.

The award is administered by the NoCo Foundation and the application deadline is Sunday, March 15. To apply, visit www.NoCoFoundation.org/Scholarships.

For more information, e-mail to Scholarships@NoCoFoundation.org.

Roy and Linda Funk are residents of Byers.

Bennett Middle School site of AdCo Republican Caucus

BENNETT — All registered Republican voters in Bennett and surround-

ing areas can attend the Adams County Republican Caucus.

Check-in time is 6:30 p.m. for the grassroots portion of the election process.

The caucus will follow from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, at the Bennett Middle School cafeteria.

For more information, call Sheila Wadsworth at (303)908-6318.

Ex-Nat'l Guard chief on tap to lead CO Parks & Wildlife

DENVER — The Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission recently announced that the former head of the Colorado National Guard is the sole finalist for the post of CPW director.

Assuming no other candidates emerge, the commission will hold a special virtual public meeting on

Monday, Feb. 23, to consider the appointment of Maj. Gen. Laura Clellan to the post. Details will be posted at cpw.state.co.us. To comment, visit engagecpw.org.

Clellan has served as Parks & Wildlife's acting director since December. She was adjutant general and executive director of the state Department of Military & Veterans Affairs before retiring last October. She has more than three decades of decorated military service.

As a civilian, she has worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Clellan

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7	1	5	4	9	3	2	8	6

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PROPEL initiative would drive aerospace work force forward

FIRESTONE — The Colorado Space Business Roundtable recently announced the launch of PROPEL Colorado, a new statewide initiative to strengthen Colorado’s aerospace workforce.

PROPEL stands for Promoting Real-time Opportunities for Professional Education and Learning. PROPEL Colorado expands access to careers in one of the state’s highest-growth and most mission-critical industries by partnering with employers and educators to prepare underrepresented and aspiring workers with the necessary skills.

Colorado has the nation’s second-largest aerospace economy, yet companies across the supply chain continue to face talent shortages that limit growth and competitiveness. Meanwhile, job-seekers statewide are seeking stable, well-paying careers, but often lack a clear entry point into the industry. PROPEL Colorado is designed to close that gap by ensuring training programs are aligned with real hiring demand and lead directly to job opportunities.

“Colorado’s aerospace leadership

depends on a strong, diverse and job-ready workforce,” said Debra Wilcox, Roundtable chair. “PROPEL Colorado supports both industry competitiveness and economic mobility by connecting learners with the skills and opportunities employers are hiring for today.”

PROPEL Colorado will operate in close collaboration with the new Colorado Space Institute at Arapahoe Community College. Through the initiative, the Roundtable is expanding its role as Colorado’s dedicated aerospace workforce intermediary — a central organizer for employer input, credential alignment, and long-range talent development.

“This is an investment not only in Colorado’s workers, but in the health of our aerospace ecosystem,” said Carolyn Belle, program manager for PROPEL Colorado.

Stakeholders interested in sharing their challenges, contributing to curriculum development, offering work-based learning opportunities, or supporting career awareness initiatives should e-mail to info@propelcolorado.org.

ArapaGO: Input sought on new transit plan

LITTLETON — Travel should be easier, no matter how you.

Arapahoe County and its partners have launched a new study, the ArapaGO: Transit Connections Plan, to improve how people move through urban areas of the county whether driving, riding transit, biking, scootering or walking.

Over the past 15 years, urban areas of the county have grown significantly, and that growth is expected to continue. As more people arrive here, travel patterns are changing. The ArapaGO plan will identify practical improvements to make local transportation more convenient, reliable and better connected to where residents need to go.

The ArapaGO: Transit Connections project, which focuses on reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries through engineering improvements on roadways, will result in a county-wide microtransit and micromobility plan and implementation framework. A key result will be the launch of a one-year pilot transportation service.

Micromobility includes bikes, e-bikes and scooters that are designed

for short, local trips. Microtransit is an on-demand service that allows riders to request trips by phone or app within a specific area. Together, these services can help close “first- and last-mile” gaps, making it easier to connect to bus routes, light rail, and other destinations without relying solely on a personal vehicle.

ArapaGO builds on the momentum of the county’s Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Comments on the CSAP will be taken at www.arapahoeco.gov/safetyplan through Monday, March 2.

The ArapaGO: Transit Connections Plan complements that safety work by expanding how residents can travel for daily trips offering more options than driving.

While the plan addresses where crashes occur and how to prevent them, ArapaGO focuses on convenient alternatives like microtransit and micromobility.

To participate in the transit plan, visit www.arapahoeco.gov and take the survey, which is open through Tuesday, March 31.

For more information, e-mail to info@arapago.com or call (720)372-2123.




The Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards celebrate resilient teens who’ve faced challenges—and kept going. Scholarships help graduating seniors pursue vocational, two-year, or four-year education. Teachers, counselors, and administrators: nominate an outstanding senior by **March 2**.

Visit arapahoeco.gov/youthawards.

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AS SEEN ON ANIMAL PLANET

BENNETT BOT

FROM PAGE 1

sight of the facility, including improvements to the baseball field and surrounding area.

The town election is also the first time in 10 years that the town has had enough candidates run for open seats on the board of trustees.

Five candidates have thrown their hat in the ring for three seats. None of the three incumbents are running for reelection.

Joshua Arbogast, James "Grider" Lee, Christopher Clemens, Bonnie Teachout and Kat Crow are the handful of candidates looking to replace Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Barden and trustees Steve Dambroski and Larry Vittum on the board.

Of the five running for office, Lee is the only one that has served previously on the board.

The mayor's seat, currently filled by Whitney Oakley, and trustee spots held by Royce Pindell, Donna Sus and Denice Smith will be part of the April 2028 municipal election.

In each of the previous five election cycles, not enough candidates petitioned to get on the ballot, allowing the seated board to appoint residents to open trustee positions.

Contrary to numerous stated concerns, including multiple social media postings, that some trustees might not live in Bennett, town officials have reiterated in their election announcements that among the requirements to run for trustee are "must have been a resident of the town of Bennett for 12 consecutive months prior to Election Day" and "remain a resident of Bennett throughout the term of office."

Town staff, who present most of the recommendations regarding policy and municipal projects to the board for approval, are not required to reside within Bennett boundaries.

The April 7 municipal election will

be conducted by mail ballot with residents able to mail their filled ballot to the town clerk's office or drop off at a metal ballot box at town hall. Residents are urged to look for the town's own metal ballot box and to not attempt to drop off ballots in the county ballot box in the parking lot to the east of town hall.

During last week's board meeting, trustees authorized Town Clerk Tina Hart to appoint election judges to oversee the municipal election process. Judges will be paid \$19 per hour.

OTHER MEETING BUSINESS

- Trustees approved updated finance policy, clarifying purchasing procedures and internal control measures. Updates including new bidding and emergency purchasing protocols will reportedly "support greater transparency and fiscal accountability."
- Trustees gave the go ahead for town staff to apply for a Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant to help fund the development of Bennett Town Center design guidelines.
- Trustees approved an updated Three-Mile Plan, meeting requirements of the Colorado Municipal Annexation Act that prohibits a municipality from annexing land more than three miles beyond its current boundary in any given year.

WASTEWATER EXPANSION UPDATE

About four months after it was originally challenged vociferously by at least a couple of trustees, town staff still has not returned with an update on addressing "dirty energy" concerns with the wastewater expansion project on the northwest corner of town.

During the Oct.13 trustees meet-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Delivery and installation of the restroom building for Bennett Civic Center Park under construction just west of town hall occurred during the next to last week of January.

ing, staff recommendation of a \$1.2 million change order for four power conditioners to provide cleaner, more consistent electricity at the wastewater plant's four buildings was tabled.

"I'm a little perturbed, I guess I'll say, that this wasn't addressed early on when we were in the design and bid period," said Barden, himself a construction industry veteran, during the mid-October trustees meeting. "[That's] roughly 4% of the overall project, that's a pretty damn big change order. Why wasn't this considered when we did the design for the new plant or, even at the very least, put it out as a bid alternate?"

In public session, the subject hasn't been addressed since, despite staff promises that the town's contracted engineer would attend the early November board meeting. Town staff said the situation is still under review.

"The engineer has since provided input indicating that the current design includes redundancy that may be sufficient, and that the cost-benefit of adding conditioners at this stage may be high," said Bennett Communications Director Alison Belcher. "At this time, staff is continuing to evaluate the recommendation alongside operational considerations and is also actively exploring grant opportunities that could help offset the cost of the conditioners. The goal is to ensure the board has the most complete information possible, including potential funding sources, before being asked to make a final decision. This approach supports responsible stewardship of project funds while still addressing long-term system reliability."

She added the item will likely come back to the board for consideration in the future.



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Rare earth metals: Strategic reserve proposed by Trump administration

by Josh Boak
Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Trump administration plans to deploy nearly \$12 billion to create a strategic reserve of rare earth elements, a stockpile that could counter China's ability to use its dominance of these hard to process metals as leverage in trade talks.

President Donald Trump Feb. 2 announced the start of "Project Vault," which would initially be funded by a \$10 billion loan from the U.S. Export-Import Bank and nearly \$1.67 billion in private capital.

The minerals kept in the reserve would help to shield the manufacturers of autos, electronics and other goods from any supply chain disruptions.

During trade talks last year spurred by Trump's tariffs, the Chinese government restricted the export of rare earths that are needed for jet engines,

radar systems, electric vehicles, laptops and phones.

"We don't want to ever go through what we went through a year ago," Trump said in an apparent reference to the showdown with China, adding that, ultimately, "it did work out." The president said he expects the government to make a profit from the loan being used to start the reserve.

China represents about 70% of the world's rare earths mining and 90% of global rare earths processing. That gave it a chokehold on the sector that has caused the United States to nurture alternative sources of the elements, creating a stockpile similar to the national reserve for petroleum.

Bloomberg News was the first to report the creation of the rare earths strategic reserve.

Trump announced the reserve with General Motors CEO Mary Barra and mining industry billionaire Robert Friedland in the Oval Office, along with other members of his administration and congressional leaders.



Thulium (Tm) is No. 69 on the Periodic Table of Elements. Elemental thulium is a silvery-gray metal. Tm is one of the "rare earth elements," which occurs in few minerals.

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE NO. LDC25-001, EV CHARGING STATIONS / LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION MANUAL AMENDMENTS

PROPOSAL: Adding EV Charging Stations to the Arapahoe County Land Development Code and Development Application Manual.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 10, 2026 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LDC25-001, EV Charging Stations / Land Development Code and Development Application Manual Amendments. The public hearing will be held at 5334 S Prince St., East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

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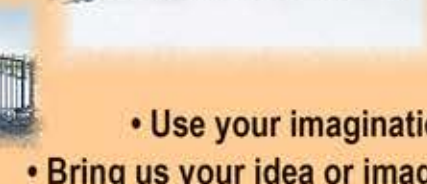
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Mary Reynolds



Mary Ruth Reynolds, age 88, of Watkins, Colo., peacefully passed away on Feb. 9, 2026.

Mary was born on Feb. 26, 1937, in Sandy Hook, Elliot County, Ky., to Mrs. Evelyn Middleton and Mr. James Middleton. Mary led a life rooted in traditional values of faith, family and community.

Mary was married to her husband William Burt Reynolds for 68 years and together raised a beautiful family with their three boys, David, Miles and Wayne. Burt passed away on Dec. 21, 2023, and Mary spent the rest of her days surrounded by her family.

Mary is survived by her three boys and their wives, David and Sue, Miles and Sandy, and Wayne and Cathy; seven grandchildren, Jessica, Amanda, Travis, Joe, Zackary, Quintin, and Megan Mary; 17 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and one sister Mollie Sadler. She is preceded in death by her eldest grandson, Curtis; four sisters; four brothers; one half-sister; and one half-brother.

Mary passed along many family traditions, meals and the importance of keeping family together. Celebrating holidays, anniversaries and celebrations with one another, Mary was always beaming when her family was around.

Mary was a woman of God and never far from her Bible. Mary faithfully attended the Bennett Baptist Church and enjoyed singing, church fellowship, and loved when family joined her at church. The fellowship and teachings of the church community provided Mary with strength and guidance on her life journey.

In life, Mary left school to work on her family's farm and in adulthood enjoyed being a homemaker, wife and mother. Mary was known for being a neighborhood doctor, and her home being the place for neighbors and friends to gather. Mary loved crafts and owned her own crafts business where she enjoyed sharing her crafts with others. Mary loved beautiful scenery and often was found taking pictures of beautiful sights while camping, on road trips or from her home in the plains.

During Mary's precious last months, Mary was taken care of by Advanced Hospice. Her nurses were Elizabeth and Cristal.

A traditional ceremony will be held to honor and remember Mary's life at 10 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, at Bennett Baptist Church. A viewing will be followed by the service and burial at Mount View Cemetery in Bennett.

TOWN OF BENNETT, COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE BENNETT CROSSING METROPOLITAN DISTRICT NOS. 1-3,
TOWN OF BENNETT, COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been filed with the Town Clerk, Town of Bennett, Colorado (the "Town"), an amendment to the service plan (the "Amendment Plan") for the Bennett Crossing Metropolitan District Nos. 1-3 (the "Districts"). The Amendment is on file at the Town Clerk's Office, 355 Fourth Street, Bennett, Colorado 80102-7806, and at the office of the Districts' legal counsel, c/o Miller Law pllc, 1555 California Street, No. 505, Denver, Colorado 80202, and is available for public inspection.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Town Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, on Tuesday, the 24th day of February, 2026, at 355 Fourth Street, Bennett, Colorado 80102-7806 to review the Amendment and to form a basis for a resolutions approving, disapproving or conditionally approving the Amendment.

The proposed Districts' boundaries are generally described as approximately 292.622 acres located in the Town, bounded generally by Bennett Avenue or existing commercial and residential development to the north, Colorado Highway 79 to the west, Interstate 70 to the south, and the proposed 8th Street alignment to the east. Precise descriptions of the boundaries of the Districts are shown on the maps of the Service Plans and are on file in the offices of the Town Clerk of Bennett, Colorado. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Districts at Miller Law pllc, 1555 California Street, No. 505, Denver, Colorado 80202, telephone number 303-285-5320.

The proposed Amendment provides a process for review by the Town of any financing transactions proposed by the Districts. The Amendment does not change the boundaries of any of the Districts, does not change the allowed mill levies, does not increase the allowed debt, and does not extend the debt limitation term for the Districts.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF BENNETT.

#3178

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.

BENNETT SCHOOL SRO

FROM PAGE 1

trict."

But, he also said that the timeline for the new campus officer remains uncertain.

The sheriff's office is in the midst of hiring 10 new deputies this year, including four east of E-470. One of those new officers is expected to be trained as an SRO; however, McKlem said the training time for new officers is 14 months, and that the process for getting experienced deputies the appropriate training under the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) certification can be delayed until those new officers are on board.

"Arapahoe County is a little bit different because we are big on what the national standards are. We follow those guidelines," McKlem said. "That takes some time."

But a recent unexpected wild card that popped up that could benefit the school district sooner was recent contact from a Corridor resident that is currently an SRO in the metro area.

"It was last Thursday or Friday we got a call saying that he was maybe interested," McKlem said.

If the "lateral move" from the metro agency proves to be fruitful and appropriate training is confirmed, McKlem said a new Bennett SRO could be on campus by April.

"Probably at least five weeks to get through our internal processes," he said. "But could be a lot sooner than someone new to the SRO program. If we can get someone to you guys for the end of the school year activities, that's what we're going to do."

When it comes to the cost of a new SRO, McKlem indicated that the passage of the county's 1A ballot question to lift TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill. Of Rights) spending limits in 2024 has led to an increase in funding throughout the department. Sheriff's office plans are for 40 new deputies over the next four years.

"Should be in the scope of current expansion plans," McKlem said. "Well within our efforts to get back to baseline staffing levels."

McKlem noted that the sheriff's office hopes to increase its battery of

SROs from 16 to 18 in the next two years.

The Arapahoe County 2026 budget is \$667 million, including about \$161 million for the sheriff's office, which is about \$10 million more than 2025.

The school has been without an SRO since mid-2024 after the town of Bennett decided to change its law enforcement provider from the Adams County Sheriff's Office to Arapahoe County. Unlike the Adams County Sheriff's office has not provided an SRO or similar services to the Bennett School District campus, which is located in the town's city limits. Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the town of Bennett have continued their contract for this year.

"We had an SRO with no cost to the district from 2016 until the town parted ways with Adams County," said Bennett School Superintendent Robin Purdy during the January school board meeting. "We did not pay AdCo until the very end when the town moved forward [with ArapCo] and [then] we paid for two months."

When asked last month about the town's shift to a new law enforcement provider being the sole reason for the school losing its SRO without an immediate replacement, Mayor Whitney Oakley said she is not at liberty to discuss the issue and has previously said "we don't have any authority over the school district. They are their own entity and jurisdiction."

"It is standard practice for all trustees, including myself, to forward media inquiries to the town's communications director, who serves as the public information officer for the town and the board of trustees," Oakley added in a Jan. 30 e-mail reply to *The I-70 Scout*. This process helps ensure responses are accurate, consistent, and reflective of the town's official position."

"The town of Bennett has always taken public safety concerns very seriously," said Bennett Communications Director Alison Belcher, but adding that any SRO debate is between the sheriff and the school. "This is a discussion between those two entities."

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 19

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

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

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

Tiger Tones presents "Finding Nemo." 7 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium. \$5 admission.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

Tiger Tones presents "Finding Nemo." 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium. \$5 admission.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

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

Bennett Arts Council Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m., Bennett Town Hall.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

Open Create session, a studio environment where artists work with different mediums and without instructors. 12-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.

MONDAY, FEB. 23

West Arapahoe Conservation District Board.

5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.

Agate School Board. 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

Barnyard/Farm Safety Day & Hired Hand Auction. No time yet. Deer Trail School.

Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Call Diane, (303)644-3717, for meeting ID.

FFA Roshambo ("rock, paper, scissors) assembly & **Farmhand Olympics.** Deer Trail School. No time yet.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

Strasburg Singers presents "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." 7 p.m., Bennett High School auditorium.

LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League to make personal ZINES to capture their goals and inspirations for 2026. The challenge will be to Show off your ZINE at the end of the session. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21.

Pyrography Decorative Signs: Adults will design decorative wooden signs using wood-burning techniques. All skill levels welcome. Appropriate for adults. 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22.

Open Create with CCAL: Adult artists can collaborate at a gathering hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League (CCAL). They can bring their own projects and supplies or choose from a variety provided by the library. 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 and their families will participate in activities surrounding healthy habits. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and a goody bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 20.

Books & Beyond: Kids ages 5-12 can participate in book-themed games

and crafts to celebrate favorite characters and discover new reading material. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Journaling Workshop: Adults manifest their greatest desires at this journaling workshop by Rachel Freed, founder of the Denver-based INLUMA journaling collective. Attendees will learn prompts for inward reflection, trauma release and self-discovery. Journals provided. Space limited; registration required. Call (303)822-9392 or visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 11.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Adult book club: "Get a Life, Chloe Brown" by Talia Hibbert. 6-7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 23.

Puzzles & Pie: Tweens and teens can relax with hands-on fun and treats. This month, attendees can assemble 3D wooden puzzles — then reward their hard work by making their own mini pies. The low-key event offers a variety of activities and treats. 12-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 11.

Wacky Wednesday: Kids and tweens can drop in for snacks, games, cool tech and creative crafts. New activity each month. Ages 5-12. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, March 4.

SUMMONS TO PUBLISH PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-13-307(13) C.R.S

District Court
Jefferson County, Colorado
Court Address:
100 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401-1070

Case Number: 25CV31895
Div. 3; Courtroom 450

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

v.
2007 BMW M5-Silver, VIN WBSNB93527CX07811; 2012 BMW X5-Black, VIN 5YMGY0C58CLK27221; 2014 Mercedes CLA45-Black, VIN WDDSJ5CB6EN124774; 2014 BMW 528i-Gray, VIN WBAXH5C51CDW09832; FN 509-9MM, S/N: #GKS0014022; Girsan MC 1911-45 cal. S/N: #T636819AB01653; Interstate Arms SKS Rifle, S/N: #10196063; Miscellaneous Magazines/Ammunition Alexis Yahir Lagarde-Figueroa, DOB: 08/04/2003; Manuel Lagarde-Figueroa, DOB: 03/22/2005; Davron Rasulov; Osbaldo Ramirez Andrade; Patrick Keen; Teresa Del Carmen Cea Deras and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action, Respondents

You are hereby summoned and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the Complaint and Affidavit. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Summons, Complaint and Affidavit within the applicable time period, judgment by default may be entered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

Copies of the following documents are served by this publication and are available from the Clerk of the District Court, Jefferson County Administrative & Judicial Complex, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden CO. 80401:

- Complaint and Affidavit
- District Court Civil (CV) Case Cover Sheet
- Summons
- Motion for Temporary Restraining Order
- Temporary Restraining Order
- Notice of Seizure for Forfeiture

THIS SUMMONS IS ISSUED BY PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO RULE 4(b) OF THE COLORADO RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

Dated this 18 day of November 2025.

ALEXIS KING
District Attorney

By: /s/Audrey E. Weiss
Audrey E. Weiss
Deputy District Attorney
Reg. No. 16166

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, Feb. 11 and 18, 2026.



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO
HUMAN SERVICES



Navigator Newsletter



Scan the QR code to sign up for the Adams County Human Services Department's Navigator Newsletter to receive regular email updates about federal benefits changes.

WE'RE HIRING

Work for Adams County



Our Adams County culture encourages innovation and professional development that help move our community forward.

Start your career with purpose by scanning the QR code to view our new **Line Service Tech** opening.

STAY CONNECTED:

- 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy, Brighton, CO 80601
- /AdamsCountyGov
- @AdamsCountyGov
- Public Agencies
- /AdamsCountyCo

adamscountyco.gov

Tiger Intermediate School sets winter stage dates

The Tiger Tones of Bennett Intermediate School will perform their version of a Disney • Pixar classic three times later this week.

The singing troupe of fourth- and fifth-graders will entertain family, friends and community members with "Finding Nemo KIDS ... The Musical" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19,

and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, at the high school auditorium.

The musical version of the 2003 movie "Finding Nemo," follows the trials and travails of a young fish who leaves home in the Great Barrier Reef to explore the world.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

PlainsGold markets new wheats

FORT COLLINS — Sales of foundation seed of Outlaw, Gabriel, Broad AX, and Hoyt SF are underway.

"These four new varieties will add diversity to the PlainsGold lineup and give wheat growers more tools to deal with the challenges they face in wheat production across the High Plains and Central Plains," said Brad Erker, Executive Director for the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation.

Outlaw, a hard red winter wheat, is positioned as a replacement for Langin, the No. 1 variety planted in Colorado five of the last six years.

Outlaw is derived from Langin and an unreleased sisterline to Canvas, which has performed well across the Central Plains. Outlaw has out-yielded both Langin and Canvas by more than 3 bushels per acre and has a nice genetic package, including genes for tolerance to Triticum Mosaic Virus, stripe rust, and lower pH soils.

Gabriel, another hard red winter wheat, plays defense by bringing the wsm-3 gene to the market, the first of its kind to do so.

The wsm-3 gene delivers tolerance to the entire mosaic virus complex, which includes Triticum Mosaic Virus, Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus, and High Plains Virus.

This virus complex has been increasing in severity and causing significant yield losses to in certain areas. Gabriel was bred by back-crossing the wsm-3 gene from a Kansas germ plasm source into Canvas, and is therefore 94% Canvas by pedigree.

Canvas has good straw strength, good test weight, excellent protein, and good yield potential for the Central and High Plains regions. Gabriel's combination of a gene for resistance to the wheat curl mite, coupled with wsm-3, is expected to give it superior performance in areas where virus pressure is of high concern.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A combine travels across a wheat field during harvest in Eastern Colorado last summer.

Gabriel got its name from the deceased eldest son of a seed grower.

Broad AX, is a new CoAXium hard red winter wheat. Broad AX carries the Axigen trait which allows it to be sprayed with Aggressor AX herbicide, providing control options to growers for winter annual grassy weeds, such as downy brome grass, feral rye and jointed goatgrass.

Broad AX also has slightly increased stem solidness that may provide some protection against mild wheat stem sawfly pressure. It is tall, late maturing, has a long coleoptile, and has average straw strength. Its best performance to date has been in Nebraska and Montana.

Hoyt SF is a semi-solid hard red winter wheat similar to Amplify SF and Fortify SF. Its stem solidness provides tolerance to the wheat stem sawfly, which continues to be a significant pest for wheat production in north-eastern Colorado.

Hoyt SF is less solid than Amplify SF but has better tolerance to Wheat Streak Mosaic and Triticum Mosaic viruses, in addition to having higher yields compared to Amplify SF and Fortify SF.

The varieties were developed by the Wheat Breeding & Genetics Program at Colorado State University.

For more information, visit www.PlainsGold.com or call (970)449-6994 or 1-800-WHEAT-10.

Church Directory

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

BYERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA)
135 S. Sherman St., Byers, CO
(303) 822-5717
Like us on Facebook
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m.
Online Worship — email for link:
byerschurch@gmail.com

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.

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • mittaborbyers.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)
Matthew 7:8 Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

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

CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Worship with us!
Sundays at 10 a.m.
In-person and online:
www.cornerstonebennett.com
303-644-3450 | 460 3rd St., Bennett

LIVING SPRINGS COWBOY CHURCH
BYERS, CO
Sundays at 10:00 AM
2722 S. County Rd 173, Byers, CO
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
SUNDAY SERVICES
8:30am & 10:15am
1955 Headlight Road in Strasburg
Sunday Service Livestream at
<https://www.mvcolorado.online.church>
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
AA - Fridays @ 6pm
Find us on Facebook/Instagram: Search "mvcolorado"
mvcolorado.com
303.622.9600

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

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

calvary bennett
Teaching God's Word verse-by-verse
Sundays 10:30 AM
Bennett Community Center
1100 W Colfax Ave
Live-streamed @ calvarybennett.org
Offices located at 545 Palmer Ave
303.261.8853
info@calvarybennett.org
Download our app:

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

GARAGE DOORS
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
Maverick Steel

New Door Sales and Installation
Service to Existing Doors
Spring Replacement
Opener Installation and Service
**** FREE ESTIMATES ****
AFTER-HOURS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AVAILABLE
75 West Highway 40 Byers, CO 80103
303-822-8949 (after hours 720-880-9784)

Ranchers, consumers can team up on circular beef supply

Cowboys guided a herd of longhorn cattle through downtown Denver to celebrate the opening of the annual National Western Stock Show last month. As ranchers brought their best cattle to compete for blue ribbons, it was a good time to consider whether beef production can be part of a circular economy.

Circularity is an economic model where raw materials are responsibly sourced, waste products are put to best use and the system maximizes ecosystem functioning and human well-being.

As with most human activities, beef production provides a valuable contribution to human health while also impacting the natural environment, sometimes in negative ways.

We are innovators and researchers who live in Colorado and study the beef supply chain. Our work broadly focuses on investigating ways to make beef production more circular and sustainable.

Kim Stackhouse-Lawson and Sara Place are experts in cow burps and technologies to mitigate the methane associated with them. Jennifer Martin is an expert in meat processing and supply chains for byproducts like organ meats. Jordan Kraft Lambert is an expert in commercializing technologies that help producers steward the environment while feeding the world.

Beef is a source of complete protein. It has the full complement of amino acids humans need to build muscle and is a rich source of vitamin B12, which is necessary to ensure nervous system function and red blood cell formation. Beef produced in the U.S. each year meets the total protein needs of 40 million people and provides enough B12 to meet the needs of 137 million people, according to research.

In 2019, U.S. beef cattle production comprised about 3.7% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Beef cattle production is also responsible for approximately 5% of U.S. water withdrawn from surface or groundwater, and 0.7% of the nation's fossil fuel energy use.

NEW TECH REDUCES ECO IMPACT

Cows are able to digest tough, fibrous plant material that humans, pigs and chickens can't. This factor makes them an important part of a circular economy because they can digest what would otherwise be considered waste from other industries, like the grain left over from making beer and al-



mond hulls from almond milk. By using these ingredients to feed cattle instead of letting it rot in landfills, U.S. feedlots decreased the amount of human-edible feeds required to produce more beef protein.

When cattle are fed waste products like almond hulls and spent grain, it's easy for producers to include feed additives, like herbs and custom-made molecules. These additions may reduce the cows' methane production by changing how the microbes in their stomachs process carbohydrates.

For the same reason that cows can digest what would otherwise be considered waste, cows are able to eat grass. Grazing is important in dry regions like the mountains and High Plains of Colorado. If the grass isn't removed via grazing, it dries and becomes tinder for wildfire. In addition, many mountainous areas are too cold, rocky and steep to grow crops. Grazing can turn land that would otherwise be difficult to farm into food-producing land.

Until now, grazing required physical fences, which are costly to maintain and limit wildlife movement. But new technologies like virtual fencing allow Western Slope ranchers to use their smartphones to set digital boundaries. A collar on the cow beeps and buzzes to tell the cows where to go. Virtual boundaries are easy to change and visible only to the cow; thus, they support more environmentally-friendly grazing practices, protect streams and

wildlife habitat, and reduce wildfire fuel in dry seasons. While our recent research shows that this technology needs more development, it could be an important tool for beef's role in a circular economy.

ORGAN MEATS, PET TREATS, LEATHER

In our experience, many U.S. consumers rarely eat cuts beyond steaks and ground beef — often due to a bad first experience with organ meats, like liver, or unfamiliarity with how to cook lesser-known cuts, like heart.

When customers won't buy these cuts, beef producers who sell online or at farmers markets might send them to the landfill. That costs the producer money and wastes the water, land and feed used to make these cuts.

Studies show that these cuts are among the most nutrient-dense parts of the animal, providing high levels of iron, B vitamins, choline and other micronutrients. Making use of these lesser-known cuts can reduce emissions by using more of the animal and keep edible meat out of landfills, where it would otherwise rot, releasing greenhouse gases.

But not mean anyone has to suffer through a meal of rubbery liver to save the planet. Many cultures globally value organ dishes, and U.S. tastes are expanding to include foods like lengua tacos made from beef tongue. Meanwhile, cooking tools such as sous vide can improve tenderness and juiciness by holding meat at precise temperatures for longer times.

Pets also benefit from eating organ meats, so these cuts are a key ingredient in pet foods and treats.

Consumer fashion choices matter too. About 270 million bovine hides are produced globally each year, and about 70% are turned into leather. Due to insufficient demand, remaining hides are burned or sent to the landfill, both of which release greenhouse gases.

Rather than letting these hides rot, they can be turned into leather, a durable, breathable and biodegradable high-performance material. When consumers choose to buy genuine leather boots, belts and car seats, they're engaging in the circular economy.

— by Jordan Kraft Lambert, Kim Stackhouse-Lawson, Sara Place, Colorado State University

Deer Trail School is rounding up our 2026-2027 **KINDERGARTNERS!**

Please join us for Kindergarten Roundup

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Deer Trail School
130 S. 2nd Ave
Deer Trail, CO 80105

Your student must be 5 by October 1st, 2026

No appointment necessary!

Estamos redondeando nuestro 2026-2027 **¡NIÑOS DE KINDERGARTEN!**

Acompáñenos en el Kindergarten Roundup

JUEVES 26 DE FEBRERO

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Escuela de Deer Trail
130 S. 2nd Ave
Deer Trail, CO 80105

El estudiante debe tener 5 años antes del 1 de octubre de 2026

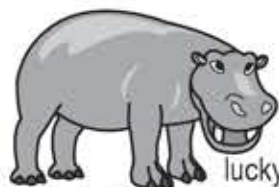
Sin cita previa!

Visit your favorite library to borrow...      ...folktales from around the world.  Kids: color stuff in! 

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2026 V8

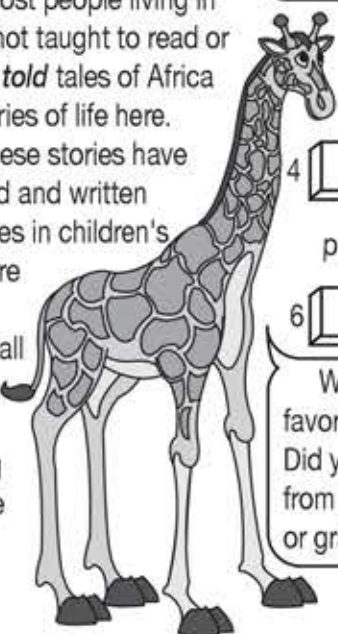
African and American Folktales



In America, we are lucky to have folktales from around the world. As people come here to live, they bring stories they have heard and shared before. These stories tell about life and nature.

African Americans have a wealth of folklore from Africa to share with their families and others. Some also share stories from their history as free or enslaved people in America. Most people living in slavery were not taught to read or write, so they *told* tales of Africa as well as stories of life here.

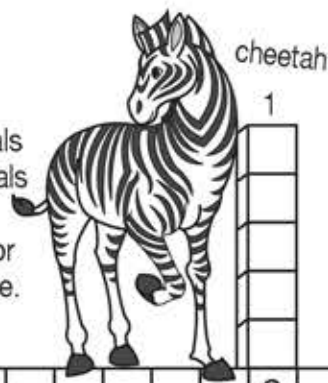
Many of these stories have been collected and written down. The tales in children's story books are beautifully illustrated for all to enjoy. Ask a librarian for help in finding some of these folktales. You will be glad you did!



Many parents and grandparents tell folktales to the children in their family. Storytellers spin them for listeners of all ages. **A folktale may have:**

- _____ solved
- _____ of things that are hard to understand
- _____ for an unkind person
- _____ learned
- a _____ for a good person
- _____ who can overcome anything
- _____ spells
- _____ animals

Folktales often use animals to make a point. The animals are used to show what people are like or how they behave.



lion 2
3 C O
4 O
5 O S
6
7 I
8 tortoise
9 H E A
10 A
cheetah 1
monkey
crocodile
spider snake
jackal
chameleon

magical 1
heroes 3
reward 2
explanations
punishment 4
6
7 talking
8 lessons
A cat may be sneaky.
A dog may be too trusting and get tricked.
Which animals may be used to stand for these traits? →

- stubborn, fearful
- misleading, gets others to do what he wants
- timid, loyal
- playful, clever
- wise, brave
- tricky, greedy, lazy
- proud, cruel
- sneaky, clever
- honorable, swift
- patient, plotting

Which Folktale?

1. This folktale explains why an insect does what it does! Study the pictures and letters to help you fill in the title.

W +    
_ _ _ o _ _ u i o _ _ _

Bzzz
_ _ _ i n _ _ _

    
_ _ _ : _ _ _

A West African Tale: by Verna Aardema

2. In the tale, *Beautiful Blackbird*: by Ashley Bryan, a bird paints a touch of his beautiful
_ _ _ _ _ color onto other birds' feathers.

3. This magical folktale has a chicken house full of these. To find out what, fill in each blank with the letter of the alphabet that comes before the one given.



U I F U B M L J O H F H H T
by Robert San Souci

17
18 b k
19 c a
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Follow the dots to see what John Henry held:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
Unscramble the word.
M M H A E R
John Henry: An American Legend by Ezra Jack Keats

Find a Favorite Folktale!

- Check out these cool folktales:
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale* by John Steptoe.
 - A Story A Story* by Gail E. Haley.
 - Anansi the Spider Man* by Philip M. Sherlock.
 - The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural* with illustrations by J. Brian Pinkney.
 - The People Could Fly* told by Virginia Hamilton.
 - Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales* by Nelson Mandela.

This animal is often #1 seen in folktales. B B R A T I
Sometimes he is hiding. He is small, but fast and clever!

#2 These animals but not alligators live in Africa. In stories they may be magical or dishonest.
 R C L
D O E I C O

Draw another animal often found in folktales. What is he like?
This animal is:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Eight I-70 Corridor wrestlers won regional titles during state qualifying meets held Feb. 13-14. Left photo, Madilyn Gitke (155 pounds), Autumn Kulpa (130), and Vivienne Gitke (140) celebrate with their gold medals after winning their title tilts at 4A Girls Region 4 at Holy Family in Broomfield. Center, Bennett's regional champs are Tommy Cearns (157), Ethan Jordan (150) and Emma Faczak (105); the Bennett boys wrestled at the 3A Region 1 meet at Eaton while the lone Lady Tiger competed at 4A Girls Region 4. Right, Strasburg's Cadence Pearson (175) and Juan Fernandez (215) won their weights at 3A Region 4 at Fort Lupton. In total, 17 wrestlers from Bennett, Strasburg and Byers will represent the area at this week's Colorado Wrestling Championships at Ball Arena in Denver.

17 to represent Corridor at state wrestling meet

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

When the dust settled after 1½ hectic days of regional qualifying meets across the state Feb. 13-14, 17 grapplers from Byers, Bennett and Strasburg found themselves preparing competition in this week's Colorado State Wrestling Championships Feb. 19-21 at Ball Arena in downtown Denver.

Of the area's state qualifiers, eight are coming off of regional title runs while another two made their championship matches before finishing second.

Seven others qualified by placing third or fourth

or successfully getting through a consolation wrestle-back round.

The state tournament for 2A and 3A boys and the 4A girls kicks off at 12 p.m. Thursday with both the first round and championship quarterfinals matches to take place. Friday morning starts with the first and second rounds of consolation for the smaller schools with the championship semifinals for all classifications slated for 6 p.m. Friday night. On Championship Saturday, the consolation brackets continue with fifth- and third-place matches to follow; the parade of champions starts at 4 p.m. with all six classifications' championship matches going

on at the same time.

Tickets for the three-day wrestling extravaganza are available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

4A GIRLS BENNETT

For the second straight season, the lone Lady Tiger qualified for the state meet and is looking for her second consecutive weight title.

Bennett sophomore Emma Faczak won the 105-pound weight title at 4A Girls Region 4 at Holy

**SEE W STATE PREVIEW
PAGE 12**



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

From left photo, Indian Gideon Milner pokes the ball away from Yuma's Brody Sheffield Feb. 10; Cade Hemphill battles for a rebound with an Outlaw player, Brody Hopwood splits a pair of defenders en route to 2 of his team-high 25 points. The victory clinched the Patriot League title for the Indians as well as put them as the No. 1 seed for the conference tournament, which starts Friday.

Indian boys run past Yuma en route to coach's 200th win



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Strasburg boys head basketball coach Kyle Bollers recorded his 200th win Feb. 10.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Indians jumped from No. 2 to No. 1 in the 3A boys state postseason index following their 77-59 victory of visiting fourth-ranked Patriot League rival Yuma Feb. 10.

The win gave the Indians the regular season conference title and was also the 200th at Strasburg for head coach Kyle Bollers, who took the reins of the red-and-black starting the 2009-10 season.

"I've been the beneficiary of a lot of great players and great coaches," Bollers said of his tenure at Strasburg.

After regaining the top spot in the Colorado High School Activities Association's rankings, Strasburg fell back down to No. 2 after a 67-60 loss

at then-No.3 Forge Christian Feb. 14. FCA jumped to No. 1 while undefeated Banning Lewis dropped below Strasburg to No. 3 and Yuma remained at fourth. For full coverage of Strasburg's Saturday's matchup in Arvada, see the Feb. 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Strasburg was 17-1, 8-1 in the Patriot League through Feb. 15.

YUMA

The visiting Outlaws had a 15-14 lead after the first quarter, but the Indians won the second eight minutes 24-17 to go into the locker rooms up 38-32.

"It's been a broken record with us — when we dig in and have great defensive possessions, end up with the boards, and get out and run, we're really tough to stop," Bollers said. "It

took us much of the first two quarters for us to make up our minds to, defensively, stack up the stops but, once we did, things swung our direction. Plus a little hot shooting at the end helped."

Senior Gideon Milner came off the bench to score all 12 of his points on four three-pointers in the first half.

"That was huge for us," Bollers said. "Overall, our three-point shooting forced them to pull out their 2-3 zone defense. Once they started extending out, we were able to get to the high post and get the ball down to the guys on the baseline that were finishing."

The late second-quarter momentum continued into the third as Strasburg went into the final period up 60-44. The Indian advantage remained in

**SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 14**

2026 STATE WRESTLING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2026

2A/3A /4A GIRLS (Session 1)
PRELIMINARIES & QUARTERFINALS 12:00 – 4:30 P.M. 12 MATS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

2A/3A /4A GIRLS (Session 3)
1st & 2nd ROUND CONSOLATION 9:00 – 12:30 P.M. 12 MATS

ALL CLASSES- (Session 4)
SEMIFINALS 6:00 P.M. 12 MATS

3rd ROUND CONSOLATION 7:45 P.M. 2 MATS PER CLASS
(AS MATS BECOME AVAILABLE)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2026

(Session 5)
WEIGH-IN 7:30 A.M.
SEMIFINAL CONSOLATION 9:00 A.M. 12 MATS
5TH PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING - 12 MATS
3RD PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING - 12 MATS

CLEAR HOUSE CLEAR HOUSE CLEAR HOUSE
DOORS OPEN AT 3:00 P.M.

(Session 6)
PARADE OF CHAMPIONS 4:00 P.M. 6 MATS

ALL WRESTLERS MUST CHECK-IN AT THE START OF WEIGH-INS EACH DAY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Second-place regional wrestling finishes were recorded by Byers sophomore Wes Butterfield, left, and Strasburg senior Olivia Le Fors.

W STATE PREVIEW

FROM PAGE 11

Family, pinning her three opponents in a total of 2:40. She won the 2025 state tournament at the same weight.

STRASBURG

Four Lady Indians, including three regional champions and two defending state champions, advanced to this week's state meet.

In addition to the Gitke sisters of senior Vivienne (140 pounds) and Madilyn (155), senior Autumn Kulpa (130) won her first regional title. Senior Olivia Le Fors (190) made her weight finals but lost in the title match.

All four girls qualified last year with the Gitke duo taking home the gold medals at the same weights.

3A BOYS

BENNETT

For the Tiger boys, who finished fourth as a team at 3A Region 1 at Eaton, two took home weight titles, while four others finished third or fourth to qualify for state.

Seniors Ethan Jordan (150) and Tommy Cearns (157) both won their weight divisions.

Senior Caycen Scholz (132), soph-

omore Mormon Jordan (144) and junior Kenneth Jordan all finished third. Sophomore Liam Sanchez placed fifth; however, a wrestle-back opportunity against the fourth-place wrestler allowed him to advance.

STRASBURG

The Indian boys were led by senior Juan Fernandez (215) and junior Cadence Pearson (175), who won their weight titles at 3A Region 4 in Fort Lupton.

Senior Kingston Rodriguez (165) qualified for his first state tournament, finishing third, and juniors Reagan Rosier (138) and Adan Fernandez Navarro both finished regional weekend in fourth place.

2A BOYS

BYERS

One Bulldog qualified for state this weekend with sophomore Wes Butterfield (175) finishing second at 2A Region 2 at Akron.

For full coverage of all of last weekend's regional wrestling action, see the Feb. 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Good Luck @ State Wrestling Wes Butterfield!

Byers Athletic Dept. & Byers School District 32J

GOOD LUCK TIGERS @ STATE WRESTLING!

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Back row from left: senior Juan Fernandez (215 lbs.), senior Kingston Rodriguez (165), and junior Adan Fernandez Navarro (190); middle row: senior Olivia Le Fors (190), senior Vivienne Gitke (140), and junior Reagan Rosier (130); and, front row: senior Autumn Kulpa (130), sophomore Madilyn Gitke (155), and junior Cadence Pearson (175).

From Strasburg School District 31j

Bennett cagers sweep visiting Frontier Panthers

Second-half rally catapults Tiger boys

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Lady Tigers Emma Jordan (25) and Josie Ladd go strong to the bucket during Bennett's 50-point victory over visiting Lake County Feb. 10.

Ladies throw 2nd quarter shutout in blowout

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett Lady Tigers continue to have little trouble navigating their Frontier League schedule.

Most recently, the orange-and-black held visiting Lake County to single-digit scoring quarters, including a 16-0 shutout in the second, en route to a 63-13 conference victory.

The closest period was a 12-6 first eight minutes before the troops of Bennett head coach Mike Rios went in at halftime up 28-6. The domination continued after halftime — 20-3 in the third and 15-4 over the fourth.

"We kept the energy from start to finish," Rios said. "Team defense led to another complete win."

Offensively, the Tigers shot 32% from the field but 28 offensive rebounds led to Bennett accumulating 77 shot attempts.

The Tigers went 8-of-14 from the free-throw line.

Junior Emilee Venneberg and sophomores Josie Ladd and Aileen Duran all reached double-digit points with 20, 15 and 10, respectively; four others scored between 2-7 points.

Defensively, Bennett forced 40-plus Panther turnovers, including 29

steals, led by Ladd and Duran with seven apiece.

The victory advanced Bennett to 16-3 overall, 6-0 in the conference.

But a 61-30 setback to visiting non-conference rival Highland Feb. 14 was added to the loss column and that dropped the orange-and-black down to No. 14 in the 4A girls CHSAA seeding index for postseason determination.

While the top 32 teams qualify for the bracket, the top eight host a regional site.

For complete coverage of the game against Highland, watch for the Feb. 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Lake County @ Bennett

Points (63): Aileen Duran 10; Mattie Robledo 7; Mya Robledo 4; Emma Jordan 4; Madelyn Bavouset 2; Josie Ladd 15; Emilee Venneberg 20.

Rebounds (35): Duran 8; Ma. Robledo 3; My. Robledo 1; Jordan 7; Bavouset 5; Ladd 6; Venneberg 5.

Assists (15): Duran 4; Mat. Robledo 2; My. Robledo 2; Ladd 3; Venneberg 4.

Steals (29): Duran 7; Mat. Robledo 6; My. Robledo 1; Jordan 3; Bavouset 3; Ladd 7; Venneberg 2.

Blocks (1): Mat. Robledo 1.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Lake County	6	0	3	4	13
Bennett	12	16	20	15	63

COMING UP

Feb. 26: St. Mary's Academy

BENNETT — A strong second half catapulted the Bennett Tiger boys to a 71-56 home victory over visiting Frontier League foe Lake County Feb. 10 and, in the process, to a game over .500 overall.

While the orange-and-black rallied from 11-3 behind early to have a 20-18 lead after the first eight minutes, the visitors from Leadville surged to take a 38-34 lead at halftime.

But an inspired group of Tigers come out of the locker room to dominate the third quarter 17-5 to take a 51-43 lead into the final quarter.

Over the final frame, Bennett's lead went into double-digits and stayed there.

"I really don't think I say much at halftime considered that fiery or earth-shattering but the boys have definitely responded in the third quarter a lot of the time this season, and the Lake County game was the same," said first-year Bennett head coach Andrew Thornton. "Really a second quarter that we can't have, but made up for it after halftime. Still have to figure this playing all four quarters out."

A strong second-half shooting effort bumped the victors to just under 50% (26-of-54) from the field for the game, including 19-of-35 in two-point range.

The Tigers went 12-of-21 from the free-throw line.

While nine Tigers scored, senior guard Austin Stiers led with a game-high 30 points, including six three-pointers and going 8-of-11 from the free-throw line, junior Owen Hawes added 11 points.

"Getting into a pretty good rhythm shooting the ball from three-point range," Thornton said. "Since we changed up some things with our guard play, I think that's loosened [Hawes] up to do a few more things and his scoring is coming around."

Seven Bennett players had at least one assist; the Tigers assisted on 12 of 26 field goals.

Defensively, the 30-plus Panther turnovers included 15 Bennett steals,



ALYSSA STEMO/For The Scout

Bennett's Avant Dickens (5) shoots over outstretched arm of a Panther defender during the Tigers' home conference victory Feb. 10.

led by junior Avant Dickens with four and Stiers with three.

The Tigers improved to 10-9 overall, 2-2 against 4A Frontier League competition.

The win bumped Bennett to No. 38 in the 4A CHSAA standings but still out of postseason consideration.

The orange-and-black hosted Highland and former head coach Wesley Burke Feb. 14 but results of the contest were unavailable at press time.

Lake County @ Bennett

Points (71): Austin Stiers 30; Avant Dicknes 6; Juan Santoyo 5; Owen Hawes 11; Daniel Rodriguez 6; Alfredo Duran 2; Brayden Schmaltz 8; Elias Pulido 2; Salvador Corado 1.

Rebounds (27): Stiers 3; Dickens 2; Rodriguez 8; duran 5; Schmaltz 4; Pulido 5.

Assists (12): Stiers 3; Dickens 2; Santoyo 1; Rodriguez 1; Duran 2; Schmaltz 2; Pulido 1.

Steals (15): Stiers 3; Dickens 4; Santoyo 2; Hawes 2; Rodriguez 1; Schmaltz 1; Pulido 1; Corado 1.

Blocks (3): Dickens 2; Pulido 1.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Lake County	18	20	5	13	56
Bennett	20	14	17	20	71

COMING UP

Feb. 27: Prospect Ridge Academy

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout
From left, Strasburg's Jayden Miller flips a no-look pass to a teammate against Yuma, while Nick Glatfelter extricates himself from several pairs of hands on his way to the bucket.

BB STRASBURG FROM PAGE 11

double-digits the rest of the way.

As a team, the red-and-black shot better than 50% from the field, including 12-of-24 behind the three-point arc.

Fouls were few and far between as the Indians shot only seven free throws, making five.

On the stat sheet afterwards, the game appeared to be a battle of the Brodys as Yuma's standout senior Brody Sheffield recorded a game-high 29 points and Strasburg junior Brody Hopwood led his squad with 25 with 7-of-7 shooting from two-point range. The Indians had three others reach double-digits — senior Nick Glatfelter with 17 and Milner and senior classmate Cade Hemphill with 12 apiece. Glatfelter completed a double-double with 10 of the Indians 28 assists on 30 made buckets.

"Just really shared the ball well and Nick from the high post found [Hopwood] and our other guys on the baseline, really attacked the bucket and finished strong," Bollers said.

"I still thought we did a great job on defensively on Sheffield. He got his points, but by the fourth quarter he was smoked. We just exhausted him and really limited a lot of [Yuma's] other guys."

Defensively, the trio of Hopwood, Glatfelter and junior Colton Holloway led with two steals apiece. Glatfelter and Cam Manahan combined to swat away six Outlaw shot attempts.

UPCOMING LEAGUE TOURNEY

After concluding their regular-season at Frontier Academy in Greeley Feb. 17, the Indians start the Patriot League Tournament at home Friday. While the seeding wasn't finalized at press time, Bollers said it was likely his squad will take on 4A University in the first round.

The 3A/4A Patriot League Tournament features the top eight teams in a traditional bracket tournament with the remaining schools split into pools for round-robin play. The first two rounds — Feb. 20 and Feb. 25, respectively — are at higher seed's home courts, while Championship Saturday is all day Saturday, Feb. 28, at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

The eight-team tourney will feature Strasburg, Yuma, Windsor Charter, Resurrection Christian, Liberty Common and Wiggins from 3A and Eaton and University from 4A.

"Our league in 3A is insanely tough, so it's going to be another group of very challenging games against really good teams," Bollers said, noting that the Indians have beaten 10 teams that were ranked in the top 10 in their classifications at game time.

Yuma @ Strasburg

Points (77): Ayden Dodge 3; Jayden Miller 4; Brody Hopwood 28; Nick Glatfelter 17; Cade Hemphill 9; Cam Manahan 4; Gideon Milner 12.

Rebounds (31): Dodge 3; Miller 1; Hopwood 6; Glatfelter 7; Hemphill 2; Fory Morales 1; Manahan 5; Colton Holloway 2; Milner 3; Dalton Velasco 1.

Assists (28): Miller 5; Hopwood 6; Glatfelter 10; Hemphill 2; Manahan 2; Holloway 2; Milner 1.

Steals (8): Dodge 1; Hopwood 2; Glatfelter 2; Hemphill 1; Holloway 2.

Blocks (6): Glatfelter 4; Manahan 2.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Yuma	15	17	12	15	59
Strasburg	14	24	22	17	77

Best wishes & stay safe this winter season!

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Despite the lopsided outcomes in both contests, the annual games between locals Deer Trail and Byers were hard fought. The host Lady Bulldogs defeated the red-and-white visitors 63-18 while the boys game was in favor of the hosts 74-23. Left photo, Lady Eagle Megan Donovan and Byers' Tina Cichos battle for a rebound and, right, Bulldog James Maes scores 2 against the defense of Deer Trail's Chauncy Gudenkauf. For full coverage of the local match-ups and other games for the two schools from last week, watch for the Feb. 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Eagle boys still seek first victory

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Deer Trail Eagles continue to look for their first victory in two seasons.

Most recently the red-and-white fell 60-10 at Union Pacific League rival Stratton Feb. 3 and 54-35 at Cripple Creek-Victor two nights later.

The Eagles had one of their few leads of the season Thursday night, ahead 15-13 with 1:30 left in the first half; however, a 13-0 Pioneer run to end the second quarter was too much for the Eagles to overcome.

While Eagle junior Chauncy Gudenkauf finished the contest with game-high point honors with 24, only three others scored.

Not only did Deer Trail struggle to contain Cripple Creek senior Dylan Reyes, who finished the evening with 23 points, six others from the Pioneer supporting cast posted between 2 and 9 points.

At Stratton, the visitors were unable to muster much offense, trailing 31-2 after the first quarter.

Offensively, Deer Trail only mustered 13 field goal attempts, making five.

Stratton shot 55% from the field with 26-of-47 performance.

Deer Trail @ Cripple Creek-Victor

Points (35): Chauncy Gudenkauf 24; Milkao Tossou 3; Nevin Musser 6; Tyson Haight 2.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Deer Trail	10	5	10	10	35
Cripple Creek-Victor	11	15	14	14	54

DEER TRAIL @ STRATTON

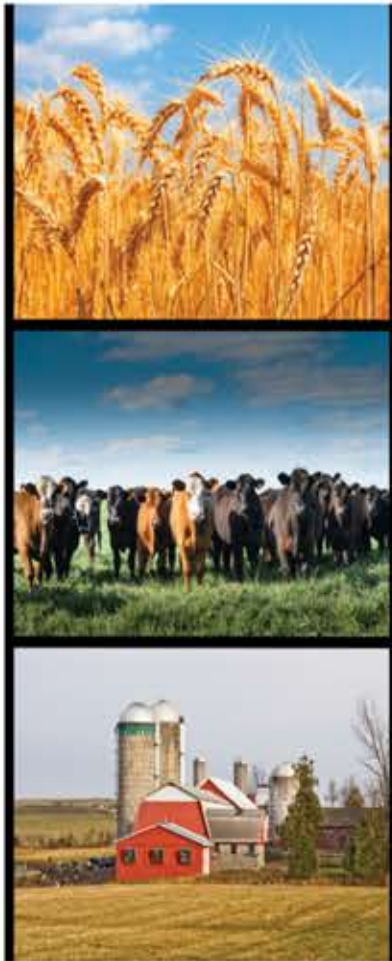
Points (10): Dmitri Gonzalez 2; Hernesto Anguiano 2; Hunter Meredith 6.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Deer Trail	2	6	2	0	10
Stratton	31	14	4	11	60

COMING UP

Feb. 19: Burlington.
Feb. 26: Manzanola



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Corridor youth diamond registration open

STRASBURG — The start of the new year marked the beginning of sign-ups for a variety of baseball and softball opportunities for I-70 Corridor Youth this summer.

Prospective players from Watkins through Deer Trail can all sign up at strasburgparks.org. Regular registration runs through March 1 with a late registration window available from March 2-22.

Particulars for all groups follow.

SOFTBALL

The Eastern Plains Pink Sox for girls ages 6-18 as of Aug. 31, 2025, start practices Monday, April 6, in Strasburg. Games are played May through June on weeknights and Saturdays in Strasburg and the Denver area — Castle Rock, Thornton and Niwot.

An end-of-season tournament for the top 4-6 teams in each division is scheduled June 26-28.

The five categories and their registration cost through March 1 are: 8U Coach Pitch (ages 6-8) \$140; 10U Kid

Pitch (Ages 9-10) \$165; 12U (ages 11-12) \$190; 14U (ages 13-14) \$200; and 18U (ages 14-18) \$210.

Late registration for the following three weeks range from \$190 to \$260.

Softball registration includes a jersey and visor.

BASEBALL

Union Pacific League baseball for kids ages 7-13, will play its games in Strasburg, Bennett, Byers, Deer Trail, and Wiggins.

End of season tournaments will be June 26-29.

Registration fees for the three divisions follow: 8U Coach Pitch (ages 7-8) \$140; 10U Kid Pitch (ages 9-10) \$165; and 13U (ages 11-13) \$190. After March 1, late registration run from \$190 to \$240.

For Deer Trail Raptors members, a \$40 registration discount is available. For more information, e-mail Deer-TrailBaseball@gmail.com.

Baseball registration includes jersey and hat.



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Strasburg's Paloma Rodriguez, left and Rylee Tiffany drive towards the bucket against a Yuma defender during the schools' Patriot League tilt Feb. 10.

Lady Indians draw short against Yuma

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — The Strasburg basketball team put up a fight in a defensive struggle with Yuma Feb. 10 at home, but the No. 3 Lady Outlaws prevailed in the end by a score of 36-23.

The Indians trailed 5-4 and 17-12 after each of the first two quarters, but were doomed by the third quarter when Yuma outscored them 11-4.

Halftime adjustments and solid free-throw shootings allowed the Outlaws pulled away, said Strasburg head coach Merci Ames.

"We felt like we competed pretty well," said Strasburg head coach Mer-

ci Ames. "We just had a bad quarter." Strasburg lost to No. 13 Forge Christian 66-40 Saturday to fall to 8-11 for the season. Watch the *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.

They also took on Frontier Academy Feb. 17. Results were not available at press time.

YUMA @ STRASBURG

Points (0): LaForce 10; Kent 5; Winter 4; Garcia 2; Tiffany 2.
Rebounds (23): LaForce 8; Rodriguez 5; Tiffany 4; Rojahn 2; Cardenas 2; Winter 1; Garcia 1.
Assists (6): Winter 2; Kent 1; Tiffany 1; Blaise 1; Rojahn 1.
Steals (8): Winter 2; Kent 1; Tiffany 1; LaForce 1; Rodriguez 1; Friedrich 1; Cardenas 1.
Blocks (4): LaForce 4.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Strasburg	4	8	4	7	23
Yuma	5	12	11	8	36



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Lady Indian Emelie Cardenas (20), chases after a loose ball while teammate Wynne Winter (3) converges from the backside against Yuma.



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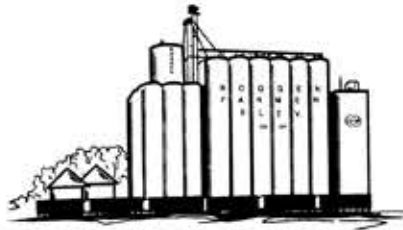
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Staffing transitions announced by MCC

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College recently announced two employee transitions that reflect the college's ongoing commitment to student success and professional growth.

According to a release, both employees are MCC alumnae who continue to advance their careers while serving students in new capacities.

Elizabeth Gonzales transitioned to Financial Aid Advisor Nov. 1. She began her MCC career on March 1, 2025, as a Financial Aid & Enrollment Specialist, where she guided students through the enrollment process and helped them access financial aid resources.



Gonzales

In her new role, she will provide financial aid counseling and education to both current and prospective students through outreach on and off campus — helping them navigate financial aid applications, promoting financial literacy, and connecting students to scholarship opportunities that make higher education more accessible.

Gonzales brings more than 10 years of experience in sales, operations and customer service, along with bilingual communication skills that enhance her ability to serve MCC's diverse student population.

Vanesa Sanchez transitioned to new responsibilities as the Education Department Student Liaison, also on Nov. 1.

Sanchez joined MCC in September 2021 as a Success Coach for the CTE Immersion Program. She later assumed the role of STEM Coach in July 2022 and, in June 2023, became the Title V SUCCESS Director, where she led grant initiatives that expanded academic support and student engagement.



Sanchez

Her new position allows her to continue serving students directly, supporting future educators, and advancing student success.

Sanchez also holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley and a master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Leadership from Adams State University in Alamosa.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
FEB. 21, 2006

The Strasburg School Board heard at its Feb. 14 meeting that the school is facing the possibility of having to spend part of the money intended for the building of Hemphill Middle School on a road.

Tom Homer, the district's owner's representative for the project, reported that Adams County's Department of Public Works & Engineering has told the district they must pay for extending Wagner Street, which runs behind the new baseball field and dead ends at Pauls' Blackstone Ranch.

"We are in the business of educating s kids, not building roads," said board member Donn Headley, expressing his disapproval.

Strasburg Superintendent Dave Van Sant said why the county is mandating the extension is unclear because it would not affect the school in any way as the district has planned for the roads needed to keep the school operating smoothly.

"In our plan that we submitted to [the county], we gave them a private place for parents to drop off, and private parking and a private lane for the buses," Van Sant said. "We met with the fire department to make sure they could turn their trucks around."

15 YEARS AGO
FEB. 22, 2011

BENNETT — The Bennett School District is searching for a new chief administrator after Superintendent Richard Coleman tendered his resignation Feb. 17.

While board members appeared surprised by the announcement, Coleman made his decision to read his letter of resignation after board members appeared hesitant to allow his contract to automatically rollover next school year.

According to an audio recording of Thursday's meeting, board member Del Moler requested the agenda be amended to include a vote on Coleman's contract. The board planned on reviewing Coleman's performance in executive session, but it appeared that a vote against renewing the contract for a third year was desired; the deadline for such a vote is March 1.

"The way the contract is written, the only motion to be brought up at this time is one to disapprove the third year," Coleman said. "It's two-year contract with an automatic third-year extension, unless otherwise decided."

During discussion on the agenda, Coleman told board members there was no reason to debate the process further, because he was handing over his letter of resignation.

10 YEARS AGO
FEB. 23, 2016

BYERS — The Byers School Board unanimously voted to renew the superintendent's three-year contract, rolling in a year and making the agreement valid through the 2018-19 school year.

The Feb. 18 action came after an hour-long executive session during which the board discussed Superintendent's Tom Turrell's evaluation and over the objections of a small but vocal group that urged his non-renewal.

Three people spoke out against Turrell during public comment, including former school board member Yvonne Olson-Sage, who stated her belief that he is "hiding behind the name of the Byers School District for his personal agenda" and making unilateral decisions in the name of the school district.

Olson-Sage cited a lawsuit filed by Turrell on behalf of the district — a unit which was subsequently dropped and refiled by board President Tom Thompson personally — alleging community member Tammy Holland committed campaign and political finance violations.

"This was not a decision made by the board of education," Olson-Sage said. "There was very little discussion regarding this matter and it never went out to vote. He has been superintendent of this district long enough to know the [policies, and laws. ... Once again he chooses not to follow them."

Byers School parent Keith Gerhardt also blasted Turrell, stating that "he has a pattern of being petty, impulsive, self-serving and contradictory ... and has a history of blaming others for his own actions while using bullying tactics to impact his desired outcome."

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
SOLUTION ON PAGE 2

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2026. There are 316 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 18, 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash in the final lap of the Daytona 500.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adven-

tures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S.

In 1930, the dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh.

In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those

convictions were later reversed).

In 1983, 13 people were shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two men were convicted of the killings and sentenced to life in prison; a third was found guilty of robbery and assault and served 28 years in prison before being deported to Hong Kong in 2014.)

In 1994, in the final race of his Olympic career at the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, U.S. speedskater Dan Jansen broke the world record in the 1,000 meters, winning the gold medal.

In 2001, veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia. (Hanssen later pleaded guilty to espionage and attempted espionage

and sentenced to life in prison; he died in prison in 2023.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Artist-singer Yoko Ono is 93. Actor Cybill Shepherd is 76. Actor John Travolta is 72. TV personality Vanna White is 69. Actor Matt Dillon is 62. Rapper-music executive Dr. Dre is 61. Actor Molly Ringwald is 58.

— Associated Press

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THEME: WORLD EXPLORERS

- ACROSS**
1. UPS competitor
 5. "The One I Love" band
 8. Prior to, pref.
 11. Gin flavor
 12. ___ wig or ___ winkle
 13. Command to Fido
 15. ___ Grey of tea fame
 16. Policemen's surprise
 17. Brunch offering
 18. *Explorer Amerigo's last name
 20. Rock opera version of "La Boheme"
 21. Gossipmonger, in Yiddish
 22. Ballet step
 23. *Henry the Navigator's title
 26. Chicken pox pimples
 30. Poetic "even"
 31. Demosthenes or Cicero
 34. "The ___ on the Floss"
 35. Stories "from the Crypt"
 37. Rank above maj.
 38. Sore spot
 39. "Happily ___ after"
 40. Familiar routine
 42. "Wow!"
 43. Retina, pl.
 45. *Explorer Shackleton's first name
 47. New on the block?
 48. Barbara Eden's TV character
 50. Rumpel
 52. *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
 55. *Lewis' or Clark's vessel
 56. Fictional giant
 57. Plaintiff
 59. Shrovetide dish
 60. Zig or zag
 61. Dunking cookie
 62. "___ and the City"
 63. "C___ la vie!"
 64. Backgammon predecessor
- DOWN**
1. Take drugs
 2. Bohemian, e.g.
 3. Skin opening
 4. Short for self-synchronous
 5. Don't just stand there!
 6. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 7. Skirt length
 8. Part of a hammer
 9. Wholly engrossed
 10. Obtain, but just barely
 12. Gardening tool
 13. Junk yard stuff
 14. "Dr. Livingstone, I ___?"

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19. Fictional cowboy Bill
22. One better than bogey
23. J.M. Barrie's Pan
24. Plunder
25. *Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon
26. *Inspiration for hide-and-seek game
27. City in Belgium
28. North Pole workers
29. Winter driving hazard
32. Homesteader's purchase, sing.
33. Likewise
36. *Possibly America's first European Leif ___
38. Jeopardy
40. Horse poker
41. Tooth cover
44. One born to Japanese immigrants
46. Willie of country music fame
48. Dashboard windows
49. Type of heron
50. Gender checkbox
51. Windows alternative
52. Change address
53. Mystique
54. Not ever, poetically
55. TV network
58. "Maggie May" singer

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

HOROSCOPE

Blessing of the Seahorse

These first days of Pisces season in the Year of the Fire Horse call to mind the seahorse -- one of nature's most improbable creatures. Neither fish nor horse, it lives between worlds, upright in the tide. Sacred to Poseidon, whose sea chariots were drawn by hippocampi, the seahorse carries ancient knowledge of how to move through the depths without being undone by them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're no stranger to soft sales, attraction-based strategies, roundabout methods, paying your dues and various other routes to "manifesting." But today's most effective tactic for getting what you want is simpler: just ask.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Quiet is a sanctuary. Yes, the sacred wisdom that visits the wooded trail, the cathedral and the library is rather obvious. But chaos can be its own kind of enlightening hum. Your instinct will find truth between the vibrations.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Each group of people has its own little culture. Families, neighborhoods, workplaces, classrooms -- all have rules worth learning, habits worth noticing, so you can decide to follow, bend or ignore them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today's theme: the intelligence in repetition. Routines conserve energy. Sure, there are a lot of different ways to play the day, but grooves come with momentum of their own and require much less of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can disagree without voicing it. And when you must voice it, you do so without provocation. That's diplomacy: choosing negotiation over conflict, making agreements that protect everyone involved and presenting a unified front.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You help others through their feelings. You wish your loved ones were spared every bad feeling. If you could take it on instead, you totally would. And you really want the good feelings to last. You're a true, strong ally, and they feel it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People process ex-

periences at different speeds. Some reflect quietly, some act quickly and some need time to sort through emotions before they respond. Today, someone doesn't respond in the way you would, but they are feeling something similar inside.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The job looks like it'll be a real grind, but that's OK. A grind has its benefits. The knife gets sharp, the stone is polished, and it's how you make the coffee, the bread and, of course, the money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be proud of yourself for trusting in a slow accumulation process. Affection grows steadily. Savings add up. Work builds. Collections expand. Each careful decision stacks on the last. In a few months, you'll have a tower of power.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your focus is your superpower. It's not about doing more than anyone else but about doing the exact thing that matters. You learn fast, study deeply and work without distraction. Your attention carries more weight than words ever could.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're being pulled in two directions at once, which makes it more challenging to decide who and what should get your time. Just remember, there's a third option: opt out and do what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An unrelentingly positive attitude can be as toxic as negativity because it negates certain inalienable realities, such as gravity, shadows and human imperfection. Aim for realism with a 20% pump of hope -- a perfect recipe.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 5). Welcome to your Year of Dancing Lights, when fleeting moments sparkle into lasting wonder, taking forms such as lifelong friendship, gambles that pay for years and luck that fortifies your relationships and domestic life. Magic and serendipity are the norm. More highlights: playful romance, a creative success that feels almost fated and a paper deal or certificate that gives you financial security. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 27, 14, 39 and .

— Horoscopes by Holiday

CHUCK WAGON



Appetizer Pork Meatballs

APPETIZER PORK MEATBALLS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds lean ground pork
- 1 cup ice water
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 375°F.
With hands or wooden spoon mix pork, water, soy sauce and pepper thoroughly in large bowl.
Shape into ¾-inch balls (mixture will be fairly soft and balls will not be

perfect).

Arrange closely in single layer on ungreased shallow baking pan, like a jelly roll pan.

Bake for 20-30 minutes.
Remove from pan, and serve immediately with dipping sauce, such as your favorite salad dressings (Russian, Thousand Island, ranch).

Use toothpicks to skewer meatballs for dipping. Remove from pan, cool, cover and freeze or refrigerate. Serve cold or reheated.

— Recipe courtesy
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BYERS

Thursday, Feb. 19: Flamin' hot macaroni cheese, dinner roll, steamed carrots.
Friday, Feb 20: Italian dunkers with marinara, garden salad, green beans.
Monday, Feb 23: Boneless buffalo wings, biscuit, grapes.
Tuesday, Feb 24: Chili cheese fries, corn bread, pears.
Wednesday, Feb 25: Ham hoagie, Sun chips, corn.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, Feb. 19: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, carrots, bananas.
Monday, Feb 23: French toast with syr- up, sausage, has browns.
Tuesday, Feb 24: Chicken tenders, green beans, mixed fruit, roll.
Wednesday, Feb 25: Pasta with sauce, carrots, yogurt parfait.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Feb. 19: Chili, cinnamon rolls, crackers, celery.
Friday, Feb 20: Chicken sandwiches.
Tuesday, Feb 24: Chicken strips and waffles, carrots.
Wednesday, Feb 25: Pasta bake, garlic bread, salad.

AGATE

Thursday, Feb. 19: Beef and potato wrap, refried beans.
Monday, Feb 23: Barbecue pork sandwich, fries.
Tuesday, Feb 24: Turkey sausage gravy, biscuit.
Wednesday, Feb 25: Hamburger, chips.
Thursday, Feb 26: Bean and cheese burrito.

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- **T-BALL (AGES 4-6) BENNETT, BYERS, DEER TRAIL, STRASBURG**

Practices begin April 6 (T-ball: April 20)

Games will be played Late April - June (T-ball: Mid-May - June)



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Carl Metsker



Carl Metsker, 93, of Watkins, Colo., passed away. He was born June 20, 1932, in Quinter, Kan., and raised in Lakewood, Colo.

Carl was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and devoted 32 years to teaching and counseling in Jefferson County Schools. He was married to his beloved wife, Joan Metsker, for 67 years.

He is survived by his wife Joan; daughter Michelle Parker; son Martin Metsker; grandchildren Brian Spykstra, Taylor (Hannah) Spykstra, and Brandi Parker; and great-grandchildren Sabien, Lily, and Clio.

Carl enjoyed woodworking, sporting clays, hunting, and fishing, and will be remembered for his dedication to family, service, and education.

Services are at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, 7000 S Windermere St., Littleton, CO 80120.

In lieu of flowers or anything like that please go spend time doing a hobby and think of Carl. He appreciated hobbies more than anyone and would love for you to include him in yours.

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