



Good Luck Strasburg, Byers boys at State Basketball!

See pages 11-14

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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 15

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Corridor receives much needed gulp of H₂O



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A pair of young ladies enjoy one of the multiple snowplow piles along Colfax Avenue in Strasburg the morning of March 7, the day after much of the region received at least 5 inches of snow.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

Last Friday's snowstorm along the Front Range and neighboring Eastern Plains was not only the first major precipitation event of the year but it brought the region back to or ahead of its average year-to-date moisture total.

According to various weather station reports, between 5-9 inches of snow fell, resulting in at least a half-inch of moisture March 6 and, in many cases, one- or two-tenths more.

The official National Weather Service reporting station at Denver International Airport showed 8.5 inches of snow containing 0.6 inches of precipitation. Along the I-70 Corridor, reports ranged from 4.5 to 8 inches of snow and at least a half-inch or more in resulting precipitation.

In many cases, last Friday tripled, or more, the moisture total for the year. After the first two months, DIA had recorded under a quarter-inch of precipitation, but recent snowfall raised year-to-date totals to around 0.75 inches.

"Far more impressive performance than forecasts first suggested," said an NWS report following the midafternoon snow deadline not coming to fruition. "What started as a modest, fast-moving system — out by 2 or 3 p.m. — slowed down and dumped a surprisingly heavier swath of spring-like wet snow. A rare over-performance at the airport for this time the season. A classic Colorado messy, slow spring snow with full of surprises."

Friday's squall interrupted an ex-
SEE MARCH 6 STORM PAGE 22

Bennett murder suspect delivered to ArapCo jail

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

CENTENNIAL — The suspect in a 2-year-old Bennett murder case appears will be in Arapahoe County in time for his next court date later this week.

Online searches of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the 18th Judicial District indicate that Ronald Lowry, 52, is now housed in the Arapahoe County Detention Facility without bond as he awaits a status conference on Friday, March 13, in Courtroom 402 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center.

The 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office announced Feb. 27 that Lowry has been charged with a half-dozen felony counts, including first-degree murder, in the Oct. 26, 2023, death of his estranged wife Richelle "Chelle" Lowry. The charges were announced following a grand jury indictment in the case.

"The return of this indictment marks an important step in the pursuit of justice for Richelle Lowry,"

SEE LOWRY MURDER PAGE 8



A 'Wonka' Weekend

ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Reporter Phineous Trout (Avianna Brunsvold), left, interviews Golden Ticket winner Augustus Gloop (Lucas Urban) and Mrs. Gloop (Lyra Beals) during one of the Strasburg Elementary Singers' three performances of "Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR" Feb. 27-28 at the Bennett High School auditorium. **SEE PAGE 7.**

Arapahoe County surveying most dangerous roadways

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BYERS — Arapahoe County is in the process of earmarking its most pressing roadway improvement projects, including some of the most treacherous stretches of roadways east of Gun Club Road to the county's eastern boundary.

Part of the Public Works & Development Transportation Department's Comprehensive

Safety Action Plan was a public comment period, which ended March 1, and an open house at Kelter Library in Byers in early February.

"We're taking crash data from the past seven years on county-owned, maintained roads and streets to determine which stretches require the most immediate action," said transportation division engineer Steven Buckley. "It's matter of ID-ing projects to put on a capital improvement

list, particularly addressing causes of serious injury and fatal crashes and where those occur the most."

While the list of most dangerous areas to be addressed won't be finalized until later this year, Buckley and Transportation Manager James Katzer indicated that several stretches of Quincy Avenue east of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds will likely be among some of areas for immediate improvements.

"According to some of the preliminary data, Quincy has been one of the more recent hot spots for crashes and a lot of traffic situations," said Katzer, noting that public reports of traffic hot spots are being collected. "Public feedback will play a key role in refining the plan and helping us prioritize strategies and projects that matter most. The input received will directly inform next steps and support future funding applica-

tions. Hopefully, we can turn these ideas into real safety improvements on our roads."

When it comes to the type of improvements to anticipate, Buckley said that problem areas in eastern rural areas will be different than many of the remedies in the more urban, western areas of the county.

"A lot more single-vehicle accidents when you get further east. Not to say there ar-

SEE ARAPCO ROADS LIST PAGE 8

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Presbyterians and Lutherans unite for Good Friday service

STRASBURG — A Good Friday Tenebrae service will begin at 7 p.m., Friday April 3, at Strasburg Presbyterian Church, 56635 E. Iowa Ave.

The service will feature special community choir music.

Saron Lutheran Church in Strasburg and Byers Community Church will also participate in the annual combined service. 4/1

SOUP SUPPERS

Lenten soup suppers are set for 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday through March 25 at Saron Lutheran Church.

Following food and fellowship, a Gospel lesson will be read and discussed on March 11 and 18, and an Holden Evening Prayer will be shared March 25.

The church is located at 1656 Main St., Strasburg.

PT, wellness experts on tap for biz org's next gathering

BYERS — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, at May Farms, Byers.

Representatives from Resilient Physical Therapy and Performance and Reflective Wellness will speak and sponsor lunch.

For more information and to RSVP for lunch, call (720)731-1954 or e-mail to officei70ccoc@gmail.com by Friday March 13. Space is limited.

Parks & Rec outing destined for natural history museum

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 26, on an excursion to the Morrison Natural History Museum.

The trip, which costs \$25, is intended for adults only without age restrictions. A minimum of 10 passengers is required or the trip will be canceled.

Lunch is additional. Advanced reservations are required due to limited seating.

To RSVP, visit www.strasburgparks.org or call the rec center at (303)622-

4260.

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

Big D's Warriors schedules adaptive basketball events

STRASBURG — Big D's Warriors will host adaptive basketball from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 8 and 15, at the Hemphill Middle School gym.

Adaptive basketball allows children in grades K-12 with physical and mental challenges the chance to play. Participants will learn to dribble, shoot, pass and play in game situations. Assistance will be provided as needed.

The registration deadline is Sunday, March 22. To sign up for the free event, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

'Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan March monthly potluck

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

The board will provide corned beef and cabbage in honor of St Patrick's Day.

The speaker will be Wendy Nielsen, Community Engagement & Presence Liaison Economic Mobility, for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

The program offers assistance with heating bills (electric, gas and, in some cases, propane or wood) on a yearly basis.

The deadline for application is April 30.

The association, which provides a social outlet for area seniors, meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Iris Salladay Sirois at (303)822-5262.

Summer T-ball registration begins at 'Burg Rec District

STRASBURG — Deadlines to register children ages 4-6 for summer T-ball are fast approaching.

Practices begin the week of April

20 and league games will be played most Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks from Tuesday, May 19, through Thursday, June 25.

Cost is \$85 with a soft deadline ending on Sunday, March 15, and the final deadline on Sunday, March 29. Registration includes a jersey, hat and end-of-season award.

Age thresholds are based on April 30, 2026.

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

Air dry clay flowers project slated for March 23 in 'Burg

STRASBURG — Kids in kindergarten through the eighth grade can dive into a variety of art mediums, from painting to clay, while making air dry clay flowers.

The creative arts classes run from 10-10:45 a.m. for grades K-3 and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for grades 4-8, Monday, March 23, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 19. The cost is \$10 per child. To sign up, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

Air dry clay flowers are a versatile and beginner-friendly craft.

St. Patrick's Day meal slated by 'Burg Presbyterian Church

STRASBURG — The annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner to benefit the Zimbabwe Mission Project is scheduled from 5:30-7 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at Strasburg Presbyterian Church, 56635 Iowa Ave.

The meal will consist of corned beef and cabbage, homemade soda bread, potatoes and dessert.

Cost is \$15 per adult or two adults for \$25 and \$8 per child.

For reservations and tickets, call Strasburg Presbyterian Church at (303)622-4325.

IT project manager internship available in Arapahoe County

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County's Information Technology department is offering a part-time internship in project management.

The internship will offer hands-on

learning through structured assignments focused on project documentation, analysis and research.

The intern will help document workflows and processes, update training materials using county-standard templates, and prepare project summaries that support reporting and transparency.

They will also conduct guided research on best practices, assist with meeting preparation and note-taking, and help maintain organized project documentation.

The closing date for applications is Thursday, March 12. For more information and to apply, visit www.arapahoeco.gov.

Egg-stravaganza Easter event planned by 'Burg Parks & Rec

STRASBURG — The annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District is stats at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 28, at Community Park East, 1866 Wagner St.

The Egg-stravaganza will be separated into age groups and crafts, games, a petting zoo, a bounce house, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny are planned. The grand prize goes to the participant who finds the golden egg.

The free event is geared for children ages 10 and under. 3/25

Civil War Reconstruction era lecture planned for March 19

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host a presentation on efforts to reunite the nation during the Reconstruction era after the Civil War.

Topics will include civil rights legislation, citizenship of former slaves, and challenges of Presidents Andrew Johnson and Ulysses S. Grant.

The lecture will run from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, March 19, at the TBK Bank Community Room.

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

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

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

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 Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

Office Manager
 LuAnne Stegner • lstegner@i-70scout.com

Managing Editor
 Steven Vetter • svetter@i-70scout.com

Editorial Assistant
 Isaac Manaugh • editorialassistant@i-70scout.com

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
 Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair,
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I-70 PICADILLY Interchange

Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) for I-70 Picadilly Interchange Project
 Intercambio de Diamante Divergente (DDI) Para el Proyecto de Intercambio de I-70 Picadilly

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- Northbound Traffic / Tráfico hacia el Norte
- Southbound Traffic / Tráfico hacia el Sur
- I-70 Access / Acceso a la I-70
- Pedestrian/Bike / Peatonal/Bicicleta

Arrows point to the accessible roadways of the new diverging diamond interchange at I-70, Colfax Avenue, and Picadilly Road in Aurora. The graphic includes advanced signaling and dedicated multiuse paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Arrows point to the accessible roadways of the new diverging diamond interchange at I-70, Colfax Avenue, and Picadilly Road in Aurora. The graphic includes advanced signaling and dedicated multiuse paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

New interchange nears completion

AURORA — The city of Aurora's new diverging diamond interchange at I-70 and Picadilly Road remains open to one lane of traffic in all directions, but concrete repairs on I-70 will occur this weekend.

From 5 a.m., Saturday, March 14, to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 15, the left lane of eastbound I-70 from east of the new Picadilly interchange (exit 288) to the E-470 interchange (exit 289) will be closed.

All lanes will fully open once finishing work is complete.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is asking drivers to pay attention to new overhead and roadside signs, as on- and off-ramp descriptions may have changed. I-70 travelers headed to Colfax Avenue should use the new Picadilly Road interchange ramps.

Various lanes in each direction of the Diverging Diamond Interchange will intermittently close as crews continue with temperature and weather-dependent activities, which will continue into spring. Though the interchange is open, current overweight and oversized freight vehicle restrictions remain in place.

The newly constructed Picadilly Road from East 19th Avenue to Smith Road will open later in March once finishing work is done. Bike and pedestrian access on the interchange will open once all work is done.

City funding, along with a \$25 million federal grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and additional financial support from the Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority, helped pay for the project.

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ADAMS COUNTY STRASBURG Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, May 9 | 7 a.m.–noon



Adams County Strasburg Neighborhood Cleanup

Adams County residents are encouraged to bring yard waste and other debris to a free neighborhood cleanup in Strasburg on May 9 from 7 a.m. to noon at the District 3 Yard, 2550 Strasburg Rd.

Scan the QR code for more info.



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Flags for First-Graders



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Bennett-Watkins Lions Club kicked off its inaugural I-70 Corridor-wide Flags for First-Graders campaign at Byers Elementary March 5. The volunteer organization recently acquired enough miniature American flags to hand out to first-graders from Bennett to Deer Trail. In addition, the presentation included the history of the flag and military. Last week's presentation was conducted by area veteran Kurt "Sarge" Russell. Above, Russell displays the flag that he donated to the first-grade classes at Byers Elementary. Below, members Tina Zufall's and Kristina Wood's first-grade classes stand alongside Russell and local Lions member Lindy Cosgrove.



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Bennett Middle School to perform Disney classic

BENNETT — Bennett Middle School Drama Department will present its version a Disney animated movie classic several times later this week.

“The Little Mermaid Jr.” will be performed at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 12, and at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Friday, March 13, at the high school

auditorium.

Tickets are available at the door for \$5 apiece.

The youth musical adaptation of Disney’s 1989 “The Little Mermaid,” and follow-up 2008 Broadway production, follows the story of Ariel, a mermaid who longs for the human world.

Church Directory

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56635 Iowa Ave., Strasburg, CO
www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325
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— Douglas Claussen,
Publisher & Editor



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Register now at bit.ly/CSUCottageFoods



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

Learn more at arapahoeco.gov/basicneeds



Fill out a confidential survey to share your opinion on the community assistance and support services offered throughout Arapahoe County. Surveys need to be completed by **March 31, 2026**.

Visit bit.ly/CSBG_Survey to participate.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers object to coverage of U.S. senator

Dear Editor:
 As we read Sen. John Hickenlooper's comments in the Jan. 28 issue of *The I-70 Scout*, we found it to be pure propaganda against the administration without proof or examples of President Trump's "wrongdoing."
 We expect better and are looking forward to your interviewing a Republican politician on the State of the State and the Union addresses.
 — Paola & Jorge Fredericks, Strasburg



Three noxious weeds that prosper in winter in Eastern Colorado are the scotch thistle, left, diffuse knapweed, and downy brome.type text here

3 noxious weeds gain strength in winter

CENTENNIAL — While many people are thinking about a long winter's nap, some noxious weed species remain active.

Biennial weeds such as scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed or winter annuals like downy brome, take advantage of the cold conditions to build up reserves.

The reserves allow the plant to take off growing as soon as conditions become favorable in the spring, which gives them a competitive advantage, even out-competing other aggressive noxious weed species like Canada thistle or field bindweed.

Knowing these characteristics allows for control measures to be implemented earlier and desirable vegetation to grow, minimizing the impacts of the noxious weeds.

The best control measure for these noxious weeds is to pull the weed up by the roots every time it's seen year-round. These weeds can also be mowed and cut when they bud in May through September.

Herbicides can be used between April and July when the weeds green up.

MOST PREVALENT NOXIOUS WINTER WEEDS

SCOTCH THISTLE
 Scotch thistle, pictured above as

a rosette in November, is a biennial plant that can grow to heights of 8-12 feet. Rosette are typically 6-18 inches in diameter until the plant reaches the bolting stage. Leaves have large spines and are woolly, which gives them a grayish-green color.

Flower heads are 1-2 inches in diameter and violet to reddish in color.

Scotch thistle is a noxious weed because it is an aggressive invader and its large spines can be injurious to pets and humans.

DIFFUSE KNAPWEED
 Diffuse knapweed, pictured above as a seedling last March, emerges as a rosette in the spring and fall. Its most recognizable trait is its white flowers with spiny bracts; however, the flowers can be a rose or a purplish color.

As a seedling, diffuse knapweed can be identified by its light green color and finely divided leaves that are covered with short hairs. Flowering occurs from late June to early September.

In ideal conditions, the plant can reach a height of 1-2 feet.

Diffuse knapweed is commonly found in ditches and drainages or on roadsides or disturbed area. The plant is considered a noxious weed because it crowds out native vegetation and provides little forage value for wildlife.

DOWNY BROME
 Downy brome, pictured in December, is commonly known as cheat-grass. It is a winter annual grass that emerges August through November, reaching a height of 2 feet.

The plant is deep green in color with a purplish tinge to the grass leaves. It has sharp awns that stick to clothing or animal fur. Seed heads have a purplish tinge that dry to a reddish-brown color.

Rapid growth occurs in spring to full maturity, consuming large amounts of moisture and nutrients.

Downy brome can be a consistent source of fuel for fires. Fire frequency and intensity increases with large infestations.



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Strasburg Elementary Singers have wild 'Wonka' weekend



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Strasburg Elementary Singers perform "Roald Dahl's Wily Wonka Jr" Feb. 27-28 at the Bennett High School auditorium. Two casts presented their musical stage version of the children's classic "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" under the direction of elementary music teacher Jenny Authier. Above, Golden Ticket winners at Wonka's Gates are Ms. Teavee (Nalah Karim), Mike Teavee (Ryan Romero), Mr. Salt (Callie Sullivan), Veruca Salt (Abigail Garrett), Grandpa Joe (Destiny Hassell), Charlie Bucket (Reed Barnes), Violet Beauregarde (Megan Clark), Mrs. Beauregarde (Yareli Tarango), Augustus Gloop (Lucas Urban), and Mrs. Gloop (Paige Olsen).



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Wonka (Ryker Girouard), center, is joined by a quartet of Oompa Loompas — Purple (Maddyson Gerdjikian), Blue (Luz Reyna-Reyes), Green (Phoebe Rowe), and Orange (Madeline McEachin) — while singing "The Golden Age of Chocolate."



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Front row, Veruca Salt (Aspen Sir-Vandewerken) and Mr. Salt (Callie Sullivan) get into the "pink candy boat" along with Wonka (Ryker Girouard), Violet Beauregarde (Violet Jimenez) and Red Oompa Loompa (Havyn Lyall).



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

In the Bucket Shack. Grandpa George (Axl Welp), left, Grandma Georgina (Bailee Angelo), Grandma Josephina (Evelyn Osborne), and Grandpa Joe (Destiny Hassell) talk with Charlie Bucket (Reed Barnes).

SMOKE SHOW MEATS

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Peggy Brumage

Peggy Irene Brumage, 86, of Strasburg, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026. Peggy was born Nov. 9, 1939, in Brush, CO., to Thomas Homer and Lillian Rose (Scott) Knight. On May 24, 1955, Peggy married Daryl Dean Brumage in Denver, CO. Peggy worked a variety of jobs including waitressing and secretarial work until moving to Byers, CO, in 1972. There they expanded their dog racing business. They raised greyhounds that raced throughout the country. Most of them raced out of Brumage Kennels located in 6 different states. This successful family run business continued for over 40 years. Through these years Brumage farm employed many area individuals. Peggy was an exceptional bookkeeper and kept meticulous records on every dog they owned, raised or raced. She was an animal lover, and was fond of her Koi fish pond. Peggy had a very "green thumb". Plants thrived within her home and yard! She was especially pleased with her rose bushes. Their farm looked like a professionally groomed and manicured park. Peggy liked routine; rising early, keeping an impeccably clean house, tending plants & animals, completing office work, taking daily afternoon naps, enjoying pinochle and domino games on a regular basis, and watching her nightly murder mystery programs. The couple had a love for people and local community. They routinely frequented the coffee shop in Strasburg and area restaurants, and were often in the bleachers for ballgames watching grandkids play. They seemed to make friends everywhere they went, from the dog track; to coffee shops; to gymnasiums; to businesses that they patronized. "Mr. & Mrs. B" made an effort to know the sports fans, employees, and other customers at these locations. The couple retired from the business in 2008; they sold their farm in 2024 and moved to the Residents at Prairie Creek in Strasburg. Peggy's routine changed with this move. She still enjoyed her plants, taking morning walks, playing cards, and visiting and laughing when family members stopped by. She provided nurturing care for husband, Daryl, as his health failed, and he passed in October 2025. They had been married over 70 years, and adjusting to life without him was very difficult for her. Peggy was loving, witty, intelligent, artistic, and had a fun sense of humor. She will be greatly missed. Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, Daryl; her parents; sister-in-law, Sandra; great-granddaughter, Sadie Esme; and Grandson-in-law, Andrew. Survivors include her brother, Harvey Leroy Knight of Arvada; four children: Connie (Danny) Brooks of Lochbuie, Ronnie (Carol) Brumage of Byers, Pennie Brumage of Strasburg, and Jonnie (Linda) Brumage of Gravois Mills, MO; 10 grandchildren: Darryl (Roxanne), Jason, Aaron (Natalie), Jennifer (DJ), Angela, Ronnie Jr. (Katie), Nicole (Cody), Lindsay (Christian), Lezlie (Tyler), and Lacey (Chris); 28 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; along with other relatives.



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ARAPCO ROADS LIST

FROM PAGE 1

en't crashes between vehicles but a lot more of those in more populated areas," he said. "A lot of guard rails, shoulder rumble strips and surface/elevation improvements."

Plans for the county road improvements are a collaborative effort including the county sheriff's office, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado State Patrol, and Denver Regional Council of Governments.

A final list of likely improvement projects will be approved by county commissioners later this year.

WATKINS ROAD WASHOUT AREA

Katzer and Buckley both indicated that the area of Watkins Road ravaged by floodwaters in June 2023 that resulted in a local woman's death is going to receive additional improvements in the near future.

New, larger culverts will be installed in an effort to expedite drainage away from the floodplain.

According to Katzer, the project is expected to cost about \$700,000.

On the evening of June 21, 2023, a 63-year-old Watkins woman was in her car when it was swept off Watkins Road near Sixth Avenue. The vehicle wreckage and driver's body were found the next morning.

A large amount of water running north-to-south on the west side of

the highway reportedly crossed near the intersection with Sixth Avenue, sweeping the car off the roadway and under a bridge.

The swift current eventually moved the vehicle to its final resting place about a quarter-mile away from the road.

In addition to a heavy volume of water coming from flooded drainages in Douglas and Elbert counties, approximately 2 inches fell in about an hour in and around Watkins that night.

In addition, two other cars were swept 50-70 feet off the roadway because of the floodwaters but no other injuries were reported. The heavy rainfall also flooded the I-70 underpass at the Watkins interchange, blocking traffic for several hours.

The first improvement to that area after the flooding occurred in April of last year when a high-water notification system was installed. The system monitors local water levels and, when the potential for roadway flooding is high, lighted signs flash to advise motorists of the potential for hydroplaning and other travel concerns. County staff also receives notification of high-water levels for response purposes, including possible closure of the roadway.

When the new drainage system will be installed is uncertain.

LOWRY MURDER

FROM PAGE 1

said 18th Judicial District Attorney Amy Padden.

Ron Lowry, who operates an outside fishing guide operation at Wiggins, was taken into custody Feb. 27 by Morgan County Sheriff's officers and booked into the Morgan County jail in Fort Morgan. He has since been delivered to Arapahoe County.



Lowry

In addition to first-degree murder, other preliminary charges against Lowry are two counts of stalking; tampering with physical evidence; crime of violence — causing serious bodily injury or death; and crime of violence — use of a deadly weapon. All counts are charged as acts of domestic violence.

The body of Richelle Lowry, 42, was

found in her Antelope Hills home a little over two years ago.

"On Oct. 26, 2023, deputies with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at Richelle Lowry's home in Bennett after she failed to report to work and could not be reached. Deputies forced entry into the home and found her deceased with a single gunshot wound to the head," the DA's indictment statement said. "Although the death initially raised questions over whether it was a suicide, it was later determined to be a homicide based on an extensive investigation involving forensic analysis and digital evidence review."

Lowry was said to be a jealous, angry estranged husband who reportedly stalked and recorded his wife's activities and left angry messages via phone, according to the sheriff's office. A man resembling Lowry was also reportedly seen on surveillance footage near the home at the time of his wife's death.

The couple was in the midst of divorce proceedings when she died. According to an online court records search, the formal dissolution of marriage was filed Sept. 6, 2023, in Arapahoe County.

Last month's indictment included that Ronald Lowry was in line to receive \$1.3 million if his wife's death was ruled as suicide.

Family members also told investigators they were confident that Richelle would have never killed herself and that she was afraid of her estranged husband.

"This case is the result of extraordinary dedication and perseverance by the investigators with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office," said Assistant District Attorney Ryan Brackley. "They left no stone unturned in their pursuit of the truth, carefully examining every piece of forensic, digital and testimonial evidence over the course of this investigation. Their commitment to seeking answers and refusing to give up has been instrumental in bringing this case forward."



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USDA shake-up: Ft. Collins site of bigger regional office

by Jacob Fischler
Colorado Newsline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will transfer a large office building to the General Services Administration in a step toward shrinking the department's footprint in and around Washington, D.C., Secretary Brooke Rollins said Feb. 25.

More than 70% of offices at the USDA's South Building in Washington sit empty on any given day, while deferred maintenance costs have piled up past \$1 billion, Rollins said at a press conference before the building.

"Behind me, along this entire city block in bricks and mortar, is what government that has grown too big, too bloated, and too disconnected from its citizens looks like," Rollins said. "That all changes starting today, because today we are officially starting the process of turning the South Building back over to the General Services Administration."

The department will also vacate leased space at an office in Alexandria, Va., USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said.

The moves are part of a plan the department outlined in July 2025 to



JOHN PARTIPILO/Tennessee Lookout

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, speaks at a Future Farmers of America event last August at the Tennessee State Fair.

shift its workers out of the capital region, reducing the work force in D.C., Maryland and Virginia from 4,600 to around 2,000 while expanding regional hubs throughout the country.

Rollins said Feb. 25 the move was the "next step to right-size our federal real estate footprint to root out waste, fraud and abuse."

Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iowa Republican who has long advocated for shrinking the federal government, applauded the move and urged department officials to consider her state as a target for relocation.

"Let's just keep on draining the swamp, and, Secretary Rollins, mov-

ing our federal workers closer to the people that they represent," Ernst said. "And I would say that the great state of Iowa is a good place to start."

WORKFORCE TO RELOCATE

Workers in the department's Food & Nutrition Service who currently report to the Virginia office will relocate to Washington, D.C., Vaden said.

The broader reorganization would ramp up over the summer, allowing employees with school-aged children to finish the academic year in the capital area and complete their relocation in time for the next school year, he said.

That will require a series of steps required by laws, regulations and union contracts, Vaden said.

The July plan said the effort to spread the USDA workforce out from D.C. would take years. It included expanded regional offices in Raleigh, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; Indianapolis; Fort Collins; and Salt Lake City.

The department would also maintain administrative support locations in Albuquerque, N.M., and Minneapolis and agency service centers in St. Louis; Lincoln, Neb.; and Missoula, Mont., according to a July 24 memo.

SOUTH BUILDING FUTURE UNCLEAR

GSA Administrator Edward Forst said the move represented "a very preliminary stage" and declined to provide a timeline for the transfer to be complete.

"I don't want to commit to a time frame other than I have two years and 10 months left in this job," he said. "And we're going to get a lot done in that time frame."

Vaden said the USDA reorganization would be complete by the end of 2026.

Forst said USDA's transfer of the South Building triggered a long and comprehensive process to find a new use. The agency would consult with stakeholders, including the private sector, and that the district's prosperity was among its priorities.

"We're committed to economic prosperity for D.C.," he said. "That's one of our initiatives. We also talk to the private sector and others about the best case use and how we also deliver the best results for the American taxpayer. So it is a long, it's a comprehensive process. We want to be good listeners, and then we'll execute on this."



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**Case Name: Acres of Promise Subdivision -
Amendment 1**

Case Number: PLT2024-00035

Planning Commission Hearing Date: 3/12/2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: 4/28/2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Hearings Location: 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy., Brighton, CO 80601
Request: Minor subdivision final plat to create two 4.43-acre lots in the Agricultural-1 (A-1) zone district.
Location: 15100 Watkins Road
Parcel Number: 0156518201013
Case Manager: Gregory Barnes, gjbarnes@adamscountyco.gov, 720-523-6853



Applicant: Tyler & Sarah Bursten, 15100 Watkins Rd., Brighton, CO 80603

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, and the *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, March 13, 2026.

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LIBRARY NEWS



Deer Trail School District 26J 2026-27 Preschool Roundup Thursday, March 12

Screening & Preregistration for 3- and 4-year olds, as of October 1.

For an appointment, Scan the QR code or
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anythinklibraries.org

Rummikub, Refreshments & More: Adults gather on the second Friday of each month to drink coffee, eat snacks and play Rummikub. Other card and board games available. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, March 13.

Yoga in the Stacks: Adults can practice poses that focus on alignment, stability and flexibility with Bennett yoga instructor Scott Noble. Mats provided. All skill levels welcome. Space limited; registration required. To sign up, visit Anythinklibraries.org. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 14.

Tarot club: Adults can learn about the tarot and do readings for other participants to practice their skills in a beginner-friendly workshop. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 14.

Spa Day at the Library: Visitors can enjoy a little Saturday staycation, sip on refreshing cucumber water, and relax in a meditation room. Make-and-take self-care projects for all ages, such as DIY clay face masks and sugar scrubs, are planned. All ages welcome. 12-3 p.m., Saturday, March 14.

Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can attend regular meetings to take an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services in Bennett. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, March 18.

Pyrography Decorative Signs: Adults will design decorative wooden signs using wood-burning techniques. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

'Scribble & Giggle:' Parents and caregivers can bring their little ones ages 2-5 for playful activities that strengthen pre-writing skills. Children starting to scribble should have lots of fun. Drop-ins welcome as space allows. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Monday, March 16.

Teen Volunteer Drop-In: Teens in grades 7-12 can earn volunteer hours by assisting with light prep tasks. They can stay for all or part of the session. Volunteer paperwork required. 1-3 p.m., Monday, March 16.

Ramen and Boba Bonanza: Kid and teens 8-18 can roll up their sleeves and dive into a hands-on foodie adventure! Attendees can build their own ramen bowls, mix and shake up custom boba teas, and create cute boba-themed crafts to take home. 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19.

'Kawaii' Cutie Crafts: Kids ages 5-12 are invited to a super-cute "Kawaii" craft party. Participants can make adorable creations inspired by the Japanese "cuteness" aesthetic. All materials provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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www.arapahoelibraries.org

Early Release 'Crate & Make:' Kids, tweens and families can visit the library on early release day for an afternoon of creative crafting. All supplies provided. 12:30-2 p.m., Thursday, March 12.

Adult book club: "Counterfeit" by Kirstin Chen. 6-7 p.m., Monday, March 16.






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SPORTS



Indian, Bulldog boys Great Eight bound

Top-seeded Strasburg runs through regionals; take on Patriot rival in Thursday's quarterfinals



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

The Strasburg Indians celebrate with their regional championship trophy after 68-38 win over Patriot League rival Highland in the round of 16 March 7.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The top-seeded Strasburg Indians had little trouble with their two opponents during 3A boys regional play on their home hardwood in Mundell Gymnasium March 6-7 and begin their trek for the first state title in program history later this week.

The red-and-black defeated No. 32 Salida 73-47 Friday night before laying a 68-38 thumping on 17th seed and Patriot League rival Highland the following afternoon.

“Did what we needed to in order to get to our ultimate goal of the state championship,” said Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers. “Very excited for the opportunity that is ahead of us.”

For complete coverage of both regional games, see the March 13 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

The Indians start Great Eight play at approximately 5:30 p.m. Thursday

in Hancock Gym on the campus of the University of Denver when they take on Patriot League rival Wiggins, who entered the postseason No. 9.

Strasburg enters championship weekend 23-2 overall with a 10-1 league record to win the Patriot League regular season title and a 3-0 stretch to also take the conference tournament. Wiggins is 18-7 overall and finished sixth in the conference regular season with a 5-5 record and placed third in the league tournament. Wiggins reached the final weekend of the basketball season with a 72-44 first-round regional win over No. 24 Monte Vista at Roaring Fork Friday and a 59-49 win over Patriot League foe and No. 25 Brush in Saturday's regional title game. Brush upset the No. 8-seeded host school 64-54 the previous night.

During the regular season, Strasburg dominated the Tigers in an 87-

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 14

Byers dominates Grizzlies and Spartans en route to Thursday rematch of regular-season finale

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BYERS — For the second consecutive season, the Byers Bulldogs qualified for the 2A Great Eight.

The sixth-seeded green-and-white pasted No. 27 Fowler 66-30 on its home court in the first round of the regional playoffs March 6 before running around No. 11 Swallows Charter Academy from Pueblo West, 64-36, during Saturday afternoon's regional championship game.

“Had some really good things happen this weekend besides getting two big wins,” said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns after Saturday's regional title tilt. “Had some kids come off the bench when the game was still tight — especially on Friday against Fowler when we had first-quarter foul trouble — and they had some big contributions for us. Really a couple of games we should be able to build some momentum off of.”

For coverage of Byers' regional title run, see the March 13 edition of the

Eastern Colorado News.

The Bulldogs (20-4 overall) will face off with third-seeded Heritage Christian (19-6) in the 2A quarterfinals at 10:15 a.m., Thursday, March 12, at Moby Gym on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Kern's troops defeated the Eagles 57-44 Feb. 21. Heritage Christian reached the Great Eight thanks to wins of 53-27 over 30th-seeded Crested Butte and 57-34 over No. 14 Champion Academy over regional weekend.

The winner of Thursday morning's game will play a championship semifinal the following afternoon against either No. 2 Simla (20-5) or seventh-seeded Vail Christian (18-4). Simla defeated Byers 69-63 Jan. 28. The losers of both games will play in consolation semifinals on Friday.

The other side of the bracket highlights top-seeded Sanford (23-1) and ninth-seeded Limon (16-9) in one quarterfinal and No. 5 Golden View Classical Academy (21-4) and

SEE BB BYERS
PAGE 14



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The Byers Bulldogs advanced to the 2A Great Eight this week after winning their regional title tilt against visiting Swallows Charter Academy March 7.



Good Luck Bulldogs, at the Great Eight!

From the
Byers Booster Club



Thank You for including Coach Hemphill in your season. He is cheering on his Indians from the best seat in the house!
— Karla, Josie, A.J., Grace & Gade

Good luck at state!
Enjoy every moment and leave it all on the court.
Love Dad, Mom, Courtney & Morgan



3A Boys Basketball Great 8
March 12-14; Hamilton Gym @ Univ. of Denver

Thurs., March 12 Fri., March 13 Sat., March 14

No. 1 Strasburg
 5:30 p.m.
 No. 9 Wiggins

No. 13 Colo. Springs Christian
 10:15 a.m.
 No. 12 St. Mary's

No. 2 Forge Christian
 1:15 p.m.
 No. 7 Windsor Charter Academy

No. 3 Banning Lewis
 8:30 p.m.
 No. 6 Resurrection Christian

2:30 p.m.


2:00 p.m.

10 a.m.

3rd Place

Champion

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Love you, Mom




WAY TO GO, BURG!!
GOOD LUCK AT STATE!
STAND ON BUSINESS, JAYDEN.
WE LOVE YOU.
 Love,
Mom, Dad, Ryder, Karsyn & Bryce



Good luck at State Basketball boys!!


LET'S GO Ayden #0
We're proud of you all!!
Darel and Brandi



Koby,
 We are so proud of you and your accomplishments this year and thus far! Your an amazing son and we can't wait to see what the Lord has for you! Your such a selfless teammate and awesome addition to Strasburg. #Truth Praying for a win at State. Go Strasburg Indians!!



Good Luck Indians @ 3A Great Eight!

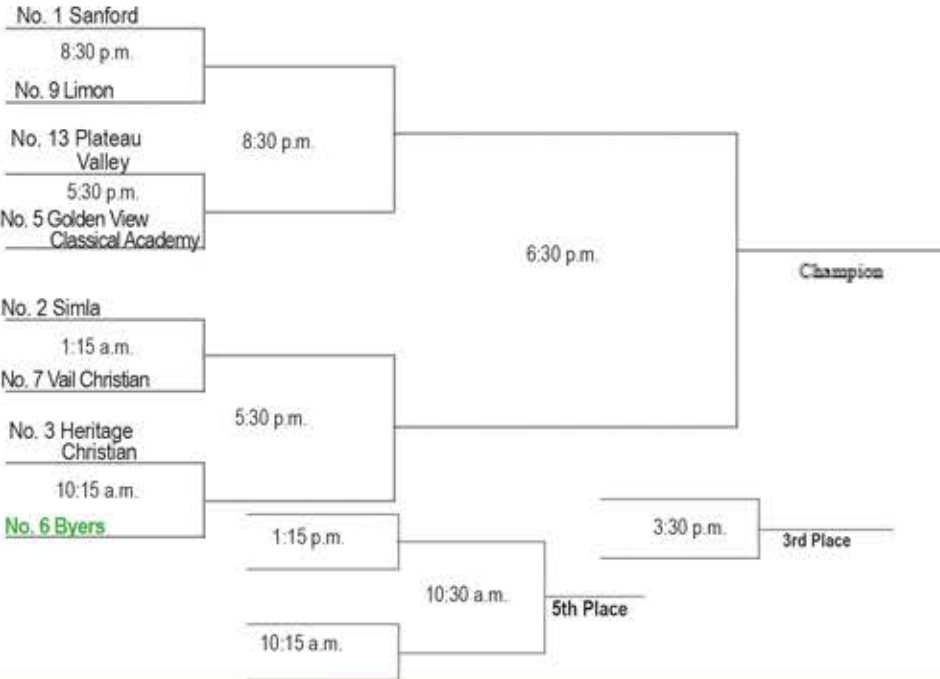


© Scott Gerrard **S** From Strasburg School District 31j & Athletic Department **S**

We're behind you all the way!

2A Boys Basketball Great 8 March 12-14; Moby Arena @ Colorado State Univ.

Thurs., March 12 Fri., March 13 Sat., March 14



Philippians 4:13 Good Luck Matthew!

— Love Mom & Dao



Good Luck Conrad!
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you!
Go Bulldogs!

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Good Luck Gabe and the Bulldogs at State Basketball!

— Mom, Dad,
Heidi and Julee



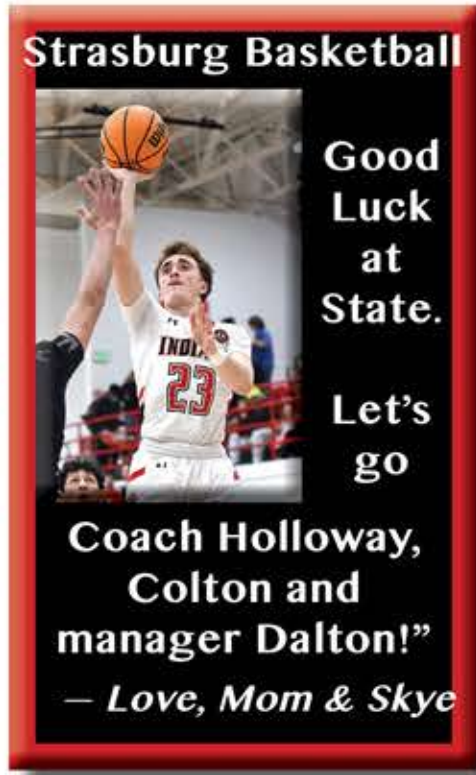
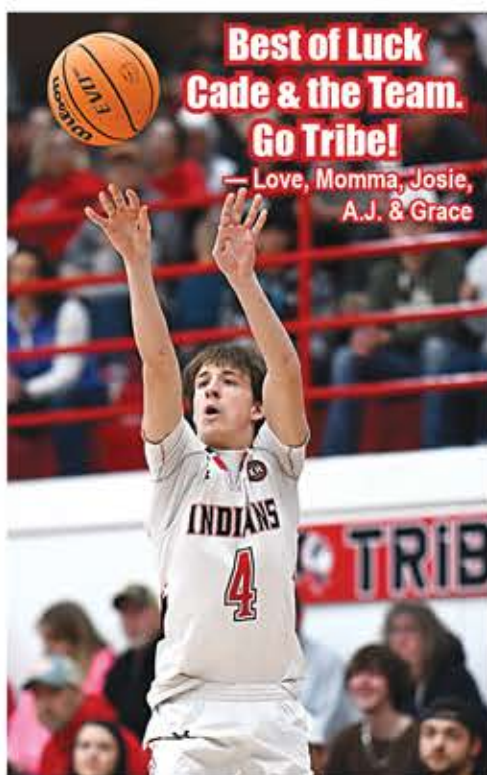
We LOVE Our Byers Bulldogs! Good Luck @ the State Tournament!

— The Longs



Byers Athletic Dept. & Byers School District 32J





BB BYERS FROM PAGE 11

13th-seeded Plateau Valley (16-8) in the other. The Union Pacific League Badgers proved a pain in the side of Byers twice so far this season — a 55-52 win at Limon Feb. 13 and a 55-47 victory in the semifinals of the UP/Lower Platte district crossover tournament at Akron Feb. 27. Plateau Valley knocked Byers out of the postseason in last year's quarterfinal round.

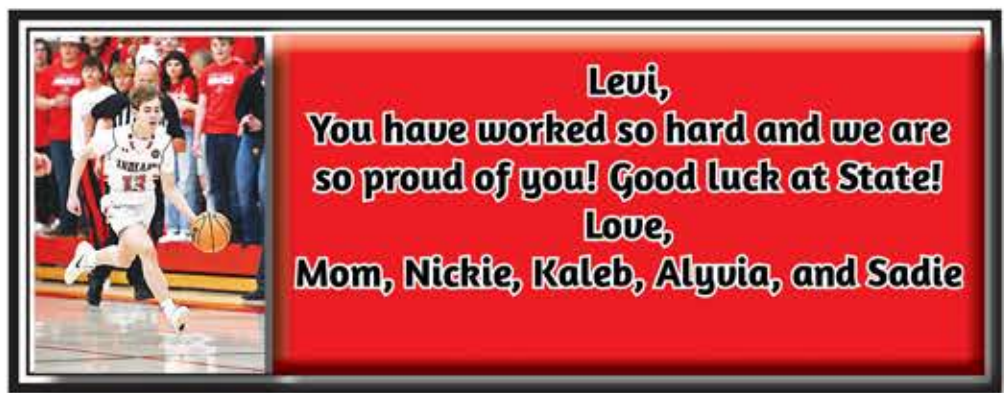
Byers only other losses are 67-64 at Wiggins and 79-74 against Stratton at home. Wiggins (No. 9) and Stratton (No. 5) are both in the Great Eight in 3A and 1A, respectively.

The 2A boys championship game is slated for 6:30 p.m.

State tournament tickets are available at gofan.co. Online streaming of the entire championship weekend is available at nfhsnetwork.com; a fee is required to access NFHS broadcasts.



Byers' Quincy Eacret finishes a layup while absorbing contact from a Fowler defender in the opening round of regional play March 6.



BB STRASBURG FROM PAGE 11

43 home victory Jan. 13.

Entering this week, Strasburg is on a six-games winning streak, while Wiggins has won six of its last seven games with the lone loss over that stretch being to 4A Eaton in the Patriot League Tournament semifinals.

A Strasburg win would advance the Indians to a Friday semifinal matchup against the winner of No. 12 St. Mary's and 13th-seeded Colorado Springs Christian, the two lowest seeded teams remaining in the tournament. Colorado Springs Christian (18-7 overall, 11-2 and tied for second in the 3A/4A Tri-Peaks League) upset No. 4 Yuma 73-72 in the regional championship round March 7, while St. Mary's (18-7 and 10-3 and fourth in the Tri-Peaks) upended sixth-seeded Peyton 58-52 in the regional finals.

Championship Saturday at DU will

conclude with the 3A boys championship game at 2 p.m.

The other side of the bracket features No. 2 Forge Christian (23-2 overall) and No. 7 Windsor Charter Academy (18-7) from the Patriot League in one quarterfinal and third-seeded Banning Lewis Academy (23-2 and 12-1 for Tri-Peaks regular season title) taking on No. 6 and defending state champion Resurrection Christian (18-7, 7-3 and fourth place in the Patriot League. Forge Christian handed Strasburg one of its two losses, 67-60 Feb. 14; the Indians beat Windsor Charter twice and Resurrection Christian in their only matchup of the season.

State tournament tickets are available at gofan.co.

Online streaming of the entire championship weekend is available at nfhsnetwork.com; a fee is required to access NFHS broadcasts.

Congrats & Good Luck Strasburg & Byers Boys from:

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Egg Hunt Starts 10:00am @ Byers Community Park

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All events are free and open to the public!

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SÁBADO 28 DE MARZO DE 2026

COMIENCE EN BYERS CENTENNIAL PARK, PARTICIPE EN UNA BÚSQUDA DE HUEVOS DE PASCUA, CONOZCA AL CONEJITO DE PASCUA Y DISFRUTE DE DIVERTIDOS JUEGOS AL AIRE LIBRE. La búsqueda de huevos comienza a las 10:00 a. m. en Byers Community Park

¡Luego recorre los negocios locales y recoge delicias de Pascua, huevos especiales y canastas con premios! 11 a. m. a 2 p. m.

¡El evento es gratuito y abierto al público!

Maple-Sugaring Time

When winter is ending and snow is disappearing; when spring is coming, before buds are appearing; When the temperatures rise to warm the day; when later they fall to freeze the night; When the sap starts to flow from the maple trees; when farmers tap the trees to collect it in buckets; When the sap is poured into tanks on sleds; when a horse team pulls it to the sugarhouse; When the sugarhouse is opened and roaring fires are built; when the sap is boiled, skimmed filtered and canned; When the first syrup is poured sweet and warm over pancakes... **It's maple-sugaring time!**

Oh, look at the sap dripping into the bucket.

Large farms today may use plastic tubing to deliver the sap from the trees directly to the sugarhouse.

wood, graded, steel, sugarhouses, horses, buckets, foam, tank, syrup, country, Is the syrup up here?, No, go away!, maple sugar!

Now! (Farmers traditional)

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with how a farm may do its maple sugaring.

- _____ are built in groves for storing equipment and boiling sap
- teams of _____ are harnessed to pull sleds to gather the sap
- holes drilled in trees, spouts placed, tin _____ catch sap
- sap gathered into a _____ on horse-drawn sled, pulled to camp
- sap boiled in shallow, rectangular stainless _____ pans
- a roaring _____ fire is kept going in firebox under pans
- sap filtered, temperature checked, amount of sugar in sap measured, _____ carrying dirt skimmed off the top
- sap flows through pans as it thickens, temperature checked, filtered, _____ A or B and canned
- _____ used on pancakes, in beans, on meats
- family uses, sells on farms, trucks deliver around the _____

First People To Develop the Process For Maple-Sugaring

Native Americans were the first to discover and process the sweet gift of the trees. They used small birch bark parts to catch the maple tree sap. **To learn more about what they did to make this wonderful syrup, read the clues and fill in the puzzle:**

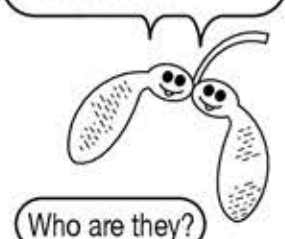
- the people _____ in maple groves
- held ceremonies and _____ to celebrate the sap harvest and coming of spring
- peeled loose birch _____ to make pans; sliced trees and placed pans to catch sap
- gathered sap in containers, _____ it to sugar camp
- boiled it in hollowed-out _____
- dropped hot _____ into sap to boil it
- skimmed scum and _____ from the top
- kept boiling until almost _____ or grainy so it would keep a long time
- ate dried yellow _____ + corn meal + beans
- used to sweeten, satisfy _____; sometimes sold to local markets or to fur-trapping companies

Back Then!

1 (Native Americans) 2 dances hunger 3 Maple syrup, Dude? dirt 4 logs stones 5 Not yet! dry 6 carried 7 8 sugar 9 camped 10 bark

Can you find and circle at least 8 words that end with the suffix **ing**? Notice that some are action words showing action that was happening and is still happening and that others describe things: roaring fire.

We are the keys to the future of the maple trees. We ripen in late summer. We twirl through the air on a soft breeze!



Who are they?

They are winged seeds. They will land and grow into new maple trees.

Spring Math

cider + doughnuts + maple syrup on clean snow =

Sugar-On-Snow Party!

Sweet Maple Treats!

There are only two countries in the world that produce maple syrup. Canada produces the most maple syrup in the world...about 80%! States in the northeastern part of the United States are famous for their delicious maple syrup. **Unscramble the letters to name four delicious maple sugar products.**

N Y A C D
M A P L E
_ _ _ _ _

T E R T U B
M A P L E
_ _ _ _ _

E F U G D
M A P L E
_ _ _ _ _

U R P S Y
M A P L E
_ _ _ _ _

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO

MARCH 14, 2006

Arapahoe County Sheriff's officials are urging residents in the rural parts of the county to take more precautions in preventing auto theft. The warning comes after four vehicles have been stolen the past nine months around Byers, including two cars heisted in February.

Most recently, Ralf Seibold had his 2003 Volkswagen Jetta stolen out of his garage at his residence southeast of Byers on County Road 34 east of County Road 181 Feb. 24.

"It was partly my fault for leaving the keys in the ignition, but the car was parked in my [closed] garage. I assumed it was safe, but [the thieves] were very brazen coming inside my garage. They must have put the car in neutral and pushed it back before starting it up," Seibold said.

The car was found the next day with the transmission stripped out. "The only thing they stole from the car was the [Volkswagen] emblem," Seibold said.

Earlier in February, another car was stolen from Front Street near Byers School and last summer two autos, including one all-terrain vehicle, were taken from two different residents in Seibold's neighborhood.

"In both cases last year, keys were left in the ignitions," Seibold said. "In one case, a neighbor's car was taken and left in a field not too far from her house."

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Lt. Jeff Hutt said the office had possible juvenile suspects in all four incidents, but they were being uncooperative.

"They are still persons of interest and the investigations are ongoing," Hutt said. "We do have a team, led by Lt. Louie Perea, who is working with deputies and investigators in the eastern part of the county to get the guys we think are doing this."

15 YEARS AGO

MARCH 15, 2011

BYERS — The Byers fire chief was disciplined by the Byers Fire Protection District board at a special meeting called for that purpose March 8 when the board accused him of stepping out of his scope of authority.

After a hearing on the matter, which took place in open session per Chief Jerry Whited's request, the board voted 4-1 to issue a verbal

reprimand, written notice of which would be placed in Whited's personnel file. When Whited was notified of the special meeting, he was informed he could be removed from his position as fire chief.

The issue came about after the chief wrote a letter Feb. 2 to an Arapahoe County planner concerning the proposed Motor Sport Country Club facility south of Byers. The letter was written in response to a request from the developers, who said the district had not responded to a request sent three months earlier.

In an e-mail response to a query from Whited, Arapahoe County planner Sherman Feher told Whited the referral letter and plans were sent to the district board around Nov. 9, 2010, and a response was requested Dec. 20. Feher said the letter was sent to the post office box of James Kelley, who was on the board until being voted off in May.

Board members said they never received the packet.

10 YEARS AGO

MARCH 15, 2016

STRASBURG — Fallout from last November's failed mill levy ballot question appears to already be coming to a head for the Strasburg School District.

Superintendent Monica Johnson reported to the Strasburg School Board March 9 that the district is in dire need of replacing at least one van and one bus but that little funding is available for such purposes.

District residents voted down a proposed 1.383 mill levy increase last year which would have raised approximately \$130,000 per year for 15 years for replacing and maintaining the districts fleet of vehicles. The measure failed by about 20 votes in Adams County and 110 votes in Arapahoe County.

"I know this is an issue certainly discusses by this board in the past, so I'm wondering the direction you might want to go?" Johnson asked, especially inquiring whether the preference is for used or new vehicles. "I've never bought a used vehicle for a school, so that's something new to me."

Director John Sampson said he thought it counter-productive for the district to consider purchasing used vehicles.

The board directed Johnson and transportation director Lora Blake to further investigate the matter, including whether grant funding or other low-payment loan options are available.

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

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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 19

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2026. There are 295 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

ALSO ON THIS DATE

In 1918, what were believed to be the first confirmed U.S. cases of a deadly global flu pandemic were reported among U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; 46 soldiers would die. (The influenza outbreak would ultimately kill an estimated 20 million to 40 million people worldwide.)

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease

Act, which provided war supplies to Allied countries during World War II.

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Konstantin Chernenko as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

In 2004, three days before general elections in Spain, 10 bombs exploded in quick succession inside commuter trains in Madrid, killing

193 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2010, a federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency.

In 2012, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales shot and killed 16 Afghan villagers — mostly women and children — as they slept. (Bales later pleaded guilty and was sentenced

to life in prison without parole.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer Bobby McFerrin is 76. Actor Alex Kingston is 63. Actor John Barrowman is 59. Singer Lisa Loeb is 58. Actor Terrence Howard is 57. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 55. Singer LeToya Luckett is 45. Actor Thora Birch is 44. Actor Jodie Comer is 33. Actor Madison Brydges is 22.

— Associated Press

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THEME: SUPERHEROES

ACROSS

1. Abbreviation, abbr.
5. Corvine bird's sound
8. Aquarium dweller
12. Sandwich shop
13. Half human, half cobra in Hinduism
14. Blatant
15. Don't go
16. *Tony Stark, a.k.a. ___ Man
17. High-quality black tea
18. *Leader of Guardians of the Galaxy
20. Research facil.
21. Words to live by
22. Leo month
23. ___ Tree National Park
26. Period between linked activities (2 words)
30. Not safe in baseball
31. Drunk's speech?
34. Sitar music
35. Doughy snack of Jewish origin
37. Rage
38. Seize a throne
39. Common hosiery shade
40. Nom de guerre
42. "Wow!"
43. What emergency workers do
45. Choice word
47. Young newt
48. Passport stamps
50. Vomit
52. *Doctor Doom's frequent ally (2 words)
55. Deserved consequence
56. One of Great Lakes
57. Iranian money
59. Like Vitruvian Man, e.g.
60. Prima donnas' problems
61. Author Murdoch
62. Like Regina George
63. "___ My People Go"
64. *Sandman can transform his body into this

DOWN

1. Pop-ups, e.g.
2. Risky business, pl.
3. Cry plaintively
4. Capital of Saudi Arabia
5. Billiards bounce
6. Ancient Greek marketplace
7. Diagon Alley purchase
8. *Captain America's team
9. Albanian monetary units
10. Small cave
11. What Pac-Man did to strawberry

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13. Largest Asian antelope
14. Poppy seed derivative
19. Just outside a fairway
22. Inflation matter
23. *Batman's arch-nemesis
24. 1/16th of a pound
25. Not shakes, as in bartender
26. * ___ Titans, cyborgs' team
27. L in LOL
28. Acquiesce
29. Rubbernecker
32. Tough spot
33. *Leonardo to Michelangelo
36. *One from Krypton
38. Inuit skin boat
40. *Size-changing ___-Man
41. Yeses, alt. sp.
44. Butcher's refuse
46. Trouble, in Yiddish
48. Threshold
49. "Complete ___'s Guides"
50. Bid, past tense
51. Particular region
52. Comes on a rod
53. Turkish currency
54. Been in bed
55. * ___ Possible
58. Lysergic acid derivative, acr.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

As Jupiter Turns

Unless you happen to be a member of a diverse group of evergreen perennial plants known as "bamboo," your growth will more likely feel slow and awkward, but also, thankfully, inevitable. Because for most species, growth is rarely quick and painless. That's why it's so important to celebrate the various milestones, and Jupiter's direct motions favor plans to do it big -- you earned it!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Most people get curious when there's a problem. You're curious even when things are going well. That's how you stay ahead. You're not just fixing; you're upgrading. Every experience teaches you something new.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes people don't know their own minds until they start talking or writing about it. You have something to articulate. You'll open up, figure out just how you feel, what exactly the issue is, and what you can do about it, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It would be easy to spend your time buying, using and maintaining material things, but what you're really after now is something that can't be seen, owned or controlled. Having it is therefore tricky, but you'll find a way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you notice yourself explaining, defending, or softening your truth to keep things smooth, press pause. Discomfort is a signal about fit and safety, not a demand to fix or explain anything. You can let it guide your choices without turning it into a big story.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a certain unrefined ruggedness to your thinking today and it serves you quite well. You'll have plenty of time to polish your approach later, but for now give these notions a test. The work will have much to show you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll notice that a job might not take the amount of effort you've been giving it. This is not about being lazy. It's a matter of efficiency. It conserves energy to apply your intelligence to making things easier.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're on a mission. And if someone gets weird about

the way you're handling your own needs, take note. Advice is one thing; control is another. You're happy to collaborate — but not on everything, and only with worthy collaborators.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whatever you think, do or become, there are people who agree with it and people who don't. And taking on either side of that equation can be a real waste of time. You'll have more energy to apply to your work and your people when you simply skip the argument.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Laughter builds instant rapport. You'll laugh with someone and be halfway to understanding them. A shared joke will do more than small talk ever could, relaxing the room, building trust fast, and making real conversation easier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Forgiveness isn't automatic for you. If you decide someone deserves it, you think it through. You don't just hand it out or slam the door. If someone's getting another shot, it's because you've worked through it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ability to see it from the other person's point of view will save you a great deal of time and trouble. And the rest of the time, you can do whatever you want. Your list is extensive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Like wild-life and Amazon packages, moods can be tracked. Collect the data. It gives you the perspective needed to keep going with efforts to raise your general vibe, effectiveness and emotional set-point to something that feels more consistently better to you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March. 11). Enter your Year of Bright Alchemy. You refine your thoughts until they gleam, and from that gleam comes profit and peace in equal measure. Together with like minds and hearts, you'll build an architecture for a smoother life. More highlights: A seemingly lateral move expands your influence. Family triumph is yours, and vice versa. Love feels both fated and fresh. Libra and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 25, 11, 38 and 20.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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I	D	E	A	L	E	G	O	S	I	R	I	S
M	E	A	N	L	E	T	S	A	N	D		

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

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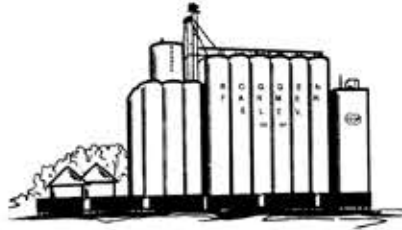
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Byers School District 32-J is accepting applications for Elementary Teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

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

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

Applications can be sent to:
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From the Knights of Columbus Council #13221 in Byers. Thank you for our annual dinner and auction with the proceeds going to the Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains and A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center of Northern Colorado. Thanks go out to all the businesses and individuals along the I-70 Corridor for their generous donations. A special thanks to the Byers American Legion for the use of its hall. Thanks to all those who helped with the meal setup and take down. May God bless you all!

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825 CHEROKEE STREET, STRASBURG, CO — 4BR, 3BA home with 2-car garage and outbuilding with power, concrete, and 220 on 2.5 acres. \$759,000.00
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325 WALNUT STREET, BENNETT, CO — 3BR, 3BA home, 2 car garage. \$434,999.00
20630 E. 58TH AVENUE, AURORA, CO — Newer 4BR, 3BA home, 2 car garage. \$582,000.00
359 S. SHERMAN STREET, BYERS, CO — 1 BR, 1BA home on nice quiet lot. \$295,000.00
43201 E. 88TH AVENUE, BENNETT, CO — 3BR, 5BA home, 2 car attached garage, shop/outbuilding on 36+ acres, \$900,000.00

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CORRIDOR CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, MARCH 12**
Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 13**
Soup supper hosted by Altar & Rosary. Meatless soups, dessert, grilled cheese sandwiches, coffee, juice. Free will offerings accepted. Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church, Byers.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 14**
Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.
- MONDAY, MARCH 16**
East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Board. 6 p.m., TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave. Call (303)622-4260 for information.
Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.
Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at bennettco.gov for information.
Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers School boardroom.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 17**
Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**
Bennett Arts Council Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Bennett Town Hall Community Room.
I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn. Topic is aging and physical/mental wellness. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.
- EVERY SUNDAY**
Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. in Byers. For additional information, call (303)903-6734.
- EVERY MONDAY**
Storytime: Children up to ages 2-5 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that promote early literacy. 10-10:30 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.
Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



In real life, Radar O'Reilly was not well-liked by his fellow soldiers.

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Numerous vehicles, including this car about two miles east of Strasburg along eastbound Highway 36, not only slid off of roadways during the March 6 snowstorm but found themselves having to dig out of knee-level-or-taller drifts the following Saturday morning. The State Patrol reported no serious injuries in the area during the snowfall.



Small business owners: Find big support at Anythink Bennett

Discover how Anythink Bennett Library can help your business thrive—from powerful resources and research tools to partnership opportunities and new ways to reach customers using the library as a community hub—at the kickoff event for I-70 Corridor Business Connect series. Snacks, networking, conversations, door prizes—and big ideas for your business. Just drop in!

When: 6–8 p.m. March 26
Where: Anythink Bennett Library,
495 7th St. in Bennett
Questions? Call 303-405-3231

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MARCH 6 STORM

FROM PAGE 1

tensive stretch of record heat and dryness.

In addition to last month being the second-driest and third-warmest February on record and tying 2009 for the least snowiest February, the most recent three-month period of December through February was second warmest on record with 41 days of 60 degrees or warmer.

At DIA, .02 inches of precipitation fell in February, 0.39 inches below normal. Last month's trace of snowfall was 7.8 inches below normal. Last month's average temperature of 42 degrees was 10 degrees above normal.

Friday's snowstorm snarled traffic on both I-70 and Highway 36 but serious injuries appeared to be mostly avoided.

"Numerous crashes and motorist

assists yesterday," a Colorado State Patrol spokesperson said March 7. "I did not see any injury crashes [reported]."

Most roadway interruptions occurred on east-west routes because of crosswinds that blew snow across most lanes. I-70 traffic was reportedly going 30 mph or slower around 5 p.m. and later."

How much improvement recent moisture might have on the growing drought concerns across Colorado was uncertain at press time. Prior to Friday's snow, the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map said that more than 80% of Colorado was abnormally dry or in some semblance of drought. Drought conditions have grown by 10% since the start of the new year and 25% since the start of the water year at the start of October.



STRASBURG ELEMENTARY

PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP

Friday, March 20, 2026

Preschool Registration and Developmental Screenings

Children new to Strasburg Preschool who will be at least 3 years old on or before August 1, 2026, are eligible. Developmental screenings will also be offered for any child under 5 who may have developmental concerns.

*Children turning 5 on or before August 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll in kindergarten.

Schedule your child's appointment by
calling (303) 622-9215, ext. 628.

Specific registration details will be e-mailed upon sign-up.
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INGREDIENTS

- 2 slices deluxe deli ham
- 4 slices pepperoni
- ¼ cup roasted red bell pepper, sliced
- 2 slices provolone cheese
- ½ cup spinach
- toothpicks



DIRECTIONS

Lay two slices of ham on top of each other on a cutting board.

In the center, lay out 4 slices of pepperoni.

Top with ¼ cup sliced red pepper, then two slices of provolone, then ½ cup of spinach.

Start along the longer edge of the ham and roll up the ham with fillings to make a long sushi-like roll.

Secure with a few toothpicks to hold

roll together. Cut each roll into 4-6 pieces.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Pork Producers

LUNCH MENUS

BYERS

Thursday, March 12: Ham and cheese roll-up, white gravy, mixed vegetables.
Friday, March 13: No school.
March 16-20: Spring break.

Friday, March 13: Corn dogs.
Tuesday, March 17: Chicken fajitas with Spanish rice.
Wednesday, March 18: Hot ham and cheese, green beans.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, March 12: Pizza stick, salad.
March 16-19: Spring break.
Monday, March 23: Orange chicken, rice, egg roll.
Tuesday, March 24: Soft chicken tacos, beans, corn.
Wednesday, March 25: Ham and cheese sandwich, baked beans.

AGATE
Thursday, March 12: Cheese quesadilla.
Monday, March 16: Chicken nachos.
Tuesday, March 17: Meatballs with gravy.
Wednesday, March 18: Barbecue chicken sandwich, chips.
Thursday, March 19: Cheesy beef steak.

STRASBURG

Thursday, March 12: Mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce.

BENNETT
Thursday, March 12: Chicken and noodle soup, crackers.
March 16-19: Spring break.

Tree planting class set by Morgan extension office

FORT MORGAN — The Morgan Conservation District is hosting Tree Planting Tips & Tricks from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, March 21, at the Morgan County CSU Extension Office.

Participants will learn more about planting containerized trees. Top-

ics include siting, hole preparation, placement, and establishment.

RSVP deadline is March 20 by calling (970)427-3358 or by e-mail at morgan-conservationdistrict@gmail.com.

The extension office is located at 914 E. Railroad Ave., Fort Morgan.

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BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J

EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

3/11

- Bennett Board of Education Work Session, 5 PM – 6 PM (BHS Library, 610 7th Street, Bennett, CO 80102)
- Bennett Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6 PM – 8 PM (BHS Library, 610 7th Street, Bennett, CO 80102)

3/13

- BHS Baseball vs Weld Central - PM (Bennett High School 805 Washington Way, Bennett CO 80102)
- BHS Girls Soccer at DSST GVR - 4:30 PM (DSST Green Valley Ranch High School 4800 Telluride St, Denver, CO 80249)

3/14

- BHS Track Meet at Murray Kula - 8 AM (Windsor High School 1100 Main St, Windsor, CO 80550)

MARCH 16-20 - SPRING BREAK

3/21

- BHS Track Meet at Runners Roost - 7:15 AM (Fort Collins High School 3400 Lambkin Way, Fort Collins, CO 80525) Bennett School District
- BHS Baseball at Platte Valley - 11 AM (Platte Valley High School 901 Campbell St, Kersey, CO 80644)

3/24

- BHS Baseball vs Valley - 4 PM (Bennett High School 805 Washington Way, Bennett CO 80102)
- BHS Girls Soccer vs Frontier Academy - 4 PM (Bennett High School 462 8th St. Bennett CO 80102)

3/25

- BHS Baseball at Englewood - 4 PM (Englewood High School 3800 S Logan St, Englewood, CO 80113)

3/26

- 3rd Grade Field Trip - (Natural History Museum) Bennett School District
- BHS Girls Soccer vs Lake County - 4 PM (Bennett High School 462 8th St. Bennett CO 80102)
- BES "Almost Talent" Show - 5:30 PM – 7 PM

3/27

- BMS Track @ Akron TBA

3/28

- BHS Track Meet at University Bulldog Invite - 9 AM (University High School 6525 W 18th St, Greeley, CO 80634)

3/30

- BHS Baseball vs Fort Lupton - 4 PM (Bennett High School 805 Washington Way, Bennett CO 80102)
- Bennett School District BHS Girls Soccer at Fort Lupton - 4 PM (Fort Lupton High School 530 Reynolds St, Fort Lupton, CO 80621)

3/31

- BMS Base @ Clear Creek single game only - 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

APRIL EVENTS

4/1

- UNC COLLEGE CLASS INTEREST MEETING - 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM (Bennett High School Library)

4/2

- BHS JV Baseball at Sheridan - 4 PM (Sheridan High School 3201 W Oxford Ave, Englewood, CO 80110)
- BMS Base @ Peak2Peak; B Team to follow - 4 PM – 5 PM -
- Math & Literacy "Glow Night" - 5 PM – 6:30 PM (BES)

4/3

- BHS Baseball NOCO Tournament at University - 9:30 AM (University High School 6525 W 18th St, Greeley, CO 80634)
- BHS Girls Soccer vs Jefferson - 4:30 PM (Bennett High School 462 8th St Bennett CO 80102) -

4/4

- BHS Baseball NOCO Tournament - (TBD)
- BHS Track Meet at Altitude Running Invite - 8 AM (Ft Collins High School French Field 1300 W Swallow Rd. Ft. Collins, CO 80526)
- BMS Base @ Platte Canyon (Fitz); 1100a A Team/B Team to follow 11 AM – 12 PM

4/6

- BMS Track @ Wiggins TBD
- BHS Baseball at Alameda- 3:30 PM (Alameda High School 1255 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80232)
- BHS Girls Soccer at Weld Central - 4 PM (Weld Central High School 4715 Co Rd 59, Keenesburg, CO 80643)

4/7

- District Accountability Meeting - 6 PM – 8 PM (HS VNet Room or Zoom)

4/8

- BHS Girls Soccer at Pinnacle - 5:30 PM (Pinnacle High School 8412 Huron St, Thornton, CO 80260)
- Bennett Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6 PM – 8 PM (BHS Library, 610 7th Street, Bennett, CO 80102)

4/9

- BHS Baseball vs Platte Canyon - 4 PM (Bennett High School 805 Washington Way, Bennett CO 80102)

4/10

- BMS Track @ Byers 1000a - 10 AM – 10:30 AM

Bennett Middle School Presents

Disney
THE LITTLE MERMAID

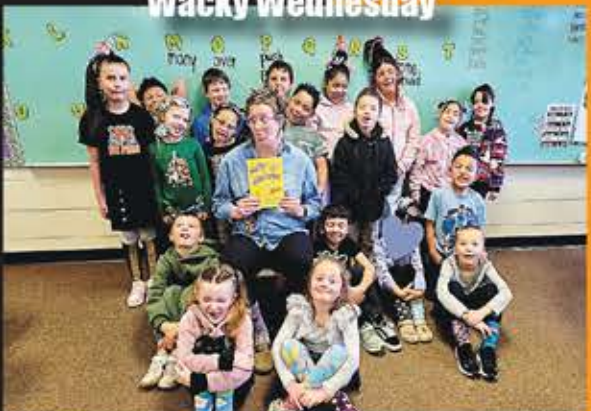
JR.

Thursday March 12th at 7:00 pm
Friday March 13th at 2:00, 4:30, & 7:00 pm
Bennett High School Auditorium
Tickets \$5 for sale at door

February was Career Technical Education Month



Dr. Seuss Week, March 2-5 Wacky Wednesday



FOR MORE INFO: BSD29J.COM