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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 16

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

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Bennett leaders lament speeding issues

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Speeding continues to be a concern for Bennett officials, especially in the school zone on the northeast edge of town.

During the March 10 board of trustees meeting, Bennett Town Administrator Trish Stiles reported the results of a Colorado Department of Transportation speed survey from October that measured compliance rates at four spots along Highway 79 from

Eighth Street through 38th Avenue. "A little bit shocking and not in a good way," Stiles said of the results that showed only 35% compliance. "Pretty disappointing to be honest." CDOT's figures showed 55% of commuters along the 1.1-mile stretch went

1-10 mph over the posted speed limits and another 10% were "excessive speeders," going over the speed limit by 11 mph or more.

The two lowest compliance rates
SEE BENNETT BOT PAGE 20



The Strasburg Indians took home the 3A boys state basketball title after a hard-fought, come-from-behind 61-57 overtime victory over Forge Christian in the championship game March 14 at Hancock Gymnasium on the campus of the University of Denver. Above, the team stands proudly with its championship trophy and banner near half court. Pictured are, from left, assistant coach Dave Glatfelter, head coach Kyle Bollers, Eli Carbajal, Froy Morales, Ayden Dodge, Jayden Miller, Brody Hopwood, Cade Hemphill, Nick Glatfelter, Gideon Milner, Colton Holloway, Dalton Velasco, Levi Hart, Koby Muehlhausen, Trey Graf, Cameron Manahan, and assistant coaches Josh Holloway and Jerry Ryan. **SEE PAGE 11.**



Bennett Middle School hosted a four performances of "Disney The Little Mermaid JR." March 12-13 at the high school auditorium. Twenty-seven sixth- through eighth graders showed off their acting skills during one Thursday night performance and three more on Friday. The students are under the direction of music and drama teacher Allyse Brennan. Above, Ariel, played by Madelynne Travis and Mer Sisters Olivia Boh, Bryleigh Schwartz, Lillian Filkin, Gabriella Torres, Elena Walden and Camille Garrett sing alongside King Triton, played by Carter Faczak. **SEE PAGE 24.**

Strasburg School Board OKs new high school principal

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Strasburg High School will have a new lead chief for the 2026-27 school year.

During their March 9 meeting, school board directors not only approved the resignation of Strasburg High School Principal Scott Andrews but voted in favor of Assistant Principal Victoria Dickens as his replacement.

Andrews is completing his fourth year at Strasburg.

In addition, the board removed the interim title from Elementary Principal Cameron Schiller starting next school year. Schiller started his interim role near the end of the 2024-25 school year when JaLee Kitzman was transferred to Hemphill Middle School.

"Both candidates completed a rigorous hiring process that included large committees from the respective buildings as well as final, individual in-

terviews with me," said Strasburg Superintendent Kelle Bongard. "In both circumstances, they both rose to the top throughout the interview process and will continue to bring consistency and aligned visions to their buildings."

She added that administrator and director renewals will be included on the April 13 meeting agenda, along with teaching staff contracts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Demographer Shannon Bingham presented his findings from his recent study to anticipate what enrollments will look like across the district.

Highlighting Bingham's report is anticipated student population growth of about 30 students over the next five years, mostly in the elementary.

"Basically, very stable enrollment is projected," Bongard said. "But it was important

SEE STRASBURG BOE PAGE 6

COMMUNITY CORRAL

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.

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.

'Mind Diet:' Alzheimer's risk focus of CSU Extension event

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Extension will host an in-person watch party on a dietary pattern that might reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline.

The 30-minute Zoom webinar, "The Mind Diet," will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, at the Arapahoe County Extension Office, 6934 S. Lima St., Centennial.

CSU Extension Specialists in the Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition will present practical tips for eating foods that help support

MAP testing party



Byers Elementary Principal Machaela Ey-mann sits amidst a multitude of paper chains that students made during Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing earlier this school year. For every point collectively improved, students got a link on the paper chain. The chains were displayed around the school for a few weeks. The students also earned dress-up days like Color Wars and USA Day.

brain health.

Attendees will discuss the diet and taste a Mind Diet-friendly snack. Participants should bring a lunch for more than a snack. Handouts and recipes are included.

The event is free but registration closes on April 10. To sign up, visit www.arapahoeco.gov.

For more information, e-mail to Sheila Gains at sgains@arapahoegov.com.

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 Thurs-

day, 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. 3/18

Easter Sunday Bunny Delivery will benefit food pantry in DT

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail Food Bank believes it can make Easter morning magical for parents without moving a muscle.

Deer Trail Easter Bunny Delivery will occur from 4-6 a.m., Easter Sunday, April 5. The Easter Bunny will hop by and secretly hide 15 pre-filled plastic eggs in every customer's front yard.

The cost for 15 eggs is \$20. The event is for local residents only as spots are limited and payment is required to secure delivery.

All net proceeds benefit the Deer Trail Food Bank.

Calm doodling arts project slated for April 6 in 'Burg

STRASBURG — Kids in kindergarten through the eighth grade can dive into a variety of art mediums, from painting to clay at an upcoming creative arts class.

Calm doodling will occur from 10-10:45 a.m. for grades K-3 and 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for grades 4-8, Monday, April 6, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

The registration deadline is Thursday, April 2. The cost is \$10 per child. To sign up, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

Calm doodling is a versatile and beginner-friendly activity.

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. As-

sistance will be provided as needed.

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

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 the historical society.

For more information, call (303)622-4322.

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

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.

Community Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Antelope Hills

BENNETT — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Teens for Change Colorado are hosting a Easter event for all ages.

An Easter Egg hunt is planned from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at Future Park (aka Antelope Hills Community Park), 640 Green Gables Way, Bennett.

The event will include activities for kids, such as face painting and a service project. Refreshments will be provided.

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Deer Trail School to host agri-science fair

DEER TRAIL — Deer Trail School will host an agri-science fair for students on Monday, March 30.

Projects are due at the school the morning of the event for judging.

After judging, community members are invited for a public viewing/open house of all projects from 4-7:30 p.m. that Monday.

Viewing for students will be held throughout the school day on Tuesday, March 31, with project pick-up scheduled for after school that same day.

For additional information and a list of other events for the duration of the 2025-26 school year, visit www.dt26j.com.

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook
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Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana — Meetings every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)

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Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

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arapahoeco.gov WEEK OF MARCH 16

ArapCo clerk refutes allegations of election interference

AURORA — Radio talk show comments March 11 by former Aurora Councilmember Danielle Jurinsky, alleging 2025 election interference, drew a sharp rebuke from Arapahoe County Clerk Joan Lopez.

Jurinsky, a Republican, appeared Wednesday on the far-right 710 KNUS Jeff and Bill radio talk show. She has been a regular guest on the show since her election to the city council in 2021. Jurinsky lost her bid for re-election to her at-large seat last year to Democrats.

Host Jeff Hunt asked Jurinsky why she thought she lost the race, especially after raising and spending far more campaign money than her Democratic challengers, Rob Andrews and Alli Jackson.

Jurinsky said she saw voter fatigue as part of the problem. County records show that the approximate 36% voter turnout last year is consistent with odd-year elections, focusing primarily on municipal and school board races. The 2024 General Election drew a record 86% of registered voters in Arapahoe County.

Jurinsky also cited data that Democrats outnumber Republicans in Aurora. Currently, Aurora is home to about 75,000 registered Democrats and 42,000 registered Republicans. There are 134,000 unaffiliated voters in the city, according to county election records.

Jurinsky said what she described as close ties to Donald Trump also worked against her in her bid for re-election.

“Democrats outnumber Republicans, and you have to be able to separate yourself from President Trump,”



Former Aurora Councilmember Danielle Jurinsky, right, and 710KNUS talk radio host Jeff Hunt during a radio broadcast March 11.

Jurinsky said.

She said she was surprised at her loss, in part, because so many political pundits expected Jurinsky and other Republicans to win, running against Democrats with little campaign money or name recognition.

Voters, however, soundly defeated Jurinsky and fellow Republicans Steve Sundberg, Amsalu Kassaw and Marsha Berzins.

“I think what they did is they just sat for hours and hours and hours and made phone calls,” Jurinsky said. “I think they chased ballots.”

Jurinsky also said Democratic Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder Joan Lopez helped elect Aurora Democrats to the city council.

“I also heard that Joan Lopez was sending out text messages to folks who hadn’t returned their ballots,” Jurinsky said. “Now I didn’t return my ballot until the very end, up until Election Day, I didn’t get a text message asking me if I was going to return my ballot. So maybe she was only

sending out text messages to one political party.”

She then said she was speculating about who got the texts.

The comments drew a sharp rebuke later in the day from Lopez.

“The Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder takes its role as a bipartisan steward of the election process seriously, and we will not allow unfounded claims to go unanswered,” Lopez said in a statement. “Not because we owe a defense, but because voters deserve the truth.”

Lopez said the clerk’s office doesn’t text any voter with reminders.

“Full stop,” Lopez said. “Any texts a voter may have received most likely came either from a political party communicating with its own registered members, or from BallotTrax — a Colorado Secretary of State service that notifies voters when their ballot has been mailed, received and counted.”

BallotTrax notifications are only sent to voters who re-

quest and register for the service, Lopez said. “The County Clerk’s office plays no role in either.”

Jurinsky also inaccurately said, “it’s no secret that (Colorado Democratic Secretary of State) Jenna Griswold sent out 30,000 ballots to illegals to vote. I mean, 30,000 ballots, that changes the outcome of a city council race.”

Griswold admitted that in 2022, her office mistakenly sent out informational postcards to about 30,000 people telling them they might be eligible to vote. Many of the postcards were wrongly sent to non-citizens in the gaffe. Anyone receiving the postcards, however, would have had to provide the usual documentation needed to register to vote. The postcards were not ballots, secretary of state officials said at the time.

Jurinsky did not specifically say what her political plans are, except to say she’d been asked by unnamed Republicans to take control of the state Republican Party through the 2026 election

cycle.

Jurinsky said she is a strong advocate of the GOP proposed SAVE Act, which would nationalize elections, require a voter ID, and end Colorado’s mail-ballot election system

Current GOP Chairperson Britta Horn has come under fire from party members and recently failed a vote of confidence, according to media reports.

Jurinsky said she would consider the GOP position should Horn step down or be removed from the party’s top job.

Jurinsky did not commit on the show to running for another office, except to say she’d been asked to run for her “house district” seat or even secretary of state.

She did not rule out trying to regain her city council seat.

“Well, first of all, I don’t like to lose,” Jurinsky said. “I don’t take kindly to that, and I certainly don’t like to lose to a drunk whose son spits at our police officers.”

Jurinsky was referring to Andrews, who on Jan. 17 was arrested and accused by police of drunken driving. Andrews’ blood-alcohol level was reported to be 0.252, more than three times the legal limit for a charge of driving drunk.

Police bodycam video of the arrest shows a man in the cab of the pickup truck Andrews was driving, identified as Andrews’ stepson, spitting out an open truck window as an Aurora police officer questions him.

“So I would say my fight, my fight still exists,” Jurinsky said. “It remains.”

— Sentinel Colorado staff and contributing writers

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Corridor spellers speak up



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Strasburg Elementary hosted the second Corridor Regional Spelling Bee March 12 with third- fourth-, and fifth-graders from Byers, Bennett, Deer Trail and Kiowa also attending. Each school sent their top three spellers from each grade. According to the Strasburg Elementary Principal Cameron Schiller, the local schools don't have an opportunity to send their best spellers to a bigger competition like metro districts, so the decision was made to get neighboring districts together. Last year's regional spelling bee included four schools and this year grew by one. Above, third-grade winners were from left, first, Cohen Nelson, Strasburg; second, Mayana Baca, Bennett; and third, Lauriane Kinga, Bennett.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fourth-grade winners were first, Alani Rodriguez, Strasburg; second, Abel Hunt, Bennett; and third, Lily Pierson, Deer Trail.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fifth-grade winners were second, Greyson Rickett, Strasburg; first, Chelsea Oppong, Bennett; and third, Bradley Ullom, Kiowa.



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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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STRASBURG BOE FROM PAGE 1

ant for us to complete [this] study as our last one was many years ago.”

On the subject of school funding, Bongard said she is less than pleased with a proposal that could take specific ownership tax assessments from going to schools.

“That’s one idea they are proposing to help balance the state budget,” she said. “I am not a proponent of this as it will take approximately \$34,000 away from us next year if it moves forward.”

The board also approved a Bongard recommendation to move spring break up one week on next school year’s calendar.

The board in 2024 approved three years of calendars but the lack of consistency with neighboring districts and other educational partners need-

ed to be resolved.

“Instead of the week of March 22-26 next year, spring break would be moved to the week of March 15-19,” she said. “This change will align with Pickens Tech, Morgan Community College, and East Central BOCES calendars, which, unfortunately, do not this year, causing some students to miss out on an actual spring break.”

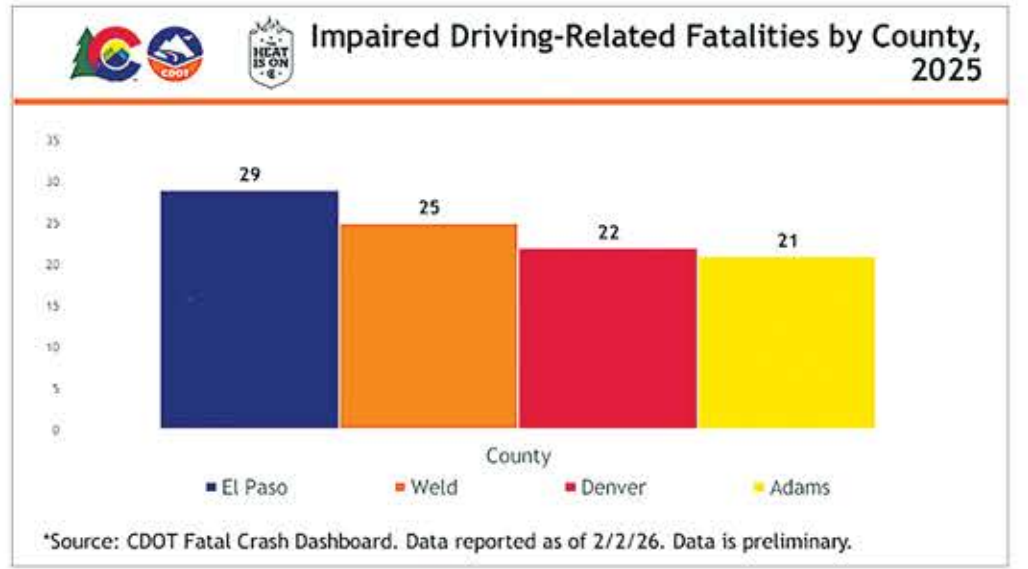
Strasburg was recently named a recipient of the Guitar Center Music Foundation Grant. According to elementary music teacher Jenny Authier, the school was able to purchase 10 guitars and three basses with the funds.

National Honor Society Sponsor Tobi Whitehead reported that the Strasburg chapter has about 50 members this school year.



**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
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Adams among top 4 CO counties for impaired traffic fatalities in 2025

Impaired driving impacts Coloradans throughout the state.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, in 2025, El Paso, Weld, Denver and Adams counties had the most traffic fatalities involving impaired drivers, and more than half of Colorado’s 64 counties had at least one impaired driving-related fatality.

Drivers are reminded of the importance of driving sober wherever you are — in the city, on a quiet byway, or close to home.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the majority of fatal traffic crashes occur within 25 miles of home.

“Impaired driving is a crime that kills over 200 Coloradans each year.

What excuse is good enough to risk taking another person’s life?” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “A car with an impaired driver is dangerous and deadly.

“There is no distance that can be safely driven while under the influence of alcohol or cannabis.”

“Unfortunately, festive times like holidays and big events often see upticks in people driving under the influence,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. “DUIs are preventable and can be avoided by making the simple choice not to drink and drive.

“It’s better to be safe than sorry. So drive sober, and help keep your friends, family and community safe.”



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Strasburg spellers show their stuff



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Strasburg Elementary hosted its Spelling Bee the middle of February with the top three for third, fourth and fifth grade advancing to last week's regional competition held at Strasburg. Top photo, third-grade winners are, from left, Liane Barnes, third; Casey Smith, second; and Cohen Nelson, first. Middle, fourth-grade winners are Alani Rodriguez, first; Skye Holloway, second; and Clayton Beston, third. Bottom, fifth-grade winners are Jonathan Crawford, third; Paige Olsen, second; and Greyson Rickett, first.

Leslie Pitts



Leslie W. Pitts, born Aug. 8, 1960, in Hugo, Colo., passed away on Feb. 24, 2026. A dedicated mail carrier, Leslie also operated The Patio and The Golden Spike and had experience in various construction jobs throughout his life. He grew up in Byers and attended Byers High School, Northeastern Jr. College, and Colorado State University. Leslie's passion for sports, especially golf, was evident to all who knew him. He is survived by his mother, Illene Pitts of Greeley, Colo.; his sister, Brenda (Rick) Haines of Greeley, Colo.; and his nieces, Lindsay Reynolds of Waterloo, Iowa, and Sydney Haines of Sedona, Ariz. Leslie was preceded in death by his father, John J. Pitts, and his grandparents. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, March 19, at Byers Cemetery, E. 5th Ave.



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 Saturday, April 11 • Deer Trail Town Hall • 555 2nd Ave., Deer Trail
 Saturday, April 18 • Hudson Public Works Bldg. • 258 5th Ave., Hudson
 Saturday, April 25 • Kelter Library • 585 S. Main St., Byers (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)*
 Saturday, May 2 • Living Springs Vet Clinic • 820 Sharis Ct., Bennett

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SIXTH GRADER Jayden Terry poses with her medal for winning the Byers Elementary School Spelling Bee for fourth through sixth grades last month.

Four spots vacant on ag hemp panel

BROOMFIELD — Recent changes to the Farm Bill make the work of the Hemp Advisory Committee especially important at a time when the state's hemp market will navigate the changes and find ways to adjust to new federal regulatory parameters.

The 10-member committee consults with the Colorado Department of Agriculture on matters regarding the regulation of hemp.

The nomination period has opened for four seats, one each for a cooperative farmer; commercial farmer; research or higher education representative; and seed development representative.



New MCC bachelor's degree addresses the dearth of elementary ed teachers

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College earlier this year received approval final approval from the Higher Learning Commission for its newest undergraduate program, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood emphasis.

Designed to address Colorado's critical teacher shortage and strengthen the educator pipeline in rural communities, the degree will officially launch in August for the fall semester.

Across Colorado, nearly 6,911 teacher vacancies remain unfilled, with rural districts facing the greatest challenges. MCC's new Elementary Education BAS will provide an accessible and practical pathway for working adults, paraprofessionals, and Associate of Applied Science graduates to earn teacher licensure. Flexible delivery options, including remote, hybrid and online formats, allow students to stay rooted in their communities while advancing their education.

"MCC is honored and excited to bring this program to our region," said Jamie Hohanadel, MCC Education Faculty. "Our communities need teachers who understand the unique strengths and challenges of rural education. This program offers an affordable pathway into a meaningful career while preparing future educators through hands-on learning and strong relationships with our school district partners."

The 120-credit completion program

includes early fieldwork, integrated practicum experiences, and a year-long clinical residency in local school districts. The curriculum aligns with Colorado Teacher Quality Standards, Elementary Education endorsement requirements, and evidence-based practices such as the Science of Reading and early STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) foundations.

Developed in collaboration with regional districts, the program features support from mentor teachers, practicum placement sites, advisory partners, and hiring pathways for program graduates. Students will receive personalized academic advisement, licensure preparation, tutoring, counseling services, and residency coaching.

"The new Elementary Education bachelor's degree ... reflects MCC's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, affordable educational opportunities while preparing students for essential roles in our schools," said Dr. Curt Freed, MCC president.

MCC launched its first bachelor's program, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, in 2019.

Registration for fall classes started March 9. For more information, visit www.Morgancce.edu or contact Jamie Hohanadel at Jamie.Hohanadel@Morgancce.edu or (970)542-3121.



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Emily Leona Robinson



Emily Leona Robinson went home to our Lord on Sunday, March 8, 2026. She was 99 years old. Leona was born in Waterproof, Louisiana, on April 28th, 1926. She was the oldest of five children.

In 1932 the children were sent to the Baptist Children's Home in Monroe, Louisiana. They would spend the remainder of the Great Depression there. At 17 years old, in 1943, Leona earned her nursing degree and secured a position at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center as a civilian nurse for the Army until the end of World War II.

While at Fitzsimons she met her future husband, Dallas Robinson, and they were married in 1945. Together they raised two children, Dallas Jr. and Cathy, and had a successful career in jewelry. Dallas told anyone who would listen that he was only successful because of his wife Leona.

Leona loved spending time with her family and friends and hosted all holidays for her loved ones. She could often be found in her garden tending to her flowers and vegetables, talking to her chickens and ducks in the back yard, or in the kitchen cooking delicious meals. She was an active member of the community volunteering at the food bank and participating in several local clubs. Leona never missed her bingo nights, and she loved going to church.

She was predeceased by her parents, all her siblings, her husband, and her son. She leaves behind her daughter, two grandsons, and four great-grandchildren.

She will be missed.

Memorial Services will be held Saturday, March 21, at Newcomer Chapel, 190 N. Potomac, Aurora, Colo. Visitation is at 10 am followed by the service at 11 a.m.

Kaye Mosbarger



Caradell Lynnette (Kaye) Mosbarger, a proud and beloved member of the Byers community, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026 at the age of 84.

Kaye is survived by her son, Bart Mosbarger of Byers; brother, Jim (Nancy) Gerstenberger; sister, Kathy (Mick) Palmer; brother-in-law, Tim (Vicky) Hunt; son-in-law, Bruce (Lori) Pelton; grandsons, Casey (Jaclyn) Pelton of Byers, and Corey (Kathryn) Pelton of Commerce City, Colo.; great grandchildren Allie, Andie, Noah and Henry; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her mother and father, Louise (Dodge) and Keith Gerstenberger; husband, Clifford Mosbarger; daughter, Lori Pelton; sister, Vicky Hunt; brother, Don Gerstenberger; and sisters-in-law Nancy Gerstenberger and Cara Gerstenberger.

Kaye was born in Pueblo, Colo., on July 30, 1941 to Louise (Dodge) and Keith Gerstenberger, and was the oldest of five children. Kaye attended elementary school in Matheson, Colo., and graduated from Simla High School in 1959. The Gerstenberger family settled back to Byers shortly after she graduated from high school, but Kaye moved to Denver to live with her Aunt Harriett and Uncle Arlo to help care for her cousins, Steve and Diane. She met Clifford Mosbarger and they were later married in March of 1960. They lived in Byers (Leader). They had two children, Lori, born on June 16, 1961, and Bart, born on August 1, 1963. Kaye and her family lived in Aurora and then Leadville for a short time then settled back in Byers, where she lived until her passing.

When she was younger, Kaye loved to sing and dance. She reminisced about how much fun they had at the "sock hops" after ball games in high school as well as the Leader Hall dances. She played softball in the town league, and got together with friends and family to play cards from time to time. As much as she did not love to cook, Kaye was the best and had several dishes that were always requested for holidays and special occasions. She loved to shop and any time she had a new find, she would say she happened to be watching QVC and couldn't pass it up!

Kaye worked as a teacher's aide in the Byers Elementary School for a few years in the early 1970s, then came back to work for the school in the 1990s at the "Little House" childcare, then in the preschool until she retired at the end of the 2023-24 school year when she was 82. In the 1990s, she enjoyed modeling vintage clothes, and was president of the Byers Community Association for many years.

Kaye enjoyed following her grandsons and great grandchildren playing sports as much as she could. She was so proud of them! She loved nothing more than to attend as many games, activities and sporting events as she possibly could to support not only her own family, but also the students she had cared for and grown to love so much over the years! She could always be found watching the Bulldogs in the New Gym in her usual spot- closest to the action, but definitely not the safest, as a hard hit spike from across the net, or a missed pass somehow would almost land in her lap on several occasions! Little ones Ms. Kaye had helped teach with Mr. Bart would pass by and give her hugs when they saw her. She always looked just so, and was beautiful inside and out.

Kaye was kind and thoughtful and loved to spoil her grandchildren as much as she could. It was not uncommon for her to bring them little gifts and goodies she had found that she thought they would enjoy just because she could! She loved to read her newspapers and would often cut out articles and pictures that she could give to those she thought would enjoy them. Pictures of her family were all around her home, and she would often comment that she just "had to have her pictures!" Kaye took such good care of everyone, making sure they all had what they needed. She was a true matriarch and there was nothing more important to her than her family. She will be dearly missed!

Services were held March 16 at the Byers High School gymnasium with interment following at Byers Cemetery.

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LIBRARY NEWS

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

Growing Local Business with Community Resources: This kickoff event launches the I-70 Corridor Business Connect series. Adults can share formats, topics and event styles to best support their businesses. They can also explore library resources available for local businesses and find new ways to connect with customers by using the library as a community hub. Light refreshments, door prizes provided. 6-8 p.m., Thursday, March 26.

Teen Paint & Snack: Kids ages 13-18 can hang out, play games, and enjoy snacks. Gaming consoles, board games, crafts, and other activities available. 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League and professional art coach and speaker Kathy Beekman as she guides them through a plan for artistic success. The theme for the month is Focus — What draws your attention right now? 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 21.

KELVER LIBRARY

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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.

Books & Beyond: Kids ages 5-12 can drop in for book-themed games and crafts to celebrate favorite characters and discover new reads. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24.

'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

Fantasy Costume Masks Craft: Tweens and teens ages 12-18 will create fantasy costume masks with a variety of paints and embellishments. All supplies provided. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 25.



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SPORTS



State quarters: 'Burg tames league foe Tigers



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

The Strasburg Indians began last week's three-day trek to their first-ever 3A basketball title with a 62-47 victory over Patriot League rival Wiggins March 14 at Hancock Gymnasium on the campus of the University of Denver. Clockwise from above left, Cade Hemphill goes high over a Tiger defender with a finger roll; Nick Glatfelter takes away a rebound from a Wiggins player underneath the bucket; Jayden Miller puts up an acrobatic shot near the bucket; Colton Holloway runs away from a pair of Wiggins defenders with the dribble; and Brody Hopwood drives the lane en route to scoring 2 of his 17 points. Glatfelter paced the Indians with a 19-point, 16-rebound double-double. The Indians also defeated St. Mary's 64-41 in Friday's semifinals before outlasting Forge Christian 61-57 in overtime in Saturday's title tilt. For full coverage of the Indians' championship run, see the March 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.



Want to Congratulate the Strasburg Indians on their State Championship?

Call The I-70 Scout at (303)622-9796 or e-mail to advertising@i-70scout.com to place a congratulatory ad for the Indian boys or any other winter athlete. Base rate for a 5.19-inches wide by 2-inches tall space is \$42 in color. Ads will go into the March 25 edition of *The I-70 Scout*. Deadline for ad information is 2 p.m., Friday, March 20



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ALLISON HARRIS/For The Scout

Byers' Samuel Linnebur applies defensive pressure to a Heritage Christian ball handler during the 2A state quarterfinals at Moby Gym at Colorado State University in Fort Collins March 12. The Bulldogs fell 55-50 to the Eagles. Byers finished the tournament in sixth place.

Bulldogs fall in state quarters

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

FORT COLLINS — The Byers boys basketball team bowed out of the 2A state tournament with sixth place after a win and two losses March 12-14 at Colorado State University.

A 55-50 defeat to Heritage Christian in the quarterfinals Thursday ended any title hopes for the Bulldogs, but they overcame Vail Christian Academy 67-39 Friday to advance to the fifth-place game on Saturday, where they were topped by Sanford 41-35.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN EAGLES

The game against No. 3-seeded Heritage Christian was a war from wire-to-wire with Byers, seeded sixth, leading 19-12 after one quarter but the Eagles on top 33-31 at halftime.

"Just a slugfest, man. Just both teams, physical, gritty," said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns.

The Eagles gained a little breathing room by winning the third quarter by 5 for a 44-37 edge and maintained a four- to eight-point advantage the rest of the way.

"I don't think we ever had the ball in our hands with a shot to tie it," said Byers head coach Jeremy Kerns.

At home Feb. 21, Byers overcame the Eagles 57-44, but one simple factor might have been the difference in the quarterfinal game — Guede Wade, HCA's 6-7 freshman. Wade was limited by foul trouble in the teams' first meeting but torched the Bulldogs with 19 points, 20 rebounds, and five blocked shots this time.

"He was really a difference maker. Like he could get out and hard hedge

our screens, and then still recover and defend the lane," Kerns said. "He was just a stud on the boards. It wasn't like he got a few offensive, but it was more like we couldn't get our own offensive rebounds. He just cleaned up so well."

Byers was led by junior James Maes with 23 points and four steals and sophomore Conrad Cichos with 12 points, eight boards, three assists and two blocked shots.

"Disappointed," Kerns concluded. "You want to get to the Final Four, you think you've got a team that can get there, and the kids fought their tails off and were very, very sad after the game."

He added that the game could have gotten away from Byers when it fell behind 8 to 10 points and was proud the team's resilience in clobbering VCA the next day.

"I've seen teams lose games in the first round of state where they thought that they could win the state championship and then, the next day, they're a no-show."

For complete coverage of the VCA and Sanford contests, watch for the March 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

BYERS vs. HERITAGE CHRISTIAN @ CSU

Points (55): Maes 23; C. Cichos 12; Eacret 6; Linnebur 4; Mohatt 2; Price 2; M. Gchos 1
Rebounds (26): C. Cichos 8; M. Cichos 5; Maes 4; Eacret 3; Price 2; Ebert 2; Linnebur 1; Mohatt 1.
Assists (8): C. Cichos 3; Linnebur 2; Price 2; Maes 1.
Steals (6): Maes 4; Linnebur 2.
Blocks (3): C. Cichos 2; M. Gchos 1.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	F
Byers	19	12	6	13	50
Heritage Christian	12	21	11	11	55



ALLISON HARRIS/For The Scout

Byers' James Maesn tries to split a Heritage Christian double-team with the dribble during the 2A state quarterfinals at Moby Gym at Colorado State University in Fort Collins March 12.

Colorado 1876-2026

Constitutional debates foretold backlash against rail barons

Political corruption and exorbitant shipping rates fueled the anti-corporate Granger movement

by Chase Woodruff
Colorado Newsline

Pueblo's grand celebration of the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway began promptly at dawn on March 7, 1876, with a 38-gun salute from an artillery piece loaned from Fort Lyon — "37 for the states admitted, and one for Colorado," explained The Pueblo Chieftain.

At 10 a.m., another gun sounded, signaling representatives of Pueblo's city government, fire companies, military orders and social clubs to assemble in formation for a parade down Main Street and Union Avenue.

After speeches and music on the steps of the courthouse, hundreds of dignitaries proceeded to a banquet at Chilcott's Hall, seating themselves at three long tables to feast on an extravagant spread that featured ribs of beef, baked mackinaw trout, roast antelope with plum jelly, pickled oysters, oxtail soup, macaroni and cheese, potato salad and apple fritters — along with three flavors of ice cream, four kinds of pie, and five kinds of cake.

Toasts and speeches followed. Hiram Pitt Bennet, a two-term territorial delegate to Congress in the 1860s, saluted President Ulysses S. Grant — "at once the ruler and the subject of forty millions of free men" — while Rocky Mountain News publisher William Byers took the opportunity to applaud "the press of Colorado," which he judged to be "exceedingly credit-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, H-3451

A train on the Denver & South Park Railway is pictured in this photograph dated between 1886 and 1901.

able to the territory" and instrumental in its growth and development.

But the evening's most florid praise was reserved for the railroads themselves. Speakers hailed not only the newly arrived A.T. & S.F., which heralded "the commencement of a new era in the history of southern Colorado," but also its more northerly rival, the Kansas Pacific, "the great central line which opened Colorado to the world," and the narrow-gauge Denver & Rio Grande, which it was hoped would "soon bring to us the ores of San Juan and the fruits of Old Mexico."

About 900 miles of completed railroad tracks in Colorado had been laid by 1876. In addition to two direct east-west connections to the states in the Kansas Pacific and the A.T. & S.F., the Denver Pacific, chartered by a group of local investors, linked the territorial capital to Cheyenne and the Union Pacific to the north.

Guests at the Pueblo banquet were read a letter from John Evans, a former territorial governor turned railroad executive, who sent his regrets at not being able to attend, but stressed "the great importance of rapidly ex-

tending our system of railroads to all parts of Colorado."

"I trust our plains and mountains will soon be traversed from north to south and from east to west with a complete system of railroads, lined with prosperous towns and cities, and that mills and furnaces producing the gold and silver, the copper and lead and the iron of a vast commerce will be the result," Evans wrote. "It is therefore of the highest interest that the people of Colorado shall foster, encourage and protect railroads as they in turn foster and develop every other interest."

ANXIETY IN DENVER

Beneath all the pomp and circumstance of the occasion, Evans' absence — and his plea to "foster" and "protect" railroads like the ones he invested in and promoted — betrayed the undercurrents of anxiety in the soon-to-be-state of Colorado about the complex relationships between its business and political leaders, the railroad companies, and the public they were meant to serve.

After a somewhat perfunctory appearance, the special passenger train that had ferried Bennet, Byers and other dignitaries from Denver departed Pueblo again at 7:30 that evening.

The congratulations that leaders in the territorial capital offered their southern neighbors on the A.T. &

SEE RAILROAD BARONS
PAGE 14

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RAILROAD BARONS

FROM PAGE 13

S.F.'s arrival tended to be terse and begrudging. They were deeply concerned that the economic benefits the railroad would bring to Pueblo would come directly at the expense of Denver, where business already felt slow amid the distant "mining excitements" in the San Juan Mountains and the Black Hills.

"Circumscribe our commerce on the entire North and South, limiting it to a few mountain towns, and our business men may very well ask, 'What shall we do to be saved?'" worried the Denver Mirror in February 1876. "The effects of evils to which we have briefly adverted are already apparent — in stagnation of business, the difficulty of collection, the collapse of private enterprises, the exodus of many and the income of few."

Compared to the A.T. & S.F., which had laid tracks into Colorado cheaply, on favorable grades, through territory that was already becoming densely populated, the northern routes were "relict(s) of greed and incompetence," writes historian Richard White. With privileges under federal law guarded by considerable political influence, the Union Pacific could charge extortionate rates, or tariffs, on any goods shipped from Denver through Cheyenne while, in terms of mismanagement, "the Kansas Pacific may have been the sorriest of the lot," White writes.

"A tariff that over the Kansas Pacific or the Union Pacific and Denver Pacific into Colorado just pays expenses, to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe ... is a profitable rate," the Golden Transcript observed on Feb. 16, 1876.

Denver merchants appealed to

freight agents at the northern railroads to bring down their rates and hoped the competition from the A.T. & S.F. would force their hands. Evans, meanwhile, renewed his efforts to build the narrow-gauge Denver & South Park Railway over Kenosha Pass, enabling the city to capture commercial traffic to and from the San Juans. He wouldn't succeed in reaching South Park until 1879, by which time the San Juan fever had given way to a silver boom in Leadville.

GRANGERS AT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

In Golden — which years earlier had been on the losing end of a battle with Denver to become northern Colorado's main railroad hub — editors at the Transcript could hardly conceal their gloating at the possibility that "the Denver chickens which have been pecking at the prosperity of other sections for years are now coming home to roost."

A letter published under a pseudonym, "Granger," argued that the overlapping rivalries between towns and the railroad companies whose favor they competed for had "at last been found to be a losing game."

"You will see that the effort to crush a neighboring town in her efforts to work out her own salvation, has rebounded against you in Denver with four-fold violence," Granger wrote.

A growing number of Americans were resentful of the political and economic power that had been concentrated in the hands of a few railroad companies. "Corporation" was a term practically synonymous with railroads at the time, writes White, and "by the

1870s special privilege and monopoly had become synonymous with corporations." As railroad barons enriched themselves through rate-fixing and financial schemes, they used sophisticated lobbying operations and outright bribery to protect themselves from government scrutiny, beginning the era of excess and corruption later known as the Gilded Age.

An early populist movement known as the Grangers — named for an agricultural society, The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry — led the revolt against railroad corruption, and the backlash gained momentum after rampant financial speculation in railroad stocks helped cause the Panic of 1873 and plunge much of the country into a depression.

Henry Bromwell, a Denver Republican and a former congressman from Illinois, led a faction within Colorado's 1876 constitutional convention that was sympathetic to the Grangers.

The Bromwell faction, which also included Byron Carr, the one-armed Civil War veteran and future Colorado attorney general, influenced constitutional provisions relating to eminent domain, mining taxes and water rights, but its most controversial proposals targeted Colorado railroads.


As in many other states, the Colorado constitution was drafted with language designating railroads as "common carriers," and granting a right to the "transportation of freight or passengers" without "undue or unreasonable discrimination." Carr proposed that this right extend to transportation at "just and reasonable rates," but his motion was defeated on

an 11-22 vote. A separate proposal by Bromwell would have given the Colorado Supreme Court the power to "order and decree just and reasonable rates of compensation to such corporation for services under its charter."

The convention was inundated with letters from influential territorial figures, including Evans and his fellow railroad baron David Moffat, warning against such provisions. In Pueblo, where political and business leaders were overjoyed by the A.T. & S.F.'s arrival, they provoked a broadside in the Chieftain, which decried the "absurdity and falsity" of the Supreme Court proposal and other "Bromwellian resolutions." With roughly seven members, the convention's Granger faction was heavily outnumbered by moderate Republicans and Democrats, and the Supreme Court proposal was defeated.

"Colorado, with a vast territory, a sparse population, few railroads, and undeveloped resources, was cautious about offending capital," historian Colin Goodykoontz observed in a 1940 Colorado Magazine article. "There were also some who were afraid that the business interests of the Territory would throw their influence against the Constitution if they had strong reasons for disliking the document."

Though the Granger movement largely came up short in Colorado in the 1870s, the populist backlash against railroads would continue to build, leading to congressional investigations of railroad corruption and the establishment in 1887 of the Interstate Commerce Commission, a federal transportation regulating body.



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Learn to Read! Read to Learn!

We read using our eyes. We use the alphabet. People who cannot see well or are blind can read Braille, a system of raised dots, with their fingers. People who are deaf may read lips or fingers spelling out hand signals, in addition to the printed word.

Read the clues about reading to fill in the crossword puzzle:

- We read using the letters of the _____.
- When we read _____ we are able to share stories.
- We read for fun and to _____.
- We read signs by seeing the words or _____.
- We read words, _____ and paragraphs.
- We read using our _____.
- Some people, who cannot see well or are blind, may read using _____, a system of raised dots.
- We learn new words and _____ when we read.
- We read from the left side to the _____.
- We can read about places we can _____ to and places we might not.
- We read music by reading the _____.
- People who are deaf may read finger _____, or hand signals as well as the printed word!

Braille

alphabet

sentences

learn

ideas

travel


notes

right

eyes

aloud

spelling

We re nuts...  Tortoise and the Hare

Whale of a Tail

Treasure Hunts

...about reading!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

What Word Do We Use the Most?

Do you know what word is used the most in written materials?

There are 3 letters in my puzzle. Connect dots in the first one by following the numbers. Then, follow the alphabet in the middle one. Finally, connect the numbered dots of the last letter to see the word we use the most.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

N A D E

B C F

J I

L K H G

A Recipe for Reading!



We Read:

- | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------------|
| recipes | labels | announcements |
| poetry | maps | bulletin boards |
| symbols | charts | invitations |
| signs | flyers | directions |
| notices | letters | newspapers |
| websites | books | magazines |
| articles | diaries | instructions |
| comics | plays | scrapbooks |

Read for fun!

Read to learn!

I love puzzles!

A L K H N S E T I S B E W N B F E S B I B Q S I S
 W N I R T O P V B G A E S Z U G T L B Y U W I M E
 J E R T G L A P Q O T N H C Y U S E B I L U G A L
 A N E W S P A P E R S N I P A E W T V Y L I N E C
 I U X D C O M I C S Q Y Q T L V B T S O E U S N I
 D I X O I Q T W S P O D M X C A T E R B T B U I T
 V N S K O O B P A R C S Q B U I Y R E V I L K S R
 X S F V D B U I V O W E R I O N G S Y B N P L N A
 F T I N V I T A T I O N S J L L B L L F B P O O A
 R R U I O Y R T E O P V B I O P S T F N O V B I S
 B U B S D F G H S T N E M E C N U O N N A S P T L
 C C O O M V O I U D G S M M V N J U W P R T B C W
 X T S O O M P S X M N E W A J U R T S O D R P E A
 Q I B P U K X E S F G I V N P L A B E L S A P R T
 N O U R I S S P V B I R X P O S W T Y Y S H K I N
 Y N S Y T L E I S L H A P R Y U C N S T D C O D I
 W S M B P O L C C P G I I N O T I C E S P D I O Z
 M A G A Z I N E S O T D I W S O A Z S L O B M Y S
 B P W T Y V A R P O N M O I L M E X B I N V E S Q

Read Right! Read Left!

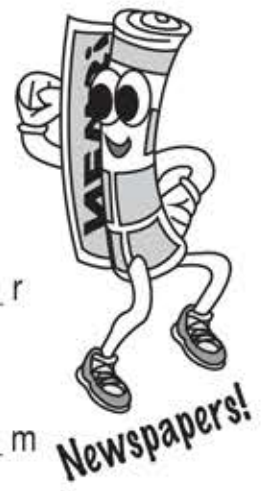
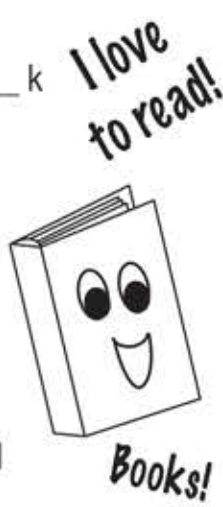
We read English words and sentences from left to right. The languages of Arabic and Hebrew are read from right to left.

Here are some fun English words that can be read in both directions and still have meaning for us. Study the words and fill in the vowels that make sense:

- k _ _ p = p _ _ k
- st _ p = p _ ts
- p _ ls = sl _ p
- t _ p = p _ t
- st _ r = r _ ts
- l _ v _ = _ v _ l
- n _ w = w _ n
- n _ t = t _ n
- s _ w = w _ s
- r _ _ d = d _ _ r
- b _ t = t _ b
- m _ _ d = d _ _ m



?TFEL OT THGIR MORF DAER UOY NAC



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO

MARCH 21, 2006

Mike and Jill Curiel of Bennett are the proud owners of a new Saddlebred filly, born on their property in Box Elder Estates on Superbowl Sunday. The filly is a purebred, and yet a quick glance around the barn reveals there are no other Saddlebreds in sight. The filly's mother, a mare named Miss Riley, was in Kentucky on the day of her birth.

How can this be?

The Curiels' filly is the result of embryo transplant, a new technology becoming popular in the horse breeding business.

Miss Riley was inseminated using sperm from a stallion named Attache's Royal Asset. The embryo was then flushed and transferred to a donor mare owned by Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The Curiels brought that mare to their property for the duration of her pregnancy and for the coming months until the filly is weaned. The technology enables the owners of show horses to keep their mares in top showing condition. Only one egg can be harvested per cycle. Despite its touted benefits, the technology comes with an expensive price tag. Mike Curiel estimated the cost of the embryo flush alone to be in the neighborhood of \$4,000, a big investment.

It is important that a close eye is kept on the mare before she gives birth, as well as on the mare and her foal afterward.

15 YEARS AGO

MARCH 22, 2011

BENNETT — Local bank officials discussed debit and credit card fraud occurring in the area at the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce meeting March 16.

Gary Duke of Guaranty Bank said much of the local identify theft involves debit cards.

"We're having a lot of debit card numbers that are being used. Mine was one of those. All of the sudden, false transactions start coming through your account," Duke said.

Skimmers placed on ATM machines, as pumps, car washes and so on, read card numbers.

"Once the numbers are read, they can be packaged up and sold to different locations," Duke said, adding that the devices are also used in restaurants. "You hand someone your card and they leave the table with it and they can skim the card for information. Some [people]

will absolutely not let someone walk away from the table with their card — they'll follow them [to the register]."

Some banks have services to watch transactions, Duke said.

"That's how mine was caught. We have a service that showed a \$420 transaction at a gas station in San Jose, Calif. They called me and said, 'this doesn't seem right,' and I told them I wasn't in San Jose."

Duke said examining one's debit card statements is key, as is notifying your bank immediately if you find unauthorized activity. "There are some legal time limits (in which) you have to let the banks know there's been a problem, generally 60 to 90 days. If you don't, you lose some of your rights."

10 YEARS AGO

MARCH 22, 2016

DEER TRAIL - A spike in the high school ineligibility list has Deer Trail School Board members seeking answers.

During their March 15 meeting, directors unanimously approved temporarily amending Policy JJ-R to allow secondary students to attend this spring's prom despite their presence on the academically ineligible list. The districts current ineligibility policy is one 'E'.

The primary point of contention is that 16 of the 18 students currently on the ineligibility list are failing the same class taught by the same teacher. Parents at the meeting stated that an exception for prom attendance should be made.

Board members agreed that both the eligibility policy and current class situation must be addressed.

"It sure looks like we have an issue that needs to be addressed," said board member Thomas Cox.

Superintendent Kevin Schott said Deer Trail's current link to prom and eligibility is new to him and should probably be further discussed. He also suggested that the eligibility policy be amended to be a little friendlier to students.

"We really want our students to succeed and allowing them an opportunity or two to do that is probably something we need to look into," he said.

Principal Dave Casey added, "In all my experiences with kids, it's about one word — hope. You give a kid hope that there is something good at the end and he or she is more likely to continue working hard towards succeeding."

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

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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 22

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, March 18, the 77th day of 2026. There are 288 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On March 18, 1925, nearly 700 people died when the Tri-State Tornado struck southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana; it remains the deadliest single tornado in U.S. history.

ALSO ON THIS DATE

In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.)

In 1937, in America's worst school disaster, nearly 300 people — most of them children — were killed in a natural gas explosion at the New London Consolidated School in Rusk County, Texas.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the War Relocation Authority, which forced Japanese Americans into internment camps during World War II.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gideon v. Wainwright, ruled unanimously that state courts were required to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who could not afford to hire an attorney on their own.

In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1990, two thieves posing as police officers subdued security guards at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum of Art in Boston and stole 13 works of art valued at over \$500 million in the biggest art heist in history; the works have not been recovered.

been recovered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Brad Pitt is 76. Filmmaker Luc Besson is 67. TV personality Mike Rowe is 64. Singer-actor Vanessa L. Williams is 63. Rapper-actor Queen Latifah is 56. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 54. Singer Adam Levine (Maroon 5) is 47. Actor Lily Collins is 37. Actor Ciara Bravo is 29.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: PLANTS

ACROSS

1. Canvas primer
6. Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.
9. Heroin, slang
13. Poetic although
14. Indochinese language
15. Part of a whole
16. Like certain suspects
17. Rainbow, e.g.
18. Not mainstream, as in art
19. "Coast ____," world's tallest tree
21. "Vanilla-producing plant
23. Classic film production company, acr.
24. ____ in the neck
25. ____ the season!
28. Ready and eager
30. "Reader's ____" magazine
35. "Do ____ others..."
37. Rubber bulb on an old bike
39. "Lord of the Flies" shell
40. Bear's den
41. "Colorful daisy-like bloom
43. "The corpse flower emits a foul one
44. Spouse's parent
46. EU money
47. Unadulterated
48. Fish food unit
50. Karl of politics
52. Between NE and E
53. Fat Man or Little Boy
55. Major time period
57. "Fastest-growing plant
60. "Coffee ____ a.k.a. coffee plant
64. Dam
65. Slovenly abode
67. More painful
68. Change the Constitution
69. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
70. Black tie one
71. Shakespeare, a.k.a. ____ of Avon
72. Kum Ba follower
73. What defense does, after presenting

DOWN

1. India's wild ox
2. Something ____
3. Poker variety
4. Medieval oboe
5. Study of bird eggs
6. Armor-____
7. Distant
8. Cold-weather drink
9. Hyperbolic sine
10. Ghana money
11. Battery fluid, e.g.
12. "Wow!"

CROSSWORD

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	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
35			36		37		38	39			
40					41		42	43			
44			45		46			47			
48				49	50		51	52			
53				54		55		56			
57	58	59			60			61	62	63	
64				65	66			67			
68					69			70			
71					72			73			

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15. Alfresco meal
20. Nebraska's largest city
22. Antonym of keep
24. Throw out of kilter
25. "It once was more valuable than gold
26. Absurd
27. Static picture
29. "U. S. national flower
31. Gwyneth Paltrow's brand
32. Empower
33. Open disrespect
34. "Leaves of ____," let them be
36. Non-written exam
38. Infamous Roman tyrant
42. Space exploration vehicle
45. Like duck's foot
49. Likewise
51. Pencil tip
54. "Covered with sphagnum
56. Beyond's partner
57. Pulpit predecessor
58. Affirm with confidence
59. Darn a sock, e.g.
60. Nursemaid, in India
61. Wraths
62. One-tenth of a dime
63. Liberal pursuits
64. Blood testing site
66. "Camellia sinensis drink

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

Lunar Surrender

The ocean surrenders to the moon, the moon surrenders to the dark, and the dark surrenders to the great quiet — where there is nothing to fear and nothing to defend. The darkest hour is just before dawn. Light will flicker again. Hope will shimmer across the water. The new season is gathering in the swell.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know what's expected of you, but that doesn't mean you have to do it. You'll defy expectation, creating a dynamic of fascination. This isn't about delivering beyond what they want. It's about bravely doing what you want.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just as you can't tell what kind of charge is in a battery until you hook it up to something that uses the power, you don't know what capabilities are inside you until you're in a position to use them. The challenge teaches you what you're made of.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whether it's a person or a sandwich, the truth lives in the middle, in the texture between extremes. Depth requires exposure to the unremarkable — the complicated middle parts that really give you the experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The reward for excellence is often that you're expected to do more excellence — only faster and cheaper. This hardly seems fair or logical, but somehow, you'll find a way to turn it all in your favor. Excellence wins.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A hundred rainfalls may not seem to make the ocean appear any deeper, but there's no question that the ocean is made in drops. This is one of those days when you might not feel your progress, but trust that it's happening little by little.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Love will occur like the wind -- an unseen force more known by what it moves than what it is. Love will come to you in many forms — congenial, romantic and platonic — sometimes all in the same relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will work better when you know why the work is

necessary and what it accomplishes for you and for others. Delving into your "why" will lead to ideas that make hard work feel lighter and all work seem rooted to your purpose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Finding new inspiration is a form of adding to your team. You'll be guided by the ideas a person or work embodies, and these ideas can fuel and inform what you do like a colleague working alongside you would.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You cannot step in the same river twice, nor can you witness the same sky or live through the same day. You'll find splendor in the commonplace things you know so well and at the same time recognize as impossible to know fully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The beginning can be a tedious place to start. What's in the middle? Doing things out of order will be lucky. Can you start with your finishing touches? It will motivate you to at least have them in mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're easy to open up to. You sometimes learn more about people than you wanted to know. Still, it's better to know more than not enough. What you hear today helps you anticipate moves and choose yours carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People genuinely want to please you. Instead of hoping they'll guess how, tell them. Share your preferences. State your boundaries. Clear expectations make everything easier.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March. 18). Welcome to your Friendliest Year, when your social circles expand in wit and warmth. Your inner sight sharpens your amazing people skills. That and impeccable timing will lead to deals, fun and personal victories. More highlights: A practical decision multiplies income. A lateral career move proves visionary. Love grows playful and profound. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 36, 10, 23 and 42.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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G	E	S	S	O	C	F	C	S	C	A	G	
A	L	T	H	O	L	A	O	P	I	E	C	E
U	S	U	A	L	A	R	C	I	N	D	I	E
R	E	D	W	O	O	D	O	R	C	H	I	D
					M	G	M	P	A	I	N	
T	I	S	Y	A	R	E	D	I	G	E	S	T
U	N	T	O	H	O	R	N	C	O	N	C	H
L	A	I	R	A	S	T	E	R	O	D	O	R
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L	E	V	E	E	S	T	Y	S	O	R	E	R
A	M	E	N	D	S	E	A	E	V	E	N	T
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Fish fry hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 13221. Cod, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, Tater Tots, coffee, lemonade. \$7 for one piece of cod; \$10 for two pieces; \$25 per family. Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church, Byers.

Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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 Community Room.

SUNDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 23

West Arapahoe Conservation District Board. 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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 while 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, MARCH 25

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

EVERY MONDAY

High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hpmemusicdirector@gmail.com or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.

AA open meeting. 7 p.m., white historic Victorian schoolhouse at Ace Hardware parking lot, 21761 U.S. Highway 40, Limon. For more information, call Sara at (828)243-7681.

EVERY TUESDAY

Toddler Time: Children ages 2-3 listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy activities that are just right for active toddlers. 10-10:30 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

Family story time. 10:30-11 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

Teen Hangout: Teens ages 13-18 hang out, play games, and enjoy snacks with friends. Gaming consoles, board games, crafts, other activities available. 3:30-6 p.m., Anythink Bennett library.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Young at Heart Seniors in Bennett. 12-4 p.m., Bennett Community Center.

BENNETT BOT

were southbound — 13% at the Greg's Place collection point where the posted speed limit is 35 mph and 20% immediately north of the Old Victory Road intersection where the posted limit is 45 mph.

The highest compliance rate was 92% for southbound traffic near Mount View Cemetery where the speed limit is 65 mph. The second highest compliance rate was 66% — northbound traffic near the Eighth Street entry to the Bennett Elementary parking lot.

The two largest percentages of excessive speeders were also where the lowest compliance rates were seen — 33% at the Old Victory intersection and 25% at Greg's Place.

The speed data was taken 24 hours a day for five consecutive days late last year using traffic data collectors that were installed on signposts along the side of the highway.

Stiles added that communication is occurring between CDOT and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office about mitigating speeding in the near future. She said that state highway officials are not high on rumble strips on the highway as a deterrent. Town-based mitigation efforts are unlikely since Highway 79 is a state roadway. Whether additional sheriff patrols during peak traffic hours are a possibility is uncertain.

"We are really working on ideas to keep our residents safe," Stiles said.

CIVIC PARK CONSTRUCTION

Public Works Director Oscar Ruvalcaba announced that the baseball and softball fields at Civic Center Park west of the rec center and town hall should be completed by the end of the month and should be open for practices and games later in the spring.

He also said that the new park's splash pad and playground have been installed, field lighting is progressing, paving has been completed, and new concrete around concessions and rest room was almost complete.

"Final flatwork minus whatever punchlist items might be," he said.

Some last minute additions to the park will be installed intermittently, including batting/pitching cages, a maintenance shed for equipment, extending the netting for one of the fields to protect the splash pad, and shade structures.

An intergovernmental agreement between the town and Bennett Park & Recreation District concerning management at the new fields is expected to be voted on by trustees either March 24 or April 14.

NEW EMERGENCY SHELTER

After several years at the Bennett Recreation Center, the Adams County Office of Emergency Management said it will move its emergency shelter to the Bennett Community Center on the west edge of town.

"Basically a temporary comfort location for an emergency situation — various disasters like tornadoes or a snowstorm that strands travelers. Or in a power safety shutoff, provide a center to charge things up," said Adams County OEM Manager Ron Sigman, noting a generator will be provided to the site. "We could shelter, house and sleep up to 125 overnight but we don't expect that to happen too much. It's a facility that is very needed, very valuable."

All necessary equipment will be housed in a county trailer at the community center.

Map of Speed Data Collection Locations

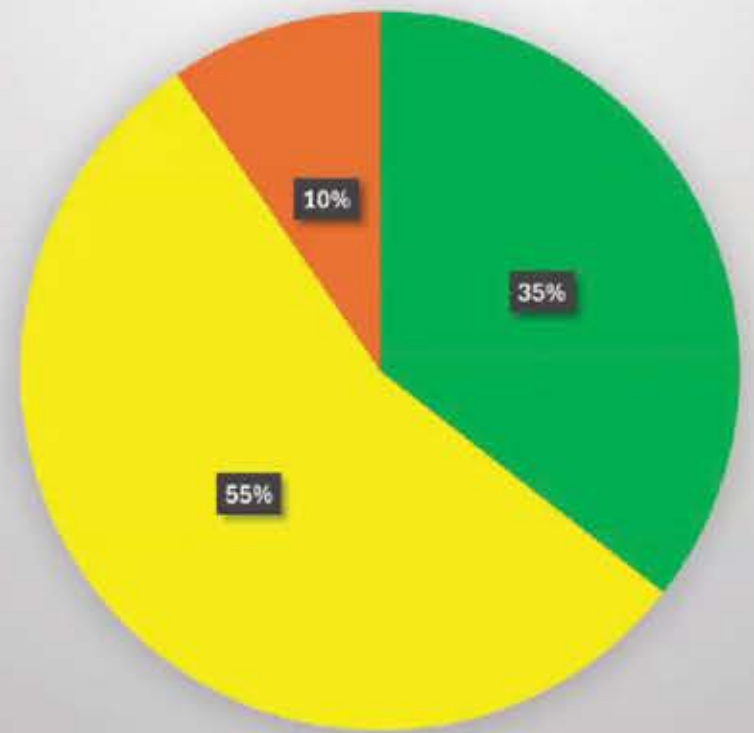


SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Late last year, the Colorado Department of Transportation set four electronic traffic data collectors along a 1.1-mile stretch of Highway 79 in the northeast corner of Bennett, above map. The results were recently released and the overall compliance rate was only 35%, below graph.

SH 079B, MP 1.90 SB
 Speed Limit Compliance

■ Compliance ■ 1-10 mph over ■ 11+ mph over



Trustees unanimously approved an IGA with Adams County ratifying the move.

OTHER ITEMS

- Recent strong winds have wreaked havoc on the new dynamic wind sculpture in front of town hall and efforts are in place to replace panels and make other repairs. "About 1,500 items need fixed," Stiles said. "A welder and the artist are working on the fix."
- Trustees approved a final development plan amendment for Tractor Supply Co., allowing an additional 2,442-square-foot storage

addition and detached storage container. Other improvements include parking lot and landscaping repairs and an ADA-compliant sidewalk to West Marketplace Drive.

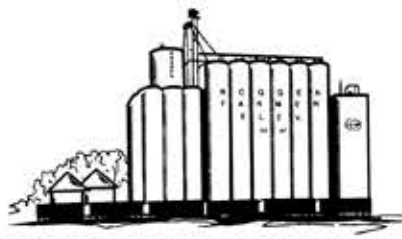
- A recent water leak at Fourth Street and Palmer Avenue required replacement of lines with copper pipe.
- At the intersection of Adams Street and Colfax, drainage improvements are in the works but funding the project is still up in the air.

Efforts include applying for a Safe Routes to School grant.

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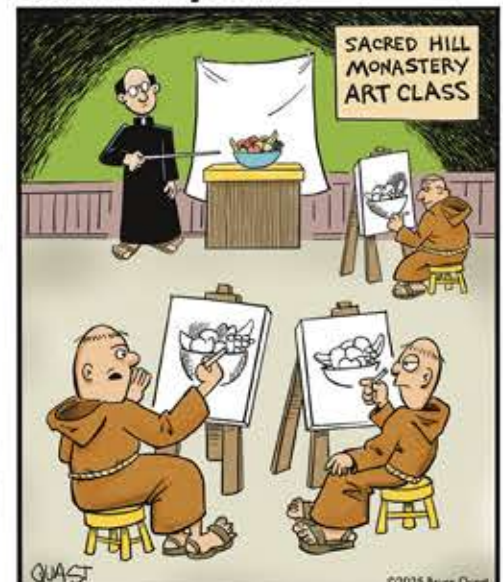
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Peeps Puff Pastry Baskets

STATEPOINT — Looking for simple ways to elevate your Easter celebrations? This spring, home bakers are embracing bright colors, playful details, and easy upgrades that turn classic treats into eye-catching centerpieces.

From pastel cupcakes and fruit-filled tarts to brunch-worthy pastries, festive finishing touches can instantly elevate your spread. The best part? With a few smart shortcuts and decorative flourishes, busy families can create desserts that look bakery-level beautiful — without spending all day in the kitchen.

One simple way to bring personality to seasonal treats is by incorporating Peeps Marshmallow into your baking. Its signature chick and bunny shapes and cheerful hues make them a natural fit for everything from cupcakes and brownies to pastry creations and dessert boards. Just one or two on top can transform an everyday treat into a celebration-ready showpiece.

“Whether you’re hosting brunch or bringing dessert to share with friends and family, Peeps can help tie your baking into the spring season,” says Caitlin Servian, brand manager at Peeps. “Our classic chicks and bunnies add a playful finishing touch that instantly makes spring desserts feel special and unmistakably festive.”

Spring entertaining doesn’t have to be complicated to feel memorable. By incorporating ingredients that reflect the flavors of the season, you can create desserts that spark smiles the moment they hit the table. To help inspire your celebrations, baking influencer Sheri Wilson is sharing her Peeps Puff Pastry Baskets recipe featuring Peeps Pop-Tarts Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chicks. Created in collaboration with Pop-Tarts, the Frosted Strawberry flavor adds a sweet and fruity twist that pairs perfectly with fresh berries and whipped cream, making it an ide-

al treat that delivers both convenience and wow-factor for spring gatherings.

EASTER DESSERT

INGREDIENTS

- 4 sheets puff pastry, thawed
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 cups heavy cream, whipped
- 1 cup sliced strawberries, plus extra for garnish
- 1 package Peeps Pop-Tarts Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chicks
- Royal icing flowers, optional

DIRECTIONS

1. Unroll the thawed puff pastry sheets and cut out 8 rounds with a large circle cutter or mini tart pan. Place 4 rounds onto a lined baking sheet.
2. Cut out the centers of the remaining pastry rounds with a slightly smaller cutter.
3. Brush the larger rounds with egg wash, then place a pastry ring on top of each one. Brush again with egg wash. Top with a second pastry ring and brush again with egg wash. Poke the bottoms with a fork to prevent it from bubbling up while baking.
4. To make the basket handles, slice ½-inch strips of pastry, then twist into a rope. Place onto a baking sheet in a half-moon shape and brush with egg wash. Bake for about 10 minutes at 400 to 420°F or until puffed up and golden brown.
5. Once baked and cooled, press the middles of each pastry basket down with a spoon. Fill with sliced strawberries and whipped cream.
6. Top each one with a Peeps Pop-Tarts Frosted Strawberry Flavored Marshmallow Chick, halved strawberries, and a royal icing flower. To complete each basket, gently press the pastry handles into the whipped cream.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, March 19: Cheesy beef steak.
March 23-26: Spring break

BYERS

March 16-20: Spring break.
Monday, March 23: Chicken tenders, biscuit, carrots and broccoli.
Tuesday, March 24: Pulled pork sandwich, cucumber rings, mixed fruit.
Wednesday, March 25: Chicken alfredo, bread sticks, green beans, peaches.

STRASBURG

Thursday, March 19: Meatball sub sandwich, pasta salad.
Friday, March 20: Chicken sandwiches.

DEER TRAIL

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.

BENNETT

March 16-19: Spring break.
Monday, March 23: Asada fries with ranch.
Tuesday, March 24: Kalua pig with Hawaiian macaroni salad.
Wednesday, March 25: Lasagna, garlic knots.

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Bennett Middle School hosted a four performances of "Disney The Little Mermaid JR." March 12-13 at the high school auditorium. Twenty-seven sixth- through eighth-graders showed off their acting skills during one Thursday night performance and three more on Friday afternoon and evening. The students, under the direction of music and drama teacher Allyse Brennan, are, clockwise from top left, Flounder, played by Kaylee Wisner, is in the middle of a heart made by Mer Sisters, played by Olivia Boh, Bryleigh Shwartz, Lillian Filkin, Gabriella Torres, Elena Walden and Camille Garrett; Ariel, played by Madelyne Travis, and Prince Eric, played by John Westendorf, sit in the boat together; seagulls Bethany Barela and Shaelyn Krieger flap and sing; and Sebastian, played by Archer Camm, raises his arms as fish swim around him.



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