



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 21

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Bennett School bond Q under consideration

District residents urged to participate in upcoming phone survey concerning possible ballot item

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Residents within the Bennett School District are being urged to not ignore an upcoming call as efforts are being made to ask their opinion about a possible school bond question on the November ballot.

During the April 8 Bennett School Board meeting, Superintendent Rob-Purdy said that an election consultant will be contacting residents over the next week or two to get their feelings about a possible bond question in November, particularly seeking funds for campus expansion, building upgrades and safety enhancements.

“It’s not going to be spam, it’s go-

ing to come from a 303 or 720 area code from ‘John with the Bennett School District to get your feedback.’ It should start Monday (April 13) and go for about two weeks,” Purdy said. “The people that don’t answer the first time they’re contacted, we will continue to contact them because we really want them to answer our questions. We want to see how we might want to proceed in getting something in front of our voters.”

Among the questions expected to be asked is whether a certain amount of bond funds would be palatable to residents, but that figure was not disclosed during the board meeting. In the text message option, the questions will be available in multiple languag-

es. According to Purdy, six different languages are spoken by students or families within the district.

School officials are eager to see how much interest there might be to entertain the bond question a couple years after back-to-back failed efforts.

“I’ve been told we’d get the results back in about two weeks, once they are done,” Purdy said.

In 2023, Ballot Question 5A requesting \$80 million in construction bonds failed by a margin of about 26%. Approximately 1,559 voters (approximately 63%) cast ballots against the question with the remaining 906 voting in favor. The question received more support in the Adams County side of the district as 508 of 1,268

voters, almost 40%, said yes while, in Arapahoe County, only 398 of 1,193 voters, approximately 33%, voted in favor.

The 2023 question was \$30 million more than a similar request the previous year, which was defeated by a margin of approximately 56% to 44% across the district.

If similar to the 2022 and 2023 ballot proposals, a bond question would likely address the ongoing enrollment boom and student overcrowding by financing the costs of both new construction and building expansion, particularly additional career and technical education (CTE) facilities and

**SEE BENNETT BOE
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LANCE MANGHAM/For The Scout

In addition record-setting hot temperatures, unseasonably low moisture, and consistently strong winds, the I-70 Corridor has seen its fair share of wild colored sunrises and sunsets and intriguing cloud formations, including this shot taken around dusk late last month from the northwest corner of Strasburg.

Bennett ballot questions pass; voter turnout poor

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Less than a fifth of registered Bennett voters cast their ballots in the first municipal election the town has hosted in 10 years.

In addition to selecting three new members to the Bennett Board of Trustees, residents approved a pair of ballot questions during the April 7 municipal election.

While final vote tallies aren’t going to be released until the final canvass is completed likely at the end of this week or start of next, the outcomes of the three ballot items don’t appear in doubt.

“The official abstract, including the final vote count for the candidates, will be available following completion of the canvass in approx-

imately nine days,” said Bennett Town Clerk and Election Official Christina Hart the morning of April 8.

Preliminary results showed that of the 499 ballots cast, 289 residents (58%) voted in favor of Question 1 for the Bennett Road Bond and 372 (74.5%) approved Question 1A, transferring ownership of the Joe Stemo Ballfield from the town to the Bennett School District.

In the five-person race for three board of trustee vacancies, the top vote-getter was Christopher Eugene Clemens with 304 votes (61%), followed by Bonnie Teachout with 245 (49.1%) and Joshua Arbogast with 244 (48.9%).

James “Grider” Lee and Kat Crow received 168 and 161

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CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

A pair of finches sun themselves on the limb of a pine tree during a recent warm spring afternoon between Strasburg and Byers.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Area district attorney's office plans May 8 citizens academy

BRIGHTON — Participants can learn about the inner workings of the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office and criminal justice system at a one-day DA Citizens Academy Program for residents of Adams and Broomfield counties.

The class, hosted by DA Brian Mason, will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, May 8, at the District Attorney's Office, 1000 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton.

For more information and to apply, visit forms.office.com, scan the QR code, or contact chopper@dal7.state.co.us.

'Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan April monthly potluck

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Seniors Comanche VIP Association potluck begins at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, April 21, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

A speaker from CORE power company will discuss programs such as solar powered electricity for homes.

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.

Byers American Legion plans Family Play Day on April 25

BYERS — Alton Franz American Legion Post 160 is opening its doors to

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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'I Voted' sticker design contest opens

DENVER — The Colorado Secretary of State's Office last month announced a new I Voted digital sticker competition to all Colorado high school students.

"The digital 'I Voted' sticker is an opportunity for high school students across Colorado to engage with our democracy and show off their artistic skills," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

The winning sticker will be sent to voters via BallotTrax once they have voted in the upcoming General Election. It will also be featured on the Secretary of State's website, media channels, press releases, in media coverage, and as part of digital effort to encourage people to vote across the state.

Colorado Secretary of State staff will present the award at an assembly at the artist's school.

All entrants must be 13-18 years old and enrolled in a Colorado high school or Colorado homeschool program. Entries must include the words "I Voted." The submission deadline is Friday, Sept. 4.

For more information and complete rules, visit www.coloradosos.gov.

in-person town hall from 6-7:30 p.m., Monday, April 27, at Hemphill Middle School, 2100 Wagner St., Strasburg.

The commissioners will discuss neighborhoods and quality of life, including code compliance, public works, parks and open space, and neighborhood services.

To RSVP to attend in-person, receive the livestream link, or submit questions, visit the Adams County Government Facebook page.

Family military stories part of Byers July 4 celebration

BYERS — Alton Franz American Legion Post 160 wants to set up a display of military veterans for its Fourth of July celebration of America's 250th birthday, and participation is wanted.

Families with veterans are invited to contribute old photos, uniforms, awards, clippings and other memorabilia, along with stories of their veteran's service.

Assistance is available to people who need help telling their story.

To participate, call Post Commander Dale Ness at (303)594-6501; Adjutant Teresa Seggerman at (303)253-1475; or via e-mail at Byers160@outlook.com.

Parks & Rec outing destined for Denver Aquarium April 23

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 23, on an excursion to the Denver Downtown

Aquarium. The trip, which costs \$35, 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 (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.

Wallethub: Colorado tax rate is seventh-lowest in country

DENVER — Colorado was recently ranked as having the seventh-lowest effective tax rate in the nation after an analysis of its real estate, vehicle property, income and sales and excise taxes.

According to Wallethub, the state has lower taxes than all its neighbors except Wyoming and lower taxes than self-proclaimed 'low tax' states such as Florida (ninth), and Texas (42nd).

"From cutting the income tax three times and property taxes five times to exempting many additional items from the sales tax, we have helped more Coloradans keep more of their hard-earned money," said Gov. Jared Polis.

Declaration of Independence topic of Strasburg discussion

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum will host a presentation on the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence.

The lecture is the first part of a three part series. It will run from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, April 16, at the TBK Bank Community Room. The presentation will feature an overview of the American Revolution and the significance of the Declaration of Independence and its importance today.

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.

the community at-large for a special Legion Family Play Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 25, at the Legion hall, 278 W. Front St., Byers.

Post members are challenging all local cooks to enter a chili cook-off for bragging rights. Participants should bring their soup in a slow cooker for others to sample and vote on.

At the event, guests can learn about Post 160 history, how it serves the community, and its programs for youth. Corn hole competitions are planned for people of all ages and refreshments will be on hand.

For more information, contact Adjutant Teresa Seggerman at (303)253-1475 or Byers160@outlook.com.

E. Colorado Trombones plans Limon performance April 19

LIMON — Brass music fans might enjoy the warm and enriching sounds of the Eastern Colorado Trombone Choir at its annual Spring Concert

The occasion begins at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at Limon Methodist Church, 770 B Ave.

A rich variety of music, from the Renaissance to jazz to contemporary, will be performed.

Admission is free. Refreshments will follow.

Neighborhoods: AdCo bosses schedule Strasburg town hall

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Board of Commissioners will host an

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ArapCo: Input sought on proposed O&G well pad

LITTLETON — Residents in Arapahoe and Elbert counties have until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, to comment on an application to drill 12 oil and gas wells near County Line and South Oakleaf Street, Bennett.

Oakley Street is roughly five miles west of Kiowa-Bennett Road on County Line on the Arapahoe/Elbert county line.

The proposal by GMT Exploration Company LLC includes 12 oil and gas wells for the North Rim site, which is located on undeveloped property with agricultural zoning. Access would be

from County Line Road on an existing access road, which would be upgraded, and a new access road to the site.

Arapahoe County staff is now reviewing the application through the lens of oil and gas regulations in Arapahoe County's Land Development Code. Once the applicant has filed a complete application, the county will conduct a detailed review of final materials and open another two-week public comment period.

To review all documents related to the application, visit www.arapahoe-co.gov.

AdCo gets \$2M from CO Energy Office

DENVER — The Colorado Energy Office's Accelerator program has awarded Adams County's Sustainability Program and Community & Economic Development Department more than \$2 million to develop policy on renewable energy land use.

The funds will also be used on a series of three new projects to promote sustainable transportation options.

"Adams County recognizes the growing interest in cleaner transportation, including e-bikes, so it makes perfect sense for our Sustainability Program to capitalize by securing funding for these ambitious and innovative projects," said Commissioner Julie Duran Mullica, BoCC chair. "These grants will also help expand opportunities for renewable energy through thoughtful land use and policy development, while increasing access to clean transportation options across the county."

The policy initiative, according to a release, will update Adams County's land use code to support utility-scale renewable energy development, deep geothermal operations, wind and modernized solar standards. By creating clear permitting pathways, the county aims to reduce barriers to

clean energy investment, protect public health and the environment, and support long-term economic growth.

The first project funded by the Accelerator grant will install solar powered e-transportation and power hubs (e-hubs) at strategic locations throughout the county. Possible locations include Regional Transportation District (RTD) stations, recreation centers, and affordable housing communities.

With the second project, Adams County will work with Maiker Housing Partners to distribute free RTD passes to residents in select affordable housing communities.

The last project through the grant will establish an e-bike voucher program. Adams County will distribute e-bike vouchers to residents to go toward purchasing a personal e-bike. The county will offer two tiers of vouchers — one standard amount and one higher amount for income-qualified residents.

The Local IMPACT Accelerator program is providing a total of \$50 million in grants to support local governments with policy adoption to bolster local resilience, reduce emissions, and advance other state priorities.



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Pinwheels of POSSIBILITY

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

When families are supported, children can grow up safe, strong, and full of possibility. Pinwheels of Possibility celebrates the limitless potential of children and families when communities come together to support them.

Learn more at: arapahoeco.gov/humanservices



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Resources for veterans in Eastern Arapahoe County

Arapahoe County is proud to expand resources for the veterans in the Eastern Plains for both Adams and Arapahoe County residents. Meet with a Veteran Services Officer at the Byers American Legion.

April 21, 2026

Appointments available from 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Walk-ins welcome

American Legion Post 160 | 278 W. Front St., Byers

Unable to attend? Call 303-738-8045 for other appointments.

arapahoeco.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

Colorado law requires the county assessor to hear objections to real property classifications and valuations beginning May 1, 2026. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be post-marked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor's office no later than June 8, 2026.

Colorado law requires the county assessor to begin hearing objections to personal property valuations no later than June 15, 2026. Objections to personal property valuations must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor's office no later than June 30, 2026.

If you need any assistance please contact the county assessor's office at 303-795-4600.

PK Kaiser, Arapahoe County Assessor

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, and *Eastern Colorado News* on Friday, April 17.

AdCo Sheriff's K9 receives body armor donation

COMMERCE CITY — A K9 with the Adams County Sheriff's Office recently received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from the nonprofit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Khan's vest was embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of K9 Roam, Colorado Springs, CO."

Vested Interest was established in 2009. Its mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies nationwide. The potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is made in the United States, custom fitted, and certified by the National Institute of Justice.

Since its inception, Vested Interest has provided over 6,348 vests valued at \$6.9 million to K9s in all 50 states. Each vest has a value of \$1,800.

The program is open to U.S. dogs



K9 Khan shows off his new body armor.

at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with a law enforcement agency. K9s with expired vests can also participate.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s in the United States.

Kathleen Herrick-Burnet



Kathleen Chloe Herrick-Burnet was born on Sept. 4, 1941, in Littleton, Colo., to Willis and Eunice Herrick. She passed away on April 1, 2026, at the Aurora South Hospital at the age of 84½ years.

Kathleen was one of three children raised on a ranch in the Bijou Valley of Elbert County. Somehow and somewhere along the way, she became permanently known as "Kitty." She spent her entire life in and around Kiowa and Bennett, Colo.

Kitty graduated from Kiowa high school in 1959. Shortly after graduation, she took a job in Idaho Springs, Colo. While living there, she met Kelby Myers. They were married in the summer of 1961. Kitty and Kelby moved back to the Bijou Valley where they lived and managed the ranch Kitty had grown up on. On Dec. 22, 1962, they were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Steven Myers.

Kitty worked hand in hand on the ranch, and held other jobs here and there to make ends meet. Sadly, Kelby passed away on Dec. 20, 1978. Kitty and Steven stayed on the ranch until 1981 when she married James Burnet on Feb. 13 of that year. She and her son moved to the Burnet Ranch near Bennett, Colo., where she spent the rest of her life.

Kitty was a very community minded individual. While living in the Kiowa area, she was a key person on the forming of the Young Homemakers club, in which she was a cherished member. Kitty joined the Elbert County library, where she drove the bookmobile to all the schools in the county for three years. Kitty was also very active in the Republican party, and spent many hours with others promoting and raising funds for this cause.

Among her many hobbies was house decorating. She could make any plant grow. In her later years, she took up the art of quilting. She was an expert seamstress ensuring each seam was exact, and that all the colors blended perfectly.

Kitty was preceded in death by her husbands, Kelby Myers in 1948, and Jim Burnet in 2013. Kitty is survived by her son, Steven (Brenda) Myers; grandchildren Katelyn (Chad), and Kelby Myers; stepson Clint Burnet and daughter Heidi; brother Steve (Carol) Herrick; Nephew Shane (Drenda) Herrick; niece Katie (Reggie) Slater; and many dear friends.

Memorial services were held at Kiowa Creek Community Church April 14 with interment following at Mount View Cemetery in Bennett. Services were care of Love Funeral Homes.

BENNETT ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

votes, respectively.

Lee was the only one of the handful of candidates with previous Bennett trustee experience, but no incumbents ran for reelection.

The top three vote-getters will replace outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Barden and trustees Steve Dambroski and Larry Vittum.

QUESTIONS PASS

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

Throughout the election process, town officials repeatedly assured residents that the question will not raise their taxes.

"The town's existing 1% sales tax already generates significant and consistent revenue that could be used to repay bonds if the measure is approved by voters," a town statement said. "In recent years, the sales tax has generated between \$1 million and \$1.6 million per year."

According to Bennett's financial department, issuance of \$14 million in bonds is expected to result in an estimated annual payment of approximately \$830,000 with the full \$20 million resulting in a likely yearly payback of \$1.185 million.

The baseball field conveyance will result in a \$1,500 payment from the school to the town, which was the stated price in the intergovernmental agreement between the two entities dating back to 2011.

School district officials stated they

were happy with the Question 1A outcome the following night.

"Especially named after one of our esteemed retired teachers with long-time ties to not only the school but the Bennett community, it's nice to have this now under our purview," said Bennett School Superintendent Rob-in Purdy.

While the baseball diamond was owned by the town, the school uses it for many of its activities on it. School officials repeatedly indicated a desire to take over the management and oversight of the facility, including improvements to the baseball field and surrounding area.

ANEMIC TURNOUT

Despite the election being conducted via mail ballot with no physical polling place, residents did not show out en masse. In fact, the 499 ballots received by the town clerk's office was only 16.8% of the 2,965 total ballots mailed to Bennett residents.

OTHER AREA MUNICIPAL RESULTS

Approximately 80 municipalities held elections statewide April 7. Deer Trail canceled its election for lack of candidates to fill board vacancies.

Nearby towns interest that did conduct elections, included:

- Hugo, which passed a sales and use tax increase for pool and recreation and cultural programming and facilities, but failed a request to expand authorized use of sales tax revenue for street maintenance.
- Burlington, which rejected an increase to the existing lodging tax for tourism promotion;
- Ordway, which voted down a proposed to increase to its marijuana sales tax and measures to eliminate term limits.

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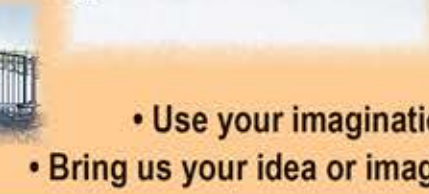
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VERTICAL PIVOT GATES

- Open/Close Vertically



- Use your imagination
- Bring us your idea or image!

COLORADO @ 150 • USA @ 250

1876: Colo. farmers battled biblical grasshopper plagues

by Chase Woodruff
Colorado Newswire

The specimen arrived in the offices of the *Las Animas Leader* in a glass bottle in late March 1876, courtesy of a local rancher: a grasshopper, about one inch in length, its wings not yet fully grown.

"The ranchman informed us that the sample sent was one of a lot of about 10,000,000 which he saw on Rule Creek," the *Leader* reported on March 31.

It was an ill omen for farmers and ranchers across Colorado's Eastern Plains as the spring planting season began. For the third year in a row, they would be battling swarms of grasshoppers — *Melanoplus spretus*, the Rocky Mountain locust — that ravaged crops in the states and territories between the Rockies and the Mississippi River.

"How to get rid of the British was the problem the land of the free and the home of the brave was called on to solve in 1776; how to get rid of the 'hopper will be, for this portion of the country at least, the problem for 1876," the *Rocky Mountain News* had written of "The Centennial Problem" in December 1875.

With Colorado's population continuing to grow — and the "mining excitements" in the San Juan Mountains and the Black Hills bringing flocks of fortune-seekers who would pay exorbitant prices for flour and other staples — more acreage was expected to be planted in the territory in the spring of 1876 than in any previous year.

"The prospects for the coming season, with one exception, are very favorable," the *Leader* reported. "The one exception is grasshoppers."

Contemporary accounts described the locust swarms in biblical terms: "One is bewildered and awed at the collective power of the ravaging host, which calls to mind so forcibly the plagues of Egypt," wrote entomologist Charles Valentine Riley in 1877.

"On the horizon they often appear as a dust tornado, riding upon the wind like an ominous hail storm, eddying and whirling about like the wild dead leaves in an autumn storm," Riley wrote. "In alighting, they circle in

myriads about you, beating against everything animate or inanimate; driving into open doors and windows; heaping about your feet and around your buildings; their jaws constantly at work biting and testing all things in seeking what they can devour."

In 1874 alone, locust swarms had caused \$50 million in crop losses across a dozen Great Plains states and territories, the U.S. Entomological Commission would later estimate. The following year, the insects "abounded all over Northern and Central Colorado, in the plains and among the mountains, as far south as the La Plata," the commission recorded. A swarm was observed on the summit of Pike's Peak in July.

That same year, in eastern Nebraska, an immense, unbroken cloud of flying grasshoppers filled the sky for 10 days in late June. "Albert's Swarm," named for the meteorologist who estimated the size of the host at 110 miles wide by 1,800 miles long, is

considered one of the largest concentrations of insects observed in recorded history.

PEST CONTROL AND DISASTER RELIEF

Pest control strategies centered on early intervention — killing a great number of locusts as soon as they hatched locally, before they were capable of flight, and hoping that mature swarms didn't migrate from elsewhere later in the growing season.

"Last year's experience proves that by a united and persistent effort, the young locusts may be subdued, and a great majority of the crops saved," the *Boulder County News* told readers on March 31, 1876. "In each neighborhood the battle should begin simultaneously, and when the pests first make their appearance. A delay of a few days is often fatal to a portion or to all of a crop."

Farmers on the Great Plains used a wide variety of methods to try to eradicate the bugs, including horse-drawn contraptions that crushed, incinerated or poisoned them with tar or kerosene.

The *Boulder County News* reprinted instructions for assembling an iron

SEE GRASSHOPPERS PAGE 6



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

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Byers Elementary Preschool Roundup

will be on **Monday, May 18, 2026**. Please call **Byers Elementary @ (303) 822-5292, ext. 1140**, to make an appointment for the roundup.

On the day of Roundup/Registration, you will need to bring your child and all the appropriate paperwork — child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency (something with your name and physical address). Registration paperwork must be completed for your child to register and be added to a class list.

Preschool students must be **3 and 4 years old on or before June 1, 2026**.

Kim Quintana

Kimberly (Kim) Quintana, passed away on April 2, 2026, surrounded by her beloved family.

Kim Elizabeth Quintana was born to proud parents Donald and Mary (Randolph) Peck in Lamar, Colo., on Nov. 26, 1965. Kim was married to Thomas Hilferty on June 24, 1989. To this union, three beautiful children, Ethan and Tanner Hilferty, and daughter Abigail (Hilferty) Johnson blessed the couple making their family complete. Thomas passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 18, 2008.

Becoming family, Kim married Anthony Quintana in Las Vegas, NV, on Nov. 25, 2017. They remained happily married until her passing.

Kim was a special person, who enjoyed camping, walking, worshipping her beloved Jesus, and being a spectacular grandma to her 8 wonderful grandchildren. There wasn't a school function, birthday, Christmas, or any other holiday or outing the grandkids had that Kim missed. She loved her family very deeply, and made sure they were all taken care of, and supported in their daily activities.

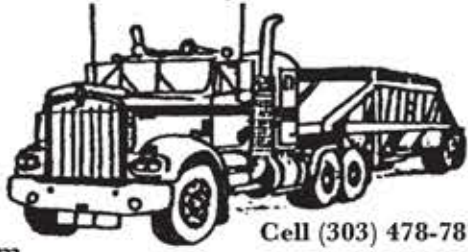
Kim loved and worshipped the Lord very deeply. She was a member of the Lighthouse Prayer and Worship team and enjoyed praying with her family and friends. Knowing the answer is sometimes "No," Kim never faltered from her faith and supported her friends and family when the "no" times came with great joy, believing something better was about to happen.

Kim was preceded in death by her parents Donald and Mary (Randolph) Peck, and her first spouse Thomas Hilferty.

Kim is survived by her spouse, Anthony Quintana, children Ethan Hilferty and wife Kara with grandchildren Ayden, Nathan, Glen, Levi, Emma, and Sadey. Also survived by son Tanner and wife Karen Hilferty, and daughter Abigail (Hilferty) Johnson and spouse Josh with grandchildren Jett, and Breez Johnson. Kim is also survived by her brother Tony and spouse Janet Peck; sister Debbie and husband Myron Sams; brother Kevin and wife Shondell Peck; sister Terri and husband Tim Brann, and sister Patti Boyd. The family requests any donations be made to the Lighthouse Worship Center in Limon, Colo.

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Agate School District Kindergarten & Preschool Roundup 9 - 11 a.m.; Thursday, April 16

Screenings will occur at Agate School, 41032 Second St., Agate, CO 80101. For more information, parents or guardians can call the main office at (719)764-2741.

For your child to be registered for the 2026-27 school year, bring a birth certificate and updated immunization record. **OUR PRESCHOOL IS FREE!**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHILD FIND

East Central BOCES and/or its member districts would like to locate all 3 through 21 year olds, who may have a disability.

The Colorado Department of Education maintains a comprehensive child identification system consistent with Part B of IDEA and ensures that each Local Education Agency (LEA), in collaboration with a variety of community resources, assumes the leadership role in establishing and maintaining a process in their community for the purpose of locating, identifying and evaluating all children, 3 through 21 years, who may have a disability and may be eligible for special education services under Part B of IDEA.

If you have any concerns about your child's growth in -

- Speech/Language Development
- Learning
- Vision and/or Hearing
- Social and/or Emotional Development
- Physical Motor Development

Ages 3 through 5 year-old concerns should be directed to the following:

- Cheyenne County (Cheyenne Wells and Kit Carson Schools)
- Lincoln County (Genoa-Hugo, Karval & Limon Schools)
- Yuma County (Idalia & Liberty Schools)
- Kit Carson County (Arriba-Flagler, Bethune, Burlington, Stratton, & Hi-Plains Schools)
- Arapahoe County (Byers, Deer Trail, Strasburg & Bennett Schools)
- Washington County (Arickaree & Woodlin Schools)
- Adams County (Bennett, Strasburg, Byers and Deer Trail Schools)
- Elbert County (Agate & Kiowa Schools)

Please contact: Stacey Brown, Child Find Coordinator - (719) 775-2342, ext. 133.

All 5 through 21 year-old concerns should be directed to the local school district administrator, special education teacher, East Central BOCES (719) 775-2342, ext. 101.

The East Central BOCES member schools are: Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail, Agate, Woodlin, Arickaree, Limon, Genoa-Hugo, Karval, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Cheyenne Wells, Arriba-Flagler, Hi-Plains, Stratton, Bethune, Burlington, Liberty, and Idalia.

References: IDEA, Part B, Section 300.125
ECEA CCR 301-8 2220-R-4.01-4.04(4)
East Central BOCES Comprehensive Plan Section III Process of Identifying

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesdays, April 15, and April 22, 2026.

Prairie plover focus of Karval fest

KARVAL — Mountain Plover Festival organizers announced April 7 that a few slots remain available for the event from Friday through Sunday, April 24-26, at Karval.

The festival is limited to 50 full weekend participants this year.

Unlike a traditional festival, visitors do not just arrive the day of the event. Reservations are required because Karval has no gas stations, hotels or restaurants. Instead, organizers provide all meals and entertainment and help arrange home stays on historic ranches or free camping spots.

In addition to the best bird-watching, calving season is also underway around Karval, which is roughly 45 miles south of Limon.

"We bring the plover lovers to the bird," Karval Community Alliance President Dan Merewether said. "Along with bird watching, our guests get the chance to mingle with farmers and ranchers who have lived on this land for generations, eat home style food, including a chuck wagon dinner with authentic western entertainment, and learn about conservation practices and the history of this unique part of Colorado."

The Mountain Plover begins arriving on Colorado's central plains in early April. Plovers find the short grass prairie and fallow fields in the area to be excellent habitat, and Kar-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Mountain Plover arrives in Eastern Colorado in April.

val has one of the largest nesting grounds in the United States. Mountain Plovers migrate over the Rocky Mountains from California, hence the name "mountain," and stay in the area through late summer.

Birders visit this area from all over the world to spot the rare Mountain Plover. Often referred to as the "ghost of the prairie," plovers blend in with the environment.

Participants will search for nests tended by both female and male plovers. Third-generation ranchers — the sons and daughters of homesteaders — will lead day and evening tours on public and private land, which includes a historic area where the Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail ran in the late 1860s, driving the large-scale movement of Texas Longhorns north to Colorado.

GRASSHOPPERS

FROM PAGE 5

"burner" and advised readers to use it during warm afternoons when locusts gathered in ditches in search of water.

"While the ditch holds them in check the blazing fire machine is drawn up and down its banks, and the hopping army is rapidly demoralized," the *News* wrote.

Such methods were likely far less effective in turning the tide against the locusts than changing patterns of agricultural production west of the Mississippi: "The hoppers have assisted in deciding the advantages of mixed crops," as the *Las Animas Leader* put it.

Peas, beans and other crops were less vulnerable to the bugs than wheat — as was corn, which quickly replaced wheat as the dominant grain crop on the Great Plains.

The last of the great swarms of Rocky Mountain locusts would descend on Colorado just as it achieved statehood in the centennial year, though the impacts were small compared to the previous two years.

"Coming generally later than in 1874, they did less damage, and the farmers were in so much better condition to withstand injury, that it was much less felt," Riley would write.

Within the next several decades, *Melanoplus spretus* went extinct entirely, as pioneers settled the West

and cultivated all the arable land they could find on the arid plains, including riparian ecosystems that were critical to the locust broods' long-term survival.

The devastating impacts of the grasshopper plagues were a formative event in the history of American agriculture. Thousands of farmers and their families were at risk of starvation in the winters of 1874 and 1875, and Congress stepped in to appropriate \$180,000 in aid and recovery funds for "persons living on the western frontier who have been rendered destitute and helpless by ravages of grasshoppers" — one of the nation's first large-scale disaster-relief programs.

"The federal programs associated with the Rocky Mountain locust and its victims in the 1870s set the stage for the next 125 years of agricultural policies in the United States," writes author Jeffrey Lockwood.

These farm relief programs would later form the basis for Dust Bowl-era aid measures and permanent New Deal institutions like the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which pays out billions of dollars each year to cover losses caused by disasters.

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



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A farmer plows a field in Routt County in this 1880s photograph.

LIBRARY NEWS

KELVER LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Toddler 'Play & Learn': In this four-part program, toddlers ages 1-3 can play and explore while their caregivers chat with an early childhood professional (e.g. child behavior specialist, music teacher, nutritionist, speech therapist) in an informal setting. Drop-ins welcome as space allows. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, April 10, 17, 24.

Books & Beyond: Kids are invited to drop in for book-themed games and crafts to celebrate favorite book characters and discover new reads. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21.

Fantasy Costume Masks Craft: Tweens and teens can create a fantasy costume mask with paints and fancy embellishments. All supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, April 21.

Citizenship study group: Adult advanced English learners can learn about the citizenship process and prepare for interviews. They will explore free civics resources and increase their reading and writing skills. 1:30-3 p.m., Thursday, April 23.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

www.arapahoelibraries.org

Tummy Time & Social Hour: Drop in for a welcoming program where babies can explore while parents and caregivers connect, share and learn. Quilts, toys and books provided. Early childhood professionals on hand to answer questions. "Tummy time" helps babies increase motor function, core strength and early social

and literacy skills. 1:30-3 p.m., Friday, April 24.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

495 Seventh St.
(303)405-3231

anythinklibraries.org

Open hours with CSU Extension: Representatives from Colorado State University Extension in Adams County will be on hand to discuss gardening, farming and youth development opportunities through 4-H — including animal care, STEM, and health and life skills. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16.

Craft Night: Adults will design and decorate their own birdhouse at this monthly craft night. No crafting experience needed. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League to enjoy "Chopped: Artist Edition," a playful challenge that encourages artistic creations using limited supplies. 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 18.

All about Hydroponics: Kids ages 7-12 and their caregivers can learn the basics of plant care and discover how a hydroponic system works through this 4-H program. They will start a hydroponic garden at the library and watch it grow over the coming weeks. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21.

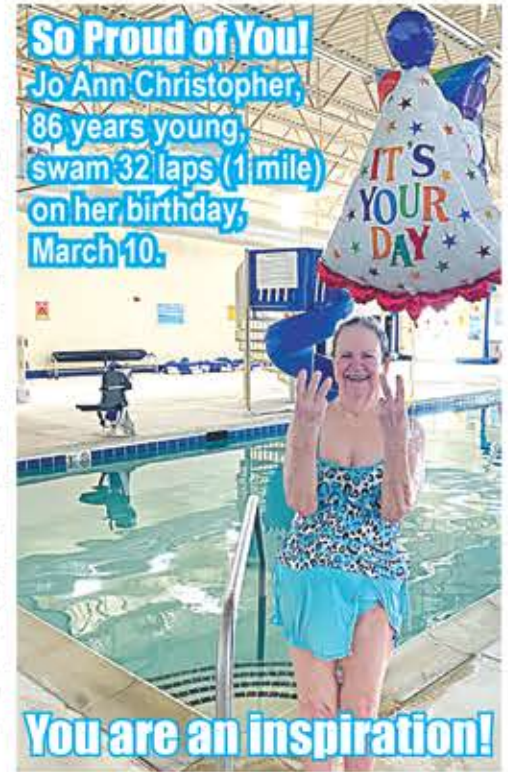
Open Create with CCAL: Adult artists can collaborate at a gathering hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League (CCAL). They can bring their own projects and supplies or choose from a variety provided by the library. 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 22.

Kid's Day Party: Celebrate the beloved Mexican tradition of Día del

Niño — Kids' Day — with activities, performances and treats for all ages — starting with a Mariachi Las Dahlias performance at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 30. Families can create their own piñata (one per family, as supplies allow) filled with candy from 4:30-6 p.m., and Ballet Folklórico will perform from 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Other activities will include face painting and balloon art. Food and supplies available on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration required.

Saturday Storytime: A cheerful morning of stories, songs, rhymes and hands-on activities that spark imagination and learning — perfect for toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-6 — will occur at an external venue. 10-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 25, KB Home, 47369 Magnolia Ave., Bennett.





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MCC Foundation Gala raises \$196K

The Morgan Community College (MCC) Foundation Feb. 27 hosted its 27th annual Gala, "Pathways to Promise."

The gala raised \$196,000 through raffle ticket sales; sponsorships; silent, live, and paddle auctions; other gala activities; and in-kind donations. The net proceeds, estimated at \$132,500, will be used to support MCC students by funding scholarships, programs, and new and innovative technology.

Through the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI), including the COSI Achieve program, the Foundation's eligible dollars will be matched 1:1, potentially doubling available scholarship funding to \$228,000.

"This year's gala was a tremendous success! We are very grateful for the support received from the community for the gala and the turnout the night of the event," stated MCC Executive

Director of Development, MaKyle Mares. "We raised a substantial amount of funds in one evening for student scholarships; those dollars will create a great positive impact for our students."

The Mark Arndt Event Center at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush hosted this year's venue.

Participants engaged in fun activities like the Live Auction, Silent Auction, Scholar Bingo, Balloon Pop, and Heads & Tails. Kim Maxwell won the Reverse Raffle's \$5,000 grand prize, sponsored by FMS Bank, and generously donated it back to the MCC Foundation.

For more information about giving to the Morgan Community College Foundation, contact the Executive Director of Development, MaKyle Mares, at (970) 542-3113 or MaKyle.Mares@MorganCC.edu, or visit the MCC Foundation website at www.morgancc.edu/giving.



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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

One of the highlights of the March 26 Bennett Elementary Not so Talented: Talent Show Night put on by teachers and staff was the lip-sync battle between NSYNC and the Back Street Boys. Teams were Megan Bornhoft and Sydney Monarrez, above, and Heather Upton and Kallie Montez, below.



BENNETT BOE

FROM PAGE 1

emergency system improvements. Whether a new high school campus on the west edge of town would be included this time around is uncertain.

Board member Nancy Barden said that the pending proposal “has no fat” and addresses the most pressing deficiencies across campus.

On the issue of increased student count, Purdy noted that the high school has 100-plus students in three of four grades — 103 freshmen, 92 sophomores, 104 juniors, and 106 seniors slated to graduate May 22. In the middle school, the 268 student count consists of 86 sixth-graders, 89 seventh-graders, and 93 eighth-graders. The intermediate school has 275 students — 97 third-graders, 79 fourth-graders, and 99 fifth-graders. Of the 256 primary school students, 91 are first-graders, 72 second-graders, and 89 third-graders. In the preschool, 19 are 3-year-olds and 66 are 4-year-olds. Under the Bennett School District umbrella, there are 1,832 students, but 543 are in the Sky Ranch Charter Academy, which currently goes from preschool through ninth grade; a sophomore class will be added in 2026-27.

TRANSPORTATION

During his transportation report, Operations Manager Nick Ophaug noted the need to get more serious about developing consolidated pick-up and drop-off hubs along several of the existing routes and that multiple new routes will likely be necessary as additional houses are built.

According to Ophaug, at least 75 new home sites have had ground broken and foundations started in the four westernmost subdivisions of town. Two of those subdivisions — SkyView and neighboring Horizon Village — will have proper sidewalks in place this summer so secondary students can walk to campus.

Ophaug added that tightening pick-up and drop-off sites throughout the district will be necessary.

“Already this year, we’ve reduced the eight bus stops in the Centennial subdivision down to three,” he said. “In the Bennett Crossing subdivision, we have 30 students picked up at one stop and another 15-20 at another one. Something we need to look at more.”

For the year, eight drivers have so far accumulated 112,000 miles, which is on track for the average annual travel distance of approximately 180,000 miles.

“About 1,000 miles per vehicle per month,” Ophaug said. “School bus usually gets capped at about 250,000 miles but that’s for buses that stay on paved roads. We don’t have that luxury because of our county roads — beating up the shocks, cracked windshields (etc.). Our buses are 12-years-old now, but already we are at \$40,000 to \$50,000 in parts, which is our usual annual threshold. We started Monday (April 6) with four broke down buses, so had all our backup buses running.”

Ophaug also added that the cost of a replacement school bus now is around \$190,000.

Ophaug also said the district is looking to subscribe to Transfinder, the No. 1 safety-rated school bus software. The startup cost is \$10,000 to start and \$8,000 annually after that.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Purdy announced that the district has a new School Resource Officer that she and other district officials will meet April 27. An intergovernmental agreement between the district and Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office is in the works concerning the new SRO arrangement.
- The board approved purchasing K-12 McGraw Hill Inspire Science curriculum for five years at an annual cost of approximately \$40,000.
- Renewal of the bus maintenance contract with Sherer Auto of Bennett was unanimously approved.
- Among the personnel issues addressed were the resignations of secondary band teacher Valerie White and secondary vocal instructor Allyse Brennan; the hiring of High School Assistant Principal Anthony Perez and District Business Clerk Kassy Maroquin; and the later moves of Christopher Stemo from high school athletic director to elementary and intermediate school dean of students and Travis Conroy from secondary dean of students to interim athletic director.

BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS!
6 PM, Friday, April 24
High School Auditorium

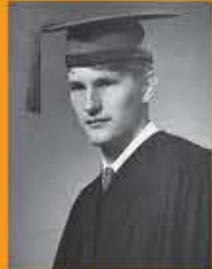
Join us to honor this year’s Class:



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Town of Bennett

Mayor's Message

Bennett continues to grow, with exciting progress on key projects and plans for the future. From advancing economic development through “Upper-Tunity 2.0,” to the upcoming opening of Civic Center Park and continued investment in water infrastructure, our community is moving forward.

The April election marked an important moment for Bennett. We hope you made your voice heard, and I look forward to working alongside our newly elected Trustees as we continue shaping the future of our community together.

Stay informed, stay engaged, and see what’s ahead for Bennett.

Read the Mayor’s full community update online by scanning the QR Code.



www.bennettco.gov/town-board-trustees/page/mayors-message

Strasburg Kampground receives KOA accolades

BILLINGS, Mont. —Denver East/Strasburg KOA Holiday was recently recognized with the prestigious KOA ICON Award from Kampgrounds of America, Inc.

This recognition highlights campgrounds that demonstrate exceptional operational excellence, customer satisfaction, and a commitment to the KOA brand.

The KOA ICON Award is granted to the top 10% of KOA campgrounds across North America. In its second year, the recognition program focuses on measurable performance metrics and brand participation, celebrating campgrounds that consistently go above and beyond to provide superior experiences for their guests.

“Great campgrounds don’t just deliver one memorable weekend — they offer excellence, stay after stay,” said Toby O’Rourke, KOA president.

As a KOA ICON campground, the Strasburg KOA Holiday will enjoy unique benefits designed to amplify its achievement, including dated logo placement on KOA.com, enhanced award designation marketing materials, and recognition in KOA corporate marketing initiatives.

As an ICON award winner, the Strasburg KOA also meets KOA’s World Class Guest Service standard, reflecting its commitment to exceptional guest experiences.

The Kampground is located at 1312 Monroe St. and is open year-round.

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



“Oh, it doesn’t actually DO anything. It’s a scale model.”

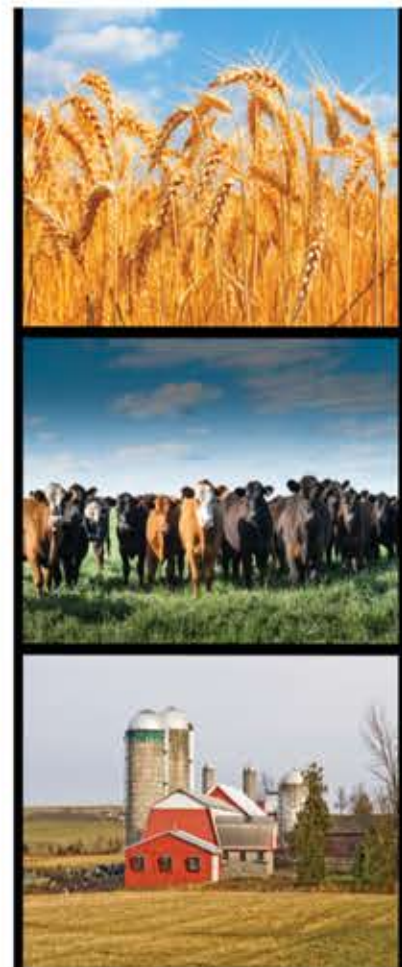
Archaeologist plans to bare past of ArapCo history site

LITTLETON — Rarely displayed artifacts from the archives will be unveiled for a fascinating look at the history and archaeological discoveries of one of Arapahoe County’s main historical sites.

A discussion with local archaeologist Dr. Gordon Tucker will run from 10-11 a.m., Saturday, April 25, at the 17 Mile House, 8181 S. Parker Road, Centennial. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a tour of the house and artifacts will occur.

Built in the mid-1800s as a rest stop for pioneers traveling the Smoky Hill-Cherokee Trail, the 17 Mile House property later became a dairy and cattle ranch before its preservation as a heritage park. Tucker will share insights from archival research, surveys, geophysical studies, and excavations that reveal stories spanning thousands of years — from indigenous peoples to early settlers.

The event is free but space is limited. To register, visit arapahoeco.gov.



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2100 Wagner St., Strasburg



Scan the QR code to add this event to your personal calendar as a reminder.

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AdCo board hopeful petitions onto ballot

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Clerk & Recorder's Office has received the required number of signatures for petitioning candidate Karen Rebecca DeAgüero, Democratic candidate for Commissioner District 4, to appear on the ballot for the Primary Election on Tuesday, June 30.

At least 1,000 signatures from elec-

tors eligible to vote within District 4 must be received. The totals are:

- 201 sections submitted;
- 2,762 signatures submitted;
- 1,553 signatures accepted; and
- 1,209 signatures rejected.

DeAgüero will be on the ballot with Tyler Quick, who was designated by the Democratic Party assembly.

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**Christ Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church**
Missouri Synod
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Sunday Service Livestream at
https://www.mvfcolorado.online.church
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
f & @ : Search "mvfcolorado" or "mvfstrasburg"
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Online Worship – email for link:
byerschurch@gmail.com

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Baptist Church**
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303-822-9366 • mttaborbysers.org
Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana — Meetings every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)
Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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719-659-8848

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

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— Douglas Claussen,
Publisher & Editor



SPORTS



ALYSSA STEMU/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Tiger shortstop Brayden Werner throws out a Platte Canyon batter April 9 while second baseman Trevor Evans ducks, and first baseman Trenton Neade records an out.

Bennett 9 snaps skid with league walk-off 'W'

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

After going 0-5 April 3-7, including a rare Frontier League defeat, the Bennett Tigers snapped the skid with a come-from-behind walk-off conference victory April 9.

The orange-and-black's 8-7 home victory over Platte Canyon on Thursday followed up a rough three-game outing — 11-2, 10-0 and 9-2 losses to La Junta, University and North Fork, respectively — at the Northern Colorado Classic Tournament at University April 3-4; a disappointing 18-17 loss at league rival Alameda April 6; and a 10-0 five-inning defeat at Brush the following day.

Bennett entered its April 11 contest at non-conference foe Elizabeth 4-7 overall and just outside the top 32 of the state rankings for postseason determination. The orange-and-black sits at No. 36. The top 32 qualify for the 3A playoff bracket.

Results of the Elizabeth game were unavailable at press time. For complete coverage, see the April 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

PLATTE CANYON

Against the Frontier League Huskies, Bennett

found itself down 4-0 after the first inning and trailed 6-1 after the second; the hosts were unable to capitalize with bases loaded with no outs in the opening frame and could only push 1 run across in the bottom of the second after the bases were again loaded with one out.

"Still have a lot of kids trying to figure out the game at this level, especially base running. We're leaving way too many guys on base, especially guys that should have scored," said Bennett head coach Joe Ortiz. "Squandering way too many opportunities and a lot of those off of good contact but not knowing or remembering what to do."

After the visiting Huskies scored their final run in the top of the fourth, Bennett started clawing back with an RBI double by junior Evan Garner and a pair of run-scoring walks to pull within 7-4 after four. The Tigers again left the bases loaded or the damage could have been worse.

An RBI double by freshman Trevor Evans closed the gap to 7-6 after the sixth inning.

After Garner struck out the side in 15 pitches in the top of the seventh, the Tigers singled, walked and singled to load the bases with no outs and, after freshman Trapper Cronk scored on a passed ball, Garner walked off with an RBI single that

scored junior classmate Owen Hawes.

"Had a lot of opportunities but kept fighting through a lot of adversity," said Ortiz, who is playing more than a handful of first-year varsity starters as freshman and sophomores. "Maybe a breakthrough game for our young guys."

In addition to having three of Bennett's 10 hits, including a pair of doubles and 2 RBIs, Garner faced the minimum number of batters in relief, striking out nine of 11 Huskies he faced. Cougar Cronk started and deserved a better fate as only 1 one of 7 runs was earned on nine hits. He walked one and struck out six.

The Bennett defense committed three errors, all in the first two innings.

"Both guys threw strikes but we just needed to handle our business better in the field, especially early on," Ortiz said.

Offensively, Evans and Trapper Cronk both added a pair of base hits; Evans shared the team-high of two RBIs with Garner.

"We need some youngsters to step up for us," Ortiz said. "Starting to see some of that but needs to be more consistently."

SEE BB BENNETT
PAGE 12

Bulldogs hit rough patch but remain in playoff pic

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

The Byers Bulldogs lost three of four games April 2-9, but two of those losses were to top 10 schools, including the top-ranked team in 2A.

After losing to the host team 8-3 in their first game at the Denver Christian Tournament April 2, the Bulldogs lost to 2A No. 1 Monte Vista 17-1 before pulling out a 17-15 eighth-inning thriller over Rangely April 4. The green-and-white also lost 16-10 at Peyton April 9.

Following Tuesday's game, Byers stood at 7-4. Even with a 10-3 home loss to No. 6-ranked Dayspring Christian April 10, the Bulldogs remain well within the top 32 of the Colorado High School Activities Association's Se-

lection & Seeding Index for playoff determination. The 13th-ranked green-and-white has been helped by a tough schedule that has included four teams currently in the 2A top 10 — Monte Vista, No. 1; fifth-ranked Limon; No. 6 Dayspring; and Denver Christian at No. 9 — and another two that were in the preseason top 10 rankings.

For complete coverage of the Dayspring Christian game, see the April 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

@ DENVER CHRISTIAN TOURNNEY RANGELY

The troops of Byers head coach D.J. Jackson salvaged the last of their three games at Denver Christian in a

SEE BB BYERS
PAGE 22

'Burg 2-1 at West Slope tourney

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

One-third of the way through the spring baseball season, Strasburg finds itself 5-2 overall and in the top half of the 3A rankings for playoff determination.

The red-and-black started the month with a 1-2 weekend — a 15-10 win over Glenwood Springs, a 18-3 loss to Grand Junction Central and an 11-10 victory in eight innings over the host school — at the Trent Goscha Memorial Tournament at Roaring Fork in Carbondale April 3-4. Three days later the Indians fell 11-10 in their Patriot League opener at Valley in Gilcrest April 7.

Entering its April 11 home contest against Alameda, the Indians were No. 14 in the Colorado High School Activities Association's Selection &

Seeding Index to determine the 32-team state playoff bracket. For complete coverage of the 11-3 victory over Alameda, see the April 17 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

@ GOSCHA TOURNAMENT GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Strasburg's road trip to the Western Slope started with an up-and-down affair against Glenwood Springs Friday afternoon.

After the Demons led off the game with a pair of first-inning runs, Strasburg charged ahead 4-2 in the bottom of the second. Sophomore Gavin Welch and senior R.J. Weaver led off the frame with back-to-back walks; senior Camden Hess drove in Welch with an RBI single; senior Erik Alamillo doubled to drive in Weaver and Hess; and a single by

sophomore Houston Broskie scored Alamillo.

A pair of Glenwood runs tied the game in the top of third, but a single by Strasburg junior Reagan Rosier and a Demon error and RBI sacrifice fly by Weaver put the Indians up 5-4.

In a case of déjà vu in the fourth inning, Glenwood again tied the score at 5 but Strasburg got the go-ahead tally in the bottom of the frame on an RBI single by senior Aiden Bongard.

After holding Glenwood scoreless in the top of the fifth, the Indians crossed home plate six times in the bottom of the frame to extend the lead to 12-5. Key moments included an RBI double by Weaver, a run-scoring single by senior Cam Manahan, a 2-run double

SEE BB STRASBURG
PAGE 14


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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Tiger Evan Garner tries a swim move to get around the tag of Platte Canyon's third baseman during the April 9 Frontier League contest. While Garner was out on this play, he did record three base hits and threw 3 1/3 scoreless innings in relief during Bennett's 8-7 walk-off victory.

BB BENNETT FROM PAGE 11

@ ALAMEDA

In what the coaching staff called the most disappointing loss in several years, Bennett squandered a 10-run explosion and a 11-2 lead after three innings and gave up its 4-run advantage in the bottom of the eighth to the conference rival Pirates.

"Just a frustrating end after some decent baseball in spots," Ortiz said.

The hosts held a 1-0 lead after the first and were up 2-1 after two when Bennett appeared to take control of the contest with 10 runs in the top of the third. Three straight singles to open the frame were followed by a pair of Pirate errors, a hit batsman and a 2-run double by Trapper Cronk allowed Bennett to score six runs before the first out was recorded. Freshman Victor Herrera and junior Avant Dickens added an RBI double apiece and another Pirate error allowed a 10th Bennett run to score.

With the score still 11-2, Alameda closed the gap with 4 in the fourth.

After Bennett had an unearned run in the fifth, the Pirates responded with another 3 in the bottom of the frame to make the score 12-9.

Another 4-spot by the hosts put them up 13-12 entering the seventh inning, but Bennett tied the game when Dickens singled, stole second and scored on an error by the Pirate center fielder. Alameda went three up-three-down against Garner in the bottom of the seventh.

In the extra frame, Herrera pushed a run across with an RBI single and two more Alameda errors allowed 3 more Tiger runs to put the visitors up 17-13 entering the bottom of the eighth, but Alameda had its first three batters reach and score two runs and, with the bases still loaded and no outs, a pair of sacrifice flies and a misplay in the outfield allowed the three runs to score.

"Pretty hard loss to watch," Ortiz said.

Both teams recorded 16 hits, but Alameda committed 12 errors while Bennett recorded five. Alameda had six batters walk while two Tigers

walked and one was hit by a pitch. Bennett left eight runners stranded.

Junior Brayden Werner led the Tigers at the plate, going 3-of-6, while both Cronks, Garner, Dickens and Herrera had two hits each. The younger Cronk and Herrera both had two RBIs.

On the mound, Hawes threw the first 4 1/3 innings, allowing 9 runs, 3 earned, on 10 hits while walking three and striking out four. Garner went the final 3 1/3, giving up 9 runs, 6 earned, on six hits while walking three and striking out four.

@ NORTHERN COLORADO TOURNEY

Friday of the annual tournament co-hosted by University and Eaton saw Bennett's lone runs come in the first and sixth innings of the opening contest with La Junta and both of those were the result of errors. Bennett's four hits included a double by Herrera.

Against co-host and 3A second-ranked University, Bennett again mustered only four hits, all singles. The Bulldogs scored in all of the five innings except the fourth.

Saturday's contest against North Fork saw the Miners jump up 6-0 after the first and were never threatened. Bennett's runs came in the fourth and seventh innings on RBIs from sophomore Bearett Newton and Garner.

@ BRUSH

Similar to the University gamer the prior weekend, the Beetdiggers utilized multiple crooked-number innings to pull away for the five-inning victory. Brush went up 3-0 after the first and tacked on 4 in the third and 3 in the fourth. Bennett had an opportunity with bases loaded in the second and couldn't score.

The Tigers mustered five hits, including a single and double by Garner.

BENNETT BASEBALL SCHEDULE

- April 18: Sterling
- April 20: Jefferson
- April 25: Strasburg
- April 28: Yuma

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PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ for The Scout

Three members of the Great Eight-qualifying Byers Bulldogs received Colorado All-State Honors recently. From left, senior Quincy Eacret was named Second Team 2A All-State, and junior James Maes and sophomore Conrad Cichos both received All-State Honorable Mention.

Soccer girls 1-1 on the road

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The Lady Tigers split road contests with Pinnacle April 6 and Sterling April 11 to move to 6-2 overall on the soccer pitch.

Bennett head coach Ashley Torgerson was not happy with the 3-0 Saturday loss at Sterling, now 4-3-1. He said his team had multiple opportunities where it had three or four shots in quick succession but failed to score.

"We probably should have won that game, but stuff just didn't bounce our way," he continued. "We had two or three volleys where we took a shot on net, goalie fumbled, we kicked it, somebody else got in the way."

The Tigers ended with 27 shots for the contest.

"We had our opportunities, they just didn't find the back of the net, unfortunately," Torgerson said.

Injuries were also a factor, which contributed to Sterling's third goal, because "I was trying to cobble together lines and stuff just to get through the game," Torgerson said.

The day got off to a rough start, perhaps portending the loss. After making the 90-minute trip to Sterling, Bennett learned that the referees had not shown up for the game.

"They had to scramble and find refs and then it became a question whether or not we could even play without an unsanctioned ref and it was just a bad day," Torgerson said. "It was doomed from the start."

Statistical leaders for Bennett were sophomores Meagan Green with 10 shots and Natalie Gonzalez with five. The team racked up 60 steals led by senior Grace Foose with eight thefts and followed by senior Emma Jordan, sophomore Emma Faczak, and freshmen A Westendorf and Kynzie Kirby, all with six. Senior Mya Robledo and junior Paige Chapman added five each.

Sophomore goalkeeper Whitney Torgerson gave up three scores and tallied 15 saves in 70 minutes. Her sophomore back-up, Sienna Warren, saw her first varsity action of the season during the final 10 minutes. She had two saves.

The halftime score was 1-0. The Lady Tigers were without the services of two starters — senior Luz Lobatos and junior Reece West — and two key reserves.

@ THE PINNACLE

Bennett had a much better day against the Lady Timberwolves, racing to a 4-0 halftime lead en route to a 6-0 victory.

West continued her recent tear with five goals on eight shots. Gonzalez had the sixth score on four shots.

Three of the goals came on "through balls," Coach Torgerson said.

Green again led Bennett with 10 shots on goal without hitting pay dirt. Torgerson questioned whether other teams are scouting the Tigers because, if they are, "They would do a better job trying to contain Reese."

"But that was yet another game where they had three or four on Meagan. And that just ends up leaving Reese wide open."

The opposition attempts to force Green to the outside when it keys on her, Torgerson said.

"It forces her to either cross the ball or take an off-balance shot," Torgerson said. "So I've been trying to work with her to go middle and then shoot so she has a more quality shot. We'll get there."

Faczak had two assists and tied Foose with 12 steals for team honors in those areas. Gonzalez and sophomore Paloma Rodriguez added one assist apiece.

Whitney Torgerson had an easy day. She recorded six saves. Coach Torgerson credited his defensive line for the low number of goals against Bennett this season.

The defensive line against The Pinnacle consisted of Foose, senior Aracel Colburn (seven steals), Kirby (five steals), and Robledo (four steals).

"They're just playing out of their minds and just doing a fantastic job," Torgerson said.

Lobatos added seven steals and Rodriguez had six.

BENNETT SOCCER SCHEDULE

- April 17: Arvada
- April 22: @ Sheridan
- April 27: Englewood

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BB STRASBURG FROM PAGE 11

from senior Gabe Smith, and an RBI triple by Rosier.

Glenwood responded with 3 runs in the top of the sixth, but Strasburg matched that output thanks to a Weaver single, Manahan double, Alamillo single and an RBI sacrifice fly by freshman Coltrane Smith.

A pair of Strasburg errors helped extend the top of the seventh and allowed Glenwood to score twice, but Rosier got the final out via strikeout with a runner on second.

“In addition to all the guys who played double-digit games last year, we’ve been looking for breakout seasons from some of our guys who didn’t play quite as many games — Cam Manahan, Camden Hess, and Reagan Rosier,” said first-year head coach Josh Holloway. “Starting to have things come around.”

Strasburg won the hitting battle 14-7, while walking seven times and striking out seven times. The red-and-black was also helped by six Demon errors.

Six Indians — Broskie, Gabe Smith, Rosier, Weaver, Manahan, and Alamillo — all struck two base hits. Gabe Smith led the team in RBIs with three, while Weaver and Alamillo added two apiece.

On the mound, Hess got the start and allowed an earned run on two hits while walking two and striking out two over the first two innings. Welch went 2²/₃ innings, allowing 3 runs, 2 earned, on one hit while walking four and striking out three. Rosier, who earned the win, allowed 5 runs, 3 earned, on four hits while walking three and striking out two over the final 2¹/₃ innings.

GRAND JUNCTION CENTRAL

Saturday morning’s game was the story of three offensive innings for the 5A Warriors, who tallied 6 runs in the second, 3 in the third, and 9 in the fourth. Strasburg scored on Manahan RBI singles in the second and fourth innings with a Warrior error allowing a second run to score in the fourth.

Strasburg only mustered five hits and also committed five errors.

Gabe Smith, Hess and Coltrane Smith all threw for the Indians and, combined, allowed 18 runs, 12 earned, on 14 hits, while walking four and striking out two.

ROARING FORK

Against the host school Saturday afternoon, most of the fireworks were reserved until the end of regulation and the extra frame.

Strasburg found itself down 5-2 entering the seventh when they scratched out 3 runs to even the score. A Ram error on a ground ball by Bongard was followed by Rosier getting hit by a pitch, and a single by Welch scored Bongard. Another Ram error allowed Rosier to score and a Welch crossed home plate on a ground out by Coltrane Smith, who wriggled out of a two-on, one-out situation in the bottom of the frame.

The Indian lineup batted around in a 6-run top of the eighth. With bases loaded, including an intentional walk, with one out, Rosier doubled to score Manahan and Broskie. An RBI single by Weaver scored Gabe Smith. An error allowed two more Indians to score and Weaver finished the scoring on a Ram balk.

In a tenuous bottom of the eighth, the hosts reached base five times and scored twice before an out was recorded. The second out was recorded on an RBI fielder’s choice. After two more runs were forced across home on a hit batsman and passed ball, Coltrane Smith got the final strikeout.

Strasburg won the hitting battle 13-8 and was helped by five Ram defensive miscues. Roaring Fork was helped by sporadic Indian pitching, which walked eight Rams and hit seven more.

@ VALLEY

In a game marred by defensive miscues on both sides, the Indians lost a lead and their rally effort fell short.

After scoring before an out was recorded and being up 2-0 after the top of the first inning, Strasburg was up 2-1 after the second.

After the Vikings tied the score at 2-2 in the bottom of the third, no runs were scored until the fifth when Strasburg went up 6-2 after their half of the frame but found themselves down 10-6 going into the top of sixth. The Indians half of the inning saw them record only two hits. Valley tallied its runs on a combination of five base hits and a pair of costly Indian errors.

Strasburg tightened the score to 10-8 in the sixth as Gabe Smith tripled to score junior Hayden Kirby and Smith scored on a passed ball. But, Valley tallied what ended up being the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth after a Strasburg fielding error started the inning.

With two outs in the seventh, Kirby rapped a 2-RBI double, but Valley was able to record the final ground out to escape with the league victory.

Both teams struggled at the plate and in the field — Strasburg recorded five hits and committed seven errors while Valley had six hits and four errors. The Indians also walked 10 times with Broskie hit by a pitch. Three Vikings walked and three others were hit by pitches.

Gabe Smith led the Indians with two hits and two RBIs.

Hess threw the first four innings, allowing 2 runs, 1 earned, on one hit while walking two and striking out two. Over the fifth and sixth innings, of the 9 runs scored while Bongard was on the mound, only one was earned; he gave up five hits while walking two and striking out one.

STRASBURG BASEBALL SCHEDULE

- April 18: @ Elizabeth
- April 20: Platte Valley
- April 21: @ Liberty Common
- April 23: Fort Morgan
- April 25: @ Bennett
- April 28: @ Byers
- April 29: @ Brush



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Community:

Publication of the *Eastern Colorado News* will cease with the May 29, 2026, edition.

Thank you to all of our subscribers and advertisers over the past 25 years I have owned the *ECN*, which was founded in 1916 and is 110 years old. I regret having to close it for the obvious reasons, but two newspapers in a community this size are simply one too many in this day and age.

On the brighter side, we look forward to using the resources from the *ECN* to build a bigger, better *I-70 Scout* and make improvements to www.i-70scout.com.

Subscribers can receive a pro-rated refund for any unfulfilled time after May 29 by contacting LuAnne at (303)622-9796 or lstegner@i-70scout.com.

Again, thank you for your support.

— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 2006

The Strasburg High School gym served as a courtroom for a day when a three-judge panel from Division III of the Colorado Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in both a civil and criminal lawsuit April 12.

Over 340 students from Strasburg, Wiggins, Bennett and Limon attended the special event. Each year, the appellate court selects two schools from across the state to host actual court cases. In addition, students can ask questions of counsel in the cases as well as the justices hearing the cases.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to see how the judicial process works," said Strasburg social studies teacher Christopher Rouse. "It gives them some real life take, in addition to their book learning."

The first case heard was *Austin V. Wright v. Jefferson County Junior Baseball Corporation*. The case involves a 1995 peeewe baseball game where Austin Wright was hit in the eye by a baseball bat that was thrown by the home plate umpire.

According to Wright's attorney and mother, Sandra Wright, the league is responsible for her son's injuries because it didn't hold their umpire to a higher standard. She added that maliciousness was involved in the umpire's action.

The second case discussed was *People of the State of Colorado v. Julie Ann Bostic*.

In this case, the issue of unwarranted search and possible violation of the "Plain View Doctrine" were debated.

A lower court ruled against Bostic, who claimed the police went beyond their jurisdiction to find a syringe that was considered drug paraphernalia even though the cops had found a marijuana cigarette and marijuana pipe on the bed and nightstand of her and her boyfriend's hotel room. Bostic's boyfriend was in the apartment at the time the police knocked and entered the room.

15 YEARS AGO APRIL 19, 2011

STRASBURG - An accumulation of revenue shortfalls the past few years and declining student enrollment in some disciplines is leading to a possible reduction in teachers at an I070 Corridor school district.

The Strasburg School Board April 13 reluctantly accepted, by a unanimous vote, a fiscal exigency statement, allowing Superintendent Ed Vander Took to cut staff positions district-wide.

"In light of the fiscal exigency that the district is facing and the program changes that must occur to address the decline in enrollment in

classes, it is necessary to decrease the number of teaching positions by the cancellation of employment of one or more teachers," the statement, read by board member Chris Losh, said.

Vander Took indicated the district must cut approximately another \$400,000 for the 2011-12 school year.

A large portion of the cuts is the result of an expected \$331,000 cut in state funding, compared to last year.

According to language in SB11-230, the state education funding act, per pupil funding at Strasburg is expected to be \$6,606.19 next school year, a drop of \$387.71 per student this current fiscal year.

"It has already gone through the joint budget committee, so there isn't likely to be a lot of major changes," Vander Took said. "It's on a fast-track, so we should know for sure sooner rather than later. But it appears to be almost certain."

10 YEARS AGO APRIL 19, 2016

BYERS - The donor of supplies and labor for ball fields and roads at the Quint Valley fairgrounds threatened to tear down the recently-built improvements during the Byers Parks & Recreation District Board meeting April 14.

Tom Waltman, co-owner of Around the Horn, LLC, accused the board, and particularly president Jim Kelley, of refusing to sign an indemnification document holding the company harmless against lawsuits arising from accidents on the property. Over the past two years, Waltman has overseen work — not yet completed — including the construction of a baseball field, a T-ball field and a playground, and the addition of asphalt road base to the entry road and parking area. He has donated his labor and items including poles, bases, shrubs, tress and used playground equipment. The district purchased the fencing material.

Waltman said that a letter of indemnification was provided at the start of the venture two years ago, but that when he contacted Kelley recently, he refused to sign.

Kelley disagreed, saying he got an e-mail and a voice mail from Waltman and a call from Waltman's wife, but that he hadn't seen the document until the night of the meeting.

Waltman informed the board that, if the document wasn't signed that night, legal litigation would result and everything the company installed would be removed, including the road, parking lot, entryway and both ball fields.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, April 15, the 105th day of 2026. There are 260 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On April 15, 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland just over two and a half hours after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage. More than 1,500 people died

while 710 survived.

ALSO ON THIS DATE

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln died after being shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater the previous evening; Andrew Johnson was sworn in as the 17th president hours later.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first Black major league player

of the modern era, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day at Ebbets Field.

In 1955, Ray Kroc opened the first franchised McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill.

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army robbed a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia

Hearst, seen wielding a rifle.

In 1997, a raging fire stoked by high winds swept through a sprawling pilgrims' encampment near Mecca in Saudi Arabia, killing more than 300 people and injuring about 1,500 others during the annual Hajj pilgrimage to the Muslim religion's birthplace.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Basketball Hall of Famer Michael

Cooper is 70. Actor-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 67. Singer Samantha Fox is 60. Singer Luis Fonsi is 48. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 48. Actor Luke Evans is 47. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 44. Actor Alice Braga is 43. Singer-songwriter Margo Price is 43. Actor Samira Wiley is 39. Actor Emma Watson is 36. Country singer Sam Barber is 23.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: LEGENDARY ATHLETES

- ACROSS
- Capital of Tibet
 - Templeton of "Charlotte's Web"
 - Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
 - Poisonous plant
 - UN labor grp.
 - George Orwell to Eric Arthur Blair
 - Movie genre
 - Shark part
 - Ax mark
 - *First Native American to win Olympic Gold
 - *The Great One of hockey
 - Be indisposed
 - Disfigure
 - Du Bois' initials
 - Hoodwink
 - Baking soda
 - Bypass
 - "Breaking Bad" product
 - Spelunker
 - Orchestra member
 - Charles Dickens' "___ House"
 - Family room staple
 - Like United States Capitol
 - "Cogito ___ sum"
 - Tongue-___
 - Stockholm dwellers
 - *Tiger Woods has won this award the most times
 - On the wagon
 - Silage
 - Almond-induced state?
 - *Jordan or Phelps
 - *Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams
 - Infant's woe
 - Seafood selection
 - Practical
 - Stopped sleeping
 - Pigeon sound
 - *Most decorated gymnast
 - Red, or excessively bureaucratic, one
 - End of a fuse?
 - Balance sheet entry

- DOWN
- Drug in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"
 - John Mellencamp's "___ So Good"
 - Nanny in East Asia
 - Polynesian island country
 - Tick or mite
 - Abundant
 - *Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
 - Kingdom in South Pacific
 - Loads (2 words)
 - Nabisco cracker
 - Noisy talk
 - Like Zombie's skin color

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- Low on hemoglobin
- Perfectly vertical
- Adam's body part
- Measured, like electricity on utility bill
- *Tied for most PGA Tour wins
- Curve like a bow
- Biotic community
- *O Rei of soccer
- Throw a line
- Steer clear of
- Send to a specialist, e.g.
- *NFL's 7-time Super Bowl champion
- Got ready to drive
- Old witches, usually
- Small steep-sided hill, in Africa
- Vandalize
- Johnny Nash's "I Can ___ See Clearly Now"
- West African people
- Choose by vote
- Abominable snowmen
- Med. sch. requirement
- *Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
- Hoofbeat sound
- Nature walk
- Narrow aperture
- Zilches
- Away from wind
- Many, many moons
- Approx.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2

HOROSCOPE

Quadruple Conjunctions

On a day with four lunar conjunctions to Aries planets (Mercury, Neptune, Mars and Saturn), there's much burning at once: desire, curiosity, ambition, imagination, drive and perhaps even some of the more shadowy experiences like shame, anger or envy. Embrace the messy fuel of all of it. This level of energy abundance is rare, and all can be channeled for good.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel the wind in your hair as you glide to your next evolution, the one in which you gain what you've been wanting. At the same time, you're letting go of what you're ready to trade for the upgrade.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It can be very frustrating to see the result you're going for in your mind and know that you're far from it. Can you just focus on the next step up? One more check on the to-do list, one more mile, one more pound lost or gained or lifted -- you're doing great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As you work that smile, you generate warmth and a sense of belonging everywhere you go. And though this lifts loved ones and strangers alike, most of all, it lifts you. You just feel better because your smile tells the rest of you that you should.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Ancient humans were excellent listeners. They listened to nature to escape weather, to find food and to keep from becoming food. Today, you'll listen very well to find opportunity and steer away from trouble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They say that the only difference between a comedy and a tragedy is the way the story ends. Of course, this isn't true. A comedy is fun and funny all along, and a tragedy gives you beautiful things to watch and cry over. Today, you're in a position to choose your genre.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some interactions take years to fully process. They seem to mean one thing, then years later you look back and see something else. Time and memory have a way of showing you truths or stripping away falsehoods.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One day, you'll

look back at this and laugh. Even so, that's no reason to endure the discomfort any longer than necessary. The future will bring another perspective, but only because you assert yourself in the present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A polite smile here, a kind laugh, a supportive word -- it's all part of the social facade that has relationships running smoothly. The mask is your own design, allowing you to hide or show what helps the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is said that a drowning man isn't picky about who throws him a rope. You're not desperate like that, but you could still use an assist. But if you accept some form of common decency, this should not come with future obligation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even as you stand in what you've built, you still remember when you had far less and knew very well the aching experience of need. This feeds the compassion you have for someone currently in need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You contain multitudes. Is the person you're being in a relationship intrinsic to who you are? Or are certain behaviors showing up just because of this particular dynamic? Take yourself out of it and see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Expressing yourself will come easily today, not because you're in a supportive environment, lifted by receptive people who get you. Not because you've practiced your talent and feel confident -- no. Because you've been brave time and again. Courage is a muscle.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April. 15). It's your Year of the Tidal Gift, when provision arrives in waves, precisely when needed. Trust life's timing and your own instincts. More highlights: a home life filled with warmth and meaningful rituals, a steadily growing financial cushion, and intuitive clarity that guides wise, well-timed financial and professional decisions. Nature and quiet moments restore you. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 15, 22, 31 and 42.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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

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

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9	8	5	6	1	3	4	2	7
2	1	4	9	7	8	3	5	6
6	3	7	5	4	2	9	8	1
5	4	6	7	9	1	8	3	2
1	7	2	8	3	4	6	9	5
8	9	3	2	6	5	1	7	4
7	5	1	3	8	6	2	4	9
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Colorado Land Realty

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View all listings at: ColoradoLandRealty.com
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CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Come Join Our Team!



Byers School District 32-J

is accepting applications for
Secondary Language Arts for the 2026-27 school year.

Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance. 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 Tom Turrell at (303) 822-5292 x1111 or turrell.tom@byers.k12.co.us. Applications can be sent to: Byers School District 32J 444 E. Front Street Byers CO, 80103 (303) 822-9592 fax

Come Join Our Team!



Byers School District 32-J

is accepting applications for
High School Boys Golf Coach.

Classified applications are available on the Human Resources page of website under the District tab. <http://www.byers32j.k12.co.us>. Position open until filled. Inquiries should be directed to Jeremy Kerns at (303) 822-5292 x1188 or kerns.jeremy@byers.k12.co.us. Applications can be sent to: Byers School District 32J 444 E. Front Street Byers CO, 80103 (303) 822-9592 fax

Foreman/Heavy Equip. Operator Needed
• Competitive wages.
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Contact Bill, Kuhn Construction (303)570-6104

Come Join Our Team!



Byers School District 32-J

is accepting applications for
Secondary Music Teacher (7-12).

Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, and Life insurance. Certified applications are available on the Human Resources page of website under the District tab. <http://www.byers32j.k12.co.us> Inquiries should be directed to Tom Turrell at (303) 822-5292 x1111 or turrell.tom@byers.k12.co.us. Applications can be sent to: Byers School District 32J 444 E. Front Street Byers CO, 80103 (303) 822-9592 fax sondburg.stacy@byers.k12.co.us www.byersk12.co.us

THE DEER TRAIL SCHOOL

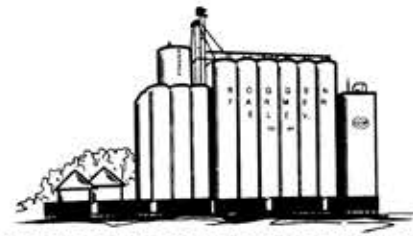


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FOR 2026-27:

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- Elementary Teachers
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Paid Weekly with PTO accruing from Day 1.

Please call Josh at (720)690-3817

Apply in person at: 2300 Cavanaugh Rd., Watkins, CO 80137 www.diversifiedunderground.com

Come Join Our Team!



Byers School District 32-J

is accepting applications for
High School Volleyball Head Coach.

Classified applications are available on the Human Resources page of website under the District tab. <http://www.byers32j.k12.co.us> Inquiries should be directed to Jeremy Kerns at (303) 822-5292 x1188 or kerns.jeremy@byers.k12.co.us. Applications can be sent to: Byers School District 32J 444 E. Front Street Byers CO, 80103 (303) 822-9592 fax

Come Join Our Team!



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: Byers School District 32J 444 E. Front Street Byers CO, 80103 (303) 822-9592 fax



CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED



BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J*

*AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

IS HIRING FOR 2026-27:

Asst. MS Principal • Elementary Music •
Secondary Music • Elementary ELD Teacher •
Kindergarten Teacher • First Grade Teacher •
MS Science • HS Science • HS Art •
Small Vehicle Drivers • Bus Drivers

The URL for employment is:

https://www.bsd29j.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1363901&type=d&pREC_ID=1503865

For more information or to apply, contact Ramie Dillingham
720-500-1495 X 8202; ramied@bsd29j.com.
www.bsd29j.com.



GENERAL REPORTER

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Send resume to:

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GARAGE SALES

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South Valhalla Ranch Estates
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8 am - 2pm; Fri & Sat, April 24-25
Watch for Garage Sale signs at
participating driveways. Lots of variety,
new treasures at every stop!

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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.

Bennett High School drama department presents "Anastasia." 7 p.m., \$10 admission, high school auditorium.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Bennett High School drama department presents "Anastasia." 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., \$10 admission, high school auditorium.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

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, APRIL 19

High Plains Trail Riders gymkhana. Office opens at 9 a.m., gymkhana at 10 a.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds, 601 U.S. 36, Byers. For additional information, visit www.highplainstrailriders.com or call (303)921-6603.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 20

East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.

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, APRIL 21

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, APRIL 22

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

Music & Movement: Ages 2-6 can sing, dance and learn to play musical instruments. 10-10:30 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Mid-Week Service & Study with worship and Communion. All ages welcome. 6:30 p.m., Holy Spirit Livin,' call (303)622-4648 to RSVP.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

BB BYERS

FROM PAGE 11

topsy-turvy affair.

After Rangely scored the tying run to make the score 15-15 in the bottom of the seventh, Byers responded in the top half of the eighth when junior leadoff hitter Gabe Price reached on an error, stole second, and scored on an RBI single by senior Jack Earl, who stole second, advanced to third on an error and stole home to put the Bulldogs up 2 runs. In the bottom of the eighth, junior Dane Curry toed the rubber for the first time this season and got the save, getting a fly out and ground out and, after a two-out walk, got the final out on a strikeout.

"Have around nine arms that I feel pretty confident to call on when the time comes," Jackson said.

Byers got the hitting/scoring fest started with 6 in the top of the opening frame. Price tripled and scored on an Earl single. Earl stole second and third before crossing home on a wild pitch. After junior Kaden Bennett was hit by a Panther pitch and a misplayed fielder's choice off the bat of sophomore Wes Butterfield, freshman Jack Long walked to load the bases. After a walk to senior Parker Ebert scored Bennett, freshman McCrae MacLennan rapped a 2-run single and Ebert scored on a throw from the Panther catcher to second on a steal attempt.

The Bulldogs tacked on 2 runs in the second on a combination of singles by Earl and freshman Millio Guerue, a Panther error and a fly-out RBI by Curry. Rangely cracked the scoring column with 2 in the second and its own 6-run explosion to tie the game up 8-8 after three.

After an RBI double by Butterfield put Byers back up 9-8 in the top half of the fourth, Rangely responded with a pair to go up 10-9 entering the fifth.

The back-and-forth affair continued in the fifth as an RBI double from Price and a run-scoring single from Bennett put the Bulldogs up 12-11, but Rangely responded with 3 more to go back up 14-12.

A quartet of Bulldog singles, including run-scoring knocks from Price and Earl were part of a 3-run sixth that put Byers back up 15-14, a score that remained until the bottom of the seventh when Rangely "small-balled" its way to the tying run — a single, walk, sacrifice, bunt and RBI fly out.

Both teams cranked out 14 hits apiece but Rangely was charged with three errors compared to one for the Bulldogs. All pitchers struggled with their control as Byers received 12 free passes — eight walks and four hit batsman — and Rangely had 15 — 11 walks and four hit batters hit by pitch.

Earl finished the day reaching base all six times at the plate, going 4-for-4 and walking twice while driving in three runs. Price added three hits and two RBIs, while Curry and MacLennan both smacked two base hits; MacLennan recorded two RBIs.

The running game also proved fruitful for the Bulldogs, who were successful and 16 of 17 steal attempts.

Freshman Jake Zufall got the start for Jackson, going 2¹/₃ innings and allowing 7 earned runs on five hits while walking five and striking out two. Earl finished the third inning, allowing a run and two hits while striking out one. Butterfield, who got the win, threw an up-and-down four innings, allowing 7 runs, 4 earned, on seven hits while walking five and striking out four. Curry got the save.

DENVER CHRISTIAN

Against the host and No. 9-ranked

Thunder on Thursday, both teams failed to score over the first 2¹/₂ innings, but Denver Christian scratched the scoreboard in the bottom of third with a single, steal and back-to-back ground outs.

A Butterfield home run in the top of the fourth knotted the game 1-1, but the hosts appeared to take back the momentum with 4 runs in the bottom of the frame and another 3 in the fifth.

The score remained 8-1 until the top of the seventh when Byers had three of its first four batters reach via single; sophomore Osiris Aldana scored on a balk by the Thunder hurler; and freshman Jack Long scored on a ground out by Earl. The Bulldogs couldn't muster another run.

Byers was within one hit of the Thunder, 9-8, but five accounted for all eight hits, including Price, Earl and Aldana with two each. The Bulldogs struck out nine times while the hosts didn't have one K.

Zufall got the start on the rubber and allowed 6 earned runs on seven hits while walking two over four-plus innings. Earl threw the remainder of the game, allowing 2 earned runs while walking two.

MONTE VISTA

The top-ranked Pirates, who have averaged almost 13 runs per game while holding the opposition to under 4 per contest, flexed their muscle early, putting a 7-spot in the first inning, including 5 before the first out was recorded. Byers responded with 1 one in the bottom of the first on a Price double, an error that pushed him to third and an RBI fly-out by Earl, but the Bulldogs didn't score the rest of the way.

Monte Vista tacked 3 in the second, fourth and fifth innings and 1 in the third.

The troops from the San Luis Valley outhit Byers 15-2 and received nine free passes compared to two for the Bulldogs. Price and Curry recorded Byers' base hits.

@ PEYTON

Against the Panthers, Byers struggled early and rallied to within a run, but a late letdown spelled its final doom.

Peyton was up 6-0 after the first two innings. An RBI fly out by Earl was Byers' first run in the top of the third, but the hosts tacked on another 3 in the bottom of the frame.

After a couple of unearned runs in the fourth made the score 9-3, Price tripled in the fifth and scored on an Earl RBI ground out. Peyton's 2-run fifth bumped the lead up to 11-4.

Byers rallied in its half of the sixth inning, scoring 6 to close the gap to 11-10.

The Bulldogs' half-dozen runs came off of a combination of one hit, multiple Panther errors, three walks and one hit batsman.

But, as quickly as Byers had the momentum, Peyton snatched it back with a 5-run bottom of the sixth that put the game out of reach.

At the plate, the Bulldogs recorded six hits, six walks and one hit batsman. Price had half of the Bulldogs hits with three, while Earl drove in three runs.

Zufall again got the start on the mound, allowing 9 runs, 7 earned, on five hits while walking eight and striking out four over 2²/₃ innings. Butterfield gave up 7 earned runs on five hits while walking three and striking out three over the final 3¹/₃ innings.

CHUCK WAGON



Grilled Birria Sandwich

Fire up the grill for a spicy twist on birria! It consists of Mexican-spiced braised beef on grilled bread with spicy consommé.

GRILLED BIRRIA SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 beef cross rib roast, chuck arm roast or chuck shoulder roast (about 2½ pounds).
- 1 Spanish onion, chopped
- 1 cup low sodium beef broth
- 1 tablespoon garlic
- ½ (7-ounce) can chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 3 dried guajillo chiles
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon chile powder
- 2 teaspoons Mexican oregano
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 French bread rolls, cut in half lengthwise
- ½ cup crumbled cotija cheese
- 2 Roma tomatoes, sliced
- 1 large avocado, sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

DIRECTIONS

In a 6-quart electric pressure cook-

er, add beef cross rib roast, onion, broth, garlic, chipotle peppers, guajillo chiles, bay leaf, cinnamon stick, smoked paprika, chili powder, oregano, black pepper and cloves. Close and lock pressure cooker lid. Use beef, stew or high-pressure setting on pressure cooker; program 80 minutes on pressure cooker timer. Once timer goes off, continue to cook another 20 minutes to release pressure naturally. Use quick-release feature to release any remaining pressure; carefully remove lid.

Remove roast and set aside; remove and discard chiles, bay leaf and cinnamon stick. Shred roast; remove unwanted fat.

Brush olive oil on both sides of bread. Place on grid over medium, ash-covered coals or over medium heat on preheated gas grill and grill for 1-2 minutes on each side.

Remove toasted bread and place bottom pieces on a sheet pan setting aside the tops. Top bottoms of bread evenly with shredded birria and cotija cheese. Bake in a preheated 375°F oven 8-10 minutes or until cheese is slightly melted. Remove from oven and top sandwiches with tomatoes, avocado and cilantro.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Beef Council

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, April 16: Chicken noodle soup, crackers.

Monday, April 20: Hamburger, fries.

Tuesday, April 21: Breaded cheese sticks, marinara sauce.

Wednesday, April 22: Ravioli with red sauce.

BYERS

Thursday, April 16: Turkey and cheese croissant, Sun Chips, garden salad.

Friday, April 17: French toast sticks, sausage, country potatoes, orange juice.

Monday, April 20: Chicken tenders, biscuit, spinach salad.

Tuesday, April 21: Chili cheese fries, corn bread, steamed carrots.

Wednesday, April 22: Ham hoagie, Teddy Grahams, corn.

DEER TRAIL

Thursday, April 16: Cheeseburger, potato wedges, baked beans.

Monday, April 20: Chicken nuggets, carrots and celery.

Tuesday, April 21: Pepperoni pizza, salad.

Wednesday, April 22: Sloppy joe, potato wedges.

STRASBURG

Thursday, April 16: Sweet and sour chicken over rice.

Friday, April 17: Chicken sandwiches.

Tuesday, April 21: Pulled pork sandwiches.

Wednesday, April 22: Pasta bake.

BENNETT

Thursday, April 16: French toast with sausage.

Monday, April 20: Chicken Parmesan sandwich.

Tuesday, April 21: Big Daddy pizza.

Wednesday, April 22: Orange chicken with Asian rice.

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Strasburg Veterinary Clinic
Equine Vaccination Clinics

Don't miss our annual Equine Vaccination Clinics. Serving the entire I-70 Corridor since 1947. Discounted prices on vaccinations, deworming, Coggins testing and bloodwork.

FREE FARM CALL

April 18
Strasburg

April 25
Bennett & Watkins

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call:
(303)622-4415

KINDERGARTEN

REGISTRATION IS COMING!
Byers Kindergarten Roundup

will be **Tuesday, May 19, 2026**, for students new to Byers School District. If your child was enrolled in Byers Preschool Program you do not need to attend Roundup. Please call **Byers Elementary @ (303) 822-5292, ext. 1140**, to make an appointment.

On Roundup Day you need to bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency (something with your name and physical address), and your child! Registration paperwork must be complete for your child to be registered and added to a class list. Kindergarten students must be **5 years of age by June 1, 2026**.

BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J

Be on The Lookout

The School District is looking for your opinion regarding the potential upcoming Bond! Polling phone calls and text messages will be distributed to the community and families and we need your support and input regarding the Board initiative to improve our buildings, campus, and just as important- safety in and around our schools for all OUR students! The phone call or text message will come from either a 303 or 720 area code. We look forward to hearing your input.

We take pride in our Bennett Campus and work tirelessly to keep up with aging facilities and equipment. Our newest building is our 3rd - 5th grade Intermediate School built in 2019 which helped with the overcrowding in the primary school. Our oldest building is our middle school which was built in 1970 and last updated in 1994. The newest renovation of facilities occurred in 2006 when the high school received the second story addition of a library and three classrooms, the south commons was renovated, and an auditorium that had the capacity to seat 450 people was completed.



Existing Conditions – age of facilities

Did You Know?

Bennett School District has one of the lowest mill levies in the state especially in relation to neighboring school districts.

2025-26 Neighboring Mill Levies

District	Bond Levy	Other Levies	Total Mill Levy
Brighton 27J	20.04	36.25	56.29
Strasburg 31J	9.35	29.19	38.53
Wiggins RE-50J	12.50	24.61	37.11
Ft. Morgan RE-3	7.17	28.88	36.14
Bennett 29J	0.00	25.38	25.38

EVENT CALENDAR

- 4/15**
PK-5 Military Child Day; BHS Soccer @ Middle Park, 4:30 PM
 - 4/16**
Kindergarten Zoo Trip; BHS Baseball @ Middle Park, 4 PM; BMS Baseball @ Clear Creek, 4:30; HS Drama "Anastasia," 7 PM
 - 4/17**
BHS Girls Soccer v Arvada, 4 PM; HS Drama "Anastasia," 4:30 & 7 PM; BMS Track @ Brush, 12:30 PM
 - 4/18**
BHS Track @ Randall Hess Roughrider, Roosevelt, 9 AM; BHS Baseball v Sterling, 11 AM
 - 4/20**
BHS Baseball vs Yuma, 3 PM; Music in the Parks
 - 4/21**
BMS Baseball vs. Platte Canyon, 4:30 PM
 - 4/22**
BHS JV Baseball @ Arrupe Jesuit, 4 PM; BHS Girls Soccer @ Sheridan, 4:30 PM
 - 4/23**
Pk-5 FFA Day; Kinder Signing Day, 5 PM; Band/Choir Spring Trip; BMS Baseball vs. Legacy Academy, 4:30 PM
 - 4/24**
K-5 CMAS Celebration Day; Band/Choir Spring Trip
 - 4/25**
BHS Baseball vs Strasburg, 11:00 AM; Band/Choir Spring Trip; BHS Track @ Gerry Berry Stadium, Colo. Spgs.
 - 4/27**
State FFA CDEs, Ft Collins; PTSA-EOY Book Fair; BHS Soccer vs. Englewood, 4:30 PM
 - 4/28**
State FFA CDEs, Fort Collins; PTSA - EOY Book Fair; 4th Grade Growth & Development; BHS Baseball vs Jefferson, 4 PM; BHS Track @ Frontier League Meet, JeffCo Stadium
 - 4/29**
FFA Elem Ag. Day; PTSA-EOY Book Fair; Soccer vs. Alameda, 4:30 PM
 - 4/30**
PTSA - EOY Book Fair; CMAS Celebration Day; BHS Baseball vs Lamar, 4 PM; BMS Track @ Deer Trail, 10 AM; BMS Baseball vs. Clear Creek, 4:30 PM
 - 5/1**
BHS Baseball vs Brush, 4 PM; BHS Soccer vs. Lamar, 4 PM
 - 5/2**
BMS Baseball vs. Platte Canyon, 11 AM
 - 5/4**
BHS Baseball vs. Byers, 4 PM; PTSA Kids Field Trip
 - 5/5**
BHS Track @ Berthoud; MS Band/Choir Concert, 7PM
 - 5/6**
BHS Baseball @ Wellington, 3PM
 - 5/7**
BMS Baseball vs. Clear Creek, 4:30 PM; 2nd Grade Habitat Presentation; HS Band/Choir Concert, 7PM
 - 5/8**
BMS Baseball @ Platte Canyon, 11 AM; BHS Prom
 - 5/9**
BHS Track @ Roosevelt; BMS Track @ Fizzsimmons, 8 AM; Music in the Parks
- * May 4 through May 7 is Staff Appreciation Week**



SAVE THE DATE!
CLASS OF 2026
GRADUATION
7 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 22
PAUL READ FIELD
Fireworks @ Dusk!
FOR MORE INFO: BSD29J.COM

National Autism Week, April 20-23
 Visit the Bennett School District 29J Facebook page