



Special Bennett & Deer Trail Grad Section pullout inside
Remember Those Lost During Memorial Day, May 25

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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 26 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, May 20, 2026

ArapCo: 'Burg sand mining project pulled

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — Three weeks after nearby neighbors and other Strasburg residents vociferously stated their opposition to a proposed sand mining project a few miles of south of town, the project has reportedly been shut down.
“The proposed Strasburg earth ex-

traction will not be happening,” an Arapahoe County spokeswoman told *The I-70 Scout* May 12. “After hearing feedback at an April 20 neighborhood meeting in Bennett, the property owner of the site on County Road 26 informed county planning staff that they will not be applying for a use by special review from Public Works & Development for further earth extraction. Those plans are canceled.”

During last month’s public meeting at Anythink Bennett library, an overflow crowd of 55-60 disgruntled community members angrily stated their opposition to the proposed Strasburg Borrow Pit at 56505 E. County Road 26 (off of County Road 157), which had previously operated as Arapahoe Farm Pit.
“They’ve already broken the law, so why are we even having to deal with

this at all?” one audience member angrily asked, referring to the shutdown of the Arapahoe Farm Pit last year after it was found in violation of both county zoning and land use code and breaking mining rules from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety.
Another meeting attendee called the
SEE MINING PROJECT PAGE 4



A stark reminder that early May moisture hasn't put much of a dent into current drought conditions throughout the region occurred midafternoon May 16 as a grass fire burned about a section of ground along Peterson Road between 64th and 72nd Avenues immediately northeast of Colorado Air & Space Port. The blaze was originally reported about 2:30 p.m. and, by the time containment was announced shortly before 4 p.m., about 640 were charred. No death or injuries were reported and no structures threatened or damaged. No evacuations were required. Winds out of the north/northeast pushed the flames. Left photo, the smoke of plume can be seen to the northeast of the spaceport's tarmac. Left photo was taken from Manila Road and Highway 36 looking northeast.



Bennett Town Clerk and designated election official Christina Hart swears in Joshua Arbogast to the seat of Bennett trustee May 12.

Bennett board, fire district agree on office rental pact

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After swearing in Joshua Arbogast as its seventh and final member, the Bennett Board of Trustees during its May 12 meeting approved an amended rental agreement with the Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection

District and also updated an arrangement with its sports and recreation facilities consultant.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RENT
The Bennett Fire Protection District currently leases the former town hall complex on
SEE BENNETT BOT PAGE 6

Bennett Middle School sports skeds in limbo

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After approving the list of 101 seniors to walk in graduation ceremonies May 22, Bennett School Board debate May 13 included next year’s prospective kindergarten classes, middle school sports uncertainty, and the 2025-26 budget.
After passing out one of the longest lists of graduates in school history, Superintendent Robin Purdy said that any drop in overall student enrollment will be minuscule and/or short-lived. She especially noted kindergarten prospects.
“We’re already at 75 kindergartners for next year and that’s unheard of at this time,” she said. “I think it’s safe to say we’re looking at 100 of those youngsters when all is said and done.”
MS SPORTS UNCERTAINTY
Next year’s Athletic Director Travis Conroy report-



Bennett secondary school band and choir directors Val White, left, and Allyse Brennan conducted their final concerts May 5 and May 7. Both have resigned from their positions after nine and three years, respectively. **SEE PAGE 1B.**
and has been in contact with schools from other leagues to gauge interest in adding Bennett, but the length of road trips could be too restrictive.
The board also approved a recommendation from Conroy to include participation of sixth-graders for middle school cheerleading and wrestling.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Fly-in scheduled for May 30 at Colorado Air & Spaceport

WATKINS — The annual Colorado Air & Space Port Fly-In will run from 8-11 a.m., Saturday, May 30.

The day will open with a pancake breakfast hosted by Experimental Aircraft Chapter 301 from 8-11 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Young Eagles educational, scholarship, and flight experience programs. To date, Chapter 301 has flown more than 10,000 Young Eagles ages 8-17 to give them firsthand exposure to aviation.

A Federal Aviation Administration Wings pilot proficiency seminar will begin at 9 a.m. Nelson Wolfmeier will discuss accident trends in Colorado and their prevention in the Terminal Upstairs Conference Room.

Warbirds and other vintage aircraft will be on display and fuel discounts available during the event.

Colorado Air & Space Port is located at 5200 Front Range Parkway, Watkins. To register, visit adamscounty-co.gov.

Deer Trail Jockey Club seeks rodeo pageant contestants

DEER TRAIL — The 2027 Miss Rodeo Deer Trail Pageant is set for 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 24, at the Deer Trail Jockey Club Rodeo Grounds.

The event will determine who will be the 2027 Miss Deer Trail Rodeo lady-in-waiting.

The royalty contest will involve horsemanship, interviews, prepared speaking, modeling and impromptu questions and answers.

Applications are due Sunday, June 14. For more information or to apply, e-mail to deertrailroyalty@gmail.com.

This year's edition of the World's First Rodeo is scheduled for June 26-27.

Hot water bath canning class set by ArapCo CSU Extension

CENTENNIAL — Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County will host a class on hot water bath canning of high acid foods from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, at its

office at 6934 S. Lima St., Centennial. Boiling water bath canning is a safe home food preservation method for foods such as jams, jellies, pickles and fruits. Safety, equipment and elevation adjustments will be addressed as participants make their own jar of pickled grape tomatoes.

For more information, call (303)730-1920 or e-mail to Sheila.gains@colostate.edu. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com.

The event is hosted by Nutrition, Meal Planning & Preparation, and Health at Arapahoe County CSU Extension.

Bicycle ride on gravel slated for Colorado Prairie Day 6/6

GENOA — Bicyclists will gather for a unique guided gravel road riding experience in Eastern Colorado in celebration of Colorado Prairie Day on Saturday, June 6.

Shrikes & Bikes, hosted by the Eastern Colorado Grasslands Coalition, will feature the shortgrass prairie of Lincoln County as part of Colorado's 150/250 commemoration. Riders can choose from 22.2- and 40.5-mile routes through farmland, renewable energy sites, wildlife habitat, and historic landmarks like Homestead Farms and Walks Camp Park.

The weekend opens with a reception from 4:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, June 5, at the Union Pacific Roundhouse, 3 Third Ave., Hugo. The bike ride begins at 8 a.m. June 6 at the newly renovated World's Wonder View Tower, 30121 Old Highway 24, Genoa.

To register or for more information, visit www.eastern-grassland-coalition.org. The cost is \$75 per person.

Arapahoe Co. sheriff opens youth academy registration

CENTENNIAL — The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Youth Academy from Tuesday through Friday, May 26-29, will allow teenagers ages 14-18 an opportunity to explore the responsibilities and challenges of public safety in the county.

The free academy requires a commitment to attend all four days. It will be held at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, 13101 E. Broncos Parkway,

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"It's hard to understand Gramma 'cause she talks in cursive!"

Centennial.

Class size is limited to 20 participants. Lunch will be provided daily.

A graduation ceremony will begin at 3 p.m., Friday, May 29, and family members are encouraged to attend.

To register, visit the sheriff's office page at www.arapahoeco.gov. For more information, contact Sgt. Shane Walker at SWalker@ArapahoeGov.com or (720)874-4072.

Donations sought for upkeep at Byers Community Cemetery

BYERS — The Byers Community Cemetery Association is seeking donations to defray seasonal maintenance costs.

Byers Cemetery has served residents of Byers and Strasburg since 1896.

Contributions of any amount are appreciated. Gifts can be sent to BCCA, P.O. Box 733, Byers, Colo. 80103.

Call (303)917-5413 for additional information.

Drought assistance for stock growers key to USDA webinar

BROOMFIELD — The Farm Service Agency will host a webinar on drought assistance for livestock from 10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 27.

Participants will learn about the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish

Program (ELAP), which can help cover the cost of water, livestock and feed transportation related to drought in 2026.

In addition to livestock owners, the webinar is also meant to train people to understand ELAP so they can help agricultural producers submit applications for the program for counties impacted by drought in 2026.

For a registration link and more information, visit ag.colorado.gov.

Governor appoints new judge to 18th Judicial District Court

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis May 13 filled a new judgeship created by Senate Bill 25-024 on the 18th Judicial District Court.

This appointment of A. Danielle Touart, effective July 1, which increases the number of judges in Colorado's district and county courts over two years to address growing case-loads and staffing needs.

Touart is an Arapahoe County Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District, a position she has held since 2023. She previously worked in various capacities for the Centennial Public Defender's Office (2022-23); Arapahoe Public Defender's Office (2018-22); and the Southern District of Texas (2017-18).

Touart has a bachelor's degree from Auburn (Ala.) University in 2007 and a law degree from Samford University in Homewood, Ala., in 2010.

Country music artists booked for Adams County Fair show

BRIGHTON — Country artists Cooper Alan and Dylan Marlowe will take the stage at the United Power Grandstand to wrap up the Adams County Fair July 29 through Aug. 2.

The concert begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, at Riverdale Regional Park, 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton.

Alan and Marlowe will be joined with special guest Austin Snell.

The United Power Grandstand will also host Demolition Derby Nights on Thursday and Friday, July 30-31.

Tickets and free shuttle information are now available at adamscountyfair.com.

Eastern Colorado News

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Publisher & Editor
Douglas Claussen • dclaussen@i-70scout.com

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

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

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

Advertising
advertising@i-70scout.com

Stuffing Crew
Ember Seward-Sorensen, Linda Adair, Marilee Gillock, Baylee Sigg

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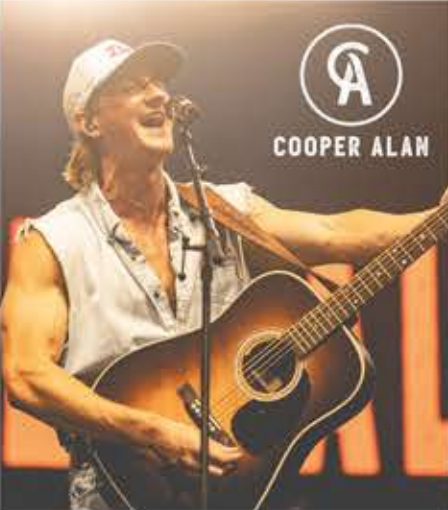
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Karen Kersiek



In Loving Memory of Karen J. Kersiek Honoring a Remarkable Life

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Karen Kersiek. She was a cherished member of our family, known for her warmth, kindness, and unwavering support. Karen brought joy to everyone she met, always offering a listening ear and a comforting smile.

Karen was born in Greeley, Colo., to William and Elsa Kersiek on April 1, 1944. She was raised on the family farm north of Strasburg. After graduating from Strasburg High School she attended CU Boulder, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree. She worked in Grand Junction as a social worker for a short time then moved to the Washington Park area in Denver to start her career for the Colorado Department of Labor until her retirement.

Her passion for life was evident in all that she did — from the loving care she gave her family to the friendships she nurtured throughout her years. She will be remembered for her musical talent on the piano, love of hiking and traveling, generosity, her laughter, and her ability to make every gathering feel special.

We celebrated Karen's 82nd birthday on April 1 and she passed on April 18 from Alzheimer's. She is survived by a brother Bill (JoAnn) Kersiek; two sisters, Charlotte Kersiek and Mary (Clyde) Lewis all of Strasburg along with many nieces & nephews. Though we mourn her loss, we take comfort in the many wonderful memories she leaves behind. Her legacy of love and compassion will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

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MINING PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

current mining permit request a “blatant, backhanded effort to circumvent illegal activity.”

Neighbors also indicated their awareness that the current permit application is an effort to recoup almost \$50,000 in fines levied against the applicant for last autumn’s indiscretions.

Between July and October of last year, both the county and state uncovered violations serious enough to order the company to cease and desist operations.

The operator was reportedly transporting material to commercial roadway construction sites in the region.

The state reclamation division said that the original permit granted the operator of the site was for agricultural purposes but that the extent of excavation and material removal rose to the level of the definition of mining.

“Arapahoe Farm Pit meets the definition of a ‘mining operation’ ... as a construction material (sand) was extracted from its natural occurrences on affected land,” the state violation said. “Therefore [per state statute] a reclamation permit is required.”

County officials also considered the use on the property in violation of both zoning code and what the original approved conditional use was.

Among the violations leading to the

cease-and-desist order were greater-than-anticipated excavation activity at the location, heavy semi truck traffic, and neighboring environmental impacts.

Under the new project name, plans were to restart hauling up to 150 truck loads of material off the site between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; however, documentation presented at the meeting showed a revised work day schedule of 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The operator of the site would have been Haulr LLC.

Additional concerns included school bus route safety, especially along County Road 157; heavy amounts of windblown dust; encroachment onto neighboring property lines; and being left with un-repaired roadways/right-of-ways and a raped piece of land neighboring them.

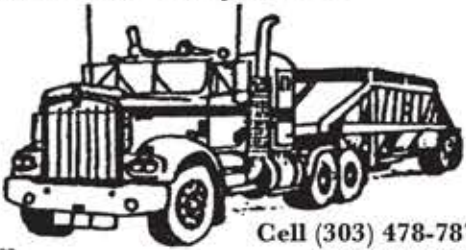
While the borrow pit project appears dead, minimal activity at the site is expected as it must be remediated to comply with state regulations.

“The property owner still needs to fix their compliance issues with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety,” the county spokeswoman said. “They will also need to get grading permits from the county, which would be reviewed by [engineering], so that they can reclaim the site and restore vegetation.”

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ARAPAHOE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE NO: ASI25-001, COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE / 1041 PERMIT

PROPOSAL: The applicant, Public Service Company of Colorado (an Xcel Energy Company), is proposing approximately 18 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission. The transmission line will commence at the Harvest Mile Substation (4455 S. Harvest Road) and then head north to the north side of E. Quincy Avenue (CR 30). The transmission line then continues east for approximately 11.5 miles and then crosses CR 30 and then travels east along this road. The line then turns south between S. Tom Bay Road and S. Brick Center Road (CR 129). The line continues south for 5 miles until E. County Line Road (CR 50) and then heads east approximately 1.3 miles before turning south into Elbert County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 23, 2026, at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the calendar of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners permits, a public hearing will be held, at which all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. ASI25-001, Colorado's Power Pathway 345-KV Transmission Line / 1041 Permit. The public hearing will be held at the Arapahoe County Administration Building, 5334 S Prince St, East Hearing Room, Littleton CO 80120, with the option to participate remotely. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

Published in The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and Eastern Colorado News on Friday, May 22, 2026.

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BENNETT BOT

FROM PAGE 1

Fourth Street north of Palmer Avenue for administrative offices and meeting space, but the annex trailer behind town hall has become unsuitable for occupancy because of a leaky roof and mold and will be demolished this summer.

As a result, the trustees approved amending the fire district lease agreement to include temporary office space in the Bennett Safety Building, 365 Palmer Ave.

According to Town Administrator Trish Stiles, the amended agreement includes clarification of office/meeting space and short-term storage occupancy through 2028.

Stiles clarified that the fire district's primary office will remain the old town hall building and that members of the public looking to meet at the fire district must go there first.

The amended agreement did not change lease term or monthly rent structure.

Last month, Assistant Fire Chief Caleb Connor asked the town to entertain the idea of donating municipal property at East 38th Avenue and Highway 79 for the immediate purpose of fire district administrative facilities.

"The town has determined that this parcel is no longer needed for its originally planned water utility infrastructure and has no current plans for its municipal use. This presents a unique and timely opportunity for the property to be repurposed in a manner that directly benefits the community through enhanced public safety services," said the mid-April letter from Connor "[We currently own] the adjacent parcel, and acquisition of this additional property would allow the district to strategically expand its footprint to meet the needs of our rapidly growing service area. The combined parcels would provide adequate space for a modern fire station, administrative offices, and future operational needs, ensuring we are well-positioned to serve both current residents and future development."

Connor specified the most pressing

need is to construct administrative facilities as the district has outgrown the old Bennett Town Hall.

During this month's discussion, Stiles indicated a desire to hopefully "have something done" before the December 2028 sunset date on the revised tenant arrangement in the Public Safety Building.

RECREATION UPDATE

In addition to announcing the grand opening of the Civic Park ball field complex at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, trustees approved the first phase of Bennett sports facilities at Civic Park and adopted a fee schedule as proposed by consulting firm The Sports Facilities Companies

In November 2025, the board directed town staff to proceed with The Sports Facilities Companies to undertake a market and financial feasibility analysis for Civic Center Park. The Sports Facilities Companies recently completed their analysis of the Bennett market for these activities and prepared an updated fee schedule, which was approved.

The approximately 11.25-acre site for phase I now nearing completion includes a 400-foot natural grass ball field; a 350-foot natural grass ball field; a 5,000 square-foot playground area with a water park feature; a 1,600 square-foot support building; 180 new parking spaces; and areas for green spaces and trails.

Stiles added that, when opened, the ball field complex will be available for public use but that the building and trash enclosure will likely be incomplete.

FULL BOARD

The swearing in of Arbogast gave the board a full seven members. Christopher Clemens and Bonnie Brown (last name Teachout on the official ballot) took their seats after they were sworn in April 28.

Clemens, Brown and Arbogast were the top three vote-getters April 7 while James "Grider" Lee and Kat Crow didn't receive enough votes.

Case Name: Strasburg Subarea Plan

Case Number: PLN2026-00006

Planning Commission Hearing Date: 06/11/2026 at 6 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: 07/07/2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Case Manager: Ella Gleason, Senior Long-Range Planner,
Egleason@adamscountycolorado.gov 720.523.6923

Request: A comprehensive plan amendment to adopt the Strasburg Subarea Plan.

Parcel Number (s): County-Wide

Applicant: Adams County Community and Economic Development Department 4430 S. Adams County Parkway Brighton, Colorado 80601

Public Hearings Location: 4430 S. Adams County Pkwy., Brighton, CO 80601

Please visit <https://adamscountycolorado.gov/> for up to date information. The full text of the proposed request and additional colored maps can be obtained by accessing the ADCO CEDD website at <https://adamscountycolorado.gov/our-county/community-economic-development/planning-development/current-land-use-cases/>.



LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

Open Hours with CSU Extension: Colorado State University Extension in Adams County will provide gardening tips, farming guidance or youth development opportunities through 4-H — including animal care, STEM, health and life skills. Appropriate for all ages. English only. 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 21.

Adult book club: “Propaganda Girls: The Secret War of the Women in the OSS” by Lisa Rogak. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, May 22.

Saturday Storytime: A cheerful morning of stories, songs, rhymes and hands-on activities that spark imagination and learning for children ages 2-6 will occur. 10-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 23, KB Home, 47369 Magnolia Ave., Bennett.

The Culinary Science of Butter and Toast: Kids ages 12 and up can get hands-on in the kitchen with 4-H to make butter and toast from scratch. Explore the science behind churning butter and learn about the Maillard reaction that gives toast its delicious flavor. Both dairy and gluten options will be discussed. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, May 27.

Open Create with CCAL: Adult artists can collaborate at a gathering hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League. They can bring their own projects and supplies or choose from a variety provided by the library. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 27.

MySummer Kick off Party: Library fans of all ages can celebrate the start of summer at the annual MySummer Kickoff Party to open the summer reading season. The Ag & Food Lab will highlight local farmers, growers and gardeners through hands-on activities focused on plants and agriculture. Participants can also examine real farm equipment, harvest fresh produce from the hydroponics garden and jump into interactive activities. 3:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 28.

Garden of Wonder: Children ages 2-12 can dig into a hands-on planting adventure in the Garden of Wonder. Kids will learn to sow climate-adapted crops, explore how plants grow, and discover the full journey from seed to plate. 10-11 a.m., Friday, May 29.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

‘Jedi School’: Teens and tweens ages 9-18 can train with Knights of the



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

As part of National Poetry Month last month, Anythink Bennett library hosted Denver-based performer Suzi Q. Smith for a presentation about Writing to Music April 17.

Tempest to learn fight choreography worthy of the big screen — and take a Lightsaber home. Space limited. RSVP at arapahoelibraries.org. 2-3 p.m., Tuesday, June 2.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Music & Movement: Kids ages 2-5 can sing, dance and play musical instruments. 10-11 a.m., Thursday, May 21.

Wacky Takeover: Teens and tweens will decorate fantastical hats with feathers, flowers and other materials. Supplies provided. 4-5 p.m., Wednesday, June 3. Attendees can wear their creations to the Mad Hatters tea party at 4 p.m., Wednesday, June 10.

Heroes’ Destiny: A Medieval Role Play Adventure: Kids and tweens CAN step into a fantasy kingdom to become royalty, traitors and spies. Through guided scenarios, they will learn about the medieval court — then use problem-solving and swordplay to become the heroes of the story. Led by Heroes Destiny, a live-action role-playing company that brings fantasy worlds to life. Events are designed to help kids build bravery and confidence through imaginative play. Space limited. To RSVP, visit arapahoelibraries.org. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 9.

Mad Hatter Tea Party: Teens and tweens, come for an afternoon of tea, desserts, and plenty of silliness. Sip tea from fancy cups, learn to make bite-sized treats, and embrace the madness by wearing your most curious hat or outfit. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 10.

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Robert “Bob” Witchel

“My hope and prayer is that everyone knows and loves our country for what she really is and what she stands for.” - John Wayne
Lives are hard to sum up in just a few words. How does a person condense 70 years of life into a few paragraphs? My daddy believed in God, this country, family, friends, and community. He lived his life building a legacy that would outlive him. Not just in his children, but in the hearts and minds of those he encountered. Dad was never a stranger to hard work, Lord knows he grabbed that bull by the horns as soon as he could. He owned his first home at 18, a feat few can boast. He took his role as big brother seriously and if Kevin were here to testify, he’d say probably too seriously. But my father chose to be a fatherly figure to those who didn’t have one, lost one or in moments just needed one. He managed groups of over hundreds in every store he worked. For 45 years, he steered business, careers and futures.
Dad believed in earning a living and saving for the future. All these years later, I heard one of my friends discuss a financial strategy with his daughters, like he’d heard my dad do with me 27 years ago. Lifetimes cannot be measured in years, but in the hearts of those left behind. My father was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, manager and friend. Our small community has leaned on each other my whole life. From 4th of July shenanigans, to weddings, and lately saying goodbye to those we love. But, unlike most communities I don’t doubt “the neighbors” are looking out for each other, helping with needs before even asked, and praying for the next generation.
Bob Witchel is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughters Kimberly Kelly and Krissy Robideau; grandchildren Hailee Witchel, Jaden Grubb, Jesse Robideau and Azlyn Witchel; and aunt Suzie McCullough. He was preceded in death by his parents Roy Witchel and June and John Rossi; brothers Darren and Kevin Witchel; uncles Darrel and Larry McCullough; and aunt Adie McCullough.
A memorial service will be held at the Witchel residence Saturday, May 30, at noon.

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1906-2026

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July 20 (9 AM-7 PM)

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Main Hall, 25690
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www.arapahoecountyfair.com/publiccompetitions





ARAPAHOE COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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May 30, 10-11 a.m.

Join our Master Gardeners to discover how to use companion planting to naturally deter pests, improve soil health, and boost your garden's overall productivity. No registration needed for this free event, located at **2171 W. Shepperd Avenue, Littleton.**

arapahoeco.gov

WEEK OF MAY 18

Parks & Rec outing destined for Wild Animal Sanctuary

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 21, on an excursion to the Wild Animal Sanctuary at Keenesburg.

The trip, which costs \$26, 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.

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www.spcusa.us
303-622-4325

• Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

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Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
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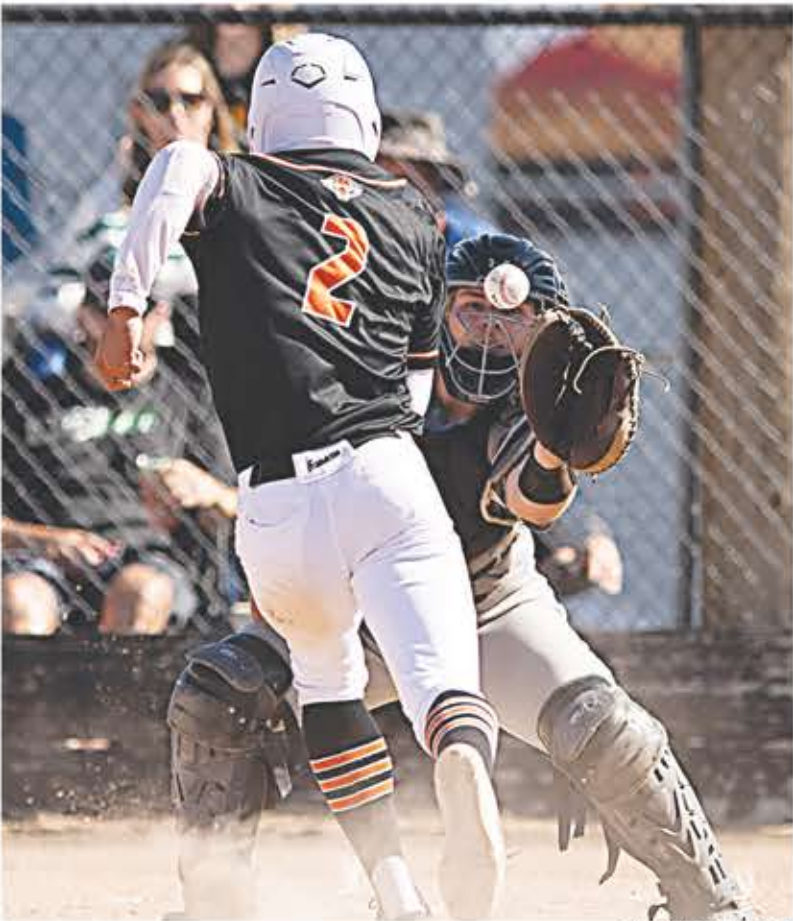
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor



SPORTS



Bennett 9 splits against Bulldogs, Indians



Byers catcher Parker Ebert looks around Tiger Avant Dickens as a throw comes his way at home plate during the schools May 11 I-70 Corridor match-up.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

The final two days of the baseball regular season saw back-to-back I-70 Corridor rivalry games with two of the three local squads extending their season into the regional playoffs before concluding their spring seasons this past Saturday.

After Bennett defeated visiting Byers 6-2 May 11, the orange-and-black traveled to Strasburg the following day where the Indians exacted revenge from an earlier loss, 6-5.

Despite finishing its regular season 9-14, Byers was the 27th seed in the 2A playoffs and traveled to No. 6-seeded Dayspring Christian May 16 but fell 10-0 to the Eagles in the first round of regionals to conclude its campaign.

Strasburg, with a 9-13 regular season and 0-10 in

SEE BB END OF SEASON
PAGE 10



Bennett first basemen Trenton Neade awaits a throw as the ball just beats Indian Cam Manahan to the bag during both schools' regular-season finale May 12.



The most significant I-70 Corridor highlight from the first day of the Colorado State Track & Field Championships May 14 came from the Strasburg boys 4x800-meter relay team, which finished third, garnering 7 team points for the Indians. According to Strasburg assistant track coach Mike James, the school record for the event was obliterated as 26 seconds were shaved off over the last two weeks of the season. From left photo, Indian senior Jeremiah Redd charges to the lead during his opening leg; junior Noah Dobransky races down the back stretch during the second leg; senior Isaac James battles with a Prospect Ridge runner on the third leg; and junior Jayden Miller, running only his third competitive 800 leg in his high school career, streaks down the back straightaway on his anchor leg. For complete coverage of the state track meet, including top 10 team finishes for both the Strasburg girls and boys, see the May 22 *Eastern Colorado News*. The state meet was held at JeffCo Stadium in Lakewood



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET

STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 31J

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Notice is hereby given that the proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of the Strasburg School District 31J for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and has been filed in the office of the Secretary to the Board, where it is available for inspection. The proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The District Office is located at 2102 Wagner Street, Strasburg. Any person paying school taxes in Strasburg School District may file or register any objections to the proposed budget at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 31J
Amanda Rosier, Finance Director
May 15, 2026



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout
Tiger Cougar Cronk gets enough of the bat on the ball for one of his two base hits in his final high school game against Strasburg May 12.

BB END OF SEASON FROM PAGE 9

Patriot League play, was No. 29 in the state playoff seedings. It lost 14-4 to fourth-seeded Aspen in regional play May 16.

For coverage of both regional tournaments, see the May 25 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

Bennett concluded its season 10-13 and four spots outside the top 32 teams for the 3A postseason.

BYERS @ BENNETT

The penultimate game of the season for the host Tigers saw them score the first five runs over four innings and hold onto the victory.

After a bases-loaded walk put the orange-and-black up 1-0 after the first inning, junior Avant Dickens and Owen Hawes both singled in the second and came around to score after a series of steals and a senior Cou-

gar Cronk ground out. In the fourth, Dickens tripled and scored on a Bull-dog error, and junior Brayden Werner tacked on an RBI single.

Byers tallied single runs in the fifth and sixth innings — an unearned tally on two Tiger errors and an RBI double by freshman Osiris Aldana.

In the bottom of the sixth, Bennett freshman Victor Herrera drove in Cronk with a sacrifice fly to center field.

The game was full of missed scoring opportunities for both sides as each squad left 12 base runners stranded.

Bennett won the hitting battle, 9-4, with four walks, seven strikeouts, and two batters hit-by-pitch. The visitors struck out 10 times, walked thrice, and were hit by pitches three times.

SEE BB END OF SEASON PAGE 12



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout
Above, Strasburg infielder Coltrane Smith tries to keep a throw from getting into outfield as Tiger Owen Hawes slides into second during the regular-season finale May 12. Below, Byers' Kaden Bennett legs out an infield base hit ahead of the throw to Bennett first baseman Trenton Neade the day before.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2026!

Bennett • Deer Trail



Morticia (senior Jillian Armstrong) breaks out in song during the Deer Trail School Players performance of *The Addams Family Musical*/April 24. The night featured acting from students in the higher elementary grades as well as the middle and high schools.



The Bennett secondary schools joined forces for a pair of non-stop Prism Concerts May 5 and 7 in the high school auditorium. Both nights featured concert bands, jazz bands and choir performances. The two events marked the final ones for high school band and vocal music instructors Valerie White and Alysse Brennan who are leaving the district after nine and three years, respectively. Above, senior Damien Wise shows off his versatility as he steps off the risers for a song to provide piano accompaniment.



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- Rylee Tiffany
- Nate Grow
- Madi Steinman
- Konner Casebeer
- Jorge Parra Aguirre
- Hannah Damron
- Grace Foose
- Azael Garcia





PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Earlier this spring, a half-dozen Bennett secondary students were honored during a town trustees meeting for being named to the Adams County Mayors & Commissioners Youth Award program for overcoming and persevering through adversity. Those honored, included middle-schoolers Chase Hunt, Anastasya Lewey, Makayla Ramirez, and Cambria Sinka, and high-schooler Brenda Kaiser-Steiner, who won one of the finalist awards presented by the county. Not pictured is Jasper Schoff from Bennett Middle School.



From my family to yours
this graduation season:

**Congrats
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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

- Adams County Commissioner
Steve O'Dorisio

A parent's guide to paying for college with confidence

STATEPOINT — If you're the parent of a college-bound student, you'll soon be receiving financial aid award letters. Making sense of these letters and planning your next steps can help you navigate the years ahead.

Among the nearly 90% of parents in a College Ave survey who say they helped or planned to help their child pay for college, 68% were confident they had a good payment plan. To help ensure you can say the same for yourself, it's really important to nail down the details. Once the financial aid award letters arrive, Angela Colatriano, chief operating officer at College Ave, says to take the following steps:

Compare the offers. Each letter might present information a bit differently. Getting an apples-to-apples look at the offers is critical. You can calculate the net direct cost of each school by subtracting offered scholarships and grants from the cost of attendance (tuition, room, board, textbooks and fees). If applicable, you can subtract work-study aid too. You should also factor in expected annual increases in tuition, room, board and other fees.

Understand how federal borrowing has changed. The One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB), signed into law last year, brings important changes to federal financial aid. While some provisions expand flexibility, including Pell Grant use and student loan rehabilitation opportunities, it also places new federal loan limits on parents and graduate students. Families who might be considering federal loans to cover remaining costs may need a new approach and funding plan. It's important to be mindful of these new changes and annual borrowing limits so there are no surprises down the line.

Look for more scholarship opportunities. Beyond federal and institution-



MILJAN ZIVKOVIC/Stock via Getty Images Plus

al financial aid, outside scholarships can help you meet college costs. Ask your student's high school counselor and visit online sites like bigfuture.collegboard.org and scholarships.com to find relevant opportunities. One easy and simple scholarship your student can apply to again and again in mere moments is the College Ave Scholarship Sweepstakes, which awards \$1,000 to a lucky winner each month.

Cover the gap. If there's still a gap after financial aid, savings and income, and federal loans, consider private student loans or private parent loans. If your family does borrow loans, be sure that your student has an understanding of how loans work, so they are prepared for their monthly payments once repayment begins. You should also compare rates and terms and prioritize lenders with good customer service. To run the numbers ahead of time so you can borrow smarter and with more confidence, use College Ave's student loan calculator found at collegeave.com/calculator.

"Taking the time to carefully compare all your options, then moving forward with a well-considered plan can make this exciting time less stressful and more joyful," says Colatriano.



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Associate of Applied Science - Nursing

Bennett, CO
Ayane Aguilar
Nurse Aide Certificate

Kallie Dunn
Early Childhood Teacher Certificate

Keisha Mock
Associate of Science

Cassidy Sherman
Early Childhood Teacher Certificate &
Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
Certificate

Adam Torres
Associate of Science

Byers, CO
Tamara Dawkins
Phlebotomy Technologies Certificate

Mikaela Price
Qualified Behavioral Health Assistant
Certificate

Taylor Thomas
Early Childhood Teacher Certificate

Deer Trail, CO
Erika Rowley
Associate of Arts

Monument, CO
Morgan Beil
Associate of Arts



Limon, CO
Emma Coonts
Nurse Aide Certificate & Associate of Arts

Dreison Davis
Associate of Arts

Sakara Smith
Nurse Aide Certificate

Kymerli Spencer
Associate of Applied Science - Nursing

Kaitlin Wesemann
GED

Strasburg, CO
Samuel Benesch
Associate of Arts

Megan McAvoy
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BENNETT

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to follow
at approx.
8:15-8:30 p.m.
(Weather & Fire
Status Permitting)

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Acosta Rodriguez

Isaac Adams

Maximiliano
Aguirre Viezca

Juan Aguirre Villa

Blake Albertson

Shaphan Andrews

Axel Andujo Mendivil

Delila Arellano-Guzman

Sarah Azulay

Fatima Bardales

Kayla Barela

Lila Blessinger

Chloe Bordner

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Yamila Canales Reyes

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Tommy Cearns

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— Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker

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Salvador Corado



Tayla Counce



Cougar Cronk



Lane Davis



Alexia De La Torre



Nephtali Delgado-Lopez



Natalie Diaz



Steven Diaz Rosales



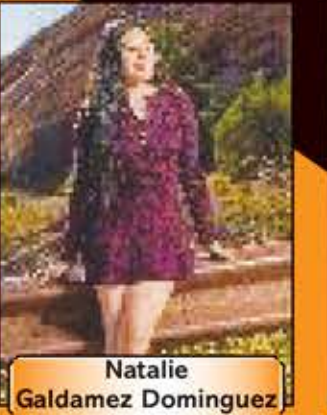
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Alfredo Duran



Reece Exner



Natalie Galdamez Dominguez



Kayden Gallegos Bevan



Raymundo Galvan

Bennett Class of 2026

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Mason Gregory



Kaylene Guillen



Jagoda Gutowska



Audrey Harrell



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Abraham Herrera Soto



Garrett Hill



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Karla Jasso-Toledo



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Aden Lewey



Luz Lobatos Talavera



Salvatore Lomri



Abraham Macias



Madison Mackley



Monica Madera



Tania Marroquin Preza



Vanessa Martinez Flores



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Michael Metzler



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Garen Ovwigho

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Class of 2026

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Ronan Paugh



Markus Pauley



Olivia Peña



Aidan Perez



Adolfo Perez Jimenez



Alexander Petre



Juan Ramos



Jefferson Rivera Hernandez



Colby Robichaud



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Logan Ryder



Fabian Sanchez



Emily Sandoval

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Congratulations to the Bennett Class of 2026

Friday, May 22, 7 p.m., Paul Read Field



Juan Santoyo



Jesus Santoyo-Soto



Caycen Scholz



Abigail Sergo



Damian Shead



Rosemary Smith



Jennifer Soto



Ethan Spies



Meadow Steele

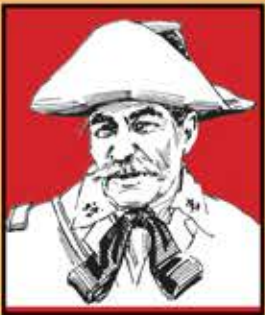


Austin Stiers

Celebratory Fireworks Display
to follow at approx. 8:15-8:30 p.m.
(Weather & Fire Status Pending)



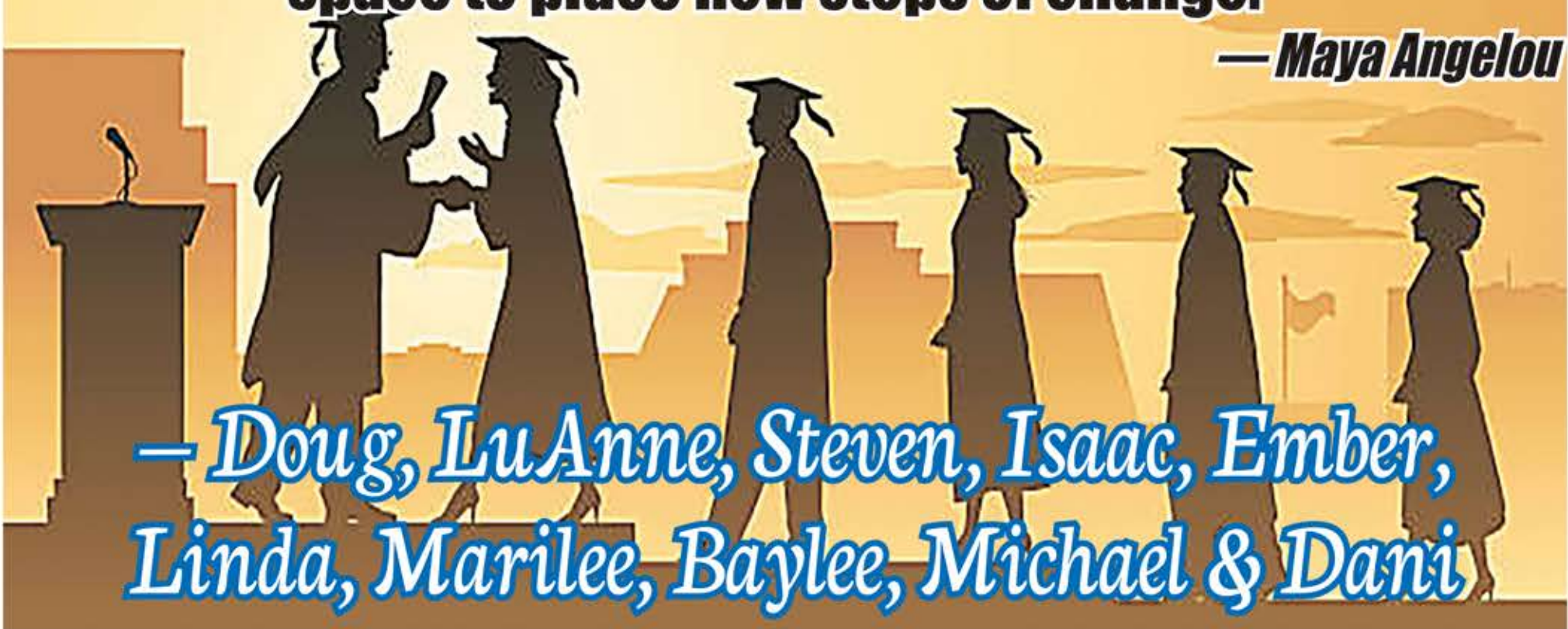
The Staff Of The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News



Congratulates the Class Of 2026.

“The horizon leans forward, offering you
space to place new steps of change.”

— *Maya Angelou*



— Doug, LuAnne, Steven, Isaac, Ember,
Linda, Marilee, Baylee, Michael & Dani

BENNETT



Congratulations to the

Bennett Class of 2026

Friday, May 22, 7 p.m., Paul Read Field



Ruby Torres



Pedro Valencia Martinez



Sergio Valle-Montes



Dasahel Valles Villa



Maria Velazquez Arciga



Johnathon Vigil



Jesus Villescas



Kaurlie Voorhies



Peyton Wagner



Faith Walker



Manolo Williams



Damien Wise



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★ TACK

★ APPAREL



Congratulations to the
Deer Trail Class of 2026
Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m., Deer Trail School Gymnasium

DEER TRAIL



Jillian Armstrong



April Peña Avila



Christopher Avitia



Nickolas Avitia



Griffin Burdick



Jackson Burdick



Mason Burdick



Julia Corado

Valedictorian: April Peña Avila

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graduates



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— Nora Ephron

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**Chris Avitia,
all Deer Trail &
I-70 Corridor seniors**



Way to push through
this chapter!
Onto the next!

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**To Deer Trail
Class of 2026**

**Don't Be
Held Down,
Soar to New
Highs!**

FROM DEER TRAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT 26J



Congratulations to the

Deer Trail Class of 2026

Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m., Deer Trail School Gymnasium

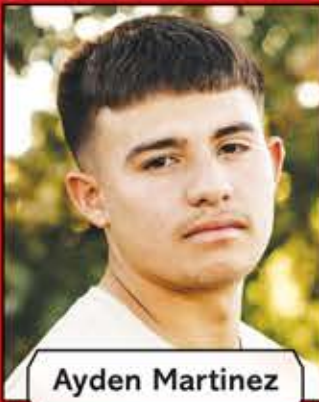
DEER TRAIL



Megan Donovan



Reid Guinard



Ayden Martinez



Michael Perez



Jeanette Rodriguez



Alex Samate



Armando Valdez, Jr.

**Class
Flower:
Cactus
Flower**



**Salutatorian:
Megan Donovan**



Class Colors: Gold & Black

**Congrats I-70 Corridor
Classes
of
2026**

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‘Elementary, my dear Watson!’



Boys from the upper school (seventh through 12th grade), including three seniors, from Our Lady Help of Christians Academy performed its version of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle classic *Sherlock Holmes* May 15 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Watkins. Clockwise from above left, Dr. Watson (senior Joseph Cantelmi) shows interest in a conversation; Sherlock Holmes (senior Ephraem Gaydosh) assures Alex Faulkner (Patrick Cantelmi) that he can extricate them out of situation of being tied up in a gas-filled warehouse with a bomb about ready to go off; pick-pocket Sid Prince (Theodore "Teddy" Harbaugh) listens to the plans of the evil Professor Moriarty (senior Thomas Conder); Mr. Bassick (Cyprian Bushnell) stirs up a group of striking factory workers during a foggy London morning; and the professors' secretary Joe (James Eddy) and thugs Mark and James Larrabee (Aedan and Gideon De La Torre) get their instructions from the professor.





Our Lady Help of Christians Academy

Graduation Celebration on Saturday, May 30

Baccalaureate Mass @ 9 a.m., St. Isidore's Catholic Church, 32100 E. Colfax Ave., Watkins
Commencement Exercises to follow @ Bennett High School Auditorium, 610 7th St.

Valedictorian: Thomas Conder

Salutatorian: Aimee O'Neill



Joseph Cantelmi



Thomas Conder



Addisyn Cummings



Aryanna Eddy



Ephraem Gaydosh



Cecelia Gilmor



Ashlynn Linnebur



Aimee O'Neill



Emily Pfeiffer



Mairead Torre

"While the world changes, the Cross stands firm." — St. Bruno (Class Patron)



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May 26-30: \$1 off/lb Sirloin Bavette and \$1 off Brats

David R. Oberosler passed away surrounded by the love of his family. He was born on May 10, 1950, in Las Vegas, Nev., to Rudolph and Newrene Oberosler.

David married the love of his life, Victoria Monaghan, on July 20, 1974, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Together they built a life centered on love, family, service, and dedication. They made their home in Strasburg, Colo.

David proudly served his country in the United States Army for 23 years, retiring with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer III. Following his military career, he continued his pursuit of knowledge and education, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees in science from Regis University.

David was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his beloved wife, Victoria; his daughter April (husband Brian) and grandchildren William, Grace-Lynn, and Liam; his son David (wife Amanda) and grandchildren David Jr, Alex, Lucas, Andrew, and Colton; son Bryan (wife Danielle) and grandchildren Bryan Jr, Trenten, and Landen; and daughter Jennifer (wife Alexis). His grandson William is engaged to be married to his love Samantha. He is also survived by his siblings Terry Kocher, Glenn Fournier, and Wayne Fournier.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Linda and Lloyd Jones.

David found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments. He was an avid gardener and reader, loved traveling the world, and enjoyed watching historical movies and learning about history. Above all else, David deeply loved his wife, his family, and his faithful dog, Leo.

A small family service with military honors and "Taps" was held May 16, at Olinger Hampden Mortuary, Cremation & Cemetery.

David will be remembered for his strength, intelligence, sense of humor, devotion to family, and honorable service to his country. His love and legacy will live on in all who knew him.



David Oberosler

BB END OF SEASON

Both defenses struggled as Strasburg had three errors and Bennett four.

Senior Bulldog designated hitter Cris Papaianopol had all but one of Byers' hits with three singles, but Aldana's double was the green-and-white's lone RBI. A trio of Tigers had two hits — Dickens, Werner and junior Evan Garner.

On the mound, Cronk got the victory for Bennett, allowing 2 runs, 1 earned, on four hits while walking two and striking out eight over six innings.

Dickens came from behind the plate to throw a final inning shutout, walking one and striking out two.

Byers' junior ace Kaden Bennett threw the first four innings, allowing 5 runs, 2 earned, on seven hits while walking two and striking out four. Sophomore Wes Butterfield threw the next 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, allowing an earned run on two hits while walking two, hitting two, and striking out three. Freshman Jake Zufall got the final out in the sixth on two pitches.

BENNETT @ STRASBURG

Tuesday's season-finale rematch between the six-mile rivals was a last-second addition to the schedule after Arvada couldn't field enough players against the Indians last month. Bennett won the first contest 8-7 via a walkout hit on their home diamond April 25.

Similar to that first game, Strasburg had the lead throughout with Bennett rallying. But, unlike last month, Strasburg was able to hold on.

After getting out of a bases-loaded jam without allowing a run in the top of the opening frame, Strasburg jumped up 3-0 in the bottom of the inning, including an RBI single by junior Reagan Rosier.

Bennett's initial run came across in the third on a Werner ground out RBI. The Indians had their second three-run inning in the bottom of the fourth, including a pair of RBI singles by senior Aiden Bongard and sophomore Gavin Welch.



ALYSSA STEMOL/For The Scout

Bennett infielder Brayden Werner camps underneath a Byers pop fly for an out May 11.

With one out in Bennett's half of the sixth, three batters walked, Cronk and Garner hit back-to-back singles, and a hit batter led to four runs; the orange-and-black still had two runners on base when two strikeouts concluded the inning.

Strasburg senior Gabe Smith toed the rubber with one out in the sixth and, after hitting his first batter, struck out four straight Tigers and induced a game-ending line out.

Like the final score, Strasburg won the hitting battle by one, 7-6. While striking out 13 times, the Tigers walked six times and had one hit batsman. The victors struck out nine times, walked three times, and had one hit batsman.

Welch paced the Indians with a three-hit night, an RBI and a run scored. Bennett's hits all came from the top three of the lineup — Cronk, Garner and Werner all with two apiece.

Senior R.J. Weaver got the win on the mound for the hosts, allowing an earned run on four hits while walking three and striking out eight. After freshman Coltrane Smith allowed 4 runs, 3 earned, on two hits, three walks, and a strikeout in a third of the sixth inning, Gabe Smith shut the door, throwing 26 pitches, 19 strikes, against six Tigers.

Unlike last year when Bennett lost all but three key cogs to graduation, starting 2026 with predominantly first-year varsity players, head coach Joe Ortiz relinquishes several seniors this season, one with significant playing time.

"It was all about getting our younger guys as many reps as possible and that should bode well for us moving ahead," Ortiz said.

Cougar Cronk graduates after being the Tigers second-best hitter this season (.476 batting average, nine RBIs). In his stead, Garner (.500, 10 doubles, 15 RBIs); Dickens (.408, two home runs, seven doubles, 15 RBIs); Werner (0.397, 13 RBIs); Herrera (0.377); Hawes (.302), and freshmen Trevor Evans (0.477, three doubles, 13 RBIs) and Trapper Cronk (0.327, two triples, 10 RBIs) are expected to key the attack next season.

COMING SOON

SUMMER READING 2026



Once Upon a Summer

AGES 0-18
June 1-July 31



Starting June 1, visit the library to choose a free book to keep. Find summer events at arapahoelibraries.org/summer-reading.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Not-So Dusty Pages

20 YEARS AGO
MAY 23, 2006

The primary 35,000-square foot events center and livestock wing at the new Arapahoe County Fairgrounds at 25690 East Quincy Ave. is on schedule: to be ready by the Arapahoe County Fair in late July.

As of May 11, construction workers were putting the roof and sides on the building and working on the installation of utilities.

"The county and construction company are both pleased with the progress being made and are confident we will be ready for the county fair," said Scott Wiggs, engineer for Arapahoe County Public Works & Development. "It is going to be a great building that the county and residents can take a lot of pride in."

The main exhibit hall is 17,500 square feet and divided into a number of smaller rooms that surround a primary area to be set aside for general exhibits and other large events.

"The exhibit hall will also house all the power, water, and heating and air conditioning rooms," Wiggs said. "Bathrooms will also be located there."

The east wing of the events center is also 17,500 square feet, but is wide open for livestock activities and other events.

"There are animal racks in the southeast corner, but other than that we are looking at a wide open area," Wiggs said. "It will be a great space for housing livestock and showing them."

15 YEARS AGO
MAY 24, 2011

BENNETT - In an effort to find a way to stem the negative tide of severe budget cuts the past several years, Bennett School District board members were recently introduced to the idea of a mill levy override.

During the May 19 board meeting, district finance director Keith Yaich indicated that an extra \$1 million raised in property tax collection would cost residential property owners within the district \$86.84 per year for every \$100,000 of property valuation, or \$7.24 per month.

What level of extra money a potential ballot question would ask for is unknown, but Yaich provided estimates for a range of figures from \$250,000 to over \$2.3 million.

Whether the issue would be brought in front of voters in November was not decided, but Superintendent Richard Coleman indicated a

direction should be given by the June board meeting.

"If you want to move forward, it wouldn't cost the district anything extra to put it on the ballot since we have a board election coming up anyway, but we are about four months out from having to have a ballot finalized, and there is a lot of work to do over that time," he said.

Coleman said the cost of the election to the district would be between \$4,500 to \$5,000 and that a Political Issue Committee, separate from the board, would likely be formed to raise a similar amount of funds to publicize the override effort.

10 YEARS AGO
MAY 24, 2016

STRASBURG — Two state troopers have received the Medal of Valor for their heroic actions in placing themselves between an armed and violent individual and the public during an incident near Strasburg last June.

Master Trooper Dwayne Massner and Trooper Derek Pollard were honored at a Colorado State Patrol ceremony April 8 where presentations were made for Valor, Distinguished Service and Life Saving.

Purple Heart recipients and Officers of the Year were also recognized.

While responding to a single vehicle rollover crash between Deer Trail and the Peoria exit on I-70 the morning of June 6, 2015, Massner was alerted to, and found, a male subject walking from the scene with a gun to his own head. Walking into oncoming traffic, the subject used that weapon to carjack a vehicle from a westbound motorist.

Pollard also responded to the incident and deployed stop sticks, which successfully deflated the right front tire of the stolen vehicle. Master followed the subject, who was at time speeding up to 100 miles per hour, to the Strasburg exit ramp where the trooper completed a successful tactical vehicle intervention. The subject rolled the stolen vehicle off the road and down an embankment.

Getting to safety, Massner retrieved his rifle to observe from a secure distance. Despite taking gunfire from the subject, both Massner and Pollard were able to keep the suspect contained in the immediate area with a single gunshot as other law enforcement arrived.

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

SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, May 20, the 140th day of 2026. There are 225 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On May 20, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, which was intended to encourage settlement west of the Mississippi River by making federal land available for private ownership and farming. About 10% of the land area of the United States (270 million acres, or 1.1 mil-

lion square km) would be privatized by 1934.

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1861, North Carolina seceded from the Union, becoming the 10th state to join the Confederacy early in the American Civil War.

In 1873, Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis obtained a U.S. patent for putting rivets in men's work pants to prevent wear and tear, leading to the large-scale production of denim blue jeans.

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from Long Island, New York, aboard the Spirit of St. Louis on his historic solo flight to Paris, France. He completed the first solo, nonstop transatlantic flight of more than 3,600 miles (5,800 kilometers) in just over 33 hours.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart departed from Newfoundland to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. (Because of weather and equipment problems, Earhart landed the follow-

ing day in Northern Ireland instead of her intended destination, France.)

In 1948, Chiang Kai-shek was elected as the first president of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

In 1956, the United States exploded the first airborne hydrogen bomb over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1961, a white mob attacked a bus carrying Freedom Riders in Montgomery, Alabama, prompting the federal government to send in U.S. Marshals to restore order.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer-actor Cher is 80. Actor-comedian Dave Thomas is 77. Musician Jane Wiedlin (The Go-Go's) is 68. Actor Bronson Pinchot is 67. Actor Mindy Cohn is 60. Actor Timothy Olyphant is 58. Former racing driver Tony Stewart is 55. Rapper Busta Rhymes is 54. Actor Matt Czuchy (200-KREE) is 49. Actor-singer Natori Naughton is 42. Cyclist Chris Froome is 41. Country musician Jon Pardi is 41. Singer Omar Apollo is 29. Soccer player Trinity Rodman is 24.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

ACROSS

- Throat-clearing sound
- Like a fiddle?
- Chicago baseballer
- Cyberattack target
- Opposite of pizzicato, in music
- Bullying, e.g.
- Pharmacy ware
- Wedding cake layer
- *Mythological part woman, part bird
- *Part man, part bull
- Means justifiers
- Seize the throne
- Found at the pump
- *Part man, part fish
- Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
- Schiller's address to joy
- Popular pet rodent
- Bono's bandmate, with The
- Chunk of iceberg
- *Pointy-eared humanoid
- Knight's breastplate
- Independent chieftan
- Pay, in casino (2 words)
- Bugling ungulate
- Like sun
- Mother-of-pearl, pl.
- Public health org.
- Manila hemp
- Vegan's protein choice
- *Three-headed dog
- African antelope, pl.
- Not written
- Arch above eye
- Actor's rep
- Sommelier's domain
- *Large and hideous humanoid
- *Giant bird of prey
- Bulb type
- *Abominable humanoid

DOWN

- Tally
- Stay out of its way!
- Small ladies' handbag
- Extra large wine bottle
- Robin Hood's companion Tuck
- Frost over (2 words)
- Millimeter of mercury
- Little Miss Muffet's morsel
- Mail carrier, acr.
- Beyonc , a.k.a. Queen ____
- Adjust
- Beforehand
- "Wailing spirit
- "Killers of the Flower Moon" Okla-

CROSSWORD

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62				63			64		

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

HOROSCOPE

Opening Night for Gemini Season

Welcome to Gemini season, when the sun sends vibes to the lighter side. Trends, fun, witty banter and a bit of mischief will set in. There's a sense of becoming your next version, and you can as long as you protect your attention. The world will offer endless distractions dressed as opportunities. Choose inputs that feed the goal and starve the rest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationships are unpredictable. Sorting out who is right, wrong, truthful, delusional or other would eat time and is probably irrelevant. It's better to trust that togetherness serves a purpose, though perhaps one that's not immediately clear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what it's like to play to the wrong crowd, and those experiences have led you to position your work advantageously. You'll show up where what you do will be understood and valued. Tremendous benefits follow.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a quiet longing riding under the surface today. You'll benefit from engaging with it. Consider yourself in conversation with the feeling, even if the questions are the sort that can't be put into words.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To control your own narrative is a power move that only works for you because you're honest and tuned in to what people find entertaining and interesting. You'll guide the story and be seen how you want to be seen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A plan won't move forward unless it works for everyone involved. Talk it through to see where it fits and where it doesn't. The more you smooth things out ahead of time, the better your chances of success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day's events either stir memories or leave lots of room for them to appear. Try not to use those days as comparisons but rather as evidence that you've made so much rich life already happen and you'll continue to do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Something that held a lot of intrigue for you at one time is no longer interesting. Maybe it's

not over for good, but it's over for now, freeing your beautiful mind to seek new adventures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Notice that you're reaping the benefits of countless days of work. This started long ago when you accepted substantial responsibilities (that didn't seem big at the time). Be proud of what you provide and how you maintain beautiful relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't need perfect self-love to feel good about who you are. A working respect goes a long way. Relatedly, today you may notice that you're no longer chasing approval from someone, and this makes the interaction lighter and more interesting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Something about this doesn't sit right, and yet you agreed to the deal. It doesn't mean you're stuck with it. Deals can be renegotiated, changed and even broken. Open the conversation to reshape the terms in a way that feels better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because you are good at something doesn't mean you enjoy it. And just because you are bad at something doesn't mean you're not having the time of your life with it. If you like it, do it -- end of story.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Silence invites guesswork. Instead, you speak up and set the terms. Today, you'll share your progress, decisions and outcomes. When others talk, they'll echo what you've made clear.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 20). In your Year of the Kind Eye, you're a strong, effortless influencer. You see the best and most beautiful in people. They glimpse themselves through your eyes and are inspired to greater heights. You'll turn the visionary gift on yourself, fully appreciating your talents, qualities and quirks and realizing your fondest wish. More highlights: A study you'll learn to monetize, closeness and memory making with loved ones and a domestic refresh. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 32, 20, 4, 15 and 10.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

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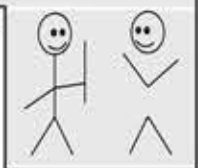
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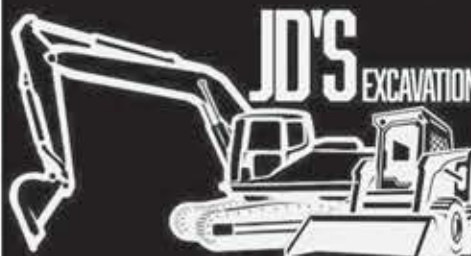
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New deputy county mgr. named by Adams County

BRIGHTON — Adams County recently appointed a new deputy county manager who brings more than 20 years of experience in public service with him.

Throughout his career, Jeff Holliday has helped turn complex policies into practical solutions that improve services for residents and support county employees, according to a release.

“Jeff’s experience and steady leadership make him a strong addition to our executive team,” said Commissioner Julie Duran Mullica, BoCC chair. “He understands how Holliday to strengthen systems while keeping people at the center of decision-making. That will be especially important as Adams County continues to grow.”

Holliday has led major efforts in public safety, behavioral health, human services, and veterans affairs. He is known for building strong accountability systems, managing large investments, and bringing agencies together to deliver measurable results, the release continues.

“He combines data-driven decision-making with a people-first approach that will help us continue delivering high-quality services to our community,” said Adams County Manager Dionne Stroter.

In his leadership roles, Holliday has focused on collaboration, transparency and aligning strategy with daily operations.

His approach supports both organizational performance and employee engagement, the release adds.

“I look forward to working with county leadership and staff to strengthen our systems, support our workforce, and meet the needs of our growing and diverse community,” Holliday said.

Holliday holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Denver and a master of business administration from the University of Colorado.

He is also a licensed clinical social worker, grounding his leadership in both human-centered practice and strategic management.

Holliday and his wife of 25 years have two daughters in college, and he enjoys cooking, woodworking and outdoor activities.

Civic Center Park: Bennett slates 6/2 grand opening

BENNETT — The Town of Bennett will host the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of Civic Center Park, 365 Muegge Way, Bennett, at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 2.

The park is envisioned as a central gathering space for the community, featuring a playground, baseball fields, a concession stand, splash pads, and open areas for residents to relax.

The Bennett Board of Trustees recently approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bennett Park and Recreation District to manage youth baseball programming at the new fields.

To RSVP for the event, send an e-mail to abelcher@bennett.co.us.

Garage sale benefit planned for Catholic youth pilgrimage

STRASBURG — A garage sale to raise funds for a Byers Catholic community youth pilgrimage will run from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at South State Bank in Strasburg.

Donated items can be delivered to the sale site between 7-8 a.m. the day of sale.

Home pick-up is available Friday May 29.

To make an appointment, call Claudia at (720)317-5926.

South State Bank is located at 56540 E. Colfax Ave.

CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, MAY 21**
- Alzheimer’s webinar.** “ALZ Talks: When Down Syndrome and Alzheimer’s Intersect.” 12-1 p.m. To register, visit www.alz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.
 - 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.
- SATURDAY, MAY 23**
- Daughters of the American Revolution Silver Spike Chapter.** 10 a.m., TBK Bank Community Room, Strasburg.
- MONDAY, MAY 25**
- West Arapahoe Conservation District Board.** 5 p.m. Virtual meeting information at westarapahoconservationdistrict.wordpress.com.
 - Agate School Board.** 6 p.m.
- TUESDAY, MAY 26**
- Ag Behavioral Health Work Group** virtual meeting. 1 p.m. Visit ag.colorado.gov to register.
 - Senior citizen game day.** 1-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.
 - Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry.** 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.
 - Bennett Board of Trustees.** Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit bennettco.gov.

- WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**
- Bennett Municipal Court.** 6 p.m., Town Hall.
- EVERY MONDAY**
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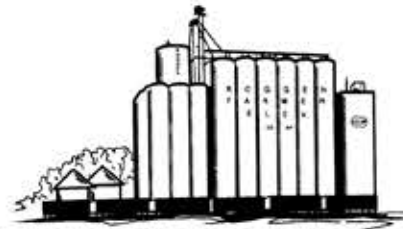
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PROPANE SERVICE TECHNICIAN/DRIVER

We are seeking a qualified, self-motivated, career-oriented person with a strong work ethic to help us provide exceptional propane service. Join our team and receive competitive pay and benefits.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Class A CDL license with air brake, hazmat, and tanker endorsements
- Must possess a clean driving record
- Must pass a background check and drug screen
- Must be able to lift up to 75 lbs and work in all weather conditions
- Meet all DOT requirements

Seeking Yard Help- including Full, Part-time and Seasonal Positions

For Bennett and Watkins locations

Competitive Wages and Benefits

We are needing dedicated people looking for long term employment. Must be reliable and punctual and no prior experience is necessary for these positions. These positions are best suited for someone who is motivated to learn, enjoys working outside, and is able to lift 50+ pounds. The primary responsibilities for these positions will be loading and unloading grain trucks, general yard maintenance and filling propane cylinders. The day-to-day duties will vary according to weather conditions and the needs of the elevator.

Apply on our website, www.roggenfarmersselev.com, or visit our office at 555 Colfax Ave., Bennett, CO 80102.



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• Kindergarten Teacher •
First Grade Teacher • Small Vehicle Drivers
• Bus Drivers • Facilities Maintenance

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.

Wanted: 18 hours tree trimming May 21-23, Bennett. 1 man. Cash pay. (303)956-7399. 5/20

Prairie Creeks Living Center
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11 p.m.-7:15 a.m.
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2:30 p.m. and/or 3-8 p.m.

*All positions require weekends & holidays.
Apply in-person at
56175 Sunset Ave., Strasburg.
Background check required.*

FOR RENT

OFFICE FOR RENT
Approximately 400 sq. ft. Office with reception/2nd office in front. Approximately 1850 sq. ft. warehouse with overhead door. 1 Bathroom. Yard space available. Nice! Located in commercial office/warehouse building in Strasburg.
303-361-9100 x 21

3-bedroom, 2-bath duplex. Large master suite with Jacuzzi tub, dual sinks, separate shower/toilet. Heated kitchen floor. 3 decks, fenced yard, shared laundry and garage, extra parking. \$2,000 month-to-month recurring lease. Information: sailinginlife@netzero.net. 6/10



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GARAGE SALES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Small Town Strong Foundation Announces Freedom Fest Country Concert Celebration

BYERS, Colo. — America's 250th year of freedom deserves an unforgettable celebration, and the Small Town Strong Foundation is bringing the community together for one of the biggest Independence Day events in the region.

The inaugural Small Town Strong Freedom Fest will take place at the Byers Rodeo Grounds in Quint Valley beginning at 7:00 p.m. on July 4th, featuring live country music, patriotic entertainment, food, vendors, autograph opportunities, and more.

With only 600 tickets available, organizers expect the event to sell out quickly. General admission tickets are currently available in Strasburg at Beans Place and Smokeshow Meat for \$25. As part of a limited-time Early Bird Special, tickets are available at both locations for just \$20 through June 6th. Kids 5 and under will be free. More sales locations will be announced in the coming weeks.

"This is more than a concert — it's a celebration of community, freedom, and small-town America," said organizers with the Small Town Strong Foundation. "We're creating an experience families and music fans will remember for years to come."

AWARD-WINNING ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Headlining the evening is Joe Wren & The Roadies, one of Colorado's fastest-rising country acts. Joe Wren was named the 2025 Best Country Single Artist of the Year by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame and received a nomination for Best Newcomer in 2024. He also earned second place in the 2025 Celebrity Sidekick vocal competition. Known for his high-energy performances and authentic country sound, Wren has become a standout talent across the Colorado music scene.

Opening the festival is Biff Gore, nationally recognized from Season 6 of "The Voice." A Grammy-nominated songwriter, vocalist, and worship pastor known as "The Ambassador of Soul," Gore will perform a powerful collection of patriotic favorites designed to set the tone for an inspiring Independence Day celebration. Organizers also announced that an additional musical act will be revealed next week.

MORE THAN A CONCERT

Freedom Fest will offer attendees a complete festival experience, including food and beverage vendors, holiday shopping opportunities, artist merchandise, autograph signings, and community entertainment throughout the evening.

With limited capacity and growing excitement surrounding the event, organizers encourage attendees to purchase tickets early before they sell out.

INFORMATION

For event information, vendor opportunities, or sponsorship inquiries, contact: SmallTownStrongFoundation@gmail.com.

Event Coordinator:
Marijane Jobe
303-335-6311

ABOUT THE SMALL TOWN STRONG FOUNDATION

We are a 501c3 organization. All proceeds will go to funding the mission of the foundation.

Our Mission Statement: Empower stable communities along the I-70 corridor from Watkins to Agate, through sustainable development and equitable access to community opportunities. We are committed to creating vibrant, resilient neighborhoods where people can thrive — economically, socially, and environmentally — by addressing unique challenges and opportunities of this diverse region.



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NEW WINTER HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Sunday: 11am-7pm

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Byers High School hosted a 1950s comedy musical *Rock Around the Block* April 24. Left photo, sitting from left, Jane Connolly (Kaci Harris), Ann Collier (Maggie Messer), and Muffin Mansfield (Quincy Bowling) and, standing from left, Bob (Eli Cary), Jughead Jarvis (Peyton Reimenschneider), George Bullock (Hayden Reimenschneider), Riff (Aden Davis), and Sinbad Gallucci (Torin Wardall) belt out a song. Right photo, Gracie Stanley (Darisa Salomon), Rose Marie Famiano (Kyla Bedard) appear less than impressed with Ziggy Springer (Nic Papaianopol).



Strasburg High School's presentations of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* May 7-9 were moved from the Community Park East amphitheater to Hemphill Middle School because of muddy conditions. From left photo, Titania (Lacey Dittenhauser) shows romantic interest in Nick Bottom (Blu Rowe-Allen) despite wearing a donkey head; Robin Goodfellow, aka "Puck," (Kyla Strasser) puts on a physical comedy show; and Mote/Philstrate (Sidnee Bomnskie) adorns the stage with flower petals.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AN EVENING WITH

SCOTT

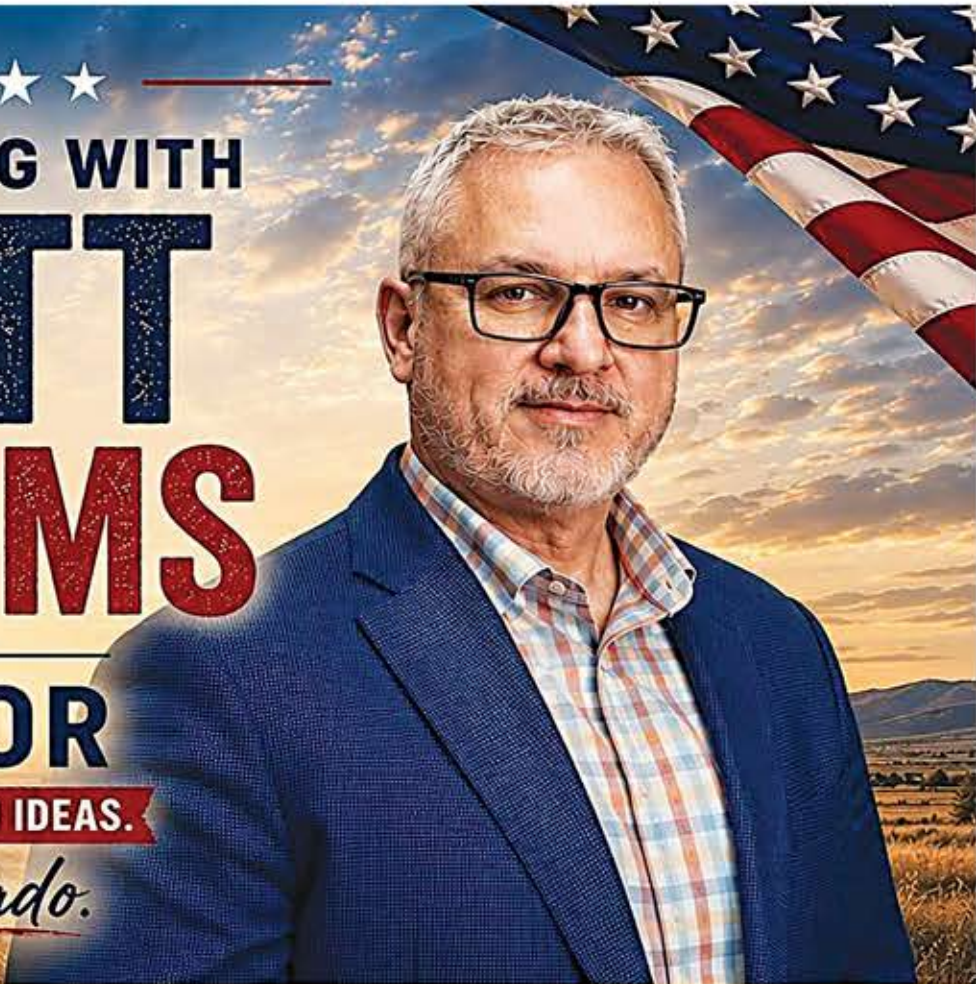
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FRIDAY
MAY 29TH



7:00 PM –
9:00 PM



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COMMUNITY CENTER



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BENNETT, CO 80102

★

Light refreshments will be served.

★

Paid for by Scott Bottoms for Governor. Scott Bottoms Registered Agent.