



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 27 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, May 27, 2026

1 dead, 4 hurt in pickup collision near DIA

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

COMMERCE CITY — One person died and four more were injured, including three Bennett residents, during a two-pickup collision north of Denver International Airport May 24. Colorado State Patrol troopers were dispatched to 120th Avenue near Powhaston Road about 2:50 p.m. on report of a vehicle accident. Upon arrival, a later model two-tone blue Chevy Silverado and newer Ford F-150XLT were both found with severe damage, particularly to their front ends, flanking either side of 120th Avenue with five occupants

along the roadway. The 48-year-old male driver of the Chevy was pronounced deceased at the scene with a 28-year-old male passenger transported to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. The three occupants in the Ford are all from Bennett and were transported to a hospital— a 33-year-old passenger with life-threatening injuries, the 62-year-old male driver with serious injuries, and a 61-year-old female occupant with moderate injuries. The decedent's identity was not available from the Adams County Coroner's Office at press time.

SEE CRASH
PAGE 20



Two pickups collided with each other on 120th Avenue near Powhaston Road, killing one metro area adult and injuring four others, including three adult Bennett residents.



The first of two I-70 Corridor graduation weekends took place May 16-17 with Prairie Creeks ceremonies taking place Saturday morning and Strasburg, Byers and Agate high schools hosting theirs on Sunday afternoon. Above, 88 Indian graduates throw confetti with their mortar boards under the direction of Tyler Allyn. SEE PAGES 12-13.

May rains fail to dampen drought fears DT court still in limbo

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

While the first three weeks of May had already resulted in reaching or eclipsing the month's historical average for moisture across much of the I-70 Corridor, significant drought conditions remain mostly unchanged. Between May 1-22, much of the region received between 1.65 and 2.25 inches; the historical average for the month is 1.5 inches. Over that

stretch, measurable rainfall was recorded on nine days, with a high-water mark of 0.65 to 0.85 inches May 5 and another three days of 0.25 inches or more. On May 17, a storm that dropped between 0.1 and 0.2 inches around Byers and Deer Trail resulted in a power outage. "At approximately 2:37 p.m., an outage occurred during a weather event involving rain and lightning in the area. The transmission line serving the Deer Trail substa-

tion — which provides power to the communities of Byers and Deer Trail — opened, and crews were immediately dispatched," said CORE Electric Cooperative Bennett District Manager Robert Kiess. "Upon investigation, crews identified a damaged insulator on a pole located on Sixth Avenue. The insulator was replaced, and service was fully restored at 5:27 p.m." Kiess noted that CORE is in

SEE MAY RAIN
PAGE 8

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The suspension of Deer Trail's municipal court will remain in place until at least next month's town board meeting. After about 1½ hours of debate, including a re-hash of at least one case that was brought before the court previously, trustees unanimously voted during a special meeting May 20 to table the possible reinstatement of the

court until at least their June 9 regular board meeting. In the meantime, code enforcement and court proceedings remain interrupted. Last week's debate included arguments that, in addition to recovering all court records and clarifying the chain of command, additional rules should be implemented regarding court protocols, including proper litigators and defendant representation.

SEE DT COURT
PAGE 4

COMMUNITY CORRAL

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.

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.

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

ArapCo Public Works Play Date set for 6-5

LITTLETON — The popular annual Arapahoe County Public Works & Development Play Date runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine, Friday, June 5, from at Dove Valley Regional Park, 7900 S. Potomac St., Centennial. The free, family-friendly event features fun and educational activities related to the services provided by Public Works divisions including Building, Engineering Services, Planning, Mapping, Road and Bridge, and Transportation. Kids of all ages can jump in the driver's seat of big road and bridge equipment, be a junior building inspector, learn about flooding, plan a city, and more. "This is one of our favorite events each year, giving parents the opportunity to learn more about the programs and services PWD provides and giving their kids the chance to play, learn important safety tips and explore jobs in public works and development," said Commissioner Leslie Summey, board chair.

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.

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.

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 communi-

ty, 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.

freshments from 6-6:30 p.m. at the TBK Bank Community Room. The walk will follow from 6:30-8 p.m. Cliff Smith, curator of the Comanche Crossing Museum, will lead attendees through the areas where Strasburg began, where significant locations were, and what is on these places today. Water will be provided. A free will offering 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.

Vacation Bible school plans announced by 'Burg church

BYERS — Vacation Bible school at Mountain View Fellowship will be a week-long, immersive, multi-verse adventure designed to help kids discover what it means to follow Jesus and live in God's Kingdom, according to a release. The VBS will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Friday, June 8-12. Children age 4 through the fifth grade can attend. The VBS is free, but a \$10 late registration fee applies after June 1. Participants can also pre-order a VBS T-shirt for their children upon registration.

Pioneer School registration opens at Strasburg Museum

STRASBURG — Pioneer School sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Thursday, July 6-10, July 13-17, July 20-24, and July 27-31, at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg. During the educational event, children ages 6-12 play games, learn history, take lessons on a slate, do chores, and make crafts, all consistent with the settlement of the West. Pioneer-era clothing is welcomed but optional. In-person registration begins at the museum Saturday, June 6, and continues thereafter from 1-4 p.m. daily. Registration is complete once the \$50 per child fee is paid in full and all forms are completed — no reservation without fee and forms. Class sizes are limited.

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.

Walking tour of old Strasburg planned by historical society

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society will host a Walking Tour of Old Strasburg Thursday, June 11. Participants will meet for light re-

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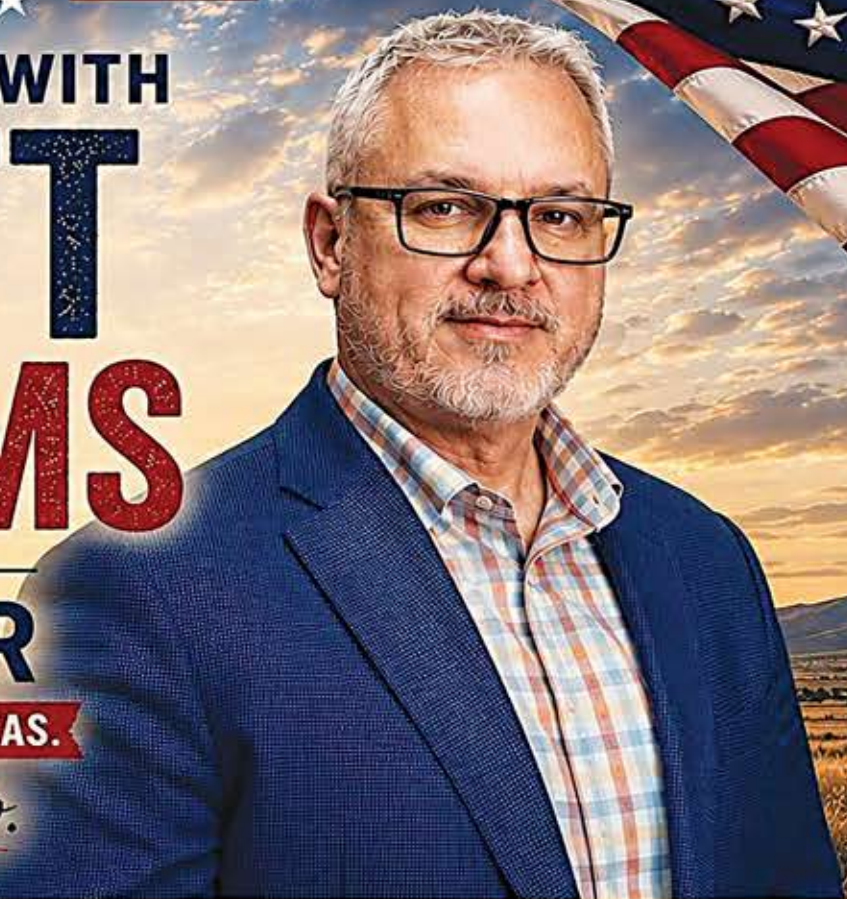
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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/Eastern Colorado News

Bennett middle and high schools performed end-of-year Prism Concerts May 5 and 7, respectively. Clockwise from above left, Violet Teachout belts out the secondary jazz band's version of "Cry Me a River;" guest vocalist Shelby Chase raps "My Shot" Tuesday night; secondary band director Val White and junior saxophonist Ayden Reynolds do a duet to "Cantina Band;" high-school flutist Danica Bertram provides accompaniment to the middle school beginning choir's version of "Adiemus;" and members of the middle school choir sing and set the beat to the South African folk song "Bhombela." White and secondary vocal director Allyse Brennan both conducted their final concerts at Bennett after resigning earlier this spring.





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DT COURT

FROM PAGE 1

The second tabling motion in as many meetings included the delay of Ordinance 316 in order to determine whether to reassign or dismiss three active cases currently scheduled for trial. In question is the ability to adhere to defendants' rights to a speedy trial — within 91 days — in those active cases. No new citations or cases are being brought forward and code enforcement operations have been suspended. A cost/benefit analysis of code enforcement and a municipal court system is also in the works.

"I am not yet convinced that the cost and hassle of the court is worth the money being invested," said trustee Dara Sanders, adding that she has received concerns from residents about a lack of professionalism by code enforcement and the court and poor notification to citizens receiving summonses.

The board voted 4-1 April 14 to suspend its municipal court operations through the rest of 2026.

"Under Colorado Statute we have a kangaroo court," said Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Buss prior to making a motion to "suspend our court until the first of (next) year until we can work out our own damn paperwork so that our court is in compliance with state statute and, if that includes firing our attorney, that's what we should do because our attorney is who has gotten us into this mess."

Buss added that additional efforts must be made to collect what court documentation has been misplaced or inappropriately handled.

"I still want to know where the court records are and who has the current

court records," he added. "How are they being stored? How are they being looked after? There is no ordinance that defines [the court]."

Buss also said that any residential fines over \$500 should be reimbursed.

"If the state would actually come down on us, I think we would suffer some very dire consequences," the added.

During the May 12 board meeting, trustees voted 6-0 to revisit the court situation and not to ratify an ordinance formalizing the court's suspension until last week's special meeting.

Trustee Robert Rhodes, who made the original motion to delay April's decision from being implemented, stated concerns that the suspension would go beyond town code enforcement situations. The vote also delayed passage of Ordinance 316 formalizing the suspension of the court.

"I'm worried that suspending court will also suspend our current traffic enforcement as well," Rhodes stated. "I have a real problem with that."

Buss questioned how often traffic tickets have been fought in court and added that, since the town is contracted through the Arapahoe Sheriff's Office, tickets can be filed through county court. Arapahoe County Sheriff Public Safety Bureau Chief Ken McKlem confirmed that deputies could continue to write tickets within the town's boundaries and send them through the county court.

Before the next meeting, Mayor Judd Behrens, the town clerk and town attorney will meet to have the specifics of Ordinance 316 in order.



U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., of Windsor, left, stumps for U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie ahead of his Kentucky primary.

Trump threatens to turn on Boebert, but it's too late for a '26 primary challenger

by Lindsey Toomer
Colorado Newline

It is too late for another candidate to get on the June primary ballot in Colorado, despite President Donald Trump's threat to back a primary challenger against longtime ally U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert.

Boebert, a Windsor Republican, joined U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie at several campaign events recently as he faced a primary challenger backed by Trump in the May 19 Kentucky primary. Boebert posted on X emphasizing her support of both Trump and Massie, who led efforts to force a vote on releasing the Epstein files last year.

Trump on his social media platform Truth Social asked if anyone is interested in running against Boebert, whom he called "Weak Minded" for campaigning for Massie.

"Even though I long ago endorsed Boebert, if the right person came along, it would be my Honor to withdraw that Endorsement, and endorse a good and proper alternative," Trump said. "Just let me know, or announce your Candidacy, and I will be there for you!"

Boebert posted on X shortly after acknowledging that she saw Trump's post, saying she is "not mad or offended."

"I knew the risks when I agreed to

stand by my friend Thomas Massie," Boebert said. "I was, and will be, America First, America Always, and MAGA."

The June primary ballots in Colorado have already been certified by Secretary of State Jena Griswold's office, and county clerks recently mailed ballots to overseas voters. Eligible voters can request a mail ballot for the June primary from their county clerk's office.

Candidates from any party who were not on the primary ballot and want to run as a write-in candidate in the November general election can file an affidavit of interest with the secretary of state's office no later than July 16, according to secretary spokesperson Jack Todd.

Boebert is running unopposed in the Republican primary. Eileen Laubacher, a retired Navy rear admiral and former National Security Council official, will be the sole name on the Democratic primary ballot, but Jenna Preston is running as a write-in candidate in the Democratic primary.

Republicans have a strong advantage in the 4th Congressional District, which includes all of eastern Arapahoe and Adams counties.

Colorado's primary election is on June 30.

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

Open to the I-70 Corridor

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Get Ready for the 2026-27 School Year!

Bennett Business Appreciation

Friday, May 29, 2026 | 5 p.m.
Town of Bennett Town Hall

Join us as we honor Burroughs Service Co., F&M Bank and Anytime Fitness for their outstanding contributions to our community and the strong roots they continue to build in Bennett.

The evening will feature a special keynote from Eastern Colorado native and NFL player Dalton Risner, who will share his inspiring story, values and connection to community. Plus, enjoy a happy hour while engaging with business and community leaders.

Scan for tickets!

Tickets are \$10 and include food, drinks, and an entry into a drawing for signed cleats and gloves!

DT Rodeo sets Lady-in-Waiting contest date

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.

The World's First Rodeo is scheduled for June 26-27.

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook

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Servicio en español en el auditorio MVF a las 13:30.
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Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
f & i : Search "mvfcolorado" or "mvfstrasburg"

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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)

Job 1:21 Blessed be the name of the LORD.

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BYERS, CO

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719-659-8848

Strasburg Orthodox Mission

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

Our Lady of the Plains Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Jeff Wilborn
186 N. McDonnell St., Byers CO 80103
Parish: 303-822-5880, Hall: 303-822-5889
Sacramental Emergencies: 303-351-2551
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Saturday 4:15-4:45 pm
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— Douglas Claussen, Publisher & Editor

 **ARAPAHOE COUNTY**



Public Works & Development
Play Date at Dove Valley

Attend Arapahoe County Public Works and Development's Play Date **June 5, 9 a.m. –1 p.m.** at Dove Valley Regional Park. Kids can jump in the driver's seat of heavy equipment, be a junior building inspector and more.

Learn more at arapahoeco.gov/publicworks.



Community Needs Assessment Focus Groups
very three years, Arapahoe County does a deep dive to understand residents' needs. The County is hosting focus groups to help us unlock that information. Interested?

Visit bit.ly/CR_FocusGroups



Landscaping with Native & Xeric Plants at Clayton Community Garden: May 30, 11 a.m–12 p.m.

Learn how to transform your landscape using native and xeric plants with CSU Extension Arapahoe County Master Gardener Kate Redford. No registration for this free event, located at 475 W. Union Ave., in Englewood.

arapahoeco.gov

WEEK OF MAY 26



ADAMS COUNTY

COLORADO



SPARC
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
& RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

ADAMS COUNTY WALKS EVENTS



Join us for a fun, family-friendly Walk with Goats in Bennett! Attendees will have the opportunity to walk and interact with socialized goats, each accompanied by 4-H club members. This free Adams County Walks event is hosted by the SPARC team in partnership with Adams County CSU Extension.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 5-6:30 P.M.
Trupp Park, 105 Palmer Ave., Bennett

This event is perfect for those looking to get outside, connect with their neighbors, and learn more about county programming like 4-H from youth participants and club leaders.



Scan the QR code for more details and to register.



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO



A Resilient Neighborhoods Program Initiative

AdCo unfurls historic 48-star U.S. flag

BRIGHTON — The Adams County community May 21 commemorated the Colorado 250/150 celebration by unveiling an original, 48-star U.S. flag flown aboard the USS Colorado (BB-45) during World War II.

The unique flag was presented to Boatswain's Mate First Class Whit-taker "Moose" Hemion when he dis-embarked from the Colorado at the end of the war.

After his discharge from the Navy, Hemion married his high-school sweetheart and got a job selling insur-ance, a business he remained in for the rest of his life. He lived to be 99 years old, dying two weeks shy of this 100th birthday. The flag was donated to the county by Hemion's family.

Commissioner Julie Duran Mullica, board chair said the flag will connect the county to an important chapter in the nation's history.

"This 48-star flag is more than a historic artifact — it is a powerful symbol of the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who served aboard the USS Colorado during World War II," she said. "... This tribute to our nation's veterans offers an impor-tant reminder that history is not just something we read about. It's some-thing we preserve, share, learn from, and actively participate in together."

After the unveiling, attendees laid flowers at the Adams County Veter-ans Memorial, which is a replica of the USS Colorado at Mann-Nyholt Lake in Riverdale Regional Park, Brighton.

The 48-star flag is now permanently displayed in the lobby of the Adams County Government Center.



The 48-star relic is now on permanent display in the lobby of the Adams County Government Center in Brighton.



COLORADO AIR AND SPACE PORT

Fly-in Event

WHEN:
SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 8-11 A.M.

WHERE:
TERMINAL AT COLORADO AIR AND SPACE PORT
5200 Front Range Pkwy., Watkins

Chow down on some good ol' pancakes, mingle with community members, and see some warbirds on display. Fuel discounts will be available during the event.

EAA CHAPTER 301 BREAKFAST
8-11 A.M.
All proceeds benefit the Young Eagles educational, scholarship, and flight experience programs of Chapter 301. The chapter has flown over 10,000 Young Eagles to date between the ages of 8-17 to give them first-hand exposure to aviation.

FAA WINGS SEMINAR:
Nelson Wolfmeier will discuss accident trends in Colorado and how to prevent becoming part of one. 9 a.m. in the Terminal Upstairs Conference Room.

Event sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Leslie Brown at 720.523.7313 for sponsorship information.



Scan the QR code for more information about this event.



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Summer reading starts soon at Byers, DT libraries

ENGLEWOOD — The Arapahoe Libraries Summer Reading program will kick off Monday, June 1, with a free book giveaway.

Kids and teens ages 0-18 can visit the library to choose a free book, as well as a free tote bag and activity guide while supplies last.

No registration or library card needed.

To participate, visit any Arapahoe Libraries location between June 1 and July 31.

Locally, Davies Library in Deer Trail and Kelter in Byers will host adventure-themed activities for all ages and interests this summer. Those featured events will include:

- two sessions of **Jedi School**, hands-on lightsaber training and fight

choreography for ages 9-18, presented by Knights of the Tempest. 2-3 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, at Kelter Library and 2-3 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2-3 p.m. at Davies Library;

- **Heroes' Destiny**, a medieval role-playing game where kids ages 5-12 transform into royalty, traitors and spies. Problem-solving and foam swordplay included. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, Davies Library; and
- **Unearth a Story** with Dino O'Dell, an interactive program uses music, stories and animation to bring Earth's history to life for kids ages 5-12. Dino-themed crafts and treats included. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, July 9, Kelter Library.



Food science was on display during a presentation about Butter & Toast at Anythink Bennett library May 19. Above, Liz Werner with Adams County 4-H talks about the various chemical reactions that occur when toasting bread and about the process for whipping air into cream to make butter.

LIBRARY NEWS

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 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.

Tea at 2: Adults are invited to Tea at 2 for tea and activities, such as cards, puzzles and adult coloring pages. Patrons can also bring their own activities. 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, June 3.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Wacky Takeover: Teens and tweens will decorate fantastical hats with feathers, flowers and other curious materials. All 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 (like cucumber sandwiches and lemon tarts), and embrace the madness by wearing your most curious hat or outfit. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 10.

Once Upon A Time: Drop in for a special storytime celebrating the magic of fairy tales. Storytime will begin every half hour, followed by themed activities and a photo opportunity. Costumes are optional. Appropriate for children ages 0-5. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, June 11.

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

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.

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CDC says U.S. life expectancy hit an all-time high in 2024

by Mike Stobbe
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. life expectancy rose to 79 years in 2024 — the highest mark in American history.

The increase is the result of not only the dissipation of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also waning death rates from all the nation's top killers, including heart disease, cancer and drug overdoses. What's more, preliminary statistics suggest a continued improvement in 2025.

"It's pretty much good news all the way around," said Robert Anderson, of the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which released the 2024 data Jan. 29.

Life expectancy, a fundamental measure of a population's health, is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, given death rates at that time.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy rose at least a little bit almost every year, thanks to medical advances and public health measures. It peaked in 2014, just shy of 79 years.

It was relatively flat for several years before plunging as the COVID-19 pandemic killed more than 1.2 million Americans. In 2021, life expectancy fell to just under 76½ years. It has since rebounded.

The data reflect not only a complete turnaround from the pandemic but also a lasting improvement in the

drug overdose epidemic, said Andrew Stokes, a researcher at Boston University.

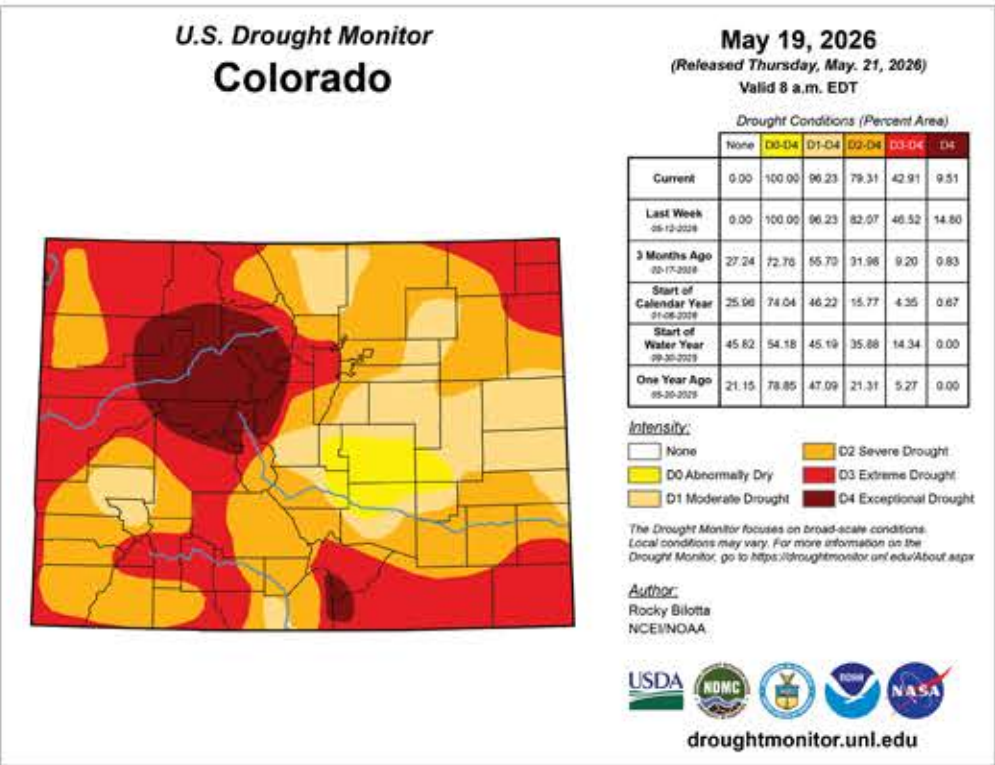
The bad news is that the U.S. still ranks below dozens of other countries, Stokes noted. "There's a lot more to be done."

In 2024, about 3.07 million U.S. residents died, about 18,000 fewer than the year before. Death rates declined across all racial and ethnic groups and in both men and women.

Heart disease remained the nation's leading cause of death, but the death rate due to it dropped by about 3% for the second straight year. A combination of factors are likely at play, including advances in medical treatments and weight management, said Dr. Sadiya Khan, who treats and studies heart disease at Northwestern University.

Deaths from unintentional injuries — a category that includes drug overdoses — fell the most, declining more than 14% in 2024. COVID-19, which was the nation's No. 3 killer just a few years ago, dropped out of the top 10 in 2024. COVID-19's fall meant suicide moved into the top 10, even though suicides in 2024 declined. Homicides fell then, too, the report said.

Deaths statistics for 2025 are not finalized, but preliminary data suggest around 3.05 million deaths were recorded. That number may grow as more death certificates are rounded up and analyzed, but Anderson said he expects last year will show at least a slight improvement over 2024.



It only took three weeks for the I-70 Corridor to reach or exceed its historical average rainfall for May; however, the wet conditions have not resulted in notable drought improvements.

MAY RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

the midst of a system upgrade to prevent such outages.

"This event underscores the importance of improving system reliability in the Byers and Deer Trail areas," Kiss said. "CORE is currently working to upgrade the existing transmission line with a new design better suited to withstand the weather conditions typical of the eastern plains."

The May 21 weather cell that dropped 0.35-0.50 inches in and around Deer Trail moved east and resulted in a confirmed tornado touchdown with northeast of Limon.

Although May is already at or above the normal historical average for precipitation, it hasn't compensated for a rainfall shortfall in previous months. Improvement to drought conditions has been minimal, at best.

According to the May 21 U.S. Drought Monitor map, no part of the state was drought free and 96% of the state was in one of the four stages of drought. The western two thirds of Adams and Arapahoe counties are in severe drought (D2) with the eastern two-thirds consider in moderate drought (D1). Most of Elbert County is also in D1.

The primary antagonist to recent rainfall has been above-normal heat for the spring.

"Highly anomalous early-season warmth has gripped the southern half of the region," said the Drought Monitor's High Plains narrative. "The core of this heat anomaly was centered over Kansas and Colorado, where weekly temperatures soared 6°F to 12°F above historical averages."

While recent moisture has assisted in improving area burn restrictions, including no burn ban in Bennett, area fire jurisdictions remind residents to contact them when they want to conduct a control burn and ask that extreme caution be used when doing work that might produce sparks.

An April 13 fire north of Deer Trail resulted in fourth-degree arson charges after an investigation determined that reckless or negligent welding activity produced a spark that ignited a fire that threatened structures.

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SPORTS



Swingin' in the rain

PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD For The Scout

Strasburg senior Jordan Duhon and Byers junior Danielle Seibold competed in the soggy 2A Girls Golf State Championships May 18-19 at Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, including playing in the same opening group at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Both local girls played better on the opening day of the tournament, despite 40-degree temperatures and persistent light moisture falling throughout the day. After shooting a round of +37 on the par 72 layout on Monday, Duhon shot +42 the following day (two-day total of +79) to finish in a three-way tie for 61st in the 84-girl field. After not recording a par during her opening round, Duhon shot even on the par 5 No. 5 on Tuesday. Seibold, who shot +35 on Monday with three pars included, struggled from the start on Tuesday, shooting +47 and placing in a tie for 68th (two-day total of +84). "For the conditions, I thought she played great," said Byers head coach Thomas Byrns of Seibold's opening round. The weather took its toll on the field as six competitors withdrew from the tournament because of Monday's conditions and there was only one under-par round and one even-par round shot over both days of the tournament. This year's individual 2A state champion is Manitou Springs junior Madison Dorsey, who shot a two-day total of +5, including an even-par 72 on Tuesday. Colorado Academy sophomore Sophie Lee was second at +7, including a 1-under round of 71 on Tuesday. Resurrection Christian took the team title with a three-girl stroke total of 502 (+70), one stroke ahead of Denver Christian. Clockwise from above photo, Seibold pitches to the green as Duhon looks on; Duhon flips up a chip with the ball lying above her feet; and Seibold hits her approach shot as Byrns looks on from behind.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Strasburg football seeking new head coach for '26-27

STRASBURG — Strasburg School District has commenced a search for a new high school head football coach after the surprise resignation of Brian Brown earlier this month. Brown, who accepted a high school coaching position out of state, leaves Strasburg after seven years as the head coach and multiple seasons as an assistant coach prior to that. Brown accumulated a total record of 65-14, 31-1 in conference play, and reached the postseason every year over his tenure with the Indians. The first five seasons was in the 1A ranks with the Indians jumping up to 2A the past two-year cycle. According to Strasburg Athletic Director Rick Jacoby, the search for Brown's replacement is ongoing.

Strasburg basketball receives recognition from nat'l group

STRASBURG — The Colorado 3A state champion Strasburg Indian basketball squad made waves nationally this past winter. According to national online statistics and high school sports tracking service MaxPreps, the red-and-black was named No. 7 in its Small Town

Basketball list for 2025-26. "Pretty amazing accolade as I have never seen a Colorado school in that poll in the past when I've come across it," said Strasburg head coach Kyle Bollers.

To be eligible for the Small Town Top 25, schools must have an enrollment under 1,000 students in a town with a population under 10,000.

Strasburg completed this past season 26-2 overall and defeated Forge Christian in overtime in the 3A title game in March. MaxPreps' top small town team was Logan-Rogersville from Rogersville, Mo.

Strasburg was also ranked No. 4 by MaxPreps among Colorado schools regardless of classification.

Bennett HS set to host sports exams for Corridor students

BENNETT — Student-athletes from all I-70 Corridor schools are invited to take advantage of sports physicals being offered from 2-7 p.m., Friday, June 5, at Bennett High School, 610 Seventh St.

The walk-in event costs \$40 per physical. If unable to attend, the same \$40 deal is available from 2-7 p.m., Friday July 17, at Three Peaks Urgent Care, 3471 N. Salida St., Suite 40, Aurora.

Mr. Irrelevant+: Broncos draft LB, TE with last two NFL picks

by Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD (AP) — University of Buffalo linebacker Red Murdock was starting to wonder if he'd get drafted at all when the Denver Broncos made him "Mr. Irrelevant" with the 257th and final pick of the NFL draft April 25.

"The thoughts crept in, but I was trying to keep my mind off of things that I can't control," Murdock said in a conference call with reporters at team headquarters in Denver. "And when I got that call, I was extremely grateful."

So was Utah tight end Dallen Bentley, who was selected one spot ahead of Murdock as the Broncos had the two final draft picks, a distinction no other team had held since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.

"I'm just grateful to be part of Broncos Country, man," Bentley said. "I'm just excited. It doesn't matter when or where you get drafted or (if you go) undrafted, you've just got to make the most of every opportunity you get."

The only other "Mr. Irrelevant" in Broncos history was Ole Miss quarterback Chad Kelly in 2017.

Broncos coach Sean Payton and general manager George Paton contemplated making Bentley "Mr. Irrelevant" before deciding to give that honor to Murdock, who set an FBS record by forcing 17 fumbles at Buffalo. "Man, he's a tackling machine, really instinctive, really good against the run," Paton said. "Just a nose for the ball, relentless, we think he can be a good special teamer. So, we like him."

Payton said the chatter in the draft room was what a unique opportunity it was to hold the final two picks: "The rest of your career, no one will be a part of this when you have the last two picks of the draft, so, there's eight minutes where you're kind of controlling things."

The phones kept ringing. "There were a handful of teams, believe it or not, that called about coming to get Mr. Irrelevant," Payton said.

"It was a hot pick," concurred his general manager.

"We were just trying to decide who would be better to go to Newport Beach" for the celebration and charity event that's been held every season since

SEE MR. IRRELEVANT
PAGE 10

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A photograph of Red Murdock, a Black man, being drafted by the Denver Broncos. He is standing on a stage, wearing a white jersey with the number 257. A woman in a pink dress is announcing his name. The background features a large screen with the Broncos logo and the word "DRAFT".

Melanie Salata Fitch, second from right, announces Red Murdock as the final pick — or Mr. Irrelevant — to end the NFL draft April 25 in Pittsburgh.

A photograph of Joe Wren, a country music artist, playing an acoustic guitar on stage. He is wearing a cowboy hat and a dark shirt.

A photograph of Biff Gore, a singer, sitting on a red chair on the set of the TV show "The Voice". He is wearing a green jacket and a blue shirt. The "Voice" logo is visible in the background.

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.

Ronnie Davis & the Rocky Mountain Outlaws wraps up the line-up.

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.

MR. IRRELEVANT

FROM PAGE 9

1976 to honor the final player picked in the draft.

“I mean, it’s cool. In my career we’ve drafted two and they both made” the roster, Paton added, noting that the Broncos are going to send both players to the celebration.

“When we talked to Bentley (we told him) he’s vice president, Mr. Irrelevant,” Payton interjected. “So, if there’s anything he can’t handle, then the two of them can.”

Murdock was looking forward to getting to Denver more than anything.

“I feel extremely grateful and excited to help the Broncos win,” Murdock said. “I know a little bit about Mr. Irrelevant but the main thing is I’ve got an opportunity and I’m trying to make the most of it and help us win.”

“It was a pretty emotional moment, trying to hold it all in in front of the family and everything but, yeah, I was just really excited to get the opportunity. That’s the main thing. Man, I’m excited to go play for the Broncos. That’s a great team.”

Murdock was one of just 16 draft picks in the three-day, seven-round

process who didn’t attend a Power Four conference school, a list that includes Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Ura Barnard, a massive Nigerian prospect who never played college football.

Murdock said he had the chance like so many of his fellow draft picks to go to a bigger school but stayed loyal with Buffalo.

“I’ve had opportunities, but I mentioned earlier being a team-first guy,” he said. “That’s all that matters to me.”

Name, image and likeness riches and the ever-more-crowded transfer portal have combined to concentrate talent in the power conferences as the bigger schools siphon stars from other leagues.

Since 2022, when 70 draftees came from non-power conferences, the number has dipped to 38 in 2023, 34 in 2024, 24 in 2025, and 16 this year.

Murdock will try to follow in the footsteps of the most successful “Mr. Irrelevant” players: 49ers QB Brock Purdy in 2022 and former Chiefs punter Ryan Succop in 2009.



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Goodbye 5th Grade!



Strasburg Elementary hosted its fifth-grade spring concert and continuation ceremony May 12 at Mountain View Fellowship. Clockwise from above left, class members, including Paige Olsen, top with sign, and Nicole Schaffer, in cowboy hat, exclaim what the night is all about, moving to sixth grade and Hemphill Middle School for 2026-27; Greyson Rickett sings "Notion;" Abigail Garrett speaks to the crowd; and Calla Mason welcomes family and friends.



The class sings "Fruit Canon," a traditional Norwegian folk song.

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I-70 Corridor graduation weekend No. 1



Strasburg High School hosted graduation ceremonies May 17 in Mundell Gymnasium. From left, Valedictorian Max Dobransky speaks to the audience; Israel James gives his Salutatorian address; Israella Sulkowski, Emory Owens, elementary music teacher Jenny Authier, Noah Sulkowski, secondary band teacher John Ricks, Abby Dunn, Brielle Barnes, Ally Tree, Kristin Croft, and Alyssa Schaffer sing the National Anthem; Vanessa Lopez waves to friends and family in the crowd as she enters the graduation hall; and Savannah Bradley hams it up for the camera after receiving her diploma.



Byers High School hosted Class of 2026 graduation ceremonies May 17 in the large gym. Left to right, Daisy Clark receives her diploma from Byers School Board President Dennis Messer and director Kres Ebert; Lilah McQuate enters the gym; Maggie Messer walks into the gym; art teacher Jaclyn Pelton announces senior names during the flower presentation to parents as Superintendent Tom Turrell looks on from behind; Co-Valedictorians Abi Green and Krayton Ebert speak to family, friends and school administration and staff.



The I-70 Corridor senior graduation season commenced with Prairie Creeks High School May 16 at Mundell Gymnasium in Strasburg High School. From left, Principal Thom Winter gets a chuckle from school administrative assistant Denice Gonzales and counselor Marla Madrid; Caitlynn Thomas speaks to the crowd; Jasmine Yanez Acosta receives a hug after receiving her diploma; and Maximilian Isais receives his diploma from school administration.

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Deer Trail School hosted a spring concert May 11, featuring first through fifth grades and the Iron Bratz middle and high school rock band. The night's festivities marked the final hoorah for music instructor Dawn Heck, who resigned earlier in the semester. From top row, fourth-grader Arely Mora, left, line dances to "Cotton-Eyed Joe;" first-graders Matteo Novelo and Taylory Smith sing "Siyahamba;" second-graders Esperansa Fierros, Xitalia Ramirez Foster and Everleigh Smith strum the ukulele to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling;" third-graders Jase Murray, Lincoln Vitello-Hodes, Ryker Lewis and Declan Williams clap their hands during a body percussion performance of "Rain on the Plains;" and Iron Bratz lead vocalist Riley Williams belts out a lyric flanked by drummer Abby Reed and guitarist Donnie Stiles.



The I-70 Scout & Eastern Colorado News

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
MAY 30, 2006
During its May 24 meeting, the Watkins Board of Trustees narrowly approved a new mayor to replace Russell Corona, who resigned the position in early April.

The board also unanimously approved two ordinances repealing previously approved decrees changing the rules regarding deanexing territories and disconnecting the Prairie View subdivision from the town.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Miller broke a 2-2 tie with a yes vote in favor of mayoral candidate John Schmidt. The other two candidates were Rose Houston and Warren Wolf.

Trustees Wilma "Bill" Lewis and Phyllis Webb voted for Schmidt while dissenting votes were voiced by board members Rick Grimm and Geraldine Woolman. Woolman stated that she wanted Houston to serve as mayor. Grimm didn't say who he was in favor of, but implied that Schmidt is behind the "wedge that is splitting up this community."

"We need somebody that can take this wedge out and regain the confidence of the people of this town," Grimm added.

During public debate, five residents said they favored Schmidt for mayor, three liked Warren Wolf, and three didn't name their but opposed Schmidt's candidacy.

After being sworn in, Schmidt promised residents more transparency when it comes to financial and development issues facing the town.

15 YEARS AGO
MAY 31, 2011
AGATE — The fate of one of the I-70 Corridor post offices is in limbo, but residents are working hard to keep it from being take out of operation.

Approximately 70 residents and business owner from and near-by Agate attended a May 26 town hall meeting hosted by the U.S. Postal Service to discuss an ongoing "discontinuation study" on the Agate Post Office.

According to Post Office Review Coordinator Marcela Juarez-Ri-

vera, no concrete decision concerning the post office's future has been made and no changes will be seen for at least the next three months. The next two weeks will consist of an investigation into transportation and mailbox alternatives, such as "cluster boxes" or additional rural route mailboxes, with a proposed action likely released shortly thereafter. If a preliminary decision is released, the public will have 60 days to review the proposal and comment. Upon final decision being announced, people have 30 days to file an appeal, which would commence a 120-day review period fro the Postal Regulatory Commission.

"Some studies have been stopped because they are not feasible, but we don't know the situation here yet," Juarez-Rivera said. "There is nothing set in stone. We empathize with your concerns, but we have to see this entire process through."

10 YEARS AGO
MAY 31, 2016
BENNETT — Residents of Bennett's Centennial subdivision should start seeing street construction activity, but how quickly paving will progress throughout town is dependent largely on weather.

Bennett Public Works Director Daymon Johnson and project officials with Asphalt Specialties Inc. told residents May 25 that the ripping up of Centennial's porous streets would start, with the north branch of Cleveland Court May 31, but asked for understanding when the schedule changes.

"Please understand that this is a pretty fluid situation and not etched in stone," Johnson said. "We have every intention of meeting these guidelines but weather or other construction factors can come into play. We will do everything possible to stay on time but it isn't a certainty. It's just kind of the nature of the beast."

The Centennial portion of the project is slated for 15 phases with the progression mostly occurring east to west while construction is going on in Centennial, crews will also work concurrently on Antelope Hills with the north loop being addressed first and the south half to follow. Brothers Four and Cordella Estates will follow shortly.

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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 17

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, May 27, the 147th day of 2026. There are 218 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On May 27, 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, Calif., was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

ALSO ON THIS DATE:

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a devastating F4 tornado struck St. Louis, Mo., and East St. Louis, Ill.

In 1930, New York's Chrysler Building, at the time the world's tallest building, opened to the public.

In 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, killing over 2,000

German sailors.

In 1942, Doris "Dorie" Miller, a cook aboard the USS West Virginia, became the first African American to receive the Navy Cross for displaying "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. O'Brien*, upheld

the conviction of David O'Brien for destroying his draft card outside a Boston courthouse, ruling that the act was not protected by freedom of speech.

In 1998, Michael Fortier, the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing case, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after apologizing for not warning anyone about the deadly plot. (Fortier was

freed in January 2006.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Lee Meriwether is 91. Actor Bruce Weitz is 83. Actor Richard Schiff is 71. Singer Siouxsie Sioux is 69. Comedian Adam Carolla is 62. Actor Todd Bridges is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell is 58. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver is 51.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: CANDY

- ACROSS
- Family room staple
 - Refrigerator sound
 - *One of original Life Savers flavors
 - Diabolical
 - Supernatural life force
 - Dust allergy triggers
 - Magnesium silicate
 - Thor's father
 - Audience's approval
 - *Coconutty candy bar (2 words)
 - Baltimore player
 - Dip a _____ the water
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - *"The Freshmaker" candy
 - Deck painter, often
 - Flight info
 - Russia's plain
 - Nat of Jazz
 - N in RN
 - Across, in verse
 - *Inspired by "Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory"
 - Under the weather
 - Lipase or sucrose, e.g.
 - Part of a match
 - English traveling courts
 - Ones with title
 - ____ Aviv
 - Sign of life
 - Between Phi and Kappa
 - *Once known as Chicken Feed (2 words)
 - Trollop, in the olden days
 - Eyeball rudely
 - "I ____ wed"
 - Opposite of fires
 - Bear's den
 - Gives a hand
 - Between ids and super-egos
 - Symbol of industriousness
 - *Dad's ____ Beer Barrels candy

- DOWN
- ____ good example
 - Like West Wing's office
 - 35mm, e.g.
 - "Little Men" author
 - Mecca pilgrim
 - Teamsters group
 - "Out of ____ one"
 - *Good & Plenty flavor
 - It will
 - Animal protein
 - Is, in France
 - Unassuming

CROSSWORD

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 - Gallows loop
 - *Polished off candy, e.g.
 - High IQ society
 - Lady's pocketbook
 - Narcotics agents
 - Light on one's feet
 - Relating to Scandinavia
 - Village V.I.P.
 - Catches one's breath
 - Ages and ages
 - *Pfefferminz, for short
 - *"Taste the Rainbow" candies
 - Broadway's news boy
 - Ray-finned fish
 - Decompose
 - Ardors
 - Bee's favorite drink
 - Like a Druid
 - Without illumination
 - Place for mutinous sailor
 - France's currency
 - *Other Rocket Fizz product
 - Kent State state
 - Do over
 - Hatchling's home
 - CafÉ alternative

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

HOROSCOPE

Transits of Trepidation

Lunar aspects suggest a moment of trepidation. Maybe your fear is keeping you safe. Then again, maybe it's just a bad and breakable habit. A quick gut check you can use in the moment: "Is this fear telling me something specific I can act on, or just telling me to stop?" If it has instructions, listen. If it just says "don't," give it a nod and keep moving anyway.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a day for dreaming. If you can build it in your head, you can, in time, make it real in your world. The more energy, creativity and specificity you put into the vision, the happier you'll be living it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a kind of pride that comes from being good for your word, and then there's another kind of pride — puffed up and trying to look important to cover insecurity. Know the difference and you'll know who's trustworthy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you can explain something in plain language, you really understand it. If you can't, that's something to refine. You'll love the satisfaction that comes with having deep and thorough knowledge on a topic and being able to prove that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's good to get excited about what you want without worrying about the price tag right away. Life imposes limits. Why start imposing them in the imagination phase? Be free, think wildly and unreasonably.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Any change you make to yourself will also change the situation. So today, the point is not to find a better situation. That will naturally emerge from the better you you're bringing to it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The silence doesn't need to be filled. It's not dead space, it's just space, vibrating with possibility. Leave room for potential and trust that others can see it, too. You'll be delighted by what strolls in on its own accord.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're a master of diplomacy, which comes easily to you because you can see where people are coming from. Some have been misinformed and may be receptive to learning as you approach with deep respect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It seems life's demands make it harder to develop the habits, disciplines, dynamics and interests you desire. Maybe so, but even one small change will lighten the whole load. Start small and take heart. This is doable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some people lead with the question: "what's in it for me?" It doesn't benefit you to serve or entertain everyone from the get-go. Ease into learning people. It will save you from the work of dancing for an unappreciative audience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those focused exclusively on self-benefit are a liability to your work, mood and wider social network. Today, pay attention to how you feel in someone's presence — also in their absence. Which is more energizing?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a tedious bit of work to be done and a knotty problem to solve, but none of it seems so bad because you've a song in your heart and a very intriguing project or person to spend time with later.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've done hard things before so you know you can. You're not afraid to get in there and get it done if that's what's needed, but the assessment stage is key. You won't skip it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 27). It's your Year of the Heavenly Download, when answers seem to stream to you from the divine, full ideas and plans, directions you can apply immediately to supersede the situation. Rising above becomes your specialty. More highlights: a close relationship becomes even more magical through shared adventure. You'll invest well and re-invest for future benefit. Travel over water. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 2, 22, 20 and 50.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

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CRASH FROM P1

According to the State Patrol, the Chevy was westbound on 120th Avenue when it drifted into the eastbound lane. In an effort to avoid a collision, the driver of the Ford moved over to the shoulder but the Chevy still made contact with both front left bumpers striking each other. Both lanes of the roadway were blocked by the wreck-ages.

The on-site investigation and scene cleanup took about 3½ hours with the roadway being reopened just before 6:40 p.m.

The State Patrol’s Vehicular Crimes Unit continues to investigate the incident and is asking anyone that has information about the crash to call dispatch at (303)239-4501 and reference case number VC260150.

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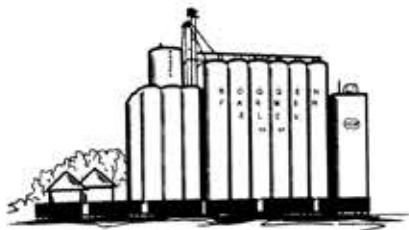
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Strasburg
Elementary
concert

Strasburg first-graders Leonardo Canales Carrillo, foreground, and Aubriella Lutz participate in "Once Upon a Time" dressed up as fairy tale creatures during the elementary school's first- and third-grade concert April 23.



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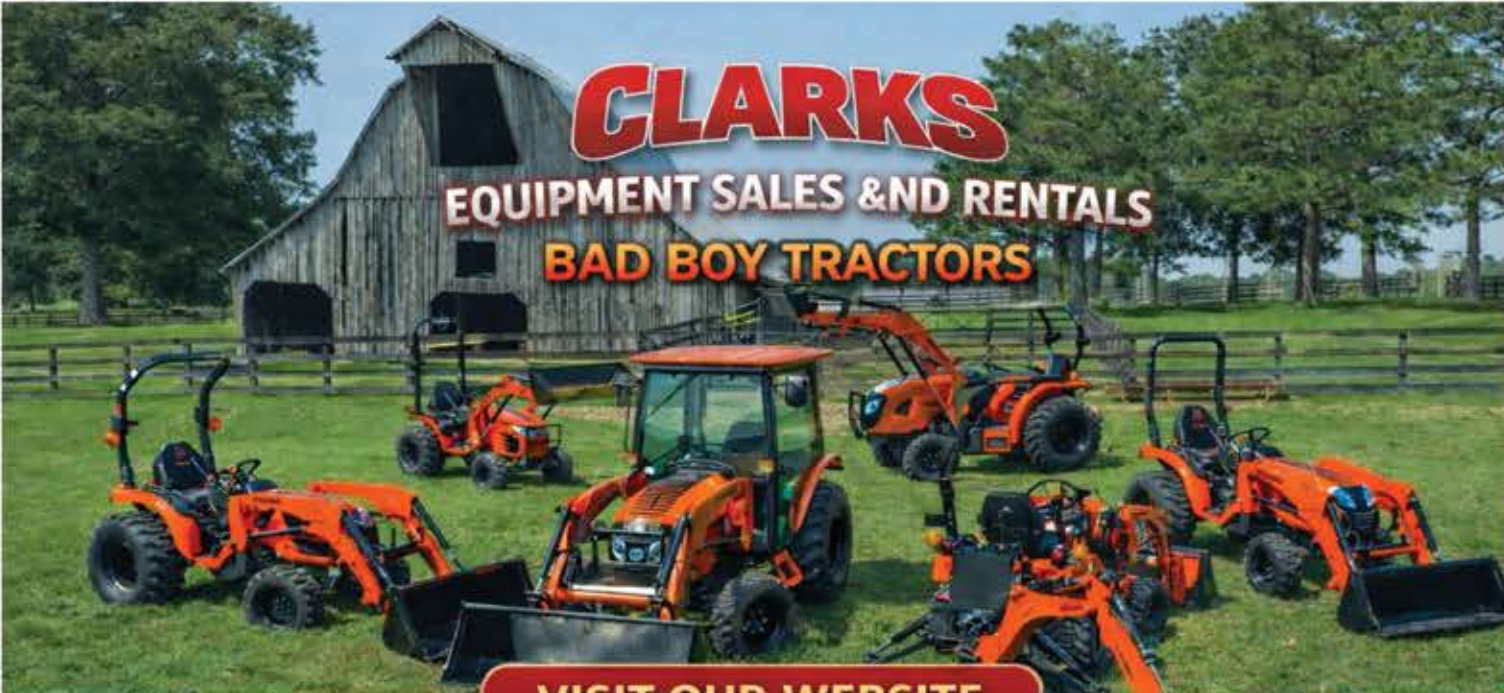
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Byers July 4th: Concert by teen country singer caps three-day jubilee

BYERS — A local nonprofit will benefit from a concert headlined by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame’s 2025 Best Country Single Artist of the Year during Byers Fourth of July festivities this year.

Joe Wren & The Roadies will showcase the Small Town Strong Freedom Fest, which starts at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at the Quint Valley Fairgrounds. Wren, 19, a native of Colorado, was also nominated by the HoF for Best Newcomer in 2024 and earned second place in the 2025 Celebrity Sidekick vocal competition finals at the Buffalo Rose in Golden.

He will be joined by Biff Gore, who is 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.

Ronnie Davis & the Rocky Mountain Outlaws wraps up the line-up.

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

General admission tickets are now on sale at \$20 each through Saturday, June 6, at Smokeshow Meats and Beans Place, both at 56761 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg. The price rises to \$25 thereafter. Children ages 5 and under are free. Only 600 tickets will be sold.

‘THE AMERICAN SPIRIT’

“The American Spirit” is the theme of annual Byers Fourth of July festivities from Thursday through Saturday, July 2-4. In addition to the Freedom Fest, a rodeo, street fair, parade, community breakfast, and spaghetti dinner and fireworks are planned.

SMALL TOWN STRONG FOUNDATION

Proceeds from the Freedom Fest will benefit the nonprofit Small Town Strong Foundation, which is based in Strasburg.

The foundation was founded last year to “Empower stable communities along the I-70 Corridor from Watkins to Agate through sustainable development and equitable access to community opportunities,” according to its mission statement.

For more information, contact Marijane Jobe at (303)335-6311 or SmallTownStrongFoundation@gmail.com.

Music spanning 8 decades set for concert band performance

BENNETT — The High Plains Music Ensemble will feature selections from the 1940s to the present at its summer concert, “Dazzling Decades,” starting at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at Mountain View Fellowship in Strasburg.

After opening with Glenn Miller’s “In the Mood,” the band will perform music representing each 10-year period from the 1950s through the 2020s. Featured artists will include Bill Haley and His Comets (“Rock Around the Clock”), The Mamas and the Papas, Stevie Wonder, A-ha (“Take On Me”), Coldplay, and Bruno Mars (“Uptown Funk”). In addition, a medley of 18 songs from the 1990s as well as music from the movies “Golden” and “K-Pop Demon Hunters” will be performed.

Admission is free. A reception follows.

CHUCK WAGON



Egg Roll In a Bowl

EGG ROLL IN A BOWL

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 small red onion (diced)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon ginger (finely minced)
- 2 teaspoon sriracha sauce
- 1 (14-ounce) bag coleslaw mix
- 2 red bell peppers (sliced thinly)
- 1 (10-ounce) bag matchstick carrots
- 3 tablespoon low-sodium soy sauce (or liquid aminos)
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- salt (to taste)
- black pepper (to taste)

DIRECTIONS

Heat sesame oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add red onion, cook 2-3 minutes. Add garlic and ginger. Cook until fragrant, about 1

minute. Add ground pork and sriracha. Cook and crumble until pork is cooked through and reaches an internal temperature of 160°F, about 7-10 minutes.

Add coleslaw mix, red bell pepper, carrots, soy sauce, sesame oil, rice wine vinegar, black pepper, and salt, to taste, and stir until well combined. Cook, stirring occasionally, until cabbage is tender, about 5 minutes.

Spoon pork-cabbage mixture into a serving bowl. Drizzle with sauce of choice and garnish, if desired.

Optional for garnish: Sliced green onions, sesame seeds, wonton strips.

Optional sauces: hoisin or duck sauce, sriracha, hot sauce, or sweet chili garlic sauce.

For a creamy sauce, mix Greek yogurt, sriracha, lime juice and salt to taste.

— Recipe courtesy
Colorado Pork Producers

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 28

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Alzheimer's webinar. "The Empowered Caregiver: Communicating Effectively." 5-6 p.m. To register, visit www.alz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Adams County Walk with Goats in partnership with Colorado State University Extension 4-H Program. 5-6:30 p.m. at Trupp Park, Bennett. Visit adamscounty-co.gov to register.

Byers Park & Recreation District Board. 7 p.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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.

Gaming Club: Patrons ages 10 and up play video games after school. 4-5:15 p.m., Bennett Anythink library.

Patriot meeting of like-minded individuals to learn about the nation's history, constitution and rights. 6 p.m., call (303)622-4648 to RSVP.



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BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of Bennett School District 29J for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and has been filed in the office of the Superintendent where it is available for public inspection. Such proposed budget was considered for adoption at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of said District at the Bennett High School Library located at 610 7th St, Bennett, Colo., on May 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Any person paying school taxes in said District may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget file or register their objections thereto.

Board of Education
May 13, 2026
Bennett School District 29J
Ramie Dillingham
Secretary to the Board



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Tiger Hall of Famers inducted



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEMBO/For The Scout

Bennett School District hosted its Class of 2026 Hall of Fame induction ceremony April 24 in the high school auditorium. Above, honorees are, from left, Ron Howard, meritorious service; Jesse Stemo, modern era athlete; Rhonda Bainum Palic, century era athlete; Dan Peavler, century era athlete; Jennifer Goodnight, alumni; Kory Hudson, modern era athlete; Shannon Windecker, meritorious service; Dennis Smialek, alumni; Mark Collins, meritorious service; and Shelley Demoney, who accepted the award for her uncle Robert "Bobby" George Vetter, inducted as a military honoree. Not pictured is Kenny Reed, silver era athlete. Below from left, Scott and C.J. Stemo introduce their younger brother, Jesse; Olivia Stevenson sings the National Anthem as Superintendent and Master of Ceremonies Robin Purdy stands behind; and Jimmy Goodnight welcomes his mother, Jennifer, to the stage to receive her award. Goodnight and Howard were inducted last year but unable to attend the ceremony.



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASE NO. LR25-002,
STRASBURG SUBAREA PLAN ADOPTION**

PROPOSAL: The Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department, applicant, in partnership with the Adams County Community and Economic Development Department, has drafted an update to the existing 2002 Strasburg Plan. The updated plan identifies a vision for the future of Strasburg and serves as the official guiding document to direct growth, investment, and improvements for approximately the next 25 years. Once adopted, the Strasburg Subarea Plan will be a part of the Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 16, 2026, the Arapahoe County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as possible thereafter at 6954 S Lima St., Arapahoe Room, Centennial CO 80112; at which, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the above-described Case No. LR25-002, Strasburg Subarea Plan Adoption. The agenda will typically be posted by the Friday afternoon preceding the hearing and can be viewed on our website at <https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>. You can also listen to, or speak at, the meeting by calling 1-855-436-3656. To join the speaking queue, press *3 on the telephone keypad.

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

Joan Lopez, Clerk to the Board

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MORGAN STARNER

Worship Night

with Alex Bryan on piano

**SATURDAY
MAY 30**

6PM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**400 CHERRY ST.
HUDSON, CO**