



Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July

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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 32

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

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

ArapCo board OKs Xcel power conduit route

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — Unlike their colleagues in charge of a county to the south, Arapahoe County Commissioners told the state's largest power provider to go ahead with 18 miles of overhead power lines in an eastern unincorporated area as part of a \$1.7 billion infrastructure addition across most of eastern Colorado.

During their June 23 public hearing, commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of the 1041 application (Areas and Activities of State Interest) from Xcel Energy's Public Service of Colorado subsidiary for Arapahoe County's part of Segment 5 of the conglomerate's Power Pathway Project. District 1 Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully was absent from the proceedings.

The proposed Arapahoe County route will hook up a 345kV transmission power line at Xcel's existing Harvest Mile Substation at 4455 S. Harvest Road. From that location, power lines will run north to the north side of East Quincy Avenue when it will run about 11.5 miles east when it will turn south between South Tom Bay and South Brick Center (County Road 129) roads for five miles until reaching East County Line Road (County Road 50). From there, the line will run east before turning south into Elbert County.

A one-mile portion of the Arapahoe County route is located within the city of Aurora, and the city council for the municipality has already given its approval.

SEE ARAPCO XCEL ROUTE
PAGE 10



MAP COURTESY OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY

The eastern Arapahoe County portion of Xcel Energy's Segment 5 Power Pathways Project, including a connection with Elbert County, was unanimously approved by the board of commissioners during a June 23 public hearing.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A late night storm with heavy winds June 24 downed 14 power poles along Arapahoe County Road 38 between Xmore Road and Deer Trail. The road was closed most of the following day. Two dozen CORE Electric Cooperative customers were without power for 12-14 hours. SEE PAGE 22.

Byers 4th performance slated by Colo Country HoF nominee

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

DENVER — A country western singer slated to perform at the Byers Fourth of July celebration was recently nominated for the 2026 Male Vocalist of the Year award by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame.

In 2025, Joe Wren, 20, a native and resident of Littleton, also won the Hall of Fame's Best Country

SEE JOE WREN
PAGE 4

by Chase Woodruff
Colorado Newslite

The message arrived on the morning of June 27 at the headquarters of Gen. Alfred Terry, who had marched west a month earlier with a column of 1,000 U.S. Army troops out of the Dakota Territory's Fort Abraham Lincoln.

"I have had a most terrific engagement with the hostile Indians," began Maj. Marcus Reno's frantic dispatch.

DT fire board debates Sable pact

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Options to insure more consistent daytime fire response and emergency medical service coverage for residents in and around Deer Trail are being pondered.

When the Deer Trail Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors meets for its July 13 business meeting, one of the primary agenda items is expected to be whether to move forward with a \$400,000 annual contract for the next three years with Sable Altura Fire Department.

During their June 8 meeting, board members voted 3-2 to pay Fire Chief Rich Loveless a \$58,000 salary; however, that might be a moot point if the proposal for two Sable personnel staged at the Deer Trail Firehouse during weekdays moves ahead.

Prior to last month's vote — with Ken Dingman, Dawson Eldringhoff

and John Jolly saying yes while board president Kayley Dillingham and Phil Donovan dissenting — Loveless' position was volunteer and unpaid. The move is expected to assist in covering gaps in service until Deer Trail volunteers or responders from neighboring jurisdictions are available.

"If we, the community, are going to spend some money, they are covered a little bit. We get increased coverage," said Dingman, who noted the paid chief debate had gone on for about a year-and-a-half. "It's time to stop flogging the mule and get off of the high center and, at least, hire a chief."

Donovan said he needed confirmation that Loveless would have a time requirement at the firehouse, to which the chief said he was agreeable with. Dillingham had reservations that Loveless didn't have proper certification when it comes to many of the calls he might be asked to respond to.

SEE DEER TRAIL FPD
PAGE 6

COLORADO @ 150

July 1, 1876: New state constitution approved

Terry's force made up one part of a three-pronged attack the Army had planned in its 1876 war against the Lakota Sioux, who had been deemed "hostile" after resisting settler encroachment on the Black Hills, sacred land reserved for them by an 1868 treaty. Reno was the senior officer under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, whose seasoned 7th Cavalry force had been ordered to advance towards a Sioux village on the banks of the Little Bighorn

SEE CO CONSTITUTION
PAGE 14

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Introduction to sewing focus of Strasburg summer camp

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will host a Beginner Sewing Camp Monday through Wednesday, July 14-16 at the American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Participants will learn the basic skills of sewing and the fun it can provide.

The fundamentals of hand and machine sewing will both be taught. Students can select from creating a: pillow, pillow case, pencil case, tote bag, simple purse, animal/monster stuffie, key chain stuffie, pin cushion, or water bottle holder. Participants are also urged to bring an old T-shirt or set of pants to “Upcycle” into something new.

The registration fee of \$110 includes all sewing supplies.

Registration deadline is Friday, July 10.

For additional information, visit strasburgparks.org.

Strasburg American Legion plans open house on July 4

STRASBURG — Jess-Yaich American Legion Post 183 in Strasburg plans an open house to help celebrate America’s 250th year starting at 12 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

The post plans a flag retirement ceremony and flag folding demonstration.

The post commander will explain the meaning of the Empty Chair, an American Legion tradition.

Light snacks will be served. All veterans and their families are welcome.

The Strasburg American Legion

Hall is located at 56423 Westview Ave.

I-70 Corridor locals invited to show on new 'Burg stage

STRASBURG — Local '70s, '80s and '90s music fans are invited to a free Red, White & Rock Concert at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at Community Park East, 1866 Wagner St., Strasburg.

The outdoor concert event will feature regional cover band Hot Tub Time Machine. A beer garden for guests ages 21 and older and concessions will be available.

Admission is free. Donations will be accepted. Attendees should bring blankets and lawn chairs.

SUMMER SERIES

The show is one of several open-air concerts this summer at Community Park East.

The next show will feature worship music by local worship bands at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 18.

Future events will feature a mix of local favorites, youth performers, and specialty bands.

Early registration commences for east I-70 motorcycle ride

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Riders on the Plains motorcycle poker run on Saturday, July 25.

Day-of registration runs from 9-10:30 a.m. at Colorado Air & Space Port.

The ride begins at 10:30 a.m. with stops at Launchpad Brewery in Bennett, Rookies in Strasburg, Shooters Bar & Grill in Byers, the Deer Trail Jockey Club Rodeo Grounds, and ending at May Farms in Byers.

The event benefits Combat Hero Bike Build, a nonprofit that modifies motorcycles to accommodate disabled veterans.

More information and pre-registration is available at www.i70ccoc.com.

Declaration of Independence topic of Strasburg discussion

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

The lecture is the third part of a three-part series. It will run from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at the TBK Bank Community Room at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg. The presentation will address how America has celebrated Independence Day over the past 250 years.

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

Free will offerings will be accepted to benefit the mission of the historical society. For more information, call (303)622-4322. 4/15

Bennett firefighters union schedules clay shoot \$ raiser

BENNETT — Bennett Firefighters Local 5090 invites residents to participate in a clay shoot fundraiser at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 18, at Kiowa Creek Sporting Club south of town.

All monies raised will go towards the Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Foundation.

For additional information, visit <https://bennettfirefighters.org> and click on the News/Events tab.

The sporting club is located at 46700 E. County Road 30 (Quincy Avenue), Bennett.

Rainbows, stars key to youth art classes

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District plans three summer art classes for youth in the coming weeks.

To register for either event, visit strasburgparks.org. The registration for each is \$20, and all occur at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

Radical Rainbows for children ages 5-12 runs from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 8, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall. During the class, participants will explore the physics of beautiful rainbows to learn about optics, light behavior and atmospheric phenomena. They will also use different objects to create rainbows and make take-home rainbow density jars.

The registration deadline is Friday, July 3.

BEACH SCENERY

A second class is planned for ages 5-14 emphasizing beach scenery from 10-11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 12.

The registration deadline is Thursday, July 9.

STARRY NIGHTS

Kids 5-12 will explore the solar system, stars and space through constellation stories; create a constellation lantern or marshmallow constellation; and play a Shooting Star Toss, also known as cornhole. 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 27.

The registration deadline is Friday, July 17.

POLICE REPORTS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

- A restraining order violation was reported on Seventh Avenue, **Deer Trail**.
- A death occurred on Hank's Crossing Road at U.S. Highway 36, **Byers**.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- A vehicle was repossessed in the 28200 of East Eighth Avenue, **Aurora**.

- Theft was reported in the 1000 block of South First Street, **Bennett**.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

- A traffic accident occurred in the 1400 block of County Road 137, **Bennett**.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

- A vehicle was repossessed in the 65100 block of East Kettle Lane, **Byers**.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

- A restraining order violation was reported on South County Road 151 at Mississippi Avenue, **Strasburg**.
- A traffic arrest was made on Edward Avenue, **Bennett**.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

- Assault was reported in the 2300 block of South Quail Hollow Road, **Byers**.

- A sexual assault was reported on East County Road 30 near Watkins Road, **Watkins**.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

- A vehicle was repossessed in the 100 block of Coyote Street, **Bennett**.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- A burglary was reported in the 1300 block of Monroe Street, **Strasburg**.



PHOTO COURTESY ADAMS COUNTY

Colorado Air & Space Port hosted its annual Fly-In the morning of May 30, including a pancake breakfast and aircraft show, including military planes and vehicles. The twin prop military aircraft known as the Sonoran Beauty sits in all its glory as a plane takes off behind it.

The I-70 Scout

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P.O. Box 829 • 1522 Main St., Strasburg, Colo. 80136
e-mail: dclaussen@i-70scout.com • www.i-70scout.com
(303)622-9796

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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, Michael Fischer, Dani Palmer

Longtime neighbors, biz owners to lead Byers' Fourth festivities

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BYERS — This year's Byers Fourth of July Parade will be led by a couple that has not only been a part of the community for more than 2½ decades but has made significant contributions to the I-70 Corridor business environment.

Ron and Tammi Williams moved out to Byers 27 years ago, lured by predominantly by one aspect of rural agriculture life.

"Leon Vick and rodeoing and that drew us close to the people out here," Ron Williams said, recalling interactions with the longtime former steer wrestler and National Western Stock Show. "That got us out here and we've stayed here ever since."

In addition to raising their two adult children — son Wyatt and daughter Bailey — through graduation at Byers School, the couple has also developed multiple area businesses, most notably the Maverick family of operations.

"We started Maverick Steel in 2002, starting with just little barns, horse sheds and other more ag- and live-stock-based projects," Tammi Williams said.

"Now, we're among the largest steel building erector in four western states," Ron added.

In 2019, the family took over the Byers America farm store and converted it into Maverick Mercantile. Later that same year, Maverick Armory was added to the facility, complete with retail firearms and ammunition sales and a shooting range.

"Right when COVID kind of hit, so ended up being about the right time for the firearms business," Tammi said.

Four years later, in 2023, Shooters Bar & Grill and Maverick Auto Care came to fruition and Maverick Steel's new headquarters next door came to reality.

Earlier this year, the auto care and tire shop closed after what Tammi said was an inability to compete with the bigger chains of tire and repair shops.

Despite the setback, Ron and Tammi still move forward with their entrepreneurship.

"In 2024-25, we developed apartments next to Maverick Steel, so that was a step in the right direction," the couple said. "We're proud of being being one of the larger private employers



Byers residents and entrepreneurs Ron and Tammi Williams will serve as Grand Marshals for the annual Byers Fourth of July Parade on July 4.

between the Front Range and Limon. Have a lot of long-timers with us, so must be doing something right."

When asked about the grand marshals honor, Ron said, "Means a lot to be appreciated and honored by friends for what we've done and continue to try and do in the community."

Saturday's parade starts at 10 a.m. at Byers School and will progress westward down Front Street to Centennial Park.

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WEEK OF JUNE 29

JOE WREN

FROM PAGE 1

Single Artist of the Year and was nominated for Year Newcomer of the Year. He also placed second in an annual Colorado-based singing competition called Celebrity Sidekick.

In a June 27 interview with *The I-70 Scout*, Wren credited his parents with fostering his interest in country music, and he was hooked by the song “Mean” by Taylor Swift.

Wren became interested in the guitar at age 9 or 10 and began playing in earnest after spending extensive time in the hospital from a kidney transplant during his freshman year in high school. The kidney transplant was his second, the first occurring at age 3.

“I got tired of TV because it’s all the same channels,” he said. “So I decided to pick up guitar for a little bit, just hanging out, just didn’t even think anything of it, and started playing all the songs that I fell in love with — All the artists I fell in love with, listening to, Al Jackson, George Strait, all the legends, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, George Jones.”

Wren, a 2024 graduate of Chatfield High School, attended Warren Tech, a vocational program through JeffCo Public Schools, during his last two years of high school. As a junior, he studied audio and music production, where he taught students to record music in a studio. As a senior year, he learned about sound production — live sound for bands involving speakers and PAs.

“And then I started playing professionally out in bars and everything about two years ago,” he concluded. “Yeah, I’ve been playing my whole life.”



JARRAD JOBE for The Scout

Joe Wren will headline a Fourth of July concert at Quint Valley in Byers on July 4.

JULY 4 CONCERT

BYERS — The nonprofit Small Town Strong Foundation in Strasburg will benefit from a concert headlined by Joe Wren & The Roadies at Byers Fourth of July festivities this year.

The show runs from at 6-10 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at the Quint Valley Fairgrounds. Grammy-nominated songwriter and vocalist Biff Gore and Melinda Hagan & Ronnie Davis round out the line-up.

Tickets are on sale at \$25 each online or at Smokeshow Meats and Beans Place at 56761 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Admission is free for children ages 12 and under are free. Only 600 tickets will be sold.

For more information, visit www.smalltownstrong.com.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BENNETT
ORDINANCE NO. 816-26

An Ordinance Approving a Rezone of Property Owned by the Town of Bennett from Planned Development (PD) to Mixed Use Public (P), with a Mainstreet Overlay (MS) for Commercial, Residential and Civic Activities.

By Order of Christina Hart, CMC / Town Clerk, Town of Bennett Published by Title Only on the 1st Day of July 2026 in the I-70 Scout.

#3209
Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 1, 2026

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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Info: strasburgorthodox.org

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— Douglas Claussen,
Publisher & Editor

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COURTESY BRIGHTON FIRE RESCUE
At about 2 p.m. June 27, the above SUV crashed on 120th Avenue near Watkins Road and caught fire, igniting a grassland blaze that consumed about 240 acres before being contained. The area was blocked off to through traffic for about three hours. The vehicle's occupants weren't seriously injured.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
The town of Bennett hosted Party in the Park at Trupp Park June 12. In addition to a concert by Colorado-based singer/songwriter, Neriya, the event included a community art project by the Corridor Creative Arts League celebrating America 250 and Colorado 150, a vendor fair with local businesses and community resources, and a bevy of food trucks. Above, the Beech brothers — Daxton, 5, and Wade, 7 — win prizes at the Adams County Sheriff's Office booth manned by Deputy Vigil.



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DEER TRAIL FPD

FROM PAGE 1

Loveless indicated training for those certifications is in process.

But, according to Loveless, his salary would not continue if the district moves forward with a proposal for a pair of Sable Altura personnel to man the fire station during daylight hours during the work week. The board agreed to table the discussion until its July meeting after voting down a Donovan motion to not move forward with further discussions with Sable.

Donovan and Dillingham both questioned how well a three-year contract and \$400,000 would be received by community members but the other board members, Loveless and Sable Altura Fire Chief Rich Solomon indicated that moving Deer Trail to a paid staff would cost well more than the proposed contract rate.

"It took a good five years to get fairly well versed in the ins and outs of a paid staff," said Solomon, noting that Sable Altura started paying a chief in 2003 and, with the exception of a couple of people, didn't move forward with paying its emergency responders until 2017. "Between pension, PPA, 401k and a bunch of other expenses, it's a lot more."

Other benefits in utilizing Sable Altura is expense reduction in the form of volume purchasing of equipment and supplies.

Solomon also said his department is in the mode of giving Deer Trail the opportunity to figure out a plan for becoming fully staffed after the three-year duration of his contract proposal.

"Have no intention of empire building, that's not my job. We want to help this community," he said. "I have legacy family here in Deer Trail. Very much care about this area. The offer with this contract, is for you guys to take a break, a breather, and get started in three years."

Under the contract, Deer Trail apparatus would be used by Sable personnel and Deer Trail volunteers would still respond to calls when available, particularly outside of weekday business hours and on weekends. And Loveless said his newly approved salary would be relinquished.

"They would provide the chief duties, the whole shooting match," he said.

The annual contract amount is also covered by current taxing revenue collected by the district and that isn't expected to change in the near future. The contract duration also gives the district board an opportunity to look into other funding option, including a possible ballot question next year.

"I'm already looking at the exit plan (from any contract)," Dillingham. Added. "We need. To keep that in mind the entire time."

The fire board meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at the fire station, 488 First Ave.

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Early bird registration deadlines near for plethora of youth sports programs

Registration deadlines for multiple youth sports activities through the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will close in the coming days.

Registration costs range from \$60 to \$150 as specified below. For additional information and to register for all activities, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

PITCH, HIT & RUN

STRASBURG — A local qualifying event for the MLB Pitch, Hit & Run competition starts at 4 p.m., Sunday, July 12.

The annual skills competition allows boys and girls ages 7-14 the opportunity to show off their baseball abilities and advance to other competitions, including team championship events at all 30 Major League Baseball ballparks.

Check-in is at 3:30 p.m., but free registration must occur online prior to the event.

TACKLE FOOTBALL

Registration is now open through July 12 for Strasburg third- through sixth-graders interested in playing youth tackle football.

Strasburg competes in the Colorado Prairie League with games to also be played in Bennett, Byers, Limon, Calhan, Simla, and Peyton.

Players must provide their own pads, black pants, white helmet, and cleats.

Practice can begin Aug. 3 with location and times to be determined by respective coaches. A six-week regular-season schedule starts Aug. 29, with the playoffs starting Oct. 17 and the championship games being contested Oct. 31.

Registration is \$115 for in-district youth and includes one jersey.

For additional information and to register, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Strasburg elementary and junior high boys are invited to learn basketball fundamentals July 13-15 at the Hemphill Middle School Gym.

The camps will be administered by Strasburg High School coaches and players.

Camp times are based on grade levels as of the 2026-27 school year: kindergarten through second grade from 4:30-5:15 p.m.; third through fifth grade from 5:15-6:15 p.m.; and sixth through eighth from 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Registration costs \$60 and includes a drawstring bag. Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 9, and can be done at www.strasburgparks.org.

VOLLEYBALL GRADES 7-8

Incoming seventh- and eighth-graders at Hemphill Middle School for 2026-27 are invited to participate in volleyball camp Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22.

Camp is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. all three days in the high school gym and will be administered by Strasburg High School coaches and players.

Registration is \$80 with a deadline of July 12.

For more information or to register, visit www.strasburgparks.org.

VOLLEYBALL GRADES 3-6

Incoming third- through eighth-graders can participate in volleyball camp Monday through Wednesday, July 27-30, at the Strasburg High School gymnasium.

Camp is scheduled from 5:30-7 12 p.m. all three days in the high school gym and will be administered by Strasburg High School coaches and players.

The cost is \$60 per player. The registration deadline is Sunday, July 19.

SOFTBALL

Youth softball players ages 6-14 based on Aug. 31, 2026, can save \$50 per participant by registering on or before Sunday, July 19.

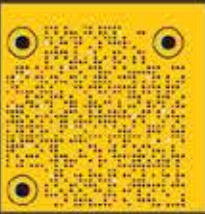
The cost is \$150 per player before July 19 and \$200 through Aug. 2. The fee includes a jersey and visor.

Within the program, all divisions will play two games per week on Saturdays through the Indian Peaks Girls Softball Association. Practices will occur during the week in Strasburg based on coaches' schedules.

Competition will occur across the northern Front Range from mid-August through a season-ending tournament on Sunday, Oct. 18.



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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can attend regular meetings to take an active leadership role in planning and implementing library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services in Bennett. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, July 1.

Wilderness Survival with the Colorado Mountain Club: Guided by skilled instructors, teens ages 11-18 will move through a series of survival-focused activities, like fire and shelter building, orientation, backcountry cooking and more. Leave No Trace principles, the 10 essentials, and team challenges designed to build trust and resilience are also part of the session. Space limited; registration is required. 1-3 p.m., Thursday, July 2.

Art & Adaptations: Art and nature come together for kids ages 6-12 as they explore the world of animal adaptations and draw cool examples. Each participant will design their own unique animal with special adaptations. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 8.

Plant Adventures with Denver Botanic Gardens: Visitors will explore the world of plants using their senses to experience the colors, textures, shapes and smells of plants and to learn the many ways plants support everyday lives. To extend the learning after the program ends, children will be given seeds to take home and grow. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10-11 a.m., Friday, July 10.

Kora Harp Performance: The player of a 21-stringed West African harp will visit the library for a special one-hour performance. Sean Gaskell, a professional kora player, has trained under experts in the instrument in Gambia and Senegal for nearly two decades. He will share stories and techniques of the unique instrument.

Many songs featured on the kora

preserve an 800-year history dating back to the founding of the Mande empire in West Africa in the 13th century. 2-3 p.m., Friday, July 10.

Cornhusk Dolls: The Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys will present the history and creation of cornhusk dolls in an informative and hands-on workshop for adults. Space limited; registration required. Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10-11 a.m., Saturday, July 11.

Bennett Sci-Fi Book Club: Bennett's beloved Sci-Fi Book Club is now meeting at the Anythink Bennett Library the second Monday of each month. Science fiction readers will gather with fellow sci-fi science fiction at the Anythink fans for lively conversations. Appropriate for adults. 6-8 p.m., Monday, July 13.

Dandelion Arts: Children ages 0-5 should ready to move at a joyful movement and dance workshop. Kids and caregivers will stretch, wiggle, balance, twirl and play. Through music, games and creative movement, families will explore how physical movement supports growing brains, healthy bodies and early social connections. 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, July 14.

Desert Desserts: Kids ages 5-12 can explore how desert plants use deep roots to sprout, nourish themselves, and thrive in harsh conditions, then turn that inspiration into delicious creations by making desert-themed edible art, including cactus inspired treats and sweet critters. 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 15.

Mexica Day signs: Teens can learn about the Tōnalpōhualli, the Aztec count of days, and create artistic compositions using stamps of the Mexica Day signs. Participants will match a special day with the Tōnalpōhualli, and see what it reveals. Program will occur in Spanish and English. Space limited; registration required. 2-3:30 p.m., Thursday, July 16.

Root Vegetable Desserts: Adults can explore the history and baking techniques of a variety of desserts utilizing root vegetables. Samples provided. Space limited; registration required.



PHOTOS STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Daniel Alvarez from the Butterfly Pavilion in Denver made the trek to Anythink Bennett library for a pair of MySummer: Itsy Bitsy Bugs presentations June 8-9. Monday's presentation was in Spanish with the following day in English. In addition to a display of butterflies, Alvarez's show-and-tell included multiple other insects that are beneficial to a summer garden ecosystem. From left photo, Michael Luna, 6, does his best to pay attention to Alvarez while keeping an eye on the bug in front of him, and Atlas Melanson, 7, and mother, Talia, look for a cellar spider hiding in its box.

Visit anythinklibraries.org to sign up. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, July 18.

Weave & Grow, Textile Bookmark Making: In a hands-on workshop, kids ages 7-12 will explore the bright and beautiful weaving traditions of the Maya in Guatemala, then weave their own colorful bookmark using patterns inspired by the designs. Along the way, they can grow their creativity, hand skills and imagination while discovering how traditions and identities are shared across generations. Kids ages 5-6 welcome with attending caregiver. Space and supplies are limited; registration is required. 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 22.

KELVER LIBRARY

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(303)822-9392
www.arapahoelibraries.org

Unearth a Story: Dino O'Dell will facilitate an interactive program with 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.

Emergency preparedness workshop: The Arapahoe County Office of Emergency Management will present a hands-on class to help community members build confidence before, during and after emergencies. They will learn to make an emergency plan and begin building their own kits. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, July 15.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

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., Friday, July 3.

Jedi School, hands-on lightsaber training and fight choreography for ages 9-18 presented by Knights of the Tempest. 2-3 p.m., Tuesday, July 14.

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Anythink Bennett library hosted Colors Grow with Lauren Fine as part of its MySummer summer reading program June 23. Fine is a Denver-based educator and Tuesday's event taught youngsters about primary colors and what other colors can be made when combining them. Clockwise from above left, Devota Mikus, 2, waves her wand of primary color ribbons; Allison Espino looks for a bit of direction from Fine; and Luna Hayes-Anders, 3, does a finger-painting exercise.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Tweens and teens got a taste of the art of taxidermy but no live animals or wildlife were harmed during Taxidermy Stuffed Animals put on by Anythink Bennett library June 18. Participants were able to disassemble a wide variety of plush toys and mix and match their various body parts and clothes on a mount they also painted or adorned. Clockwise from above, Ari and Isabella Frankl, 13, create their colorful mounting boards; Bailee Angelo, 11, shows off her final creation; and library employees worked up some demonstration projects for instructional purposes.





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The first smattering of combines in Corridor wheat fields occurred late last week, including this scene along Highway 36 between Old Victory Road and Lady Bird Hill June 27. Normally, cutting in the area starts closer to the Fourth of July. Because of the dry, hot and windy spring and early summer and an uptick in bugs and disease, projections are for the poorest Colorado harvest since 1965.

STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

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Published in the The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

ARAPCO XCEL ROUTE

FROM PAGE 1

While board approval was unanimous, District 3 Commissioner Jeff Baker, whose jurisdiction includes eastern unincorporated Arapahoe County, was adamant that constituents' concerns were listened to and addressed in a set of renegotiated conditions, specifically citing three wildlife management amendments:

- (f) If grading or construction is to occur on the project between Jan. 1 through April 30, a survey for pronghorn must be conducted. If the species is found, no construction or other site work will be allowed over that time frame unless otherwise overruled by Colorado Parks & Wildlife;
- (g) if mule deer are considered present during the first four months of the year, no construction and grading is permitted during those dates, unless otherwise advised by CPW; and
- (h) if a preconstruction survey to determine the presence of burrowing owls finds the species present during excavation activities March 15 through Oct. 31, the applicant must coordinate with CPW to determine appropriate avoidance buffers or practices.

According to county staff, the county planning commission heard Xcel's 1041 Application and Location & Extent request during the same May 19 public hearing when the power company originally requested further revision of the three wildlife-related conditions, but those were later pulled that same night.

"[Xcel] withdrew their request when county legal staff recommended postponing the hearing to another date to work out these conditions with the county and CPW," the staff report said. "The planning commission approved [both applications] as presented with a 6-0 vote."

The company also pulled its opposition to the requirement that "bird diverters" be utilized on transmission lines when they come within a quarter-mile of waterways or are located within a raptor nesting buffer area.

During the commissioners hearing, Baker reiterated that the company will be under review and scrutiny throughout the entirety of the project and will be held accountable in the case some construction violations are

encountered.

"I do want to make sure our staff hears this loud and clear — we expect follow-up as the construction proceeds, and in the maintenance [afterwards]," he said. "I know one of the other reasons they are above ground is for ease of maintenance when we have high winds. When we do have something that happens to those lines, you don't have to disturb the ground, you can go maintain them in a timely fashion and prevent fires from happening. I'm fine with the renegotiated conditions that staff has worked with the applicant on."

ELBERT COUNTY LITIGATION HEATS UP

Arapahoe County's action last week is a far deviation from the fight that Elbert County finds itself in with Xcel and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Most recently, the board of commissioners filed a lawsuit on June 25 in Elbert County District Court against the PUC and Public Service of Colorado. The suit follows through on a June 10 board vote to move forward with effort to have the county's previous denial of Xcel's proposed 48-mile power line route through the county upheld.

The county, who panned the company's request in late-June of last year, recommended moving the power lines further east in a less populated part of the county. Concerns included negative impacts to economic development zones as well as increased wildfire risk, effects on scenic corridors, and that the county will receive no direct benefit from the project because it is not in Xcel's service area. The company appealed that denial to the PUC, which sided with the utility and cleared the way for construction on the preferred route.

PUC's mid-April decision overruling the local land use decision was done under a statute that has been used just three times in 21 years, allowing regulators to override local land use decisions on electric and gas infrastructure projects. The statute gives the PUC so-called "backstop siting authority."

During the April 10 PUC board hearing on the case, Lindsey Dundas, an assistant attorney general representing the PUC, testified that "the commission authority prevails where local decisions conflict with statewide energy needs."

The Colorado Energy Office and the commission's staff both supported Xcel Energy's request to overturn Elbert County's denial.

El Paso County commissioners also voted against the proposed Power Pathway route through their jurisdiction and, similar to Elbert County, the PUC overrode that denial as well. Litigation is pending.

The 550-mile Power Pathway will create a big belt from Longmont down across the Eastern Plains, then west to Pueblo and north to just south of Denver with the aim of bringing power to population centers from large-scale wind and solar projects, with some already underway.

The 345-kilovolt line is being built in five segments. Two are completed and two are under construction.

While the preliminary time frame was for project completion in 2027, the company said the start of construction on Segment 5 through southeast Colorado will depend on the final resolution of all remaining permits.

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A beautiful ‘chamber-of-commerce day’ on the farm



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce hosted Summer on the Farm at May Farms in Byers June 6. The family-oriented event featured a wide variety of animals, children’s games and activities, and a baked cookie contest. From left photo, attendees get a tour via May Farms’ barrel train, and visitors of all ages visit with an owl presented by Dale Scheid with Windsong Environmental Education Foundation.



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DEER TRAIL RODEO KICKS OFF WITH FRIDAY ACTION



Friday night's performance of Deer Trail Rodeo weekend, June 26-27, started with the U.S. flag presented by 2026 Deer Trail Rodeo Queen Hannah Chambers atop her trusty steed while 13-year-old Jackson Kalcevic of Byers performs the National Anthem on electric guitar, inset.



From left photo, Iskandar Ocampo of Denver rides Curbside from Strasburg-based Miller Rodeo Company to a go-round high score of 83 points, and Faith Mendoza, left, and Kristy Penk race towards a pair of beers in beer goggles while rodeo clown Benny Bob Patrick urges them on from behind.



From left photo, Agate's own Jessie Jolly throws a heel loop during Friday afternoon's team roping slack session, and Kensley Miller, 3, tries to keep her steed on the straight and narrow during Friday night's stick horse races. For more Deer Trail Rodeo coverage, see the July 8 edition of *The I-70 Scout*.

Have A Safe & Enjoyable 4th of July!

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The third floor of the First National Bank building on 15th Street, above, served as the chambers of Colorado's 1876 constitutional convention.

CO CONSTITUTION

FROM PAGE 1

River in present-day Montana.

"I have not seen or heard from Custer since he ordered me to charge with my battalion," Reno reported to Terry. "Send me medical aid at once and rations. As near as I can say now I have over 100 men killed and wounded."

Things were much worse for the 7th Cavalry than Reno knew: No message arrived from Custer, because he and the entire force of over 200 men under his direct command had been killed a few miles north of Reno's position. Custer, a Civil War hero and veteran of the Army's wars against Plains Indian tribes, had led a force of fewer than 600 cavalry troops into a pitched battle with roughly 2,000 Sioux warriors, suffering one of the most famous defeats in U.S. military history.

Just a few hundred miles to the south, the Colorado Territory had followed the events of the Great Sioux War of 1876 more closely than much of the rest of the country. Over the preceding two years, after gold was discovered in the Black Hills, thousands of fortune-seekers had left Colorado's gold and silver mining camps to try their luck in the Dakotas instead.

"FOR SALE — CHEAP — SALOON ... going to Black Hills," read a Feb. 22 classified ad in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

The *Rocky Mountain News* had a war correspondent, Robert Strahorn, embedded with an Army force under Gen. George Crook, another prong in the planned attack against the Sioux, who had launched an expedition from Wyoming's Fort Fetterman in the spring.

But in an age when the telegraph had made near-instantaneous communication across the United States routine, news of Custer's annihilation in the Battle of Little Bighorn took a relative eternity to reach the American public.

As the battered remnants of Terry's column made a slow retreat north and east from the Montana badlands, the earliest accounts of the defeat appeared in Bozeman and Helena newspapers on July 2 and 3, but other papers across the country wouldn't receive official confirmation until late in the night on July 5, a day after celebrations of the nation's Centennial had concluded, and Strahorn's exclusive report for the *News* wouldn't be published until later in the month.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Convention had met in St. Louis

from June 27-29 and selected New York Gov. Samuel Tilden as the party's 1876 presidential nominee.

The Colorado Territory's Republican establishment geared up for a tough election fight, rallying an outdoor crowd in Denver on the night of June 28 to "ratify" the GOP's nomination of Ohio Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes.

Thomas Nelson Haskell, a pastor and professor who had helped found Colorado College in 1874, addressed the crowd and spoke of the Republican faithful's "most important preliminary duty" — to approve a state constitution in the July 1 referendum election, securing Colorado's right to cast three electoral votes in the high-stakes presidential contest.

"Who would defeat the Centennial State?" Haskell asked, as recorded by the *News*. "Who would not rather wake the song of joy on all our plains and mountains, and send it on to the Atlantic and Pacific that a new star is born in freedom's sky — a bright and faithful star is set in this Centennial year, and that star is no less than the beautiful Rocky Mountain state in which we dwell."

In the end, little suspense about the result occurred. Despite earlier fears that voters might reject the document — as they had to thwart a previous attempt at statehood in 1864 — citizens across the Colorado Territory went to the polls on July 1 and adopted the constitution in a landslide, with 15,443 votes for and 4,062 against.

The next day, the *News* ecstatically reported the victory, and the high turnout: "For once in her history, Denver cast a full vote yesterday," the paper observed. But its article on the referendum was followed by a lengthier and gloomier report on the previous day's "Waterloo defeat" — the one suffered by the Georgetown baseball club in its "match" in Denver against a rival team from Cheyenne.

Despite enjoying a 5-3 lead after the first inning, the Georgetown club struggled to keep up with the "muscular Wyomings," the *News* reported, and went on to lose 26-9.

"Colorado was overmatched, and couldn't win," said the *News*. "Still, the boys themselves will admit that a score of 26 to 9 indicates rather loose fielding on the losing side, as there is nothing like that difference in the play of the two clubs."

"After the game was over," the report added, "the Georgetown boys visited the second ward polls, and consoled themselves for their defeat by voting for the constitution."

Distracted driving: AdCo 1st in wrecks, state troopers say

LAKEWOOD — Whether it comes from years of driving experience or driving the same routes each day, complacency behind the wheel can increase the likelihood of distractions.

Even familiar routes are not “routine” drives. Other motorists, construction zones, poor weather, and pedestrians can create hazards, and motorists may frequently need to adjust their speed or lane position.

“Last year troopers investigated nearly 600 serious injury or fatal crashes in Colorado due to a driver who was distracted,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol chief. “Driving should never come second to any other task in the car. The solution is easy — just drive.”

Looking at 2025 CSP crash data, troopers found that distracted driving incidents were highest in the summer months (June through September), although dozens occurred each month. In addition, while every age category was reflected in the crashes, drivers in their 20s and 30s had the highest rates.

The top five counties for “inattentive to driving” serious injury or fatal crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol, in descending order, were Adams, Jefferson, El Paso, Douglas and Larimer.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 2
Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board. 5:30 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

SATURDAY, JULY 4
Free admission from 1-4 p.m. to **Comanche Crossing Museum**, 56060 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
Open Create, an art studio environment by the Corridor Creative Arts League. Artists work with different mediums and without instructors. 12-3 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall.
Deer Trail Conservation District Board. 1 p.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Strasburg Sanitation & Water Board. 7 p.m., TBK Bank conference room, 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

EVERY FRIDAY
Preschool story time: Children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and other fun activities. 9:30-10 a.m., Anythink Bennett library.

Preschool story time: Hear a story, sing a song, and spend time together to promote literacy for preschoolers. 10-10:15 a.m., arapahoelibraries.com.

Little Makers Club: Children ages 0-5 can explore activities with a construction-theme that strengthen motor skills, literacy and counting through July. Free crafts, toddler-friendly snacks, and goodie bag provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Kelter Library.

EVERY SUNDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous. 9 a.m. in Byers. For more information, call (303)903-6734.

EVERY MONDAY
Snackivities. 4:15-4:45 p.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.
High Plains Music Ensemble rehearsal. 6:30 p.m., Bennett High School band room. For additional information, contact conductor Kurt Elliott at (303)895-7568 or hpmemusicdirector@gmail.com or visit www.highplainsmusicensemble.com.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JULY 4, 2006
Ranchers in Adams and Arapahoe counties, including along the I-70 Corridor, were recently granted an opportunity to graze or hay grass on land previously designated for no use at all.

USDA's Farm Service Agency announced June 28 it will allow livestock producers in the two counties to graze or hay Conservation Reserve Program acres through September, citing drought conditions and poor pasture and hay production.

"We were originally told [June 23] the deadline for grazing or haying [CRP] would be Aug. 1, which was much shorter than we had requested," said Marty Reeves, executive director for Arapahoe and Adams county FSA offices. "But since then, they have extended that deadline until Sept. 30, a much more appropriate time frame."

As of June 30, Reeves said almost a dozen producers in Adams County and six or eight in Arapahoe have signed up for the program and have either turned livestock on CRP acres or are in the process of doing so.

"Conditions are such, that we expect many more producers to take the opportunity to do this; however, with a lot of CRP not being fenced and close to water, some time might have to be taken to hotwire some sections and get water tanks moved and filled," Reeves said. "Those are other reasons the later deadline is helpful."

15 YEARS AGO
JULY 5, 2011
DEER TRAIL — Copper thieves continue to profit from unsecured I-70 Corridor premises.

Most recently, Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies and investigators were called the old dog track at the Peoria exit off I-70 east of Byers afternoon of June 27.

Upon arrival, extensive property damage was discovered in addition to missing copper wire used to provide electricity to the facility. When the theft and vandalism took place is unknown because the facility has been vacant for the past eight-plus months.

"We don't have a lot to go on yet," said Capt. Larry Etheridge with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office. "The place went vacant in October

and, at that time, everything was fine. Two or three weeks prior to the report, the reporting party said some damage was noticed and that new damage has been popping up the past couple of weeks."

Preliminary estimates indicate the damage and stolen property totals approximately \$175,000, but the amount of copper wire taken is not clear.

The reporting party told sheriff's deputies that measures, including concrete blockades and padlocked gates, were taken to keep trespassers from driving onto the property, but walk-in access wasn't entirely shut off.

10 YEARS AGO
JULY 5, 2016
WATKINS — The Bennett Fire Protection District held a public meeting June 29 at Station 92 to help determine if a four-mill property tax increase should appear on the November ballot.

If passed, the current 8.9 mill levy would be increased by two mills for facility improvement and two mills for operational service improvement.

"We hate to ask, we really do, but there is just not enough coming in," said fire board president Jim Woods. "We have operated very well, we feel, and with the money we have had, but we have finally reached the point where we just can't stretch it anymore."

The proposed levy increase would cost \$2.65 per month for a home with an assessed evaluation of \$100,000, and would commence Jan. 1, 2017. A home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would pay \$159 a year. The levy will equally affect residential and commercial properties.

In addition to the need for more bays to store equipment, facility improvement would be focused on living quarters for career and volunteer staff.

"Our biggest concern is we ask volunteers to come here, and pull shifts for free, and we make them sleep on couches," said Fire Chief Earl Cumley.

As of now, the district works out of Station 91 and 93 in Bennett, 92 in Watkins and 94 south of Quincy Avenue.

Station 91, built in 1950, is the district's newest station.

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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 18

Today is Wednesday, July 1, day 182 of 2026. There are 183 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect. Called Dominion Day until 1982, the national holiday is now known as Canada Day.

ALSO ON THIS DATE
In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil

War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19, won by Maurice Garin.)

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, N.H., where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1973, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1984, the first movie rated PG-13 ("Red Dawn," starring Patrick Swayze) was released.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 2015, after more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared their intent to reopen embassies in each other's capitals, leading to a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Actor-dancer Leslie Caron is 94.

Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 85. Actor Genevieve Bujold is 84. Rock singer Deborah Harry (Blondie) is 81. Actor Terrence Mann is 75. Rock singer Fred Schneider (The B-52s) is 75. Actor Pamela Anderson is 59. Actor Henry Simmons is 56. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 55. Actor Julianne Nicholson is 51. Actor Liv Tyler is 49. Actor Hilarie Burton is 44.

— Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: BEVERAGES

ACROSS

- Every which way
- *Whole milk has about 8 grams of this per cup
- Sound rebound
- Not yet final, in law
- Tibetan teacher
- Twig of willow tree
- Bad wishes
- Like certain tradition
- Separated
- *Fermented tea
- Trampled
- Hermey and Buddy, e.g.
- Pronoun
- *Bee's favorite beverage
- Like blabbermouth
- Freud's concern
- Becoming
- Uncontrolled swerve
- Type of heron
- Unidentified John
- Pocket change
- Ding follower
- Kenya's neighbor
- "Five down" fighter pilot
- Cuddle, romantically speaking
- Eras
- Film director's cry
- Opinion
- ___ Bora
- "Blended fruit beverage
- *Most-consumed beverage
- Abbreviation, abbr.
- Miniature whirlpool
- The Brady Bunch, e.g.
- Hanukkah gift
- Came by horse
- "For ___ the Bell Tolls"
- Schiller's famous poem, e.g.
- One-armed bandit

DOWN

- "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
- *Most popular choice for official state beverage
- Nobel Peace Prize capital
- It's meant to be
- Travesty
- Wet nurses
- Samoan money
- *Caffeinated "shot"
- Bye, in Palermo
- *Group of bovine milk producers
- Table scrap
- Mona Lisa's home

CROSSWORD

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Cat Scratch Fever
From Peggy Lee's "Fever" to Ted Nugent's "Cat Scratch Fever," intense attractions have oft been described as the woozy illness that heats the body. Yesterday, Jupiter entered Leo on tiger paws, amplifying desire, confidence and appetite. How can we resist what we can't resist? Perhaps this is one of those moments when surrender requires less effort than restraint.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not just hoping things will work out, you make them work. It's in the details now. Small adjustments create outsized results. The finishing touches are where the magic happens — the glossy varnish turns "good" into "exceptional."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You trust yourself more than you did, for the simple reason that you just keep delivering results you can stand by. You're gaining experience you need to do quick, dependable work. You'll make a decision that brings immediate reward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A gift doesn't require repayment. If there are strings attached, it's not a gift, it's a negotiation. There may be expectations attached to today's exchange of "generosity." The real question is: Are those terms acceptable to you?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today, it's not about being right. It's about progress, which always involves the whole mechanism. If one gear fits, great. But what does that mean to the next gear and the next? Everything must turn together. Think in terms of systems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not every lesson can be taught in advance. Some people need firsthand experience. Caring about someone doesn't give you the power to spare them every consequence. Though you feel responsible for people, you are not responsible for their choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You share your knowledge and lead others with certainty and care. As excellent as you are at educating others, experience remains the more powerful teacher. Consider whether your best move is to step back with love and let them discover for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though

you're extremely observant, don't assume appearances tell the whole story, either about other people or about yourself. Today, it's safe to assume there's much more going on behind the scenes than meets the eye.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Restraint can be mistaken for passivity or weakness -- no. Ask any dam: Restraint takes real strength, fortifications, tons of metal or mettle, as the case may be. Today, your restraint will be the move of champions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a cost to every relationship. There are also things to ignore, points to focus on, elements to be believed even though they are not objectively believable — the things you do for love.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Resilience is one of your superpowers. You have learned how to adapt and bounce back. Every challenge has taught you something useful, and today you handle something so easily, not in spite of those challenges but because of them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Nobody else can bring your exact combination of experiences, interests, obsessions, humor, grief, curiosity and insight to a project. Also, you don't need everyone to agree with your choices. They don't have to make sense to anyone but you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone can be kind and competent on a normal Wednesday, but you welcome the heightened circumstances when they come, knowing that it's grace under fire that forges the good stuff. Heightened circumstances are opportunities for true character to emerge.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 1). It's your Year of the Silver Thread. The connections are uncanny, unmistakable and strong to just people, places and opportunities you need. All you have to do is follow through on the leads. More highlights: You'll achieve new levels of honesty and togetherness in relationships. A talent developed for pleasure becomes useful work. Family life settles into a rhythm that supports the big dreams you share. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 1, 22 and 16.

— Horoscopes by Holiday

THESE DUSTY PAGES

Fourth Tragedies
May Top Casualties
At Valley Forge

EXPECT HEAVY TOLL
IN 3-DAY HOLIDAY

Accidents over the Independence day holidays this year may kill and maim more liberty-loving Americans than George Washington lost in a whole winter at Valley Forge, according to the National Conservation bureau, accident division of the Association of Casualty and Surety executives

This time last year, a mere one-day affair because the Fourth of July fell on Thursday, many persons were killed and thousands injured. This year, however, with the historic anniversary coming on Friday, the celebration will be a three-day affair for most Americans, with at least three times as many chances for tragic results unless Americans temper their patriotism with a modicum for common-sense precaution, say the safety specialists.

It is pointed out that last year fireworks accidents alone injured 4,462 persons and killed 8, automobiles accounted for 63 dead and drownings for 35, while other sports, overexertion, sunstroke and heat exhaustion all helped to swell the national total of dead and injured.

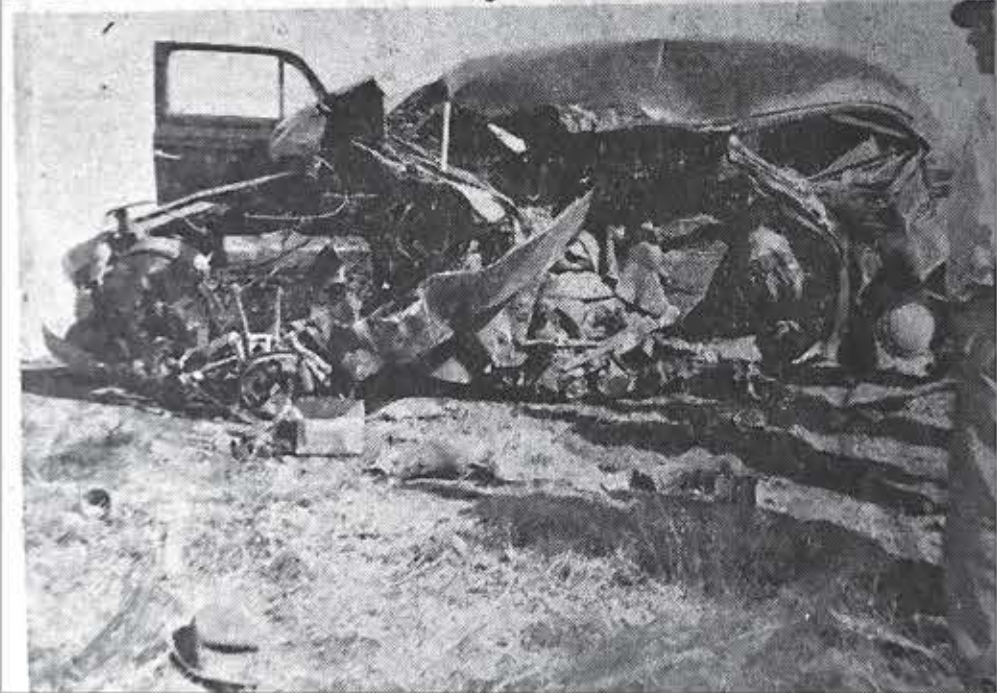
Eastern Colorado News
July 7, 1941

CONTINUING STRUGGLE, JULY 4, 1961



Eastern Colorado News
June 29, 1961

Please Take It Easy on the Fourth!



Eastern Colorado News
June 30, 1955

Strasburg Filling Station
Looted by Thugs

Thugs in a car bearing a New Jersey license are accredited with breaking into the Conoco filling station at Strasburg last Thursday night and getting about \$20 in cash from the register and 22 gallons of gas from the pump.

A glass door and a window pane were broken and the station keys obtained from a nail inside to open the door. A filing cabinet was also rifled.

Sheriff E. E. Monzingo, of Arapahoe county is investigating.

An old man, who was sleeping near the station in a model T Ford, gave the description of the car and thieves.

Eastern Colorado News
July 2, 1942

PETTY THIEVERY WILL LAND
UNSUSPECTING PERPETRATORS
IN JAIL

Reports of petty thievery in a community north of Strasburg has resulted in a good deal of aggravation and annoyance to people of that particular vicinity who are planning to surprise the perpetrators with a trip to the county jail. Petty crimes of this nature cannot be overlooked and will eventually result seriously to those who engage in them.

Eastern Colorado News
July 1, 1926

\$3,500,000 IN HIGHWAY
STARTED IN COLORADO

EIGHT MILES TO BE GRAVELED
BETWEEN RAMAH AND
MATHESON

Thirty-four highway projects with a total value of more than \$3,500,000 are now under way in Colorado, state highway department officials said Wednesday.

These are exclusive of the \$12,000,000 anticipation warrant construction budget, work on which has not yet been started, altho plans are nearing completion, and bids have been advertised for several projects.

Projects now under way include seven major bridges and approaches four highway grade separation structures, approximately 200 miles of gravel surfacing and one road-mix project 20 miles long.

Concrete pavement on W. Colfax Avenue in Denver and eight miles of gravel surfacing between Matheson and Ramah are the nearest projects underway.

Eastern Colorado News
July 2, 1936

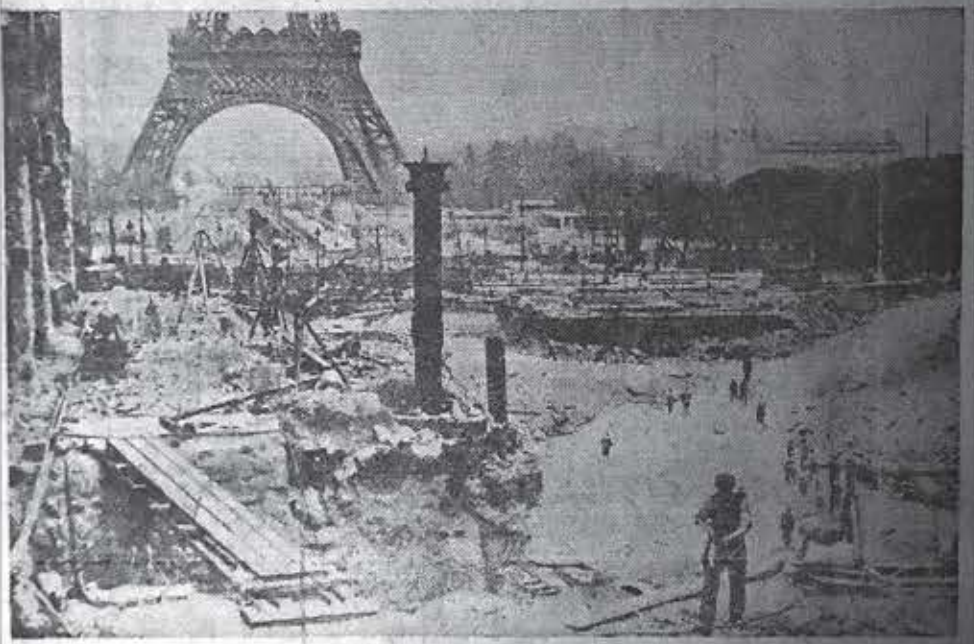
ADAMS COUNTY CRACKS WHIP
ON FIRECRACKER STANDS

As state law bans the possession, use or sale of firecrackers in the state, Adams county officials are making an all-out effort to see that none of these are sold in the county.

In the east end of Adams county, little trouble with sale of firecrackers has been encountered, but in other sections, Adams county law enforcement officials are having to take drastic steps to enforce the firecracker law. District Attorney Merbs says "any firework that explodes or leaves the ground" is illegal.

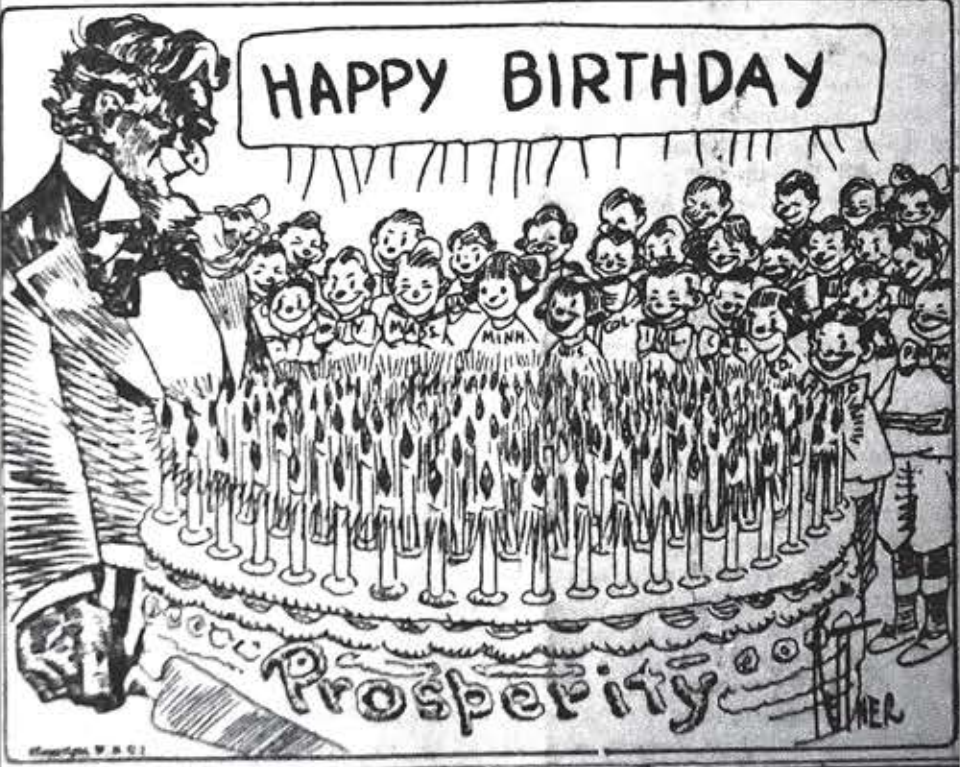
Eastern Colorado News
June 26, 1961

Paris Getting Ready for Exposition of 1937



There is going to be a big exposition in Paris, France, in 1937, which is likely to attract many Americans. It will be built on the ground shown in this picture, the site where the Trocadere formerly stood. In the background is seen the base of the Eiffel Tower.

Eastern Colorado News
July 3, 1936



Eastern Colorado News
July 1, 1926

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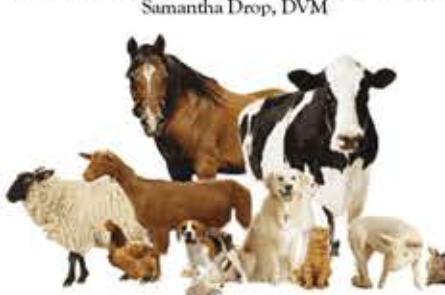


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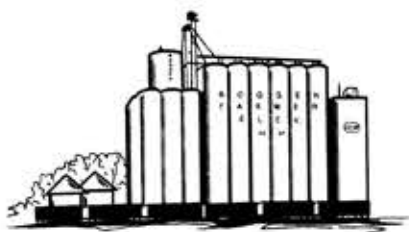
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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Splintered remains of 14 CORE Electric Cooperative power poles remain strewn alongside approximately a mile of Arapahoe County Road 38 about five miles west of Deer Trail June 25, the day after an overnight storm snapped them in multiple places.

Overnight storm forces power pole replacements west of DT

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — While much of the I-70 Corridor escaped severe widespread damage from last week's unsettled summer storm activity that wreaked havoc farther north and east, areas in and around Deer Trail appeared the hardest hit.

The most severe action appeared to hit last Wednesday night into the following morning when an uncertain phenomenon took down double-digit power poles west of Deer Trail.

A little after 10 p.m. June 24, CORE Electric Cooperative, the Deer Trail Fire Department responders and Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 74600 block of East County Road 38 (aka Woodis Road) between Xmore Road and Deer Trail on what was termed an "electrical emergency."

Upon arrival, power lines were strewn across the east-west roadway, the result of 14 snapped power poles.

"I don't have confirmation if it was a tornado or what the cause might have been," said CORE Bennett Branch Manager Robert Kiess the morning after. "The poles were manufactured in 2005, so they are not considered old. Our wildfire mitigation specialist is looking into the wind gusts from last night to see if there is any docu-

mentation of how strong the winds got up to."

Despite the large number of downed poles and length of lines grounded, the resulting power outage was relatively small.

"Twenty-three meters affected by the outage and the crews made good progress on getting the poles replaced," added Kiess, noting the power was restored to impacted customers by about 12 p.m. Thursday.

The unconventional circumstances leading up to the downed lines weren't lost on the owner of the nearest property.

"One of those broken poles landed right in our driveway, five feet or less from our sign and, maybe, 10 feet from our tree right there too," said local farmer and rancher Randy Eldringhoff. "And we didn't really have any damage to the rest of the property also, just about an inch-and-sixtenths of rain that night. Very weird. Maybe a straight-line wind or something like that, but we never heard or saw anything."

Between Wednesday and Thursday nights, parts of Byers and Deer Trail received between 1.5-2.5 inches of moisture with residents on both ends of Deer Trail reporting hail that resulted in house damage ranging from siding holes, broken windows and malfunctioning exterior HVAC units.



The summer car show season along the I-70 Corridor is in full swing including at Shooters Bar & Grill in Byers June 13. In addition to a wide variety of classic and muscle cars enjoyed by a crowd of all ages, participants and onlookers also heard tunes from Denver region '80s cover band Dirty Side Down, above right. Show winners were Elizabeth Cortese, first; William Resenbach, second; and John Sorensen, third.



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Byers 4th of July Festival

QUILT SHOW

July 4th, 2026

Quilt Show is Free and Open to the Public
July 4th: 7:30am - 12:00pm
Byers American Legion Hall

Quilt Show Theme: "Flowers of America"!

Step into a world where creativity meets tradition at our spectacular Quilt Show! Join us for a celebration of craftsmanship, color, and community. Marvel at a breathtaking display of intricate quilts, each a masterpiece woven with love and passion. From classic designs to innovative techniques, explore a kaleidoscope of patterns and textures that tell unique stories.

Interested in entering a quilt?
Email us at: 4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com

This is a non juried event to welcome all levels of talent. Attendees will vote for their favorite quilt. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes awarded!

Contact JaLee Kitzman email: 4thofjulyevents@byersparkandrec.com
4th of July Event Coordinator
Byers Park and Recreation District

Drop off quilts July 3rd from 9am - 10am
Byers American Legion Hall
278 W Front St, Byers, CO 80103





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APPLE- Honeycrisp/Semi-Dwarf...6-7' x 1" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$320.95	Now \$219.99	Save 33%	PEAR- Golden Spice/Standard...6' #5 cont. Fruit Tree	Reg. Price \$179.95	Now \$139.99	Save 22%
APPLE- Sweet Sixteen/Semi-Dwarf...6-8' #5 cont semi-dwarf	Reg. Price \$179.95	Now \$139.99	Save 22%	PEAR- Cleveland Flowering...10-12' x 2 1/2" #35 cont.	Reg. Price \$839.95	Now \$579.99	Save 31%
APPLE- Sweet Sixteen/Semi-Dwarf...#10 semi-dwarf	Reg. Price \$299.95	Now \$219.99	Save 27%	PINE- Austrian...#3 cont.	Reg. Price \$109.95	Now \$66.99	Save 39%
ARBORVITAE- Emerald Green...4-5' #3 cont.	Reg. Price \$89.95	Now \$69.99	Save 22%	PINE- Austrian...3' #5 cont.	Reg. Price \$159.95	Now \$119.99	Save 25%
ARBORVITAE- Emerald Green...5-6' BB	Reg. Price \$139.95	Now \$99.99	Save 29%	PINE- Austrian...4-5' Tall 10 Gal. Grow Bag	Reg. Price \$349.95	Now \$219.99	Save 37%
ARBORVITAE- Emerald Green...6-8' BB	Reg. Price \$259.95	Now \$189.99	Save 27%	PINE- Austrian...7-8' B&B Machine Dug	Reg. Price \$829.95	Now \$539.99	Save 35%
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ARBORVITAE- Mission...#2 cont.	Reg. Price \$72.95	Now \$54.99	Save 25%	PINE- Bosnian...#5 cont.	Reg. Price \$139.95	Now \$99.99	Save 29%
ARBORVITAE- Mr. Bowling Ball...#2 cont.	Reg. Price \$79.95	Now \$66.99	Save 16%	PINE- Bosnian...4-5' Tall 10 Gal. Grow Bag	Reg. Price \$399.95	Now \$279.99	Save 30%
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ASPEN- Swedish Columnar...7-8' x 1" #7 cont.	Reg. Price \$269.95	Now \$189.99	Save 30%	PINE- Pinon...#2 cont.	Reg. Price \$79.95	Now \$49.99	Save 37%
BIRCH- Parkland Pillar...#5 cont.	Reg. Price \$239.95	Now \$169.99	Save 29%	PINE- Pinon...3' 7 Gal. Grow Bag	Reg. Price \$349.95	Now \$269.99	Save 23%
CATALPA- Globe/Umbrella...6-8' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$439.95	Now \$299.99	Save 32%	PINE- Pinon...6-7' B&B	Reg. Price \$599.95	Now \$399.99	Save 33%
CHERRY- Canada Red/Clump...3-4' clump #5 cont.	Reg. Price \$169.95	Now \$109.99	Save 35%	PINE- Ponderosa...7-8' #45 cont.	Reg. Price \$799.95	Now \$549.99	Save 31%
CHERRY- Montmorency/Standard...7-8' x 1" #10 cont. Fruit Tree	Reg. Price \$299.95	Now \$199.99	Save 33%	PINE- Tanyosho...#5 cont. High Graft	Reg. Price \$349.95	Now \$259.99	Save 26%
CHERRY- Sweet Cherry Pie/Standard...6' #5 cont. Fruit Tree	Reg. Price \$179.95	Now \$139.99	Save 22%	PLUM- Big Cis...6-8' Tree #7 cont. Flowering Tree	Reg. Price \$239.95	Now \$169.99	Save 29%
COTTONWOOD- Lanceleaf...8-10' x 1" #7 cont.	Reg. Price \$199.95	Now \$99.99	Save 50%	PLUM- Blackice/Standard...#10 cont. Fruit Tree	Reg. Price \$299.95	Now \$219.99	Save 27%
COTTONWOOD- Silver...6-8' #5 cont.	Reg. Price \$109.95	Now \$69.99	Save 36%	PLUM- Cistena...24-30" #5 cont. Shrub	Reg. Price \$89.95	Now \$67.46	Save 25%
CRAB- Adirondack...7-8' x 1" #15 cont.	Reg. Price \$399.95	Now \$279.99	Save 30%	PLUM- Mount Royal/Standard...#10 cont. Fruit Tree	Reg. Price \$329.95	Now \$219.99	Save 33%
CRAB- Gladiator...8-10' x 1 1/2" #15 cont.	Reg. Price \$399.95	Now \$199.99	Save 50%	PRIVET- Cheyenne...#3 cont. Hedge Shrub	Reg. Price \$69.95	Now \$52.46	Save 25%
CRAB- Louisa Weeping/Pink...6-8' x 1" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$399.95	Now \$299.96	Save 25%	REDBUD- Eastern...6' Tree #5 cont.	Reg. Price \$199.95	Now \$139.99	Save 30%
CRAB- Pink Spire...6-8' x 1" #7 Cont.	Reg. Price \$269.95	Now \$199.99	Save 26%	REDBUD- Eastern...6-8' 1" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$439.95	Now \$299.99	Save 32%
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MAPLE- Autumn Blaze...8-10' x 1 1/4" #10 cont.	Reg. Price \$439.95	Now \$289.99	Save 34%	YEW- Hicks...#2 cont.	Reg. Price \$89.95	Now \$69.99	Save 22%
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