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The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 34

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

Wednesday, July 15, 2026



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Strasburg Jess-Yaich Chapter of the American Legion hosted an open house to celebrate America's 250th anniversary July 4. Above, American Legion member J.R. Mertens, left, chaplain Roger Brownfield, and Maurice Mertens demonstrate the proper way to fold the American flag in 13 folds. **SEE PAGE 4.**

Harvest hardly worth it?

Poorest wheat crop in 50 years even more dismal than negative forecasts suggested

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

Short and not so sweet.
That's the story of the 2026 Colorado winter wheat harvest, which is almost complete and proving to be sig-

nificantly worse than even previously pessimistic production projections suggested.

According to the June 10 progress report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Ag Statistics Service (NASS), Colorado's harvest is

80% finished, significantly ahead of the previous five-year average of just under 20%. The extreme ahead-of-schedule cutting calendar is the result of the poorest yielding crop in more than 50 years, even worst than first feared.

The most recent projection of 24.3 million bushels statewide is more than a quarter less than the agency's June estimate of 33.6 million, which was already the lowest production fig-

**SEE HARVEST
PAGE 22**



PHOTO COURTESY BENNETT-WATKINS FIRE RESCUE

Firefighters put out hot spots from the second of two wildfires along West Bijou Creek east of Bradbury-Krebs Road and north of County Road 2 in the Byers Fire District July 8-9.

Recent moisture fails to dampen fire threat

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

While the I-70 Corridor and neighboring areas haven't seen the rampant wildfire activity reported from other areas of the state, it still has had its fair share of incidents over the first

week-plus of July.

Over the Independence Day holiday, one residential fire was responded to when Byers Fire and neighboring jurisdictions were dispatched to the 200 block of South Sherman Street in

**SEE FIRES
PAGE 6**

'Burg water tower rehab lags behind; less irrigation urged another month

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Strasburg water officials are asking customers to remain patient and conservative in their outdoor irrigation for the next month as renovations to the town's water tower continue this summer.

During their July 8 meeting, Strasburg Sanitation & Water District board members learned that efforts to refurbish the elevated storage tank on the southeast corner of the school district campus were still a month behind schedule.

"Our original delay was with the county and then we had to wait on the dollar plate to get here," said district administrator Tracy Griffin during Wednesday's meeting.

Water operator Chad Lybarger added that the replace-

**SEE WATER TOWER
PAGE 4**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Surface refurbishing and structural rehabilitation/safety improvements at the elevated Strasburg water tower on the southeast corner of the school campus are taking longer than expected and water district customers are being asked to continue to be judicious when watering outdoors, probably for the next month or so.

POLICE REPORTS

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- A warrant arrest was made on East Dakota Street, **Byers**.
- Theft was reported in the 200 block of Marketplace Drive, **Bennett**.
- A property damage traffic accident occurred in the 400 block of Fifth Avenue, **Deer Trail**.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

- A suspicious person was reported on Allium Street, Sky Ranch, **Watkins**.
- Theft was reported in the 2000 block of South Ventress Court, **Bennett**.
- A sexual assault was reported in the **Bennett** area.
- A property damage accident occurred in the 1100 block of South First Street, **Bennett**.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

- A death occurred on South Fetzer Street, **Byers**.
- A warrant arrest was made at Arapahoe Park in the 26000 block of East Quincy Avenue, **Aurora**.
- A warrant arrest was made in the 200 block of Jackson Court, **Bennett**.
- A property damage accident occurred in the 1000 block of South First Street, **Bennett**.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- A death occurred on South Indianfield Street, Box Elder Creek Ranches, **Bennett**.
- Domestic violence was reported on Harrison Drive, **Bennett**.
- A vehicle was repossessed in the 47300 block of Lilac Avenue, **Bennett**.
- Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Adams Street, **Bennett**.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

- A drug violation was reported in the 1000 block of South First Street, **Bennett**.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

- A warrant arrest was made in the 1100 block of South First Street, **Bennett**.
- An injury traffic accident occurred on westbound I-70 at the **Deer Trail** interchange.
- A vehicle was repossessed in the 700 block of East Colfax Avenue, **Bennett**.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

- Gun shots were reported on East County Road 10, **Strasburg**.
- A fire occurred in the 93300 block of East Highway 36, **Deer Trail**.
- An assault was reported in the 47300

block of Clover Avenue, **Bennett**.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

- A restraining order violation was reported near Odessa Street and East 11th Avenue, **Aurora**.
- A death occurred on East Quincy Avenue near Imboden Road, **Watkins**.
- A vehicle was repossessed in the 68800 block of East County Road 38, **Byers**.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- A suicide occurred in the **Byers** area.
- An assault was reported in the 200 block of Washington Avenue, **Bennett**.
- Trespassing to a motor vehicle was reported in the 48200 block of Shetland Drive, **Bennett**.

ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- Trespassing was reported in the 40000 block of East 88th Avenue, **Bennett**.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

- Belen Valdez Rodriguez, 25, of Hudson, was arrested on a failure-to-appear warrant and cited for speeding (82 mph in a 55-mph zone) at East 96th Avenue and Imboden Road, **Watkins**.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

- A sign and a 10- by 10-foot concrete drainage box were vandalized with graffiti in black paint at East 26th Avenue and Aspen Street, **Strasburg**.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

- Ruperto Marisal Dominguez, 51, of Denver, was cited for driving under revocation, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violations of compulsory insurance and registration laws on eastbound Highway 36 at Imboden Road, **Watkins**. His vehicle was impounded.
- Octavio Arroyo, 31, of Denver, was cited for driving under revocation and violations of compulsory insurance and registration laws in the 8000 block of Imboden Road, **Watkins**. His vehicle was impounded.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- Edgar Morales, 23, of Aurora, was cited for misuse of plates and driving without a license on westbound I-70 near the **Watkins** interchange.
- A vehicle was impounded at East 144th Avenue and Highway 79, **Bennett**.

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Worship in the Park planned by Byers Community Church

BYERS — Byers Community Church will host Worship in the Park every third Sunday at 10 a.m. June thru September at Byers Park.

Additional outdoor Sundays are planned for July 19, Aug. 16 and Sept. 20. Worshipers should bring a lawn chair or sit at the picnic tables under the pavilion as the congregation gathers to reflect on God's word.

Byers Community Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Bennett Baptist Church plans VBS with Australian theme

BENNETT — Bennett Baptist Church will host evening sessions for its vacation Bible school this year.

"Zoomerang: Returning to the Value of Life" classes will run from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22, at Bennett Baptist Church, 555 First St.

Zoomerang blends Australian-themed adventures with Bible teaching to help children understand the value of all life from pre-birth to the most elderly through engaging Bible lessons, music, crafts, and high-energy games.

To register, visit www.Bennett-Baptist-Church.com.

Parks & Rec outing destined for metro butterfly sanctuary

STRASBURG — The bus leaves at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 30, for a senior excursion to the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster.

The trip, which costs \$27, is intended for adults only without age restrictions. A minimum of 10 passengers is required or the trip will be canceled.

Lunch is additional. Advanced reservations are required due to limited seating. To RSVP, visit www.strasburgparks.org or call (303)622-4260.

The bus will depart from the Strasburg Recreation Center, 1932 Burton St. The excursion is hosted by the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District and Mountain View Fellowship.

'Burg Comanche VIP Seniors plan rec district presentation

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

Angie Graf and Jessica Loveless from the Strasburg Parks & Recreation District will explain participation in a pie-baking contest during Strasburg Hometown Days in August. The contest will be sponsored by the rec district and the VIPs.

The association, which provides a social outlet for area seniors, meets at 11:45 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Iris Salladay Sirois at (303)822-5262.

Strasburg science camps set for ages 0-12 at 'Burg park

STRASBURG — Science camps for youth are planned on Wednesday, July 29, at Community Park East in Strasburg.

"Veggie-saur or carnivore?" is the theme of the camp for ages 5 and under, which runs from 10:15-11 a.m. The children will learn about plant-eaters and meat-eaters and examine dinosaur teeth up close. They will also work as paleontologists at a mini dinosaur dig to unearth fossil facts and hone scientific skills.

amine dinosaur teeth up close. They will also work as paleontologists at a mini dinosaur dig to unearth fossil facts and hone scientific skills.

Ages 6-12 will investigate the science of sound with the basics of vibration, frequency and pitch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. They will also discover how instruments make music and test their ability to feel sounds without using their ears.

Both Strasburg Parks & Recreation District camps cost \$15 with a registration deadline of July 24.

Constellation system theme slated for creative arts class

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

One class for kids ages 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 know as cornhole.

10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 27, at the Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.

To register, visit strasburgparks.org. Registration costs \$20, and the deadline is Friday, July 17.

Eastern I-70 poker run aids disabled motorcycle riders

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 the 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.

For more information and to register, visit www.i70ccoc.com.

Back-To-School Shop slated for July 17 at Catholic church

BYERS — Our Lady of The Plains Catholic Church will host its annual Back-To-School Shop from 1-3 p.m., Friday, July 17, at the church hall at 186 N. McDonnell St., Byers.

All items are free. Supplies consist of pencils, pens, paper, crayons, spiral notebooks, glue, backpacks, other school supplies, socks and underwear.

For more information, call Alyson at (720)810-2790.

Big address signs offered at cost by Strasburg FPD

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Fire Protection District is offering address signs at cost.

The price is \$40 for each reflective 6- by 30-inch sign. The signs are available in green or blue with 4-inch white numbers.

According to a release, the signs dramatically help emergency crews find an address in a faster, safer manner, especially at night when the front of a house is unlit.

To have a sign made, contact the Strasburg Fire Protection District at (303)622-4444, ext. 1.

Credit cards are not accepted.

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DEADLINE FOR NEWS, CLASSIFIEDS & DISPLAY ADVERTISING: 5 P.M. FRIDAY



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The milling portion of asphalt replacement along Strasburg Road between Colfax and 48th avenues began July 9. Work on the third of three east Adams County pavement replacement projects is expected to continue through at least this week and likely into next. The Strasburg Road project is concurrent with operations along Piggot Road and the Wolf Creek Run East subdivision on the west edge of town. Similar work has been done on 144th Avenue (Bromley Lane) between Highway 79 north of Bennett and the 152nd Avenue curve with Imboden Road north of Watkins.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO STATE PATROL

The suspect in a road rage incident about seven miles east of Agate July 5 is caught on camera as he exits his vehicle.

Tow truck driver hurt, suspect ID'd in road rage near Agate

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

An apparent case of road rage on I-70 between Agate and Limon July 5 resulted in the hospitalization of one man and another adult male facing possible charges.

A little after 7:30 p.m., Colorado State Patrol troopers were dispatched near mile marker 347 of eastbound I-70, about seven miles east of Agate.

Upon arrival, a 51-year-old male tow truck operator was found next to his rig and was transported to an area hospital with what were considered moderate injuries.

"The tow truck operator was preparing to tow a disabled vehicle from the shoulder of I-70 and was walking towards his driver's side door when he waved at the passing suspect male driver to move over," the State Patrol incident report said. "The male sus-

pect then stopped his vehicle in front of the tow operator's vehicle and engaged in a physical altercation with the tow operator."

The suspect fled the scene going eastbound in his 2007 silver Dodge Dakota with five tires in the bed and pulling a car hauler. The suspect — a 6-foot male in his mid-50s with a receding hairline and long hair in the back wearing jean overalls — was caught on camera exiting his vehicle during the incident.

After asking for the public's assistance in tracking down the suspect, the State Patrol said July 6 it had identified a person of interest but, as of July 12, his identity and any charges against him had not been released.

Anyone with additional eyewitness accounts are still urged to contact the Colorado State Patrol Pueblo Dispatch Center at (719)544-2424 and reference case 3D260690.



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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, mother Rani Bell and daughters Ryanjo, 4, and Gracy, 1, learn about the history of the American Legion and key moments in the 250 years of America's history during an open house at the Jess-Yaich Chapter in Strasburg July 4. Right photo, the Independence Day event also included a presentation about the The Empty Table, or Missing Man Table, a military tradition to honor fallen, missing, or imprisoned service members. It uses a small round table, a white cloth, a single red rose, and an empty chair to symbolize that missing soldiers are not forgotten.

WATER TOWER

ment dollar plate was recently delivered and has been installed. The dollar plate is a central circular metal plate that connects the multiple curved steel sections of the tank to form the dome. The previous dollar plate had been damaged beyond repair.

"We also now have a nice new straight ladder going up, including an extra safety part at the top. The overflow pipe at the bottom has been installed, a 9-foot pole cut out, and a vent pipe going up to the vent enclosure, which was recently installed," Lybarger said. "We are still waiting on the final gate and stuff to come in and be installed and on the vent itself to be completed."

Once the structure renovations are completed, the interior of the tank will be sandblasted and re-coated and the outside repainted, optimistically by early August.

In the meantime, water district officials are asking residents to conserve

FROM PAGE 1

water by limiting outdoor irrigation.

"We just ask to give up their emerald green grass for just a little while longer," Lybarger said.

The directors indicated that they have seen water conservation occurring and agreed to not implement concrete restrictions. They also reminded customers that outdoor irrigation is most effective during the overnight hours.

Water usage across the system last month was tabbed at 6.9 million gallons, compared to around 9 million used under similar hot, dry circumstances in previous years.

"Some of our bigger customers — the school district, rec district, and Adams County — have been asked to help limit their big project watering and, for the most part, we've seen that in practice," Lybarger said.

The issue since the elevated tank went offline is that the underground tank at the district offices and the KOA tank have struggled to meet demand, especially in the morning.

"Nothing wrong per se, but just using too much water. Only the Roberts and KOA wells are filling the KOA tank. The KOA has been running about 24/7," said Lybarger, who has had to maintain constant oversight of the water distribution system. "The underground tank starts at 14 feet and shuts off at five feet. We've been running out of pressure before 9 in the morning a lot of times."

The underground tank has about 150,000 gallons capacity, while the 80,000-gallon KOA tank is only holds 60,000 gallons.

Hope remains that the project will be done before the next school year starts. The high school, middle school and first through fifth grades in the elementary school return to class Thursday, Aug. 6. Kindergarten and pre-K classes start Aug. 13.

"I'm not sure how quick we can refill the tank but, hopefully, after the inside coating is done and has time to dry, we can get it filled and online, even if we have a couple of things outside to do. But I don't know if that's the case," Lybarger concluded. "Hopefully we're ready when school starts."



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PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout
A series of fast-moving squalls July 7-9 led to isolated areas of flash flooding or standing water, especially in and around Bennett and Byers. Above, an SUV splashes through a couple feet of standing water on the eastbound off-ramp of the I-70 interchange at Byers after about 2 inches of rain fell between 5-5:30 p.m. Wednesday. While some areas reported 2.5-3 inches of precipitation, much of the region received an inch or less, with southern reaches receiving only a trace of rain. Right, storms over the first week-plus of July have been accompanied by spectacular light shows, including this wide bolt of lighting between Strasburg and Byers July 3.



CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Strasburg American Legion Post 183. 6:30 p.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Byers School Board. 7 p.m., Byers High School lecture hall. Visit Board of Education at byers32j.k12.co.us for a link to a live meeting via Zoom.
Strasburg Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., firehouse.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Deer Trail School bus barn, 370 Aspen St.
Bennett Arts Council Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m., Bennett Town Hall Community Room.

MONDAY, JULY 20

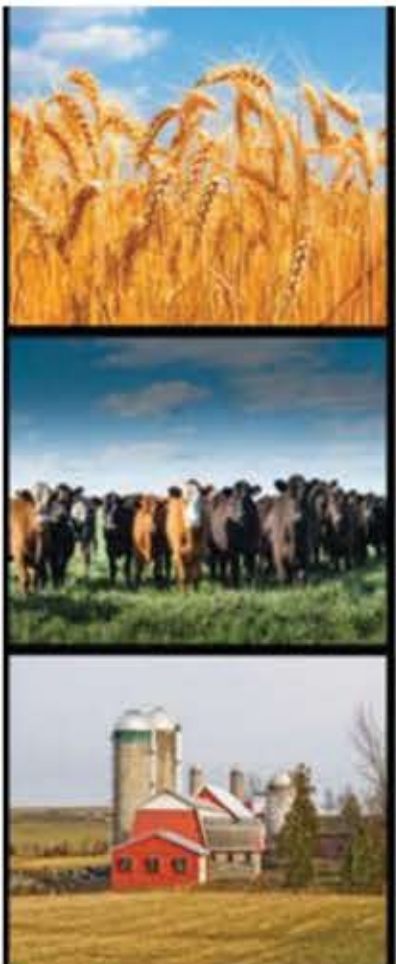
East Adams Conservation District Board. 9 a.m., Farm Service Agency office, 133 W. Bijou, Byers.
Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Board. 6 p.m., TBK Bank, 56641 E. Colfax Ave. Call (303)622-4260 for information.
Q2 Meeting – June 15; Q3 Meeting – September 21; Q4 Meeting – November 16, 2026. To be placed on the agenda for a Board Meeting, call the office by Friday prior to the meeting date, (303) 622-4260.
Byers Fire Rescue. 6 p.m., Byers Firehouse.
Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m., Town hall or virtually. Visit the Planning & Zoning meeting agendas page at bennettco.gov for information.
Byers Fire Protection District Board. 6:30 p.m., Byers School boardroom.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Comanche VIP Seniors luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall, 56423 Westview Ave.
Bennett Arts Council. 4 p.m., Bennett Town Hall.
Eastern Colorado Beekeepers. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. E-mail info@easterncoloradobees.com or visit easterncoloradobees.com for link and location.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

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.
Bennett Municipal Court. 6 p.m., Town Hall.
EVERY TUESDAY
Family story time. 10:30-11 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.
Teen Hangout: Teens ages 13-18 hang out, play games, and enjoy snacks with friends. Gaming consoles, board games, crafts, other activities available. 3:30-6 p.m., Anythink Bennett library.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE TO ADAMS COUNTY
PROPERTY OWNERS FILING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION
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BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that starting on August 3, 2026, the Adams County Board of Equalization shall sit at the Adams County Government Center, 4430 South Adams County Parkway, Brighton, Colorado, to hear contests of property tax exemption denials by an authorized independent referee.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the deadline for filing appeals with the Board of Equalization for Property Tax Exemption Appeal is August 17, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOSH ZYGIELBAUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

Published in The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

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FIRES

Byers at 11:15 p.m. July 4. A fire in the lot was reportedly extinguished within 15 minutes.

"The cause was expended fireworks put into a trash container in the front yard. They eventually ignited and spread to some other materials and vegetation in the area," said Strasburg Assistant Fire Chief and I-70 Corridor fire investigator Pat Conroy. "The fire did not extend into the house."

An Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman said deputies were dispatched to the scene as well but that any charges appeared unlikely. Even with the fire ban in place restricting the use of all fireworks, she added that charging possible suspects includes catching them in the act.

"There needs to be eyewitnesses to confirm what was going on," said sheriff spokesperson Ginger Delgado. "Without that, nothing to move forward with. We did not open a case, only took the 911 call."

Delgado added that the sheriff's office "enhanced fireworks enforcement operations," conducted June 22 through July 4, resulted in a bevy of calls county-wide on the night of the Fourth.

"On July 4, our communications center answered a total of 1,313 calls to our 911 emergency and non-emergency lines, and our deputies responded to 225 calls for service regarding people setting off fireworks," said Delgado.

The number of citations was unknown at press time.

FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO COURTESY KIOWA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

A Douglas County Office of Emergency Management helicopter drops water onto a wildfire a couple miles north of the Chaparral subdivision in eastern Elbert County July 9.

Thursday was only 8 acres, it was down in the thick creek bottom with heavy trees and stuff, so it was difficult to extinguish."

"Could sure see the smoke from our place," said one neighbor on Bradbury-Krebs about Thursday's blaze. "A little too close for comfort."

No reports of structural damage or injuries from either day were made.

"With hot, dry, and windy conditions expected to continue throughout the week, the fire danger remains high," said a statement from Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue.

On July 9, at about 12:30 p.m., the North Central Fire Protection District was dispatched to the area of Way of Patience and Way of Joy near the Chaparral subdivision in eastern Elbert County for a smoke investigation. Upon arrival, crews located an active wildland fire in a deep ravine with heavy grass, brush and timber fuels.

With the assistance of Kiowa, Agate, Elbert, Rattlesnake and Elizabeth fire departments, the Douglas County Office of Emergency Management, Elbert County Road & Bridge and State Engine 2991 from Greeley, the fire did not significantly spread and was contained at about 4:30 with about 7 acres charred.

"The Douglas County helicopter played a critical role by making multiple water drops into the burning ravine while ground crews worked aggressively with progressive hose lays and hand tools to establish containment lines, extinguish hotspots, and suppress smoldering timber," a North Central Fire statement said. "This fire was stopped before it could become something much worse."

The cause was thought to be related to an Elbert County fire from the previous day.

"This fire was likely caused by a hold over lightning strike from July 8 when the nearby 178 Fire occurred in Elbert County," said a report on 5280fire.com.

Wednesday's 178 Fire occurred in the 15500 block of County Road 178 with an estimated footprint of 60-75 acres. The fire was first reported around 3:15 p.m. with containment established about 5:30 p.m.

North Central Fire also responded to a lightning-induced fires the evening of July 8 in the area of Ridge Road and County Road 182 and that damage was minimal. The Deer Trail and Agate fire departments also responded.

Adams, Arapahoe, and Elbert counties all remained in Stage 2 burn restrictions at the end of last week, meaning that activities that produce outdoor sparks or flames are prohibited, including welding and hot work and all fireworks.

Residents are also reminded and urged to maintain their properties during the summer by proper mowing of grass and weeds and mitigation of other fuels.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The first of three events in the Eastern Plains Summer Concert Series occurred when The Atomic Drifters played at May Farms June 19. In addition to the host venue, this year's trio of concerts, including July 24 and Aug. 28, is also co-hosted by Premier Portables, Arapahoe County, and Unincorporated Arapahoe County Economic Development. Clockwise from top left, the band's bass player tosses his instrument around; Evan Petkash and daughter Lindy Rae, 6 months, enjoy the tunes; and the Atomic Drifters lead singer wails away from the outdoor stage.



July 25, 2026

I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Presents:
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9AM - Registration at
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May Farms



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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Anythink Bennett library hosted musician Sean Gaskell and his kora, a 21-string harp native to west Africa, for a July 10 performance. Gaskell, originally from Tacoma, Wash., learned the art during three visits to instructors in Gambia from 2008-18 and further honed his craft on a trip to Senegal in 2023.

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LIBRARY NEWS

ANYTHINK BENNETT LIBRARY

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

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

Soccer Tournament Loteria: In coordination with the international soccer championships the library is hosting a fun, fast-paced game of Loteria featuring the countries in this year's tournament. Snacks provided. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Friday, July 16.

Meet animals with Spurs Academy: Toddlers and children up to age 6 can say "Hello" to adorable farm animals from Spurs Academy. Little ones will meet a variety of animals — sometimes bigger friends like donkeys and sometimes smaller ones like guinea pigs and rabbits. This outdoor program may be canceled due to inclement weather. Closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water are advised. Space limited; registration required. 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, July 21.

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.,



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Youngsters got their opportunity to make their own real-spud version of Mr. Potato Head during Crazy Hair Potatoes at Bennett Anythink library June 24. Youngsters got the opportunity to dress up raw potatoes with everything from googly eyeballs and mustaches to hair made out of young plant sprouts. Above, Kori Hobson, 7, keeps her potato's hairpiece in place with some spray glue.

Wednesday, July 22.

Magic in Bloom with Erica Sodos: This interactive magic show will help families with members of all ages step into a world where nature's wonders become a mirror for each person's inner magic. Through amazing illusions, audience participation, and magical stories they will create magic — not just watch it. 1-2 p.m., Friday, July 24.

Artist meet-up: Adults can join the Corridor Creative Arts League for inspiration by a variety of artists and works from around the world. 2-4 p.m., Saturday, July 18.

Splash & Dash: Water Obstacle Course: Kids ages 5-11 can jump, run and cool off in this outdoor water obstacle course! Kids will splash through fun challenges using pool noodles, balance beams, soft balls and more, with sprinklers and water balloon target games along the way. Come ready to move, get wet and have fun!

Dress appropriately and bring your own towel. 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, July 29.

KELVER LIBRARY

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

Teen Volunteer Drop-in: Teens in grades 7-12 can earn volunteer hours by assisting with light tasks around the library for all or part of the session. Volunteer paperwork required. The library cannot approve hours for court-ordered service, 12-2 p.m., Wednesday, July 22.

DAVIES LIBRARY

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

Adult book club: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams. 6-7 p.m., Monday, July 20.

Teen Takeover: Teens will gather around an artificial campfire for s'mores, personalized trail mix and crafts. Snacks and materials provided. 4-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22.

Once Upon An Enchanted Ocean: Children and their caregivers will participate in a magical, undersea adventure with ocean-themed activities at this drop-in event. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, July 23.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Kansas City-based children's educator and entertainer Dino O'Dell visited Kelter Library in Byers for the first time July 9 for his "Unearth a Story" program, educating youngsters about 550 million years of the past and looking into future. In addition to the evolution of animals throughout the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, O'Dell introduced his audience to Zar, an alien who needs help repairing his broken spaceship. Youth also made their own historic terrariums. From left, O'Dell sings about the physical adaptations that giraffes made to better handle their environment, and Juliana Jones, 5, adds glitter sprinkles to her terrarium.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Families collaborated on their own Watch Me Grow Chart during a MySummer reading event at Anythink Bennett library June 30. Participants received the human size ruler for measuring heights through various stages of kids' development and decorated them as they saw fit. Above, Gianna Bass, 3, admires her paint-dabbling abilities.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Davies Library in Deer Trail hosted its first of two summer reading program Mad Hatter Tea Parties June 3. Youth showed off their skills at adorning a variety of types of headwear. From left photo, Brooke Lay, 9, glues pieces together and Arapahoe Libraries Teen Services Librarian RaineBo Thunder demonstrates some of the decorative options.

Bennett drainage project commences this week

BENNETT — The town of Bennett will begin construction on Adams Street July 15 as part of a stormwater and water infrastructure improvements project. This work will help address long-standing drainage issues at the Adams Street and Colfax Avenue intersection while improving underground utility infrastructure. The project also includes water line repairs. Adams Street is expected to be closed through Aug. 21 between Colfax and Kiowa avenues. Questions can be directed to (303)328-8002, sophie.duguay@hcgcon.com; or (720)520-9699, cameron.greer@hcgcon.com

Church Directory

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

Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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303-822-9366 • mttaborybers.org
Sat., 6:00 p.m. Saturday Service
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun., 10-10:30 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Church
Awana — Meetings every Tuesday (5:15-7:15 p.m., Dinner served)
Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

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Saron Lutheran Church
(1656 Main St.)
Info: strasburgorthodox.org

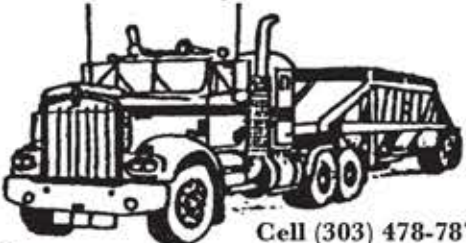
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4 dangerous retirement assumptions

by Christine Benz
Associated Press

ASSUMPTION NO. 1

ROBUST STOCK MARKET GAINS

If you're estimating what your portfolio will return over your holding period, think twice before plugging in strong returns.

Stocks' long-term gains have been pretty robust. But there have been stretches in market history when returns have been lower; in the 2000s, for example, the S&P 500 actually lost money on an annualized basis.

That was because stocks were pricey at the decade's outset. Though stock prices aren't in Armageddon territory now, they're also not cheap.

Instead: Lower your market-return projections and your planned withdrawal rate. Prudent investors should ratchet down their market-return projections somewhat, just to be safe.

Morningstar research found that 3.7% is a safe starting withdrawal percentage on a balanced portfolio over 30 years. But there are also ways to lift that number, including employing some variability in spending.

ASSUMPTION NO. 2

STABLE INFLATION RATE

The past few years illustrate the peril of assuming that consumer prices will remain in a steady state. When



inflation rears its head, retirees need to withdraw more than anticipated from their portfolios just to maintain their standards of living.

Instead: Consider inflation hedges in your retirement portfolio. Use longer-term inflation numbers to help guide planning decisions: 3% is a reasonable starting point. And to the extent that you can, customize your inflation forecast based on your actual consumption baskets. For example, allotting more for health care costs and less for spending on housing.

The possibility that inflation could run higher during your retirement also argues for laying in inflation hedges in your retirement portfolio. And it argues against holding too much in fixed-rate investments whose return potential is negative once inflation is factored in.

ASSUMPTION NO. 3

WORKING PAST 65

The financial merits of working longer are irrefutable: continued portfolio contributions, delayed withdrawals, and delayed Social Security filing. So, it comes as no surprise that older adults are pushing back their planned retirement dates.

Yet many workers ultimately leave the work force earlier than planned, according to EBRI research. This is partially owed to enlarged portfolio balances, but health considerations, unemployment, or untenable physical demands of the job can also play a role.

Instead: Be ready to fall back on other measures. While working longer can deliver a three-fer for your retirement plan, it's a mistake to assume that you'll be able to do so. If you've run the numbers and it looks like you'll fall short, you can plan to work longer while also pursuing other measures, such as making lifestyle changes and increasing your savings rate. At a minimum, allow for the possibility that your income may not be as high as it was in your peak earnings years.

ASSUMPTION NO. 4

INHERITANCE EXPECTATIONS

There can be a disconnect between what children expect to receive and their eventual windfalls. Increasing longevity, combined with long-term-care needs and costs, means that even parents who intend for their children to inherit their assets might not be able to.

Adult children who expect an inheritance that doesn't materialize may be inclined to overspend and under save during their peak earning years. And, by the time their parents pass away and don't leave them the windfall they expected, it could be too late to make up for the shortfall.

Instead: Communicate about inheritances early. If you're incorporating an expected inheritance into your retirement plan, it's wise to begin communicating about that topic as soon as possible.



Compton's Welding Dispersal Auction

Saturday July 18th, 2026 - 9:00 am MT
159 N. Picadilly Road, Aurora, CO
SELLERS: JIM & JEFF COMPTON
















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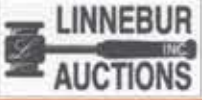
The Comptons have been in the welding business for many years and are well known in the area. They have sold the real estate, and Jim is retiring and moving out of state. As a result, all business equipment and related items will be offered at public auction.

Preview & Inspection: Available Friday, July 17, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For additional arrangements, call Jim at (303) 366-1113, Jeff at (720) 238-0120, or Steve (Auctioneer) at (303) 548-4042.

Bidding will be available online through HiBid.com.

All cataloged virtual/online lots are expected to begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. MT.

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The Byers Fire Department hosted its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser July 3 at the firehouse. Clockwise from top left, Elouise Rauh, 3, gives her firefighter server a thankful wave as she goes through the food line; father Duke Rauh handles multiple plates for his family; Dianna Decker receives a hefty portion of noodles from firefighter Henry Stoffer; and Lois Helvie receives her plate from Adriane Dillingham.

PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that commencing September 3, 2026 the Adams County Board of Equalization shall sit at the Adams County Government Center, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton, Colorado, to review the assessment roll of all taxable real and personal property located in the County, as prepared by the Assessor, and to hear appeals from determinations of the Assessor, sitting by itself or by authorized independent referees.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, the deadline for filing appeals with the Board of Equalization for real and personal property is September 15, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOSH ZYGIELBAUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

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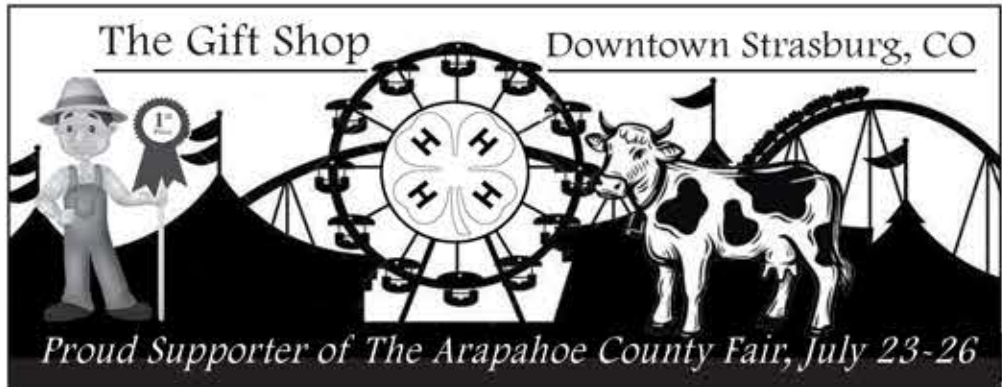


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Byers celebrates Independence Day



ISAAC MARAUGH/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Clockwise from top left, Grand Marshals Ron and Tammi Williams lead off the Independence Day parade down Front Street in Byers July 4; local Boy Scouts present the colors during the grand entry of the Byers Fourth of July Rodeo July 2; Trail Rodeo Lady-in-Waiting Mya Noe and Queen Hannah Chambers enjoy the ride down Saturday's parade route; Miller Rodeo Company pick-up man Garrett Groshans helps Byers saddle bronc rider Robert Weaver extricate off the back of Fun Ticket during Thursday night's rodeo; and Bennett cowgirl Luz Lobatos throws her loop during Thursday night's breakaway roping.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MARAUGH/The I-70 Scout



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MARAUGH/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, Maverik Swallow tries his hand at corn hole during post-parade Fourth of July activities at Byers Park; two- and four-legged critters alike participate in parade activities; and one youngster gets an early driving lesson down the Front Street parade route. Parade winners included the Sauer family, first; Living Springs Cowboy Church, second; FNB Bank, third; and Ted Weisensee with his 1935 tractor, fourth. The Best car entry went to Larry Dunn with his 1933 Ford Coupe.

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May Farms car show jump starts Byers 4th activities



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

An almost week's worth of Fourth of July activities at Byers commenced with the fifth annual car show at May Farms June 28. Winners included, clockwise from top left, Tyler Knight, Coolest Color with his 1972 C-10; David Tuttle, Best Car with his 1968 Pontiac Firebird; Nick Feist, Best Bike with his 1968 Chopper; David Kost, Best Engine with his 1971 Chevelle; and Ashley Torgerson, Best Truck with his 1966 F-100.



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Ed Miller

In loving memory, the family of Ed Miller announces the passing of their husband, father, grandpa and great grandpa — by all measures, far too short of time for this devoted, loving and most loved man.

Ed Miller, a longtime former resident of Strasburg passed away May 21, 2026, at the age of 74. Ed was an active member of the community coaching Little League Baseball for many years, active member of the Jaycees and 4-H leader. He was in touch with his many friends in the area with lots of stories to tell of the fun, work and joys of small town living.

Edward Lee Miller was born May 17, 1952, to Victor and Barbra Miller in Denver, Colo. His early years were spent in Commerce City, Colo., graduating from Adams City High School. The family raised livestock and Ed showed horses, cattle and sheep at the Adams County Fair.

Ed and Gail (Davis) Miller joined in marriage May 2, 1970, moving to Strasburg in 1973. The family grew to include four sons — Dean Brian, Lee Michael, Layne Edward and Brent Kelly — all four active in school, sports and community events. While the family grew and scattered, Dean and Lee are still in the area having raised their families, while Layne moved his family to outside North Platte, Neb., and Brent lives outside of Knoxville, Iowa with his family. Ed often said how rich he was to have sons that grew into good men and made him proud, daughters he loved as his own, grandkids just getting started in life and great grand kids to fill his life with joy. He loved each of them so much and was proud of each member and new addition to the family welcoming each as only he could.

Ed is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gail Miller; son Dean (Beth) Miller, grandson Jake and grand daughter Brooke; son Lee (Jennifer) Miller, grandson Ty, great granddaughter Miley, granddaughter Shay (Keifer) Holman, great grandson Briggs and great granddaughter Stevie; step-grandson Taryn Weber and great grandson Kand and great granddaughter Harlow; step-grandson Kameron (Kaila) Weber and great granddaughters Remi and Rori plus great grandson Krew; son Layne, granddaughter Dakota (Drew) Shafer, great granddaughters Scarlett and Sophia with another on the way, granddaughter Kayleigh and grandson Kaden; son Brent (Amy) Miller, grandson Kody (Taylor) Miller with baby on the way. All of these were the pride and joy of his life. He is also survived by his sister Donna Burrier of Platteville, Colo., and many nephews and nieces.

Ed is preceded in death by his parents Victor and Barbara Miller and in-laws Walt and Lois Davis and sister-in-law Lisa (Erin) Cozad.

Family and friends are invited to a gathering to **celebrate Ed's life** with a BBQ, visiting, storytelling and fun at **1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12**, at the home of Lee and Jennifer Miller, 5350 Yulle Mile Road, Strasburg. This gathering is at Ed's request, so with that in mind, we will do our best to make sure it's just the way he wanted it. Mark your calendar.

Case Name: Stonehouse Substation
Case Number: RCU2025-00008

Planning Commission Hearing Date: 7/23/2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: 8/18/2026 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Request: Conditional Use Permit to allow a substation within the Agricultural-3 zone district and the Airport Noise and Height Overlays.
Location: One half-mile north-northeast of the intersection of East 128th Avenue and Gun Club Road.
Parcel Number: 0156730300001

Case Manager: Greg Barnes,
gjbarnes@adamscountycolorado.gov, 720-523-6853
Applicant: Marissa Hillje, United Power, 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Published in *The I-70 Scout* on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

BYERS FOURTH RODEO RESULTS

JULY 2, 2026
QUINT VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS

BAREBACK BRONC RIDING
1. Tyler Ferguson, Bennett, 75 pts.
2. Robert Weaver, Byers, 64 pts.

STEER WRESTLING
1. Ghatt Hughes, Olney Springs, 4.2 secs.
2. Evan Bottini, Rocky Ford, 5.2.
3-4. Kyle Broce, Cheraw, 5.5, and Cody Montgomery, Cheyenne, Wyo., 5.5.

BREAKAWAY ROPING
1. Shai Schaefer, Torrington, Wyo., 1.7 secs.
2. Kynlee Cramblet, Kersey, 1.9.
3. Alyssa Bigon, Las Animas, 2.1.
4. Lacy Holeman, Carpenter, Wyo., 2.2.
5. Kate Kissel, Genoa, 2.3.
6. Tamara Montgomery, Olney Springs, 2.6.

TIE-DOWN ROPING
1. Mason Stueve, Dodge City, Kan., 8.9 secs.
2. Dawson McMaster, Madison, Kan., 9.9.
3-4. Chase Johnston, Kersey, and Hondo Burton, Waukomis, Okla., 10.2.
5. Cash Chamberlain, Wild Horse, 12.3.

SADDLE BRONC
1. Joshua Love, 77 pts.
2. Stockton Sharon, Ordway, 73.

MIXED TEAM ROPING
1. Katie Jolly, Deer Trail, and Brendan

Hermes, Stratton, 6.5 secs.
2. Lindsay Sumpter, Fowler, and Jesse Jolly, Agate, 7.8.
3. Alexius Jones, Cheyenne, Wyo., and James Grave, Cheyenne, Wyo., 8.3.
4. Bailee Hagler, Evans, and Lee Hagler, Evans, 8.8.
5. Jordan Muncy, Yuma, and Trevor Kirchenslager, Yuma, 9.3.

OPEN TEAM ROPING
1. Gavin Liggett, Limon, and Gary Grokett, Limon, 4.9 secs.
2. Mason Stueve, Dodge City, Kan., and Kingston Chang, Dodge City, Kan., 5.2.
3. Brayden Fillmore, Penrose, and Kyon Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, 5.5.
4. Justin Smith, Loveland, and Jorge Cruz, Vona, 5.9.
5. Cooper Brott, Gothenburg, Neb., and Cole Sherwood, Gothenburg, Neb., 7.9.
6-7. Austin Crist, Wiley, and Dave Tripp, Penrose; and Brandon Farris, Colony, Okla., Ryon Tittel, Pueblo, 11.3.

BARREL RACING
1. Heather Thompson, Elizabeth, 17.58 secs.
2. Bonnie Wheatley, Kremmling, 17.72.
3. Nicole Ludwick, Pueblo West, 17.94.
4. Lindsey Dorenkamp, Hartman, 17.94.
5. Kate Kissel, Genoa, 18.10.
6. Laura Lambert, Wiggins, 18.11.

BULL RIDING
1. Jeffrey Baggs, Agate, 78.

DEER TRAIL RODEO RESULTS

JUNE 26-27, 2026
DEER TRAIL JOCKEY CLUB RODEO GROUNDS

BAREBACK BRONC RIDING
No qualified rides.

STEER WRESTLING
1. Tuff Ramsey, Delta, 4.6 secs.
2. Casen Pridemore, Salida, 5.2.
3. Cooper Dorenkamp, Holly, 5.7.
Kyle Broce, Cheraw, 6.3.

BREAKAWAY ROPING
1. Shai Schaefer, Torrington, Wyo., 2.0 secs.
2-4. Mackenzie Geesen, Greeley; Katie Jolly, Deer Trail; and Tori Hawkins, Stephenville, Texas, 2.5.
5-6. Marcy Bate, Agate; and Steph Spitz, La Junta, 2.6.

TIE-DOWN ROPING
1-2. Boedy Lambert, Wiggins; and Matt Doherty, Branson, 10.6.
3. Casen Pridemore, Salida, 11.1.
4. Cory Bomhoff, Cheyenne, Wyo., 11.2.
5. Ryan Canty, Sanford, 12.3

SADDLE BRONC
1. Cooper Brady, Montrose, 73.

MIXED TEAM ROPING
1. Tori Hawkins, Stephenville, Texas, and Buddy Hawkins, Stephenville, Texas, 7.4 secs.

2. Jordan Muncy, Yuma, and Trevor Kirchenslager, Yuma, 8.0.
3. Tessa Menegatti, Walsenburg, and Joey Menagatti, Walsenburg, 8.3.
4. Samantha Adams, Manzanola, and Cody Adams, Ordway, 9.1.
5. Sabrina Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, and Wade Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, 11.5.

OPEN TEAM ROPING
1. Brayden Fillmore, Penrose, and Josh Fillmore, Penrose, 5.6 secs.
2. Brenden Hermes, Stratton, and Trevor Kirchenslager, Yuma, 5.7.
3. Cameron Capshaw, Calhan, and Clancy Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, 5.8.
4. Jake Pancost, Whitman, Ariz., and Cole Cooper, Montrose, 6.3.
5. Wade Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, and Kyon Kreutzer, Lake Creek, Texas, 6.5.

BARREL RACING
1. Rachel Van Zale, Crawford, 18.42 secs.
2. Megan Devonport, Villa Grove, 18.54.
3-4. Nicole Ludwick, Pueblo West; and Jordan Geiger, Briggsdale, 18.6.
5. Steph Spitz, La Junta, 18.81.
6. Jenah Bequette, Strasburg, 18.92.

BULL RIDING
1. Iskandar Ocampo, Denver, 83 pts.
2. James Brown, Eaton, 80.5.
3. Nate Hoey, Lamar, 76.

Early bird registration deadlines near for plethora of youth sports programs

STRASBURG — 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.strasburg-parks.org.

FLAG FOOTBALL GRADES 1-3

Flag football for grades 1-3 will run from mid-August through Oct. 10.

The league includes two practices per week with games on Saturdays. Practice times, days, and fields will be selected by the coaches, and games will be played at Wolf Creek Run West at Strasburg.

The registration fee (\$60 in-district residents, \$65 non-residents) includes a jersey, and the registration deadline is Sunday, July 26.

Each player must provide their own soft shell helmet.

Flags are provided.

PEEWEE FLAG FOOTBALL

Peewee flag football for preschool and kindergarten students (ages 2-4) will run for four weeks starting

at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3, in Strasburg.

The program consists of multiple skill stations and concludes with a scrimmage each week.

The registration fee (\$45 in-district residents, \$50 for out-of-district residents) includes a jersey, and the registration deadline is Sunday, July 26.

Flags and other equipment are provided.

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 the volunteer coaching schedule.

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



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Get DISH Satellite+TV+Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up to \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-833-466-0619	To Place a 25-word COSCANNetwork ad in 91 Colorado Newspapers for only \$300 Contact your Local Newspaper or email: rtoledo@colopress.net

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JULY WEEKLY SPECIALS:

July 14-18: \$1 off Rump Roast & Pork Cutlets

July 21-25: \$1 off Chuck Steak & Leg of Lamb

July 28-Aug. 1: \$1 off Cube Steak & Pork Country Ribs

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
JULY 18, 2006
Bennett trustees unanimously approved Planning & Zoning Commission recommendations concerning amended plat and development plans for the Bennett MarketPlace retail center, including a King Soopers store, during a July 11 meeting.

Board approval means King Soopers and the development's builders will get started on submitting final building plans to the town staff and start the building permit application process.

The Bennett Planning & Zoning Commission, during a July 10 special meeting, approved amended plat and development plans for the approximately 13-acre Bennett Marketplace.

The centerpiece of the development is a 66,368 square foot King Soopers store with a drive-up pharmacy window and gas station. The store is approximately 7,700 square feet bigger than the original plans that were presented to P&Z and the town board in late 2003. Adjacent retail space was reduced to 8,400 square feet, compared to original plans of 12,000 square feet.

"Overall, the project is gaining 4,110 extra square feet of retail space," said Jeff Anderson, architect and planner for the development from Wyatt & Associates in Denver.

More than 350 parking spaces are planned for the development.

15 YEARS AGO
JULY 19, 2011
BENNETT — Oil and gas exploration appears likely along the I-70 Corridor, especially between Aurora and Bennett, but no plans are confirmed.

Over 100 eastern Adams and Arapahoe county and Elbert County business owners and residents were recently informed that 3D seismic data is still being compiled and that decisions on if and where to drill will be made thereafter.

"We just got done with [seismic] operations two weeks ago and are analyzing that data now," said Anadarko Petroleum official Chris Castilian during a July 14 meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership at the Bennett Community Center. "We have drilled in Weld and Laramie (Wyo.) counties and there maybe a horizontal well

out in this area in a couple of months, but that's not a certainty."

"We have not found a cell in Adams County [or] Arapahoe County ... but we still are collecting lease lands," added Chesapeake Energy spokesman John Dill. "No drilling is planned in the area, but that could change tomorrow."

Anadarko's recent seismic operations entailed an area of the Denver-Julesburg Basin of the Niobrara Play mostly between E-470 and Bennett and approximately five miles each side of I-70.

The Niobrara Play is considered one of the richest reserves of liquid energy resources in the world.

"We could be generating what we bring in from Iran by 2020," Dill said, referring to the Niobrara's reserve capacity.

10 YEARS AGO
JULY 19, 2016
STRASBURG - Strasburg School plans to start the upcoming school year running only three of its five bus routes across the district.

Bus routes 53 and 54 were suspended for 2016-17 in a 3-1 vote at the July 13 Strasburg School Board meeting: The three remaining routes will be modified to mud routes with common drop-off points in the case of inclement weather. The two routes suspended for the year are ones that currently do not run on mud route days.

The decision was made based on lack on drivers and the aging bus fleet, with a goal to impact the least amount of students.

"We are really still going to try to find a way to make those routes work," Superintendent Monica Johnson said on July 14. "It is very possible that we could come back in August and reevaluate this."

A survey sent to parents in the district showed 51% of respondents do not use school transportation, while 41% do. Sixty-seven percent of respondents would like the district to look at a mill levy question, 24% said to cut back to mud routes only, and 8.5% said to cut all routes.

"I thought in our last discussion, we kicked it around to the point where we were going to forego a mill levy override this election cycle because of it being a presidential election year," said board member John Sampson. "We didn't know if we were going to get the participation that we should get and it would be one of those situations it would be so far down on the ballot that people would be disinterested."

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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 IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, July 15, the 196th day of 2026. There are 169 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On July 15, 1799, the Rosetta Stone, a key to deciphering ancient Egyptian scripts, was found at Fort Julien in the Nile Delta during the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt.

ALSO ON THIS DATE
In 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 350 years after its creation.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union.

In 1913, Democrat Augustus Bacon of Georgia became the first person elected to the U.S. Senate under the terms of the recently rat-

ified 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators.

In 1916, The Boeing Company, originally known as Pacific Aero Products Co., was founded in Seattle.

In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spacecraft hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard

a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, Calif., by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnappers were caught.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Singer Linda Ronstadt is 80. Musician Trevon Horn is 77. Actor Terry O'Quinn (TV: "Lost") is 74. Rock drummer Marky Ramone is 74. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 70. Actor Brigitte Nielsen is 63. Rock drummer Jason Bonham is 60. TV personality Adam Savage (TV "MythBusters") is 59.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: KIDS' CLASSICS

ACROSS

1. Capital of Ghana
6. Pilot's announcement
9. Bog deposit
13. Banned aerosol propellant
14. Lake, in France
15. ___ firma
16. Source of chocolate
17. Sensitive subject?
18. Twig of a willow tree
19. "Certain secret spot"
21. "Beezus' little sister"
23. Half a dozen
24. Final notice
25. CEO's deg.
28. Spew profanities
30. Swamp
35. Gateway ___
37. Boisterous play
39. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
40. Steak preference
41. Flower's peak
43. "Butter___, Hogsmeade beverage"
44. Like some East Coast universities
46. Archipelago unit
47. Plaintiff
48. Loads
50. Tiny bit
52. Snoop
53. Bruce and Spike, e.g.
55. Ovine mom
57. "Pocketful"
60. "Cat's ___"
63. "Lemony Snicket, to Daniel Handler"
64. Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named ___"
66. The company one ___
68. "Peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a kid"
69. Lt.'s subordinate
70. Snail mail replacement
71. Says "What?"
72. As opposed to yeses
73. "Mystery solver"

DOWN

1. Half of NFL
2. Rugged rock
3. Cecum, pl.
4. Lion sounds
5. Relating to anode
6. Dashing style
7. "It" game
8. Sour
9. 100 centavos, in Mexico
10. Actress Moriarty
11. Equals 1/2 b x h
12. Smoker's lung residue

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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On the Day of a Rare Neptunian Aspect

Rare sextile of Uranus and Neptune is the jostle of awakening. The Leo moon asks, "Who am I?" Neptune asks, "What is larger than me?" Uranus flips on the light switch. The enlightenment available now isn't about escaping ordinary life. It's about recognizing that the person you've been trying to become and the person you've been all along are much closer than you thought.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Waking up to: the value of a trait you've spent years trying to minimize. Sensitivity, intensity, caution, enthusiasm, depth, humor ... What seemed inconvenient in one environment is a remarkable advantage in another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Waking up to: how much energy is spent managing appearances. You'll let go of trying to see yourself through their eyes, and the relief is immediate. You're not rehearsing for every outcome, only the one you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Waking up to: how perfectly suited you are to the life you're building, even in the early stages and the transitions. Because you're arriving instead of striving. Sure, you'll get "there," but it's fun right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Waking up to: a desire beneath the desire. It turns out the thing you thought you wanted was standing in for something deeper. Once you identify the real hunger, the path toward satisfaction becomes direct.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Waking up to: your freedoms. Where you were once stuck, you now see the wiggle room, the lever to push, the escape route. You can soar with birds. Sometimes it starts in imagination, and other times it takes a physical move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Waking up to: a talent you've treated as ordinary because it comes naturally. Others struggle where you thrive. What feels effortless to you is the very thing you're meant to contribute, develop and share.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Waking up

to: the difference between a real obstacle and a familiar fear. One requires action. The other dissolves when examined. What looked like a wall may turn out to be a shadow cast across your path.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Waking up to: the possibility that nobody is stopping you. Rules, expectations and habits can feel identical from the inside. A fresh perspective reveals which barriers are real and which ones you've been carrying yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Waking up to: the fact that you've outgrown a story about yourself. It may have protected you once. It may even contain some truth. But it no longer explains your full range of choices or possibilities.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Waking up to: an internal voice that now has new maturity. It feels like empowerment. You have options that are like hidden doors you just didn't see before, and now you can't unsee them. Your next move is one that didn't occur to you before.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Waking up to: Your power in a relationship. It can come in odd forms, like knowing what someone likes, embodying an archetype they respond well to, needing them in a way that makes them feel purposeful or having talents they lack.

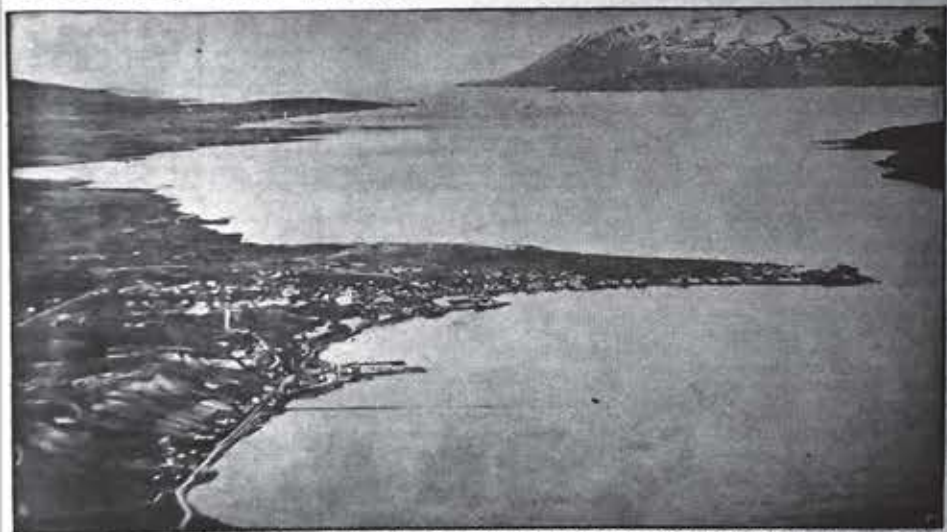
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Waking up to: an invisible source of support. A friend, skill, resource, connection, or strength you've overlooked becomes useful now, and the beautiful thing is, all you have to do is ask. The right one says yes.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 8). It's your Year of the Firefly. Others experience your light as magical, though you are also doing practical work -- sending signals, celebrating the season, attracting the exact right match for you. More highlights: Your influence spreads through rooms, conversations and circles of people with shared fascinations. A creative project gains a champion and funding. You're around those who take genuine pleasure in your wins. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 21, 30, 5 and 16.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

THESE DUSTY PAGES

U. S. Navy Over Iceland



AKUREYRI, Iceland—Official U.S. harbor at Akureyri, Iceland, with days" preceding the U.S. occupa- tion. This port is Iceland's sec- ond largest city.

Eastern Colorado News
July 17, 1941

Local Men Find Transient Slugged and Robbed On Highway Sunday

When Ralph Bird of Strasburg was driving to Bennett Sunday afternoon, he passed a man on the edge of the highway just east of the Kiowa bridge east of Bennett. On first seeing the young fellow lying there, that perhaps it was a ruse and drove by. Fifteen minutes later Mr. Bird came back and the man was still in the same position. C. C. Hackleman of Bennett came down and the two of them loaded the big fellow into a car and brot him into Bennett. He was unconscious. Sheriff Farney of Brighton was notified and the patient was soon taken to a Denver hospital, where his identity was learned. He is Gene Aldrich, 21, of Salt Lake City. It was also learned that Aldrich had been slugged and robbed of \$40.

Eastern Colorado News
July 17, 1941

HERBERT KNUTH DROWNED SUNDAY IN NOONEN LAKE

While on a swimming party Sunday Herbert Knuth, age 20, was drowned in Noonens lake. He and another young man were attempting to swim across the lake when Herbert became exhausted about 200 feet from the shore. Several of the party saw him go down but were unable to get to him in time to save him from drowning. Dr. Lorimer was rushed out to the lake, but the body was not found in time to restore life. Herbert was well known here and liked by all his acquaintances. We extend sympathy to the bereaved family. Funeral services were held today from the high school auditorium in Deer Trail at 2 p. m. Burial was also at Deer Trail.

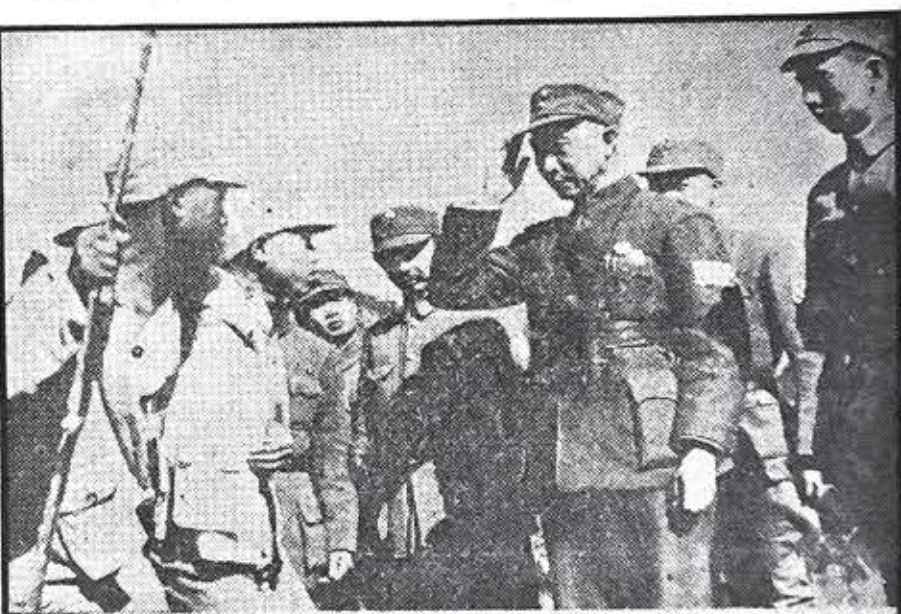
The Strasburg News
July 16, 1931



FIELD DAY . . . High ranking government and military officials of the Republic of Korea become symbolle "farmers for a day" as they plant rice sprouts near Seoul.

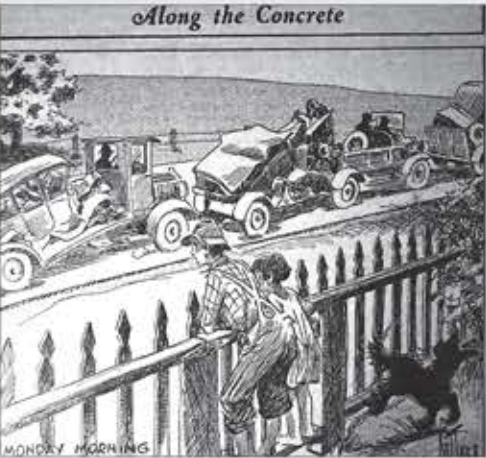
Eastern Colorado News
July 14, 1961

Chinese Heroes and Jap Prisoners



China—From the senior of the current wars come these photographs. At top a Chinese officer salutes heroic wounded Chinese after the unarmed Chinese forces had inflicted defeat on Japs in North Hunan Battle. The lower photograph shows some of the 2,000 Japanese prisoners who were captured by the Chinese troops at Changsha.

Eastern Colorado News
July 16, 1942



Along the Concrete
The Strasburg News
July 16, 1931

FATAL ACCIDENTS HALVED

Fatal accidents in Colorado drop- per almost 50 percent during June, as compared with the same month a year ago, Supervisor Joseph J. Marsh, state highway courtesy pa- troi, announced early this week. Twenty-three persons were killed during the month, compared with 44 in June, 1935, he said.

Eastern Colorado News
July 16, 1936

Dog Days



The Strasburg News
July 15, 1926

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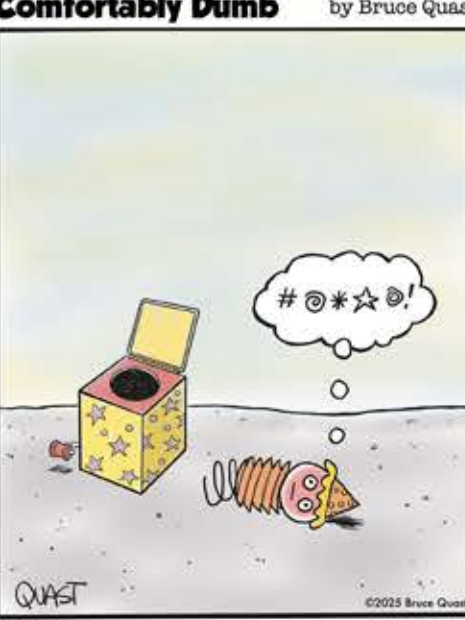
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Troopers seek info on semi involved in 3-vehicle crash

LIMON — The Colorado State Patrol is seeking information on a semi tractor-trailer following a three-vehicle crash 29 miles north of Limon on Highway 71 at approximately 12:30 p.m. July 10.

Three people were transported to a hospital with minor injuries as a result of the accident, which closed the roadway for about two hours.

Preliminary reports indicate that a Ford F150 was northbound on Highway 71 behind a Mazda CX-5, which was following a slow-moving Kenworth semi tractor-trailer with an oversized load. The F150 entered the southbound lane and struck both the Mazda and the semi-tractor-trailer.

The driver of the F150, a juvenile male, and the 61-year-old female driver of the CX-5 and her passenger all reported of minor injuries.

The Colorado State Patrol is seeking witnesses to the crash or information on the whereabouts of the semi. Parties with information should call the CSP's Pueblo Dispatch Center at (719)544-2424 and reference case 3D260705. Callers should leave a name and contact information.

The roadway reopened at 2:23 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY COLORADO STATE PATROL



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The 2026 version of the I-70 Corridor wheat harvest is almost done after just getting started the last week of June. Combines and their associated transportation apparatuses have seen much less activity this summer compared to normal because of the historically poor yielding crop.

HARVEST

FROM PAGE 1

ure for the state since 1965.

"Unfortunately, this decrease (27.6%) is no surprise to our staff, as the extent of the freeze damage did not become apparent until mid-June," said Colorado Wheat in its June 10 harvest update, only the second such report this year, which will be its last for the season. "Harvest is already nearing completion across most of Eastern Colorado, making this our final harvest report of 2026."

Last week's yield expectation of 19 bushels per acre is down two bushels from the previous month and exactly half of the 38 bushels per acre collected across the state in 2025. Add to that, less than two-thirds of planted wheat acres last fall are actually being harvested, making the production numbers plummet. According to NASS, 2.05 million acres were originally planted in winter wheat statewide, but only 1.28 million are expected to be harvested.

The anticipated 38% abandonment rate would be the highest in Colorado since 1967.

An abnormally warm winter caused the wheat to grow too fast, making plants vulnerable to hard freezes in late April.

"Looked like a lot of big heads in the fields but, once you got on them, nothing much in them, if anything," said a Deer Trail-based farmer, noting that yields in the area ranged from the mid-single digits to the mid-20s. "Really no reason in some places to waste the expense of combining it, but a lot of insurance companies are making farmers harvest what they have."

During last month's set of Colorado Wheat Field Days, Colorado State University wheat breeder and associate professor Esten Mason said that the abnormally dry, windy spring forced plants out of dormancy earlier than normal and, when a mid-April freeze hit, the plants were in the flowering stage and were killed.

"All about hitting maturity at least a couple of weeks early, if not a little longer," Mason said during the June 12 field day at Cooksey Farms near Roggen. "Just a lot of freeze damage on top of everything else."

In addition, farmers fought drought and increasing onslaughts of both insects and various diseases.

The biggest insect culprits this spring have been wheat curl mites and Russian wheat aphids, but other species of note include the brown wheat mite, the Banks grass mite, and the bird cherry-oat aphid. The notorious wheat stem sawfly has also been noted this summer but this year's infestation has been called relatively modest.

"Sawfly this year is very much more localized, a field-by-field basis, and might be down statewide this year, but we won't know until we start collecting them post-harvest," said CSU wheat entomology research associate Adam Osterholzer at the Roggen field day. "Aphids and mites have caused widespread damage in recent years [and] high populations of these pests were observed during the 2025 growing season, and infestations intensified further in 2026. Many growers reported outbreaks that reached or exceeded economic thresholds and are requiring insecticide applications."

Widespread yellowing of this year's crop has also signified an uptick in disease, most likely tritium mosaic virus; however, CSU plant pathologists also indicated that a new unidentified pathogen has been uncovered that causes the same symptom.

Average test weight continues to hover around 59 pounds per bushel and average protein is averaging 12.5%. While premiums are usually offered for protein over 11%, that market has also lagged behind previous years; however, with the significant crop losses and high abandonment rates across the state, quality loads with high protein and good test weights are in high demand locally.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 990 million bushels, down 4% from the June forecast (1.03 billion bushels) and 29% from 2025 (1.4 billion bushels). As of July 1, the U.S. yield average is forecast at 46.7 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and 8.2 bushels from last year's 54.9 bushels per acre. This year's 21.21 million acres expected to be harvested is about 17% off last year's 25.5 million acres.

"Lowest output in over 50 years due to the Plains drought," the NASS report concluded.

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...the other campers in our groups.



Kids: color stuff in!

Camp has so many new activities to try!



Are **you** going to any summer camp? If so, what kind of camp?

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with the names of different kinds of camps:

1. stunts, cheers, competitions
2. kitchen safety, recipes, pans
3. defense exercises, sparring practice
4. canoeing, hiking, fishing
5. lessons, practice, recitals
6. study, singing, praying
7. programming, gaming, web site building
8. brainstorming, stories, editing
9. flight simulation, mock launches
10. swimming, basketball, soccer
11. ballet, hip hop, jazz
12. costumes, acting, shows
13. horses, riding, shows
14. experiments, rockets, robots
15. drawing, comics, animations

Off to Summer Camp!

Chitter and Chatter are going to go to day camp. Forest and I are going to overnight camp for two weeks. Chitter and Chatter only need to bring their lunches each day, but Forest and I must pack more stuff.



Look at Forest on the zip line!

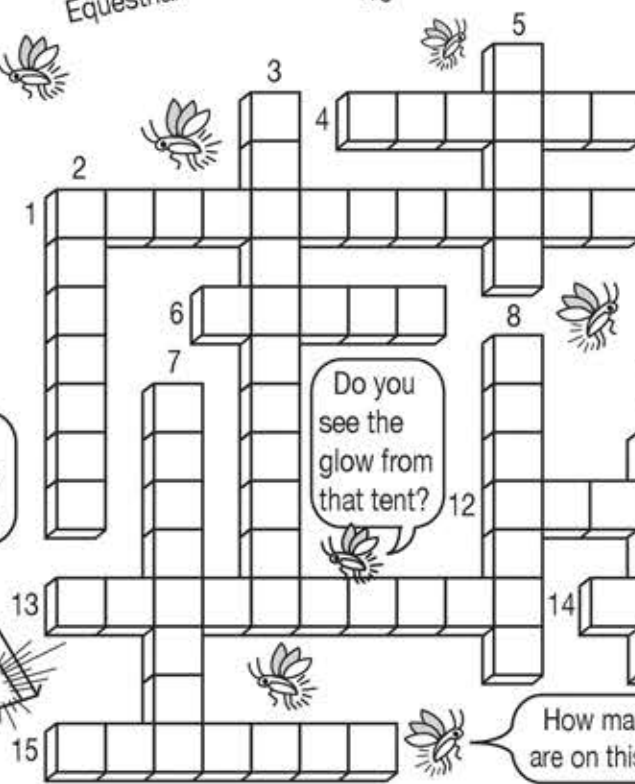
Cheerleading
Martial Arts
Equestrian

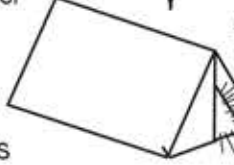
Space
Sports
Nature

Computer
Cartoon
Theater

Science
Music
Writing

Bible
Cooking
Dance



1. 

2. 

3. 

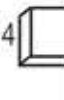
4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

9. 

10. 

11. 

12. 

13. 

14. 

15. 

Do you see the glow from that tent?

How many fireflies are on this page?

Fill in the blanks below to help Forest and Glade make their list of things to bring to camp:

1. __ oo __ hbrush
2. sh __ __ ts
3. fla __ __ __ ight
4. hair __ __ __ __
5. t __ __ __ ls
6. so __ __ s
7. pill __ __
8. __ __ tamp __
9. j __ ck __ t
10. h __ __

w s s c r
u b o e r
e r h i a k
o w t a
t s o h s

What?
I can do the dog paddle, but this is fun.



I'm trying something new!

What are you doing, Echo?

Hey guys! Pull harder! Forest is as strong as a bear!



Eeeek! Look out for me. !!!



No kidding!



Ugh!



Hi Mom and Dad,
I love camp! I have made lots of friends. We are so busy all the time swimming, making crafts and learning new activities. I even made you a puzzle. Can you find and circle all of these activities that I have tried this year?
I can't wait to see you! Love, Forest

•Capture the Flag

•Playing Cards

•Horseback Riding

•Scrapbooking

•Model Rockets

•Catching Fireflies

•Spooky Stories

•Roasting Marshmallows

•First Aid Class

•Magic Tricks

•Nature Walk

•Kickball

•Go-Carts

•Photography

•Swimming

•Pottery

•Bicycling

•Mini Golf

•Animal Care

•Baking

Hey! When did you find time to write home?











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

Ready For Fun at Camp!

When you show up for your next class, the camp counselor has the equipment ready. What activity are you going to do? Draw a line from each equipment list to the activity it is for:

1.) plastic lacing, popsicle sticks, buttons and glue, macaroni

2.) tennis racket, baseball bat, soccer ball, basketball hoop

3.) script, stage, spotlight, curtain

4.) bows, arrows, wrist guards, targets

5.) keyboard, monitor, mouse, software

A.) Theater

B.) Computer

C.) Crafts

D.) Sports

E.) Archery

1.) kickboards, diving toys, whistle

2.) bowls, spoons, ingredients, pans

3.) rocks, fossils, volcano models

4.) canoes, kayaks, safety vests

5.) fingerprinting, magnifying glass

A.) Water Adventure

B.) Detectives

C.) Swim

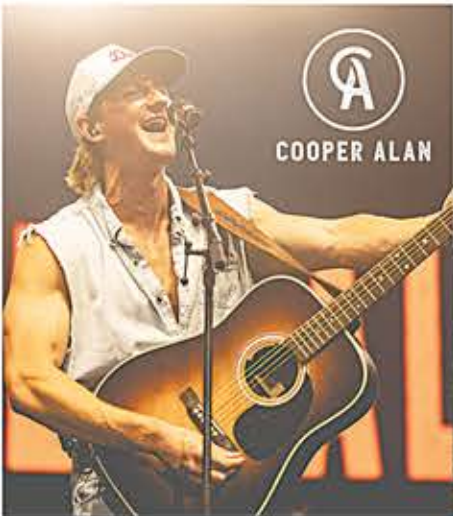
D.) Earth Science

E.) Cooking

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What you lookin' at?



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A handful of mule deer take a moment to question the presence of a camera while foraging around on a field on Kiowa Creek on the southwest corner of the intersection of Colfax Avenue and Kiowa-Bennett Road during the morning hours of July 1. A local Colorado Parks & Wildlife district manager indicated the four bucks and lone female above were all likely young adults.

Bluegrass outdoors



PHOTOS BY CARL STERTZ/For The Scout

Corridor-based bluegrass band Haverstraw Hill performs at the new open-air FNB Bank Amphitheater in the recently opened Strasburg Community Park East June 20. Above, aspiring vocalist Susan Yost, joins band members Dylan Yost on guitar, Kevin Yost on mandolin, Sandy Yost on string bass, and Mike Rice on vocals and guitar; right, guest singer Emmory Owens belts out a song; and, below, Strasburg Arts Council members Jaclyn Garrett and Kristin Aramowicz man the group's booth while Shayla & Copely Authier do a craft during the concert.

