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The I-70 Scout

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

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

'26 harvest heats up earlier than usual



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Last week's harvest crew sightings along the I-70 Corridor, including the one above July 2 near Deer Trail, occurred about a week to 10 days ahead of normal. The premature start is not good news as projections indicate the poorest Colorado wheat crop since 1965.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

Hopes that spring estimates for the poorest Colorado wheat crop in a half-century might have been quickly dashed as the first third of this year's harvest flew by earlier than normal with little good news to report.

"Colorado's 2026 wheat harvest started about 10 days ago," reported Colorado Wheat during its first harvest update of the season July 2. "According to the June 29 USDA-NASS Crop Progress Report, Colorado was 32% harvested, well ahead of the five-year average of 5%. The overall crop condition was

rated 9% good, 18% fair, and 73% poor-very poor.

"Yields all across eastern Colorado are variable. There are reports of dryland fields averaging anywhere from 5 to 40 bushels per acre."

Between Strasburg and Deer Trail, local farmers have reported their own yield variances but 30 or more bushels per acre has been hard to find.

"One field you see 6-8 bushels and then down the road maybe in the mid-20s but, all in all, just not good," a local farmer reported July 2. "Have neighbors that already told their custom cutters to go ahead and head out because there's nothing much to cut."

SEE HARVEST
PAGE 22

Trooper hurt in I-70 crash near Watkins

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

WATKINS — The Fourth of July holiday started inauspiciously for a Colorado State Trooper and a pair of commuters along I-70 near Watkins because of a three-car collision.

Between 12:45-12:50 a.m. Saturday, Colorado State Patrol Trooper Benjamin Orozco-Diaz initiated a traffic stop on westbound I-70 around milepost 295 near the Watkins interchange when the situation went awry.

"A blue Saturn Outlook was traveling in the left lane and not passing. The trooper activated his emergency lights. The vehicle stopped in the left

SEE WATKINS CRASH
PAGE 10



Celebrating America's History!



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Top honors during the Byers Fourth of July Parade went to the Sauer family and their band of historical characters — Evelyn Stoll as the Statue of Liberty, left photo, and Tristian Kunkle as George Washington and Raylen Stoll as Abe Lincoln. SEE PAGE 24.

Bennett drainage, water line OK'd; cameras now at Antelope Hills

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BENNETT — "Two birds with one stone."

That was the situation when the Bennett trustees late last month gave the go-ahead to staff to move forward not only with a drainage project along Adams Street between Colfax and Kiowa avenues but with a water line extension along the same route.

During their June 23 meeting, trustees unanimously approved a \$318,000-plus contract to HCG construction for the work expected to take place before the start of the 2026-27 school year. HCG's winning bid was the least expensive of proposals from four finalists, about \$60,000 under the second-place company and \$130,000 better than the

fourth finalist.

The final project ended up exceeded what town staff had proposed to start the debate.

"We originally planned to present contractor selections to the board for the May 12 meeting; however, additional time was needed to evaluate options after all bids received exceeded the engineering budget estimate for the stormwater project," the town staff report said. "Staff determined to remove water line improvements from the project scope to reduce overall project costs. The reduction in the water line scope allowed for a corresponding reduction in pavement quantities. Associated pavement costs were reduced by half."

By the end of discussion, trustees agreed that the water line should be included as long as the inter-

section was opened for other excavation needs.

"Why stage two separate times and pay for it twice?" asked trustee Christopher Clemens. "Just get everything done at the same time."

The construction project will include installation of 332 feet of 18-inch concrete storm sewer pipe and about 300 feet of 8-inch PVC water line north from the stub currently at the intersection of Adams Street and Kiowa Avenue. Two tie-in water connections will be installed on both ends of the new addition.

"It will increase system capacity, reduce localized flooding and overflows, and support planned development in the area," staff said, particularly

SEE BENNETT BOT
PAGE 4

COMMUNITY CORRAL

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. 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.

TBK Bank is located at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

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 what the Bible teaches about the value of all life from pre-birth to the most elderly life.

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

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 disabilities. For more information and to pre-register visit www.i70ccoc.com.

Governor appoints new judge for the 17th Judicial District

DENVER — Gov. Jared Polis July 3 appointed Michael B. Garlan to the Adams County Court in the 17th Judicial District effective immediately.

Garlan has been a magistrate in the 17th Judicial District since 2023. His docket consisted of criminal matters.

His resume includes service at Meza & Garlan LLC, Craig D. Johnson and Associates P.C., and the Colorado State Public Defender’s Office in Pueblo, as well as owning the Law Office of Michael Garlan, LLC.

Garlan earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2003 and his law degree from the University of Richmond School of Law in 2007.

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 practice the fundamentals of hand and machine sewing. Students can create a pillow, pillow case, pencil case, tote bag, simple purse, animal or monster stuffie, key chain stuffie, pin cushion, or water bottle holder. Participants should also 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.

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 benefit the

Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Foundation.

For more information, visit bennettfirefighters.org.

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

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.

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 the differences between plant-eaters and meat-eaters and examine dinosaur teeth up close. They will also work as paleontologists at a mini dinosaur dig to unearth fun 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 camps, hosted by the Stras-

burg Parks & Recreation District, cost \$15 with a registration deadline of July 24.

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. 7/29

'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.

Biz organization plans lunch with South State Bank agents

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its April Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, at May Farms, Byers.

Representatives from South State Bank will speak and sponsor lunch.

The public can attend the presentation, but guests must RSVP for lunch by Friday, July 10, to officei-70ccoc@gmail.com or (720)731-1954.



Asphalt improvements along 144th Avenue between Highway 79 and the 152nd Avenue curve about 10 miles north of Bennett are expected to be completed by the end of this week and similar work, starting with milling operations, was slated to occur on Piggott Road starting July 6. A third east Adams County paving operation along Strasburg Road from Colfax Avenue north to 48th Avenue will run concurrently. For more information, call (303)818.9854 or e-mail PublicinfoCO@gmail.com.

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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%
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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%
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Rod Watson



Rodney Allen Watson — devoted husband, father, granddad, and brother — passed away on June 27, 2026 in Wichita, Kan., at age 69. Rod was born April 11, 1957, to Fern Watson in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Rod grew up in Matheson, Colo., and attended Simla schools, graduating in 1975. He often shared fond memories of his childhood, tending the family's hogs and working at his granddad's wheat elevator. He experienced all the adventures that growing up in a small Colorado town had to offer — all while forging countless lifelong friendships along the way. He was a bit of a hellion as a teenager, which he had no problem with...and wouldn't care if you did.

In the late '70s, Rod laid the tracks for his railroading career with the Rock Island Railroad out of Limon, Colo. After the company went bankrupt in 1980, he, alongside a crew of Limon railroaders, moved to Trinidad, Colo., to work for the Colorado and Southern Railroad. There he donned many hats, from fireman to brakeman and eventually conductor.

He was wed to Micheli Winkelman in September 1980; they welcomed two sons, Kenny and Andy.

In 1986, Rod transferred to Denver with Burlington Northern, where he and his family settled in nearby Strasburg. In 1994 he would become a locomotive engineer — a role he thoroughly enjoyed.

Finally, after nearly four decades of railroad service, he would retire in 2017 from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe as a Yardmaster in the Denver Yard.

During these years, he connected with many wonderful people, including some unforgettable characters. He treasured the friendships he made along the way, many of which endured throughout his life.

On a typical day, you could catch Rod tinkering in the garage (ZZ Top playing in the background), wood working, growing his legendary 300 lb pumpkins and tending to his memorable vegetable and flower gardens. Rod was the definition of a handyman. There wasn't much he wouldn't tackle. Landscaping, plumbing, electrical work, vehicle repairs—you name it, he would figure it out.

On clear nights, you might find him behind his telescope looking at the moon or laying in a lawn chair stargazing—a hobby inspired by his granddad who'd wake him to watch the Apollo space missions on television. From this, he took interest in learning about astronomy (Carl Sagan was the man). His passion for the stars lives on in his sons today as well as their shared love for the Broncos, Avalanche and Nuggets. He loved to fish, camp, ride ATVs and generally would rather be outside. Even if it meant mowing or burning tumble weeds. Some might even call the things he enjoyed outdoors "work".

Rod and Micheli moved to Kansas in 2016/2017, respectively, to be near their children and grandchildren. Whether cheering from the sidelines at his sons' activities or grandsons' soccer games, lending a helping hand, handing down important knowledge or life skills or simply being present, Rod rarely missed an opportunity to support and provide for his family. Rod's family was the center of his universe.

He will be forever loved and missed.

Rod is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Micheli; sons Kenny (Colette) and Andy (Jonnie); grandsons Gage and Kale; brother Wes; and many cousins, extended family members, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his granddad Harry E. Watson; grandmother Mary M. Watson; mother Fern A. Monks; stepfather Donald R. Monks; uncles Calvin, Harry, Marvin Ray, Ronald, and Donald; and aunts Margaret, Betty Lou, June, Evelyn, and Julia.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to: the Colorado Wildlife Federation, 303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 230 Denver, CO 80203; the National Audubon Society; or your local humane society.

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BENNETT BOT

FROM PAGE 1

noting the Bennett Crossing subdivision immediately north of the new installation. "The water line extension will create a looped water system, enhance system redundancy for pressure and flow, reduce water stagnation, and improve overall water quality."

HCG's winning bid included \$205,000 for the stormwater improvement with the remaining \$113,000 for the additional length of water line.

ANTELOPE HILLS SURVEILLANCE

Earlier in the evening during a work-study, town communications and IT staff noted that a couple of new surveillance cameras were installed along the Bennett Regional Park & Open Space in the Antelope Hills subdivision.

While town staff noted the need for stepped-up security measures, neighbors in the area questioned the location and direction of the cameras.

During the installation of the new cameras in April, *The I-70 Scout* received concerns from neighbors in the area that they appear to be pointing towards residences and not in the direction of open space gates or entryways.

"Looks like they could be violating backyard privacy," one Antelope Hills resident said. "And not a word went out to any neighbors that I'm aware

of."

When questioned about the cameras as locations and view range, town officials denied any violation of residents' privacy.

"The cameras are all located on public property and are directed at the public areas to protect public property," said Bennett Communications Director Alison Belcher. "There does not appear to be any view of private property other than what is clearly visible from the public property and, therefore, is not an area that a property owner might have a reasonable expectation of privacy."

But Belcher added that if any individual property owners still believe the cameras need to be adjusted, the town is willing to discuss concerns and remedies.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The board unanimously approved reauthorization of an intergovernmental agreement with Adams County for animal shelter services through the Riverdale Animal Shelter near Brighton next year. Town staff hopes to transfer those services to a new animal shelter in Aurora, but that facility is not yet built.
- The town's rental fee schedule for municipality-owned facilities was amended to include rates at the new Civic Center Park sports complex. The two baseball fields and associated water park and covered picnic area opened last month.
- Trustees unanimously approved the rezoning of approximately 10.6 acres of Town Center property from planned development to public with a main street overlay district.
- As of July 1, the town is under a new set of building, residential, fire, energy, plumbing, mechanical and related construction codes. All new permits must comply with the 2024 International Code series. Any project submitted under the 2018 codes that were not issued before July 1 will be required to update its plans to meet the 2024 codes before a permit can be issued.

Beaches, stars key to youth art classes

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District plans 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.

BEACH SCENERY

One class for ages 5-14 will emphasize 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.

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.

* (2) Forklifts * (3) Pickups * (2) 40' Storage Containers * Several Welders * Ford 8 N Tractors * 5th Whl Travel Trl * Lathes & Milling Machines * Tons of Welding Tools & Supplies * Live-stock Loafing Shed * 3-Pt Equip * Lawn & Garden * 3-Wheeler * Saddles * Scrap Iron * Misc

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Drowning occurs at Cherry Creek State Park

AURORA — Colorado Parks & Wildlife is investigating the drowning of a young adult male at Cherry Creek State Park July 2.

At 3:49 p.m., the victim and a child were on a paddleboard south of the swim beach on the reservoir. Both people fell into the water and neither was wearing a life jacket, according to

witnesses.

The child made it back to shore safely.

The South Metro Fire Rescue Dive Team recovered the adult victim after 45 minutes. First responders immediately began CPR, but the victim was pronounced deceased at a local hospital.

Church Directory

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



BYERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
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135 S. Sherman St., Byers, CO
(303) 822-5717
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Online Worship – email for link:
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Saron Lutheran Church
1656 Main St. | Strasburg, CO | saronstrasburg.org
Worship 8:30 a.m. In-Person or on Facebook



Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
278 S. Sherman St., Byers
303-822-9366 • mttabortbyers.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)



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<https://www.mvfcolorado.online.church>
Midweek Elementary Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
Middle/High School Youth Group - Wednesdays @ 7pm
www.mvfcolorado.com
303.622.9600



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



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Sunday 8:15-8:45 am & 10:45-11:15 am
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— Douglas Claussen,
Publisher & Editor

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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**
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EXTENSION

Lawn Care Tips | July 23, 4–5 pm
Aurora Central Library
14949 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012

Learn best practices to keep your lawn healthy and lush this summer. Colorado appropriate grass species, weed management, and common lawn pests and diseases will all be covered in this program.

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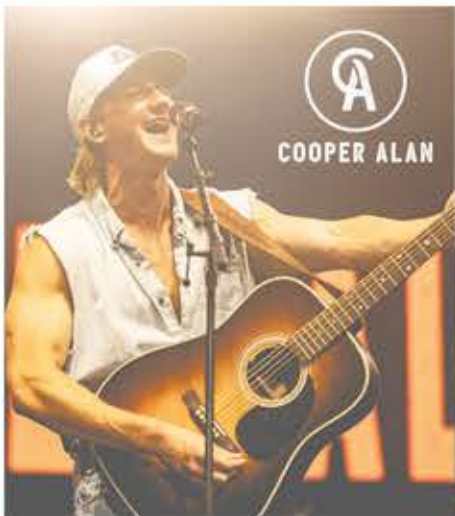
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Partyin' at Trupp Park



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



The town of Bennett hosted Party in the Park at Trupp Park June 12. In addition to a performance 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. From top photo, Neriya, right, performs an original song; Michael and Destiny Edmunds have their caricatures done by Bob Kagohara with Exaggerated Faces; CORE Electric Cooperative linemen Derek Oase and Zach McCann demonstrate causes for power outages and their remedies; and Selena Morales, 5, takes a closer look at a piece of glass created during a June 7 power outage along Price Road north of Deer Trail. According to CORE Electric Cooperative representatives, debris along the outage route was electrically charged by an arc between breached power lines, leading to the glossy shard.

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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.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 with the championship games contested Oct. 31.

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

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.

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, July 9.

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.

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 the volunteer coaching schedule.

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

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.

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 non-residents) includes a jersey, and the registration deadline is Sunday, July 26.

Flags and other equipment are provided.

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PHOTOS BY 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. Participants got the opportunity to dress up raw potatoes with everything from googly eyeballs and mustaches to hair made out of young plant sprouts. From left photo, Henry Hudson, 5, is proud of his mustached version; Hazel Hudson, 7, finishes up her spud; and Elsie Davis, 6, figures out how to carve a mouth in her potato.

LIBRARY NEWS

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

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

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 15.

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., 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.

KELVER LIBRARY
585 Main St., Byers
(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.

Adult book club: "The Glassmaker" by Tracy Chevalier. 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, July 14.

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

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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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.



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. Above, Alvarez buzzes around the library with his bumble bee puppet.



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.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLORADO STATE PATROL

The driver of a westbound Jeep Grand Cherokee, left, rear-ended a State Patrol trooper's vehicle shortly before 1 a.m. July 4 near the Watkins interchange on I-70. The collision occurred while the trooper was conducting a traffic stop on another vehicle going the same direction.



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WATKINS CRASH

FROM PAGE 1

lane, so the trooper pulled behind and instructed the driver to move to the shoulder,” the State Patrol accident report said. “The patrol cruiser was struck in the rear by a grey Jeep Grand Cherokee at a high rate of speed and was pushed into the vehicle he had pulled over.”

Orozco-Diaz and the two occupants of the Saturn — the 44-year-old adult female driver and a teenage female passenger, both of Aurora — were transported to a hospital with minor or non-life-threatening injuries. All three were released later in the day. The driver of the other vehicle was uninjured and taken into custody.

“The original driver was charged with failing to yield to an emergency vehicle [and] was also driving without a license and was cited for violating restrictions on an instruction permit and for having no proof of insurance,” the State Patrol report said. “The driver who struck the back of the patrol car, a 47-year-old female out of Byers, was placed into custody and later released with a summons to court for suspected driving under the influence, among other charges.”

No names were available at press time.

Under state statute, residents 18 and older who have never been licensed must first get an instructional, or learner's, permit.

“In this case, [the Saturn driver] did not have a physical [permit] in her possession,” a State Patrol spokeswoman said. “Also, there was not another adult in the vehicle to take control of the vehicle, if needed, which is another requirement.”

The thoroughfare was closed between Manila Road and Watkins until a little bit before 6 a.m.



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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

June turned out to be a busy month along the I-70 Corridor for vehicle crashes as double-digit accidents were responded to between Deer Trail and Watkins. The second and third weeks of the month were particularly busy for state troopers and sheriff's deputies. This single-vehicle rollover, above, occurred about 3:15 p.m. June 9 near 38th Avenue and Headlight Road northeast of Strasburg. The 56-year-old female driver of the Volvo X70 was airlifted to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The Strasburg woman was cited for careless driving and operating a vehicle when safety belt not fastened.

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Boots, Broncs & Birthday Bash was the theme of this year's Deer Trail Rodeo parade down Second Avenue. In addition to celebrating another anniversary of the World's First Rodeo, which started in 1869, this year's parade highlighted the 250th birthday of the United States and 150th year of Colorado statehood. Clockwise from top left, the 1952 Chevy pickup of Corky Woodis takes top automobile honors; Grand Marshals Kathy and Steve Carter enjoy the afternoon from the back of a 1967 Ford pickup driven by grandson Logan Cox; Deer Trail graduate and I-70 Corridor bareback bronc rider Tyler Ferguson finds a more comfortable seat in the emcee's chair in front of Deer Trail Town Hall; the Deer Trail Jockeyettes show off their patriotic spirit with their float entry; and Elizabeth-based rodeo clown and entertainer Benny Bob Patrick scoots around the parade route on his motorized mode of transportation.



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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

From left photo, Deer Trail's own all-around cowgirl Katie Jolly steers her trusty steed around a barrel during Friday's slack session. Jolly also participated in the breakaway roping and finished in a three-way tie for second; Mike Bate of Agate, left, ropes the head for heeling partner Derek Hermes of Stratton; and Byers' Wes Butterfield lays out during Saturday night's steer wrestling.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

From left photo, a young lady hangs on tight during Friday afternoon's mutton bustin'; Casen Pridemore of Salida bulldogs his steer draw in 5.2 seconds Friday night to place second in the event; and James Brown of Eaton posts a second-place ride of 80.5 points on the back of Full Throttle Friday night.

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Parks & Wildlife: Wolf reintroduction at pivotal moment

by Amy Hadden Marsh
The Sopris Sun

If gray wolf recovery in Colorado is to succeed this year, the wolves already in the state are on their own, meaning that Colorado Parks & Wildlife will not bring new wolves from outside the state.

The reintroduction of gray wolves in Colorado started with voter approval of Proposition 114 in 2020, and, according to Eric Odell, soon-to-retire wolf conservation program manager, the program has reached an "inflection point." Odell and colleagues presented the annual Colorado Gray Wolf report to the CPW Commission on May 7.

Odell cited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's cease-and-desist letter from last fall, banning translocation of wolves from Canada to Colorado, and told the commission that the estimated timeline for wolf recovery in the state is now in flux.

Fish and Wildlife Director Brian Nesvik said in an October 2025 letter that Canada was outside the parameters of the federal 10(j) rule. The rule went into effect in Colorado just before the first release of wolves in December 2023. On Dec. 18, 2025, Nesvik sent another letter, demanding all records of wolf reintroduction within 30 days, threatening federal takeover of the program.

Full recovery of gray wolves in Colorado is a part of CPW's Wolf Recovery and Management Plan and started with translocation of 10-15 wolves annually over three to five years. CPW brought 10 wolves from Oregon in December 2023 and 15 from British Columbia in January 2025. Phase One of recovery will be complete when a minimum count of 50 wolves are found anywhere in Colorado for

CPW map indicates that wolf roved east of I-25

DENVER — Colorado Parks & Wildlife biologists have confirmed last month that a collared wolf briefly traveled east of I-25 and through watersheds in southern Colorado.

The wolf passed through Pueblo, Otero and Las Animas counties before traveling back west of I-25. The activity highlights the broad movements made by dispersing wolves, according to a release. The movement was displayed in Parks & Wildlife's monthly wolf activity map.

People who believe they have seen a wolf should submit a wolf sighting form at cpw.state.co.us.

four years straight.

CPW's minimum wolf count for biological year 2025-26 shows 32 wolves in four packs, including 14 pups born in April 2025 and 18 adults. The agency also counted seven collared, non-pack wolves and one non-collared, non-pack wolf. Dr. Brenna Cassidy, CPW wolf monitoring and data coordinator, said that the agency saw a high of 17 pups throughout the biological year. "Detecting uncollared pups can be very difficult," she explained. "But our CPW biologists were very persistent in their efforts in a task that was brand new to many of them."

Alternatives that could trigger a pause in translocation include a minimum of two packs raising two pups for two years. Recruitment, or the ability of pups to survive for a full year and become incorporated into a pack, is also a factor. But without new adult wolves introduced in the winter



"I hope we don't get stuck in a foxhole."

of 2025-26, things have shifted.

Until future reintroductions resume, the success of the program depends on two things: adult survival and pup recruitment. "However, with even just one year of lower survival, high mortality or low recruitment, additional years of reintroduction may be necessary," Odell explained.

Cassidy cautioned that the numbers are not population estimates and are updated only once a year. "As soon as these counts are recorded and published, there is a chance that they are out-of-date since mortality and immigration from other states can occur at any time," she said.

Cassidy's wolf movement graphics showed that a lone wolf roams farther than wolves in packs.

In response to a question about genetics, Cassidy pointed out that Colorado's imported wolves are from different areas, which can strengthen genetic diversity. She said that the agency only collects genetic material from collared wolves born in Colorado and that determining population diversity will take years.

"We are at a really interesting and tenuous time with this population," she said, echoing Odell's observations. "One year of successful reproduction is a positive step [toward] a self-sustaining population, but it is only one year. What the next years

look like will depend on future successful reproduction and any potential future translocations."

RANGE RIDERS

"Range riding proved to be one of the most effective tools, providing consistent human presence, improved livestock monitoring and timely carcass detection," said Ethan Kohn, CPW wildlife damage specialist, citing non-lethal conflict management tools used in the King Mountain Pack's territory last summer. "The King Mountain Pack has established territory in northern Eagle County and southern Routt County, near the ranching communities of Burns and Toponas," he explained, adding that the area includes large-scale livestock operations and habitat for elk, mule deer and pronghorn, including critical winter range.

He explained that several forms of non-lethal tactics were used to keep wolves at bay. "The landscape, livestock numbers and grazing distribution all contribute to the complexity of effective conflict mitigation," he said. "What we're seeing on the ground is that conflict minimization can reduce risk, but it does not prevent all conflict. Even with fladry, range riding, night watch and consistent human presence, depredations are still occurring." He added that challenges in Pitkin County included elk tearing down the fladry.

Rae Nickerson, CPW's new wolf conflict minimization manager, told commissioners that, in 2025, eight range riders covered eight counties. "We rode almost 15,000 miles for over 4,000 hours and served over 34 livestock producers," she said.

The program is growing. Fifteen new range riders are ready for the upcoming grazing season. "That's a seven-rider increase from last year's effort, and seven of those 15 riders are returning from last year, which is excellent," she said.

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

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MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/IN Photo



IVAN VALENCIA/IN Photo

A firefighter battles the Canyon Fire on Aug. 7, 2025, in Hasley Canyon, Calif. Right photo shows, People walking through a part of the Amazon River that shows signs of drought in Santa Sofia, on the outskirts of Leticia, Colombia, Oct. 20, 2024.

Predictions for potentially record-breaking El Nino released

by Jennifer McDermott
Associated Press

Seasonal models are predicting an El Niño climate pattern that could be the strongest on record, bringing with it more extreme weather.

“I think we’re going to see weather events that we’ve never seen in modern history before,” said Jeff Berardelli, chief meteorologist at WFLA-TV in Tampa, Fla., said last month.

An El Niño event is expected to develop from the middle of this year, impacting global temperature and rainfall patterns, according to the World Meteorological Organization. While the models indicate that this may be a strong event, the WMO cautioned that the models also have a harder time making accurate forecasts in the spring.

WHAT IS EL NIÑO?

El Niño is a cyclical and natural warming of patches of the equatorial Pacific that then alters the world’s weather patterns. Its counterpart, La Nina, is marked by waters that are cooler than average.

Berardelli said an El Niño event essentially redistributes heat on Earth. Currently, the subsurface heat in the Pacific is moving east across the ocean and ascending to the surface from the deep waters, the initial stages of El Niño.

The WMO’s Global Seasonal Climate Update showed that sea-surface temperatures are rising rapidly. There is high confidence in the onset of El Niño, followed by further intensification in the months to follow, according to Wilfran Moufouma Okia, chief of climate prediction at WMO.

El Niño typically occurs every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months, WMO said.

WHY IS EL NIÑO CAUSING ALARM

The predictive models are onto something, said California Institute for Water Resources climate scientist Daniel Swain. The volume and the intensity of the subsurface warm water anomalies — or pulses of unusually warm water that are a key part of El Niño physics — are about as large as we’ve seen in the historical record, he added.

The very strongest events are called “super El Niños.”

“One of the key building blocks to make it fully materialize is, in fact, occurring,” Swain said May 8.

“We still don’t know exactly what’s going to happen. It’s not guaranteed

it’ll be a super El Niño. But the potential is there for something genuinely remarkable.”

If the Pacific releases a lot of heat, it supercharges the climate system and wreaks havoc weather-wise, Berardelli said. With more heat, there will be stronger heat waves, worsening drought in some areas, but also more moisture in the air that leads to more intense floods, he said.

El Niño also subdues the hurricane season in the Atlantic because the excessive heat in the Pacific outcompetes the Atlantic, Berardelli added. Places like the Caribbean will be extra dry this summer and likely have fewer tropical systems, he said.

WHERE WE MAY SEE THE IMPACTS

El Niño has global impacts. Across the United States, it looks like this summer will be hotter than normal, with significant heat waves, Berardelli said. While the specifics are hard to pinpoint this far out, Berardelli is also expecting to see more frequent daily thunderstorms in the Southwest U.S.

Forest degradation, driven by wildfires, logging and drought, affects about 40% of the Amazon. This could be exacerbated in 2026 with a strong El Niño.

The excess heat brought to the surface by El Niño, combined with the planet’s warming due to climate



JOHN LOCHER/IN Photo

Grace Chyuwei pours water on Joe Chyuwei to help with the heat last August in Death Valley National Park, Calif.

change, will lead to record-breaking global warmth, Swain said. He expects to see record global warm temperatures later this year, next year or both.

“All indicators are, at this point, that the next year is going to be a pretty wild year from a global climate perspective,” Swain said.

Michael Mann, a University of Pennsylvania climate scientist, said

that, while El Niño boosts global temperatures a bit for a year or two, it’s basically a “zero-sum game.”

It typically oscillates back toward La Nina, which in turn lowers global temperatures for a year or two, he added.

The longer-term, steady warming trend that will continue as long as people continue to burn fossil fuels is more worrisome, Mann said.



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The Not-So Dusty Pages

20 YEARS AGO
JULY 11, 2006
1-70 Corridor elevator managers said wheat harvest was over 50 percent complete when heavy rains hit on the Fourth of July. They added that yields and quality were slightly better than expected, but test weights were slightly below average.

Scott Steinbar, manager of the Roggen Elevator in Bennett, said farmers were bringing in wheat that was averaging about 15 bushels per acre and weighing 57.5 to 58.5 pounds per bushel. On dryland wheat, at least 30 bushels per acre and 60 pounds per bushel are usually expected.

"Last year's late freeze and the dry spring really took a toll on the crop, but heads still filled up with some grain and quality appears quite good," Steinbar said. "Up until the Fourth [of July], moisture wasn't an issue either."

According to Scott Martin with Cargill in Byers, the further east, the better the crop.

"Out past Deer Trail and around Agate the wheat had a little bit more moisture when needed and it shows," Martin said. "Some farmers are bringing in grain yielding 23-25 bushels [per acre] and weighing 63 pounds per bushel, but, overall, the crop is pretty sporadic; some of those guys with the 23-25 bushel yields went to other fields and were picking 10-12."

15 YEARS AGO
JULY 12, 2011

AGATE - Agate School District officials are hopeful of gaining helpful insight into keeping the school open beyond this coming year and expanding it to include secondary grades once again.

Superintendent Kendra Ewing and school board president John Diller both stated June 29 that a pair of surveys to district residents should provide recommendations on how to move forward with keeping the Agate School open and more viable.

The district sent out 350 envelopes with two paper surveys inside and also posted an online version asking residents for family information and ideas on how to grow enrollment in the future.

"We've been told there have been responses to both written and elec-

tronic surveys, so we are seeing interest," said Ewing, who added that no results will be released until all responses have been reviewed. The online survey deadline is July 14.

Diller added that the district needs input from all generations of residents, not just families with school-age children.

"Just because you don't have kids in school right now, there is still a lot of value of the school to them," he said. "A lot of the people still here have been trained and educated here or have had kids that have been developed right here. Do we really want to lose that opportunity in the future?"

10 YEARS AGO
JULY 12, 2016

BYERS — A series of early July thunderstorms in the area have made for too much moisture to get the combines in the fields, delaying the local wheat harvest, a farm marketer said July 8.

"We're waiting for the moisture to get out of the ground and the humidity to get out of the air," said Valarie LaPean with Byers Cargill. "If we start drying out, as forecasts predict, I anticipate harvest starting around the 15th."

Jim Joyce, branch manager for Roggen Elevator in Bennett, said he has seen no new crop this summer and agreed that the 15th is a likely start, at least a week later than usual.

"The busiest part of harvest is usually about right now," he said July 8.

LaPean said area wheat is in various stages of ripening.

"If you're driving around looking at wheat today, in the Byers area, you'll see spots of green within it. East and north, it's probably even more green. Towards the Bennett and Brighton area, the wheat is much more ripe," she said. "It will be probably one of the longest, drawn-out harvests to date, because we have so many stages of wheat out in the field."

Dale Arnold, a wheat farmer with 1,100 acres 10½ miles north of Strasburg, said he hopes to start cutting July 11 if the monsoon rains let up. He anticipates a decent yield.

"The wheat looks pretty good," he said. "I think it's going to be average for the county - around 30 bushels (an acre)."

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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 Tuesday, July 8, the 189th day of 2025. There are 176 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On July 8, 2018, divers rescued four of the 12 boys who had been trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand with their soccer coach for more than two weeks. (The remaining eight boys and their coach were rescued over the

next two days.)

ALSO ON THIS DATE

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1853, an expedition led by U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Edo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations

with the Japanese.

In 1889, the first issue of *The Wall Street Journal* was published.

In 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the *Roswell Daily Record*, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon.

In 1950, President Harry S. Tru-

man named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman would fire MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what

critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 77. Actor Anjelica Huston is 75. Actor Kevin Bacon is 68. Singer Joan Osborne is 64. Actor Michael Weatherly (TV: "NCIS") is 58. Actor Kathleen Robertson is 53.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: ROM-COMS

- ACROSS
- Anti-seniors sentiment
 - Ingested
 - "Lights out" tune
 - "Sweet" villa (2025)
 - Leo, in Moscow
 - Mood disorder
 - Blooming bulb
 - *It happened on how many nights? (1934)
 - Follow up on (2 words)
 - *Sleepless where? (1993)
 - *Certain London Hill (1999)
 - "___ Te Ching"
 - Future J.D.'s hurdle, acr.
 - Chips accompaniment
 - Tibetan monk
 - Celebrity
 - Please do not delay, acr.
 - S.A.T. section
 - Polynesian island country
 - Scarlet O'Hara's home
 - Singing femme fatale
 - Rig or truck
 - Artist's support
 - Italian money, 1861-2002
 - Petri dish gel
 - Like a longer route?
 - ___ Scotia
 - RNs' org.
 - Morally reprehensible
 - Ensign, for short
 - *Not a wedding (1994)
 - *They were reaping benefits (2011)
 - Silly
 - Gone by
 - Generational divide
 - Oodles
 - Each one for himself?
 - Ouzo flavor
 - A whole lot
 - Pertinent
 - Not rights

- DOWN
- Without further ___, pl.
 - Departed
 - Hip bones
 - *Actor Foley of #13 Across
 - Kind of block
 - Healing gel producing plant
 - *How many days to lose a guy? (2003)
 - o and 2, e.g.
 - Diplomat's forte
 - ___-perspirant
 - One quark plus one antiquark
 - Spilled the beans
 - Dull surfaces

CROSSWORD

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- Newton of science
- Dissect
- *AOL delivery (1998)
- Org. with a mission
- Last letter, to Homer
- *Pretty one (1990)
- Nigerian money
- Part of a hammerhead
- Villain's rival
- *When has she been kissed? (1999)
- Books, in Paris
- Langley, VA org.
- Fauna member
- Peruvian beast of burden
- Rive Droite and Rive Gauche separator
- Hand-to-hand combat weapon
- Unconstitutional and uncommon have it in common
- Indian flatbread
- Odds' partners
- Arial, e.g.
- Naive, alt. spelling
- Olden days "do", second person singular
- Files suit
- Fall into it

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

HOROSCOPE

A Venusian Curtain Call

Like the diva she is, Venus spends her final day in Leo with a hand over her heart, taking in the standing ovation from a rose-strewn stage. Before the curtain falls, take a moment to appreciate what has brought you joy, connection and creative fulfillment. Before the goddess moves on, she leaves one last reminder: Love grows where it is expressed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). With Venus preparing to leave Leo, express your love through trust. Share something meaningful, listen without judgment or keep a confidence. Emotional intimacy grows when people feel safe revealing themselves.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Venus spends her final hours in your sign, inviting you to express your love through beauty. Share flowers, music, art or a lovely experience. Aesthetic pleasures become a bridge, bringing people together through delight and enjoyment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Before Venus exits Leo and moves into your sign, express your love through hospitality. Open your door, make room at the table or help someone feel welcome. Few things are more healing than a sense of belonging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The curtain call from Venus as she leaves Leo is your chance to express your love through appreciation. Let people know what you admire about them. Recognition is a powerful form of affection, and one that lingers long after the moment passes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As Venus takes her final bow in Leo, express your love through conversation. Ask questions, tell stories and stay curious. People feel cherished when someone takes a genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On the last day of Venus in Leo, express your love through encouragement. Be the first to believe in someone, cheer them on or remind them what they're capable of. Confidence is contagious, and your faith becomes a gift.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As Venus wraps up her stay in Leo, express your love through practical help. Run an errand, solve a problem or notice what needs doing. Thoughtful effort often speaks more clearly than grand declarations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Venus leaves Leo with one final request: Express your love through imagination. Write a note, share a poem or create a small moment of wonder. A touch of magic can make affection unforgettable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Venus leaving Leo is an opportunity to express your love through food. Prepare a favorite meal, share a treat or create a moment of comfort around the table. Nourishment has always been one of your sweetest dialects.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As Venus packs her bags for the next sign, express your love through acceptance. Give people room to be themselves. Few gifts are more liberating than feeling welcomed without needing to change or perform.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Venus closes out her Leo chapter with an invitation to express your love through reliability. Show up when you said you would. Follow through on a promise. Consistency may not seem romantic, but it creates lasting trust.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Before Venus changes signs, express your love through adventure. Suggest an outing, explore a new place or try something unfamiliar together. Shared experiences have a way of becoming treasured memories.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 8). It's your Year of the Scarab. Ancient Egyptians associated the scarab beetle with the daily rebirth of the sun. What appears to be an ending is actually the beginning of a more powerful version of yourself. More highlights: Your mastery of a game brings wins on many levels. You'll hear words that heal and send your heart soaring. Strategic improvement makes home life better than ever. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 11, 40 and 16.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

Wow! Our country is celebrating...

...its Semiquincentennial or 250th birthday!

Kids: color stuff in!

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Read the clues below to learn about events that led up to the American Revolution.

Fill in the puzzle:

1. The _____ colonies in America were under British rule.

2. King George the III was only _____ years old when he claimed his throne.

3. King George wanted to raise _____ to pay Britain's war debts.

4. He placed many _____ on the colonies, even though they had no vote in Parliament.

5. One day, angry colonists threw rocks and other items at British soldiers, who shot into the crowd. Some colonists were killed or wounded. This event is called "The _____ Massacre" (1770).

6. Soon, the King insisted that people pay their taxes on tea. Some colonists, dressed as Native Americans, boarded British cargo ships and threw tea into the harbor. This event is called the Boston _____ Party (1773).

7. In 1775, the people of Lexington and Concord, MA, gathered with guns to face arriving British soldiers. These were the first clashes of the _____ Revolution.

8. George _____ of VA was named general of the American armed forces.

9. On July 4, 1776, colonies of America declared themselves free from British rule, as the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of _____.

10. The colonies became the United _____ of America.

11. After years of battle, the _____ surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, VA (1781).

12. A _____ treaty between America and Britain was finally signed in 1783.

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

The **Fourth of July** is a special holiday because everyone in the United States celebrates on the same day our country's independence and freedom. This year, 2026, is even more special because it marks the 250th anniversary of **July 4, 1776**, when the colonies of America declared themselves free from British rule. It's a day of picnics, parades and fireworks. Join in the fun with your family, friends and neighbors!

What events led up to the American colonies' independence? It was a time of unrest and war, then peace and freedom.

States
peace
Boston
I love the 4th of July!
money
Washington
Independence
American
British
Tea
taxes
thirteen
twenty-one

Let Freedom Ring!

Famous People Pop Quiz!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

1. King _____ III of England did not permit the colonies in America to have people to represent them in the British government, which upset and angered the colonists.

2. The colonies wanted to break away from the British Empire, so the King sent soldiers; when these troops arrived near Boston, Paul _____ took a midnight ride on his horse to warn the colonists.

3. George _____ was the Commander of the Continental Army (American forces) during the Revolutionary War; later he became the nation's first President (April 1789).

4. Thomas _____ wrote the Declaration of Independence; later, he served as President.

5. Benjamin _____ was a politician, inventor and diplomat who helped ensure victory in the American Revolution.

6. Betsy _____ was a seamstress who made chair cushions and pillows. She is credited with making the very first American flag.

Franklin
George
Washington
Revere
Jefferson
Ross

What did the firecracker say when he saw the beautiful fireworks fill the night sky?

Nothing... he just burst with pride!

The 4th is the cat's meow!

A-Mazing Fireworks!

Let's go to see the fireworks! Start at the star and help little ant find his way through the maze to the spectacle of fireworks.

Ooooo! Ahhhh!

Patriotic Music

How much do you know about the music played on the Fourth of July? (Ask Mom or Dad to help with this puzzle!) Match each clue to the person or song it is describing.

1. This is our National Anthem. The words were written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812.

2. This man was known as the March King. He loved marches and wrote over 100 of them.

3. This is a song that the British made up to poke fun at the poorly dressed American soldiers. It is our oldest patriotic song.

4. This man claimed to have been born on the Fourth of July and to be ... A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam... He is famous for patriotic songs: Yankee Doodle Boy, You're a Grand Old Flag and Over There.

A. John Philip Sousa

B. George M. Cohan

C. Yankee Doodle

D. Star-Spangled Banner

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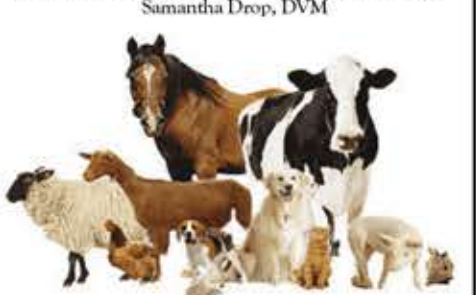


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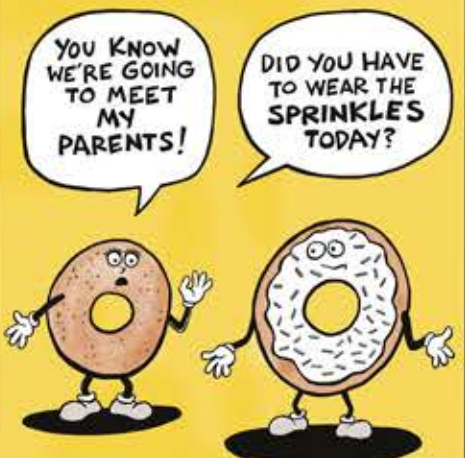
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SOLD!

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NEW TO MARKET

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UNDER CONTRACT!



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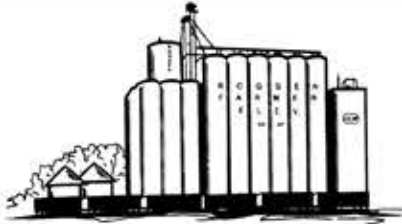
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Now hiring General Laborers
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We Pay for you to get your Class A CDL if you want to move into a different position.
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We are seeking a qualified, self-motivated, career-oriented person with a strong work ethic to help us provide exceptional propane service. Join our team and receive competitive pay and benefits.

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

For Bennett and Watkins locations

Competitive Wages and Benefits

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

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

THE DEER TRAIL SCHOOL



IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

FOR 2026-27:

- Small Vehicle Drivers
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- Substitute Drivers
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PLEASE FILL OUT AN ONLINE APPLICATION AT WEBSITE
WWW.DT26J.COM.
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL
HAYLEY WHITEHEAD
303-769-4421.

Reliable person Monday mornings, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. Mowing, pruning, trimming, fertilizing, watering. \$25 to start, increases based on quality of work. Ralph, (303)622-4788, (303)956-7400. 7/8

Full-time maternity leave coverage for an early childhood specialist August 3-December 1; total of 96 days. Provides services in the districts of Kiowa, Bennett, Byers, Agate, and Woodlin. Requires a master's degree in early childhood special education. Duties include complete assessment and direct/indirect services with pre-school children in rural school settings. Salary: \$26,352-\$30,202 depending on experience. Flexible scheduling with the opportunity to complete paperwork from home. Mileage reimbursement. To apply for this position, please visit our website ecboces.org and click on the "Jobs" page, click on the job you are interested in and then click on the green button "Apply Online" located at the bottom of the job listing. Questions, contact Tracy at (719)775-2342, ext. 101. EOE. 7/22

Foreman/Heavy Equip. Operator Needed

- Competitive wages.
- Company vehicle.

Contact Bill, Kuhn Construction
(303)570-6104

GENERAL REPORTER

Send resume to:
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dclaussen@i-70Scout.com
(303)622-9796



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HOOK IT UP TOWING AND RECOVERY; 719-553-6482

Towed Vehicles For Sale

- 1950 CHEVROLET TRUCK; VIN: VH997864334
- 1978 HARLEY DAVIDSON; VIN: 2C10065H4D
- 1999 CHEVROLET CORVETTE; VIN: 1G1YY32G8X5102143
- 1995 CHEVROLET G30; VIN: 1GAGG39K9SF162492
- 2006 HUMMER H2; VIN: 5GRGN22U06H111927
- 2011 GMC SIERRA; VIN: 3GTP2XE28BG342368
- 2012 HONDA CIVIC; VIN: 2HGFB2F55CH310386
- 1995 PONTIAC; VIN: 2G2FV32P3S2202862
- 2005 CHEVROLET SILVERADO; VIN: 1GCEC14T05Z187041
- 1988 FORD MUSTANG; VIN: 1FABP42E4JF140710
- 2008 PONTIAC GPR; VIN: 2G2WC55CX81122077
- 2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE; VIN: 3GNEC13T62G168224
- 1997 ISUZU PICKUP; VIN: 1GGCS1445V8652436
- 2008 GMC YUKON; VIN: 1GKFK13588R273734
- 2000 CHEVROLET SILVERADO; VIN: 1GCEC24R1YZ172336
- 2007 MINI COOPER; VIN: WMWMF73527TL83106
- 2003 JEEP WRANGLER; VIN: 1J4FA39S23P350233

Published in The I-70 Scout on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

FOR RENT

Strasburg. 2-bedroom apartment in a well-maintained building. Off-street parking, generous living space. Clean, comfortable. A great place to call home. Call today, (303)507-2945. 7/1c

Looking to find small house with a yard for 2 adults and service dog. Long-term, solid income. Call (303)345-5690. 7/15

Galbraith Estates RV Spot:
Available August 1!
\$800 a month
Includes water, sewer and trash.
303-748-6708

For Rent in Byers
3 BDR / 2 BA home w/ appliances
& covered parking included.
Shared yard, water paid.
No smoking, no pets.
\$2,300/mo; available starting Aug. 1.
E-mail byerschurch@gmail.com

MOBILE HOME IN BENNETT
2 large bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry,
off-street parking, centrally located.
Background & credit check required.
\$1,545 (AVAILABLE SEPT. 1)
303-854-8829 (No Texts)

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

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

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RoofingInColorado.com
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Chunky's Towing
We buy junk cars
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Complete & Professional/Local
RockyMTNContracting.com
Hail & Storm Damage Services — BBB

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Multifamily sale. Friday-Saturday, July 17-18,
7 a.m.-6 p.m. Antiques, collectibles. 985 SCR
185, Byers. 7/15

Copy and print
services available at
The I-70 Scout
1522 Main St.
303-622-9796



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The Fourth of July weekend saw numerous combines in Corridor wheat fields, including this pair mowing through a field at Highway 36 and Piggott Road west of Strasburg July 5.

HARVEST

FROM PAGE 1

And those harvesters are asking around for any work they can get, and are asking for a couple more dollars per acre. I've seen some guys cutting fields that I thought were just volunteer stands but they weren't. Just a very tough year."

The early start and puny harvest numbers indicate how weather and other factors have unfairly treated farmers statewide, including along the local part of the I-70 Corridor. Under normal circumstances, harvest historically gets started around the Fourth of July, but this year has been anything but ordinary.

"After getting off to a great start last fall, [this year's crop] has endured nearly every hardship imaginable — from drought and freeze damage to viruses, mites, wheat stem sawfly, and hail," the Colorado Wheat update said.

During last month's Colorado Wheat Field Days across the state, 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, those plants died in the flowering stage.

"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."

Leading up to harvest, government statisticians had estimated Colorado's wheat crop at 33.6 million bushels — 21 bushels per acre — which would be the state's smallest wheat crop since 1965. But state wheat officials are leery that updated production numbers July 10 will be well below those estimates as they expect that a historically large number of planted acres will not be harvested this summer.

"Drought and freeze damage have had a major impact and abandonment is anticipated to be high," said Colorado Wheat, noting that USDA statisticians estimated 38% abandonment on June 30. "The worst since 1967. Fields that appear to have a thick stand sometimes turn out to have few kernels in the heads."

The one bright spot for statewide numbers might come from irrigated wheat, which has faced less drought and freeze damage, but I-70 Corridor wheat is mostly dryland.

Average test weights have stayed around 59 pounds per bushel with average protein around 13%.

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 9
Bennett Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Administrative Office, 355 Fourth St., Bennett.

SATURDAY, JULY 11
Bennett-Watkins Lions Club. 9 a.m. via Zoom. Call Diane at (303)644-3717 for log-on information.

SUNDAY, JULY 12
High Plains Trail Riders gymkhana. Office opens at 9 a.m., gymkhana at 10 a.m., Quint Valley Fairgrounds, 601 U.S. 36, Byers. For additional information, visit www.highplainstrailriders.com or call (303)921-6603.

Summer art class. Beach-themed art projects for ages 5-14 using different materials and a group art game. 10-11:30 a.m., Strasburg American Legion Hall. Cost \$20; Deadline July 9.

MONDAY, JULY 13
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Kelter Library parking lot, 585 S. Main St., Byers. Optional pre-registration at newclient.link2feed.com.
Strasburg School Board. 6 p.m., Strasburg High School Central Services building board room. Zoom participation available. Visit strasburg31j.com for link.
Comanche Crossing Historical Society. 6:30 p.m., museum office, 56060 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg.

Bingo. 7 p.m., Byers American Legion Hall.
Byers Water & Sanitation District Board. 7 p.m., District Office, 421 S. Sherman St.
Deer Trail Fire Protection District Board. 7 p.m., Deer Trail Firehouse.

TUESDAY, JULY 14
Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 4-8 p.m. or while supplies last, Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road, Aurora.
Bennett Board of Trustees. Work-study 5:45 p.m. Regular meeting 7 p.m. For a Zoom link, visit bennettco.gov.
Deer Trail Town Board. Work session 6:30 p.m., regular meeting 7 p.m., Town Hall, 555 Second Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
Bennett Arts Council Knitting & Crocheting Club. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Bennett Town Hall Community Room.
I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May Farms, Byers.
Deer Trail School Board work-study session (no regular business meeting). 6:30 p.m., Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room at Davies Library.
EVERY MONDAY
AA open meeting. 7 p.m., historic Victorian schoolhouse at Ace Hardware, 21761 U.S. Highway 40, Limon. For more information, call Sara at (828)243-7681.



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THESE DUSTY PAGES

Train Robbers Hold Up Freight Train

Strasburg went through the excitement of a train robbery Monday night when a Rock Island freight train stopped here and reported that two of the brakemen had been held up and robbed just east of Byers.

From the reports that reached us the next day the two brakeman had started back over the headend to throw off some bums that were seen on the train and as the freight was pulling up the Strasburg hill the men ordered three bums off a coal car, but one of the bums pulled a gun on the two brakeman while a second did the searching. A third man stood back in the shadows and as soon as the deed was committed all three jumped off the train while it was in motion. The amount of loot was about \$5 and two good watches.

As soon as the train reached Strasburg the train crew woke Agent Kimberly up and related their experiences while one of their number appraised Sheriff Young of what had taken place. Young immediately searched the freight the net results of which were three badly scared boys who were stealing a ride. The boys related to Young how they had seen two of the men who were supposed to have committed the crime but did not know anything of the holdup until told of the act by the trainmen. Sheriff Young had R. L. Meager guard the boys until he had made a search of the surrounding country in hopes of finding the robbers. After a hunt of almost two hours he came back and turned the boys loose.

After the train crew had reached Denver the officials were notified and at present there are several detectives on the trail of the robbers.

The Strasburg News
July 9, 1920

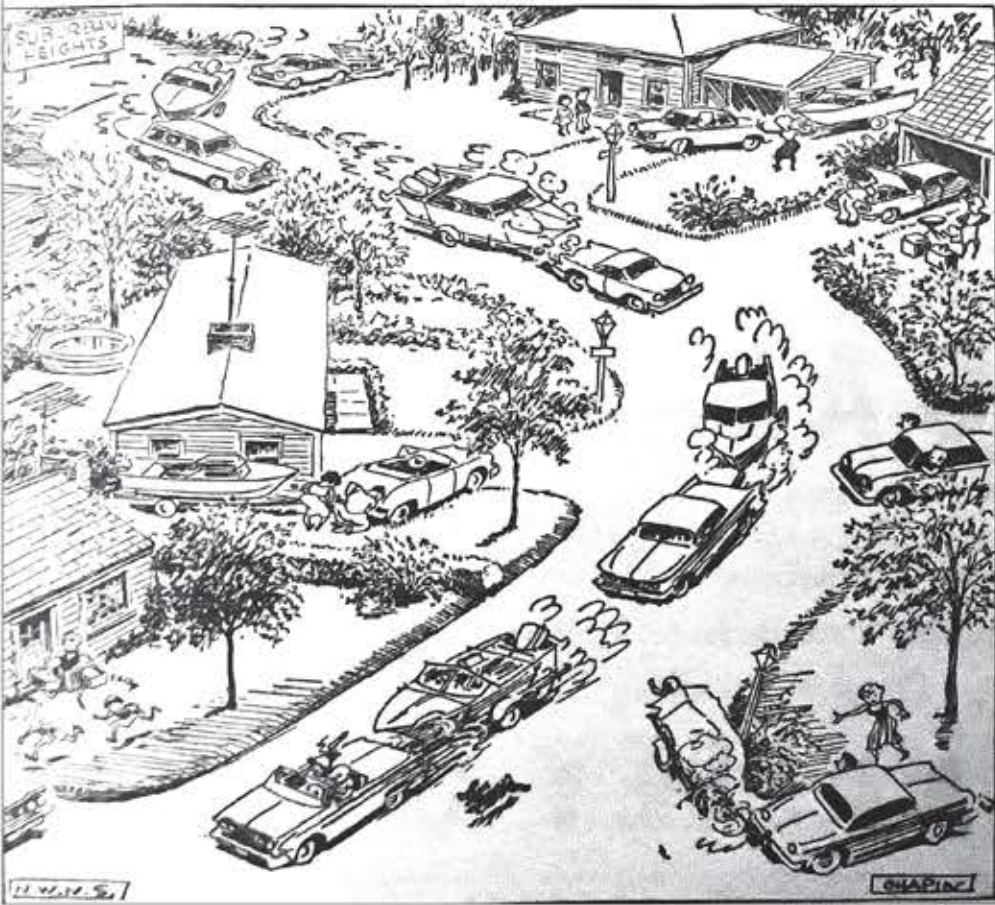
WANTS DRAFTEES KEPT



Washington —General George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the army, who urged that draftees, Reserve Officers and National Guardsmen be kept in service longer than one year and asked for the removal of restrictions that confine the United States armed forces from the Western Hemisphere.

Eastern Colorado News
July 10, 1941

WEEK-END EXODUS



Eastern Colorado News
July 6, 1961



Aurora Youth Killed Tuesday Eve in One-car Crash on U.S. 70 Highway

Pictured above in the remains of a light car wrecked in a one-car accident about 2 miles east of Strasburg on U. S. 70, at about six o'clock, Tuesday evening of this week. According to report the car was pierced by 25 feet of guard rail, as it was coming west and just leaving the railroad overpass at that point. The driver of the car was Allen G. Knecht about 18, of Denver, escaped with lacerations and shock. The other occupant of the machine, James Dale Acree, 16, of Aurora was said to have been killed instantly. This is the first fatal accident on local highways in some time.

Eastern Colorado News
July 9, 1966

400 DIE IN ACCIDENTS OVER FOURTH; TRAFFIC TOLL IS LARGEST, 207

More than 400 persons paid with their lives for the 1936 Independence day celebration, a state-by-state tabulation by the press showed Monday.

The toll from fireworks was smaller than usual—only seven—but hot summer weather sent many thousands to lakes and rivers where 111 drowned. Other scores of thousands crowded into the highways and at least 207 of them died in traffic accidents.

Suicides, murders, airplane accidents, holiday liquor, and even amusement park accidents contributed to the double-holiday death toll. In Colorado, there was one fireworks fatality and one death from other causes.

Eastern Colorado News
July 9, 1936

Automobile Accident

Floyd Schmoll is wearing a face these days that on first glance might arouse suspicion were it not for the fact that everybody knows that Floyd is a peaceful, law abiding citizen. The facts in the case are that while driving in his auto last Thursday Floyd's right-of-way was disputed by a telephone wire belonging to the farmer's line running south from this place. The wire caught the wind shield on the car, driving it back against the side of Floyd's face bruising and lacerating it quite badly and destroying the wind shield.

The Strasburg News
July 8, 1916

Small Twister Does Damage

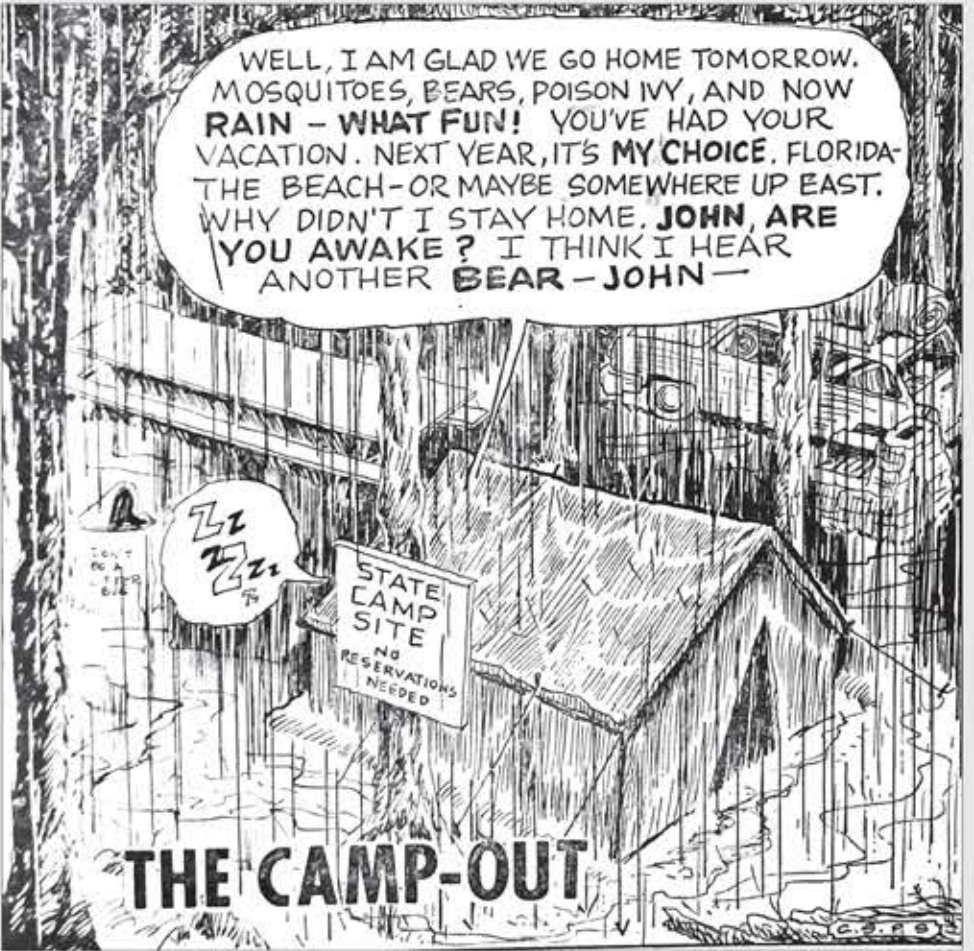
We reported last week that G. T. Huston was building a warehouse at the rear of his store building. Well, Huston "hain't got no" warehouse. It was well under way, but it stood directly in the path of a small "twister" that passed through the town Wednesday afternoon and the afore-said warehouse now covers more territory, but it bears no resemblance to a warehouse. This same whirlwind demolished a chicken house for A. S. McMillan, changed the location of Bill Hardy's barn somewhat, and did other minor damage about town.

The Strasburg News
July 8, 1916

Foolish Season Is Here



The Strasburg News
July 8, 1926



Eastern Colorado News
July 9, 1966

Corridor converges on Byers for Fourth festivities



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Byers hosted several days of activities associated with its Fourth of July celebration, July 2-4. Clockwise from above left, members of the Living Springs Cowboy Church congregation celebrate on their float during Saturday's parade down Front Street; Cooper Dorenkamp of Holly finally gets his draw to the ground during Thursday night's rodeo performance; 6-year-old Kai Rice shoots an appropriately colored basketball during Saturday activities at Byers Park; Anastasia Fehr gets her cheek adorned by face painter Sonya Negri; and Kurt "Sarge" Russell hams it up for the camera from the parade entry of the Byers American Legion.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

COLORADO @ 150

With statehood at hand, 'Centennial 4th' marked in style

Days after constitutional referendum, Denver honored Independence Day with fireworks, parade

by Chase Woodruff
Colorado Newsline

Three days after approving a constitution and putting the Colorado Territory on the verge of statehood at last, citizens of the soon-to-be Centennial State had all the more reason to celebrate the nation's 100th birthday in style.

"The Centennial Fourth of July" was to the world more than an ordinary anniversary," reported the *Denver Times*, "and to us in Colorado it possessed, if possible, an interest greater than to any other portion of the people of the United States, for the birth of the 'Centennial State' is associated with it."

It had been the *Denver Times*, in fact, that had first suggested that nickname in February 1875, as Congress debated the legislation that brought the timeline for Col-



orado's long-awaited admission to the union into view.

Coloradans woke on July 2 to the news that the territory's voters had adopted the constitution in a landslide. The final tally would be 15,443 votes for and 4,062 against.

All that remained was for President Ulysses S. Grant to make it official with a statehood proclamation — a certainty, given that Grant and the Republican Party wanted Colorado's three electoral votes for Ohio Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes in what was expected to be a close presidential contest with Democratic New York Gov. Samuel Tilden. But the proclamation was still a month away.

In the meantime, Colorado celebrated a very special Fourth of July, beginning at sunrise, the *Times* reported, "with the ringing of bells, blowing of whistles, and a national salute of 38 guns,"

in honor of the imminent admission of the 38th state.

A parade began in Denver just after 10:30 a.m. and featured marchers representing the city's public officials, police officers, fire companies, secret societies and social clubs, and the Denver Typographical Union. Wells, Fargo & Co. and Daniels, Fisher & Co. were among the businesses that contributed floats to the parade, with the latter represented by "a large truck piled high with carpets and dry goods, the whole finely decorated," the *Times* reported.

American flags and stars-and-stripes bunting hung from almost every building in Denver as the procession made its way through the streets, ending up in Denver Park, a newly built recreational grounds in a shady cottonwood grove southwest of town. Territorial Gov. John Routt, a Grant appointee who would soon go on to serve as Colorado's first elected governor, delivered a speech to the assembled celebrants.



PHOTO COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The eastward view east from the tower of Arapahoe School, Denver's first high school, in 1874. The school was located at 1701 Arapahoe St. and is now part of Skyline Park.

"I desire to congratulate you, my fellow citizens upon what has been accomplished, and especially that we, the people of Colorado, can add one more star to the galaxy which now flashes forth from the azure field of the grand old flag," Routt said.

The day's festivities concluded with a fireworks display on Capitol Hill, while a band played musical numbers that included a new composition, "All Hail Colorado, the

Centennial State."

"As far as we can learn there were no serious accidents and but few trivial ones," the *Times* reported happily. "We heard of no fighting nor drunkenness, and of nothing to mar the general happiness of pleasure upon the 'Centennial Fourth.'"

This story made available via the Colorado News Collaborative. For more information, visit <https://colab-news.co>.