



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 42 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Fracking activity on the rise in ArapCo

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — The ongoing uptick in oil and gas development activity across unincorporated Arapahoe County doesn't appear to be slowing as one public com-

ment period deadline is quickly arriving and a handful of other projects are in some state or review by the county. The most pressing application is for the proposed Black Canyon project at County Line Road (County Road 149) and South Oakleaf Street about 20 miles south of

Bennett. Arapahoe County Public Works will receive public comments about the proposal through Wednesday, Sept. 16. Comments are being taken online only at arapahoe-co.gov. "This site proposes 12 wells to be drilled

on an approximately 325 foot by 465 foot gravel pad," said the letter of intent from applicant GMT Exploration Company. "The facility will be located on undeveloped property currently zoned for agri-

SEE ARAPCO FRACKING PAGE 4



Firefighters work to contain a fire that broke out Sept. 5 at a property on County Road 145 south of Bennett.

Fire erupts at acreage near Ant Hills

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Despite taking about four hours on scene with smoke plumes visible from several miles in all directions, a fire near the Antelope Hills subdivision last weekend did not spread to neighboring parcels or

result in injuries. At about 5:45 p.m. Sept. 5, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue was dispatched to the area of Kiowa-Bennett Bennett Road and Arapahoe County Road 18 on report of an outside fire, but the call was quickly expanded to include all I-70 Corridor emergency agencies and was relocated to

South County Road 145 about 1½ miles north of County Road 6. The property is among the closest to the eastern boundary of Antelope Hills, including the Bennett Regional Park & Open Space fishing pond. "The fire involved a large num-

SEE FIRE PAGE 6

Strasburg science teacher 1 of 8 finalists for top education award

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

STRASBURG — A Strasburg High School science teacher is among eight finalists for Colorado's 2027 Teacher of the Year. Merci Ames had previously been named one of 21 semi-finalists for the award. She learned of the honor Sept. 3 during a sur-

prise visit to her classroom by Superintendent Kelle Bongard, Principal Victoria Dickens, Rep. Chris Richardson, R-Elizabeth, three Strasburg School Board members, and other officials. The group shared the news with Ames and helped celebrate her selection as a finalist.

SEE AMES PAGE 12



Officials surround Strasburg science teacher Merci Ames Sept. 3 after she was named one of eight finalists for the Colorado Department of Education Teacher of the Year award. Pictured are school board member Diana Elliott, Superintendent Kelle Bongard, Emma Garrett-Nelson with the state education department, Ames, Rep. Chris Richardson, Boettcher Foundation representative Mark Paricio, and school board members Mary O'Malley and Gema Gomez.



Replacement of a power pole and lines on Xmore Road at Highway 36 north of Byers continues around 8:30 a.m. on Labor Day about five hours after a vehicle struck it. In addition to Xmore being closed between the highway and County Road 2, a CORE Electric Cooperative map Monday morning showed about 40 customers without power.

Semi fire snarls traffic on I-70

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

Colorado State Patrol Limon Troop officers and local first responders found itself busy throughout the Labor Day weekend, including a semi accident and fire that closed I-70 near Deer Trail Friday afternoon and an early Monday morning car crash north of Byers that result-

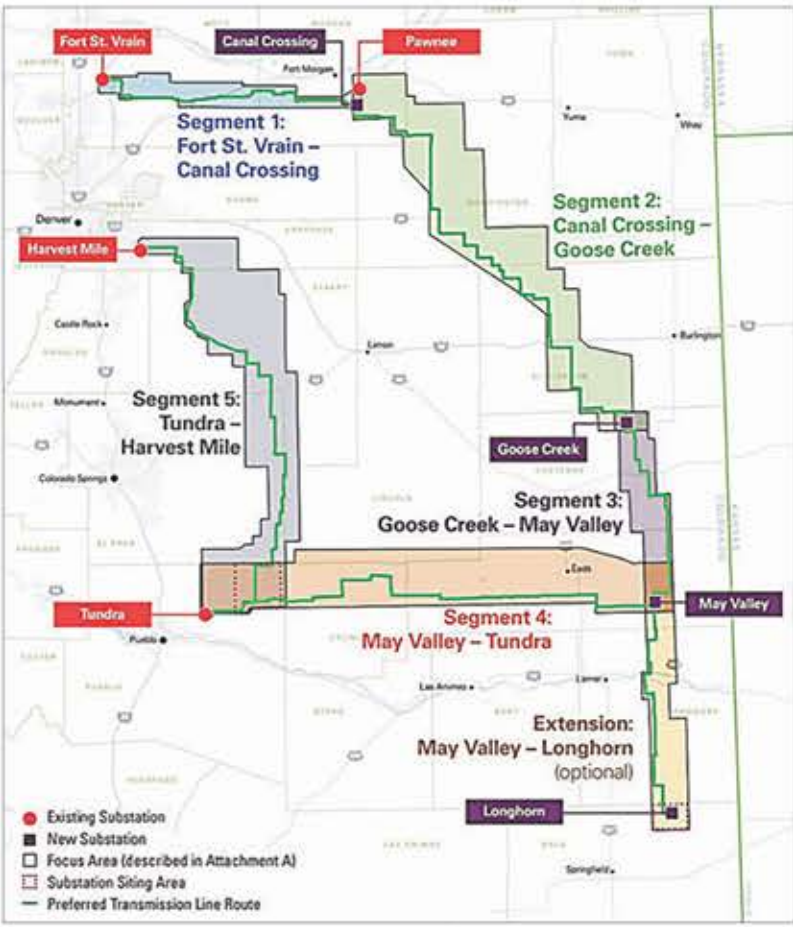
ed in a small-scale power outage to the immediate area.

FRIDAY INTERSTATE RESPONSE
A little after 2:30 p.m. Sept. 4, local law enforcement and fire departments were dispatched between mileposts 325 and 326 on eastbound I-70 on report of semi tractor and trailer off the

SEE CRASHES PAGE 8

Road ahead unclear for Xcel Power Pathway

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor



Uncertainty is growing about when the Elbert County commissioners' appeal of a proposed power route from the state's utility commission and largest power company might be heard. In addition, a recent state high court ruling, which denied Xcel Energy's appeal of an Eastern Colorado court ruling against eminent domain for a power line route between a pair of company wind farms and its under-construction Power Pathway conduit, has intensified that uncertainty. In a brief unanimous decision released Aug. 31, the Colorado Supreme Court denied the utility's attempt to have it overturn a Cheyenne County district judge's ruling that Xcel Energy did not have the power to use eminent domain to acquire the right of way. That ruling followed an Aug. 20 decision from the state's high court to not fast-track Xcel's legal challenge over the targeted

SEE XCEL LAWSUITS PAGE 9

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Fall history lecture delves into origins of World War I

STRASBURG — The Comanche Crossing Historical Society will host five evenings of history and conversation focusing on World War I in the coming weeks. All presentations run from 6:30-8 p.m. with light snacks from 6-6:30 p.m. at the TBK Bank Community Room. On Thursday, Sept. 24, Museum Curator Cliff Smith will discuss the Origin and the Outbreak of The Great War. The presentation will introduce the basic facts of the war and roots of the Imperial Web and Entangling Alliances that started the conflict. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the mission of the Comanche Crossing Historical Society and Museum in Strasburg. TBK Bank is located at 56641 E. Colfax Ave., Strasburg. For more information, call (303)622-4322.

COVID-19 vaccination order re-issued by CO health dept

DENVER — The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Sept. 4 re-issued the state's COVID-19 vaccine standing order, guaranteeing that Coloradans can get updated vaccines this fall without administrative delays or hurdles. The order provides clear statewide authority for health care providers, including pharmacists, to administer updated COVID-19 vaccines without requiring individual prescriptions. While Colorado state legislation and State Board of Pharmacy rules permanently expanded pharmacists' ability to prescribe vaccines, the updated order ensures all health care providers have the guidance to provide updated COVID-19 vaccines to all Coloradans who want vaccination. Colorado's standing order aligns with fall respiratory virus vaccine recommendations from major medical societies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Dragon boat races planned at Riverdale Regional Park

BRIGHTON — Adams County and Colorado Dragon Boat are again hosting. The Dragon Boat Regatta & Night Market. The event features dragon boat races, performances, food trucks, artists and vendors to celebrate Colorado's rich Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island heritages. The races will run from 10 a.m. to 4

Bennett Gives Back Grants distributed



Bennett Gives Back Grant recipients representing nine organizations and officials from the Town of Bennett smile for the camera at an awards ceremony for \$40,000 in Bennett Gives Back grants at the July 14 town board meeting. Pictured are, from left, Bennett Bad Boys youth baseball team (\$2,500); Anythink Library (\$5,000), represented by Bennett branch manager and Bennett Mayor Whitney Oakley; Cornerstone Fellowship (\$5,000), represented by Worship Director Alex Rivera; the Bennett High School Performing Arts Booster Club (\$3,000), represented by President Susan Harris; Bennett School District (\$8,500), represented by Food Service Director Benton Price; I-70 Street Reach Food Bank (\$3,000), represented by Executive Director David Thomas; and Bennett VFW Post 8449 (\$4,500), represented by Chris Harris. The Bennett High School CTE program (\$3,500) and athletic programs (\$5,000) are not pictured.

p.m. with the market following from 4-9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, at Riverdale Regional Park. The event is free and open to the public. Riverdale Regional Park is located at 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton.

Morgan Community College reps to speak at biz meeting

STRASBURG — The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce will host its April Lunch & Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16, at May Farms, Byers. Morgan Community College will sponsor lunch and its representatives will speak. The public is welcome to attend the presentation, but guests must RSVP for lunch by Friday, Sept. 11, to officei-70ccoc@gmail.com or (720)731-1954.

'Navigating Drought' theme of Denver water conference

GOLDEN — The Colorado Water Officials Association Denver Chapter will host its 2026 Denver Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 29-30, at the Jeffco Fairgrounds, 15200 W. Sixth Ave., Golden. The conference is a gathering of experts and government officials to further their understanding of hydrology, hydrogeology, water resources, water administration

and policy. Its theme is "Where is the Water? Navigating Droughts in Semi-arid Watersheds." Members of the public can participate. To register, e-mail to CWOADenver@gmail.com. Registration closes Monday, Sept. 21. The CWOA Denver Chapter, formed earlier this year, supports water resource personnel within the Division of Water Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Worship in the Park planned by Byers Community Church

BYERS — Byers Community Church will host its final Worship in the Park of the summer at 10 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 20, at Byers Park. 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 and his amazing creation. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be moved to the church at 135 S. Sherman St. Byers Community Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Plant bulbs in fall for spring blooms, CSU Extension says

AURORA — Colorado State University Extension in Arapahoe County will host

an hour-long seminar on the best bulbs to plant in the fall for a harbinger of spring with colorful blooms. The class runs from 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway. Adults will join Master Gardener Debra Moody for a look at fall planted bulbs, caring for them, and determining which will provide the best color for springtime blooms.

Morgan Community College names new staff accountant

FORT MORGAN — Morgan Community College (MCC) recently announced the appointment of staff accountant, effective Sept. 1. Jordan Uhrig brings experience in accounts payable, credit analysis, tax preparation, bookkeeping, financial reporting, reconciliations, and audit preparation.



Uhrig most recently served as a Credit Analyst with Brush State Bank, where she analyzed credit risk, prepared financial reports, and supported loan processing. She previously worked as an accounts payable specialist with Viaero Wireless Technologies and gained additional accounting experience through an internship with Sher's Tax & Accounting. Uhrig earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from CSU Global and an associate's degree in accounting from Northeastern Junior College. She joins a team of professionals committed to supporting MCC's operations and serving students, employees, and communities throughout northeast Colorado.

Flying W Ranch destination of 'Burg Parks & Rec outing

STRASBURG — The bus departs at 3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, on a senior excursion to the Flying W Ranch for its Chuckwagon Dinner and Original Stage Show in Colorado Springs. The trip costs \$80, which includes transportation, but advanced reservations are required due to limited available seating. To RSVP, call the Strasburg Recreation Center at (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.

POLICE REPORTS

- ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- TUESDAY, JUNE 2
- Harassment, stalking and third-degree trespassing related to a family situation was reported in the 16620 block of Stroilway Street, **Hudson**.
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
- Daniel David Walton, 34, of Canon City, was cited on the westbound entrance ramp of I-70, **Bennett**, for second-degree trespassing of a property in the 44000 block of East 88th Avenue, **Bennett**.
- THURSDAY, JUNE 4
- Carlos Rodger Nunez, 44, of Denver, was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant out of the Sheridan Police Department and driving under alcohol-related restraint at Imboden Road and East 40th Avenue, **Watkins**. He was also cited for registration violations.
- MONDAY, JUNE 8
- Ilana Lucks, 36, of Watkins, was detained, then released on a personal recognizance bond, on a misdemeanor failure-to-appear warrant from the Glendale Police Department in the 8300 block of Imboden Road, **Watkins**.
- TUESDAY, JUNE 9
- Deputies assisted the Arapahoe County

- Sheriff's Office with a family disturbance in the 47000 block of Clover Avenue, **Bennett**.
- Deputies assisted the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office on a report of gunshots were fired toward a residence in the 34900 block of East Alameda Avenue, **Watkins**. No damage was found.
 - Deputies assisted the Colorado State Patrol with an injury traffic accident in the 60600 block of East 38th Avenue, **Strasburg**.
- THURSDAY, JUNE 11
- The theft of copper wiring from a house under construction worth an estimated \$4,200 was reported in the 54900 block of East 28th Avenue, **Strasburg**.
- FRIDAY, JUNE 12
- A structure fire occurred in the 10300 block of Behrens Road, **Byers**. According to the report, a man from South Africa was dismantling greenhouses when the grass in the area caught fire and went out of control.
 - The theft of two heifers worth a combined \$24,000 was reported in the 44900 block of East 120th Avenue, **Bennett**. According to the report, both heifers were about six months old. One was red and yellow with turquoise ear tag 279 and the other black and brown with turquoise ear tag 254.

The I-70 Scout

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Strasburg School District 31

www.strasburg31j.com

Schedule of Events



SEPTEMBER

9th - Coed Varsity Bowling vs Peyton HS
- 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
56371 E Colfax Ave, Strasburg, CO

10th - Girls Varsity Softball @ Sterling HS
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
407 W Broadway St, Sterling, CO

- **Girls C-Team Volleyball vs Eagle Ridge Academy**
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball vs Eagle Ridge Academy**
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Softball @ Sterling HS**
6:00 PM - 6:00 PM
407 W Broadway St, Sterling, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball vs Eagle Ridge Academy**
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

11th - Boys Varsity Golf @ Brush Secondary Campus
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
2301 West Mill St, Brush, CO 80723

- **Coed Varsity Cross Country @ Kent Denver School**
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4000 E Quincy Ave, Englewood, CO

- **Boys Varsity Football vs Dayspring Christian Schools**
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

12th - Girls Varsity Softball vs Berthoud HS
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO 8013

- **Girls JV Softball vs Berthoud HS**
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO 80136

14th - Boys Varsity Golf @ Fort Morgan HS
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
17586 County Rd T5, Fort Morgan, CO

- **Coed Varsity Cross Country @ Clear Creek HS and Middle School**
4:30 PM - 10:00 PM
185 Beaver Brook Canyon Road, Evergreen, CO

15th - Girls Varsity Softball @ Valley HS
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
1001 Birch St., Gilcrest, CO 80623

- **Girls C-Team Volleyball @ Windsor Charter Academy**
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
810 Automation Drive, Windsor, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball @ Windsor Charter Academy**
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
810 Automation Drive, Windsor, CO

- **Girls JV Softball @ Valley HS**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
1001 Birch St., Gilcrest, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Windsor Charter Academy**
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
810 Automation Drive, Windsor, CO

16th - Girls Varsity Softball vs Brush Secondary Campus
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Softball vs Brush Secondary Campus**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

17th - Boys Varsity Golf
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
2200 Clubhouse Dr. #3655, Greeley, CO

18th - Boys Varsity Football @ Wellington High School - FR
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
2856 Cleveland Ave, Wellington, CO

19th - Coed Varsity Cross Country @ Lyons Middle/Senior HS
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM
100 McConnell Drive, Lyons CO

- **Girls Varsity Softball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS**
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

21st - Coed Varsity Bowling vs Greeley Central HS
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM
56371 E Colfax Ave A., Strasburg, CO

- **Boys JV Football vs Wellington HS - WHS**
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg CO

22nd - Girls Varsity Softball @ Platte Valley HS
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
901 Campbell St, Kersey, CO

- **Girls C-Team Volleyball vs St. Mary's Academy**
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg CO

- **Girls Middle School Volleyball @ Kiowa HS - C**
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
525 Comanche, Po Box 128, Kiowa, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball vs St. Mary's Academy**
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls Middle School Volleyball @ Kiowa HS- B**
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
525 Comanche, Po Box 128, Kiowa, CO

- **Girls JV Softball @ Platte Valley HS**
6:00 PM - 6:00 PM
901 Campbell St, Kersey, CO

- **Girls Middle School Volleyball @ Kiowa HS - A**
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
525 Comanche, Po Box 128, Kiowa, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball vs St. Mary's Academy**
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

24th - Girls Sophomore Volleyball @ Bennett HS
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
610 7th St, Bennett, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball @ Bennett HS**
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
610 7th St, Bennett, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Bennett HS**
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
610 7th St, Bennett, CO

25th - Coed Varsity Cross Country @ Estes Park HS
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
690 Big Thompson Ave, Estes Park, CO

- **Boys Varsity Football vs Denver West HS**
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

26th - Girls Sophomore Volleyball @ Fort Morgan HS
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
709 E Riverview Ave, Fort Morgan, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball @ Fort Morgan HS**
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
709 E Riverview Ave, Fort Morgan, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Fort Morgan High School**
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
709 E Riverview Ave, Fort Morgan, CO

- **28th - Coed Varsity Bowling vs Fort Lupton HS**
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
530 Reynolds Street, Fort Lupton, CO

29th - Girls Varsity Softball vs Sterling HS
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls Sophomore Volleyball vs Highland HS**
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball vs Highland HS**
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Softball vs Sterling HS**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO 80136

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball vs Highland HS**
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
56729 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg, CO

30th - Girls Sophomore Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

- **Girls Varsity Softball vs Valley HS**
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS**
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

- **Girls JV Softball vs Valley HS**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS**
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

OCTOBER

1st - Girls Sophomore Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

- **Girls Varsity Softball vs Valley HS**
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls JV Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS**
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

- **Girls JV Softball vs Valley HS**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
1932 Burton St, Strasburg, CO

- **Girls Varsity Volleyball @ Weld Central Junior/Senior HS**
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
4715 County Road 59, Keenesburg, CO

Every School Day Matters!

Attendance Campaign

Campaña de Asistencia

¡Cada Día de Escuela Cuenta!

SCHOOL + YOU = SUCCESS

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS: SUPPORTING STUDENT ATTENDANCE IN STRASBURG

Strasburg has joined school districts across Colorado, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education, to improve student attendance rates. Academic success begins with being at school—and on time—every day.

Every member of our community plays an important role in supporting student attendance. We are committed to working with students, parents, families, and local partners to ensure that everyone understands the importance of regular attendance and knows where to turn for support.

Daily attendance and engagement in learning are essential to student success at every grade level. Being present at school supports academic growth, social development, and overall well-being. Regular attendance helps students remain engaged in their coursework, build meaningful relationships with teachers and peers, and develop habits that contribute to future success.

We also recognize that families may face challenges that affect attendance. Our goal is to partner with families, provide support, and address concerns early—while emphasizing that consistent attendance is a shared priority.

Important Attendance Terms
- **Truancy**
An unexcused absence.

- **Habitually Truant**
A student is considered habitually truant after accumulating four unexcused absences in one month and/or 10 unexcused absences during the school year.

- **Chronically Absent**
A student is considered chronically absent when absent for 10% or more of the days they are enrolled during the school year. This includes all absences - excused, unexcused, and absences resulting from suspensions.

Families are encouraged to prioritize daily attendance and communicate with their child's school whenever attendance concerns arise. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the appropriate building representative:

- Strasburg Elementary School: Jami Hopwood
- Hemphill Middle School: Jeromie Bongard
- Strasburg High School: Chuck Graves
- Prairie Creek High School: Thom Winter

Together, we can help every student attend regularly, remain engaged, and succeed.
EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS!



CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs. Merci Ames!

Mrs. Ames has been named as a Top 8 Finalist for the 2027 Colorado Teacher of the Year. She has been a light in the community for many years and we are so thankful that she is part of our tribe. Final winner will be announced in early October and we are rooting her on with SO much Strasburg Pride!





ARAPAHOE COUNTY



Veterans Coffee Club

Join Arapahoe County Veteran Services in honoring service and community through coffee and conversation among fellow veterans.



Every third Friday of the month from 8–10 a.m.

Buck Recreation Center, Topeka Room
2004 W. Powers Ave., Littleton

All veterans are welcome.



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WEEK OF AUG. 10

Alleged immigrant mistreatment at ICE facility highlighted by Shut Down GEO Aurora Coalition

by **McKenna Harford**
Sentinel Staff Writer

AURORA — Medical neglect and mistreatment by staff are the top two concerns for detainees at the ICE detention facility in Aurora, according to a new accountability report from the Shut Down GEO Aurora Coalition.

The coalition released its report last week, which compiled 56 complaints made by 49 people who were detained at the facility, which is operated by the GEO Group. The top three issues cited in the complaints were denial of medical care, unprofessional or abusive conduct from staff, and poor food quality.

Brandon Gehrke, an organizer with Aurora Unidos, highlighted one story where a person in a cell with eight others got sick and was denied medical care, and the entire cell ended up falling ill.

“You can see how the lack of response for medical emergencies can actually cause spread inside the facility because they aren’t being provided masks or treated in a timely manner,” Gehrke said. “Other things that we see are racial discrimination and staff misconduct.”

Complaints included allegations that officers called Latinos “undesirable,” denied people privacy in bathrooms, and restricted access to cleaning supplies.

“These are just a couple of potent examples of the treatment of our loved ones inside and how they are not being treated like human beings, whether that is medical neglect or the simple idea of having

privacy while you bathe or use the toilet,” said Anna Rose Craig, an organizer with the American Friends Service Committee.

Members of Aurora Unidos CSO’s Family Liaison Team received the original complaints, made between December 2025 to January 2026, from people held at the detention center. The complaints were made through the GEO facility’s formal process, though only five complaints include a response and almost none were addressed.

The report was created through a partnership between Aurora Unidos, the Shut Down GEO Aurora Coalition, Casa de Paz, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Rocky Mountain Immigration Advocacy Network.

“The purpose of this report is to bring awareness to (what) the actual conditions are like inside this facility and the systems that are in place and give rise to these conditions because a lot of them have continued to get worse,” Gehrke said. “We want to do everything possible to improve conditions inside this facility.”

The report comes amid an ongoing investigation into a confirmed case of tuberculosis at the facility, which has been hindered by a lack of cooperation from ICE and GEO with state and local health department requests.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser sued GEO last month to compel the facility to work with health officials. GEO has requested that the lawsuit be moved to federal court.

ARAPCO FRACKING

FROM PAGE 1

culture A-1. The proposed use is that of an oil and gas well facility, with horizontal drilling at a depth to tap the Niobrara formation. Uses and structures will consist of a temporary drill rig followed by a completion phase utilizing hydraulic fracturing, then long term production with associated facilities. The life expectancy of the proposed wells is 20 to 30 years once production begins.”

The site will be accessed via County Line Road, then north on an existing access road (to be upgraded) then east on the new access road for approximately to the proposed pad, which is 3,836 square feet.

According to county oil and gas officials, once the application is finalized and first round of public comments documented, an additional two-week public comment period will open.

SM Energy also submitted a complete application to enlarge the existing Tebo oil and gas facility, which is located about two miles southeast of Watkins Road and East Jewell Avenue south of Watkins.

The final public comment period was closed in late December.

The proposal includes expanding the Tebo 28-1 well pad to a 12.89-acre site that would support up to 16 wells. After interim reclamation, the disturbed area would be reduced to 4.95 acres. The location sits within the Box Elder Creek watershed tributary but is outside of the floodplain.

BUFFALO PAD

The original public comment period for SM Energy’s Buffalo Pad project closed April 8 and is currently under review with a final two-week public comment period still to occur.

The approximately 21-acre parcel near the intersection of South Manila Road and East Arizona Avenue is expected to house a 19.17-acre pad sit that can accommodate 26 oil and gas wells. The well pad will be reduced to 7.37 acres during interim reclamation.

OTHERS UNDER REVIEW

STATE BLANCA WEST

The final public comment period on State Blanca West at Lowry Ranch — near East Quincy Avenue and East Reservoir Dam Road — concluded June 20.

Crestone Peak Resource’s subsidiary SM Energy, formerly Civitas, is planning 18 oil and gas wells within a 16.82-acre pad site on an overall 21.52-acre agriculture parcel. The site is located within the Box Elder watershed tributary and lies outside of the floodplain.

OTHER GMT PROJECTS

According to the Arapahoe County website, GMT Exploration has two more projects near Quincy Avenue and Manila Road under review but no public comment periods have been disclosed.

The Castles project proposal is for 10 oil and gas wells within a two-acre pad site on a 480-acre agricultural parcel. The Gunsight Paradise 5-64 project is for 20 wells on a 6.88 site located on about 643 acres of agriculturally zoned property.

Since May of last year, Arapahoe County has finalized seven new oil and gas drilling projects.

A new gravel private road will access the site with drilling operations expected in two phases — eight wells drilled and completed in about eight weeks with the remaining 10 to follow.

Wildlife-friendly fence will be built around the site with locked gates to be installed at the access road/well pad entrance. The fencing and gates will provide security for the life of the well.

TEBO EXPANSION

FILL-UP SPECIAL

GLOBAL PROPANE

(303) 660-9290

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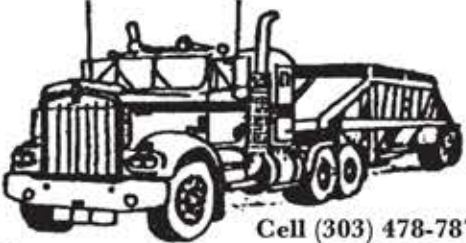


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Notice is hereby given to the possible biological father of Baby UHH born on July 23rd, 2026.

- The name of the father or possible father of said child has initials GC.
- The description that has been given of the possible biological father is as follows:
19 years old, 6 feet 3 inches, dirty blond & curly hair, blue eyes, white, solid build. He plays football in Chadron.

Met in Chadron, Nebraska on a dating app called 'Tinder'. Communication started on this app and then also continued on Snapchat in 2025. The duration of their contact was approximately two months. The approximate date of the conception of said Child was between October 20, 2025, to November 10, 2025, in Chadron, NE.
- The biological mother currently intends to place UHH for adoption. The approximate date of the placement of the child will be the first part of October 2026.
- As a putative or possible biological father, you may deny paternity and/or waive any parental rights that you may have; relinquish and consent to adoption of said Child; or file a Notice of Objection to Adoption and Intent to Obtain Custody any time during the pregnancy and up to 10 business days after the birth of the Child; or if this notice was received after the birth of the child, within 10 business days after the final publication of this notice, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes §43-104.02. Please note: Additional steps will be required to object to the adoption after you file a Notice of Objection to Adoption with DHHS, including filing a lawsuit within 45 days of the birth or your receipt of this notice letter, whichever is later.
- In order to exercise these rights or to receive additional information to determine whether you are the father of the child in question, you must contact the Nebraska Children's Home Society at (402) 451-0787. If you wish to object to the adoption and seek custody of the child, you must seek your own legal counsel immediately.

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DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout
The plume of smoke emanating from an outdoor fire at a property immediately east of Antelope Hills the afternoon of Sept. 5 can be seen from several miles in all directions.

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

ber of hay bales and spread to a loafing shed along with other assorted combustible materials,” said Strasburg Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Pat Conroy. “It took around two hours to fully extinguish.”

According to a social media post from Strasburg Fire Rescue, Saturday’s response was the first time the agency utilized a new piece of overhead equipment it received earlier this summer.

“After only two months in service Strasburg was able to utilize the ‘snozzle’ elevated master stream on our newest fire engine to aid in fire suppression,” the agency’s statement said. “This ability to deliver large volumes of water from above was an essential component of this newest engine in our fleet and it performed well.”

In addition to Strasburg and Bennett-Watkins, assistance was also provided by Byers, Deer Trail, Sable Altura, Buckley Space Force Base fire departments, while South Metro Fire Rescue sent its mobile command center.

With overhaul of the scene taking another hour, the scene was considered safe about 9 p.m.

According to emergency app PulsePoint, the scene was entirely cleared of personnel and apparatus just before 9:45 p.m.

No injuries were reported and damage was limited to hay bales, the outbuilding, and a small surrounding area.

According to Conroy, the accidental fire was caused by an electrical overload.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
A local firefighter looks on as a Strasburg Fire Rescue’s new “snozzle” overhead stream flow head douses hot spots on burning hay bales during a Sept. 5 fire immediately east of Antelope Hills.



DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout
Firefighters apply water to flames during an outdoor hay and outbuilding fire immediately east of Antelope Hills Sept. 5.

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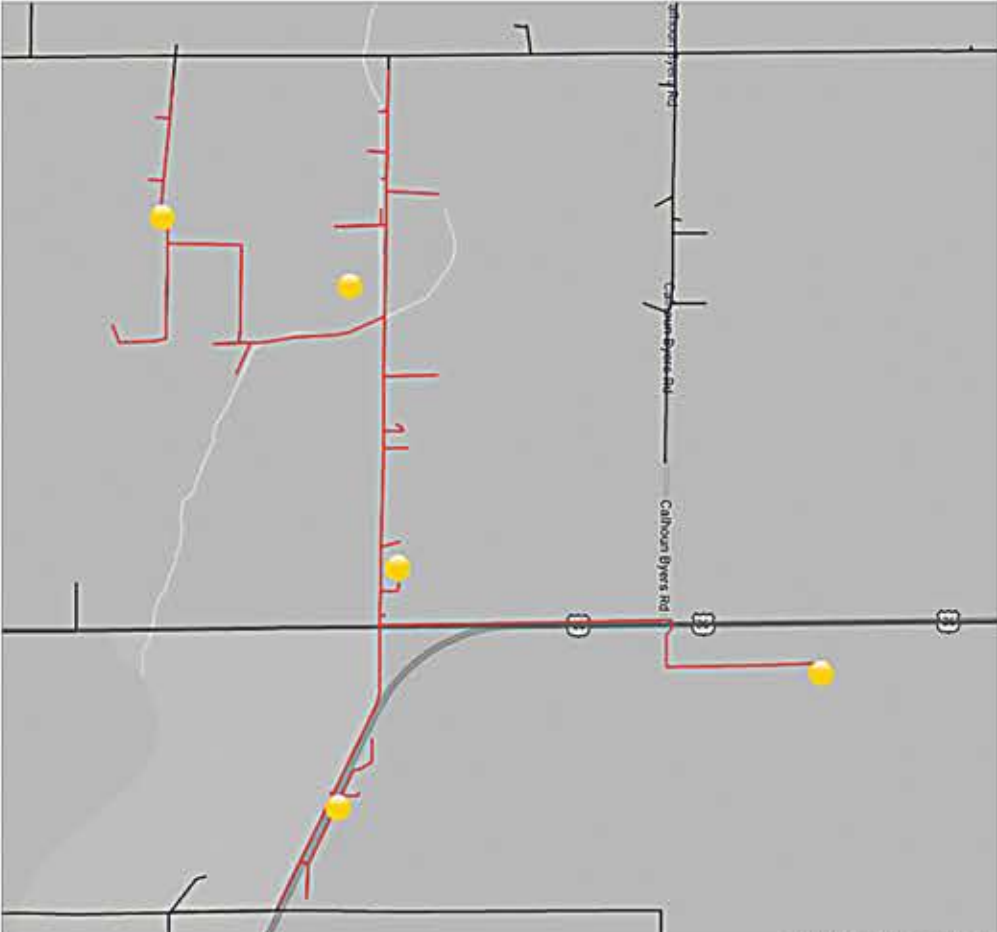


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CORE ELECTRIC COOP WEBSITE

Approximately 40 CORE Electric Cooperative customers lost power early Sept. 7 after a power pole was damaged in a 3:30 a.m. crash at the intersection of Highway 36 and Xmore Road two miles north of Byers.



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CRASHES FROM P1

roadway and on fire.

“A Mack Anthem Semi was traveling eastbound on I-70 when the right front tire experienced a sudden failure, causing the semi to veer off the right side of the road. It then traveled through a ditch, struck a fence, and then struck a tree,” a State Patrol statement said.

The 55-year-old male driver from Royse, Texas, was transported to a hospital with serious injuries.

Eastbound I-70 was closed between the Peoria and Deer Trail exits for a little more than an hour with Highway 40 used as the detour route. The roadway was reopened around 3:45 p.m.

HOLIDAY MORNING CRASH

Around 3:45 a.m. Sept. 7, Byers Fire Rescue, the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office and the State Patrol were dispatched to the eastern curve of Highway 36 two miles north of Byers on report of a car crash.

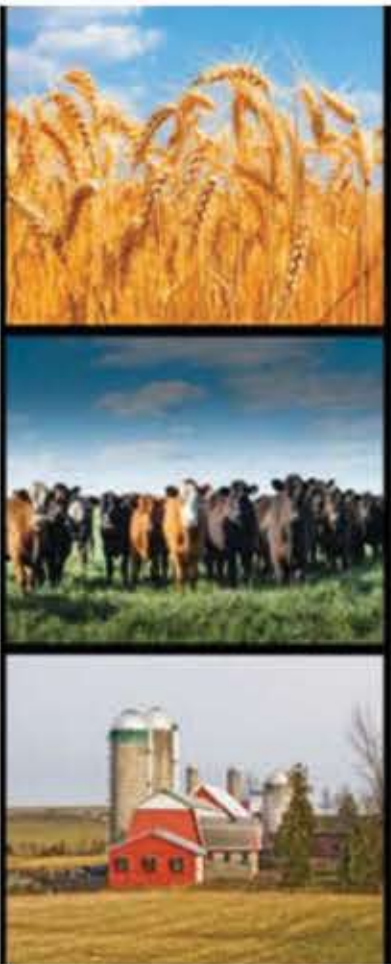
Upon arrival, a gray Nissan Altima was found entangled with the first power pole off the Xmore Road intersection.

“The vehicle traveled off the shoulder of the roadway and collided with the cabling of the light pole. The vehicle stopped and remained tangled with the cabling,” the State Patrol said. “Both occupants were transported to a local medical facility for suspected minor injuries.”

The driver, a 20-year-old male from Centennial has been charged with suspected DUI.

As of 9 a.m. Monday morning, Xmore Road between the highway and County Road 2 remained closed as a repair crew with CORE Electric Cooperative replaced the damaged pole.

The outage map on CORE’s website at 11 a.m. Monday showed 42 customers were without power in the immediate area around the accident scene.



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PUC OKs Xcel rate bump but below request

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DENVER — The state's utility regulatory agency did recently approve an electricity rate increase for the state's largest power provider, but it was less than half of what was originally requested.

On Aug. 20, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) determined to allow Xcel Energy to raise its annual electricity rates by approximately \$157 million, a 56% reduction from the conglomerates original request of \$356 million in November 2025.

Xcel's initial proposal was for an almost 10% bill increase or \$9.94 more per month for residential customers. A tentative settlement agreement between the PUC and Xcel reduced the increase request to \$225 million, or about 5.86% increase per monthly bill. The final approved amount is a 4.77% increase or about \$5 per month.

The new rate took effect Aug. 29. Customers are expected to see the first significant bill impacts in their December statements.

A PUC statement added that the rate decision also includes affordability protections to customers, including some

proposed by Xcel. Among the new protections are expanded benefits under Xcel's Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), which limits monthly bills to a certain percentage of a customer's income, and add new safeguards for vulnerable populations.

"Energy affordability, particularly for low income customers, remains a priority for the commission," said PUC Director Rebecca White. "No decision to raise rates is an easy one, however this outcome is notable in the unprecedented number of provisions to keep bills affordable and prevent disconnections. It's worth a few moments for Xcel customers to find out if they are eligible for programs like PIPP as the impact on bills is significant."

"We are disappointed that [the final increase] did not fully approve a settlement agreement reached with a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Colorado Public Utilities Commission staff," Xcel Energy said in a statement.

The company also said it disagreed with concerns voiced by the commission over the size of its capital spending, which included hundreds of miles of transmission and distribution lines, transformers, distribution feeders and substations to meet customer needs.

XCEL LAWSUITS

FROM PAGE 1

550 feet of right-of-way.

Counsel for Xcel sought a writ of certiorari to bypass the Colorado Court of Appeals and argued that the case raised serious concerns on the future of clean energy policy across Colorado.

"The case is of such imperative public importance as to justify the deviation from normal appellate processes and to require immediate determination in the Supreme Court," the company argued.

The court's Aug. 31 statement was two paragraphs and included no specifics about the legalities of the situation.

"[We are] disappointed the Colorado Supreme Court declined to take up this case and will proceed with the appeal pending with the Court of Appeals," an Xcel Energy statement said in reaction. "The inability to complete the final segment of this critical transmission infrastructure is delaying project benefits to customers, participating landowners and local economies."

The Cheyenne County eminent domain lawsuit involves two Xcel-owned wind farms — Singing Grass and Cheyenne Ridge II — which are poised to go online if they can connect to the Goose Creek substation, which is part of the ongoing \$1.7 billion Power Pathway transmission line from Eastern Colorado to the Front Range.

According to published reports, the two wind farms will provide more than 1,000 megawatts of generating capacity, enough to power about 300,000 homes.

"The case is of such imperative public importance as to justify the deviation

from normal appellate processes and to require immediate determination in the Supreme Court," the company argued.

At dispute is the power line route to connect the two wind farms to the Power Pathways project.

Xcel Energy wants to run generation tie lines 27 miles from Singing Grass facility to the substation and a line five miles from Cheyenne Ridge II. The company said it had negotiated with more than 100 landowners for easements and had the entire route settled, save for the last bit.

"Despite years of negotiations, one remaining landowner issue, involving approximately 550 feet of easement, remains unresolved after extensive efforts to reach an agreement," Xcel Energy said in a statement.

That one holdout is Dryland Partners, owned by the Dickey ranching family.

According to Dryland, Xcel's preferred route would require installing a tower on the side of one of the locals roads that could raise safety issues with heavy-duty farm equipment and could compromise a gas pipeline right-of-way that Dryland holds.

Dryland's recommendation of another right-of-way cutting across the field was deemed too expensive and time-consuming.

"Xcel Energy evaluated transmission line route modifications, reduced the amount of easement needed and offered other accommodations to address landowner concerns," the company said be-

SEE XCEL LAWSUITS
PAGE 10



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XCEL LAWSUITS

FROM PAGE 9

fore deciding to not deviate from its preliminary route.

In his June 2 decision in favor of Dryland Partners, Cheyenne County District Court Judge Mike Davidson said, "Public Service of Colorado has selected a route for its generation tie line that maximizes harm to Dryland, while a viable less damaging alternative exists. Accordingly, the court concludes [the company] has acted in bad faith."

The second issue was the cost of the right of way. Xcel Energy offered the Dickey's \$19,000, far less than paid by other power companies for similar parcels.

In addition, the question of whether Xcel Energy has the power to condemn land for a right-of-way for a generation tie line that links a generating project to the power grid is under question.

The Colorado Energy Office reportedly has backed the power conglomerate's side, noting that the Cheyenne County Court decision "throws doubt and confusion not only into Public Service's ability to complete the power line, but also into other utility projects already underway in Colorado."

ELBERT COUNTY CHALLENGE

Opening arguments between the Elbert County Board of Commissioners and state utility officials and Xcel in an ongoing court dispute over an almost 50-mile power line route across western Elbert County still have not been scheduled, according to an online docket search.

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

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

The PUC in mid-April overturned Elbert County's decision denying Xcel Energy's Colorado subsidiary's permit request for the 48-mile stretch of overhead power line.

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

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

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

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

Construction of the 345-kilovolt line is occurring in five segments. Two are completed and two are under construction.

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

By a vote of 4-0 vote June 23, Arapahoe County commissioners approved the power conglomerate's requested route across unincorporated areas of the county.

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

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

CORRIDOR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

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

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. 9-11 a.m., Kelter Library parking lot, 585 S. Main St., Byers. Optional pre-registration at newelent.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, SEPT. 15

Nursing & Interprofessional Health Career Con-

nections career fair at Metro State University. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tivoli Student Union, 1201 Fifth St., Denver For more information, contact Nicole Magloire, nmagloir@msudenver.edu. To register, visit www.msudenver.edu.

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, SEPT. 16

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.

Bennett School Board. 6 p.m., Bennett High School library. Visit bsd29j.com for a Zoom link.

LUNCH MENUS

AGATE

Thursday, Sept. 10: Cheesy beef steak.
Monday, Sept. 14: Chicken patty sandwich.
Tuesday, Sept. 15: Walking beef tacos.
Wednesday, Sept. 16: Sesame popcorn chicken.

BYERS

Thursday, Sept. 10: Pasta bake, corn on the cob.
Friday, Sept. 11: No school.
Monday, Sept. 14: Walking taco, cornbread.
Tuesday, Sept. 15: Scalloped potatoes and ham, dinner roll.
Wednesday, Sept. 16: Swedish meatballs with rice, dinner roll.

DEER TRAIL

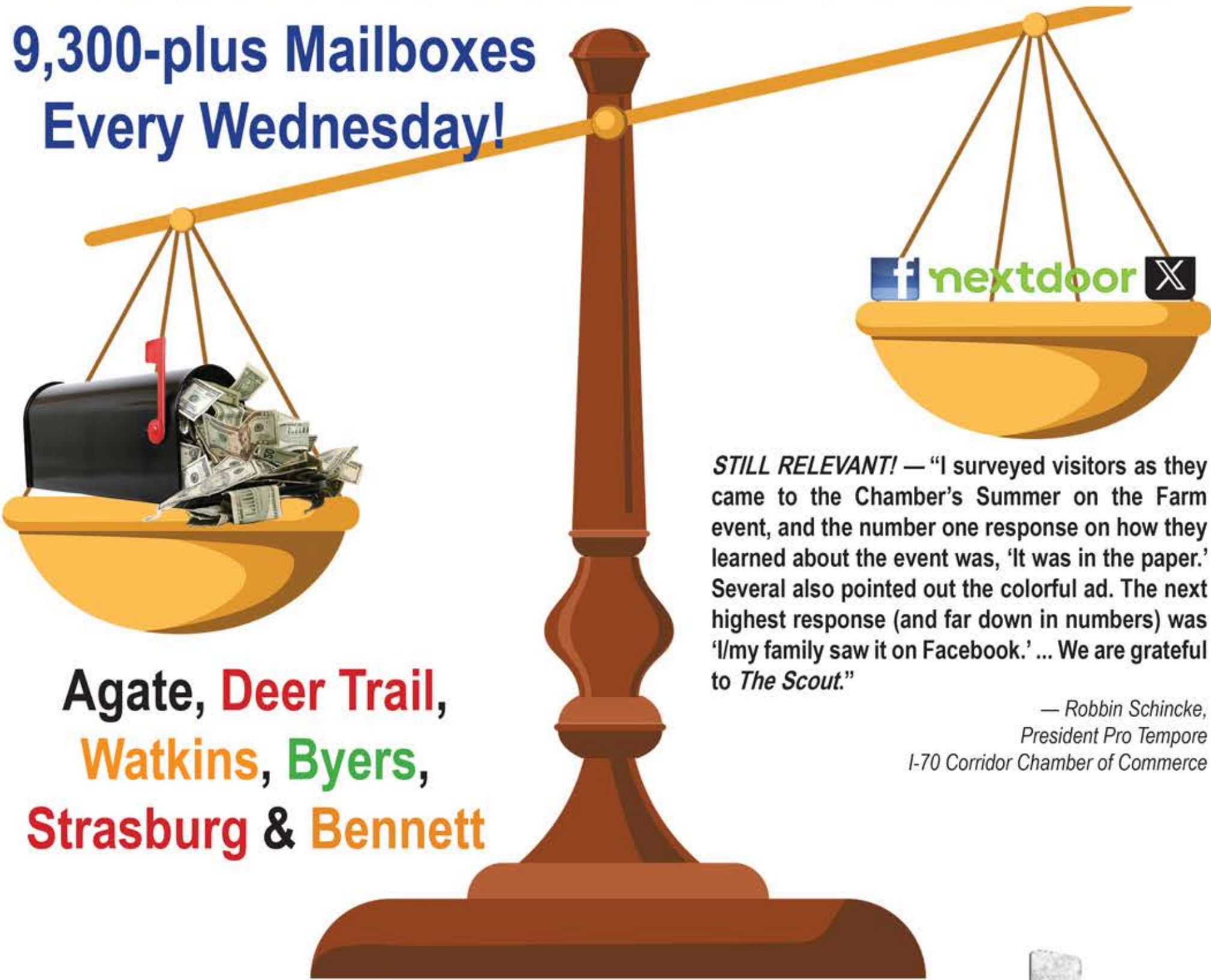
Thursday, Sept. 10: Spaghetti and meat sauce, broccoli and carrots.
Monday, Sept. 14: Barbecue pork sandwiches, sweet potato fries.
Tuesday, Sept. 15: Tamales, corn.
Wednesday, Sept. 16: Turkey, green beans.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Sept. 10: Sweet and sour meatballs over rice, steamed vegetables.
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- ☐ LINDEN- Sentry...6-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ LINDEN- Greenspire...8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ LOCUST- Purple Robe...6' #5 cont.
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- ☐ OAK- Bur...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Swamp White...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- White...8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...3' #7 cont.
- ☐ REDBUD- Eastern...6' Tree #5 cont.
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- ☐ YELLOWWOOD TREE- American...#5 cont.

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Bonny Blue Colorado Spruce

6 Year Old Trees
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 sku# SPR-BON20F6
 Reg. \$659.50

Now 2 For \$660

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 15-20 ft. (30 years)

Ponderosa Pine

4 Year Old Trees
 3 1/2-4' Tall #7 cont.
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 Reg. \$299.50

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Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 20-30 ft. (30 years)

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4 Year Old Trees
 8-10' Tall x 1 1/4" #7 cont.
 sku# MAP-AUT7C100
 Reg. \$269.50

Now 2 For \$270

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 25-30 ft. (30 years)

Taylor Upright Juniper

4 Foot Tall
 #5 cont.
 sku# JUN-TAY5C
 Reg. \$169.50

Now 2 For \$170

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 #7 cont.
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4 Year Old Trees
 8-10' Tall x 1 1/4" #10 cont.
 sku# MAP-FIE10C125
 Reg. \$499.50

Now 2 For \$500

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 25-30 ft. (30 years)

Spring Snow Fruitless Flowering Crabapple

4 Year Old Trees
 7-8' Tall x 1 1/2" #7 cont.
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 Reg. \$319.50

Now 2 For \$320

Height: 20-25 ft. Spread: 20-25 ft. (30 years)

Austrian Pine

4 Year Old Trees
 5-6 ft. Tall #10 cont.
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 Reg. \$399.50

Now 2 For \$400

Height: 30-40 ft. Spread: 20-30 ft. (30 years)

Cheyenne Privet

5 Year Old Trees
 6' Tall #25 cont.
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1st Tree \$149.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$150

- ☐ BIRCH- Rocky Mountain...#5 cont. single stem
- ☐ PLUM- Cistena...3' shrub #7 cont.
- ☐ SPRUCE- Black Hills...#5 cont.
- ☐ SUMAC- Smooth...3-4' #7 cont.

1st Tree \$159.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$160

- ☐ BUCKEYE- Ohio...4-5' #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Spartan...#5 cont. 30-36"
- ☐ OAK- Gambel...#5 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...3-4' #5 cont.
- ☐ WILLOW- Globe Navejo...6-8' #5 cont.

1st Tree \$169.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$170

- ☐ ASPEN- Quaking...5' clump #5 cont.
- ☐ CHERRY- Canada Red/Clump...3-4' clump #5 cont.
- ☐ COTTONWOOD- Plains Straight...+6' #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Blue Arrow...3 1/2-4' #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Colorado Green...36" #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Green Column...42" #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Skyrocket...#5 cont. 3-4'
- ☐ JUNIPER- Taylor...4-5' #5 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Wichita Blue...#5 cont. 36-42"
- ☐ JUNIPER- Wichita Blue...#5 cont. 42"
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...30-36" #6 cont.
- ☐ PLUM- Cistena...3-4' shrub #10 cont.
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1st Tree \$199.50
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- ☐ COFFEETREE- Kentucky...6-8' x 1" #5 cont.
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- ☐ CRAB- Prairiefire/Red...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Royal Raindrops...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Spring Snow...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Imperial...8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Skyline...8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst...8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ LINDEN- American/Sentry...6-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ LINDEN- Greenspire...8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ LOCUST- Purple Robe...6' #5 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Armstrong...8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Autumn Blaze...8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Hot Wings...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ MOUNTAIN ASH- European...7-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Bur...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Gambel...2-3' clump #7 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Regal Prince Columnar...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Swamp White...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- White...8-10' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ PEAR- Chanticleer...7-8' x 1" #5 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...3' #7 cont.
- ☐ REDBUD- Eastern...6' Tree #5 cont.
- ☐ SPRUCE- Colorado Blue/Glacier Blue...30-36" #6 cont.
- ☐ SUMAC- Staghorn...7-8' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ WILLOW- Nishiki/Patio Tree...#6 cont. Patio Tree
- ☐ YELLOWWOOD TREE- American...#5 cont.

1st Tree \$299.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$300

- ☐ CRAB- Coralburst...6-8' x 1" #7 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Skyline...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Armstrong...8-10' x 1 1/4" #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Crimson Sunset...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Gambel...4-5' #7 cont.
- ☐ REDBUD- Eastern...6-7' #7 cont. Single Stem
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...4-5' clump #15 cont.
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...3' clump #15C
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Saskatoon...+1-3' #15 cont.
- ☐ YEW- Hickey...3-4' 10 gal. GrowBag

1st Tree \$249.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$250

- ☐ COTTONWOOD- Narrowleaf...8-10' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Sugar Fall Fester...6-8' #5 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Red...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...5-6' #5 cont. Tree

1st Tree \$299.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$300

- ☐ CRAB- Coralburst...6-8' x 1" #7 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Skyline...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Sunburst...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Armstrong...8-10' x 1 1/4" #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Crimson Sunset...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Gambel...4-5' #7 cont.
- ☐ REDBUD- Eastern...6-7' #7 cont. Single Stem
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...4-5' clump #15 cont.
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...3' clump #15C
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Saskatoon...+1-3' #15 cont.
- ☐ YEW- Hickey...3-4' 10 gal. GrowBag

1st Tree \$349.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$350

- ☐ BALDYPRESS- Common...6-8' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ JUNIPER- Green Column...5-6' #7 cont. Moravia
- ☐ MAGNOLIA- Ann...6-8' x 1" #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Hot Wings...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Sugar Fall Fester...8-10' x 1 1/4" #7 cont.

2 for \$350 Continued

- ☐ OAK- Bur...8-10' x 1 1/4" #7 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Heritage...6-8' #7 cont.
- ☐ OAK- Scarlet Letter...8-10' x 1 1/4" #7 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...4-5' 10 gal. grow bag
- ☐ PINE- Pinon...+3' 7 Gal. Grow Bag
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Lustre/Allegheny...10-12' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.

1st Tree \$399.50
 2nd Tree 50¢
Both for \$400

- ☐ CRAB- Prairiefire/Red...6-8' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Radiant/Pink...8-10' x 1 1/2" #15 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Red Splendor/Pink...8-10' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Royal Raindrops...8' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Ruby Tears Weeping...6-8' x 1 1/4" #10 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Spring Snow...8' x 1 1/2" #10 cont.
- ☐ CRAB- Thunderchild/Pink...8-10' x 1 1/4" #15C
- ☐ HAWTHORNE- Russian...8-10' x 1 1/4" #15 cont.
- ☐ HAWTHORNE- Russian...8-10' x 1 1/4" #15C
- ☐ HONEYLOCUST- Skyline...10-12' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ MAPLE- Sugar John Pear/Caddo...8-10' x 1 1/4" #10C
- ☐ MAPLE- Sugar/Green Mountain...8-10' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ NINEBARK- Summer Wine/Patio Tree...#10 cont. Tree
- ☐ OAK- White...10-12' x 1" #10 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Austrian...5-6' #10 cont.
- ☐ PINE- Bosnian...4-5' 10 Gal. Grow Bag
- ☐ PLUM- Newport...8-10' x 1 1/2" 15G GrowBag
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...6-8' clump #10 cont.
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...8' 15" #10C Tree
- ☐ SERVICEBERRY- Autumn Brilliance...8' 15" #10C Tree
- ☐ SPRUCE- Colorado...4 1/2' Tall 15gal. GrowBag Kabab
- ☐ SPRUCE- Colorado...4 1/2' Tall 15gal. GrowBag Majesty

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DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

Strasburg School Superintendent Kelle Bongard, left, presents high school science teacher Merci Ames with the certificate signifying her selection as one of eight finalists for the Colorado Department of Education's Teacher of the Year Award during a brief Sept. 3 ceremony.

AMES FROM P1

"Mrs. Ames is an exceptional educator whose compassion, integrity and selfless service make every student feel seen, valued and supported," Bongard said during the brief ceremony. "You bring warmth, demand, purpose and an unwavering dedication to your classroom and the entire school community. You often lead through the small, unseen acts that change lives. Mrs. Ames stands out because she consistently does the right thing the right way and gives up herself without expectation."

Chief External Relations Officer Emma Garrett-Nelson with the Colorado Department of Education said that the state is home to roughly 55,000 teachers. About 300 apply for the award program, a number which is then whittled down to 21 semi-finalists, and now eight finalists, each of which receive \$1,000 from the Colorado Department of Education and the Boettcher Foundation.

"We've heard about your work on expanding career-type programs here. We heard about your work to grow your own skills to better support your students," Garrett-Nelson said to Ames. "And we heard that you were still working to get better every day, even after your 30 years in the field."

Ames, a graduate of Bennett High School, is now in her 35th year at Strasburg. She serves as the varsity and junior varsity basketball coach and also sponsors the school's Health Occupations Students of America-Future Health Professionals chapter. She has twice been honored as Eastern Colorado Teacher of the Year.

"Everything I've gotten really is from other great people, and I've been so fortunate to work with amazing people in all of this," Ames said.

Ames has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wyoming and a master's in sports administration from the University of Northern Colorado.

The 2027 Colorado Teacher of the Year will be announced in October. The winner will receive \$10,000 from the CDE and Boettcher Foundation, represent the state as a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year program, and serve as a teaching ambassador to communities and organizations around the state and nation.

"These finalists represent the extraordinary commitment, creativity and leadership we see in educators across Colorado," said Tiffany Anderson, vice president of grants and programs for the Boettcher Foundation, in a statement.

In addition, each finalist's school gets \$500 from the Boettcher Foundation, which was presented to Ames by Boettcher program alum Mark Paricio.

"At the Boettcher Foundation, we've been championing excellence in education for over 85 years," Paricio said. "And this is exactly the type of person and the type of program that we exist to champion."

This year's program drew 297 applicants representing 76 school districts across Colorado.



SPORTS



Tigers break 16-game gridiron losing skid

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

BENNETT — The Tigers snapped a 16-game losing streak spanningz the 2024 and 2025 seasons with a 48-6 drubbing of Mitchell Aug. 29.

They were also beaten by Highland at home Sept. 4.

The Tigers travel to Evergreen Friday. The game kicks off at 7 p.m.

MITCHELL

Bennett last tasted the win column on Sept. 7, 2024, when the team defeated Kennedy 42-16 on the road.

After a 2-25 combined record in Class 2A from 2023-25, the Colorado High School Activities Association dropped the Tigers to 1A this season, but they still managed to defeat the 3A Mitchell Maunders. Bennett led 40-0 after one quarter and 48-6 after three.

“The kids and the fans and the whole community were pretty excited,” said Bennett head coach Eli Moody. “Just good to get back in the win column. Still a lot to build on, but definitely a good first game.”

With the early lopsided score, the coach went deep into his bench, playing his second, third and even fourth string.

Senior Kenny Jordan broke loose for a 60-yard touchdown run on the first play of the game, where he cut left and headed



Tiger Liam Sanchez tries to escape the grasp of a Marauder tackler in Bennett's 48-6 victory of Mitchell in the season-opener Aug. 29 as linemen Camden Johnson (50) and Kody Harrell (61) trail the play. The win was the orange-and-black's first on the gridiron in almost two years.

down the sideline, breaking three tackles on the way. He finished with 93 yards on four carries and added a second TD later.

“He had a great game for us on offense,” Moody said.

Senior quarterback Avant Dickens had two touchdowns on

two carries for 40 yards with a long of 35 yards.

“Obviously, they both got pulled in the second quarter,” Moody said.

As a team, Bennett rushed 13 times for 200 yards. No passes were thrown.

His older brother, junior line-

man Gabe Herrera, added four tackles and three sacks.

“Gabe Herrera did really good for us at D-end,” Moody said. “He had a breakout game, I think, at that starting D-end spot.”

Sophomore lineman Vic Herrera provided a “big guy touch-

down” when he scooped up a punt blocked by senior linebacker Mac Froman. Herrera also had three tackles and a sack.

Freshman QB Quint Copeland scored the Tigers' final touchdown on a five-yard run.

SEE FB BENNETT
PAGE 16

Indians bounce back after game 1 upset

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

After entering the season in the 2A top 10 but falling late in their season-opener, the Strasburg Indians evened their record to 1-1 on the gridiron with a road victory in week two.

Following their 14-13 upset loss to 1A Wiggins Aug. 28, the red-and-black bounced back with a 34-14 victory at Weld Central Sept. 4.

In both contests, the Indians, under first-year head coach Zeric Martinez scored a touchdown to take the lead midway through the opening quarter;

SEE FB STRASBURG
PAGE 18



Indian Levi Hart makes a tackle in the backfield during Strasburg's season-opener at home Aug. 28.



Bennett's Abigail Thornton slams a kill against Sand Creek during the Lady Tigers' first victory of the volleyball season Sept. 3.

Tiger girls sting Sand Creek for win No. 1

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

In a case of the third time being the charm, the Bennett Lady Tigers got their first win of the young volleyball season, sweeping the visiting Lady Scorpions of 4A Sand Creek from Colorado Springs Sept. 3.

The victory came two days after the orange-and-black fell in four sets at St. Mary's Academy in Englewood to start the month.

INITIAL VICTORY

Thursday night in front of a raucous crowd, including a student section adorned in all black, the Lady Tigers won 6-of-7 points to shift a 16-16 first-set tie to a 22-17 advantage en route to a 25-21 win.

In a similar situation in the second

game, Bennett went from 11-11 to lead 17-12 and 20-13 before taking the 25-19 victory.

In the third game, Bennett dominated from a 4-4 tie for a 25-9 win. In addition to a 4-point run to go up 8-4, the hosts scored 7-of-8 points to go up 15-7 and, with the score 18-9, won the final 7 points.

“I was happy with how we responded after the St. Mary's loss earlier in the week,” said Bennett head coach. Corissa Thornton. “We were much more aggressive from the service line and did a good job putting Sand Creek under pressure.”

The victors recorded nine service aces, led by senior libero Kaylonnie McLaury with four and senior Emilee Venneberg with three. While not re-

SEE VB BENNETT
PAGE 26

Lady Bulldog harrier wins pair of meets

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The numbers for the Byers cross country teams might be small, but that isn't stopping one Lady Bulldog from winning big.

Senior Reese West topped her second and third races of the season, first taking the title at the Rocky Ford Invitational Aug. 28 with a time of 19:42.00, then winning the crown at the Fort Morgan Mustang Invitational Sept. 4 in 20:54.60.

“Reese West earning herself another first place medal after Rocky Ford is proof of the effort she puts into her training,” said Byers head coach Kelci Crispe.

Both Strasburg and Byers participated in the Fort Morgan Invitational Friday. Team scoring required at least five runners at both Rocky Ford and Fort Morgan, so none of the Indians, Bulldogs or their female counterparts were eligible for group honors.

@ FORT MORGAN INVITATIONAL

FORT MORGAN — In addition to West's championship performance, a pair of Indian seniors also placed highly.

“Our team is progressing very nicely with some fast early season times,” said Strasburg head coach Mike James.

Lady Indian Maura Kramer placed second in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 21:29.20 while Noah Dobransky placed fourth for the red-and-black boys at 18:01.91.

“They are both showing some mental toughness and resiliency, which any coach wants to see out of his team leaders and captains,” James continued. “The 95-degree temperatures at the start of the race could have caused our team to wilt. While the times were not overall [personal records], most of our returning runners did set course PRs.”

SEE CROSS COUNTRY
PAGE 14

CROSS COUNTRY

FROM PAGE 13

Other local girls in attendance were sophomore Lacey Dittenhauser (27:21.50, 29th) and junior Sarah Larsen (28:05.60 31st) for Strasburg and juniors Gianna Seward (26:41.20, 26th), a newcomer to the team, and Caroline Casey (27:15.20, 27th) for Byers.

For the boys, sophomore Jacob Breiding (19:26.10, 12th), junior Ammon Cannaday (20:47.80 17th), and freshman Joey Tapparo (23:27.50, 52nd) participated for the Indians while the Bulldogs were represented by juniors Austin Thompson (22:37.30, 41st), Matthew Wardall (23:11.00, 49th) and Zachary Harreld (23:12.50, 50th), and senior Skyler Walters (24:05.10 53rd).

“Our boys team set a goal for the first mile, and every one of them achieved it,” Crispe said. “We are going to continue to build on that as we go into the busy

stretch of the season.”

Coaches James and Crispe voiced their opinions of the Fort Morgan course.

“The Fort Morgan Invite is one of our preferred courses,” James said. “It is a fast course with a mix of grass and hard-pack paths with a slight detour across the Rainbow Bridge.”

“The Fort Morgan course is nice and flat, but the runners really have to work through the thick grass for a large portion of the race,” Crispe added. “[The runners] all worked incredibly hard and we are healthy and feeling good, which is always the goal.”

James said his team opted for Fort Morgan over the Liberty Bell Invitational at Heritage High School, which was a week earlier than usual.

“Times are usually fast for Liberty Bell because the course loses elevation be-

tween start and finish,” he noted. “However, the course also has a large portion of asphalt running, which impacts shins, knees and hips for a few weeks after the race.”

FORT MORGAN TEAM SCORES

BOYS

1. Northridge 40
2. Wiggins 55
3. Fort Morgan 66
4. Wray 114
5. Brighton 123
6. Eaton 156
7. Fleming 170
8. Weld Central 201
9. Merino 206

GIRLS

1. Wiggins 33
2. Eaton 41
3. Brighton 71
4. Fleming 84

BYERS @ ROCKY FORD

At Rocky Ford, Crispe felt that her long-distance runners “showed some of the grit that we’ve been working on this season.”

“We really like the we really like the Rocky Ford course,” she continued. “It’s a pretty flat course. There’s one hill at the end, which we like because it really challenges them a little bit when they’re fatigued, ... and they were able to push through and just really came out strong on the other end.”

Neither team qualified for the team placements for lack of participants — Byers had just two girls and three boys at Rocky Ford, and the team scoring there requires five runners to compete for the

team title.

Junior Caroline Casey also participated for the Lady Bulldogs, taking 18th place with a time of 26:18.50 at Rocky Ford. For the boys, Austin Thompson (21:25.50, 38th), Zachary Harreld (22:38.90, 51st), and senior Skyler Walters (22:42.10, 52nd) competed

“I just always like to hit on what a good group they are,” Crispe said of her athletes. “They always show up to practice ready to work, and I think that that’ll start showing in their times.”

Byers competes at the Lamar Invitational and Strasburg at the Sun Runner Invitational at Kent Denver, both on Friday, Sept. 11.

“We haven’t been on the (Kent Denver) course since our regional race there two years ago,” James said. “It is an outstanding course and more like the cross country courses I prefer — rolling hills, some single track, and highly spectator friendly. While the goal for the race will not be [personal records] given the relatively higher difficulty, it will be a mental toughness challenge.”

ROCKY FORD TEAM SCORES

BOYS

1. Pikes Peak Christian 43
2. Lamar 49
3. Rocky Ford 79
4. Atlas Prep 94
5. Swallows Charter Academy 130
6. Springfield 142
7. Burlington 176
8. Pueblo County 215

GIRLS

- 1-2. Rocky Ford, Wiggins 28

Strasburg participates in Ponderosa footrace

by Douglas Claussen

Publisher & Editor

PARKER — Four Strasburg long-distance runners set personal records for the course at the Ponderosa Mustang Stampede cross country meet Aug. 29 in Parker.

“Many of the coaches at the meet say this course is one of the few remaining true cross country courses in Colorado,” said assistant coach Marissa Hauser. “It mimics the state course in some ways with big changes in elevation, some steep downhills, and some rocky and sandy running surfaces. It is a very difficult course that tests a runner’s mental fortitude.”

Sophomores Jacob Breiding (20:24.21, 22nd place) and Nick Jimenez (24:22.59, 37th) lowered their personal course times by 3:35 and 3:30, respectively, on the

boys team.

Senior Noah Dobransky (19:33.60) was top finisher for the boys at 11th place in the boys meet. The Indian effort, which resulted in a fifth-place team finish with 126 points, was rounded out by junior Ammon Cannaday (22:23.91, 36th) and freshman Joey Tapparo (25:47.24, 39th).

For the girls, senior Maura Kramer (22:58.33, sixth) improved by 1:04 and sophomore Lacey Dittenhauser (31:56.03, 33rd) by 0:22.

“Maura had an impressive performance, running a fast first mile, battling the hills, and hanging right with some talented 5A runners,” Hauser said.

Junior Sarah Larsen (29:39.84, 32nd) also completed for the Lady Indians, who did not qualify for the team scoring for lack of participants (minimum of five runners at Ponderosa).

“It is still very early in the season, but our seniors, Maura Kramer and Noah Dobransky, are both sitting in excellent spots to qualify individually for state,” Hauser concluded. “Many miles to go and anything can happen in high school sports — but at the moment we are encouraged.”

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

1. Legend 28
2. Ponderosa 49
3. Lewis-Palmer 57
4. Grandview 110
5. Strasburg 126

STRASBURG SCHEDULE

Sept. 11: @ Sun Runner Invitational, Kent Denver.

Bennett harriers compete at Cherry Creek, Heritage

by Douglas Claussen

Publisher & Editor

The Bennett cross country runners competed at the Steve Lohman Invitational at Cherry Creek High School Aug. 29 as well as the Liberty Bell Invitational at Heritage Sept. 5.

The results follow.

@ CHERRY CREEK

Boys 5,000-meter run: Junior Travis Spence (23:37.60, 202nd); freshman Jonah Wickline (23:45.70, 203rd); senior Connor Ranalls (26:05.20, 210th); sophomore Joseph Harris (26:17.30, 211th).

@ HERITAGE

Boys 5,000-meter run: Wickline (21:18.34, 72nd); Harris (25:19.69, 122nd); Spence (27:57.00, 126th); Ranalls (28:08.76, 128th).

Girls 5,000-meter run: junior Ashley Roman Silva (31:04.95, 55th).

BENNETT SCHEDULE

Sept. 11: @ Arapahoe Warrior Invitational, DeKovod Park, Centennial

Sept. 18: @ Windsor Wizard Invite, Boardwalk Community Park

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@ CHERRY CREEK

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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
Lady Eagles Vailini Samate, left, and Fatuma Hussein avoid a collision going for a dig against La Veta in the home-opener at Deer Trail Aug. 27.

DT girls start campaign 1-4

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

The Deer Trail Lady Eagles opened the season with a nail-biting, five-set victory, before falling in four consecutive matches to follow, including a hard-fought, five-game setback in the home-opener.

@ MIAMI-YODER

The red-and-white, under first-year head coach Amanda Clayton, made the trip to Rush to open the season Aug. 25 and, after falling behind 2-1 in sets, won the final two games in close fashion.

With the first set tied at 9, Deer Trail took the lead and never relinquished it en route to a 25-20 win. The host Lady Buffaloes pulled within a point multiple times but never got over the hump.

In games two and three, the visiting Eagles struggled losing 25-14, 25-17, respectively.

In set four, the score was tied 15-15 when Deer Trail ran off the next four points; Miami-Yoder got within 2 points two multiple times but, with the score 22-20, the Lady Eagles won three of the final four points for the 25-21 win.

Clayton's troops appeared to carry the momentum into the fifth and final set, scoring the first 4 points and going up 7-2; however, the hosts rallied to take a 9-8 lead and had a 13-11 advantage until Deer Trail rallied after a time out to score the final 4 points for the victory.

"The Miami-Yoder win showed that the girls can persevere and finish a close match," Clayton said. "We had some strong individual performances, but our serving showed that we still need to become more consistent."

From the service line, Deer Trail was 83% with the same number of errors as aces at 16. Seniors Kylie Bryant and Vailini Samate had six and three aces, respectively, while junior KyAnn Kitzman added in five.

On the offensive attack, Samate and junior Fatuma Hussein paced the victors with 15 and 10 kills, respectively; sophomore Ruby Ramirez-DeLaCruz and Bryant added four and three kills, respectively.

Defensively, Hussein was not only the leading digger with 23 but she also had two blocks, including one that recorded the next-to-last point of the night.

HOME OPENER

The La Veta Lady Redhawks made the three-hour road trip worthwhile as they escaped Deer Trail with a five-set victory in the Lady Eagles' home opener Aug. 27.

After falling 25-16 in a mostly non-competitive set one, the hosts appeared to be rallying in the second set but, after going up 15-9, the Eagles lost all but two of the next 16 points to fall 25-17 in game two.

The third and fourth sets were back and forth but with the scores tied 23-23 and 24-24, respectively, the hosts won the last two points each time (25-23 and 16-24) to force a fifth set.

In the deciding game, Deer Trail closed a 13-8 deficit to 13-12 but the visitors won the final two points for the victory.

"I was still proud of how the girls responded, coming back from a two-set deficit and forcing a fifth set. It took a lot

of fight," Clayton said. "We made some helpful serve-receive adjustments, but ultimately came up just short."

Samate led the offensive attack with 16 of the Eagles' 25 kills. In addition to her team-high 27 digs, Hussein added five kills. Bryant led the hosts with four service aces and 10 assists.

The five-setters to open the season were also the first two contests played by freshmen Hawa Hussein and Camila Carranza, who both appeared in all 10 sets.

THREE STRAIGHT SWEEPS

At the triangular hosted by Lone Star, the Eagles fell to Weldon Valley 25-19, 25-23, 25-12, before losing to the host Longhorns 25-17, 25-3, 25-20.

A few days later, Deer Trail hosted another Union Pacific flock of Eagles when they were grounded by perennial 1A contender Stratton 25-14, 25-11, 25-15 Sept. 1.

"The next three matches showed us where we need to improve," Clayton concluded. "We had some competitive stretches, including the second set against Weldon Valley, but we need to sustain that level of play. Right now, our focus is consistency, communication and limiting unforced errors."

A 10-day break concludes for the Lady Eagles when they host Bethune in non-conference action Sept. 10.

COMING UP
Sept. 10: Bethune.
Sept. 11: Idalia.
Sept. 17: Limon.

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ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout
Bennett sophomore Victor Hererra (72), freshman Caleb Dinan, and sophomore Doug Hanley (60) triple-team Highland's Jesse Perez during the teams' Sept. 4 meeting at Bennett.

FB BENNETT

FROM PAGE 13

This season, Moody, a former offensive lineman for the University of Wyoming, is tracking an offensive statistic often left blank on Maxpreps — the pancake block. Sophomore Kody Harrell led the Tigers with four such blocks, and Vic Herrera and sophomore Doug Hanley each had three as the Tigers recorded 14 as a team. “I am an old lineman by trade, so we’re taking a lot of pride in that,” Moody said. Defensively, Gabe Herrera and junior Mormon Jordan both had four tackles, and Bennett as a unit sacked the Marauder quarterback 8.5 times. “Good to get back in that winning feeling,” Moody concluded. “But we’re also very aware that we have some good competition coming.”

HIGHLAND
As the 7-3 final score indicates, the home game against Highland was a mighty struggle. Bennett got on the board first with a 25-yard field goal by senior placekicker Nathan Ramirez. The Tigers held the 3-0 lead until the Huskies hit paydirt with a 5-yard run preceded by the 34-yard pass to set up the TD. “We had a little bit of time to answer, and it just didn’t end up going our way,”

Moody said. The head coach was satisfied with how his team moved the ball, but drives would stall and a couple of fumbles were lost. “We had our errors, but, in person and watching film, it was just a really hard-fought defensive game,” Moody added. Kenny Jordan paced the Tigers with 45 yards on 10 carries and one reception for 17 yards while Dickens ran for 50 yards on 14 totes and connected on two of five pass attempts for 20 yards. Junior outside linebacker Liam Sanchez was a stud on defense while sophomore Trapper Cronk recorded nine tackles senior Dylan Rutledge had eight. Herrera had a sack amongst his six tackles, and junior Judah Flannery recovered a fumble. The Tigers travel to Evergreen Friday, Sept. 11. Moody said the Cougars are more of a passing team than most of this year’s foes with a talented tight end and quarterback. “They’re a big, physical team,” he concluded. “I think it will be a really good last non-conference stresser for us where we can really get out of our comfort zone and challenge ourselves before we hit that league stretch.”



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA STEM/For The Scout
Left photo, junior Liam Sanchez and sophomore Victor Hererra stuff a ball carrier from the Huskies. Right, senior Mac Froman scrambles for a loose ball.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
Deer Trail running back Hunter Meredith (21) tries to elude the grasp of a La Veta defender Aug. 27.

Eagles grounded by La Veta

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

DEER TRAIL — An injury-plagued Eagle football team held their own for three quarters at home against the La Veta Redhawks in a 54-20 loss Aug. 27 that was closer than the final score indicates. Entering the final frame, Deer Trail trailed just 26-14, but the Redhawks exploded for 28 points in the fourth while the Eagles mustered just 6. “We’re pretty injury bitten and we’re really young. So it’s a positive that we have the kids that we do,” said Deer Trail head coach Sebastian Minor. He noted that he plays eight freshman who might have been overwhelmed at suddenly being thrown into a varsity game. “And you can look at that and go, well, that’s inexperience, or, you know, that’s just lack of discipline or ... there’s just a bunch of mishaps going on.” Minor said the Eagles had 19 players to open the season but are now down to 12, all because of injuries. “We have three kids that are out the rest of the season,” he said. Bright spots included 181 rushing yards on 15 carries out of running back Hunter Meredith with runs of roughly 65 and 70 yards and 227 yards passing and one touchdown on 12-of-26 attempts by quarterback Chris Manriquez-Bustamente. “He’s making some beautiful throws down the field and our receivers are catching them,” Minor said. Sophomore Mike Tossou had six receptions for 120 yards and junior Osiris Aldana added four for 94 yards and a TD. Senior Leo Carranza led the team with 10 tackles, and Meredith added seven



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout
Eagle receiver Mike Tossou makes one of his six receptions against a La Veta defensive back during Deer Trail’s Aug. 27 home game.

with one sack. The Redhawks opened the contest with a big play to go up 8-0 on the first play of the game. The score was 20-6 at halftime. In a last-minute schedule change, Deer Trail traveled to Cheraw Sept. 5 and fell 60-32. For more coverage of that game and the Sept. 11 home contest against defending state champion Idalia, see the Sept. 16 edition of *The I-70 Scout*.

COMING UP
Sept. 11: Idalia.
Sept. 18: @ Otis.

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AS SEEN ON ANIMAL PLANET



Lady Bulldogs Karley Linnebur, left, and Mazie Bright hammer kills against Clear Creek in Byers' season-opener at home Aug. 24.



PHOTOS BY CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Byers gals open with 2 v-ball sweeps

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

The Byers volleyball team enjoyed an optimistic start to the 2026 season with two straight wins, then faltered last week with a pair of losses to stand at 2-2.

Byers' varsity, junior varsity and C teams swept Clear Creek on Youth Night at home Aug. 24 and Gilpin County on the road Aug. 26.

But at Skyview and Flatiron academies Sept. 1 and 3, respectively, the varsity Lady Bulldogs fell short. Further information on either match was not available at press time.

CLEAR CREEK

In its season-opener, Byers traveled to Evergreen where the girls topped Clear Creek 25-15, 25-6, 25-8.

"We showed up and we served super well, so it kept them out of system," said Byers head coach Brianna Gates.

Gates noted a few out-of-system plays where juniors Leyla Saylor and Ainsley Sauer kept loose balls alive, allowing freshmen hitters Mazie Bright and Ryley Hamacher to pound away.

"They were following [Saylor] and they got up big and took some big swings and those were definitely pivotal points of the game," Gates said, noting that the Bulldogs work on out-of-system situations in practice.

Byers was led by junior Karley Linnebur with nine kills, seven aces, and 10 serve-receives; Hamacher with six kills and four digs; Saylor, four aces, five digs, and 22 assists; and sophomore Makenna Terry, five digs.

@ GILPIN COUNTY

Byers topped the Lady Eagles 25-15, 25-11, 25-6.

Like the Clear Creek contest, the Bulldogs again had structure to how they played, served well, and remained scrappy throughout the match.

"The girls were doing really well of staying on their toes, being ready for anything, and communicating," Gates said.

They also had a couple of good reactions to out-of-system balls.

"I will say this group of girls, they go in with a no-quit mentality," Gates added.

Byers was paced by Linnebur with seven kills; sophomore Zoie Murphy with six



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Lady Bulldog Leyla Saylor rejects a Clear Creek player during Byers' season-opening sweep victory at home Aug. 24. The green-and-white entered Tuesday's rivalry matchup against Strasburg 2-2 so far this season.

kills and four serve-receives; and Saylor, four aces and 14 assists. Sauer, Bright and Hamacher all had three aces, Bright added five digs and six serve-receives, and junior Joclynn Rector finished with four digs.

COMING UP
Sept. 11: Holyoke.
Sept. 12: @ Denver Christian Tournament.
Sept. 17: Bennett.
Sept. 18: @ Burlington.
Sept. 22: Flagler.
Sept. 29: Genoa-Hugo.
Oct. 1: Deer Trail.
Oct. 6: @ Elbert.
Oct. 10: Yuma.

Indians beaten by Stargate, Kent Denver

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

Despite a pair of unsuccessful trips to the metro area last week that dropped the Lady Indians to 1-3 overall, the Strasburg volleyball coaching staff is hopeful that glimmers of good play against strong opposition pays off down the road.

"We've had solid moments in all our matches, just lacking the consistency right now," said Lady Indians head coach Larry Deffenbaugh after losing in three sets at Stargate School (Thornton) Sept. 1 and in four games at Kent Denver two days later. "Lots of improvement seen but having to keep working hard and playing smart."

@ STARGATE

Against the No. 13-ranked Lady Eagles, Strasburg was swept 25-17, 25-21, 25-14.

"The lack of consistency was the same against Stargate," Deffenbaugh said.

The red-and-black recorded 24 kills while having 14 hitting errors; the Indians ended the night with a .127 hitting percentage.

Junior Laci Zimmerman led the attack with 10 kills, while senior Tatijana Rojahn and sophomore Ava McKenner added five apiece. Sophomores Camryn Forbis and McKenna Garcia shared most setting duties with eight and seven assists, respectively.

Defensively, senior Jenna Echer reached double-digit digs with a dozen. Rojahn was on the receiving end of 28 serves from Stargate.

@ KENT DENVER

Against the Lady Sun Devils, Strasburg won the first set 25-21 before pushing the hosts to extra points in the next two

games before falling 28-26, 27-25. Deffenbaugh's troops ran out of steam in the fourth set, falling 25-20.

"Against Kent Denver, we played our most consistent match of the early season. Really a nail-biter and we had our chances for sure against the No. 7 team in the state," Deffenbaugh said. "Everyone played so hard and we just missed getting them. Part of our brutal early schedule that will hopefully make us better."

Despite the four-set defeat, Strasburg won the kill battle 50-41, led by Zimmerman with 15, sophomore Emelie Cardenas with 10, Rojahn 9, and McKenner and Garcia with six apiece. Forbis paced the offense with 20 assists with Garcia adding 12.

The Lady Indians served tough from the service lines with a 95% success rate and nine aces. McKenner led with four aces while Forbis added three.

Defensively, strong net play resulted in eight blocks, led by McKenner and Zimmerman with a pair of solo stuffs apiece and freshman Ashley Gibson with one rejection. Echer and Rojahn hit the floor for 25 and 23 digs, respectively, while Cardenas added 13.

"But the team is upbeat and excited about their improvement," Deffenbaugh concluded.

The Indians hoped to get back on the winning track this week with a pair of home games, including Tuesday's annual rivalry match-up with Byers. The red-and-black hosts Eagle Ridge Academy Sept. 10.

COMING UP
Sept. 10: Eagle Ridge Academy
Sept. 15: Windsor Charter Academy
Sept. 22: St. Mary's Academy
Sept. 24: @ Bennett
Sept. 26: @ Fort Morgan

Bison batter Bulldogs big

by Douglas Claussen
Publisher & Editor

WESTMINSTER — Byers suffered its biggest loss in years at the hands of the Flatirons Academy Sept. 4.

The Bison ran roughshod over the Bulldogs in building a 31-0 lead in the second quarter before Byers scored on a 7-yard pass from senior James Maes to junior Conrad Cichos to make it 31-6 at halftime. The final score was 51-6.

"It was kind of a shock, but we've been on the other side of a lot of those the last couple years," said Byers head coach Casey Pelton. "Sometimes maybe it takes something like that to wake you up. I don't know. We'll find out moving forward."

The game was miserable from start to finish as the Bulldogs threw interceptions — one a pick-6 — on their first two possessions and the Bison never looked back.

All in all, Byers committed five turnovers — three interceptions and two fumbles lost.

"Then we couldn't block anybody, couldn't run the ball," Pelton said. "So it

was a rough night."

On offense, Maes went 9-of-15 passing for 70 yards, senior Gabe Price rushed 12 times for 25 yards, and sophomore Matt Cichos and Conrad Cichos caught three passes each for 44 and 12 yards, respectively.

"I thought our defense played pretty well, with all things considered," Pelton said, noting that Flatirons began only one drive in its own territory. "We were just out there too long and we didn't have very good field position."

Top tacklers were senior Caleb Eastwood with nine and Price and junior Eli with seven apiece.

"I just hope we have a good week of practice, and we learn from the film, and we find a way to get better," Pelton concluded.

Now 0-2, Byers faces 1-1 Holyoke in the Bulldogs' home opener Friday.

COMING UP
Sept. 18: Limon.
Sept. 25: @ Colorado Springs Christian.
Oct. 3: bye.
Oct. 10: @ Burlington.
Oct. 16: Ellicott (Homecoming).

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however, the difference in game two was that Strasburg kept the pressure on the host Rebels, extending its lead to 14-0 after the first 12 minutes and 20-0 at half-time.

Strasburg turned over the Rebel offense on downs to start the game and capped off a 61-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown pass between seniors Brody Hopwood and Ayden Dodge. After forcing the hosts to punt on their second drive, Strasburg drove 58 yards and, a few plays later found itself in the end zone after Hopwood completed a 42-yard scoring pass to classmate Jayden Miller. Sophomore Agusta Rodriguez made both first-quarter PAT attempts.

In the second quarter, Strasburg forced and recovered a Rebel fumble and three plays later, Hopwood completed an eight-yard TD pass. The Rodriguez extra point was no good.

After receiving the kickoff following Strasburg's third score, Weld Central drove from their own 35-yard line down to the Indians' 18 when Dodge intercepted a pass and thwarted the hosts hopes to close the deficit by halftime.

Out of the locker rooms, Strasburg ran the kickoff back to its own 36-yard line but, four plays later, turned the ball over on downs on their own 45. Weld Central took advantage of the short field, scoring on a nine-play drive capped off with a 19-yard pass completion into the end zone; the extra point was missed.

Strasburg took over at its own 27-yard line on the ensuing possession but proceeded to drive the 73 yards in 10 plays with senior running back Reagan Rosier taking the ball in from five yards out. The Rodriguez PAT made the score 27-6 entering the final quarter.

After Weld Central went 33



PHOTOS BY SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

From left photo, Indian Giovanni Berto (44) carries the ball down the sideline against Wiggins in Strasburg's season-opener Aug. 28, and Dalton Velasco sacks the Tiger quarterback.

yards over nine plays between the end of the third and start of the fourth to close the gap to 27-14, the visiting Indians went 75 yards in 15 plays and took six minutes off the clock with Rosier recording his second score from three yards out. Rodriguez's PAT kick gave Strasburg its final margin with about five minutes left.

Final statistics and comments were unavailable from Strasburg, but Weld Central posted that it passed for 110 yards and had 66 rushing yards on the evening. The Indian defense also forced to Rebel turnovers.

Last Friday's game was the first contest between the two schools since 2011 when Strasburg won 49-19. But between 2004 and 2011, the squads matched up eight times with the Rebels winning six of them. This year's loss keeps Weld Central winless in three contests.

WIGGINS

Entering the season-opener at home, Strasburg was ranked in the top 10 in multiple 2A rankings, including No. 1 in the Colorado Preps poll; however, the red-and-black struggled after scoring first on a 15-yard scoring completion between Hopwood and Dodge in the first quarter.

Neither team scratched the scoreboard in the second.

Wiggins, who was shutout at Limon to open its season the week prior, scored first out of locker rooms after halftime on a TD pass completion to tie the game at 6.

A second 15-yard completion between Hopwood and Dodge and a good PAT kick from freshman Maxim Lengel put the Indians back up 13-7 entering the fourth quarter.

The lone score in the final stanza was a second Tiger touchdown completion between

junior quarterback Isaac Flores and senior receiver Arath Carrasco and, rather than settle for a tie, Wiggins capitalized on a successful two-point conversion and held on for the win.

While the Strasburg defense held Wiggins to about 200 yards total offense, the Wiggins defense also proved tough against the Indian passing game, intercepting Hopwood twice.

"The focus was stopping their passing game. Just let them try to run the ball on us and let our five guys up front handle their business, and they did," Carrasco told Kat Country 98.3 radio in a player of the game interview following the game. "Just don't get beat deep was what we said and our six guys back here didn't."

Wiggins also blocked a Strasburg field goal attempt.

Wiggins, who went 1-8 in 2025, won its first game since

September of last season.

For Strasburg, the climb to try and get back into the top 10 rankings will continue this week when they host Dayspring Christian on Friday for Homecoming. The visiting Eagles are 1-1 in their first year ever of playing 11-man football. Dayspring Christian Academy is most noted for its prowess in 8-man, winning state titles in 2008, 2011 and 2013; the school also has a 6-man title to its name from 1984. Strasburg's opposition this week is coming off a 46-8 win at Prospect Ridge Academy, following a season-opening 42-6 home loss against Flatirons Academy.

COMING UP

Sept. 11: Dayspring Christian Academy (Homecoming).

Sept. 18: @ Wellington.

Sept. 25: Denver West (Youth Night).

Oct. 2: @ Elizabeth.



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...while my grandparents live far away.



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We love to go and visit our grandparents!



We made two small crossword puzzles for you. Have fun!

Hi! We are Penny and Ben. We are twins. Last weekend we went to visit our grandparents. They live in another state so we got to stay with them for a whole week. Grandma gave us lots of hugs. We baked desserts, rode bikes, played video games and camped one night in the backyard.

Grandpa helped us build and paint bookcases. He took us on a walk every morning to a little store. He bought his newspaper, then he let us choose a treat to keep for later.

We want to tell you a story about our longest walk:

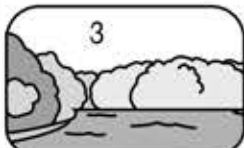
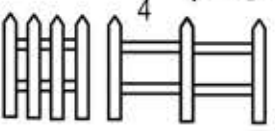
One warm morning we went for our walk with Grandpa. A 1 barked at us! 2 talked to a grown-up. The 3 shimmered from the hot breezes. 4 surrounded the lake to keep kids safe. My 5 kicked up some sand. We threw stones over the fence. The little 6 splashed into the water. 7 dangled in the park across the lake.

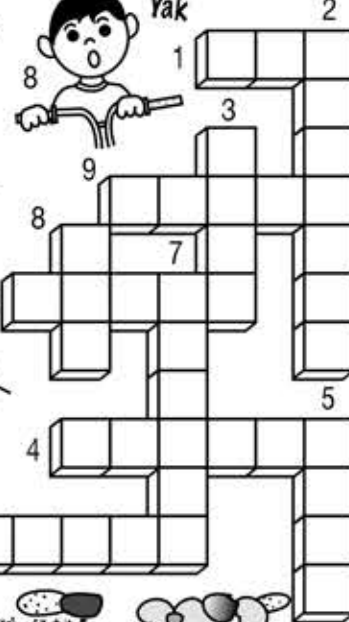
A 8, chattering as he rode his bike, followed us. A whistling 9 roared by on its tracks. Then Grandpa pointed out where our father lived after he was born. It was a small 10 sitting in a grassy yard.

When we got home, Grandpa taught us how to throw hula hoops along the driveway in just the right way so they would return to us. Hooray for walking and talking with Grandpa!

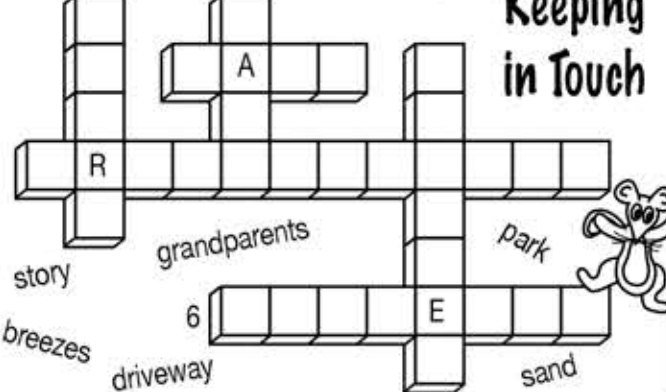
Fun with Grandma and Grandpa

Read the story about Penny and Ben. Some of the **nouns** are missing from their story. Remember that a **noun** names a person, place or thing. Use the number clues in the story with the picture clues to fill in the crossword puzzle:





Fill in the puzzle below with more nouns from the story:



Keeping in Touch

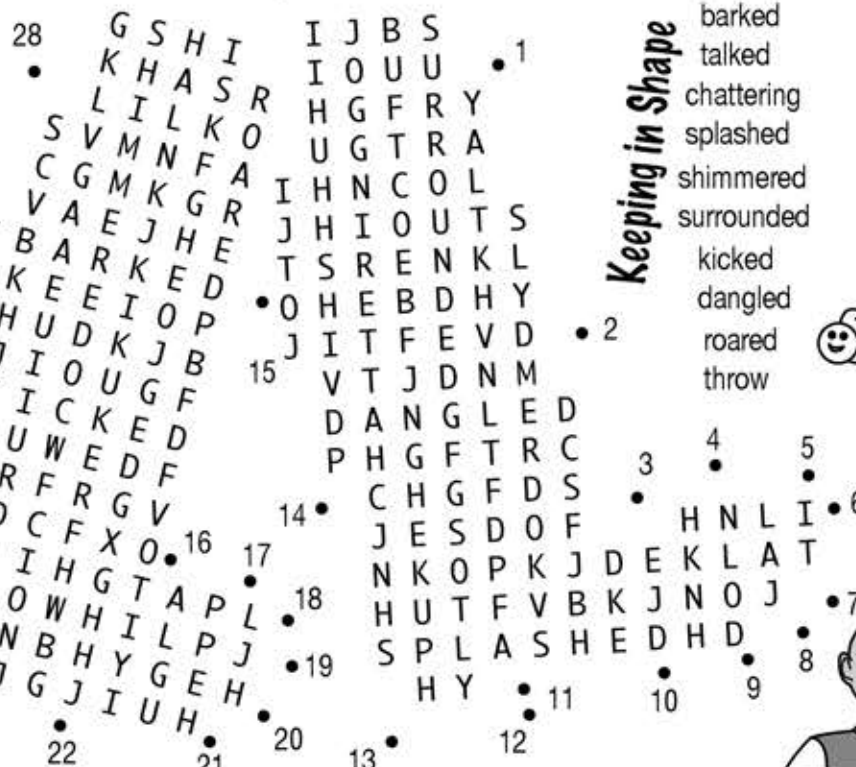


Hi Penny and Ben, Don't forget to write a **letter** or to send an **email** to let us know what you are doing! G & G

Follow the dots to see how Gram and I are getting to the mini-golf tonight:



Penny and Ben's story has lots of action. The words that show **action** are called **verbs**. Can you find and circle these verbs?



Keeping in Shape



- barked
- talked
- chattering
- splashed
- shimmered
- surrounded
- kicked
- dangled
- roared
- throw

Sometimes when we write a story we want to use different words that mean the same thing or almost the same thing. These words are called **synonyms**. Can you match each word to another that means the same?

Nouns

(words that name a person, place or thing)

- 1. game
- 2. monster
- 3. detective
- 4. clown
- 5. squirt gun



Grandma and I like to play word games!

- A. jester
- B. contest
- C. water pistol
- D. creature
- E. private eye



I enjoy reading stories that Meg writes in her emails to me.



Let's see... fishing, playing catch...

Grandpa and I like action. We are going to race go-carts.

Verbs

(action words)

- 1. play
- 2. frighten
- 3. follow
- 4. laugh
- 5. squirt

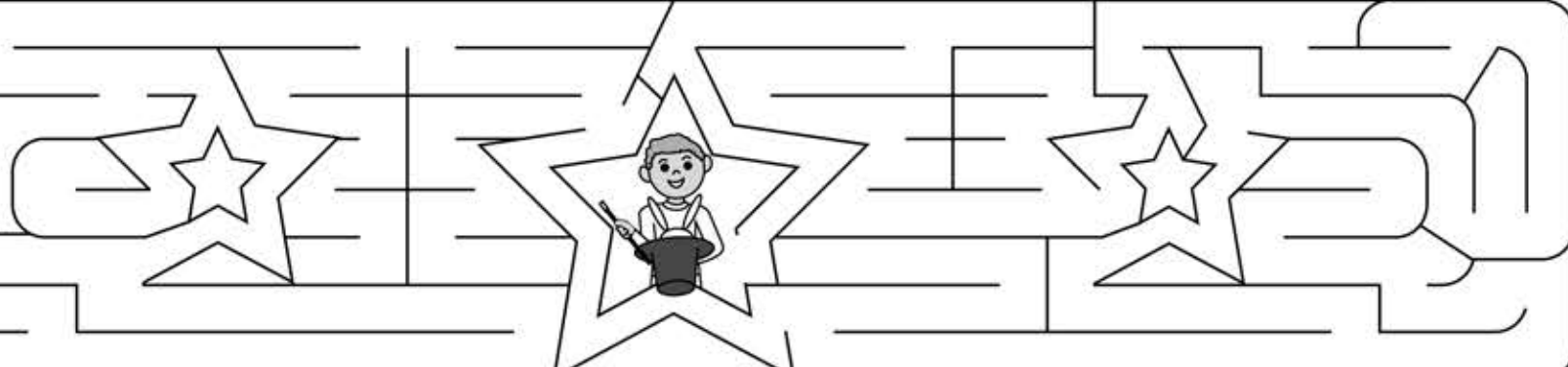
- A. track
- B. compete
- C. scare
- D. spray
- E. chuckle

A Little Family Magic



Magic Show Today!

Ben has been learning and practicing magic skills all summer. Grandma and Grandpa are going to his afternoon show. Can you lead them through the maze to the star where Ben is the star of the show?



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE NOT-SO DUSTY PAGES

20 YEARS AGO
SEPTEMBER 12, 2006
Efforts to show support of America during Labor Day were kyboshed after a Labor Day weekend crime spree that resulted in approximately 20 American flags being stolen in Strasburg. In addition, a decorative light pole was broken and pushed over the night before.

According to Bill McNeill, the flags were cut from their poles sometime Sunday night or early Labor Day morning.

"We had them stolen from the east end of town, around John's Repair, all the way up to Valley Bank," McNeill said. "At least they left the heavy-duty poles that we had made to put the flags on."

According to McNeill, the flags were attached to the poles using plastic zip fasteners and that the thieves used some sort of cutters or knife.

The flags are purchased and put up by the Strasburg Hometown Days Committee during Hometown Days and holidays.

"We just replaced 24 flags this last Hometown. Days; and while we get them reasonable, we still have at least \$10 in each flag. Most of the stolen flags were the newer ones, so we're eating about \$200 right now," said McNeill, a Hometown Days Committee member.

The committee is asking community members to help with donations to purchase more flags. Donations may be dropped off at Western Hardware or IREA's Strasburg office.

The previous night, thieves vandalized the storefront of The Gift Shop, breaking off a decorative light pole.

The three-pronged light pole was broken off at the base and pushed over, breaking the lights and exposing the wiring.

15 YEARS AGO
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
BENNETT - The Bennett Board of Trustees could have an entirely different look after next year's municipal election.

Five of seven board seats, including mayor, will be up for grabs Tuesday, April 3. Seats currently occupied by Mayor Sue Horn and trustees Charles Bayley, Neal Mancuso, Rich Pulliam and Royce Pindell are all available. All seats except Pindell's are for four years.

Pindell's seat will be up for a two-year stint through 2014. Pindell was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy left when John Small resigned earlier this year. Small's tenure did not expire until 2014 and his seat could not be filled by voters until the next regularly scheduled municipal election.

Seats held by Grider Lee and Kurt Eanes are not up for election.

The first day interested residents can pick up nomination petitions is Friday, Feb. 10, with the final filing date with the town clerk's office being Friday, March 2.

While the election is still over six months away, town officials are getting the word out early.

"We really want residents to know about it and anything we can do to publicize the election, we want to do," said town clerk Lynette White during the board's Sept. 6 study session.

In the case that five or fewer candidates apply for the positions, the board could opt to cancel the election, which has to be done by March 15. Another option is the board could continue the election with the lowest vote-getter serving Small/Pindell's abbreviated term. In the case too few candidates run, the board can appoint residents showing interest.

10 YEARS AGO
SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
BENNETT - The Bennett Fire Protection District board Sept. 8 approved the final draft of the ballot question for its proposed mill levy increase that district residents will vote on in November.

If the question passes, 2 mills will be used for facility improvement and 2 for operational service improvement.

"We hate to ask, we really do, but there is just not enough coming in," board president Jim Woods said in a June 29 public meeting. "We have operated very well, we feel, with the money we have had, but we have finally reached the pint where we just can't stretch it anymore."

The levy would cost approximately \$159 per year for a home with an assessed evaluation of \$500,000 and would go into effect Jan. 1, 2017, equally affecting residential and commercial properties in the district.

Bennett Fire has asked for one mill levy increase in the past 22 years — 1.9 mills in 2008.

The district's current mill-levy is 8.9 mills.

In public meetings, the district spoke about the two facility expenditure mills sunseting after capital expenditures were paid in the estimated 20- to 30-year timeline, but they are not mentioned in the ballot question language because when the debt will be paid off is not known.

Once a date is set, the district must sunset the mills on that date.

The language as it stands does not permit the district from sunseting the two mills, and the district will include the intent to sunset in a TABOR pro statement.

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

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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 24

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2026.

There are 113 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Sept. 9, 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y., taking 42 staff members hostage and demanding improvements to inmate treatment and living conditions

ALSO ON THIS DATE
In 1776, the second Continental Congress formally adopted the name "United States of America," replacing the "United Colonies of North America."

In 1850, California was admitted as the 31st U.S. state.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1957, President Dwight D.

Eisenhower signed the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction, a measure primarily concerned with protecting voting rights. It also established a Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan ordered economic sanctions against South Africa to target apartheid.

In 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman

Yasser Arafat exchanged letters in which the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced violence and Israel recognized the PLO as representing the Palestinian people.

In 2022, King Charles III gave his first speech to Britain as its new monarch, vowing to carry on the "lifelong service" of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who died a day earlier.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Actor Hugh Grant is 66. Actor Adam Sandler is 60. Model Rachel Hunter is 57. Actor Henry Thomas is 55. Actor Goran Visnjic is 54. Pop-jazz singer Michael Bublé is 51. Actor Michelle Williams is 46. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 35. Actor Ronni Hawk is 27. NHL hockey player Luke Hughes is 23.

—Associated Press

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: MOVIE QUOTES

ACROSS

1. Give benediction
6. World's oldest broadcasting company, acr.
9. Hoodwink
13. H, spelled out
14. Have a cold, e.g.
15. Dogma
16. Raja's wife
17. Shel Silverstein's constrictor
18. Extreme, prefix
19. "___, my dear, I don't give a damn"
21. "Why so ___?"
23. "High" beverage
24. Fairytale's second word
25. "Swan Lake" step, e.g.
28. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
30. Nincompoop
35. Month of Purim
37. At any time
39. Coastal town in southern England
40. Flick part
41. 4 x 4 race
43. Like most Brothers Grimm stories
44. "Peer Gynt" playwright
46. Actress Campbell
47. Please do not delay, acr.
48. Experienced sailor (2 words)
50. Dispatched
52. a.k.a. Tokyo
53. Window guards
55. Beer faucet
57. "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it ___"
61. "What we've got here is ___ to communicate"
65. Like United States Capitol
66. Food safety org.
68. Ritual basin
69. Tooth trouble
70. Husk of corn
71. Sharks' domain
72. Fence board
73. Pastrami partner
74. Paper quantities

DOWN

1. Vomit
2. The one with pants on fire
3. Volcano in Sicily
4. "I can smell the ___ of a woman... Honey oil, lavender, soap"
5. Israeli monetary unit
6. "Hasta la vista, ___"
7. Life story, for short
8. Fastener
9. Hero shop
10. "Do ___ others..."
11. Paddington Bear's homeland
12. Airport postings, acr.
15. Rutabaga cousin
20. Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
22. Long period of time
24. No-good
25. "We'll always have ___"
26. Hacienda brick
27. Mexican cuisine staple
29. "She doesn't ___ go here"
31. Party garb?
32. Not better
33. Homer's famous poem, with The
34. "Not quite my ___"
36. Donna or Lou
38. Techno dance party
42. Busybody, in Yiddish
45. "___ puts Baby in a corner"
49. Toothy fish
51. Alterations specialist
54. Mention something
56. "There's no ___ like home"
57. Contributes
58. Season to be jolly
59. Village People hit
60. Source of protein
61. Cab payment
62. Eye layer
63. #74 Across, sing.
64. Sea eagles

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

HOROSCOPE

Virgo Season Has Arrived

Clear your space, whether literally decluttering a closet or taking the time to reset habits, the new moon in Virgo and Uranus retrograde is the time to rearrange.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is your time. Use the new phase to restart and gain clarity on your goals. Be open to changes in future without the need for immediate answers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Use the changes to tie up loose ends and clear energy for more memorable and meaningful experiences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Everything feels transformative, embrace the change and ask yourself how being of service to others can nourish and fulfill you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Reassessing what are realistic future goals and staying open to the unexpected will bring a much needed boost of motivation. The bigger picture only becomes clearer with time and reflection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Be patience and refine what you're working toward, rethinking daily habits and routine to make life a little simpler. Confront your fears to loosen their hold on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't let your creative whims reign. Turn outward to focus on those who could benefit from your inspiration and spirit, and remember to take a moment to do what's necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Before everyone else gave their input, what was your intention? The influence of

others isn't always serving you, reach into the past to understand where you want to be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Breathe, the whole plan doesn't need to be mapped out yet. Take the time to refine and let creativity shine, a better solution isn't always the obvious one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Now isn't the time to keep to yourself, a little vulnerability will go a long way to pave new intentions that better honor your wellbeing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your perception is sharper than ever, trust your intuition. Uranus in retrograde could bring some surprises, don't be afraid to embrace the unexpected and reconnect with the past.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Release all that no longer serves you, reconnect with your inner world, and give yourself a little more compassion. Maybe take a trip into nature and let yourself wander.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This week brings momentum, pursue the adventure and opportunities that expand your horizons, but don't forget to reflect on where you belong.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 9). You've reached an important year for growth. Set aside some time to decide your wishes carefully, only a handful can become true and the time you invest will dictate their success. This is a year of thriving, and an investment in yourself will invigorate your personal world. You'll participate in a change that's bigger than yourself. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 4, 15, 95 and 14.

—Horoscopes by Holiday

THESE DUSTY PAGES

Farm Families Advised to Check on Social Security

Many farm operators and agricultural workers are still uncertain about social security law changes which affect them, says F. N. Jordan, supervisor for the Colorado Agricultural Extension Service.

Self-employed farmers and many farm employees are brought into social security for the first time this year. "If you have not already done so," says Jordan, "it will be to your benefit to find out exactly how the law affects you and your family."

Social security may offer you the benefit of a retirement income after age 65, or an income to your widow, minor children or dependent parent in the event of your death.

If you own a farm and are self-employed, you must obtain the proper tax forms from your district director of Internal Revenue. You should then fill out the necessary information about your farm operation and income and pay the required three percent tax to earn credit toward the benefits provided by the law.

If you farm another person's land under an ordinary crop-sharing arrangement, you are a self-employed person rather than an employee. If your net earnings from self-employment amount to \$400 or more for a year, either from farming or in combination with earnings from some other business covered by social security, your earnings can be credited for social security and are subject to the three percent tax.

Jordan explains that the landowner, under an ordinary crop-sharing arrangement, is considered as receiving rentals from real estate. His share is thus excluded from social security credits or liabilities. But if the two have a legal partnership and share in the profits, the income of both may be credited toward social security.

A member of a farmer's family—even a minor—may qualify as a self-employed person under the law.

Eastern Colorado News
September 8, 1955

Eight Persons Injured in Sunday Highway Crashes On 'Dead Man's' Hill

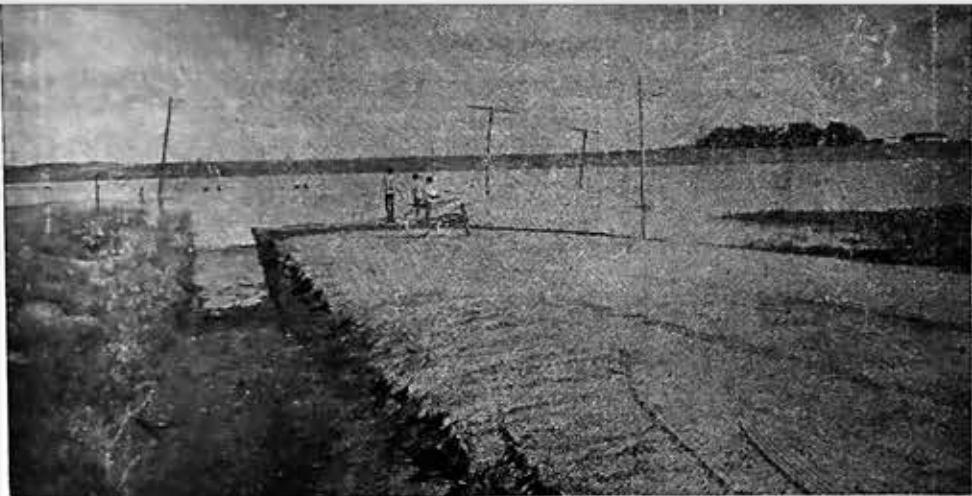
The hill a mile and half west of Byers on 40, which we have named "Dead Man's" hill, Sunday morning chalked up some more victims in a spectacular series of crashes involving five cars. Only one of the nine persons involved in the accidents was considered to be seriously injured, however.

A car driven by George Newbury of Aurora, accompanied by his wife, Audrie, slid off into the barrowpit a short while before and Arlie Maness of Byers had just finished pulling the car out of the ditch on the east side of the hill. Other cars, all headed east, smashed into one another in a series of crashes requiring only a few minutes and injuries were sustained by Jergens Flack, 67, of Spencer, Iowa; Myren Steckel, 63, of Emporia, Kansas and four members of the Thomas Cousar family of Wichita, Kansas, including Mr. Corsair, 32; Jo Ann Cousair, 30; Gary and Jonse Coursair, ages 3 and 2. Gary Coursair was thrown through the windshield of their car, but very fortunately recieved only superficial injuries, according to Patrolman Tom Bumpus, who was in charge at the accident scene. Mr. Bumpus reported that George Newbury was the more seriously injured of the group. Mr. Newbury was releasing the tow chain from the Arlie Maness car, when he was injured, we understand.

Weather over the holiday weekend was particularly miserable and everyone agrees that it is really a wonder that more accidents didn't happen because of poor driving conditions.

The Rescue Squad had a busy time for an hour or so, getting the injured to the hospital.

Eastern Colorado News
September 7, 1961



Instant Lake!!

Well, maybe it wasn't exactly instant—but the Byers community got a new lake last Thursday evening between dusk and about midnight when a torrential rain swept into the area. The government rain gauge at the Post Office showed 4 1/2 inches from the storm, but other gauges recorded five inches and out at the Albert Boss farm just northeast of town showed more than six inches. The above photo shows a portion of the new lake which is nearly a half mile long and about a quarter of a mile wide. It is estimated that more than seven feet of water stands at the deepest part, so it's a safe bet about eight inches of rain fell here

as the drainage area is not very large. As can be seen the road at this point about a half mile east of the Byers school is inundated for a long way, including the corner turning south. This road was used as a bus route for the school as well as a number of farm residents south of town. Because there is little chance of draining the lake, it appears there may be some good skating this winter for local people. There is some speculation just what course will be followed in getting a new road set up to skirt the lake. To give an idea how much water is in the lake, local enthusiasts were out Sunday with speed boats and water skiing was indulged in for a while. The Ed. Watson farm, seen atop the hill, was completely cut off—electric power, telephone and highway, for a time and others living south of this corner were likewise affected. Another result of the deluge was the flooding of the underpass under Highway 70, just north of Byers where about four feet of water stood for a time. A Byers resident, Mrs. Bill Harris, Harris, returning from work at the cafe, was blinded by the heavy rain and drove her car into the pool. She narrowly escaped drowning when a truck driver rescued her from the vehicle. We understand the car was a complete loss. The land for the new beet dump was also flooded and work of pumping the water out has been going on this week so work can get started on the dump.

Eastern Colorado News
September 8, 1966

New Denver Highway To Join 40 at Watkins

Final decision on Denver's 40th St. highway, under discussion for several months, was delayed until late this week at the request of Mayor Benjamin Stapleton, Denver.

The proposed WPA project provides for an expenditure of slightly less than \$1,000,000. The major portion of which will be from federal work funds.

Plans call for 16 miles of highway from Walnut St. to Watkins, Colo., where the road would join U. S. highway No. 40.

Morgan, Sept. 10; Brighton, Sept. 15; Elbert county, Sept. 17; Arapahoe, Sept. 18.

Eastern Colorado News
September 10, 1936

PURGE FRANCE OF REDS AFTER LAVAL SHOOTING



Versailles, France—Pierre Laval, former Premier of France and lately Nazi sympathizer since the German conquest, was seriously wounded with other officials, by Paul Collette. Authorities of German occupied France seized hundreds of people who were objecting to French collaboration with Germany. The guillotine was busy in Paris, rolling off many heads. Collette, Laval's assassin, 29 years old and a ship stoker, will face the judgement of an anti-communist court.

Eastern Colorado News
September 4, 1941

Brighton Fire Rated National Disaster by American Red Cross

The Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross reports to its members that the Wire apartment house fire in Brighton was registered as a national disaster because it evolved more than five families. This has been settled satisfactorily with the victims and the final reports are being sent to the Midwest Headquarters in St. Louis. The report read as follows: 10 families registered, eight were assisted. Spent for clothing and food, \$581.69; for household furnishing, \$1,163.44, totaling \$1,745.13

Of this amount \$300.00 was taken from the Adams County Chapter general funds. National generously sent \$2,500. The balance will be returned to National promptly to be put back in the disaster fund.

The call for aid for relief for victims of the eastern flood, was responded to most generously by Adams county and word received here Monday indicated that the County had subscribed its quota. The Adams County R. C. Chapter has asked the News to convey its thanks to all who contributed

Eastern Colorado News
September 8, 1955

ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CUT EXPENSES \$600 A MONTH

New Schedules Are Effective September 1. Reductions Made to Meet New Conditions.

The Adams county commissioners on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution cutting the salaries of the clerks, deputies and other officers at the court house from ten to fifteen per cent.

On the new salary schedule all of the women clerks will receive \$95 per month and the deputies \$135.00.

All county mileage required by law from now on will be at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

The road employees were given a blanket cut of ten percent, and several were laid off the first of September.

The saving to Adams county will be around \$600.00 a month in salaries and mileage.

Eastern Colorado News
September 10, 1931

Lightning Destroys Two Buildings in Area Saturday Afternoon

BARN BURNS ON JOHN SCHMIDT FARM

A fine big barn on the John Schmidt, Sr., farm at Wolf Creek was burned to the ground late Saturday afternoon, and its contents—3500 bushels of wheat—badly damaged.

The fire, starting at about 5:30 was caused by a bolt of lightning.

A carload of the smoked wheat was shipped this week to Kansas City.

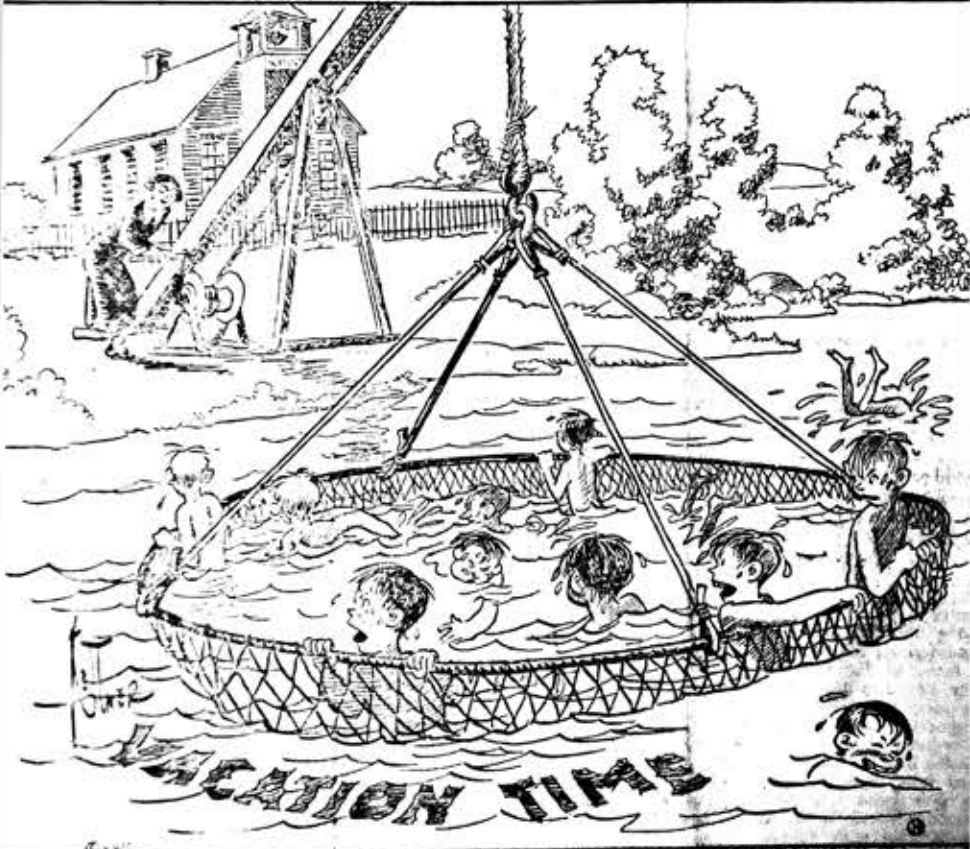
HOUSE NORTH OF BYERS STRUCK, BURNS

During the severe electrical storm Saturday evening, lightning, struck and burned the house on the old Stepputis place north of Byers and the building was completely destroyed by fire.

No one was living in the house.

Eastern Colorado News
September 10, 1942

Netting Them In



Eastern Colorado News
September 10, 1936

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Musical Journey to Scotland: Adults will take a musical journey through Scotland, complete with a live bagpipe performance, at this month's edition of Connect at Kelter. 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16.
Family Place Play & Learn: Toddlers ages 1-3 can play, craft and learn in this four-part program. Each week, early childhood professionals (such as a child behavior specialist, music teacher, nutritionist or speech therapist) will answer questions in an informal setting. Drop-ins welcome as space allows. 10:45-11:45 p.m., every Friday, Sept. 11-25.
Loteria game night: Library users ages 5 and up will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a fun-filled bilingual evening of Loteria (Mexican bingo). Part of the event will occur after regular library hours. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 6 p.m. but can join at any time. 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24.

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Bennett Sci-Fi Book Club: Adult readers gather with fellow sci-fi enthusiasts for lively conversations. 6-8 p.m., 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10.
Rummikub, Refreshments & More: Adults gather for coffee, snacks and Rummikub. Other card and board games available. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11.
Open Hours with CSU Extension: Colorado State University Extension in Adams County will provide gardening tips, farming guidance or youth development opportunities through 4-H — including animal care, STEM, health and life skills. Appropriate for all ages. English only. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11.
Family Spanish Story time: Families practice Spanish with their little ones up to age 6. 11-11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15.
Teen Advisory Board: Kids ages 12-17 can attend regular meetings to take an active leadership role in planning and imple-

menting library programs and events. They can also use their voices to advocate for youth services in Bennett. 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16.
Teen Hangout: Teens ages 13-18 hang out, play games, and enjoy snacks with friends. Gamingconsoles, board games, crafts, other activities available. 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18.
Open Create with CCAL: Adult artists can collaborate at a gathering hosted by the Corridor Creative Arts League. They can bring their own projects and supplies or choose from a variety provided by the library. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 23.
Polymer Clay Workshop: Adults are can join The Corridor Creative Arts League (CCAL) for its monthly series of crafts. This month, experiment with the versatile medium of polymer clay alongside CCAL board member Tammi Williams. 1-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26.

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www.arapahoelibraries.org
Grandpersons Day Celebration: Family, friends and neighbors are invited to a community celebration of Grandpersons Day. Guests can explore at their own pace while enjoying hands-on activities, demonstrations and square dancing presented by Four Mile Historic Park. Light refreshments provided. Grandparents Day is recognized around the world and celebrates the bond between grandpersons and their grandchildren. 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12.
'Scribble & Goggle': Parents and caregivers can bring little ones ages 2-5 for playful activities to strengthen pre-writing skills. Drop-ins welcome as space allows. 10:45-11:45 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 17.
'Zines for Teens and Tweens': Before social media, self-published magazines — or 'zines — were created by artists, activists and fans. Teens and tweens ages 9-18 can explore the creative tradition in a hands-on workshop where they'll make their own 'zines, comics or mini-magazines. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 23.



Lady Tiger Megan Green wins a joust at the net against Sand Creek Sept. 3. Bennett recorded its first victory of the season against the visiting Lady Scorpions.

VB BENNETT FROM PAGE 13

cording an ace, junior Adeline Cranwill recorded 6 of her 8 service points to close out the match.
On the offensive attack, junior Josie Ladd led with eight kills, followed by classmate Megan Green and senior Abigail Thornton with six apiece. Venneberg facilitated much of the offense with 20 of the squad's 22 assists.
"It was good to get the win, but we still have some things offensively that we need to clean up as we move forward," said coach Thornton, noting that her team had 19 hitting errors and a hitting percentage of .093.
Defensively, the Tigers recorded a handful of blocks, led by Cranwill's two solo stuffs; Thornton, Green and senior Mady Bavouset combined three others with Cranwill.
we played really well, but we made too many unforced errors offensively and struggled to find consistency," Thornton said. "I was pleased with our serving and thought our defense kept us in a lot of rallies. We just need to do a better job of turning those opportunities into points."
Green led the offense with 13 kills, while Cranwill and Thornton added eight each.
On 72 serve receptions, Bennett committed only 10 errors. The Tigers also recorded 75 digs and four blocks on defense. Green and Cranwill recorded one solo stuff apiece and Ladd hit the floor for a team-high 20 digs, followed by three others in double-digits.
Venneberg played an all-around game with 11 digs and two aces to go along with making 29 of her team's 35 assists.
The orange-and-black entered this week 1-2 overall.

@ ST. MARY'S
Against the host Wildcats on Tuesday, Bennett fell 25-19 and 25-21 before rallying for a 25-18 win in game three. A back-and-forth fourth set was finally won by St. Mary's Academy, 25-23.
"St. Mary's did a good job of making us work for points. We had stretches where

- COMING UP**
Sept. 9: @ Elizabeth.
Sept. 12: @ D'Evelyn (Tournament).
Sept. 15: @ Arrupe Jesuit.
Sept. 17: @ Byers.
Sept. 19: Bennett Tiger Invitational (Skyview, Yuma, Ellicott).

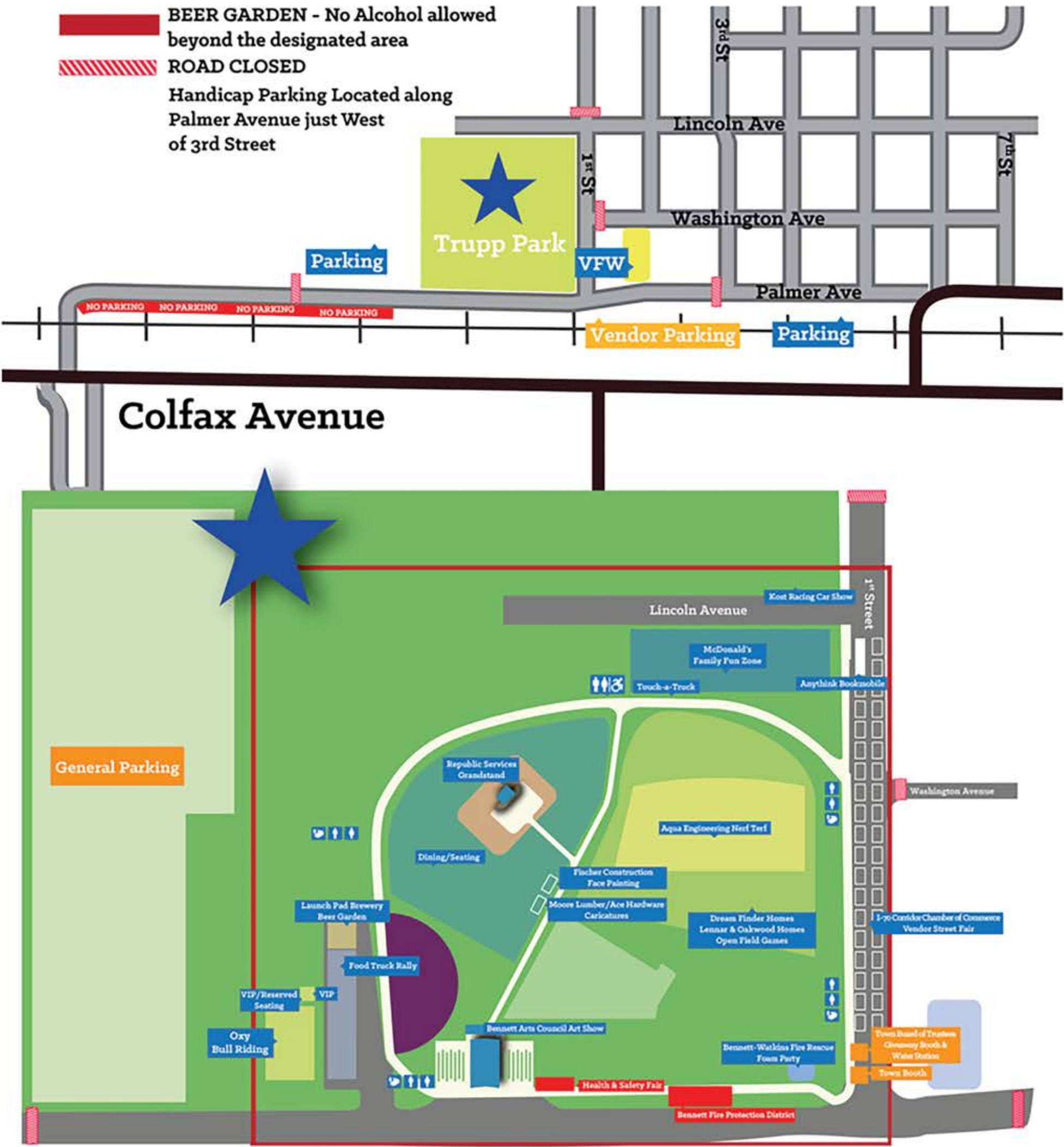


Lady Tiger Josie Ladd goes single fist to dig up a hit against Sand Creek Sept. 3.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026



Bennettco.gov



Friday, September 11

Cops and Bobbers at the BRPOS fishing pond with the **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Bennett Board of Trustees** - The event will feature giveaways and a complimentary breakfast from Flippin' Flapjacks for all attendees sponsored by the **Board of Trustees**.

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Free BBQ Lunch at SouthState Bank Bennett

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Food Trucks and Beer Garden sponsored by **Launch Pad Brewery** \$

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Professional Bull Riding hosted by No Credit Productions sponsored by **Oxy**

Saturday, September 12 - Trupp Park

10:00 AM	"Rooted" Parade Participants line up at 8:30 a.m. Must be in line by 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration is not required but recommended online at bennettco.gov .
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Vendor Street Fair hosted by the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce \$
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Town Booth Enter to win a bike! Must be 18 and under.
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Board of Trustees Booth Stop by for a chance to win prizes! Donate \$10 to the Holiday Help Program for an extra chance to win.
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Health and Safety Fair Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue, the Arapahoe County Sheriff, Adams County OEM, Adams & Arapahoe County Public Health, ARES and Rampart Search and Rescue
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Bookmobile hosted by Anythink Libraries
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Family Fun Zone sponsored by McDonalds All children MUST be accompanied by an adult. Play at your own risk.
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Touch-a-Truck hosted by Waste Management and Simon Concrete
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Nerf Terf sponsored by Aqua Engineering
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Open field games sponsored by Dream Finder Homes, Lennar and Oakwood Homes
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Face Painting sponsored by Fischer Construction & Caricatures sponsored by Moore Lumber/Ace Hardware
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Bennett Arts Council Art Show & Art Projects - Artist demonstrations and hands on activities. Vote for your favorite entry. Select artwork also available for sale. \$
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Beer Garden sponsored by Launch Pad Brewery \$
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Food Truck Rally \$
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	High Plains Music Ensemble at the Terramax Grandstand
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Family Folkdancing with Sarah Butler at the Terramax Grandstand
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Many Mountains at the Terramax Grandstand
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Bennett Days Car Show hosted by Kost Racing Bennett Baptist Church
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Foam Party with the Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Professional Freestyle Bullfighting and Bull Games hosted by No Credit Productions sponsored by Oxy
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Headline concert featuring Atomic Fusion Initiative
8:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Fireworks hosted by the Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue sponsored by KB Homes* <i>*Fireworks are subject to fire restrictions in effect at the time of the event.</i>

Sunday, September 13 - Trupp Park

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Sunday Service in the Park with Cornerstone Fellowship
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Cookout hosted by Cornerstone Fellowship

\$ Indicates event has an associated cost. Prices for each event varies.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Bennett