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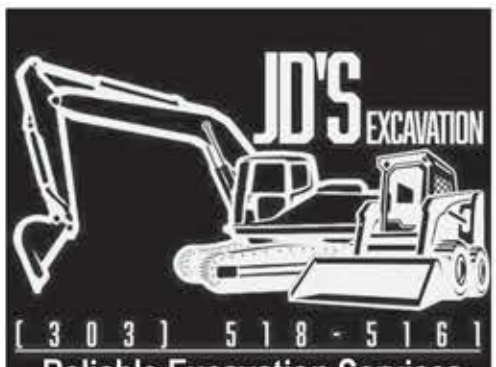

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O	P	A	R	T	■	E	G	O	■	N	I	X	O	N
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T	A	G	■	M	A	R	S	■	L	A	C	T	I	C
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2	7	1	6	9	3	5	4	8
5	6	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
4	9	3	5	8	2	1	6	7
1	3	2	9	7	6	4	8	5
8	4	9	1	2	5	3	7	6
7	5	6	8	3	4	9	2	1
3	8	7	2	1	9	6	5	4
9	2	5	4	6	7	8	1	3
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Strasburg sophomore Kaden Morris sings "New York I Love You" as sixth-grader Abigail Garrett dances in the background at the Strasburg Arts Council's 2026 Talent & Art Show Oct. 10 at Mountain View Fellowship.

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STRASBURG — The Strasburg Parks & Recreation District Stocking Stuffer Online Auction opens at 6 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, and ends Sunday, Nov. 22.

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Squash Au Gratin

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Get ready to steal the spotlight at your holiday table with Colorado's ultimate seasonal side dish!

Combining rich, locally grown winter squash with a golden, comforting bake, this crowd-pleasing casserole is guaranteed to outshine every other recipe on the menu. Best of all, it's a fun and effortless way to showcase the best ingredients our state's producers have to offer this fall.

As cool autumn air settles across the Rockies, Colorado enters its richest harvest season, yielding a diverse bounty of local grains, orchard fruits, and hardy root vegetables. Among these fall staples, winter squash holds a special place in the state's agricultural history, having been cultivated across the region for centuries as one of the indigenous "Three Sisters" alongside corn and beans. From sweet Delicata and creamy butternut to sturdy acorn squash, these versatile crops thrive in Colorado's high-altitude sun and cool autumn nights. Today, local growers continue this tradition, harvesting vibrant, nutrient-dense squashes that bring authentic local flavor, rich history, and warmth to modern fall menus.

SQUASH AU GRATIN

INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium acorn squash
- 1 medium butternut squash
- 1 medium spaghetti squash
- ⅓ cup olive oil
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups pecan pieces, roasted
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1 cup grated pecorino Romano cheese
- 2½ cups heavy cream
- fresh parsley, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Cut squashes in half, remove the seeds, then rub both sides generously with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Place skin side up onto a cookie sheet and roast for approximately 40 minutes, or until squashes are tender.

Remove from the oven and chill for about 30 minutes in the refrigerator.

Once cool, peel the squashes and keep in separate dishes on the side.

Dice the acorn squash, mash the butternut squash and pull the spaghetti squash into shreds.

Spray a square cake pan with non-stick spray. Place the spaghetti squash on the bottom, then alternate layering the types of squash with cream, pecorino cheese and Parmesan.

On the final layer, top with pecans, cream and cheese.

Cover with foil and roast in a 350 degree oven for 35 to 40 minutes, then remove the foil and bake for another 5 minutes to allow the cheese to melt and brown slightly.

Garnish with chopped parsley and serve.

— Recipe courtesy Colorado Proud

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With lots of appreciation thank you from the Myers family.

— Becky, Matt, and Miranda.

Lunch Menus

AGATE

Thursday, Nov. 12: Crunchy chicken tender wrap.
Monday, Nov. 16: Sloppy joe and bun.
Tuesday, Nov. 17: Thanksgiving dinner.
Wednesday, Nov. 18: Cheese Bosco Sticks, marina sauce.

BYERS

Thursday, Nov. 12: Ham and cheese roll, cucumber rings, apple.
Friday, Nov. 13: French toast sticks, hash browns, sausage, orange juice.
Monday, Nov. 16: Chicken nuggets, biscuit, baby carrots with ranch, honeydew.
Tuesday, Nov. 17: Hamburgers, french fries, peaches.
Wednesday, Nov. 18: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, orange wedges.

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Thursday, Nov. 12: Nachos with beef, corn, frozen fruit, sidekicks.
Monday, Nov. 16: Hot dogs, chips, baby carrots, mixed fruit.
Tuesday, Nov. 17: Beef tacos, beans, corn, mandarin oranges.
Wednesday, Nov. 18: Chicken drumstick, potatoes, gravy, grapes, roll.

STRASBURG

Thursday, Nov. 12: Sweet and sour meatballs over rice, steamed vegetables.
Friday, Nov. 13: Omelets, sausage, Tater Tots, juice.
Tuesday, Nov. 17: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, steamed carrots.
Wednesday, Nov. 18: Chicken fajitas, refried beans.
Thursday, Nov. 19: Thanksgiving dinner.
Friday, Nov. 20: Pretzel with cheese, vegetables.
Nov. 22-27: Thanksgiving break.

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PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Mom Brandi Martin helps daughter Magnolia, 7, sew her gnome and Lynleigh Martin, 8, selects her next pin to use during a family sewing workshop focused on gnomes Oct. 10 at Kelver Library in Byers.

AdCo, ArapCo races follow state's blue trend

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

As was the case statewide on election night Nov. 3, contested elected officials races in both Adams and Arapahoe counties went decisively in favor of the Democratic party.

In most cases, the Democratic incumbent or candidate won by garnering around two-thirds of the vote.

Eastern residents in both counties had four races to cast ballots with the primary difference being that all Adams County voters got to vote for the District 4 Commissioner race to replace term-limited Steve O'Dorisio, while the two contested commissioner seats in Arapahoe County were voted on by only constituents in the two specific western districts. Adams County has an at-large voting process for all commissioner districts while Arapahoe County's process is in-district only.

The two sheriffs races saw both incumbents take easy victories. In Adams County, Gene Claps retained his seat by over 49,000 votes, according to the Nov. 7 count, while Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown was about 80,000 votes ahead. Brown's victory was the second consecutive election he defeated Kevin Edling — in 2022, Brown won 55.6% to 41.4%.

The other local rematch from four years ago was the race for Adams County Clerk & Recorder when incumbent Josh Zygielbaum defeated Republican Karen Hoopes, 56.5% to 43.5%. .

This fall's results, as of Nov. 7, follow:

ADAMS COUNTY	VOTE #	VOTE %
COMMISSIONER DIST. 4		
Joseph P. Domenico (R)	68,428	36.28
Karen DeAguero (D)	120,207	63.72
CLERK & RECORDER		
Josh Zygielbaum (D)	120,976	63.92
Karen Hoopes (R)	68,281	36.08
COUNTY ASSESSOR		
Thomas Swingle (D)	116,750	69.44
Glenna Marie Zavala (UAF)	51,375	30.56
SHERIFF		
Mark Goodell (R)	70,436	37.08
Gene Claps (D)	119,498	62.92
ARAPAHOE COUNTY		
CLERK & RECORDER		
Joan Lopez (D)	174,258	67.83
Annette Budd (R)	82,654	32.17
TREASURER		
Michael Westerberg (D)	174,451	72.82
Bennett Rutledge (L)	65,118	27.18
ASSESSOR		
PK Kaiser (D)	162,506	63.76
Jesse Lind (R)	84,380	33.11
Lee D Ormiston (L)	7,983	3.13
SHERIFF		
Tyler Scott Brown (D)	166,685	65.48
Kevin Scott Edling (R)	87,881	34.52

LOCAL TAX QUESTIONS FROM PAGE 1

sources we currently have, and will always work hand-in-hand with our community to do what is best for our schools," said the district's statement relayed through Superintendent Robin Purdy. "We will go back to the drawing board with our next step being to regroup with our strategic planning team, the board of education, our staff, and our students to reevaluate the most critical needs of our aging facilities. We are dedicated to finding a path forward that continues to provide robust opportunities and the best education possible for every student in our care."

If the question was approved, the district planned to construct a new 650-student high school on the northeast part of campus; demolish the current middle school and move those students into the high school minus the north annex, which would have been dozed; add an addition to the intermediate school; build a new fieldhouse; improve the outdoor sports complex with an artificial turf field and new track surface; improve drainage; and create a free-flow parking and traffic plan to all buildings.

In comparing the vote breakdown between the two counties involved, only six votes — 1,095 "yes" votes and 1,101 "no"s — separated the sides in Adams County, while Arapahoe County voters were 765 for versus 1,048 against.

Voter turnout was also suspect as less than 60% of the 6,845 registered voters in the district cast ballots. As of Nov. 7, 2,196 (57.3%) of 3,829 registered voters in Adams County made their voice heard while, in Arapahoe County, that figure was 1,813 (60%) of 3,016 registered voters.

This fall's results marks the third time in six years that school district voters panned a bond question.

In November 2023, district residents voted 63% to 37% against an $80 million construction bond request, which included plans for a new high school on the west side of town on 73 acres purchased by the district earlier that same year. The question failed substantially in both counties — about 20% margin in Adams County and 37% differential in Arapahoe.

In 2022, a $50 million request was defeated by a margin of 56% to 44% across the district. That year, Adams County voters were 47.25% for and 52.75% against while, in Arapahoe County, the disparity was wider — 42.8% for and 57.2% against.

BENNETT SCHOOL 5A	YES	NO
Adams County	1,095	1,101
Arapahoe County	765	1,048
Total	1,860	2,149
BENNETT FIRE 7F	**YES**	**NO**
Adams County	1,141	1,101
Arapahoe County	1,079	1,157
Total	2,220	2,236
BENNETT FIRE 7G	**YES**	**NO**
Adams County	1,145	1,074
Arapahoe County	1,068	1,217
Total	2,213	2,291

FIRE DISTRICT QUESTIONS

A pair of Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection District questions were both closely contested, but "no" votes are still expected to prevail when the canvass is concluded in a couple of weeks.

As of last Saturday, less than 40 votes separated the sides on Question 7F, asking residents in the district to approve a 0.75% sales tax — 75 cents on every $100 spent. While 2,220 voters said yes to the new tax, 2,258 were on the dissenting side. In Adams County, the measure was passing 1,141 to 1,101, while Arapahoe County voters were 1,079 in favor and 1,157 against.

During the same vote tally update last weekend, Question 7G to waive the 5.25% property tax revenue cap instituted by the State Legislature in 2024 without increasing property taxes was down 2,291 to 2,213 votes. The 1,145 to 1,074 advantage for pro votes in Adams County was more than overcome by the 1,217 to 1,068 tally favoring the nays in Arapahoe County.

An automatic recount would only be triggered if the vote tally shifts to where the margin of victory is 0.5% or less.

Fire department officials said that they will continue to pursue options to fund efforts to better improve coverage to the approximately 9,000 residents living over the district's 365 square-mile service area.

The need doesn't go away — we still need stations and funds to keep up with our district's current growth, [but] we will continue to respond to all district needs to the best of our ability," said Bennett-Watkins Fire Chief Earl Cumley. "The district will need to develop a plan for the future. We need to continue educating citizens about the department, its needs and the future. The current cap that the state has put on all special districts is hurting the ability to provide service."

The most recent voter-approved mill levy for the district is 13.152 but, since the 2024 law capping revenue collection, the district has only been able to retain 9 mills in revenue.