

COMMUNITY CORRAL

Local Lutherans plan yearly spaghetti feast

BENNETT — Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting its annual spaghetti dinner from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at the church, 275 Ash St., Bennett.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 2-12, and free for kids under 2.

The all-you-can-eat dinner will consist of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Door prizes will be given away.

For more information, call Joni at (303)261-9422.

Bennett youth center sets evangelical event

BENNETT — The FireHouse Youth Center in Bennett will host the Evangelism Explosion Seminar and luncheon from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at the center at 49990 E. 64th Ave, Bennett.

Pre-registration for lunch is required by Feb. 8. Cost is \$15 per person.

Evangelism Explosion is a ministry that trains people how to share their faith in Christ and how to bring people from unbelief to belief. It utilizes a variety of components including prayer, on-the-job training where the experienced lead the inexperienced, and the principle of spiritual multiplication.

For more information, call (303)644-4144.

Aurora Symphony sets children's performance

AURORA — The Aurora Symphony Orchestra will collaborate with Audience of One Youth Theater for two free performances of Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf."

One production begins at 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at Vista Peak Preparatory School, 24500 E. Sixth Ave., Aurora.

Prokofiev's musical fairy tale includes little boy Peter (played by the strings of the orchestra) who, with the help of a bird (played by the flute), outsmarts the big, bad wolf (played by the French horns). Other characters in the story include the duck, (an oboe) the cat, (a clarinet) and grandpa (a bassoon).

A second performance is planned in Highlands Ranch. Admission to both performances is free. For more information, visit www.aurorasymphony.org.

Bald eagles, owls topic of Barr Lake kids class

BRIGHTON — A special Valentine's Day program for kids ages 4-8 will focus on bald eagles and great horned owls starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at Barr Lake State Park.

Love is in the Air will discuss these early birds of the nesting season, including their unique courtship and nesting habits. The program includes a story, craft, and short walk. Adults must attend with their children.

A \$7 daily pass or annual pass is required to enter Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton. For more information, call (303)659-6005.

Arbor Day supporters to get free blue spruce

LINCOLN, Neb. — Every Coloradan who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in February will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees.

The free blue spruces are part of the nonprofit foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the foundation's bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book*.

To join the foundation, send a \$10 donation to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410 by Feb. 29, or visit arborday.org.

Elbert Co. streamlines government structure

KIOWA — The Elbert County Commissioners Jan. 10 announced that a new organizational structure will take effect immediately.

The new structure includes the creation of the Elbert County Public Works Department and the Department of Administrative Services.

The public works department, led by Ed Ehmman, consolidates the road and bridge, facilities maintenance, and fairground divisions. The reorganization has reduced current management structures to provide additional savings in the county's largest operational budget.

The new Department of Administrative Services, led by Cherie Radeker, combines the functions of the human resources office, county administration, and accounting, and serves as executive assistant to the board of county commissioners.

High Plains bike tour set for next September

DENVER — Gov. John Hickenlooper Jan. 18 formally announced plans for a recreational Eastern Plains bicycling tour next fall.

The three-day ride, called Pedal The Plains, will cover 30-100 miles every day from Sept. 21-23, stopping in multiple towns and ending in a new community each day. Riders will pedal between entertainment and festivities, eat meals made with local produce, and stay in accommodations ranging from a tent to a bed and breakfast.

"Pedal The Plains will be a one-of-a-kind cycling event celebrating the agricultural roots and frontier heritage of the Colorado Eastern Plains," Hickenlooper said. "And, maybe most importantly, this event is a ride designed for riders of all speeds and sizes."

Cyclists of all ages and ability levels are invited to join the tour in whole or part. All proceeds will benefit charitable organizations on the Eastern Plains.

Corridor Calendar

- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1**
- **Byers Booster Club.** 7 p.m., Byers School Commons area.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 2**
- **Bennett School Board** work session on budget. 6 p.m. followed by community forum.
 - **Byers Community Association.**

7 p.m., Byers High School Vo-Ag Building.

- **Byers PTO.** 7 p.m., Byers School cafeteria.

- **Comanche Crossing Horsemen's Association** (board). 7 p.m., Quint Valley, Byers.

- **I-70 Intercessors.** 7 p.m., The Prayer Closet, 670 1/2 Colfax, Bennett.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

- **Guided bird walk.** 9 a.m., Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton.

MONDAY, FEB. 6

- **Bennett Parks & Recreation District Board** work-study. 7 p.m., Bennett Recreation Center, 455 S. First St.

EVERY THURSDAY

- **Story Time.** 11 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

- **Knitting for All Ages:** 6 p.m. Bennett Library.

EVERY FRIDAY

- **Alcoholics Anonymous.** 12-1 p.m., Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, 278 S. Sherman St., Byers. (303)903-6734.

- **AI-Anon** family group. 7-8 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Mount Tabor Baptist Church, 278 S. Sherman St., Byers. (303)822-9237 or (303)888-4525.

- **Story Time.** 10 a.m., Kelver Library, Byers.

EVERY SATURDAY

- **Nature Time!** 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton. Program includes park history and its plants, birds and animals. Outdoor nature walks weather-permitting. All ages welcome.

- **Crochet for All Ages:** 10:30 a.m. Bennett Library.

EVERY SUNDAY

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting. 9-10 a.m., Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Byers. (303)903-6734.,

EVERY MONDAY

- **Day-old bread** and bakery goods available at no cost. First-come, first served from 12:30-4 p.m. only, Strasburg Recreation Center. 1932 Burton.

- **Bingo.** 7 p.m., Byers American Legion Hall.

EVERY TUESDAY

- **Toddler Tales:** Ages 3-6 can celebrate children's literature with books and fun songs. 10 a.m., Bennett Library.

- **Story Time.** 11 a.m., Davies Library, Deer Trail.

Bennett comprehensive plan comes to fruition

STEVEN VETTER
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Bennett trustees concluded their extensive comprehensive plan process Jan. 24 with unanimous approval of the actual document that will provide the town's direction in land development and many other focuses.

"This really started about eight years ago with the desire to set the direction of development in the town," said Mayor Sue Horn. "It's been a lot of time and effort, but it should be well worth it as the town moves forward."

Town planner Melissa Kendrick and consultant Martin Landers said the preferred development scenario of rural clusters was deemed more in tune with town officials' desires to grow Bennett but to do it in a sustainable way that keeps the rural lifestyle intact.

Rural clusters are mixed-use areas with high-density residential and commercial components that dot the I-70 Corridor between the current Bennett town limits and the Watkins area.

Kendrick and Landers both indicated that the preferred scenario took into account water, transportation and urban sprawl.

According to growth projections, an additional 6,454 housing units are expected to pop up in the development area over the next 25 years, and Kendrick said the comprehensive plan provides an outline as to how to handle and cluster that growth.

Landers said development centers will promote healthy neighborhood development.

Other focuses of the plan include employment, maintaining open spaces, developing a more extensive transportation system, adding infrastructure and utility services, community health, annexation, and



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

During their Jan. 24 meeting, Bennett trustees formally thanked the Bennett High School music department for its participation in last year's town Veterans Day celebration. Above, Mayor Sue Horn, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to band director Jalee Kitzman.

intergovernmental relations, especially with Adams and Arapahoe counties and the city of Aurora.

Community health is a component unique to Bennett's plan. The Tri-County Health Department and Colorado Health Foundation provided monies that fully-funded the project.

AdCo plans Cop 101 for citizens

BRIGHTON — The Adams County Sheriff's Office is taking applications for the spring Citizens Academy March 13.

The academy is an 11-week course that introduces citizens to the sheriff's office.

Participants get practical, hands-on exposure to law enforcement functions at classes on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. beginning March 13 plus two Saturday classes. The primary location will be the sheriff's substation, 4201 E. 72nd Ave., Commerce City.

Students will learn about the Emergency Management unit, Patrol Division, Dispatch Operations,

Detention Division, Rampart Search & Rescue, the Detective Division, and the Crime Prevention unit. Participants will experience hands-on arrest control tactics, a Taser demonstration, live demonstrations from the bomb unit and SWAT team, drive a law enforcement vehicle, and tour the sheriff's and coroner's offices.

Applicants must be 21 years old and pass a background check of driving and criminal records. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

Applications are available at the Commerce City substation, by emailing TSmalley@adcogov.org, or by visiting www.adamssheriff.org.

GOP caucus sites announced

Colorado Republican caucuses are scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, including several precincts along the I-70 Corridor.

This year's caucuses involve new precinct boundaries, which means some registered voters may be in different precincts than in years past.

In Adams County, precincts 241 through 247 will meet at Bennett High School. The Byers American Legion Hall will host precincts 249 through 251. Precinct 248, which is among the biggest in Adams County, will meet at Strasburg High School.

In Arapahoe County, Byers High School will host caucuses for precincts 330, 331, 363 and 364. The Deer

Trail Fire Station will host voters from precinct 365. Voters closer to Strasburg and further west need to meet at Columbia Middle School, 17600 E. Columbia Ave., Aurora. Precincts 330 and 331 make up the old precinct 332. Precinct 364 used to be 333 and new precinct 365 used to be 334. Precinct 363 is new.

Residents unsure of their precinct can contact their county Republican office. The Adams County Republicans can be reached at (303)426-8776 or www.adcorepublicans.com. The Arapahoe County Republicans can be contacted at (303)779-1115, arappog@arapahoerepublicans.org, or www.arapahoerepublicans.org.

ArapCo treasurer mails property tax statements

LITTLETON — Tax statements for 2011 property taxes due in 2012 were mailed last week to many Arapahoe County property owners.

Those who have previously opted out of paper statements or had their taxes paid through their mortgage company last year, will not receive a statement.

The Arapahoe County Treasurer's Office provides tax information electronically to lenders for property owners whose taxes are paid through their mortgage company. Property owners who have previously requested a printed statement, in addition to the one provided to their mortgage company, will receive a statement.

The treasurer's office will mail just 118,624 of the 221,324 tax statements to property owners in Arapahoe County, saving approximately \$41,000 in tax dollars for postage and other costs.

Beginning this year as an additional cost-saving measure, taxpayers who

pay their taxes in two installments, due Feb. 29 and June 15, will not receive a second-half statement. Coupons for making both payments will be included with the original tax statements.

"The original notice will contain all of the information property owners need to make complete and timely payments," said Treasurer Sue Sandstrom. "The elimination of a second-half statement will save almost \$10,000 in taxpayer dollars."

Property owners can request a paper statement if their taxes are paid through their mortgage company or opt out of the paper statement if they pay their taxes by calling the treasurer's office.

Tax statements will be available for all properties in early February at www.co.arapahoe.co.us. Property owners can also use the website to sign up for email notifications.

For more information, call the treasurer's office at (303)795-4550.

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