

WEATHER
Sun, breeze today. Chance storms Sunday and Monday. Please see complete weather, pg. 2

TODAY 85° | **TONIGHT** 55°

JOURNAL-ADVOCATE



\$1.00
Saturday
June 25, 2016
Sterling, Colorado



www.journal-advocate.com • All Your News Since 1885

ELECTION 2016

Ballot count ahead of schedule

By Sara Waite

Journal-Advocate managing editor

Logan County Clerk expects average turnout in primary

Logan County Clerk and Recorder Pam Bacon said Friday afternoon that returns on the June 28 Primary Election seemed slow.

But after looking at her numbers, she realized she only needs about 760 more ballots to achieve what she considers “average” primary participation. She said a little over 2,700 ballots had been returned, out of 7,561 issued to registered Democrats and Republicans in

Logan County. She said primary elections usually draw about 3,500 voters.

Bacon said she felt achieving that mark was doable — “We can get that (762 ballots) easy” before polls close on Tuesday — and she’d be thrilled to go over the average. She expects a lot of people will vote this weekend, and she reminds them to drop off their ballot at the Courthouse, either in

the 24/7 drop box or in her office. This close to the deadline, she said, mailing the ballot back runs a risk that it will not be received in time to be counted, as postmarks do not count.

Perhaps a reason behind feeling that they should be busier is the new Dominion Voting Systems equipment the county transitioned to this year. Rather than having to feed ballots in one at a

time, the new ballot scanner can process up to 4,000 ballots in an hour. Imperfect ballots, which in the past would have halted the processing until they were duplicated by hand, are now scanned and adjudicated electronically.

As a result, Bacon said, the election judges have worked just a day and a half since ballot processing began. On their first day,

they spent four hours processing 980 ballots, and “worked themselves out of a job,” Bacon said. “It would have taken a lot longer to feed them through (the old scanner).”

“It’s great.”

The efficiencies have her staff excited, and they aren’t letting their extra time go to waste. Bacon said they are already starting to prepare for the November election,

which she expects will draw a higher than average turnout.

Those efficiencies go beyond saving time, as Bacon noted that she will save money on paying the election judges. The county will also realize a savings on mailing costs for the primary and general election, because the ballots were mailed at a non-profit rate.

The change to a new voting system meant some changes for voters, and

See PRIMARY, 5

STERLING PUBLIC LIBRARY



Callie Jones / Sterling Journal-Advocate

Chef Calvin Lee demonstrates how to make a smoking packet during a BBQ Bash Thursday at Sterling Public Library. Approximately 20 people attended the program, where Lee gave tips for grilling hamburgers and making other barbecue dishes.

Grill tips from BBQ Bash

Program was part of library’s adult Summer Reading offerings

By Callie Jones

Journal-Advocate staff writer

With summer in full swing and the Fourth of July holiday coming up, you might be thinking about having a barbecue. Chef Calvin Lee offered some tips for making the perfect hamburger and other barbecue dishes at a BBQ Bash Thursday evening at Sterling Public Library.

Around 20 people attended the adults-only Summer Reading Program event, where Lee demonstrated how to make hamburgers with root beer barbecue sauce, umami burgers, a Big Mac Sauce to put on the hamburger and a side dish of apple bacon baked beans.

He started by showing how to make a smoking packet, which can be used as a makeshift smoker to cook food on the grill. Simply fold a piece of aluminum foil in half twice, crinkle the ends so that it doesn’t leak, fill it with whatever wood you want to put in it to give your food more flavor — Lee used apple, cherry and hickory — poke a hole in the middle of the packet and put it on the hottest part of the grill.

As he was preparing the meal he spoke about how to cut the right way. When you’re cutting don’t expose your fingers; hold the knife in a claw fashion and use the flat part of your fingers as a guide for the blade.



Callie Jones / Sterling Journal-Advocate

Guests try out an umami burger with Big Mac sauce and root beer barbecue sauce, along with apple bacon baked beans and Kittencal’s Famous Coleslaw at Sterling Public Library’s BBQ Bash.

Lee talked about the importance of using aromatic food, such as onions, to help give your dish flavor. He pointed out that flavor is what you smell, while taste is the taste zones in your mouth — sweet, bitter, sour salty.

He encouraged people to use a lot of citrus in their cooking.

“If your food is dull and you don’t know why, splash it with vinegar; it will taste a lot better,” Lee said.

He also demonstrated how to shape hamburger patties, use your hand to form a C and put your burger against that as you’re shaping it, to make sure

See BBQ, 3

AGRICULTURE

Wheat crop still on track for high yields

Hail, rust damage localized in southern areas

By Jeff Rice

Special to the Journal-Advocate

The wheat crop in north-eastern Colorado should yield some good numbers with some areas harvesting as much as 90 bushels to the acre.

Ron Meyer, a CSU Extension Agronomist based in Burlington, said he and his summer intern, Melissa Poet, had checked about 30

wheat fields all the way from Julesburg down to Springfield, and look for a good harvest.

Poet said she expects wheat harvest in the Sterling area to begin sometime after July 4.

“If it stays dry and hot, we could see wheat harvest starting in the next couple of weeks,” Poet said. “Some farmers in the Burlington area are already getting samples ready to test for moisture content. Further north (around Sterling) harvest will be a few days behind that.”

She said there is some

See WHEAT, 2

PEETZ SCHOOL BOARD

Superintendent’s contract renewed

Board discusses replacing garage

By Callie Jones

Journal-Advocate staff writer

The Peetz Plateau Board of Education took action on two items related to the superintendent at their regular meeting Tuesday.

Along with extending Superintendent Mark Collard’s contract for another two years, the board also approved a lease agreement for a superintendent’s house in Peetz.

In other business, the board also talked about a garage issue. The district’s

garage on Louisa Street is having some structural issues, so there was discussion about fixing it or replacing the garage. The board is leaning towards just replacing the structure.

Additionally, during his superintendent’s report, Collard shared the updated teacher handbook. The updates pertain to social media use. Along with updating the handbook, the board reviewed the district’s policy regarding staff social media use.

During her principal’s report, Lori Heller discussed the district’s waiver from the TS GOLD assessment. The test is currently given to preschoolers to

See PEETZ, 2

INDEX

Calendar.....	5	TV listings.....	4, 7
Classifieds.....	10-11	Weather.....	2
Comics.....	9	Volume 130, Number 190	
Community.....	5-6		
Dear Abby.....	9	8 35646 00001 1	
Obituaries.....	5		
Sports.....	7		