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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

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

Wednesday, January 29, 2025



JALEE KITZMAN/For The Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Left photo, water flows westward down Fourth Avenue at Sherman Street in Byers during the twilight hours following a water main breach that occurred about 3:30 p.m. Jan. 22. Right photo, the following morning, workers replace a portion of the community's 12-inch water main as part of an overall system upgrade. A boil water order was rescinded about 1:30 p.m. Jan. 25.

## Byers suffers second H<sub>2</sub>O breach in 3 weeks

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

BYERS — For the second time since the new year started, Byers residents temporarily lost water service and were forced to boil water for consumption following a water main breach Jan. 22.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., crews working to install a new water line at Fourth Avenue and Sherman Street, in front of the Byers Water & Sanitation District office, found an unexpected surprise when they punctured a pipe running parallel with the one they knew about.

“We found out there were two mains running

down Fourth and we only knew about one of them,” said Byers Water & Sanitation District Administrator Kagen Kitzman. “They were digging easy and calculated, but caught the [unknown] main with a tooth of a bucket and popped it. We had no working

**SEE WATER OUTAGE**  
**PAGE 24**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

School counselor and emcee for the day Josh Rogan tries to chat up Niko Shibata during Deer Trail's Got Talent at Deer Trail School Jan. 23. **SEE PAGE 8.**

## Bennett well replacement OK'd

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

BENNETT — An old municipal water well in Bennett will be retired and a new well drilled.

The Bennett Board of Trustees approved a \$557,387 contract with Hydro Resources for the new drill Jan. 14. Town water consultant Gina Burke with Jehn Water Consultants, Inc. presented the staff report on the project, on behalf of CIP and Utilities Director Daniel Pershing.

Based on recent flow and mainte-

nance records, existing Municipal Well 7, located at Third Street and Washington Avenue in old Bennett (north of the train tracks), is in need of replacement.

“It is an 1983 well that is dying of old age,” Burke said. “It is just not meeting expectations any longer, and we need to provide more service to the town.”

The new well will be drilled to source water from the Upper Arapahoe (UA) aquifer at a 700-foot depth.

**SEE BENNETT BOT**  
**PAGE 6**

## Semi tips, dumps 23 tons of bottled water at Watkins

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

WATKINS — While cleanup of the scene took up most of the second half of the day, no one was harmed during a semi rollover near Watkins Jan. 24.

At about 1:30 p.m. Friday, the Colorado State Patrol and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue were dispatched near mile marker 294 of eastbound I-70, immediately west of the Watkins interchange, on reports of a

tipped semi. Upon arrival, a red semi cab and its cargo trailer were found lying on its right side.

“Ran off the eastbound lanes and collided with a concrete culvert and rolled one-quarter time,” a Colorado State Patrol spokeswoman said.

Capt. Clint Rushing with the State Patrol's Limon troop office added the crash was property damage only with the driver, identified as 81-year-old

**SEE SEMI ROLLOVER**  
**PAGE 16**



SHYLO BOCKENFELD/The I-70 Scout

Emergency and cleanup crews assess the damage from a semi rollover near eastbound I-70 mile marker 294, immediately west of the Watkins interchange Jan. 24.