



The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 5

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

Thursday, January 2, 2025

'Burger guilty of abuse of at-risk adult

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

CENTENNIAL — Two of three members of a Strasburg family involved in a physical abuse case against a developmentally disabled adult south of town in early 2024 have agreed to plea agreements with the apparent ring-leader awaiting to hear her fate in February. The other defendant has his next day in court the first week of the new year.

In late October in Arapahoe County District Court, Gerilynn "Lynn" Amaro, 72, pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree assault against an at-risk party.

"Both are class 6 felonies. As part of that plea, we dismissed all other charges," an 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office spokesperson said. "Sentencing in this case is set for Feb. 3 (3 p.m. in Courtroom 308)." Amaro was originally

charged with six Class 6 felony assault accounts and a pair of child abuse misdemeanors associated with reports of abusive behavior of at least six months — September 2023 through January 2024.

The presumptive sentencing range for Class 6 felonies usually includes 1-2 years in prison.

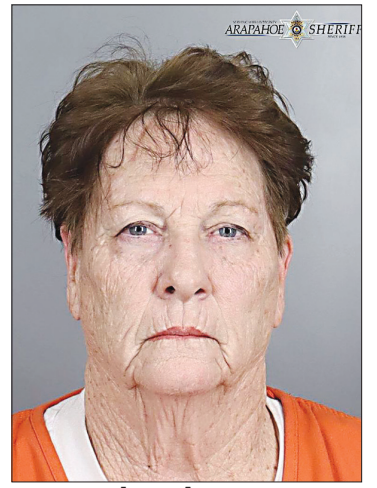
Amaro's daughter, Ricci, 46, and husband, Richard, 78, were charged with five and two felony counts, re-

spectively.

According to the DA's office, Ricci Amaro also entered a plea agreement in October and will serve three years of probation for misdemeanor third-degree assault. All other charges were dropped.

"This third-degree assault is a class 1 misdemeanor because that specific charge did not include 'at risk,' which is what

SEE AT-RISK ADULT PAGE 22



•Lynn Amaro•



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This lovely landscape photo, taken at Twamore Trails near Fort Morgan by Carl Steitz of Strasburg, was a finalist in the Morgan Community College photo contest for its 2025 calendar. **SEE PAGE 9.**

Blaze at Byers sparks ArapCo open burn ban

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

BYERS — Preparation and quick response by local firefighters prevented an I-70 Corridor wildfire from terrorizing residents near Byers Dec. 30.

But the incident spurred further action from a local burn ban perspective.

At about 9:50 a.m. Monday, first responders were dispatched near Highway 36 and Bradbury-Krebs Road on report of a "large brush fire with rapid spread to the east." The Quint Valley Golf Course and May Farms were in closest vicinity to the fire's boundaries.

Within about 10 minutes of arrival, the fire was

SEE FIRE PAGE 10

Watkins resident perishes in crash east of Strasburg

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — The Christmas week turned tragic for the family of a Watkins man who was killed in a crash on I-70 at Strasburg overnight into Christmas Eve morning.

At about 1:15 a.m. Dec. 24, the Colorado State Patrol was dispatched to the creek crossing at mile marker 311 of eastbound I-70 immediately east of the Strasburg interchange to what was originally reported as a two-vehicle accident. Upon arrival, four vehicles were found

on scene; it was later determined that the crash involved a single pickup with the other three vehicles damaged after the fact.

"Ran off the road sometime [during the] night. No one saw it for a while," said Capt. Clint Rushing with the State Patrol troop office out of Limon, noting that the adult male driver was not wearing his seat belt and was killed. "Debris damaged some other vehicles when they drove through. That's when the crash scene was found."

The Arapahoe County Coroner's Office identified the decedent as 55-year-

old Lester M. Biker of Watkins, formerly of McCook, Neb.

Passersby indicated the pickup was extricated from underneath the bridge.

"Crashed through the barriers on the left side of the bridge, and (went) down the embankment, rolling, and coming to rest on its passenger side in the dry creek bed," Rushing confirmed.

Both directions of I-70 were shut down with the westbound lanes reopened about 2 a.m., but the eastbound lanes remained impassable until 9 a.m., after the scene was cleared and



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Workers load debris onto a flatbed trailer following a Christmas Eve traffic accident about one mile east of Strasburg on eastbound I-70.

the inside guard rails replaced by temporary concrete barriers. Traffic was diverted to Highway 36

(Colfax Avenue) through Strasburg.

SEE CRASHES PAGE 20