



The I-70 Scout

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

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Bennett sewer plant expansion planned

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BENNETT — Continued growth in the town of Bennett will require an expansion of the town's

Wastewater Reclamation & Resource Recovery Facility, and the Board of Trustees authorized financing for the major project Oct. 22.

The town will issue ap-

proximately \$30 million in bonds for the expansion. Construction will begin in early 2025.

In her staff report, Finance Director Danette Ruvalcaba said the capaci-

ty of the wastewater treatment facility will be expanded from the current .4 millions of gallons per day (mgd) with a sequencing batch reactor treatment system to .99 mgd through

a membrane bioreactor process.

"It will also increase our level of reuse water, which will broaden the uses from

SEE WASTEWATER PAGE 4



DAVID MAGDANZ/For The Scout

The Union Pacific Railroad's historic Big Boy No. 4014 locomotive stops at the Monroe Street crossing in Strasburg Oct. 21 as part of its 2024 Heartland of America Tour this summer and fall. In addition to several thousand people converging on Strasburg to see the engine while it was stopped, a long line of onlookers followed it from Deer Trail to Watkins along Highways 40/36. **SEE PAGE 24.**

Byers women's center re-named to reflect family emphasis

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — The former Eastern Plains Women's Resource Center in Byers has a new name that better represents its mission.

The Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains celebrated its name change Oct. 12 with an open house at the center at 228 W. Front St. in Byers.

Director Deb Jackson said that, while the 501(c)3 nonprofit orga-

nization is categorized as a pregnancy center, its mission is broader — the center is dedicated to helping women and families facing a variety of challenges.

"We're changing the name because we want fathers and young men to feel comfortable and welcomed here," she said.

The Family Resource Center provides, free of charge, resources and services including pregnancy tests, options education for unplanned pregnancy, relationship

classes, sexual health/abstinence education, healing and wholeness support for victims of trauma, addiction counseling, and parenting and life skills classes. Referrals are provided to adoption agencies, free ultrasound providers, food banks, medical/financial/housing assistance and more.

The resource center has been in existence since 1995 and moved into its current facility in 2003.

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KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Director Deb Jackson stands in front of the Family Resource Center of the Eastern Plains with its new signage.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Halloween season gets underway along the I-70 Corridor. Left photo, Jennie from the Boo Crew passes out candy to trick-or-treaters as well as invitations to the annual haunted house in Antelope Hills subdivision at the town of Bennett Trunk or Treat event at town hall in blustery conditions Oct. 24. Center, Kayden Bevan, left, paints a black eye and a skeleton on left cheek of Wesley Junior at the Bennett FFA chapter Halloween Carnival at the elementary gym Oct. 25. Right, Everleigh Smith, 6, has her interest piqued by a glowing spider toy at the town of Deer Trail haunted house Oct. 25-26 in the Bijou Estates subdivision.