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Volume 30, Number 47 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Thursday, October 17, 2024

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

Bennett law enforcement move to ArapCo creates emergency radio glitch with school

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BENNETT — The town of Bennett’s decision to not renew its contract for law enforcement services with Adams County and to contract with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office this year resulted in an unintended issue for Ben-

nett School District. The school district requested, and received, assistance from the Bennett Board of Trustees Oct. 8 to correct the problem. The board approved a \$15,000 expenditure from the town’s general fund to help complete the installation of an emergency radio system through SchoolSAFE — a Colorado initiative to facilitate in-

teroperability with schools and first responders across the state. Bennett High School Assistant Principal Nick Ophaug presented the request, noting that the district was awarded a state grant of \$432,000 last year to install radio interoperability infrastructure. **SEE RADIO ISSUE PAGE 24**



Camilla Carranza, left, and Fatuma Hussein battle each other during a human version of Hungry Hungry Hippos during the Deer Trail Homecoming pep rally Oct. 10. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

ArapCo OKs DT School septic system

Contractor bypasses town’s denial, claims project will be done in November

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Deer Trail School District officials said recently they expect the expansion project of three modular classrooms and a concession stand with restrooms to be completed in about one month — three to four months after the original projection. During the Oct. 7 school board meeting, contractor Perry Thomas told directors that he expects “mid-November to be 100% complete with both projects,” noting that he successfully circumvented an early September town board decision to deny a request to install a septic system instead of tying into the municipal sewer system for the new concession stand, which will house restroom facilities for students and staff in the modular classrooms. “As a courtesy, I went to the city for a letter of approval, (but) [Arapahoe] County says anything greater than 400 feet [to tie into



The new concession stand with restrooms has been sitting on its foundation at Deer Trail School, but it will probably be another month before the structure is in full operation. Efforts to plumb it to a septic system separate from the town’s sewer system are ongoing. [the sewer], we don’t need the city’s approval,” Thomas said. “The county allowed the exemption (for septic). Schools are the state’s jurisdiction, that’s the variable here. I’ve had to deal with getting permits from four different state agencies.” The septic situation was not discussed during the Oct. 8 town trustees meeting and confirmations of the septic exemption from both the state and county were unavailable; however, Thomas said that the septic plan review with Arapahoe County **SEE DT SCHOOL PAGE 20**

Arapahoe ponders parking ordinance in unincorporated residential zones

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — When Arapahoe County commissioners entertain a new parking ordinance next week, they will be presented with stricter rules against parking of commercial oversized vehicles and trailers in unincorporated residential areas. During their Oct. 22 business meeting, commissioners will hold a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2024-02, setting new parking regulations on and along county roadways and on county-owned properties. Among the new rules expected to impact eastern unincorporated areas of the county is a proposed ban on parking of oversized commercial vehicle or trailers on any county road within a residentially zoned area. According to Section II.9.(a), “No person shall park or permit the parking of any oversized commercial vehicle or trailer on any county highway or road that is located within a residentially zoned area or on the same side off the street adjacent to a residentially zoned area, on any county highway or road or sidewalk area in any area of the unincorporated county that is within the boundary of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), or on or at any county owned property.” According to the most recent DRCOG boundary map, all of Arapahoe and Adams counties are included. Four exemptions to the proposed rule are:

- The vehicle or trailer is parked while delivering or picking up in a residential area or a service vehicle providing a service;
- the vehicle or trailer is parked

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