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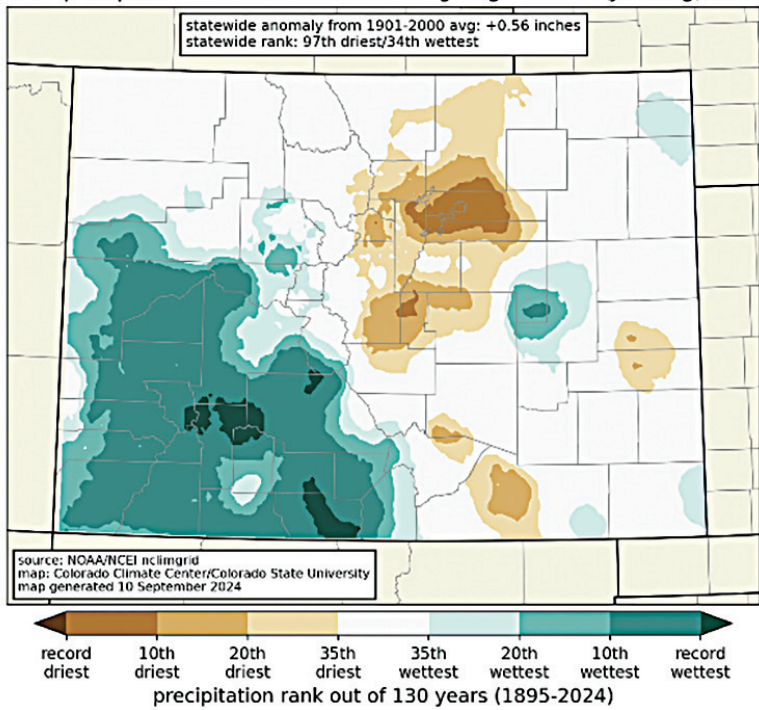
# The I-70 Scout

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Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Thursday, September 19, 2024

## AdCo, ArapCo among CO's driest areas

precipitation rank: 3 months ending August 2024 (Jun-Aug)



by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

Adams and Arapahoe counties make up part of the quickest drying area of the state as one of the driest summers on record transitions into a not-so-promising fall.

The Colorado Climate Center (CCC) indicated in its August synopsis that Arapahoe and Adams counties are part of central Colorado that was hit by multiple climate low-marks the past three months that have resulted in worsening drought news.

“August 2024 was warmer than average across nearly all of Colorado. A broad swath of central and southern Colorado had a top-10 warm August. The climatological summer — spanning June, July, and August — was hot across Colorado. June and August were especially warm months. Some pockets ex-

perienced their hottest summer on record. The nine hottest summers across Colorado have all been since 2000,” the CCC report said. “Summer saw some major contrasts in precipitation across the state. In southwest Colorado, the monsoon was especially active, and it was one of the wettest summers on record. On the other hand, the Front Range, especially around [and immediately east of] the Denver metro area, was much drier than average.”

The June through August precipitation map by CCC shows that the counties making up the Front Range, including much of eastern Adams and Arapahoe counties, suffered anywhere from the 10th- to 20th-driest summers in 130 years of records keeping.

According to the Sept. 12 U.S. Drought Monitor map, 90% of Arapahoe County

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## Byers OKs water tank upgrades contract

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

BYERS — Byers Water & Sanitation District awarded a contract for its water storage tank work but rejected the only bid on the pipeline portion of its water system improvements project.

Bids were presented by GMS Consulting Engineers Principal Jason Meyer at the Sept. 9 district board meeting. Meyer noted the bids were set up on two schedules of work and two separate contracts.

“They are very different types of work,” he said.

The one bid on Schedule 1, all the pipeline work, came from Global Underground Corp of Colorado Springs.

“We had explored four or five general contractors,

out of Strasburg, Denver, Monument and the Springs,” Meyer said. “We postponed the original bid opening a week because we were getting feedback about needing more time to bid. It didn’t work out how we were hoping.”

The Global bid came in much higher than anticipated, at just under \$4.2 million.

“We have about \$3.7 million in available funds for construction,” Meyer added.

After going over the details of the bid with the board, Meyer said his recommendation is to reject it.

“That would give us the authority to start negotiations with either the bidder or with other contractors,” he said.

Meyer said GMS polled

the other previously interested contractors to find out why they didn’t bid, and the vast majority said they were too busy. Then they reached out to other contractors who didn’t pick up bid packets the first go-round, and four are now interested in bidding.

“First, we’ll speak with Global Underground to see if they are willing to negotiate on their bid,” Meyer said. “If not, we’ll move on to the other contractors who are now willing to bid under the premise of negotiations.”

The bid deadline will likely be in early October.

“We’ll ask for bids along with information on when their schedule will allow them to actually be on site doing construction,” Meyer

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KATHY HITCHCOCK/For The Scout

Flames erupt from the roof of a four-plex in the 200 block of Ash Street, Bennett Sept. 15. For complete coverage, see the Sept. 20 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News*.

## New DT School concession stand remains on blocks



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Cattle panels and snow fence provide a barricade for the new concession stand and restroom building at the Deer Trail School outdoor stadium while school district officials determine how to proceed with plumbing the structure. Deer Trail trustees last week denied the school district’s request to allow a septic tank instead of tying into the municipal wastewater system.

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Snags continue to plague the Deer Trail School expansion project more than a month into the school year, but fourth, fifth and sixth-grade classes are starting to settle into their new digs.

During a Sept. 9 school board meeting, Deer Trail Superintendent Mike Jobman said students moved into three modular classrooms during the last week of August.

“The kids finally got in and are getting acclimated,” Jobman said. “Has gone pretty

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