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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

Thursday, August 29, 2024

## Arapahoe County seeks TABOR relief

Commissioners opt to place 'de-Brucing' question on November ballot with Baker in opposition

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Arapahoe County will refer a "de-Brucing" ballot measure to voters in November. The Arapahoe County Commis-

sioners passed a resolution Aug. 20 to ask residents to release the county from the revenue and spending restrictions of the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) — the amendment to the state constitution authored by former

representative Douglas Bruce and passed by Colorado voters in 1992 that limits how the state and local governments can raise and spend money.

It requires voter approval for tax increases and limits the growth of

government revenues and spending and requires any revenue generated over the set limit, which is calculated each year based on inflation and population growth, to

**SEE ARAPCO  
PAGE 3**



CMDR. KARL SMALLEY/Adams County Sheriff's Office



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Left photo, an Adams County Sheriff's vehicle sits next to boulders of melting ice following a major hailstorm near Highway 36 and Winview Road Aug. 19. Right, multiple bolts of lightning viewed from Strasburg and moving east towards Deer Trail strike violently at approximately 9 p.m. Aug. 23.

## Severe August weather clobbers Agate and Deer Trail

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

DEER TRAIL — The far eastern portion of the I-70 Corridor seems to be the bullseye of this month's severe weather so far.

On Aug. 13, straight-line winds ripped down power poles along Highway 40 by the old dog track. Deer Trail and Byers were without power for several hours.

On Monday, Aug. 19, severe thunderstorms brought between

quarter and tennis-ball sized hail to the Eastern Plains, according to National Weather Service severe weather reports. The largest reported hail was 2 inches in diameter in Ramah, in El Paso County. Two tornadoes touched down that

afternoon — one just west of Shamrock in Adams County and one 10 miles northeast of Deer Trail in Arapahoe County. The storm caused 721 delayed flights and 21

**SEE STORMS  
PAGE 10**

## Blaze devastates Deer Trail home; family members seek help



PHOTO COURTESY ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A fireman examines the damage to the home at 314 First Ave., Deer Trail.

by **Kathy Smiley**  
Staff Writer

DEER TRAIL — An early morning fire Aug. 23 destroyed a home in Deer Trail and displaced its three residents.

An Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office post on X at 8:44 a.m. that day laid out the facts: "Sheriff Deputies are on scene of a house fire in Deer Trail. The fire broke out around 5:20 a.m. and three residents in their 80s were able to exit safely without injuries. It happened in the 300 block of First Street. The home was fully engulfed and is completely destroyed. The damage was confined to one house and no neighboring homes were damaged. Multiple fire and rescue agencies responded including Deer Trail Fire, Byers Fire, Bennett-Watkins Fire, Strasburg Fire, Sable-Altura Fire, and the Adams County Sheriff's Office. No word yet on the cause; the investigation is ongoing. Arapa-

**SEE DIXONS  
PAGE 13**



PHOTO COURTESY ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Everything in the room where Richard Dixon was sleeping was destroyed, including his library of books.