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

Thursday, August 1, 2024

ArapCo sheriff stripped of fiscal duties

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — As the Arapahoe County commissioners struggle to mitigate an impending county-wide fiscal spiral, the board

recently took over financial oversight of its largest departmental budget after the sheriff overspent last year.

The board also stripped the sheriff's office of all fiscal signing responsibilities after uncovering

an unaccounted transfer of funds earlier this summer.

On the 12-item consent agenda of their July 9 board meeting, commissioners voted 4-0, including stripping Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown of fiscal controls in

his office and turning them over to the county's finance department.

The resolution includes removing "all billing and collection of funds from cities, towns, school districts,

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Myra Lopez, 10, is all smiles despite losing her balance inside one of the inflatable bubbles provided by Anythink Bennett library during its Human Hamster event at Trupp Park July 16.

Staggered schedules miff Bennett School families

by **Douglas Claussen**
Publisher & Editor

BENNETT — The Bennett School Board July 18 appointed a new finance director and gave her access to the district's bank accounts, but not before hearing from parents about schedule changes for the 2024-25 academic year.

In an e-mail sent out earlier that day, parents were informed that proposed start and dismissal times for students will be staggered to alleviate traffic in and around the school campus. If the schedule is

adopted, children in kindergarten through the fifth grade will attend from 7:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. while classes for middle and high school students will run from 8:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

During public comment, parent Julie Bavoset said that a two-week notice of the change is inadequate since parents must revise child care arrangements, consider transportation issues, and request work schedule changes.

"I think that everybody
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'Burg Rec, museum merger done

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — Earlier this summer the acquisition of Strasburg's museum by the local recreation district was completed and the first notable difference will be when the annual Hometown Days historical presentation takes place on Thursday, Aug. 8.

During the mid-June board meeting of the Strasburg Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District, Administrator Angie Graf reported that the deed for the Comanche Crossing Museum had been filed with Adams County and that the two-acre property, complete with the museum and other historical structures has been added to the rec district's insurance.

"The museum is truly a community treasure and we are so excited to work with the Comanche Crossing Historical Society to partner on events ... and ensure that the museum stays open and operational," Graf said.

During their March 18 meeting, recreation district

directors unanimously approved the acquisition of the museum property on the west edge of town. Under the arrangement, the historical society will lease the property back for a minimal fee.

Graf reiterated that primary operations of the museum will remain with curator Cliff Smith and their group of volunteers.

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Dax Engelsman, 5, sits in suds with a makeshift pirate hat during the annual Strasburg Parks & Recreation District and Strasburg Fire Protection District Foam Day at Community Park July 20.

Hometown Days grand marshals named

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — The Strasburg Hometown Days parade grand marshals have called Strasburg their hometown for decades.

Cheryl and Ed Humbert each grew up in Strasburg and both graduated from Strasburg High School — Ed in 1976 and Cheryl in 1980. They raised their three children in the town and have owned and operated Strasburg Auto Parts for years.

In a July 22 conversation with *The I-70 Scout* at their Strasburg home, the Humberts discussed their Eastern Colorado roots that extend deeper than a generation.

Cheryl's father was the first owner of the auto parts store in Strasburg. Harvey and Eileen Crandall and their three daughters moved to Strasburg in 1972 when Cheryl was in fourth grade. Harvey and Eileen built and opened Crandall Auto Parts and the Strasburg Self Serv gas station in 1976. They later expanded the business to include the car wash and Harv's Repair.

Cheryl grew up about a mile down the road from their current home on Arapahoe County Road 153.

Her parents bought a lot in Strasburg and moved in with Cheryl's grandfather in Watkins while her father earned money for two years by digging basements for new houses, including their own. She attended Bennett school for half a year during that time.

"Then, after we moved into the Stras-



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Cheryl and Ed Humbert are the Grand Marshals of the Strasburg Hometown Days Parade Aug. 10.

burg house, my father had enough money to start the auto parts store," she said.

Ed came to Strasburg with his mom and siblings in July 1974, but the move was a homecoming for his mother. His grandparents, Beaula and Orrie Barrois, homesteaded in the Living Springs area north of town. Beaula taught at Living Springs School, which is now an exhibit at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg.

Ed's parents both attended Strasburg High School and graduated in 1954. They married and moved around for a few

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