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The I-70 Scout

The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 19

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Measles outbreak spreads in Kansas, N.M.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

PUEBLO — While no additional cases have been reported in Colorado since a Pueblo resident was confirmed to have contracted measles last month, state health officials last week updated locations where transmission of the

contagion could have occurred.

“As our investigation has progressed, we identified an additional location where people may have been exposed to measles. This is common in case investigations as we learn more about an individual’s movements during their infectious period,” said,

Rachel Herlihy, Colorado State Epidemiologist and Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Colorado Department of Health & Environment, in an April 2 statement. “Identifying and notifying the public about these locations as quickly as possible is critical to protecting the health of the community and limiting fur-

ther spread.”

In addition to the Southwest Deli & Cafe, 1873 S. Pueblo Blvd., between March 17-21, visitors to the South Side Walmart, 4080 W. Northern Ave., from 2:30-5 p.m. March 22 are urged to be checked for measles if feeling ill. State health officials also updated the time frame for patients at

the Southern Colorado Clinic, 109 S. Burlington Drive, to 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 22.

Officials with the Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment and CDPHE confirmed March 31 that a Pueblo resident had tested positive for the contagious

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Young Simba, played by Harley-Ann Lehmkuhl, runs from the wildebeests in the gorge during a production of “The Lion King Kids” by the Tiger Tones of Bennett Intermediate School March 27-28 at the high school auditorium. **SEE PAGE 24.**

Administrative enforcement of Bennett Municipal Code approved by town trustees

by **Shylo Bockenfeld**
Editorial Assistant

BENNETT — Bennett officials are in process of implementing additional town wide property maintenance regulations, which are expected to be finalized later this year.

During the March 25 town trustees meeting, Bennett Community Services Supervisor Keith Buono encouraged adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) as a supplement to the existing Bennett town code.

The board has not yet approved adoption of the IPMC, but did approve administrative enforcement of the Bennett Municipal Code, changes to location of utility equipment, an electronic billboard to be located at exit 304 south of I-70 with one of its eight digital display slots dedicated to town use, and plans for an AutoZone to be located at the intersection of CO-79 and Pearl Street.

IPMC establishes minimum requirements for the maintenance of existing private and commercial buildings through model code regulations intended to be clear and specific.

The board emphasizes repairs such as unstable

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Byers Knowledge Bowl team qualifies for nat’l showdown

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Question: What I-70 Corridor high school has qualified for the state Knowledge Bowl competition for four years in a row?

Answer: Byers High School.

If that was a Knowledge Bowl question, the team that buzzed in first with the right answer would earn points — an action Byers teams have successfully performed hundreds of times. Qualifying for the state meet also punches a team’s ticket to the nationals, and this year’s roster hopes to make the trip to New Orleans at the end of May for the school’s third national competition.

The I-70 Scout caught up with Knowledge Bowl coach and social studies teacher Scott Thomas and his high school team in his classroom March 12. Thomas’ admiration for his team members is evident as he recounts their state competition accomplishments. He noted that the team’s successes are displayed on a banner in the gym alongside athletic team banners.

“Our first year the state competition was held online because of COVID, and we came in third,” he

said. “The next year we went to UNC Greeley and we got fifth. Last year it was at Aims Community College in Greeley and we got third again.”

The team returned to Aims Community College for this year’s state meet March 17-18 and took eighth place in the 2A classification.

Thomas added that Byers teams have twice been regional champions and have participated in other events.

“The last couple years we’ve done Rocky Mountain Quiz Kids, which is televised in southern Colorado,” he said. “We’ve done an online tournament through Knowledge Bowl and came in second as a small school. We haven’t been in a league in a while, but we’ve been league champions three times in a row — junior high and high school.”

Thomas, in his sixth year as Byers’ Knowledge Bowl coach, unnecessarily apologized for his enthusiasm.

“Sorry for just reeling all that off, but the thing is, it’s been amazing what these kids have accomplished,” he said.

Current high school team members include Jena Rains, Christopher Papaianopol, Nick Papaianopol, Ben Gerhardt, Torin Wardall, Krayton Ebert and



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Byers High School Knowledge Bowl team members — juniors Torin Wardall, left, Christopher Papaianopol, Krayton Ebert and Ben Gerhardt, freshman Nick Papaianopol, and senior Jena Rains — get serious about the state competition. Ian Foos is not pictured.

Ian Foos. All but Ian were present for the lunch hour interview. They fielded questions from the

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