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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, November 14, 2024

Massive snowfall drenches East Colo.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Chloe Dedionisio, 12, and Jonathan Dedionisio, 13, dig out a fort from plowed snow on the side of Cedar Avenue in Byers during the first day of last week's winter-like snow storm Nov. 6.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

After just nine days, November snapped the string of record dry, hot months along the Front Range and across Eastern Colorado, particularly the I-70 Corridor between the metro area and Limon.

Last week's four-day storm, Nov. 6-9, dropped 2-4 feet of snow and 1½-3½ inches of precipitation along much of the I-70 Corridor from E-470 to Limon. While the official National Weather Service reporting station at Denver International Airport reported 20 inches of snow — three times its usual November total over the past three decades, a top 10 month already and 40% of its average snow total for the year — many reporters further east and south of I-70 recorded significantly more.

Snow readings from the NWS and the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (Co-CoRAHS) included 20 inches in and around Bennett, 24.5 inches about 10 miles southwest of Ben-

**SEE STORM
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Commissioner Jeff Baker, left, campaigns at Front and Main streets in Byers on Nov. 5 with help from Randall Miller.

Baker, Baca retain seats Fields also named ArapCo commissioner

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Unofficial election counts indicate that Republican Jeff Baker has retained his seat

on the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners.

Baker, a familiar presence on the I-70 Corridor, is serving his second

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Adams County voters reject sales tax

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BRIGHTON — Adams County voters soundly shouted down a request to pay extra sales tax to help expand the availability of

affordable housing in the county.

Even though the proposed sales tax was a relatively modest .15% — amounting to 15 cents

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ArapCo voters OK de-Bruce issue

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Voters in Arapahoe County approved a “de-Bruce” ballot measure to help mitigate the county's budget shortfall.

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

TABOR requires voter approval for tax increases, 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 be returned to taxpayers unless they vote to allow the government to keep it. Over the years, voters have loosened TABOR restrictions on most local

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Byers School Superintendent Tom Turrell, left, Secondary Principal Kelly Boren, Candra Kerns, and Facilities Director Tim Barber take a break from a Saturday of snow shoveling in preparation for the Sunday playoff football game against Merino, which the Bulldogs won 44-14. See the Nov. 15 edition of the *Eastern Colorado News* for complete coverage.

Byers School bond issue fails

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — The majority of voters in Byers School District 32-J said no to the district's request for a \$17.19 million bond to improve and enlarge the high school.

The measure on the Nov. 8 ballot was defeated 862 to 608 according to counts taken through Nov. 8. Percentages were similar in both Arapahoe and Adams counties; in Arapahoe approximately 59% were opposed and 41% in favor, and Adams

County voters were 57% opposed and 43% in favor.

If passed, the bond proposal would have added classroom, academic and support areas to the existing high school; enhanced the school's career and technical education spaces; and renovated, replaced and modernized athletic, performance and multi-use facilities.

The estimated tax increase for the bond for residential property would have been \$10 to \$11 per month for each \$100,000

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