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The I-70 Scout

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

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Cockfighting court case destined for trial

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — The alleged ringleader of a suspected cockfighting operation near Watkins is slated to face trial in

late July, almost a year after he was arrested and almost 40 chickens seized.

According to the online docket for the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, the jury trial for Jesus Orozco, 35,

is set for July 28-31 in Courtroom M of the Adams County Justice Center in Brighton. Orozco is charged with fifth-degree felony animal fighting and first-degree misdemeanor in connection with

a 10-day investigation that resulted in his arrest July 18, 2024, at 4300 Hudson Road northwest of Watkins.

According to the joint investigation of the Adams County Sheriff's Office and

Adams County Animal Management, 39 chickens were seized, including 32 roosters, most with body modifications and a handful with injuries

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'Burg fire chief's hiring formalized

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — As was expected, the Strasburg Fire Protection District Board of Directors recently moved forward with the hire of a new fire chief who will take the reins starting next month.

During their May 15 board meeting in executive session, directors finalized the contract for Scott Smith as the new Strasburg Fire Chief. On June 2, Smith will officially take over chief duties from Pat Conroy, who will

serve as assistant chief/fire marshal.

Smith is a 39-year veteran firefighter/paramedic, who is, most recently, a retired division chief from the Cimarron Hills Fire Department in eastern Colorado Springs where he served the last nine years.

Prior to that, he served 19 years with West Metro Fire and had also been a volunteer responder.

Smith was one of two candidates, out of 21 original applicants, to have in-person interviews.

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CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Strasburg Fire personnel gets assistance from the public during a "push-in" ceremony for the department's new ambulance at a May 10 open house at the Strasburg Firehouse.

Corridor Celebrates Graduates!



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Athletic Director and head basketball coach Jeremy Kerns, left, enters Graduation Hall alongside social studies teacher Nathan Phipps and infant son, Barron, during May 18 commencement ceremonies for Byers High School. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

'Miller Time' arrives soon on Eastern Colorado prairie

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

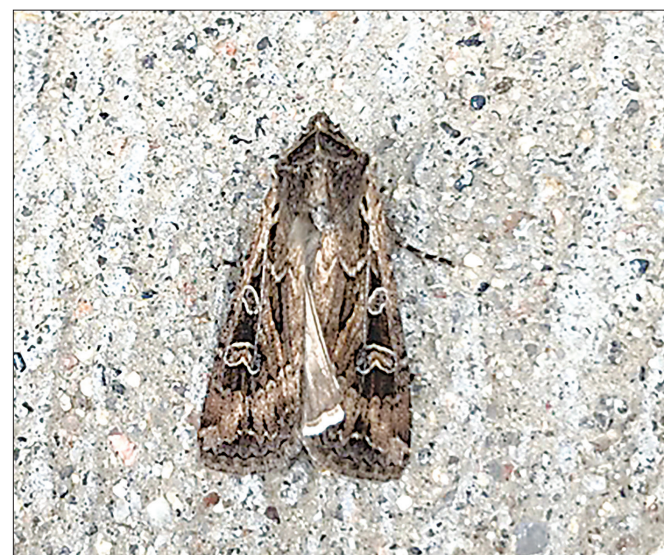
Army cutworm larvae measure 1.5 to 2 inches long with three stripes on the body. Two stripes run along the sides and are orange and dark brown, and a single white stripe runs down the back.

It's miller moth season, and no one is enthused. The pesky creatures seem to be hiding everywhere, lying in wait to startle an unsuspecting person moving a flowerpot, picking up pieces of wood, or turning on a spigot. They are released en masse, flying at the person, who comically flaps their hands to keep them away from their face and hair. The moths laugh.

At least, that's what it seems like. It also seems like they enjoy getting into houses and mocking the people chasing them with fly swatters or vacuum cleaners by landing on the ceiling where they look down at them and thumb their noses. If they had thumbs or noses.

But, in reality of course, miller moths possess no evil intent and are simply passing through on their

SEE MILLER MOTHS PAGE 16



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The adults of army cutworm are miller moths, with a distinct circle and kidney bean-shaped pattern on their wings. Females are predominately gray, and males tend to be brownish.