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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

Volume 31, Number 22

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

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

## Spaceport welcomes jet engine developer

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The I-70 Corridor’s contributor to the aerospace industry didn’t have to wait long to welcome a new tenant to one of its recently vacated facilities.

During its April 22 public hearing, the Adams County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a lease agreement allowing Centennial-based Boom Technology to rent an existing aerospace testing facility at Colorado Air & Space Port (CASP) northeast of Watkins.

Boom takes over 600 Spitfire Loop, which was previously occupied by UK-based Reaction Engines, who ceased seven years of operations in December and terminated its lease agreement with the county this past

March.

“Boom requires a location to develop and test new jet engine technologies to ultimately develop a new type off jet engine which will be called the Symphony Engine to power the Overture aircraft,” the county staff report said. “Boom Technologies would like to lease this property for its current facilities and to develop additional facilities to perform aerospace and jet engine testing/development.”

The approved lease agreement, effective April 22, is for an initial five-year term with five one-year renewal options.

Options to extend past 10 years are also available. Monetary terms of the agreement are:

- annual rate of 40 cents per

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adams County Commissioners on April 22 approved a new lease with Front Range aerospace engine developer Boom Technologies for an existing testing and development site at the Colorado Air & Space Port. The company is expected to invest \$3 million to \$5 million the rest of 2025 to help develop its Symphony supersonic jet engine. Company representatives are pictured above with commissioners and CASP representatives during Tuesday’s public hearing.

## Lone Tree resident dies in wreck near Watkins

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**WATKINS** — A deadly three-day stretch in and around Watkins last week had Colorado State Patrol and other emergency response agencies reiterating to local commuters to drive safely.

“It goes without much saying, but be safe out there,” a Colorado State Patrol spokesman said after two Colorado men were killed and a third seriously injured in a pair of crashes in or near Watkins April 22-24. “It takes just as much vigilance on the roadways out there as it does in the higher-traffic, metro areas. And, with quickly changing spring weather, you must be prepared for anything.”

Last Thursday morning’s single-vehicle crash near mile marker 294 claimed the 52-year-old male driver and lone occupant from Lone Tree, who was pronounced dead on scene.

“At approximately 3:20 a.m. on April 24 a Chevy Silverado was traveling westbound on I-70 when the driver drove onto the right shoulder and slid into the guard rail end cap,” the State Patrol said. “It continued westbound on the shoulder side of the guard rail, went airborne off an embankment, bounced off the bottom of a gulley, rotated counter-clockwise striking several boulders, and went airborne again when it overturned at least one-half time coming to rest on its roof facing south.”

Causal factors and the decedent’s name was unavailable at press time.

### TUESDAY UPDATE

While the Adams County Coroner’s Office was waiting on next of kin notification to release the name of Thursday’s crash victim, it did announce that the deceased party in last Tuesday’s two-vehicle collision at the main intersection in Watkins was 27-year-old Nicolas Sebastian Cabello Mavila of Aurora

At about 5:45 p.m. April 22, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue and the Colorado State Patrol were dispatched to the intersection of Highway 36 and Watkins Road and, upon arrival, found a pair of heavily damaged vehicles were found about 200

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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

Among the annual rites of spring is the multiplication of various wildlife species. Above, a mama red fox appears to give a proper scolding to one of her five kits during the evening hours of Jan. 21 in the Comanche Crossing subdivision in Strasburg.

## Fee enforcement focus for Bennett School Board

by **Shylo Bockenfeld**  
Editorial Assistant

**BENNETT** — With fiscal concerns continuing to rear their ugly heads, student fees at Bennett Schools will be more strictly enforced starting next school year.

During a work-study preceding its April 15 regular monthly meeting, the Bennett School Board received word that standardized student fees will be strictly collected for the 2025-26 school year. Some fees have been waived in previous years, but with a tight budget and uncertainty about state and federal funding, school officials see a need for their strict enforcement.

Families without the ability to pay are encouraged to apply for free and reduced assistance through the school. According to superintendent Robin Purdy, reporting of free and reduced needs

dropped drastically in 2020 because the nationwide free meal program opened to everyone after the COVID outbreak in 2020.

Previously, Purdy estimated between 50% and 60% of students’ families in the district applied and qualified for assistance. The applications serve as a census at the state level to project the funding assistance needed by schools and families. Schools cannot require the reporting.

The highest fee schedule for next year is the senior class, approximately \$180 per student, and would go toward parking, lab classes, prom and other student activities, including athletics and performing arts, whether or not students intend to participate. The current policy includes fees for musical instrument rental, science lab and parking, but the school has waived each in recent years.

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