



The I-70 Scout

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

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Valve plan soaks more Bennett residents

Pressure reduction program to target twice the homeowners at 25% additional expense

by **Shylo Bockenfeld**
Editorial Assistant

BENNETT — In addition to doubling up the number of residents impacted, those affected by the town of Bennett's Pressure Reducing Valve

(PRV) program will be forced to shell out about 25% more in expense than originally told.

During the May 13 Bennett Board of Trustees meeting, Royce Pindell, who was mayor when the PRV program was initiated, said the program will

now cost affected homeowners more than \$1,000, rather than the original estimate of \$800, and will also affect twice as many residents than previously declared.

"We are talking about, potentially, some of the lower income residents

in our community being affected by this," said current Mayor Whitney Oakley. "We need to really acknowledge that."

Over the past 10 years, the town de-

SEE BENNETT BOT PAGE 4

New convenience store destined for DT

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — In what some Deer Trail trustees called one of the worst kept secrets, a proposed new gas station, including semi access and a large convenience store, passed its initial municipal government obstacle last month.

During its May 13 meeting the board voted unanimously in favor of the proposed 5,600 square-foot Maverik convenience store with 12 vehicle and eight semi fuel pumps to be located along Seventh Avenue between Cedar and Date streets. The proposed site is immediately off the westbound side of the I-70 interchange and next to the

entry of Evergreen Cemetery.

The company also purchased the Phillips 66 gas station property across the street on Seventh Avenue but plans to demolish the current building. Maverik's signage will be installed there.

Concerns about the proposed facility becoming a "truck stop in town" were addressed by both applicant representation and trustees, who indicated no long-term parking will be allowed.

"If you look at Bennett, we are looking more like the QuikTrip than the Love's," Mayor Judd Behrens said. "Not supposed to be any overnight parking or much addi-

SEE DEER TRAIL BOT PAGE 4

Byers FPD set to provide CodeRED alerts

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Residents within three special districts in Byers will soon have the opportunity to sign up for alerts from the districts of their choice.

Byers Fire Protection District No 9 is spearheading the effort to provide OnSolve CodeRED to Byers. The cloud-based public alert system allows government agencies to send geo-targeted alerts to residents. The fire district received approval from the Byers Water & Sanitation District and Byers Park & Recreation District to join the

all-call system, with each district covering \$600 of the annual cost.

The individual districts can send out announcements or emergency information. People can sign up for messages from one, two, or all three districts. The service is free for residents and messages can be received by their choice of phone, text or e-mail.

The Byers Fire district board May 22 heard an update on system's upcoming rollout from board treasurer Shawn Palmer, who is working with OnSolve to install the system.

SEE BYERS FPD PAGE 6



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Aunt Eller, played by Elle Owens, sings from her rocking chair during a performance of the youth edition of Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, "Oklahoma," May 8-9, in the Strasburg Elementary School cafeteria. The production resulted from the combined efforts of Strasburg High School and Hemphill Middle School students. **SEE PAGE 23.**

New windmill preserves iconic heritage at ArapCo fairgrounds

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — A new windmill was installed at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds last month.

The wooden windmill originally representing the theme of the fairgrounds was severely damaged by a high-wind event in June 2024 and was removed for safety reasons prior to last year's county fair.

The new windmill has metal fins and a brake system that locks during high winds.

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Operations Supervisor Gunnar Zollinger said the windmill theme was sug-

gested by the public when the Arapahoe County event center was in the planning stage.

"Windmills have been a big part of Eastern Colorado landscapes since the 1850s," he said, adding that they have

been focal points at the county's Open Spaces heritage areas since the program began in 2003.

Zollinger said that the for-

SEE WINDMILL PAGE 22



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left photo, workers attach the new Aermotor windmill to a crane for installation at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds April 24; a crane lifts the new machine; and the windmill is lowered into place.