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

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Bennett awaits ruling in suit against Claps

Town's civil complaint requests almost \$250,000 from Adams County Sheriff

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Town of Bennett officials are anxious to find out if their lawsuit asking for almost \$250,000 dollars from the Adams County sheriff

will move forward. "We filed the claim in January, they [the Adams County Sheriff's Office] moved to dismiss in February, we fully briefed the matter by April, and have been waiting for a decision ever since; we've heard nothing," town

attorney Scotty Krob told trustees during their July 8 board meeting. "I have done some checking and I guess it's not that unusual for this particular judge to take some time."

The civil case was formally filed Jan. 28 in Adams County District

Court against Adams County Sheriff Gene Claps citing blatant disregard of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and standard negotiation processes that led to the town moving

SEE BENNETT VS CLAPS

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Hemphill MS staff firings bump to 3

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — About a month before the upcoming school year commences, the status of all five Strasburg middle school staff members who were under investigation into their handling an early April students versus student assault are known.

During a 3-minute special school board meeting at 7 a.m. July 11, Strasburg Superintendent Kelle Bongard confirmed that a Hemphill Middle School math teacher and track coach is the third employee to be fired because of the investigation.

"On the last staff still on leave, the intent is to move forward with dismissal," she told board president Michael Marrero and vice president Diana Elliott in person in the district board room Friday and directors Daymon Johnson, Mary O'Malley and Gema Gomez via Zoom.

No other particulars surrounding the most recent firing were made public.

After last Friday's announcement, three of the five staff have lost their jobs via firing by the district while the other two had resigned their positions April 7, two days before the incident between

SEE HEMPHILL FIRINGS

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Byers Park & Recreation District hosted a week-long series of events, June 29 through July 5, to celebrate Independence Day this summer. Among this year's highlights were the annual parade and street fair along Front Street July 4. Above, Sophia Pineda and her trusty horse make up part of the Living Springs Cowboy Church parade entry, which took first-place honors. This year's theme was "Small Town Freedom." **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Local harvest heats up



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

While wheat harvest along the I-70 Corridor ratcheted up significantly last week, particularly progressing westward towards Byers and Strasburg, combine crews had windows of only four to six hours during the middle of each day before afternoon storms dropped enough rain to interrupt cutting the rest of the day. Above, a cutting crew quickly works to collect grain from a field spanning along the east side of Yellow Jacket Road between County Road 2 and I-70 about four miles east of Strasburg a couple hours before Mother Nature dropped rain in the area July 10.