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

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

AdCo reports first two WNV cases in state

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — In addition to being the first two reported cases in Adams County this summer, last week's an-

nouncement of two confirmed West Nile virus infections in humans were the first two confirmed reports in Colorado this year.

"Likely contracted from infected mosquitoes, in late

June," said a July 17 statement from the Adams County Health Department. "Although [we have] not found the virus in mosquitoes in Adams County so far this year, neighboring counties have re-

ported positive mosquitoes." Further specifics of the two infected residents and location of where the illnesses were detected is unavailable.

"Due to patient confidentiality, we are unable to provide

more information about specific areas where people came into contact with WNV," replied Adams County Health when asked if the infections

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Byers water line project nears end

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Byers Water & Sanitation District's water system upgrade and extension project is nearing completion.

A new 12-inch water main from the water department north to Byers General Store is being installed. The project, funded by grants and a low-interest loan, will increase system capacity to support future residential and commercial growth.

The \$4.2 million water system improvement project has two main components — installing the water line north of the railroad tracks and improving and re-coating the interior of water storage tanks. The tank work is complete.

The project is managed by consulting engineers GMS, Inc. Principal Engineer Samuel Wood gave a project update at the Byers Water & Sanitation District regular board meeting July 14.

The water line installation included boring under both I-70 and the railroad tracks.

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CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

In what has become a longtime annual tradition, the Deer Trail Jockeyettes again concluded Saturday's parade of Deer Trail Rodeo weekend, which occurred July 11-12. This year's parade theme was "Vegas Lights, Country Nights." **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Wheat harvest reaches western parts of I-70 Corridor



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

As Colorado's 2025 wheat harvest reached the three-quarters pole or eclipsed it last week, projections for a bumper crop compared to last year continue to improve.

For the week ended July 14, wheat progress reports showed just short of 50% of Colorado's harvest complete, but that figure was expected to jump significantly after last week's combine activity that kept moving farther west and north of I-70.

Many estimates had the state's harvest between 75% to 80% complete through last Friday, July 18, with most projections including a completion date before the end of the month.

"Filling up pretty quickly around here, which is a matter of not only more fields being cut, but the fact that yields are quite a bit better than previous years," a local elevator operator said. "Starting to get done with the afternoon storms that were pretty much a daily interruption for about 10 days."

While concerns about the invasive wheat stem sawfly permeated much of the pre-harvest scuttlebutt between farmers and state wheat industry representatives,

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The swarm of combines across the state finally hit the more northwestern reaches of Colorado wheat territory last week, including the above harvesters who were busy collecting grain on the west edge of Bennett, between Highway 36 and the railroad tracks, July 18.