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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, August 6, 2025

ArapCo OKs gas-based power near Bennett

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — Even as the power grid throughout the state is quickly moving towards mandated domination by solar and wind-based generation processes, the I-70 Corridor's primary electricity provider is moving forward with a supplemental or backup plan to mitigate interruptions.

During their July 22 business meeting, the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a use by special review (USR) application for a natural gas combustible power generation facility at an

existing electrical substation southwest of Bennett.

Canyon Peak Power, a subsidiary of Kindle Energy LLC, applied for the exemption on an 11-acre parcel of the 20-acre Brick Center Substation, which is owned and operated by CORE Electric Cooperative. The power station is located near the area of Brick Center Road and Quincy Avenue.

In addition to the proposed natural gas powered generation units with a combined generating capacity of 156 megawatts (MW), the request includes just under four miles of a 10-inch natural gas supply line entering

the site. Other site improvements will be an administrative/maintenance office trailer with a potable water tank and on-site wastewater treatment system immediately east of the structure, a stormwater detention pond, drive aisles and employee parking, a fire water tank, and a fire suppression loop. The fire suppression system will be powered by a diesel pump system.

Once operational, two pairs of employees will alternate manning the facility on 12-hour shifts.

Construction of the facility is expected to employ around 110 people with a high-end of 140 people needed at peak times. A construction timeline

was not mentioned during the public hearing.

The gas-powered portion of the site is currently being set up on the premise that it will be operational less than 32% of the time and will serve as a backup when power loads hit their peak in the summer and winter and solar and wind generation can't meet all the local needs.

When asked by Commissioner Jessica Campbell why natural gas powered generation is preferred over battery storage, applicant representatives said the current proposal is

SEE SUBSTATION BACKUP PAGE 6



LeeAnn Hasenbalg is all smiles coming out of the show ring after her dairy heifer took championship honors during the Arapahoe County Fair cattle show July 25. For additional fair coverage, **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Gym, walkway upgrades to welcome Agate students

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

AGATE — Officials with the I-70 Corridor's smallest school district said upgrades to the campus have been completed before the upcoming 2025-26 school year commences.

During the July 28 school board meeting, Superintendent Melinda Walls said that a new floor was completed in the gym as was new concrete around the front perimeter of the main building. Prior to the new floor, the gym also had new insulation installed earlier this summer.

"Ready for the new year," Walls said. "Very excited."

During the short, to-the-point last board meeting before school starts Aug. 13, the board also approved student and staff books with no notable changes from the previous year.

Estimates of another school year with an enrollment hovering around 90 students remains intact.

SEE AGATE SCHOOL PAGE 6

Strasburg to celebrate 'Hometown Icons'

Residents of 47 years named Grand Marshals

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — Two longtime Strasburg residents will head up the 2025 Hometown Days parade.

Marvin and Janice Burroughs moved to Strasburg with their children, Mike and Cindy, in 1978. For the ensuing 47 years they have served and contributed to the community. Marvin and his son, Mike, established Burroughs Service, a vehicle care and repair shop in Bennett in 1983 — a business which is still going strong.

The I-70 Scout had a conversation with the couple on

their comfortable front porch July 23.

Marvin and Janice met when they both worked in the Salina, Kan., police department. Marvin grew up in Tescott, Kan., a small town about 25 miles northwest of Salina. Janice grew up on a ranch near Arlington in Kiowa County, Colo.

"My sister lived in Salina, and she told me the police department was hiring," Janice said. "I was a shy person, but I got on the train and told my folks goodbye. Off to Kansas I went. I got down there at four o'clock in the morning, and

SEE GRAND MARSHALS PAGE 8



Marvin and Janice Burroughs and their pup, Penny, pose on their porch July 23. The couple was named Grand Marshals of the Strasburg Hometown Days parade set for this Saturday, Aug. 9.

Longtime biz honored on '25 logo

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — An icon is defined as something that is widely recognized and greatly admired and that serves as a symbol for a particular place or time. Case in point: Western Hardware in Strasburg and its owner, Al Holcomb.

The store on Colfax was the focal point of the town's main drag for 53 years before closing in May. Return customers knew that they would be greeted by a familiar face (often Al himself), helped to find the item they needed for the task at hand, and leave with their questions answered. New customers, who might find themselves surprised at the service, would become return customers.

The I-70 Scout met Al at the store July 28 where he was busy consolidating inventory and taking down fixtures. He didn't seem to mind sitting down for a short chat.

Al and his wife Donna both grew up in Custer County

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