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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Bennett lawsuit against Claps to proceed

Judge dismisses AdCo Sheriff's motion to dismiss, sets hearing date for next month

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BRIGHTON — While both parties remain tight-lipped, the town of Bennett's approximately \$250,000 lawsuit against Adams County Sheriff Gene Claps for blatant disregard and violation of governmental protocols is proceeding.

During its late August meeting, the Bennett Board of Trustees went into executive session to confer with town attorney Scotty Krob for legal advice "in connection with claims against the Adams County Sheriff by the town of Bennett in connection with law enforcement services in 2024 and the court's recent order denying the sheriff's motion to dismiss the town's

complaint."

While a transcript of an Aug. 19 hearing is unavailable from Adams County District Court, a formal listing of hearing and actions from Judge Patrick Pugh's Division C Courtroom shows a ruling on the defendant's motion to dismiss was made that day and that Claps' counsel replied Sept. 2 and a pre-trial order for the case to

proceed next month announced the following day.

"The only information I can provide at this time is, after the court denied the dismissal, the case will now move forward," said a recent e-mail statement from the Division C court clerk.

A deputy court clerk's statement

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DT School officials: '24-25 testing snafu won't happen again

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — While results from last spring's state-mandated testing indicated progress by several groups of Deer Trail School students, a series of missteps by the district's previous assessment administrator resulted in an uncomfortable discussion with the Colorado Department of Education over the summer.

"There turned out to be a number of concerning issues — zeroes that lowered our results, non-participation not accounted for, student biographical data that was not cleaned up, and three test booklets that never got scored because they were not sent in," longtime teacher but first-year District Assessment Coordinator Krista Rector told the Deer Trail School Board Sept. 8 about last spring's Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing. "I found those in a box that was put into my room with all the test information."

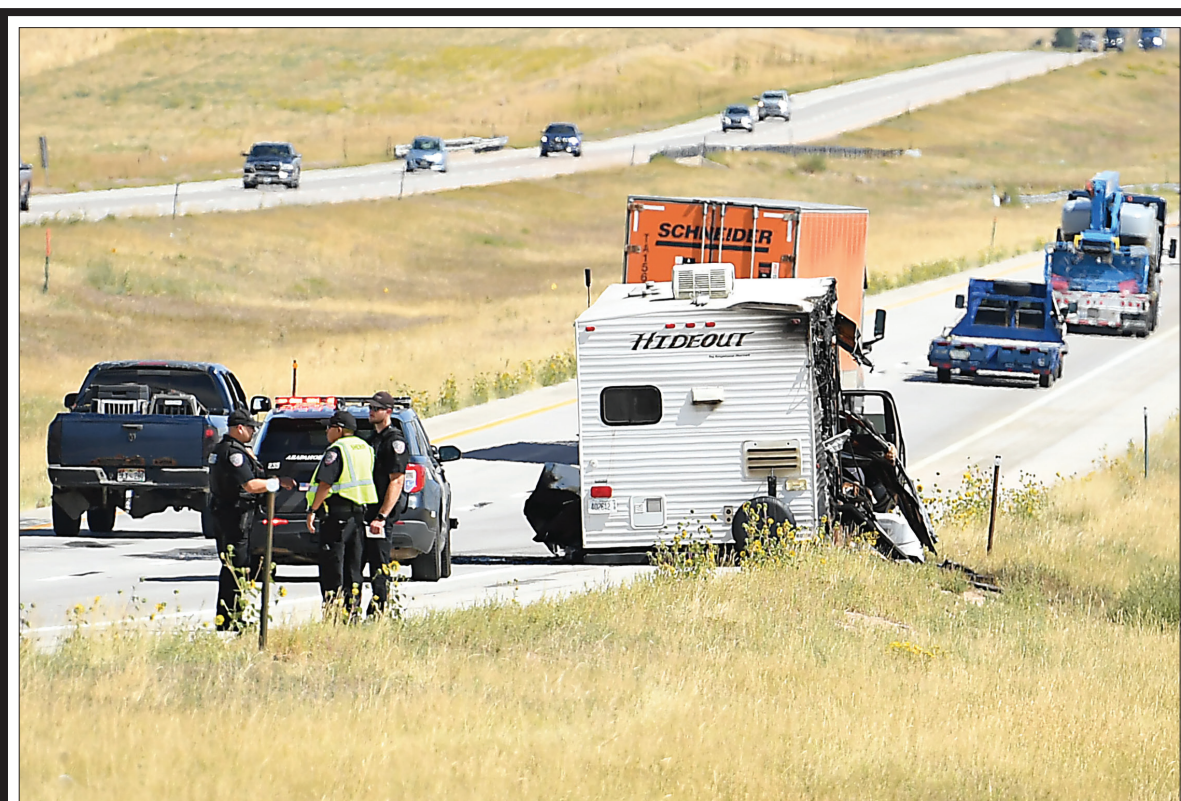
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Corridor Celebrates Bennett Days

ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

A young aspiring trick roper shows off his talents as part of the Paula Sotelo entry during Saturday morning's parade, which was part of the annual Bennett Days festivities Sept. 5-7. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

An early afternoon fifth-wheel camper fire stymied eastbound I-70 traffic near Lady Bird Hill for several hours Sept. 11. No injuries were reported and no specifics were available from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at press time.

Local youth services group provides help Corridor-wide

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

STRASBURG — A local organization is working to assure that youth and residents have a safe, inviting and healthy environment to live, work, and grow in.

I-70 Corridor Communities that Care and Teens for Change is a grant-funded program that fosters healthier, more resilient communities by identifying risk and protective factors within the Corridor communities. The coalition office is in the Bennett Recreation Center.

Community Mobilizer Nichole Harrell spoke about the program Aug. 19 at the Comanche VIP Seniors lun-

cheon at the Strasburg American Legion Hall.

"We're funded the state of Colorado by a grant paid for by marijuana funds," Harrell said, adding that the funds are leveraged through the Adams County Health Department. "The grant covers Watkins through Deer Trail."

Harrell said the coalition is made up of both adults and youth.

"We have business owners that are part of the coalition. We have community members that are part of the coalition and health department employees that are part of the coalition," she said. "We come together and we assess

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