



Have a Happy & Safe Halloween!

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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, October 29, 2025

Woman perishes in house fire in Box Elder

by Douglas Claussen
Steven Vetter
The I-70 Scout

BENNETT — An adult woman was found deceased and another person was injured in a structure fire on the west edge of an unincorporated Arapahoe County subdivision between Bennett and Watkins late Oct. 19.

According to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, deputies and Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue personnel were first dispatched to the 39900 block of Florida Drive just east of its intersection with South Indianfield Street at Box Elder Creek Ranches after 10 p.m. on reports of a house on fire.

The victim was identified Oct. 26 by family members and friends at the scene as homeowner Leellon Marie Baughman, 71.

Another relative, Oliver Glenn Phil-

lips, who lives on the property, said god wanted his angel back.

"She was loving, caring and all-forgiving," Phillips said Sunday afternoon. "I mean, she just gave. That's all she did is give. And she was a very beautiful angel."

No official cause had been released at press time, but the family members believed that electrical wiring in the floorboards caused the blaze and that the victim died of smoke inhalation.

"It's devastating," said Cat Baughman, Leellon's niece, adding that she grew up in the home with her aunt.

Her brother, Harvey Samuel Baughman, 74, survived the blaze but suffered serious burns and was transported to a Denver hospital.

"I tried to go back in and get my sister out," said Sam Baughman, whose lower left arm was visibly scorched



DOUGLAS CLAUSSEN/The I-70 Scout

An Oct. 19 house fire on the west edge of the Box Elder Creek Ranches subdivision claimed the life of an adult female and sent a second occupant to the hospital.

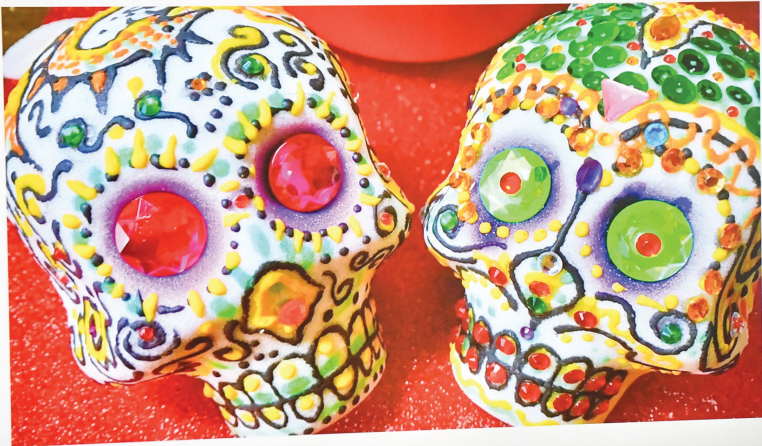
SEE FATAL FIRE
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KURT HUBERT/For The Scout

Byers Superintendent Tom Turrell and other "referees" — Tiffany O'Dell, left, Corey Green and Nathan Phipps reject bribery attempts during the homecoming Powder Puff football game Oct. 15. SEE PAGE 12.

Let's Decorate a Sugar Skull!



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

In addition to Halloween, fall includes the Hispanic dia de los muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. Last week, Kelter Library in Byers hosted a craft class based on the Mexican holiday. Right photo, Abel Hurtado, 9, decorates his sugar skull. SEE PAGE 7.

Semis collide, one rig fried in Picadilly construction zone



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO STATE PATROL

In addition to catching fire and tipping on its side, a semi trailer spilled its contents across both lanes of westbound I-70 in the Picadilly Interchange construction zone Oct. 24.

by Steven Vetter
Managing Editor

AURORA — The traffic issues associated with the extensive Picadilly Interchange project along I-70 between E-470 and Colfax Avenue came to a head Oct. 24 when an early morning semi collision and fire led to several hours of very little movement through the area.

Just before 8:30 a.m. Friday, Colorado State Patrol troopers and emergency first responders from multiple nearby jurisdictions were dispatched to the area of I-70 mile marker 289 on report of

SEE SEMI COLLISION
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LOUIS GRANADA/For The Scout

A Colorado Department of Transportation worker assesses damage after a Volvo semi caught fire after colliding with another semi ahead of it on westbound I-70 in the Picadilly Interchange construction zone Oct. 24.