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

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

'Burg man killed in pickup, box truck crash

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — A local man was killed during an early morning collision between a pickup and delivery box truck on the north edge of Strasburg Nov. 1.

Just before 8 a.m. Saturday, Strasburg Fire Rescue, the Colorado State Patrol and Adams County Sheriff's Office were all dispatched to the intersection of Strasburg Road and 39th Avenue.

Upon arrival a black Chevy pickup and a Home Depot box truck were both found significantly damaged with their driver side front ends touching each other.

"The box truck was northbound

on Strasburg Road with the pickup heading southbound," said State Patrol spokesman Ivan Alvarado, who added that original reports indicated a T-bone crash. "The box truck attempted to turn west onto 39th when the pickup collided with it."

The driver of the pickup, a 59-year-old man from Strasburg, was reported deceased on scene. The identity of the decedent was not available at press time.

The status of the box truck driver was unknown at press time.

Alvarado said the crash remains under investigation with no charges pending.

Both directions of Strasburg Road were closed for several hours during the investigation and vehicle removal.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Investigators inspect the damage when a pickup and Home Depot box truck collided at the intersection of Strasburg Road and 39th Avenue on the north edge of Strasburg Nov. 1.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

A brave young soul sticks her hand in the mouth of a shark cutout to receive a sweet treat from the car trunk of local realtor Nallely Morales during the town of Bennett's Trunk or Treat Halloween event Oct. 30. **SEE PAGE 8.**

Agate School Board approves mid-year staff salary increase

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

AGATE — In a case of Christmas coming early, the Agate School Board last week approved a mid-year 5% salary increase for school staff.

"Pretty notable," said Agate Superintendent Melinda Walls of the proposal she and Finance Director Keith Yaich suggested during the Oct. 27 School Board meeting. "Our little school boasts of 'big opportunities' and we're providing our students with many opportunities to learn, grow and achieve great things and our staff is at the very heart of everything. They deserve the best."

In addition to the district continuing its rebound in student enrollment and retention, Yaich pointed out other fiscal priorities that have taken hold.

"We have been very strategic in the struc-

turing of our expenditures versus our revenues and been very conservative to make sure that we have ample fund balances and can absorb a possible rescission or loss of funds in the future," Yaich said. "We have grown our fund balance tremendously in order to do that and that we want to make sure that we have the happiest teachers on the Corridor. We try to boost their morale by giving pay raises and bonuses whenever we can within reason in alignment with our budget."

The board approved a preliminary 2025-26 budget based on a student count of 71, compared to 68 used for the previous year.

The school downsized to K-5 in 2011 but, for 2018-19, it began to accept sixth-through 12th-grade students again. During the 2017-18 school year, Agate was the state's smallest district with a K-5 enrollment under 10, but has rebounded to as many at 90 in recent years.

Byers High School loses principal

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BYERS — Byers School Board directors voted unanimously Oct. 16 to approve the immediate early retirement of Secondary Principal Kelly Boren as well as two financial perks for teachers and staff.

No discussion occurred during the motion OK'ing Boren's situation.

Following that approval, Superintendent Tom Turrell indicated the he has taken over day-to-day principal duties in the junior and senior high school wing.

"That's kind of the plan to bridge through the rest of this semester," Turrell said,

adding that a combination of Director of Student Services Amy Burns, math and science teacher Corey Green and ag teacher D.J. Jackson will provide substitute support when he is away from campus.

The 2026-27 principal position is expected to be publicly posted in March.

"From there, we'll go through the normal hiring process," said Turrell, noting that Green is currently working towards his administrative license and that Jackson already has that degree.

HOLIDAY BONUS & RAISE

The board also unanimous-
SEE BYERS BOE
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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

PLAYOFF GAME WINNER! — Bennett's Jesus Santoyo gets behind a Fountain Valley defender to bury a first-round playoff game-winning goal in double overtime while teammate Houston Broskie watches from his backside Nov. 1. For a preview of the Tiger's first-ever trip to the second round of postseason play, **SEE PAGES 14-15.**