



ECRWSS  
Postal Customer

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 3

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

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

## Bennett settles First Amendment rift

by Jeffrey A. Roberts  
CFOIC Executive Director

Bennett trustees voted this week to settle a First Amendment claim brought by a weekly newspaper that lost

town advertising last spring because the board didn't like an article about a sexual assault that allegedly happened in the locker room of a middle school.

Under an agreement ap-

proved by the trustees Tuesday night, the I-70 Scout will receive \$15,000 from a municipal insurance pool and a three-year advertising contract, excluding legal notices, for \$15,000 per year. The

board directed outside counsel to prepare a draft contract for review at its January meeting.

### BENNETT TOWN COUNCIL

The Bennett town trustees'

Dec. 9 meeting.

During the meeting, town attorney Scotty Krob called the settlement terms "a compromise, sort of balancing the

**SEE 1ST AMENDMENT**

**PAGE 26**



### Corridor Christmas Cheer!

PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The entire I-70 Corridor got into the holiday spirit during a bevy of Christmas and other seasonal activities Dec. 6. Left photo, Anthony Cotes, 5, and sister Natalie, 1, are a little leery to share what they would like for Christmas with Santa during the town of Bennett's Breakfast with Santa at the Bennett Community Center. Right photo, Wade Jones shares a little father-daughter marshmallow roast with 4-year-old Jules at Christmas Night in Strasburg at Lyons Park. **SEE PAGES 13-16.**

## ArapCo board OKs Byers development plan, RV resort proposal

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — In a meeting that was dominated by issues in the eastern reaches of the county, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Dec. 9 approved both an updated Byers subarea plan and the preliminary plan for an RV resort/seasonal housing development north of the community.

The second of the items involving Byers turned out to be the most contentious as commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of the general development plan (GDP) for the May Farms RV Resort & Sanctuary. The lone dissenting vote was Jessica Campbell, while the other four board members, including District 3 representative Jeff Baker voted to let the

project move forward.

County staff and commissioners both reiterated that the overall planned use development (PUD) process for the project is only in its first of three phases and that more detailed specifics will come later. The commissioners' vote followed a unanimous recommendation in favor of the project during the planning commission's Nov. 18 meeting.

"The GDP is only the first step — the big picture about what could happen, [particularly] the allowed uses on the property," said Arapahoe County Senior Planner Kat Hammer. "Not everything could make it through to the site-specific plan."

The development area consists of a total of 150 acres split into two separate planning areas. Planning area 1 consists of 100 acres to house an estimated 800-space RV resort and support services

and structures, including a water park amenity. The second planning area of 50 acres is designated for "age-restricted, deed-restricted housing for residents aged 55 and over;" throughout the hearing, the proposed 400 housing units were referred to as "casitas."

Public Works & Development staff said that the project area's mixed use-entertainment land use designation now fits parameters of the Byers Sub-Area Plan, which was approved by the planning commission last month and formally amended earlier during the commissioners' Dec. 9 meeting.

"Gary May (part of the ownership group for this application) was a member of the Advisory Committee, and he was also involved in the planning

**SEE BYERS PROJECTS**

**PAGE 4**