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

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Bennett sets first trustee vote in a decade

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After five cycles of not enough candidates on the ballot, this spring's town of Bennett municipal election has five residents vying for three trustee seats.

Six petitions were turned into town hall by the Feb. 2 deadline but, according to Bennett Town Clerk and Designated Election Official Christina Hart, one of the candidates reported the following day that she is moving out of town and had to drop out of the race.

The ballot order for the remaining five candidates was determined during a lottery drawing at town hall Feb. 4.

"Pretty exciting to have this many

running, especially after no election the past 10 years," Hart said of the five-person race for three spots. The previous five municipal elections have not had enough candidates apply for vacant seats.

When the dust settled Wednesday evening, the final ballot order was unveiled — Joshua Arbogast, James "Grider" Lee, Christopher Clemons, Bonnie Teachout and Kat Crow.

None of the final five candidates are incumbents running for re-election and only Lee has served previously on the board.

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Barden and trustees Steve Dambroski and Larry Vittum did not throw their hats back in the ring. Both Barden and Dam-

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Bennett Town Safety Officer Gerilynn Scheidt, left, awaits her task of drawing names as Town Clerk Christina Hart explains the process for determining ballot order for the upcoming Bennett Municipal Election Feb. 4 at town hall.



Strasburg Schools hosted a campus-wide recital at the elementary cafeteria stage Feb. 3. More than 35 students from all three buildings participated. From left photo, Caleb Jeffries performs the only non-musical as he acts out "Unlucky" with the assistance of teacher Eric Schulz, and Genevieve Yost plays Bach's "Minuet No. 2" on the violin with the help of father, Brendan. **SEE PAGE 3.**



PHOTOS BY ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Agate School plans summer calendar for BEST project

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

AGATE — An approximately half-million-dollar project to replace the Agate School's main building's rooftop mechanical system won't start until after the conclusion of the school year.

In addition to approving a \$517,000 contract to Performance Construction for the new HVAC/ventilation system and the necessary budget adjustments, the Agate School Board was informed during its Jan. 26 meeting that work wouldn't start until after graduation in May.

"Instead of two phases like originally planned, we'll do it all in one fell swoop throughout the summer," said Agate Superintendent/Principal Melinda Walls. "A little bit easier and fewer interruptions that way."

Finance Director Keith Yaich said the final bid from the contractor was a little bit over a counter-offer of \$485,000 but added that, "they were pretty fair and was willing to work with us a bit."

The project is being funded by the Colorado Department of Education's Building Excellent Schools Today grant program.

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DT School Board now full; walking bridge schedule revised

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The Deer Trail School Board is back to a full complement of five directors following the appointment and swearing-in of a former member last week.

During the Feb. 2 board of directors meeting, Richard Haight was selected to re-

place Steven Musser, who resigned his board seat effective Jan. 1. Musser announced his intention to leave the board in December, citing family health concerns.

Haight, who was on the previous board through last November, interviewed for the opening along with Jamie Meredith, who moved into the district in July and has

two students currently going to Deer Trail School.

Board President Patrick Duff thanked both candidates for their interest and asked Meredith to be mindful that board changes can sometimes occur unexpectedly.

"This is the third time we've had to appoint in 4½ years," Duff noted. "Things can change pretty quickly."

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE UPDATE

Hopes to start construction of the walking bridge to connect the south side of campus with the neighboring Bijou Creek subdivision in May were recently dashed when the Colorado Department of Transportation mandated the project start in April.

According to Duff and Deer Trail Superintendent & Ath-

letic Director Mike Jobman, CDOT has given Meyers Construction approximately 30 days to complete the bridge once work commences in mid-April. School officials hoped the construction wouldn't start until after it hosts a large middle school track meet.

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