



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 14 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, March 4, 2026

'23 Bennett woman's death called murder

Victim's estranged husband indicted by ArapCo grand jury, arrested in Morgan County

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

CENTENNIAL — More than two years after her passing was deemed a suicide, the death of a Bennett woman has been changed to homicide and her husband is the suspect.

The 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office announced Feb. 27 that Ronald Lowry, 52, was arrested and charged with a half-dozen felony counts, in-

cluding first-degree murder, in the Oct. 26, 2023, death of his estranged wife Richelle "Chelle" Lowry.

The charges were announced following a grand jury indictment in the case.

"The return of this indictment marks an important step in the pursuit of justice for Richelle Lowry," said 18th Judicial District Attorney Amy Padden. "My office remains committed to holding individuals ac-



Lowry

countable when that evidence supports criminal charges."

Ron Lowry, who operates an outside fishing guide operation at Wiggins, was taken into custody by Morgan County Sheriff's officers and booked into the Morgan County jail in Fort Morgan.

At press time, Lowry remained in custody.

According to an online docket search, an out of county advisement hearing for Lowry was set March 2 in Arapahoe County Courtroom 402. The hearing was expected to be conducted via video online.

In addition to first-degree murder, other preliminary charges against

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Former Colorado rep picked to fill Senate District 21 seat

by **Sara Wilson**
Colorado Newsline

Adrienne Benavidez, a former Colorado representative, will replace Dafna Michaelson Jenet in the Colorado Senate, a group of Democrats from Senate District 21 decided Feb. 26.

Benavidez won on the first round of voting with 52.6% of the vote, beating out six other candidates during the vacancy committee election. There were 39 of 48 vacancy committee members in attendance at the start of the meeting.

"I understand the budget. I understand bills. So I am able to step right in and do that next Tuesday," she said. "I'm able to step in, deliberate and decide bills that will be the most beneficial for our district."



FAITH MILLER/Colorado Newsline

Adrienne Benavidez, seen here when she was a state representative speaking in 2021, will now serve in the Colorado Senate.

The district includes Commerce City, parts of Adams County and extends east

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local photographer Carl Steitz of Strasburg saw one of his photos hung on a wall of the Colorado State Capitol Feb. 23, where it will remain in place through the remainder of the current legislative session. Receiving the photo of Bennett bronc rider Tyler Ferguson during the Deer Trail Rodeo is House Dist. 16 Rep. Rebecca Keltie, R-Colorado Springs. Steitz submitted nine images as part of the Capitol Arts Project.

Bennett Town Center plans progress

Trustee questions fiscal responsibility of new town hall

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Bennett trustees approved a pair of ordinances last week allowing the town to move forward with its plans for the future Bennett Town Center, including a replacement building for its 8-year-old town hall.

In addition, it appears efforts to lure a third large travel center to the town might be in the works.

Trustees voted 5-1 in favor of Ordinance No. 812-26 approving creation of parcels for the Bennett Town Center, which exempts the development from the town's subdivision requirements, and 6-0 for Ordinance 813-26, allowing the town to dispense \$2 million to acquire an approximately nine-acre portion of the targeted properties. The total 10.6 acres has a purchase value of \$3.52 million with the remaining \$1.52 million coming from developer donations.

The town also received a \$2 million grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for utilities infrastructure but, to fulfill the grant, the town was required to show proof of purchasing the property.

The town staff report reiterated that the payment "does not create a multiple fiscal year debt or obligation."

The 10-acre-plus Town Center area, including multiple ingress and egress areas, is planned within the Muegge Farms development on the west side of Highway 79/First Street between Bennett Marketplace and Civic Center Park.

Among the stated plans for the Town Center is a new town hall, which trustee Larry Vittum took exception to and was among the reasons he voted against the first ordinance. The current Bennett Town Hall opened in spring 2018.

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Suspect, 34, charged with attempted murder in shooting at Watkins

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

A former I-70 Corridor man is facing a felony attempted murder charge following a reported domestic violence incident involving a firearm north of Watkins in early February.

According to an online docket search, Nathan William Gordy, 34, was back in courtroom 8 of Adams County Court March 3 for a preliminary hearing concerning his alleged involvement in an early morning shooting of his longtime girlfriend Feb. 8 at a home in the 8300 block of Imboden Road.

Charges from the sheriff's office were first-degree attempted murder after deliberation, a second class felony; first-degree assault with a deadly weapon.

SEE GORDY ARRESTED
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