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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

## Byers vandalism suspect faces 4 felonies

### ArapCo deputy makes arrest following pickup-trailer theft and suspected livestock poisoning

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

BYERS — A suspect is in custody and facing multiple felony charges in connection with an overnight string of crimes involving vandalism, auto theft and livestock cruelty a few miles south of Byers earlier this month.

A little after 6:15 a.m. March 14,

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the 65200 block of East Mexico Place on report of a stolen black Dodge Ram pickup and livestock trailer. Further investigation unveiled that an additional burglary had occurred and that attempted poisoning of livestock happened sometime after 12 a.m.

The pickup and trailer was report-

edly found about 5 a.m. near mile marker 112 of Highway 36 under suspicious circumstances.

"When we found it, the truck was still running," said Deer Trail Fire Chief Rich Loveless, who was dispatched to the area with another fire department member. "It looks like it was abandoned on the roadway and eventually went down into the ditch.

It was very odd."

The Colorado State Patrol was contacted to process the crash scene and, later in the morning, sheriff's deputies arrested a suspect.

"At approximately 6:40 a.m., I self-dispatched to a report of a suspect in an automobile theft located at

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## Kansas trucker rolls rig north of DT

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — A Kansas semi driver escaped fatal injuries when the rig he was driving rolled over on Highway 36 northeast of Deer Trail March 19.

A little after 12:30 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol and Deer Trail Fire Department were dispatched near mile marker 115 of Highway 36 and, upon arrival, found a semi-trailer rig overturned with its contents strewn along the roadway.

"The vehicle, a 2023 Mack semi carrying grain, lost its load on the roadway and it was

completely blocked," a State Patrol spokesperson said. "The driver, a 46-year-old male out of Kansas, was transported to a hospital with serious injuries."

The semi was reportedly westbound when it went off the right shoulder of the roadway, over-corrected, tipped, skidded about 200 feet, and threw the grain another couple hundred feet.

A neighboring farmer's tractor and a Colorado Department of Transportation snowplow were used to scoop up the spilled grain. Clean up of the scene took about three hours with both directions of traffic reopened a little after 3:45 p.m.

## ArapCo stretch of fuel pipeline expansion to DIA commences

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

Construction of the final 45 miles of a fuel pipeline expansion between Scott City, Kan., and Denver International Airport traversing Arapahoe and Adams counties has commenced.

Last week, a crew with energy infrastructure contractor Mears was busy excavating and installing pipe under Xmore Road near Arapahoe County Road 38 about 10 miles south of Byers with the route to move northwest 33 miles towards Watkins before entering Adams County for the final dozen miles, ending near Imboden Road and 104th Avenue.

The Arapahoe County portion of the pipeline starts at South Barnley and County Line roads in the southeastern part of the county and continues northwesterly to East Colfax and Hayesmount Road when it enters Adams County. The Colorado portion of the pipeline starts in Scott City, Kan., and enters Colorado in Cheyenne County. The



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The fuel pipeline expansion construction across eastern Colorado to Denver International Airport has reached Arapahoe County. The above photo was taken along Xmore Road near County Road 38 about 10 miles south of Byers March 20.

route includes Kit Carson, Lincoln and Elbert counties before crossing into Arapahoe County.

The project includes 10- to 16-inch diameter pipeline buried 4 feet deep and placed within a 30- to 50-foot-wide easement throughout the route. While all of the Arap-

ahoe County portion of the route is through unincorporated areas, about five miles of the Adams County portion run through unincorporated parcels. The route into Arapahoe County enters from the far northeast corner

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Strasburg Sanitation & Water District is planning to take its elevated water tank next to Strasburg High School offline for interior and exterior refurbishing between mid-April and the end of May.

## 'Burg water tower renovation planned next month thru May

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — When Strasburg's longstanding elevated water tower is refurbished starting next month, community residents will be urged to limit their outdoor watering temporarily.

During the March 17 Strasburg Sanitation & Water District board meeting, administrator Tracy Griffin said that, while a concrete timeline is uncertain

for when the elevated tank will be drained and taken offline, the project is currently proposed to last from approximately April 12 through the end of May.

But before sandblasting and re-coating the tank's interior, repainting the exterior, making the catwalk OSHA compliant, and replacing the shroud protecting the piping into and out of the tank, the water well

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