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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 23

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

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

## Strasburg mining project roundly booed

### Neighbors incensed by previous illegal digging; borrow pit proprietors asked to vacate property

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**BENNETT** — If last week’s interaction between Strasburg area residents and applicant representatives for a second chance at a dirt mining project a few miles south of Strasburg is any indication, there will be minimal, if any, public support for the request when it is heard by Arapahoe County.

An overflow crowd of 55-60 disgruntled neighbors and other area residents vociferously and angrily stated their opposition to the proposed Strasburg Borrow Pit at 56505 E. County Road 26 at an April 20 public meeting at Anythink Bennett library.

The crowd size surprised the applicant representatives in attendance, who said, “sorry for the tight quarters but more people than expected in too small of a room.” While the applicant distributed only eight letters of noti-

fication to adjoining property owners to meet statutory requirements, news stories and word of mouth resulted in much more public participation than anticipated.

Two Arapahoe County Sheriff’s officers were on hand in case things got out of hand and, while tempers flared numerous times, no physical altercations occurred.

“They’ve already broken the law, so why are we even having to deal with this at all?” one audience member angrily asked, referring to the formerly named Arapahoe Farm Pit, which was shut down last year for violations of both county zoning/land use code and mining rules from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety.

Another meeting attendee called the current mining permit request a “blatant, backhanded effort to circumvent illegal activity.”

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Between 55-60 local residents overflowed the Anythink Bennett library’s meeting room April 20 to state their dislike of a proposed sand and gravel mining project a few miles south of Strasburg. The meeting was hosted by representatives of the property owner and site operator, who were on the receiving end of requests to discontinue their effort, sell the property and “move on.”



CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

Strasburg Elementary School hosted a pair of spring concerts April 23 at Mountain View Fellowship. The first grade’s “Once Upon a Time” performance featuring costumes and songs associated with fairy tale characters was followed by the third grade and Strasburg Singers, whose “To the Sky” offerings focused on things like birds, the sun, and rain and rainbows. Above, first-graders Ezra Gurule and Jaxson Hinkle portray a dragon and pirate, respectively.

## Deer Trail trustees suspend municipal court for rest of '26

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**DEER TRAIL** — Deer Trail residents will not have to attend municipal court for the rest of the year, according to a mid-May vote by the town board.

The Deer Trail Board of Trustees voted 4-1 April 14 to suspend its municipal court operations through the rest of 2026.

“Under Colorado Statute we have a kangaroo court,” said Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Buss prior to making a motion to “suspend our court until the first of (next) year until we can work out our own damn paperwork so that our court is in compliance with state statute and, if that includes firing

our attorney, that’s what we should do because our attorney is who has gotten us into this mess.”

Buss added that additional efforts must be made to collect what court documentation has been misplaced or inappropriately handled.

“I still want to know where the court records are and who has the current court records,” he added. “How are they being stored? How are they being looked after? There is no ordinance that defines [the court].”

Buss also said that any residential fines over \$500 should be reimbursed.

“If the state would actually come down on us, I think we

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## ArapCo commissioners approve Quincy Ave. composting site

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**LITTLETON** — Earlier this month, Arapahoe County commissioners split their vote but still approved a new composting site in eastern unincorporated Arapahoe County.

During its April 14 business meeting, the board of county commissioners voted 3-2 in favor of a Use by Special Review request for the 40-acre Kiowa Creek Composting Facility along Quincy Avenue between Kiowa-Bennett and Wolf Creek roads.

According to the applicant, KJK Properties LLC, the composting facility itself will take up a fenced

area of 24 acres and receive “green waste” materials — such as grass, leaves and mulch — via semi-trucks.

Products will be delivered from the Aesthetic Alternative Recycling location in the Four Square Mile area of unincorporated Arapahoe County.

“This green waste material will then be processed to specifications of a Class 1 compost facility,” the county staff report said. “The green waste will be placed in long piles called windrows and turned with a compost turner until the material is completed as a finished compost product. This finished product will then be sold and transported to vendors as compost.

Future additions include an office/shop building on the west side of the property.

While the compost area will not take up the entire parcel, adjacent neighbors said the location of the materials and an access road to the property would be problematic.

“It’s right up against a fence line and livestock,” one person testifying said. “Not a safe situation.”

Other residents from the area claimed the smell and unsightliness of the facility will have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

During additional public comment, residents

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