



Special Bennett & Deer Trail Grad Section pullout inside
Remember Those Lost During Memorial Day, May 25

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

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

ArapCo: 'Burg sand mining project pulled

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — Three weeks after nearby neighbors and other Strasburg residents vociferously stated their opposition to a proposed sand mining project a few miles south of town, the project has reportedly been shut down.

“The proposed Strasburg earth ex-

traction will not be happening,” an Arapahoe County spokeswoman told *The I-70 Scout* May 12. “After hearing feedback at an April 20 neighborhood meeting in Bennett, the property owner of the site on County Road 26 informed county planning staff that they will not be applying for a use by special review from Public Works & Development for further earth extraction. Those plans are canceled.”

During last month’s public meeting at Anythink Bennett library, an overflow crowd of 55-60 disgruntled community members angrily stated their opposition to the proposed Strasburg Borrow Pit at 56505 E. County Road 26 (off of County Road 157), which had previously operated as Arapahoe Farm Pit.

“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 shutdown of the Arapahoe Farm Pit last year after it was found in violation of both county zoning and land use code and breaking mining rules from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety.

Another meeting attendee called the

**SEE MINING PROJECT
PAGE 4**

Colorado Air and Space Port (NE) 20:25 05/16/26 (UTC) 14:25 05/16/26 (CDT)



FAA advisory weather product

PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOULDER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A stark reminder that early May moisture hasn't put much of a dent into current drought conditions throughout the region occurred midafternoon May 16 as a grass fire burned about a section of ground along Peterson Road between 64th and 72nd Avenues immediately northeast of Colorado Air & Space Port. The blaze was originally reported about 2:30 p.m. and, by the time containment was announced shortly before 4 p.m., about 640 were charred. No death or injuries were reported and no structures threatened or damaged. No evacuations were required. Winds out of the north/northeast pushed the flames. Left photo, the smoke of plume can be seen to the northeast of the spaceport's tarmac. Left photo was taken from Manila Road and Highway 36 looking northeast.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bennett Town Clerk and designated election official Christina Hart swears in Joshua Arbogast to the seat of Bennett trustee May 12.

Bennett board, fire district agree on office rental pact

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After swearing in Joshua Arbogast as its seventh and final member, the Bennett Board of Trustees during its May 12 meeting approved an amended rental agreement with the Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection

District and also updated an arrangement with its sports and recreation facilities consultant.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RENT

The Bennett Fire Protection District currently leases the former town hall complex on

**SEE BENNETT BOT
PAGE 6**

Bennett Middle School sports skeds in limbo

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After approving the list of 101 seniors to walk in graduation ceremonies May 22, Bennett School Board debate May 13 included next year’s prospective kindergarten classes, middle school sports uncertainty, and the 2025-26 budget.

After passing out one of the longest lists of graduates in school history, Superintendent Robin Purdy said that any drop in overall student enrollment will be minuscule and/or short-lived. She especially noted kindergarten prospects.

“We’re already at 75 kindergartners for next year and that’s unheard of at this time,” she said. “I think it’s safe to say we’re looking at 100 of those youngsters when all is said and done.”

MS SPORTS UNCERTAINTY

Next year’s Athletic Director Travis Conroy report-



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Bennett secondary school band and choir directors Val White, left, and Allyse Brennan conducted their final concerts May 5 and May 7. Both have resigned from their positions after nine and three years, respectively. **SEE PAGE 1B.**

ed that the 2026-27 middle school athletics calendar remains up in the air.

The middle school hasn’t had a league affiliation for several years and now it has made finding opponents for most sports almost impossible.

Conroy said he continues to work through the problem

and has been in contact with schools from other leagues to gauge interest in adding Bennett, but the length of road trips could be too restrictive.

The board also approved a recommendation from Conroy to include participation of sixth-graders for middle school cheerleading and wrestling.