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# The I-70 Scout

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

## 1 dead, 4 hurt in pickup collision near DIA

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

COMMERCE CITY — One person died and four more were injured, including three Bennett residents, during a two-pickup collision north of Denver International Airport May 24.

Colorado State Patrol troopers were dispatched to 120th Avenue near Powhaton Road about 2:50 p.m. on report of a vehicle accident.

Upon arrival, a later model two-tone blue Chevy Silverado and newer Ford F-150XLT were both found with severe damage, particularly to their front ends, flanking either side of 120th Avenue with five occupants

along the roadway. The 48-year-old male driver of the Chevy was pronounced deceased at the scene with a 28-year-old male passenger transported to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. The three occupants in the Ford are all from Bennett and were transported to a hospital— a 33-year-old passenger with life-threatening injuries, the 62-year-old male driver with serious injuries, and a 61-year-old female occupant with moderate injuries.

The decedent's identity was not available from the Adams County Coroner's Office at press time.

SEE CRASH PAGE 20



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLORADO STATE PATROL

Two pickups collided with each other on 120th Avenue near Powhaton Road, killing one metro area adult and injuring four others, including three adult Bennett residents.



SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

The first of two I-70 Corridor graduation weekends took place May 16-17 with Prairie Creeks ceremonies taking place Saturday morning and Strasburg, Byers and Agate high schools hosting theirs on Sunday afternoon. Above, 88 Indian graduates throw confetti with their mortar boards under the direction of Tyler Allyn. SEE PAGES 12-13.

## May rains fail to dampen drought fears DT court still in limbo

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

While the first three weeks of May had already resulted in reaching or eclipsing the month's historical average for moisture across much of the I-70 Corridor, significant drought conditions remain mostly unchanged.

Between May 1-22, much of the region received between 1.65 and 2.25 inches; the historical average for the month is 1.5 inches. Over that

stretch, measurable rainfall was recorded on nine days, with a high-water mark of 0.65 to 0.85 inches May 5 and another three days of 0.25 inches or more. On May 17, a storm that dropped between 0.1 and 0.2 inches around Byers and Deer Trail resulted in a power outage.

“At approximately 2:37 p.m., an outage occurred during a weather event involving rain and lightning in the area. The transmission line serving the Deer Trail substa-

tion — which provides power to the communities of Byers and Deer Trail — opened, and crews were immediately dispatched,” said CORE Electric Cooperative Bennett District Manager Robert Kiess. “Upon investigation, crews identified a damaged insulator on a pole located on Sixth Avenue. The insulator was replaced, and service was fully restored at 5:27 p.m.”

Kiess noted that CORE is in SEE MAY RAIN PAGE 8

by Steven Vetter  
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — The suspension of Deer Trail's municipal court will remain in place until at least next month's town board meeting.

After about 1½ hours of debate, including a re-hash of at least one case that was brought before the court previously, trustees unanimously voted during a special meeting May 20 to table the possible reinstatement of the

court until at least their June 9 regular board meeting. In the meantime, code enforcement and court proceedings remain interrupted.

Last week's debate included arguments that, in addition to recovering all court records and clarifying the chain of command, additional rules should be implemented regarding court protocols, including proper litigators and defendant representation.

SEE DT COURT PAGE 4